**Effects of Technology on Foreign Language Oral Proficiency Acquisition**

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**Research Questions**

- How do students feel about podcasting?
- Does that type of technology benefit their second language development?
- How does podcasting impact oral proficiency compared with more traditional activities?
- What set of skills are most active during those types of activities?

**Quantitative Results**

*When did you monitor your speech?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>While speaking</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immediately after</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Much after</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not monitor</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Qualitative Results**

*Conversation tables: “Give an example of one self-monitoring thought.”*

- Paying attention to correct verb tenses, correct pronunciation, and correct conjugation.
- Paying attention to liaison, word order, correct use of vocabulary

*What student liked about podcasting:*

- Hearing proper pronunciation
- Scheduling conflicts with groups

*What students disliked about podcasting:*

- Recording conversations unnatural
- Podcasting a positive impact on conversation skills

**Background**

- Applied linguistics focuses on incorporating ideas from linguistics into the classroom.
- Oral proficiency is an important skill for second language learners: it leads to intelligibility, functionality, and communication.
- Technology seems to be an asset in language teaching.

**Methods**

**Podcasting**

- Nine students in French 401 (Advanced Conversation), grouped in two or three
- Three student-produced podcast episodes per group
- 18 authentic French podcasts to listen
- End of semester written survey

**Conversation tables**

- 15 students in French 325 (Pronunciation)
- 15 hours of conversation per student
- Online survey

**Results**

- Students reported gains from podcasting.
- Students’ phonological awareness increased from listening their own podcasts
- Noticing mistakes may lead to improvement.
- Conversation tables felt more natural, and helped students practice in an authentic setting.
- Conversation tables helped students focus on pronunciation and grammar to make themselves understood.

- It is important to provide opportunities for both podcasting and conversation tables, as they address two different skills.

**Thank you**

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