

Title: Vodcast in Language Classroom: Theory and Practices  
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This presentation will showcase the vodcast series (i.e., podcasts with a sound and video component) “Say it in Russian” (<http://russianchat.podbean.com/>) as a supplementary tool for intermediate and advanced learners of Russian. The series is considered suitable for classroom use and can be combined well with other sources of instruction. The creation of this innovative medium tool was supported by a grant from the Center for Language and International Communication at University at Albany–State University of New York and was implemented in Advanced Russian at 2009 Summer Language Institute at the University of Pittsburgh. Although podcasting is new, it is well on its way to becoming a mainstream teaching medium and is specifically praised by both students and instructors for its fostering a creative learning environment. Since the purpose of foreign language learning is not only linguistic competence but also crosscultural, sociocultural, and sociopolitical competencies as well, vodcast is an ideal tool to provide students with simulated dialogues, authentic materials, such as television shows and newscasts to engage students and create a natural environment. This medium helps to facilitate student comprehension of different types of discourse and augment their “listening to learn” skills.

In my paper, I consider cultural-historical and socio-cultural approach to language learning and explore the ways to integrate research findings in the design and development of effectively designed instructional materials. During the presentation, the following tasks will be discussed, among others: practical strategies (i.e. types of exercises and activities) that will help instructors to implement video podcast in practice, some positive impacts of implementing vodcast in curriculum in the early stage of language learning, forms of support, which instructors can provide when the students want to create their own language podcasts.