
DIFFICULTIES AND SOLUTIONS IN TRAINING LISTENING COMPREHENSION IN GERMAN AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

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Abstrak: Keterampilan mendengarkan (Hörverstehen) adalah salah satu tantangan terbesar bagi pemula yang belajar bahasa Jerman sebagai bahasa asing. Banyak siswa di Indonesia menghadapi kesulitan karena laju bicara penutur asli, variasi aksen, serta kosakata yang belum mereka kuasai. Artikel ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis tantangan umum dalam keterampilan mendengar dan memberikan strategi yang efektif untuk mengatasinya. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif, yang menggabungkan kajian literatur dan observasi di kelas pada tingkat pemula (A1). Temuan menunjukkan bahwa paparan yang terus-menerus terhadap bahan autentik, penggunaan media audio-visual, serta penerapan pembelajaran strategi metakognitif dapat secara signifikan meningkatkan kemampuan mendengar. Peran guru juga sangat penting dalam mempersiapkan siswa, memberikan motivasi, dan memilih aktivitas yang sesuai. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa dukungan yang sistematis dan responsif terhadap konteks sangat diperlukan agar keterampilan mendengar tidak menjadi penghalang, melainkan fondasi bagi komunikasi.

Kata Kunci: Hörverstehen, Bahasa Jerman, Kesulitan Belajar, Strategi Belajar, Praktik Kelas.

Abstract: The skill of understanding spoken German, referred to as Hörverstehen, presents a significant hurdle for those newly embarking on the journey of learning German as a second language. A considerable number of Indonesian students find it hard to process the rapid pace of speech, different pronunciations, and a range of unknown words. The purpose of this paper is to examine typical challenges encountered in listening comprehension and offer practical methods for addressing them. This research employs a qualitative descriptive methodology, integrating an examination of existing literature with firsthand observation of classroom activities at the introductory level (A1). The results show that consistent interaction with real-world materials, the application of multimedia tools, and education in self-regulated learning techniques can greatly enhance students' capacity to comprehend spoken German. Educators are also essential in getting students ready, keeping them inspired, and picking appropriate exercises. The research determines that consistent and relevant assistance is vital to change listening from being a problem into being the basis of communication.

Keywords: *Listening Comprehension, German As A Foreign Language, Learning Difficulties, Learning Strategies, Classroom Practice.*

INTRODUCTION

The skill of understanding what you hear is seen as both a key ability and a tough challenge when learning a new language. Unlike reading and writing, which you can see, understanding spoken words needs you to think fast and use different methods. For students learning German in Indonesia, grasping spoken German is especially hard. New learners often struggle because native speakers talk fast, have different ways of speaking, and use words they don't know. This article aims to point out the main problems in understanding spoken language at the A1 level and offer useful ideas that teachers can use in class. It also intends to show how listening exercises can be added to the learning plan to help students learn better.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research incorporates a qualitative analysis of existing literature along with observations from beginner-level German language classes. Scholarly writings, educational recommendations, and research studies that detail methods for improving listening skills were carefully examined. Input from students who consistently perform listening exercises was also gathered. Combining these elements enables a practical-focused depiction of both the issues encountered and potential resolutions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Typical challenges in understanding spoken language
 - a) Pace of delivery – New learners struggle to process spoken language at its natural speed, causing them to only recognize a few individual words.
 - b) Diverse speech patterns and variations in articulation – Although standard German is typically taught, real-world resources frequently contain geographic variations that make understanding difficult.
 - c) Restricted word knowledge – Unfamiliar terms prevent understanding of the overall message.
 - d) Insufficient application – A lot of students only practice their listening skills when they're in class, not as a part of their everyday lives.
2. Approaches and techniques

- a) Consistent listening practice – Regularly hearing brief segments helps make the process automatic and lowers stress.
 - b) Application of genuine resources – Utilizing movies, podcasts, or music offers genuine language settings and enhances understanding through context.
 - c) Thinking strategies – Being aware of and using methods like making predictions, taking notes of important words, or recapping information improves listening skills.
 - d) Advance preparation – Educators should present essential vocabulary and background knowledge before listening to lessen mental strain.
 - e) Encouragement and belief in one's abilities – Giving supportive comments and being understanding are vital because listening skills develop over time.
3. The instructor's function Educators serve as enablers and providers of assistance during the listening activity. They select suitable resources, create appropriate assignments, and determine how to motivate students. By providing customized activities and consistent responses, teachers can remove obstacles and guide students more successfully.

CONCLUSION

Being able to understand spoken language is an important part of learning a new language and is the foundation for communication. Indonesian students face particular challenges in this area, but focused methods and regular practice can greatly improve their understanding. Essential elements include real-world resources, thinking strategies, and committed support from instructors. Further studies could investigate how digital resources and online sites can provide extra help with understanding spoken language.

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