Using Podcasts to Improve Listening Skills in Pharmacy Students

Desmiyanti*
Universitas Adiwangsa Jambi

ABSTRACT

Language is a system of communication used by a community or group of people. Listening is an important skill in interacting with others in everyday life. This study aims to see how (1) The theoretical perspective of the use of Podcasts on English (2) The use of Podcasts in English courses to improve Listening Skills in Pharmacy Students. This research is a type of qualitative method through literature study. This method referred to as qualitative literature analysis, involves the review and interpretation of descriptive, interpretative, or qualitative analysis of library materials. The results of this study (1) The theoretical perspective of the use of Podcasts on English, namely based on the research that has been done, students feel the positive impact of using Podcasts in teaching English. Students have a fairly good perception of the use podcasts in improving English listening skills. (2) The use of Podcasts in improving listening skills in pharmacy students that is podcasts are able to increase understanding and absorption of information. Pharmacy students can improve listening skills in the health sector. How to improve listening skills is one of them by listening to podcasts.
Introduction

Language is a communication system used by a community or group of humans (Hidayah, 2014; Iskandar, 2019; Taguchi, 2007). Language allows people to convey thoughts, ideas, feelings and information to others through sound, written or movement symbols (Rahmatan et al., 2023). Language also includes grammar, vocabulary and communication rules accepted by members of the community who use the language (Narmoatmojo, 2010; Puspa et al., 2014; Wandini et al., 2021). Language can be spoken or written, and each human group usually has its own special language. Language is also an integral part of the culture and identity of a society (Hasibuan et al., 2023; Lorena & Sadiku, 2015; Ngersawat & Kirkpatrick, 2014). In everyday life, language is used for various purposes, such as communicating, conveying information, discussing, expressing emotions, and many more (Abdulai et al., 2023; Cabellos et al., 2024).

In this particular situation, the belief that listening, one of the receptive talents, is unimportant has resulted from a lack of knowledge of the link between receptive and productive abilities (Amalia, 2021; Nurwahidah et al., 2023). Nevertheless, emerging views emphasize the significance of listening. Listening comprehension is just as vital as other skills. Hearing or focusing on what other people are saying is not the only aspect of listening. In order to listen well, one must pay close attention to the grammar, sounds, and words while also using their brain to process prior information about the material they are listening to in order to comprehend it.

In the same way, listening is not an ability that comes alone. He also said that when we engage in one-way conversation, such as listening to lectures, radio, films, television news, and music, we are actually active. We respond actively. When we hear something, we always respond, either through body language or through spoken language. If we respond through spoken language, we may say something to what we hear, or we may laugh or cry. In addition, Jack Richards and Renandya stated that listening comprehension also known as listening comprehension is very
important for second language acquisition, and therefore language learning should be given greater attention (Long et al., 2023).

Listening is an important skill in interacting with other people in everyday life and in the classroom (Kiyama et al., 2018). Listening helps to communicate well and know our surroundings. If the speaker can express ideas clearly and the listener has good listening skills, effective communication can occur. Mastery of speaking and listening skills are very important in situations like this. To be proficient in a language, listening skills are very important (Norhayati & Jayanti, 2020). Moreover, the most important thing is listening, which comes before speaking, reading, or writing (Dumlao & Pinatacan, 2019).

It is very important to understand the message conveyed when listening to someone. This shows the importance of teaching listening to help students learn to listen (Riyani & Istiana Sari, 2020). Bottom-up and top-down are two ways of understanding spoken discourse, according to Richards. Input is used as a basis for interpreting messages in a bottom-up process. Top-down processing refers to the use of previous information to decipher the meaning of a communication; bottom-up processing moves from language to meaning, and students need to have a large vocabulary and understanding of sentence structure to learn top-down processing. Sounds or words are scanned to understand the language with little background knowledge (Herawati, 2016).

The use of podcasts in learning has become an increasingly popular trend due to its advantages in conveying information, increasing student engagement, and facilitating independent learning. Teachers can create podcasts to convey learning material. This could include an explanation of a concept, a discussion of a particular topic, or even an interview with an expert in the field. Students can listen to these podcasts as additional learning resources or even as a substitute for class lectures. Podcasts can be a platform for discussing certain ideas, controversies, or topics. Students can create their own podcasts where they participate in discussions, present their arguments, or even debate an issue (Amalia, 2021; Nurwahidah et al., 2023).

There are several types of podcasts that can be viewed on the media page. First is the interview podcast. Podcast interviews are podcasts that involve one person being interviewed for questions and answers as a resource and one or two hosts as questions about someone’s personal life. Generally, this podcast is used to motivate the speakers. Perhaps looking at the personal and social life of the source. The second is a monologue podcast. A monologue podcast is a podcast that has one person as the host and individual source or can be called a solo podcast. The things discussed in the monologue podcast are issues that are commonly discussed.
according to the personal opinion of the source. Then the third podcast is a multi-host podcast. A multi-host podcast is a podcast that contains two hosts featuring several sources to be given the freedom to work in order to produce many perspectives on a social issue (O’Neill et al., 2023).

This research will look at how to use podcasts in English courses to improve listening in pharmacy students. To see the position and originality of the research, a previous literature review is needed. First, the research from Nurwahidah et al. (2023). The research findings show that there is an increase in student grades. Success criteria are determined based on the school’s Minimum Completeness Criteria score. The students’ average score on the final test reached 85.3 and the average score reached the success criteria. The use of podcasts helps students to improve their listening skills because podcasts are easily accessible and can be applied inside and outside the classroom.

The further research by Mayangsari & Tiara (2019). The purpose of this study is to evaluate the efficacy of audio-based, podcast-based learning resources. The learning interest questionnaire and pre-post course grade results indicate that the effectiveness of podcast learning media is demonstrated. The interest fell into the moderate category, going from 45.04 to 44.80, while the course grade increased from 59.4 in the moderate category to 68.60 including the good category. Podcasting is seen to be a useful tool for enhancing learning results.

This article about using podcasts in English courses to improve listening skills in pharmacy students was created. Because it aims to ensure that students have listening skills in English courses. On the other hand, podcasts are an alternative learning media that is relevant in the current context of learning. So, it is necessary to conduct special research to review how ideal learning is using podcasts, especially in English courses for pharmacy students.

**Method**

This research was qualitative in nature and based on a review of the literature. Obtaining primary and secondary library materials allowed the research steps to be finished. Data in this study were categorized using research algorithms. Reviewing and interpreting descriptive, interpretive, or qualitative analytical library materials is a key component of qualitative library procedures, commonly known as qualitative literature analysis. This approach is utilized to gain a deeper understanding of a subject, idea, or phenomenon that is discussed in literature (Darmalaksana, 2020; Faisal, 1982).

The advanced stage involves processing data and citing sources so that research findings can be presented, abstracted to get all the information, and interpreted to
generate knowledge for making decisions. In the meantime, analysis or techniques were employed at the interpretation stage, such as philosophical, theological, Sufistic, tafsir, sharah, etc. In relation to the usage of podcasts, particularly in English courses for pharmacy students.

**Result and Discussion**

*Theoretical Perspective on the Use of Podcasts in English*

Students perceive the benefits of utilizing podcasts to teach English, according to studies, however in reality, this occasionally occurs when they run across difficulties. Students’ perceptions of utilization are generally positive. Podcasts help students become more proficient listeners of English because they offer encouragement and allow them to hear how native English speakers pronounce words (Rahmiyati et al., 2021).

Additionally, substantial variations were found in the perceptions and attitudes of each of the groups of Chinese and Korean students toward language learning at the University of Singapore when using podcasts in learning due to four factors: a) the podcast’s intended purpose and students’ learning motivation; b)a mismatch between the podcast’s design and students’ expectations, needs, and preferences; c)guidance from instructors and student preparation; and d)the mobile experience that students have for language learning (Chan et al., 2011). For example, the lecturer as researcher give a questionnaire for Pharmacy students at Adiwangsa University about using podcasts to study English. The result show that they believe using podcasts to study English is enjoyable. Because it can enhance their speaking, listening, reading, and writing abilities, and it is a very practical tool. Additionally, international students studying Indonesian believe that this podcast app enhances their understanding of grammar, listening comprehension, and the target society’s culture.

In addition, research has shown that Podcasts can attract the interest and attention of students. Therefore, educators may wish to utilize it as one of their tools. Classroom learning to achieve goals. Podcasts as an English learning method can attract students’ attention and provide enriched information, knowledge and vocabulary (O’Neill et al., 2023). On the other hand, when podcasts are used for teaching, several things must be considered. Podcasts can be categorized based on several notes or deficiencies in the presentation of the material by each course lecturer. Thus, every learning media has weaknesses. Nevertheless, Chilean students learning English consider Podcasts as an additional resource that helps them in their education (O’Connor et al., 2020).

The advantage of podcasts lies in their ease of access, ease of operation, and the fact that control is in the hands of the consumer, allowing podcasts to be portable and
available at any time. One formula for successful audio podcast content is light and attractive packaging that offers clear "value" to the individuals who will listen to the content. No need to have a special smartphone, iPod or tablet to play podcasts or audio playback. After downloading a podcast audio or video file, they can save it in their computer memory or storage device, so they can listen to it offline the next day. In this way, podcasts, both in audio and video format, can be easily accessed by many people, especially students. Podcasts can also be played via phone or tablet (Mobasherri & Costello, 2021).

Listening to podcasts in English learning is an effective way to improve listening skills, expand vocabulary and improve understanding of grammar. Here are some podcasts that can help students in learning English:

BBC Learning English Podcasts:
BBC Learning English provides a variety of podcasts specifically designed for English learning. They cover topics such as news, culture, grammar, and speaking skills.

![BBC Learning English YouTube channel](image1)

Figure 1. BBC Learning English YouTube channel

English as a Second Language (ESL) Podcast:
This podcast focuses on a variety of everyday topics and covers vocabulary and grammar with easy-to-understand explanations.

![ESLPod - English as a Second Language Podcast](image2)

Figure 2. English as a Second Language (ESL) Podcast YouTube channel

TED Talks:
TED Talks provide short presentations covering a variety of topics. This not only helps with listening skills, but also introduces you to a variety of vocabulary and speaking styles.
Voice of America (VOA) Learning English provides a variety of programs and podcasts covering news, stories, and other topics, with a focus on non-native speakers.

Podcasts are used in the world of education or universities and the process of creating and using repeated podcasts can be used in various fields of science. The use of podcasts can be part of the assignment in practice. For example, students in educational technology or educational sciences may engage in the idea generation process to produce appropriate pedagogical ideas; students in journalism or communications can script podcasts; students in multimedia may record or edit podcasts; students in the health field can create health samples that can be used to improve the quality of podcasts; and students in the field of information and communication technology can be involved in the prototype creation process (Matías-Pérez & García-Montalvo, 2022).

Using Podcasts to Improve Listening Skills in Pharmacy Students
Language acquisition is crucial since native English speakers are needed in Indonesia to serve as standards and role models for English as a foreign language (McEnery et al., 2023). Additionally, they contend that enhancing listening ability requires a strong emphasis on using English as the standard language. Read carefully to find the solution to the aforementioned dilemma. It is believed that autonomous use of podcast media will encourage language learners to acquire
listening comprehension more joyfully. The passive and receptive talent of listening is typically seen as an increased complicated skill (Adisti et al., 2022).

One of the most important aspects of teaching and studying English is fostering ability to communicate through listening comprehension. The following is a general definition of listening: There are a total of four types of orientations: collaborative, which entails negotiating meaning with the speaker and responding; revolutionary, which involves creating meaning through involvement, imagination, and empathy; and receptive, which involves actually hearing what the speaker has to say (Norhayati & Jayanti, 2020). Hearing is usually correlated with what people already know, and people know what they hear, therefore listening appears to be a very active and complex activity.

For some students, listening classes are a fun learning method because they can complete all the assignments easily without any difficulty. Study first. However, there may be some people who do not have the same perception about things. One of the most important receptive skills, listening helps students understand speaking. Someone said that because English is spoken all over the world, native English speakers are not the only source for listening. Because teachers must meet students’ knowledge needs during the listening process, students can obtain information independently.

The use of radio podcasts in English language instruction goes beyond only giving students access to additional listening material; language learners can also prepare, record, and produce listening material by using radio podcasts. When teaching English to language learners in listening sessions, instructors might use a variety of podcast formats:

a. Real podcasts: You can frequently find a wealth of information by listening to podcasts that are not intended for ELT students. While most are only appropriate for advanced students, some, like Sushi Radio, were created for non-native English speakers and are ideal for use in the classroom because of their length (5–10 minutes).

b. Faculty Podcasts: Produced by instructors, frequently for their classes, these podcasts aim to enhance student learning by offering a diverse range of listening materials with a community-focused focus.

c. Student podcasts: By listening to these, which are frequently made by students, students can discover more about the passions and daily activities of students everywhere.

d. Ed Tech Talk, a podcast for educators: This more general show regarding educational technology is streamed live online over a free internet phone
service, and it's then released as a podcast. ELT podcasts can be used for more extensive and demanding listening activities. There are strong arguments for using ELT podcasts for extended listening to pique students' interest in listening to English and expose them to speech from native speakers. The goal of the study's author was to enhance students' listening abilities through the use of audio media such as radio podcasts. (Anteby et al., 2021).

Apart from that, using podcasts to improve English listening skills can be an effective strategy for students. Here are some ways how the use of podcasts can help in improving their listening skills:

- **Ease of Access to English Language Material:** Podcasts provide easy access to a variety of English language material, including interviews, discussions, stories, and various other interesting topics. Students can choose podcasts that suit their interests to make the learning process more interesting.
- **Current and Relevant Content:** Podcasts often cover current and relevant topics, so students can improve their understanding of English used in everyday contexts.
- **Improved Listening Skills via a Range of Accents and Dialects:** Since many podcasts feature speakers from throughout the globe, they can aid students in learning about various English accents and dialects.
- **Time and Place Flexibility:** Students can listen to podcasts anytime and anywhere, whether on the go, at the gym, or even while doing homework. This provides flexibility in scheduling study time.
- **Increased Vocabulary and Language Comprehension:** Podcasts often use more natural and contextualized language, helping students improve their vocabulary and English comprehension in everyday contexts.
- **Repeated Listening Practice:** Students can listen to a podcast episode more than once to ensure their understanding. This provides an opportunity to continually improve their listening skills through repeated listening practice.
- **Podcast Options for Beginners to Advanced:** There are podcasts specifically designed for beginners and advanced levels. Students can choose a podcast that suits their listening skill level.
- **Participate in Podcast Communities:** Some podcasts have active online communities. Students can participate in discussions or read comments from other listeners, which can broaden their horizons and provide an opportunity to interact with native speakers.
- **Using Additional Material:** Students can use podcasts as additional material to supplement classroom learning or reading. This can help them involve more aspects of English in their learning (Anteby et al., 2021).

It is important to note that consistency in listening to podcasts and a willingness to continuously improve is the main key in improving English listening skills. In this
case, podcasts have many benefits. From spreading news about issues that are currently on the rise, motivating many people, and as an alternative tool for people to learn knowledge from audio. Podcasts play an important role in alternative learning because they are used as a medium for interaction between people to disseminate information regarding the complexities of personal life and the complexity of social life (Popova & Edirisingha, 2010).

The existing benefits cannot be examined superficially. Because every podcast has the benefit of being able to encourage listeners to do the same thing in terms of motivation. It can also be used as an alternative to extensive listening, where extensive listening frees up the listeners to express freely without the guidance of a teacher who can take science-based or educational learning offered in a particular podcast. Further, it make listeners extensively aware of concerns that should be discussed more openly through dialogues from resource persons who are experts in discussing issues. Who are intertwined in society, especially students.

Podcasts are also able to improve understanding and absorption of information, students can improve their listening skills. One way to improve listening skills is by listening to podcasts, because it helps students develop their listening skills. They will learn to focus and stay concentrated on the details presented by the speaker, which can also be applied in academic and professional situations (Nurwahidah et al., 2023). Listening has several stages, one of which is listening. After students have heard a podcast. They will try to understand the contents of the podcast they heard. Then, students interpret and evaluate the contents of the podcast. From here, by listening to podcasts students will be more intense and manage their listening skills.

Conclusion
In the research on the use of podcasts in English courses to improve listening skills above, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. The theoretical perspective of using podcasts in English is based on research that has been conducted. Students feel the positive impact of using Podcasts in teaching English. Students have a fairly good perception of use. Podcasts improve English listening skills because podcasts provide motivation and give students the opportunity to listen to the pronunciation of native English speakers. Listening to podcasts in English learning is an effective way to improve listening skills, expand vocabulary, and improve understanding of grammar.

2. Using podcasts in English courses to improve listening skills in Pharmacy Students: Podcasts are also able to improve understanding and absorption of information. Pharmacy students can improve listening skills in the health sector. One way to improve listening skills is by listening to podcasts, because it helps students develop their listening skills. They will learn to
focus and stay concentrated on the details presented by the speaker, which can also be applied in academic and professional situations.

Acknowledgement
Research regarding to the use of podcasts in improving listening skills in Pharmacy Students is purely the work of the author. On this occasion the author would like to thank colleagues and experts from Adiwangsa University who have provided input and contributions in completing this article. This article is one of the author’s obligations in implementing the Tri Dharma of Higher Education.

References


© 2023 *Jurnal Inovasi Edukasi*

e-ISSN 2654-3931