

# The Impact of Watching Foreign Movies Using English Subtitles on ESP Vocabulary Comprehension and Composition of Words in English

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**Abstract**—English is one of the few international languages, therefore almost all countries have English lessons. Using English language movies to develop their vocabulary comprehension is the main goal of the study as English language movies possess the benefit of authentic input. Motivating students and more opportunities to develop their vocabulary and their comprehension also the composition of words in English. This research was conducted so that we can find out the benefits we get if we use English subtitles when watching foreign series or movies. This is one way to increase the amount of vocabulary that can be mastered and make it easier for us to memorize English vocabulary. With existing subtitles, we can also understand the conversation by itself. This research will be assisted by collecting information in the form of online questionnaires through Google Forms. The conclusion obtained from this study is that by watching English films we can develop our English skills in the aspect of Listening. Second, English subtitles can have a positive impact, especially if we are trained in aspects of Reading and Writing, because by paying attention to subtitles we can understand the composition - the order of words that exist. Third, it can facilitate the enrichment of our vocabulary or vocabulary so that we have more vocabulary that we know.

**Keywords:** Language, English, movies, series, subtitles, learning

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Language has an important role in human life because language is used as the main means of communication. Language is a communication tool organized in the form of units, such as words, groups of words, clauses, and sentences expressed both orally and in writing (Siska Hardiyanti, Irma Setiawan, Nurmiwati Nurmiwati, 2023). English is one of the international languages used by most educated groups around the world. This can be understood because English appears to be a world language with a very wide distribution of its usage area (Apriana, 2019).

A few years ago, before being introduced in elementary schools, English was taught starting from junior high school level, for 3 (three) years; at the high school level, for 3 (three) years. Looking at the learning time, 6 (six) years is a long time to master one skill area. In fact, after studying for 6 (six) years, most of us have not been able to converse in English, even in the simplest structure. Even countless who in the end do not know the slightest about English. Several factors are considered to have a very significant role in the success of English language teaching including teachers, students, curriculum, teaching materials, and learning facilities (Santosa, 2018).

Film is an audio-visual communication medium to convey a message to a group of people gathered in a certain place (Asri, 2020) The world of cinema can be said to have begun when the Lumière brothers made a public screening of 10 short films on December 28, 1895 in Paris, France which is considered a breakthrough in the world of cinema or cinematography. The use of film media in the learning process should pay attention to the following: 1. Teachers must be familiar with the available films and first look at them to find out their benefits for the lesson 2. After the film is shown, it is necessary to hold a discussion, which also needs to be prepared in advance. Here students train themselves to find problem solving, create and answer questions 3. Sometimes certain movies need to be screened two or more times to pay attention to certain aspects 4. So that students do not view film as a mere medium of entertainment, it is necessary to be assigned to pay attention to certain parts 5. After that, it can be tested how much they can capture from the film 6. Films should be selected to fit the learning objectives.

Of the many films, it is possible to have films that have subtitles. Subtitle translation is included in one of the translation procedures called cultural equality (Jiaqian, 2023). Subtitles are usually planned from the very beginning of filming. According to many, films containing spoken sound or dialogue were not introduced until 1928. Before films featuring popular voiced dialogue, filmmakers had no other choice but to draw or type text on a piece of paper and show it between film clips as a means of figuring out what happened. it happens. Originally this was called intertitle. Then when this text can be overlaid onto a moving image, the text is then referred to as subtitle. Subtitles are becoming increasingly popular due to the increasing production of foreign films that cross international borders. Films from European countries such as the Netherlands and France quickly took the lead in the process of developing techniques for using subtitles. Subtitles are more popular because using subtitles is a cheaper method than intertitles thus helping to reduce filmmaking budgets, and subtitles are the most widely used translation medium. Subtitles quickly faded due to advances in audio and dubbing to films, but regained popularity with the increasing popularity of foreign films in the 1980s and the introduction of new computing technology that made subtitles easier to produce into films.

Nowadays, subtitle services are definitely used in the film industry and are offered on most of the mass-produced DVD movies. There is no regulation or mandate by the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) governing communications in America to provide subtitles for all movies, so it is usually common practice and does not require FCC approval. Because the use of subtitles is common, and there are many movies or series in the world. We can use it as a method of learning English by watching movies or series using English subtitles. So that we can have more vocabulary. We can even learn another language at the same time if we watch movies in a language other than English. We can easily find and get the film media needed today. With the existence of internet media, there are now many official or pirated streaming service sites. Until now, there have been many official streaming services in Indonesia, and there are some that are good enough to watch with English subtitles to learn, one of which is Netflix, Disney+ Hot star, and YouTube.

Subtitles allow an accented language become intelligible to any viewer. To understand the content of a movie, subtitle plays the important role to bridge the audience need, such as deliver the word according to the audience native and culture. Because, if the audience does not understand the meaning of the utterance, automatically the audience would read and process the subtitles in their native. But, when the subtitles

are in the language of the film, the audience is able to hear the new accent while reading the text. Simultaneously hearing and reading foreign words help incorporate what the audience hears through their phonetic understanding of the language, then it can understand the future words as they come up and familiarize themselves with the sounds of their new language. If compared three versions of a film sequence (that is, dubbed, subtitled, and original versions) and they found that the dubbed and subtitled versions lead to better performance than the original version (Kusumawati, 2019).

Some previous studies that are relevant to this study include: Research conducted by (Parmawati & Inayah, 2019) entitled “Improving Students’ Speaking Skill Through English Movie In Scope Of Speaking For General Communication” showed that The learning process by utilizing English films makes students active in expressing opinions, answering and asking questions, practicing listening to films, filling in vocabulary, reading film texts, reciting, understanding the meaning of words, practicing memory, and using vocabulary in simple 2 sentences. The research was conducted by (Widiawitasari et al., 2020) with the title. “What Is Your Favorite Movie?: A Strategy Of English Education Students To Improve English Vocabulary.” Shows that learning methods using English films and using English subtitles are recommended in the learning process to improve students’ listening skills in class. Research conducted by (Nurmala, 2019) with the title. “Application of English film media in listening learning.” This shows that students are very interested in learning listening using film media, because they do not feel bored and sleepy.

In addition, watching movies can enhance English skills. That there are several positive reasons for learning English by watching movies, such as: movie has interesting particular value, teaches to real helps understand how to pronounce and balance the facial expression, helps understand the meaning spoken by the body language, including a series of lesson to explain a process, and has sounds and pictures that make learning easy. The use of movie subtitle has been proved to be more effective at improving overall comprehension than non-subtitled movies also added that movie subtitle may offer new pathways for language learning and understanding; the use of movie subtitle proves to be more successful than non-subtitled movies in enhancing overall understanding. Furthermore, according to Faqe (2017), watching films with English subtitles will enhance the learning of vocabulary and enable learners to gain vocabulary. It also helps learn about English words, grammar, idioms, and new slangs (Sari & Aminatun, 2021).

Find the composition of words film in the field of ESP is quite challenging, The box office film is the best choice to deliver this aim. Using English language movies to develop their vocabulary comprehension in the main goal of the study as English language movies possess the benefit of authentic input. Motivating students and more opportunities to develop their vocabulary and their comprehension also the composition of word in english. From the background of the discussion above, the researcher intends to conduct research on “The Impact of Watching Foreign Movies Using English Subtitles on ESP Vocabulary Comprehension and Composition of Words in English”.

## 2. METHODS

### 2.1 Research Design

This research is quantitative research conducted on June 7, 2021 – July 12, 2021 which was carried out online. The study was conducted by collecting answers from

questionnaires given mostly containing questions with answers based on the Likert scale and one question with personal answers. This answer is received from resource persons who fill in according to their respective wishes.

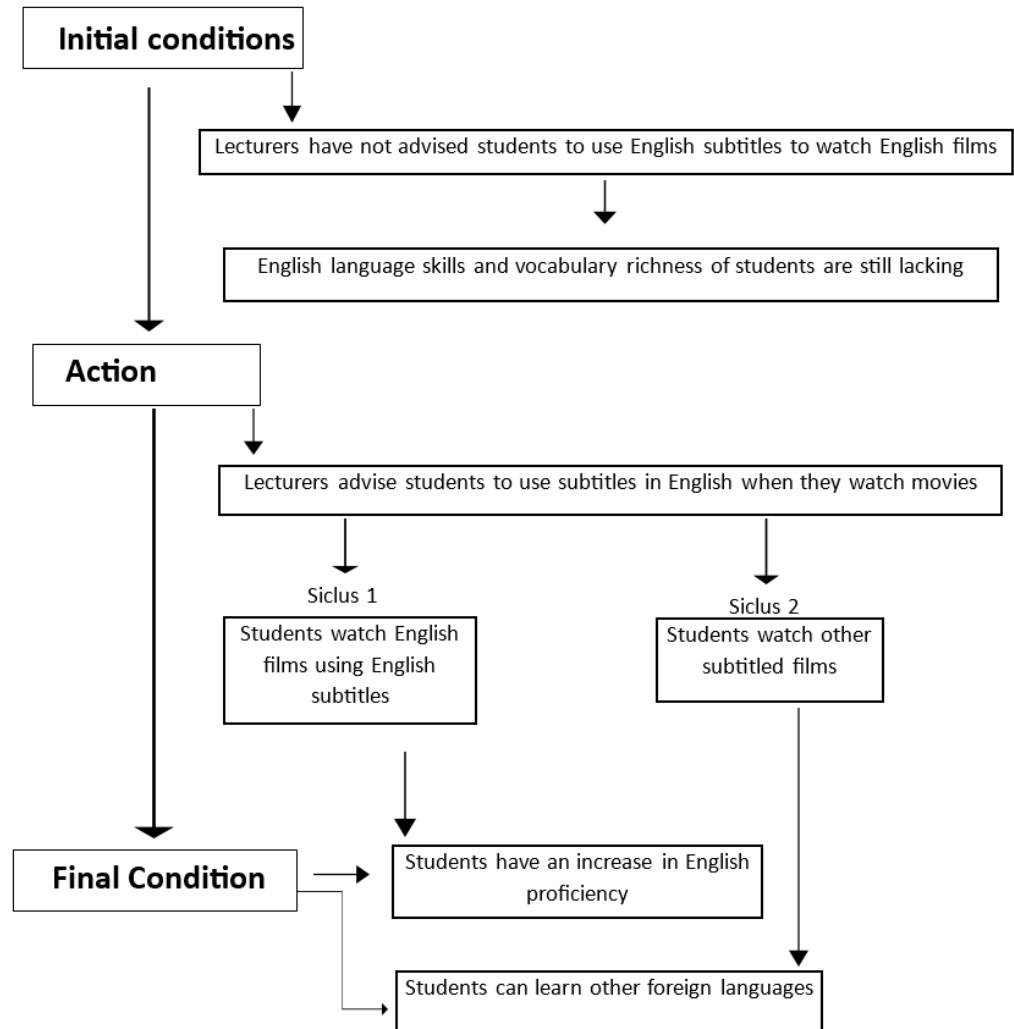


Figure 1. Frame of mind

## 2.2 Participants

This research is intended for students or students throughout Indonesia. The sample was randomly determined with the criteria of having watched an English film, without a limit on the number of respondents, but limited until the specified time, namely June 7, 2021 – July 12, 2021. All respondents who fill out the form by the deadline are made as respondents.

## 2.3 Procedures

The initial condition of the lecturer has not advised students / students to use English subtitles to watch English films so that English skills and the richness of student vocabulary are still lacking then the lecturer advises students to use subtitles in English when they hit films . The first cycle of students / students watching movies with the English subsystem. While in the 2nd cycle using other language subtitles (see Figure 1). The final

condition of both students and students has improved English and can learn other foreign languages.

### 2.3 Data Analysis

The method of a data analysis carried out is descriptive analysis. Each answer to the question will be described statistically in statements 1-8. As for the last question, it will be described in depth.

### 3. RESULTS

Question 1 diagram – First question: Do you use English subtitles when watching foreign movies?

Apakah anda menggunakan Subtitle Bahasa Inggris ketika menonton film luar negeri?  
20 responses

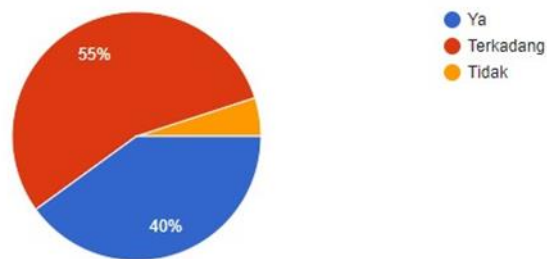


Figure 2. Question Diagram 1

The result of Diagram question 1 is:

- 40% of people use English subtitles when watching foreign movies.
- 55% of people sometimes use English subtitles when watching foreign movies.
- 5% of people do not use English subtitles when watching foreign movies.

Question 2 diagram – Question Two: Do you think watching English movies can help you learn English?

Menurut anda apakah menonton film berbahasa inggris membantu anda dalam belajar bahasa inggris?  
20 responses

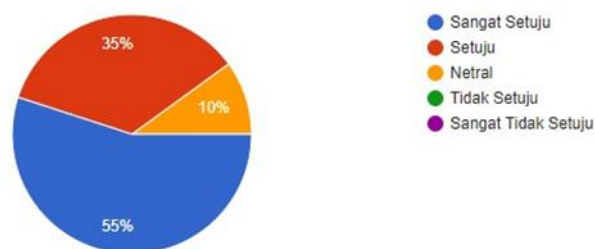


Figure 3. Question Diagram 2

The result of question 2 diagram is:

- 55% of people strongly agree that watching English movies helps you learn English.
- 35% of people agree that watching English movies helps you learn English.
- 10% of people feel neutral, regarding “Did English movies help you learn English?”

Question 3 diagram – Question Three: Do you think watching English movies with English subtitles helped you learn English?

Menurut anda apakah menonton film berbahasa inggris dengan subtitle bahasa inggris membantu anda belajar bahasa inggris?

20 responses

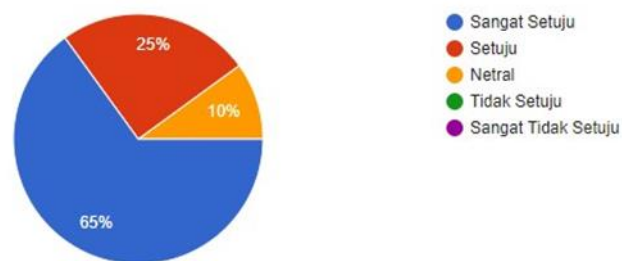


Figure 4. Question Diagram 3

The result of the diagram of question 3 is:

- 65% of people strongly agree that watching English movies with English subtitles helps in learning English.
- 25% of people agree that watching English Movies with English subtitles helps in learning English.
- 10% of people feel neutral about “Does watching English Movies with English subtitles help in learning English?”

Question 4 diagram – Question Four: Do you think watching movies in languages other than English with English subtitles helps you learn English

Menurut anda apakah menonton film berbahasa selain inggris dengan subtitle bahasa inggris membantu anda belajar bahasa inggris?

19 responses

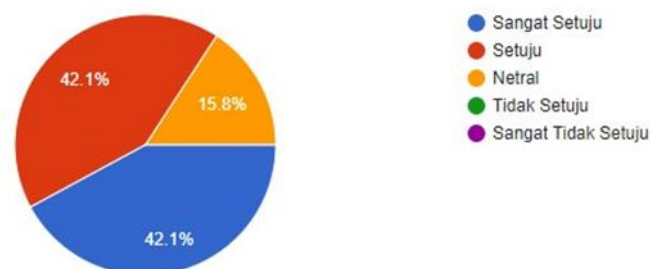


Figure 5. Question 4 Diagram

The result of the diagram of question 4 is:



- 42.1% of people strongly agree that watching movies in a language other than English with English subtitles helps you learn English
- 42.1% of people agree that watching movies in a language other than English with English subtitles helps you learn English
- 15.8% of people feel neutral, regarding “Does watching movies in a language other than English with English subtitles help you learn English?”
- There was 1 respondent who did not answer this question.

Question 5 diagram – Question Five: Is watching English movies with English subtitles better than watching English movies without subtitles?

Apakah menonton film bahasa inggris dengan subtitle bahasa inggris lebih baik dari pada menonton film berbahasa inggris tanpa subtitle?

20 responses

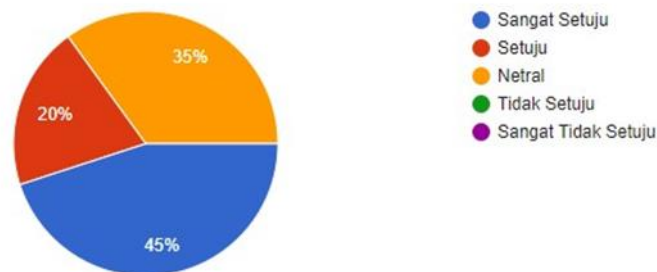


Figure 6. Question 5 Diagram

The result of the diagram of question 5 is:

- 45% of people strongly agree that watching English movies with English subtitles is better than watching English movies without subtitles
- 20% of people agree that watching English movies with English subtitles is better than watching English movies without subtitles
- 35% of people feel neutral, regarding “Is watching an English movie with English subtitles better than watching an English movie without subtitles?”

Question 6 diagram – Question Six: will our vocabulary increase by watching movies with English subtitles?

Apakah dengan kita menonton film dengan subtitle berbahasa inggris, vocabulary kita akan bertambah?

20 responses

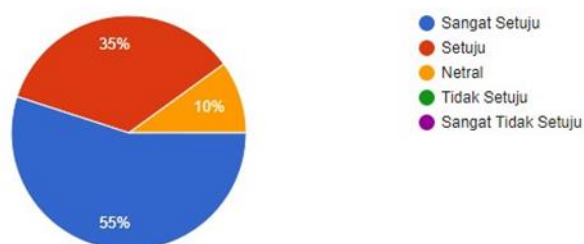


Figure 7. Question 6 Diagram

The result of question 6 diagram is:

- 55% of people strongly agree that watching movies with English subtitles will increase our vocabulary.
- 35% of people agree that watching movies with English subtitles will increase our vocabulary.
- 10% felt neutral, regarding “Will watching movies with English subtitles increase our vocabulary?”

Question 7 – Question Seven: Do you think it is difficult to learn English with film and subtitles (audio and visual)

Menurut anda susahkah belajar bahasa inggris dengan media film dan subtitle (audio dan visual)?  
20 responses

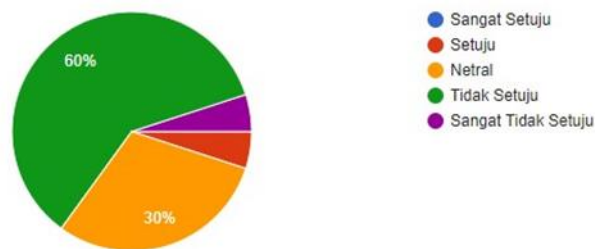


Figure 8. Question 7 Diagram

The result of the diagram of question 7 is:

- 5% of people agree that learning English with film media and subtitles (audio and visual) is difficult.
- 30% of people feel neutral, regarding “Do you agree that learning English with film media and subtitles (audio and visual) is difficult?”
- 60% of people disagree that learning English with film media and subtitles (audio and visual) is difficult.
- 1% of people strongly disagree, that learning English with film media and subtitles (audio and visual) is difficult.

Diagram of question 8 – Question Eight: Are Indonesian subtitles better than using English subtitles? The result of the diagram of question 5 is:

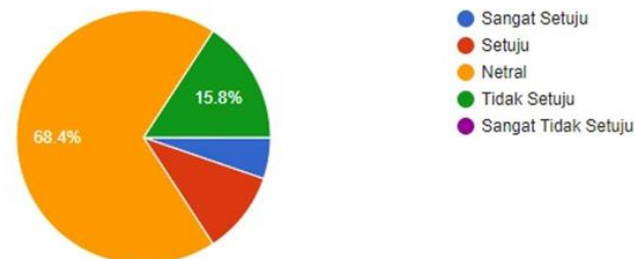
- 45% of people strongly agree that watching English movies with English subtitles is better than watching English movies without subtitles
- 20% of people agree that watching English movies with English subtitles is better than watching English movies without subtitles
- 35% of people feel neutral, regarding “Is watching an English movie with English subtitles better than watching an English movie without subtitles?”

Question 6 diagram – Question Six: will our vocabulary increase by watching movies with English subtitles?



Apakah Subtitle Berbahasa Indonesia lebih baik dibanding menggunakan Subtitle Berbahasa Inggris?

19 responses



**Figure 9.** Question 8 Diagram

The result of the diagram of question 8 is:

- 5.3% of people strongly agree that Indonesian subtitles are better than using English subtitles.
- 10.5% of people agree that Indonesian subtitles are better than using English subtitles.
- 68.4% of people feel neutral, regarding “Are Indonesian subtitles better than using English subtitles.”
- 15.8% of people disagree that Indonesian subtitles are better than using English subtitles.
- There was 1 respondent who did not answer this question.-

Final question questionnaire results

The answer to the question “What impact do you think will be received when we learn English using this method?” (Using Subtitles When Watching Foreign Movies)” answered by 20 respondents:

- We add vocabulary, can learn grammar as well as pronunciation
- We often hear the vocabulary contained in the film. And when we communicate with strangers, it becomes easier and more flexible.
- More to discover new vocabulary
- Understanding in using vocabulary will be easier, because indirectly we learn to understand English in a state of pleasure or enthusiasm because of watching movies, and will make it easier for information or knowledge to enter
- In my opinion, there are good effects that can be obtained from learning through this method, one of which is that we can get a lot of absorption of new vocabulary but in a way that is also entertaining, and quickly remembered with visual aids.
- Add new vocabulary
- As a result, we can quickly master English, especially in the listening section

- At first it may be difficult because our mind is divided into focus, focusing on understanding the image + understanding the subtitles, but if you get used to it maybe this obstacle will disappear on its own.
- In the near future our vocabulary will increase. While in the long run we are able to identify various slang words / sentences and English idioms from various regions (US, UK, Australia, etc.) and are able to understand their meaning.
- As a result, we can learn to listen and read simultaneously.
- Yes
- The impact that will be received is the addition of new vocabulary and its use in certain contexts.
- Being better able to understand vocabulary and phrases, when to use them and what they mean, is easier to learn because there are actions/behaviors that explain them
- By watching movies with English subtitles we can increase our vocabulary and we also know the pronunciation of each word.
- There are positive and negative impacts including: **Positive:** Can learn new vocabulary, Can learn the pronunciation of a word, Practice reading and thinking quickly (in translating), Train your hearing so you can get used to English conversation. **Negatives:** Less effective for learning grammar, but sufficient for everyday (non-formal) conversations
- We learn about other languages as well by remembering the sounds and pronunciation of words
- If you learn to use only this method, your knowledge of grammar and sentence structure will not be good
- From the experience I got, the impact of learning using this method is very helpful because by learning through films I can learn English that I hear and understand English sentences that I rarely know such as formal language etc.
- Can reproduce unknown vocabulary, and can also enhance or imitate the way of reading English words by hearing what is said and seeing the word in subtitles
- There was 1 respondent who did not answer this question.

#### 4. DISCUSSION

Based on the first question is “do you use English subtitles when watching foreign movies? “. 40% of people answered using English subtitles when watching foreign movies. 55% of people sometimes use English subtitles when watching foreign movies. 5% of people do not use English subtitles when watching foreign movies. This shows that most students or students in watching foreign language films mostly use English subtitles. English is a universal language, so almost every foreign film to be easy to watch and understand has English subtitles. English has mushroomed in every part of the world and has become a universal language because it is used in almost all countries, even in a number of countries it has become the main language (Nardani et al., 2014).

The second question is “Do you think watching English movies can help you learn English? “. 55% of people answered strongly agree that watching English movies helps learn English. 35% of people agree that watching English movies helps learn English. 10% of people feel neutral. This shows that most students or students in watching

English movies can help in learning English. In accordance with research (Nurmala, 2019) which concluded that film media can improve English speaking skills and improve listening skills in learning.

The third question is “do you think watching English movies with English subtitles helps you learn English?”. 65% of people answered strongly agree that watching English movies with English subtitles helps in learning English. 25% of people agree that watching English Movies with English subtitles helps in learning English. 10% of people answered neutrally. This shows that most college students or students think that watching English movies with English subtitles can help learn English. This is in accordance with Kismoko & Roni’s (2021) research which concluded that the use of films with English Subtitles is effective for increasing students’ vocabulary mastery.

The fourth question is “Do you think watching movies in languages other than English with English subtitles helps you learn English”. 42.1% of people strongly agree that watching movies in a language other than English with English subtitles helps you learn English. 42.1% of people agree that watching movies in a language other than English with English subtitles helps you learn English. 15.8% of people feel neutral and There is 1 respondent who did not answer this question. This shows that most students or students think that watching movies in languages other than English with English subtitles helps you in learning English.

The fifth question is “is watching English movies with English subtitles better than watching English movies without subtitles?”. 45% of people strongly agree that watching English movies with English subtitles is better than watching English movies without subtitles. 20% of people agree that watching English movies with English subtitles is better than watching English movies without subtitles. 35% of people feel neutral, regarding “Is watching an English movie with English subtitles better than watching an English moviem without subtitles?” This shows that most students or students think that watching English movies with subtitles is better than watching without subtitles. This is in accordance with research (Mulyadi & Mutmainnah, 2015) Students who watch subtitled movies to learn foreign languages have shown improvements in reading and listening comprehension, word recognition, decoding skills, motivation and vocabulary mastery.

The sixth question is “will we watch movies with English subtitles, our vacabulary will increase?” 55% of people strongly agree that watching movies with English subtitles will increase our vocabulary. 35% of people agree that watching movies with English subtitles will increase our vocabulary. 10% felt neutral, regarding “Will watching movies with English subtitles increase our vocabulary?”. This shows that most college students or students think that watching movies with English subtitles will increase English vocabulary. In line with research (Nardani et al., 2014) which concluded that there was a significant influence on students’ ability to master vocabularyafter being given films in English.

The seventh question is “do you think it is difficult to learn English with film media and subtitles (audio and visual)”. 5% of people agree that learning English with film media and subtitles (audio and visual) is difficult. . 30% of people feel neutral, regarding “Do you agree that learning English with film media and subtitles (audio and visual) is difficult?”. 60% of people disagree that learning English with film media and subtitles (audio and visual) is difficult. . 1% of people strongly disagree, that learning

English with film media and subtitles (audio and visual) is difficult. This shows that most students or students think that learning English with film media is not difficult. In accordance with the opinion of Nurrahmah & Megawati, (2020) which states that the combination of sound and images strongly motivates students to achieve the goals of the learning process.

The eighth question is “are Indonesian subtitles better than using English subtitles?”. 5.3% of people strongly agree that Indonesian subtitles are better than using English subtitles. 10.5% of people agree that Indonesian subtitles are better than using English subtitles. 68.4% of people feel neutral, regarding “Are Indonesian subtitles better than using English subtitles.”. 15.8% of people disagree that Indonesian subtitles are better than using English subtitles. There was 1 respondent who did not answer this question. This indicates that Indonesian and English subtitles are equivalent, depending on each person who wants to watch it.

An additional question is “What impact do you think will be received when we learn English using this method?” From most of the existing answers, researchers draw conclusions that the method of learning English by watching English subtitled films can develop students’ English skills, especially in the aspect of Listening, especially if trained in aspects of Reading and Writing, which allows students to better understand the composition - the order of words that exist and finally this method can also add There are many English vocabulary words especially that students rarely know everyday. Moreover, while watching English movies, especially with English subtitle, it will enhance the vocabulary and speaking skill. By watching movie with English subtitle, students can clearly grasp the meaning of the pronunciation and mimic it because the film has subtitles and dialogues. As in dialogue, students can also learn intonation. English subtitles may help students understand all the words or phrases that they already know. In the process of learning, students often misunderstand the context of what the speaker says, so they need subtitles.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The first conclusion obtained from this study is, by watching English films we can develop our English skills in the aspect of Listening. Because by watching English movies, we can listen to conversational dialogues that make us more trained in hearing English words or sentences. Secondly, we get from this study that watching foreign films in English or non-English with English subtitles can have a positive impact, especially if we are trained in aspects of Reading and Writing, because by paying attention to subtitles we can understand the composition - the order of words that exist. And we can easily recognize English words and will automatically recognize their meanings. Third, in this way we can facilitate the enrichment of our vocabulary or vocabulary so that we have more vocabulary that we know.

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