

«FLUENTU» MOBILE PLATFORM FOR IMPROVING PUBLIC SPEAKING SKILLS

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In this article the effectiveness of learning public speaking skills through mobile technology «Fluentu» is explored. Also there were given analysis with advantages and disadvantages of this mobile platform. The possibilities of English language teaching in a mobile environment are demonstrated by some examples of using mobile device. Here an attempt was made to show the advantages of using mobile application in learning English as a second language. Article describes brief information about «Fluentu» mobile device. The main area of investigation is to check the mobile platform for developing public speaking skills.

Key words: mobile platform, Fluentu, mobile technology, public speaking skills

INTRODUCTION

Around the world that new technology supported devices are growing rapidly, wireless communication technology is no exception in this regard. Since mobile phones are highly capable of expanding into all areas of human life. The main characteristics of mobile learning were recognized as the potential for the learning process to be personalized, spontaneous, informal and ubiquitous. While learning with mobile device students feel a greater sense of freedom of time and space so they can take advantage of the free time to learn an English language wherever they are. Mobile-Assisted Language Learning (MALL) deals with the use of mobile technology in language learning [1; 7]. Students are given a chance to sit in the classroom and receive materials for learning. Especially «Fluentu» mobile platform can be considered an ideal solution for improving public speaking skills without barriers in terms of time and place.

MAIN PART

Fluentu mobile device was invented by Alan Park in New York [2]. It is a new platform for learning language with using different kind of videos. Fluentu consists of authentic materials such as: news, dialogues, public speaking talks, motivational videos. Fluentu takes authentic content and turns it into language learning lessons[3]. Each video has certain vocabulary which helps students to enhance public speaking skills. After watching videos, there were given tasks with flashcards. Tasks were created to check the understanding of material at all. In such an environment, busy people or students tend to use portable devices to learn new materials rather than taking time for traditional classroom-based courses. Fluentu mobile platform was created to make our life easier and more interesting with useful information that can be applied in real situation.

To master the material of the "Fluentu" program and acquire practical skills, it is necessary to systematically work through lessons and exercises. Each comes with a theoretical part explaining its usefulness. Some of your favorite lessons can be added to favorites to make it easier to find and work with. With regular training, you will surely improve the quality of your speech and acquire knowledge that is quite useful in everyday life - you have to say a lot and often.

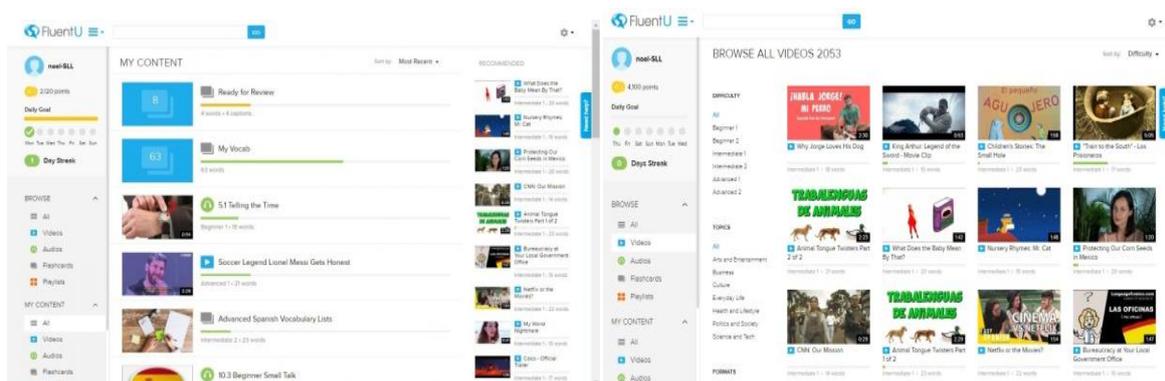
A good performance in public involves many different skills:

- The topic of the speech. The main ideas should be expressed and communicated to the audience.

- The purpose of the speech is to express the speaker's meaning and direction, the content of the speech, the selection and accumulation of relevant materials, knowledge and information, rather than repeating the known, but showing signs of novelty.

- The material must be supported by convincing evidence. The content of the presentation should contain interesting and understandable information.

- Forms of presentation of materials: reports, presentations, lecture etc. In any case, the selected forms should be organized and grouped in such a way that the students can concentrate on important topics in a professional environment.



Advantages of Fluenu platform for training public speaking skills

At the same time, not only schoolchildren and students, but also adults seeking to master a foreign language, in the conditions of modern high-speed rhythm of life, also often resort to various mobile applications as a means of learning. The integration of mobile device «Fluentu» in the process of learning a foreign language has a number of serious advantages [4;5]:

1. Free access to educational materials anywhere and anytime.
2. The ability to train aspects of speech activity, including listening, without the use of additional materials and devices.
3. Colorful presentation of the material with illustrations and multimedia effects.
4. Automatic and quick check of exercises, giving students the opportunity to get the most up-to-date information about their progress. The program automatically analyzes errors and offers appropriate exercises to eliminate them.
5. The possibility of effective distance learning, which today is extremely popular, allowing to make training available to such categories of students as: students with health problems; students living at a distance from the basic educational institution; adult students who do not have the opportunity to regularly attend face-to-face classes [5;8].
6. Being one of the latest developments in the field of foreign language teaching, mobile applications must be considered on the most modern lexical material; reflect the latest language and speech trends of the English language.
7. Using authentic materials and videos are popular in the given device. All materials were taken from real life situation. Most of students learn English language better with real information. Videos have interesting content, which might be useful for improving public speaking skills [6].

Fluentu helps us to develop listening with the exercises that can be considered the first step in learning English language. It is now possible to improve a mobile multimedia system to train listening skills through audio and video exercises.

According to Huang and Sun, the mobile multimedia Fluentu English listening exercise system can enhance the learner's English Listening ability to a high level [7; 15]. It is also possible to develop given platform in which learners listen to text using voice services on their mobile phones, followed by text-based listening quizzes.

Pronunciation

Fluentu allows their users for access to multimedia features including listening and speaking and pronunciation .It is a good service of platform which consists of speech AIDS for voice

transmission. Having such facilities, learners can download dictionaries on and with sound features so they can learn the correct pronunciation of unfamiliar or new words to be able to fulfill their learning needs.

Disadvantages of Fluentu for training public speaking skills

However, it should be noted that in addition to the obvious advantages, the use of mobile devices in training has a number of disadvantages [8].

1. The use of the latest information technologies in teaching a foreign language creates a close meta-subject relationship between the two disciplines (computer science and foreign language). If the technical device is not sufficiently mastered, the student experiences additional difficulties, which can significantly reduce his motivation to learn.

2. The dependence of the quality of the application on factors such as the technical characteristics of the device and the speed of data transfer, which can lead to difficulties in the learning process or even interrupt it.

3. The lack of live interaction between student and teacher, which manifests itself in the impossibility of direct contact, which can reduce the effectiveness of communication and public speaking.

4. The lack of voluminous passages of texts for the development of reading skills, which is partly due to the characteristics of mobile devices, most of which have a relatively small screen, which prevents effective work with text of large volume[9;20].

5. Inability to practice the skill of oral skills with the help of a technical device. Learning, limited only by the use of a mobile device, does not allow to fully achieving the main goal of learning – the development of communicative competence of students.

6. For reading comprehension less attention was given. Most of materials were given with video that is why students can read only subtitles of video.

Some of the above shortcomings can be fully or partially leveled. For example, a detailed user guide containing step-by-step instructions for each type of task and answers to the most frequently asked questions of users can improve the ease of use of a mobile application. Each exercise of Fluentu platform contains a demo version, which would clearly illustrate the process of performing a specific task.

CONCLUSION

The speed of modern mobile technology is increasing and penetrating all aspects of life, so this technology plays a vital role in learning different aspects of knowledge. Today, a clear shift from teacher-led learning to student-led learning is that mobile learning enabled leads to students feeling using technology more effective and interesting than before. In fact, we can provide better learning environment with mobile phone form platform as Fluentu for our language learners [10]. Although many studies have been conducted on mobile technology and Fluentu are an emerging area of research in language learning, there is still so much work to be done and a large amount of information to be disclosed [11;12]. The ways through which the barriers have been removed can help the mobile technology to grow with less effort and cost. Some language skills such as public speaking and listening skills, as mobile activities are based on the need for further improvement due to the hardware weaknesses. Fluentu platform is the most effective platform for language learning and teaching. It has more advantages rather than disadvantages. In addition, the methods by which

Fluentu device technology can be used to provide a more robust learning environment need to be further improved.

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