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ENGLISH – LEARNING PLATFORMS

Abstract

In today's globalized world, mastering foreign languages is critical for career success, cross-cultural communication, and knowledge sharing. Technology has revolutionized language education, and the rise of virtual learning platforms has transformed traditional methods into flexible, engaging, and personalized experiences. The article explores the transformative impact of online platforms in English language education, focusing on their innovative features and applications. The study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of language learning platforms, with particular attention to three Ukrainian developments: TalkEn.Cloud, KALYNA Education, and Booyya. These platforms exemplify the shift towards digital learning, offering tools like interactive textbooks, virtual classrooms, and personalized study plans that cater to diverse learner needs.

TalkEn.Cloud integrates advanced features such as centralized student management, teacher scheduling, progress tracking, and automated assessment. It fosters a collaborative teaching community through forums and virtual events, enhancing professional development. KALYNA Education emphasizes structured learning with video instructions, CEFR-aligned lesson plans, and personalized vocabulary tools, supporting educators with adaptable teaching resources. Booyya, as an online marketplace, focuses on self-study courses with situational vocabulary and advanced grammar topics, enriching independent learning experiences.

These platforms illustrate the broader potential of virtual environments in enhancing engagement, flexibility, and effectiveness in language education. Challenges such as technical issues, costs, and data privacy concerns are acknowledged, along with recommendations for addressing them. By leveraging their strengths, these platforms offer dynamic solutions to modern educational challenges, driving innovation and improving outcomes in English language learning.

Key words: online platforms, learning management system (LMS), digital education, language acquisition.

Introduction. In the contemporary world, mastering foreign languages has become an increasingly valuable and sought-after skill as it is crucial for employment, career success, knowledge sharing and cross-cultural communication. Technology now permeates nearly every aspect of daily life, including education, where it has transformed approaches to language learning. The increasing availability and widespread use of learning apps on digital devices in English language classrooms raises questions about their effectiveness.

The purpose of the paper is to systematically review recent studies on language learning platforms in English language classrooms, identifying their specific types and affordances for various aspects of language learning. Particular attention is given to a comprehensive evaluation of innovative and rapidly growing online language learning platforms developed in Ukraine: TalkEn.Cloud, KALYNA EDUCATION and Booyya. The study explores the key features of these platforms, evaluates their strengths and weaknesses, identifies limitations, and offers recommendations for their improvement to better serve the needs of language learners.

Main body. A virtual learning platform is a crucial digital tool that facilitates online education by means of providing educational content, tracking student progress, and fostering communication between educators and learners. In the digital era, educational platforms have transformed how knowledge is accessed, offering a more flexible, personalized, and efficient approach to learning. These platforms refer to digital systems specifically designed to deliver, manage, and support online education. They give the possibility for both instructors and learners to exchange knowledge, interact, share resources, conduct assessments, and monitor progress effectively [1, p. 75–78].

By providing an interactive online environment like video lessons, live discussions, and collaborative projects these platforms boost learners' engagement, enabling them to engage with course material and peers more effectively, creating a dynamic and more immersive educational experience. Virtual e-learning platforms expand the scope of traditional education by offering flexible and scalable functionalities such as multimedia content, gamification, and instant feedback tailored to various learning preferences and needs. These platforms empower educators to develop courses that are both effective and engaging [4, p. 315].

Virtual platforms are internet-based programs designed for creating and managing courses or teaching modules within a global network. They enhance communication between teachers and students and promote both individual and collaborative learning. Virtual platforms are defined as a computing environment where multiple tools are integrated and optimized for educational purposes, allowing for the creation and management of comprehensive online courses without

the need for advanced programming skills [11, p. 205–218]. Scientists describe them as educational scenarios developed using a remote accompaniment methodology or web-based tools designed to organize and deliver online courses or complement traditional face-to-face educational activities. Some scholars characterize virtual platforms as a flexible, personalized, and interactive approach that incorporates a variety of materials, formats, and media, enabling quick and seamless updates [2, p. 711]. English-learning platforms are designed to enhance English language learning by focusing on skills such as grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and conversation. They attempt to cater to diverse learning styles and proficiency levels, offering features like gamified learning, interactive lessons, real-life content, and personalized study plans. The most popular ones such as Google Classroom (a free, user-friendly way to add structure to the classes) and Moodle (free and open-source) are each known for its unique approach to language acquisition. Using an LMS teachers can design comprehensive language learning courses with a range of engaging features [4; 5]. These courses can include interactive activities that encourage active participation and skill application, as well as video or audio lessons designed to enhance listening, comprehension, and pronunciation. To assess learners' progress, the platform may support video or audio quizzes, allowing for multimedia-based evaluations. Teachers can also provide feedback to guide students and help them improve, ensuring a personalized learning experience [6; 10]. Additionally, video or audio assessments can be used to evaluate speaking and listening skills in realistic contexts, fostering practical language application. By integrating these tools, LMS may facilitate an interactive and immersive learning environment, catering to diverse student needs and promoting effective language acquisition [7; 9].

In the present article we plan to give a comprehensive evaluation of innovative online language learning platforms developed in Ukraine: TalkEn.Cloud, KALYNA Education, and Booyya.

TalkEn.Cloud [13] can be defined as a functional online platform with interactive textbooks, a Learning Management System (LMS), and a Language School Development Academy. The core features of TalkEn.Cloud as an LMS are as follows: 1. centralized management of active groups and students: the platform includes a comprehensive directory of active groups and enrolled students, enabling efficient oversight and streamlined access to individual and collective progress metrics; 2. teacher's schedule organizer: an advanced scheduling module facilitates the organization of teaching activities, including lesson planning, meetings, and administrative duties, with integrated notifications and reminders; 3. tracking student performance and attendance: tools for monitoring student performance and attendance provide real-time analytics, allowing educators to identify trends, address challenges, and personalize learning interventions; 4. progress monitoring in interactive textbooks: the platform incorporates dynamic tracking of task completion within interactive textbooks, offering educators insights into student activity and progress; 5. automated assessment and feedback mechanisms: automated grading systems evaluate tests and quizzes, delivering immediate feedback to students while reducing administrative burden; 6. homework management and teacher feedback: structured system for assigning, submitting, and reviewing homework supports seamless interaction between educators and learners, with personalized feedback to foster academic growth. These features provide a sophisticated solution to modern educational challenges, leveraging technology to optimize teaching practices and enhance learning outcomes.

KALYNA EDUCATION [8] is a Ukrainian online platform designed to support the creation and management of interactive language courses. It offers features such as virtual classrooms, student progress tracking, and real-time analytics to enhance the overall learning experience. This platform aims to assist educators in developing engaging and effective language learning materials and conducting online lessons. One of its key offerings is **Kalyna Academy**, a section where teachers can access sample lesson plans categorized by different levels of proficiency according to the CEFR, reaching up to the highest proficiency level (referred to as *Teamleaders* in Kalyna Education terminology). Each lesson plan is structured into four steps, with each step consisting of seven lessons (or *Meetings* as referred to within the platform). These lessons are accompanied by a final test at the end of each section to assess learners' progress. A significant advantage of KALYNA Education is the availability of video instructions for setting up each option, which greatly simplifies the process of familiarizing teachers with the platform. This enables educators to quickly and efficiently configure their lessons, timetables, and other features, leading to a more convenient and productive use of the platform. Teachers can create personalized timetables, design marathons, and manage their own virtual classrooms through a dedicated teacher's dashboard, which includes tools for organizing schedules, tracking student progress, and building a custom vocabulary list for their learners. One of the distinctive features of the platform is that working in a virtual classroom students have the ability to translate unknown phrases or words and add them to the personalized vocabulary list.

Both TalkEn.Cloud and KALYNA Education offer communities for educators, where they can engage in forums, attend meetings, and collaborate. These communities provide spaces for teachers to share experiences, exchange teaching strategies, and support each other in their professional growth. Additionally, the platforms host virtual events, webinars, and discussions, fostering a collaborative environment where educators can stay updated on the latest trends in language teaching, as well as enhance their teaching skills through continuous learning. This feature strengthens the connection between teachers and promotes a dynamic, supportive professional network.

Booyya [3] is not a traditional LMS (Learning Management System). Instead, it serves as an online marketplace for self-study English courses. This is a young Ukrainian EdTech project created by the Green Forest Family. While it may include some LMS-like features, such as course progress tracking or structured learning paths, its primary focus is offering diverse, pre-designed courses for individual learners rather than a comprehensive system for managing educa-

tional programs. Booyya offers sample study plans for vocabulary and grammar, categorized by levels as outlined in the CEFR framework ranging from A (Basic Users) to C1 (Proficient Users). These plans are also categorized by topics, such as giving directions or discussing a doctor's appointment, and even include specialized options like a Business English self-study plan. Each word in the Vocabulary section is accompanied with audio recordings and flashcards to help the learners memorize and retain the vocabulary. A defining feature of Booyya is its focus on functional and situational vocabulary, which are fundamental for effective communication in real-world contexts. The platform offers learners access to essential lexical resources, enabling them to engage competently in everyday interactions, such as soliciting assistance, arranging appointments, and participating in routine conversational exchanges.

For advanced learners (B2 to C1), Booyya could enhance its course offerings by incorporating the following grammar topics, which are essential for mastering the intricacies of the English language: *advanced tense usage*: in-depth exploration of perfect tenses (present perfect, past perfect, future perfect) in complex sentence structures, including mixed tense usage; *conditionals*: detailed study of all types of conditionals (zero, first, second, third), with a focus on mixed conditionals for hypothetical or unreal situations; *subjunctive mood*: comprehensive coverage of the subjunctive for expressing wishes, suggestions, demands, and unreal conditions; *passive voice*: advanced applications of the passive voice across different tenses and structures, including causative constructions (e.g., have/get something done); *reported speech*: a deeper understanding of reported speech in complex sentences, emphasizing changes in tense, pronouns, and word order; *modality*: extensive use of modal verbs for expressing certainty, possibility, necessity, and obligation in both formal and informal contexts; *cleft sentences*: techniques for emphasizing specific parts of a sentence using structures such as "it is/was... that..."; *inversion for emphasis*: advanced use of inversion in negative adverbials and conditional sentences; *relative clauses*: a thorough exploration of defining and non-defining relative clauses, including structures with prepositions and multiple clauses; *parallel structures*: ensuring grammatical consistency, particularly in comparative and contrasting sentence structures; *phrasal verbs and idiomatic expressions*: mastery of advanced phrasal verbs and idiomatic expressions in both written and spoken contexts; *word formation*: strategies for expanding vocabulary and modifying word types (e.g., from verbs to adjectives or nouns) using prefixes, suffixes, and other word-building techniques.

These advanced grammar topics will significantly enrich Booyya's course offerings, providing learners with the tools to use the language fluently and accurately in complex, real-world contexts.

Conclusions. In conclusion, language learning platforms offer a powerful and integrated solution for modern language education, combining interactive textbooks, a comprehensive Learning Management System, and innovative teaching tools such as virtual classrooms and real-time progress tracking. These platforms provide a dynamic, user-friendly environment that supports both educators and students, promoting personalized learning experiences and enhanced teaching methodologies. The integration of communities for educators further strengthens collaboration and professional development.

However, potential drawbacks, such as technical challenges, a learning curve for educators, internet connectivity issues, and concerns about data privacy, must be addressed to ensure smooth and effective implementation. Additionally, the cost and customization limitations could be a consideration for some users.

Despite these challenges, when used effectively, TalkEn.Cloud, KALYNA Education and Booyya can significantly improve the quality of language education, making it more engaging, accessible, and data-driven. With the right support and training, these platforms present a promising opportunity to enhance both teaching practices and student outcomes in the digital age.

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ПЛАТФОРМИ ДЛЯ ВИВЧЕННЯ АНГЛІЙСЬКОЇ МОВИ

Анотація

У сучасному глобалізованому світі оволодіння іноземними мовами є критично важливим для успіху в кар'єрі, міжкультурної комунікації та обміну знаннями. Технології революціонізували мовну освіту, і поява віртуальних навчальних платформ трансформувала традиційні методи у гнучкі, захоплюючі та персоналізовані формати. У статті досліджується вплив онлайн-платформ на викладання англійської мови, зосереджуючись на їхніх інноваційних функціях та застосуванні. Метою статті є здійснення комплексної оцінки ефективності мовних навчальних платформ із акцентом на аналізі трьох українських розробок: TalkEn.Cloud, KALYNA Education та Вооууа. Ці платформи демонструють перехід до цифрового навчання, пропонуючи такі інструменти, як інтерактивні підручники, віртуальні класи та персоналізовані навчальні плани, які відповідають потребам здобувачів освіти.

TalkEn.Cloud інтегрує такі передові функції, як централізоване управління студентами, планування розкладу викладачів, відстеження прогресу та автоматичне оцінювання. Вона сприяє створенню спільноти для викладачів через форуми та віртуальні заходи, підтримуючи професійний розвиток. KALYNA Education робить акцент на структурованому навчанні з використанням відеоінструкцій, уроків, узгоджених зі стандартами Загальноєвропейських Рекомендацій з мовної освіти, та персоналізованих інструментів для роботи зі словником, що допомагає викладачам адаптувати навчальні матеріали. Вооууа зосереджується на курсах для самостійного навчання із ситуативною лексикою та поглибленими граматичними модулями, що збагачують досвід незалежного навчання.

Зазначені платформи ілюструють широкий потенціал віртуального середовища для підвищення залученості, гнучкості та ефективності у мовній освіті. Виклики, такі як технічні проблеми, вартість та питання конфіденційності даних, визнаються, а також надаються рекомендації щодо їх подолання. Використовуючи свої сильні сторони, ці платформи пропонують динамічні рішення для сучасних освітніх викликів, стимулюючи інновації та покращуючи результати навчання англійської мови.

Ключові слова: онлайн-платформи, система управління навчанням (LMS), цифрова освіта, здобуття мовних навичок.

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