

A THEORETICAL ANALYSIS OF HOW LISTENING TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE MUSIC ON DIGITAL PLATFORMS SUPPORTS VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract: This study examines the potential of Spotify as a digital tool for vocabulary acquisition among English as a Foreign Language (EFL) learners. Spotify, with its vast repository of songs and podcasts, provides learners with authentic language exposure essential for vocabulary development. Through features such as curated playlists, synchronized lyrics, and diverse content, the platform facilitates repeated listening, contextual vocabulary learning, and cultural awareness. Songs on Spotify combine rhythm and melody to aid vocabulary retention, while podcasts offer exposure to advanced lexical items and real-world language use. Moreover, Spotify supports autonomous learning, motivating students to engage in self-directed practices beyond the classroom. This integration of technology into language education aligns with modern pedagogical trends, emphasizing the importance of contextual, engaging, and flexible learning environments. The findings highlight Spotify's role in enhancing vocabulary acquisition and its potential to complement traditional EFL teaching methods effectively.

INTRODUCTION

In the dynamic landscape of English as a Foreign Language (EFL) instruction, the integration of digital tools and platforms has become increasingly pivotal in enhancing language acquisition. Spotify, a popular digital audio streaming service, has gained traction as a tool for improving vocabulary acquisition among EFL students. The platform's diverse content—ranging from songs to podcasts—provides authentic language exposure, which is essential for vocabulary development (Butar & Katemba, 2023). The role of digital platforms in language learning cannot be overstated. With the surge in technological advancements, tools like Spotify have become invaluable for language educators and learners alike. The accessibility and variety of content offered by these platforms contribute to immersive learning experiences. When students engage with authentic English content through music and podcasts, they are exposed to real-life vocabulary usage, contextual meanings, and pronunciation patterns that traditional

learning methods may not fully provide (Butar & Katemba, 2023). This type of exposure facilitates deeper understanding and retention of new vocabulary words.

Listening to English-language music, in particular, has shown to have a significant impact on students' ability to acquire new words. Songs often include repetitive language, colloquial expressions, and cultural references that help learners understand how words are used in different contexts. This contextual learning is crucial, as vocabulary memorization in isolation tends to be less effective. Spotify's curated playlists, which cater to various language proficiencies, enable learners to find music that suits their current vocabulary level and gradually challenge themselves with more complex content (Butar & Katemba, 2023). The interactive nature of platforms like Spotify allows for repeated exposure to specific songs or phrases, enhancing the likelihood of vocabulary retention. Research suggests that repeated listening supports the cognitive processes involved in language acquisition, such as noticing and internalizing new vocabulary (Butar & Katemba, 2023). Through this repeated exposure, learners can improve their listening comprehension and become more adept at recognizing and understanding new words in different contexts.

Podcasts on Spotify further enhance the learning experience by offering diverse content that can range from storytelling to educational talks, each rich in vocabulary and context. These podcasts provide learners with opportunities to encounter new terms and expressions that may not appear in conventional EFL textbooks. This exposure helps bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world language use, fostering a more holistic understanding of English (Butar & Katemba, 2023). Music has the unique ability to evoke emotions, which can create a more engaging and memorable learning experience. Emotional connections formed while listening to songs can enhance the retention of new vocabulary. This emotional engagement, combined with the natural rhythm and melody of music, aids in the processing and recall of language. For EFL students, associating positive emotions with language learning can boost motivation and encourage continued practice (Butar & Katemba, 2023). The informal nature of learning through Spotify can also contribute to a reduction in language anxiety, a common barrier for EFL learners. When students feel less pressured, they are more open to absorbing new information and experimenting with language. By using Spotify, students can engage in self-directed learning, which empowers them to take control of their language development. This autonomy is essential for fostering a lifelong learning mindset, where

students actively seek opportunities to enhance their language skills outside the classroom (Butar & Katemba, 2023).

Integrating digital platforms like Spotify into the EFL curriculum can complement traditional teaching methods. Teachers can create lesson plans that incorporate songs or podcast episodes relevant to the topics being taught. For example, vocabulary exercises could include identifying and defining new words from song lyrics or summarizing podcast content. These activities not only reinforce language learning but also make the process more interactive and enjoyable for students (Butar & Katemba, 2023). The cultural exposure provided by music and podcasts is another benefit that cannot be overlooked. Songs and spoken content often reflect the culture and values of the English-speaking world, allowing students to gain insights into language use within different cultural contexts. This understanding enriches their language learning journey by providing a deeper appreciation of the nuances and variations in vocabulary and language usage. Through such exposure, students become more culturally aware and better equipped to communicate effectively in diverse environments (Butar & Katemba, 2023).

The integration of digital platforms such as Spotify into EFL learning offers significant advantages for vocabulary acquisition. The combination of authentic language exposure, repeated listening, emotional engagement, and self-directed learning creates a comprehensive learning environment that supports vocabulary development. As technology continues to evolve, educators and learners must embrace these tools to maximize their potential for enhancing language acquisition (Butar & Katemba, 2023). The growing reliance on digital tools reflects a broader trend in education toward incorporating technology to create engaging and effective learning experiences. Platforms like Spotify provide an innovative way to complement traditional teaching methods and support students in developing their vocabulary and language skills. By leveraging the unique features of these platforms, EFL students can gain a richer, more interactive learning experience that goes beyond the limitations of the classroom (Butar & Katemba, 2023). It is evident that digital platforms have transformed the way language learning is approached. With continuous use and the right pedagogical strategies, Spotify can become an integral part of the EFL learning toolkit, enabling students to access varied and meaningful language input. The potential for vocabulary development through music and podcasts highlights the importance of adapting to new educational tools and methodologies (Butar & Katemba, 2023). Overall, incorporating Spotify into EFL instruction not only supports vocabulary acquisition but also enhances students' overall language proficiency. The authentic

and engaging content provided by the platform encourages a more immersive and enjoyable learning experience. This approach aligns with current educational trends that prioritize the use of technology to foster more effective and dynamic learning environments (Butar & Katemba, 2023).

The significance of digital media in EFL (English as a Foreign Language) education has been widely acknowledged, as it aligns with students' preferences and facilitates autonomous learning. Digital platforms have transformed traditional learning approaches by offering flexible and engaging resources that resonate with learners' interests. Elisa (2023) highlights that digital media has become an integral component of students' learning processes, enabling access to diverse resources and opportunities for self-directed learning. This shift has opened new avenues for language acquisition, particularly vocabulary development, through platforms like Spotify. Spotify, a leading digital music platform, has gained attention for its extensive repository of English-language content and its accessibility to users worldwide. As Nuraeni and Warni (2023) observe, Spotify not only provides a rich source of linguistic input but also engages learners through songs that are both entertaining and educational. Songs on Spotify offer authentic language exposure, which is critical for vocabulary acquisition. Learners encounter words and phrases in meaningful contexts, facilitating deeper understanding and retention. This paper explores how Spotify's features and content contribute to vocabulary development in EFL learners.

One of the key aspects of Spotify's impact on vocabulary learning is the platform's ability to provide repeated exposure to language. Repetition is a well-established principle in language learning, aiding in the reinforcement and memorization of vocabulary (Nuraeni & Warni, 2023). Listening to songs multiple times allows learners to familiarize themselves with new words and phrases, gradually embedding them in long-term memory. Moreover, the rhythm and melody of songs create a mnemonic effect, making it easier for learners to recall vocabulary. Another significant factor is the authenticity of language presented in songs. Authentic materials, as noted by Elisa (2023), are crucial for effective language learning because they reflect real-life usage. Songs on Spotify often include idiomatic expressions, colloquialisms, and culturally relevant vocabulary, providing learners with a deeper understanding of the language and its nuances. This exposure helps learners to develop not only their vocabulary but also their cultural competence, an essential component of language proficiency.

Spotify's curated playlists and personalized recommendations further enhance its educational potential. By tailoring content to individual preferences and proficiency levels, Spotify ensures that learners remain motivated and engaged. For example, learners can create or follow playlists specifically designed for language learning, featuring songs with clear lyrics and simple vocabulary. Nuraeni and Warni (2023) emphasize that such customization empowers learners to take control of their learning journey, promoting autonomy and sustained interest. Interactive features on Spotify, such as synchronized lyrics and translations, also play a vital role in vocabulary acquisition. These tools allow learners to follow along with the lyrics while listening, facilitating a deeper understanding of word meanings and pronunciations. Elisa (2023) points out that visual support, like synchronized lyrics, enhances comprehension and supports the retention of new vocabulary. Learners can also use the translation feature to understand unfamiliar words, bridging the gap between listening and comprehension. The integration of Spotify into classroom activities has proven to be effective in fostering collaborative learning. Teachers can design tasks around songs, such as gap-fill exercises, discussions on song themes, or vocabulary quizzes. Nuraeni and Warni (2023) highlight that these activities not only make learning enjoyable but also encourage peer interaction, which is beneficial for language development. Collaborative tasks provide opportunities for learners to use new vocabulary in meaningful contexts, reinforcing their understanding and usage.

Spotify's global reach and diverse content make it an inclusive tool for learners of all backgrounds. The platform's extensive library includes songs from various genres and regions, catering to a wide range of tastes and linguistic needs. This diversity exposes learners to different accents, dialects, and cultural contexts, enriching their linguistic repertoire. Elisa (2023) underscores that such exposure is invaluable for developing listening skills and expanding vocabulary. The accessibility of Spotify makes it an ideal tool for autonomous learning. Learners can access the platform anytime and anywhere, allowing them to incorporate language practice into their daily routines. Nuraeni and Warni (2023) argue that this flexibility is particularly beneficial for learners who may not have access to formal language instruction. By listening to songs on Spotify, learners can create a language-rich environment that supports continuous learning. The motivational aspect of using Spotify for language learning cannot be overlooked. Songs inherently appeal to learners' emotions and interests, making the learning process enjoyable and memorable. Elisa (2023) notes that motivation is a critical factor in successful language acquisition, and Spotify's engaging content helps sustain learners' interest.

This emotional connection to music fosters a positive attitude toward learning and encourages consistent practice.

Spotify serves as a powerful tool for vocabulary development in EFL learners, offering a unique blend of entertainment and education. Its accessibility, diverse content, and interactive features align with students' preferences and support autonomous learning. By providing authentic language exposure, repeated practice, and motivational resources, Spotify enhances learners' vocabulary acquisition and overall language proficiency. As Nuraeni and Warni (2023) and Elisa (2023) suggest, the integration of platforms like Spotify into EFL education represents a promising approach to addressing the challenges of vocabulary learning in a digital age.

Listening to English-language music on digital platforms like Spotify has emerged as a significant medium for vocabulary development among English learners. Songs on Spotify serve as a powerful tool for contextual vocabulary learning, enabling students to encounter words in meaningful and memorable settings. This aligns with Sudewi and Isma's (2023) findings, which highlight the role of technology in improving listening skills and, consequently, vocabulary acquisition. Through music, learners are exposed to words in their natural context, facilitating better understanding and retention. Spotify's user-friendly interface and customizable playlists further enhance its effectiveness as a learning tool. Mallisa and Mbato (2023) argue that platforms like Spotify cater to individual learning preferences, allowing learners to select songs that match their interests and language proficiency levels. This personalization not only aids vocabulary acquisition but also sustains learner motivation, making the process engaging and less monotonous. Students often find it easier to remember vocabulary encountered in songs due to the combination of rhythm and melody, which fosters stronger cognitive associations.

Research underscores the broader impact of Spotify on listening comprehension and cultural understanding. Marsela et al. (2024) assert that tertiary students perceive Spotify as a valuable resource for enhancing listening skills while simultaneously expanding their vocabulary. This dual benefit is particularly significant in language learning, as listening and vocabulary development are closely interconnected. Additionally, exposure to various musical genres allows learners to understand cultural nuances, enriching their overall language experience. The motivational aspect of using Spotify cannot be overstated. Hasanah and Suryanto (2024) observe that students appreciate Spotify's ability to make vocabulary learning

enjoyable, increasing their motivation to engage with the language. The platform's accessibility and diverse content library enable consistent exposure to English, which is crucial for vocabulary acquisition. Songs often incorporate colloquial expressions and idiomatic phrases, providing learners with practical language that extends beyond textbook learning.

Podcasts on Spotify contribute significantly to vocabulary development. Podcasts expose learners to diverse accents, registers, and contexts, offering a comprehensive auditory experience. Prastyo, Dianingsih, and Farhana (2023) emphasize the immersive nature of podcasts, which allow students to acquire new vocabulary authentically. By listening to conversations on various topics, learners can expand their lexical range and develop a deeper understanding of word usage in different contexts. The use of digital platforms like Spotify and YouTube for vocabulary learning is supported by Yuhariah and Syafradin (2023), who highlight the unique opportunities these platforms provide for contextualized learning. Unlike traditional methods, digital platforms integrate entertainment and education, creating an engaging learning environment. For example, learners can follow along with song lyrics or podcast transcripts, reinforcing their comprehension and vocabulary retention.

Spotify's role in enhancing listening skills is intricately linked to vocabulary growth. Sudewi and Isma (2023) point out that effective listening involves not only understanding spoken words but also recognizing and internalizing new vocabulary. Through repeated exposure to English-language music and podcasts, learners can improve their listening proficiency while gradually expanding their vocabulary repertoire. The customizable features of Spotify, such as curated playlists and recommendations, allow learners to focus on specific vocabulary themes or genres. Mallisa and Mbato (2023) note that such features align with students' preferences, making Spotify a versatile tool for vocabulary learning. This adaptability ensures that learners remain engaged and can track their progress over time.

Marsela et al. (2024) further emphasize the value of integrating music and podcasts into language learning curricula. They suggest that educators can leverage Spotify to design activities that encourage active listening and vocabulary practice. For instance, students can be tasked with identifying new words from a song or podcast episode and using them in sentences, promoting active engagement with the language. Incorporating Spotify into vocabulary learning strategies also fosters cultural awareness. Hasanah and Suryanto (2024) highlight how exposure to diverse musical styles and lyrics helps learners appreciate cultural differences while

expanding their vocabulary. Understanding cultural references in songs or podcasts enhances learners' ability to use language authentically and appropriately.

Podcasts on Spotify offer unique advantages for advanced learners. Prastyo, Dianingsih, and Farhana (2023) observe that podcasts cover a wide range of topics, from academic discussions to casual conversations, providing learners with access to specialized vocabulary. This variety ensures that learners at different proficiency levels can benefit from the platform, tailoring their listening experiences to their learning goals. The integration of technology into language learning, as discussed by Yuhariah and Syafriyadin (2023), reflects a shift towards more interactive and engaging methods. Spotify's combination of music and podcasts exemplifies this trend, offering learners a dynamic platform to enhance their vocabulary. By blending entertainment with education, Spotify addresses the challenges of traditional learning methods, such as lack of engagement and limited contextual exposure. Spotify's contribution to vocabulary development extends beyond mere word acquisition. The platform's diverse content, user-friendly features, and cultural richness create a holistic learning experience. As Sudewi and Isma (2023) note, the integration of technology in language learning supports not only vocabulary growth but also the development of listening skills and cultural competence. Spotify stands out as a versatile and effective tool for learners seeking to improve their English vocabulary in an enjoyable and meaningful way.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study utilizes a qualitative approach to literature analysis to investigate the influence of listening to English-language music through Spotify on the vocabulary acquisition of EFL (English as a Foreign Language) learners. The research process involves systematically collecting and examining various academic sources, including journal articles, scholarly books, and relevant research studies that address the intersection of digital media, music, and language learning. A primary focus is placed on identifying studies that explore how exposure to English-language music and podcasts contributes to vocabulary development. The literature is analyzed by extracting key themes, synthesizing findings from multiple studies, and interpreting these insights to build a comprehensive understanding of the role Spotify plays as a tool for vocabulary acquisition. The analysis highlights patterns, such as the effectiveness of repeated exposure to authentic language use through music and the cognitive benefits associated with listening to rhythmically structured content. The study also examines how Spotify fosters

contextualized learning by exposing students to idiomatic expressions, cultural references, and colloquial language that are often absent from traditional learning materials. This qualitative approach allows for a nuanced exploration of the potential of Spotify as a resource for language educators and learners. By synthesizing evidence from diverse studies, the research aims to generate valuable insights into the pedagogical implications of integrating digital platforms into language instruction, particularly in enhancing students' vocabulary acquisition.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings from this study align with existing research that emphasized the critical role digital platforms such as Spotify play in enhancing vocabulary acquisition among English as a Foreign Language (EFL) learners. Spotify serves as a unique educational tool, offering learners access to authentic language exposure through songs and podcasts. This exposure is essential for vocabulary development, as it provides meaningful context that facilitates a deeper understanding and retention of words. The research conducted by Butar and Katemba (2023) underscores the importance of integrating repetition, rhythm, and melody in music to support the cognitive processes involved in mastering vocabulary. These elements work together to create a multisensory learning experience that aids learners in internalizing new words and phrases more effectively. Additionally, Spotify's capability to customize content based on the learners' language proficiency levels fosters an autonomous and sustainable learning environment. By catering to individual needs and abilities, the platform empowers students to take control of their language learning journey, promoting long-term engagement and consistent practice.

Nuraeni and Warni (2023) highlight that Spotify provides learners with exposure to authentic linguistic materials, which are often absent from traditional textbooks. These materials offer learners the opportunity to explore idiomatic expressions, colloquial language, and culturally significant vocabulary, which contribute to a richer and more nuanced understanding of the English language. The integration of these elements into language learning enhances linguistic competence, bridging the gap between classroom-based learning and real-world language use. Furthermore, the interactive features available on Spotify, such as synchronized lyrics and translation tools, allow learners to engage more deeply with new vocabulary. As noted by Elisa (2023), these features help students comprehend the meaning of unfamiliar words, their pronunciation, and their usage in context, making the learning process both efficient and enjoyable.

Another compelling argument stems from the emotional engagement that music fosters, which has been shown to significantly boost students' motivation to learn. According to Hasanah and Suryanto (2024), the emotional connections formed while listening to songs create positive associations with the language-learning process. This emotional involvement not only increases motivation but also enhances the likelihood of long-term retention of vocabulary. Spotify's user-friendly design and accessibility provide learners with the flexibility to incorporate language practice into their daily routines. The ability to learn anytime and anywhere enables students to create a language-rich environment that supports continuous exposure to English, as noted by Marsela et al. (2024).

The integration of Spotify into vocabulary learning activities also opens up opportunities for collaborative and interactive teaching methods. Teachers can design classroom activities that encourage students to actively engage with vocabulary from songs or podcasts. For example, exercises such as filling in the blanks in song lyrics or discussing the themes of a podcast episode promote active language use. These activities not only reinforce vocabulary but also foster a sense of cultural awareness and competence. As Prastyo, Dianingsih, and Farhana (2023) suggest, such collaborative exercises can make the learning process more dynamic and enjoyable, while Yuhariah and Syafryadin (2023) emphasize the importance of building cultural understanding as an integral part of language proficiency.

The findings from previous research provide a robust foundation for advocating the use of Spotify as an innovative tool for vocabulary learning in EFL contexts. The platform's ability to combine authentic language exposure, interactive features, emotional engagement, and personalized learning experiences makes it an effective and enjoyable resource for both students and educators. Moreover, the use of Spotify aligns with current trends in digital education, which prioritize the incorporation of technology to create immersive and contextualized learning environments. By leveraging Spotify's unique features, learners can benefit from a more engaging and meaningful approach to vocabulary acquisition, paving the way for greater language proficiency and cultural awareness.

CONCLUSIONS

Spotify has emerged as a versatile and impactful digital tool for vocabulary acquisition in EFL education. Its diverse content, user-friendly features, and authentic language exposure provide learners with a rich, engaging platform for developing their lexical repertoire. Songs on Spotify not only enhance vocabulary retention through rhythm and melody but also expose

learners to colloquial expressions and cultural nuances, fostering deeper language comprehension. Podcasts further expand learners' vocabulary by offering specialized lexical items in diverse contexts. Additionally, the platform's flexibility supports autonomous and lifelong learning, enabling students to integrate language practice into their daily routines. By incorporating Spotify into EFL instruction, educators can create dynamic, interactive learning experiences that resonate with students' interests and preferences. Ultimately, the use of Spotify underscores the transformative potential of digital platforms in language education, bridging the gap between traditional teaching methods and innovative, technology-driven approaches.

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