

## ABSTRACT

Anggraini Puspa Ali, Sri. 2014. *The Use of Word Association Technique to Improve Students' Listening Ability*. The Sarjanas' Thesis. English Department, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Muhammadiyah University of Gresik. Advisor (1) Dr. Yudhi Arifani, M.Pd (2) Ulfatul Ma'rifah, M.Pd.

**Keyword:** Word Association Technique, Teaching Listening, Listening Ability.

This study was conducted based on the preliminary study in SMP Negeri 1 Menganti – Gresik which showed that the students had difficulty in listening ability. In fact, the student's score was low. The average score obtained from pre test was 52,2 and the passing grade (KKM) for English lesson was 70. It means that the students could not achieve the standard minimum of the school.

This study was conducted in SMP Negeri 1 Menganti Gresik. This study aimed to improve Listening Ability for students in 8F class. The design of the study was Classroom Action Research. The researcher was accompanied by a teacher partner. This research was conducted in one cycle which was divided in four main stages, planning, acting, observing and reflecting.

The research finding showed that this method was effective to teach listening by combining crossword and snowball throwing. The score improved in post test. The student's average score in post test was 86,4 .

Based on the research findings, it could be that Word Association Technique could improve students' listening ability, because this method made students easy to predict the content of listening test. It was proved by the result of the test that researcher did in this study which showed that the student's score increased until reaching the passing grade. It meant that the method could solve classroom problems.

Based on the research findings, two suggestions are provided. The first, the English teacher is recommended to use Word Association Technique as an effective method in teaching listening. The second, the next researcher who wants to conduct a research using Word Association Technique are recommended to conduct this research in different areas and levels.