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### New Direction in Foreign Language Learning: Leisure Learning

Graca Webster

*Ouachita Baptist University*

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# A NEW DIRECTION IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNING: LEISURE LEARNING

Graca Webster



# MLA REPORT

In 2016, the Modern Language Association reported a 9.2% decline in foreign language study in undergraduate and graduate enrollments at universities in the United States.

**Source:**

"Enrollments in Languages Other Than English in United States Institutions of Higher Education, Summer 2016 and Fall 2016: Final Report" MLA. Looney, Lusin



**HOW HAS THE PANDEMIC  
CHANGED FOREIGN LANGUAGE  
LEARNING?**

# PANDEMIC HOBBIES

59% of Americans took on a new hobby during the pandemic

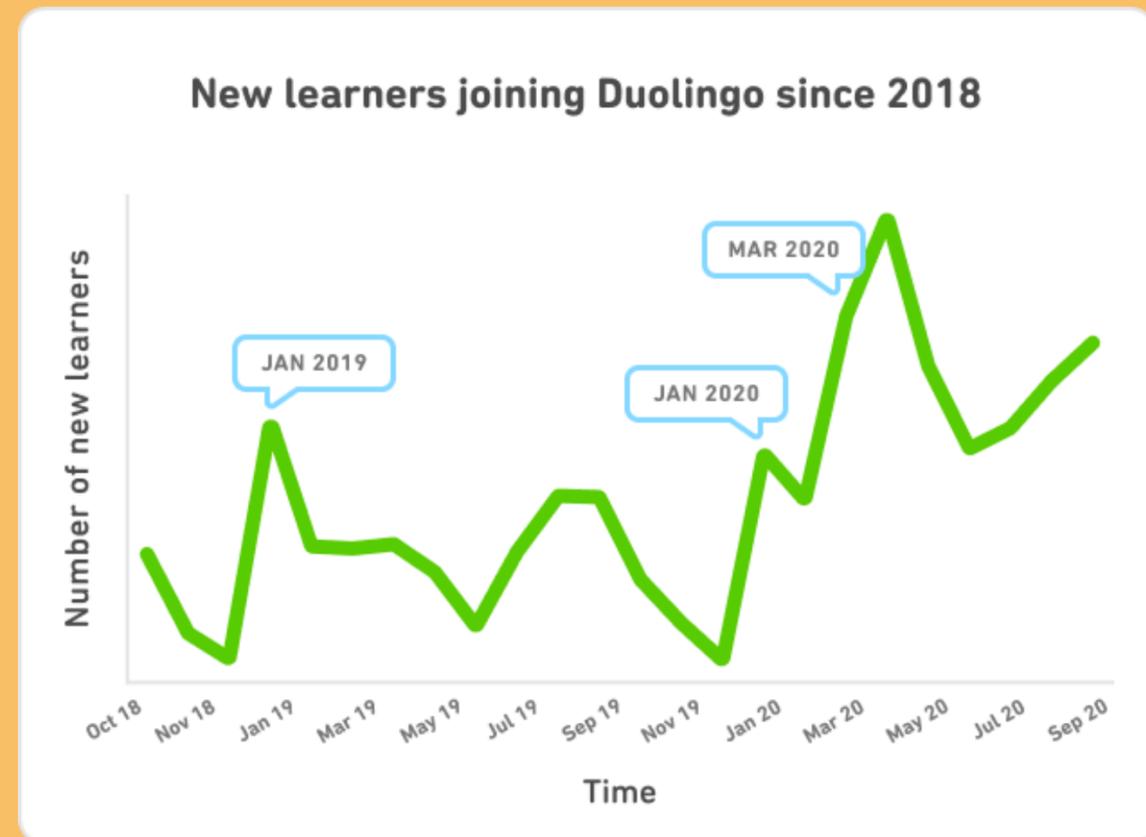
- 9% began learning a new language
- 79% reported that they would continue their hobby after life returned to normal

What does this mean for foreign language learning?



## DUOLINGO LANGUAGE REPORT 2020

- 30 million new users
- "Brain Training" 2nd most popular motivation
- Travel decreased as a motivating factor
- US learners ranked 68th for hardest working learners.



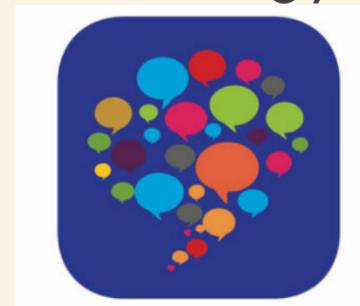
# NEW LEARNING METHODS

Access to foreign language learning has never been easier and as affordable as it is now, thanks to technology.



## LINGOPIE

Lingöpie is a language learning application that uses real TV shows and movies to help you learn a new language.



## HELLOTALK

HelloTalk is a language learning app that connects you directly with native speakers, and allows you to text and speak with them.



## BABEL

Subscription-based language learning app that centers on learning a language through real-life conversations



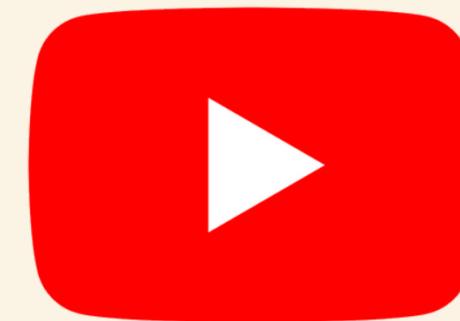
## MEMRISE

Memrise is a language platform that uses spaced repetition of flashcards to increase the rate of learning.



## NETFLIX

45% of Netflix's titles are in a foreign language. Netflix reports that 97% of its users have watched a foreign language title.



## YOUTUBE

Youtube is home to many creators that make content in languages other than English. You can learn grammar, culture, and so much more. And it's FREE!

# MODERN SOCIETY DEMANDS A NEW CATEGORY

We have categories for many different modes and motives of foreign language learning.

- Self-directed study
- Natural acquisition
- Environmental Immersion
- Independent learning
- Classroom learning

But there are none that specifically encompass learners that choose to study a foreign language as a hobby.



# LEISURE LANGUAGE LEARNING

## **INTRINSICALLY MOTIVATED**

Learner is not motivated by grades, a career, or environmental necessity.

## **LOW PRESSURE**

Learning is not pressured by external external factors. Perfection is not the goal.

## **PURPOSED FOR ENJOYMENT**

Learning should be fun! Learning occurs during free time and is self-imposed.



## WHY NOW?

- Modern society leaves us with more leisure time than ever
- Foreign language learning is more accessible than ever
- We live in an increasingly globalistic society



The future is bright in the world of foreign language learning! It's time to create a new category to accomadate our changning world.



# WHAT'S HOLDING YOU BACK?

Common reasons for not pursuing foreign language learning



## FEAR OF FAILURE

We worry that we will never "be fluent" or that we will never "use the language." Maybe foreign language learning has always been challenging for you.



## TOO BUSY

Life is demanding and our time is precious. Deadlines and priorities overwhelm our minds and it seems impossible to add one more thing to your plate.

# QUESTIONS?

