

Effects of Technology on Foreign Language Oral Proficiency Acquisition

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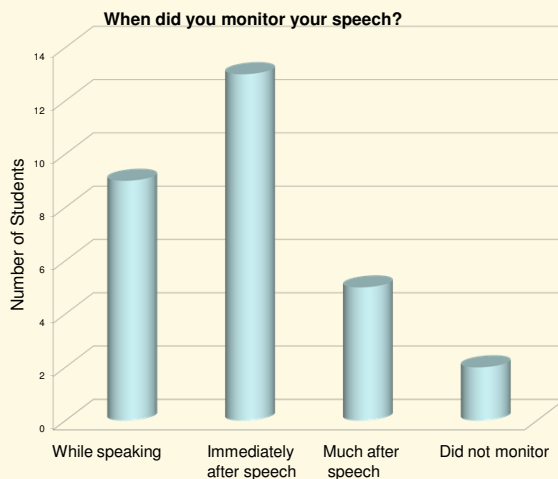
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Research Questions

- ❖ How do students feel about podcasting?
- ❖ Does that type of technology benefit their second language development?
- ❖ How does podcasting impact oral proficiency compared with more traditional activities?
- ❖ What set of skills are most active during those types of activities?

Quantitative Results



Qualitative Results

Conversation tables:

"Give an example of one self-monitoring thought."

- ❖ Paying attention to correct verb tenses, correct pronunciation, and correct conjugation.
- ❖ Paying attention to liaison, word order, correct use of vocabulary

Background

- ❖ Applied linguistics focuses on incorporating ideas from linguistics into the classroom.
- ❖ Oral proficiency is an important skill for second language learners: it leads to intelligibility, functionality, and communication.
- ❖ Technology seems to be an asset in language teaching.



What student liked about podcasting:

- ❖ Hearing proper pronunciation
- ❖ Scheduling conflicts with groups

What students disliked about podcasting:

- ❖ Recording conversations unnatural
- ❖ Podcasting a positive impact on conversation skills

Methods

Podcasting

- ❖ Nine students in French 401 (Advanced Conversation), grouped in two or three
- ❖ Three student-produced podcast episodes per group
- ❖ 18 authentic French podcasts to listen
- ❖ End of semester written survey

Conversation tables

- ❖ 15 students in French 325 (Pronunciation)
- ❖ 15 hours of conversation per student
- ❖ Online survey

Results

- ❖ Students reported gains from podcasting.
- ❖ Students' phonological awareness increased from listening their own podcasts
- ❖ Noticing mistakes may lead to improvement.
- ❖ Conversation tables felt more natural, and helped students practice in an authentic setting.
- ❖ Conversation tables helped students focus on pronunciation and grammar to make themselves understood.
- ❖ It is important to provide opportunities for both podcasting and conversation tables, as they address two different skills.

Thank you

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