

## The Use of Podcast in Improving Students' Listening Skill of Senior High School

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### ABSTRACT

This research was conducted with the aim of finding the influence of podcast in improving students' listening skill, especially for senior high school students. The method in this research is qualitative research method, where researchers collected data through questionnaires filled by the students and short interviews with students. The subjects in this research were the students of class XI Mia 1 in SMA Swasta Assisi Siantar. Based on research that the researchers did, researchers found that podcast is a media that has effect on students' learning processes, especially when studying listening skill. Podcast is one of the learning media that makes students interested and motivated to learn listening in English.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is one of countries that studies English as a foreign language. In Indonesia, learning English is still limited because English class hours at high school level are reduced, as the Indonesian government has a slogan to prioritize Indonesian, preserve regional language, and master foreign language. This shows that the mastery of English is mandatory, but the policies issued related to the reduction of English learning hours are felt to have hampered the English learning process of high school students in Indonesia. This limited English learning causes less than the maximum teaching of listening, because in general, learning prioritizes the theories related to grammar, the types of text, which are generally not related to the listening learning pre-section that requires the English audio and students' worksheets in working on listening questions. Thus, effort and more attention are needed from educators and educational institutions to be able to teach English to students.

According to [3], listening is a skill that is the basis for studying speaking and writing. Thus, if students do not have good listening skills, they will find difficulties in learning to write and speak in English. Listening is the translation of spoken language and consists of the popularity of discourses of sounds [12]. In Addition, [2] added that listening is an ability to focus and pay full attention to something . Based on some of the meanings, researchers concluded that the listening skill is a basic skill in learning English that needed someone's concentration against something to get the meaning of what they listened to.

Related to this, English can be taught by using technology. As we know, that technology today develops increasingly more sophisticated from year to year. According to [4], learning by using

technology can provide the latest innovation". It means that by utilizing technology in the learning process, educators are made easier to teach, and students are made easier to learn.

One media of technology that can be used to support the learning process is by using 'podcasts'. [6] stated that podcast is a form of broadcast in the form of audio that can be accessed and downloaded from online applications using smartphone, laptop and computer.

In teaching listening skill, educator can use podcast. Podcast is one of the fun media that teacher can use. Podcast is an audio that can be listened directly or live. Along with the times, at this time, podcast is also accompanied by visual video, making it easier for students to listen to the words of the speaker while looking at their pronunciation directly. Thus, researchers can conclude that podcast is the latest media that can be used by teachers to teach listening to students.

### **Listening Skill**

International Listening Association (ILA) (cited from [2]) stated that the ability to listen is an activity intentionally by focusing on something. [8] argue that listening is a basic ability that someone must have to be able to improve other abilities.

In addition, [1] stated that one of the principles in teaching listening lies in the material described. The material must be appropriate and can be understood by students easily, for example accompanied by audio for listening. Gold (cited from [16]) stated that listening is the first skill that the students' have to mastered to be able in mastering another skills in English.

Listening is a process of receiving messages, which will be processed as a language that can be understood [14]. It means that listening is a process to understanding something that someone listen to.

Neukrug (cited from [2]) suggests several good listeners' criteria, including 1) not talking too much; 2) concentration on what the speaker delivered; 3) not cut off the conversation; 4) do not provide advice/suggestions; 5) give sincere attention; 6) listen with the content being delivered by the speaker; 7) catch message of speakers' feeling; 8) can respond in the form of nod to ensure the speaker that he/she understands; 9) ask for clarification if needed; and 10) do not ask questions that are not related to the topic that he/she listened to.

Based on some meanings above, researchers can conclude that listening skill is a person's ability to understand something when listening, with giving attention and focus. In addition, the listening skill is a skill that must be mastered by students, due to that the listening skill is a basic skill that greatly affects the ability of students to be able to master other skills in English.

### **Podcast**

According to [7], podcast is the result of innovation from the development of audio-shaped technology and can be accessed by using the internet. The audio of podcast can be listened by using technology tools, such as smartphone, laptop and computer, by listening directly or downloaded first.

At present, podcast has spread throughout the countries, and are used as one of the media in language learning, because podcast can facilitate the learning process of students.

Podcast is a mixed innovation. The mixture is a mixture of audio and video obtained online (e-learning). With the presence of podcast, the use of ordinary media such as tapes and radio in language learning began to decrease.

Sze (cited from [7]) stated that podcast can be audio and combined audio-video that can be found on the internet and usually develop over time. Thus, it can be interpreted that podcast is an online learning media that can be easily accessed by students using technology tools in the digital learning.

In addition, [1] argue that podcast is a series of video and audio broadcast that can be played and downloaded using a smartphone. [1] also stated that word 'podcast' was derived from two technologies 'iPod', and 'broadcast', which means that podcast is related to technology and broadcast.

Podcast is different from radio. The difference lies according to the way in accessing. Radio can only be accessed at certain times in a limited moment, while podcast can be accessed by listeners freely, so that they can be motivated and make them interested in listening to something. This means,

podcast can motivate and attract students to learn listening by listen to the events they like. Thus, students will not be bored and even eager to learn listening skill.

Constantine (cited from [1]) stated that podcast has important role in teaching English as a foreign language, starting from the beginner level to advanced level. This means that podcast are very appropriate media that can be used to teach English in Indonesia, because in Indonesia, English is still considered as a foreign language. With the use of podcast in teaching students start from beginner class to advanced class, indicate that podcast play an important role in language learning process.

In addition, Aguilar & Fernando (cited from [11]) stated that podcast is similar to the public library. The equation lies in the abilities of these two media to distribute and deliver learning material to their users. The users can download the desired material for free. It means that the users are freely to choose the learning material they want to know. Thus, it can be concluded that podcast is equally effective with digital books. Both of them contain informations and materials of subjects and can be used to increase students' knowledge.

### ***Teaching Listening by Using Podcast***

It is important for the educator to determine the teaching strategy based on the situations of the students [13]. Thus, it can be interpreted that the teaching strategy influences the lasts of teaching and learning activities. Related to this, in teaching listening, there are also several strategies that can be used by educators or teachers. One of them is by utilizing podcast.

To use podcast in listening learning, there are several ways that can be done [5], namely :

- (1) The teacher guides students to download the podcast application on their smartphone, laptop, or computer.
- (2) After downloading, the teacher tells the broadcast of podcast related to listening theme, such as The English We Speak (BBC), Elementary Podcasts by the British Council, Better at English, and Learning English (Voice of America).
- (3) The teacher guides students to subscribe broadcasts that have been mentioned, and give instructions to students to download the episode that will be learned.
- (4) The teacher gives students time to listen to the downloaded podcast and then the learning activities.

The use of podcast can also be done outside the school. Teachers or educators can ask students to listen to podcast in their homes, and free to choose the broadcast they like, with the aim of motivating and attracting the attention of students to further develop their abilities in listening to English. In addition, the freedom of students in accessing podcast will make their learning time at home more effectively and enjoyable.

In learning listening using podcast, there are several ways that students can follow, namely :

- (1) Choose the appropriate content

The selection of appropriate content is recommended so that the students be interested and able to listen to podcast from beginning till the end. The selection of accents used in podcast can also be done so that students can put their understanding better, both American accent and British accent.

- (2) Listen casually

Students who listen to podcast without time limit and without location limit need to make themselves relax when listening. Thus, they can understand what they are listening to. In addition, it is also possible for students to listen the podcast repeatedly to strengthen their understanding in listening to the content in the podcast further.

- (3) Make notes

When listening to podcast while learning, students can note important things from the speaker. The students can also note the newly listened vocabulary in English, then find out the meaning of the word they did not understand. Thus, in addition to improving their abilities in listening, podcast can also increase their vocabulary in English.

#### (4) Listen – Speak

When listening to podcast, students will record words or sentences spoken by the speaker. To strengthen their understanding, students can imitate what they listen to. This is very effective and influential on students' listening skills and students' speaking skills.

#### (5) Listen repeatedly (consistent)

In studying foreign languages, especially English, students need time and process in mastering it. Thus, to master the listening skill, students need to train themselves regularly, one of them by utilizing podcast.

By using podcast, students are not only made to learn language, but also help them engage in language mastery indirectly, because podcast occurs naturally, without any context or the concept specified first. Therefore, the objectives of this research is to investigate the use of podcast as a medium on students' listening skills, especially in senior high school..

## 2. METHOD

In this research, researchers used qualitative method. According to [15], the qualitative research method is the research method based on postpositivism philosophy, where research is conducted on natural objects, and the researchers as the key instruments that carry out combined data collection and analyze the data inductively with emphasis on understanding meaning.

The use of qualitative method of this research is intended to get more detailed results regarding the use of podcast on the improvement of students' listening skills. The participant in this research were the students of class XI MIA 1 in SMA Swasta Assisi Siantar consisting of 32 students.

In this research, the instruments used to collect data are by using closed questionnaire and written interview. For the first instrument is closed questionnaire.

Closed questionnaire is a questionnaire in which there has been alternative answers that respondents can answer. Alternative answers to closed questionnaires can be "yes" or "no", or can also be objective options, so the respondents choose the answer that suits the question [9].

To collect data through this closed questionnaire, researchers spread questionnaires to students online through google form. On the google form link, there are 10 closed questionnaire questions answered by students based on their perceptions and experiences during listening learning at school.

For the second instrument is written interview. This written interview researchers did by asking a short question related to students' opinions about podcast relations with their listening skills. This written interview was conducted by interviewing them at WhatsApp group. The sample for this brief written interview were as many as 12 students from XI MIA 1 in SMA Swasta Assisi Siantar. The purpose of this written interview is to add data to closed questionnaires and increase the results of the research. After collecting the data, researcher analyzed the data from questionnaire and interview qualitatively, by providing descriptions and explanations related to the results of data discoveries.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The discovery in this research contained data analysis on closed questionnaire and written interview.

### (1) Questionnaire Analysis

The first analysis stage is by analyzing the results of the closed questionnaire distributed to the students. The analysis was carried out by researchers by searching for percentages on each question based on the answers of students.

This percentage analysis is used to find the most relevant answers related to the questions given in a closed questionnaire. The results of the student questionnaire were interpreted descriptively, due to this questionnaire was answered based on the perceptions of the students.

Here are the results of the figure of each question from the closed questionnaire that the researchers take from the google form analysis.

1) Do you know about podcast?

Apakah kamu mengetahui tentang podcast?  
32 jawaban

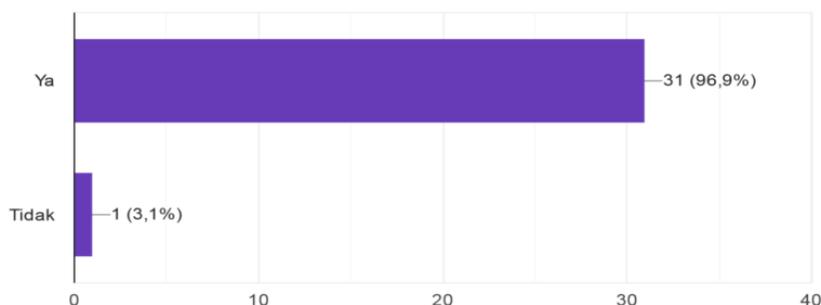


Figure 1. 1<sup>st</sup> Question of Closed Questionnaire.

Based on the figure above, 96.9% of students answered 'yes', and only 3.1% of students answered 'no'. Based on the answers of the students, it can be concluded that the majority of students know about podcast. This means that students follow the technological development over the time.

2) 'Podcast is a program episodes available on the internet. Podcast is usually original audio or video recording, but can also be a recording of television broadcasts or radio programs, lectures, shows, or other events'. Are you interested in listening to podcast after reading this podcast definition?

'Podcast adalah episode program yang tersedia di Internet. Podcast biasanya merupakan rekaman asli audio atau video, tetapi bisa juga merupakan...kan podcast setelah membaca defenisi podcast ini?  
32 jawaban

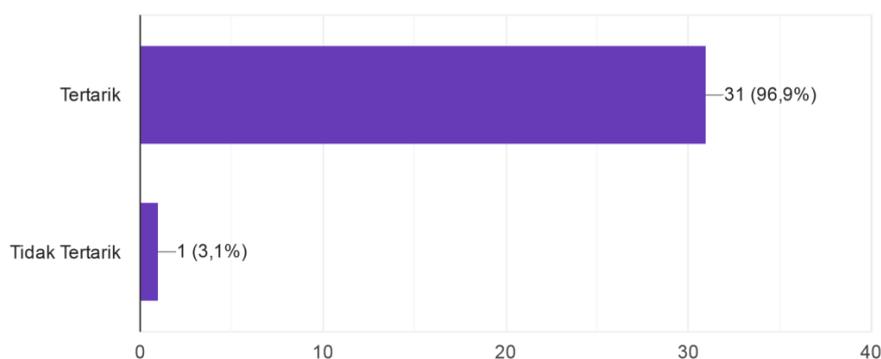


Figure 2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Question of Closed Questionnaire.

Based on the figure above, 96.9% of students answered 'interested', and only 3.1% of students answered 'not interested'. Based on the answers of the students, it can be concluded that all students are interested in accessing podcast just by reading the definition of the podcast. It means that podcast is a media that is feasible to be used as a pleasant learning media.

3) Have you ever listened to podcast on social media, like YouTube, Instagram, etc.?

Apakah kamu pernah mendengarkan podcast di sosial media, seperti youtube, instagram, dll?  
32 jawaban

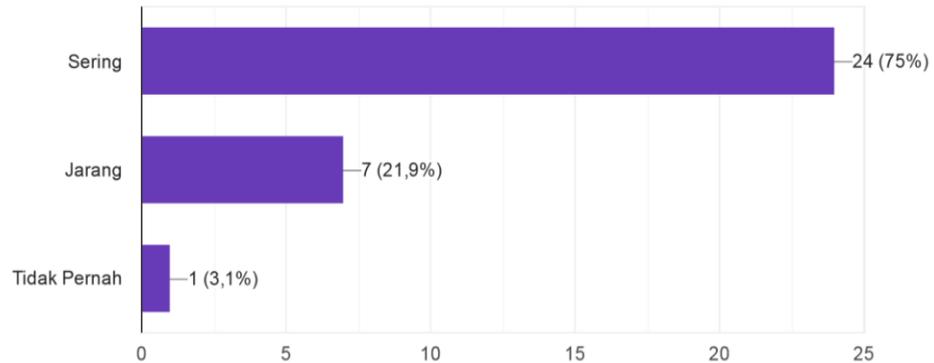


Figure 3. 3<sup>rd</sup> Question of Closed Questionnaire.

From the figure, we can see that the three options have their respective enthusiasts. A total of 75% of students answered 'often', 21.9% of students answered 'seldom', and 3.1% of students answered 'never'. This means that 75% of students often access and listen to podcast on social media by using their smartphones.

And 25% of students do not access podcast too often, and only 3.1% of students never accessed podcast because she/he might has ignorance and limitations of knowledge about podcast. Based on these percentages, it can be concluded that many students have accessed podcast repeatedly on social media.

4) Based on your experience, does podcast make you interested in listening?

Berdasarkan pengalaman kamu, apakah podcast membuatmu tertarik untuk mendengarkan?  
32 jawaban

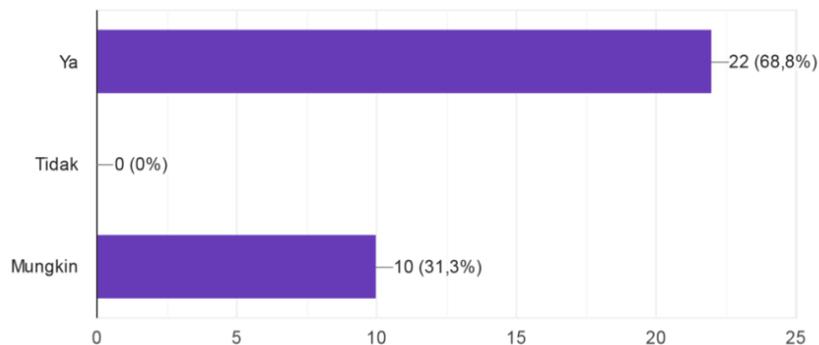


Figure 4. 4<sup>th</sup> Question of Closed Questionnaire.

From the figure, 66,8% of students feel interested to listen when accessing podcast, and 31,3% of students may interested in listening when they access podcast, and no students that not interested in listening by using podcast. It means that podcast is really affects the students' interests in listening. So, podcast is a really good application that can be used to teach listening for students.

5) Do you think podcast is easy to access?

Menurut kamu, apakah podcast mudah untuk diakses?  
32 jawaban

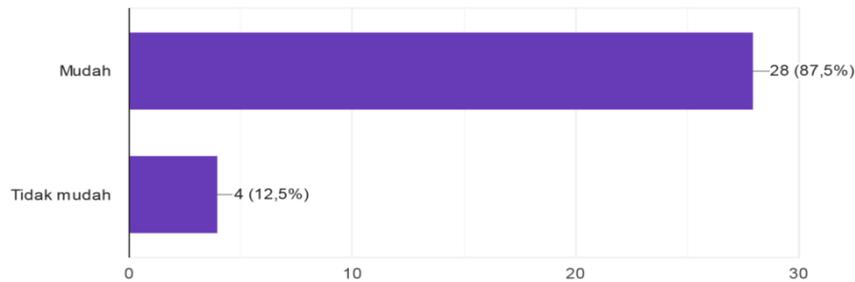


Figure 5. 5<sup>th</sup> Question of Closed Questionnaire.

From the figure above, 87,5% of students agreed that it is easy to access podcast, whereas 12,5% of students disagree with the statement. It means that most of the students are able to access podcast freely by using their smartphone with the help of internet and social media. The minority of students may faced difficulties in accessing, due to the lack of network, and maybe there is no adequate technology tool. It can be concluded that podcast is easy to access by the students.

6) 'Through podcasts, I am interested and motivated to learn English'. Do you agree with this statement?

'Melalui podcast, saya tertarik dan termotivasi untuk belajar bahasa Inggris'. Apakah kamu setuju dengan pernyataan ini?  
32 jawaban

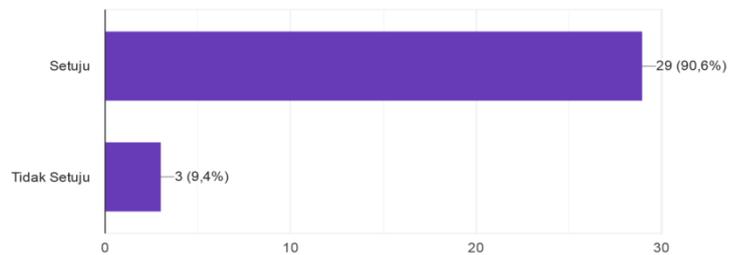


Figure 6. 6<sup>th</sup> Question of Closed Questionnaire.

From the figure, researchers found that most of students (90,6%) are motivated and interested to learn English by using podcast, and only 3 students (9,4%) who felt not not motivated and not interested. It can be concluded that podcast is an application that can be used to teach English to students, especially students as foreign learners.

7) Does listen to podcast in English improve your vocabulary?

Apakah dengan mendengarkan podcast dalam bahasa Inggris menambah kosakatamu?  
32 jawaban

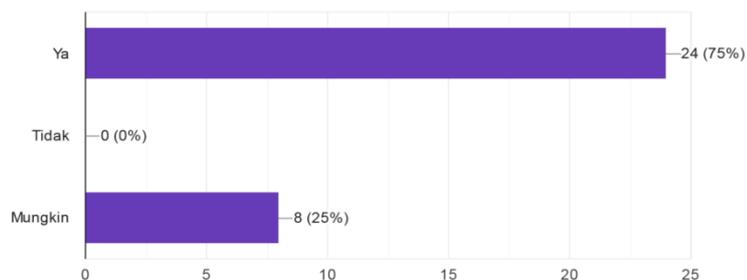


Figure 7. 7<sup>th</sup> Question of Closed Questionnaire.

From the figure above, we can see that 75% of students experienced good affect of podcast. Podcast help them in improving their vocabulary in English. Whereas, 25% of students experienced a little affect of podcast. It means that, podcast is truly affected students' abilities in knowing and understanding words in English, because from the answers, there was no students that disagree about the good affect of podcast in increasing their vocabulary.

8) Is with the help of podcast helped you to understand the words you listen to in English?

Apakah dengan bantuan podcast, kamu terbantu untuk memahami kata-kata yang kamu dengarkan dalam bahasa Inggris?

32 jawaban

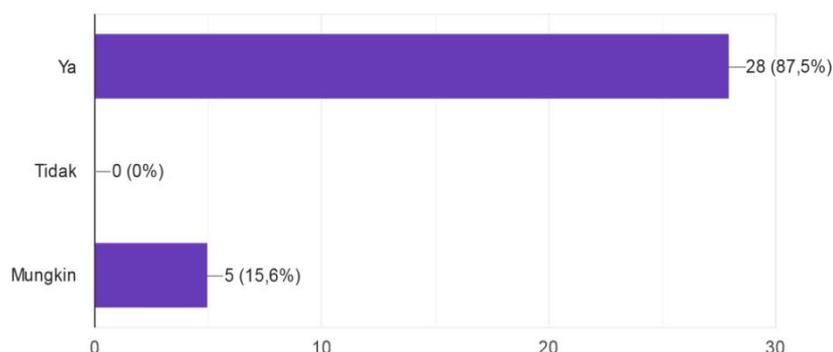


Figure 8. 8<sup>th</sup> Question of Closed Questionnaire.

From the figure, 87,5% of students are able to understand words in English with the help of podcast, whereas only 15,6% of students still have lack in understanding words in English even by using podcast. But, it can not be denied that podcast is a good application that helped the students in understanding words, not only knowing the words, but also help them to understand the words well.

9) Do you agree that podcast is a good media to use in increasing someone's listening skill?

Apakah kamu setuju bahwa podcast adalah media yang baik/bagus untuk digunakan dalam meningkatkan kemampuan mendengar seseorang?

32 jawaban

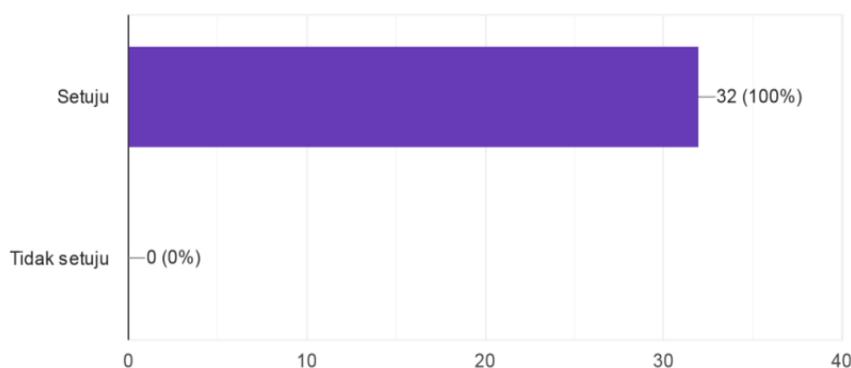


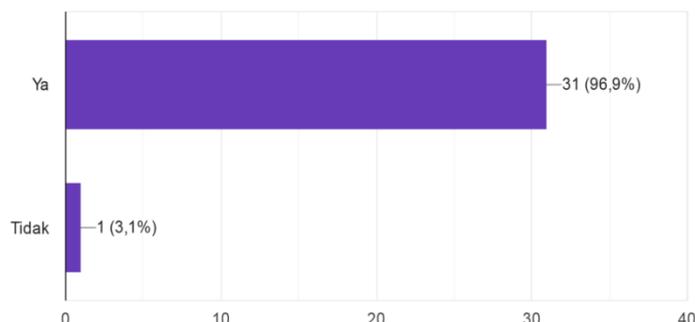
Figure 9. 9<sup>th</sup> Question of Closed Questionnaire.

From the figure, researchers found that all the students (100%) agreed that podcast and listening is really connected. No one disagree about the affect of podcast to listening skill. It can be concluded that podcast is a good media to teach listening to the students.

## 10) Do you think podcast should be applied in learning listening?

Menurut kamu apakah podcast harus diaplikasikan dalam pembelajaran listening?

32 jawaban

Figure 10. 10<sup>th</sup> Question of Closed Questionnaire.

From the figure, 96,9% of students think that podcast should be applied in learning listening. And only 3,1% of students think that podcast has no effect to listening. It means that, the educator/teacher should use podcast to make a new learning atmosphere and enjoyable learning process for the students, so that the students can improve their listening skills.

Based on the results of the closed questionnaire above, most of the students feel the positive use of podcast on their listening abilities based on perceptions and experiences they have experienced. Thus, researchers concluded that podcast really has effect on increasing students' listening skills.

## (2) Short Written Interview Analysis

The written interview was conducted to twelve students as the samples. Therefore, the question for the interview was 'What is your opinion about the using of podcast in improving your listening skill?' (*Bagaimana pendapatmu tentang penggunaan podcast dalam meningkatkan kemampuan mendengar kamu?*)

The students' answers are as follows :

*"Pendapat saya dalam penggunaan podcast adalah podcast sangat membantu dalam meningkatkan kemampuan bahasa Inggris saya, saya dibantu untuk mempelajari tata bahasa Inggris dengan benar."* (Margaret J. Da Gomes)

*(My opinion about the using of podcast is that podcast is very useful in improving my English language, in learning the correct English grammar)*

*"Menurut saya, podcast memang dapat meningkatkan kemampuan mendengar saya, karena menurut saya podcast lebih mudah dimengerti."* (Chardo Fidelis Silalahi)

*(According to me, podcast can improve my listening skill, because podcast is easier to understand)*

*"Menurut saya podcast itu bagus miss. Apalagi podcastnya bahasa Inggris. Kita bisa belajar bagaimana cara mengucapkan kata-kata dengan benar dan kita bisa semakin mengetahui bagaimana cara pemilihan bahasa yang baik dan benar."* (Rotama Angelina Turnip)

*(I think podcast is really good, miss. Especially the podcast in English. We can learn how to pronounce words correctly, and we can know how to choose the right grammar in language)*

*"Menurut pendapat saya podcast sangat membantu dalam meningkatkan kemampuan saya dalam bahasa Inggris, podcast juga membantu saya untuk mempelajari tata bahasa Inggris dengan benar."* (Septian Boy M. Sinaga)

*(In my opinion, podcast is really help me in improving my ability in using English language, podcast is also help me to improve my grammar in English correctly)*

“Penggunaan podcast sangat berdampak positif untuk meningkatkan pendengaran. Dengan adanya podcast saya bisa lebih mudah untuk memahami tata bahasa asing misalnya bahasa Inggris.” (Nata Rosenta Sinaga)

(The using of podcast brings positive impacts in improving speaking skills. With podcast, I can understand better grammar of foreign language, such as English language)

“Menurut saya miss itu sangat bagus miss, karena melalui podcast saya lebih mengerti bahasa Inggris seperti dalam pengucapannya dan dapat menambah wawasan dan pengetahuan saya miss.” (Melisa Butar Butar)

(In my opinion, miss, it is very good, miss, because podcast help me understand English language, such as pronunciation, and can improve my insight and knowledge, miss)

“Menurut saya dengan sering mendengar podcast tentu dapat meningkatkan kemampuan mendengar kita miss, kita dapat banyak pembelajaran baru belum lagi kalau podcast nya menggunakan bahasa Inggris kita juga dapat belajar menggunakan bahasa Inggris yang benar. Itu menurut saya miss terimakasih.” (Rachel R. Sitorus)

(I think, if we often listening to podcast, it can improve our listening skills, miss, we can get many lessons, especially for English podcast, we can learn how to use English correctly. That's my opinion, thank you miss)

“Menurut saya, iya podcast dapat meningkatkan kemampuan saya dalam mendengarkan miss, karena saya dapat tahu sesuatu ilmu baru yang belum saya tahu miss, contohnya saat saya menonton podcast om Deddy Corbuzier miss, saya tahu banyak berita baru dari podcastnya, terus miss saya terinspirasi bahwa sukses itu dimulai dari hal baru miss. Itu aja sih miss pendapat saya, terimakasih miss.” (Sermita Teresa Silaban)

(In my opinion, podcast can improve my listening skill, because I can get new knowledge, for example when I watched Deddy Corbuzier's podcasts, miss, I knew many new news from his podcasts, then I inspired that success starts from the new thing, miss. That's my opinion miss, thankyou miss)

“Pendapat saya miss, podcast dapat menjadi sarana hiburan, tetapi juga sumber informasi yang bagus. Melalui podcast kita mendapatkan berbagai informasi yang bisa digunakan untuk membantu dalam kehidupan sehari-hari dan banyak mendapatkan inspirasi-inspirasi yang menarik.” (Lovely Yolanda Simbolon)

(According to me, miss, podcast can be an entertainment facility, and also as good information source. Through podcast, we can get informations that can be used to help us in daily life and get many interesting inspirations)

“Pendapat saya penggunaan podcast sangat berpengaruh bagi saya, semisal membantu dan meningkatkan kemampuan saya dalam mendengarkan, dan mengetahui apa saja tata bahasa yang digunakan dan mungkin menjadi motivasi.” (Elisabeth Z. Silalahi)

(I think the use of podcast is very influential for me, podcast can help and improve my listening skill, and help me to know the appropriate grammar, and maybe become motivation)

“Pendapat saya terhadap penggunaan podcast sangat membantu miss apa lagi dalam hal mendengar informasi/berita yang sedang viral. Terus jugak miss menambah wawasan. Dan tata bahasa dalam podcast itu lebih sederhana di bandingkan kita mendengar/melihat penggunaan tata bahasa di tv miss. Selain itu miss di balik setiap permasalahan pasti selalu ada motivasi-motivasi yang positif miss misalnya podcast Deddy Corbuzier.” (Grace Natasya Pasaribu)

(My opinion about the use of podcast is that podcast help me in listening viral information/news, miss. Then, adding my insight, miss. And the grammar in podcast is simpler than when we listen/see the grammar in television, miss. Besides that, behind every problem, there must be positive motivations, miss, for example Deddy Corbuzier's podcast)

*“Pastinya dengan podcast kita lebih baik dalm segi mendengar tidak hanya dalam bentuk tulisan saja.” (Ervin F. J. Pardede)*

*(Of course, with podcast, we are better at listening, not just in writing)*

Based on the opinions of the students from the interview, researchers concluded that podcast is an interesting and beneficial media for students, especially for the millennial students nowadays. Podcast makes students increasingly passionate and motivated to listen, because podcast may contains positive meanings about lesson in school, about learning motivation, and matters related to human life. In addition, podcast also helps students to learn languages, especially English. Podcast helps them know and understand the pronunciation in English and the correct use of English grammar.

Podcast is a good media used to help students listen and understand something. Based on the results of research above, it can be concluded that podcast affects the students improvement in listenin. In addition, the result of this research confirms and proves the truth of some other studies about the using of podcast in leraning listening, such as Al Qasim & Al Fadda, 2013; Kavaliauskienė 2008; Ahmed, 2016; and [1].

This means that besides proved theoretically, the practice of using podcast also provable for its use on student learning abilities. Thus, educators or teachers can teach listening using the help of podcast. And students can improve their listening skills by accessing podcast freely and unlimited. They can access podcast whenever and wherever they are, by using their smartphones and by using the internet.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The conclusion based on the results of the research in this study is that podcast is a media that is worthy to teach students, and podcast is really useful on students' listening skills.

As stated by Constantine (cited from [1]) that podcast has important role in teaching English as a foreign language, starting from the beginner level to advanced level. It means that podcast plays role and beneficial on the English learning process for students as foreign learners. Thus, it is a good thing and positive innovation if podcast is used in teaching to improve students' listening skills in English. In addition, researchers also provide advice to educators or teachers and educational institutions to use the latest innovations by utilizing technology, for the development and progress of education in Indonesia. One of them is by utilizing podcast in English teaching

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