

“Il était une fois”: Podcasting Pedagogy in the French Language Classroom

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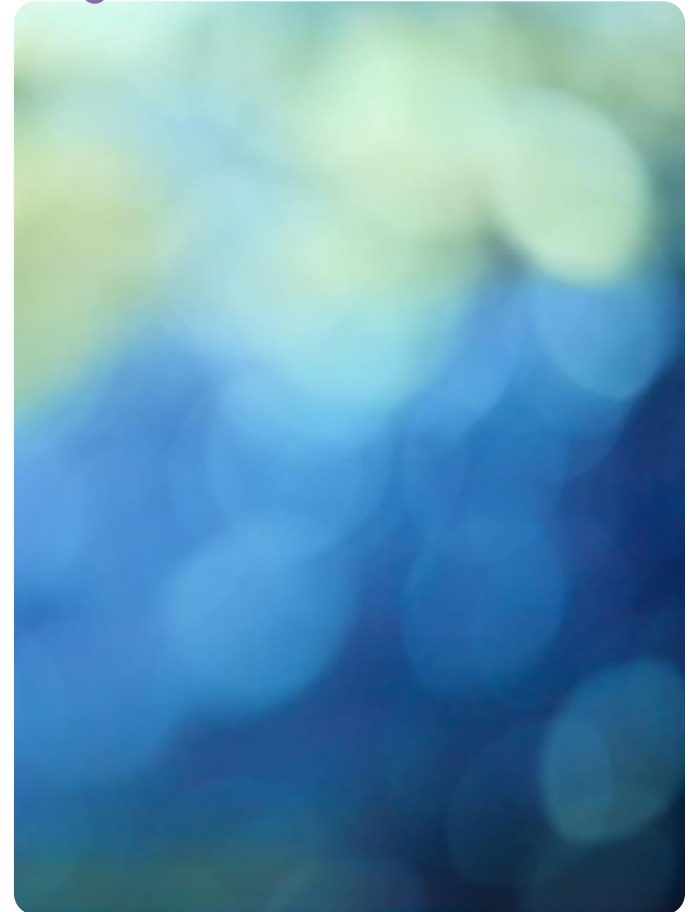


Introduction

Podcasting as a creative pedagogy

Promotes linguistic proficiency through role-play and storytelling

Combines narrative with technology



Rationale

Moves beyond
memorization and
drills

Centers
imagination in
language learning

Encourages
multimodal digital
expression



Imagination & Role-Play in Language Learning

Coffey (2017): Multimodal imagination—gesture, image, metaphor—builds creative understanding.

Core idea: Imagination lets students adopt new identities and experiment safely.

Role-play: Lowers anxiety, encourages risk-taking, and promotes linguistic growth (Cornillie et al., 2012; Lantolf & Thorne, 2006).



Theoretical Foundations: Bruner, Vygotsky, and Krashen

Bruner (1990): “Narrative is how we construct reality.”
→ Storytelling organizes grammar and vocabulary into meaning.

Vygotsky (1978): “In play, a child behaves beyond his average age.”
→ Role-play activates the *zone of proximal development* and fosters experimentation.

Krashen (1982): “Acquisition requires meaningful interaction.”
→ Podcasting creates low-anxiety, high-engagement spaces for authentic communication.



Theoretical Framework

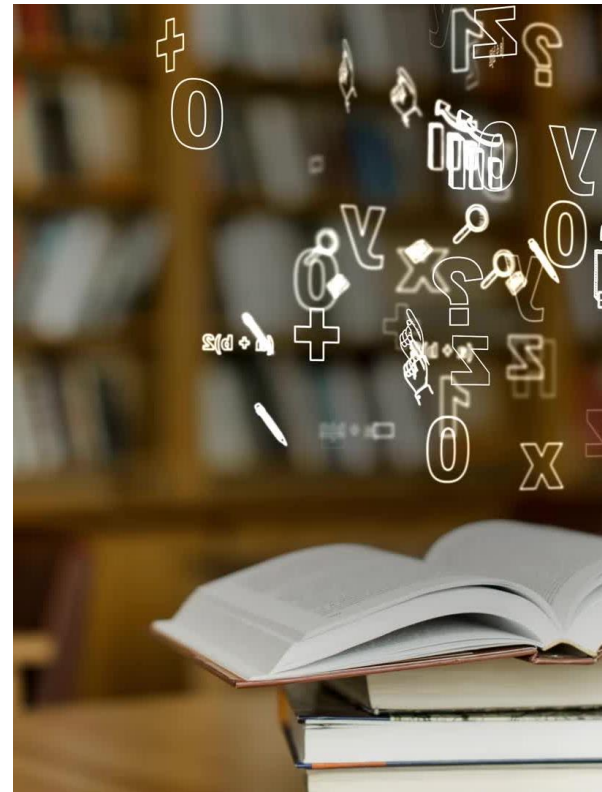
Storytelling
contextualizes
grammar

Role-play
enables identity
exploration

Podcasting adds
permanence and
multimodality

Imagination in Learning

- **“Imagination is how learners make sense of the world.” — Gillian Judson**
- → Connects emotion and intellect, making grammar and vocabulary meaningful.
- **“Creative pedagogy is multimodal—voice, gesture, image.” — Simon Coffey**
- → Bridges form and identity; language learning as performance.
- **“Learners imagine possible selves.” — Ryan & Mercer**
- → Imagination drives agency and transformation in learning.



Storytelling in SLA

- Narrative = Meaning-Making
- Grammar becomes contextual and memorable.
- Stories situate vocabulary and structure within coherent experiences.
- Learners internalize patterns through narrative coherence (Bruner, 1990).
- Storytelling fosters affective engagement, linking cognition with emotion.
- Creates a class community.



A row of five yellow wooden figures, resembling pawns or small people, standing on a dark wooden surface. The figures are slightly out of focus in the background, creating a sense of depth. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

Role-Play and Identity

- Reduces affective barriers
- Encourages experimentation
- Builds confidence and fluency

Podcasting as Digital Storytelling

Unites creativity,
performance,
and assessment

Creates tangible
learning artifacts



Pedagogical Triad

- Storytelling + Role-play + Podcasting = Imaginative Pedagogy



Case Study 1 – French 1010: La Famille Dupont

- Novice-level, 5-week project
- Adopt family roles to practice grammar



Week Scaffold – Dupont

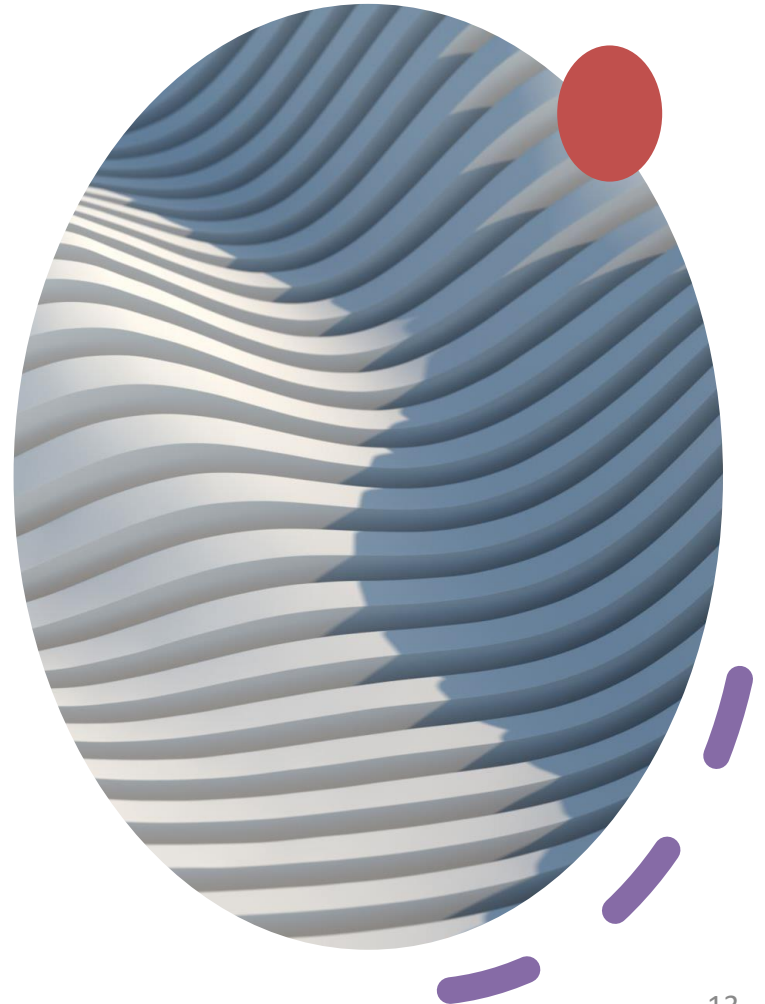
1. Family vocab

2. Descriptive adjectives

3. Numbers & money

4. Food & partitives

5. Aller + futur proche



Final Podcast

5–8 minute dialogue

Peer-reviewed

Showcases imagination
and mastery



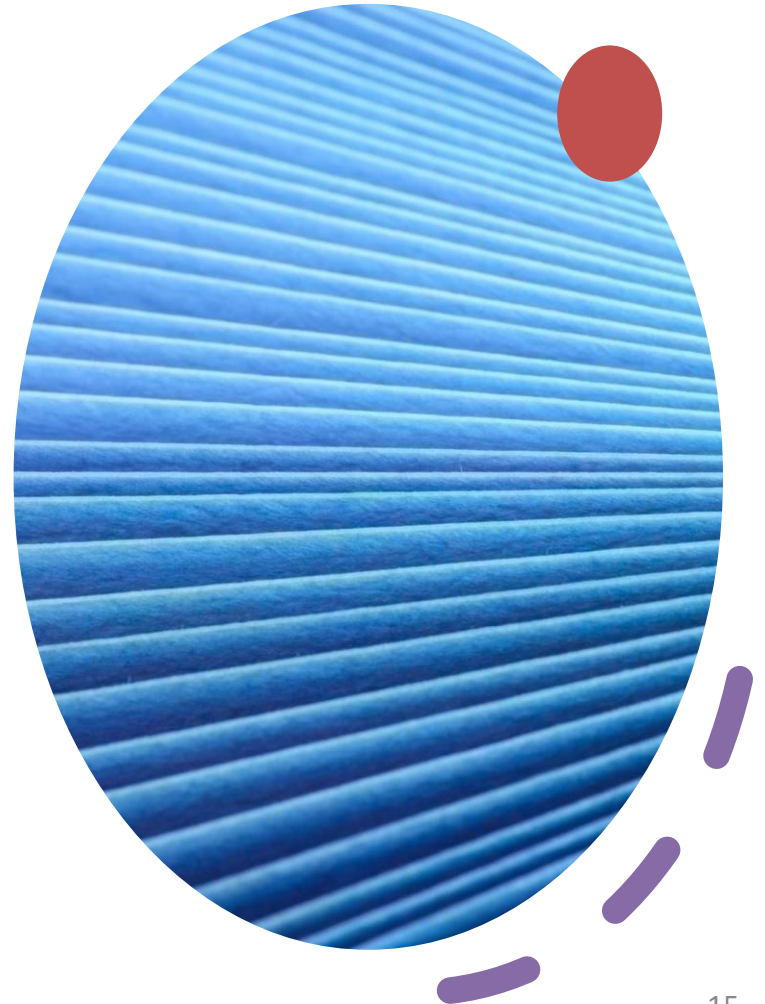
Student Reflections (1010)



Creativity,
confidence,
challenge



“It was fun to let
our imaginations
run wild.”



Case Study 2 – French 1020: Un Voyage Inoubliable

- Intermediate travel narrative
- Practice passé composé vs imparfait



Week Scaffold – Voyage

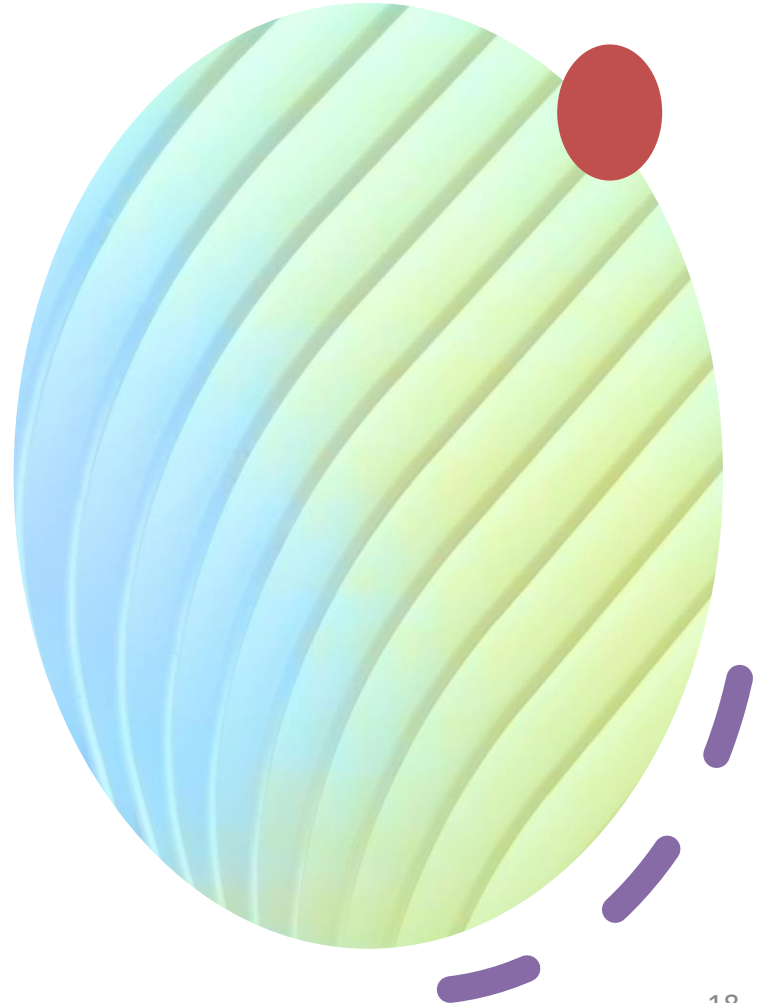
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1. Brainstorm
 2. Distinguish tenses
 3. Develop story
 4. Record
 5. Reflect
-



Student Reflections (1020)

Growth, creativity,
confidence

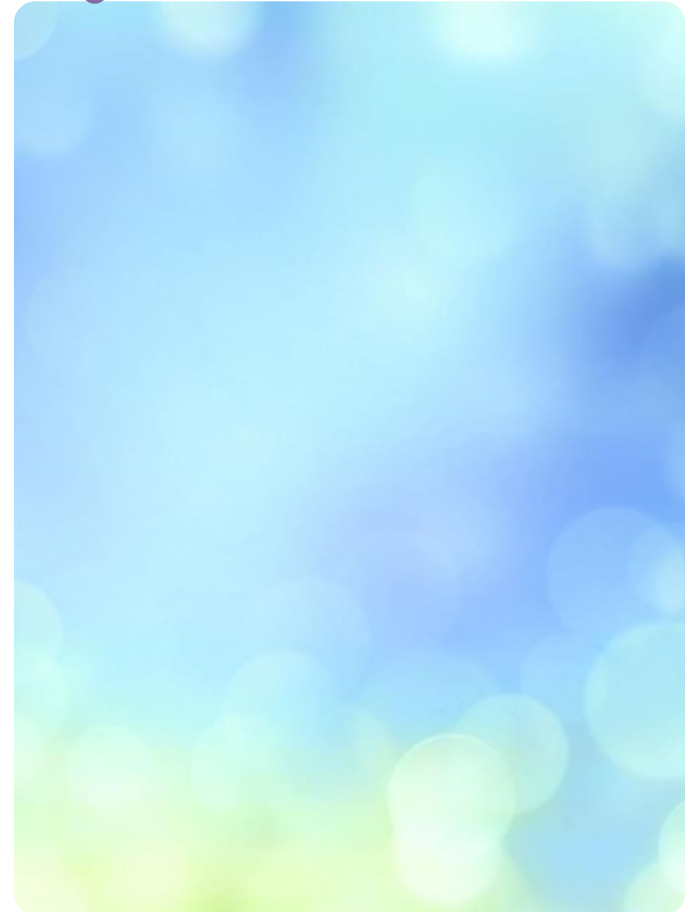
“Recording made me
feel like I was really
speaking French.”



Pedagogical Implications

Integrates
multiple literacies

Encourages
collaboration and
creativity



Imagination as Central Resource

PROMOTES RISK-
TAKING AND
INNOVATION

CREATES PLAYFUL
LEARNING
SPACES



Storytelling & Grammar in Context



Anchors grammar
in meaning



Improves
retention and
comprehension

Role-Play and Identity

Learners speak
as characters

Lowers anxiety
and builds
confidence



Conclusion

Podcasting =
creative, student-
centered learning

Merges
technology,
imagination, and
storytelling

