

ANALYZING PODCAST APPLICATION TO IMPROVE LISTENING ABILITY

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Abstract

The aim of this research is to find out whether Podcast Applications (learning english-free english podcast listening application) that was released by the British Council, will help to improve listening ability. While listening to the episode, on screen will appear script that what student listen. It is make listeners to know what discussed in it. The purpose of the use of this application is that the student can improve listening ability with continuous listening and getting used to being in an English environment. This research is qualitative research with case study method. The research finding showed that podcast application could improve student ability. After heard the podcast, the students could understand, received and respond the speakers of the application. It is indicates that the application is very useful for learning English especially in listening ability with an easier way and in accordance in this era.

Keywords: Podcast Listening, Podcast application, Application to improve listening

INTRODUCTION

Smartphones and the Internet is a unity that cannot be separated. Everyone needs both to be able to work, get information, news, entertainment, even studying while using the internet. Students of this era is not always having to come to the campus to study when teaching learning process can be done with online.

No exception to the students of English Program at IKIP Siliwangi as well. They utilize their smartphone and Internet to study too. However, they have some limitations in English ability. Especially in listening ability. This is caused due to the lack of English, Their environment that is less supportive, less adequate facilities and other things. "Listening is the process of receiving, constructing meaning from, and responding to spoken and/ or nonverbal messages" (An ILA Definition of Listening, 1995). One of the solutions to reach communicative with other people is listening. Listening is one of skills that students needs. However, listening ability such as the big problem in english skills. Nicholes (1981) describes some familiar characteristics of poor listening: (1) condemning a speaker's subject as uninteresting; (2) criticizing the speaker's delivery rather than focusing on the message; (3) preparing an answer to a point or question before comprehending it; (4) listening only for facts; (5) wasting the advantage of thought speed over speech speed; (6) tolerating or creating distractions; (7) faking attention; (8) permitting personal prejudices to interfere; (9) avoiding difficult material; and (10) attempting to take outline notes even when the message isn't structured to be outlined. According to Gutierrez (2009: 21) the listener's purpose in listening varies from situations to situations; each purpose has its own requirements and skill that are needed to achieve the goals of communication process (1) to obtain and exchange basic information, thus; gaining knowledge, (2) to make intellectual judgments and fair criticisms as well as evaluate ideas, (3) to seek enjoyment, entertainment, and pleasure; (4) to give logical and intellectual answers. Listening is a complex process an integral part of the total

communication process. Kline (1996: 15) explained process of listening are: (1) Receiving, this step is easily understood. For example someone give information to the others. (2) Attending, it is attention can be given to only one stimulus at a time. And necessary attention to only a limited number of stimulus at the same time. (3) Understanding, a message may have been sent and received and the receiver may have attended to the message. (4) Responding, the listening process since effective communication and effective listening may be define as accurate sharing or understanding of meaning. But a responds may be needed or at least helpful. (5) Remembering, memorization of facts in listening process with short term memory, information is used immediatly within a few second for example as with a phone number. Long term memory allows use to recall information and events hours, days, weeks even year later we remembered.

One of the famous internet platform is Google. Google has been providing millions of source verified credentials or applications with educational organizations such as the British Council's. British Council has launched several applications of learning English through movies, podcasts, games and quizzes. The application can be downloaded via Google playstore, Apple store and windows Phone store. Based on these issues, researchers did the research on the use of applications from British Council to improve listening ability using English Podcast Application. This application focuses on the capability listening of the users. There are several features on this application, the most important is the audio and scrip regarding some general topic which can be downloaded for free and played offline, then there are tips on learning English



Figure 1. British Podcast Application

Where “Learning english podcast” appeared. User can download episodes and watch it for online or offline, while reading the written script. User may choose at random, some existing series, and free to download many episodes users want. As an example. The researchers chose 1stseries and 1st episodes to download.

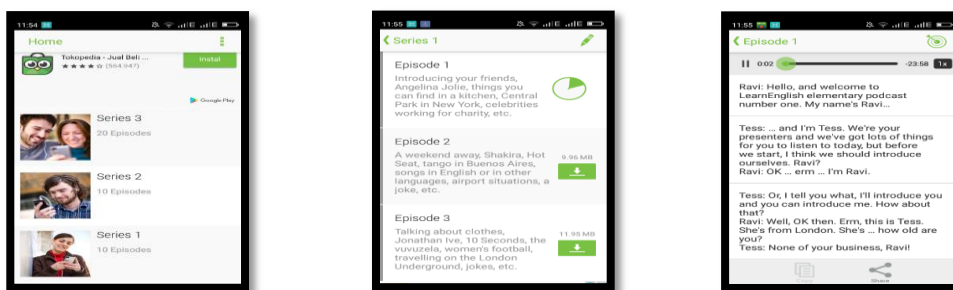


Figure 2. Podcast menu and podcast script

METHOD

In this research the researchers would use qualitative research design and use case study method. There were students of IKIP Siliwangi as population and the sample were 5 students at non-regular class. The data collection was conduct 5 question, as follow:

1. What do you know about “Learning English Podcast – Free English Listening Application”?
2. What are the function of this “Learning English Podcast – Free English Listening Application”?
3. What are “Learning English Podcast – Free English Listening Application” in?
4. How were your English in listening ability improving after listen this application?
5. What are the benefit and the weakness of this application?

Then the researcher analyzed data using the interview research. Data of this research were analyzed by experience of the sample.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result

In this result the researchers describes and discussed the data of this research in the use of “Learning English Podcast – Free English Listening Application” based on interview. The results from 5 students as bellow:

Table 1. Result of the interview

No	Questions	Answers				
		Student 1	Student 2	Student 3	Student 4	Student 5
1	What do you know about “Learning English Podcast – Free English Listening Application”?	Podcast application is the medium for learning english which, could be downloaded on smartphone as free.	Yes, it is learning english application from british counsil.	It is one of learning English way as a base on application	it is an application for english learning to improve listening ability.	Yes, this is an application to improve listening skills.
2	What are the function of this “Learning English Podcast – Free English Listening Application”?	To make learning english easier and improve four skills in English especially listening ability.	of course it is to improve listening ability.	Yes, it is helping me to learn english.	It is a medium for learning English, a tool for practice listening ability.	to improve listening ability

3	What are “Learning English Podcast – Free English Listening Application” in?	There are home menu, include some episode series, and script.	It has home menu, some series, episodes and script that equal with the episodes	There are menu, eps, series and yes inside the episode the speaker talking about art, celebrity, story, history, and many more.	Conversation soundtrack, exercises, and script.	Home, list of episode series start from beginner stage to profesional stage, and has 20 episodes. But, it’s not always has complete episode, it’s depend on theme of series and script that appropriate with the track
4	How were your English in listening ability improving after listen this application?	After I used this apps, I could improve listening ability, being familiar with English, find new words and know how to pronounce it.	My listening ability improves and getting better. I could respond if I was there and I understand what the speaker says.	helps me to get familiar with English, I able to respond some sentences of the speaker.	The student able to remember some words easier.	After I heard it for a few days, I able to understand and to respond to it. My pronounciati on is improve it especially in British accent. It’s great.

5	What are the benefit and the weakness of this application?	<p>Benefit: this apps could depelove my listening and pronounciati on abilities. Smartphones is a medium that is always used by people, so that podcast app could open anytime and anywhere, it's free for download.</p>	<p>Benefit: this app has simple menu, the speaker is attractive, therefore I feels like being part of it. It's free to download too.</p> <p>Weakness: none, its great app</p>	<p>Benefit: it has many benefit for me, I mean this app is helping me to learn English more esier and fun.</p> <p>Weakness: it's online</p>	<p>Benefit: this app can be gotten easily and free, but there is no quiz available in this app.</p> <p>Weakness: we have to send email before to get quiz.</p>	<p>Benefit: it's good for my smartphone RAM, I can download new episode and delete the last episode.</p> <p>Weakness: no, it's nice.</p>
		<p>Weakness: there are some websites that require paid subscription. Using gadget excessively makes people become an individual person. Might couse everdepende nce on technology over time.</p>				

Discussion

Based on the result of interview above, the researchers concluded that all the participant of this research know about podcast application and how to operated it, then they also aware about the purposes of this application made to improve listening, it is only one student that said this application is for learning English generally. There are students that start to understand what the speakers says, can respond and received it. And also the students get know new word, how to pronounce it and how to write it. The application is easy to get and used. And surprisingly this application has many benefit beside to improve listening, some of the participant could improve speaking and their reading. Then the student who used it would be enjoy when learn English especially in listening activity. The other reasons, many series could help the learners practice sustainable every time and everywhere using smartphones. Podcasts application focuses on the capability listening of the users, thus there is a student said that this application make learning english easier and improve four skills in English

especially listening ability. Moreover, student said that podcast has attractive speaker, it is evident that the speech speakers are very clear and fluent with the right intonation, it makes the listener want to imitate. Therefore, podcast application enhances new vocabularies, such as touchline, frowning, keep the shape, huffed, puffed, footwork, tiptoeing, etc in theme “whose game is it?”. In series 2 episode 1 talks about job interview, it is useful for student who just graduated from their school and looking for the job. There is an explanation about how to make a good CV. The researchers analyzed one of conversations that states English is good language to do anything like looking for job or bussines. Therefore, listening activity using podcast resulted many knowledges. In addition, a 5 minutes English episode is better than a long one.

CONCLUSION

In this era so many ways to improve English skills for better, one of them is using the application in the smartphone to improve it. In brief, Learning English Podcast – Free English Listening Application has an impact for students to learning English well. In other words, this application could improve English ability especially listening skill.

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