



# THE ROLE OF ONLINE APPS AND SITES IN LEARNING FOREIGN LANGUAGES

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**ANNOTATION:** This article explores the widespread use of learning tools among language learners, particularly focusing on technology-driven learning approaches. It delves into how modern technologies, such as mobile apps and online platforms, have transformed language acquisition methods, emphasizing their prevalence and effectiveness in today's educational landscape.

**KEYWORDS:** Duolingo, apps, advantages, and disadvantages of online learning.

## INTRODUCTION

Modern technology' portability and simplicity of use are among its primary benefits for language learners. Learners can get interactive information, practical exercises, and language courses anytime, anywhere with the use of mobile apps, websites, and virtual reality tools. As such, with flexibility, there are no entry barriers and it is possible to accommodate a variety of learning methods and preferences. Students can participate in language learning activities at their convenience and pace. Students can have individualized learning experiences that are catered to their unique requirements, interests, and ability levels thanks to innovative technologies. Students are motivated to actively participate in language learning activities by the vibrant and interactive content that technology delivers. Technology-enabled tools like analytics, progress dashboards, evaluations, and feedback systems facilitate ongoing education and tracking of progress. It encourages worldwide cooperation between students, educators, and language specialists, enabling meaningful exchanges of language and culture. Cutting-edge technology improves language instruction by offering individualized, interactive learning opportunities. Proficiency in technology enhances linguistic aptitude, cultural sensitivity, and international communication capabilities. Technology will play a more and bigger part in language acquisition as it develops, influencing education in the future and getting pupils ready for multilingual society.

With all the different types of social media is an excellent opportunity for your study not only at an institute or school but also to improve your informational database. In fact, in 2022, sales on social media reached an estimated value of 922 billion[1].

## LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

In the modern world, being able to speak and understand another language is essential for one's personal and professional growth in the face of globalization's challenges. Proficiency in spoken language can be extremely beneficial in establishing rapport, fostering trust and understanding amongst individuals, and growing the networks that support commercial prospects. When someone studies languages at a higher level, it can also show that they have an international perspective and that they can collaborate with people from other backgrounds and cultures. Thus, the issue of quickly and successfully learning a foreign language becomes especially pertinent in the context of the digitalization of the current educational process,



especially when considering the potential and resource capabilities of innovative forms of education, such as contemporary online platforms.

It should be highlighted that contemporary studies have recognized the substantial potential and advantages of online learning environments for foreign languages, given their user-friendly interfaces that facilitate the usage of real language and enable meaningful contact outside of the classroom. These days, the way the following information resources work for studying several foreign languages is an illustration of how successful it is to use online platforms: the online platforms Babel, Drops, Campster, Lingualeo, Busuu, and Memrise; the electronic language learning and crowdsourcing translation portal DuoLingo; research materials for BBC English language learning a sizable division of the British Council and BBC is dedicated to teaching English. The British Council's LearnEnglish portal and online learning environments in Ukraine and worldwide: Interactive online learning environments for learning English as a second language, such as Prometheus, Edera, Udemy, Coursera, etc. English ToGo, Puzzle English, Lim English, Notes, EnglishDom Class, and numerous other interactive textbook platforms[2].

An exploratory sociological study that was conducted with small sample size and sought to define the tasks, object, subject, and hypotheses about the researched issues was done to validate the author's claims regarding the definition of the role and place of online platforms in learning a foreign language. Simultaneously, this enabled the acquisition of practical sociological data, which may be employed to generate practical findings and suggestions[3].

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

It should be noted in the experiment that respondents' beliefs related to the development of skills necessary for learning a foreign language (reading, speaking, writing, listening) in the process of using online platforms. As can be seen from the experiment, 29.5% of respondents chose the option «Completely agree», or «Rather agree» - by 43.2% of respondents, the option «It is difficult to answer» was chosen by 22.7% of respondents, «Rather disagree» - 4.5 %, and the option «Completely disagree» was not chosen by the respondents at all[2]. Therefore, the appropriate use of Internet platforms in educational settings, especially as an extra resource for studying the skills of reading, speaking, writing, and listening in foreign languages, can boost students' motivation for their overall development and acquisition.

It should be underlined that part of the focus group's questions pertains to figuring out the benefits of online learning environments over conventional techniques for language learners. In the experiment, respondents' opinions regarding online learning platforms as a substitute for conventional teaching techniques were therefore examined. Consequently, the overwhelming majority of respondents selected the option «Absolutely agree» (36.7%), indicating that they believe online platforms are superior to traditional teaching methods for learning foreign languages. Another popular choice was «Possibly» (32.7%), followed by «Agree» (26.5%), and only 4% of respondents selected the options «Do not agree» and «Absolutely do not agree»[2]. The use of mobile platforms and apps has many benefits. These include motivation, adaptability, accessibility, engagement, and current material, among others. Below, let's examine them in greater detail:

### **Accessibility**

Accessibility is one of the major advantages of mobile learning. Because m-learning courses are hosted online, learners can access them from any location in the globe. Because of



this, mobile learning is incredibly flexible and can assist artists in connecting with a larger audience.

### Flexibility

Learning with online apps offers students the freedom that synchronous or in-person classes cannot, much like accessibility but with certain differences. Whether they prefer to work at noon or midnight, students can finish the course whenever it is most convenient for them. Additionally, students have the option to learn at their own pace if the course permits it. They can complete the course in as short as a few hours or as long as a few months, giving them even more flexibility.

There are drawbacks to online learning to take into account, just like with anything else. Mobile learning has the potential to exclude students without access to quality technology, rely too much on technology, lack social connection, and leave students exposed to distraction. Below, let's delve deeper into each of these causes:

### Distractions

The fact that wireless education in education necessitates that students access the content via a mobile device is just one of its many advantages. But it also means that distractions are likely to occur far more frequently for students. During class, students should expect to get notifications from social media, emails, and text messages. Distractions like these have the potential to lower completion and engagement.

### Lack of interpersonal communication

While digital learning can help students form meaningful online connections, it does not facilitate meaningful in-person interactions. Some students could be more motivated by social interactions, while others might do better in a more solitary and self-paced setting. When students enroll in a course that calls for sustained participation, this may become even more apparent.

## CONCLUSION

Modern technology has greatly enhanced language learning, offering portability, flexibility, and personalized experiences through mobile apps, websites, and virtual tools. Learners can access interactive content, track progress, and engage with global communities, improving linguistic skills and cultural understanding. Social media further expands learning opportunities, although challenges like distractions and limited interpersonal communication should be considered. Despite drawbacks, technology remains a powerful tool in preparing learners for a multilingual society.

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