

The enhancement of a foreign language competence: free online resources, mobile apps, and other opportunities

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Abstract. In this article, we present an overview of free online resources, mobile apps, and other opportunities available for an independent study of a foreign language (based on the examples of English and Korean languages) in group and individual settings, geared towards increasing a foreign language competence. Initially, the authors formulated the criteria for selecting free online resources: the resource should be convenient for independent work; the resource should be available at any convenient time; it should be easy in navigation; it should provide opportunities for improving as many components of a foreign language competence as possible; preferably, the resource should have online as well as offline mobile apps. It is suggested to classify free online resources based on their functional characteristics. Various opportunities of the available resources are highlighted and the expediency of their utilization for specific objectives (i.e., advancement of foreign language competence in listening, reading, writing, speaking; the expansion of the vocabulary, etc.) is substantiated. The authors also emphasize free online opportunities of preparation for international examinations not only in the English language, such as TOEFL or IELTS, but also in the Korean language, such as TOPIK, by using online resources in English.

Keywords: Foreign Language Competence, Free Online Resources, Mobile Apps, Web Services, Websites, United Nations Bibliographic Information System THESAURUS, Learning English & Korean Languages, TOEFL, IELTS, TOPIK.

1 Introduction

The issues of formation and improvement of competences have been of constant concern to those who teach and those who study. Along with the existing classical textbooks for teaching foreign languages, there is a growing range of educational open resources. The questions raised in this article deal with the structure, organization,

navigation and availability of the resources, such as: 1) how should they look like, 2) how should they work, 3) which resource should be chosen in each particular case, etc. These and other issues are being discussed by the scientific and educational community [4; 5; 8]. On the one hand, some scholars investigate eLearning Qualitäts-Evaluationstool [2], success factors for eLearning [6], categories of mediapedagogics [7], applying information and communication technologies to language teaching and research [9], usage of eLearning tools in self-education [11], Internet-Technology Instruments for Global Education [10], practical use of commonly used YouTube video materials in the process of teaching German as the first or second foreign language in higher education [3], other scholars substantiate classification of online resources in the field of language teaching [4; 5; 8]. On the other hand, the interest in the topic is dictated by the current socio-economic context.

1.1 Socio-economic context

Globalization and integration have stirred up labor markets, giving impetus to the revitalization of labour force. The so-called “erasing of borders” raised a new wave of interest in learning foreign languages, above all, the global one – English – and the languages of those countries characterized as emerging markets (Korean, Japanese, Chinese). Therefore, the topic of the article – the enhancement of a foreign language competence through free online resources, mobile apps, and other opportunities – can be of scientific as well as practical interest.

2 The opportunities of free online resources

As foreign language practitioners, both instructors and students face a difficult choice of selecting the most appropriate educational material. The wide array of free online resources complicates this choice to a greater extent.

The authors indicate that the free online resources discussed below were selected based on the following criteria: a) the resource should be convenient for an individual and independent usage; b) the resource should be available at any time; c) the resource should be user-friendly and easy to navigate; d) the resource should be able to enhance the greater number of the components of a foreign language; e) preferably, the resource should have a mobile app; f) preferably, the resource should be available online as well as offline.

2.1 The opportunities that free online resources provide for learning English language

Free online resources: websites.

The websites are considered to be some of the most well-known free online resources for learning English language. The benefits and limitations of such resources are discussed below.

The **Lingualeo** website (<https://lingualeo.com>) provides the opportunity to train memorization of the vocabulary (by offering a wide array of exercises geared towards word recollection), grammar, reading, listening to audio, viewing video, and the ability to add new words to a learner's profile in order to automatically increase their appearance in memorization exercises. For each successful completion of an exercise and memorization of new vocabulary, the points can be accumulated and later redeemed for paid exercises. Hence, the more the user practices, the more new exercises become available. Lingualeo also offers a mobile app.

The **Duolingo** website (<https://www.duolingo.com>) is also an excellent website for learning and memorizing vocabulary. A user is required to register and select the desired level of language proficiency or take a test to assess the current level of knowledge and choose the amount of exercise based on that level. There is also an option to pick a certain time and study for 5 to 20 minutes per day. The mobile app for Duolingo is also available.

The **Cambridge Assessment English** (<https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/test-your-english/>) website offers a great deal of useful information, however, in order to enhance a foreign language competence, there is a totally free testing portal. The tests available at CAE website give users the most accurate assessment of their current skills. In essence, these tests resemble TOEFL or IELTS, thus, the progress of the learner can be effectively evaluated.

The **Learn at Home** website (<https://www.learnathome.ru>) is another good service for an individual study of English language. All aspects of language can be trained, including vocabulary, grammar, writing, speaking and reading. Upon completion of a language test, an individual plan can be outlined. Needless to mention, the Learn at Home website also offers a podcast Learn@Home (<https://apps.apple.com/ua/app/learn-home/id731118782>), which makes it an even more sought-after resource for training all kinds of communication.

The **HiNative** website (<https://hinative.com>) is another free website, also available in Russian interface. The main benefit of this platform is that a learner is being guided by a native speaker. Native speakers assist with the pronunciation, answer questions, help understand context for using certain words or phrases. There is also a mobile app.

The **United Nations Bibliographic Information System THESAURUS. Dag Hammarskjöld Library** (<https://lib-thesaurus.un.org>), **The UN Database with documents in different languages** (<https://conf-dts1.unog.ch>), **The database of terminology, related to UN activities** (<https://unterm.un.org>) are the professional online resources, allowing learners to advance interpreter and/or professional foreign language competence. In fact, these resources are used as guides and templates for translating UN documents to other languages. A user is able to search by the name or tags of documents that fits the situation best.

For example, in UN Database of documents in different languages (Fig. 1), a specific search index can be selected. All results will be showed in default language, and indexing by language will filter the given results.

There is also an option to search by individual keywords, set of keywords, or exact matching keywords (Fig. 2).

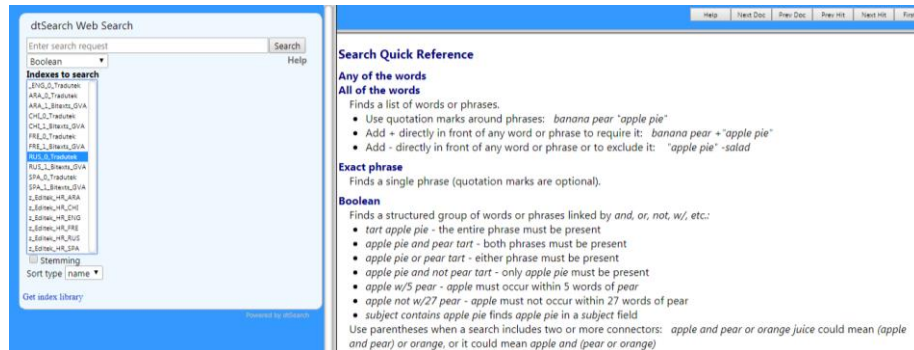


Fig. 1. A screenshot of a page from the UN Database and selecting search index

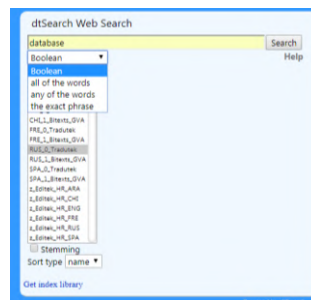


Fig. 2. A screenshot of a page from the UN Database: search by keywords

Found documents come up on the left side of the results page, and they can be downloaded or opened on the right side of the screen (Fig. 3). The documents with different language versions are leveled and highlighted to compare each paragraph.

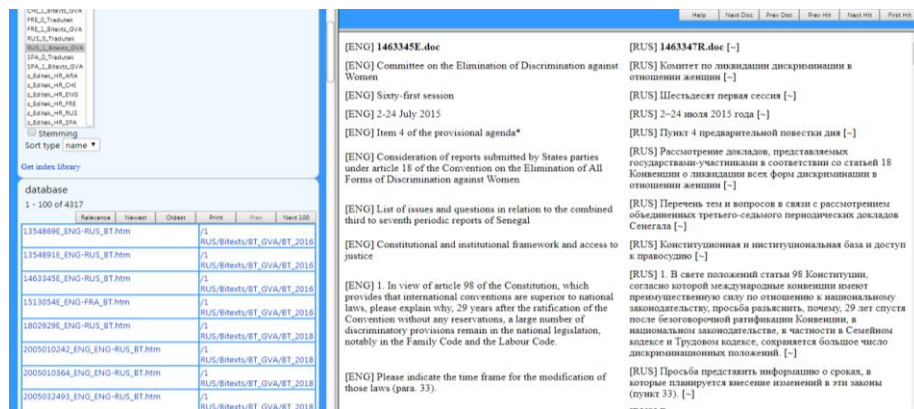


Fig. 3. A screenshot of a page from the UN Database: the comparison of two versions of the document in different languages

Using a search bar in the browser, it is possible to find all the mentions of a searched keyword. It would be highlighted in yellow (Fig. 4).

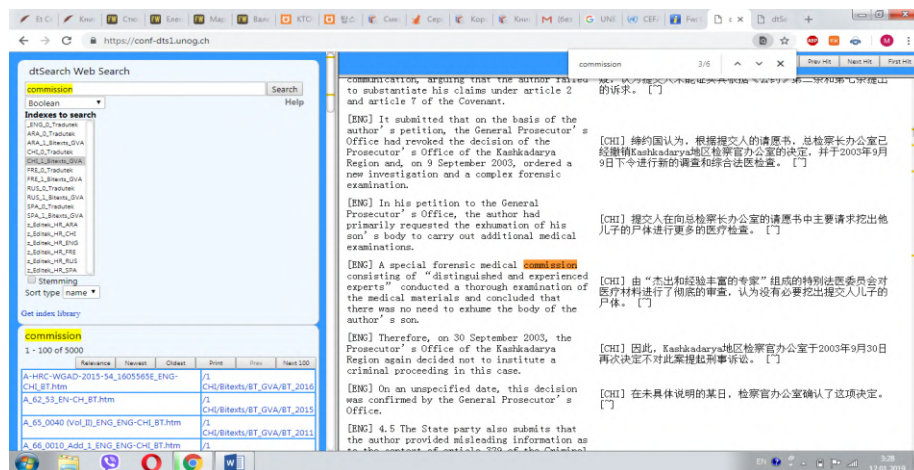


Fig. 4. A screenshot of a page from the UN Database: search by in-text keyword mentions

The abovementioned databases of UN terminology and documents allow learners to use high-quality examples and enhance the translational and/or professional foreign language competence for users.

Free online resources: podcasts.

It is worth highlighting that there is another large group of free online resources, namely, podcasts. To put it in simply, a podcast is a permanent broadcast of the programme. In this case, it's about the YouTube channel broadcast. Everyone can subscribe to resources for free.

The **Learn@Home** podcast by the **Learn at Home** site (<https://apps.apple.com/ua/app/learn-home/id731118782>) has already been mentioned above.

The **Skyeng** (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcBbiCpR-eBwL5l6H63lgfg>) podcast is an English language school (a Russian-speaking resource) that works with the listeners online. There is a YouTube channel, where Skyeng educators explain the details and situations with the proper usage of the English language. Additionally, it is a great resource for working with video content (analysis).

The **TED Talks** podcast (<https://www.youtube.com/user/TEDtalksDirector>) is a resource that collects public speeches is perfect for training listening skills, according to the authors. The invited speakers discuss different topics, including politics, economics, social issues, arts, etc. It is considered that this experience would be one of the most beneficial since the listeners can not only absorb new vocabulary and phraseology, but also develop a deeper comprehension of different external factors, as well as diction, tone, tempo, etc. Necessary to note, subtitles can be turned on to create additional ways for perception, understanding, and control of the speech.

The **Learn English with EnglishClass101.com** (<https://www.youtube.com/user/ENGLISHCLASS101>) podcast is an English language speaking resource that provides a classic approach to teaching and explaining the material. The undoubtful benefit of this resource is that the listeners can always listen to the native speakers' speech.

Free online resources: mobile apps.

Mobile applications help to always be ready to master the new or revise already learned material, since the usage of smartphones has surpassed that of personal computers. It's mobile, convenient, and there are many different free apps, so there is an opportunity to choose the best fit in terms of the interface, the system of training the vocabulary offered, and, in general, the variety of functions of these applications. In this article, the authors distinguish top 5 applications on the iOS platform, which they used / use. Most of these apps are also on the Android platform, so they can be found in Google Play too.

Offline **Ukrainian-English dictionary** (<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/english-ukrainian-dictionary/id1088834323>) has a convenient interface, works offline, so even without an Internet connection, there is always access to the dictionary in any situation giving the translation of an unknown word, if necessary.

The mobile version of a well-known **Google Translate** (<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/google-translate/id414706506>). This mobile app requires Internet connection, however, it can store and process a greater deal of information, and there is an option to translate words and phrases between all world languages. In addition, this mobile app is user-friendly and absolutely free.

Hello English app (<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/hello-english/id1148009516>) is an application developed by the entire educational platform, but if the platform itself supposes purchasing the subscription or requires to register for the paid online courses. The mobile app, on a contrary, is totally free with an option for in-app purchases. A free version includes over 400 interactive exercises for training memorization or grammar. Moreover, this app also contains a translator. For an additional fee, there is an option to talk and consult with tutors, who are also the native speakers.

Beelinguapp: Language Learning (<https://apps.apple.com/app/beelinguapp-learn-languages-with-audio-books/id1225056371>) is a mobile app, allowing users to learn English language by listening to audiobooks. Aside from training listening skills, audio books require continuous engagement. Narrated by the native speakers, audiobooks help users expand their vocabulary and the knowledge of common phrases as well as improve their reading skills. The mobile app contains optional in-app purchases, and one of the languages available as the interface default is Russian.

English Word Card (<https://apps.apple.com/ru/app/english-word-card/id759821899>) is focused on expanding one's vocabulary by studying with flashcards. The flash cards are sorted by topic-based groups and various levels of difficulty. This form of learning fits everyone from the beginner to the advanced levels, and all available words are shown in context, combined with a detail description and the audio of pronunciation.

2.2 The opportunities that free online resources provide for learning Korean language

As for studying the Korean language in the classroom or on their own, European students experience more significant difficulties than studying the European languages. The most important problem in the study of the Korean language lies in the fact that this language is phonetic. This means that listening to what is being studied is essential.

The experience of teaching and feedback from students studying Korean during the last four years at the University of Customs and Finance, Ukraine has enabled the following resources to be offered for both classroom and independent work. The authors understand that this list cannot be limited to the proposed resources as there are other useful educational resources. However, we have chosen them according to the criteria we set forth above.

2.3 Free online resources: websites, mobile apps, and podcasts

Free online resources provided for learning Korean language are grouped together by the authors, since most of them exist in the form of mobile applications and in the form of high-quality web resources.

LingoDeer - Learn Languages (<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/lingodeer-learn-languages/id1261193709>) is a mobile application. In the free mode, the access is open for beginners. The resource helps to learn the necessary volume of vocabulary, there are also sections of “listening” and “speaking”. The service is adapted in English.

How to study Korean (<https://www.howtostudykorean.com>) is a free service offering a detailed description of all grammar rules and other details as it pertains to the structure of Korean language. The only drawback of this resource is that the only default interface language available is English. On a plus side, it is considered to be one of the most powerful services for learning and advancing Korean language. This resource helps train speaking, listening, reading and writing skills on all proficiency levels from A1 to C2. Additionally, this service offers hieroglyphs and the vocabulary. The resource contains six complete units.

KoreanClass101: Learn Korean Online with Podcasts (<https://www.koreanclass101.com>) is a podcasting service that upon registration opens access to a great variety of useful material and exercises for training all the necessary skills. Additional paid material is also available, although, in the authors’ opinion, the free version offers a sufficient amount. This service also has mobile apps, which makes it easier to keep all the materials in sync and easily share them on the Internet.

The **HiNative** service has already been mentioned and discussed above in the section regarding learning English. There is also Korean language available. This resource has both the website (<https://hinative.com>), and the mobile app (<https://apps.apple.com/app/apple-store/id923920480>). This free service helps improve listening and speaking skills, improves pronunciation, as well as gives an opportunity to listen, ask questions, communicate and get assistance from Korean native speakers. Considering the different characteristics of formal and informal styles of communication, this service is recommended for intermediate students of Korean language.

Topik Guide (<https://www.topikguide.com/complete-topik-practice-test-online>) is a resource that helps prepare for international test in Korean language. Specifically, registration on the website opens access to the database of all past versions of the test. Thus, it becomes realistic to obtain real information, real test copies, audio files, assignments and have an opportunity to study this information independently, as well as better understand the algorithm and format of testing and better prepare. Besides, the service offers a newsletter with relevant information regarding the exam, the dates of registration and results, discounts or unique promotions as it pertains to free courses of Korean language as well as lectures and other learning materials.

NAVER Korean Dictionary – in the authors' opinion, is the most important and essential service in the phone of every Korean language practitioner (<https://dict.naver.com> – dictionary; <https://papago.naver.com> – translator; <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/naver-korean-dictionary/id673085116> – mobile app). At this point in time, this is the only comprehensive online vocabulary of Korean language, available online for free. This service gives the option of English and Russian dictionaries and has the translator option. The latter might not be absolutely accurate in every case or misunderstand the usage or the differences between formal and informal styles, however, the dictionary itself acts as an essential tool for communication and enhancement of foreign language competence. Still, there is some substantial criticism associated with the service. Since this service is capable of translating long forms of text, students might be using it to ease an overwhelming task. However, this service cannot guarantee the most accurate interpretation, since it has been created to assist foreign tourists who travel to Korea and do not speak the local language. This resource is recommended for individuals who are committed to studying Korean language as well as the advanced students who fully understand the difference between formal and informal communication. Needless to mention, a vast number of students are not familiar with this service and still use Google Translate. However, the latter is less capable in providing a professional translation.

The popularity of Korean culture and K-pop has a significant impact on the use of YouTube resources for learning Korean language. This can be explained by the fact that most students are showing interest in the Korean language precisely because of the K-pop and the Korean musicals. Therefore, the distribution of video clips about Korean culture and K-pop, music videos, sets of videos of popular actors / their biographies, and so on is most appropriate for the intermediate level students. Because their intermediate level already allows them to understand and comprehend the information, then the skills of translation and listening comprehension are being trained. However, from the beginners' perspective, the use of music clips, etc., is not quite efficient. Video tales in Korean with subtitles are more effective in the beginning stage of learning the language, especially for listening. They are easy to listen to; relatively short, and vocabulary is easily absorbed (<https://youtu.be/cmJlisfnTKQ>; https://youtu.be/j6zWwAoEi_w).

Talk To Me In Korean (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5r3WHrX4Z7peSYpDlgtGw>) – is a channel that not only helps learn the language, but also educates the learners about Korean culture and life in Korea. The playlists cover a tremendous amount of learning material for all levels from A1 to C2. This

resource also has a website, although it is recommended for advanced students only, and individuals with deep understanding of Korean culture and mentality, which was the reason why the website itself was excluded from the list of free resources.

TOPIK 3 (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8tBZ26eo-a8txIPdXLWEEQ>) – a channel that is considered as a resource exclusively for preparation and completion of Korean language tests starting from the third level (B1) and up. An enormous number of audio files are available for developing speaking and listening skills. The material from the previous TOPIK tests is used in the audios.

MasterTOPIK

(<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcU6RCjsoPqJ7HtiIpLmyyw>) – another resource for Korean language test preparation. The provided material is tailored for students of all levels of proficiency. Various components of foreign language competence, including grammar, reading, and listening, can be improved. In addition, more detailed explanations regarding the writing part of the test are outlined.

Learn Korean with KoreanClass101.com (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsgBUobNGksxIKTagZayKEw>) – a resource similar to the one for studying English. In addition to the website this resource also has a YouTube channel, somewhat similar to Talk To Me In Korean.

2.4 The improvement of listening and reading skills in Korean language

By presenting free online resources for learning Korean, the authors would like to leave their comments regarding the improvement of listening and reading skills in Korean.

First of all, the use of Korean music for the language learning, in our opinion, is more suitable for students who have begun to study the language on the intermediate level. In songs, in general, there are no clear grammatical structures, but there is plenty of vocabulary that is required for the exam TOPIK. So, students being fans of K-pop, can listen to their favourite songs and learn the useful vocabulary at the same time (music videos belong here too). Nevertheless, our experience confirms that this technique can also be successfully applied to elementary level students, but for the purpose of training reading. While reading their favourite songs, students adapt more quickly to the language, and each time they read more confidently and quickly and, most importantly, phonetically correct. It is advisable for students to do translations of the songs by themselves (it is more interesting on advanced levels), but for beginners all the texts are available in the free online access, for example at the Color Coded Lyrics website (<https://colorcodedlyrics.com>)

Viewing Korean series / movies / TV shows / web blogs with subtitles – these activities are extremely beneficial if the priorities are set to learning Korean language, as opposed to solely enjoying the entertainment. Unfortunately, the subtitles in Ukrainian are rarely available; however, there is a vast number of video content with Russian and English subtitles (although, there are certain limitations due to blocking of the Russian websites). It is also important to discuss the fact that there's an overwhelming amount of pirated content, such as http://doramatv.live/list/country/south_korea, which is not recommended due to ethical considerations. To view desired content without infringing upon copyright laws, it is

recommended to use YouTube or the official websites of Korean video content creators. There are countless YouTube channels of various Korean vloggers who work in different genres, which makes it possible to suit every taste. Some of the suggested vloggers are https://youtu.be/bkg5_JsZ6gM (on this channel, the details of Korean language usage are highlighted) and <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj-durTg1W7uWsB8oq0u7kA> (interesting content regarding Korean slang).

Manhwa (Web Comics). The culture of webcomics is highly popularized in Korea. There have been studies that have shown that the majority of Koreans of ages 10 to 30 have positive sentiments towards webcomics. They are relatively short types of content, quick to read, and well-rounded in terms of covering various topics. There are several things to consider as it pertains to relying to webcomics for learning Korean language: 1) the comics are appropriate for students at intermediate level and up due to a common usage of slang and swear language; 2) while there are free webcomics, the majority of them are paid. This service is available in English, as well. In the following discussion, the most popular companies that create platforms for such comics as Lezhin Comics – <https://www.lezhin.com/ko> (in Korean); <https://www.lezhin.com/en> (in English) and WEBTOON – <https://www.webtoons.com/ko> (in Korean); <https://www.webtoons.com/en> (in English) are examined.

3 Classification of free online resources by functional approach

On the one hand, the majority of communication textbooks and online educational resources for foreign language learners focus on functional approach to learning. One of the most substantial determining factors is the way of providing learning material and forming the knowledge and skills associated with the delivery of vocabulary-grammar material: the learning material should be provided in compliance with communicative functions (favour, question, offer, agreement, disagreement, etc.). These functions translate the communicative purpose of a speaker. With this goal, the linguistic structures are offered, and provide the opportunity to realize certain functions in the process of communication [1].

On the contrary, “according to the “new” paradigm of language teaching/learning activities” ... can be classified as ... skills (active skills: speaking, writing; passive skills: reading, listening and watching) and Language use (grammar, vocabulary) [8, p. 12].

With the claims outlined earlier, the authors were able to classify free online resources from the perspective of functional approach, which allowed presenting the opportunities of these free online resources in order to enhance the skills as components of foreign language competence. All of the discussed free online resources provided for learning English and Korean languages were grouped into four tables (Table 1 – Table 4), as presented below.

3.1 The opportunities that free online resources (websites, podcasts) provide for learning English language

Table 1 presents the opportunities that free online resources (websites, podcasts) provide for learning English language in the types of communicative activities, including listening, reading, writing, speaking, the expansion of the vocabulary considering format of tutoring (group and/or individual) and level of language proficiency (A1-C2).

Table 1. The opportunities that free online resources (websites, podcasts) provide for learning English language

Resources (websites, podcasts)	Focus on listening comprehension		The improvement of reading skills		The improvement of writing skills		Focus on speaking ability		The expansion of the vocabulary	
	Level of language proficiency (A1-C2)									
	Format of tutoring (group and/or individual)									
	group	ind.	group	ind.	group	ind.	group	ind.	group	ind.
Lingualeo (website)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2
Duolingo (website)		+		+		+		+		+
		A1-B2		A1-B2		A1-B2		A1-B2		A1-B2
Cambridge Assessment English (website)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2
Learn at Home (website)		+		+		+		+		+
		A1-B1		A1-B1		A1-B1		A1-B1		A1-B1
HiNative (website)		+		+		+		+		+
		A1-C2		A1-C2		A1-C2		A1-C2		A1-C2
Skyeng (podcast)	+	+					+	+	+	+
	A1-C2	A1-C2					A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2
TED Talks (podcast)	+	+			+	+	+	+	+	+
	B1-C2	B1-C2			B1-C2	B1-C2	B1-C2	B1-C2	B1-C2	B1-C2
Learn English with EnglishClass101.com (podcast)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2
United Nations Bibliographic Information System THE-SAURUS. Dag Hammarskjöld Library (website)			+	+	+	+			+	+
			B2-C2	B2-C2	B2-C2	B2-C2			B2-C2	B2-C2
The UN database with documents in different languages (website)			+	+	+	+			+	+
			B2-C2	B2-C2	B2-C2	B2-C2			B2-C2	B2-C2
The database of terminology, related to UN activities (website)			+	+	+	+			+	+
			B2-C2	B2-C2	B2-C2	B2-C2			B2-C2	B2-C2
Lezhin Comics (website)	+	+	+	+					+	+
	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2					A1-C2	A1-C2
WEBTOON (website)	+	+	+	+					+	+
	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2					A1-C2	A1-C2

Table 2 presents the opportunities that free online resources (mobile apps) provide for learning English language for the types of communicative skills such as listening, reading, writing, speaking, the expansion of the vocabulary considering the format of tutoring (group and/or individual) and the level of language proficiency (A1-C2).

Table 2. The opportunities that free online resources (mobile apps) provide for learning English language

Resources	Focus on listening comprehension		The improvement of reading skills		The improvement of writing skills		Focus on speaking ability		The expansion of the vocabulary	
	Level of language proficiency (A1-C2)									
	Format of tutoring (group and/or individual)									
	group	ind.	group	ind.	group	ind.	group	ind.	group	ind.
Lingualoo	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2
Duolingo		+		+		+		+		+
		A1-B2		A1-B2		A1-B2		A1-B2		A1-B2
Learn@Home		+		+		+		+		+
		A1-B1		A1-B1		A1-B1		A1-B1		A1-B1
HiNative		+		+		+		+		+
		A1-C2		A1-C2		A1-C2		A1-C2		A1-C2
Skyeng	+	+					+	+	+	+
	A1-C2	A1-C2					A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2
TED Talks	+	+			+	+	+	+	+	+
	B1-C2	B1-C2			B1-C2	B1-C2	B1-C2	B1-C2	B1-C2	B1-C2
Learn English with English-Class101.com	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2
Ukrainian-English dictionary			+	+	+	+			+	+
			A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2			A1-C2	A1-C2
Google Translate	+	+	+	+	+	+			+	+
	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2			A1-C2	A1-C2
Hello English app	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2
Beelinguapp: Language Learning	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2
English Word Card	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2

3.2 The opportunities of free online resources for learning Korean language

Table 3 presents the opportunities that free online resources (websites, podcasts) provide for learning Korean language for the types of communicative skills such as listening, reading, writing, speaking, the expansion of the vocabulary considering the format of tutoring (group and/or individual) and the level of language proficiency (A1-C2).

Table 4 presents the opportunities that free online resources (websites, podcasts) provide for learning Korean language for the types of communicative skills such as listening, reading, writing, speaking, the expansion of the vocabulary considering the

format of tutoring (group and/or individual) and the level of language proficiency (A1-C2).

Table 3. The opportunities that free online resources (websites, podcasts) provide for learning Korean language

Resources (websites, podcasts)	Focus on listening comprehension		The improvement of reading skills		The improvement of writing skills		Focus on speaking ability		The expansion of the vocabulary	
	Level of language proficiency (A1-C2)									
	Format of tutoring (group and/or individual)									
	group	ind.	group	ind.	group	ind.	group	ind.	group	ind.
HiNative (website)		+		+		+		+		+
Topik Guide (website)	+	+	+	+	+	+			+	+
How to study Korean (website + podcast)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
KoreanClass101: Learn Korean Online with Podcasts (podcast)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Talk To Me In Korean (podcast)	+	+					+	+	+	+
PAPAGO – translator (website)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Naver Korean Dictionary (website)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Lezhin Comics (website)	+	+	+	+					+	+
WEBTOON (website)	+	+	+	+					+	+

Table 4. The opportunities that free online resources (mobile apps) provide for learning Korean language

Resources	Focus on listening comprehension		The improvement of reading skills		The improvement of writing skills		Focus on speaking ability		The expansion of the vocabulary	
	Level of language proficiency (A1-C2)									
	Format of tutoring (group and/or individual)									
	group	ind.	group	ind.	group	ind.	group	ind.	group	ind.
How to study Korean	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2
Naver Korean Dictionary (has access to PAPAGO)	+	+	+	+					+	+
	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2					A1-C2	A1-C2
LingoDeer – Learn Languages		+						+		+
		A1-A2						A1-A2		A1-A2
HiNative		+		+		+		+		+
		A1-C2		A1-C2		A1-C2		A1-C2		A1-C2

Resources	Focus on listening comprehension		The improvement of reading skills		The improvement of writing skills		Focus on speaking ability		The expansion of the vocabulary	
	Level of language proficiency (A1-C2)									
	Format of tutoring (group and/or individual)									
	group	ind.	group	ind.	group	ind.	group	ind.	group	ind.
(Learn Korean with) Korean Class 101	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2
Talk to Me in Korean	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	A1-C1	A1-C1	A1-C1	A1-C1	A1-C1	A1-C1	A1-C1	A1-C1	A1-C1	A1-C1
Channel (YouTube vlogger) https://youtu.be/bkg5_JsZ6gM – the details of Korean language usage	+	+	+	+			+	+	+	+
	A1-C1	A1-C1	A1-C1	A1-C1			A1-C1	A1-C1	A1-C1	A1-C1
Channel (YouTube vlogger) https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj-durTg1W7uWsB8oq0u7kA – interesting content regarding Korean slang	+	+	+	+			+	+	+	+
	A1-C1	A1-C1	A1-C1	A1-C1			A1-C1	A1-C1	A1-C1	A1-C1
TOPIK 3	+	+	+	+			+	+	+	+
	B1-C1	B1-C1	B1-C1	B1-C1			B1-C1	B1-C1	B1-C1	B1-C1
MasterTOPIK	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	A1-C1	A1-C1	A1-C1	A1-C1	A1-C1	A1-C1	A1-C1	A1-C1	A1-C1	A1-C1

4 Conclusions

Summing up, it can be stated that the free online resources, mobile applications and other opportunities presented in the article are relevant and indispensable present-day tools for group (classroom) and independent study of a foreign language in order to improve a foreign language competence. While examining the resources on the example of the English and Korean languages, certain differences were identified determining and substantiating the recommendations for the practical use of the investigated online services. The authors' classification of free online resources by functional approach allowed visualizing the possibilities of the described free online resources in order to improve specific skills and abilities as components of a foreign language competence (focus on listening comprehension, the improvement of reading skills, the improvement of writing skills, focus on speaking ability, the expansion of the vocabulary). In addition, the authors corroborated the feasibility of using free online resources for certain purposes.

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