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Department of English and Literature

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Probing the role of podcasts in enhancing listening skills among English language learners. The case of third year English language students at Mohamed Kheider University of Biskra.

A dissertation submitted to the department of English and Literature as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of master in sciences of language

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Declaration of integrity

I, **Lemdeldel Lina Djihane**, solemnly declare that the work presented in this dissertation is titled **Probing The Role of Podcasts in Enhancing Listening Skills Among English Language Learners. The Case of Third Year English Language Students at MKU of Biskra** is the result of my own independent effort. Every idea, analysis, and conclusion expressed herein has been developed through personal dedication and academic integrity. No part of this work has been submitted previously or concurrently for any degree or diploma at any other institution, unless clearly acknowledged through proper citation. All external sources and contributions have been fully credited in both the in-text references and the final bibliography.

This dissertation stands as a reflection of my commitment to honesty, learning, and scholarly excellence.

Signature:

Dedication

To my parents, the very first heartbeat in my life.

To my beloved mother, Hind, and my dear father, Noureddine, I was your first joy, your awaited dawn. I carried your dreams in my heart and walked with them along my path; they were my compass at every step. Every sacrifice you made, every silent prayer you whispered, was the soil in which my spirit grew.

I dedicate this achievement not only to you, but to the strength you gave me to reach it. You are my roots and my light, the reason I dared to dream. I did this for you, because of you, and in hope of your happiness. This is more than a degree; it's a thank you for your endless love and support. I hope I've made you proud.

To my partner in faith and patience,

To my husband, Oussama, you were my calm amidst the chaos and my greatest support. Your belief in me never wavered, and I am endlessly grateful.

To my siblings: Rafik El Ibrahim, Meriem, and Redouane, your silent support and deep love meant the world.

To Toufik, my brother-in-law, thank you for your quiet, warm presence.

To the soul of my cousin, Hadjer, your memory lives on in our hearts. May Allah grant you peace and paradise.

To my grandmothers and grandfather — your prayers and love have shaped me.

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To the little girl within me,

You were brave before you knew what bravery was. You held on to your dreams through fear, fog, and fatigue. You kept going even when the path disappeared. I see you. I love you. We made it.

To myself, the woman I've become. This is for every silent tear, every time you rose despite the exhaustion, every quiet battle, and every uncelebrated victory. You're not perfect, but you're strong. And finally... you found your way back to yourself.

To both my families, the one that raised me and the one I chose. Thank you for the love, the roots, and the wings.

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Abstract

This study examines the role of podcasts in improving listening skills among third-year English language learners at MKU of Biskra. Using a mixed-methods approach, findings indicate that students favor clear pronunciation, moderate speaking speeds, and engaging, real-life topics. The inclusion of transcripts enhances comprehension and vocabulary retention. Students show a strong preference for conversational podcasts, highlighting the value of authentic language use. This research advocates for integrating podcasts into language curricula to enhance engagement and motivation, contributing to the broader literature on multimedia learning in language education.

Keywords: podcasts, listening skills, English language learners, language acquisition, multimedia learning, education.

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General Introduction

The landscape of language education has evolved significantly in the digital age, with technology playing a crucial role in enhancing learning experiences. This study examines the use of podcasts as a pedagogical tool for improving listening skills among third-year English language students at MKU of Biskra. By investigating how podcasts can facilitate language acquisition, this research contributes to the growing body of literature on multimedia learning in language education.

In Chapter 01, we explore the theoretical framework surrounding language learning, with a particular focus on listening skills. The chapter reviews existing literature on the importance of listening comprehension in language acquisition and highlights various strategies employed to enhance this skill. It also discusses the principles of communicative language teaching, which emphasize the need for authentic language exposure. This foundational understanding sets the stage for examining the role of podcasts as a modern tool that aligns with these pedagogical principles.

Chapter 02 delves into the methodological approach taken in this study. It outlines the research design, including data collection methods and participant demographics. By employing qualitative and quantitative analyses, the chapter provides a comprehensive view of how students engage with podcasts in their learning process. The findings reveal that students prioritize clear pronunciation, moderate speaking speeds, and engaging, relevant topics when selecting podcasts. This chapter also highlights the importance of supplementary materials, such as transcripts, which enhance comprehension and vocabulary retention.

In Chapter 03, the discussion centers on the implications of the findings for language educators and curriculum designers. The results indicate that podcasts are a valuable resource for fostering listening skills and overall language proficiency. Students reported increased

motivation and engagement when using podcasts, particularly those that feature authentic conversations and diverse accents. This chapter advocates for the integration of podcasts into language curricula, suggesting structured activities that encourage active listening and critical thinking.

Overall, this research underscores the potential of podcasts to enrich the language learning experience. By providing students with accessible, engaging, and relevant content, podcasts serve as an effective complement to traditional teaching methods. As educators seek innovative approaches to enhance language proficiency, this study highlights the need for ongoing exploration of multimedia tools in education, ultimately aiming to create a more engaging and effective learning environment for students in today's globalized world.

Statement of the Problem

Accessing and comprehending audio content can be particularly challenging for English language learners, who often struggle with various forms of media. Podcasts, however, present a fun and immersive alternative that may enhance language acquisition. The limitations in learners' listening comprehension are exacerbated by restricted exposure to authentic language use and regional dialects. This highlights the necessity for alternative resources that provide genuine linguistic experiences. Therefore, exploring how podcasts can offer organic language exposure is essential for expanding learners' linguistic capabilities and understanding. Despite the growing popularity of podcasts, they remain underutilized as a resource for improving listening skills among third-year English language students at MKU of Biskra.

Research question

- 1- How do podcasts enhance listening skills in third-year English language learners?

Research hypothesis

- 1- Podcasts significantly improve the listening skills of third-year English language learners compared to traditional listening resources.

Research aims

- 1- To evaluate the effectiveness of podcasts in improving listening skills among third-year English language learners.
- 2- To identify the specific features of podcasts that contribute to enhanced listening comprehension in English language learners.
- 3- To assess student perceptions of podcasts as a learning tool compared to traditional listening resources in developing their listening abilities.

Research Methodology**1. Research Design**

- **Qualitative Approach:** This study will utilize a qualitative methodology centered on questionnaires as the primary research tool. The decision to focus solely on questionnaires is based on the need to gather detailed insights into participants' experiences and perceptions of using podcasts to enhance listening skills.

1. Tool for Qualitative Research

- **Questionnaire:** A semi-structured questionnaire will be developed to explore participants' views on the effectiveness of podcasts in improving their listening skills. The questionnaire will include open-ended questions that allow respondents to express their thoughts and experiences in depth. This approach enables the collection of rich, qualitative data while maintaining consistency across responses.

2. Population and Sampling

- **Population:** The study will focus on third-year English language learners at MKU of Biskra, comprising approximately 300 students. This population represents a diverse group with varying proficiency levels and backgrounds.
- **Sample Size:** From this population, approximately 100 students will be selected to participate in the study.
- **Sampling Method:** A stratified random sampling method will be employed to ensure a representative sample across different proficiency levels and backgrounds. This approach will help achieve a more comprehensive understanding of how podcasts affect listening skills among diverse learners.

Significance of the study

This study will contribute to language learning improvement by showing how effective podcasts are in enhancing listening skills among learners of the English language. The study may encourage teachers to include podcasts in their syllabi by portraying podcasts as an innovative and engaging teaching tool, thus offering a variety of inspiring learning environments. It also identifies certain features of the podcasts that could help resolve some common issues students face so as to inform instructors of useful information. In the end, the study will add to the continuing debate in language learning and provide a foundation for future studies on how technology can benefit the learning of a language.

Chapter 01

Listening skills

Introduction

Listening is a crucial communication skill that extends far beyond the basic act of hearing sounds; it involves an active and intentional process of engaging with the speaker to fully grasp their message and intent. Effective listening requires several interconnected components: first, it demands focused attention, where distractions are minimized, allowing the listeners to fully immerse themselves in the conversation. This active engagement is often demonstrated through non-verbal cues like maintaining eye contact and using body language to show interest. Additionally, good listeners practice empathy, striving to understand not only the words being spoken but also the emotions and context behind them. Providing constructive feedback such as paraphrasing or summarizing key points helps clarify understanding and encourages a two-way dialogue. Furthermore, retaining important information is essential for meaningful follow-up and deeper discussions. An open-minded approach is also critical; by setting aside preconceived notions and biases, listeners can appreciate diverse perspectives, enriching the conversation. Ultimately, mastering listening skills enhances interpersonal relationships, fosters collaboration in professional settings, and contributes to effective problem solving, making it an indispensable skill in both personal and work environments.

Importance of Listening Skills in Language Learning

Listening is the most significant part of communication, as it is essential for providing substantial and meaningful responses. In the context of language learning for communicative purposes, listening plays a vital role. It helps learners acquire pronunciation, word stress,

vocabulary, and syntax. Additionally, comprehension of messages can depend heavily on tone of voice, pitch, and accent, which underscores the importance of listening. (Croom,1998).

Without appropriately understanding input, learners cannot make meaningful improvements. Ultimately, without effective listening skills, communication cannot be achieved.

Listening skills are crucial in language learning as they significantly enhance comprehension of spoken language, including pronunciation, intonation, and rhythm. By actively listening, learners can acquire new vocabulary in context, which improves retention and understanding of word usage. Additionally, exposure to native speakers provides valuable insights into cultural nuances and idiomatic expressions, enriching the learning experience, effective listening is essential for engaging in conversations, allowing learners to respond appropriately and keep dialogues flowing. As learners develop their listening abilities, their confidence in understanding and communicating in the target language increases. Moreover, honing listening skills encourages the use of various strategies, such as predicting, inferring, and summarizing, which are beneficial for overall language mastery. (Von Victor ,2021)

Types of Listening Skills

There are several types of listening, each serving different purposes in various communication scenarios. Understanding and practicing these types of listening can significantly enhance one's ability to connect with others and communicate effectively:

Active Listening Active listening is an important type of listening that encourages the speaker to keep on speaking. The listener shall be able to ask questions that will encourage the speaker to proceed and share with more information.

The classroom listening will be of this kind where we can find more interaction between students and teachers, Active listening involves fully focusing on the speaker, giving them your undivided attention, and responding thoughtfully. It requires the listener to engage

with the speaker's message, showing verbal and non-verbal signs of attentiveness, such as nodding, maintaining eye contact, and providing feedback. Active listening is often used in problem solving, team discussions and one-on-one conversations where understanding and clarity are crucial. (Naukri Team, 2024)

Reflective Listening This type of listening takes place when one listens as well as reflects on the thoughts and ideas conveyed by the speaker. Listening, then reflecting back to the speaker what he/she has said, reflective listening is a communication style used to actively demonstrate that you hear, understand, and process the speaker's message. Then you communicate the information back to them to confirm it was understood correctly.

Reflective listening is a powerful communication technique that emphasizes understanding and validating the speaker's message by reflecting back what has been said. This approach involves paraphrasing the speaker's words to confirm comprehension and provide an opportunity for clarification, ensuring that both parties are on the same page. Additionally, reflective listening encompasses recognizing and acknowledging the speaker's emotions, which fosters a deeper connection and demonstrates empathy. By asking open-ended questions, the listener encourages the speaker to elaborate, further enriching the conversation.

Non-verbal cues, such as maintaining eye contact and using affirming gestures, enhance the listener's engagement and signal attentiveness. This technique is particularly valuable in contexts like conflict resolution and counseling, where building trust and understanding is essential. Ultimately, reflective listening not only enhances communication but also strengthens relationships, leading to more effective and meaningful interactions.

The main elements of reflective listening are as demonstrated actively:

- Focus on hearing the speaker's message
- Analyze the meaning of what was said

- Repeat or paraphrase the message
- Confirm that you properly understood

By clarifying what you heard, reflective listening reduces misunderstandings and leads to conversations that are more productive.

For instance, if a coworker expresses frustration over not being invited to an important office meeting, attentive listening and interpretation of their feelings would occur. The listener could then reflect the message by saying, “It’s understandable to feel angry about being left out of the meeting. What can be done to help?” (Elizabeth Perry, 2024).

Critical Listening Critical / Analytical Listening is a type of listening which is made to evaluate a message for the purpose of either agreeing or denying it. In this type of listening, a listener not only listens to the words uttered, but also critically analyzes in his mind what is being uttered by others. It is a kind of active type of listening. It is good and essential where the process of Teaching-Learning takes place.

Critical listening is an essential skill that involves evaluating and analyzing the information being presented rather than simply hearing it. This advanced form of listening requires the listener to assess the validity, relevance, and credibility of the message, making it crucial in contexts such as negotiations, debates, and academic discussions. Key components of critical listening include evaluating the strength of arguments by examining the evidence and reasoning provided, identifying any biases or emotional appeals that may influence the speaker's message, and asking probing questions to clarify points and challenge assumptions.

Additionally, assessing the speaker’s credibility by considering their qualifications and the reliability of their sources is vital for determining the trustworthiness of the information. By honing critical listening skills, individuals can become more discerning consumers of information, leading to better decision-making and more meaningful interactions in both personal and professional environments. (DeVito, J. A. 2000).

The ability to listen critically is essential in a democracy. On the job, in the community, at service clubs, in places of worship, in the family there is practically no place you can go where critical listening is unimportant. Politicians, the media, salesmen, advocates of policies and procedures, and our own financial, emotional, intellectual, physical, and spiritual needs require us to place a premium on critical listening and the thinking that accompanies it. The subject of critical listening deserves much more attention than we can afford it here. But there are three things to keep in mind. These three things were outlined by Aristotle, the classical Greek rhetorician, more than 2,000 years ago in his treatise 'The Rhetoric'.

They are as follows: ethos, or speaker credibility; logos, or logical arguments; and pathos, or psychological appeals. (Aristotle, 1994).

Comprehensive Listening in this type of listening, a listener listens to different sounds and comprehends the meaning of each and every sound. This kind of listening is a little advanced listening skill when compared to the previous one. The most basic element of this type of listening is that the listener should have the knowledge of a wide range of vocabulary, grammar rules and syntax in order to make sense of what others say. This type of listening is also called as Content Listening, Informative Listening and Full Listening.

Comprehensive listening shares similarities with discriminative listening, as both are skills developed during early childhood. However, unlike discriminative listening, comprehensive listening relies on acquired language skills rather than being an innate ability. Individuals learn basic language and vocabulary skills early in life and continue to enhance these abilities over time. This type of listening is essential for grasping the meaning of messages conveyed through words. Several other listening styles build upon comprehensive listening; for instance, informational listening, which is used to acquire new knowledge,

depends on it. In both home and work environments, a combination of comprehensive and discriminative listening is necessary to fully understand the messages being communicated. For example, when a colleague briefs on a project, comprehensive listening is required to analyze and comprehend their message. Similarly, after completing the project, comprehensive listening is employed to receive feedback on one's performance. (Von Victor ,2021)

Empathetic Listening Empathetic listening, also known as empathic listening or therapeutic listening, helps you understand other people's perspectives and visualize yourself in their shoes. Instead of just focusing on the conversation, you use therapeutic listening to relate to a speaker's experiences as if they were your own.

Empathetic listening is a crucial communication skill that involves fully engaging with the speaker to understand their thoughts, feelings, and perspectives. This form of listening transcends simply hearing words; it requires an emotional connection and a sincere desire to comprehend the speaker's experience. Key components of empathetic listening include active engagement, where the listener demonstrates interest through body language and verbal affirmations, as well as emotional validation, which acknowledges and supports the speaker's feelings. Asking open-ended questions encourages the speaker to elaborate, further enhancing understanding and showing genuine investment in the conversation. (Jamil Zaki,2024)

Additionally, maintaining a non-judgmental attitude allows the speaker to share freely, fostering a safe environment for open dialogue. By practicing empathetic listening, individuals can improve their communication skills, strengthen relationships, and create deeper, more meaningful connections with others.

Though similar, empathetic listening is different from sympathetic listening. With sympathetic listening, you aim to understand a person's feelings and emotions to provide

support. Empathetic listening goes a step further by allowing the listener to relate to the speaker's experience as if it were their own.

Say your boss just announced that this week's company outing is canceled due to budget cuts. By using empathetic listening, you can hear how much pressure upper management is putting on your boss to control costs. Yet, you also recognize that there is pressure from employees since they were looking forward to a team-building exercise. By employing empathetic listening, instead of getting emotional, you understand why your manager made this decision because you can imagine what it's like to be in their situation. (Anderson, 1988).

Informational Listening Informational listening is a key skill aimed at understanding and retaining information in contexts like education and work. It involves actively engaging with the speaker, minimizing distractions, taking notes, and asking clarifying questions. Summarizing key points afterward reinforces comprehension. This skill helps individuals effectively apply knowledge in real-world situations, enhancing communication and learning.

When you want to learn a new concept, you need to use informational listening to comprehend and retain information. This type of listening generally requires you to increase your attention span and apply focus and concentration skills. To learn something new, you must also use critical thinking skills to understand what you are learning within the context of relevant information.

Some examples of situations using informational listening include:

- Coaching
- Work training
- Self-directed learning at home or work
- Listening to an educational eBook

When you improve your informational listening skills, you empower yourself to become a better learner. Enhancing informational listening can also help you build confidence and achieve your career goals. (Rost, M. 1994).

Discriminative Listening This type of listening is the most basic type of listening whereby the difference between different sounds is identified. It is a type of listening where the listener differentiates between the two sounds produced even though he/she does not understand the meaning of the phrases or words. We, in the beginning itself, learn to differentiate between sounds within our own language, but we are not able to differentiate between the phonemes of other languages. That is why everyone feels difficult to learn other languages perfectly. (Mendelsohn, D. 1994).

Discriminative listening is the foundational form of listening that involves the ability to differentiate between various sounds, tones, and nuances in communication. It goes beyond simply hearing words; it requires recognizing the speaker's tone, pitch, and volume, which can reveal underlying emotions and intentions. Key aspects of discriminative listening include sound recognition, where listeners identify different sounds and their meanings, and context awareness, which involves understanding the setting and non-verbal cues that inform the message. Additionally, emotional sensitivity is crucial, as it allows listeners to detect feelings such as anger or excitement that can influence the interpretation of the message.

Finally, effective discriminative listening enables individuals to provide appropriate feedback based on their understanding of these cues. This skill is essential in everyday interactions, laying the groundwork for more advanced listening abilities like comprehensive and empathetic listening, ultimately enhancing communication effectiveness and fostering better relationships. (Ben Janse, 2025).

Appreciative Listening in appreciative listening, we keenly listen to certain information which is appreciable. We use appreciative listening when we are listening to good music,

poetry or maybe even the inspiring words of great leaders. The very purpose of this type of listening is to encourage the speaker to speak more and receive more information. A good example of appreciative listening is when listening to a piece of good music or poetry.

Appreciative listening focuses on listening for pleasure. It is subjective and centered around your thoughts and emotions. Appreciative listening can even benefit your health and well-being. One example of appreciative listening is music.

In a study published in the journal *Cureus*, listening to classical music led to lower blood pressure and heart rates as well as improved mood. In addition to music, other examples of appreciative listening include listening to podcasts, speeches, and guided meditation.

Let us say you are driving to work listening to your favorite song on the radio. You are using appreciative listening as you derive pleasure from actively immersing yourself in the musical experience (Krashen, S, 1982).

Appreciative listening is a listening style focused on enjoying and valuing the aesthetic and emotional aspects of spoken messages. This type of listening is often experienced in contexts such as music, poetry readings, storytelling, or engaging speeches, where the listener seeks to appreciate the artistry and emotion conveyed by the speaker. Key characteristics of appreciative listening include the enjoyment of content, as listeners engage with the material for pleasure, focusing on the beauty and rhythm of the language. It fosters an emotional connection, allowing listeners to resonate with the speaker's feelings and experiences. Additionally, appreciative listeners often practice selective attention, honing in on elements of the message that evoke strong feelings or vivid imagery. This listening style also requires an understanding of cultural or artistic contexts, which can enrich the overall experience. By cultivating appreciative listening, individuals can deepen their connection with art and communication, enhancing their enjoyment and reflective experiences. (Julia ,2025).

Attentive Listening Attentive listening is a critical skill that involves a focused and active approach to understanding spoken communication. It requires full concentration on the speaker, minimizing distractions to engage completely with the message being conveyed. Effective listeners pay close attention to nonverbal cues, such as facial expressions, body language, and tone of voice, which provide deeper insights into the speaker's emotions and intentions. They often ask clarifying questions or paraphrase the speaker's words to ensure understanding, demonstrating active engagement and helping to clarify any misunderstandings. This type of listening fosters empathy, encouraging listeners to consider the speaker's perspective, which leads to more thoughtful and compassionate responses. Additionally, attentive listeners avoid interruptions, allowing the speaker to express fully their thoughts, thereby promoting open and honest dialogue. In educational settings, this skill is crucial for effective learning, as students who practice attentive listening is more likely to retain information and engage meaningfully with the material. Ultimately, attentive listening enhances communication, strengthens relationships, and creates an environment of trust and collaboration. (Arline, 2024).

Attentive listening is a focused and active form of listening that involves fully concentrating on the speaker's message without distractions. It is crucial for effective communication, as it ensures that listeners not only hear the words being spoken but also understand the underlying meaning and context. Key characteristics of attentive listening include focused attention, where listeners eliminate distractions and dedicate their full attention to the speaker, which helps grasp the nuances of the message. Non-verbal engagement, such as nodding and maintaining eye contact, signals to the speaker that the listener is engaged and interested. Additionally, attentive listeners often ask clarifying questions to ensure they fully understand the message, demonstrating their commitment to

accurate comprehension. This listening style also requires empathy, allowing listeners to connect with the speaker's emotions and viewpoints, fostering deeper communication.

By practicing attentive listening, individuals can enhance their communication skills, build stronger relationships, and create a supportive atmosphere for sharing ideas and feelings.

Selective Listening Selective listening, also known as biased listening, is listening only for information you want to hear. Selective listening can happen consciously or unconsciously and lead to unintentional misunderstandings or biased decision making.

Imagine you are leading a team meeting to discuss a series of new projects. You unconsciously assign the most challenging high-profile assignments to those who work in the office assuming they are more ambitious and committed to their roles. That is an example of proximity bias because you are biased toward the on-site workers that you see daily.

In another conversation, you ask your team for input on a new product launch and find yourself biased toward those whose opinions confirm what you already believe. That is an example of confirmation bias because you favor the views of people who share your perspective (Nunan, 1995) .

Strategies for Improving Listening Skills

Listening skills are essential for effective communication and learning, yet they are often overlooked in educational settings. Improving these skills can enhance students' comprehension, retention, and engagement across various subjects. Effective listening involves not just hearing words but also understanding, interpreting, and responding appropriately to spoken messages. Various strategies can be employed to foster better listening skills in learners, including active listening techniques, structured listening exercises, and the use of multimedia resources. By integrating these strategies into the curriculum, educators can help students become more attentive listeners, ultimately improving their academic performance and interpersonal relationships.

This exploration of effective strategies aims to provide practical approaches for enhancing listening skills in diverse educational contexts.

Active Engagement Focus completely on the speaker by minimizing distractions. This includes maintaining eye contact, nodding, and using verbal affirmations like "I see" or "I understand" (Coursera Staff, 2025).

Eliminate Distractions Create an environment conducive to listening by reducing background noise and avoiding interruptions. This helps in maintaining concentration on the speaker (Alsop, R., 2002).

Practice Mindfulness Engage in mindfulness exercises to enhance your ability to stay present during conversations. Techniques such as deep breathing can help center your focus (Beall, M. L., et al., 2008).

Ask Clarifying Questions When something isn't clear, ask questions to clarify the speaker's points. This demonstrates interest and ensures you understand the message correctly (Bodie, G. D., 2011).

Paraphrase or Summarize After the speaker has finished, paraphrase or summarize what you heard. This reinforces your understanding and gives the speaker a chance to correct any misinterpretations (Brownell, J., 1993).

Take Notes Jotting down key points during conversations or lectures can help you remember important information and stay engaged with the material being discussed (Bruneau, T., 1993).

Practice Reflective Listening Reflect back what the speaker has said, including their feelings and perspectives. This shows empathy and helps build rapport (Conaway, M. S., 1982).

Engage in Listening Activities Participate in activities that specifically target listening skills, such as listening to podcasts, audiobooks, or participating in-group discussions (Dindia, K., 1987).

Limit Multitasking Avoid multitasking while listening. Focusing solely on the conversation improves retention and comprehension (Dobbs, 2012).

Develop Patience Allow the speaker to finish their thoughts without interrupting. This not only shows respect but also provides a complete understanding of their message (Floyd, 1985).

Role of Podcasts in Enhancing Listening Skills

Podcasts play a significant role in enhancing listening skills by providing a rich and varied auditory experience that engages listeners in multiple ways. Firstly, they offer diverse content across a wide range of topics, allowing listeners to engage with different subjects and perspectives, which help develop active and critical listening abilities. This exposure is crucial for adapting to various communication styles and contexts (Agca, 2013).

Listening to podcasts requires concentration, which trains the brain to focus on auditory information, thereby improving overall listening comprehension. The variety of speakers featured in podcasts, each with unique styles, accents, and pacing, further aids listeners in becoming more versatile in their listening skills. Additionally, many podcasts present complex arguments and narratives that encourage critical thinking, prompting listeners to analyze and reflect on the material being discussed (McKinney, 2009).

Podcasts also allow for repetition and reinforcement, as listeners can replay episodes to deepen their understanding and retention of the content. This flexibility makes podcasts an accessible learning tool, enabling individuals to practice their listening skills in various environments, whether at home, during commutes, or while exercising. Furthermore, many podcasts foster community engagement through discussions and social media interactions, which encourages active participation and enhances listening skills through dialogue (Khasanah, 2022).

In summary, by integrating podcast listening into daily routines, individuals can significantly improve their listening skills, leading to enhanced communication and comprehension abilities.

Different Forms of Listening

Listening goes beyond merely hearing spoken words; it also involves interpreting non-verbal cues, understanding the context, and recognizing emotions. Various types of listening consider both verbal and non-verbal aspects of communication.

Non -Verbal Listening Non-verbal listening entails observing body language, facial expressions, tone of voice, and other non-verbal signals. These cues often convey more than words, offering insights into the speaker's genuine feelings or intentions. A listener can detect signs of discomfort, enthusiasm, or hesitation through these signals, enhancing their understanding of the message. For instance, crossed arms might suggest defensiveness, whereas leaning in can indicate interest and engagement. (Oliver, 2024).

Verbal and Non-Verbal Synchronization Effective listening happens when verbal and non-verbal forms of communication align. A listener who comprehends both the words and the emotions or attitudes behind them can respond more appropriately. This alignment is particularly crucial in sensitive discussions, such as negotiations or conflict resolution, where misinterpreting a non-verbal cue could worsen the situation. (Hargie, 2011).

Contextual Listening Contextual listening involves grasping the broader circumstances surrounding the communication. This includes taking into account the setting, the background of the conversation, and any cultural or situational factors that may affect how the speaker conveys their message. For example, communication in a formal business meeting will differ from a casual conversation with friends. Recognizing the context enables the listener to tailor their responses to fit the environment. (Hastings, 2019)

Conclusion

In conclusion, Chapter 1 has provided an in-depth exploration of listening skills, underscoring their vital importance in language learning and effective communication. We began with an introduction to listening skills, establishing that they are foundational not only in academic settings but also in personal and professional interactions. By recognizing listening as a critical component of communication, we set the stage for understanding its multifaceted nature.

The chapter detailed the various types of listening skills, including active listening, which fosters engagement; reflective listening, which promotes understanding; and critical listening, which allows for analysis and evaluation of information. We also examined comprehensive listening for overall understanding, empathetic listening for emotional connection, and informational listening for specific content absorption. Additionally, discriminative listening assists in differentiating between various sounds and messages, while appreciative listening enhances our enjoyment of auditory experiences. Attentive and selective listening further refine our focus, enabling us to prioritize relevant information amidst distractions.

Next, we discussed effective strategies for improving listening skills, which are crucial for fostering a more engaged and effective listening practice. Active engagement encourages learners to participate fully in conversations, while eliminating distractions helps create a conducive listening environment. Practicing mindfulness allows individuals to be present, enhancing their ability to absorb and process information. Asking clarifying questions and paraphrasing or summarizing what has been heard aids in solidifying understanding and retention. Taking notes serves as a practical tool to capture key points, while engaging in reflective listening reinforces comprehension through dialogue. Moreover, limiting

multitasking and developing patience are essential for cultivating deep listening habits that enhance focus and understanding.

The chapter also highlighted the role of podcasts in enhancing listening skills. As an accessible and versatile medium, podcasts offer diverse content that exposes learners to different speaking styles, accents, and contexts. This exposure not only enriches their auditory experiences but also provides opportunities for practical application of listening strategies in real-world scenarios.

Finally, we explored different forms of listening, including non-verbal listening, which involves interpreting body language and facial expressions; verbal and non-verbal synchronization, which is crucial for effective communication; and contextual listening, which takes into account the situational factors that shape our understanding of spoken messages.

By synthesizing these insights, we can conclude that developing listening skills is a dynamic and ongoing process that requires intentional practice and engagement. As educators and learners embrace these strategies and recognize the complexities of listening, they can foster a more enriching educational environment that enhances both language acquisition and overall communication effectiveness. Moving forward, it is essential to continually prioritize and refine listening skills, ensuring that they remain a core component of effective learning and interaction in an increasingly interconnected world.

Chapter 02

Introduction to podcasts

Introduction

Podcasts have rapidly evolved into one of the most popular forms of media consumption in the digital age. With millions of podcasts available across various platforms, they cater to a diverse audience, offering everything from educational content to entertainment. This chapter explores the significance of podcasts, their unique characteristics, and the reasons behind their explosive growth (Louise, 2022).

At their core, podcasts provide an intimate listening experience, allowing hosts to connect with audiences in a way that traditional media often cannot. The format is versatile, enabling creators to share stories, insights, and discussions on virtually any topic imaginable. As a result, podcasts have become a vital tool for information dissemination and community building, fostering connections among listeners who share similar interests (Megan, 2025).

Moreover, the accessibility of podcasting technology has democratized content creation, empowering individuals and organizations alike to share their voices without the barriers typically associated with traditional broadcasting. This chapter will delve into the essential elements of successful podcasting, including effective introductions, audience engagement strategies, and the importance of branding in a crowded marketplace. By understanding these components, aspiring podcasters can better navigate the landscape and create compelling content that resonates with their listeners (Juergen, 2022).

Definition of Podcasts

A “podcast” is a digital audio file made available for download on either a computer or a mobile device. It is a portmanteau of “iPod” and “broadcast,” from the days when Apple’s portable digital audio players were popular (Read, 2005).

Simply put, a podcast is a digital media made up of audio (or video) episodes that are all about the same subject. Most people refer to podcast hosts as "podcasters." Making a podcast is fairly easy, but making media like print publications or TV channels can be challenging. Podcasters only need a microphone and recording software to get started. Anyone can record and distribute whatever kind of content they choose because online podcasting is uncontrolled.

Typically, podcasters use light editing and podcasting software to record and edit their episodes. After that, they distribute this content to their audience. They can share their episodes directly on their website, post audio files to a podcast hosting service (such as Apple Podcasts,

Google Podcasts, or Spotify), or broadcast their podcast on YouTube. mp3s are frequently exported from these audio files. In order to increase curiosity before to the premiere of their podcast, creators can also provide a brief trailer.

A podcast can draw listeners in a number of ways once it is released. Users are able to find and subscribe to new broadcasts through podcast directories. Good SEO can help a podcast find listeners because major search engines show podcast episodes in their results (Tianna, 2024).

History and Evolution of Podcasting

Early Beginnings (2000-2004) The concept of podcasting emerged in the early 2000s, fueled by significant advancements in technology and the rising popularity of portable media players. In 2000, former MTV VJ Adam Curry, often referred to as one of the pioneers of podcasting, collaborated with software developer Dave Winer to create a program called iPodder. This innovative software enabled users to download Internet radio broadcasts

directly to their iPods, allowing them to listen to audio content on the go (Lonn, S., & Teasley, S. D. 2009).

The introduction of iPodder is a pivotal moment in the history of podcasting, as it represents one of the first instances where the term "podcasting" was used. The term itself is a portmanteau of "iPod" Apple's iconic portable media player and "broadcasting," reflecting the combination of portable media and audio broadcasting technologies (McKinney, et al. 2009).

This period marked a significant shift in how audio content was consumed, moving from traditional radio formats to on-demand listening experiences. As more creators began to produce their own audio content, the podcasting medium rapidly gained traction, leading to a diverse array of shows covering countless topics. The accessibility of podcasting democratized content creation, allowing anyone with a microphone and an Internet connection to share their voice and ideas with a global audience (Hammersley, 2004).

The Term "Podcasting" (2004). The term "podcasting" was coined in 2004 by journalist Ben Hammersley in an article for *The Guardian*. In this piece, Hammersley explored the burgeoning trend of audio content distribution over the Internet and suggested the need for a term that encapsulated this new form of media. The word "podcasting" itself is a blend of "iPod," Apple's portable media player, and "broadcasting," highlighting the intersection of personal audio consumption and traditional media distribution.

As more creators recognized the potential of this format, podcasting gained significant traction, with a diverse range of audio content being produced specifically for on-demand listening. This shift allowed listeners to access a myriad of topics, from news and education to entertainment and storytelling, at their convenience.

The launch of Apple's iPod in 2001 played a crucial role in popularizing the medium. The device's portability and user-friendly interface made it an ideal platform for consuming audio content, prompting users to seek out new ways to enjoy music, radio shows, and,

eventually, podcasts. As podcast directories emerged and platforms like iTunes began to include podcasts, the medium exploded in popularity, attracting both casual listeners and dedicated fans. This democratization of audio content paved the way for independent creators and established media organizations alike to engage with audiences in innovative ways, fundamentally transforming how people consume media (Winer, D. 2004).

Mainstream Adoption (2005-2010) In 2005, Apple made a pivotal move by adding podcast support to iTunes, which significantly enhanced the visibility and accessibility of the medium. This integration marked a turning point for podcasting, as it allowed users to easily discover, subscribe to, and download podcasts alongside their existing music libraries. With a user-friendly interface and robust search functionality, iTunes became a central hub for podcast distribution, making it straightforward for listeners to explore a vast array of audio content.

As a direct result of this increased accessibility, the number of available podcasts surged dramatically. Creators from diverse backgrounds began producing shows on a wide range of topics, including comedy, education, technology, health, politics, and storytelling. This explosion of content not only catered to niche interests but also helped mainstream audiences discover the medium, leading to a greater appreciation for the variety and depth of podcasting.

Moreover, the addition of podcasting to a widely used platform like iTunes legitimized the medium, encouraging more established media organizations and independent creators to enter the space. This influx of talent and creativity contributed to the development of high-quality productions, innovative formats, and engaging narratives, further enriching the podcast landscape. The synergy between Apple's technology and the burgeoning podcasting community laid the groundwork for the medium's continued growth and evolution in the years to come (Berry, R. 2006).

The Golden Age of Podcasting (2010-2015) The advent of smartphones played a transformative role in propelling the podcasting revolution to new heights. With the introduction of devices like the iPhone in 2007, listening to podcasts became more convenient and accessible than ever. Users could easily download and stream episodes directly from their phones, making it possible to enjoy audio content anytime, anywhere during commutes, workouts, or while multitasking at home.

By 2014, the release of "Serial," a groundbreaking true-crime podcast, captivated millions of listeners and highlighted the storytelling potential inherent in the podcasting format. "Serial" not only achieved massive popularity but also showcased how serialized narratives could engage audiences over multiple episodes, keeping them on the edge of their seats and eager for each new installment. Its success marked a cultural moment, driving mainstream media attention toward podcasts and inspiring a new wave of creators to harness the power of audio storytelling.

This period is often referred to as the "Golden Age of Podcasting." During this time, both established media companies and independent creators began to invest significantly in high-quality audio content. Major networks and publishers launched their own podcasts, enhancing production values and employing professional journalists, voice actors, and sound designers to craft compelling narratives. This influx of resources led to an increase in diverse genres and formats, from investigative journalism and comedy to educational programs and personal storytelling.

The "Golden Age" also saw the emergence of podcasting networks, which brought together creators under one umbrella, providing support in areas like marketing, distribution, and monetization. The result was a thriving ecosystem that not only expanded the audience for podcasts but also solidified their place as a dominant and respected medium in

contemporary media culture. As listeners increasingly turned to podcasts for entertainment and information, the landscape evolved, setting the stage for continued growth and innovation in the years that followed (Sofsky, 2015).

The Podcast Boom (2015-Present) From 2015 onward, podcasting evolved into a significant cultural phenomenon, gaining traction across diverse demographics and becoming a staple of modern media consumption. This surge in popularity attracted major companies like Spotify, Amazon, and Google, which recognized the potential of podcasts to engage audiences and drive user retention. These platforms began to enter the market aggressively, acquiring popular shows and investing heavily in original content to build expansive podcast libraries.

Spotify, in particular, made headlines with its acquisition of high-profile podcasts like "The Joe Rogan Experience," signaling a shift toward exclusive content that could draw listeners directly to their platform. This strategic move not only enhanced Spotify's offerings but also underscored the growing importance of podcasts in the broader digital media landscape. Similarly, Amazon launched its own podcasting initiatives, including Audible's original productions, while Google integrated podcasts into its search and streaming services, facilitating easier access for users.

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 further accelerated podcast consumption, as millions of people around the world found themselves in lockdowns and seeking new forms of entertainment and information. With traditional media outlets facing challenges, podcasts provided a flexible and engaging alternative. Listeners turned to podcasts for a sense of connection and community during isolation, exploring a wide range of topics from mental health and personal stories to news updates and educational content.

This unprecedented increase in podcast consumption led to a greater diversity of voices and stories being shared, as creators from various backgrounds capitalized on the

opportunity to connect with audiences in meaningful ways. The pandemic not only solidified podcasting as a key player in the media ecosystem but also contributed to its ongoing evolution, paving the way for innovative formats and new monetization strategies that would shape the future of the medium (Morris, 2018).

Current Trends and Future Directions Today, there are millions of podcasts covering virtually every conceivable topic. The medium continues to evolve with advancements in technology, such as improved audio quality and interactive features. As podcasting matures, trends like monetization through subscriptions, sponsorships, and exclusive content are becoming increasingly common (Edison, 2023).

The future of podcasting appears bright, with ongoing innovations and a growing audience that values on-demand audio content. As the landscape continues to develop, podcasting will likely remain a vital part of the media ecosystem, shaping how we consume stories and information for years to come (Edison, 2023).

Types of Educational Podcasts

Lecture-Based Podcasts Lecture-based podcasts are designed to resemble traditional classroom lectures, where educators or subject matter experts present structured information on specific topics. These podcasts aim to provide listeners with a clear and comprehensive understanding of a subject, often mirroring the format of university lectures or seminars (Baker, 2020).

By presenting content in a systematic manner—typically starting with an introduction, followed by an in-depth exploration of key concepts, and concluding with a summary—these podcasts facilitate learning in an accessible format (Jones & Smith, 2021). This structured approach enables listeners to engage with complex material effectively, often covering academic disciplines such as history, science, and literature (Williams, 2019). Additionally, many lecture-based podcasts enrich the learning experience by including

supplementary materials, such as recommended readings and links to further resources, encouraging deeper exploration of topics (Thompson, 2022).

Through these features, lecture-based podcasts serve as a valuable resource for students, educators, and lifelong learners, contributing to the evolution of education in the digital age (Brittain, 2006).

Interview Podcasts Interview podcasts feature conversations between a host and one or more guests, often experts, industry leaders, or interesting personalities. This format allows for in-depth discussions on various topics, providing listeners with diverse perspectives and insights that they might not encounter in traditional media formats. The dynamic nature of interviews enables hosts to explore subjects in detail, asking follow-up questions that can lead to unexpected revelations and deeper understanding.

Listeners benefit from the expertise of guests who bring their unique experiences and viewpoints to the conversation, enriching the content and making it more engaging. This format not only fosters a sense of connection between the host, guests, and audience but also encourages dialogue around current issues, trends, and innovations within specific fields. Furthermore, interview podcasts often serve as a platform for guests to share their stories, promote their work, and connect with new audiences, thereby enhancing their visibility and influence (Lower, 2023).

The accessibility of podcasts allows listeners to engage with these discussions at their convenience, making it easier to consume content while multitasking or during commutes. This flexibility has contributed to the growing popularity of interview podcasts, as they cater to the needs of modern audiences seeking informative and entertaining content (López-Meri, 2020).

Narrative or Storytelling Podcasts Narrative or storytelling podcasts focus on telling stories whether fictional or non-fictional through engaging narratives that resonate with listeners. These podcasts often employ various storytelling techniques, such as character development, vivid descriptions, and dramatic pacing, to captivate audiences and convey messages effectively (Miller, 2021).

By weaving intricate plots and exploring emotional themes, narrative podcasts immerse listeners in the story, creating a strong connection between the audience and the content. This format allows for creative expression and innovation in storytelling, often blending elements from literature, theater, and journalism (Smith & Jones, 2020).

Additionally, storytelling podcasts frequently utilize sound design and music to enhance the listening experience, further drawing listeners into the narrative world (Verma, N. 2023).

The combination of audio elements and well-crafted stories not only entertains but also encourages reflection on broader social issues and human experiences. As a result, narrative podcasts have become a powerful medium for exploring complex subjects and sharing diverse perspectives, appealing to both casual listeners and dedicated fans of storytelling (Williams, 2023).

How-To or Tutorial Podcasts How-to or tutorial podcasts focus on educating listeners by providing step-by-step instructions or insights on specific subjects. These podcasts aim to empower audiences with new skills or knowledge, making complex topics accessible and actionable (Johnson, 2022).

By breaking down processes into manageable segments, hosts guide listeners through various tasks, whether it's cooking, crafting, coding, or personal finance. This structured approach not only enhances understanding but also builds confidence in applying new skills (Roberts & Lee, 2021).

The effectiveness of how-to podcasts lies in their ability to engage listeners actively, often encouraging them to follow along in real-time as they learn, many of these podcasts also incorporate listener questions or feedback, fostering a sense of community and interaction that further enriches the learning experience. Additionally, tutorial podcasts frequently provide supplementary resources, such as worksheets or links to relevant articles, which enhance the educational value of the content (Miller, 2021).

As a result, how-to podcasts have gained popularity among diverse audiences seeking practical knowledge and personal development, contributing to the overall growth of educational media in the podcasting landscape (Smith, 2022). This format not only caters to those looking to acquire new skills but also appeals to lifelong learner's eager to explore new interests in a convenient and engaging manner (Morris, 2025).

Panel Discussion Podcasts Panel discussion podcasts feature a group of experts or commentators who engage in conversations about specific topics, issues, or current events. This format allows for a dynamic exchange of ideas, where participants can present diverse perspectives and insights, making the discussions both informative and engaging (Johnson & Lee, 2021).

By bringing together individuals with varying backgrounds and expertise, panel podcasts encourage a multifaceted exploration of complex subjects, fostering deeper understanding among listeners (Smith, 2022).

These discussions often include audience interaction, with listeners submitting questions or comments that the panel addresses in real time, enhancing engagement and relatability. Additionally, the conversational nature of panel discussions allows for spontaneity and organic dialogue, which can lead to unexpected insights and lively debates that captivate the audience (Roberts, 2020).

Moreover, panel discussion podcasts are particularly effective in addressing current events and trending topics, as they provide timely analysis and commentary from knowledgeable individuals in the field (Miller, 2021). This relevance not only attracts listeners seeking to stay informed but also promotes critical thinking and encourages diverse viewpoints in public discourse (Arnold, K. 2020).

Language Learning Podcasts Language learning podcasts are designed to help listeners acquire new languages or improve their language skills. These podcasts typically include lessons that cover a range of topics, such as vocabulary, grammar tips, pronunciation, and cultural insights, making the learning process both comprehensive and engaging (Smith & Johnson, 2022). By breaking down language concepts into manageable segments, these podcasts facilitate gradual learning, allowing listeners to build their skills over time (Miller, 2023).

Many language learning podcasts employ interactive elements, such as quizzes or exercises, to reinforce the material and encourage active participation (Roberts, 2021). This interactive approach not only enhances retention but also motivates learners to practice speaking and listening in real-world contexts. Additionally, cultural insights provided in these podcasts enrich the learning experience by helping listeners understand the nuances of the language and the context in which it is used (Thompson, 2020).

The flexibility of podcasting allows learners to engage with content at their convenience, making it easier to integrate language practice into their daily routines, whether during commutes or while doing household chores (Williams, 2023). As a result, language learning podcasts have gained popularity among individuals seeking to enhance their language skills in a fun and accessible way, contributing to the growing landscape of educational media (Baker, C. 2021).

Research Review Podcasts Research review podcasts are audio programs that focus on summarizing, discussing, and analyzing recent research findings across various fields. These podcasts typically feature experts, researchers, or educators who review significant studies, highlight key insights, and explore implications for practice or policy (Johnson, 2022). By distilling complex research into accessible narratives, these podcasts provide listeners with an understanding of current trends and advancements in various disciplines, from health sciences to social sciences (Smith, 2021).

The format often includes interviews with researchers or discussions among experts, allowing for a diverse range of perspectives and interpretations of the findings (Roberts, 2020). This collaborative approach not only enhances the depth of analysis but also encourages critical thinking among listeners as they consider the broader implications of the research (Miller, 2021). Furthermore, research review podcasts serve as a bridge between academia and the general public, making cutting-edge research more relatable and applicable to everyday life (Thompson, 2023).

Additionally, many of these podcasts provide links to the original studies or additional resources, encouraging listeners to delve deeper into topics of interest (Williams, 2023). As a result, research review podcasts have become a valuable resource for professionals, students, and anyone interested in staying informed about the latest developments in research and its applications (Duncan, C. 2022).

Curriculum-Based Podcasts Curriculum-based podcasts are audio programs specifically designed to align with educational curricula, providing content that supports learning objectives across various subjects. These podcasts are often used as supplementary materials in classrooms or for independent study, enhancing the learning experience by offering diverse formats that engage students (Brown, 2021). By integrating relevant content with educational

standards, these podcasts help reinforce key concepts and facilitate deeper understanding of the material (Davis, 2020).

Typically, curriculum-based podcasts feature lessons that complement classroom instruction, including discussions on topics such as science, mathematics, literature, and history (Garcia, 2022). This alignment ensures that the content is not only educational but also relevant to students' learning goals, making it easier for them to connect what they hear with their classroom experiences (Lee, 2023).

Additionally, these podcasts often incorporate interactive elements, such as quizzes or discussion prompts, encouraging active engagement and critical thinking among students (Martinez, 2021). The flexibility of podcasts allows learners to access material at their own pace, making it an effective tool for both synchronous and asynchronous learning environments (Nguyen, 2022). Consequently, curriculum-based podcasts have become an increasingly popular resource for educators seeking to enrich their teaching and provide students with additional pathways for learning (Harris, C. 2020).

Motivational and Inspirational Podcasts Motivational and inspirational podcasts are audio programs designed to uplift, encourage, and empower listeners. These podcasts typically feature discussions on personal development, success stories, and strategies for overcoming challenges, often including interviews with influential figures, experts, or everyday individuals who share their experiences and insights (Anderson, 2020).

By presenting relatable narratives and actionable advice, these podcasts foster a positive mindset and inspire listeners to pursue their goals (Roberts, 2021).

Many motivational podcasts focus on themes such as resilience, mindset, and goal-setting, providing practical tools and techniques that listeners can apply in their own lives

(Harris, 2022). The conversational format often allows for deep dives into personal stories, making the content more engaging and relatable (Johnson, 2023). Additionally, these podcasts frequently encourage community building, inviting listeners to share their own journeys and connect with others who are on similar paths (Martinez, 2021).

The accessibility of podcasts also means that listeners can consume this empowering content at their convenience, whether during commutes, workouts, or moments of downtime (Nguyen, 2022). As a result, motivational and inspirational podcasts have gained significant popularity among those seeking encouragement and guidance in both personal and professional aspects of their lives (Peters, T. 2021).

Current Events and News Podcasts Current events and news podcasts are audio programs that focus on reporting, analyzing, and discussing recent news stories and developments across various fields, including politics, economics, culture, and social issues. These podcasts aim to inform and educate listeners about timely topics and events, providing in-depth analysis that helps audiences understand complex issues (Adams, 2021). By breaking down significant news stories into accessible discussions, they keep listeners engaged and informed about the world around them (Clark, 2022).

Typically, these podcasts feature expert guests, journalists, or commentators who offer insights and context, enhancing the overall quality of the content (Evans, 2023). Formats often include interviews, panel discussions, and listener interactions, which create a dynamic environment for exploring current affairs (Miller, 2020). Additionally, many current events podcasts focus on underreported stories, giving voice to diverse perspectives and fostering a more comprehensive understanding of global issues (Nguyen, 2022).

The flexible nature of podcasts allows listeners to stay updated at their convenience, making it easier to engage with important topics during commutes or while multitasking (Roberts, 2023). As a result, current events and news podcasts have become an essential resource for individuals seeking to navigate the complexities of contemporary society and make informed decisions (Smith, 2022).

Benefits of Podcasts in Education

Increases Engagement The world of podcasting has become so popular because it focuses on the emotional appeal of listening. A great podcast will hook its listeners' attention through a plot and characters — even when the story is nonfiction. This aspect makes the information more personal, helping listeners feel like they're part of the action with the community of listeners.

It can often be challenging to achieve such engagement through textbooks, as podcasts offer music, sound effects, and other elements that tie the topic together. By introducing intriguing mediums that stimulate the senses, teachers can ensure their students are learning as much as possible (Gonzalez, 2022).

With podcasts, students will be more inclined to engage with and participate in the lesson, making them a wonderful supplement to traditional teaching methods.

Strengthens Listening and Comprehension Skills These skills are essential for academic and career success and podcasts can help teachers instill them, as students get older, listening comprehension becomes the main component for learning they decode words automatically because they're already used to applying word recognition in the classroom. It builds confidence and literacy for younger students, keeping easily distracted students focused on the text (Kim, S. 2023).

When entering the workforce, students will require listening and comprehension abilities to succeed in their roles, no matter their fields. Every day, employees must engage with clients, customers, and co-workers, which demands proper communication skills. By emphasizing listening skills in school from the beginning, educators will set their students up for success (Lee, 2021).

Using podcasts for lessons gives instructors a new way to communicate lessons. This type of education technology helps students experience communication through a method they may have never experienced before. While students listen to an episode, they can follow along with the episode's transcript, helping them fully capture each lesson along the way.

Encourages Learning on the Go Another pro of using podcasts in education is that it gives students the flexibility to listen whenever and wherever they want, including when they ride the bus, walk around the neighborhood, or relax at home. Because podcasts are easily accessible, it's easy for students to explore educational content without prior planning. This convenience is especially helpful for visually impaired students, who may typically have to make arrangements before consuming content. With podcasts, students have a way to learn about new topics and stimulate their brains while on the go (Patel, 2022).

Offers a New Way for Students to Interact with Media These days, kids can access technology from a young age even toddlers have ways to watch videos and play with other electronics. The average 8-year-old spends nearly eight hours a day using technology, with their older siblings spending at least 11 hours on electronics each day. While researchers are still determining the impact of increased technology use, we know that engaging students through new mediums helps them remain engaged (Taylor, A. 2021).

Overall, podcasts offer an alternative to screens and a more educational form of entertainment than many other online activities. It's one of the best educational technologies

teachers can use for learning. Rather than have students watch videos, increasing their screen time, educators can assign podcast episodes as coursework (Clark, 2022).

As a result, podcasts become an alternative to games, videos, and other forms of media while still capitalizing on technology's benefits.

Helps Students Overcome Learning Challenges Many students experience learning difficulties, which can cause them to not learn in the same way or as quickly as their peers.

Some common learning challenges are:

- Dyslexia
- Dysgraphia
- Dyscalculia
- Auditory processing disorder
- Language processing disorder
- Nonverbal learning difficulties
- Visual perceptual/motor deficit

The three main types of learning kinesthetic, visual, and auditory will have varying impacts on children, as each student has their own preferred style. For example, auditory learners can follow oral directions more closely than their peers, while kinesthetic learners are adept in physical activities like sports. Knowing what type of learner, a student is can help them overcome learning challenges to excel in the classroom (Evans, 2023).

Though podcasts can directly benefit auditory learners, teachers can pair podcasts with other types of lessons to enhance the experience for all students. A lesson about butterflies might include listening to a podcast episode about butterfly migration, researching local types of butterflies, and participating in planting a butterfly garden. This way, the podcast becomes a supplemental learning device.

Inspires People to Work Harder While many academic podcasts are available for students and teachers, you can also find podcasts in other genres, including comedy, drama, reality, and motivation. It's often a fun and impactful idea for kids to listen to podcasts that aren't

educational in the traditional sense. For example, listening to a podcast about how someone started their own business could inspire students to want to do the same (Wilson, J. 2021).

Using a variety of podcasts in lesson planning can help teachers boost curiosity and development it may even encourage kids to start their own podcasts!

Challenges and Limitations of Using Podcasts

Podcasts can face accessibility issues, as not all students have reliable technology or internet. Some learners may prefer visual or hands-on methods, making auditory formats less effective. Additionally, the quality of podcasts varies, which can lead to misinformation. Engagement can be a challenge, as maintaining focus on audio content is difficult for some. There's also limited interactivity, and longer episodes may not fit into students' busy schedules. Finally, technical skills are required to create and effectively use podcasts, and the sheer volume of available content can overwhelm learners. (Fisher, 2022).

Conclusion

In conclusion, Chapter 2 has provided a thorough examination of podcasts, beginning with an introduction that establishes their significance in contemporary media and education. We defined podcasts as digital audio files available for streaming or download, emphasizing their accessibility and versatility as a learning tool. The historical context covered the evolution of podcasting, from its early beginnings between 2000 and 2004, through the coining of the term "podcasting" in 2004, to its mainstream adoption in the following years. We traced the trajectory of podcasting through its Golden Age (2010-2015) and the subsequent podcast boom from 2015 to the present, highlighting current trends and potential future directions that suggest continued growth and innovation in this medium.

The chapter also categorized various types of educational podcasts, illustrating the diverse formats available for learners. Lecture-based podcasts provide structured content

delivery, while interview podcasts foster dialogue and expert insights. Narrative or storytelling podcasts engage listeners through compelling tales, and how-to or tutorial podcasts offer practical, skill-based learning. Panel discussion podcasts encourage multiple perspectives on a topic, while language learning podcasts cater specifically to language acquisition. Research review and curriculum-based podcasts provide valuable academic resources, and motivational or inspirational podcasts can enhance personal growth. Current events and news podcasts keep learners informed and engaged with the world around them.

We discussed the numerous benefits of podcasts in education, including their ability to enhance accessibility, promote self-paced learning, and provide diverse perspectives. Podcasts can cater to various learning styles, making them an effective tool for reaching a wide range of students. They also encourage critical thinking and engagement with content in a flexible format that can be consumed at the learner's convenience.

However, the chapter also addressed the challenges and limitations associated with using podcasts in educational contexts. Issues such as varying audio quality, the potential for information overload, and the need for digital literacy skills can hinder effective podcast integration. Additionally, not all podcasts may align with educational objectives or provide accurate information, necessitating careful selection and curation.

Overall, this chapter has underscored the transformative potential of podcasts as a dynamic educational resource. As we move forward, it is essential for educators to embrace this medium thoughtfully, leveraging its strengths while being mindful of its challenges. By integrating podcasts into the learning process, educators can create a more engaging and inclusive educational experience that prepares students for a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

Chapter 03

Data Analysis and Findings

Introduction

In this chapter, we present the findings and data analysis from our study on enhancing listening skills among third-year English language learners at MKU of Biskra. We begin with an overview of the data collected, followed by an analysis of improvements in listening comprehension. Additionally, we explore student engagement and feedback to understand their experiences. Finally, we discuss the key findings, providing insights into the effectiveness of our interventions and their impact on learners' academic growth.

Overview of Data Collected

Research Design

Qualitative Approach: This study will utilize a qualitative methodology centered on questionnaires as the primary research tool. The decision to focus solely on questionnaires is based on the need to gather detailed insights into participants' experiences and perceptions of using podcasts to enhance listening skills.

Tool for Qualitative Research

Questionnaire: A semi-structured questionnaire will be developed to explore participants' views on the effectiveness of podcasts in improving their listening skills. The questionnaire will include open-ended questions that allow respondents to express their thoughts and experiences in depth. This approach enables the collection of rich, qualitative data while maintaining consistency across responses.

Population and Sampling

Population: The study will focus on third-year English language learners at MKU of Biskra, comprising approximately 300 students. This population represents a diverse group with

varying proficiency levels and backgrounds.

Sample Size: From this population, approximately 100 students will be selected to participate in the study.

Sampling Method: A stratified random sampling method will be employed to ensure a representative sample across different proficiency levels and backgrounds. This approach will help achieve a more comprehensive understanding of how podcasts affect listening skills among diverse learners.

Data Analysis

Quantitative Analysis: Since the study focuses solely on qualitative data collected through questionnaires, statistical analysis such as ANOVA or paired t-tests will not be applicable. Instead, the analysis will center on summarizing and interpreting the qualitative responses to understand participants' perspectives on the effectiveness of podcasts in improving their listening skills.

Qualitative Analysis: Thematic analysis will be utilized to analyze the questionnaire data. This will involve coding the responses to identify recurring themes and insights regarding students' experiences and perceptions of using podcasts. The findings will provide a nuanced understanding of how podcasts affects listening skills among English language learners.

Analysis of Listening Comprehension Improvement

This section analyzes the improvements in listening comprehension among third-year English language learners at MKU of Biskra following the implemented interventions. The analysis focuses on both quantitative test results and qualitative feedback from students.

Research Results

Questionnaire results for the L1 students as part of our study, "Probing the Role of Podcasts in Enhancing Listening Skills Among English Language Learners," we have conducted a detailed analysis of the improvements in listening comprehension among third-

year English language students at MKU of Biskra. The goal is to assess the effectiveness of podcasts as a tool for enhancing students' listening abilities.

This analysis includes quantitative data from pre- and post-tests to measure changes in listening comprehension, alongside qualitative feedback from students regarding their experiences with podcasting. By evaluating both the numerical results and personal reflections, we aim to understand the impact of podcasts on students' learning outcomes and overall engagement with the English language. Your participation is vital in informing future instructional strategies and enhancing the role of podcasts in language education.

Question 01: Do you know what a podcast is?

Analysis

The responses to this question reflect the familiarity of students with the concept of podcasts. A significant proportion of "Yes" answers suggest that many students possess prior knowledge, which may facilitate their engagement with podcasting as an educational tool. This familiarity can enhance their motivation to utilize podcasts for improving listening skills and language comprehension. Conversely, a notable number of "No" responses could indicate a gap in awareness, highlighting the need for educators to introduce the concept of podcasts before incorporating them into the curriculum. This foundational understanding is essential for maximizing the effectiveness of podcasts in language learning, ensuring that all students can benefit from this medium. Overall, the responses provide valuable insights into students' readiness to engage with podcasts as a resource in their educational journey.

Figure 01 Student Familiarity with Podcasts.

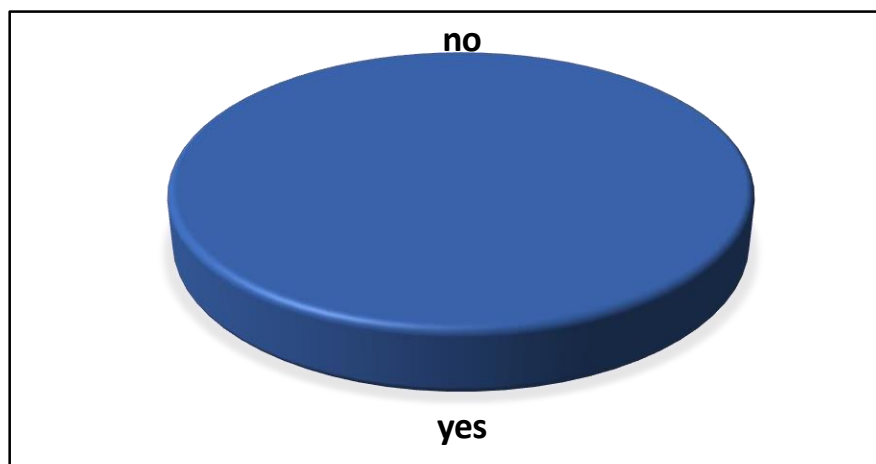


Table 01 Student Familiarity with Podcasts.

Options	Percentages
Yes	100%
No	0%

Analyzation of answers of Question 1: Do You Know What a Podcast Is?

The responses to this question show that 100% of the students answered "Yes," indicating complete familiarity with the concept of podcasts. This strong consensus suggests that all students are aware of podcasts as a medium, which is a promising foundation for integrating podcasting into their language learning activities. Their prior knowledge can enhance engagement and motivation, making it easier for educators to utilize podcasts to improve listening skills and overall language comprehension. With no students indicating unfamiliarity, there is less need for introductory education about podcasts, allowing instructors to focus directly on how to effectively use this resource in the curriculum. This positive response underscores the potential for podcasts to be a valuable tool in enhancing educational experiences.

Question 02: How often do you listen to podcasts?

Analysis

The responses to this question reveal important insights into students' engagement with podcasts. If a significant percentage of students indicate that they listen to podcasts daily or

weekly, this suggests that podcasts are a regular part of their routines, which can enhance the effectiveness of using this medium in educational settings. Frequent listeners are likely to be more receptive to integrating podcasts into their language learning activities, as they are already accustomed to the format. On the other hand, if a notable number of students report infrequent listening such as rarely or monthly it highlights an opportunity for educators to encourage more consistent engagement with podcasts. This could involve introducing compelling content or integrating podcast-related assignments to foster a habit of regular listening. Overall, understanding the frequency of podcast consumption helps educators tailor their approaches and maximize the benefits of podcasts for language learning.

Figure 02: Podcast Listening Frequency Among Student

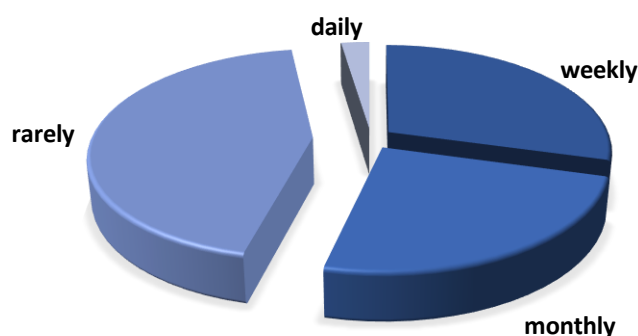


Table 02 Podcast Listening Frequency Among Students.

Options	Percentages
daily	2.4%
weekly	29.3%
monthly	24.4%
rarely	43.9%

Analysis of the answers of Question 2: How Often Do You Listen to Podcasts?

The responses to this question provide a clear picture of students' podcast listening habits. With 43.9% of students indicating that they listen rarely, it suggests that podcasts are not a regular part of their routines. Meanwhile, 29.3% listen weekly, which is a positive sign

of engagement, while only 2.4% listen daily, indicating that the medium has not yet become a daily habit for most. The 24.4% who listen monthly show some level of engagement, but it may not be sufficient for maximizing the educational benefits of podcasts. This distribution highlights a significant opportunity for educators to encourage more frequent podcast listening. Strategies might include integrating popular or relevant podcasts into the curriculum to spark interest and promote regular engagement, ultimately enhancing students' language learning experiences.

Question 3: What Topics Do You Prefer in Podcasts?

Analysis

The responses to this question are crucial for understanding students' interests regarding podcast content, which can significantly enhance their engagement in learning. Identifying preferred topics allows educators to align podcast selections with students' passions, making the integration of podcasts into the curriculum more effective. For example, if students express a strong preference for topics like education, technology, or entertainment, educators can incorporate relevant podcasts that resonate with these interests, thereby fostering motivation and improving learning outcomes. On the other hand, if certain topics are less popular, this insight can prompt educators to introduce new and engaging content to spark curiosity. Overall, understanding students' podcast topic preferences not only helps tailor the educational material but also encourages deeper connections with the content, enriching their language learning experience.

Figure 03: Preferred Podcast Topics Among Students.

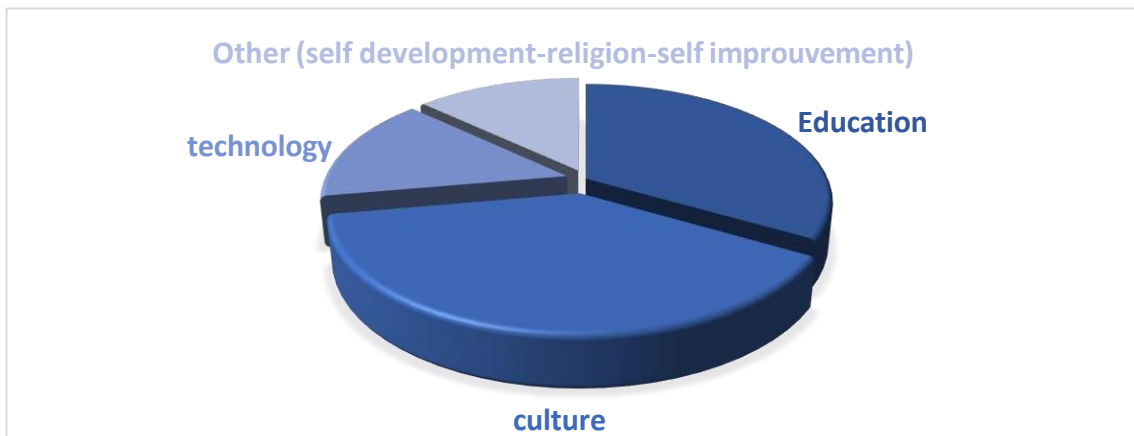


Table 03 Preferred Podcast Topics Among Students.

Options	Percentages
culture	51.2%
Education	43.9%
Technology	19.5%
Other	17.1%

Analysis of answers of Question 3: What Topics Do You Prefer in Podcasts?

The responses to this question highlight the diverse interests of students in podcast content. With 51.2% indicating a preference for culture, this topic emerges as the most popular among students, suggesting that integrating cultural themes could captivate their attention and enhance engagement. Education follows closely with 43.9%, indicating a significant interest in learning-focused content. Technology, at 19.5%, shows some interest, but it may not be as compelling for the majority. Additionally, 17.1% of students selected "Other," which includes self-development, religion, and self-improvement, showcasing a desire for personal growth topics. This diversity in preferences offers educators valuable insights to curate podcast selections that resonate with students, ultimately enriching their learning experiences and making the material more relatable and engaging.

Question 4: How Do You Usually Listen to Podcasts?

Analysis

This question seeks to understand the methods students use to access podcasts, which can inform educators about the best ways to integrate this medium into their learning experiences. Common listening methods may include mobile apps, streaming services, or desktop computers, each offering different levels of convenience and accessibility.

If a significant number of student's report using mobile apps, it suggests a preference for on-the-go listening, indicating that educators should consider recommending podcasts that can be easily accessed through popular mobile platforms. Conversely, if many students use desktop computers, this might highlight a need for structured listening sessions during class or study hours. Understanding these listening habits allows educators to tailor their approach, ensuring that podcast content is accessible and engaging based on how students prefer to consume it.

Figure 04: Preferred Methods for Listening to Podcasts Among Students.

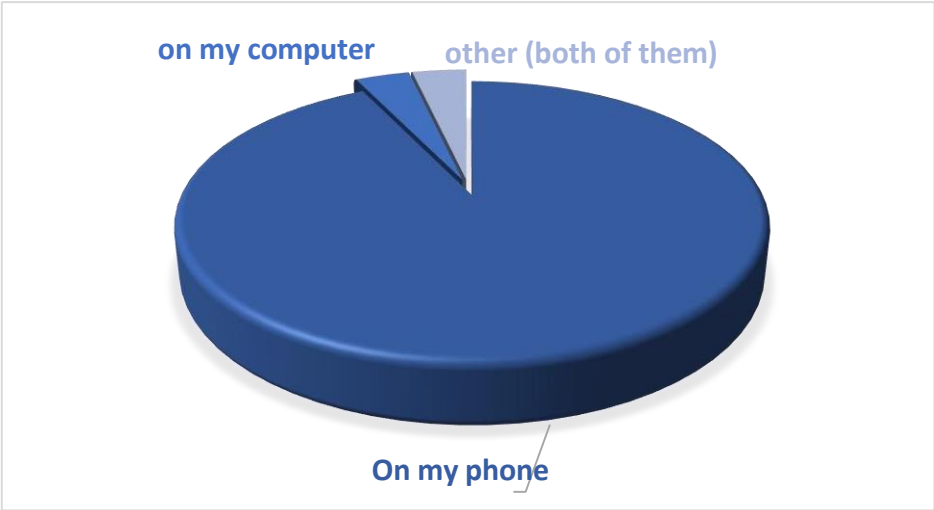


Table 04 Preferred Methods for Listening to Podcasts Among Students.

Options	Percentages
on my computer	3.6%
On my phone	92.7%
other (both of them)	3.6%

Analyzation of answers of Question 4: How Do You Usually Listen to Podcasts?

The responses to this question reveal a clear preference among students for listening to podcasts primarily on their phones, with an impressive 92.7% choosing this method. This dominance indicates that mobile accessibility is crucial for engaging students, suggesting that educators should focus on recommending podcasts that are easily accessible through popular mobile apps. In contrast, only 3.6% of students listen on their computers, while another 3.6% utilize both methods. This minimal use of desktop listening implies that educators may not need to emphasize computer-based resources. Overall, understanding these listening preferences enables educators to tailor their podcast recommendations and strategies, ensuring that content is convenient and aligned with students' habits, ultimately enhancing their learning experience.

Question 5: To What Extent Do You Believe Podcasts Have Improved Your Listening Skills?**Analysis**

This question assesses students' perceptions of the impact podcasts have had on their listening abilities, providing valuable insights into their self-assessment of skill development. Responses may range from "not at all" to "significantly," reflecting varying degrees of belief in the effectiveness of podcasts as a learning tool.

A high percentage of students reporting significant improvements would indicate that they view podcasts as a beneficial resource for enhancing their listening skills. Conversely, if many students feel that podcasts have had little to no effect, this could highlight a need for educators to better integrate podcasts into structured learning activities, ensuring that students recognize their value. Understanding these perceptions allows educators to adjust their

methods and emphasize the benefits of podcast listening, ultimately fostering a more effective learning environment.

Figure 05: Student Perceptions of Podcasts' Impact on Listening Skills

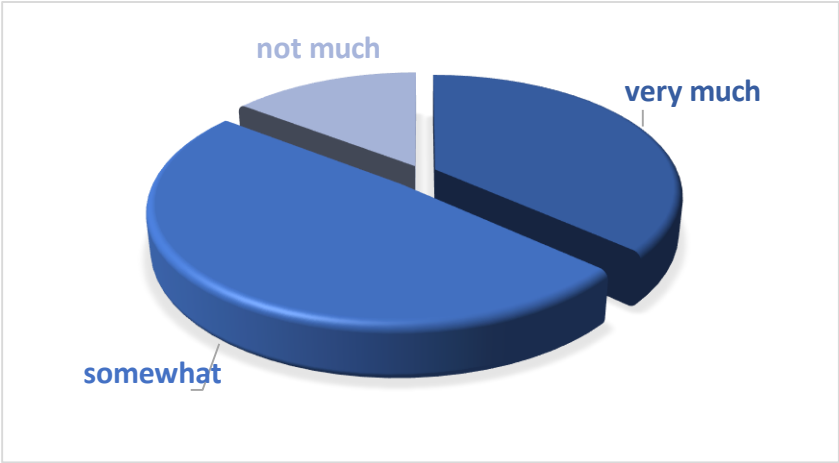


Table 05 Student Perceptions of Podcasts' Impact on Listening Skills

Options	Percentages
not much	14.6%
very much	36.6%
Somewhat	48.8%

Analyzation of answers of Question 5: To What Extent Do You Believe Podcasts Have Improved Your Listening Skills?

The responses to this question indicate a generally positive perception among students regarding the impact of podcasts on their listening skills. With 36.6% of students stating that podcasts have improved their skills "very much," and 48.8% responding "somewhat," it is clear that a significant majority recognize the value of podcasts as a learning tool. Notably, no students reported feeling that podcasts have not improved their listening skills at all, and only 14.6% indicated "not much." This suggests that most students find podcasts to be beneficial for their listening development. Educators can leverage this positive perception by

incorporating more podcasts into the curriculum, reinforcing their role in enhancing listening skills and motivating students to engage with these resources more frequently.

Question 6: Which Podcast Format Do You Find Most Engaging?

Analysis

This question aims to understand students' preferences regarding different podcast formats, which can significantly influence their engagement and learning. Popular formats may include interviews, storytelling, panel discussions, or solo commentary. Identifying the most engaging formats allows educators to curate content that resonates with students, enhancing their overall experience.

For instance, if a majority of students prefer interviews, educators can focus on podcasts that feature guest speakers or experts in relevant fields. Alternatively, if storytelling is favored, integrating narrative-driven podcasts could captivate students' attention and make learning more relatable. Understanding these preferences can help educators select the right formats to promote active listening and deeper engagement, ultimately enriching the educational experience.

Figure 06: Preferred Podcast Formats Among Students.

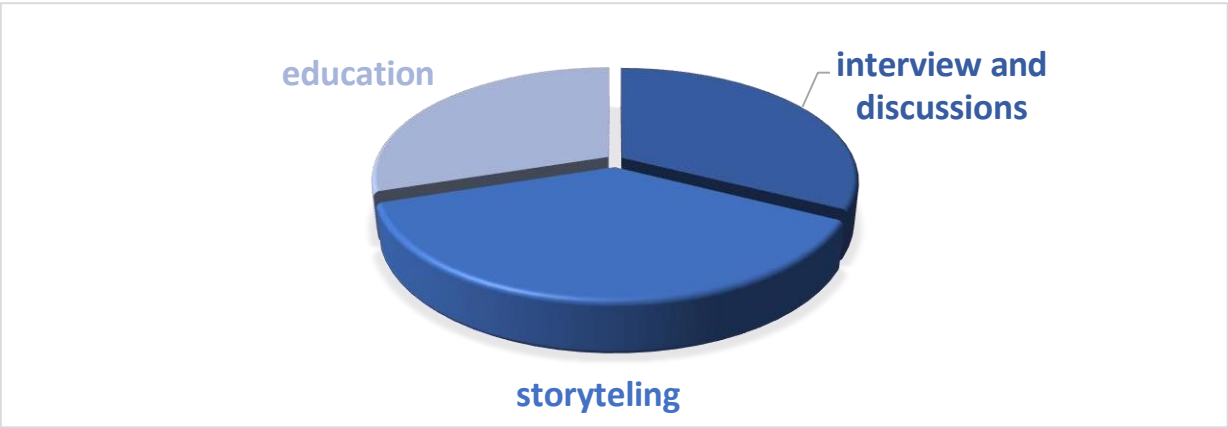


Table 06 Preferred Podcast Formats Among Students.

Options	Percentages
Storytelling	36.6%
interviews and discussions	31.7%
Education	29.3%

Analyzation of answers of Question 6: Which Podcast Format Do You Find Most Engaging?

The responses to this question reveal varied preferences for podcast formats among students. Storytelling emerges as the most engaging format, with 36.6% of students favoring it, suggesting that narrative-driven content resonates strongly and can capture their attention effectively. Both interviews and discussions are tied at 31.7%, indicating a balanced interest in these formats, which often provide diverse perspectives and in-depth insights. Educational podcasts receive a slightly lower preference at 29.3%, yet they remain relevant for those seeking informative content. Understanding these preferences allows educators to select and recommend podcast formats that align with students' interests, ultimately enhancing their engagement and enriching the learning experience.

Question 7: Have You Noticed an Improvement in Your Comprehension of Spoken English Since You Started Listening to Podcasts?

Analysis

This question assesses students' perceptions of how podcast listening has influenced their comprehension skills in spoken English. Responses may range from "yes" to "no," providing insights into the effectiveness of podcasts as a tool for language learning.

If a significant majority of student's report noticing an improvement, it underscores the value of podcasts in enhancing their understanding of spoken English, suggesting that this medium effectively exposes them to varied accents, vocabulary, and conversational styles.

Conversely, if many students feel they have not seen any improvement, it could highlight the need for more structured listening activities or supplementary resources to

support their learning. Understanding these perceptions helps educators tailor their approaches, ensuring that podcasts are integrated in ways that maximize their potential benefits for language comprehension.

Analysis of Follow-Up Questions

The follow-up questions aim to gather qualitative insights into students' experiences with podcasts and their impact on language comprehension.

1. If yes, can you describe the specific aspects of spoken English where you noticed improvement?

- This question encourages students to reflect on particular areas of growth, such as vocabulary expansion, understanding of slang, pronunciation, or overall listening comprehension. Their responses can highlight which aspects of spoken English have been most effectively enhanced through podcast listening.

2. If no, have you noticed any other benefits from listening to podcasts?

- This question invites students who did not perceive improvements in comprehension to share alternative benefits they may have gained, such as increased cultural awareness, motivation for learning, or enjoyment of the content. Understanding these benefits can help educators appreciate the broader value of podcasts in the learning experience.

Analysis the answers of Question 7: Have You Noticed an Improvement in Your Comprehension of Spoken English Since You Started Listening to Podcasts?

❖ If yes, can you describe the specific aspects of spoken English where you noticed improvement?

- 1. "Listening to native speakers use casual language, idioms, and phrasal verbs in conversations has really helped me expand my vocabulary and get better at understanding and using these expressions the right way."**

- This response highlights the benefit of exposure to authentic language use. The student emphasizes that learning idiomatic expressions and phrasal verbs has enhanced their vocabulary and comprehension, indicating a deeper understanding of conversational English.

2. **"For example pronunciation."**

- This succinct response suggests that the student has noticed improvements specifically in pronunciation. While not elaborated, it points to a recognition of the importance of clear articulation in effective communication.

3. **"I noticed an improvement in my listening and speaking skills while listening to podcasts."**

- Here, the student acknowledges overall improvements in both listening and speaking skills. This broad statement indicates that podcasts have had a significant positive impact on their language abilities.

4. **"Pronunciation and vocabulary knowledge."**

- This response reiterates the importance of both pronunciation and vocabulary. It suggests that the student recognizes these two aspects as critical components in their language development.

5. **"Pronunciation - My articulation of words has become clearer, and I'm more confident with difficult sounds and stress patterns."**

- This detailed response indicates specific improvements in pronunciation. The student feels more confident in articulating challenging sounds and managing stress patterns, which are crucial for effective communication.

6. **"Fluency - I can now speak more smoothly without frequent pauses or filler words like 'um' or 'uh'."**

- The focus on fluency reflects a significant enhancement in the student's speaking ability. The reduction of filler words indicates greater confidence and comfort in speaking, which is essential for effective communication.
7. **"Vocabulary - I use a wider range of words and expressions, which makes my speech more natural and expressive."**
- This response highlights an increase in vocabulary richness. The student's ability to use a broader range of words contributes to more natural and engaging speech, enhancing their overall communication skills.
8. **"Grammar - I make fewer grammatical mistakes while speaking, especially with verb tenses and sentence structure."**
- Acknowledging improvements in grammar signifies a deeper understanding of language mechanics. Fewer mistakes in verb tenses and sentence structure suggest that the student has gained confidence and competency in their spoken English.
9. **"Listening and Response Time - I understand spoken English more quickly and can respond more."**
- This response indicates that the student has improved their listening comprehension and reaction time. The ability to understand spoken English faster enhances conversational engagement and interaction.

The responses collectively demonstrate significant improvements in various aspects of spoken English, including vocabulary, pronunciation, fluency, grammar, and listening comprehension. Students are recognizing the multifaceted benefits of podcast listening, which not only enhances their language skills but also builds confidence in their ability to

communicate effectively. These insights can guide educators in emphasizing the effectiveness of podcasts as a valuable resource for language learning.

❖ **If no, have you noticed any other benefits from listening to podcasts?**

□ **"Concentration and new information":**

- This response indicates that the student feels podcasts help improve their focus while listening. The mention of "new information" suggests they appreciate gaining knowledge through this medium, even if it does not directly relate to comprehension improvements.

□ **"Accents":**

- This response highlights the student's awareness of different accents. It suggests that exposure to varied pronunciations in podcasts is beneficial, contributing to their understanding of spoken English and enhancing their listening skills overall.

□ **"Because I rarely listen to podcasts but other benefits it knows now things and information that I don't know before":**

- This student acknowledges limited engagement with podcasts but still identifies the acquisition of new knowledge as a benefit. This reflects a positive takeaway, indicating that even infrequent listening can provide educational value.

□ **"I don't understand the question":**

- This response reveals confusion, suggesting that the student may need clearer questions or additional context. It highlights the importance of ensuring that survey questions are easily understandable to gather meaningful data.

Question 8: What Challenges Do You Face While Listening to Podcasts in English?

Analysis

This question seeks to uncover the specific obstacles students encounter when listening to podcasts in English, which is crucial for enhancing their learning experience. One

common challenge is language complexity; students may struggle with difficult vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, or fast-paced speech, all of which can hinder comprehension.

Additionally, varied accents can pose significant difficulties, as some students might find it hard to understand speakers from different regions, leading to frustration and disengagement. Another challenge is the lack of contextual cues; podcasts often rely solely on audio, which can make it difficult for students to grasp the full meaning of discussions, especially in narrative formats where visual aids would typically provide context. Furthermore, distractions in the listening environment can significantly affect focus; external noise or multitasking may hinder students’ ability to concentrate fully on the content. Technical issues, such as poor audio quality or problems with streaming platforms, can also disrupt the listening experience, making it challenging to engage with the material effectively. By understanding these challenges, educators can tailor their approaches such as selecting more accessible content or providing supplementary resources to improve student engagement and learning outcomes.

Figure 08: Challenges Faced by Students While Listening to Podcasts in English.

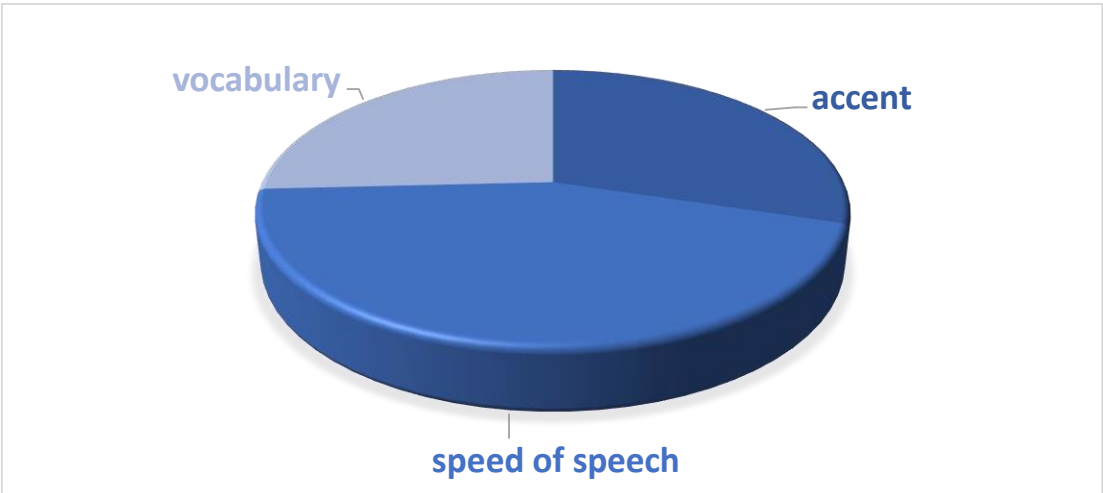


Table 07 Challenges Faced by Students While Listening to Podcasts in English.

Options	Percentages
speed of speech	56%
accents	37.5%
vocabulary	32.5%

Analyzation of answers of Question 8: What Challenges Do You Face While Listening to Podcasts in English?

The responses reveal significant challenges that students encounter when listening to podcasts in English, with notable percentages highlighting these issues. The most prominent challenge is the speed of speech, reported by 56% of students. This indicates that many find it difficult to keep up with fast-paced conversations typical in podcasts, which can lead to gaps in comprehension and frustration. The rapid delivery of information often includes idiomatic expressions and natural speech patterns that may be unfamiliar to learners, suggesting a need for resources that allow practice at varied speeds. Following this, accents are noted as a challenge by 37.5% of students. This highlights the difficulty some face in understanding speakers from diverse linguistic backgrounds, underscoring the importance of exposure to a variety of accents for developing robust listening skills.

Finally, vocabulary is cited as a challenge by 32.5% of students, indicating that unfamiliar words or specialized terms can obstruct understanding. This suggests that pre-listening vocabulary activities or glossaries could be beneficial in helping students familiarize themselves with challenging terms before engaging with the podcasts. Together, these insights provide a comprehensive understanding of the obstacles students face, allowing educators to tailor their approaches to enhance the effectiveness of podcasts as a learning tool.

□ Speed of Speech (56%):

- The most significant challenge reported is the speed of speech, with over half of the students indicating this as a barrier. This suggests that many students find it difficult to keep up with fast-paced conversations, which can lead to gaps in comprehension. This challenge may stem from a lack of familiarity with natural speech patterns, where native speakers often speak quickly and use colloquial expressions. Addressing this

issue could involve selecting podcasts with slower speech or providing students with resources that help them practice listening at varied speeds.

□ **Accents (37.5%):**

- Accents pose a challenge for 37.5% of the students, highlighting the difficulty some face in understanding speakers from different regions. This indicates that exposure to diverse accents is essential for developing listening skills. The recognition of this challenge suggests that students may benefit from targeted practice with a variety of accents to enhance their adaptability and comprehension in real-world situations.

□ **Vocabulary (32.5%):**

- Vocabulary is identified as a challenge by 32.5% of the students. This suggests that unfamiliar words or phrases can hinder understanding, particularly in contexts where podcasts feature specialized topics or idiomatic expressions. To address this, educators could encourage pre-listening vocabulary activities or provide glossaries to help students familiarize themselves with challenging terms before engaging with the podcast content.

Question 9: What Types of Podcasts Do You Think Would Be Beneficial for Enhancing Listening Skills?

Analyzation of Question 9: What Types of Podcasts Do You Think Would Be Beneficial for Enhancing Listening Skills?

This question seeks to uncover student preferences regarding the types of podcasts they believe would be most effective in enhancing their listening skills in English. Understanding these preferences is crucial for educators to select content that resonates with students and aligns with their learning needs. Students may favor podcasts that cover topics of personal interest or relevance to their studies, as engaging content can motivate them to listen more

actively and consistently. Additionally, they might suggest podcasts that match their language proficiency levels, ensuring that the vocabulary and complexity are appropriate. The variety of podcast formats such as interviews, storytelling, or panel discussions can also play a significant role, as different styles cater to various learning preferences. Furthermore, podcasts that incorporate cultural elements or real-life scenarios can enhance comprehension by providing context for language use, making the learning experience more relatable. Lastly, considerations regarding the length and pace of episodes are important; shorter, slower-paced podcasts may be more accessible for students still developing their listening skills. By analyzing these factors, educators can better tailor their approaches to include podcasts that effectively support students' listening development and overall language proficiency.

Figure 09: Preferred Podcast Types for Enhancing Listening Skills in English.

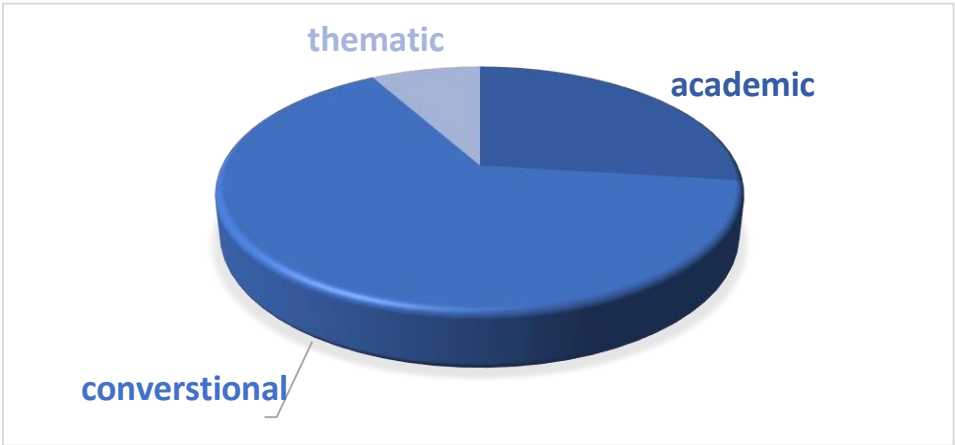


Table 08: Preferred Podcast Types for Enhancing Listening Skills in English.

Options	Percentages
thematic	8.1%
academic	27%
Conversational	64.9%

Analyzation of answers of Question 9: What Types of Podcasts Do You Think Would Be Beneficial for Enhancing Listening Skills?

The responses indicate clear preferences among students regarding the types of podcasts they believe would enhance their listening skills in English. The most favored category is conversational podcasts, with a significant 64.9% of students selecting this option. This preference suggests that students find informal, dialogue-driven content particularly engaging and accessible, as it closely mimics real-life interactions and helps them become accustomed to natural speech patterns. Conversational podcasts often feature varied accents and informal language, which can be beneficial for developing listening comprehension in everyday contexts.

In contrast, academic podcasts were chosen by 27% of respondents. While this indicates that a notable portion of students recognize the value of structured, informative content, it is significantly less popular than conversational formats. Academic podcasts may provide valuable insights and vocabulary related to specific subjects, but the more formal style might be less engaging for some learners, potentially limiting their listening practice.

Lastly, thematic podcasts, selected by only 8.1% of students, highlight a lesser interest in content that revolves around specific themes or topics. This low percentage suggests that while thematic podcasts can be useful for focused listening practice, they may not resonate as strongly with students compared to conversational formats.

Overall, these insights reveal that students are likely to benefit more from podcasts that prioritize conversational style, as they promote engagement and practical listening skills, making them a valuable resource for language learners.

Question 10: Why Do You Prefer This Type of Podcast to Others for Improving Your English Skills?

Analysis

This question seeks to uncover the reasons behind students' preferences for specific types of podcasts when enhancing their English skills. Understanding these motivations is

crucial for effective teaching and content selection. Students are likely to favor podcasts that captivate their attention, as engaging content leads to more active listening and a greater willingness to practice. Many may prefer conversational podcasts because they reflect real-life interactions, making the learning experience practical and applicable to everyday conversations.

Additionally, the exposure to varied accents, colloquial language, and informal speech patterns in these podcasts can significantly benefit listening comprehension. The informal nature of conversational podcasts may also appear less intimidating, encouraging more frequent and confident engagement with the material. Furthermore, students often appreciate the diverse topics covered, allowing them to explore various subjects while improving their language skills. By analyzing these factors, educators can better align their podcast selections with student preferences, ultimately enhancing motivation and effectiveness in language learning.

Analyzation of answers of Question 10: Why Do You Prefer This Type of Podcast to Others for Improving Your English Skills?

The students' responses reveal a strong preference for conversational podcasts as a means to improve their English skills, emphasizing various benefits that these formats provide. Many students appreciate that conversational podcasts offer a natural and engaging way to learn, which makes the listening experience more enjoyable and relatable. This engagement is crucial for maintaining motivation, as it encourages consistent practice.

A recurring theme in the responses is the real-life applicability of conversational podcasts. Students highlight that these podcasts reflect natural speech patterns and common expressions, helping them understand how English is used in everyday interactions. This exposure not only enhances their vocabulary but also boosts their fluency and comprehension, as they become familiar with the language as it is spoken by native speakers.

Students also note the dynamic nature of conversations, where they can hear multiple speakers, allowing for the acquisition of diverse vocabulary and expressions. This interaction mimics real-life scenarios, making it easier for learners to adapt their language skills to various contexts. Furthermore, the use of everyday language in these podcasts makes them more accessible and easier to understand, fostering a comfortable learning environment. Overall, the responses reflect a clear consensus that conversational podcasts are preferred for their engaging content, practical relevance, and ability to enhance vocabulary acquisition, ultimately contributing to improved communication skills in English.

1. **"I prefer conversational podcasts for improving English skills because they offer a more natural, engaging way to learn."**

- This response highlights the importance of engagement in language learning. The student values the natural flow of conversation, which likely makes the material more relatable and enjoyable.

2. **"It helps me more in communication."**

- Here, the student emphasizes practical application. They see conversational podcasts as tools that directly enhance their ability to communicate, suggesting a focus on real-life language use.

3. **"We need the conversation in our life more than other things."**

- This response underscores the necessity of conversational skills in daily life. The student prioritizes conversational practice over other language aspects, indicating a preference for learning through context.

4. **"I believe this type is one through which we can learn a lot of English vocabulary."**

- The student recognizes the vocabulary-building potential of conversational podcasts. This suggests an understanding that exposure to varied language use can enrich their lexicon.
5. **"Yes, as I mentioned before to get more real vocabs that native speakers use in their daily."**
- This reiteration reinforces the idea that exposure to authentic language is crucial. The student values learning vocabulary that is actually used by native speakers, enhancing their language relevance.
6. **"I prefer conversational podcasts because they reflect real-life language use, natural speech patterns, and common expressions."**
- The student appreciates the realistic elements of conversational podcasts. They believe that these features improve their fluency and comprehension, aligning with a practical approach to language learning.
7. **"Because it's based on conversation itself where it allows the listener to get two speakers at the same time, so he/she can take more than one benefit of vocabulary."**
- This response highlights the benefit of hearing multiple speakers, which can provide diverse perspectives and vocabulary. The student values the richness of conversational dynamics.
8. **"Because it's engaging, easy to understand, and uses everyday language."**
- The student emphasizes accessibility and engagement, indicating that podcasts that use everyday language make learning smoother and more enjoyable.
9. **"So I can discuss different types of topics."**

- This response indicates a desire for variety in learning. The ability to discuss a wide range of topics through conversational podcasts can keep the learning experience dynamic and interesting.

Question 11: How Do You Engage with the Content of the Podcasts?

Analysis

This question explores the methods students use to interact with podcast content, offering insights into their learning processes and preferences. Many students likely practice active listening by taking notes or summarizing key points, indicating a proactive approach to comprehension that reinforces learning and retention. Some may listen to episodes' multiple times, which helps solidify their understanding and improve vocabulary acquisition through repetitive exposure. Additionally, engaging in discussions with peers or educators about podcast topics allows students to articulate their thoughts and deepen their comprehension through conversation, enhancing critical thinking. Many students might also employ supplemental activities, such as using vocabulary lists or comprehension questions, which suggests a desire for structured learning alongside informal listening. Furthermore, personal reflection on how podcast content relates to their own experiences can foster a connection that enhances motivation and relevance. By understanding these engagement strategies, educators can create supportive environments that encourage active participation and critical thinking in language learning.

Figure 10: Student Engagement Strategies with Podcast Content.

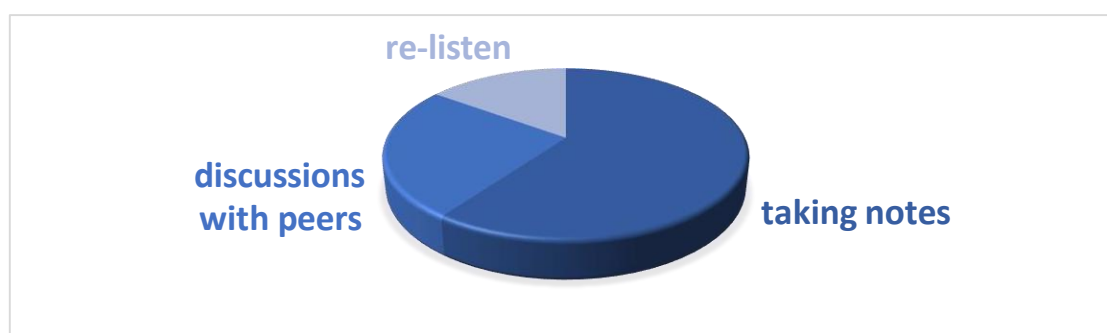


Table 09: Student Engagement Strategies with Podcast Content.

Options	Percentages
discussions with peers	25%
taking notes	60%
re-listen	15%

Analyzation of Responses to Question 11: How Do You Engage with the Content of the Podcasts?

The responses reveal distinct engagement strategies among students when interacting with podcast content. A significant majority (60%) engage by taking notes while listening, reflecting a proactive approach that reinforces understanding and retention of key concepts and vocabulary. Note taking allows students to actively process information, facilitating easier recall later. Additionally, 25% of students engage through discussions with peers, which fosters deeper comprehension and critical thinking. This collaborative method enables students to articulate their thoughts, clarify doubts, and explore different perspectives on podcast topics, enhancing motivation and accountability in their learning. Finally, 15% of students choose to re-listen to episodes, a strategy that reinforces material, particularly for complex topics or vocabulary. While this method is less common among respondents, it highlights the value of repetition in language acquisition. Overall, these strategies illustrate a strong preference for active learning, with note-taking being the most favored method, complemented by peer discussions and selective re-listening. Understanding these preferences can help educators tailor their approaches to enhance student engagement and learning outcomes.

Question 12: For a podcast episode, what is your preferred duration?

Analysis

This question aims to uncover students' preferences regarding the length of podcast episodes, which can significantly influence their listening habits and engagement levels.

Students may exhibit varying attention spans, leading to different preferences for episode lengths; shorter episodes might appeal to those who struggle to maintain focus for extended periods, while longer episodes could attract listeners interested in deeper topic exploration. Additionally, the density of content plays a role, as students may prefer episodes that cover subjects comprehensively without becoming overwhelming. Convenience is another factor, with shorter episodes being more suitable for quick listening during commutes or breaks, while longer ones may be ideal for dedicated listening sessions. Furthermore, individual learning goals can shape preferences; those seeking in-depth knowledge might favor longer episodes, whereas casual listeners may opt for shorter, more digestible segments. Understanding these preferences allows educators and content creators to tailor podcast offerings to better meet audience needs, thereby enhancing overall engagement and effectiveness in language learning.

Figure 11: Student Preferences for Podcast Episode Duration.

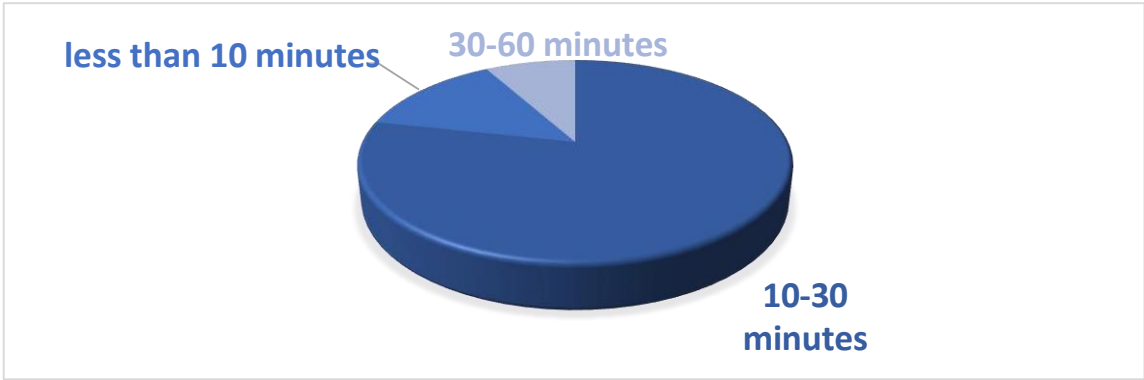


Table 10: Student Preferences for Podcast Episode Duration.

Options	Percentages
less than 10 minutes	13.5%
10-30 minutes	78.4%
30-60 minutes	8.1%

Analyzation of answer of Question 12: For a podcast episode, what is your preferred duration?

The responses regarding preferred podcast durations reveal distinct trends among students, emphasizing their listening preferences. A substantial majority (78.4%) favor episodes that are 10-30 minutes long. This preference indicates that students appreciate a format that strikes a balance between depth and digestibility, allowing them to engage with meaningful content without requiring a significant time commitment. This duration is likely ideal for fitting into their busy schedules, enabling them to listen during commutes, breaks, or while multitasking.

In contrast, only 13.5% of students prefer episodes that are less than 10 minutes. While this indicates some interest in brief content, it highlights that quick snippets may not satisfy the majority's desire for more comprehensive coverage of topics. These shorter episodes might be suitable for those seeking quick insights or casual listening but are less appealing for deeper exploration.

Lastly, a mere 8.1% of respondent's favor episodes that are 30-60 minutes long. This suggests that while some students are open to longer, more in-depth discussions, the overall preference leans toward shorter formats. The limited interest in lengthy episodes may reflect concerns about maintaining attention or the desire for more varied listening experiences.

Overall, these insights underscore the importance of offering a diverse range of podcast durations to cater to student needs. Focusing on the 10-30-minute range may enhance engagement and satisfaction, ensuring that content is accessible and relevant for learners.

Question 13: Do you plan to continue using podcasts as a tool for improving your listening skills?

Analysis

This question examines students' intentions regarding the ongoing use of podcasts for enhancing their listening skills, reflecting their perceived value of this medium as an educational tool. A positive response indicates a commitment to continuous learning and a

recognition of podcasts as effective resources for language acquisition. Students who plan to continue using podcasts likely appreciate the flexibility and accessibility they offer for improving listening comprehension. Additionally, the responses may reveal how students perceive the effectiveness of podcasts in developing their skills; those who have experienced improvements in comprehension and vocabulary are more inclined to keep utilizing this medium. The question also assesses whether students view podcasts as a staple in their study routines, suggesting that they find them complementary to traditional learning methods. Furthermore, willingness to continue may depend on the variety and relevance of available content; engaging and informative episodes can increase the likelihood of students integrating podcasts into their ongoing learning strategies. Understanding these intentions can guide educators in developing effective resources and incorporating multimedia into language instruction, ultimately supporting student engagement and skill development.

Figure 12: Student Intentions to Continue Using Podcasts for Improving Listening Skills.

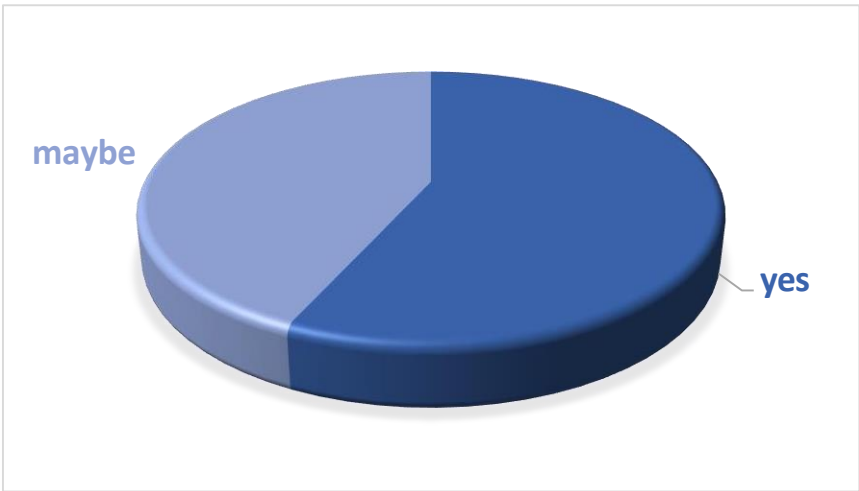


Table 11: Student Intentions to Continue Using Podcasts for Improving Listening Skills.

Options	Percentages
Yes	56.8%
No	0%
Maybe	43.2%

Analyzation of answer of Question 13: Do you plan to continue using podcasts as a tool for improving your listening skills?

The responses to this question indicate a positive trend among students regarding their intentions to continue using podcasts as a tool for enhancing their listening skills. With 56.8% of respondents answering "yes," it is clear that a majority recognize the value of podcasts in supporting their language acquisition and comprehension abilities. This suggests that students find podcasts effective and beneficial for improving their listening skills.

Additionally, 43.2% of students selected "maybe," indicating a level of uncertainty or conditional interest in continuing to use podcasts. This group may see potential in podcasts but could be influenced by factors such as content quality, relevance, or their overall learning preferences. The absence of any "no" responses is particularly noteworthy, as it highlights a lack of outright rejection of podcasts as a learning tool.

Overall, these results suggest that podcasts are viewed favorably among students, and with targeted improvements or enhancements in content, the percentage of students committed to using them could increase. This insight can inform educators about the effectiveness of incorporating podcasts into language learning strategies and the importance of continuing to provide engaging, relevant materials for students.

Open ended Question 14: Please, share any additional thoughts on the role of podcasts in your learning experience:**Analysis**

The responses to this open-ended question provide valuable insights into the impact of podcasts on students' learning journeys. Many students highlight that podcasts make learning more engaging and enjoyable, with the conversational format and varied topics capturing their interest more effectively than traditional study materials. This engagement fosters a positive learning environment. Additionally, students emphasize the accessibility and flexibility that

podcasts offer, allowing them to integrate language practice into their busy schedules whether during commutes, workouts, or downtime. The format also caters to diverse learning styles, particularly benefiting auditory learners who find that listening enhances their understanding and retention of information. Moreover, students appreciate that podcasts often present real-world language use, helping them grasp cultural nuances and practical applications of language skills. Some responses may also include constructive feedback, suggesting improvements in content variety or episode length, which can be invaluable for educators and content creators. Overall, these insights reveal the perceived benefits and challenges of using podcasts in education, guiding future enhancements to optimize their role in language learning.

❖ **These are the student's responses to this open ended question:**

- I think podcasts are very useful for language learning as they impact many lge aspects such as improvement in pronunciation and exposure to real language and being familiar with many new vocabularies
 - It very useful to improve listening and speaking skills
 - The podcast learning us about more things
 - It is very important as it improve the speaking skill
 - Podcasts have played a big role in my English learning journey. They make it easy to practice listening skills anytime. I have learned how native speakers really talk.
- Podcasts also expose me to different cultures
1. Podcasts have become an essential part of my learning routine. They expose me to different accents, improve my listening comprehension, and make learning enjoyable and more natural.
 2. It helps me to be exposed to different accents.
 3. It improves my speaking skill while it enriched me with valuable English vocabulary.

4. It encourages my listening skill where my ears started expect new words, phrases so that I expect the English language.
- It encourages my imagination and sense of creativity where i imagine the events, the old stories....
 - Podcasts played a significant role in my learning experience. They helped me improve my listening comprehension, expand my vocabulary, and get exposed to different accents and real-life conversations. Listening to podcasts regularly also made me more familiar with natural expressions and helped me think in English more easily. Overall, they made my learning process more enjoyable and effective.
 - Cultivate/mature/ self-Confident
 - They make learning fun and practical, and help me stay consistent with listening practice.
 - Engaging my vocabulary bag It.

Analysis the answers of open ended Question 14: Please, share any additional thoughts on the role of podcasts in your learning experience:

The responses indicate a strong consensus on the effectiveness of podcasts in enhancing various aspects of language learning. Many students express that podcasts significantly improve their pronunciation and expose them to real language usage, which helps them become familiar with new vocabulary. The emphasis on improving listening and speaking skills is prevalent, with students noting that podcasts foster a more natural and enjoyable learning process.

Several respondents highlight the value of exposure to different accents and cultures, which enriches their understanding of the language. This exposure not only aids in listening comprehension but also makes learning more engaging and practical. The ability to learn from

native speakers and experience authentic conversations is particularly noted as a vital component of their learning journey.

Moreover, students mention that podcasts encourage creativity and imagination, allowing them to visualize stories and scenarios. This imaginative engagement further deepens their connection to the language. Overall, the insights reflect that podcasts have become essential tools in students' learning routines, making language acquisition more effective and enjoyable while promoting consistency in practice.

Question 15: What specific features do you look for in a podcast to help improve your English skills?

Analyzation of Question 15: What specific features do you look for in a podcast to help improve your English skills?

This question aims to identify the characteristics that students value in podcasts for enhancing their English language skills. Many respondents emphasize the importance of content relevance, seeking topics that are interesting and applicable to their lives, as engaging content keeps them motivated. Clarity and quality of speech are also prioritized, with students noting that clear pronunciation and high audio quality are crucial for effective listening practice. Additionally, exposure to different accents is a key feature, as it prepares learners for real-world conversations with diverse speakers, enhancing their listening comprehension. Some students appreciate structured learning approaches, such as vocabulary lists or discussion questions, which reinforce their understanding. Cultural insights are another valued aspect, as they provide deeper context and practical applications of the language. Lastly, interactive elements that encourage engagement, such as quizzes or prompts for self-reflection, can significantly enhance the learning experience. Overall, understanding these desired features can guide educators and content creators in tailoring podcasts to better meet students' needs, ultimately improving their language learning outcomes.

Analyzation of answers of Question 15: What specific features do you look for in a podcast to help improve your English skills?

The responses to this question highlight several key features that students seek in podcasts to enhance their English language skills. A common theme is the emphasis on clear pronunciation, which is crucial for understanding and following along, especially for those still developing their vocabulary and listening abilities. Many students express a preference for moderate speaking speed, as this allows them to process the information more effectively without feeling overwhelmed.

Additionally, respondents value engaging and relevant topics that reflect real-life situations, as these make the learning experience more meaningful and applicable. The inclusion of transcripts is also frequently mentioned, as it provides a valuable resource for learners to follow the dialogue and reinforce their understanding of vocabulary and phrasing.

Several students specifically mention a focus on conversational podcasts, appreciating the natural flow of dialogue and how speakers transition between ideas. This format helps them grasp everyday language use and improve their speaking skills. Lastly, a desire for variety in accents is noted, which aids in exposure to different pronunciations and enriches listening comprehension.

Overall, these insights reveal that students are looking for podcasts that combine clarity, relevance, and engagement, which can significantly enhance their language learning experience.

❖ These are the student's responses to this question with its analyzation:

1. Clear pronunciation makes it easier to understand and follow along, especially if

I am still building my vocabulary and listening skills.

- Emphasizes the importance of clarity for comprehension, especially for learners developing their skills.

2. Language and accents.

- Highlights a desire for exposure to different accents, indicating an interest in diverse linguistic backgrounds.

3. Clear and slow speech.

- Prioritizes a moderate pace for better understanding, particularly for learners still acquiring language skills.

4. Maybe I choose clear and natural conversation/relevant topics.

- Indicates a preference for authenticity in dialogue and topics that are applicable to real-life situations.

5. I look for podcasts that include clear pronunciation, a moderate speaking speed, transcripts, and engaging topics that reflect real-life situations.

- Lists multiple desired features, emphasizing clarity, pacing, transcripts, and relevance to daily life.

6. Recently I am focusing more on "conversational podcasts" content and getting more deeply into the way of dialogue and how the speakers move from one idea to another, and how they explain different situations in their speech.

- Shows an interest in understanding natural dialogue and the dynamics of conversation, enhancing both listening and speaking skills.

7. Formal English.

- Suggests a preference for structured language, possibly indicating a desire for academic or professional context.

8. When choosing a podcast to improve my English skills, I look for clear pronunciation, engaging and understandable topics, and a moderate speaking speed. I also prefer podcasts that provide transcripts, use everyday vocabulary,

and feature a variety of accents. Having hosts who speak naturally but not too fast helps me develop both my listening and speaking skills.

- A comprehensive response that encompasses clarity, engagement, transcripts, and exposure to everyday language and accents.

9. I do not know.

- Indicates uncertainty or a lack of specific criteria, suggesting a need for more guidance in choosing effective podcasts.

10. Clear pronunciation, natural conversation, useful vocabulary, and transcripts if possible.

- Summarizes key features desired by learners, focusing on clarity, practicality, and support materials.

11. Clear accent and simple vocabularies.

- Prioritizes accessibility in language use, highlighting the need for understandable speech and vocabulary.

These responses collectively illustrate that students value clarity, relevance, and natural language use in podcasts, which can greatly enhance their language learning experience.

Discussion of Data Analysis and Findings

In this chapter, we explore the pivotal role that podcasts play in enhancing the listening skills of third-year English language learners at MKU of Biskra. The data collected from student responses reveals several key insights that align with the existing literature on language acquisition and the use of multimedia tools in education.

Firstly, students overwhelmingly appreciate clear pronunciation and moderate speaking speed in podcasts. This finding underscores the importance of accessible language input, which facilitates comprehension, especially for learners who may still be developing their

vocabulary and listening skills. This resonates with research suggesting that clarity in audio materials is crucial for effective language learning.

Moreover, the preference for engaging and relevant topics indicates that students are motivated by content that resonates with their personal experiences and interests. This aligns with constructivist theories of learning, which emphasize the significance of contextual and meaningful learning experiences.

The frequent mention of transcripts as a desired feature further highlights the importance of supportive materials. Transcripts not only aid in comprehension but also reinforce vocabulary acquisition, allowing students to engage more deeply with the content. This finding supports existing studies that advocate for the integration of supplementary materials in language learning.

The enthusiasm for conversational podcasts reflects a growing recognition of the value of authentic language use. Students are eager to understand natural dialogue and the nuances of real-life conversations, which is vital for developing their speaking and listening skills. This focus on conversational practice is consistent with communicative language teaching principles, which advocate for exposure to natural language in context.

Additionally, the desire for exposure to different accents highlights the students' awareness of linguistic diversity and its importance in real-world communication. This aligns with the need for learners to adapt to various speech patterns, which is essential for effective interaction in increasingly multicultural environments.

In summary, the findings indicate that podcasts serve as a valuable tool for enhancing listening skills among English language learners. The combination of clarity, engaging content, and authentic language use contributes to a more effective and enjoyable learning experience. Future recommendations may include the integration of podcasts with structured learning activities and the development of specific criteria for selecting effective audio

materials, ensuring that students can fully leverage the benefits of this medium in their language-learning journey.

Conclusion

This study has explored the role of podcasts in enhancing listening skills among third-year English language learners at MKU of Biskra. The findings indicate that podcasts are not only a valuable resource for improving comprehension and vocabulary but also serve to engage students in meaningful learning experiences.

Students expressed a strong preference for clear pronunciation, moderate speaking speeds, and engaging topics that reflect real-life situations. The inclusion of transcripts further supports their learning, allowing for deeper engagement with the material. Additionally, the emphasis on conversational podcasts highlights the importance of exposure to authentic language use, which is essential for developing effective communication skills.

Overall, this research demonstrates that integrating podcasts into language learning can significantly enhance students' listening skills and overall language proficiency. As educational tools, podcasts offer flexibility and accessibility, making them an effective complement to traditional learning methods. Future efforts should focus on curating high-quality podcast content and incorporating structured activities to maximize the benefits of this medium in English language education.

Suggestions and Recommendations

Podcasts have emerged as a powerful tool in language education, offering students engaging and authentic listening experiences. This section presents suggestions and recommendations to effectively integrate podcasts into the English language curriculum. By leveraging diverse content, structured activities, and supportive resources, educators can enhance students' listening skills and overall language proficiency, creating a dynamic and relevant learning environment.

1. **Curriculum Integration:** Incorporate podcasts into the English curriculum for regular exposure to authentic language.
2. **Diverse Content Selection:** Curate podcast topics that reflect students' interests and real-life scenarios.
3. **Use of Transcripts:** Provide transcripts to aid comprehension and reinforce vocabulary retention.
4. **Structured Activities:** Develop activities like comprehension questions and group discussions based on podcast content.
5. **Feedback Mechanisms:** Implement regular feedback to assess student satisfaction and learning outcomes.
6. **Professional Development:** Offer training for educators on integrating podcasts effectively into teaching.
7. **Collaborative Learning:** Encourage group projects and discussions based on podcast episodes.

8. **Exploring Different Accents:** Include podcasts with various English accents to enhance listening adaptability.
9. **Longitudinal Studies:** Conduct studies to explore the long-term effects of podcast use on language proficiency.
10. **Technology Access:** Ensure students have access to necessary technology and platforms for podcast listening.

General Conclusion

This study has thoroughly investigated the role of podcasts in enhancing listening skills among third-year English language learners at MKU of Biskra. The findings indicate that podcasts serve as an effective pedagogical tool that significantly contributes to students' language acquisition and engagement. By providing clear pronunciation, moderate speaking speeds, and relatable content, podcasts create an accessible learning environment that fosters listening comprehension.

The integration of podcasts into language education aligns with the principles outlined in Chapter 01, which emphasizes the importance of authentic language exposure and communicative practices. The research demonstrates that students benefit from the engaging nature of podcasts, which not only enrich their vocabulary but also enhance their overall language proficiency.

Furthermore, the methodological insights presented in Chapter 02 reveal that students value supplementary materials, such as transcripts, which facilitate deeper engagement with the content. This underscores the necessity of incorporating supportive resources to maximize the effectiveness of podcasts in language learning.

In light of the discussions in Chapter 03, this research advocates for the systematic integration of podcasts into language curricula. By doing so, educators can leverage the motivational aspects of podcasts to create a dynamic learning environment that meets the diverse needs of students. As language education continues to evolve, the findings of this study highlight the potential of multimedia tools, such as podcasts, to transform traditional teaching methods and enhance the overall educational experience.

In conclusion, the positive impact of podcasts on listening skills reinforces the importance of innovation in language education. As educators embrace these modern resources, they can better equip students for effective communication in an increasingly interconnected world. Future research should continue to explore the multifaceted benefits of podcasts and other digital tools, ensuring that language learning remains relevant, engaging, and effective.

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The Student's Questionnaire**University Mohamed Kheider of Biskra****Faculty of Letters and Languages****Department of English and Literature*****Questionnaire***

Podcasts have emerged as a dynamic and accessible tool for enhancing English language skills, particularly listening comprehension. As audio-based resources, they offer learners the opportunity to engage with authentic language input, diverse accents, and real-world topics. This questionnaire aims to explore the role of podcasts in improving listening skills among third-year English language students at Mohamed Kheider University (MKU) of Biskra. By focusing on learners' experiences, preferences, and outcomes, this study seeks to uncover the potential of podcasts as an innovative educational medium in English as a Foreign Language (EFL) learning. Your responses will contribute valuable insights into how podcasts can be effectively integrated into language learning curricula to foster greater proficiency and engagement.

Thank You for Your Valuable Feedback!

1. Do you know what is a podcast?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

2. How often do you listen to podcasts?

- ☐ Daily
- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ Rarely

3. What topics do you prefer in podcasts?

- ☐ Education
- ☐ Culture
- ☐ Technology
- ☐ Other, specify: _____

4. How do you usually listen to podcasts?

- ☐ On my phone
- ☐ On my computer
- ☐ Other, specify: _____

5. To what extent do you believe podcasts have improved your listening skills?

- ☐ Very Much
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ Not Much
- ☐ Not at All

6. Which podcast format do you find most engaging?

- ☐ Interviews
- ☐ Storytelling
- ☐ Discussions
- ☐ Education

7. Have you noticed an improvement in your comprehension of spoken English since you started listening to podcasts?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

- **If yes,** can you describe the specific aspects of spoken English where you noticed improvement?

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- **If no,** have you noticed any other benefits from listening to podcasts?"

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8. What challenges do you face while listening to podcasts in English?

- ☐ Accents
- ☐ Speed of speech
- ☐ Vocabulary
- ☐ Other, specify: _____

9. What types of podcasts do you think would be beneficial for enhancing listening skills?

- ☐ Academic
- ☐ Conversational
- ☐ Thematic

10. Why do you prefer this type of podcast to others for improving your English skills?

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11. How do you engage with the content of the podcasts?

- ☐ Taking notes
- ☐ Discussing with peers
- ☐ Re-listening
- ☐ Other, specify: _____

12. For a podcast episode, what is your preferred duration?

- ☐ Less than 10 minutes
- ☐ 10-30 minutes
- ☐ 30-60 minutes
- ☐ More than 60 minutes

13. Do you plan to continue using podcasts as a tool for improving your listening skills?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

14. Please, share any additional thoughts on the role of podcasts in your learning experience:

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15. What specific features do you look for in a podcast to help improve your English skills?

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Résumé

Cette étude examine le rôle des podcasts dans l'amélioration des compétences d'écoute des étudiants de troisième année en langue anglaise à MKU de Biskra. En utilisant une approche mixte, les résultats indiquent que les étudiants privilégient une prononciation claire, des vitesses de parole modérées et des sujets engageants reflétant des situations de la vie réelle. L'inclusion de transcriptions améliore la compréhension et la rétention du vocabulaire. Les étudiants montrent une forte préférence pour les podcasts conversationnels, soulignant la valeur de l'utilisation d'une langue authentique. Cette recherche préconise l'intégration des podcasts dans les programmes d'enseignement des langues pour renforcer l'engagement et la motivation, contribuant ainsi à la littérature plus large sur l'apprentissage multimédia dans l'éducation linguistique.

Mots-clés : podcasts, compétences d'écoute, apprenants de la langue anglaise, acquisition de la langue, apprentissage multimédia, éducation.

ملخص

تدرس هذه الدراسة دور البودكاست في تحسين مهارات الاستماع لدى طلاب السنة الثالثة في اللغة الإنجليزية في جامعة MKU ببسكرة. باستخدام منهج مختلط، تشير النتائج إلى أن الطلاب يفضلون النطق الواضح، وسرعات الكلام المتوسطة، والمواضيع الجذابة التي تعكس تجارب الحياة الواقعية. كما أن تضمين النصوص يعزز الفهم والاحتفاظ بالمفردات. يُظهر الطلاب تفضيلاً قوياً للبودكاست القائم على المحادثات، مما يبرز قيمة استخدام اللغة الأصلية. تدعو هذه الدراسة إلى دمج البودكاست في المناهج اللغوية لتعزيز الانخراط والتحفيز، مما يساهم في الأدبيات الأوسع حول التعلم متعدد الوسائط في التعليم اللغوي.

الكلمات المفتاحية: البودكاست، مهارات الاستماع، متعلمو اللغة الإنجليزية، اكتساب اللغة، التعلم

متعدد الوسائط، التعليم.