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## QR-TECHNOLOGY IN ENGLISH LESSONS: BENEFIT OR FAIL?

**The hypothesis** is when pupils do different QR-tests they develop the vocabulary and grammar of English language, though in insignificant way. QR-technology has a positive impact on studying English and increases the motivation of its learning.

**The relevance of the chosen theme** is that technology has become more significant in our everyday lives. Nowadays many technological innovations are used at school. QR-technology is one of them.

**The purpose of research work** is to analyze the influence of QR-technology on the process of learning English.

**The object of our study** is QR-technology.

**The subject of this study** is the English language.

**The scientific novelty of this research** is determined by positive and negative sides of using QR- technology in English lessons. We worked out the materials for the research part, conducted the survey and presented the analysis of its results.

**The practical significance of research work** lies in the fact that as the results of this work we can make Manual of QR-tests or structure these tests on special website.

**The used methods** are the analysis of the theoretical literature; the method of the public opinion poll; the research method; the classification method; the method of interview.

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## MOBILE ENGLISH – APPS FOR LEARNING A LANGUAGE

Our world is going mobile. Mobile learning is becoming a valuable addition to traditional teaching and learning techniques. With our smartphones, we can carry the entire English language around with us in our pocket and practise it anytime anywhere (in the most unexpected places such as an endless line to the doctor, a break between lessons or a boring lecture at your university, a long-distance train or a miles-long traffic jam).

Currently, there are hundreds of language learning apps but which ones are better? The reality is that the App market is like a jungle. Obviously, there is a lack of recommendation about relevant apps and suggestions about how to use them effectively to learn English. That's why we've decided to carry out a research on the theme "Mobile English –Apps for Learning a Language".

The Goal of the Research: to find best free mobile apps for learning English and identify effective tasks that can be performed with their help.

Obvious benefits of mobile learning include: mobility, portability, economy, multimedia content, gamification, personal choice of learning material and rhythm, continuous assessment & progress tracking, daily motivation, support for people with special needs & so on.

My first apps were Duolingo and Lingualeo but during the coronavirus outbreak I had to look for other apps because I have to take an oral English exam and centralized testing. I decided to study as many apps as possible and choose the best ones.

The research was done with the help of the students of 3 age groups: 1) 6-Formers and 2) 11-Formers of our gymnasium, 3) students of Years 1 (group 105) and 2 (group 204) of Minsk State Linguistic University.

The results of the survey show that mobile apps are used by 60% of 6-Formers, 80% of 11-Formers and 96% of university students.

The most popular apps turned out to be: Duolingo, Lingualeo, Simpler, Cake, BBC Learning English, Puzzle English & Quizlet.

To examine the quality and efficiency of the current mobile apps for learning English, 10 best apps were searched and selected on Google Play, then downloaded, studied, tested and analyzed according to their purposes. While selecting best apps we took into account such criteria as:

-popularity (or rating and number of downloads),

-level(s) of learning that it embraces,

-its purpose (skills and aspects of the language that can be acquired with its help).

The results of their content analysis show that mobile apps can help learners to develop one or numerous skills, most of them are multi-purpose & for all levels. Most apps: offer to choose a language and a goal; help to identify your level; support motivation. After that, 5 representative apps were identified for further evaluation. Top 5 mobile apps include: Duolingo, Lingualeo, Simpler, BBC Learning English and Cake. I'll try to give their brief description.

Duolingo. When you try to describe a learning app you can often hear the question "is it like Duolingo?" Its official mascot is Duo - a male green owl which symbolizes knowledge, wisdom, and learning. He

instructs and motivates you to achieve higher learning goals. If you want to learn English from scratch, then this is the app you are looking for.

LinguaLeo combines elements of gamification with high-quality real-life content. *Leo the Lion* is the main character of the service and a personal guide to the language *jungle*. He eats *meatballs,* and to receive them a user has to read texts, watch videos, complete language quests, and consolidate knowledge during training.

Simpler's idea is to present any material in a *simplified way* in order to be understandable and easily memorized for any user. Simpler's learning system includes *theory, practice and constant repetitions*. Lessons are not forgotten with time because they include exercises from previous lessons and regular *checkpoints* to test knowledge and eliminate gaps.

BBC Learning English App offers a wide range of series on different topics. Users can watch or listen to each programme first without using the text support, then again using the built-in transcripts and subtitles. Once they have practiced their listening and reading skills, they can use the quizzes to test their understanding. As the app will remember their scores, they can keep trying until they get the result they want.

Cake. Learning English can be a piece of cake! Cake is especially suitable for those who want to improve speaking skills. Fun, short real-life conversation videos and short clips together with expressions, idioms and vocabulary are updated every day, you can watch them, repeat and do tasks. You can check your pronunciation with the help of speech recognition programme. Simply record your voice and get immediate feedback. Cake will analyze and grade your speaking.

Together with our respondents we have selected the most interesting and useful options of the mobile apps they use – the so called "Treasures of Mobile Apps".

Our research was aimed to find and classify the apps in order to assist the learner of different age group in choosing the appropriate mobile app. Findings from the reviewed articles, information about the existing apps on the Internet, testing of the most popular apps and our opinion poll prove that there are hundreds of apps and it's really hard to choose the best ones. With the help of our respondents we've also managed to identify best apps for each age group. In light of these findings it may be stated that there is a great potential of mobile learning as a complement to traditional methods. The mobile app world is constantly changing creating countless opportunities for language learning and for further research.

Do you remember the time when cell phones were limited to making calls and sending messages? Now we're using our phones to pay the bills, do the shopping, book flights, watch movies and what not. So, why not use them in education?

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## THE ROLE OF MATHEMATICAL THINKING IN MASTERING THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

I am a student of Form 9 and soon I will have to make a decision where to go to study and what subjects I should pay more attention to. That's why I've got questioned what subjects I could study so that they could help a better mastering of one another. Since I like Math, exact sciences and English, I wonder if mathematical thinking helps to master the English language better.