

VETERINARY PODCASTS IN EFL STUDYING

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Abstract

The study deals with the educational potential of podcasts in teaching English as a foreign language in High School. The analysis of studies on podcasts and podcast resources makes it possible to conclude that educational podcasts can benefit studying English. Besides, profession-based podcasts such as veterinarian podcasts help future vets to become a member of world veterinarian community and collaborate with peers.

Keywords: podcasts, veterinary medicine, High School, benefits, English

INTRODUCTION. Foreign language competence is a crucial factor for integration of Ukraine as a whole and education in particular, into European economic, political, scientific and production environment. Consequently, to become a competitive expert in world labour market, to participate in profession-based programs, internships, conferences and workshops, to exchange information and, finally, to have a possibility to get a job in a foreign country High School students should master foreign languages. The issue of innovative teaching strategies that can benefit language study will always be urgent. Ukrainian academics work at incorporation of educational potential of webinars [3] and social media platforms, comics [1] and podcasts [2, 4]. The last but not least became famous with the widespread popularity of mobile devices. However, the studies on podcast technologies in foreign language classroom lack. So, the aim of the paper is to determine benefits of veterinarian podcasts in teaching English and future career of a vet and to identify the procedure for podcast implementation.

METHODOLOGY. To achieve the purpose of the research the following theoretical methods such as analysis, synthesis (to find the teaching potential of podcasts), study of the works of Ukrainian and foreign scientists (to interpret the experience of using podcasts in EFL classroom), empirical methods such as pedagogical observation, conversations, analysis of students' practical activities (to determine the strategies for application podcasts in teaching English).

STUDY RESULTS. Modern specialists in Veterinary Medicine shouldn't be isolated from the world veterinary community, should get the latest news in the professional sphere and exchange information. Pedagogical experiments carried out in the previous studies make it possible to confirm that "such characteristics of podcasts as authenticity, multi functionality, ability to motivate, flexibility and quick absorbing of information make it a very perspective teaching strategy"[2, p. 145]. It is experimentally proved that "simultaneous reading and listening, repetition of words; vocabulary and grammar activities can definitely offer numerous benefits to learning English" [2, p. 145]. There is a wide spectrum of veterinary podcasts that deal with general and less difficult topics such as secret lives of your pets, light-hearted look at the latest animal news (Two vets talk pets: a veterinarian podcast for animal lovers, the first-hand experience from a vet student, That vet life), requirements for having exotic pets from bunnies to iguanas (Exotic pets) can be used with graduates and Master students. Some vet podcasts are focused on creating a supportive community to share stories and experience of people who make up with the vet profession (Podcast a vet). There are really incredible sites that contain not only separate podcasts but also activities and resources for future vets. For example, pre-vet advising website "Veterinary school resources" that includes the information, vet school requirements from a creator of a resource, a 4-th year vet student. But we would recommend to start with "Animal job digest" where lists of jobs, location, description of organizations, requirements for the position and candidate responsibilities are given. A vet student may test himself on being passionate about helping animals, organized and self-motivated. It's a great chance to think whether you are a great communicator and have a keen eye for detail or you are a quick study and love trying out new technology and tools. On the basis of content analysis of pre-vet advising website we found out that an expert in Veterinarian Medicine should be also comfortable at speaking to donors on the phone, and have good handwriting. It is a chance to improve or focus on traits of character, experience, salary and benefits future veterinarian will have. Moreover, the student is proposed to join Facebook group American pre-veterinary association and, consequently, have an opportunity to

share information on the topics of interest. And that is not all. Veterinary educational podcasts have huge potential for self-study: it has links to websites such, as histology virtual slide box, on-line books, and innovative veterinary programs. We examined an on-line textbook of Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine “Eclinpath”. It starts with Atlas – a visual resource that contains sections with “albums” of images. Let’s take, for instance, Hematology “album”. Its first section is called blood artifacts where images concern abnormalities in blood: storage-related changes in cells, stain precipitate. Each image is like a microscope picture. A university teacher can choose the appropriate episode to work at in the classroom. The episode may deal with pearls of life during and after veterinary school, some new knowledge and tools to use throughout the application process. Each episode lasts at least 40 minutes and the speech of podcast’s guest is fluent. That is the difference of veterinary and profession-based podcasts from podcasts on general topics from, for example, British Council. Some of them have episodes where the speaking rate is too slow and the approximate time of each episode is 2-3 minutes.

CONCLUSIONS. As can be seen from the above, veterinary podcasts can be used in teaching a foreign language with High School seniors and High School graduates. Moreover, we recommend to divide veterinary episodes into several parts and to take additional pre-listening tasks. We may conclude that veterinary podcasts are aimed at uniting the world community of vet students and providing collaboration.

References

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