

# COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF WEBSITES TO LEARN FOREIGN LANGUAGE (ENGLISH)

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**Abstract.** Nowadays commutation between people around the world is becoming more common but not all the people we communicate with speak the same language we do. That's why there is an international language, English, which people learn in order to communicate with foreigner. Not everybody has enough money to attend classes or hire a private teacher. In this case, there are websites in the Internet to help people learn any language for free.

**Key words:** language, communication, learning, website, Internet.

The **aim** of the research is to get to know how to choose a website to learn English in online education. Online education is a form of education using computers.

A website is a group of web pages connected to each other. Web sites are usually produced by an individual or organization.

The **object** of the research is websites for learning English.

The **subject** of the research is advantages of websites to learn English.

**The research is of topical interest** as we observe an increase in demand of English.

**Research materials** are electronic sources.

The **methods** of the research are analysis, synthesis and comparison.

Websites Bell Labs, The Washington Post, BBC World service, ABC News, and CNN world have been compared by Fedotova O.N. in her paper "Learning English using Internet-resources" [4] using the criterion of informative characteristics. There are more websites on the internet to be compared such as BBC Learning English, Duolingo, Dave's ESL Café etc.

## **BBC Learning English**

The BBC Learning English website [1] provides information for learning English for teachers, students and children. The site also provides information about courses, quizzes, vocabulary, pronunciation, news, business etc. Every web page is well structured and informatively given. A multi-language feature is supported for people who are unfamiliar with English. BBC Learning English provides various courses the beginners may need: exam preparation, pronunciation improvement, improving English skills, listening exercises, watching reviews and discussion. The website provides free multimedia and audio files, allowing users to use them for their education purposes and being accessible through different devices. If a user has a question to ask there is a specific section where it can be done. The section is structured to give general information about rules in English, offering a quiz at the end of page where the user is able to ask questions if they have problems with learning English. However, the website is lacking communication with real people that is a problem in learning a foreign language. Communication with native speakers helps a person who improves their spelling, pronunciation and syntax. When studying individually, a human being thinks that when there is a need to communicate with a person, they will face no problem. However, in many cases when a student is communicating they cannot build a sentence correctly, make mistakes in spelling and pronunciation.

In conclusion, BBC Learning English has a lot of webpages which are able to help people enjoy online education and can be used to prepare for exams, review researches and more all over the world. The lack of communication with native speakers has a negative impact on learning English.

## **Duolingo**

Duolingo [2] provides listening, audio, reading and grammar exercises. The first thing you can see when opening the home page of the website is nonstandard interface of the website. In order to start free education in learning English, the user has to make an account to proceed. When an account is made, Duolingo website lets the student choose a language the user would like to learn. Once a language is chosen, the website asks if the user has ever studied or spoken the selected language. If

the user has studied the language they select, Duolingo offers three variants of tests to identify their level of English. Each of three tests has different levels of difficulty so that the user can make a choice.

One of the disadvantages of Duolingo is that it confuses the user with its user interface. It can take a minute for the user to get through a web page they want. Because of that, Duolingo shows pop-up messages on screen to help the user navigate the website. The second disadvantage is the lack of multimedia resources BBC Learning English has. Duolingo has speaking exercises where the user has to turn on their microphone to spell a sentence. But if there is no access to the microphone, the exercise can be skipped. Like the BBC Learning English website, Duolingo lacks communication with native speakers. Communication with real people makes learning English better, helps people be more confident.

Duolingo has a system to analyze data. It means that whatever the user has done wrong or right is collected by the website in order to give the user more individual expertise in learning English. If a lot of mistakes are made, Duolingo provides more exercises explaining the rules to help the user understand grammar.

In conclusion, Duolingo is a good website to learn English. However, the lack of multimedia and communication with real people is not a good decision.

### **British Council Learn English**

Once the homepage of British Council Learn English [3] is open, the website provides complete information. Art style which is used in the website is minimalistic and it is easy to navigate. The user is able to discover their current English level by taking a free online English test.

In order to start learning English using this website, the user has to register in order to be allowed to choose a kind of education they would like to have. Unlike any other websites that help people learn English, the British Council Learn English website offers three types of online courses: self-study courses, online study courses and personal online tutoring. The website is also offering podcasts, where various topics can be discussed.

A self-study option allows the user to have access to high quality learning material developed by English language experts, from beginners to advanced students. Learning content is added every month, it means that

apart from audio, visual and written learning materials, website releases new content every month to help people improve their English skills.

Live online classes are given by this website at an online conference with a group of students and a teacher. As mentioned before, communication with real people helps to make a student be confident about their speaking, pronunciation and spelling. If there are mistakes, they are better analysed. The user is able to choose time for their online classes.

While on online classes, students can ask teacher various questions about anything that was misunderstood. The website also offers live stream sessions where questions can be asked to improve English skills.

Personal online tutoring is offered as a thirty-minute one-to-one session with British Council. No matter what are the purposes of learning English, an online session with a British Council tutor helps the user meet their needs in learning English.

The user is able to choose any topic or skill they want to improve or it can be selected from a syllabus. The tutor can be asked to give recommendations or advice what is better to learn. Website lets the user to schedule sessions whenever it is comfortable for them including weekends and holidays.

Unfortunately, the British Council Learn English website service is not free, the user has to pay a small amount of money in order to choose the form of education they would prefer. Prices are not as high as big brand English classes have and it is more affordable and flexible.

In conclusion, the British Council Learn English website is comparatively flexible to learn English online. Having online group sessions and personal one-to-one conferences allows people all around the world to communicate in English and improve their skills.

### **References**

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