# STUDENTS' PERCEPTION ON THE USE OF ENGLISH SONGS TO LEARN PRONUNCIATION

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**Abstract:** The aim of this research is to identify the perceptions of students about the use of English songs to learn pronunciation. The researcher used questionnaire to collect the data. The researcher used descriptive method which is survey method to analyze the data. Survey method was used to analyze the data directly from people. The population and sample of this research were the second grade students at SMA YBP Buntong Tateli. There were 20 students participated in this research. Based on the findings of the research, there are 3 indicators such as experience of using the media, learning outcomes and the effectiveness and availability of media. It was found that the students as the sample gave positive responses about the use of songs as a media of learning English especially to learn pronunciation, and the perception from the statements were dominated by agreement. The conclusion was English songs could be useful for students in the process of learning English, It could be an easy and simple media for students to learn English. It was suggested to English teachers to always be good in teaching English, and look for students interests so the learning process would be more enjoyable and make students could receive the lessons given well.

**Keywords:** *Perception, Pronunciation, Song, Media.*

## INTRODUCTION

English language is an international language (Tatipang, Manuas & Pratasik, 2022). English language can help people to travel around the world or communicate with others in many different nations. Liando & Tatipang (2022) English is an international language that it is the most widespread medium of international communication. This claim implies that the most common language for worldwide

communication is English that can be used in almost all countries. The different languages of each country can be united with English.

English can help people to make a conversation or to communicate with others in many different nations because English is an international language. English is a foreign language in Indonesia (Tatipang et al, 2022). Indonesian use English to talk with tourists or job. There are 4 important skills in English, Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. Not only those important skills but English has 3 components like vocabulary, pronunciation, and Grammar (Lengkoan & Olii, 2020).

An essential linguistic skill for communicating is pronunciation, because Pronunciation can help the listeners to understand words which are uttered by the speaker. If the speaker does not have a good pronunciation, or not be able to pronounce words appropriately, the communication can not run well. Wong (1987) Argue that "Even when the non-native speakers' vocabulary and grammar are excellent, if their pronunciation falls below a certain threshold level, they are unable to communicate effectively." That's why, when communicate with others or tourists, it is not just about good vocabulary or grammar but also about pronunciation. so, it is very important to teach pronunciation.

There are a lot of words that don't sound familiar for students especially in the area around SMA YBP Buntong Tateli.  Therefore, the researcher propose an easy technique and follow the interests of the students. By this, the students will not feel burdened by the demands of having to master pronunciation, students will automatically know it through the English song that they hear.

## 1. Perception

Liando (2010) stated that Students' perception means their actions and ability to express what they see, hear, based on their experience. So, students' perception is based on observations or experiences about something. Tumbal, Liando, Olii (2021) argue that perception is a process that is preceded by sensing, which is a stimulus received by an individual through a receptor, namely the sense. Lengkoan, Rombepajung (2022) Perception is what a person experiences immediately. Perception

connects the way to the surrounding nature to know, hear, smell, feel, to smell immediately based on the senses. These statements shows that perception is human expression or judgment in terms of their experiences what they feel about something. These studies demonstrated the importance of students' perception in shaping student behavior, which may serve as the basis for developing a teaching strategy that maximizes learning results. By this, students' perception is very important for teachers to know how the students are, how to designing the teaching model, and to get optimal training results.

## 2. Pronunciation

Devi Mulatsih (2015) stated, Pronunciation is one part of English to communicate with others since there are differences between the symbol and its sounds. When we communicate with others, we should not only have a good vocabulary but also have good pronunciation. Olii S. T (2021) In English, different sounds bring different meanings. On the other hand, language skills include not only writing skills but also speaking skills, nonetheless, people most frequently communicate with verbal languages. This calls for an effective solution to improve our education system. According to Nawal Aufa (2017) Pronunciation is the act or manner of pronouncing words; utterance of speech, a way of speaking a word, especially a way that is accepted or generally understood, and a graphic representation of the way a word spoken, using phonetic symbols. Pronunciation is an important skill, because English has differences between the symbol and its sound, even if we have so many vocabularies it means nothing if we cannot pronounce the words correctly.

## 3. Song

Etty Pratiwi (2018) stated, songs are useful in the language learning classroom. They contain authentic language, are easily obtainable, provide vocabulary, grammar, and cultural aspects and are fun for the students. Teppa, Rorimpandey, Posumah (2022) Song was the works of art meant to be sung both with and without instrumental accompaniment. Song could also be used to aid in language learning. Sulistia Budi

Rahayu (2018) song can offer new ways to improve students Pronunciation skill in learning English and carrying students into pleasure activities without reduce discipline of learn. Song can be a great way for students to learn English, song can improve English skills such as listening to a song can improve listening skill, read the lyrics can improve reading skill, and especially sing a song to improve students' pronunciation skill. Learn with song will be a good way.

## 4. Teaching Pronunciation Through English Songs

According to Raudyatuzzahra (2020) that teacher must be able to bring a pleasant classroom atmosphere so that students can be more pay attention to the teacher's explanation. Additionally, remember that most pupils dislike monotonous material. So, with this statement, in this method, not only the teacher give a song and it is heard and then studied by the students, but the teacher also plays an important role in explaining this method to students so that they can accept and do the steps correctly. And for this method it will not be bored because listening to songs are the hobbies of most students, teachers can also change the song that are appropriate and contain the words that the teachers want to use to teach students.

## RESEARCH METHOD

In this study, the data would be analyzed with quantitative approach by the researcher. Oberiri Destiny Apuke (2017) stated that quantitative research numeral data are collected and analyzed using statistical methods. In this research, the researcher would use a questionnaire to collect data. The questionnaire would be share using a group on the whatsapp application. The data would be taken from SMA YBP BUNTONG TATELI at second grade.

Researcher would use a questionnaire to collect the data. S Roopa, MS Rani (2012) stated that A questionnaire is the main means of collecting quantitative primary data. A questionnaire enables quantitative data to be collected in a standardized way so that the data are internally consistent and coherent for analysis. Collecting data using a questionnaire is a standardized way. So, the data that would be collected can be analyzed. The instrument of questionnaire is adapted from Rahmania, Mandasari

(2021). Form that used in this questionnaire was Likert scale, which means the answer of the question are (1) Strongly Agree; (2) Agree; (3) Neutral; (4) Disagree; (5) Strongly Disagree. The questionnaire consisted of 10 questions.

## 1. Validity

To measure the data it is valid or not, the researcher used pearson product moment correlation. The data is valid if r-item value is bigger than the value of r-table, but if r-item value is smaller than the value of r-table, the data is invalid.

Table 1. Result of Validity

| Statement (n) | R - Item | R - Table | Result |
|---|---|---|---|
| Listening to English songs can improve students' pronunciation. | 0.524084 | 0,444 | Valid |
| Students will know how to pronounce a word by listening to English songs. | 0.466527 | 0,444 | Valid |
| Listening to English songs could be an enjoyable media to learn pronunciation. | 0.620835 | 0,444 | Valid |
| Learning pronunciation by English songs will not make students feel bored. | 0.580738 | 0,444 | Valid |
| English songs could be a simple media of learning English especially to improve students' pronunciation. | 0.688796 | 0,444 | Valid |
| Listening to English songs could be a good media of learning pronunciation because I can apply it anywhere and anytime. | 0.793747 | 0,444 | Valid |
| I can also improve my listening skill by listening to English songs. | 0.501418 | 0,444 | Valid |
| It will be easier to memorize how to pronounce the words by singing it. | 0.617173 | 0,444 | Valid |
| Besides being a hobby, listening to an English songs can also be a medium to improve pronunciation | 0.482534 | 0,444 | Valid |
| Using English songs to improve pronunciation is an easy technique | 0.487918 | 0,444 | Valid |

From the results above, all the items are valid, because the r item > r table.

## 2. Reliability

Reliability is a measurement for the consistency of the score. So, if the result can be consistent, it means the research could be reliable. The reliability was tested by the formula of Cronbach Alpha technique as follow:

Table 2. Cronbach's Alpha Criteria

| Cronbach's Alpha | Internal Consistency |
|---|---|
| α ≥ 0.9 | Excellent |
| 0.9 > α ≥ 0.8 | Good |
| 0.8 > α ≥ 0.7 | Acceptable |
| 0.7 > α ≥ 0.6 | Questionable |
| 0.6 > α ≥ 0.5 | Poor |
| 0.5 > α | Unacceptable |

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The data that would be analyzed is the data that counted in percentage formula:

$$P = \frac{f}{N} \; X \; 100\%$$

(Brown, 2004)

Notes :

P= Percentage (%)

f = Total response/item

N= Total respondents

This research was conducted on 20 students from the second grade of SMA YBP Buntong Tateli. In the questionnaire there were 4 kinds of answers offered; SA = Strongly Agree,  A = Agree, D = Disagree, SD = Strongly Disagree. The results were in the table bellow:
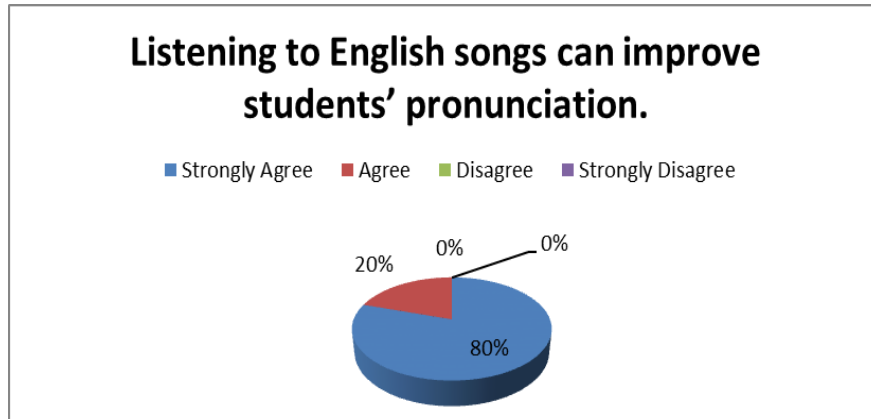
**Figure 1. Listening to English songs can improve students' pronunciation.**

In this chart all of the students agree with the statement, 80% of them strongly agreed and 20% agreed with the statement. So, listening to English songs can improve students' pronunciation.
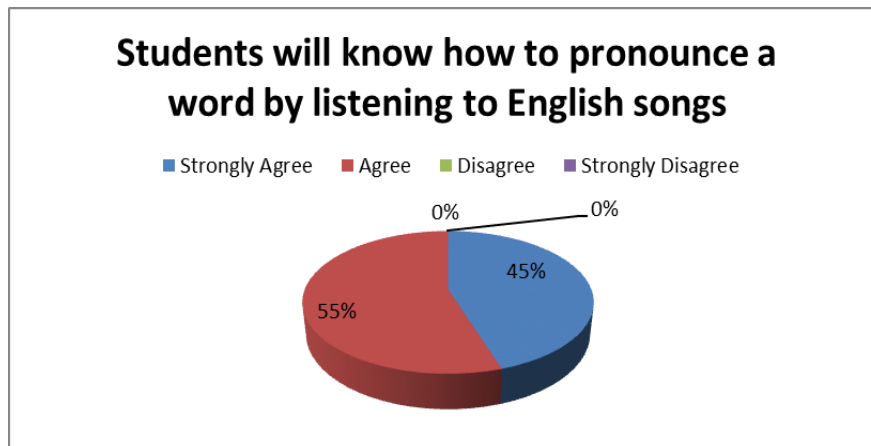


**Figure 2. Students will know how to pronounce a word by listening to English songs.**

In this chart all of the students also agree with this, but most of them was just agree, 45% strongly agree and 55% agree. So, the students agree that students will know how to pronounce a word by listening to English songs.
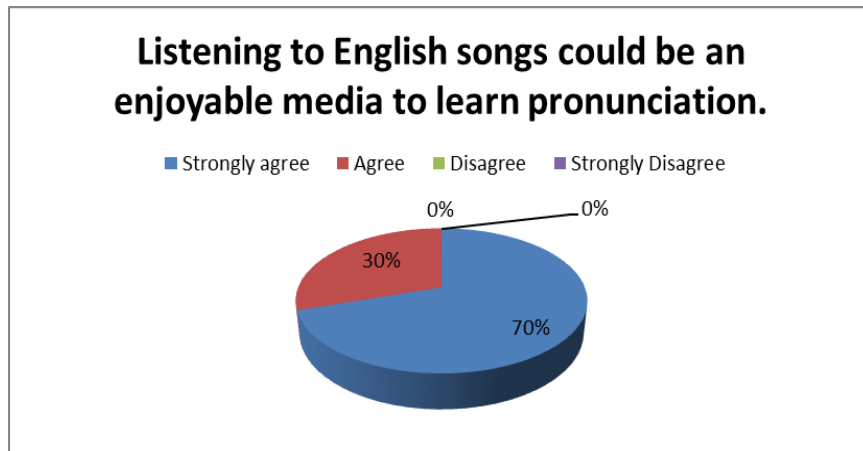
**Figure 3. Listening to English songs could be an enjoyable media to learn pronunciation.**

In this chart all of the students agreed with this statement, most of them were strongly agreed. The results were 70% strongly agreed and 30% agreed, it means they were agree that listening to English songs could be an enjoyable media to learn pronunciation.
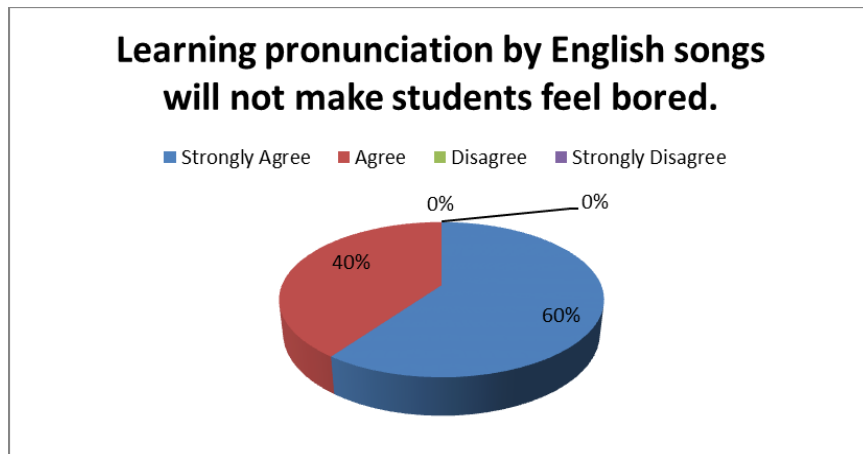


**Figure 4. Learning pronunciation by English songs will not make students feel bored.**

In this chart all of the students agreed with this statement, Most of them were strongly agreed. The results showed that 60% of them were strongly agreed and 40% were agreed. So they were agree that learning pronunciation by English songs will not makes students feel bored.
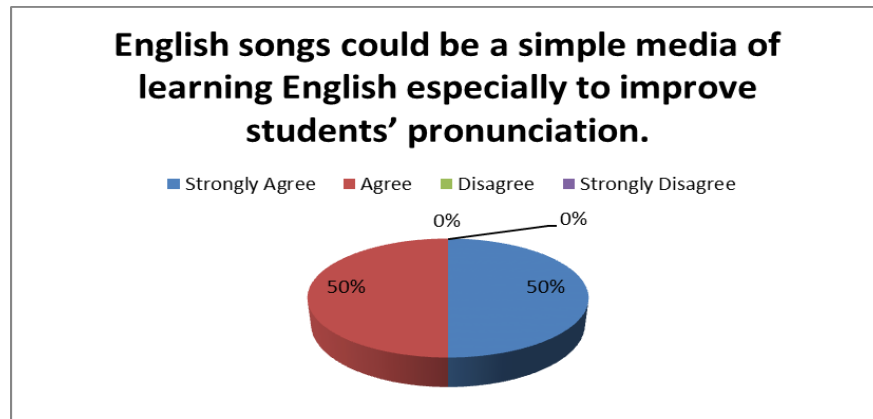
**English songs could be a simple media of learning English especially to improve students' pronunciation.**

Strongly Agree ■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree

0%        0%

50%        50%

**Figure 5. English songs could be a simple media of learning English especially to improve students' pronunciation.**

In this chart all of the students were agreed with this statement, half of the students were strongly agreed and half of the students did not. The results showed that 50% of them were strongly agreed, and another 50% were agreed. So, the students agreed if English songs could be an easy way to learn the language particularly to improve students' pronunciation.
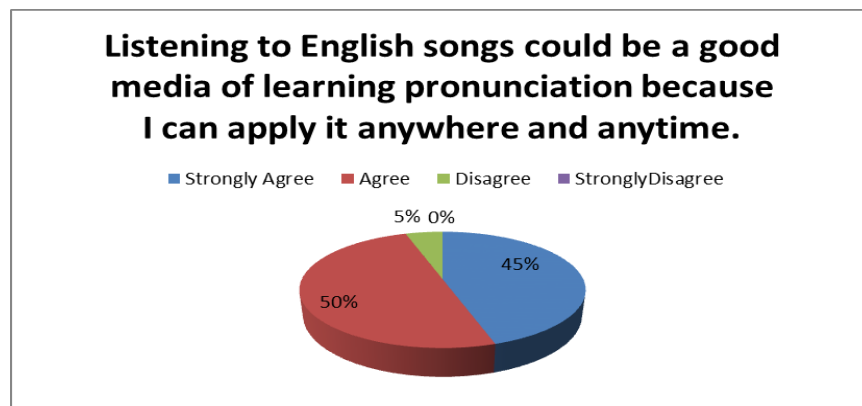
**Listening to English songs could be a good media of learning pronunciation because I can apply it anywhere and anytime.**

Strongly Agree ■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ StronglyDisagree

5% 0%

45%

50%

**Figure 6. Listening to English songs could be a good media of learning pronunciation because I can apply it anywhere and anytime.**

In this chart not every students were agreed for this claims, most of them were agreed, some of them were strongly agreed, and one of the students did not agree. The results showed that 45% of the students were strongly agreed, 50% were agreed,

and 5% were disagreed. It means that almost all of them agree with this claim because students can apply it anywhere and anytime, but few of the students could not apply it.
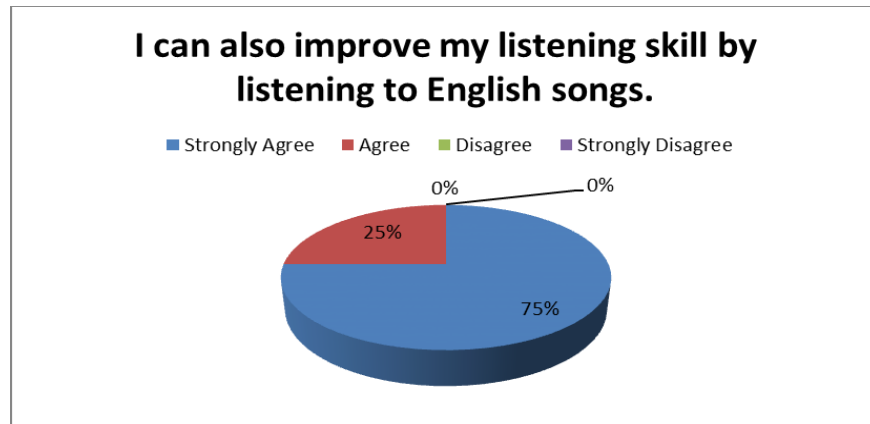
**I can also improve my listening skill by listening to English songs.**

■ Strongly Agree   ■ Agree   ■ Disagree   ■ Strongly Disagree

0%          0%

25%

75%

**Figure 7. I can also improve my listening skill by listening to English songs.**

In this chart all of the students were agree with this statement, most of them were strongly agree and some of them were agree. The results showed that 75% of the pupils firmly strongly agreed and the other 25% agreed. It means students can also improve their listening skill by listening to English songs, according to students.
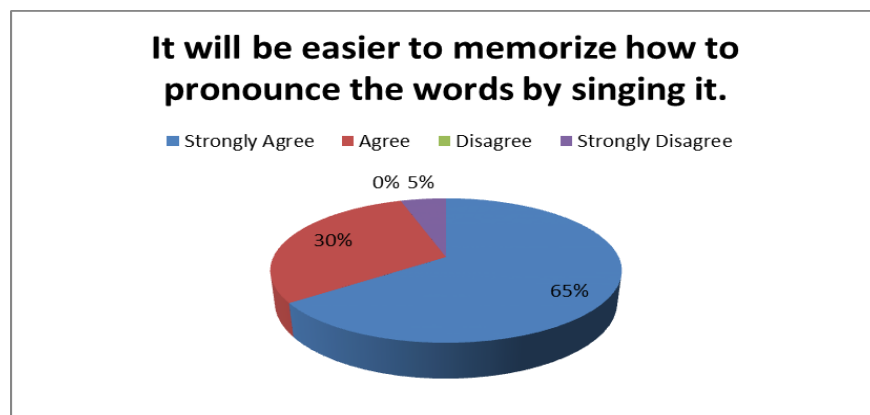
**It will be easier to memorize how to pronounce the words by singing it.**

■ Strongly Agree   ■ Agree   ■ Disagree   ■ Strongly Disagree

0%  5%

30%

65%

**Figure 8. It will be easier to memorize how to pronounce the words by singing it.**

In this chart almost all of them agree and one of them did not agree with this statement. The results showed that 65% of the students strongly agreed, 30% agreed, and 5% strongly disagree. It means that just 1 from 20 students who did not agree with this statement.
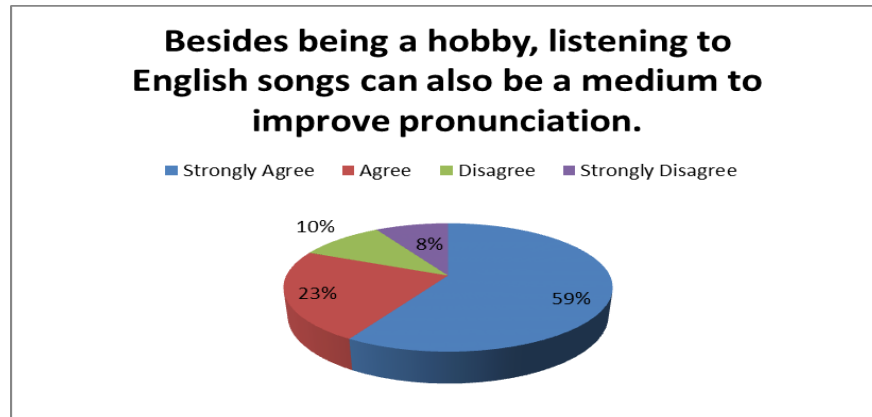
**Besides being a hobby, listening to English songs can also be a medium to improve pronunciation.**

■ Strongly Agree  ■ Agree  ■ Disagree  ■ Strongly Disagree

10%  8%
23%  59%

***Figure 9. Besides being a hobby, listening to English songs can also be a medium to improve pronunciation.***

In this chart, most of the students agreed with this statement, some of them strongly agreed, and one of them did not agree. The results showed that 60% of the students agreed, 35% strongly agreed, and 5% disagree. It means just 1 from 20 students who did not agree with this statement.
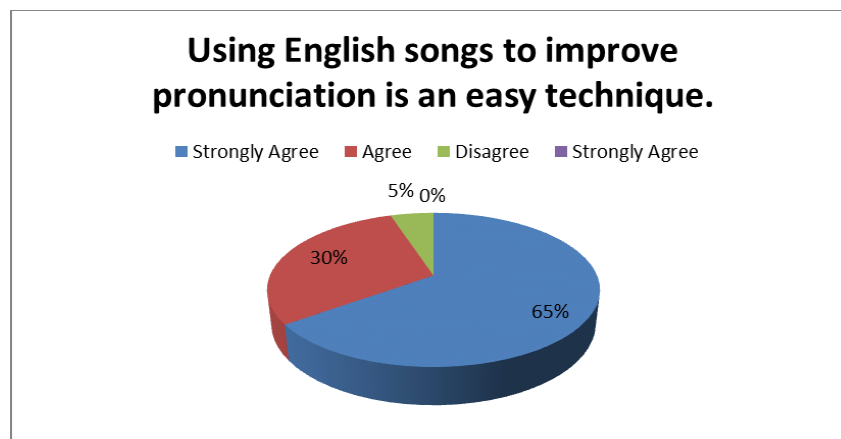


**Using English songs to improve pronunciation is an easy technique.**

■ Strongly Agree  ■ Agree  ■ Disagree  ■ Strongly Agree

5% 0%
30%  65%

***Figure 10. Using English songs to improve pronunciation is an easy technique***

In this chart almost all of them agreed with this statement, most of them strongly agreed, some of them agreed, and one of them did not agree. The results showed that 65% of them strongly agreed, 30% agreed, and 5% disagreed. It means just one of the students who disagreed with this statement.

There are 3 indicators based on the results above, they are:

1. experience of using the media
2. learning outcomes
3. the effectiveness and availability of media

Those indicators were explained on the table below:

1. Experience of using the media

There are 4 items in Experience of using the media.

### Table 3. Items in Experience of Using The Media

| STATEMENT | SA | A | D | SD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Listening to English songs could be an enjoyable media to learn pronunciation. | 70% | 30% | 0% | 0% |
| Learning pronunciation by English songs will not make students feel bored. | 60% | 40% | 0% | 0% |
| I can also improve my listening skill by listening to English songs. | 75% | 25% | 0% | 0% |
| Using English songs to improve pronunciation is an easy technique | 65% | 30% | 5% | 0% |
| **Average** | 67.50% | 31.25% | 1.25% | 0% |

Based on the results above, most of the students strongly agree, some of them agree, and just one of them who disagree that English songs could be a good media to learn English language especially to learn pronunciation.

2. Learning outcomes

There are 3 items in learning outcomes.

**Table 4. Items in Learning Outcomes**

| STATEMENT | SA | A | D | SD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Listening to English songs can improve students' pronunciation. | 80% | 20% | 0% | 0% |
| Students will know how to pronounce a word by listening to English songs. | 45% | 55% | 0% | 0% |
| It will be easier to memorize how to pronounce the words by singing it. | 65% | 30% | 0% | 5% |
| **Average** | 63.33% | 35.00% | 0.00% | 1.67% |

Based on the results above, most of the students agreed that students could get learning outcomes by English songs as a media to learn English.

3. The effectiveness and availability of media

There are 3 items in the effectiveness and availability of media.

**Table 5. Items in The Effectiveness and Availability of Media**

| STATEMENT | SA | A | D | SD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| English songs could be a simple media of learning English especially to improve students' pronunciation. | 50% | 50% | 0% | 0% |
| Listening to English songs could be a good media of learning pronunciation because I can apply it anywhere and anytime. | 45% | 50% | 5% | 0% |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Besides being a hobby, listening to an English songs can also be a medium to improve pronunciation | 35% | 60% | 5% | 0% |
| **Average** | 43.33% | 53.33% | 3.33% | 0% |

The table showed that more than half of respondents were having a good experience in song as the media for learning speaking.

## DISCUSSION

The researcher discussed about the research results from SMA YBP Buntong Tateli with 20 students from the second grade as the participants of this research toward students' perception on the use of English songs to learn pronunciation. The data of this research has been available above, where the data showed the results from the research. There are 3 indicators contained in the questionnaire that has been given to the students, of which the 3 indicators become an outline of the statements in the questionnaire.

The result of each indicator was really positive, almost all of the students agreed if English songs can become a media in learning English process. English songs are very easy to find, students can download English songs by smartphone, or using an applications in smartphone. Using English songs as a media in learning English process is very easy and simple, just need one step for improve 2 to 3 skills in English. For example students play an English song and read the lyrics while singing it, it would improve students' listening skill by listen to the song, it also improve students' reading skill by read the lyrics of the song, and to improve students' speaking skill by sing the song.

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