

## ABSTRACT

**Wulandari, Sri Ayu. (2023). Exploring EFL Students' Challenges in Listening Comprehension: A Case Study to the 9th Grade Students of a Junior High School in Bekasi.**

Students need these learning abilities in listening comprehension to effectively comprehend and interpret audio material presented in classroom learning. However, the majority of students attempting to improve their listening comprehension encounter challenges related to these essential abilities. Therefore, the aim of this study is to identify the challenges encountered by ninth grade students and discover the factors that contribute to their listening comprehension.

The research was conducted using qualitative research methods, specifically a case study design. The researcher used questionnaires and interviews as data collection instruments to achieve the research objectives. The researcher selected the research participants via purposive sampling. The research participants were ninth-grade students from a junior high school in Bekasi. In addition, the researcher interviewed a total of nine students who were selected as participants to explore the challenges they faced in listening to English material.

The study reveals that ninth-grade junior high school students in Bekasi face various listening challenges, including linguistic challenges, concentration issues, speaker pronunciation, speed, and accent, and listener psychological characteristics. These challenges stem from both internal and external factors, including lack of vocabulary, listening time and speed, audio quality issues, environmental settings, and fear and anxiety. The study emphasizes the importance of understanding and addressing these challenges to improve listening comprehension.

**Keywords: Listening, Listening Comprehension, Challenges in Listening Comprehension**