

ENHANCING ENGLISH LISTENING SKILL THROUGH ONLINE PLATFORM: TED TALKS FOR STUDENTS OF SULTAN AGUNG ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY

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Abstract

Many students assumed that English learning system in university is too rigid because the style of teaching is mostly structured. The consequence is students can quickly feel bored and uninterested anymore. Thus, the English Learning System cannot be learned only through university learning system, but also it can be learned through the online platform. Furthermore, The National Polices for Education in Indonesia is supporting in teaching process through virtual media or online platform. The detailed information has been acquired by the authors using questionnaires in English to make a representative result and qualitative approach as the research method. The study targets some population, who are referred to the first-year students, in Sultan Agung Islamic University on June 2019. The respondents are student from various major of study and in progress of improve their English ability recently. This paper is aim to tell the reader that the online platform or it known as TED Talks is very useful for first-year students in enhanced their English listening skills. Moreover, the result suggests the lecturer to using online platform effectively for instance TED Talks which has become a popular platform to support the material in teaching process.

Keywords: TED Talks, Online Platform, University Learning System, Education, English Learning Teaching.

Introduction (450 words)

In learning English from all subjects that must be mastered, it is important to understand listening base. Listening is the activity of listening and trying to get a sense of something heard. That is a complex process that allows the brain to build on the meaning of sounds heard and understand language (Underwood, 1990). According to Howatt & J. Dakin (1974), "Listening is the ability to identify and understand what others are saying". This process involves accent comprehension or enunciating, grammar, vocabulary, and understanding its meaning. From the definition above, learners have to be able to process what they heard about listening. Therefore, listening

skill is strongly affected of vocabulary, pronunciation, and words meaning or sentences. Learning listening subject is important for study and development of our English skills.

TED Talks is an online website¹ or platform that performs a speaker in front of the audiences to convey interested ideas, since 1984. TED's slogan has known as 'Ideas Worth Spreading'. In spreading the idea, TED will convey much informational content on the average about 20 minutes and provide brief and various topics. It is like an organization that focuses on spreading the idea where

¹ Available at: <https://www.ted.com/>

Technology, Entertainment, and Design (TED) met by recording and posting free videos for people all around the world. The speakers are creative and creating something exciting on the stage to make the audiences feel less bored when see and hear what they convey. They present their ideas of something that they expert in. There are many experts that have different background, whether academic or non-academic. For instance a young girl pioneer, Molly Steer, which has no academic status, can present her idea briefly. On the other hand, TED also has presented a well-known speaker including Bill Gates² (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Bill Gates when talking about: Teachers Need Real Feedback at TED Talks Education.

Moreover, they present a common thing which is interpreted in deeply-perspective while people already know about the knowledge or information. The topics in TED Talks are very unique and interested. We have reviewed some of the videos at TED Talks. It was very interesting, whether it is from the title or the content. TED Talks brings us to study some knowledge or

information not only just from the university system but also a comprehensive learning.

This paper discusses the following aspects: How the students feel that enhancing their listening skill is urgent in facing their future so they will not misunderstanding in listening others opinion. Despite of that, some of the students will find difficulty. When they are using online learning platform, automatically they learn by their own. They cannot learn with lecturer guidance because online learning platform does not have facilities of guidelines. The second is the study of comparison between the traditional genre of university lecture and the new web-mediated genre of TED Talks by the students. In fact, the students feel that the traditional genre of university lecture is tedious because the lecturer has to obey the university's policy as their orientation in learning process.

Methodology (300 words)

This paper is aim to tell the reader about some aspects. Firstly, the online platform or it known as TED Talks is very useful for first-year students in enhanced their English listening skills. First-year students need TED talks to be more understand when their relatives someday speak English fluently. Secondly, figure out students' constraints in watching TED Talks' video for example a present about Want to be More Creative?: Go For a Walk by Marily Oppezzo.

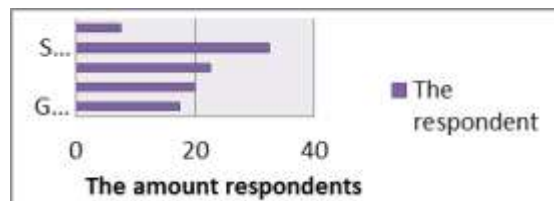
The detailed information has been acquired by the authors using questionnaires in English to make a

² Figure 1 Bill Gates when talking about: Teacher Need Real Feedback at TED Talks Education

representative result and qualitative approach as the research method. Creswell (2007) argued that “Case studies investigate a phenomenon within a bounded system or real-life contexts,” and this statement is supported by Merriam (1988) which also stated that “The interview is one of the primary sources to obtain qualitative data from participants” (Muna, p. 1). The interviews were conducted individually using Google Form as a simply methods with participants to gain their perspective of TED Talks and its relation to willingness of enhance their listening skill. The study targets some population, who are referred to the first-year students, in Sultan Agung Islamic University on June 2019. The respondents are students, which 20% are male while 80% are female, from various major of study and in progress of improving their English ability recently. The respondents are categorized in the young generation about 18 until 22 years old.

Although the respondents are in condition that they be able to learn English more and covers up the entire English subject but we can see that speaking and listening are the most subject they are interested in. This can be analyzed from the chart below about which English subject the respondents are interesting more³.

Chart 1 How Interested English's Subject for the respondents



There are three main problems to be discussed. The first part will discuss how far the respondents know about TED Talks. The second part will discuss how the online platform learning is more useful than university learning system. The final part will discuss about their listening improvement after watching TED Talks' videos, not only the benefits of online learning platform but also the obstacles when facing it.

Based on the discussion, the following questionnaire questions have been set: to present the known theory of TED Talks for enhancing the listening skill. The questionnaire questions were set as follows:

Question 1: What the students know about TED Talks: Technology, Entertainment and Design?

Question 2: How the students know about the importance of TED Talks for improving listening skill

Question 3: How the students know the comparison between the traditional genre of university lecture and the new web-mediated genre of TED Talks

Findings And Discussion (1750 words)

The authors present some review of related literature that is used in the study. The reviews of related

³ Table Error! Main Document Only. a Chart of How Interested English's Subject for the respondents

literatures are aimed to provide previous studies and information concerned with the research problems. It consist the definition of TED Talks, the online platform which is more useful than the university learning system as a base to enhancing learning skill and the improvement of the respondents after watching the TED Talks' sample video. In this section, we will discuss those main problems according to the respondents.

Firstly, the discussion of how far the respondents get acknowledge about TED Talks. As we can see, TED Talks is an online platform that very useful for learners. It can be used by everyone freely in website online of TED Talks.

TED Talks

TED Talks is an acronym that stands for Technology, Entertainment and Design, the three original domains in which the talks were delivered. TED talks had made freely available in video format on the web page of TED, a non-profit organization whose stated mission is the dissemination of 'Ideas Worth Spreading' (M.Z, 2017 M/1438 H). TED Talks give accommodation for the speakers to present and promote their ideas while the audience expects to listen to inspiring and receive a 'smart' form of entertainment. Most of the literature on the educational uses of the public Web has focused on ways to design or use online media to engender more positive learning experiences.

In 2006, TED Talks was started to access by every people on formal

website⁴. Nowadays, according to Taibi, Chawla, Dietze, Marenzi, and Fetahu (2015) TED Talks have reached more than 1.800 talks which facilitated by 35.000 transcripts in over 30 languages. Those transcripts, based on formal TED Web, were translated by 15.000 volunteers.

TED Talks have a unique concept. In another word, even it looked like an unstructured video project, but they exactly have well-coached and instructed presenters who follow a specific 9 presentation formula, optimized with storyboarding and emphasize passion for the listeners (Romanelli, Cain, & McNamara, 2015).

The respondents mostly have heard about TED Talks before. It can be shown by the statement of respondent 1:

“Like place for sharing or watching some idea in presentation with narrator and audience in online”

The respondent 1 told the meaning of TED Talks from her statement.

But the people who ever watched, hanya 11,8% that often watched TED Talks in weeks. Sedangkan 58,8% are rarely watch the TED Talks video. After we gave an information about TED Talks which is contain informative videos and podcast that have many such facilities in which more than 100 subtitles, hundreds of speakers, many interested topics and free for everyone and everywhere, they mostly interest to learn about TED Talks deeper.

⁴ <https://www.ted.com/>

Platform Learning is Useful than University System

1. how the online platform learning is more useful than university learning system.

Nevertheless, one cannot neglect the fact that, when shifting from the classroom to the TED stage, both the speaker’s communicative purpose and the recipient’s expectations change considerably. While in a classroom a lecturer’s main objective is to train an audience of students, these being aware of the fact that they will be assessed at the end of the course, on the TED stage academics mostly present and ‘promote’ their research while the audience expects to listen to inspiring and ground breaking ideas, as well as receive a ‘smart’ form of entertainment.

Table 1. Comparison of Essential Aspects of “TED Talks” versus Traditional Academic Lectures.

Aspects	TED Talks	Academic Lecture
Subjects	Showcase well-formed ideas	Concepts and content around specified curricula
	New or surprising idea, challenge a belief, new argument to a great basic idea	Convey fundamental principles and concepts

	Good idea takes evidence or observations and draws a larger conclusion	surrounding established or emerging basic or experiential science
	Good idea takes evidence or observations and draws a larger conclusion	Focus tends to be on details of the evidence
Goals	Sharing ideas, engage audience	Educate
Timeframe	18 minutes	45-90 minutes
	Evidence for effective attention	Rationale unknown
	span on a topic	
Style	Storytelling mode	Lecture style often too structured or rigid
Assessment	Number of views, audience comments	Student assessment, faculty evaluation
Mode	Digital, async viewing	Mixed
Speaker	Topic expert, passionate about the idea	Subject matter expert, often dispassionate
Venue / Context	Relaxed atmosphere / seating	Lecture hall

	Several day conference; varied activities / group interactions	Semester long course; 5-8 hours a day in class	slides Usually not rehearsed
Audience	Engaged group of peers	Student learners	
Structure	Make audience care (relatable example or intriguing idea) Explain idea carefully How and why idea could be implemented How the idea could affect the audience	Introduction Objective Topic 1, Topic 2, Topic 3, etc. Conclusions	However, TED Talks are not as unstructured as they may appear. Presenters are well coached and instructed to follow a specific presentation formula, which maximizes storyboarding and highlights passion for the subject. TED Talks or TED-formatted learning experiences might be ideal springboards for incorporation into inverted or flipped classroom environments where information is gathered and learned at home, while ideas are analysed debated, and assimilated within the classroom. The respondents which about 85.7 percent were agreed about TED Talks' concept can applied in university learning. It can be shown by the statement of the respondent 2: <i>"I think TED Talks can help to improve the student's knowledge especially help in improve their English ability"</i> Meanwhile, 14.3 percent were not agreed. The TED platform could also be used as an active-learning strategy, where students are either asked to critique an existing TED Talk and/or design their own. TED Talk regarding a particular topic of interest or relevance. TED presenters are often selected not only for their expertise on a given topic but also for their ability to effectively and succinctly communicate information to learners. In fact, students familiar with the
Visuals	Images and photos Graphs and infographics (clear - make only one point) Little text, avoid bullet points (different points on different slides)	Images and photos Graphs and infographics (typically numerous points) Text bullet points	
Preparation	Script out comments	Not scripted, tend to read	

TED Talk paradigm may hold lecturers to a higher standard given the effectiveness of the platform. In turn, faculty members might be able to improve their own delivery skills by observing TED Talks and adopting techniques used by presenters.

The first-year students in university need the effective and interesting method for improving their English skills, especially listening subject.

The Improvement after Watching Video on TED Talks

The final part will discuss about their listening improvement after watching TED Talks' videos, not only the benefits of online learning platform but also the obstacles when facing it. We gave TED Talks' video to the respondents about creativity, the title is 'Want to be More Creative?: Go For a Walk' from Marily Oppezzo. Many of the respondents claimed that the video is interesting them. After watching the video, the respondents many of them feel difficulty to understand the video but the respondents also would like to improve their listening skill.

Conclusion (300 words)

There were still many people that not know about TED Talks. We assumed that we need a platform online education for supporting in learning classroom. As a suggestion, the lecturers are able to give another materials using TED Talks to enhance student listening skill because it is important for their future especially when they meet their native relatives so they can understand well in the conversation.

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