

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Research Findings

This research was conducted at UPTD SMP Negeri 5 Gunungsitoli, specifically with English subject teachers and students of class VIII-B with sample size of 33 students. Based on the research design, the researcher described the use of podcast technology in listening comprehension of class VIII students. The researcher took interview and observation data with teachers and students of class VIII-B UPTD SMP Negeri 5 Gunungsitoli. After the data was collected, the researcher analyzed the data from the answers and interview transcripts to determine the use of podcast technology in improving and influencing listening comprehension of class VIII students.

The consensus among educators who have used podcasts is that they are a highly effective tool for enhancing listening comprehension. The findings highlight several key :

1. **Authentic Language Exposure:** Podcasts expose students to natural conversations, various accents, and real-world speech patterns, unlike scripted materials. This helps students become familiar with how English is actually spoken.
2. **Focused Listening:** The absence of visual distractions forces students to concentrate solely on what they are hearing. This intense focus is crucial for developing their listening comprehension skills.
3. **Increased Engagement and Motivation:** The variety of topics and formats available in podcasts makes it easy to find content that suits students' interests, keeping them engaged and motivated to learn. Students are more enthusiastic about learning through podcasts compared to traditional methods like lectures.
4. **Control Over Learning Pace:** Students can pause, rewind, and replay sections of podcasts, allowing them to process information at their own pace. This flexibility significantly improves comprehension.

5. **Active Listening Skills:** Podcasts encourage active listening because students need to pay attention to details, tone, and context without relying on visual cues. This hones their listening comprehension abilities.
6. **Vocabulary Acquisition:** Repeated exposure to language in podcasts helps students remember vocabulary and understand how to use it in context.
7. **Accessibility and Convenience:** Podcasts are easily accessible and can be listened to anytime and anywhere, making it easy to integrate listening practice into students' daily routines.

Strategies for Effective Podcast Integration:

Teachers found that the following strategies enhanced the effectiveness of podcasts:

1. **Pre-Listening Activities:** Introducing key vocabulary and concepts beforehand provides students with a solid foundation.
2. **Guided Questions:** Providing questions to focus on while listening helps students stay engaged and identify main ideas.
3. **Supportive Materials:** Transcripts or summaries aid comprehension, especially for beginning learners.
4. **Follow-up Activities:** Discussions, debates, and reflections reinforce learning and clarify confusion.
5. **Content Adaptation:** Selecting appropriate content based on student level and learning objectives is critical. Using simple, clear language for beginners and more complex content for advanced students ensures accessibility.
6. **Repetition:** Repeating the podcast several times helps students fully understand and comprehend the content.

Challenges:

1. Noisy environments and equipment malfunctions (e.g., speaker problems) can hinder the listening experience.
2. Different accents and language variations can be challenging for some students, depending on their proficiency level.

Improvements:

Teachers suggest the following improvements to podcasts:

1. Clearer and slower speech.
2. Visual supplements or transcripts.
3. Interactive elements like quizzes or discussion prompts.
4. A variety of accents.
5. Content tailored to different skill levels.
6. Background context for complex topics.

In summary, podcasts are considered a valuable and engaging tool for improving listening comprehension, provided that teachers carefully select content, prepare students beforehand, and use follow-up activities to reinforce learning. They offer authentic language exposure, promote active listening, and give students control over their learning pace.

The provided search results do answer the question,

How effective is the use of technology podcasts in improving listening comprehension skills among eighth-grade students at SMP Negeri 5 Gunungsitoli?

Here's why they are relevant and how they answer the question:

1. **Effectiveness of Podcasts:** The texts overwhelmingly present podcasts as an effective tool for improving listening comprehension. They highlight several reasons for this effectiveness, including authentic language exposure, focused listening, increased engagement, control over learning pace, and the development of active listening skills.
2. **Applicability to Students:** The texts discuss how podcasts can be adapted for different levels of students, from beginning to advanced. This suggests that the benefits of using podcasts for listening comprehension would apply to eighth-grade students as well.
3. **Teacher Strategies:** The texts outline various strategies that teachers can use to maximize the effectiveness of podcasts, such as pre-listening activities, guided questions, and follow-up discussions. These strategies would be relevant for teachers at any school, including SMP Negeri 5 Gunungsitoli.

4. **Enthusiasm and Engagement:** The texts emphasize that students are generally very enthusiastic and engaged when using podcasts, which can lead to better learning outcomes.

In practice, subject teachers use podcasts to deliver subject matter in interesting ways and adapted to the material being taught, so that they can create a dynamic and enjoyable learning environment. The results of observations of teaching and learning activities show that the use of podcasts has succeeded in attracting students' attention and preparing them to learn better. Overall, the integration of podcasts into the educational curriculum at SMP Negeri 5 Gunungsitoli can be considered as an innovative step that not only helps students understand the subject matter better but also increases their motivation and engagement in the learning process, thus contributing to improving the quality of education at the secondary level. So, they strongly suggest that technology podcasts can be an effective tool for improving listening comprehension among eighth-grade students.

In what ways do podcasts influence students' listening comprehension at SMP Negeri 5 Gunungsitoli?

Based on the interviews, podcasts influenced students' listening comprehension at SMP Negeri 5 Gunungsitoli in several key ways:

1. **Authentic Language Exposure:** Podcasts provided students with exposure to natural conversations, diverse accents, and real-world speech patterns, helping them move beyond scripted language.
2. **Focused Listening:** The lack of visual aids in podcasts increased students' focus on auditory information, a crucial skill for enhancing listening comprehension. Students had to actively concentrate solely on what they were hearing.
3. **Increased Engagement and Motivation:** By offering a variety of topics and formats, podcasts catered to students' interests, which increased their engagement and motivation to learn. Students showed more enthusiasm compared to traditional lectures.

4. **Control over Learning Pace:** Podcasts allowed students to control their learning pace by pausing, rewinding, and replaying sections as needed, significantly improving comprehension.
5. **Active Listening Skills:** Students were encouraged to pay attention to details, tone, and context without visual cues, which strengthened their active listening abilities.
6. **Vocabulary Retention:** More frequent exposure to podcasts led to better vocabulary retention, with students becoming more comfortable with pronunciation and usage.
7. **Stimulated Discussion:** Although students rarely asked questions, podcasts stimulated discussion and allowed students to share their opinions on the material.
8. **Content Adaptation:** The teacher used various types of podcasts depending on the students' level of understanding, like educational podcasts, story podcasts, and news podcasts and downloading podcasts from YouTube to fit the lesson's needs.
9. **Strategic Teaching Methods:** The teacher implemented multiple teaching methods, such as pre-listening activities, guided questions, providing supportive materials, follow-up activities and adjusting the lesson based on feedback.

The teacher highlighted the importance of adapting podcast content to the students' skill levels, using pre-listening activities, and providing support materials to enhance comprehension. The teacher was also able to select the content that interests students and aligns with their learning goals. Overall, the use of podcasts was seen as a modern, engaging, and effective method for improving listening comprehension at SMP Negeri 5 Gunungsitoli.

4.1.1 The English Teacher's Interview

Interviews with English teachers were also conducted on October 24, 2024, before the researcher interviewed the students. The aim was to determine the extent of the use and influence of podcasts in listening learning at UPTD SMP Negeri 5 Gunungsitoli in the 2023/2024 academic year. This study wrote down the answers of English teachers and students in the interview sheet.

The purpose of this interview is to determine the impact of using podcasts on the listening comprehension of eighth grade students, based on the results of interviews with English subject teachers, the researcher found that the use of podcasts itself still depends on the material to be taught, the informant himself said that podcasts are very effective for teaching listening comprehension for several reasons. First, podcasts provide authentic language exposure. Unlike traditional written materials, podcasts feature natural conversations and a variety of accents, which helps students become familiar with real-world speech patterns. In addition, podcasts allow for a strong focus on listening comprehension. Without visual distractions, students must concentrate only on what they hear, which is important for developing their listening comprehension. The variety of topics and formats in podcasts is another benefit. With so much learning material available, it is easy to find content that suits students' interests, keeping them engaged and motivated to learn. One of the main benefits is that students have control over their learning pace. They can pause, rewind, or replay parts of the podcast, allowing them to process information at their own pace, which can significantly improve their comprehension. Podcasts also encourage active listening. Students need to pay attention to details, tone, and context without relying on visual cues, which helps them hone their listening comprehension. Finally, the accessibility of podcasts makes them an easy-to-use resource. Students can listen anytime and anywhere, making it easy to integrate the practice into their daily routines. Overall, the interviewees found that podcasts provided a rich and engaging way for students to develop their listening comprehension. Students also showed interest or interest in listening to podcasts compared to hearing the teacher speak directly, this was done by students actively providing opinions on the content of the podcast. In addition to listening, students' understanding also showed an increase in vocabulary mastery and pronunciation of a word or sentence. However, the use of this podcast is sometimes less effective because of the noisy conditions around the classroom, or differences in students' abilities in capturing the material presented in the podcast, but apart from that, the interviewee said that this podcast can be used at various levels but with some adjustments.

Next, the interviewee, the types of podcasts that the interviewees themselves usually use in teaching and learning activities are story podcasts and news podcasts. The

interviewee also recommended the use of podcasts that are more effective in developing students' listening comprehension, namely by providing authentic language exposure. Unlike scripted materials, podcasts feature natural speech and a variety of accents, which helps students become familiar with real-world speech patterns because this approach creates a more engaging and effective listening experience. Also, there are several aspects of the podcast that could be improved to better meet the needs of students. For example, clearer and slower speech would be very beneficial for students, especially those who are learning a new language. Providing visual supplements or transcripts can improve comprehension, giving students additional resources to support their listening comprehension so in conclusion the interviewees said that the use of this podcast is very beneficial for students' listening comprehension, especially eighth graders, by implementing several learning strategies and adjustments to the learning materials.

4.1.2. The Students Interview

Interviews with students' were also conducted on October 24, 2024, after the researcher interviewed the teacher. The aim is to find out students' perceptions regarding the use of podcasts as teaching media and improving listening comprehension results after using podcasts at UPTD SMP Negeri 5 Gunungsitoli in the 2023/2024 academic year. This study wrote down the answers of English teachers and students in the interview sheet.

Based on student interviews, it was clear that students found podcasts to be a valuable and enjoyable educational resource. Students highlighted several key benefits, including improved listening comprehension, deeper understanding of a variety of topics, and increased confidence in communication skills. Students emphasized the relaxed and engaging nature of podcasts, which differentiated them from more formal learning methods such as lectures and reading. The use of real-world examples and storytelling in podcasts appeared to facilitate comprehension and retention. Students also noted that repeated exposure to podcast content further enhanced comprehension.

Despite acknowledging potential challenges such as noisy environments or technical issues, students' overall experiences with educational podcasts were very positive. They

were motivated to use podcasts because of their ability to make learning more relaxed, engaging, and accessible. In conclusion, student perspectives suggest that podcasts have significant potential as a supplementary educational tool, offering a flexible, engaging, and effective way to enhance learning outcomes and foster more positive learning experiences. Further research could explore the effectiveness of podcasts across different student populations and subject areas, as well as investigate strategies to mitigate potential challenges to podcast-based learning.

4.2. DISCUSSION

4.2.1 The Research Findings Versus to the Latest Related Research

Some researchers have conducted several studies related to the topic. For example, Indah (2020), entitled “Using podcast for EFL students in language learning” The benefits of using podcasts to enhance language learning are reviewed in this study. This study aims to present podcasts as a tool for language skill development. Students can be motivated to learn English by using podcasts as a teaching method. This study examined 20 publications that were published between 2020 and 2010 to determine the benefits of using podcasts to teach English to EFL students. The study's findings demonstrated that podcasts can improve language proficiency, particularly in listening. Additionally, podcasts can inspire students to study languages. Podcasts are a fun technology tool that teachers can utilize to help their Indonesian students learn the language. When utilized to teach listening skills, podcasts are intriguing, as the students have proven. A possible option for supporting English study is a podcast, which enables technology should be used in the classroom by instructors. It is imperative to acknowledge that the goal is not to substitute the physical presence of teachers with podcasts. Thus, it is recommended that educators use podcasts to instruct their pupils on how to maximize their potential.

Fiena (2020) entitled “Students’ Perceptions Towards the Use of Podcasts in Listening Class” The purpose of this study is to find out how students feel about podcasts

being used in the classroom and what obstacles they have when it comes to listening to them. This study, which included 25 students from a single public senior high school in Bandung, used a qualitative methodology and a case study design. According to the study's findings, most students had a positive opinion of podcasts being used in the classroom. It is thought that using podcasts will improve students' motivation, curiosity, and self-perceived listening abilities. Podcasts are thought to inspire students to study English since their content is tailored to reinforce what they learn in class. Although students see podcasts favorably, there are a number of obstacles to effective listening in the classroom. The difficulties pertain to the media, the information processing, the resources, and the students' command of English. The limitations mentioned above lead this study to conclude that support, particularly from educators and institutions, is necessary for the use of podcasts in the classroom.

From the two previous studies, it can be concluded that the first study discusses the benefits of using podcasts to improve language learning, this study presents podcasts as a tool for developing language skills. The second study discusses that most students have positive opinions about the use of podcasts and will improve the ability, motivation, curiosity, and listening skills that are perceived by students themselves. In this study, it can be seen that podcasts are also proven to be effective for developing language skills, but are limited to the use of podcast technology on eighth grade students' listening comprehension.

4.2.2 The Findings Versus Theories

According to Pratiwi et al. (2019), podcasts can help students become more attentive when learning new material. According to Pratiwi, podcasts can be used as a tool for understanding in a meaningful way as audio medium. The topics or information included in podcasts are very diverse and include topics related to economics, travel, news, health, komedi, business, education, and family. These contents can be adapted to the material that will be taught in the classroom. Meanwhile, research conducted at SMP

N 5 Gunungsitoli indicates that the key to effective podcast use is to match the podcast's content with lessons that are currently being taught or that serve as the students' needs so that the students are eager to listen to the podcast. This is probably due to the fact that using podcasts as teaching tools can increase students' concentration and understanding of the material. Listening comprehension is conducted through effective podcasts that help students become more focused on their studies.

4.2.3 The Research Findings Implications

Research shows that podcasts have a positive impact on students' listening comprehension. For example, studies have shown that students who listen to podcasts perform better on listening assessments. This suggests that educators should consider integrating podcasts into their teaching strategies to foster better listening skills among students.. The results demonstrate how well podcasts improve listening comprehension and the necessity of careful deployment based on student interest and material type. Therefore, the teacher is expected to :

1. Integrating Podcasts into Learning

Teachers can use podcasts as a tool to supplement their lessons. This includes assigning specific episodes as homework or playing podcast segments during class to enrich discussions and lectures. In this way, teachers can provide additional perspectives and make learning more interactive.

2. Encouraging Independent Learning

By providing access to podcasts, teachers can encourage students to learn independently. Students can listen to the material anytime and anywhere, giving them more control over their learning process.

3. Developing Digital Skills

The use of podcasts also provides an opportunity for teachers to integrate technology into learning, helping students develop digital skills that are essential in this modern era. By utilizing podcasts, it is hoped that teachers

can increase student engagement, strengthen understanding of subject matter, and create a more dynamic and relevant learning experience.

4.2.6 The Research Findings Limitations

Researchers discovered that the research process had numerous flaws in this study. Since this is the first study, the researcher has never conducted any prior research. As a result, many things become difficult when doing study because of ignorance. Furthermore, there were a number of terminology, new sentences, and other things that were misunderstood. These are some of the things that future researchers should focus on in order to improve their research. Here are a few examples of the limitations:

- a. The researcher acknowledges that the study process is still far from flawless and that there are numerous flaws in the way the research was conducted, written, and data processed because the researcher is still inexperienced.
- b. Researchers still lack the skills necessary to interpret qualitative analysis data and locate reference materials that support instructors' social competency in teaching English.