

Podcast-mediated foreign language writing. A case study in L2 academic settings

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Introduction

- Authentic ways of dealing with the L2 and alternative activities that
 - dynamically *involve* learners
 - *improve* specific skills
 - *produce a positive attitude* towards foreign culture and everyday issues.
- Essential elements of those learning a L2
 - the *maintenance of attention*
 - the *decoding of information*
 - the *subsequent written or oral expression* of the learner
- The playful, authentic character and immediacy of podcasts can help L2 learners to
 - approach *knowledge* more directly, flexibly, more easily, inside and outside of the learning environment
 - develop *articulation skills*
 - express *thoughts in writing or orally*
 - listen to different *opinions*



Podcasts in L2 education



Podcasts in L2 education

Personal and communicative learning strategies and expression of opinions are favored with the innovative educational resource of podcasts in L2 education.

In this presentation we will introduce a case study, as part of a larger survey, in which we included podcasts in our university course because they combine *listening skills, evaluation of the information, and increasement of motivation to produce high-quality written tasks in the L2, inside and outside the classroom.*



Research Methodology

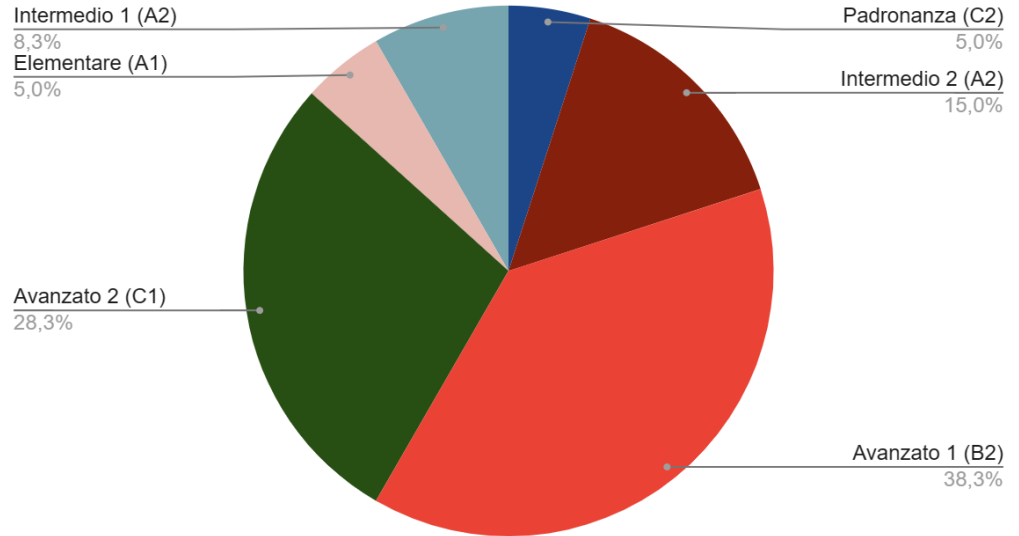
A case study on first-year university students learning a foreign language at the University of Athens- Department of Italian Language and Literature

Participants: 62 undergraduate students (in our study were mainly women (N = 56) who represent 91,8% of our sample)

Age: 18-56 years

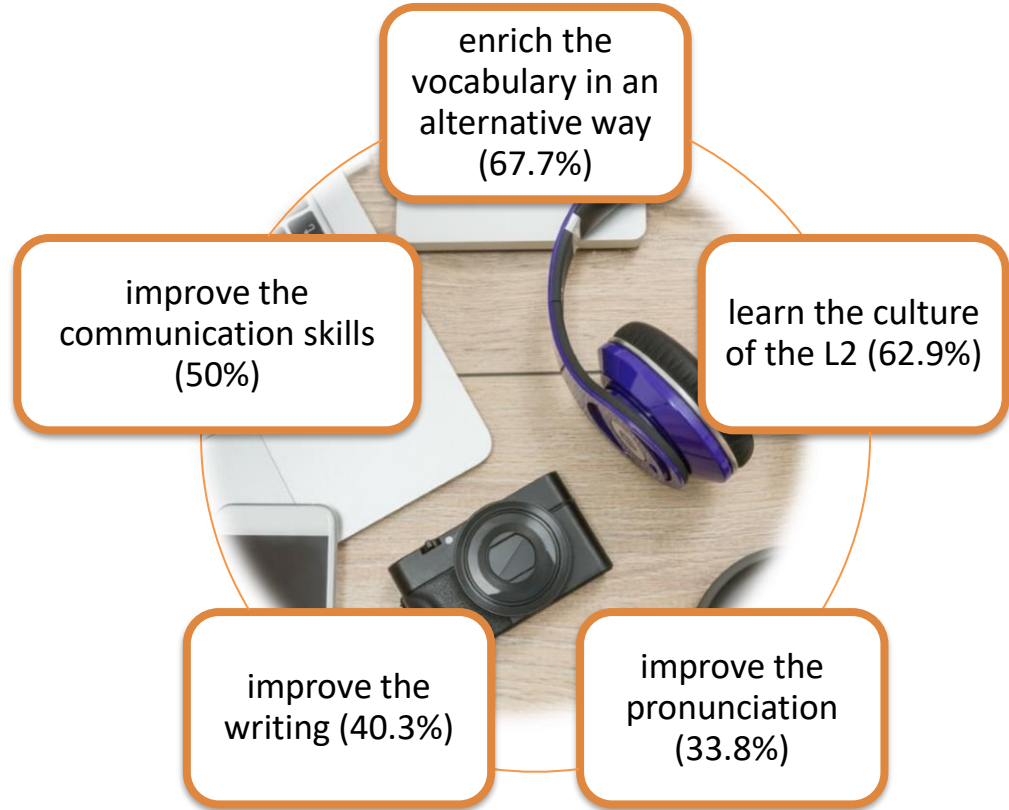
Origin: 59 of Greek origin (1 of Albanian origin, 2 of Russian origin)

How do you rate your level in Italian?



Research Methodology

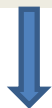
Initial questionnaire, for detecting students' expectations and preferences on the most important material in learning a L2



Research Methodology

The models usually presented in L2 courses are written. Our intention was to make the change and use an oral presentation, where the emphasis is on narration and 'voice', with the aim of producing a written text.

*A creative and effective way of teaching and approaching the L2, which can involve all the above, is through **podcasts***



*combining the **requirements** of our **students** and the **international literature and research**, we decided to involve **audio podcasts** in our **university courses***

selected **podcasts** according to the **subject matter** of our courses

in a **questionnaire** we collected their *perceptions of the pedagogical value of podcasts and their satisfaction with this educational tool.*

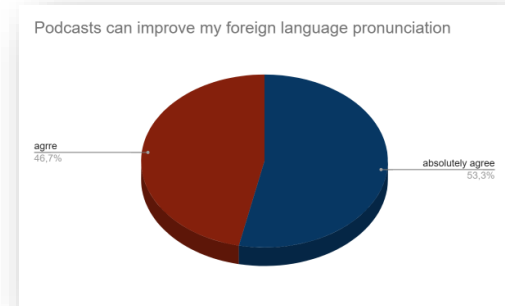
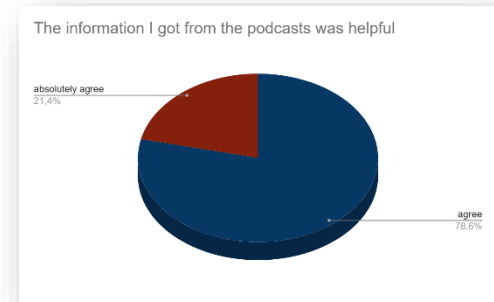
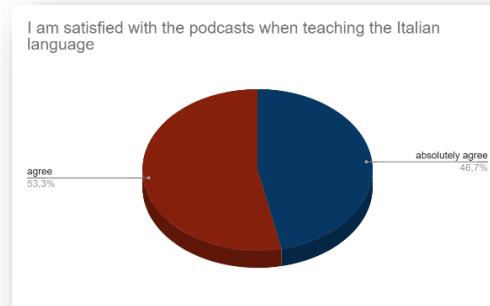
consolidate the topic of each chapter, as an opportunity to *listen to authentic language*, as well as to *improve and enrich speaking skills, vocabulary, pronunciation* and as a *trigger for written commentary* on the specific topic of the lesson

the students **listened** to various podcasts, *inside or outside* the course, and **commented** individually, writing in the L2 on their opinion about what they heard and related to the topic of the chapter they had been taught.

Research Methodology



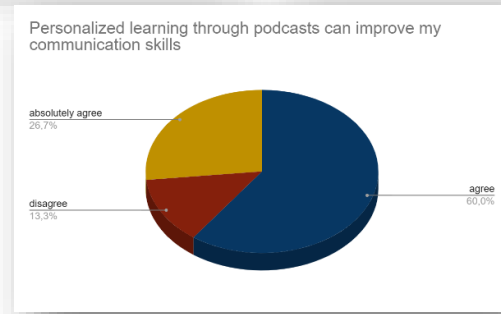
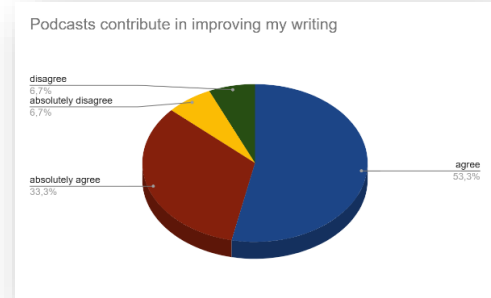
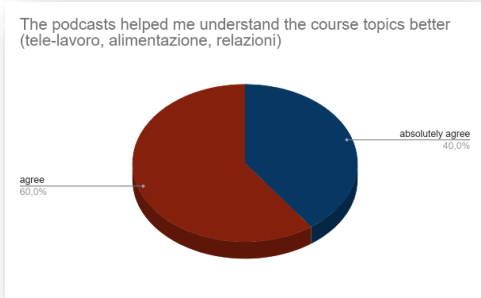
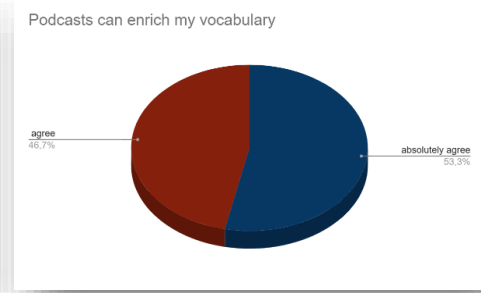
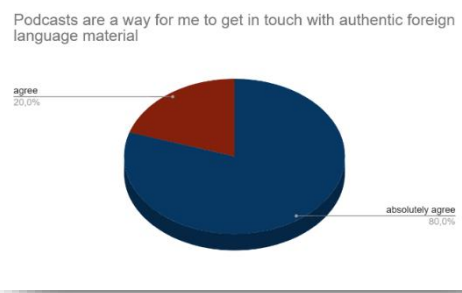
- 93,3%: already use various podcasts for educational purposes and all of them emphasize that these multimedia tools are easily accessible, useful for learning a subject, motivate learning and make learning easier
- they were satisfied with podcasts when learning the Italian language (46,7% strongly agree, 53,3% agree)
- they judged that the content of the podcasts was well organized (97,3%), the information they received from the podcasts was so useful, and they were able to improve their pronunciation in the L2



Research Methodology



- they also felt that podcasts are a way to come into contact with authentic L2 material, to enrich vocabulary, and the personalized learning through podcasts can improve their communication skills
- the written commentary on their podcasts seemed easy (60%) or of moderate difficulty (40%)
- it seemed that podcasts help to improve writing as well as better understanding of the course topics



	Absolutely agree	Agree	Disagree	Absolutely disagree
Do you use podcasts for educational purposes				
Podcasts are easily accessible				
Podcasts are useful tools for learning a subject				
Podcasts can mobilize learning				
Podcasts make learning easier				
I am satisfied with the podcasts when teaching the Italian language				
The content of the podcasts was well organized				

The information I got from the podcasts was helpful
Podcasts can improve my foreign language pronunciation
Podcasts are a way for me to get in touch with authentic foreign language material
Podcasts can enrich my vocabulary
Personalized learning through podcasts can improve my communication skills
The written commentary of the podcasts
Podcasts contribute in improving my writing
The podcasts helped me to understand better the course topics (lavoro, tele-lavoro, alimentazione, relazioni)

We also present the questionnaire designed to detect learners' beliefs about educational use of podcasts

Research Results

Briefly describing their experience of commenting on podcasts, the students mentioned:

“Through the observation of the podcasts I “came” in better contact with the language and especially with words and expressions used in spoken language.”

“The podcasts were useful for learning the language in terms of the vocabulary of the subject units and were interesting.”

“The whole material was accessible and very helpful. I think I spent my time constructively when I listened to them.”

“Commenting on podcasts has helped me improve my vocabulary and pronunciation.”

“Very helpful in choosing words and expressions. The contact with the language, compared to other times where this was clearly more limited.”

“It was a helpful experience for the course, thanks for engaging properly and we had a lot of choices.”



Conclusions

promote creative
exchange of ideas in
the L2



Podcasts

offer effective verbal
communication, integrated
speech, and experiential
learning, so that motivation to
produce high-quality learning
tasks is increased



can combine listening
skills, analysis, and
evaluation of
information



Conclusions

The use of podcasts in L2 teaching can offer

mobilization

verbal
ability

language
comprehension

listening
ability

improvement in
reading,
comprehension
of texts



Conclusions

- ❖ Podcasts *present* an **authentic, non-traditional model of storytelling** for students that encourages creativity (the spoken format can *elicit* more *engagement* than a written sample given during class and a sense of confidence in applying this format to their own writing)
- ❖ The use of both written and spoken materials *reinforces* the ways in which content and presentation intertwine when people share experiences



Conclusions

- ❖ We *contributed* to research and international literature

In this case study we had a very positive integration of podcasts in L2 teaching, as the auditory-oral stimulus

- ❖ *improved writing skills and*
- ❖ *enhanced vocabulary richness and*
- ❖ *increased L2 comprehension*
- ❖ While this task is at its core a writing activity, our research prospect is to involve our students in creating L2 podcasts, so to engage also speaking skills



Conclusions

the important element in teaching is how you
will present your subject



the way you will involve and encourage your
students to be engaged actively, pleasantly and
creatively with the teaching subject



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Thank you for your attention!!!
Vi ringrazio per l'attenzione!!!

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