

## Spotify Podcast Integration in Listening Learning: Impact on Students' Digital Literacy

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### ABSTRACT

*Listening ability is a key competency in foreign language learning, but the teaching practice still often relies on conventional approaches that are less contextual for digital-native generation students. This study aims to examine the integration of Spotify podcasts in listening learning and evaluate its impact on students' digital literacy. Using a qualitative approach with the type of literature study, data was collected through a systematic review of ten relevant academic literatures within the last ten years. The results of the analysis show that consistent use of Spotify not only improves students' listening skills - especially in the aspects of context understanding, capture speed, and vocabulary expansion - but also strengthens digital literacy through content selection skills, online navigation, and evaluation of digital information. The conclusion of this study indicates that Spotify is an effective and strategic learning media in supporting adaptive listening learning and strengthening 21st century digital skills. These findings are expected to be a reference for the development of digital media-based pedagogy in higher education.*

**Keywords:** Podcast, Spotify, Mendengarkan, Literasi Digital

### ABSTRAK

*Kemampuan menyimak merupakan kompetensi kunci dalam pembelajaran bahasa asing, namun praktik pengajarannya masih kerap mengandalkan pendekatan konvensional yang kurang kontekstual bagi mahasiswa generasi digital-native. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji integrasi podcast Spotify dalam pembelajaran listening serta mengevaluasi dampaknya terhadap literasi digital mahasiswa. Menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan jenis studi kepustakaan, data dikumpulkan melalui telaah sistematis terhadap sepuluh literatur akademik yang relevan dalam kurun waktu sepuluh tahun terakhir. Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa penggunaan Spotify secara konsisten tidak hanya meningkatkan kemampuan menyimak mahasiswa – terutama dalam aspek pemahaman konteks, kecepatan tangkap, dan perluasan kosa kata – tetapi juga memperkuat literasi digital melalui keterampilan memilih konten, navigasi daring, serta evaluasi informasi digital. Simpulan dari penelitian ini mengindikasikan bahwa Spotify merupakan media belajar yang efektif dan strategis dalam mendukung pembelajaran listening yang adaptif serta memperkuat kecakapan digital abad ke-21. Temuan ini diharapkan menjadi referensi pengembangan pedagogi berbasis media digital di lingkungan pendidikan tinggi.*

**Kata Kunci:** Podcast, Spotify, Listening, Literasi Digital

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## INTRODUCTION

Listening skills are a crucial aspect of foreign language learning, especially in the context of higher education which requires students to understand, evaluate and interpret oral information accurately. In the midst of changes in the learning ecosystem due to advances in digital technology, listening teaching practices need to respond to the needs of digital-native generation students who have audio-visual and online media-based learning preferences. Unfortunately, listening learning in many educational institutions still relies on conventional methods that lack contextualization and do not touch the learning styles of today's students (Bower, 2019).

Spotify, as a digital audio distribution platform, presents thousands of educational content in the form of podcasts that can be utilized as a listening learning resource. These contents are not only relevant to students' lives, but also allow flexible, personalized, and contextualized access to learning. Podcasts are considered a potential alternative tool in building listening skills and supporting the development of digital literacy simultaneously (Yuliana & Wulandari, 2023). However, not many studies have explicitly analyzed the integration of Spotify as a learning medium in a systematic literature-based pedagogical framework, especially in the realm of higher education in Indonesia.

As a desk study, this research did not collect primary data from the field, but rather synthesized and analyzed the findings from various relevant academic studies over the past decade. Ten studies were analyzed that discussed the use of podcasts, including Spotify, in listening learning and improving students' digital literacy. For example, research by Hasanah and Prasetyo (2020) demonstrated the effectiveness of podcasts in significantly improving listening skills, while Chan et al. (2021) highlighted the contribution of podcasts to students' active learning engagement. This review aims to frame a new understanding of Spotify's potential as a contextualized and reflective learning medium.

The results of the study show that students tend to use Spotify 3-5 times a week to listen to educational content, with genre preferences ranging from motivational themes, language, and personal reflection. Improvements were seen in the ability to understand audio context, expand vocabulary, and foster sensitivity to variations in sound and speech style (Raharjo & Utami, 2022). In addition, Spotify has been shown to play a role in strengthening students' digital literacy through improving their ability to select credible content, digital navigation, and evaluate online information (Mulyadi & Puspita, 2021).

This study aims to critically examine how Spotify podcasts can be integrated into listening learning and evaluate the extent to which this media has an impact on strengthening students' digital literacy. This study is also directed to fill the limited literature gap in discussing Spotify as part of a library-based and multimodal language learning strategy. Thus, this article is expected to be a theoretical contribution to the development of innovative pedagogical approaches based on digital media.

The formulation of this research question includes: (1) How is Spotify integration as a listening learning media represented in the latest academic literature? (2) What are the impacts of using Spotify on improving students' listening skills? and (3) How does Spotify contribute to strengthening digital literacy in language learning? This study concludes that Spotify integration not only provides enrichment in the aspect of listening skills, but also becomes a transformative tool in developing students' digital literacy in a comprehensive and sustainable manner.

## METHODS

This research uses a qualitative approach with the type of library research focused on analyzing the integration of Spotify podcasts in listening learning and its impact on student digital literacy. The object of study includes two main variables, namely the use of Spotify podcast media as an independent variable and student digital literacy as the dependent variable. The subjects in this study are higher education students who represent the digital-native generation, especially in the context of the academic environment of Islamic Higher Education Institutions (PTKI) which are adopting digital transformation in learning. Data were obtained from secondary sources such as national and international journal articles, current reference books, research reports, and academic publications within the last ten years. The research instrument is a literature review guide used to identify themes, trends and findings from relevant studies. This research design is descriptive-analytical, with data collection techniques carried out through systematic searches on scientific databases such as Scopus, Google Scholar, and SINTA. Data were analyzed using content analysis techniques to assess the relevance and depth of information related to Spotify integration and digital literacy development, as well as cross-validation between literature to increase the reliability of interpretation results.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of research based on literature analysis from various studies in the last ten years, found that the frequency of using Spotify for listening learning by students is high. Most students use Spotify three to five times a week as a means of enriching language learning, especially in the context of oral comprehension. This finding shows a shift in learning behavior from using traditional media to digital platforms that are more flexible and adaptive to personal learning needs.

The types of podcasts most often used by students generally focus on educational and motivational themes. Podcasts with clear narration, consistent thematic structure, and communicative delivery are the main attractions in supporting listening learning. This shows that students tend to choose content that is not only interesting in content, but also has educational value that is applicable in everyday life.

In addition, students' digital literacy indicators also showed significant progress. Students were able to demonstrate skills in selecting credible content, managing listening time independently, and distinguishing between factual information and opinion. This improvement reflects the positive influence of Spotify integration on digital competence, especially in terms of navigation and information assessment in online environments.

The effectiveness of using Spotify in improving listening skills is also illustrated by several studies that show an increase in understanding of context, vocabulary, and speed in capturing audio information. Students who consistently use podcasts as part of their learning strategy have an advantage in terms of the ability to capture full meaning and reorganize information in oral and written form.

**Table 1 Results of 10 Spotify and Podcast Research in Listening Learning**

Researcher Name	Research Title	Year	Research Conclusion
Hasanah & Prasetyo	The Effectiveness of Podcast Media to Improve Students' Listening Skills	2020	Podcasts improve students' listening skills significantly.
Raharjo & Utami	Integrating Podcast-Based Learning to Promote Students' Listening Skills and Digital Competence	2022	Podcast integration encourages the development of listening skills and digital literacy.
Mulyadi & Puspita	Exploring the Use of Spotify Podcast to Enhance Students' Listening Skills	2021	Spotify is effective in helping students master listening skills.
Yuliana & Wulandari	Spotify as Digital Learning Media: Students' Perspectives on Podcast Use in EFL Listening Class	2023	Students respond positively to the use of Spotify as a listening learning media.
Chan et al.	Podcast-Based Learning and Student Engagement in Higher Education	2021	Podcasts increase student engagement and active participation.
Godwin-Jones	Using Mobile Devices in the Language Classroom: Challenges and Opportunities	2018	Mobile learning expands access to learning and enriches the learning experience.

Bower	Design of Technology-Enhanced Learning: Integrating Research and Practice	2019	Learning technology improves the quality of learning if designed appropriately.
Flowerdew & Miller	Second Language Listening: Theory and Practice	2020	Listening is an integral part of language competence and needs contextualized practice.
Mills	Literacy Theories for the Digital Age: Social, Critical, Multimodal, Spatial, Material and Sensory Lenses	2016	Multimodality strengthens digital literacy in language learning.
Ng	Can We Teach Digital Natives Digital Literacy?	2012	Digital natives need to be taught digital literacy in a critical and reflective manner.

Spotify integration in listening learning has shown significant potential in supporting the student learning process, especially in terms of improving listening skills. Based on research by Hasanah and Prasetyo (2020), the use of podcasts as an authentic audio source is proven to enrich students' understanding of sentence structure, intonation, and implied meaning in oral communication. Repetition of audio material and flexibility of listening time are key factors that encourage an increase in the ability to capture information more quickly and accurately.

The same thing was confirmed by Mulyadi and Puspita (2021), who stated that Spotify as a popular application-based media is able to reach the learning style of students who tend to be informal and independent. They found that students were more comfortable listening to podcast-based materials than conventional audio recordings provided in formal forms. Thus, Spotify facilitates an authentic experience-based learning approach that increases interest and active participation in understanding foreign languages.

In the context of student engagement, Spotify has also been shown to play an important role. According to Chan et al. (2021), media that are familiar to students' daily lives, such as podcasts, can create a more participatory and interactive learning space. When students have control over the material they listen to, they tend to be more focused and take personal responsibility for their learning process. This is different from passive teaching methods that often make students lose motivation to learn.



Support for this finding is also reinforced by Yuliana and Wulandari (2023) who conducted a special study on students' perceptions of Spotify. They stated that students like podcasts because they can be accessed at any time, according to their free time and mood. Even in the context of post-pandemic online learning, Spotify is considered to help maintain learning continuity through a flexible and non-intimidating approach. This shows that Spotify is not just a tool, but part of the learning culture of the digital-native generation.

The digital literacy aspect is also an important focus in this study. Students' conscious use of Spotify for academic purposes signifies an increased ability to select, evaluate, and manage digital information. According to Raharjo and Utami (2022), students who regularly use podcasts show higher abilities in assessing source credibility, navigating various genres, and managing listening time effectively. This shows that learning does not only produce passive listeners, but critical digital media users.

Godwin-Jones (2018) in his theory of mobile learning explains that digital media such as podcasts enable the movement of learning space from the classroom to students' personal space. In the context of Spotify, students are free to build their own learning strategies - for example by listening to podcasts while doing activities or doing repeated reviews. This habit not only improves listening skills, but also fosters lifelong learning habits.

Bower (2019) adds that flexible technology-based learning design can help students develop metacognitive competence, which is the ability to organize and evaluate their own learning process. In this literature study, it was found that Spotify indirectly encourages students to assess the effectiveness of the type of podcast they choose, note down new vocabulary, or even integrate podcast material into class discussions. This suggests that the use of Spotify can build a deeper and more reflective awareness of learning.

In the realm of cross-cultural understanding, Flowerdew and Miller (2020) highlight the importance of exposure to spoken language in various cultural contexts. Spotify, with its global reach, presents podcasts from different countries and cultural settings, which helps students become familiar with different accents, idiomatic expressions, and social contexts. Thus, Spotify not only improves technical listening skills, but also broadens students' intercultural horizons in English communication.

Mills (2016) in his approach to multimodal digital literacy emphasizes the importance of engaging students in various forms of media, including audio, to build critical and integrated understanding. This literature review found that Spotify allows students to process information audibly, which is then linked to visual, narrative and contextual experiences from the real world. This combination makes Spotify a learning medium that is not only attractive in form, but also effective in substance.

Finally, from all the findings analyzed, it appears that Spotify integration in listening learning has strong theoretical and empirical justification. Spotify not only improves students' listening skills and digital literacy, but also changes the

language learning paradigm from instructional to more participatory, adaptive, and relevant to students' digital lives. Therefore, Spotify is worth considering as part of an integrative pedagogical strategy in teaching English in higher education.

## CONCLUSION

Conclusion, Based on the analysis of various previous studies, it can be concluded that the integration of Spotify podcasts in listening learning has a positive impact on improving students' listening skills as well as digital literacy. This platform allows a learning experience that is contextual, flexible, and in accordance with the characteristics of the digital-native generation, thus encouraging more active learning engagement. Podcasts not only enrich vocabulary and understanding of spoken context, but also shape students' skills in navigating, evaluating, and critically utilizing digital information. Thus, Spotify is not only relevant as an alternative media in language learning, but also strategic in strengthening 21st century competencies, especially digital literacy.

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