

Students' Perception Towards the Use of Spotify Application as A Medium of Listening Practice A Case Study in 2nd Semester English Education of the University Mataram

Alzena Awindya¹, Arafiq², Atri Dewi Aziz³, Sahrul⁴

^{1,2,3,4} English Education Department, Faculty of teacher Training and Education, Univeristy of Mataram, Indonesia

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Corresponding Author
Alzena Awindya
alzenaawindya@gmail.com

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Abstract: A common issue faced in the English study program is students' lack of understanding in listening, as evidenced by low scores in the listening section of the TOEFL test. Additionally, students often engage in activities requiring strong listening skills to comprehend speakers and interact effectively with others. To address this, researchers have chosen Spotify as a tool for enhancing listening skills due to its accessibility at any time and place. This study aimed to explore students' perceptions and development while using Spotify for listening practice. Utilizing qualitative methods and purposive sampling, as only a few students use Spotify, the findings revealed that most respondents strongly agreed or agreed that Spotify is an effective medium for improving their listening skills. Positive feedback from interview responses further supports the idea that Spotify is a suitable tool for listening practice. The study's results indicate that respondents have a positive perception of Spotify as a medium for listening practice, as it offers a wide variety of songs and podcasts across different genres. Respondents predominantly agreed that Spotify helps improve their English skills, particularly in listening and vocabulary, while also providing a comfortable and motivating environment for learning.

Keywords: students' perceptions, Spotify application, listening practices

INTRODUCTION

Among the four language skills reading, writing, speaking and listening is one similar to reading, listening is a receptive skill since it requires language response rather than language production. Making sense of the meaningful (having meaning) is a part of listening one of the most fundamental demands of students learning English is listening comprehend, decipher, react, and recall.

In order to be effective, this process is active and requires used of multiple attitudes and instruments along with other abilities like speaking, writing, and reading, listening comprehension is crucial to learning a foreign language (Apgrianto, 2018). Their ability to listen has a significant impact on how well they get along with other people, we can comprehend the messages being convey by the speaker by actively listening to them.

Listening skills play a crucial role in effective communication, comprehension, and learning it is believed that listening is a crucial ability that have to be developed (Hidayat, 2013: 21). They are essential for academic success as students need listen attentively to lectures, presentations and TOEFL test because TOEFL test is important for English students. Listening is individual of abilities use in the material or division of TOEFL tests. TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) is a test use to determine the English skillfulness of non-native English speakers.

TOEFL is a standardize test that is design to measure the English accent talent of non-native speakers to record in Universities of America, by allegation by Sharpe (2013), as a receptive skill that gives students language input, listening is one of the most crucial language skills in learning English, according to Wahidah et al. (2023).

Learning to listen presents challenges for students after seeing the subtleties and characteristics of listening, Wahyuni et al. (2020) declared that listening skills should be taught rather than just give a score this applies to both comprehensive

and intensive listening, employing a top-down or bottom-up approach currently.

According to Ocak (2012:33) students like to listen to music when outside the classroom while waiting for the lesson to start, besides that they often listen to music or podcasts to accompany their activities and many of the students like music, students have a strong view of music and usually students who don't know much about English vocabulary now become more talkative because they often hear the same song and make understanding of new vocabulary sharper and immediately practiced, there are several reasons why music and podcasts can be used as an alternative to practicing listening, namely music and podcasts create an atmosphere to be more fun and exciting this can make the listening process successful through the Spotify application to make listening activities more effective and not boring to practice listening, besides that the positive impact of frequent listening is that it can find out the vocabulary that has just been heard.

Researchers can suggest using Spotify as a medium to improve their listening skills because Spotify media is easy to use and can be accessed at any time one of them is by utilizing tuned media. A verse is a arrangement of tones or sounds in sequence, alliances and worldly connections to produce a lyrical arrangement that has wholeness and progression, songs are a habit to express concerns and impressions in a fun way, songs can again be a medium to transmit interpretation of the position in association. Moral principles or orders are mostly the star in the lyrics create by songwriters there are many habits to listen to chants, individual of bureaucracy is by utilizing a smartphone. Smartphone is individual of the television for systems of information exchange in this place new cycle we can find entirety through internet in our smartphone and this must be seen by all educators pupils still get word from cyberspace in their smartphone all period and omnipresent. Learning English utilizing application is one of

their favorite habits to determine they can study anyplace and continually.

Pratiwi et al. (2018) asserts that music has a positive educational impact on language learners. They are engaging for students, contain vocabulary, grammar, and cultural elements, and used real language that is easily accessible. In addition, songs revitalize the learning environment and provide innovative ideas to the classroom and anywhere else, it is appropriate to practice listening skills by playing music that contains English songs, according to Al-efeshat and Baniabdelrahman (2020), who also noted that kids find singing to be a great tactic. because they independently read and interpret the lyrics to comprehend the meaning of the song, which contributes to their learning of the English language, in this approach, they pick up new words instinctively another noteworthy benefit is that the majority of the song's words are repetitive, which makes it easy for students to recognize and remember them, in this study researchers secondhand Spotify as a smartphone application to play ballads that students feel.

Spotify is an app that has visage like digital music, podcasts in the digital music division, users can play their favourite canticles in this place application. The podcast itself has plenty tales in English that are very entertaining the use of Spotify could help students to manage time efficiently in the distance learning process (Rusilowati et al., 2020).

Spotify provides easy access to various audio content such as songs, podcasts, and audiobooks by only using a smartphone and internet connection, students can easily listen to various audio materials anytime and anywhere this facilitates students to practice listening flexibly in addition to the availability of learning content a lot of podcast content on Spotify can be utilized for listening learning for example, there are podcasts that discuss lecture material in foreign languages that students can use to practice listening. The availability of relevant learning content encourages students to use Spotify as a listening practice medium and Spotify also has interactive features Spotify offers interesting interactive features, such as sharing playlists with friends, listening simultaneously, and creating their own playlists these features can motivate students to be more active in practicing listening and interacting with audio content.

Spotify's premium service offers much better audio quality than the free version students who subscribe to the premium service can enjoy a higher quality listening experience. Good audio quality can improve students' focus and understanding when practicing listening with easy access, availability of learning content, interactive features, and good audio quality, Spotify is an attractive option for students to practice their listening skills, students' positive perceptions of Spotify as a listening practice media can encourage them to optimally utilize this application in the learning process.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research used a case study design and qualitative research methodology. A case study is a type of research technique in which a researcher looks closely at an event, activity, procedure, or group of people. Cases are limited by activity and time, and researchers use a variety of data collection techniques to obtain comprehensive information within a predetermined period of time, when view from the researcher's objectives, case study is one of the qualitative research methods based on understanding and human behavior

based on different values and beliefs and scientific theory (Polit & Beck, 2004; Borbasi, 2004).

Creswell (2017) states that this qualitative research approach requires a lot of work, including developing procedures and questions, obtaining specific participant data, inductively evaluating data to move from narrow topics to larger themes, and deciphering the meaning of data. The qualitative method takes into account people's relationships, attitudes, behaviour, experiences, and beliefs. Understanding a research question is the main goal of qualitative research as a humanistic or idealistic approach (Babu, 2013).

As per the explanations provide by the experts, qualitative research involves using researchers as the study instrument and emphasis descriptive language over quantitative data. It used qualitative research methodologies like surveys and interviews, this study aims to comprehending the activities of the subject and object under investigation. The results of a comprehensive survey about students' perspectives of using the Spotify application as a medium of their listening abilities was obtained.

The researcher studies the data was collected during the research, data relating to quality, not quantity, was examined from 20 questionnaires close ended and 8 question of interviews. A questionnaire was analyzed the students' ideas about Spotify in listening practices. According to Sanusi (2014) questionnaire is data collection process based on prepared questions related to the researcher's needs, in this study the researcher used Likert scale. According to (Sullivan & Artino, 2013), the Likert scale is a summation of the respondent's character when responding to questions related to indicators of the concept or variable being measured, the following is a description or alternative answers and responses used in Likert scale measurements:

- a. Strongly disagree = Score 1
- b. Disagree = Score 2
- c. Agree = Score 3
- d. Strongly agree = Score 4

According to Nasution (2016) interviews are a tool used to state the existing reality about what the interviewee thinks and feels through question and answer so as to get a picture of the interviewee's experience. Therefore, in order to get accurate data, the author conducted interviews with a sample of Spotify users in semester 2 of English education. The instrument used during the interview process is a recorder and also an interview draft, the recorder is used to store the respondent's answers during the interview so that it is easy for researchers to hear again when they want to process the data, the researcher also provides a draft of interview questions as a reference in asking questions to interviewees to find information obtained according to the needs of the researcher. For the documents, the results from the questionnaire and interviews used a thematic study. Thematic study is a system for identifying, analyzing, and collecting patterns (ideas) in data (Braun & Clarke, 2006). The formula in the designation table below:

$$P = F/N \times 100$$

$$P = \text{Percentage}$$

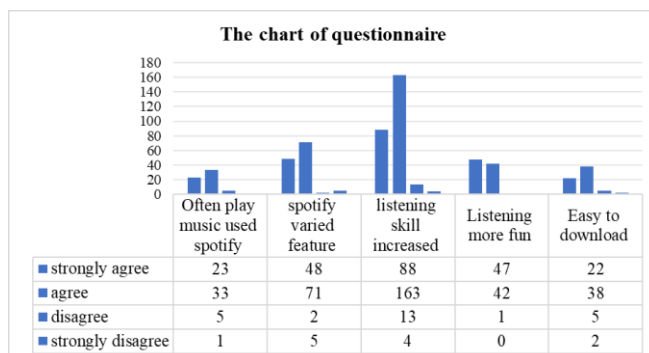
$$F = \text{Frequency of the answer}$$

$$N = \text{Number of samples}$$

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Research Result

This study used two data collection methods, namely close-ended questionnaires and interviews. The study aimed to collect the perceptions of students who had the Spotify application regarding its use for listening practice through songs and podcasts available on the Spotify feature. The research was conducted with second-semester students who used the Spotify application, and a total of 30 Spotify users participated in the questionnaires, with five students selected for follow-up interviews. As explained earlier, the research aimed to gather answers to the question: How do students perceive the Spotify application in their listening practices? The number of questionnaires distributed was 30, and all of them were returned, resulting in a 100% questionnaire completion rate. The results of the questionnaires are explained in the diagram below.



In this section, the researcher classified questions with similar points to make it easier to summarize the answers from the respondents. The questions given to the respondents were 20 in total, and after being recapitulated, the researcher made 5 main questions. The following is a description of the results of the answers:

From the classification of answers, the researcher found responses to each question, such as question number one, which asked about the frequency of listening to songs using Spotify. The responses were: Strongly Agree: 23, Agree: 33, Disagree: 5, and Strongly Disagree: 1, indicating that many of the respondents frequently used Spotify for listening practice.

For question number two, which asked if Spotify is a flexible application with many varied features, the responses were: Strongly Agree: 48, Agree: 71, Disagree: 2, and Strongly Disagree: 5. The summary showed that respondents generally agreed with the statement that Spotify offers a variety of options, making it easy to choose songs or podcasts.

For the next question, "My listening skills increased because I often use Spotify as my medium," the responses were: Strongly Agree: 88, Agree: 163, Disagree: 13, and Strongly Disagree: 4. The high number of Strongly Agree and Agree answers indicated that Spotify helped improve their listening skills, as they frequently practiced listening to English songs.

For the fourth question, "Listening to English songs on Spotify makes studying more enjoyable," the responses were: Strongly Agree: 47, Agree: 42, Disagree: 1, and Strongly Disagree: 0. The respondents' answers showed that Spotify made studying or engaging in activities while listening to English songs more enjoyable.

For the last question, "The Spotify app is easy to download and a great media to support listening practices," the responses were: Strongly Agree: 22, Agree: 38, Disagree: 5, and Strongly Disagree: 2. Many respondents chose Agree and Strongly Agree, indicating that they found Spotify easy to download and accessible, which greatly supported their learning.

Interview Results:

To supplement the data, the researcher used interviews to gather more information. Five second-semester students who were Spotify users from the English Department at the University of Mataram were interviewed. They were expected to serve as representatives to support the data of this research. The data from the interviews could be summarized as follows:

Related to Spotify make enjoy to listening practices

Some students who have listened to songs on Spotify have almost the same answer, namely getting a calm and comfortable effect when listening to songs that they like, besides that they often listen to songs while doing activities to improve their mood. It can be seen from the first respondent who said:

"I'm so happy, when I listen the song and podcast at Spotify make me feel enjoy and relax and can boost my mood"

From this statement highlight the first respondent give positive impact after used Spotify application because mostly they felt happy and enjoy. Next there was a statement from the second respondent who said

"When I want to start the activity, I played the music that can make me happy because I like listen English song"

This statement highlights the second respondent felt enjoy when listen English song during activities because Spotify flexible application so the user could use the application everywhere and comfortable. Next statement from the third respondent

"My feeling after listening to music is happy because my knowledge of new vocabulary is increasing"

This statement highlight that Spotify is an application that can customize songs according to what students felt, and Spotify can improve listening skill because this application is a good application for the needs of each user. The fourth respondent who stated:

"I'm always excited because I enjoy the song, it's more upbeat and makes the day more enjoyable"

From the statement highlight the respondent liked listen song in Spotify because bring good atmosphere for the listener, the respondent also said Spotify made good mood and colorful with song, so the user of Spotify more enjoyable and make it easier to study while listened song.

Related to Spotify can make English vocabulary more familiar

Based on this statement the respondents stated that by often listening to favorite English songs, making their hearing trained and their vocabulary stuck in their heads, which at first, they did not know the meaning of the word because curiosity made them find out for themselves the meaning of the word, so that the more often they listen to English songs the more

and familiar vocabulary they get. This can be seen from the statement of respondent, the first respondent stated:

"I often listen the song, so vocabulary became familiar on my ears, so can make me easier to learn English especially to my listening practices"

The statement highlight that Spotify users felt that it has a good impact on practicing their listening, because Spotify is a cool medium for repeated listening practice, respondents get a lot of new vocabulary because they often hear songs and podcasts in English which causes English vocabulary to become more familiar. The next respondent stated:

"I got new vocabulary when listen English song and podcast, that I didn't get in class"

The statement highlight students can study everywhere, students felt that they get new knowledge that they are not taught in class by the teacher, students felt helped because their listening skills improved indirectly with the help of Spotify. Spotify proves study it's not only in the classroom, but we can study anywhere and anytime.

The third respondent stated:

"I can improve my pronunciation and got new vocabulary, and I like it because I can study relax"

The statement also supports students that Spotify has a good impact on its users because in addition to finding peace or listening to songs for entertainment they can also gain new knowledge such as good pronunciation and add new vocabulary. The last statement:

"I knew more new words in English, and I'm able to learn new words in English, it makes me lucky to be able to improve my skills"

The last statement supports the previous statement that Spotify is able to help students to learn independently more easily and casually because with its easy access that makes students can reach it at any time, students get more new vocabulary that can improve their English skills.

Related to the reason chosen Spotify

This statement expresses the students' opinions on why they use Spotify as their medium for listening to songs, podcasts and as their learning media, besides that the researcher wants to find out more about where they know this Spotify application. This can be seen from the statement of respondent, and the first respondent stated:

"I like Spotify because can give me the recommendation what we want to listen, and so friendly for beginner"

This states that Spotify is a good media for beginners, besides that Spotify has many recommendations for songs or podcasts that we want to hear and even Spotify can also provide good songs for us, this is the reason they chose Spotify. Next respondent stated:

"A lot of people recommend this application and also the application easy to accessed and remains free to listen to even if you don't use Spotify premium"

This statement highlight that the respondent gets a recommendation to use Spotify from many people who say that there are many good reviews from people that Spotify is worth it to download, even though this application is paid but can still be listen to at the same time. The third respondent stated:

"I listen from my friends, and a lot of my friends suggest to me to download this application, and finally I downloaded"

Almost the same as the previous respondent's statement that this respondent received recommendations from many of his friends to download this application, because this application is suitable for all groups besides that it is good for people who want to learn while relaxing. The last respondent stated:

"I like it because the application easy to download at play store and Even though it is paid, it can be enjoyed for free"

This statement proves that Spotify is an application that is very easy to access and can still be downloaded and enjoyed even though it is paid so that many people use this application.

Discussion

The results of research related to the research objectives in the presentation of previous research described in the first chapter, as well as how students perceive the use of Spotify for their listening practices in semester 2 specifically for Spotify users, researchers took a sample of 30 students to fill out 20 questionnaire questions that used close ended or answers that used Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree. For interviews, 5 respondents were taken to strengthen and find more detailed answers, the data collected was in the form of voice recordings made by students and researchers when meeting face to face and according to the first chapter of the formulation of the problem being sought, namely students' perceptions regarding Spotify as a medium for their listening practice, it can be seen that students' perceptions regarding Spotify as a medium for their listening practice and the average respondent's answer that Spotify is a good medium for listening practice because the application is easily accessible anytime and anywhere and can even be downloaded for free besides that many agree that listening to English songs and reading the lyrics on Spotify makes them add new vocabulary and more familiar with the pronunciation of the new vocabulary, this is also supported by Pratiwi et al. (2018) who stated that music has a positive educational impact on language learners, the song is attractive to students because it had vocabulary, grammar, cultural elements, and uses language that is real and easy to understand. Not only songs but podcasts as well, the opinions of respondents who agree with podcasts can improve their listening skills in a relaxed manner without pressure, because it is easy to practice anywhere and anytime this is also supported by research from Lee et al. (2005) which states that podcasts can overcome problems to reduce student anxiety and can make comfort and have a learning community.

In addition, the respondents have different favorite songs and the results of the songs and podcasts they enjoy are diverse which makes them repeat their songs and podcasts so that they are quite fluent in English pronunciation and the implied meaning in it, as stated by Al-efeshat and Baniabdelrahman (2020) who noted that children think it can be used as an alternative to train their listening because they indirectly interpret the meaning of the lyrics to understand the meaning of the song and can help with their learning, In this approach, they can collect new vocabulary instinctively, besides the benefits of songs that are repeated many times make it easier for students to remember and recognize them, in this study it is suitable if Spotify is used as a tool to play

songs many times according to students' wishes and get the meaning of the song and new vocabulary for their listening practice.

The answers from respondents when interviewed on average gave positive comments such as listening to songs can improve their mood to start activities, besides that their favorite songs are very diverse there are those who choose Bruno mars - Just the way you are, Keyshia Cole - Love, Ariana Grande - All to well and We can't be friends, Eagles-Hotel California, Olivia O'brien - I hate you, I love you, Taylor swift - Lover and back to December. The song is their favorite playlist that is most often played and makes them fluent in proper pronunciation and listening because the singer comes from America, and there is no doubt when they speak English, this makes them even more comfortable to practice listening practice while listening to their favorite song.

In addition, 4 out of 5 interview respondents also have obstacles as Spotify users, namely ad interference that sometimes appears when in the middle of a song which makes the song pause and causes them a little disturbed, but they don't mind that because they download the application for free and can still be enjoyed even though it is sometimes cut off by advertisements, to overcome these problems the respondents suggest upgrading to paid Spotify, so that Spotify became premium without ad interference so that users are more satisfied when listening to their favorite playlists, This statement is also emphasized by researchers Rusilowati et al. (2020) stating that Spotify is a digital music and podcast platform with long and short duration, users can play their favorite songs or podcasts and can be downloaded for later listening without turning on cellular data to avoid ad interference and there is an album feature that makes it easy for users to save favorite songs in one album so that they can be heard at any time, the podcast itself has many entertaining English stories and is suitable for accompanying before bed, Spotify users can help users to manage time efficiently in the distance learning process.

Of the 30 respondents who got a bad score, only 2 respondents, from the results of the analysis, the 2 respondents predominantly answered disagree, and strongly disagree because they made the Spotify tool only for entertainment and not their main focus of using Spotify as a medium for their listening practice, besides that the 2 respondents did not open the Spotify application too often, For the rest 28 respondents chose strongly agree and agree to the questions prepared by the researcher, it indicates that Spotify users get a lot of benefits from the application in addition to Spotify entertainment can also be used as a modern learning media to practice English skills, such as pronunciation, speaking, reading and the most important thing is for listening as said by Hidayat (2013: 21) who believe that listening is the most important part of English language practice that must be improved.

The results of respondents through questionnaires and interviews in listening to their favorite songs and podcasts, according to the results of the analysis of answers, especially in question number 8 in the questionnaire which states Hearing English songs on Spotify never get me bored because it is very interesting and relaxing, most students strongly agree and agree in this statement, besides that in the interview question the respondents answered that Spotify is an exciting media and makes its users feel more happy, relaxed. enjoy and improve mood even though there are some who are upset because they

hear sad genre songs, Although there are some who are upset because they hear sad genre songs, but so far most of them are quite happy and comfortable when listening to songs or podcasts that make them accustomed to listening to English songs so that indirectly their listening skills, pronunciation, and vocabulary increase, it can be stated that Spotify can be used as a medium that can increase the willingness to learn English, especially in their listening practices, this is also agreed by previous researchers, namely Rivai (2013): 2 Relevant and good learning media can attract students' attention to learning and can improved student learning outcomes, during teaching can increase students' willingness to learn, and using varied teaching techniques can reduce boredom and prevent teachers from fatigue, especially teachers have to teach at every class hour.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the study, respondents have a positive perception of the use of Spotify as a medium for listening practice, because Spotify provides many songs and podcasts with various genres, the respondents more dominantly choose strongly agree and agree with Spotify to be used as a media listening practices besides that they often listen to these songs which can train the respondents' English skills, especially in listening, adding vocabulary, they can listen and interpret the songs themselves which can hone their skills, and English songs and podcasts things like this can make them feel comfortable and motivated to listening practices.

Based on the positive perception of Spotify as an effective medium for listening practice, future studies could explore the impact of specific genres or types of songs and podcasts on language acquisition, particularly in improving listening skills and vocabulary. Researchers might also consider investigating how different age groups or proficiency levels respond to Spotify as a learning tool. Additionally, it would be valuable to assess how regularly using Spotify for listening practice influences long-term language proficiency and whether it fosters greater motivation among students. Integrating other digital platforms alongside Spotify could provide a more comprehensive understanding of how various media can support language learning.

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