



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROJECT

**The Effects of Songs on learning a New Language**

at Salahaddin University College of Education

English Department

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# Certification

I certify that this study was prepared by students (A, B and C) under my supervision at College of Education/ Salahaddin University- Erbil in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor in English Language.

Signature

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# Abstract

Listening is one of the four skills of leaning a language that can affect three other skills, such as speaking, writing, and reading. The aim of this study is to show the relationship between song and learning a language. We highlight the effects of song on learning a new language (English language), such as developing pronunciation, vocabulary, and reinforcing grammatical structures. The material research includes an online questionnaire that consists of some questions about the effects of songs on the learners. This questionnaire was answered by 49 participants, most of whom were students in the English department at Salahaddin University. They showed that music has both positive and negative effects on students while learning English language.For example, %53 of participants agreed and (16%) of participants strongly agreed that songs improve the pronunciation of learners. In this study, we showed the role of listening in learning language. In spite of the fact that the role of listening does not appear as three other skills, for that reason, it’s recommended that other researchers focus more on listening because the role of listening has been lost. Especially in Kurdistan.

**Key words**: Song, Learning language, Pronunciation, Learners , Vocabulary and grammar structure.

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# Chapter One: Introduction

**1.1 Introduction**

Learning a new language consists of four skills, which are speaking, writing, reading, and listening. Listening has an important role in learning a language. To be a master of a language, you should be a good listener (Tri Listiyaningsih, 2017). Also, Renukadevi (2014) stated that other skills are important to improve the language role, but listening is the first skill to develop in a language learning and listening can have an impact on a language's ability. Listening helps learners acquire clear pronunciation and learn many useful words, phrases, and sentences, so it will be easy to improve other skills if we understand the foreign language by listening. (2011) showed how birds have different melodies and cries to relate to their community. Similarly, music is used by people to express emotions and thoughts about their inner world and social community. They thought that humans could live without music, but that music could make their lives beautiful.

We introduced the listening and the song in the first section of the paper. The second section of this paper defines song and language as well as reveals the positive and negative effects of song on language learning. Moreover, this section focuses on using songs for young learners. Also, the third section of this paper consists of a questionnaire online asking a question about learners and some questions about using song and its effects. The last section shows the conclusion of our study.

# 1.2 The problem of the Research

As its known, listening has a great role in learning language, however it has been neglected in the process of learning language, especially through listening to songs. Listening to songs is not a new way of learning, but it’s found in a number of research regarding its effectiveness on learners.

# 1.3 The Aim of the Research

# Researchers show the role of listening in learning language .In addition, they highlight the effects of songs on learning English language so that a strong relationship between them could be noticed.

# 1.4 Significance of the Research:

The literature review and Results of this study is useful for:

1. Students: This study should be beneficial to students because song make them more interested and motivated for learning English language.

2. Teachers: teachers can utilize songs as effective teaching tools, particularly when teaching vocabulary.

3. Researchers: this research can be used as a source for future research by researchers.

## **Chapter Two: Literature Review**

## **2.1 Definition of Songs**

Before the discussion the effectiveness of songs in learning the language, researchers define songs: Such a history shows that songs are used for a variety of purposes: to tell stories, express feelings or melody, as well as convey ideas by singers. According to study website ( 2020) song consists of a short piece of music with words, vocals, and melody. Songs are like magic that can affect human. Therefore, when people hear the songs, they can be brought into the songs and they reflect their thoughts (Tuti Masnijar, 2017). Andrade (2006) stated that music is a way that can spread the language around the world. On the other hand, he categorizes listeners into two groups: those who have some knowledge and those who do not but want to listen because the singer's voice, rhythm, and melody have a strong influence. For example, in the 1980s and 1990s, Capeverdian young people were very affected by Bob Marley’s reggae and Michael Jackson’s pop music.

## **2.2 Language:**

As its known, there are various languages in the world. To demonstrate the definition of language, researchers defined it in different ways. As Fasold and Connor-Linton (2015) pointed out in their book, language is a general characteristic of human beings. Sapir (2017) pointed out that language is a wholly human and non-instinctive way of transmitting thoughts, feelings, and desires. Furthermore, according to Devi (2009), language is a tool of communication that is used by people all over the world. Every individual needs communication. They use language to give and receive new ideas, but each country has its own language, such as Chinese, Spanish, and many more. Speaking with other people from other countries will be difficult. People should learn other foreign languages.

## [**2.3**](#_Toc90500172) **How song affects in learning anew language ?**

After researchers defined song and language,it is important showing affects of song on learning a language (English in this case).

**Advantage of using songs for learning language :**

**1.Learning new vocabulary**:Songs have positive impacts on young learners’ vocabulary (Dani & Peji, 2016). Learners can expand their vocabulary by listening to the songs. For example, you hear the song.It consists of new vocabulary that you didn't know before(Gomez ,2021).Furthermore, songs also teach learners how to construct sentences with vocabulary, which is important because, as you know, you cannot speak a target language solely through vocabulary (2019, Batu Bara).

**2.Improving pronunciation:** If we know grammar and vocabulary without a clear pronunciation,we cannot express our ideas. For that reason, we should check our pronunciation as Nuri(2020) explained that one of the main advantages of listening to songs is that it can improve your pronunciation.For example, when you listen to the song, you repeat what the singer says.In this way, you can develop your pronunciation.Also,Richards (n.d.)stated that music is a wonderful source for improving pronunciation. because the singers usually have clear pronunciation.

**3.reinforce grammatical structure**s:As we know, grammar is very important in the English language.Batu Bara(2019) explained that students easily understand the grammatical rules of a song by analysing the tenses used in the verses.

**5.Save time and Time length is easily controlled**:(Sánchez) 2017 showed some of learners have problem with language learning because their time is very limited but learning with song doesn't take much time too much because learner can use the song in anywhere they want without becoming bored .

**6.Source of motivation for learners and enjoyable way for learning new language**: Learners cannot learn a language well without motivation. Songs can affect the emotions and feelings of learners because some songs contain motivating and enjoyable words. In this way, music can increase their motivation (Nuri, 2020).Also, Lizzy( 2017) stated that popular songs can remove the stress of learners and can make them optimists. Moreover, she states that music is an interesting way of learning English.

**7. Song represented on culture:**Songs can help learners learn new information about the culture of the foreign language that they want to speak. (Antika, 2021). Moreover,Sanchez(2017)said that English songs teach you the culture.It shows the song gives information about the costume and tradition of target people so that the learners can speak with them.

**8.Mastery of memorization:**

Music is one of the most effective ways to stimulate both sides of our brains.It has a beneficial effect on not only English acquisition but also general learning.When we listen to music on a regular basis, we improve our memory at the same time (Lizzy, 2017).Also, Nuri( 2020) stated that when we enjoy a song, we listen to it again, which means we repeat the same words and phrases over and over. All of this aids in the retention of new information in our minds.

**Disadvantages of using songs :**

Although song has a positive impact but it has negative impact on the learners.There are some disadvantage of listening song that explained by researchers: Antika( 2021) stated that some songs contain a few words, a lot of slang phrases,and poor grammar.Moreover,some songs only contain sensitive subjects such as aggression and sadness, and these types of songs make learners confused and embarrassed.2.Accordying to(Young Learners Rock, 2011) songs have a negative impact on the health of learners when they listen too much to the song. They will suffer from ear pain. As a result, they should spend time and money to solve it.3.Nuri(2020) showed the writers of songs use bad grammar,slang words, For that reason,she advised the learners to use songs for learning carefully because some writers and singers use informal language.

**2.4 songs and young learners**:

There are many statements about the meanings of young learners.. According to the book by Nunan (2010), in his book that some writers and researchers divided these ages into 3-5 years old, 5-8 years old, and so on. And he pointed out that young learners do not have knowledge about learning a language. According to Forster (2006), young students do not distinguish between different forms of music in the classroom. That is, teachers can use any type of music, chant, or song to teach vocabulary, grammar, and some communicative skills. But,Etty and Pratiwi (2017) suggested that teachers determine the level of their students before selecting songs. Then they should choose songs that are very audible and loud. The song shows a high concept of language as well. Džanić and Peji (2016) proved that young learners enjoy playing games, singing songs, and using their ability to learn English. Therefore, Bourke (2006) asserts that a program for young second language learners should be experimentally suitable as well as include songs, rhymes, and lyrics. According to Lee and Lin (2015), song has a favorable influence on enhancing the motivation and attention span of young learners.It also helps shy young learners participate in lessons, and music encourages young students to be more self-reliant and creative.

### Chapter Three: Methods

[3.1. Context: This](#_Toc90500174) research paper was carried out in the years (2021–2022) in Iraq Kurdistan in the Salahaddin University College of Education in the English Department. This department uses the English language as its main language for teaching a lecture, and the lectures are very important for learning English and being a good English teacher and speaker.

3.2 Participants : The present study is dependent on data collection from 49 participants, 41 of whom are female, and 8 of whom are male. The ages of 41 participants were between 20 and 25, the ages of seven participants were between 18 and 20, and the age of one participant was between 25 and 35. The qualifications of 44 participants were that they were students in the English department, and the qualifications of three participants were that they graduated from the English department, as well as the qualifications of two others who were English teachers. The nationality of the 48 participants was Kurdish. Only one participant was English.

3.3 Instrument \tool: The material research contained a questionnaire online, which was answered by 49 of the participants. This questionnaire online contained two sections: The first section contained personal information and this section was aimed at finding out the social background of participants. The second section contained eight questions about the effects of music on learning a new language. Answers with answers like "agree," "disagree," "neutral," "strongly disagree," "strongly agree." Also in this section, the different answers of the participants showed how the song affects the learners.

### Chapter Four: Results

According to data collection process, from 49 participants from different ages, qualification and Nationality. The researchers have reached with results, Listening song has a great effect on learners. They reach different answer about the role of song on learning another language that we analyzed in the following chart.

**Chart 1: Listening to song is a great way to learn a new language**

According to chart 1 above, 55% of participants agreed and 19% of participants strongly agreed that listening to songs is a great way to learn a new language. However, 20% of participants were neutral about this statement. Although 4% of participants disagreed, it was agreed by the most f the participants that listening to songs is a great way to learn a new language.

**Chart2 \Listening to song can improve the pronunciation of learners.**

According to the chart 2 above, 53 % of participants agreed and 16 % of participants strongly agreed that songs can affect the pronunciation of learners. Moreover, 23% of participants were neutral about this statement. A small number of participants disagreed with this statement.

**Chart3: Learners can learn new vocabulary by listening to songs.**

Chart 3 demonstrates different answers. 45% of participants agreed and 29% of participants strongly agreed that learners can learn a new vocabulary by listening to songs. But 4% of them disagreed, and 2% of them strongly disagreed. This chart shows that listening to songs has an effect on learning vocabulary.

**Chart4/ The effects of songs on learners depend on the person and types the** **of songs.**

According to chart 4, 47% of participants agreed and 18% of participants strongly agreed that the effects of song on the learner depend on the person and type of song. However, only 4% of participants disagreed, and only 2% strongly disagreed with the statement. This chart shows us that the effects of music are different on one person from another, as well as the various types of music that have different effects on the learners.

**Chart5:.Listening to a song will have a negative effect on the learner's mood.**

In this chart, most of the participants show that listening to songs has no bad impact on the learner's mood. As this data shows, 44% of participants disagreed and 2% strongly disagreed that music has a negative impact on a learner's mood. But only 31% of the participants agreed that music has a negative impact on a learner's mood.

**Chart 6/ Learners lose their native customs and culture when they listen to foreign songs.**

This chart shows that 24% of participants agreed and 25% of the theme were neutral about learners losing their native customs and culture when they listen to foreign songs. Although 37% of participants disagreed, learners lose their native culture and customs.

**Chart 7/ Listening to song is an enjoyable way to learn a new language**

Based on the data collection, 53% of participants agreed, and 23% of participants strongly agreed that listening to songs is an interesting way to learn language. Furthermore, 22% of participants were neutral on this statement. Despite the fact that 2% of participants disagreed with this statement, the chart revealed that the majority of participants agreed that listening to the song is an enjoyable way to learn a language.

**chart8: English songs neglect the grammar in in their lyrics.**

According to this data, 39% of participants agreed and 12% of participants strongly agreed that English songs have poor grammar in their lyrics. Only 12% of participants disagreed with this statement.

### Chapter Five: Discussion:

Some researchers have conducted some studies related to the effects of songs on the learning of a new language. Some studies are similar to one another, while others are different. One of the main advantages of song is improving pronunciation. For example, when learners listen to the song, they hear some words. Then they realized what the singer had said. As Richards (n.d.) pointed out in his study.

Songs are good way sto develop the pronunciation because the singer's voice is very clear. Additionally , the results of this study that have been discussed and explained before supported these two researchers, such as 53% of participants agreed and 16% of participants strongly agreed that listening to the song could improve the pronunciation of learners.

According to grammar, it is very important in the English language. The results of this study revealed that 53% of participants agreed and 16% of participants strongly agreed that English songs neglect the grammar in their lyrics. However, Bara (2019) in his study showed song as a strong tool for learning language. He stated that learners can understand the grammar in the verses of the songs.

Antika (2019) indicated as a researcher that the song has a negative impact on the learners' mood, stating that the song makes learners sad and embarrassed. But the results of our study showed that this study because (44%) of participants disagreed that the song has a negative impact on learners' moods. However, only 31% of participants agreed that songs made students sad.

### Chapter Six: Conclusions and Recommendations

Listening is one of the four skills in learning a language that have an important role in learning a language. Based on a literature review, listening to songs is one way of learning a new language. It has both positive and negative effects on learners. In this study, researchers found some important points about the effects of learning language through songs: One of the primary benefits of listening to songs and music is that it improves pronunciation and teaches new vocabulary because each song contains a new word for listeners who have heard it many times. Songs have a favorable influence on enhancing the motivation and attention span of young learners. English songs can sometimes have a negative impact on students. Based on the questionnaire, 39% of participants agreed and 12% of participants strongly agreed that English songs have poor grammar in their lyrics.

Therefore, it is recommended that:

1. Researchers need to read and research more about listening since the role of listening has been lost. Especially in Kurdistan.

2. The Kurdish researchers might focus on the effectiveness of songs in learning the English language. The researchers have many people who were taught by songs, but didn’t see any studies that had been conducted on it.

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### **Appendix**: The Questionnaire

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1hAf9a6Oww1hTp2sLtPgrPxzzuYaNsq-2kc8wGpUSrOw/edit

### Abstract in Kurdish

گوێ گرتن یەکێکە لە چوار کارامەیی فێربوونی زمان کە دەتوانێت کار بکاتە سەر سێ کارامەیی تر، وەک قسەکردن، نووسین، و خوێندنەوە ل. ئامانجی ئەم توێژینەوەیە ئەوەیە کە پەیوەندی نێوان گۆرانی و فێربوونی زمان نیشان بدەین. ئێمە کاریگەرییەکانی گۆرانی لەسەر فێربوونی زمانێکی نوێ وەک پەرەپێدانی زمان و فێربوونی وشەی نوێ، وەهەوەها بەهێزکردنی پێکهاتە ڕێزمانییەکان دیاری دەکەین .وە توێژینەوەکە لە ڕاپرسیەکی ئۆنلاین پێکهاتووە کە لە چەند پرسیارێک پێکدێت دەربارەی کاریگەری گۆرانیەکان لەسەر فێرخوازان.ئەم ڕاپرسیە٤٩٪ بەشداربوو وەڵامیان داوەتەوە کە زۆربەیان خوێندکاری بەشی ئینگلیزی زانکۆی سەلاحەدین بوون .ئەوان ئەوەیان نیشاندا کە گۆرانی هەردوو کاریگەری ئەرێنی و نەرێنی لەسەر قوتابیان هەیە بۆ نموونە٥٣٪ی بە شداربووان هاوڕابوون١٦٪ بەشداربووان بە تەواوی هاوڕابوون لەسەر ئەوەی کە گۆرانی دەتوانێت کابکاتە سەر فێرکار لەلایەنی دەربڕینی وشەکان بەڕێکی ، لەم توێژینەوەیەدا ڕۆڵی گوێگرتنمان لە فێربوونی زماندا نیشاندا.سەرەڕای ئەوەی کە ڕۆڵی گوێگرتن وەک سێ لێهاتوویی دیکە دەرناکەوێت، بۆیە پێویستە توێژەران زیاتر لەبارەی گوێگرتنەوە فێربن چونکە ڕۆڵی گوێگرتن بزرکراوە بەتایبەتی لەکوردستان