

USING PODCASTS TO IMPROVE LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY FOR ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

To communicate their ideas to one another, students use language. They require linguistic proficiency to improve their fluency. Still, a lot of English as a foreign language students struggled to communicate their intentions to other language users. They require a way to facilitate the development of their language proficiency. The application that offers real content is podcasts. By employing them, the pupils can improve their linguistic abilities. The content includes various dialects, speech patterns, and languages. Learning about those resources helps students become more natural and fluid in their speaking. Furthermore, the resources offered in the areas of news, narrative, self-improvement, linguistic variety, voice, accents, and speaking styles facilitate the students in improving their language proficiency. Students' vocabulary, problem-solving techniques, capacity for introspection, and language proficiency all increase as a result. Through a literature review of the textual content to improve language acquisition, it is determined that using podcast materials helps students improve their speaking, reading, writing, and listening skills. Teachers can use this type of research to their advantage by applying it to the teaching of related disciplines. It also encourages further investigation into similar subjects by other scholars.

Keywords: Authenticity, Communication, Language skills, Podcasts, Speech pattern.

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INTRODUCTION

A fundamental ability that is required for both our personal and professional life is effective communication. One aspect of communication that is commonly overlooked is the ability to express thoughts to others. When we share our ideas with friends, present a proposal to coworkers, or address an audience, the method we communicate our ideas can have a big impact on how they are received and comprehended. Effective communication of ideas is crucial for self-expression and personal development. We feel empowered and fulfilled when we can articulate ourselves with clarity and confidence. By expressing our ideas to others, we validate our own beliefs and experiences while also adding to the body of knowledge and comprehension. Our self-esteem is boosted by this validation, which also motivates us to keep researching and presenting our ideas to others. Effective communication of ideas is crucial for both our personal and professional life. By developing this ability, we can foster innovation and creativity, improve our ability to persuade and influence others, experience personal growth, and express ourselves more fully (Pasaribu and Adhani, 2024).

Our lives are significantly impacted by the growth of our vocabulary, which shapes our capacity for efficient communication and comprehension of the outside world. It is important to lay a solid basis for learning, critical thinking, and personal development rather than only memorizing words. Vocabulary development is closely related to academic performance, communication, and critical thinking, but it also has a significant effect on personal development. Words have the ability to uplift, encourage, and change our lives. Rich vocabulary helps us communicate our ideas and feelings more clearly, which enhances our emotional intelligence and self-awareness. It helps us to express our wants and wishes, set clear goals and aspirations, and forge meaningful connections with others. Having a large vocabulary gives us the ability to face life's obstacles head-on and bounce back. Vocabulary growth is a lifelong process that improves our quality of life in many ways; it is not merely a means to a goal. It improves our ability to communicate, increases academic achievement, develops critical thinking, and encourages personal development. We can invest in our own potential

and create limitless prospects by making an investment in vocabulary growth (Diyora, 2024).

To learn and communicate a language, pronunciation is essential. Accurately communicating meaning is just as important as sounding proper. Gaining expertise in language and efficient communication requires learning how to pronounce words correctly. The development of pronunciation improves listening abilities. Learners are better able to distinguish and identify sounds in a language when they have a strong foundation in pronunciation. This enhances their comprehension of spoken language, particularly in difficult circumstances such as hurried conversations or foreign accents. Learners can improve their comprehension and become more focused listeners by improving their pronunciation. The development of pronunciation is crucial to language learning. It affects listening comprehension, fluency, and cultural awareness. Learners can improve overall language ability, develop cultural awareness, and improve communication skills by concentrating on pronunciation (Suseno, 2024a). The creation of sentences is essential to learning a language and improving communication abilities. It serves as the cornerstone on which successful communication is constructed. Possessing good sentence construction abilities advances one's general language competency in addition to improving one's capacity for clear thought and idea expression. The formation of sentences fosters self-expression and creativity. Having the ability to put words together allows people to express their thoughts and emotions in novel and engaging ways. To effectively communicate their thoughts, they can try out various phrase constructions, word selections, and rhetorical strategies. In addition to improving interpersonal interactions, this creative expression helps people write better by helping them create engaging stories and strong arguments. The development of sentence structure is crucial for language learning and communication abilities. It is the basis for successful academic communication, critical thinking, creative expression, and effective communication. People can improve their general language ability and open up a world of options in many areas of life by concentrating on generating excellent sentences (Suseno, 2020).

Individuals' lives are greatly shaped by their reading development, which also has a significant effect on their future success, cognitive

capacities, and personal development. The value of reading in our technologically advanced, fast-paced environment cannot be emphasized. It is not only about learning; it's also about cultivating empathy, increasing vocabulary, and honing critical thinking abilities. A passion for reading encourages learning. People who fall in love with reading become lifelong learners. As a result of their growing interest, they acquire a hunger for information and look for new publications, books, and other materials. Their approach to education and personal development is influenced by their passion of learning, which goes beyond the pages of books. It fosters a growth attitude by motivating people to take on obstacles and never stop trying to get better. The development of reading skills is crucial in today's world. Along with imparting knowledge, it improves people's verbal, cognitive, and love of learning capacities. We are investing in the future of people and society at large when we support reading development (Ibragimova and Abbasova, 2024).

Language proficiency issues are particularly prevalent among English as a foreign language (EFL) learners. They experienced trouble hearing the information coming from the speaking counter. It had an impact on their capacity to answer the conversation partners' questions. Their inability to listen and communicate clearly made it difficult for them to put their thoughts in writing. They lacked the motivation to construct sentences and employ the appropriate words. They have trouble understanding the reading material due to these kinds of issues. Students' inability to effectively communicate ideas to others through language was hindered by their shortcomings in language proficiency. It destroyed the ability to communicate both orally and in writing (Suseno and Darma, 2024).

Learning English is influenced by a multitude of factors. The part interaction tactics play in helping people learn English as a second language. The focus is on interaction techniques; ideas that have surfaced in the study of interaction as a way of acquiring a second language are covered, and the perspectives' practical consequences are evaluated. The acquisition of EFL has always depended heavily on contacts. It was found that interaction will remain a key tactic frequently employed in English language teaching classes to enhance student learning. Interaction, especially in the classroom, aids in determining the real challenges that second language learners encounter. Research has shown that when students are consistently engaged in activities that directly involve their peers, teachers are more likely to react quickly and implement tactics that help students develop cognitive changes (Shawaqfeh *et al.*, 2024).

Podcasts, however, promote understanding and awareness of different cultures. A lot of podcasts examine current affairs, cultural subjects, and individual narratives to provide listeners with an understanding of many viewpoints and cultures. EFL students benefit from this exposure to a variety of topics since it fosters a more global perspective and a greater understanding of cultural diversity. In addition to developing their language abilities, learners who listen to podcasts also extend their perspectives and become more culturally aware people. Podcasts are a great way for EFL students to improve their language skills. Podcasts are a great tool for language learners because they offer immersive listening experiences, flexible learning options, active involvement, vocabulary and grammar progress, and cultural knowledge. Including podcasts in language learning regimens can improve language skills overall and accelerate the process of acquiring a language (Suseno *et al.*, 2024a).

The study's objective is to determine how podcasts can improve EFL learners' language acquisition. It is crucial to support educators in giving students access to resources and teaching strategies that will help them become more proficient communicators. Maintaining a research question is necessary to achieve this kind of goal. To address it, the question "How do podcast materials enhance the language skills of EFL students?" is presented. The goal of the investigation is revealed by the response to such a question. The study's conclusion will be reached by the application of the literature review to strengthen the qualitative analysis.

The importance of language learning in the modern world

Learning a language is a necessary ability in the globalized world of today. Speaking various languages is now more crucial than ever in a society that is becoming more varied and interdependent. Learning a language improves not only our personal and professional lives but also global cooperation and cross-cultural understanding (Alluhaydan, 2024). First of all, learning a language creates a wealth of opportunities. Being bilingual or multilingual might offer people a big advantage in today's cutthroat employment environment. These days, a lot of businesses are worldwide in scope, necessitating the need for personnel who can interact with international clients and coworkers. People can improve their income potential and job chances by learning a new language (Suseno *et al.*, 2024b). In addition, learning a language fosters cross-cultural understanding. Since language and culture are closely related, learning a new language helps us understand the norms, values, and customs of that group. This knowledge promotes empathy and respect for other cultures by dispelling preconceptions and stereotypes. Language acquisition can foster harmony and unity by bridging the distance between individuals from diverse backgrounds in a society where division is growing. Learning a language also improves cognitive function. Studies have indicated that acquiring a new language enhances one's memory, problem-solving abilities, and cognitive performance in general. It maintains the brain active and sharp, which lowers the likelihood of cognitive loss as we age. Learning a language also fosters creativity and increases multitasking skills. Beyond just helping us learn a language, these cognitive advantages can also improve other aspects of our lives (Saidahmadovna, 2024).

Finally, learning a language gives one a sense of empowerment and personal fulfillment. Learning a new language is a difficult but worthwhile task. As people become more adept at communicating in various settings, their self-confidence and self-esteem grow. Acquiring language skills also enables us to establish deep connections and meaningful interactions with people from diverse backgrounds. It widens our perspectives, provides us with new experiences, and improves our lives in a myriad of ways. Acquiring language skills is not just a useful ability, but also a life-changing journey. It fosters cultural understanding, improves cognitive function, gives us the means to manage an increasingly interconnected world, and brings us personal fulfillment. Learning a language is more crucial than ever in a society that embraces diversity and international collaboration (Mustoip *et al.*, 2024).

The importance of developing language skills

Proficiency in language is essential for both our personal and professional life. Language is the basis of human interaction, whether it is for understanding the world around us, expressing our ideas and feelings to others, or interacting with them. Being able to communicate effectively in various languages has become more and more crucial in the globalized world of today. As a result, it is crucial that people improve and expand their language abilities. First of all, learning a language creates a wealth of opportunities. Businesses are growing their operations internationally in today's globalized economy, and speaking more than one language provides one an advantage over other candidates for jobs. Employers are looking for workers who can interact with partners and clients from various cultural backgrounds. People can improve their chances of landing a better job and advancing in their careers by learning new languages (Khalili *et al.*, 2024). Second, language proficiency promotes appreciation and understanding of different cultures. Language is a reflection of culture as well as a tool for communication (Mustoip *et al.*, 2024). Learning a new language helps people understand the values, practices, and traditions of other civilizations. This encourages respect for variety, empathy, and tolerance. In an increasingly interconnected world, establishing peaceful relationships and promoting international collaboration require the capacity to comprehend and value diverse cultures. Language proficiency also improves cognitive ability. Studies have indicated that acquiring a new language enhances one's creativity, problem-solving abilities, and memory. It improves cognitive flexibility

and engages the brain. It has been discovered that bilingual people are more adept at transitioning between tasks and maintaining focus. People can hone their cognitive capabilities and increase their general mental agility by learning new languages.

In addition, having language abilities gives people access to a multitude of information and knowledge. The greatest scientific discoveries, literary masterpieces, and artistic accomplishments in history have been published in languages other than our own. People can access a wider variety of ideas, research, and literature by learning new languages. This enhances their intellectual development and broadens their viewpoints in addition to increasing their body of information. Gaining proficiency in language is crucial in the modern world. It makes things easier, fosters cross-cultural understanding, sharpens the intellect, and provides access to a multitude of information. It is therefore imperative that people give priority to improving their language abilities, whether through formal education, language exchange programs, or independent study. By doing this, individuals can enhance their personal and professional lives in addition to making a positive impact on a more cohesive and integrated world community.

The importance of developing language skills Proficiency in language is essential for both our personal and professional life. Language is the key that opens limitless potential, whether it is for understanding the world around us, expressing our thoughts and emotions, or communicating with others. Gaining fluency in multiple languages is more crucial than ever in the globalized, communication-imperative world of today (Boyqobilov, 2024). First of all, learning a language improves our capacity for interpersonal communication. Language serves as the link between us, enabling successful communication, idea sharing and teamwork. It is crucial to be able to speak with confidence and clarity in both our personal and professional dealings (Usmonovich, 2024). Proficiency in language allows us to communicate clearly, comprehend the viewpoints of others and establish deep relationships. Second, proficiency in language is essential for academic achievement (Febriana and Fikri, 2024). Language proficiency is a crucial prerequisite for learning in all subject areas, including writing essays and reading comprehension. Students who possess a great command of language are better able to interact with complex texts, critically evaluate information, and coherently communicate their ideas. Furthermore, because language abilities foster creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving they are strongly associated with cognitive development. Mastering a language creates a wealth of chances in the workplace (Suseno, 2023a). Strong communication abilities are highly valued by businesses in the cutthroat job market of today. Leadership, customer service, and teamwork all depend on effective communication. Furthermore, being able to communicate in a language is typically a requirement for employment abroad since it allows people to interact with foreign markets and work in a variety of cultural contexts.

In addition, language proficiency promotes cultural awareness and personal development. Acquiring knowledge of a foreign language exposes us to many cultures, customs, and viewpoints. It expands our perspectives, cultivates empathy, and advances intercultural competency. We become more accepting, flexible, and open-minded people when we learn and value other languages. Gaining proficiency in language is crucial in the linked world of today. It improves our capacity for interpersonal relationships, academic success, career success, and personal development. By making the investment in language practice and acquisition, we provide ourselves with an invaluable instrument that unlocks a world of opportunities (Matenova, 2024).

The power of podcasts in language learning

Podcasts have gained popularity in recent years, and it is important to recognize that they can improve language acquisition. Using podcasts to supplement language study can be revolutionary in this digital age where technology is a major teaching tool. This post will examine the advantages of podcasts as a method for improving language acquisition

and offer proof to back up this assertion (Abdullayeva, 2024). First of all, podcasts present a special chance for students to develop their listening comprehension. A vital component of learning a language is listening comprehension, and podcasts offer a genuine and engaging experience in this regard. Through the process of listening to native speakers in authentic settings, learners can enhance their comprehension of various accents, intonations, and speech patterns. Their overall language competence can be considerably enhanced by this exposure to real language. Moreover, podcasts can improve vocabulary learning. A lot of podcasts for language learners are made, especially to introduce new words and phrases in context (Suseno, 2024b). Students can increase their vocabulary and learn how to use words appropriately by listening to these podcasts. Learners internalize the language and become more proficient speakers in their own discussions as a result of this active engagement with new terminology. Podcasts not only enhance listening comprehension and vocabulary development but they also give students a chance to practice speaking (Mirqodirova, 2024). A lot of podcasts for language learning have interactive features like interviews or conversations that let listeners join in and hone their speaking abilities. Learners' confidence in their capacity to communicate in the target language is bolstered by this participatory approach.

In addition, podcasts provide the ease and flexibility that conventional language learning techniques might not be able to provide. Because podcasts are accessible to learners at all times and locations, incorporating language learning into daily routines is simple. Podcasts offer a practical way to immerse oneself in the target language without interfering with other tasks, whether it's during a workout, car ride, or housework. Podcasts can help students become more familiar with the cultural nuances of the language they are studying. Talks about current affairs, customs, and cultural subjects are common in language learning podcasts. Learners have a deeper appreciation and knowledge of the language they are studying as a result of being exposed to the cultural context of the language (Mutua *et al.*, 2024). Language learning could be revolutionized by podcasts. They offer opportunities for speaking practice, improve listening comprehension, speed up vocabulary development, allow flexibility and convenience, and create an immersive and real language learning experience (Rorintulus *et al.*, 2024). Podcasts can significantly improve the learning process and assist language learners in more successfully achieving their language learning objectives.

The importance of learning a language for effective communication

The capacity to communicate effectively is more crucial than ever in the worldwide world of today. Language competency is one of the main elements that lead to good communication. Acquiring language proficiency not only facilitates communication with individuals of all cultures and origins but it also presents a plethora of prospects for individual and occupational development. However, acquiring a language improves our capacity to engage with people more deeply. Language is a reflection of identity, culture, and history in addition to being a tool for communication (Alluhaydan, 2024). We can acquire understanding of a community's values, beliefs, and customs by learning a new language. This knowledge promotes empathy and enables us to form deep connections with others from various backgrounds. Being able to communicate in another language enables us to close the gap and establish sincere relationships, whether we are visiting a distant nation or engaging with coworkers from other countries. Our horizons are broadened and a world of possibility is revealed when we acquire a language. Businesses are increasingly conducting business internationally in today's globalized economy. Employers are looking for workers who can interact with international partners and clients in an efficient manner. We improve our chances of getting a better job and become more employable when we study a language. Acquiring proficiency in a language also gives us access to a multitude of information and tools that are unavailable in our mother tongue. By reading books, watching movies, and interacting with people from diverse cultures, we may widen our horizons and improve our quality of life. Beyond just helping with communication,

learning a language also improves cognitive function. Bilingual people have better memory, problem-solving abilities, and cognitive flexibility, according to research. Thinking differently is necessary when learning a language since we have to manage terminology, grammar rules, and cultural quirks. This mental workout fortifies our brains and improves our general cognitive functioning.

In addition, it enhances our capacity for multitasking and situational adaptation – two essential abilities in the fast-paced world of today. Gaining proficiency in a language is not the only goal; learning a language also opens doors to new opportunities, relationships, and experiences. Acquiring a language allows us to broaden our perspectives, improve our cognitive capacities, and interact with individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds. Speaking more than one language is a great asset in an increasingly interconnected society that can improve our lives in many ways (Mustoip *et al.*, 2024).

The importance of developing effective spoken and written communication skills

In both our personal and professional life, effective communication is an essential ability. The capacity to communicate our thoughts and ideas succinctly and effectively is crucial, whether we are composing an email that persuades others or speaking eloquently in a meeting. Our interpersonal connections can be substantially improved by mastering effective spoken communication techniques. We can forge closer bonds with people when we can speak our minds with confidence and clarity. Speaking well enables us to listen intently, express our ideas clearly, and participate in deep dialogues. It helps us communicate our thoughts, feelings, and opinions in a way that others can comprehend, which promotes more empathy and understanding (Saidahmadovna, 2024). Furthermore, in the current digital era, proficient written communication abilities are essential. The ability to write clearly and effectively has become more crucial than ever due to the growing reliance on social media, instant messaging, and emails. Properly composed emails, reports, and documents not only demonstrate our professionalism but also guarantee that our point is communicated in an understandable and efficient manner. Strong written communication skills help us communicate more clearly, concisely, and powerfully. This improves our persuasiveness and influence in both our personal and professional lives. Gaining proficiency in both written and spoken communication not only improves our professional and interpersonal connections but also advances our personal development. We feel more empowered and self-assured when we can communicate ourselves clearly and fluently. We can express our opinions, stand up for ourselves, and make our demands and boundaries known when we communicate effectively. It helps us to handle difficult circumstances, settle disputes, and develop resilience. By honing these abilities, we grow into more self-assured people who can successfully negotiate life's challenges. In today's environment, mastering excellent written and oral communication skills is crucial. These abilities support our personal and professional development in addition to improving our interpersonal interactions. We can become more self-assured, powerful, and prosperous people by devoting time and energy to acquiring these abilities (Mustoip *et al.*, 2024).

The importance of reading for effective communication

In the fast-paced, globally interconnected world of today, effective communication is an essential ability. It enables us to communicate our ideas, exchange knowledge, and create deep connections. While there are many strategies to get better at communicating, reading is one that is sometimes disregarded. Reading increases our vocabulary and linguistic skills while also enhancing our knowledge and comprehension of the outside world. We are exposed to a vast array of linguistic structures and vocabulary when we read. There are words and phrases that we may not come across in our regular talks when we read books, articles, or even stuff on the internet. We increase the range of words we know and improve our ability to communicate well by exposing ourselves to a variety of vocabulary. With a larger vocabulary, we can express our ideas and thoughts more clearly, which results in communication

that is both impactful and clear. Reading also fosters a broader comprehension of various cultures, viewpoints, and experiences. We can learn about the ideas, feelings, and motives of characters from a variety of backgrounds by delving into their lives through literature. By exposing us to a range of viewpoints, we develop empathy and an open mind, which improves our ability to interact with individuals from all backgrounds. Through comprehending and valuing many perspectives, we may participate in significant dialogues and overcome cultural divides. Reading improves our analytical and critical thinking abilities in addition to our vocabulary and cultural awareness. We are exposed to a variety of arguments, concepts, and viewpoints when we read. This pushes us to exercise critical thought, assess the facts, and develop our own judgments. These critical thinking abilities let us assess and respond to difficult topics in a considered and logical way, which makes them crucial for effective communication. Reading helps us develop our analytical abilities, which makes us better communicators who can hold meaningful conversations and add to productive debates. Reading also gives us access to a multitude of information and expertise. We may stay up to date on current events, scientific developments, and societal challenges through reading non-fiction books, news articles, and educational resources. This information not only makes our interactions more enjoyable but it also helps us have educated debates and come to wise judgments. Being well-read makes us more assured speakers with the ability to hold others' attention and make significant contributions to conversations. Reading is essential for improving communication abilities. It increases our vocabulary, deepens our comprehension of many cultures, encourages critical thinking, and imparts insightful knowledge. We can enhance our communication abilities and become more proficient communicators by integrating reading into our daily lives (Khalili *et al.*, 2024).

The power of podcasts in enhancing reading skills

Podcasts have become a potent tool in the digital age for helping pupils improve their reading skills. Podcasts offer a distinctive and practical approach to improve reading abilities due to their captivating and immersive qualities. A dynamic and engaging learning environment is provided through podcasts. Students can listen to real-life conversations, interviews, and stories through podcasts, in contrast to traditional reading resources. This aural experience helps students gain a deeper knowledge of pronunciation, intonation, and language patterns in addition to improving their listening abilities. Podcasts help students become more linguistically literate and improve their general reading comprehension by introducing them to a range of voices and accents (Abdullayeva, 2024). In addition, podcasts give students a forum to interact with real and varied topics. Educational podcasts include a wide range of topics, from physics and history to literature to current events. Students can broaden their knowledge and take on a true passion in reading by learning more about these subjects through podcast exploration. Students are encouraged to develop their critical thinking abilities and become engaged, knowledgeable readers as a result of being exposed to a variety of topics and viewpoints. Podcasts also provide accessibility and flexibility. The proliferation of mobile technology has made podcasts accessible to students anywhere, at any time. Podcasts offer students a handy way to interact with reading materials, whether they are listening to them before bed, while completing chores, or during their commute. Due to its accessibility, time and place are no longer obstacles for students, who can easily integrate reading into their daily lives. Podcasts can also accommodate a variety of learning preferences and approaches. Not every learner learns best when using conventional reading strategies. While some people learn well visually, others might learn best audibly or viscerally. Teachers can accommodate these different learning styles and create a more inclusive learning environment by introducing podcasts into the curriculum. Better reading outcomes can result from this individualized approach to reading education by greatly increasing student motivation and engagement. Students' reading development could be revolutionized by podcasts. Their varied material, interactive and interesting features, accessibility, and ability to accommodate various learning styles make them an invaluable aid for improving reading abilities. Teachers may

give students a more engaging and productive learning experience by using podcasts in the classroom. It is time to realize the full potential of reading development and to harness the power of podcasts (Suseno, 2024b). Students can acquire the knowledge they need to grow by reading. To achieve this, they can make use of the podcast resources. A podcast comprises genuine content, such as interviews, stories, and real-life conversations. As they study those materials, the students' language skills improve. Students' reading skills are developed through the practice of the teaching-learning technique. Fig. 1 illustrates the process of using podcasts to improve reading skills.

The importance of enhancing listening skills for effective communication

In the fast-paced, globally interconnected world of today, effective communication is an essential ability. While many people concentrate on honing their writing and speaking skills, listening comprehension is just as important and is sometimes disregarded. On the other hand, listening is vital to good communication and has a big influence on our interpersonal and professional interactions. Gaining better listening abilities enables people to comprehend others on a genuine level. In addition to hearing what someone is saying, we actively listen to others by observing their tone, emotions, and body language. We are able to understand the speaker's fundamental point of view and develop empathy for them when we listen at this deeper level. Understanding the thoughts and emotions of people helps us to establish more solid bonds, settle disputes amicably, and cultivate mutual respect and trust. In addition, improving our listening comprehension improves our capacity for precise and clear communication. We can steer clear of misconceptions and misinterpretations when we listen intently. We might look for more information and ask clarifying questions to make sure we fully comprehend the content being communicated. We are better able to reply effectively and offer insightful, pertinent comments when we use an active listening technique. We may prevent needless arguments and make sure that our communication is fruitful and meaningful by improving as listeners. Developing one's listening abilities not only helps people in social situations but also in work environments. In the job, active listening is an invaluable talent that enhances our ability to comprehend instructions, feedback, and expectations. We may show our professionalism and dedication to our work by paying close attention to what our coworkers, managers, and clients have to say. Furthermore, we can spot chances, acquire data, and reach well-informed conclusions when we listen well. It is essential to effective teamwork and collaboration, which boosts output and stimulates creativity. Improving one's listening abilities is essential to communicating effectively. We can improve our ability to communicate, comprehend others, and forge closer bonds with one another when we actively listen to one another. Our success and well-being can be substantially enhanced by having the capacity to listen intently, whether in social or professional contexts. As a result, it is critical to

give listening skills development a top priority and to constantly work to enhance them (Mirqodirova, 2024).

The power of podcasts: Enhancing listening skills

With good cause, podcasts have grown in popularity in recent years. They are not just an easy way to pass the time and find pleasure; they can also improve our ability to listen. First and foremost, there is a vast array of information available on podcasts to suit a variety of interests and tastes. There is a podcast out there for everyone, regardless of their interests – news, narrative, self-improvement, or even language instruction. We can familiarize ourselves with a range of voices, accents, and speaking styles by routinely listening to podcasts on subjects that pique our interest. Our ear becomes more trained to various speech patterns as a result of this exposure, which also enhances our comprehension and interpretation of spoken language (Rorintulus *et al.*, 2024). In addition, podcasts frequently include host or guest chats that replicate in-person encounters. Podcasts provide real and organic language use, as contrast to prewritten dialogs or textbook exercises. Due to this authenticity, listeners can hone their understanding abilities in a setting that is more like real life. You can improve your awareness of spoken language subtleties such as intonation, rhythm, and colloquial idioms by consistently listening to podcasts. The ease and flexibility of podcasting are another advantage. Podcasts are accessible anywhere, at any time, in contrast to conventional language learning techniques. We may easily incorporate podcast listening into our daily routine, whether we are working out at the gym, doing tasks around the house, or traveling to work. Consistent exposure to the target language is essential for enhancing listening abilities, and this flexibility makes this possible. In addition, transcripts and show notes are frequently included with podcasts, making them a useful tool for language learners. These written resources offer a point of reference for comprehending foreign terms or expressions heard in the audio. Students can improve their vocabulary and strengthen their comprehension by reading aloud while they listen. Some podcasts also include interactive elements such as discussion boards and quizzes, which draw listeners in even more and encourage active learning. Podcasts provide special and efficient means of improving listening abilities. Podcasts can greatly aid in the development of listening skills by providing exposure to a variety of content, real-world discussions, and adaptable learning opportunities (Mutua *et al.*, 2024). Podcasts cover a wide range of topics, such as news, stories, self-improvement, language variations, voice, accent, and speaking styles. As they study these materials in speaking class, the students' listening comprehension will improve. The materials' authenticity aids the students in learning how to pronounce each word precisely that they hear. Fig. 2 illustrates the process of using podcasts to improve listening abilities.

The importance of enhancing writing skills for effective communication

In the fast-paced, globally interconnected world of today, effective communication is an essential ability. Although there are many ways to communicate, writing is still one of the most common and effective ways. It is crucial to be able to write effectively and succinctly when expressing oneself, whether in emails, reports, or social media posts. For this reason, improving one's writing abilities is crucial to communicating effectively. First of all, writing better enables people to express their ideas and views clearly. When communicating information, requesting



Fig. 1: Podcasts for reading



Fig. 2: Podcasts for listening

things, or putting forth arguments in a professional setting, writing must be precise and succinct. Ineffective writing can cause messages to be misunderstood, which can cause confusion and misunderstandings. People can lower the likelihood of miscommunication by improving their writing abilities, which will guarantee that their intended message is transmitted correctly. Furthermore, professionalism and trustworthiness are enhanced by proficient writing abilities. Written communication frequently forms the initial impression in the digital age we live in. The standard of writing conveys a person's professionalism and attention to detail, regardless of the medium – a job application, business proposal, or social media post, for example. People who can write well and professionally are more likely to be trusted and valued by employers and clients. In addition, improving writing abilities lets people interact with their audience and show their originality. Writing is a means of self-expression in addition to information transmission. People can effectively convey their thoughts, feelings, and points of view through writing, which will grab readers' attention and pique their interest. With good writing abilities, people may engage their audience more deeply through storytelling, persuasive writing, or creative content. In addition, academic achievement depends on having great writing abilities. Writing is an essential component of learning and assessment in educational environments. Writing essays and research papers require the ability to present ideas and arguments in a clear, convincing manner. Students can engage with peers and professors, convey their information more effectively, and achieve better academically by developing their writing skills. Improving one's writing abilities is essential for efficient communication in a variety of contexts. The capacity to communicate succinctly and clearly in writing is extremely valuable in many contexts, including academic, professional, and interpersonal connections. People can effectively communicate their ideas, establish their credibility, express their creativity, and succeed academically by honing their writing abilities. In light of this, it is imperative that writing skill development should be given top priority to improve communication skills in the connected world of today (Boyqobilova, 2024).

The power of podcasts in enhancing writing skills

Podcasts are a popular medium for self-improvement, education, and enjoyment in the current digital era. Podcasts are often connected to audio content, but they can also be an effective tool for improving writing skills. First of all, podcasts allow pupils a special chance to develop their comprehension and listening abilities. Students can become familiar with a broad variety of language, sentence patterns, and storytelling approaches by listening to well-written podcasts. Their ability to write can be significantly improved by this exposure, as they learn how to blend other writing styles into their own work and become more familiar with them (Usmonovich, 2024). In addition, podcasts frequently include expert interviews, topic debates, and storytelling that stimulate critical thinking and creativity. These components might be a great place for students to get ideas and inspiration for their writing assignments. Students can obtain important information and viewpoints that they can use in their own writing by subscribing to podcasts related to their interests or academic disciplines. The accessibility of podcasts is another benefit. Podcasts are conveniently accessible anytime, anywhere, in contrast to traditional learning methods. Podcasts can be listened to by students while studying, performing duties around the house, or even on their commute. Due to this flexibility, students may interact with the material at their own pace and convenience, which makes it an easy and effective approach for them to get better at writing. Furthermore, conversations and debates on current affairs and social issues are common in podcasts. Students can improve their critical thinking abilities and their ability to properly express their ideas and opinions by listening to these talks. Writing argumentative or persuasive essays requires the capacity to examine and articulate concepts. Podcasts provide a special and efficient means of improving writing abilities. Podcasts can greatly aid students' writing growth by introducing them to a range of writing styles, offering ideas and inspiration, and encouraging critical thinking. Podcasts can be a useful complement to traditional teaching techniques

as instructors and students embrace the digital age (Febriana and Fikri, 2024). Podcasts use a wide range of vocabulary, sentence construction, and storytelling. These resources help students become more proficient writers and improve their critical thinking skills. By employing and honing this technique, pupils can improve their writing skills. A process of this type can be observed in Fig. 3.

The importance of enhancing speaking skills for effective communication

In both our personal and professional life, effective communication is an essential ability. Although there are many facets of communication, speaking abilities are particularly important for facilitating meaningful and productive exchanges. Improving speaking abilities is more crucial than ever in the fast-paced world of today, when communication occurs both in person and digitally. First of all, developing speaking abilities enables people to confidently and effectively communicate their ideas and opinions. Effective communication increases the likelihood that others will understand us. This is beneficial in both personal and professional contexts, as cooperation and teamwork in the workplace depend on effective communication. We may prevent misconceptions and make sure that our message is understood by improving our speaking abilities. Second, having good speech abilities makes it possible for people to participate in insightful talks and debates. We can actively participate in discussions, offer our opinions, and advance the interchange of ideas when we can communicate effectively. In addition to strengthening our bonds with one another, this broadens our knowledge and comprehension of a variety of subjects. Speaking more effectively allows us to listen more intently and participate in fruitful discussions that promote development and learning. In addition, developing our speaking abilities can increase our self-worth and confidence. We feel more capable and powerful when we can speak our minds with clarity and assurance. This confidence has a beneficial effect on various aspects of our lives in addition to speech. Strong speaking abilities provide us the confidence to handle a variety of situations with ease, whether we're presenting in front of a huge audience, interviewing, or just interacting with others. Furthermore, improving our speaking abilities might widen our perspectives and present us with new opportunities. Speaking multiple languages fluently and confidently can provide us a competitive advantage in today's globalized society, when cross-cultural communication is becoming more and more crucial. It promotes understanding and cooperation by enabling us to connect with others from various origins, cultures, and viewpoints. We may meet new people, experience different cultures, and take advantage of interesting chances by improving our speaking abilities. Improving one's speaking abilities is crucial for efficient communication in social and professional contexts. Enhancing our capacity to articulate ourselves with clarity and assurance can help us steer clear of misunderstandings, have meaningful conversations, feel more secure, and seize new opportunities. Making the time and effort to improve our speaking abilities is a worthwhile undertaking that can significantly improve our lives and increase our chances of success. Let's thus embrace the process of honing our public speaking abilities and discover the potential of good communication (Suseno, 2023a).

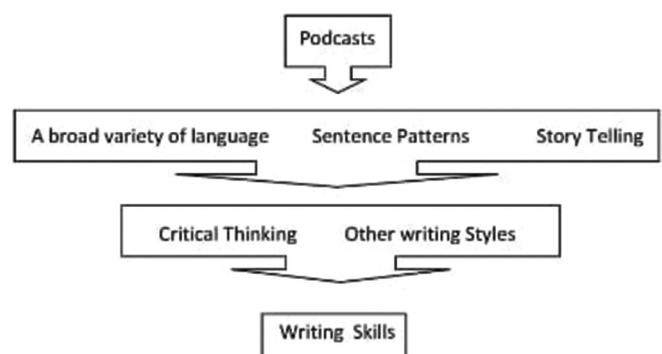


Fig. 3: Podcasts for writing

The power of podcasts in enhancing speaking skills

With good cause, podcasts have grown in popularity in recent years. They are not only a practical and easily available source of amusement, but they may also greatly improve speaking abilities (Matenova, 2024). First of all, listeners can encounter a wide range of dialects, speech patterns, and language through the abundance of genuine and varied content that podcasts offer. People can improve their speaking skills by consistently listening to podcasts, which will also help them with their listening comprehension. We unconsciously pick up on the linguistic patterns and intonation of native speakers and subject matter experts when we listen to them, which help us to talk more naturally and fluently. In addition, podcasts present a special chance for language learners to hone their public speaking abilities in a relaxed setting. A lot of podcasts promote listener involvement by including interactive parts or by asking viewers to submit queries or remarks. This gives students an opportunity to practice organizing their ideas and verbally expressing themselves. People can improve their speaking confidence and feel more at ease expressing themselves in public by actively engaging with the material and taking part in discussions. Podcasts not only help with speaking and listening comprehension, but they also provide insightful information that can increase vocabulary and knowledge. Numerous podcasts address a broad range of subjects, including current affairs, personal growth, science, and history. Regular exposure to such stuff can help people expand their minds and pick up new concepts and vocabulary. People can then apply their newly acquired knowledge to conversations to have more fascinating and meaningful exchanges. Podcasts are also a handy and adaptable tool for language learners. They are easily accessible and listened to at any time, even while working out or doing tasks around the house. Due to its adaptability, people can learn languages without having to set aside specific study time for it. Over time, people can improve their speaking abilities significantly by regularly listening to podcasts. Podcasts can significantly improve one's speaking abilities. People can become more comfortable and fluent speakers through exposure to real content, practice chances, and learning new information (Suseno, 2024c). Imitating native speakers' language use is the process of learning a language. Students require real resources to improve the purpose of this kind of learning. Podcasts frequently contain such content. The podcasts included a variety of languages, speaking patterns, and dialects. These resources aid in the development of the students' organic and fluid speech. The method of employing podcast content to improve speaking growth is depicted in Fig. 4.

The power of podcasts in language learning

Podcasts are becoming more and more common, and it is important to recognize their potential as a tool for language acquisition. Using podcasts to supplement language learning can be revolutionary in this digital age of rapidly changing technologies. First of all, studying with podcasts is a distinct and engaging experience. Podcasts give language learners the opportunity to hear real-world conversations and situations, in contrast to traditional teaching approaches. Learners benefit from this exposure to everyday language usage in terms of vocabulary growth, pronunciation improvement, and listening ability development. Listening to native speakers can also help language learners understand idiomatic idioms and cultural quirks, which broadens and improves their language learning experience. Second, podcasts are convenient and flexible. Students frequently struggle to establish focused study moments due to their hectic schedules and limited time. Podcasts, however, are simple to include into everyday activities. Learners can maximize their time by listening to podcasts while commuting, performing chores around the house, or even working out. With continued exposure to the target language made possible by this flexibility, language proficiency will gradually increase. Moreover, podcasts accommodate diverse interests and learning styles by providing a broad range of subjects and genres. Students have the option of selecting podcasts based on their interests, passions, or hobbies. Learners' incentive to keep learning is increased by this personalization, which also keeps them interested. Listening to podcasts about science, history, or travel allows students to learn about a variety of topics

while also developing their language abilities. Podcasts also encourage self-directed learning and critical thinking (Khalilova *et al.*, 2024). In contrast to conventional classroom environments, where students frequently look to their lecturers for direction, podcasts empower students to take charge of their education. Learners who actively listen are better able to evaluate and comprehend material, establish their own perspectives, and participate in insightful conversations. Along with improving language proficiency, this autonomy fosters critical life skills such as creativity, problem-solving, and self-reflection. Finally, podcasts foster a feeling of belonging and community. Online forums that go along with many language learning podcasts allow students to communicate with other language aficionados, exchange questions, and discuss their progress. Because they may interact with others who share their interests and receive assistance along the way, learners can connect with like-minded individuals and considerably enrich their language learning experience. Language learning could be revolutionized by podcasts. They are an invaluable resource for language learners due to their immersive style, adaptability, diversity of themes, and capacity to support autonomous learning. Adding podcasts to language study regimens can improve vocabulary growth, listening comprehension, and cross-cultural understanding (Suseno, 2023b). There are certain advantages to using podcasts to improve language skills. Students' vocabulary, pronunciation, and listening abilities are developed through the use of real-life content in discussions and scenarios. Their capacity for creativity, problem-solving, and self-worth were the areas of influence. Fig. 5 depicts these advantages.

The limitations of using podcasts to enhance language learning

As a tool for language study, podcasts have grown in popularity because they give students the chance to listen to real conversations and get

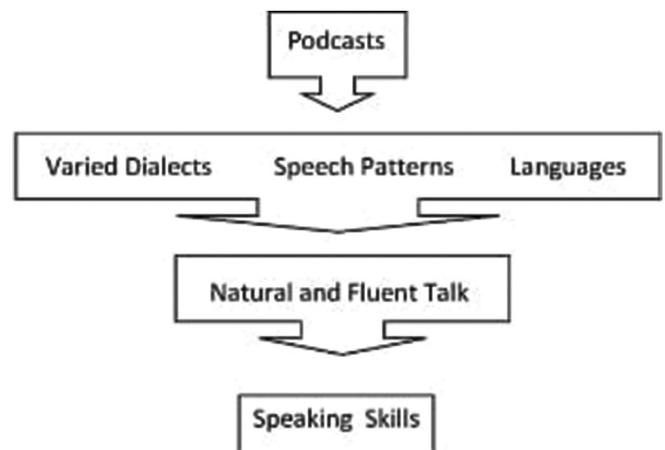


Fig. 4: Podcasts for speaking



Fig. 5: Benefits of podcasts

better at listening. It is crucial to recognize that, despite their potential use as a tool, podcasts have some drawbacks that could impede language learners' advancement. The absence of visual signals in podcasts makes them a limited tool for language acquisition. Podcasts are primarily audio-based, unlike videos or in-person encounters, which makes it difficult for learners to properly understand words or phrases without any visual context. Visual cues, including gestures or facial expressions, can offer crucial hints for deciphering the language and its subtleties. Learners could find it difficult to understand the intended meaning and context of the language used in the podcast without these signals. The absence of interaction opportunities is another drawback. Podcasts don't provide in-the-moment contact with other learners or native speakers because they are usually pre-recorded. Learning a language requires more than simply passive listening; it also calls for practice and active engagement. Learners can practice speaking and communicating in the target language, get quick feedback, and have meaningful discussions when they interact with people in the language. However, these interaction chances are absent from podcasts, which limits the learner's capacity to actively interact with the language. In addition, podcasts could not be tailored to the unique requirements and preferences of each student. Learners of languages have varying objectives, tastes, and learning styles, making language acquisition a highly individualized process. While some students could find podcasts to be interesting and useful, others might find it difficult to relate to the material or feel that it is pertinent to their needs. Learners may become disinterested and lose motivation when podcasts aren't tailored to them specifically. Podcasts can be a helpful tool for language acquisition, but there are several restrictions that should be taken into account. Although podcasts can aid in language learning, their lack of visual cues, limited options for engagement, and lack of customization may hinder their effectiveness. To guarantee a well-rounded language learning experience, it is crucial for students to add additional interactive activities and resources to their podcast listening (Perego, 2024). It is important for users to understand the limitations of the audio podcast format. There is no visual, thus it does not allude to the vivid goals. Moreover, podcasts in audio and video forms typically do not offer real-time interaction. It turns the ensnared users into passive recipients. This type of real-time communication in the absence of services is classified as limited tool use. Fig. 6 illustrates how the limitations make customers lose motivation and interest.

SUGGESTION

Podcasts have grown in popularity as a method for improving pupils' speaking abilities in the current digital era. Podcasts offer advantages, but they also have drawbacks that reduce their usefulness. The inability to get quick feedback when using podcasts is one of their biggest drawbacks. Podcasts, in contrast to typical classroom settings where teachers can provide students immediate feedback, rely on pre-recorded content that might not be customized to each student's needs. This may result in a lack of individualization and impede students' ability to advance in their speaking abilities. The absence of teacher-student contact in podcasts is another drawback. Teachers can interact with students in a regular classroom setting by holding Q&A sessions, holding debates, and assigning group projects. Nevertheless, this participatory component is sometimes absent from podcasts, which can restrict students' opportunity to hone their public speaking abilities in authentic settings. Teachers and students can take various measures to get around these restrictions. First of all, adding interactive Q&A sessions or live podcasts can assist provide students instant feedback and motivate them to participate. Second, a more thorough and individualized learning experience can be had by combining podcasts with other speaking exercises such as debates or role-plays (Suseno, 2024d).

TRUSTWORTHINESS

According to Shawaqfeh *et al.* (2024), student-peer and instructor interaction is crucial to the success of speaking instruction. Through their interactions, they share knowledge. It improves how well the

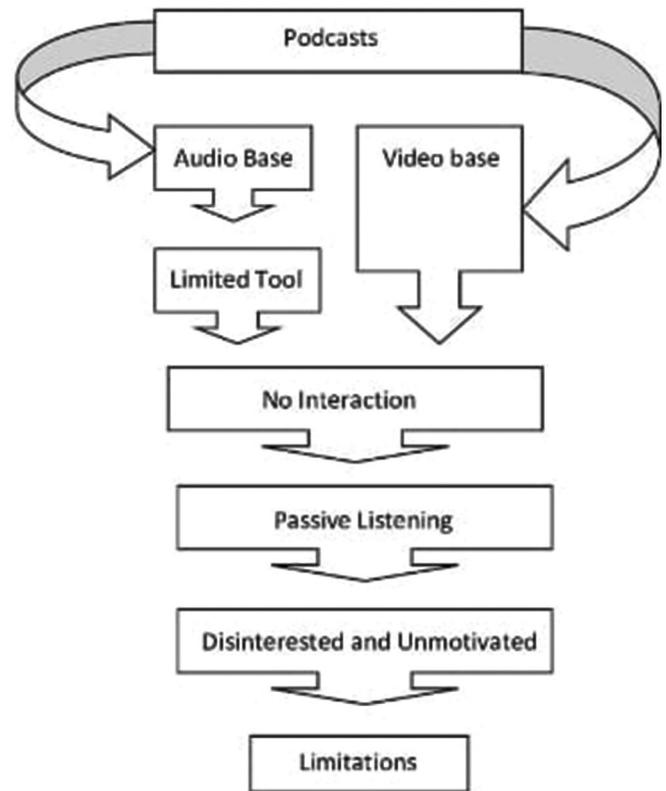


Fig. 6: The limitations of podcasts

pupils' speaking abilities grow. It is consistent with the outcome of practicing speaking skills with podcast materials. To improve their idea-sharing regarding the discussion materials' topic, the students altered the podcast materials. The instructor engaged in a dispute as well to encourage the flow of the discussion. However, students mimic the native speakers' delivery of their ideas because of the realistic materials found in podcasts. It aids in the improvement of pupils' speaking flow, pronunciation, and listening skills. Shawaqfeh *et al.*'s (2024) study does not contain this kind of content. To obtain the best results, this finding will complete the earlier research.

CONCLUSION

For those studying EFL, podcasts have become an increasingly useful tool for improving language acquisition. Podcasts provide a distinctive and efficient method for students to advance their language proficiency because of their portability, accessibility, and interesting content. Podcasts offer a venue for cross-cultural learning as well. EFL students can learn about many cultures, customs, and viewpoints through podcasts. Apart from enhancing language learning, this exposure to diverse cultural settings promotes empathy and global comprehension. For EFL learners, podcasts have transformed language learning. They are an effective tool for improving language skills because of its immersive style, adaptability, active participation, and exposure to different cultures. Teachers can provide students with a dynamic and captivating learning experience by integrating podcasts into language learning programs. EFL students can realize their full potential and improve their fluency and confidence in the English language by embracing the power of podcasts.

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