

BBC LEARNING ENGLISH CHANNEL IN LISTENING SKILL OF EFL CLASSROOM

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Abstracts

The BBC Learning English Channel provides some audio and video resources dedicated to English language learners, making it a potentially useful tool in EFL courses especially in "6 Minutes English" section. This study analyses the students' perception on using BBC Learning English as a way to learn listening. This study aims to determine how students' perception on using BBC Learning English. The researchers use a descriptive qualitative research approach as a design to analysis the data using a semi-structured interview with the six-item questions as the research instrument. There are 11 EFL students, as the respondents were chosen at the university level. The study shows that BBC Learning English can be used as the media to learn listening skill. The result of this study shows that students get some benefits when they watch and listen to the content in BBC Learning English Channel whether it is about listening skill. In conclusion, learning listening skills through BBC Learning English can enhance listening and learning the British accent as well. Using BBC Learning English makes the process of learning effective and motivates students to learn more about English, so it can be used as an alternative way of learning listening.

Keyword:

Students' Perception, BBC Learning English, Listening Skill, EFL Classroom

Introduction

The British Broadcasting Corporation offers an instructional channel and online resource called BBC Learning English (BBC). The channel provides a range of resources for learning the English language, including films, podcasts, essays, tests, and interactive games aimed at assisting language learners. From grammar and vocabulary to pronunciation, business English, and idioms, the content is comprehensive. All levels of learners, from beginners to experienced, can access BBC Learning English online for free. It is helpful for English language learners who want to feel more comfortable using the language in everyday situations. While teaching English, using BBC Learning English video clips can grab students' interest. According to studies cited by Boster (2002), teachers believe that video

presentations boost students' interest and curiosities, which in turn boosts their motivation and retention. A variety of listening resources are available from BBC Learning English to aid students in honing their English listening abilities. For example, the channel offers a collection of "6 Minute English" podcasts that are intended to give English language students practice listening to real English at a pace that feels normal.

An EFL (English as a Foreign Language) classroom is a setting where non-native English speakers who reside in nations where English is not the primary language are taught the language. To create a stimulating and engaging learning environment for their students, EFL teachers employ a variety of teaching methods and strategies, including lectures, discussions, role-playing, games, and multimedia tools. The primary goal of EFL courses is to assist students in developing their English language skills, particularly their listening abilities. An EFL classroom is in a country where English is not the dominant language. Students share the same language and culture. The teacher may be the only native English speaker they have exposure to according to (Alicia, 2018).

According to the Abdi and Makiabadi (2019), among the most well-liked BBC News channels are the podcasts, which include Words in the News, 6 Minute English, Lingo Hack, The English We Speak, News Report, English at University, and others. With daily dialogues and the most recent news from the BBC, VOA, and numerous other podcasts covering a wide range of subjects like education, technology, everyday life, international events, etc., this tool is specifically made to help people learn English speaking and listening. Learn to speak and listen in English. Despite a few minor drawbacks, BBC and VOA news is a useful tool for learning languages. (Dwiwulandari and Dewanti, 2020) showed that the conversational implicature in some podcasts on the BBC Learning English channel can help learners understand the discourse more clearly and develop their listening skills. Then the study was conducted by Linarsih and Barella (2020) indicate that the EFL students can select anything they wish to listen to for fun, such as VOA learning English, BBC learning English, and YouTube. The learners' listening skills will therefore be enhanced as a result.

Three of the previous studies above discuss about using podcast in BBC Learning English can become the good way to increase the listening skill. Nevertheless in this study, the researchers will examine about how students' perceptions in EFL classroom using BBC Learning English for listening skill with using one of the well-known podcast from BBC Learning English "6 Minute English". This study was carried out in an EFL classroom at an Indonesian Islamic university.

This study aims to know the students' perceptions on using BBC Learning English Channel in listening skill of EFL classroom. In conclusion, using BBC Learning English channel with using podcast "6 Minute English" in EFL classrooms play a crucial role in helping non-native English speakers develop their language skills, gain confidence in using English, and participate more effectively in global communication and cultural exchange rather than other media.

The development of listening skills is a prerequisite for the acquisition of other language abilities, and verbal fluency is a by product of an individual's capacity for hearing, demonstrating the convergence of listening skills and other language abilities (Morales, 2018). Listening comprehension has not always drawn the attention of educators to the extent that it now has. Perhaps human beings have a natural tendency to look at speaking as the major index of language proficiency (Brown 2000, page 247). A linguistic competence is listening. It entails a desire to comprehend another person, an attitude of respect and acceptance, and a readiness to be open-minded and try to see things from another's point of view. According to Djabborova (2020), there is a big distinction between listening and merely hearing. As long as a person does not have a hearing impairment, hearing refers to the sound of words that your ears receive. It is a physical process that can take place. Other complex challenges stem from internal elements that affect students, including their affective states, listening patterns, information-processing skills, Language proficiency, and self-

perceptions of their listening prowess. Additional obstacles related to listening tactics and listening content were a problem. As a result, it is difficult to put the listening skill into practice. To be able to master this skill, one must undergo extensive training.

BBC is the world's largest broadcasting organization, according to its official website. Its goal is to make people's lives better by providing them with programs that enlighten, educate, and amuse them. The Royal Charter that founded the BBC as a public service broadcaster and the license fee that UK households pay support it. Thousands of hours of must-hear music, radio, and podcasts are available live and on- demand thanks to BBC Sounds. Since its October launch, it has received more than 2 million app downloads, which is a fantastic start. Listeners have the option and control over what to listen to and when with BBC Sounds (BBC 2019). Because they are cheaper and simpler to create than video podcasts, audio podcasts are the most widely used type. According to Yoestara (2019), listening to podcasts can help students become more fluent in speaking and listening since they provide meaningful language, authentic interactions, and new content (Hasan 2013). Several audio podcasts are available that can be utilized to teach listening skills. British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), a public service broadcaster based in Westminster, UK, is one of the contents. It is both the oldest and biggest broadcaster in the entire world. The British English daily life and culture are the main topics of the BBC podcast. A fascinating and appealing website created for English language students and English teachers is BBC Learning English, (Barella and Linarsih, 2020). There are certain sections of podcasts from the BBC News, Six Minutes English, Box Set, and other sections in the BBC Learning English Channel on YouTube. You can read, watch, or listen in on it for free from anywhere. However, the Six Minutes English podcast segment of the BBC Learning English Channel will be used by the researchers in this study. According to Nhu (2017), the fact that many students use BBC 6 Minute English to learn listening does not require a high level is evidence of the success of the program and the fact that it helps students develop their listening abilities.

According to Si (2019), EFL is regarded as English as a Foreign Language. EFL refers to those who learn English in non-English speaking countries. (E.g. Indonesian people who learn English in their country are EFL learners). The need for increased social assistance for international EFL students includes fostering relationships inside the university and in society, improving English proficiency, increasing cross-cultural dialogue, and broadening their perspectives on the world (as stated in Alghamdi & Otte, 2016, p.18). According to Camenson (2007), EFL students may reside in a nation where their native tongue is primarily used for communication. However, these students may be required to learn English in order to pursue their academic goals, travel to an English-speaking nation, or conduct business. He added that EFL students spend only a few hours each week studying English, have little exposure to English outside of the classroom, have little chance to practice their newly learned language abilities, and are taught by native speakers.

Method

This study uses descriptive qualitative research as its research approach or research design. According to Lichtman (2012), "the objective of qualitative research is to depict and explain human occurrences, human interaction, or human speech." Also, according to Creswell & Poth (2016), qualitative research is challenging because it necessitates considerable fieldwork, detailed descriptions of the procedure and the data, and inductive interpretation of the information with an emphasis on the viewpoints of the participants.

The researchers chose the descriptive research design as the research design because it is the most suitable design to describe students' perceptions on the use of BBC Learning English Channel in Listening Skill of EFL Classroom. The researchers use interview for

getting the data. According to Paltridge and Phakiti (2018), during an interview, researchers can veer from the script to discover more about the respondents' reactions. During the interview, further specific information was acquired regarding the students' perceptions of the use of the BBC Learning English Channel. The researchers using open-ended questions to do this study according to Cohen et al. (2007).

The research tool for this study must be clearly defined. According to Ary (2010), document analysis, interviewing, and observation are the most often utilized research methods in qualitative research. The researchers in this study gather data through interviews.

In order to gather data, interviews entail asking the participants questions and receiving their responses. In an interview, the subjects of the research are asked a number of predetermined questions, according to Emzir (2010). The researcher used interviews as one of the tools to complement the document analysis in order to gather information; that is to investigate how students' perception on using BBC Learning English channel in listening skill of EFL classroom.

There are six open-ended items in the semi-structured interview related to the data that has been analyzed in this study. The six item questions of the interview talk about the participant's general knowledge of the BBC Learning English channel in general and the advantages and disadvantages of using BBC Learning English as the medium to learn listening comprehension. The researchers were permitted to ask the EFL students whatever they pleased, and they felt comfortable responding to the questions asked by the researchers. To get information from the EFL students, the researchers had numerous questions prepared. A casual contact between the researcher and EFL students allowed for the face-to-face interviewing to take place. Additionally, interview rules are a technique utilized in the interviewing process. Appendix "Table 1" has further information.

In this study, 11 participants were interviewed by the researchers at an Islamic university in Kediri, East Java. These interview participants are either EFL or English language learners in university level or higher level. Researchers who believed these respondents would be willing to act as resources chose them at random. In response to inquiries from researchers on their experiences learning English, particularly listening while using the BBC Learning English Channel, these 11 participants provided answers. Many of the respondents are familiar with podcasts produced by the BBC Learning English Channel, particularly the well-known "6 Minutes in English" podcast and some respondents who are interested in British English. Additionally, participants' opinions are the answers of the participants to six items of the interview that have been asked in the interviewing process. Appendix "Table 2" has further information.

Results and Discussion Findings

A major obstacle for qualitative researchers, according to Lee & Humphrey (2006), is the analysis of interview transcripts. In particular, choosing "what weight to give to meanings that are only apparent in a part of an interview, how to retain understanding of the whole interview when the focus is on individual parts, and how to derive patterns both within and across interviews without losing sight of any idiosyncratic elements that may provide unique insights" (p. 188).

Item 1: What do you think about learning English using BBC podcast?

Based on the results of the interviews that have been conducted, most of the EFL students have positive opinions about learning English using the BBC podcast, including that it improves their listening skills, they can learn a new accent (British), and they think that the BBC podcast is an attractive and delightful medium that helps them learn English better than other media, is appropriate for the modern era, is effective, and helps them enhance their pronunciation of English. These statements were also supported by some participants, who said,

"I don't use BBC podcasts very often, but sometimes I also use them, so learning through the BBC can improve my ability to listen to English, especially in new accents, so I can add new vocabulary and also listen to new ones too."

"It's certainly good to use because it trains listening skills. Because there are lots of genres of podcasts there and they can be used to practice your own listening skills."

"I don't use BBC podcasts very often, but I have used this podcast several times. And this podcast is very useful for improving my English."

"I think learning English especially in listening is very helpful because we as students of English also really need listening."

"To learn English using the BBC, in my opinion, it can improve listening skills as well as pronunciation."

Item 2: What types of BBC English podcasts do you often listen to?

The next is about the types of BBC English podcast that the EFL students often listen to, based on the interviews that have been done, most of them listen to educational podcasts and news podcasts that are provided on the BBC Learning English Channel. It also has been proven by some participants, who said,

"The BBC podcasts I typically listen to are about education; therefore, how do the speakers discuss about education while delivering the information."

"I personally prefer to listen to educational types like that about vocabulary."

"I often listen to educational podcast on BBC."

"Mostly about education."

"For this type, it's usually a news podcast, but usually it's also educational."

Based on the data collected from the participants, it can be concluded that a BBC podcast can have positive effects on them, particularly in terms of their listening skills. The effects of listening to BBC podcasts include enhancing their listening skills, giving them new vocabulary, helping them pronounce some words better than before, and helping them learn new accents, especially the British one. Those statements were also proven by some participants who were interviewed and said,

"Obviously, listening alone enhances our abilities. Then, thanks to these podcasts, we may expand our vocabulary and improve our pronunciation abilities. As BBC Learning is British, we can learn pronunciation from British people with British accents."

"I can better understand English accents and there are many English vocabularies that I don't understand there. I understand and understand through this BBC Podcast, especially my listening skills have also improved."

"Mainly to improve our listening especially from native speakers that make us think hard whether it's true or not."

"As I explained earlier to improve the listening itself and also know the correct way of pronouncing English."

"Of course, listening alone improves our skills. Then we can

add new vocabulary from these podcasts and also develop our pronunciation skills as well because BBC Learning itself is from British so the book is a learns pronunciation from British itself/British accent itself."

Item 4: What problems do you get in understanding the content of BBC podcasts as a medium for learning listening comprehension?

Based on the results of the interviews that have been conducted, the problems that often face the EFL students are the accent because some of the students are still adjusting to the British accent, the native speakers speaking too fast for them, particularly for the beginner learners, and the vocabulary. They found some advanced vocabulary, so sometimes they do not know the meaning of the vocabulary that appeared in the podcast. Those statements were also proven by some participants who were interviewed and said,

"The grammar is a different issue because BBC Learning was created by native speakers, thus it goes without saying that the language is more complex or difficult than usual and that the accent is different because it is British instead of the ordinary accent."

"A separate problem is the pastine because BBC Learning is from native speakers themselves so of course the language is more complicated or more difficult than usual and because it uses a British accent it is different from the usual accent."

"Because I'm rare, so several times I've had trouble because the native version is too fast so I don't understand it sometimes."

"The main problem is the speed with which you speak, so it's a bit difficult to listen to, so the new vocabs seem to have a slang."

"For this problem, I usually often encounter several vocabs that I myself don't know the meaning of."

Item 5: What are the advantages of BBC podcasts in Learning English compared to other media for learning listening comprehension?

The next is about the advantages of BBC podcast compared to other media for learning listening skills. Most of them agree that BBC podcast can improve their listening skills. Other advantages are, they can get new vocabulary after listening to BBC podcast, they can learn a new accent (which is British), they can listen to podcast anytime and anywhere, and this podcast is efficient. These statements were also supported by some participants, who said,

"One of them is entirely in British, so we can use a British accent, keep expanding our vocabulary, and watch it anytime we want."

"As far as I use other podcasts, for BBC Learning itself because I am also interested in using a British accent for this particular podcast, of course it can improve our pronunciation towards learning British accents and also add new vocabulary because British and American vocabs are somewhat different, so for BBC Learning this adds new knowledge of the British accent or British vocabulary."

"Improving listening skills means that the Bible improves our English accent ability and we can also find new vocabulary that we don't know yet."

"In my opinion, this is from a native speaker and the truth is, God willing, it's 100% because it's from the British area, so it really helps us learn."

"More to that person directly learning from the native itself."

Item 6: What are the weaknesses of BBC podcasts as a medium for learning listening comprehension?

The last questions based on the interviews have been conducted, the weaknesses of BBC podcast as medium for learning listening skill are, all of the participants have the different answer and they have their own opinions. However, the main weakness is about the speakers are too fast for them especially for the beginner and the young learners, then another weaknesses like they found some advanced vocabulary, they still struggle to adapt with the new accent which is British, and some of video podcasts with no subtitles, so they do not know what the speakers talk. These statements were also supported by some participants, who said,

"I think that the speakers in that podcast speak too fast, also with the British accent. I still need time to adapt with the new accent especially with the British accent."

"As for the drawbacks, of course there are because these are native speakers themselves so for young learners or beginners it is not recommended to listen to this podcast because this is from the native speakers themselves so it's definitely more difficult for the speakers."

"Sometimes some podcasts don't have subtitles, so I don't really understand if there aren't subtitles."

"It's the same as before, what was asked before was the problem of speed with new vocabs and the difficulty of understanding slank in the way you speak."

"As for the weakness, if the BBC is directly from the native, so

if you talk too fast, sometimes you don't understand what is being said."

Discussion

Based on the interview, it can be concluded that BBC Learning English video can be a media for learning listening. It can be seen in the result of the interview. The use of BBC Learning English seems to be entertaining and effective for students in a listening class. The utilization of BBC acquisition English and students' interest had a significant impact on their English language acquisition. They appeared to be very passionate and eager to watch a movie video, then practice pronouncing words and speaking like native speakers. Even though there are some difficult things when watch the video, this did not diminish their interest in watching and learning from the videos.

According to Abdi and Makiabadi (2019), among the most well-liked BBC News channels are the podcasts, which include Words in the News, 6 Minute English, Lingo Hack, The English We Speak, News Report, English at University, and others. With daily dialogues and the most recent news from the BBC, VOA, and numerous other podcasts covering a wide range of subjects like education, technology, everyday life, international events, etc., this tool is specifically made to help people learn English speaking and listening. Learn to speak and listen in English. Despite a few minor drawbacks, BBC and VOA news is a useful tool for learning languages. The gap is this study only focus on implementation BBC Learning English in "6 Minutes English" content and similarly discuss about the benefits of using BBC

Learning English in listening skill.

The objective of this study is to know about students' perception on using BBC Learning English in listening skill. It is different from Dwiwulandari and Dewanti (2020) showed that the conversational implicature in some podcasts on the BBC Learning English Channel can help learners understand the discourse more clearly and develop their listening skill. The previous study wants to find out the types of conversational implicature employed by the speakers in BBC Learning English Podcast. Moreover, it has similarity that this study and the previous study focus on some podcast on the BBC Learning English Channel.

This study is only focus on the way EFL Students use BBC Learning English for their listening skill exactly on "6 Minutes English" content, meanwhile Linarsih and Barella (2020) indicate that the EFL students can select anything they wish to listen to for fun, such as VOA learning English, BBC learning English, and YouTube. The learners' listening skills will therefore be enhanced as a result. Similarly, this study and the previous study also want to know how EFL students learn listening skill by using online platform.

However, a weakness emerged when the internet connection was occasionally delayed or interrupted. While playing, videos came to a halt. This sometimes squandered our time because we had to wait before playing them again. Because the wireless internet had become too complicated to use, we connected to the internet using our own modems. Another option is to save the videos from YouTube before using them in class. As a result, there is no need to open films from YouTube during class. Besides that, the new accent they acquired and speakers who spoke too quickly become the big deals for the beginner when they want to learn listening through BBC Learning English Channel. Meanwhile, the strength of using BBC Learning English as a media for learning listening is that the students not only focus on learning listening but also, they can get something new such as how to pronounce some words as native speaker, they also know new British accent and this channel can be saved as offline mode so that the students can watch and listen the video wherever and whenever.

Conclusion

To enhance listening skills in the EFL classroom, this study attempts to learn what students think of the BBC Learning English Channel. According to this study, EFL students have various opinions about using BBC Learning English, particularly to sharpen their listening abilities. The descriptive qualitative research approach was employed by the researchers in this study to show how students perceived utilizing the BBC Learning English Channel. In this study, the researcher utilized interviews with the six items of the questions as a research tool to get information from the participants. The interviews were semi-structured, and the respondents were free to react in any way they saw fit based on their experiences using BBC Learning English, particularly to sharpen their listening abilities. An Islamic university in Kediri, East Java, randomly selected 11 EFL students as participants at the university level or higher.

This study shows the value of utilizing BBC Learning English to learn English, particularly for developing listening comprehension and expanding one's vocabulary. On the BBC Learning English Channel, many of the respondents listen to podcasts with educational material. According to the findings of the interviews, the respondents had positive experiences with BBC Learning English. Among them were the ability to learn a new accent, specifically the British accent, add new vocabulary, and enhance listening abilities in EFL students. In addition to the advantages that some respondents perceived in the BBC Learning English Channel, others perceived some disadvantages, such as internet connection, the new accent they acquired, the new vocabulary they hardly ever heard, and the speakers who spoke too quickly, especially for beginners who were learning listening skills. Therefore, using BBC Learning English Channel makes the process of learning English more effective and motivates students to learn more about English, so it can be used as an alternative way of learning listening.

This study can be used for future study about EFL students' English learning using BBC Learning English Channel for their listening comprehension, particularly at the university level. In addition, further research that focuses on investigating BBC Learning English Channel to increase speaking skill is also highly recommended. The research can also be developed using quantitative methods to provide more accurate data about the effectiveness on using BBC Learning English in listening skill of EFL students.

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