

## ABSTRACT

This study aims to identify the types of difficulties experienced by junior high school students in listening comprehension, the factors that cause these difficulties, and the strategies used by teachers to help students overcome them. Listening is one of the essential language skills that plays an important role in developing students' ability to understand spoken English. However, many students still experience problems in comprehending listening materials during classroom activities.

This research employed a qualitative descriptive method. The subjects of this study were 15 students of class VIII at SMP Swasta Asga Mandiri Medan in the academic year 2025/2026. The data were collected using two research instruments, namely a listening test consisting of 15 questions and a questionnaire consisting of 15 closed-ended questions. The listening test was used to measure students' listening comprehension ability, while the questionnaire was used to identify students' difficulties during listening activities.

The results of the listening test showed that students' listening comprehension ability was relatively low, with a mean score of 52. The questionnaire results revealed that students experienced several difficulties, such as limited vocabulary knowledge, difficulty understanding pronunciation and different accents, lack of concentration during listening activities, unclear audio quality, and difficulty understanding long sentences. In conclusion, listening comprehension remains a challenging skill for many junior high school students.

**Keywords:** listening comprehension, students' difficulties, English learning, listening ability, junior high school students