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*Nowadays, multilingualism has become highly valued, since knowing a foreign language apart from your native language has evolved to be extremely beneficial. Being able to communicate in a foreign language helps to make real connection with people from all over the world [1].*

In fact, the circumstances of the current world make the use of a foreign language in daily life very important, and, on the other hand, the level of globalization is not high enough for constant communication in this language from the external environment [2]. Many modern people have been living in the information society since their childhood. This situation creates a demand for mobile applications to maintain their language level in conditions when there is no opportunity or need to study with a teacher.

As a result, mobile devices have been steadily incorporated into learning. The broad use of smartphones and Wi-Fi gadgets has converted the traditional teaching method and learning process [3]. This extensive usage of mobile devices has fetched loads of mobile applications for language learning. Numerous apps are available for language learners to download through easy access to the Internet. Learning materials can be accessed easily due to the portability and accessibility of mobile devices.

Having analyzed the largest applications of the Play Market platform for learning foreign languages and studied their features and functionality, several categories have been identified including listening, reading, speaking and vocabulary development in order to consult the learners to overcome the difficulties in choosing the suitable English Learning apps.

Among the examples of apps which can be helpful for improving listening skills *Listen English Daily Practice* and *Step by Step English Listening* can be mentioned as the most popular ones.

*Listen English Daily Practice* is an application for improving listening skills where all the articles are categorized and divided according to the user's level, which means that users can easily start their listening English practice from the level they're comfortable in and work their way through the more advanced level articles and conversations. With present scenarios that cover almost all the aspects of the daily lives, users will soon see positive impact on their speaking and listening abilities in the language. According to the statistics the current rating of the app is 4.9 stars and it has been downloaded more than 500 thousand times so far, which makes it one of the top listening training apps

*Step by Step English Listening* is an app with more than 1000 audios with tests. Each lesson includes a test and transcript to help users check their listening skill and follow the speaker. As in the previous application, the listening lessons are divided into many grades from beginner English Listening to Advance

English listening. Users can hear different English accents. The lessons are divided in many topics, such as family, self-information, food, life style, education, science and business. There is almost no contrast between the ratings of the two compared applications, since *Step by Step English Listening* has 4.8 stars, which is only 0.1 inferior to *Listen English Daily Practice*, and the number of downloads is nearly the same.

Moreover, from a wide list of applications for vocabulary replenishment, *Word of the Day* and *Memrise* can be selected as the most useful ones.

*Word of the day* is an app which helps users to expand their vocabulary each day with an interesting word, clear definition, memorable example and pronunciation for every taste. Challenging vocabulary is taken from Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary's, Cambridge Dictionary, IELTS, TOEFL. The application provides its users with simple examples and plenty of synonyms for better understanding and memorizing new words. *Word of the day* has the highest rating of 5 stars. This application is actively used by more than 500 thousand people.

In its turn, *Memrise* is a language and vocabulary learning platform. It is focused on the combination of memorizing techniques and entertaining materials to make language mastering easy and funny. There are over 300 thousand different language courses that are available in twenty five languages. The app uses the principles of mnemonics to improve its users' retention. Every lesson is followed by a quiz to test the progress. One of the striking differences of this platform is that it is suitable for group learning and valued by teachers from all over the world. In comparison with *Word of the day*, *Memrise* has a slightly lower rating, which is 4.8 stars, but, on the other hand, the number of downloads exceeds 10 million, which is a significant indicator of audience coverage.

Additionally, the two most well-known applications for developing reading skills are *Beelinguapp* and *LingQ*.

*Beelinguapp* has a huge online library filled with stories of many genres. It works by showing a text to the user in two languages simultaneously, allowing the users to use their native language as a reference. It also works as an audio book where users can listen to a recording of a voice reading a text while at the same time a karaoke style animation moves through the text in both languages. The app offers different kinds of texts across 12 languages. It's no wonder that the app has quite a good rating up to 4.5 stars.

*LingQ* is an app that helps to learn a language through reading and listening to native content. It offers language-learning classes in 15 languages. One of the most important features is that there is a possibility to upload personal content. Users can also keep track of unknown words. The rate of this app slightly exceeds the abovementioned app and makes up 4.6 stars. More than 1 million members worldwide leverage *Beelinguapp* and *LingQ* to learn and acquire new words and phrases from their favorite videos and content.

Finally, the last two of the most widely used applications for speaking skill development are *Tandem* and *HelloTalk*.

*Tandem* is a language exchange app that connects language learners with native speakers. *Tandem* presents its members with a stream of potential *Tandem* partners who are native speakers in the language they want to learn. Members can chat with their *Tandem* partners via instant messaging, voice messages, audio calls and video calls. The list of partners can also be refined using location, age and gender filters. *Tandem* today boasts more than 10 million users across 180 countries. The rating of the app is 4.7 stars.

*HelloTalk* is also a language exchange app that aims to connect language learners with other language learners and native speakers. The users of this app can chat with language partners via the same means as in the previous application and even via doodles. Furthermore, the app provides built-in aids for translation, pronunciation, transliteration, and corrections. Users can post Moments which are seen by all native speakers of your target language and are ideal for asking questions and sharing updates. *HelloTalk* is a popular language-learning app that has millions of users from all around the world. As for 2023, *HelloTalk* has over 10 million registered users who actively use the app to learn new languages. In comparison to *Tandem* the rating of this app is considerably lower and makes up 4.1 stars.

Thus, taking everything into consideration, mobile apps are a great additional instrument for language learning. If you already know the basics of a language, they can be extremely helpful. Moreover, a combination of several apps is more efficient than the usage of any specific one.

The most significant issue is not just learning languages, as suggested by the apps - it is language practice. All of the apps mentioned allow users to only practice a language in very restrictive ways. Therefore,

any learning with the help of apps should be expanded by language practice either with a tutor, educational groups or through the use of proofreading services for writing practice.

### **Список использованных источников**

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