## SOCIAL NETWORKS IN LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

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In our modern world apart from our mother tongue we need to have a common language which makes us able to communicate with other parts of the world. The English language, which is international, occupies an important place in people's lives.

It goes without saying that there are many ways to improve your language skills today. Each person who wants to succeed in learning a foreign language may use such ways as reading English literature, listening to the radio, travelling abroad, using diagrams or schemes, taking courses, watching your favorite film in the original and, of course, searching some information in the Internet. You can find a lot of information on special websites which can offer you a list of books to download, some online tests, podcasts, sometimes you can find a few games connected with the process of learning English.

Social networks are very commonplace in today's modern revolutionary world. For a short period, social networks have become widespread among young generation and middle-aged people. It means that this way of getting information is rather convenient. Most sites do not demand payment, so everyone can use social networks as the source of information if you have an access to the Internet. The whole landscape of social networks provides a platform which offers a lot of resources and wealth of information for people. More people in more countries across the world want a good education and the use of social tools is building an infrastructure around the learning experience that is far better than the online learning of a decade ago. People today can get higher education at reputable institutions far away from where they live, and they can make genuine connections and friendships without ever visiting any redbrick campus.

There has been a global increase in the use of social networking sites to create social groups who share the same interests. We have asked the students of the first course about the websites they use and it has been revealed that there are some which could be highly recommended to join. For example, among a big variety of groups we would like to distinguish a group called "Just English!". If you spend a lot of time there you should definitely subscribe to the news of this group. You can find posts with books and their detailed description, videos of popular TV series or films, some videos about the English grammar. Very often, they offer you to get acquainted with some colloquial phrases or a list of words on a certain topic. [1]

Another world famous internet source which we all use is "Youtube". It is not a secret that there you can find whatever you need. It can be a video film about cute cats or just a performance of your favorite music band. Although "Youtube" is a social network, it can bring you not only fun or joy, but knowledge. One channel, which is worth seeing, is "Channel Dialect". Each person who wants to expand his or her vocabulary should watch a few videos of this channel. Idioms, phrasal verbs, strange words, differences between words and a lot of other information you can learn in 5-10 minutes.

"Английский как по нотам" is the channel which aims to teach people. There are not so many videos, just 32. But the way how the videos are made will make you watch them again and again. Pleasant pictures, animation and speakers' voices will help you to get the information easier. For instance, by watching these videos you can learn how to pronounce sound "th", what the difference between British and American accents is and so on. You can also find some dialogues from well-known films or translations of some songs there. Moreover, if you are fond of

travelling or you like history, "British Pathe" may be useful as it is the world's finest news and entertainment video film archive which has a collection of 85,000 historic films available to everyone. [2]

The analysis of the survey results has shown that most students believe that they could learn more because of using the group page and think it is helpful in achieving their goals for their projects as well as for the group. In addition, most students would like to use social networking for educational purposes and are interested in using social networking at university. However, some educators look at social media as an opportunity to enrich learning experiences of their students, there is also a community who don't consider social media as a serious medium of learning. It's time now that teachers should start trusting their students more and nurture a positive environment for social learning in which teachers and students can feel empowered with social media. [3] So, the incredible power of social-networking technology to be used for academic purposes is very important.

## References

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