

THAI NGUYEN UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

MAI THI HAI HA

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO APPLYING QUESTIONING
TECHNIQUES IN TEACHING LISTENING SKILLS AT THE
COLLEGE OF MECHANICS AND METALLURGY**

**Điều tra về ứng dụng phương pháp đặt câu hỏi trong việc dạy kỹ năng
nghe tại trường Cao đẳng Cơ Khí-Luyện Kim**

M.A THESIS

Field: English linguistics

Code: 8220201

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Supervisor: Dr. Nguyen Thi Quyet

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STATEMENT OF AUTHORSHIP

I hereby acknowledge that this study is my own work. The data and findings discussed in the thesis are true, used with permission, and have not been published elsewhere.

Author

Mai Thi Hai Ha

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to investigate the application of questioning techniques in teaching listening skills at The College of Mechanics and Metallurgy. Questioning techniques are used at pre-listening stage to improve students' listening comprehension skills. There were 38 students who take part in the study. They were divided into two groups: the control group with 18 students and the experimental group with 18 students. Each group studied the same lessons. The experimental group was taught with the application of questioning techniques at pre-listening stage designed by the researcher.

Students at The College of Mechanics and Metallurgy are taught English at A2 level with average scores. Before applying questioning techniques, two questionnaires are delivered: one is for students and the other one is for teachers of English. Questionnaire for students was made to find out the problems students encounter in learning listening as well as their expectations from the teachers to help them increase their listening comprehension. Questionnaire for teachers mainly focused on teaching methods in teaching listening skills. After that, a listening comprehension pretest was carried out for both groups to check students' listening ability. After the pretest results, the treatment was performed by the researcher to improve the listening comprehension skills of the experimental group. The treatment was taught for eight weeks. At the end of the treatment, a posttest was delivered to each group to examine the effect of the treatment on developing the students' listening comprehension skills. The main statistical results of the study showed that there was a significant difference between the mean scores of the experimental group in the posttest in comparison with that of the control group.

It was concluded that the application of questioning techniques at the pre-listening stage was effective in improving the listening comprehension skills for students at The College of Mechanics and Metallurgy.

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Rationale

English has become an international language that is used in many countries in the world as a second language or a foreign language nowadays. Vietnam is one of the countries using English as a foreign language. English plays an important part in all fields of our society. English is a compulsory subject at school and a mean of communication at work. People who want to get a good job must be good at their majors and English as well.

Learning English focuses on not only grammar as we did in the past but also other skills like listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Language learning depends on listening. Listening provides the aural input that serves as the basis for language acquisition and enables learners to interact in spoken communication. Listening is the most critical communication skill; however, little listening instruction may be due to the lack of preparation, time or material. In addition, teachers, because of different reasons, seldom teach listening comprehension skills. Rebecca (1993) says, “Listening is a fundamental language skill, but it is often ignored by foreign and second language teachers”. While the other three language skills receive direct instructional attention, teachers frequently expect students to develop their listening capability by osmosis and without help. Therefore, the listening skill should be a major area of concern to teachers and students of a second or foreign language.

Listening is the ability to accurately receive and interpret messages in the communication process. Listening is a key to all effective communication. Without the ability to listen effectively, messages are easily misunderstood. As a result, communication breaks down and the sender of the message can easily become frustrated or irritated. Therefore, students need to have good techniques in learning listening skills, which helps them have more confidence in practicing English in real life. In order to help students learn listening better, the teacher’s preparation before teaching listening is very important. There are many ways to help students