

VARIETY OF LANGUAGE SOCIAL NETWORKS AND THEIR APPLICATION IN THE STUDY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this article is to study the educational potential of social networks in the process of learning foreign languages. Considerable attention is paid to the variety of mobile applications and language sites for communication in the modern world. The article discusses the advantages of using these networks to solve a number of tasks of teaching a foreign language.

Keywords: social-networking sites (SNSs), foreign language, social network, learning foreign languages, online learning.

INTRODUCTION

In this globalization period, people search easy, fast and effective ways and styles of learning as well as they truly have wide range of choices to learn foreign languages. The list of these styles which are becoming well-known, such as open-learning, distance-learning, e-learning, and social-networking sites (SNSs) (Churchill, Wong, Law, Salter, & Tai, 2009).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

One of these technological styles recognize under e-learning umbrella within computer mediated technologies system (Hodges, 2013). Also, researchers have proven that SNSs will be significant due to students' needs of social support from others as a source of SE (Kim, 2012; Nadkarni & Hofmann, 2012; Hodges, 2013). Additionally, social support can keep students' mental health as well as well-being and improve academic performance through expressing their feelings freely through new channels in learning English language, such as SNSs to establish friendships, online interactions, and acquire more knowledge and information (Yu, Tian, Vogel, & Kwok, 2010; DeAndrea, Ellison, Larose, Steinfield, & Fiore, 2011; Nadkarni & Hofmann, 2012; Kirmizi, 2015). Especially in the quarantine period, indicators of utilizing SNSs has grown dramatically in every stage of education in the world. Today,



humans don't need to wait such scientific conferences, webinars or master classes or to go extra lessons in order to find out new data, gain knowledge or represent their capacities. What about learning or developing English? Are there any applications or special websites on this purpose? By all means day by day IT specialists recommend various types of SNSs for learners so that they are capable of study the language independently or develop their skills. In the following, some types of social – networking sites will be clarified:

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The choice of a teacher (necessarily a native speaker) is given to the student himself. After reading the information about the teacher and student reviews, you can book a trial lesson and test your knowledge. All classes are conducted through the Google Hangout app. In the classroom, work can be carried out on pronunciation, vocabulary or grammar, as well as listening, speaking or writing.

Conversationexchange.com - Thanks to this resource, you will have a great opportunity to chat with other users, improve your level of foreign language proficiency, and, among other things, get acquainted with the culture of the country of the language being studied. Depending on which skills you prefer to develop and improve, your communication can take place both in the form of correspondence and "live communication" using Skype. For listeners who are more confident in their knowledge, this language platform provides an opportunity to learn about native speakers who live in your city and are ready to communicate live, in a public place. However, we should not forget that according to the rules of this social network, your communication should be an "interchange", that is you are both a student and a teacher, helping your interlocutor to master a new foreign language for him.

FluentU is learning through TV shows, video clips, cartoons, etc. The library of video files is simply huge. You can click on a word at any time and see different examples of its use, including examples from other videos. The teaching methods here are entirely up to you. This is a universal content suitable for any level of language proficiency. In total, the site offers 12 languages to learn.

Speaky.com – the next social network used for language practice. The site was developed in 2014 and for the first time was called «Gospeaky». Later it was renamed to Speaky, the design was changed, making it more vivid and lively. The site is intended for written language practice. There are two details in the chat that distinguish this platform from many others: "hints" and "corrections".

"Corrections" allow you to correct a message written by you or the interlocutor. After that, two options will be shown: incorrect (before correction) and correct (corrected). For those who have difficulty communicating with unfamiliar foreigners, the developers have compiled a list of phrases that are appropriate to use in such a conversation (Hints).

Tandem is a network that currently exists only in the form of a mobile application, currently available in English, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese and Chinese.

English, Baby! is a social network and an online training course for the American version of spoken English. This service has more than 1.6 million subscribers, which makes it one of the largest and successful online communities for learning English for both students and teachers. "English, baby!" is very popular in China, where about a quarter of its users live. There is a wide interest in other countries, such as the USA, Brazil, Turkey, Egypt and India [2]. "English, baby!" contains several thousand ready-made English lessons. In the videos presented on the site, popular actors, musicians and athletes clearly explain the ways of using a particular word or phrase; and those who are not native speakers share their learning experience. The video lessons are shot in different styles, for example, in the style of a soap opera or reality show, and the audio lessons are based on scenes from modern life performed by native English actors' language. Lessons include learning English grammar, tests and vocabulary replenishment. This platform will be interesting not only for foreign language learners, but also for teachers, since "English, baby!" provides an opportunity to create your own, or use English lessons already existing on the site in your classes.

Memrise is a unique social network that uses the most advanced techniques of mnemonics in order to help users memorize information faster and more efficiently than with any other method. Students can either use the existing courses on the site (and there are over 6 thousand of them), or create their own. Words for memorization are given out in certain portions (you can choose how many words per day you go to learn) and each course includes several levels.

CONCLUSION

The number of Internet resources devoted to the study of foreign languages, it is great and it is constantly growing. Most sites are designed for people who have mastered the initial level of the language and want to practice "live" communication with a person for whom



this language is their native language. Such social networks are an excellent help in the educational process, but the teacher can only organize the work of his students in the classroom or during extracurricular hours. The use of language social networks in learning a foreign language helps to diversify the learning process, make it interesting and exciting. Thus, it can be concluded that language social networks are an effective method of teaching a foreign language.

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