

PODCASTS AND THE FUTURE OF SPEAKING SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Kakhkhorova Nigina Abdivakhidovna
English Teacher of Karshi State Technical University

Abstract

This article discusses how podcasts can assist university students and English learners enhance their speaking skills. Podcasts have become an effective tool for language acquisition because they are easy to access, sound natural, and can be used in a variety of ways. The article discusses podcasts and how they can help people improve their English-speaking skills, such as how to say words correctly, speak smoothly, acquire new terms, understand what they hear, and feel more confidence while speaking with others. It also examines real-life instances of what teachers do in the classroom, as well as novel teaching methods that make use of podcasts. The article presents research findings demonstrating that podcasts can help students communicate more effectively. It discusses the negative aspects of utilizing podcasts to teach English. The findings demonstrate that podcasts facilitate learning about the student and allow people to study on their own, which can lower nervousness about speaking. According to the article, podcasts are a learning tool that can assist people improve their English-speaking skills when combined with activities that encourage people to converse.

Keywords: Podcast, speaking skills, English language learning, pronunciation, fluency, vocabulary development, communicative competence, digital learning, language education, listening comprehension

Introduction

Throughout the century, technology has significantly altered how we teach and learn foreign languages. Today's language instruction includes digital technologies and online resources. Podcasts are an innovative way to improve your English-speaking skills. Podcasts are recordings that may be accessed online via a phone, computer, or tablet. They address issues such as education, business, entertainment, science, and language acquisition.

Today, many English learners struggle to communicate smoothly and confidently. This is because they do not have the opportunity to interact with native speakers in real-life situations. Traditional teaching approaches typically concentrate on grammar and reading. They don't concentrate on speaking and listening. As a result, kids may understand English in principle. They struggle to convey themselves when speaking. Podcasts can help address this issue. They introduce learners to spoken English and natural communication patterns. English learners can hear native speakers speaking in a certain style. This teaches kids to communicate clearly and boldly. Podcasts help English learners enhance their speaking skills. Podcasts are becoming increasingly popular in education because they are simple to use, accessible from anywhere, and engaging. Students can listen to podcasts at any time and from any location, making



learning more convenient and enabling them to work independently. Podcasts also give real-life pronunciation, intonation, vocabulary, and conversational idioms used by English speakers. This helps pupils strengthen their listening and speaking skills at the same time.

The goal of this essay is to discuss how significant podcasts are in helping English learners develop their speaking skills. The article discusses what podcasts are, how they can help with language learning, how they are utilized in everyday life, what scientific research says about them, and their benefits and drawbacks in teaching English.

Podcasts and Speaking Skills Development

Podcasts are useful for learning languages since they increase pronunciation and fluency. Many students struggle with pronunciation because they rarely hear English spoken outside of the classroom. Podcasts expose kids to natural speech, which includes emphasis, rhythm, and intonation patterns. When students listen to podcasts on a regular basis, they begin to pronounce words like speakers without recognizing it. Students who consistently listen to podcasts such as BBC Learning English, TED Talks, or Spotify language podcasts, for example, gradually improve their pronouncing skills and speaking rhythm. Teachers frequently utilize a method known as "shadowing," in which students repeat what the speaker says immediately after they say it. This strategy helps pupils pronounce words correctly, communicate eloquently, and gain confidence.

Another benefit of podcasts is that they assist kids acquire language. To talk successfully, pupils must know a large number of words. Podcasts expose students to expressions, phrases, idioms, and conversational language that individuals use in everyday life. Unlike memorizing vocabulary lists, podcasts teach students how to use language in context, making it easier to learn and recall new words. According to research, students who listen to podcasts on a regular basis enhance their communication skills more quickly than students who solely utilize textbooks. According to studies, podcast-based learning helps students communicate more effectively, grasp what they hear, and speak eloquently. Podcasts also assist students become acclimated to English accents and communication styles.

Podcasts also help students feel less scared about speaking. Many students are hesitant to make mistakes when speaking English in front of their peers or teachers. Podcasts provide a stress-free learning atmosphere because students can practice independently. Students can pause the recording, listen to individual segments, and practice speaking at their own pace. This adaptability boosts pupils' confidence and motivation. In university classes, podcasts are frequently used in speaking activities such as discussions, debates, summaries, and presentations. For example, teachers may assign podcast episodes as homework. Then lead a class discussion on what they heard. These activities enable students to voice their perspectives, analyze concepts, and engage in conversations. Allowing students to produce their own podcasts is an effective approach to use podcasts. This method allows students to create their own podcasts, either individually or in groups. They record interviews, share stories, and engage in conversations. Give presentations in English. This technique allows students to practice speaking in real-world circumstances while developing their ability to organize their thoughts and communicate eloquently.



However, podcasts do have certain limits. Students who are just learning English may struggle with unfamiliar speaking accents or terminology. Also, simply listening to podcasts is insufficient to improve speaking skills. Students should practice conversing with others. To achieve greater results, teachers should incorporate podcasts into their speaking activities.

In conclusion, podcasts have emerged as a useful method for increasing speaking skills in English language teaching. They provide students with real-world language practice, which improves pronunciation and vocabulary, increases fluency, and makes students feel more secure while communicating. Podcasts also enable students to study independently, which reduces speaking fear and fosters a dynamic and student-centered learning environment.

Students who use podcasts for learning improve their communication skills, according to scientific studies and classroom observations. Podcast-based life speaking exercises like debates, summaries, shadowing, and student-produced podcasts greatly increase students' confidence and fluency. Despite certain restrictions, when used properly, podcasts provide many more advantages than disadvantages. Podcasts will continue to be used in language instruction as online learning expands globally. In order to attain better language learning results, English teachers and students can incorporate podcasts into their speaking exercises.

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