

## DEVELOPING STUDENTS' INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE IN ENGLISH THROUGH SOCIAL NETWORKS.

*Kamalova Iroda Khakimjon kizi*

*2<sup>nd</sup> course of master degree in the department of foreign languages  
Jizzakh state pedagogical university*

**Abstract:** The possible uses of specialized social networks in English lessons are analyzed. One of these ways is the formation of foreign language communication skills. The typology of social networks and the advantages and disadvantages of their use in the process of teaching English are discovered. Depending on the desired goal, recommendations are given on the use of specialized social networks when learning English as a foreign language. The article contains a brief description of such networks.

**Keywords:** synchronous, asynchronous, social networks, Livemocha.com, Busuu.com, Italki.com, LingQ.com.

In the context of globalization, which is changing our world, intercultural communication is of great importance. To implement effective intercultural communication, it is necessary to develop students' communicative language competence and understanding of the cultural traditions of the countries of the studied language based on authentic materials, unlimited access to which is provided by Web 2.0 tools. Blogs, Twitter, social networks, forums, wiki, audio, and video casts have taken an important place in the process of teaching a foreign language due to their availability in synchronous and asynchronous modes from any mobile device. We will describe how the use of social networks, which provide students with the opportunity to interact with native speakers of the studied language and acquire practical language skills, is a factor in the development of intercultural communication. Among the Internet technologies related to communication and the exchange or transfer of information, social networks in general and social language networks, in particular, occupy a special place, as they are a tool of live communication, direct language contact with an interlocutor—a native speaker of another language, another culture, historical tradition, social environment. Currently, such social networks for language learning are gaining popularity in Uzbek as Livemocha.com, Busuu.com, Italki.com, LingQ.com, and LinguaLeo.ru. LinguaLeo is an Uzbek educational network for learning a foreign language (English) with the help of content and an auto designer. Thanks to the game's modern design and original approach to language learning, LinguaLeo is an effective interactive textbook.

Livemocha.com – a social network for learning languages, which positions itself as a web service that connects educational materials posted on the network with the global Internet community of language learners. The basic principle laid down by the

developers as the basis for teaching foreign languages is language learning, the development, and improvement of language skills and abilities, and the level of foreign language proficiency through joint communication and mutual assistance, in which native speakers act as expert consultants. Busuu.com – a social network offering free educational content, the ability to communicate with native speakers, and post texts for verification. The network is aimed at people who have basic knowledge of a foreign language but do not have enough free time to study languages due to their large professional employment. Busuu.com It can rightfully be called a linguistic network since one of its main goals is to establish intercultural communication with native speakers. Italki.com It is an educational social network aimed at the formation and development of writing skills, working with written materials – diaries, notes, catalogs, etc. LingQ.com – this is an educational social network working according to the method of the polyglot Steve Kaufman. His method of learning a foreign language is based on the following principle: first listening to the text, then reading the text, and finally "playing" with new words – vocabulary replenishment, and memorization of new words. Thanks to this sequence, the student begins to speak, write, think and communicate in a foreign language. The podcast texts are selected taking into account the degree of lexical and grammatical complexity and the level of foreign language proficiency from beginner to advanced. Social educational networks for learning foreign languages are constantly being updated and improved – their interface is changing, new services are being added, content is being updated, the quality of teaching methods is improving, and the circle of participants is expanding. The professional-pedagogical community of many countries is seriously thinking about integrating social language networks into the educational process to increase the motivation of students to study, and the formation and development of linguistic communicative competence, without which it is impossible to integrate into the modern information society. Scientific and technological progress opens up new opportunities, types, and forms of communication, the main condition for the effectiveness of which is mutual understanding, dialogue of cultures, tolerance, and respect for the culture of communication partners.

Uzbek Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, V Kontakte, Odnoklassniki, etc. are currently associated with the concept of "social networks" by most people with such electronic resources of general or professional purpose as Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, in the Uzbek- and English-speaking community. The term "social network" itself came from sociology, it was introduced by James Barnes in the second half of the XX century and denoted a circle of acquaintances of a person united in interest groups. With the development of information technology, this term has been applied to online platforms that people use to communicate, meet, and create social connections based on common interests with other people. In the last 5-7 years, virtual communication has gained high

popularity and has become especially in demand among young people. According to the Web Canape digital agency, 3.48 billion users were registered on social networks in 2019 [1]. Such a large audience reach, as well as the functions of social networks, primarily providing communication and interaction, searching for new social contacts, can be used as one of the effective means of forming intercultural competencies among students studying foreign languages, in particular English. Instagram Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, Google+), professional or thematic (Linkedin, Xing), photo-sharing networks (for example, Instagram), and networks in which audio messages are exchanged (Blaving, Voxopop) [2]. According to the functions performed, social networks are divided into general (Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, Google+), professional or thematic (Linkedin, Xing), photo-sharing networks (for example, Instagram), networks in which audio messages are exchanged (Blaving, Voxopop) [2,]. There are also specialized, in particular educational social networks (Busuu, Lingualia, Interpals, Conversationexchange, Italki, etc.). Let's look at them in more detail. There are a sufficient number of publications devoted to the problems of using educational social networks in teaching English [3], the advantages and disadvantages of their use in teaching foreign languages in general [4], the use of general-purpose social networks in teaching English [2], but there are no or fragmented materials devoted to the study and improvement of the English language through specialized (educational) social networks. Among them, we can distinguish, firstly, resources built on the principle of training courses, as well as containing exercises aimed at improving certain language skills. Secondly, social networks are used to improve the skills of oral and written speech in direct communication with native speakers. Such social networks are designed for users with different levels of language proficiency, they help to recreate the environment of foreign language communication, and allow communicating live, while either a native speaker or a teacher acts as a communication partner. The training resources that allow you to improve your English language skills include the following: Linq (<https://www.lingq.com/>) is a resource for vocabulary replenishment, and for improving listening and reading skills. On the website, you need to choose a lesson that corresponds to your level of language proficiency. The lesson can listen to an unlimited number of times. Then you should proceed to reading the listened text, highlighting and saving unfamiliar words with translation in your profile. This is called creating "links". Having saved your dictionary for this lesson or your group of "links", you can listen to the text of the lesson again, memorizing unfamiliar words saved in the profile.

The site also has the possibility of checking written papers by teachers, but this service is paid for. Lingual (<http://www.lingualia.com/>) is a resource aimed at the systematic development of phonetic, lexical, and grammatical skills, as well as aimed at developing reading and text comprehension skills. After registering on the site, you



need to choose a language (there are only two options: English or English) and indicate your level of language proficiency or take a test to determine it. Next, it is suggested to specify the number of hours per day that the listener is going to devote to learning the language. Each level consists of lessons. Each lesson has 5 sections: vocabulary, grammar, phonetics, dialogue, and writing. Without completing the first task (dictionary), there is no way to move on to the next one. After completing 5 lessons that form an educational unit, a control work is offered, based on the tasks performed in the lessons, but not copying them completely.

After successful completion of the test work, the program admits the student to the next academic unit. Busuu (<https://www.busuu.com/>) is a social network that makes it possible to study according to the proposed program, taking into account the individual level of language proficiency. After registration, the user is invited to take a test to determine the level of knowledge of the language, then an individual program of classes is compiled. It is also possible to find a communication partner – a native speaker, to post texts for verification.

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