

THE REVIEW ON SOME LANGUAGE LEARNING APPLICATIONS FOR RUSSIAN ONLINE LEARNING

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In this paper, we are going to mention some advantages and disadvantages of using some applications such as BUSUU, Memrise and other applications in terms of examples for people who are interested in learning Russian language.

In the era of computer technology, the possibilities of learning foreign languages are expanding significantly, not only when studying abroad, but also by means of the Internet. Thanks to this network, young people from all over the world got the opportunity to learn languages in a rhythm convenient for them. Due to the fact that computer technology provides the ability to use the Internet not only on a stationary computer, but also on a smartphone, developers usually create language training programs in two types: a) for a computer; b) for smartphone (lite version). In our work, we want to describe the author's user experience from working specifically with mobile applications, since the author is a student and uses a smartphone every day, including studying Russian as a foreign language.

BUSUU: This applications tries explain different words by situation. For example it creates scene like greeting scene and gives the user suitable words or phrases for it. In this application exits some tips which are useful such as formal and informal ways of talking to someone or using phrases. The structure of the application is very good (mainly grammatically) unlike Duolingo application.

Memrise: There are interesting everyday phrases in this application which is very useful for people who are social (especially for people who have a grasp of English language). For example, the phrase “let’s get acquainted” which is a very useful one is in the course of learning. You can also learn slangs (street talks) with this application. For instance, the equivalent of the phrase “Thanks for dropping by” was given. There is a part of this application that the user should pay for. In this part the user can message to native speakers or have conversation with people who speak Russian fluently which is a very interesting idea but it is not free. Unfortunately, there is no possibility in this program to improve speaking (we might also say that about the listening as well).

Duolingo: Unfortunately, this program by comparing to other applications, is not as interesting and fun as other. For example, it does not create an enjoyable environment for the user. There are no concrete structure of learning for this application. If you use this app as a beginner, it might get you cold feet due to the fact that the information it represents to the user is not suitable. On the other hand there is one good point to this application which is its repetition. Almost every sentence is repeated during different levels of the course as you proceed.

HelloTalk: This application is a little bit different from other apps, in a way that there is no academical structure for learning (in another way, there is no sections for grammar, vocabulary or everyday phrases).

On the other hand, in this app you can find people who speak Russian (like native or semi native speakers) who can help you with your goal and also you can make friends. This application is so useful for people who already know basics of Russian language and want to improve their street talk with some phrases which are not taught in books but can be learnt from the people who speak that language.

HiNative: This is a mobile service that connects you with native speakers of a language, so you can get your questions answered directly by the people who speak your foreign language fluently. There are different sections of asking: 1) ask about grammar/vocabulary; 2) ask about pronunciation, e.g. “please show me how to pronounce ~”, “How’s my pronunciation?”. You can ask if your recording sounds natural or not, 3) ask freely (about a country or region, find out things related to culture, etiquette, travel, or anything that has to do with the country you’re interested in).

Thus, if we analyze applications in the traditional aspect of learning foreign languages: reading, listening, speaking, writing, grammar, then the applications listed by us concentrate mainly on teaching the lexical richness of languages. And Busuu and Memrise and Duolingo they do not have special sections that train speaking, listening skills, and correct spelling. Therefore, we are inclined to recommend the use of these programs only as additional to the classical academic course of studying the Russian language, preferably in real time and space in the conditions of language courses when studying with a group. At the same time, programs in which there is the possibility of audio recording and listening, for example, perfectly fill the gap precisely in the field of speaking skills and correct pronunciation, which is very important if your teacher is not a native speaker.

List of resources used:

1. BUSUU [Electronic resource]. – Mode of access: https://www.busuu.com/en/p/start-learning?utm_medium=cpc&utm_source=google&utm_campaign=ROW_EN_Web_Brand_E&utm_group=ROW_EN_Web_Brand_E&utm_term=busuu&gclid=EA1alQobChMIur_Nw9f26AlVwoayCh0YWwZPEAAAYASAAEgLIbfD_BwE&gclidsrc=aw.ds
2. Memrise [Electronic recourse]. – Mode of access: <https://www.memrise.com/ru/>
3. Duolingo [Electronic resource]. – Mode of access: <https://ru.duolingo.com/>
4. HelloTalk [Electronic recourse]. – Mode of access: <https://www.hellotalk.com/>
5. HiNative [Electronic resource]. – Mode of access: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.lang8.hinative&hl=ru>