

## ABSTRACT

### **Zahran, Fidia (2025): The Influence of Contextual Podcasts on Improving Students' Listening Skills (A Pre-Experimental Study at the Second Grade Students of SMK Muhammadiyah Kersamanah)**

Listening is a fundamental skill in second language learning. It is often considered the most challenging skill to master. Learners must process spoken language in real time, deal with varying accents and speech rates, interpret contextual meanings, and apply both bottom-up and top-down processing strategies. In EFL contexts, students often have limited opportunities to engage with authentic listening materials outside the classroom. This makes classroom instruction crucial for developing their listening comprehension.

To address these challenges, this study examines how contextual podcasts affect students' listening comprehension and gathers their views on this learning method. This research focuses on four questions: (1) What are students' listening skills before using contextual podcasts? (2) What are students' listening skills after treatment? (3) Do students' listening comprehension improve after using contextual podcasts?

Thirty-two senior high school students in Indonesia participated. They learned listening through contextual podcasts using a Genre-Based Approach over four sessions. Data were collected from a pre-test and a post-test. The writer analyzed pre- and post-test scores with descriptive statistics, normality testing, and a paired samples t-test to assess improvement.

The findings showed that students' mean scores improved significantly from the pre-test ( $M = 62.13$ ) to the post-test ( $M = 80.56$ ). The paired samples t-test confirmed this improvement was statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ). These findings suggest that incorporating podcasts into listening instruction enhances listening comprehension and fosters positive attitudes. The study concludes that podcasts effectively develop listening skills in EFL classrooms and recommends the broader integration of digital media to encourage learner autonomy and motivation.

**Keywords:** EFL learning, listening comprehension, podcasts, motivation, student perceptions.