

Students' Perceptions on Social Media Use in Language Learning

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Abstract

Social media are part and parcel of the daily lives of millions of people all over the world and have a tremendous impact upon every facet of our personal and professional lives. Given that a large number of internet users are students and teachers, social media platforms seem to greatly influence the way we teach and learn. In fact, as these tools facilitate discussion, participation, and the sharing of various forms of content (namely, text, video, audio and image), they have become a pivotal resource for students across all subjects.

Our objective in this paper is to examine the potential role that social media play in learning languages. To that end, a survey was conducted to examine university students' attitudes and perceptions about using these platforms in learning foreign languages. Results of the study demonstrated that 82% of the surveyed students stated that they use these social networking websites to improve their communication skills or even to learn new languages. Results of the survey also showed that through social media use, learners enhance the four language skills, namely listening, reading, writing and speaking. Yet, listening was found to be the major skill that students claim to enhance.

Taking these findings into account, we may stipulate that social media applications and learning languages have become inseparable because social media make the learning of languages an easier process by being fun, interactive and interesting. The environment that helps people connect with each other also comes forward to make language learning a more enriching experience. Given these educational benefits, we recommend that educators use these online social communities in distant, blended, or face-to-face learning contexts.