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“Social Networking for Language Learning”

The usage of Social Networking Sites (SNSs) is a potential way for second language learners to practice English dialogue and colloquial speech. It enables learners to interact more with their peers and outside world. Such easy but helpful language practice with SNSs can help to foster language acquisition, socialization, and motivation. Thus, the purpose of this study was to determine if the frequency of social networking use varied by gender, age group, native vs. non-native English speakers, and/ or educational background. Secondly, it identified the most frequently used Short Message Service (SMS) words related to Social Networking and determined their frequency correlation with these same demographic groups. In total, 176 native and non-native speakers participated in this study through a questionnaire, and the descriptive statistical analysis indicated that individuals between the ages of 15-22 years spend the most time on SMS, making language learning via these social networks one of the most optimal approaches to learn English. The results also classified the most frequent SMS words used, and that Master’s degree education level individuals appear to have the highest SMS word diversity than any other group.