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The Use of Podcasts for Listening Comprehension

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A B S T R A C T

This study aimed to investigate what are the effects of podcasts towards the students' listening comprehension during online learning and how are the students' perceptions of using podcasts for listening class. This study used a descriptive qualitative approach to describe the characteristic of the data. The informants in this study were one teacher of English and thirty-one students at Az-Zahrah Islamic Senior High School Palembang. Data collection techniques used interviews and questionnaires. The findings from this study are the use of podcasts for listening comprehension. The English teacher commonly teaches listening without using certain learning media. Therefore, students argued that podcast media was an accessible, helpful, and suitable medium for teaching virtual listening for eleventh-grade students at Az-Zahrah Islamic Senior High School Palembang. However, students seemed to be unfocused during the online learning because slowly internet connection became an issue and monotonous learning. Therefore, the teacher would be interested in using podcast media to attract students' attention and interests. It could also motivate them to learn virtual listening independently to improve their listening skills and comprehension.

Keywords: *Comprehension, Surveys, Questionnaires*

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INTRODUCTION

English already becomes a basic course in Indonesian school, especially in senior high school. Mostly, Indonesian students learn English since elementary school or even since pre-school. It is because English has an important key in international communication. English learning is also required to keep up with the 21st century's qualification. In order to master English, the students have to be able to read, write, speak, and listen to the language. It has almost been two years since the outbreak of Covid-19 virus in Indonesia. The learning processes are still conducted online as there is a recent spike in Corona cases. This situation makes all teachers get continuous challenge to create a conducive and interesting online learning that could attract students to keep studying. One of the subject that of course needs to be conducted virtually is English.

(Rahman, A., Atmowardoyo, H., & Salija, K, (2018))state that the implementation of listening teaching is still far behind the expectation, in which they still find several problems like inappropriate, unreliable, and unavailability of the listening materials. The EFL students like Indonesia mostly even do not have enough exposure to target language. Along with the pandemic situation that requires students to study from home, it definitely makes the teachers

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even harder to deliver the listening material due to the connection issues sometimes that causes the audio is not clear. The students will also become more difficult to understand the materials.

The name "Podcast" was created by combining two technologies: the "iPod" and the "Broadcast" radio broadcast. Podcasting provides listeners with the ease of selecting and listening to their chosen program on their own time. (Constantine, 2007) defined podcasts as internet audio publishing designed to be downloaded and listened to on a portable device such as tabs, smartphones, and laptops.Podcasting is an example of a creative technique that teachers utilize to improve language abilities and encourage learning outside of the classroom. According to a research on podcasting pedagogy, Podcasting can assist learners in improving their English language skills and guide grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary. This study demonstrates that teaching listening skills to students through podcasts can result in increased students' listening comprehension since this technology provides students with authentic and contextual content to learn from.

(Huang, 2004) in argues that limited understandings of classroom instruction or lessons and materials can be another problem students face in learning English. In the Indonesian setting, students are rarely placed in situations where they have the opportunity to practice English, and teachers are unwilling to commit to using an appropriate method and authentic materials when teaching listening for comprehension students. Several academics have weighed in on using podcasts in the classroom to help students in learning foreign languages (Aguilar, 2013). According to (Constantine, 2007)even at the beginning levels of EFL instruction, all foreign language learners can benefit from listening to a podcast for as little as six minutes a day. Furthermore, podcasts can be used in the classroom to teach listening and the importance of listening comprehension.

(Abdulrahman, T., Basalama, N., & Widodo, M. R, 2018)The research conducted by (Edirisingha, P., Rizzi, C., Ming, N. I. E., & ROTHWELL, , 2007)) reported that Podcast successfully supports students' preparation for assessed work, providing significant advice on portfolio and presentations. In line with this, (Bagheri, 2016) also have proven that Podcasts enhance students' ability in listening. According to several educational institutions, Podcasting has significantly impacted student outcomes. This might be linked to the ease with which podcasts can be created and consumed, as well as the numerous ways in which educational podcasts benefit students.

This research focused on listening comprehension podcasts at Az-Zahrah Islamic Senior High School Palembang. From the focus above, the sub-focus of this study is to determine whether podcasts can improve high school students' listening comprehension and investigate the students' perceptions of the use of podcasts in listening classrooms in Az-Zahrah Islamic Senior High School Palembang. Conducted this research was students in the eleventh grade in the academic year of 2022.

Finally, based on the formulation of the problems described above, the research has the objectives as follows: 1) To identify the effects of using podcast towards the students' listening comprehension during the online learning, and 2) To find out students' perceptions of using podcast for listening class.

METHOD

Place and Research Timeline

Conducted this research in Az-Zahrah Islamic Senior High School Palembang, located on Jl. Telaga Komplek Masjid Taqwa Kel 30 Ilir Kec IB II Palembang City, South Sumatera.

Object and Informant of the Study

The object of this research is the effects of using podcast learning media in enhancing the students' listening comprehension. Meanwhile, the informant of this study are the students of eleventh grade in XI IPA 1 class and the English teacher of Az-Zahrah Islamic Senior High School, named Sri Mariyanti, S. Pd. The XI IPA 1 class consists of 31 students, which means 32 informants in this study.

Method of the Study

The researcher uses descriptive qualitative approach to describe the characteristic of data, the process of listening teaching, the method used in listening teaching, (Anggito, 2018) argue that qualitative research is a type of research where the data is collected by interpreting phenomena in natural setting and the researcher as the key instrument. A qualitative research is a comprehensive research on object that contains meanings and generalizations, where the research does not uses statistical calculations (Jaya, 2020).

Data and Resourche

Then, the primary data of this research is gained through the preliminary study of the listening teaching and learning process in XI IPA 1 class at Az-Zahrah Islamic Senior High School, the interview section with the English teacher of Az-Zahrah Islamic Senior High School, as well as through the students' questionnaire. On the other side, secondary data is the written form of data relating to the research objectives from various sources (Arikunto, 2010) The secondary data of this research is collected from several journals that support this research.

Technique of Collecting Data

Procedure of the Interview :

1. The researcher prepared the question and had already
2. recorded the interview results.
3. The researcher talks to the person who is the subject of
4. the study to get the information.
5. The interviewer's responses were recorded by the researcher.

Specification of Teacher Interview

Quetioners

Besides conducting interviews, this study also employs questionnaires to get the data. According to the questionnaire can obtain personal information such as respondents' attitudes, opinions, expectations, and desires. There are three ways used to distribute questionnaires to respondents, namely: (1) Direct by the writer (independent), (2) Sent by mail (mail questionnaire), (3) Sent by computer, e.g: e-mail. The author only uses the computer through google form in this study of the three ways. The questionnaire used in this study will determine the effectiveness of using podcasts for listening comprehension students. The questionnaire was given to the XI IPA 1 class students at Az-Zahrah Islamic Senior High School to determine the students' perceptions after using podcast learning media in learning listening during the online class.

Truthworthiness of the Data

Validity

The truthworthiness data of a qualitative research basically consists of validity and reliability. In this study, the researcher uses triangulation to increase the truthworthiness data.

According to (Jaya, 2020)triangulation is a credibility test, which is carried out by the researcher by examining the data that has been obtained from the data source at a predetermined time.

Data Sources Triangulation

Triangulation of data sources refers to data that is better if using multiple data rather than one to understand the situation and obtain research information. This study used interviews when researchers collected data from informants on how to increase students' listening comprehension with authentic and contextual text using podcast learning media.

Reliability

Reliability is a method by conducting an audit of the entire research process. The entire research process can be tested by the supervisor starting from the beginning until the research ends (Jaya, 2020)

The Data Analysis

Data Reduction

In data reduction, the researcher focused and sharpened on what was being analyzed in the study, which is about the effect of using podcast learning media to enhance students' listening comprehension at Az-Zahrah Islamic Senior High School as well as to know the perceptions both of the teacher and also the students.

Data Display

Data display refers to a type of data that a researcher uses to present the result of the data obtained. It can be in the form of a matrix, graphs, charts, and networks. In this case, the researcher presented the original data in the narrative text since it is qualitative descriptive research.

Conclusion Drawing and Verification

Conclusion drawing and verification is the last procedure in analyzing data. In this step, the researcher made a clear conclusion according to the research problems.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter the writer presents (1) Finding of the study and (2) Disscussions
Finding of the study
This study aimed to investigate teacher of English and students' with related problems regarding listening comprehension of using learning media in the class. The result is explained in more detail as follows.

Data Descriptiont

The researcher did interviews twice with the English teacher, and the writer used ten items for the questionnaire that had shared with students and eight questions for the first section interviews after that five questions for the second section with the teacher of English. The writer shared questionnaires for students through a sheet transmitted through a google form. and did face-to-face interviews with the teacher of English at schools.

Effect of Using Podcast towards the Students' Listening Comprehension during the Online Learning

The first research problem is about learning media listening in classes. This data is taken by conducting direct face-to-face interviews with teachers of English at schools. As follows:

The First Interview Result with the English Teacher

The researcher interviewed the English teacher at Az-Zahrah Islamic SeniorHigh School Palembang face-to-face at the beginning which was to find out how the teacher conducts virtual listening classes in Az-Zahrah Islamic Senior High School, what kind of virtual application is usually used in the school, and whether the teacher would like to use the podcast as learning media in listening class. The interviewe was Ms. Sri Mariyanti, an English teacher for the eleventh IPA 1 class.

The Second Interview Result with the English Teacher

At the same time, the second interview was done after the teacher used podcast learning media in listening class to find out the effects of using the media in enhancing students' listening comprehension. The interview was conducted through WhatsApp chat. There were five questions that had been asked to the teacher in about twenty minutes by using an interview guide.

Students' Perceptions of Using Podcast for Listening Class

The second research problem is about students' perceptions of virtual English learning. This data was collected by giving questionnaires to students. This questionnaire has five alternative answer options namely strongly agree. agree, slightly agree, strongly disagree, disagree. The data can be described:

The first is about students perception related to the process of learning English is easier using podcast media. In this study, the score for this question is 50% and this is the highest score. From the first data, it can be concluded based on the students perception about process of learning English is easier with podcast media shows that most students answer the first question with slightly agree answer.

The second is about students perceptions related to the English learning process is more fun with online learning. In this study, the score for this question is 66,7% and this is the highest score. From the second data, it can be concluded most of student argued that the process of virtual listening learning became more fun and intereting with podcast media it was shown that most students answer the second question with slightly agree answer.

The third it can be seen that 100% students that given the questionnaire felt that English learning process more effective by using podcast media. Conclude that 50 % of them choose very agree, while the other 50% agreed about it. Conclude that most students answer the second question with slightly agree answer

The fourth is about students perceptions related that podcast media could improve their listening skill. In this study, the highest score for his question is 83.3%. From the fourth data, it can he concluded based on the students perception 100% very agreed that podcast media could improve their listening skills and 16,7% of them agreed with it, shows that these students are slightly agree with this statement.

The fifth is about students perceptions revealed that most of the students, which were 66,7% out of 100%, felt podcast video helped them improving their listening comprehension during virtual learning. 33,3% of them agreed about that. Meanwhile, none of them argued that the podcast video did not really help them in improving their listening comprehension.

shows that these students are slightly agree with this statement.

The sixth is about students perception related to the result showed that from six participants who attended the media trial process; 83,3% students were really motivated to learn English more after watching the video. However, there were still 16,7% of them who said they felt normal after watching the media. It meant that the possibility of students would learn English again after watching the video was so big. From this data, it can be concluded that shows these students are slightly agree with this statement.

The seventh is about students perception related to showed that almost all students could save time while learning using podcast video. 66,7% of the students answered that podcast media really helped them to save time catching the material through podcast media, 33,3% students said they could spend less time in learning using podcast media, while no one said that nothing changed while learning using podcast media. From this data, it can be concluded that these students are slightly agree with this statement.

The eighth it can be stated that 15 out of 3 students very agreed that podcast media made them easier to follow current media developments in education since podcast was a very innovative and modern media that was famous nowadays among teenagers especially. Meanwhile the rest of 16,7% showed the media could also help students to follow current media developments in education. The result is the most students answer the eighth question with strongly agree answer.

The ninth it can be seen that all students said that they needed to use mobile phone in order to be capable watching or accessing podcast media as it was a digital media. The detail of the result was nine of eighteen students chose very agree, while the rest of them chose agree.In this study, the highest score for this question is 40%. From this data, it can be concluded the result of students understanding about podacast media and shows that these students are slightly agree with this statement.

The tenth the result was dominated by 83,3% of students who felt independently learning virtual listening at home by using podcast media, the rest of 16,7% also showed that the media could foster the students' independent learning attitudes.In this study, the score for this question is the highest score. It was shows that these students are slightly agree with this statement.

CONCLUSIONS

English teacher at Az-Zahrah Islamic Senior High School Palembang commonly used google classroom, google Forms, and zoom meeting to teach listening, without using a certain learning media. The teacher chose the applications because it was easy to use and all students already had the application. Based on students' responses to the quality of the podcast media that has been used, students argued that podcast media was an easy, helpful, and good medium to teach virtual listening for eleventh-grade students at Az-Zahrah Islamic Senior High School Palembang. The media could effectively attract students' attention as most of them are already familiar with podcasts and it was quite famous among teenagers nowadays.

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