

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of The Research

English is one of the most important languages to be mastered because it has become the global language for communication all around the world. Many aspects of human life, including education, technology, economics, and health, use English (Rao, 2019). It demonstrates that English is integrated into people's daily life and it aims to be used as a communication medium to gain and exchange information.

Since English is widely used in society, many people begin to realize that it is needed to be mastered. They learn English enthusiastically. They can choose where to learn English because many institutions serve EFL (English as Foreign Language) learning courses for society. EFL is the term used to demonstrate the study of English by non-native speakers in countries where English does not have the same role as the mother language (Si, 2019). People can learn EFL for tourism, education, communicating with native speakers, reading foreign articles, and others.

Many learners attract to learn English for their own sake. Furthermore, some of them who have become parents inquire their children to learn English as young as possible. Their children are commonly categorized as Generation Z. Dimock (2019) stated that Generation Z is represented by people born between 1997-2012. It means that this generation is young people who are between 11 to 26 years old. They are essentially the ones who were born and raised with technology. While the previous generation updated their digital abilities through learning and adapting to change, Generation Z is naturally using new technologies. They have a passion for technology, speed and efficiency, and a learning style specific to online channels.

Generation Z is characterized by a strong desire for new experiences, particularly technology-based ones. Therefore, they also can be called

digital or technology native. In this case, many of them have a high passion for learning English by using digital media such as movies, music, and podcasts. EFL learning can occur not only in formal institutions, but also in informal institutions, such as through autodidact or self-taught activities such as watching Western movies.

According to the preliminary survey that was conducted by distributing an online survey in polling form through Twitter on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2023, most members of Generation Z enjoy watching Western movies. There are 50 people of Generation Z participated in the polling. All of them perceived that watching Western movies helps to enhance their listening and speaking skills. Nevertheless, forty people of the participants consciously perceived that watching Western movies helps to improve their listening and speaking skills and ten of them perceive it unconsciously. It is in line with the research done by Maharani (2021) on English education department students of UIN Malang which identified that they have a positive perception toward watching English movies as EFL learning media and it shows that Netflix has a conscious impact in enhancing listening and speaking skills.

Departs of the conducted preliminary, the researcher desires to know the implication from watching Western movies for enhancing Generation Z's listening and speaking skills. For example, after watching Western movies, they can discuss the plot of the film using English, the play of the actor and actress, and the resume of the film. The researcher had the commitment of respondents that are willing to participate in this research by filling the respondents consent forms. They had been contacted via Twitter on Tuesday, 09<sup>th</sup> of April 2023. Apart from that, the researcher is attracted to do this research because it is based on the researcher's own experience and there is a connection between listening and speaking skills. As Harmer (1991:16-17) in Pinem (2020) stated that learners employ the combination of those skills for speech, where speaking as a productive skill and listening as a receptive skill. Moreover, Pinem (2020) argued that speaking and listening typically occur simultaneously; hence a lack of

listening in linguistics will result in poor speaking ability. Besides that, Prambudi (2013) in Hidayatullah (2018) said that the best technique to learn English is to listen carefully and watch movies seriously.

Currently, the majority of Generation Z enjoys to watch Western movies, including short films and series or dramas. It is in line with the result of the preliminary survey done by the researcher on the Twitter platform, which showed that 49 Gen Z (92.5%) of 53 participants like watching Western movies. It is supported by the report on global trends among Gen Z done by Moussavi & Mander (2019) which mentions that the percentage of Gen Zers who pay for movie and television streaming services has climbed by 25% since 2015. In addition, the research conducted by Suciati & Putra (2022) which study about Indonesian Gen Z consumer preference for subscribing to Netflix in the Covid-19 Pandemic era found that Gen Z is more inclined to prefer Netflix premium (52%) because of its many features and superior quality. From those data, Gen Z can watch the Western movie through Netflix and other applications that are subscribed. When watching Western movies, they also learn EFL. It can be called that they learn EFL through digital media.

Learners can learn EFL via Netflix, Spotify, YouTube, etc. It can help them to enhance their listening skill. In English, listening plays an important role in communication. People who master the listening skill will be able to understand what the speakers mean logically. As Howatt & Dakin (1974) in Maharani (2021) discussed that people cannot have a successful conversation without good listening skill. On the other hand, many people assume that speaking is the most essential skill to be mastered. Speaking is a process that entails producing, receiving, and interacting with information processing as a means of creating meaning (Brown, 1994; Burns & Joyce, 1997 in Maharani, 2021). Gumperz (1999 p.101) in Maharani (2021) added that speaking is cooperatively constructed based on contributions, assumptions, expectations, and interpretations of the participants' utterances.

Speaking and listening are two skills that become a part of oral communication and those skills are related to each other. According to Azizah's (2014) research, speaking ability is influenced by listening comprehension. Furthermore, Doff (1988:198) in Pinem (2020) stated that learners cannot build speaking abilities without developing listening skills; for pupils to have a successful conversation, they must comprehend what is said to them. Listening is important in language classrooms because it supplies input for the student and it is essential to speaking (Rost, 1994:141-142 in Pinem, 2020). Thus, it can understand that listening and speaking have a correlation. When learners gain lots of listening as the input of the language, they will be able to speak well as the output of the language.

This research focussed on those two skills, listening and speaking skills. There are some previous researches that have studied the impact of the movie on those two skills. However, most of those researches focused on listening skill only or speaking skill only. As the research done by Sudrajat et al. (2021) that analyze whether or not the students' habit of watching Western movies and their listening ability is positively and significantly correlated. It found that there is a very high affirmative and meaningful connection between students' habit of watching Western-movies and listening skill. The research indicated that the respondents' habit of watching Western-movie can affect their listening skill. Another one is Rohmatulloh's (2018) research that investigated the relationship between watching English movies habit and listening skill improvement. His research gained the conclusion that there was a correlation between students' habit of watching English movies and their listening achievement.

Furthermore, one of some previous research that focussed on speaking skills only is Li & Wang's (2015) research that studied about using English movies to improve Chinese college students' oral English. It found that English movie can provide real language environment and learn about the cultural differences between Chinese and Western so that students' oral English enhance. Another one is Hidayatullah's (2018) research that determined how Western movie media enhance the students' pronunciation

which pronunciation is part of speaking skill. The result showed that students' pronunciation improves after watching the Western movie.

Departs from those previous researches, it is discovered that Western movies have a positive impact to English skills, especially listening and speaking skills. Hence, this research attempted to investigate Generation Z's views on watching Western movies as digital EFL learning for enhancing listening and speaking skills. It differs from some previous studies above, which took respondents who are not bound by age and limited by certain environmental scope. The researcher focussed on Generation Z via the Twitter platform. It revealed their views about how much they think watching Western movies helps them enhance their listening and speaking skills.

## **1.2. Identification of The Problem**

According to the information provided above, many members of Generation Z who use Twitter enjoy watching Western movies. Besides that, they perceive that watching Western movies can help them enhance their listening and speaking skills. Departing from this phenomenon, the researcher will identify Generation Z's views on watching Western movies as digital EFL learning for enhancing listening and speaking skills. This study will concentrate on Generation Z on the Twitter platform.

## **1.3. Research Questions**

The research focuses on identifying the phenomenon as stated on the background of the research. There are two questions will be answered in this research:

- a. How are the Generation Z's views toward watching Western movies as digital EFL learning?
- b. What are the challenges and obstacles faced by Generation Z during watching Western movies as digital EFL learning?

#### **1.4. The Objective of The Research**

Based on the research questions, the objectives of the research are:

- a. To analyze the Generation Z's views toward watching Western movies as a digital EFL learning.
- b. To identify and analyze the challenges and obstacles faced by Generation Z while watching Western movies as digital EFL learning for enhancing their listening and speaking skills.

#### **1.5. The Significance of The Problem**

The researcher hopes that this research can provide significance in learning English, especially in digital EFL learning. This study can give two significances:

##### **1.5.1. Theoretical significances**

The researcher hopes that this research will be able to give a contribution in the form of ideas related to watching Western movies as digital EFL learning and be able to provide references for future study on the same topic.

##### **1.5.2. Practical significances**

###### **1) For researcher**

This research can give knowledge and further information about how watching Western movies affect the improvement of Gen Z's listening and speaking skills in English.

###### **2) For readers (Generation Z)**

This research can motivate people, especially Generation Z, to learn EFL through watching Western movies. Furthermore, it can also provide motivation to people to not only watch Western movies just for fun, but also watching Western movies to learn EFL.

###### **3) For ELT/EFL teachers**

This research can give input to English teachers to improve the quality of learning media that Western movies can support digital media in EFL learning.

## 1.6. Definition of The Key Terms

### 1.6.1. Generation Z

Generation Z is represented by people who were born between 1997-2012, which means that this generation is young people who are between 11 to 26 years old. They are essentially the ones who were born and raised with technology. Hence, they are also called digital or technology native.

### 1.6.2. Western Movies

Western movies refer to films that are performed in English and a few other European languages. In other words, it is also called English movies from the native English country.

### 1.6.3. English as a Foreign Language (EFL) learning

English as a Foreign Language (EFL) refers to learning English in a country where English is not the first or official language. EFL learning is a deliberate process in which students think about learning English as a foreign language in addition to the first language (L1) and second language (L2). EFL learning occurs if the first and second languages have been acquired.

### 1.6.4. Listening Skill

Listening is the capacity to fully comprehend a message that a speaker or a loud reader wants to convey.

### 1.6.5. Speaking Skill

Speaking is an oral communication or the expression of thoughts, ideas, and feelings in the form of words.

UNUGIRI