

# 21st Century Language Learners' Perceptions and Expectations of Self-Directed Language Learning Apps to Enhance their Listening Skills

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## ABSTRACT

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It is now very impressive how technology has transformed the way 21st-century learners learn and acquire new language skills through listening lessons. It was from listening to the audio that teachers played using a CD player during language lessons, to using headphones and getting the chance to listen to audio or even videos available on various online language learning platforms or mobile applications. It was from the traditional method that used pen and paper to answer listening comprehension questions to only clicking their choice of answers on the mobile phone screen. In today's world, where students' lives cannot be separated from technology, students not only have the chance to get access to millions of authentic audio and videos online from all over the world but also have the freedom and flexibility to pause, stop or replay the video according to their needs which gives the learners the freedom to control and self-direct their own learning. Self-directed learning refers to a teaching approach where students take more responsibility for their own learning and take an active role in setting their own goals, seeking out resources and materials, and evaluating their own progress.

**Keywords:** self-directed learning, mobile applications, teaching listening skills