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THE USE OF YOUTUBE FOR INDEPENDENT LEARNING OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

English is a global language that is widely used in international communication, business, and academia. Therefore, there is a growing demand for English language education around the world. Traditionally, language learning has taken place in classroom settings with a teacher providing instruction and feedback. However, advances in technology have opened up new opportunities for language learning, including the use of online resources such as YouTube.

YouTube is a video-sharing platform that has revolutionized the way people access and consume information. There are countless English language learning videos available on YouTube, ranging from beginner-level grammar lessons to advanced conversation practice. These videos can be accessed anytime and anywhere, making it a convenient and flexible tool for independent language learning. Some of the most efficient and therefore popular YouTube channels for learning the English language include BBC Learning English, Learn English with TV Series, English with Lucy, Oxford Online English, etc.

One of the main advantages of using YouTube for English language learning is the availability of a vast range of videos on different topics. There are videos on grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, listening comprehension, and

speaking skills, catering to different proficiency levels and learning styles. YouTube also offers the possibility of interacting with other learners through comments, sharing videos, and joining language learning communities. This can provide learners with valuable feedback and support. According to D. V. Kononova, O. S. Kobus and P. M. Zaiets, “video materials used in the process of learning a foreign language are one of the technical means of learning that provides the function of transmitting information along with feedback in the process of its perception” [1, p. 58].

Another advantage of using YouTube to learn English is the flexibility it offers. Learners can access videos at any time and from anywhere, allowing for a more personalized and self-paced learning experience. The use of subtitles in videos can also help learners improve their reading and listening comprehension.

While YouTube offers several advantages for English language learning, there are also limitations that learners should be aware of. One of the main limitations is the quality of the videos. Not all videos on YouTube are created by experienced language teachers, and learners may encounter content that is inaccurate, outdated, or inappropriate for their proficiency level.

Another limitation of using YouTube to learn the English language is the lack of guidance and feedback. Unlike traditional language courses, YouTube does not provide learners with structured learning objectives, assessment, or feedback. This may make it challenging for learners to measure their progress or identify areas for improvement.

To make the most of YouTube for English language learning, learners should choose videos that are created by experienced language teachers or reputable language learning companies. A. V. Kozak, T. V. Knysh and K. L. Honchar emphasize that “it is important for the teacher not only to choose a video in accordance with the topic being studied, but also, most importantly, to conduct an expert assessment of the content, to conduct a ‘critical analysis’” [2, p. 183]. Learners should also determine their proficiency level and choose videos that are

appropriate for it, as well as use subtitles to help them understand the content and practice their listening and reading skills.

To conclude, the use of YouTube for independent learning of the English language has several advantages, including flexibility, availability of a vast range of videos, and the possibility of interacting with other learners. However, learners should also be aware of the limitations of YouTube, including the quality of the videos and the lack of guidance and feedback. To make the most of YouTube for English language learning, learners should choose reliable sources, determine their proficiency level, use subtitles, and interact with other learners and language teachers. The ways YouTube and similar video platforms can speed up learning foreign languages and their impact on the study process constitute prospects for further research.

References:

1. Kononova, D. V., Kobus, O. S., & Zaiets, P. M. YouTube channel as an effective source of video for learning a foreign language. *Prospects and Innovations of Science*. 2021. 3(3), 57–65.
2. Kozak, A. V., Knysh, T. V., & Honchar, K. L. Method of teaching English with YouTube. *Prospects and Innovations of Science*. 2022. 4(9), 182–191.