

SOME STRATEGIES IN TEACHING LISTENING FOR EYL

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ABSTRACT

Listening English is a challenging for the teachers of English. The teachers have to study hard, focus to listen, think and describe what the speakers talk about, practice listen and listen again, learn how to improve their listening skill, and transfer their knowledge for the students. In this case, the writer gives information for some strategies in teaching listening for EYL (English Young Learners). In addition, the teacher can use the strategies to teach the students. These strategies can inspire teachers to teach and students to learn. They actually can improve their listening skill if they want to study, practice more and more in their daily life. Besides, EYL means to focus in Elementary school students. The teachers of English teach listening for EYL by giving some strategies in learning process. If the EYL hard to listen, the teacher have to motivate, give spirit to students, and never give up to learn. It is because listening skill is very important not only for today but also forever in life. Hopefully, all of these strategies will be useful for EYL, teachers of English, another researchers, and others.

ABSTRAK

Mendengarkan Bahasa Inggris merupakan sebuah tantangan bagi para guru Bahasa Inggris. Guru harus belajar giat, fokus mendengarkan, memikirkan dan mendeskripsikan apa yang dibicarakan pembicara, berlatih mendengarkan dan mendengarkan lagi, belajar bagaimana meningkatkan keterampilan mendengarkan, dan mentransfer pengetahuannya kepada siswa. Dalam hal ini, Penulis memberikan informasi tentang beberapa strategi dalam pengajaran mendengarkan untuk EYL (English Young Learners). Selain itu, guru dapat menggunakan strategi untuk mengajar siswa. Strategi-strategi ini dapat menginspirasi guru untuk mengajar dan siswa untuk belajar. Mereka sebenarnya dapat meningkatkan keterampilan mendengarkannya jika mereka mau belajar, berlatih lebih banyak, dan lebih banyak lagi dalam kehidupan sehari-hari. Selain itu, EYL artinya fokus pada siswa Sekolah Dasar. Guru bahasa Inggris mengajarkan mendengarkan EYL dengan memberikan strategi dalam proses pembelajaran. Jika EYL sulit untuk mendengarkan, guru harus memotivasi, memberi semangat kepada siswa, dan pantang menyerah untuk belajar. Hal ini karena keterampilan mendengarkan sangat penting tidak hanya untuk saat ini tetapi juga selamanya dalam kehidupan. Semoga semua strategi ini bermanfaat bagi EYL, guru bahasa Inggris, peneliti lain, dan lain-lain.

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Introduction

Kompasiana (2021) explains that English Young Learners or commonly abbreviated as EYL is the teaching of English to early childhood. Early childhood refers to children from their first year of formal schooling (5 to 7 years) until around the age of 11 to 12. Or it can also be said from elementary school to middle school. For English language, first of all, the writer gave the knowledge about 4 skills in English, such as: reading, listening, writing and speaking. These four abilities are related each other. For instance, when someone listens something, he or she has to speak to describe what the speaker talk about. Another example is when someone read aloud from the book, he or she has to write to describe about the information from the reading passages.

In addition, the writer chose listening for teaching EYL. In class, as a teacher, the writer found some information about the way they learn English, for examples: study English once a week, three times a week, and every day. Almost all of the students in Elementary school are active students, but they actually almost just want to play with their friends and not focus to study. Therefore, the teacher should give high motivation to them in order they want to study. In this case, the writer gives some strategies for EYL to study English. Especially, in listening. The writer hopes that all these strategies can help not only for EYL but also to the reader can improve their knowledge or ability to know about listening English well.

Moreover, there are some strategies to teach English with many ways if the teachers of English have high motivation and high spirit to learn, especially in teaching listening. For examples: (1) Using You-Tube kids, for examples: EYL can listen from You-Tube kids, there are so many channels there, EYL with the teachers can choose what they want to watch and listen, (2) Using laptop, for examples: the teacher of English can play English songs to EYL, but don't forget to use speaker or Bluetooth to make voice louder., (3) Using television, the teachers can motivate the EYL to watch television by choosing English channel. Therefore, they can listen about English, and improve their listening skill. For the next, the teachers should remember the students to listen, listen again, and listen again. Sometimes, the students can't catch the words from the speaker or native speaker because the way they talk faster than us. So, the EYL should practice many times in their day.

In this paper, after the writer gave listening materials, asked the students to write what they listen in paper. Always give motivation and motivation to EYL because they cannot focus to study actually. Actually the class is much crowded. It's not easy to make them silence. It needs high effort for the teacher. In this case, the writer focused to do the research activity for one of Elementary School in South Sumatera, Palembang. The name of this school is SD Negeri 4 Palembang. This research is very useful for the writer because one of them is to know about the ways of students in learning English. In this case, the writer focuses on listening. Listening is very important because by listening, the

students can get many information about what the speaker talking about. To get the information, the students have to know about the meaning of words, how to spell the words and how to pronounce the word.

The last, the writer also hopes that this activity can make students more aware to study, more polite to the other people, and can improve their vocabulary and pronunciation better. Because there are many students afraid to study English, to pronounce the words, read aloud, speaking in front of the class, and typo in writing English. Therefore, as a good teacher, the teacher of English should not be surrender to teach EYL class. Because the teacher should have full energy, smart and wise to teach them.

How to Teach English to Young Learners (EYL)

According to Thoesen, R. (2023) talks there are 8 (eight) fun methods about how to teach English to young learner (EYL), whereas:

- 1. Turn Lesson into Songs**

The teachers have to be active to teach the EYL, for examples: the teacher can change the lesson or material in songs and create the lesson into songs. The vocabulary, grammar, and dialogue with catchy tunes and lyrics can be made by the teacher. It is very beneficial for the students because they can memorize the lesson easily. The teachers also can see the example of the lyrics from You-Tube application.

- 2. Create Visual Diagrams to Illustrate New Vocabulary**

For Examples: the teacher can use color and visual aids to keep EYL' or Kids' attention longer. The EYL actually like learning with colorful things. They will be more interesting to learn if they see various colors. Highlight, underline, and circle are all common visual tricks for the learners use to recall or remember snippets of information.

- 3. Encourage Mnemonic Devices to Memorize Grammar Rules**

When the EYL learn English, try to memory aids because it can make EYL easier to remember if they feel hard to spell about the words and understanding about grammar points. Therefore, it means that create a mnemonic device for EYL' native languages or breaking it down into simpler the words of English, and the purpose is the same: better memory!

- 4. Weave in Spontaneous or Consistent Dialogues throughout the Lesson**

As the teachers, they have to care with EYL every meeting. They have to ask some questions directly or spontaneous but consistent dialogues. For examples: What did you do this weekend? The teachers can make the students think about what they will say long before class even starts. Ask questions that relate to their own interests and life activities. The teachers can sprinkle some conversations to EYL to make them spirit to learn and diligent to study.

5. Break Up Solitary Study Sessions with Games

EYL can't escape to play in class during the lesson. Therefore, as creative teachers, they have to give some games to EYL in learning process, especially in learning English. For instances: (1) Simon Says, (2) Hangman, (3) Memory game with card pairs, (4) 20 questions, (5) I Spy, (6) Charades.

6. Review Vocabulary through Role Playing

The best teaching methods for EYL require creativity. The teachers can create a more relaxed expectation for students to act out roles. Don't make the students stress when they make mistakes. Teaching English to EYL should be about building up a solid foundation and speaking confidence.

7. Repeat Previous Lessons in Every Class

The teachers have to repeat the previous lesson when they teach because the students or learners or EYL always easy to forget. They sometimes forget what they learned before or yesterday. Therefore, the teachers should ask again and again about the material in every class they teach. In this case, it can make them remember about the lesson although just a little part, not all part of the learning materials.

8. Get Out of the Classroom

The teachers should lead EYL out into the wide world and out the class. Make them to speak and talk about something. They can improve their English if they open up a whole new box of the situation to learn and practice their vocabulary.

Strategies for Teaching Listening

Ahmed, R. (2015) describes that there are five (5) strategies for Teaching listening, such as:

1. Predicting Content

The students have to predict the content. For example: they have to practice by watching or listening from the recorder, then they can listen from You-Tube or Television program. After that, the students have to pause after listen for every sentences, and have to try to predict about what the speaker talk about. Another example, if the students listen about a listening test, there are some tips to listen: (1) skim through the questions, (2) try to predict about the information talk about. If the questions asks about "how many?" it means that the students have to prepare to answer the questions about quantity or a specific number.

2. Listening for Gist

The students have to find a short video with the subtitle about the topic that interesting for them. The, use the title to help the students to find of predict the content, then listen about the content words. Listen and listen again with the subtitles. For the first time in listening activity, how much did you understand?

Don't forget to return the video for the next day, next week. Therefore, you can improve your English skill in listening.

3. Detecting Signpost

Almost all of the English book come with audio script and also a CD. What the students have to do is to find the example of presentation or how many signpost phrases that the students can identify. After that, the students are be able to identify and listen more than once. After the students have finished the listening activity, the student are be able to check from the script audio to now about correct or incorrect, right or wrong for their listening activity.

4. Listening for Details

There are some steps for listening for details, such as: (1) understand about the specific information, and (2) ignore that words irrelevant. By doing those steps, the students can narrow down what the words that they search and get the detail words easily. In other side, if the students are taking a test, there are some steps that they have to do, such as: (1) skim through the questions, (2) underline about the words that the students feel important, (3) find the words detail to identify

5. Inferring Meaning

The students have to use the clues and prior knowledge from or about the situation to understand about the meaning of what they hear. If the students can't catch the words or don't understand about the speaker talk about, what students have to do, such as: try to guess the meaning that using the situation to help them, and also use the context to infer the meaning.

Types of Listening

Martins, J. (2022) shares about the four (4) types of listening, such as:

1. Empathic Listening

Empathic listening is when you listen and try to understand about the meaning of words. Think to listen when someone share about their story. In this case, you have to focus to others, not to yourself.

2. Appreciative Listening

Appreciative listening is when you listen to enjoy about yourself. For instances: motivational speaker, listening music, and attending a religious ceremony.

3. Comprehensive Listening

Comprehensive listening is when you listen something with the purpose to learn something new. This is happen when you listen about news, educational lecture, and podcast.

4. Critical Listening

Critical listening is when you listen to form the opinion about something from the other person. This is happen when there is a debate with another perseon, or when you listen to a sales person.

The Benefits of Active Listening

In addition, Martins, J. (2022) explains that active listening is one of the best ways to build students' establish connection better and interpersonal relationships. This soft-skill is important for resolve the problems, critical thinking and conflict resolution. There are some benefits of active listening, such as: to improve the way of communication, to improve the collaboration to another people, Understand what the people talk about, demonstrate empathy, demonstrate empathy, resolve the conflict, build trust, and establish rapport.

Active listening is a soft-skill that need time to improve the ability of listening better. There are five techniques to be active listening and how to do this listening exercise, for instances:

- 1. Avoid Interrupting**

It means that when the conversation is flowing. Try to not interrupt what the speaker/ people talk about to add your ideas or the ways of your thinking. But, it's better to you to understand what the speaker talk is about. To practice active in listening, students have to dedicate all of your energy towards and attention about what the speaker is saying.

- 2. Listen Without Judgment**

When the students learn about active listening, the students may be find someone talk and they listen, not judgment. Therefore, the students should listen without judgment and put aside about what you are thinking. Just focus on what the speaker say so you can understand the meaning of the words better.

- 3. Paraphrase and Summarize**

After another person is done to speak, paraphrase what you listen to them with your own words. Paraphrase helps you to know how deep you understand about the speaker saying. If you are wrong in paraphrase, or pass something what they are communicate, they can make clarify. Then, the students can dig deeper into the conversation.

By paraphrasing and summarizing, rather than add any information without permission. It means you can show that you are focus with them. When you are paraphrase, avoid to add another opinion and comments by yourself, because the purpose of active listening is to focus with another person and withhold your own judgment.

- 4. Model Positive Nonverbal Behavior**

Because the students don't talk too much in process of active listening, the best way to support is just give positive nonverbal behavior. This communication is anything that you can communicate without saying the words. So, just focus on gestures, body language, facial expression and posture.

To give the example of positive nonverbal behavior, do with eyes contact with the person who are speaking, to show to them that you are listening. Avoid fidgeting and crossing your arms because those behaviors indicate distraction. You can smile and nod along, if appropriate. Because it shows that you are pay attention or not in listen to other people.

5. Ask Specific, open-ended questions

After another person finishes their thought, show that you can ask question specifically and open-ended question. Avoid to your own judgment from that questions. Because you just focus on what they are talking about.

How to Practice Active listening

ICF (2022) explain about five strategies that work for practice in active listening, for instances:

1. Pay Attention

To build effective communication, the students have to focus in listening. Don't try to cut what the person off while they are speaking, and don't try to interrupt. After that, don't try to fixate about what you are going talk about to response and flow the conversation.

2. Withhold Judgment

When the students have opinions, points of view, and life experiences. To withhold judgment, the students have to open minded, don't conclude something wrong, avoid the conflict, and try to learn new perspective.

3. Be Patient

When speaker are talking about something, sometimes they need more time to conclude the point, but if the students listen actively, the students are able to help move the conversation by asking about clarifying questions and keep attention to details of the story. Therefore, the students have to be patient to avoid missing out the important information.

4. Observe Body Language

Verbal and Nonverbal communication are involved for face to face communication. For examples: facial expressions, eye contact, posture, and tone of voice help the students to get information clearly about the speaker emotional and thought.

5. Make Space for Silence

Silence sometimes make the situation awkward. Therefore, as speakers, they should choose the good words to talk and wise. Try to learn and read the person's body language to know about their idea and feeling.

The Procedure of Teaching Listening for EYL:

The teacher:

1. greets the students,
2. explains how to study listening,
3. motivates to student in learning about English,
4. gives some explanation about the strategies in learning listening,
5. gives the paper for EYL to answers some questions from the teacher,
6. gives suggestion, conclusion and reflection after learning about listening

The students (English Young Learner, EYL):

1. listen what the teacher talk about,
2. listen the materials from the teacher,
3. ask questions to the teacher if they don't understand,
4. answer the questions for the teacher through listening activities,
5. Understand about some strategies in learning listening, for example: How to be active listening? How to improve listening skills?, and etc.,
6. Give conclusion to the teacher.

Techniques to Train Active Listening Skills

Bauer & Figl (2008) list the explanation about the techniques to train active listening skills into table bellows:

Table 1

Techniques to Train Active Listening Skills

NO	TECHNIQUE	PURPOSE	TO ACHIEVE IT
1	Paraphrasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Convey the interest - Encourage the speaker to keep talking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restate the information and just received with your own words
2	Verbalizing Emotions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Show that the learners understand - Help the speaker to evaluate their own feelings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reflect the speaker's emotions in words and basic feeling
3	Asking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Get more information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ask questions
4	Summarizing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review progress - Pull together about 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restate major ideas expressed, including

		important ideas - Establish a basis for further discussion	feelings
5	Clarifying	- Clarify what is said - Help the speaker see other points of view	- Ask questions for vague statements. - Restate wrong interpretations to force further explanation
6	Encouraging	- Convey interest - Encourage the speaker to keep talking	- Disagree - Use varying intonations - Offer ideas and suggestions
7	Balancing	- Get more information - Help the speaker evaluate their own feelings	- Ask questions

Results and Discussion

To know about English in Elementary School, especially in SD Negeri 4 Palembang from 24 students. The writer gave 5 questionnaires. Based on the result of the questionnaires, for number one (1), the result showed that 73% students like to learn English., for number two (2), the result showed that 50% students like to read about English, for number three (3), the result showed that 40% students like to speak English., for number four (4), the result showed that 60% students like to write about English., for number five (5), the result showed that 50% students like to listen English.

Table 2

Questionnaires

THE QUESTIONS OF QUESTIONNAIRES			
No	Question	Answer	
		Yes	No
1	Do you like to learn English?		
2	Do you like to read about English?		
3	Do you like speak English?		
4	Do you like write English?		
5	Do you like to listen English?		

This questionnaire is very important to give for the students. It's can be used not only for Elementary school as English Young Learners (EYL) students, but also for junior high school, senior high school, university students, and general public. It is very useful because after the researcher gives the sample of the questionnaire, the researcher can understand about the students' feeling, how they feel about English, they like English or not, and etc. The students, English Young Learner (EYL) also have to answers all of the question from questionnaire honestly from their heart, their brain, and their feeling. Therefore, the results will be valid.

If the result correspond to reality, the writer or researcher or teacher can understand about students, (1) they can give materials to learn English better, (2) they can give some strategies in teaching English, (3) they can give new ways to study English creatively and innovatively, (4) they can use different media in teaching and learning process.

In this research, the writer focus to teach listening and give some strategies to the students in learning English. Hopefully, the students felt happy and useful for them to study English better. They can improve their English skill, diligent to learn English, read about English, Speak English, Write English, and listen about English. English Young Learner (EYL) have to enjoy to study English in order they can practice their English, speak English better and better, can catch what the speaker talk about for listening exercise, they have a good pronunciation when they read English, they can spell the words or vocabulary correctly. They have being confidence first about English, therefore they can improve their ability in English.

Conclusion

To make English Young Learner (EYL) happy to learn English, the teachers of English should have a good motivation in order they can motivate the students to learn. Based on the experience of the writer met the students in Elementary School, the writer have to give high motivation because almost all of them are not focus to study, they just focus to play and play. There are some ways to make the Elementary school study harder, such as: (1) Give the methods or strategies correctly, for example: the teachers use YouTube Kids in learning listening (2) Give good facilities, for example: in learning listening, the teacher should prepare speaker, laptop, or Bluetooth., (3) Use the media for learning activities., (4) The teacher should have a good ability and quality to teach. (4) Give the evaluation for learning, (5) Create interesting way to learn. In this case that not only the students have to learn, but also the teachers should improve their ability and quality to teach and learn.

Declarations

I declare that the information or manuscript from this article is true, original contribution, complete to the best of my knowledge, does not violate any privacy rights, and does not infringe any copyright. Meanwhile, this work was supported by University of Palembang (2023), The Faculty of Economic (2023), English Education Study Program (2023), and Elementary School Number 04 Palembang, South Sumatera (2023).

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