**Activity 1 Discussion (Transcript)**

Would Group 1 like to say which of their card they think nobody else would have placed where they have placed? Which were the surprising ones?

Well, we feel that we use a lot less apps for language learning than other groups seem to. But, part of that is because most of us aren’t actively learning a language right now, but we thought that our similar one would be Duolingo... if anyone uses that app.

Which, which, where? Could you hold up your thing so we can all [Inaudible]

Pretty much in the same place.

[Indistinct Chatter]

So... this is our... oh wait, they are all kind of sideways but we put the game-playing one here and we were thinking of Duolingo because we use it kind of sometimes? And then we thought one that might be surprising is that ... video messaging, I don’t know if a lot of people use it, video messaging, but I use an app called Marco Polo, to video message practically everyday... but not for language learning.

What, what, what is [Inaudible] Marco Polo?

[Indistinct Chatter]

What makes it different from the other…

So it’s basically like text messaging, but it’s just all video.

Oh okay.

So you’ll have like a [Inaudible], you’ll have, like a history of all your video messages that you sent.

Oh that’s, that’s cute.

Yeah.

[Laughter]

You’d have to wait to be in, like, a quiet place before you can know what’s someone is saying to you.

Unless you have earphones on.

Oh, I guess.

Yeah.

But then, and then, but then, are you in public going “hi!”?

I mean I’ll use it when I’m in a hands-free situation where I’m like walking to class or something and I need to get in touch with someone. And a lot of my friends use it too, so I used it for a lot of long distance things. A lot of my friends in the States… I stay in touch with them that way.

That would be cute, well not cute, it would be nice for long distance...

[Indistinct Chatter]

Is it something that a lot of people in the States use?

It’s caught on recently, yeah.

And you think this is good for language learning?

I haven’t used it for language learning yet, but I think it could be?

I mean, I think it is understandable that Duolingo is in the same position where, where we’ve all placed it. I think partly because, like, it’s an app that is for language learning right so it makes sense that it would be frequently used for language learning because it’s designed in such a way?

[Indistinct Chatter]

We have it quite low.

We actually thought that ours was, I mean it actually does kind of look like everyone’s got it in the same place, but we thought we are going to talk about the surprising one because, like, we don’t use it for the languages that we are actually learning. Like seriously... I was saying that, say I was going on holiday to Spain, and I don’t speak any Spanish. I might use it for a week before I go on holiday.

Yeah, it’s easier.

But, but, I’ve tried using... and they, they do go up to high level but I’ve tried using it for Japanese and it’s just not very good.

[In Agreement] No, yeah.

I’m glad that you think that because I used it before I went to Japan...

It wasn’t helpful

... it’s useless.

[Laughter]

I thought it was useful.

I think it tends to be better for European languages.

Yeah.

I guess it’s made by sort of Euro-American [Inaudible]

I think it’s better for really beginning [Inaudible] language learning too, because like, I use it for learning Chinese and Japanese which I don’t speak very much of at all and it’s good for the basics I think.

[In Agreement]

I think it’s because like, you can’t really get grammar across on Duolingo. So for many Asian languages where the grammar is like, the other way round [Inaudible]

So it just gives you what? Vocabulary?

[Indistinct Chatter]

Because it’s like, do you just, do you just get the Hiragana and not learn any Kanji or do you...?

It, it teaches you Kanji like through context, so, but it means you don’t learn many actual words. So like it’ll teach you like, like you’ll have a lesson where you’re learning about how to ask about the weather or something. Or let’s say, talk about the weather and then it’ll have the Kanji for weather, but like...

It’s not very useful.

[Laughter]

You don’t really get [Inaudible, mixed conversation]

And then they don’t... It has no explanations, it’s just all kind of intuitive so it never actually explains what’s going on with the language.

So I guess it is just kind of for that purpose of like going on holidays somewhere like really the conversational stuff.

Duolingo is obviously, probably one of the most dominant view like of [Inaudible] game for language learning. But that card is specifically just about game playing in general. So in terms of like game playing, at least in social media [Inaudible], socially.. ummm... do you guys generally, is this, is this correct? You guys don’t play games at all really that much.

Not really.

I mean, if we’re talking about actual game, I have a lot of friends who study Japanese who study Japanese through like proper video games, but they will also do it with... what’s that thing where you’re doing kind of like international play, and you can hear and talk to the other person. So there, there it’s like both speaking and the game that you play in.

Yeah, yeah, I used to play games in Japanese like more, very text, kind of text-heavy games. Or I would play translated games that have been, like, modified so they kept the Japanese audio, kind of. So, if, if, yeah, if we are talking like general game playing then that is definitely...

What about social game playing? So you know like, Words With Friends, or stuff like that?

Oh!

What’s Words With Friends?

It’s like Scrabble only flatter.

[Inaudible] media game than Category, you have to get as many words in that category as you can.

So maybe, maybe in truth, it will be a little bit further to the right maybe? That card? No? No? Happy with that?

Still there.

I don’t think that there are like Words With Friends...

Because you can’t do them in Asian languages...

Are there many, yeah, are there many such language games that are not English-based?

No, yeah. Yeah.

Alright, that’s brilliant. Sorry I didn’t mean to dwell on that. [Inaudible].

[Laughter]

To you guys then. You say what you think is the most surprising thing about your board.

So, I think we... our Stories and Comments were quite high on it, but...

You think it’s higher than other people?

\*I think so, I think [Inaudible] they fulfil similar role for us than like [Inaudible]. I also quite [Inaudible] like [Inaudible] video messaging fulfils on this one, so maybe it’s just like, a similar [Inaudible] social function that...

A different app will fulfil.

Don’t know what we’re going to say, we didn’t really consult with one another.

Okay.

I mean, but for me it’s a generational thing because I don’t use it, I don’t understand it, so I don’t see the purpose of like... I mean, I don’t see the purpose of it, period, much less, for the purpose of learning a new language.

It might be interesting like it’s sad that we don’t have more people... like, undergraduates from... So I’m, although I’m a first-year, because I’m a mature student I think I’m the same age as all the fourth years. It’s kind of sad that we don’t have more people from the proper first years who are 17 or 18 years.

[Indistinct Chatter]

\*It’s like, they are all doing different things that I don’t understand and I’m like...

[Indistinct Chatter]

Within like four years...

Gen Z?

Gen Y?

\*... it’s because we eat different social media language.

\*Everybody lives, come on.

[Laughter]

I mean, wasn’t there a study that, that looked at, like, Gen X and Gen Z and talk about which platforms most people in these different groups are in? Like, my generation generally sticks with Facebook and Instagram, whereas now it’s Instagram and Twitter for the ones below us, and Snapchat, I don’t understand any of those. So...

So I use Instagram but still rarely but I’ve got siblings that are 5 and 8 years younger, and they, like, don’t have Facebook.

Exactly.

They aren’t even registered. They just DM to have their whole conversations on Snapchat and Instagram.

I don’t understand...

“Why are you doing this?”

I don’t have What’sapp...

Or Snapchat.

Or Tic Toc.

I don’t know what it is but I see on YouTube from time to time.

[Indistinct Chatter]

But then, saying again, like, all of my other friends are like 28, 29, 30 just from where I was working before, and they, everyone just texts so I think that’s why I also don’t use that many other social media aspects because...

I think the younger you get, the more you broadcast.

Yeah. Possibly. Yeah.

I think it is a “younger” thing to like everyone...

Want everyone to know what you’re doing.

[Laughter]

That’s right.

[Indistinct Chatter]

“Love me!”

[Indistinct Chatter]

“Broadcast yourself”.

[Laughter]

That’s the YouTube tagline.

Yeah.

Okay, and one that you think everyone has put in the same place...

Probably Direct Messaging...

It’s interesting that YouTube wasn’t included in this.

Yes.

Oh yeah.

I used YouTube so much for language learning and for real life...

[In Agreement]

[Indistinct Chatter]

Same with me.

[Indistinct Chatter]

Do you have blank cards?

When I was learning to read and write Japanese, it’s so good to like [Inaudible]

[Indistinct Chatter]

There’s this adorable Japanese teacher who teaches like... [Inaudible] and free...

[Indistinct Chatter]

If I’m learning a language, I want to...

[Indistinct Chatter]

... so sweet.

[Laughter, Indistinct Chatter]

Like, even if I want to learn to just like say a few things in some random language [Inaudible] ...

[Indistinct Chatter]

The reason why we didn’t choose YouTube is because, I think, YouTube is generally...

Not as interactive?

... it’s a one-way...

Yeah, I agree with what you’re saying.

But, another question would be, do you use the comments on YouTube...

[Indistinct Chatter]

For all the wrong reasons.

[Laughter]

To read all the hate mail.

[Indistinct Chatter]

What? Why? Why have you written this? Why do you think this is okay?

[Indistinct Chatter]

\*But, I don’t know, I think we, I think those of us who kind of have been learning a language for a long time and say we kind of have been, we were talking about this a lot. I have been talking a lot with people who are native speakers of that language, we use direct messaging a lot, as a language learning tool and that it’s kind of like incidental language learning. Whereas, if you were like a beginner...

Or if you don’t, didn’t know anyone of that language who are native speakers...

So you’ve already got a, I guess, a network of people...

Yes.

Exactly. It’s easier to...

Interesting.

Cause there are certain apps that are based, or at least a certain group of people would use when they are learning a certain language. Like, KaKao is generally for like people of Korean descent, and...

Like Line

... WeChat that’s [Inaudible]... So, unless you have an “in” into those systems, there’s no point having those apps if you don’t know anyone you could connect with.

Or you just wouldn’t have heard of them.

Exactly. You wouldn’t know that they existed must less like...

[Indistinct Chatter]

But you could still [Inaudible]... and just know someone who [Inaudible]... Cause I’ve had a, like I think if you spend, I think thats’s more about like the time spent in the country learning the culture. Because you can be relatively sh\*t at a language but have people who use that thing so you kind of like hold on to the app [Inaudible]...

Yeah, but I think also until you have a certain knowledge of that language, you’re not going to be texting in Chinese, Japanese, Korean...

Competence’s essential for direct messaging...

Yeah!

[Indistinct Chatter]

“Hello”, “Dog”, “Cat”, “Five”, that’s not really going to be helpful…

[Indistinct Chatter]

[Inaudible] ... most accessible out of all of those... [Inaudible]... engaging another person?

Probably not WeChat.

[Laughter, Indistinct Chatter]

If you want to engage with another person…

WeChat’s like sink or swim though. It’s like you have no choice because your VPN isn’t working so you don’t really have…

Yeah, that’s very true.

… no other choice.

[Indistinct Chatter]

KaKao’s pretty good. KaKao and Line are very similar. So I don’t really know where to, I don’t think there is a... yeah...

What, what, what makes them more accessible than another one, you think?

Cause I think it’s cause they’re kind of like they’ve got the...

So many pictures! What’re those things?

Stickers.

Yeah.

So you instantly got this visual recognisation(sic) that, “oh that’s the KaKao character” or “that’s the Line character”. Like they’ve got their little groups of characters, and they’re quite... they’re just very simple, most can use...

People use more stickers than you would in English. Like, let’s say you were following a Facebook group...

[Indistinct Chatter, Laughter]

... KaKaoTalk and Line, I feel like people use more stickers. And like guys use a lot more stickers.

[Indistinct Chatter]

There are like stickers on Facebook Messenger...

And there are ones you can buy.

[Indistict, Indistinct Chatter]

They are like moving emojis? I mean, I can show you. I’ll show you a sticker on Line.

Just to bring everyone back so that we are all talking as one rather than as separate groups. Originally we were talking about people using stickers and all that, and so, so the general question would be: Is that a cultural thing or is that a “learning language” thing?

I think it might be a cultural thing right? Because Facebook did try coming up with stickers and it didn’t quite pick up.

Yeah, if you don’t understand... I mean there’s so many...

[Indistinct Chatter]

Well, I read one recently about Japanese girls with stickers and language learning, like it’s definitely a, there are, there are (in the background “but even Japanese guys”) cultural aspects...

No, but I think it’s probably because, like, you associate certain images with certain, like for Japanese you tend to think anime right, and then there are certain expressions that an anime character will do which would tend to relate a certain sort of emotion that you want to, like, pass on, whereas it’s not as common in an English mediumm for those kind of like image... So I guess the closest thing to a sticker for an English mediumm would be memes right?

Yes.

Or gifs.

Certain thing which is...

I would say gifs.

Gifs.

Yeah.

So is it fair to say that although the use of them is generally a cultural thing, the unexpected bonus of that is that it makes conversation for a beginner of that language quite friendly and accessible with the images?

Yes.

Sure.

I would definitely agree with that. If you can’t quite think of how to respond, you could just put a sticker.

Yeah. You just...

If I don’t understand what’s just been said to me, I’ll just...

[Laughter, Indistinct Chatter]

That’s just real life for me, just smile if you don’t know what’s going on.

[Laughter continues]

And then there can still [Inaudible]... the conversation can continue on and you’re not always having to go, like, “sorry, what was that?”, or like, “can you say that in a different way?”.

Yeah.

Whether that, that makes it easier, whether that means your language gets better or not is completely...

Exactly.

[Mixed Chatter, In Agreement]

The actual learning.

A [Inaudible] can be an interruption.

[Mixed Chatter, In Agreement]

Yeah, yeah.

Cause if you just have like two lines and then you walked out then that will, like, improve your language less than umm...

So it helps with communication but not necessarily with learning.

It probably lacks rigour, I suppose, none of these things.

Like, it’s more like an immersion than, like, structured learning.

Yeah.

Alright, brilliant. So this last group then. What do you think is the most surprising thing on your board?

We said it was that one.

So you need another one then.

[Laughter, Indistinct Chatter]

Umm... oh no, you have yours real high.

Higher.

Well, it’s okay. Maybe we have exhausted all of the surprises. Let’s talk about these then. So that’s quite similar. Is it the same with you guys as well? You’ve got, where’s your Feeds, the... [Inaudible] (it’s quite low on our...)... ah right. Okay, so we’ve got a little difference there then. So let’s talk about that... \*So you guys, Feeds umm, use quite a lot?

\*Yeah, we put the, we use Facebook and Instagram more but we know them in real life, whereas Asha is…

I am the only Twitter user...

Yeah, but I absolutely follow Japanese speakers on Twitter, so that I get Japanese on my Feed that I can read [Inaudible].

And is that a familiar thing for this group [Inaudible]?

Well, I use Facebook, so the Feeds I think of is Facebook Feeds which is something that... wait, do you see other people, random people’s, like, Feeds on Twitter or do you...?

On Twitter, I follow people I don’t know.

Follow.

Ah, okay. So there’s an option of like knowing random people’s [Inaudible]. So on Facebook, you only get friends’, so if they speak a different language, you get it, and then there is that, an option to translate what they’re saying… which helps.

Awful translation...

I know, I know. Sometimes it’s funny.

Yeah.

The translations are just ridiculous.

What do you use for that? \*Automate translate or Google translate or… ?

I don’t know. It’s just an option... Yeah, there’s just an option on... Yeah. I don’t know what they...

Sometimes I’ve had people write in English and then they try to translate it...

[Laughter]

Yeah, it doesn’t make any sense at all.

It just was so incomprehensible in English [Inaudible].

So would you say it’s quite limited if somebody is trying to learn a new language?

I mean, you would have to know people who, well no, if you’re using Twitter, like, you do, then you can use it for learning other things right? But generally with things like Facebook or Instagram Feeds, again, it’s maybe for the more advanced learner because you would have to know some people to be able to follow their stuff and...

I think following celebrities on Instagram is quite common though isn’t it?

Oh, yeah!

Chinese celebrities (Taiwanese...), oh well, China’s blocked so but like...

Taiwanese?

Taiwanese, yeah.

Hmm, the by-pass.

Or Korean.

Taiwanese!

[Laughter]

All the celebrities...

Yeah.

Alright, brilliant guys. Thank you so much for that. That was actually super useful. So I think we’ll probably take...

\* These sentences don’t quite seem to make much sense within the context of the discussion, and so there might probably be a problem with these transcriptions because of the available audio.