

ABSTRACT

Rindi, Silviana Risma. 2025. 21033001. *The Influence of Taylor Swift's 1989 Album in Improving Listening Skill At Tenth Graders of SMK NU 1 Karanggeneng*. Faculty of Teaching and Training Education of English Department. Islamic University of Darul 'Ulum Lamongan.

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English listening skills are crucial for vocational students' academic and professional success. This study investigated the effectiveness of using Taylor Swift's 1989 album to enhance English listening comprehension among tenth-grade students at SMK NU 1 Karanggeneng. The research employed a one group pretest-posttest experimental design with a mixed-method approach, involving 20 participants from the Banking Services (LPB) major. Quantitative data were obtained from gap-filling listening tests administered before and after the treatment, while qualitative data were collected through a Likert-scale questionnaire. The results revealed a significant improvement in students' listening comprehension scores, with the mean increasing from 51.00 to 84.12, and the pass rate rising dramatically from 15% to 80%. The paired sample analysis confirmed that the difference was statistically significant. Moreover, qualitative findings indicated that 90.4% of student responses were positive, with students reporting increased motivation, engagement, and confidence in English listening activities. Both internal factors (student interest and familiarity with songs) and external factors (song media quality and learning environment) contributed to the success, with external factors showing slightly stronger influence (50.1% vs 49.9%). In conclusion, incorporating popular music, specifically Taylor Swift's songs, can significantly enhance both listening comprehension performance and student engagement in EFL learning contexts. Therefore, it is recommended that English teachers in vocational schools integrate contemporary popular songs into their curriculum to create more engaging and effective listening instruction.