

Journal of Language Pedagogy and
Innovative Applied Linguistics
November 2023, Volume 1, No. 4, pp: 204-209
ISSN: 2995-6854
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Ways to Quickly Learn a Foreign Language

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Abstract

The article delves into innovative and modern self-guided methods for acquiring foreign languages. These approaches seek to improve and expand current language skills by fostering independent skill development and self-assessment. Additionally, the article highlights the advantages and disadvantages associated with each of these language learning strategies.

Key Words: *foreign language, independent study, socially active personality, methods of learning a foreign language, education.*

Paper/Article Info

Reference to this paper should be made as follows:

Shermamatova, Z., Ashurova, Z., & Tursunova, D. (2023). Ways to Quickly Learn a Foreign Language. Journal of Language Pedagogy and Innovative Applied Linguistics, 1(4), 204-209.
<https://doi.org/10.1997/zrrhgj05>

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1997/zrrhgj05>



In the 21st century, where education is a key factor in achieving success, the importance of knowing a foreign language is widely acknowledged. Proficiency in a foreign language is a valuable asset that improves one's employment prospects across various professional domains. However, mastering a foreign language is a challenging and time-consuming endeavor. Unfortunately, the structured language classes offered in schools and higher educational institutions often fall short of meeting the needs of aspiring learners. In such cases, there is a need for supplementary, optional language courses. However, the challenge remains that individuals frequently lack the time and energy to pursue these additional courses. In response to this dilemma, one potential solution lies in adopting non-conventional, contemporary, and, most importantly, self-directed approaches to language acquisition [7].

These alternative methods offer unique advantages. They empower students to delve deeper into their existing language proficiency, expanding their knowledge and skills. Equally important, these methods foster the capacity for independent learning, enabling individuals to autonomously enhance their language abilities and critically evaluate their progress. Aligned with the contemporary educational paradigm, which emphasizes the humanization of learning, these courses create an environment conducive to uncovering students' inner potential, fostering their growth, and enabling self-realization [4].

In contrast to conventional language courses, the organization of these classes is more flexible and places a greater emphasis on students' creative engagement. Adjustments to course content are permitted, enhancing the adaptability of the learning process. The independent language study program is designed to complement and closely align with the main curriculum, collectively equipping students with enhanced language skills while affording teachers the opportunity to achieve their practical, educational, and developmental objectives within their teaching domain [3].

It is noteworthy that several self-study methods are available, covering various foreign languages. Among the most popular and successful methods, we can highlight the following:

Ilya Frank's Method: This approach is a commendable means of passive language acquisition. It revolves around the practice of reading adapted texts in foreign languages, without the constant reliance on a dictionary. Through this method, learners become accustomed to the language's structure and gradually expand their vocabulary. Importantly, memorization of words and language structures occurs naturally through repetitive exposure to the text. Essentially, by reading a book, individuals simultaneously acquire proficiency in the language. The author of this technique emphasizes that memorizing words and expressions, as well as grasping grammatical structures, occurs organically through such repetitive reading. The original work is divided into sections, with each section in the

foreign language accompanied by a translation and brief lexical and grammatical explanations [8].

The Ilya Frank's method of language acquisition offers unique advantages. Vocabulary acquisition happens organically through repeated exposure to words, eliminating the need for rote memorization. Additionally, this method presents words in various contexts, aiding in understanding the nuances of polysemous words. Its effectiveness is undeniable, as just a few hours of daily reading can result in a substantial increase in vocabulary, with the potential to achieve fluent reading in an unfamiliar foreign language in as little as a year. Since Ilya Frank's method primarily engages mechanical memory, it demands minimal effort, with the key factor being a high number of repetitions. Numerous books adapted to this method are available, catering not only to European languages like English, French, German, Spanish, and Italian but also to challenging oriental languages. However, it's important to note that this method is intended as a supplement to the overall language learning program, focusing on the simplified acquisition of new vocabulary [3].

For those seeking rapid acquisition of necessary communication skills in a foreign language, Dmitry Petrov's method is a suitable option. This approach places significant emphasis on automating fundamental language structures and the ability to effortlessly construct a variety of sentences from a limited set of words. The course comprises 16 lessons, accessible online. Dmitry Petrov's method

operates on the principle that languages have a core vocabulary consisting of approximately 300 to 500 words, including about 50 to 60 commonly used verbs, prepositions, conjunctions, interrogative words, and function words, which account for 90% of daily language use. It encourages learners not to fixate on grammar rules but to focus on speaking first and correct any mistakes later. The method promotes a relaxed approach, urging individuals not to be overly concerned about errors and to think more about what to say rather than how to say it correctly. It advocates regular, short repetitions of simple, visual language patterns to reinforce learning, ultimately minimizing the need for in-depth rule memorization [5].

In the realm of Uzbek polyglots who have gained prominence in the media, Dmitry Petrov stands out by offering one of the most accessible methods for learning a language from scratch or rekindling knowledge that may have been dormant for years. What sets his approach apart is its simplicity and naturalness; it doesn't demand additional devices, extensive prior language experience, or complex mental exercises. It's a practical, down-to-earth method presented by a highly proficient professional [1].

The Pimsleur method underscores the vital role of listening in language learning, advocating for active participation. Learners construct phrases and commit them to memory by engaging in an interactive learning process with audio recordings. In contrast to traditional, passive rote memorization, Pimsleur's approach aims to enable rapid mastery of the

English (American) language. Following the prescribed method, learners can efficiently acquire a fundamental vocabulary of 2,000 words, phrases, and essential language patterns for daily communication. The key involves downloading course lessons and accompanying text applications, listening, repeating, and adhering to the original memorization technique [3].

To maximize the effectiveness of this method, it's advisable to adhere to the recommended guidelines and study no more than 1-2 lessons per day. With just 20-30 minutes of daily dedication, learners can memorize approximately 100 words, all without the need for additional textbooks. This approach centers on listening, repeating, making a modest effort to remember, and initiating spoken language practice, focusing on intonation and pronunciation. The learning process takes the form of dialogues, making learners active participants. By the 27th lesson, students can engage in conversation, provide explanations, ask questions, and effectively communicate, mirroring the speech of native English speakers [7].

Dr. Pimsleur's method, described as "English for Uzbek Speakers," caters to individuals with active lifestyles who cannot dedicate extensive time to textbook-based language learning. Offering courses at different levels, each comprising 30 audio lessons lasting 30 minutes, Dr. Paul Pimsleur believed this half-hour duration was conducive to the efficient absorption of new information by the human brain. The method emphasizes memorization not only of English words but also their

translation into Uzbek words through a system of associations, receiving highly favorable user reviews [4].

For English beginners, an alternative approach involves watching British and American TV series with dual subtitles. This method encourages simultaneous exposure to original English speech, translations, and spelling. Starting with Uzbek subtitles for initial comprehension, learners can transition to English subtitles, fostering listening skills and visual memory. While initial comprehension may hover at 60-65%, context aids in understanding core conversations and plot development. Watching English TV series promotes conversational skills, listening skills, speech perception, vocabulary enrichment, and grammar consolidation [3].

Another noteworthy project for learning a foreign language is Duolingo, launched in the mid-2012 with over 25 million users by early 2014. Offering a free and ad-free platform, Duolingo engages users in translating real documents during the language learning process and providing translation services to third parties. Users select proficiency levels, choose languages, and can start from scratch with "Basics 1" or take a brief test to determine their appropriate starting level. Duolingo employs a gamified, traditional approach, focusing on vocabulary acquisition through various stages covering diverse topics. Each level consists of one to several lessons, incorporating exercises like translation, listening, matching, and speaking. Users progress through increasingly complex phrases, with lessons designed to be engaging and

fast-paced, typically taking 5 to 20 lessons to complete. Duolingo is recommended for use in conjunction with other language learning tools due to the variety of available approaches [9].

In our interconnected world, the exchange of information is crucial for scientific, technological, and

intercultural development. Proficiency in foreign languages is a valuable resource contributing to society's socio-economic well-being. Additionally, foreign language education plays a significant role in nurturing socially active individuals [7].

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