"We are Eventually Children who Want Someone to Read Us a Book": Listen to Audiobooks
(Poster)

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Abstract
An audiobook is a recording of a text being read. This study deals with the question why people listen to audiobooks. The study was conducted using a qualitative approach through semi-structured telephone interviews with people who listen to audiobooks during leisure time. During the interviews, the respondents were asked to answer two main questions: What are the advantages and disadvantages they find in the audiobooks and in what contexts and needs they turn to audiobooks. Three main themes were found as reasons for listening to audiobooks: restoring a childhood experience, similar means, incidental or online publication. Four main contexts for hearing were found: on the road, fitness, household chores, and before bedtime. Benefits identified: time utilization, additional interpretation of content, limited use of attention resources, improvement in language skills and technological characteristics. The disadvantages: poor voiceover, complex information processing, limited selection of books, lack of tangibility and technical problems. The study found that although audio books are relatively new tools in their current form, they have been adopted because they are a cross between other popular technologies and because they remind a positive experience from childhood. Audiobooks require fewer attention resources and are suitable to a busy schedule and the culture of multitasking.

Keywords: audiobooks, voiceover, multitasking, language skills.


