



Examination of The Keywords of Postgraduate Theses Written About Podcasts

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ABSTRACT

There is a listening tool that dates back to the early 2000s and has been preferred by people in recent years: Podcast. The keywords of the postgraduate theses written about the podcast, have been the subject of curiosity. The purpose of this study is to seek the keywords of postgraduate theses written about podcasts. For this purpose, document analysis among qualitative research methods was used. The study group of the research consists of 17 postgraduate theses (13 masters and 4 doctorates) obtained from the Turkish Higher Education Council National Thesis Center Database. Obtained theses are open access and saved in an excel program as the author, program type, year, and keywords. Descriptive analysis was used to analyze the data. As a result of the research, it was found that the number of keywords of postgraduate theses was sufficient and the keywords reflected the research topic according to APA7, but the keywords were insufficient in terms of reflecting the method, study group, results, or findings.

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1. Introduction

Technology which provides convenience to human life has also changed human behaviors and habits. For example, the habits of reading newspapers and books have entered human life in the form of reading from the screen via computer and mobile phone as well as printed materials. Face-to-face conversations have brought together conversations through computers and mobile phones, along with technology. In terms of listening, people's listening to each other or nature has come to life in the form of listening through radio, television, computer, and the internet with the development of technology. In recent years, podcasts have attracted attention as a listening tool.

The podcast is a method that provides the ability to download files with RSS (really simple syndication) and XML (extensible markup language) features to devices such as audio or video (Markman & Sawyer, 2014). In other words, podcasts are digital files that can be subscribed to by listeners and downloaded over the internet thanks to RSS technology, but if the feature of integrating video into these files is used, they are called vidcasts or vodcasts (Almeida-Aguiar & Carvalho, 2016; Carvalho et al., 2009). Podcasts can be listened to via the internet or downloaded to a mobile phone or computer.

Looking at the history of the podcast, it is seen that it was created from the words pod and broadcast on the word iPod in the early 2000s and was developed for the first time for the iPod, but as time progresses, it has been used outside of the iPod (Brachet, 2009; Giordano, 2017; WEB1). It is stated that the term podcast originated in an article written by British journalist Ben Hammersley for The Guardian

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in February 2004. (Bonini, 2015). With the introduction of Apple's module to access podcasts via iTunes, podcasts have become more well-known and accessible (Yücel, 2020).

Looking at the main research topics on podcasts, it is seen that subjects such as the history and development of the podcast (Bonini, 2015; Yücel, 2020), an educational tool (Almeida-Aguiar & Carvalho, 2016), current trends (Celaya et al., 2022; Eroğlu, 2022; Faramarzi & Bagheri, 2015; Naval & Arbués, 2020) impact on basic language skills (Gromik, 2008; Kaynar, 2021; Rahimi & Katal, 2012; Şendağ et al., 2018; Şendağ et al., 2019; Yılmaz & Babacan, 2015); Yorgancı & Baş, 2022), news podcasts related to the coronavirus (Nee & Santana, 2022) are studied.

Since the podcast's history dates back to the early 2000s, it is seen that the studies in this field are still limited. It is noticed that it is more limited, especially from the point of view of Turkey. Considering the curricula that aim to raise individuals who can acquire 21st-century skills in the 21st-century, studies on podcasts, which are a new-generation listening tool, have been a matter of curiosity. The most effective way to reach academic work in a particular field is to use the right keywords. Accordingly, it has been a matter of curiosity how the keywords of graduate theses written about podcasts, which can be traced back to twenty years ago and are limited, are shaped. Since such a study has not been found in the literature reading, this research aims to examine the keywords of the postgraduate theses written about podcasts.

1.1. Research Problem

How have the trend of keywords in postgraduate theses written about podcasts taken shape? So, what is the average number of keywords in postgraduate theses written about podcasts, do the written keywords reflect the study subject, study group and method?

2. Method

In this study, document analysis among qualitative research methods was used. In document studies, written materials containing information about the case or cases that are aimed to be examined are analyzed (Yıldırım & Şimşek, 2013).

2.1. Study Group

The postgraduate theses examined within the scope of this research were obtained from the Turkish Higher Education Council National Thesis Center Database (tez.yok.gov.tr). The relevant theses were obtained by typing the keywords "podcast, podkest, podcasting" in the thesis name box on the website. A total of 19 postgraduate theses were obtained. But 1 thesis is closed and 1 thesis has no keywords, so they were not included in this study. The program type and year information of 17 postgraduate theses are given in Table 1.

Table 1. Program and year information of postgraduate theses written about podcasts

Year	Doctorate	Master's degree	Total
2022	-	6	6
2021	1	2	3
2019	1	1	2
2017	1	-	1
2015	-	1	1
2014	-	3	3
2010	1	-	1
Total	4	13	17

Looking at Table 1, it is seen that 13 master's theses and 4 doctoral theses of the 17 theses written about podcasts were, and 6 master's theses were written in 2022 at most.

2.2. Data Collection

The theses within the scope of the research were obtained from YOK National Thesis Center (tez.yok.gov.tr). The obtained theses were recorded in the excel program as the author, program type, year, and keywords.

2.3. Analysis of Data

Descriptive analysis was used in this study. The data obtained in the descriptive analysis are summarized and interpreted according to the previously determined themes or titles (Yıldırım & Şimşek, 2013).

2.4. Ethics Committee Approval

Since this research is not an experimental study on humans or animals, it is conducted with open-access postgraduate theses in the YOK National Thesis Center (tez.yok.gov.tr) and does not require ethics committee approval.

3. Findings

The keywords of postgraduate theses written about podcasts are given in Table 2.

Table 2. The keywords of postgraduate theses written about podcasts

Keywords	Frequency (n)
Podcast	14
Listening skill(s)	5
Teaching Turkish as a foreign language	2
Technology	2
Radio	2
New media	2
Digital media	2
Podcast broadcasting	2
Create a podcast	1
Educational podcast	1
Podcast networks	1
Podcast reporting	1
Podcast agencies	1
Podkest	1
Turkish podcasts	1
Opinion	1
Speaking skills	1
Student podcasts	1
Perception of self-efficacy in English	1
Language learning judgments	1
Electronic listening	1
Success in listening comprehension	1
Listening anxiety	1
Speaking and writing skills	1
Speaking and writing self-efficacy	1
Educational podcast process	1
Pre-service teacher training	1
Condition anxiety	1
Self-sufficiency	1
Woman	1
Gender roles	1
Spotify	1

4. Results and Discussion

As a result of the research, it was determined that a total of 82 different words/word groups were used in 13 master and 4 doctoral theses. The minimum number of keywords was recorded as 2, and the maximum number of keywords was recorded as 8. The average number of keywords for 17 theses was determined as $82/17=4.8$. According to American Psychological Association (APA7), the ideal number of keywords should be between 3-5 (apastyle.apa.org). It can be said that this opinion and the average number of keywords obtained from this study overlap. In the researches on keywords, it was found that the number of keywords was sufficient (Cin Şeker, 2020; Doğan & Özçakmak, 2014; Sevim & İşcan, 2012).

It was noticed that the 59 different words obtained were repeated 82 times and the most repeated word was the podcast (14 times) but when the word groups with podcasts are included, a total of 23 podcast words/word groups were used. In other words, it was found that all 17 theses wrote at least one word related to the podcast. It can be said that this result overlaps with the features in APA7 such as descriptive for keywords, showing the most important aspect of the study, indexing in databases, finding the relevant study for the reader and research topic (apastyle.apa.org). When the articles written about the keywords in the literature are examined, it is seen that a similar result is obtained (Cin Şeker, 2020; Kardaş et al., 2018; Kemiksiz, 2017; Sevim & İşcan, 2012).

According to APA7, keywords are expected to reflect the study group, method, results, or findings of the content (apastyle.apa.org). In this respect, it can be said that when the keywords of the postgraduate theses written about podcasts are examined, they are insufficient. Because although the keywords give an idea about the subject of the study, they do not give a clue to the reader about study group, method, results, or findings of the content.

When the subject of 4 doctoral theses written about podcasts was examined, it was noticed that 2 theses on language skills in teaching English and the 2 theses on language skills in teaching Turkish as a foreign language were investigated. Looking at the master's theses, 2 theses in the field of radio, television and cinema, 2 theses in the field of press, 1 thesis in the field of media and visual studies, 1 thesis in the field of sociology, 1 thesis in the field of journalism, and 7 theses in English/German teaching and learning were written. In other words, it was noticed that 11 of the 18 postgraduate theses were written in the field of education and language teaching. This result overlapped with the result obtained by Eroğlu (2022). Because listening is one of the basic language skills and it is a technology that provides podcast listening service.

5. Suggestions

The following suggestions are offered within the scope of the research:

1. Since the podcast's history dates back to the early 2000s, it is known that studies in this area are limited. In order to fill the gap in the literature, the effect of podcasts on listening skills at all education levels can be investigated.
2. Although podcasting is a technology that offers people listening-oriented content, creating podcasts requires speaking skills. Accordingly, it can investigate the effect on speaking skills by conducting studies that enable students to create their own podcasts.
3. The main topics of the main courses can be shared with the students as podcasts and used as course material. Thus, students have the opportunity to listen to the relevant course whenever and wherever they want.

6. Conclusion

It was found that the number of keywords of the postgraduate theses written about podcasts in Turkey is sufficient and reflects the content. However, it was also found that these keywords did not give an idea about the study group, method, findings, or results.

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