

# **RESEARCH INSIGHTS IN ENGLISH TEACHING AND LEARNING**

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**Editors:**

**Engku Haliza Engku Ibrahim**

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## CHAPTER 6:

# The Use of Metacognitive Strategies in Listening

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FARIDAH ABDUL MALIK

*This article reports the results of a study conducted on 175 ESL learners undergoing a pre-university English programme at an English medium institution of higher learning. The objective of the study was to investigate ESL learners' use of metacognitive strategies in listening. The study also examined patterns of metacognitive strategy use by skilled and less-skilled listeners. Based on the Metacognitive Listening Strategy Questionnaire (Vandergrift, 1997), the findings indicate that ESL learners used all metacognitive strategies of planning, monitoring and evaluation strategies. Even though skilled learners had relatively higher mean scores, the independent t-test conducted on the total mean score did not yield a statistically significant difference between the skilled and less-skilled listeners. The findings of the study highlight learners' perceptions of metacognitive strategy use instead of actual use. Future studies should employ other procedures, in particular, the think-aloud to investigate ESL learners' actual use of metacognitive strategies in listening.*

**Keywords:** metacognitive strategies, listening comprehension, skilled and less-skilled listeners, ESL learners, pre-university learners.

## INTRODUCTION

Listening comprehension is generally regarded as one of the most difficult skills by language learners mainly due to its transient nature and limited degree of control by the listeners on the stream of speech (Huang, 2003; McDonough, 1999; Yang, 1999). It is also a source of anxiety for them (Arnold, 2000; Graham, 2006; Hassan, 2000; Vogely, 1998). This anxiety is exacerbated if the listeners are under the false impression that they must understand every word they hear. This leads them to have