

EFL STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF USING PODCAST TO DEVELOP SPEAKING SKILLS

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Abstract: This research was conducted to determine students' perceptions of using podcasts among EFL students and to identify their effectiveness, especially in speaking ability. Using a case study design, this study aims to determine the perceptions used by EFL students. The research was conducted in the Department of English Education at a private university in Malang. This study involved 37. Involved three students who were recruited based on 4 criteria, namely how much time spent on the podcast, how long have been studying English through podcasts, improved skills in learning English through the podcast, and having the highest achievement score in the speaking class. Using a questionnaire to identify eligible participants for interviews, and semi-structured interviews, participating students were asked what their perceptions were and how the strategy helped improve their speaking skills. This study also aims to determine the role of podcasts in improving speaking skills. The findings of this study indicate that Podcasts is an effective media to improve their English abilities. Perception students feel that podcasts can improve their self-confidence, motivate them to try, and imitate native speakers, and feel more relaxed. Negative perceptions of the use of podcasts were expressed by students because they only listen to native speakers without practicing directly. Thus, students need more qualified training or materials regarding podcast media to improve their speaking skills.

Key words: students' perceptions, podcast, speaking skills

INTRODUCTION

The development of science and technology have advanced, language has become increasingly important to human existence. Language will be used by individuals to express their thoughts, ideas, feelings, and desires. It serves as a

platform for people to communicate with one another and meet their everyday needs. Language is an essential tool for preserving human relationships. English is now seen as a tool for the advancement of science and technology. The four language skills listening, speaking, reading, and writing are required of pupils as the culmination of the teaching and learning process. Among those four skills, speaking is one of the four productive skills, and speaking is regarded as the most important one in academic and social life (Adler, Rodman, and Du Pre, 2004), as cited in (Gareis, 2006), because individuals who can master it can communicate with others effectively.

While it is true that speaking English as a foreign language is very important, the globalization of today's society has changed the way learners learn to speak a second language (Seel & Richey, 2012). The use of podcasts as a support for learning activities is one of the rapid modifications. Podcasts were first described by Jordan (2007) as a combination of case words (for the outline, from the iPod brand name) and broadcast. Podcasts are sound and/or video files that are transferred between websites and made available to site visitors for download via the internet. Any device that supports MP3/MP4 records, such as laptops, smart phones, and MP3 players, will be tuned in to this. Podcasts give teachers opportunities to support their students' development of their speaking abilities (Dagarin, 2004). Research has shown that podcasts are great tools for learning a second language. For instance, it has been discovered that learning exercises and podcasts can both enhance learners' linguistic use (Chan et al., 2011). According to Fitria et al. (2015) and other researchers, podcasts help students strengthen their speaking skills. According to Bongey, Cizadlo, and Kalnback (2006), podcasts can be utilized as an alternative by teachers to instruct students outside of the classroom. In this situation, students can also study independently outside the classroom (Elnagar, 2020).

In such a condition, teachers have a duty to have their students ready to speak English in such circumstances. A podcast is thought of as modern technology to develop students' speaking and listening abilities (Sze, 2006). Podcasts are referred to as online audio or video formats, according to a different

study by Salmawati (2018). Additionally, using a computer or Smartphone and the program, users can download podcasts from the internet. It is an innovative media that can be used by teachers to facilitate student learning by speaking inside or outside the classroom.

Another researcher Samad, Bustari, and Ahmad (2017), explain that podcasts had a positive impact on students' accomplishment in speaking skills. Eleventh-grade students, the English podcast could help pupils improve their speaking abilities, particularly in their pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. The rise in mean scores between the pre-test and post-test served as a proxy for it. The data analysis showed that the t-test value indicated a significant difference, which suggests that using podcasts to teach students how to speak English would improve their speaking abilities. As a result, this research article aims to determine whether there is a significant improvement in students' speaking abilities as a result of using this podcast.

More, research has looked into podcasts as a tool for language acquisition. According to Mashhadi (2016), the podcast-mediated blended L2 learning scenario was the most effective one for learning L2 vocabulary. According to Phillips' (2017) research, students who are reluctant to speak English in class now feel more comfortable doing so, and their language proficiency, fluency, and vocabulary growth have all improved. According to Nwachokor (2019), the majority of students believe that podcasts may boost productivity, encourage creativity, and simplify academic learning. Yoestara and Putri (2019) looked into and consulted a variety of sources to determine how much EFL students' listening and speaking skills have improved. It can be said that podcasts can help Indonesian students improve their listening and speaking abilities.

From the previous research above, the researchers are becoming more and more convinced that podcasts are the ideal and efficient media to promote students' mastery of language learning as a result of the aforementioned prior study. The use of podcasts in these earlier studies to examine speech situations was, however, constrained. This research is expected to give undergraduate students greater knowledge about the difficulties they can encounter in learning

English by examining how well undergraduate students can learn English through independent study utilizing podcasts. Knowing this enables lecturers to innovate instruction in this area. To fill this gap, this research conducted and focused on using podcasts to develop students' English speaking skills based on students' perceptions. Previous research was conducted in junior high school and senior high school while the researcher aims to investigate eight-semester students. Therefore, the researcher chose the research title "EFL Students' Perceptions of Using Podcasts to Develop Speaking Skills".

METHOD

This study examines students' perceptions of using Podcasts as a media for enhancing their speaking skills. The participants in this study were eight semester students of English Education at the University of Islam Malang. The participants were selected because of them have taken a speaking course. The samples were taken using a questionnaire that students in the eight semester of English education had filled out.

To collect data for this study, researchers used questionnaires and semi-structured interviews that has been validated by one of the speaking lecturers at the University of Islam Malang. The questionnaire consisted of 25 questions divided into two parts. 21 questions are questions in the questionnaire and 4 questions are interview questions. This questionnaire was used to group students who have used the Podcast as a valuable tool to hone their speaking skills. Furthermore, the researcher was used semi-structured interviews as a research tool to categorize sample responses.

The questionnaire was used to classify students, who had perceptions of using Podcast as a media for improving speaking skills with 37 students participating. Participants were instructed to fill out the Google Form by marking the scales Yes, Neutral and No. The questionnaire contains statements about

students' perceptions and challenges towards Podcast as a media for increasing speaking.

FINDINGS

This study examines students' perceptions of using Podcast as a media to improve speaking skills. The results of the data show that the use of Podcast as a media to improve speaking ability is quite effective. The research instrument was tested on 8th-semester English Education students at the University of Islam Malang. The research instrument used a questionnaire that was distributed to eight semester students. The following data shows students' perceptions of using Podcast as a media to improve speaking skills. This section presents response index data from participants who have answered the questionnaire. The finding from the questionnaire indicated that students have positive perceptions of podcasts that are useful and help them improve their speaking skills. In addition, they also found out podcast is one of the most effective media and its helpful feature to improve pronunciation. The detailed finding is presented below:

Table 4.1 Questionnaire Result

No.	A. Students Perceptions	Total Respondents	Percentage
1.	Do podcasts optimize English Speaking Skills?	22	59%
2.	Can podcasts help improve English skills?	30	81.1%
3.	Do you find difficulties finding learning materials for speaking podcasts that are easy to understand?	13	35.1%
4.	Do podcasts motivate you to learn English Speaking?	23	62.2%
5.	Do you listen to podcasts more on social media than on radio?	26	70.3%
6.	Are podcasts effectively applied in practicing speaking English in front of the class?	19	51.4%
7.	Is Conversation an effective type of podcast that can be done in improving speaking skills?	26	70.3%
8.	Can you apply the new vocabulary from the	29	78.4%

	podcast to your daily life?		
9.	Can the intonation contained in the podcast can facilitate understanding?	22	59.5%
10.	Do podcasts help you to learn pronunciation?	32	86.5%
11.	Does the pronunciation of English words be correct when having a conversation?	24	64.9%
12.	Can practice every day with your partner to speak English with correct grammar?	15	40.5%

Table 4.1 showed that 86.5% of the students agree that podcasts help them learn pronunciation, moreover the majority of the students. 81.1% think that podcast can improve their English skills. 78.4% of the students be listened that podcast is beneficial for the student in daily life some they can use the vocabulary to communicate with others. 70.3%. In the current era students listen more to podcasts on social media because they are easily accessible. 70.3% Podcast-type conversations are effective and can help in improving students' speaking skills.

Based on the results of a questionnaire it can be said that podcasts can train students to develop good vocabulary mastery and pronunciation skills. Students' perceived are that learning to speak using podcasts is a fun strategy and can train them to speak well. By using podcasts, they can practice and develop their speaking skills.

B. Students Challenges		Total Respondents	Percentage
13	Can you easily find a podcast channel that is suitable for your speaking skills?	22	59.5%
14	Do you have any difficulty understanding the words deliver in podcasts?	20	54.15
15	Is a finding suitable topic easy?	19	51.4%

Whereas in the table above it is explained that of each item above based on those who answered yes, some students 59.5% think that they can find podcast channel that is suitable for speaking skills. However, 54.1% of students stated that find it is difficult to understand the content of the podcast. 51.4% more students'

findings show that a suitable topic is easy, so it can be concluded that main problem experienced by the students was understand to content of the podcast.

What are the perceptions of EFL students about learning English through online media such as podcasts?

The results of the questionnaire regarding the perceptions of these students are that they are very happy and enjoy using podcast media to develop their speaking skills so that they can learn and listen to native speakers themselves, they feel entertained because in conversation there are usually jokes thereby reducing boredom when learning through podcasts, there are many podcasts and of course, you can choose what topic can be a reference for independent study according to your abilities. Based on the results of the interviews, the participants' answers indicated the good impact of using podcasts to improve speaking skills. The following is an explanation of the results of the interviews with the responses of the participants who answered the research questions.

From the interview results, three participants said that Podcasts helped them develop their speaking skills, especially speaking in public. S1 said, *“Learning to use podcasts is very effective and accessible anytime and anywhere, I prefer listening to native speakers when speaking, I think this time was easier because I was alone and much faster because I knew how to do it..”*

Followed by the opinion of S2, who said, *“When we see directly from native speakers, we can imitate or practice how to pronounce it correctly. So it is one of the right ways to practice speaking skills.”*

In line with the opinion of S3, said that *“I often use podcasts to develop speaking skills such as Podcasts/Vlogs based on artist interviews or storytelling because it's easier for me to understand there's usually cool language like which is.”*

From interview data, Podcast is the most popular online video platform. One of its main benefits is its ease of access. Users can browse millions of podcast videos with just a few clicks. One of the main roles of Podcasts is as an effective

tool for improving listening skills. Podcasts provide a variety of language-learning materials that can be used to develop listening skills in the language being studied.

Meanwhile, according to them, what they like about Podcasts is that they can follow native speakers as if they were talking together, and the pleasure of listening to podcasts is that there are usually jokes tucked into each chat that makes us more relaxed and comfortable.

What are the students' challenges when using podcasts to develop speaking skills?

The challenges of students when using podcasts are the speed or tone of native speakers if they speak too fast it is difficult for us to understand and imitate but if they are used to listening then they will be able to imitate, they have to practice a lot from native speakers because the language used is according to our needs, namely language slang or everyday language, apart from that another challenge is that they can only listen and not interact in a conversation, therefore they need to practice by talking with friends so that their English speaking gets better. Data analysis shows some effects of podcast challenges on EFL students to improve their speaking skills. The effect is increased self-confidence, more flexibility when speaking, less pressure, and better preparation.

S1 said,

“Finding a podcast that fits our level is sometimes difficult to find, but with a wide variety of topics we can access to improve our speaking skills, sometimes subtitles or new vocabulary are very helpful if the internet network is not always good or loading can distract me.”

“The first time I listened to the podcast I was confused because the native speaker spoke too fast but with me learning continuously the more we get used to it and enjoy it. Usually, I use a comfortable strategy, enjoy and have fun listening to podcasts like on Spotify with jokes that make me prefer to listen casually and follow slowly.”(S2)

“for me practicing English is very important, if practicing speaking English we need feedback from other people because it can improve our abilities I usually interact with my friends to share opinions, and by listening to native speakers I can add new vocabulary so our speaking is better and not monotonous, so it is one of the right ways to practice speaking skills.” (S3)

Podcasts have become a great resource for self-study and improving the language. They involve a variety of topics and are entertaining and educational at the same time. Podcast easily accessible anywhere, anytime, and with convenience. Native speakers are one advantage of using podcasts to learn English. On podcasts, guests and the host often speak naturally and spontaneously, providing examples of pronunciation, use of vocabulary, idioms, and everyday expressions.

DISCUSSION

This study aims to determine students' perception of using podcasts to develop speaking skills and the type of favorite English podcasts that affect listening skills improvement. In this study, the researcher used a questionnaire to identify student perceptions. From the data that has been analyzed by the researcher, the questionnaire get the highest score with data of index average is 70.3% which means that almost all students agreed that the use of English podcasts is very effective.

Podcast media can improve students' speaking skills, where the results are relevant. This result is consistent with the findings of Fitria et al. (2015) who explain this Podcasts help students to get better achievement in speaking. There are so many types and topics for podcasts, listeners may select the ones they are most interested in, which is one of the reasons they are so effective. Salmon and Edrisingha (2008) argue that the type of podcast is important for engaging listeners, especially students. The result of this research proved the theory from Stanley (2005), who said that media podcast is a technology that has huge potential in enhancing students' listening and speaking skill.

Podcast materials, suggested by Yoestara and Putri (2018), may increase students' enthusiasm while also supporting greater self-confidence and independence in speaking in various subjects. The explanation for this improved confidence is that students are more successful to understand the rhetoric of a topic through repeat oral presentations and hearing (Samad et al., 2017). Because of their enhanced comprehension, students perceive the learning process to be more fun and engaging. This study, therefore, argues that podcast helps students in improving their skills in public speaking.

Koçak, and Alagözlü. (2021) investigated how learner podcasts impacted EFL students' speech development. This study means to measure the effectiveness of employing student podcasts in English lessons as a modern technology teaching method to improve EFL learners' speaking abilities. According to my research, podcasts increase our communication skills.

Podcasts can help students listen proper pronunciation and intonations, helping them improve their own spoken English. By imitating native speakers, students can improve their pronunciation, rhythm, and intonation, resulting in more accurate and fluent spoken English. Podcast learning media which is quite popular nowadays regarding easy access and lots of interesting topics and a variety of topics and courses, this is the latest one to be able to learn independently to develop English speaking skills to the fullest.

The finding of this study indicated that learning a foreign language, especially speaking skill needs specific media that can facilitate them with proper input in terms of the language aspects needed to be a proficient English speaker.

CONCLUSIONS

This study aims to determine the perceptions of EFL students about using podcasts to develop their speaking skills independently. This study also shows that podcasts have a positive impact on students' perceived speaking ability. The research presented here offers a new perspective on how EFL students can improve their speaking skills through podcasts independently.

The findings of this study add to the understanding of how a student who uses podcasts as a self-learning process can improve his or her abilities, particularly in speaking English. Podcasts can improve speaking skills through dialogue, expressions of hosts or guests, and intonations that are imitated by participants. However, in each process, there are challenges where participants also have problems using podcasts as independent learning. For participants who are not used to listening to native speakers speak, participants feel this is a challenge for them because what native speakers convey seems unclear and difficult to understand so, from there, they try to find strategies that can help them overcome these challenges, namely by writing down words they don't understand in a notebook and then they follow what is conveyed by native speakers.

SUGGESTION

Based on the conclusions above, some suggestions are addressed to future students and researchers. Researcher suggests students listen often to podcasts because podcasts have a positive effect as a media for independent learning which is easy to use and can help develop English speaking skills.

Teachers are expected to get as much information out of this research as on the contributions and benefits of using English podcasts the increase speaking skills. It will make teachers discover new teaching methods and knowledge to use digital tools effectively, especially podcasts to improve students' speaking skills.

Although this study has numerous limitations, the researcher hopes that it will aid future researchers in looking into the same issue with students' perspectives, specifically the usage of English podcasts to boost speaking abilities. Additionally, the researcher advises investigating the potential of employing digital tools, particularly English podcasts, to enhance speaking abilities. According to the researcher, other researchers can carry out this study's remaining research to learn more about it based on its conclusions, and this study will serve as a guide for upcoming researchers conducting their own research.

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