

Effects of Learner-Produced Podcasting on French Conversation Skills

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Purpose of Research

To explore tools that may facilitate foreign-language learning.

"I heard mistakes other people make... so I consciously self-corrected."

Quantitative Results

Student-reported effects of podcasting:

- ❖ 67% of students surveyed enjoyed listening to podcasts created by native speakers.
- ❖ 100% felt that podcasting had a positive impact on their conversation skills.
- ❖ 100% recommended student-produced podcasting in foreign language classrooms.

"Creating podcasts made me pay attention to my own speech."

Qualitative Results

What students liked about podcasting:

- ❖ Choosing a podcasting topic
- ❖ Expanding vocabulary
- ❖ Listening to native speakers
- ❖ Hearing proper pronunciation

What students disliked about podcasting:

- ❖ Scheduling conflicts with groups
- ❖ Problems between group members in delegating tasks
- ❖ Recorded conversations unnatural

Background

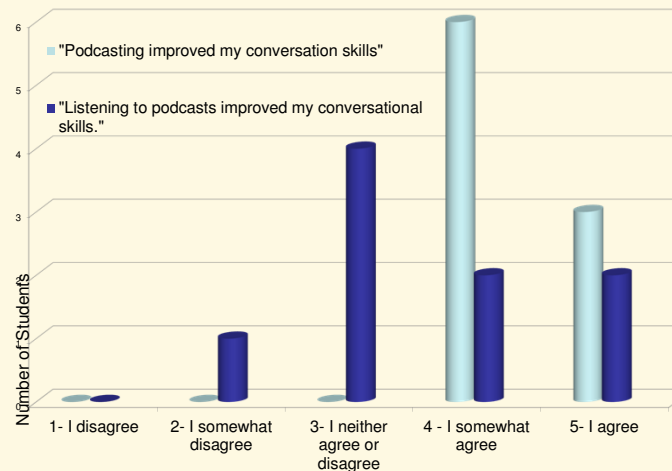
- ❖ Applied linguistics focuses on incorporating ideas from linguistics into the classroom.
- ❖ Oral proficiency is an important skill for second language learning.
- ❖ Can technology, and podcasting in particular, help students improve their conversation skills in French?

"Did podcasting improve my conversation skills?"
100% answered that podcasting had a positive impact.

Method

- ❖ Nine students in French 401 (Advanced Conversation)
- ❖ Groups of two or three students
- ❖ Three student-produced podcast episodes per group
- ❖ Six class periods devoted to the creation of group podcasts (two per episode)
- ❖ Six assignments to listen to three authentic French podcasts (18 in all)
- ❖ Peer-evaluation of three podcast episodes
- ❖ End of semester written survey

All students surveyed recommended the use of podcasting in foreign language classrooms.



Conclusion

- ❖ Students enjoyed creating the podcasts.
- ❖ Listening to own podcasts helped them self-correct pronunciation and grammar.
- ❖ Students reported that creating their own podcast was more helpful than listening to podcasts.
- ❖ Student-produced podcasts seem to be beneficial in an advanced conversation course in a foreign language.

Thank you

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