

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PODCAST IN TEACHING LISTENING AT THE FIRST SEMESTER STUDENTS OF IKIP PGRI MADIUN

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Abstract: *The Implementation of Podcast in Teaching Listening at the First Semester Students of IKIP PGRI Madiun.* This research is aimed at describing the process, the problems and solutions of the implementation of Podcast in teaching listening at the first semester students of IKIP PGRI Madiun. The type of research applied is a descriptive qualitative research. The research is conducted in English teaching Department of IKIP PGRI Madiun. The sample is class 1A chosen by purposive sampling technique. The collecting of the data is done by observation and interview method. To analyze the data, first reduce data, second classify the data to answer the statement of the problem, and third, interpret and conclude the data. The result of this research points out that the implementation of Podcast consists of three steps, namely, pre activity, whilst activity and post activity. Meanwhile, the problems arisen in teaching listening by using podcast are the lecturer says that the preparation has some difficulties in downloading the material from internet and the problem concerns with the crowded teaching situation. The solutions used to face the problem arisen are the lecturer should be more creative to find the material in podcast that is completely appropriate with the teaching objectives and to solve the problem of crowded teaching situation, the lecturer frequently asks the students to keep focusing on the stages of learning process while observing.

Keywords: Teaching listening, Podcast.

Listening is an activity that consists of hearing, interpreting and expressing the messages. Listening is different from hearing. Listening is always an active process in which listeners engage in the activity of constructing a message although they appear to be inactive while listening. Hearing on the other hand, is thought of as a passive condition. Underwood (1997: 1) states that listening is the activity of paying attention to and trying to get meaning from something we hear. In this process of listening, the listeners listen not only to the speakers' speech but also they should be able to find out the messages and purposes of that speech. According to Rost (1991: 4) when doing listening, the listeners

should make a decision. They are: (1) what kind of situation, (2) what is the listener's plan for listening, (3) what are the important words and units of meaning, and (4) does the message make sense. The purpose of listening is to gain the message and information. In order to achieve the purpose of listening, the listeners should have a listening strategy. The four kinds of decision in listening above is the decision to create listening strategy.

Teaching listening is not a simple case. The reason is that the teacher needs to build the receptive skill of students. According to Rives (2000: 46), the teacher also needs to stimulate the students in order to have the ability to understand spoken sounds,

phonological utterances, concept of word, stress patterns of words, intonation patterns of speakers, the meanings of gestures, body language, and facial expressions of speech. In teaching listening, the students have some difficulties in comprehending English conversations or dialogues. The common difficulty concerns with less listening skill. To solve the problem, the lecturer applies Podcasts in teaching listening. The listening materials can be downloaded from the Internet and played back in personal computers and mobile devices. The reasons for selecting Podcasts in teaching listening is that it is fun to apply. Besides that, the lecturer also wants to introduce internet-based learning to students.

Based on the background of the study, the researcher discusses some problems of the study, there are:

1. What are the procedures of podcast in teaching listening for the first semester students of IKIP PGRI Madiun?
2. What are the problems arisen in teaching listening by using Podcasts for the first semester students of IKIP PGRI Madiun?
3. What are the solutions used to face the problems arisen in teaching listening by using Podcasts for the first semester students of IKIP PGRI Madiun?

Underwood (1997: 10) states that listening is the activity of paying attention to and trying to get meaning from something we hear. When we listen to the speaker, we need to pay attention to what the speaker says,

understand what the speaker means and conclude what is the purpose of it. According to Paul (2007 : 244) "listening is more than just perception of sounds, although perception is the foundation". Listening also includes comprehension of meaning-bearing words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and connected discourse.

Hornby (2007: 750) states that listening is the act of single who listens (pays attention to somebody or something that you can hear). The listener should identify, comprehend and interpret the information they have heard and used that kind of information. Buck (2001: 1) explains that "far from passively receiving and recording aural input, listeners actively involve themselves in the interpretation of what they hear, bringing their own background knowledge and linguistic knowledge to bear on the information contained in the aural text". Moreover Dick and Carry (2001: 91) state that without any background knowledge, listener will be dependent upon the linguistic knowledge to interpret message. Background knowledge is needed in the process of listening. It makes the listener easy to interpret and comprehend all messages they hear.

According to Underwood (1997: 15) listening is the ability to identify and understand what others are saying. This process involves understanding a speaker's accent or pronunciation, the speaker's grammar and vocabulary, and comprehension of meaning. An able listener is capable of doing these four things simultaneously.

Podcast is audio content available on the Internet that can be automatically delivered to your computer or MP3 player (Constantine, 2005). This main characteristic turns podcasts into an interesting tool for education in general and also specifically for foreign language teaching (Zeynel, 2006). Podcasts consist of two parts: sound file(s) mostly encoded into MP3 and a so-called RSS-Feed (Yahoo! Inc., 2005).

The BBC is one of the earliest creators of podcast. The vision of BBC is to inform, educate, and entertain the other people by using podcast (<http://bbc.podcast.com/>). BBC podcast offers the teacher and the students various kinds of topics. The teacher and the students can download the podcast and become the member of BBC podcast. They also can download the audio from BBC podcast and the transcript.

In the listen and watch program, the students can listen and watch on their computer, or download audio and video files in their mp3 player. All of the audio and video materials are accompanied by language practice activities that the students can do on their computer while they listen or watch, or print out and do whenever they want.

Based on the description above, it can be concluded that Podcasts is a teaching material taken from internet. In this case, students can get listening material by downloading Podcasts. In teaching listening, Podcasts can be

played back in the students' personal computers and mobile devices.

METHOD

To collect the data, the researcher uses observation and test.

1. Observation

Observation is an activity done directly. The process of observation can be done by seeing and hearing then noting objectively. Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that the definition of observation is one way to find information and data check list data is the instrument that is used by the researcher. By doing observation, the researcher will know the situation and condition directly on effectiveness of podcast in teaching listening for the first semester students at IKIP PGRI Madiun.

2. Test

According to Arikunto (2002:108), "Test is used to measure skill or ability of the observed object". Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that test is practices of questions to use students motivation and to know students ability.

In this research, the researcher uses test as a technique in collecting the data. The purpose of the test is to take the data from the first semester students of IKIP PGRI Madiun, in order to know the effectiveness of podcast in teaching listening for the first semester students of IKIP PGRI Madiun..

To analyze the data, the researcher uses:

1. Reducing data

The researcher chooses the data needed to be researched. Not all the data are used, it uses only the important data.

2. Displaying data

The researcher shows the data or displays the data.

3. Conclusion

After reducing and displaying the data, the researcher makes a conclusion or verification.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. The Procedures of using Podcasts for the first semester students of IKIP PGRI Madiun.

Teaching listening by using Podcasts for the first semester students of IKIP PGRI Madiun consist of three steps: pre- activities , whilst- activity , and post- activity.

Pre-activity, the lectures comes into the classroom and greets the students. The, the lectures calls each student's name for checking the attendance. The lectures explains to the students the material today and gives some questions to them related with the material. The lecturer explains the students about teaching listening by using Podcasts, including the stages and the classroom activities. Finally, the lecturer places the students in groups.

In whilst-activity, the lecturer plays the material about "orientation session in campus". In this step, the lecturer poses some questions. In the next stage, the students listen the material together. The lecturer asks the students to

discuss the material in groups. Then, the lecturer asks the students to complete a task. The task is a work sheet consists of the some questions related with the material. Then, the lecturer asks the students to answer the questions.

In post-activity, the lecturer and students review the listening material that has been discussed.

2. The Problems Arisen in Teaching Listening by Using Podcasts for the first semester students at IKIP PGRI Madiun.

There are some problem of the teaching listening by using podcast for the first semester students at IKIP PGRI Madiun. First, the lecturer says that the preparation has some difficulties in downloading the material from internet. And the second problem concerns with the crowded teaching situation.

3. The Solutions Used to Face the Problems Arisen in Teaching Listening by Using Podcasts for the the first semester students at IKIP PGRI Madiun.

In here there are two solutions to face the problem arisen in teaching listening by using podcast. First, the lecturer should be more creative to find the material in podcast with different level of material that is completely appropriate with the teaching objectives. It is quite difficult to select one material that is completely appropriate with the teaching objectives. Second, to solve the problem of

crowded teaching situation, the lecturer frequently asks the students to keep focusing on the stages of learning process while observing.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Based on the research that had been conducted by the researcher, the researcher could give some suggestion for the students, other lecturer, and also school. It is hoped that, by this suggestion the students' listening ability and also classroom situation would be improved. They were as follows:

1. The Lecturer

For the improvement of students' listening ability, the researcher suggested the lecturer to:

- a) Implement podcast based-material in the listening class.
- b) Implement the three phases of teaching listening activities including pre-teaching

listening activities, while-teaching listening activities, and post-teaching listening activities.

- c) Provide the students with group discussion and give them more opportunity to practice listening. The lecturer can ask the students to copy their listening material, so that the students could practice listening inside and outside the classroom.

2. The students

For the improvements of the students, the researcher suggests them to:

- a) Focused on their listening text.
- b) Consult with their teacher if they got difficulties.
- c) Practice listening individually or in group regularly in order to improve their listening ability.

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