



Ayen Sitohang<sup>1</sup>  
 Yessy Octavianna<sup>2</sup>  
 Lastri Wahyuni  
 Manurung<sup>3</sup>

## THE EFFECT OF THE “REAL LIFE ENGLISH” PODCAST INTO STUDENTS’ LISTENING SKILL IN CLASS XI MPLB SMK NEGERI 1 NAINGGOLAN SAMOSIR

### Abstrak

Penelitian ini berfokus untuk mengetahui pengaruh podcast Real Life English terhadap keterampilan mendengarkan siswa. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui apakah podcast Real Life English mempengaruhi kinerja mendengarkan siswa. Penelitian ini dilakukan dengan jenis penelitian kuantitatif eksperimen terapan. Sampel penelitian terdiri dari siswa kelas XI MPLB SMK Negeri 1 Nainggolan Samosir. Penulis mengambil kelas XI MPLB-2 yang berjumlah 31 siswa sebagai kelas eksperimen dengan menggunakan podcast Real Life English, dan kelas XI MPLB-2 yang berjumlah 31 siswa sebagai kelompok kontrol dengan menggunakan Pendekatan Keterampilan Mendengarkan Aktif. Populasi penelitian ini berjumlah 62 siswa yang terdiri dari kelas XI MPLB. Penulis mengambil dua kelas sebagai sampel untuk melihat pengaruh podcast Real Life English sebagai media untuk mengembangkan keterampilan mendengarkan siswa. Data diambil dengan memberikan tes mendengarkan. Tes ini dibagi menjadi dua tes yaitu pre-test dan post-test untuk kelompok eksperimen dan kontrol. Rata-rata nilai pre-test pada kelas eksperimen sebesar 51,4 dan nilai post-test sebesar 80,6. Rata-rata skor pre-test pada kelompok kontrol sebesar 53 dan skor post-test sebesar 64. Hal ini menunjukkan bahwa rata-rata skor pada kelompok eksperimen lebih tinggi dibandingkan dengan kelompok kontrol. Hasilnya adalah  $t_{hitung} > t_{tabel}$  dengan tingkat signifikansi  $p = 0,05$  ( $11,71 > 1,671$ ). Hipotesis alternatif ( $H_a$ ) diterima, dan hipotesis nol ( $H_0$ ) ditolak. Disarankan kepada guru mata pelajaran Bahasa Inggris untuk menerapkan podcast Real Life English sebagai media pengajaran alternatif untuk membantu keterampilan mendengarkan siswa kelas XI MPLB di SMK Negeri 1 Nainggolan Samosir.

**Kata Kunci:** Real Life English, Kemampuan Mendengar, Siswa;

### Abstract

This research focuses on finding out the effect of the Real Life English podcast on students' listening skill. The aim of this research is to find out whether the Real Life English podcast affects students' listening performance. This research was carried out as an applied experimental quantitative research type. The research sample consisted of class XI MPLB students at SMK Negeri 1 Nainggolan Samosir. The author took class XI MPLB-2, consisting of 31 students, as an experimental class using the Real Life English podcast, and class XI MPLB-2, consisting of 31 students, as a control group using the Active Listening Skills Approach. The population of this study was 62 students, consisting of class XI MPLB. The author took two classes as a sample to see the influence of the Real Life English podcast as a medium for developing students' listening skills. Data is taken by giving a listening test. The test was divided into two tests: a pre-test and a post-test for the experimental and control groups. The average pre-test score in the experimental class was 51.4, and the post-test score was 80.6. The average pre-test score in the control group was 53, and the post-test score was 64. This shows that the average score in the experimental group was higher than the control group. The result is  $t_{calculated} > t_{table}$  with a significance level of  $p = 0.05$  ( $11.71 > 1.671$ ). The alternative hypothesis ( $H_a$ ) is accepted, and the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) is rejected. It is recommended that English subject teachers apply the Real Life

<sup>1,2,3</sup>Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, Universitas HKBP Nommensen  
 email: ayen.sitohang@student.uhn.ac.id, yessypasaribu12@uhn.ac.id, lastri.manurung@uhn.ac.id

English podcast as an alternative teaching medium to help the listening skills of class XI MPLB students at SMK Negeri 1 Nainggolan Samosir.

**Keywords:** Real Life English, Listening Skill, and Students;

## INTRODUCTION

Listening ability is a crucial component of language skills which includes a person's ability to understand, interpret, and respond to information conveyed verbally. This listening process involves complex mental activities, including recognition of sounds, words, intonation, and understanding the context of communication. More than just physical hearing, listening skills involve interpreting the meaning behind words, capturing nuances of expression, and recognizing intonation patterns that enrich understanding of language.

"Real Life English" is content that is more interesting and effective to use in developing students' listening skills because firstly it has an authentic context, "Real Life English" offers content that reflects real life situations, introducing listeners to English that is commonly used in everyday life using American accents are easier for students to understand, authentic contexts like this can help students absorb vocabulary and language structures in a more organic way, making learning more relevant to real life. Second, the content of this podcast is interesting and presents topics that are relevant to students' interests, it can increase learning motivation, the use of interesting material can make learning more fun and effective because it not only tells stories about everyday life, but also provides material that is usually studied at school well SMA/SMK. Third, flexibility of time and access, students can listen to episodes anytime and anywhere, according to their schedule. This allows for independent learning and adaptation to individual learning rhythms.

In the context of the research that will be carried out, it aims to evaluate the effect of using the "Real Life English" podcast on improving the listening skills of class XI MPLB students at SMK Negeri 1 Nainggolan Samosir. Several conflicts may arise, which motivates the need for this research. One of the conflicts that can be found is the lack of effectiveness of conventional learning methods in improving students' listening skills. This became a motivation to research alternative methods, such as the use of podcasts, which promise better results in learning listening skills. Apart from that, the lack of interesting and relevant learning resources for students is also a conflict that can be overcome by using the "Real Life English" podcast, which displays authentic content and is relevant to students' daily lives. Lastly, students' limited English skills can also be a conflict; however, the use of podcasts with adjusted difficulty levels can be a solution to this problem.

Based on the identified challenges and considerations related to students' listening skills, the researcher proposes a study titled "The Effect of the 'Real Life English Podcast into Students' Listening Skill in Class XI MPLB SMK Negeri 1 Nainggolan Samosir". The research aims to investigate the impact of integrating the "Real Life English" podcast into the English language learning curriculum for class XI MPLB SMK Negeri 1 Nainggolan. The study will focus on evaluating how this innovative approach enhances students' listening abilities by providing exposure to authentic language use, varied accents, and real-life contexts. Additionally, the research aims to assess the effectiveness of podcasts in fostering independent learning, addressing variations in accent and speaking speed, and promoting a more enjoyable and flexible learning experience. The findings from this research are anticipated to contribute valuable insights to the field of language education, specifically in enhancing listening skills through the integration of technology and authentic language materials.

## METHOD

The research design used in this research is an experimental quantitative. In the research "The Effect of the 'Real Life English' Podcast into Students' Listening Skill in Class XI MPLB SMK Negeri 1 Nainggolan Samosir. This quantitative research design might involve two groups of students: one group that uses the "Real Life English" podcast as a supplemental learning tool and a control group that does not use the podcast. This research will likely use a pre-test and post-test for both groups, where students' listening skills are measured before and after podcast use. The data from the test will then be analyzed statistically to find out whether there is a significant difference in listening skills between the two groups after using podcasts.

Data from this instrument will also be analyzed statistically to evaluate whether there is a relationship between students' perceptions of podcasts and the improvement of their listening skills. By using this quantitative approach, researchers will be able to produce data that can be measured numerically to explain the effect of using the "Real Life English" podcast on improving the listening skills of class XI MPLB students at SMK Negeri 1 Nainggolan more objectively. This research uses an experiment with a pre-experimental method to determine the effect of using the "Real Life English" podcast on improving English listening skills in class XI MLBP students at SMK Negeri 1 Nainggolan Samosir. An experimental research design was chosen because it provides good control to measure the direct impact of a particular treatment.

This research utilizes an experimental research design with pre-experimental methods to investigate the effect of using the "Real Life English" podcast in improving English listening skills in class XI MPLB students at SMK Negeri 1 Nainggolan Samosir. An experimental research design will be chosen because it provides group control to measure the direct impact of a particular treatment.

## FINDING AND DISCUSSION

### Research Finding

The Real Life English podcast significantly improved students' listening skills in the experimental group, as evidenced by the substantial increase in test scores post-implementation and the statistical analysis using the t-test ( $t_{\text{observed}} > t_{\text{table}} = 11.71 > 1.671$ ,  $df = 60$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). The experimental group, utilizing instructional media, outperformed the control group, indicating the podcast's efficacy in enhancing listening abilities. Additionally, incorporating video content alongside the podcast enhanced student engagement and enjoyment, addressing boredom during learning, and offering fresh learning approaches even for experienced learners. Overall, the study emphasizes the Real Life English podcast's role in actively enhancing students' listening skills.

The following table illustrates the impact of the Real Life English Podcast on test score improvement, as well as statistical significance in both the experimental and control groups. The data provided includes mean test scores, t-values, degrees of freedom, and p-values for both groups. Measurements were taken on the experimental group utilizing the podcast as a learning tool and the control group without its use.

Table 1 The Impact of Real Life English Podcast on Test Score Improvement and Statistical Significance in Experimental and Control Groups

Group	Mean Test score	t-value	Dagress of Freedom	p-Value
Experimental	29,1	11,71	60	<0,05
Control	11,4	11,71	60	<0,05

### Research Finding the Implementation of the Real Life English Podcast

The experimental group's students' listening abilities increased dramatically as a result of using the Real Life English podcast as a teaching tool. Exam scores were analyzed and shown to have significantly increased when this medium was used. The computed t observed value (11.71) exceeded the crucial t-table value (1.671) at degrees of freedom ( $df = 60$  ( $N_x + N_y - 2$ )) using the t-test procedure with a significance threshold of  $p = 0.05$ . Here,  $N_x$  and  $N_y$  represent the sample sizes of the experimental and control groups, respectively. These findings suggest that the Real Life English podcast had a major effect on students' listening abilities. The experimental group, which used the podcast, did better than the control group, indicating that using this medium can help students improve their listening skills. Additionally, adding videos to the podcast increased students' motivation and engagement, which improved the effectiveness and enjoyment of learning.

The table presented below, labeled as Table 1, outlines the outcomes of the study investigating the effects of the Real Life English Podcast on test score improvements and the associated statistical significance within both the experimental and control groups. The data provided includes the mean test scores, deviation squares, t-values, sample sizes, and p-values for each group. Specifically, the experimental group engaged with the Real Life English Podcast

as an instructional tool, while the control group did not incorporate this medium into their learning process.

## CONCLUSION

The author came to the conclusion that students' listening skills were significantly impacted by the Real Life English podcast after conducting this study. The following is a description of the conclusion:

1. The experimental group, which used the Real Life English podcast as a teaching medium, had an average score of 80.6. This is greater than the control group's average score of 64, which was obtained without using the Real Life English podcast.
2. The use of the Real Life English Podcast enhances students' ability to differentiate similar words and understand sentence meanings, especially within contexts. The themes covered in the introduction of the Real Life English podcast as a teaching tool to enhance students' listening abilities include a variety of tenses, including simple present, past, future, and present continuous. According to this study, students listen to the Real Life English podcast, which goes into great depth about each kind of tense. The Real Life English Podcast highlights some of the challenges associated with listening, including the rapid-fire speech of native speakers and the infrequent use of acronyms like "kinda" for "kind of" and "tweny" for "twenty." This helps students become accustomed to the use of common abbreviations by native speakers, enabling them.

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