

## **Visual Media as Assisting Instrument to Improve Students' Listening Ability**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Visual media is not merely for designers or visual communication design department, but also as the way to use visual media for teaching. Teaching by lecturing method frequently made students to become simply bored and did not pay attention and consequently did not graduate from college. It is believed that through visual media will help students to pay attention to the lessons and be enthusiastic in learning. The purpose of this study is to find out how visual media as Assisting Instrument to Improve Students' Listening Ability. It is expected that this research can be useful for educators or lecturers to improve the quality of teaching and be able to improve students' ability to pay attention.

**Keywords:** Visual Media, Learning Media, Listening, Education.

### **ABSTRAK**

*Media visual tidak hanya untuk para desainer atau jurusan desain komunikasi visual saja. tetapi bagaimana memanfaatkan media visual untuk ajar-mengajar. Pengajaran dengan metode ceramah seringkali membuat mahasiswa jadi gampang bosan dan tidak menyimak dan akibatnya tidak lulus kuliah. Dengan media visual dipercaya akan membantu mahasiswa dalam menyimak pelajaran dan bersemangat dalam pembelajaran. Penelitian ini memiliki tujuan untuk melihat bagaimana media visual sebagai alat bantu meningkatkan kemampuan menyimak mahasiswa. Diharapkan dengan penelitian ini, dapat berguna untuk para pendidik atau dosen untuk meningkatkan kualitas pengajaran dan mampu meningkatkan kemampuan mahasiswa dalam menyimak.*

**Kata Kunci:** Media Visual, Media Pembelajaran, Menyimak, Pendidikan.

## **Introduction**

Education is a medium to develop knowledge and ability within a person. Each child must receive education so that their aspects of knowledge, skills, values and insights can be developed. The government has announced that every child must get education for at least 9 years. In the global era and the beginning of free trade markets therefore the trading or labor competition is even higher. In order for this nation to be able to compete with other countries, therefore education must be considered and improved.

A nation will becoming great and having a competitiveness when the education level of the nation is good. Education is an effort so that student can reach his goal and purpose in order to improve their quality of life. Whereas the education gets better and having good quality which is applied to a country, thus will open up a great possibility of progress obtained (Soedjadi, 2000: 6). On the contrary when the concern toward the quality of education is low therefore the progress of the nation will also be low.

In order to achieve good education for young generations, adequate effort must be made in the education sector. The world of education in Indonesia is growing rapidly. Many new universities were established to accommodate students. The total number of students registered in Indonesia is 6,924,511 with 555 universities. With the number of universities that operate as many as 555 universities, East Java Province is one of the provinces with the second highest number of universities in Indonesia.

TABEL / TABLE : 50

**JUMLAH MAHASISWA TERDAFTAR DAN ANGKA PUTUS KULIAH TIAP PROVINSI**

NUMBER OF ENROLLED STUDENTS AND DROP OUT RATES BY PROVINCE

STATUS / STATUS : **NEGERI + SWASTA** / PUBLIC + PRIVATE

PERGURUAN TINGGI (PT) / HIGHER EDUCATION (HE)

TAHUN / YEAR: 2017

Provinsi Province	Mahasiswa Students	Putus Sekolah Drop Outs	Presentase Putus Sekolah Drop Outs Percentage
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
D.K.I. Jakarta	1.084.123	40.584	3,7%
Jawa Barat	849.625	21.146	2,5%
Banten	223.404	9.147	4,1%
Jawa Tengah	584.272	13.820	2,4%
D.I. Yogyakarta	372.478	12.425	3,3%
Jawa Timur	844.675	38.317	4,5%

2017 Higher Education Statistics Book, Ministry of Education and Culture

Drop out student is defined as student who is expelled since they do not meet the standards set by the university, both in terms of achieving grades as well as fulfilling the credits taken. Students who drop out from college are always occur and happen on every campus, no matter whether it's a state university or a private university, we will find students who drop out.

A student will be expelled or drop out if he/she cannot complete the requirements set by the university.

Both administratively and academically. As academically, one of the main causes of students dropping out is because their study period is expired or within 14 semesters, and cannot fulfill their GPA and the number of credits with a graduation score which become the requirement.

The aforementioned matter is particularly occurred since the student get poor grades therefore, they are not eligible to graduate. One of the causes of poor grades is due to the lack of students' ability to listen thus that the lessons are not maximally achieved. By excluding other internal factors which experienced by students during learning process, the way to deliver material which is less attractive will affect in receiving learning process. Learning methods by lecturing which done perpetually will make student bored and reduce their interest.

The most important teaching component in learning is how the method used and what media to use in the learning process. One part of learning that is used is learning media, which can determine the success of the learning or learning process. As for the implementation to be suitable to curriculum, lecturer should have the ability to select media which can make students interested and paying attention to the lesson. Selecting appropriate learning media will be able to increase the motivation for students to pay attention and listen. The teaching and learning process require the role of the lecturer as a

guide and also a learning medium that is accurate to the target when they applied it therefore it can liven up the learning atmosphere in the classroom.

The learning process and student-lecturer interaction in the classroom will be more positive and interactive when using media which facilitates lecturer in teaching. Learning media can be used as a mediator in learning and must be adjusted to the material that has been set and will be taught by the lecturer. And lecturer will be easy to make conclusions on the material being taught. Media will be more relevant to the target when the lecturer's competency supports the interaction of the learning process towards students. Learning media will facilitate lecturer to deliver material moreover, as instructors, they will guide students to interact. (Saiful Bahri Djamarah, 2013).

According to the National Education Association (NEA), learning media is one of the communication systems which can be in the form of print or audiovisual and other instruments that can be engineered, visualized, and heard. Media which is used properly will be able to improve the students' ability in reading and listening (Azhar Arsyad, 2004: 5).

Based on the aforementioned explanation therefore, it can be formulated of how Visual Media as Assisting Instrument to Improve Students' Listening Ability.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Definition of Listening**

In the learning process in the classroom, the ability in listening, reading, talking, as well as writing skills is required and all these abilities are interconnected. One of the four abilities, listening is an ability which is important and required by students since listening is the basis of other skills. Listening must be done through concentration, it cannot be done by merely hear or being instructed to listen but without concentration, since it will not gain what meaning of which is being listened to.

According to Brown, "Hearing is merely a sense, while listening is a behavior which is learned. By simply decoding written words is not the same as understanding its meaning, hearing sounds is not the same as understanding what is being said. "So it can be inferred that hearing is simply using the sense not a behavior that must be learned. Hearing only translates written words which sometimes without understanding what is meant. (2004).

Listening is a process of hearing, then understanding it and interpreting it into a symbol, image or understanding. Listening is a complicated process and involves several elements such as: hearing, listening, understanding, and remembering it. So listening is a process whereby someone listens to it and pays close attention, then he/she understands it and could memorize the hearing symbol selectively "(Sunendar, 2008).

Listening activities which related to gathering information afterwards analyzing and evaluating for something beneficial. According to Haryadi and Zamzami (Suhendar, 2008),

said that the purpose of listening are: obtaining data, analyzing it, evaluating, gaining inspiration, entertaining oneself, as well as increasing speaking ability. Listening is a form of receiving information from outside which comes from communication activities. The ability to listen to a communication can make someone succeed in understanding the meaning of the learning process in the classroom. According to Anderson (1972: 69) that "Listening can be interpreted as that person hears in full understanding, full of interest and has appreciation". Whereas according to Tarigan, Listening is the activity of someone hearing symbols which are carefully spoken, understanding, having appreciation, then interpreting to obtain information, and apprehend the contents of spoken language, and having understanding of the meaning of communication delivered by the speaker (Tarigan, 2008: 30).

In the Great Indonesian Dictionary (2007) that listening is an activity of listening or paying attention to what others say. Accordingly, listening can be inferred as a communication activity which requires attention, understanding, appreciation and interpretation in order to get information and be able to understand or comprehend what is conveyed by the speaker.

### **Factors that can affect listening**

Henry Guntur Tarigan said, several factors that can affect listening process and some matters that must be considered so the listening process could work well. There are several factors that can influence listening activities, namely; physical conditions, psychological conditions, individual experiences, attitudes, motivations, gender, environmental conditions, and social status. (2008: 105)

The aforementioned factors when described are as follows:

- Physical factors: Which mean by physical factors, are the physical condition of a person who is not ready to listen or is physically impaired, or unhealthy, which affects the listening process.
- Psychological factors: These psychological factors include some problems as follows:
  - a) Having assumptions or feelings of dislike towards the subject presenter with various reasons;
  - b) Individuals who have egocentric and are enjoying themselves or having personal problems;
  - c) Do not have open-minded and shortsightedness therefore that their insights are narrow;
  - d) Experiencing boredom and fed-up since they tend to pay less attention to the conversation content;
  - e) Having impolite or indecent attitude towards the institution, the teacher, the contents of the conversation, or to the material provider.
- Experience factors: The experience factors from someone who done unpleasantly or does not have any idea of what to be listened to, consequently resulting a behavior which is less interested in listening.

- Attitude factor: Every person has a tendency to listen seriously if the matter which delivered or the conversation topic which delivered are appropriate to the value which he/she believes.
- Motivation factors: Several things which encourage a person's motivation in listening, either because of the material, speaker, situation, having same interest or perceive that matter conveyed is important or valuable given by the material presenter, then the person will have the motivation to listen attentively.
- Gender factor: There are statement which mention that men and women have a tendency to have different concerns. Therefore, lecturers can have strategies dealing with students towards the listening process in learning.
- Environmental factors: involves the environment or a space where the listening process takes place, the place for listening process is hot or cold or uncomfortable, which can interfere someone to listen or related to the atmosphere in which the listening process takes place.
- Personal social status factor: Someone who has a certain profession such as lecturer, educator, supervisor, expert or any profession will have a great necessity to listen. Their profession and expertise often require new knowledge or to broaden their horizons and require up-to-date information therefore they need the ability to listen.

### **Definition of Media**

Media derived from the Latin word, which mean medium, middle or introduction. According to Sanjaya, media means as the instrument that mediate in delivering message from the senders to the recipients (2012). Some experts define learning media as all forms and procedures used by someone to send information (Setijadi, 1986).

While Schramm stated that media is one of the learning technologies which can be used to support teaching needs in the classroom (1977). Meanwhile, Briggs (1977) stated that learning media is one of the instruments to deliver learning materials for instance: books, props, films, and others.

### **Definition of Learning**

Teaching and learning are communication activities which have the purpose to deliver message or information which able to attract attention, stimulate thought, arouse feelings, and attracting students. Learning can be observed from our behavioristic perspective, can be inferred as a sequence of behavioral changes by optimizing conditions which are the sources of learning stimulus. Within teaching, by utilizing or optimizing media as the teaching materials development or accessible material are essential.

The media used to improve communication in the teaching process is often referred as learning media. By utilizing technology, information and communication, educators can foster student's creativity and motivation. Moreover, learning media can improve teaching quality and quantity in education. Therefore, the learning program must be

planned according to the students' needs and characteristics, which can lead toward changing behavior within students according to what the teacher wish to achieve.

### **Classification of Learning Media**

Learning media is an instrument which can be used to become a stimulus for the mind, something to be perceived, in order to listen more, and to improve learning abilities which eventually encourage teaching and learning processes. The learning media limitation are quite broad and deep including, where the source from, how the environment, humans and the methods used for teaching purposes. Briggs (1977) stated that learning media is one of the instruments in the physical form to deliver teaching materials such as books, films or videos, and so on. According to the NEA (1969), learning media is a communication instrument which can be in the form of print or audio visual, as well as other hardware technology.

Learning media trough the information form which is used, can be distinguished or classified in five forms, namely image or visually moving or non-moving media, media which can be heard or audio, non-moving audiovisual media and moving audiovisual media or termed as video. Similarly with the sequence which used to convey information, either through direct or indirect sensing.

By analyzing the communication instruments used, such as how to deliver or how to present it, we able clarify the media as:

- Graphic media as printed material, or termed still image,
- Non-moving Visual media,
- Audio,
- Still Audiovisual media,
- Live audiovisual media/ film,
- Television.
- Multimedia.

### **Definition of Image Media**

Image media is the media which is used in learning. Compared to other learning media, media in the images form is tend to be favored by students compared than only writing. When the media is used in its representation which made in such a way and presented well, it will create students' enthusiasm and desire to follow and listen to the lessons.

Hamalik said that the image media are all manifestations as visual in the form of two-dimensional as ideas that appeared in many forms, such as images, paintings, portraits, slides, films, strips, opaque, projectors (2011)

Image media are commonly used media and media which are easy to be understood and enjoyed (Sadirman, 2004). Media image is a reflection of various objects, scenery in the form of images, shapes, as well as size can be adjusted (Soelarko, 1980: 3)

Whereas according to the Great Indonesian Language Dictionary, Visual media or image is a form of imitating to object such as person's image, animal image, plant image and so on, which made with a scratch of stationery or drawing tools on paper, canvas and so on.

Several of the aforementioned theories can be concluded, visual media or images which are used as learning media are part of the form of expression, the results of imitation of objects or living things, landscapes or panoramas, idea of a thought or concept which depicted in 2-dimensional form. The form can be in various kinds, non-constant or depend on the situations or images which related to what which is discussed in the learning delivered by the lecturer.

### **Advantages of Using Image Media**

The advantages of using visual media or images in reading learning series are the students are easier to comprehend the material contents, consequently they are more interested and have the motivation to learn and understand the content from learning. Therefore reading or learning require picture or visual media to be given to attract reading interest or intensify enthusiasm in learning therefore their academic abilities can increase.

Some research about the utilization properties of still images which have some impact in teaching (Brown in Gene L. Wilkinson, 1984), Several aspects to consider in the selection of image media for learning;

- a. Selecting appropriate images and adjusted to the teaching material will support students to comprehend and memorize the contents of verbal information which conveyed. Images with simple lines tend to be more suitable as a medium to deliver information than images with shadows, or photography. Complete realism images which showering people with excessive image information tend to be inappropriate as a learning stimulus rather than simple visuals.
- b. A study encourage that the color usage on the image media should be realistic and not merely using color. When a black and white image is given one color, therefore it might reduce the image value or reduce its meaning. On the contrary when we want to teach about a color concept, thus the images which use realistic colors will tend to be attractive. Color in still images often causes problems if it is not suitable. Although colored images tend to attract more attention than black and white. However, not all colored images are the best choice for teaching or learning.
- c. When teaching concept that involve a movement, then a still image will tend to be less effective than a piece of motion film which displays the same style. The sequence of still images can reduce great amount of information displayed by moving movies.



- d. Symbols or signs such as bullet or icons on the still image in order to clarify or also change the actual information for communication.

Basuki Wibawa and Farida Mukti (2001) state that the visual media in teaching-process can be useful for:

- a. Develop students' visual skills;
- b. Make someone to imagine;
- c. Students can improve their ability to comprehend abstract things, which is not easily explained, as well as phenomenon or event that cannot be presented in a real way in class;
- d. Enhancing creativity competence.

Sri Anitah (2009: 9) states that the advantages of visual or image as a learning medium are:

- Improving the attractiveness of the lessons given. Images or visual media with various colors is tend to attract attention and arouse interest.
- Facilitate in describing material which is abstract or things that are difficult to comprehend. By using picture media, students will understand the material more easily.
- Through images, it can clarify important parts or material, enlarged or small from important parts therefore they can be observed more clearly.
- Image media can help shorten an extensive, long-winded description.

Levie and Lentz (2009) said that there are four functions of developing image media in the learning media, namely:

- a. The function of attention in image media is to attract the interest and attention of students in learning, in addition it can make students to be concentrated to the content in their lesson. And finally, it will enable students to remember more to the contents of the lessons delivered.
- b. The affective function of image or visual media is in what way of student can feel and enjoy the learning process or when they are studying material with picture.
- c. Based on the research findings, cognitive correlation towards image media exposed that by using images or visual symbols people will tend to remember and understand the information conveyed more easily therefore the goals of the study will be achieved.
- d. The delivering function of image media for teaching, based on the research results, it found that the image media has a concept to comprehend text and help students who have tendency to be slow in reading and combine the information in the text.

## **Conclusion**

Based on the aforementioned theories description, it can be concluded that listening in a series of learning is very important matter to as consideration to every educator in every level of education. In order for the purpose of listening towards learning process

to be maximally achieved, therefore the lecturer should understand and comprehend the purpose of listening themselves. As being described, the purpose of listening is to be able to understand simple utterances or statements, and comprehend the communication which can be in the form of explanation, description, argumentation, and persuasion. Learning media, for instance visual media or images can become one of the selections to support which can be used in a series of teaching activities, which can become guide or medium for delivering messages or learning content. Consequently, the teacher will convey the learning points more easily.

As described in the theoretical study, it can be concluded that image media in teaching can help to provide stimuli which attract students as well as it can make students understand and memorize it. In addition, the picture media in learning can also clarify important or difficult parts in the learning process, and simplify long-winded explanations.

Images media can be implemented in a series of learning, it will be able to deliver information or lecture material which can help to stimulate mind, arouse feelings, and attract the attention of students therefore can help and encourage the learning process especially in understanding the concept of learning within students.

If the lecturers provide interesting lecture material, it will facilitate students to listen to lectures. Listening is a series of activities of listening to a spoken language attentively, understanding or comprehending, being able to appreciate, and being able to interpret the information conveyed, understand the content of the material or message. Moreover, the picture media can make students understand what the communication means that have been conveyed by the instructor. Which in turn will help students improve their academic achievements since they master the material taught.

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