ABSTRACT

Hasriyanti, Desy (2020). " An Analysis of the Second Year Students' Ability in Listening to the Minimal Pairs at English Department of Bung Hatta Univerisity".

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The purpose of this research was to describe students' listening ability to identify the minimal pairs. The design of this research was descriptive research. The population of this research was the second year students at English Department of Bung Hatta University. The total number of population members was 37 students. There were 19 students who became sample. The researcher used *simple random sampling technique* in taking the sample.

In collecting the data, the researcher used listening test, in form of check box test which was provided with 2 choices for each items. It was focused on listening to the minimal pairs. The researcher tried it out to the population out of the sample before giving it to the sample. Using *split half method*, *Pearson Product Moment Formula* and *Spearman Brown Formula*, it was found the reliability index of the test was 0.54 (see the appendix 5). It means the test was reliable and it could be used as an instrument of this research.

The result of this research showed that the ability of the second year students at English Department of Bung Hatta University in listening to the minimal pairs was low. It was proved by the fact that 11 students (57.89%) had low ability. In detail, the students' ability to identify the vowels sound in minimal pairs was also low. It is supported by the fact that 12 students (63.16%) had low ability. In the other hand, the students' ability to identify the consonants sound in minimal pairs was very good, and it is proved by 8 students (42.10%) had very good ability.

Based on the findings, it can be concluded that the students has low ability in listening to the minimal pairs. Relating to this, the researcher suggests the English lecturers at Bung Hatta University to give more exercises about listening to several words which have similarity in sounds. In order to enrich the students' ability in identifying the words which are similar in sounds, they are suggested to improve their listening and pronunciation ability.