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VARIETY OF LANGUAGE SOCIAL NETWORKS AND THEIR APPLICATION IN STUDYING FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Everyone studying a foreign language knows that the best way to master a language is immersion in the language environment and communication with its native speakers. But, unfortunately, the current geopolitical situation in the world is not conducive to traveling. 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 beneficial effect on the motivation to learn a foreign language and contribute to the growth of students' interest in this language. These sites were created specifically for speakers of different languages to help each other in learning them. All of these factors accelerate the learning process, improve quality of learning and make language networks popular not only among teenagers, but also among the older generation. **Busuu** is an international educational project aimed at learning foreign languages. The project allows you to practice with real native speakers, learn their culture and make new friends. In total it has over 80 million listener-users. Online courses in twelve languages, including Chinese, Arabic and Japanese, which are virtually impossible to find on other language social networks, are available in Web version and mobile app. The materials on the site help to improve all the language skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. Each lesson is devoted to a certain topic, the user is provided with a dictionary of necessary words and expressions, a set of written exercises to consolidate the learned material, a knowledge test and an obligatory dialogue with a native speaker of the target language. Students' works are forwarded to each other,

everyone can become a teacher and adviser to those who are learning their native languages. After receiving the work, the "teachers" correct mistakes and help their "students" understand the language. Most of the material on the site is free. If you want to get access to the video lessons, or if you need a certificate of completion, you can do this by purchasing a premium account. In addition to the above languages, you can learn English, Russian, French, Italian, German, Spanish, Turkish and Polish (1). **Duolingo.com** is a free international language network that was launched in 2011. The learning system is built in the form of interesting lessons with game elements, and as students progress through the lessons, they help translate simple texts, advertisements, websites, articles, etc. In addition to the web project, **Duolingo** has a mobile app. At **Duolingo** you are able to learn not only the most popular European languages such as English, German and French, but also Spanish. Swedish courses are scheduled to launch next year. At the moment **Duolingo** is widely used by teachers in schools because it offers a great amount of exercises aimed at forming translation skills. This project motivates you to do it regularly as you get daily reminders in your email and you can also set your own schedule (2).

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, you can learn the culture of the country you are studying. Depending on the skills you want to develop and improve, your communication can take the form of correspondence or live communication. For more confident learners this language platform offers the opportunity to find out about native speakers who live in your city and are willing to talk live in a public place. However, remember that according to the rules of this social network, your communication must be a "mutual exchange", that you are both a student and a teacher, helping your interlocutor to master a foreign language (3). **Speaky.com** is the next social network used for language practice. The site was developed in 2014 and was first called "Gospeaky." It was later renamed Speaky, changed its design and became more

vibrant and lively. The site is designed for written language practice. There are two details in the chat that set this platform apart from many others: "prompts" and "corrections." "Corrections" allow you to correct messages written by you or your interlocutors. Two versions will then be shown: the wrong one (before the correction) and the correct one (corrected). For those who have difficulties in communicating with unfamiliar foreigners, the developers have compiled a list of phrases that are appropriate to use in such a conversation (5). **Memrise** is a unique social network site that uses the most advanced mnemotechnics in order to help users memorize information faster and more effectively than with any other method. Students can both take existing courses or create their own ones. The memorization words are given in fixed batches, you can choose how many words you learn per day, each course has several levels (4). In conclusion we can say that the number of Internet resources dedicated to learning foreign languages is enormous and this number is constantly growing. Most sites are designed for people who have mastered the basic level of the language and want to have some practice in "live" communication with a person for whom that language is a native one. Such social networks are a great help in the educational process, and the teacher has only to organize the work of their students in class or outside of class time. Using language social networks in the process of studying helps diversify this process, making it more interesting and exciting. Thus, we can conclude that using language social networks is an effective method of studying a foreign language.

REFERENCES

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