

## Promoting Speaking Skill through Podcast: EFL Students' Voices

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### Abstract

Listening is one of the skills in English Learning. Listening can be practiced by many media, like radio, audio music, listening while watching video, or listening to podcasts. Listening to podcasts is one of the popular and common ways to practice English listening skills. Listening to podcasts is simple and flexible to use every time everywhere, which makes many people like to listen to podcasts. This study aims to investigate the use of podcasts for listening strategies to improve speaking skills. 24 students participated in this study from the University of Islam Malang in 2 and 4 grade in the English Department. The research design from this study uses data collection from a questionnaire involving 20 items scored 10 questions in yes or no choice and 10 questions scored on a five-point Likert response scale. Data analysis will be conducted using a descriptive approach, which to describe the findings from the questionnaire and identify patterns or trends that may emerge from students' responses to the use of podcasts in listening strategies. The results of this study indicate that the majority of participants considered the use of podcasts as a listening strategy to improve speaking skills. Most of the participants of this study agreed that the podcast can help them and make it easier to listen skills comprehension, acquire new vocabulary, become accustomed to listening skills, and Improve speaking skills by practicing some content or accent in the podcast.

**Keywords:** *listening, podcast, speaking*

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### Introduction

Speaking is one thing that we use daily to communicate with others. Speaking is a productive aural /oral skill. As a product skill, talking helps students communicate with each other. Speaking can be measured to know the ability and weakness students" in speaking English. According to Nunan (2003), speaking is usual in our lives, every day we speak. Speaking isn't any difficult cause all can speak. But in a foreign language, we are usually nervous to speak. One of the English language skills that must be mastered by any foreign language learner is the ability to speak. The common question that arises from anybody who wants to know one's ability in a foreign language is whether he/she can speak English or not. In line with this, Nunan (1991), for example, Indonesian people, learn English, they like to learn, when speak. They will be nervous if speak English cause they are worried about the order of sentences, are the sentences right or not. They also worried about grammatical errors. Speaking is required by people to interact among them. In speaking activity, many things should be paid attention to, not only related to what is being spoken, what language is used, but also who is our interlocutor. In addition, a good speaker should pay attention to what topic is being spoken to him, what language he/she uses to be understood easily by his listener, and to whom he/she speaks. Hence, speaking is a tool to communicate ideas that are arranged and developed according to the listener's needs (Tarigan, 1987, cited in

Musaddat, 2008). In general, a variety of research reports and findings show that speaking is difficult. In dealing with this, Yusuf and Sewoyo (1997) explained that the causes of public speaking include worry of making errors and mistakes. Usually, someone gets nervous about speaking because they feel their speaking skill is the main language skill that students should improve, but this does not mean it is simple to master. Therefore, students need to be encouraged to master this skill. According to Zhang (2009). So, if you want to have good speaking skills, you must make improvements and try something or some exercise that can improve your speaking skills. That's not easy but, we can try and try until we get any improvement and have good speaking skills.

Listening plays an integral part in communicating and the differences from actively listening can be seen in multiple facets of our lives and development. Listening, as we know, is the skill of understanding spoken language. According to Curso (2011-2012). Active listening is not natural people cause the active listening must learn to listen in many ways like podcasts, movies, and many more. Listening is a complex skill, cause that's just concentration and listening carefully to know and understand the audio (Podcast). to teach it, and subsequently, evaluate it before integrating it with phonological aspects and with the skill of speaking. (Bueno, et al., 2006). So be careful Listen to anything. Therefore, it is sometimes complicated as we do not have the opportunity to go back and check comprehension (Nunan: 2001, 23). Listening helps us to know the right pronunciation and the right way to speak up with others.

A podcast is a digital media file or a series of such files, that is distributed over the Internet using syndication feeds for playback on portable media players and personal computers. The podcast is simple but complicated. The podcast is a popular easier way to listen to comprehension. The popularity of audio content syndication makes mobile learning applicable to a large number of students. Similarly, Downes (2004, par. 15) that podcasts can be used to improve our listening skills, improve our speaking skills, and improve our vocabularies bank. Habit is one of the behaviors that are regular and continuous and becomes almost automatic to do. Butler (1995) believed that habits are automatic routine behavior that is repeated regularly without thinking. Many ways to improve listening habits, like using songs, news (video), and podcasts. Listening habits with the podcast include listening regularly in one time daily using podcast. Butler (1995) believed that habits are automatic routine behaviors that are repeated regularly without thinking. To start listening habits by using podcasts, you must've made a schedule for this activity. It's like one time daily in the morning or afternoon. You listening podcasts every day and that will become one of your activities that regularly and you do continuously.

Habit is one of the behaviors that are regular and continuous and become almost automatic. Butler (1995) believed that habits are automatic routine behaviors that are repeated regularly without thinking. Many ways to improve listening habits, like using songs, news (video), and podcasts. Listening habits with the podcast is listening regularly in one time daily podcast. Butler (1995) believed that habits are automatic routine behaviors that are repeated regularly without thinking. To start listening habits by using podcasts, you must've made a schedule for this activity. It's like one time daily in the morning or afternoon. You listening podcasts every day and that will become one of your activities that regularly and you do continuously.

Listening is one of the linguistic skills which natural and is used first. In fact, fetuses hear voices outside the womb as early as the fifth month of gestation (Doğan, 2008). Active listening is listening which is done by understanding, being responsible, giving attention, and being emphatic. Active listening can be verbal and nonverbal. In terms of nonverbal behaviors, active listening typically is cast as nonverbal immediacy (NVI)—behaviors such as head nods, eye contact, and forward body lean that reflect the degree of psychological

distance between (or closeness with) others (Andersen & Andersen, 2005). Inactive listening shows nonverbal warmth, active listeners also signal attentiveness through a range of verbal behaviors. The most common of which are paraphrasing, reflecting feelings, assumption checking, and asking questions to someone who talks to the Listener. Paraphrasing and reflecting feelings are both forms of formulation (Garfinkel & Sacks, 1970).

When listening to some podcasts, surely we got the new vocabulary. We can collect the new vocabulary and practice that with the right pronunciation. Vocabulary is one of the basic things which important to learning English. Coady and Huckin (1997) argue that vocabulary is central and of critical importance to typical language learners. We can use vocabulary to expand our ideas when we talk, conversation, or write for example make a story. In today's digital age, writing has transcended traditional boundaries, and platforms like Padlet provide an online canvas to write an interactive and collaborative storytelling (Kharis et al., 2020). We can use the vocabulary to make the sentence easier. Pronunciation is so important way to learn new words or vocabulary. If we have many vocabularies and we can pronounce them right, we can get easier when we talk. And get confident and fluent when doing conversation. So listening to podcasts can improve our speaking skills, cause we get new vocabulary and we learn to pronounce them clearly, after that we can be more confident and no more confused when doing conversations with others.

## Method

Data analysis in this study will be conducted using a descriptive approach. This approach will be used to describe the findings from the questionnaire and identify patterns or trends that may emerge from students' responses to the use of podcasts in listening strategies to improve speaking skills. The study was carried out in the English Department 2nd and 4th semesters at the University of Islam Malang, Indonesia. The target population of this study constituted a sample of 30 or more participants of Department English students at the University of Islam Malang. We share the questionnaire with two classes of 2nd semester and two classes of 4th semester. The selection of those students was random. For data gathering and to investigate the study questions, a questionnaire was distributed to the second and fourth-semester students in the English Department of the University of Islam Malang. The questionnaire's format of the survey was based on a mixed method of seeking a statistical response. It consisted of two main parts. Part One asked questions about listening to improve speaking skills. Part two is in agreement with the statement about the listening strategy using podcasts.

## Results

This part of this journal presents and discusses the findings of this research. The finding related to a questionnaire on students' perception of listening strategy using podcasts to improve speaking skills. The discussion of this Journal is shown in the table which presents the findings from the questionnaire by using Google form before.

The results of this study targeted 30 participants from 2nd and 4th-grade students in the English department at the University of Islam Malang. There is data was collected questionnaire from 24 participants, less than the target (30). The questionnaire asked the students about listening material and using podcasts for their learning English, exactly listening skill. The answers to the research questions and the findings from the questionnaire are shown in Table 1 about student's perceptions of listening strategy using podcasts.

**Table.1 Students' perceptions on listening strategy using podcast 1**

Questions	Yes	No
Do you get new vocabulary when you listening podcasts?	100%	0%
Do you practice speaking using words from listening comprehension?	87.5%	12.5%
Do you find it difficult when you practice speaking using words from Listening comprehension?	87.5%	12.5%

Table 1 shows all of the students agreed or said yes (100%), they get new vocabulary when listening using podcasts. It can listen to music, news, or story. Most students agree (87.5%) if they practice speaking using words that they get from listening comprehension. It means most students practice with the vocabulary that they get from listening, maybe listening using podcasts or others (another app). Most of the students said yes and agreed (87.5%) if they found difficulties when practicing new vocabulary or words from listening, it was because they were unfamiliar with those words before. So they get difficult maybe when pronounce it or master it. In another hand, some students disagree or say no (0%). All of the students get new vocabulary when listening to podcasts or songs. So nobody said no in the first question, it signifies all of the students agree if they get new vocabulary when listening to podcasts.

Some students disagree or say no (12.5%), to practice speaking using words from podcasts. It can be caused by using other words or vocabularies, not just from podcasts. Some students say no (12.5%), to find it difficult to practice speaking with using words from listening comprehension, it may be because they have known many vocabularies before or were familiar with the vocabularies. Most students (83.3%) say yes, they were got improvement up their speaking skills after listening to podcasts for a long time. For them, using podcasts for a long time maybe every day or 2-3 times a week. They get improvement for their speaking skill, the class they practice while listening to podcasts. And some students say no (16.7%), which may be caused by not using podcasts or not using podcasts often.

**Table 2: Students' perception of listening strategy using podcast 2**

Statement	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
I like podcast	0%	16.7%	37.5%	37.5%	8.3%
Podcast easy to use	0%	16.7%	29.2%	41.7%	12.5%
I think podcasts help me a lot in learning English	0%	4.2%	33.3%	45.8%	16.7%
I will listen to podcasts again	4.2%	0%	29.2%	50%	16.7%

In Table 2, almost half of all students (24 students) agree (37.5%) and Very agree (8.3%), that they like podcasts, and they like to use podcasts for their learning media. (37.5%) of students are neutral. Students who disagree (16.7%). Even almost half of students like podcasts, they are just neutral, maybe they use but not favorite way to learn use podcasts.

Students who disagree may not like using podcasts cause using another way of listening comprehension. Most of the students agree (41.7%) and very agree (12,5%). They like learning using podcasts because podcasts are easy to use, flexible, and can be used everywhere. And several from the neutral (29.2%). Several of them disagree (16.7%), maybe they are a busy person so they rarely can open or access to listening podcasts. Most of the students (45.8%) and very agree (16.7%) that they were Helped by podcasts for learning English. They are so helped by podcasts cause can use them for listening media. Some students say neutral (33.3%) and just one of the students says disagree (4.2%). Most students (50%) are very agree (16.7%) that they will listen to the podcast again, it can be caused by what they enjoy or they like the way, the way to Learn English using podcasts. 29.2% of the students were neutral. One of the students was very disagreed (4.2%) with listening to the podcast again.

## Discussion

The study findings suggest that podcasts have the potential to significantly enhance students' vocabulary. They serve as a valuable tool for practicing English speaking skills, as highlighted by Sonali Rajpal and Anita Devi (2010), who describe podcasts as a technological revolution in the learning process. Their research underscores the utility of podcasts for both teachers and students in improving listening and speaking abilities. However, despite their efficacy in vocabulary acquisition, students encounter challenges when it comes to effectively practicing newly acquired words.

Furthermore, the majority of students express a willingness to utilize podcasts for listening comprehension exercises, indicating their recognition of its benefits. According to Paul Man (2006), one of the key advantages of podcast implementation is its capacity to boost student motivation. This heightened motivation stems from the perceived assistance podcasts offer in English language learning, thereby prompting students to engage with the material repeatedly.

These findings align with prior research, such as the study conducted by Ramly (2017), which concluded that podcasts serve as a motivational tool for enhancing English proficiency through technological immersion in listening and speaking activities. Ramly's research emphasizes the importance of providing students with diverse instructional approaches and fostering an engaging learning environment to maximize podcast effectiveness. Similarly, Yeh's (2021) study corroborates these findings, demonstrating that students' speaking fluency and accuracy improve noticeably as they engage in podcast creation. Despite encountering some challenges, such as pronunciation errors and pauses, students experience tangible progress throughout the podcasting process, underscoring the dual benefits and challenges associated with this learning modality.

## Conclusion

The finding of this research shows positive responses from students. Most of them like using podcasts to learn English, and to help their listening and speaking skills to more Improve. They choose podcasts for media to learn English cause podcasts are a simple way to use, flexible, and contain many materials for their listening skill. Using podcasts can make you more relaxed and enjoy while listening to podcasts. Cause podcasts not only contain the material lesson but also about news, short story jokes, and many more. From the results of this research, teachers can use podcasts as one of the good learning media to develop speaking skills. Furthermore, teachers must create a conducive classroom atmosphere and interesting learning by using podcasts as one of the learning approaches for EFL. Moreover, the use of podcasts in developing other English skills is needed for further research.

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