ABSTRACT

This study investigated the effectiveness of using English songs to improve listening skills among grade VIII-B students at SMP Nasrani 5 Medan. Listening skills is very important in foreign language learning. However, many students have difficulty in listening sessions, especially in understanding what the speaker is saying. This is because they do not have the basic knowledge to support their listening skills. Students often face obstacles such as native speaker speed, varying accents, idioms, and limited exposure to English outside the classroom, along with less innovative and teacher-centered teaching methods. Appropriate methods are needed to improve their listening skills. In-class listening songs can attract students' interest. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to collect information regarding the use of songs in improving students' listening skills.

This study used a mixed-method approach, using Classroom Action Research (CAR) design for two consecutive cycles. Qualitative data were analyzed using thematic analysis, while quantitative data from the test were analyzed descriptively. In the first cycle, students obtained an average score of 50, which means that most of them did not reach the school's average passing score of 70. After the second cycle, the students' average score increased to 67, which is close to the school's passing score. Although not all students passed, but there was still improvement in motivating students to be more focused and interested in the learning process.

Therefore, using English songs as a medium to encourage students to practice their listening skills can be an effective method.