USING MOBILE APPLICATIONS IN LANGUAGE LEARNING AND TEACHING

Maxmudova Zulxumor

Urganch davlat universiteti o'qituvchisi

Telefon: +998933784677

zulkhumor.makhmudova@gmail.com

Annotation:

Computers, mobile phones, digital devices, flipped classrooms are no longer neologisms in a modern world. The benefits of educational applications installed in mobile phones and social networks are off the charts. So, how we can implement these programs in a language learning process? Which application and educational websites help to get the best out of time and efforts we input? In this article, we try to analyze the innovative and information technology tools which constitute effectiveness and quality in language learning process and then enlarge on a language learning communities increasing in popularity.

Key words: mobile applications, busuu, duolingo.

The early part of the 21st century is marked as the century of information technologies. The range of technologies and innovations has been made available for the diverse use in learning process and classroom environment. As digital technologies have taken a hold in society, the quality of lifestyle has improved significantly. The most common devices – mobile phones have been multifunctional as they are portable and specious. The usage of technology in language learning and teaching process can maximize effectiveness and convenience to a great extent. However, technology may be the reason to aid or hinder, focus or distract learners depending on its application. Thus, there ought to be a fine line not to be crossed. Any kind of teaching involves bringing up learners psychologically as well. As for technological teaching tools, there have been created tools for self-study and self-improvement including mobile applications, programs and online courses. Training and doing exercises individually on personal devices may cause students to be isolated from their fellows and deprive from interactive experience. On the other hand, collaborative tools such as social networks, forums, blogs and Google Docs can help to fuel interaction and bring

Proceedings of International Multidisciplinary Scientific-Remote Online Conference on
Innovative Solutions and Advanced Experiments
Samarkand Regional Center for Retraining and Advanced Training of Public Education Staff Samarkand, Uzbekistan
JournalNX- A Multidisciplinary Peer Reviewed Journal
ISSN: 2581-4230, Website: journalnx.com, June 18th & 19th, 2020

leaners together on the same purpose. These online sources aim to enhance IT skills as well along with language skills. From the personal experience at university in a freshmen year, students were assigned to do a project online where they were supposed to create an account on wikispaces and join into groups. Each group was provided with a topic to do research and in a final stage all information gathered was uploaded. Group projects were evaluated for task response, creativity, originality and design. These types of projects are usually conducted practically in real life but it provided students with new experience and challenges and could motivate them to elaborate. The advantages of web based innovations are the fact that they fit into contemporary curricular structure and are often free of charge and easily accessible. Moreover, technology is eye-catching to most individuals, especially for young generation. Nowadays for youngsters it is hard to imagine the world without information technologies. They have grown up being surrounded by high technological devices. Youngsters of new era are occasionally called as 'digital generation'. Thus, these factors encourage them to be engaged in learning process as long as they are motivated to evolve with a modern world.

Nowadays, application markets offer various kinds of dictionaries and learning tools for users. One of the language programs increasing in popularity due to its convenience, capacity and scope is Busuu. This social network is a language learning community for users from all parts of the world. Unlike to other applications or web blogs, it offers free structured courses on top twelve languages of the world spoken by the majority of the mankind – namely, English, Spanish, German, French, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Polish, Turkish, Arabic, Japanese and Chinese. The ethnological origin of the name Busuu goes back to the 1980s when conducted research revealed that eight people of Cameroon were still able to speak the language. Since the time the business launched in 2008, it has been offering to free and premium paid-for access to audio-visual courses through applications and online. Due to the fact that the courses are based on CEFR levels ranging from A1 to B2, it mostly correspond to the needs of users who have recently started studying and are willing to master foreign languages in a structured and effective way. There are significant features of the community indicated notably by active users which are mentioned below.

Proceedings of International Multidisciplinary Scientific-Remote Online Conference on
Innovative Solutions and Advanced Experiments
Samarkand Regional Center for Retraining and Advanced Training of Public Education Staff Samarkand, Uzbekistan
JournalNX- A Multidisciplinary Peer Reviewed Journal
ISSN: 2581-4230, Website: journalnx.com, June 18th & 19th, 2020

First of all, the site offers a catalogue and guided course to master language step by step, as well as additional units for travel. Each unit presents a particular topic including picture based thematic vocabulary, practice for reading comprehension, writing short paragraphs, texts, connecting to chat with native speakers and final exams. Written corrections by native speakers are quick and therefore, time utilizing and at the same time one may correct others` writings too. Moreover, Busuu is a social network where one can create their own homepage, add native speakers and foreigners to their friend list, view their online status and apply it as a messenger. According to their performance and results, each member receives ranking which rewards and increases competition among users. Free of charge basic membership gives access to a great deal of learning materials while additional features such as audios for key phrases, listening and grammar comprehension exercises, pdf files for transcripts and podcasts are obtained with premium paid membership. Furthermore, learners are able to create their own dictionary and add their favorite words and phrases in order to revise later. Additional feature of Busuu is possibility of recording own voice. After hearing how they sound and comparing it to native speakers` pronunciation, learners tackle with difficulties in accent and pronunciation. Accompanying forms is the best feature of the community since learners have improved speaking and writing skills in real life conversations. On the other hand most of the native speakers are ordinary people while some of them are educators. It takes time find a good match to share experience, though. Getting a response to questions posed is much quicker and therefore, can substitute intensive language learning courses. Busuu is a goal-oriented system where learners are able to set goals to which certain degree they may reach. Staying motivated in learning languages is never easy as long as learners take challenge to gain more. However, all features of the application are user-friendly, rich in illustrations, attention-grabbing icons and engrossing trainings which can motivate and involve any learner into fun language teaching process.

As a proof of the advantages mentioned above, it brings us to analyze it in the form of learning Japanese language. Since 2012, Busuu has introduced a new Japanese course for beginners to upper-intermediate learners. Learning Japanese is very complicated as the language contains two writing systems – Hiragana, Katakana and in addition huge amount of

Proceedings of International Multidisciplinary Scientific-Remote Online Conference on
Innovative Solutions and Advanced Experiments
Samarkand Regional Center for Retraining and Advanced Training of Public Education Staff Samarkand, Uzbekistan
JournalNX- A Multidisciplinary Peer Reviewed Journal
ISSN: 2581-4230, Website: journalnx.com, June 18th & 19th, 2020

hieroglyphics – kanji. The effort required to learn Japanese is higher than European languages. Therefore, learners need constant direction and consultation to reach an upper level. On the contrary, with 180 useful and intuitive learning units on busuu.com, learners succeed in getting the direction they need, enriching their CV and opening new work opportunities. The exercises are stimulating and contemporary. Learners communicate directly with Japanese native speakers via the busuutalk chat. What`s new to the program is that there is a special Japanese travel course available in addition to the normal language course. Although these courses are only accessible to premium members, prices are not high and they offer 15% discounts close to New Year. At the end of the courses, learners are awarded with special proficiency certificates.

Although Busuu is the most active language community, it is not exception from negative comments of reviewers. Low amount of vocabulary and lack of cultural information has dissatisfied most of the learners. Moreover, authentic materials can only be found in certain clips at youtube and most of the examples are unnatural and as these sentence patterns have been taken from textbooks. For this reason, learners find it difficult to communicate with locals without labeling themselves as foreigners. As for the Japanese language, too few kanji and too much Romaji are included. Writing system of the Japanese language is complicated. As Romaji, namely Latin letters have been used for explanation and description mostly, it does not give a sufficient practice for Japanese learners. Thus, spoken Japanese can be learnt effectively rather than the written one.

Famous language communities along with Busuu include Duolingo with six European languages, Foreign Services Institute for lesser studied languages, Livemocha which is available in over 35 languages and Memrise presenting mnemonic flashcards for remembering new vocabulary. Unlike these communities, in Busuu topics are presented through dialogues and full sentences helping learners go forward without much practice in sentence building and pronunciation.

Overall descriptions of this language learning community approve the idea that with relatively small investment, users of the program gain more knowledge and benefits. Every user of this language learning application is a student of foreign language and at the same

time they can be tutors of their mother tongue. Language learning applications create a ground floor for alike minded people from all over the world to elaborate and come together to learn languages effectively and in a fastidious way. More than ten languages in one place, social networking with foreigners and cutting edge topics are the strengths which make learning process fun and interactive. For this reason, they still keep their leadership in an enormous global language learning market.

References

1. Anderson, J. and van Weert, T. (Eds) (2002), Information and Communication Technology in Education: A Curriculum for Schools and Programme of Teacher Development. Paris, UNESCO.

2. Anderson, J. (2010). ICT Transforming Education: Regional Guide. Bangkok: UNESCO.

3. Trucano, M. (2005). Knowledge maps: ICT in education. Washington, DC: infoDev/World Bank.

4. OECD (2011). PISA 2009 Results: Students On Line: Digital Technologies and Performance (Vol. VI). OECD: Paris, France.

5. www.busuu.com – Konnichiwa – learn Japanese for free with busuu.com

6. http://www.busuu.com.press