

**THE VARIETY OF LANGUAGE SOCIAL NETWORKS AND THEIR
APPLICATION IN LEARNING 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 diversity 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 problems of teaching a foreign language.

Keywords: *foreign language, social network, learning foreign languages, online learning.*

Everyone who learns a foreign language knows that the best way to learn a language is to immerse yourself in the language environment and, accordingly, communicate with native speakers. But, unfortunately, not everyone can afford to travel abroad. However, the Internet gives us the opportunity to immerse ourselves in a foreign language environment without leaving home by visiting language exchange sites.

Language social networks have a positive effect on the motivation to learn a foreign language, contribute to the growth of students' interest in this language. These sites were created specifically to enable speakers of different languages to help each other learn them. It is no secret that the materials presented on these sites are often many times more interesting than those printed in our textbooks. Audio materials are relevant and read by native speakers. In addition, a variety of topics and problems for discussion contributes to the improvement of the ability to maintain dialogue and conduct discussions. All these factors speed up the learning process, improve the quality of learning and make language networks popular not only among young people, but also among the older generation.

Today, on the Internet, you can get acquainted with a huge number of various resources, choose the most suitable one for yourself and learn the language, working according to an individual program and at your own pace.

One such resource is the **Busuu** International Community.

Busuu is an international educational project aimed at learning foreign languages. The project allows you to practice with real native speakers, learn their culture, make new friends. In total it has more than 80 million listener-users. Online courses in 12 languages, including Chinese, Arabic and Japanese, which are almost impossible to find in other language social networks, are available on the web version and mobile application. The materials presented on the site contribute to the improvement of all speech skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. Each lesson is dedicated to a specific topic, the user is provided with a dictionary of necessary words and expressions, a set of written exercises to consolidate the material covered, a knowledge test and a mandatory dialogue with a native speaker of the language being studied. The works of students are redirected to each other, everyone can become a teacher and adviser for those who study their native language. Once they get a job, “teachers” correct mistakes and help their “students” understand the language.

Most of the materials presented on the site are free. If you want to access the video tutorials, or you need a certificate of completion of the course, then this can be done by purchasing a premium account. In addition to the above languages, here you can learn English, Russian, French, Italian, German, Spanish, Turkish, Polish.

You should also pay attention to the **My Language Exchange** project [1].

The users of this social network are more than 3 million people. If you want to find a pen pal and improve your foreign language, this is the site you should pay attention to. This project features 115 languages, including major European and Asian languages, as well as a variety of language games

and a library. Like any social network, it provides the ability to exchange text messages, as well as agree on communication via Skype.

Duolingo.com – is a free international language network launched in 2011. The learning system is built in the form of interesting lessons using game elements, as they progress, students help to translate websites, articles, etc.

In addition to the web project, Duolingo has a mobile application. Duolingo features not only the most popular European languages such as English, German and French, but also Spanish. Swedish language courses are planned to be launched next year. At present the Duolingo program is widely used by school teachers for a long time, as it provides excellent exercises aimed at developing and improving listening and translation skills. This project motivates for the regularity of classes (daily reminders come to the mail), and you can set the rhythm yourself.

Lang8, Ling, Livemocha, Interpals, Lingualeo – sites that help learn foreign languages, which are on everyone's lips. However, there is still a huge number of little-known, but by no means less useful social networks and applications.

Babbel.com – is a social network for learning foreign languages founded in Germany in 2008. It provides an opportunity to learn 14 languages. Target audience - students with an intermediate level of language proficiency and beginners. In addition, there is an opportunity to improve your knowledge of a foreign language in the field of marketing, advertising, etc. Each course consists of short lessons, which, in turn, contain new words and phrases, exercises for memorizing them and practicing grammar. The repetition manager helps you practice vocabulary skills. A mobile application is actively used; it is possible to work offline [4].

Es.coffee.com – is an interesting site for language exchange and language games. This site offers several language games that can be played online. For example, "Word Explainer" (the goal of the game is to guess the words from the description of other participants and offer a description of your own words), "Make a Phrase" (the goal is to make the correct phrase or phrase from the suggested words). The site features 183 languages.

Verbling – is an online resource that provides students with the opportunity to find tutors for online classes. Lessons are given individually and in small groups, maximum 9 people. The choice of a teacher (mandatory native speaker) is provided to the student himself. After reading 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 lesson, studies can be carried out both on pronunciation, vocabulary or grammar, and on listening, speaking or writing.

Conversationexchange.com – Thanks to this resource, you will have a great opportunity to chat with other users, improve your foreign language skills, and, among other things, get to know the culture of the country of the language you are learning. Depending on what 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 a "reciprocal exchange", that is, you are both a student and a teacher, helping your interlocutor in mastering a new foreign language for him.

FluentU – is all about learning with TV shows, videos, cartoons, and more. The video library is huge. You can click on a word at any time to see different examples of how it is used, 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 for learning.

Speaky.com – is the next social network for language practice. The site was developed in 2014 and at first was called "Gospeaky". Later it was renamed Speaky, the design was changed, making it brighter and more lively. The site is designed for written language practice.

There are two details in the chat that distinguish this platform from many others: “tips” and “corrections”.

"Corrections" allows you to correct a message written by you or the interlocutor. After that, two options will be shown: incorrect (before correction) and correct (corrected) [2].

For those who have difficulty communicating with strangers, the developers have compiled a list of phrases that are appropriate to use in such a conversation.

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

English, Baby! – is a social network and online course for learning American Conversational English. The service has over 1.6 million subscribers, making it one of the largest and most successful online English learning communities for both students and teachers. "English, baby!" is very popular in China, where about a quarter of its users live. A wide interest is shown in other countries, such as the USA, Brazil, Turkey, Egypt and India [3].

English, baby! contains several thousand ready-made English lessons. In the videos presented on the site, popular actors, musicians and athletes clearly explain how to use a particular word or phrase; and those who are not native speakers share their learning experiences. 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 speakers. Lessons include English grammar, tests and vocabulary building.

This platform will be of interest not only to foreign language learners, but also to teachers, as "English, baby!" provides an opportunity to create your own English lessons or use in your classes the materials that already exist on the site.

Memrise is a unique social network that uses the most advanced mnemonic techniques to help users memorize information faster and more efficiently than any other method. Students can either use the courses already available on the site (and there are over 6,000 of them) or create their own. Words for memorization are issued in certain portions (you can choose how many words you want to learn per day) and each course includes several levels. The number of Internet resources dedicated to the study of foreign languages is large and constantly growing. Most sites are designed for people who have mastered the initial level of the language and who want to practice "live" communication with a person for whom this language is native.

Such social networks are an excellent help in the educational process, as the teacher can organize the work of his students in the classroom or outside of school hours. The use of language social networks in learning a foreign language helps to diversify the learning process, make it interesting and exciting. Thus, we can conclude that linguistic social networks are an effective way of teaching a foreign language.

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