



# LEARNING LANGUAGES THROUGH APPLICATIONS: A SURVEY ANALYSIS

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## **Abstract**

Language learning is the most essential skill in the present generation. There are millions of people around the world, learning language through the use of Language apps. Second language acquisition has become mandatory for students, researchers and these apps play a pivotal role in achieving the target. The present survey was conducted in St.Ann's College for Women, Hyderabad to find out the application of the Language apps and how it can be helpful to students. For the purpose of the research a structured questionnaire was given to 60 randomly selected students of first year Under Graduate Students. The responses were analysed and interpreted. Finally, at the end of the research it was found that Language Apps are very crucial for Language Learning.

## **Keywords**

Language Learning, vocabulary, questionnaire, Duolingo, Bussu

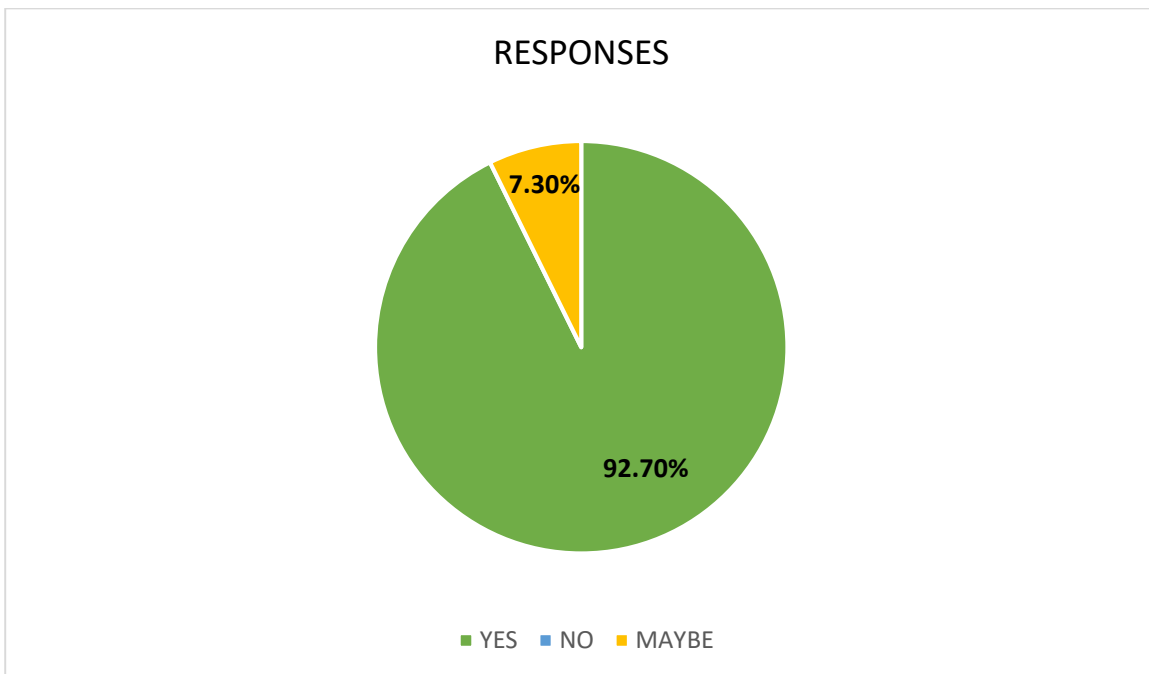
## **OVERVIEW:-**

A survey on the topic 'LEARNING LANGUAGES THROUGH APPLICATIONS' was conducted on January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021 at St.Ann's College for Women, Mehdiapatnam, Hyderabad. Around 60 randomly selected students from various streams of B.A, B.COM, B.Sc and BBM participated in the survey.

## **RESULTS:-**

1. Do you like learning languages?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Maybe



### ANALYSIS:-

### OBJECTIVE:

The objective of asking this question is to see how many of them has a liking towards learning new languages, different cultures and customs because language carries various cultures and life with it.

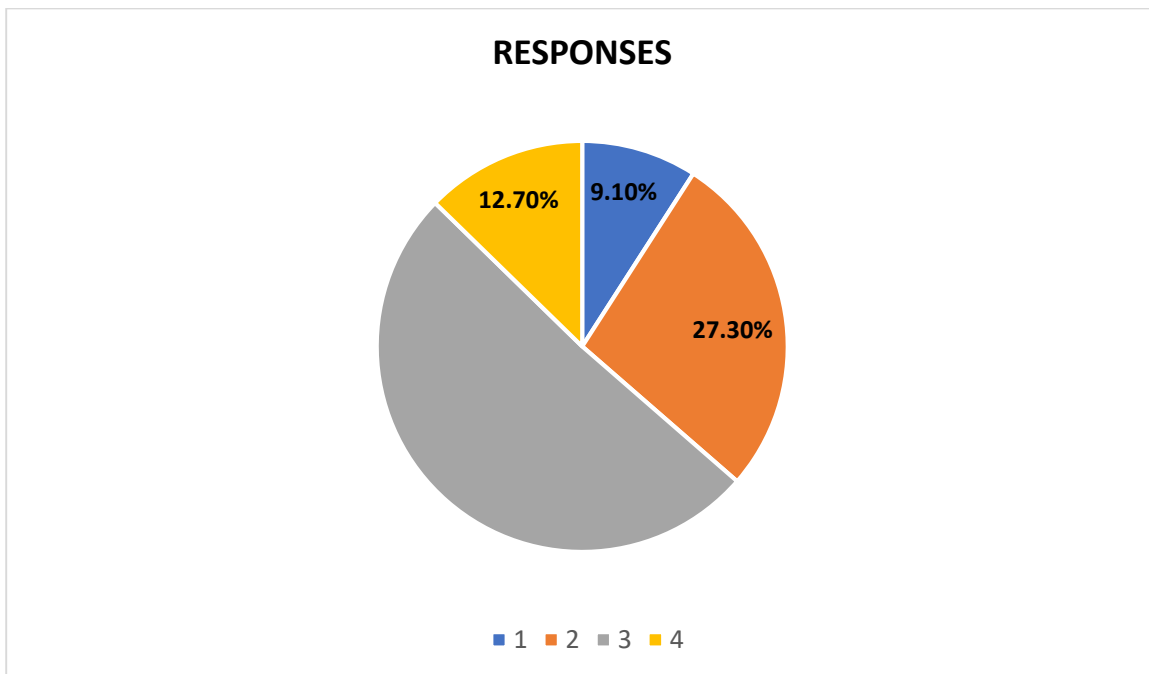
### INTERPRETATION:

According to the results above, 97.2% i.e. 56 students have selected option '1' from the three options given which shows that they like learning new languages through applications provided on internet making the earth a small global village where everybody has access to learning new things from around the world. 7.3% i.e. 4 students have selected option '3' making it clear that everybody would like to learn new languages except that some are in doubt and some are persistently heading towards their goal.

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2. How many languages do you know?

1. 1 language
2. 2 languages
3. 3 languages
4. Many more! I am a polyglot.



### ANALYSIS:-

#### OBJECTIVE:

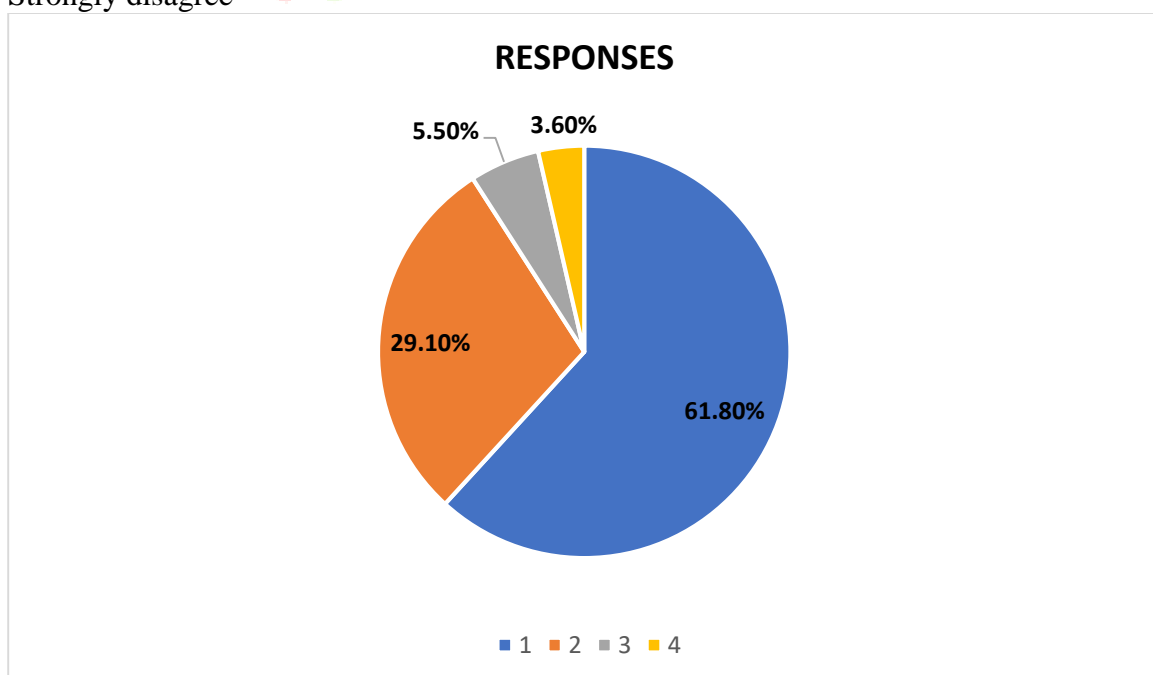
The purpose of asking this question to students is to know how many of them are comfortable in learning something new. As having experience in learning more languages other than their mother tongue shows us the level of interest and confidence they can muster to learn other tongues.

#### INTERPRETATION:

According to the pie chart given above, 51% i.e. 33 students know more than 2 languages, which is quite normal in India as it is a diverse country and a home to more than 150 languages, students know their own regional language and learn others from their friends and are also taught English at schools so that they can compete at a global level. 9.1% i.e. 5 students know only 1 language which gives them Zen level vocabulary, fluency and judgement in their native spoken languages.

3. Does learning a new language help me get a good job?

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree a little
3. Disagree a little
4. Strongly disagree



**ANALYSIS:-****OBJECTIVE:**

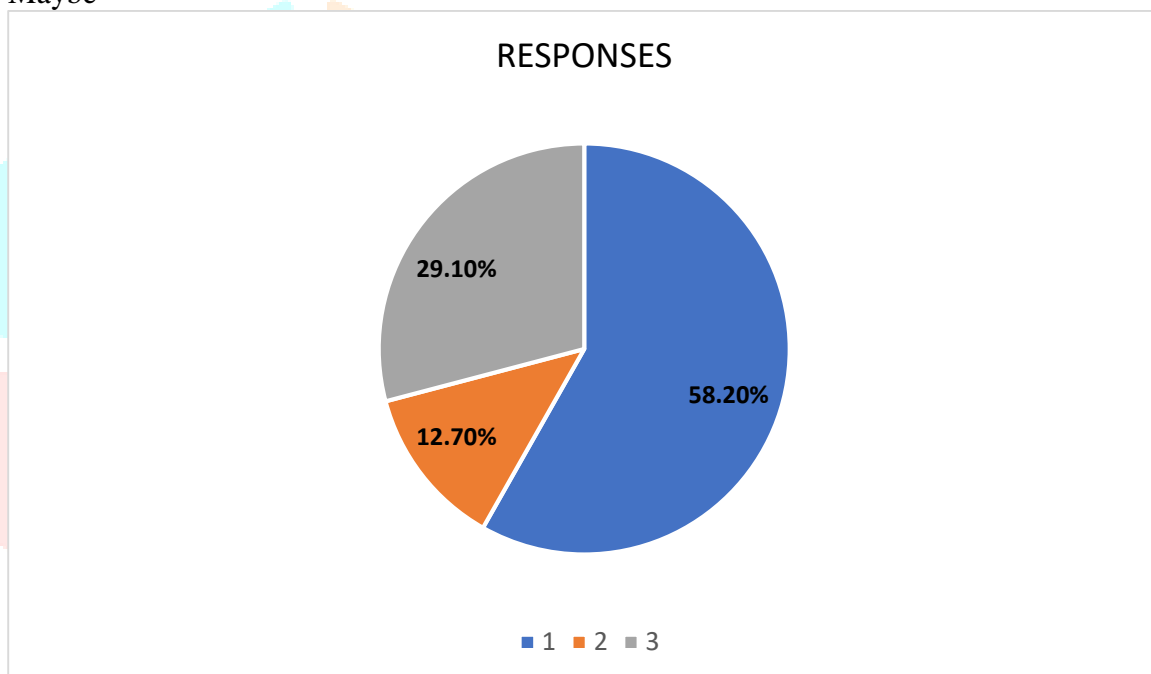
The objective of asking this question to students is to know if they attach a futuristic benefit to learning a new language or are they learning it just for fun.

**INTERPRETATION:**

According to the results above, 61.8 % i.e. 39 students strongly believe that they have a employability benefit of learning a second language as people who are multi linguil and master more than single language have problem-solving and critical-thinking skills,enhanced memory, improved concentration, ability to multitask, and improved listening skills. 3.6 % i.e. 2 students strongly disagree. Maybe because learning a foreign language will not benefit the native and local languages upliftment and it can cause their extinction.

4.Are you interested in the use of mobile technologies for second language acquisition?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Maybe

**ANALYSIS:-****OBJECTIVE:**

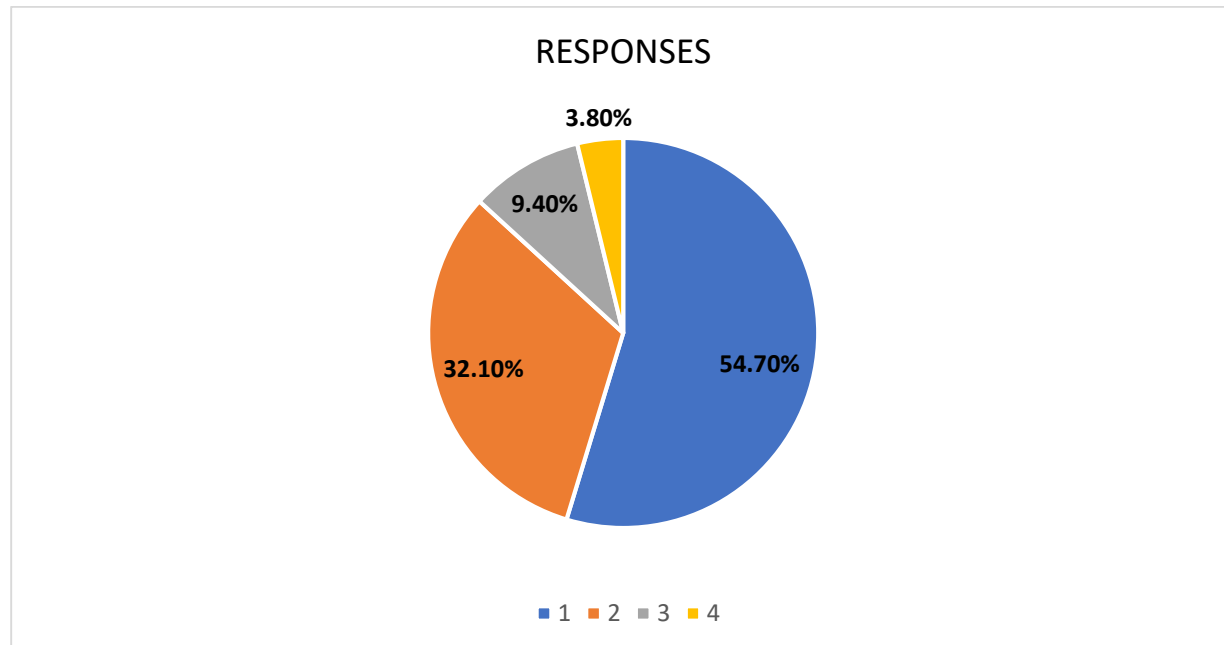
The objective of asking this question to students is to know if students are comfortable in using their mobiles to learn languages since there are 50+ mobile applications available in Play Store.

**INTERPRETATION:**

According to the results above, 58.2 % i.e. 37 students are consenting towards using mobile applications for second language acquisition, as Mobile softwares are Graphic user interfaces which are easy to operate, students can easily get accustomed to the apps. 12.7 % i.e. 7 students don't agree using a mobile for learning languages. Mainly because it can harm their eyes or because they don't completely trust the semantics and pedagogy used in these applications.

### 5. How do you prefer learning languages?

1. Through language books and teachers help
2. Through language learning applications
3. Learning a language by constantly repeating common phrase, words. Understanding the right way to pronounce
4. Through talking to people



### ANALYSIS:-

### OBJECTIVE:

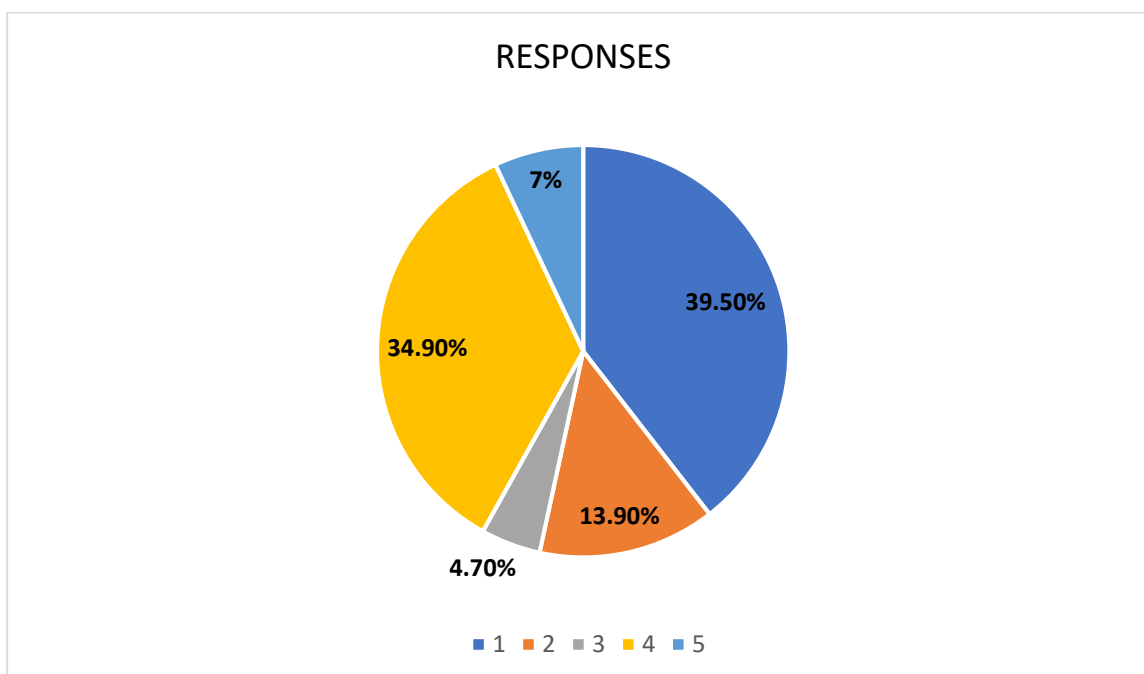
The aim of asking this question to students is to know their best strategy that helps them to learn the languages easily and also to know the popularity of applications which help in language learning.

### INTERPRETATION:

According to the results above, 54.7 % i.e. 38 students have chosen option '1' making clear the importance of books and guidance from teachers. It also shows that Applications have a long way to go before they can help students affably. 3.8% i.e. 2 students believe that talking to people in person helps too because we can catch the accent and the way the word is pronounced correctly.

### 6. Which language learning App do you prefer?

1. Duolingo
2. Busuu
3. Babbel
4. HelloTalk
5. Mindsnacks



### ANALYSIS:-

#### OBJECTIVE:

The objective of asking this question to the students is to know which application provides better assistance to the students in terms of providing help in strengthening vocabulary, grammar and fluency.

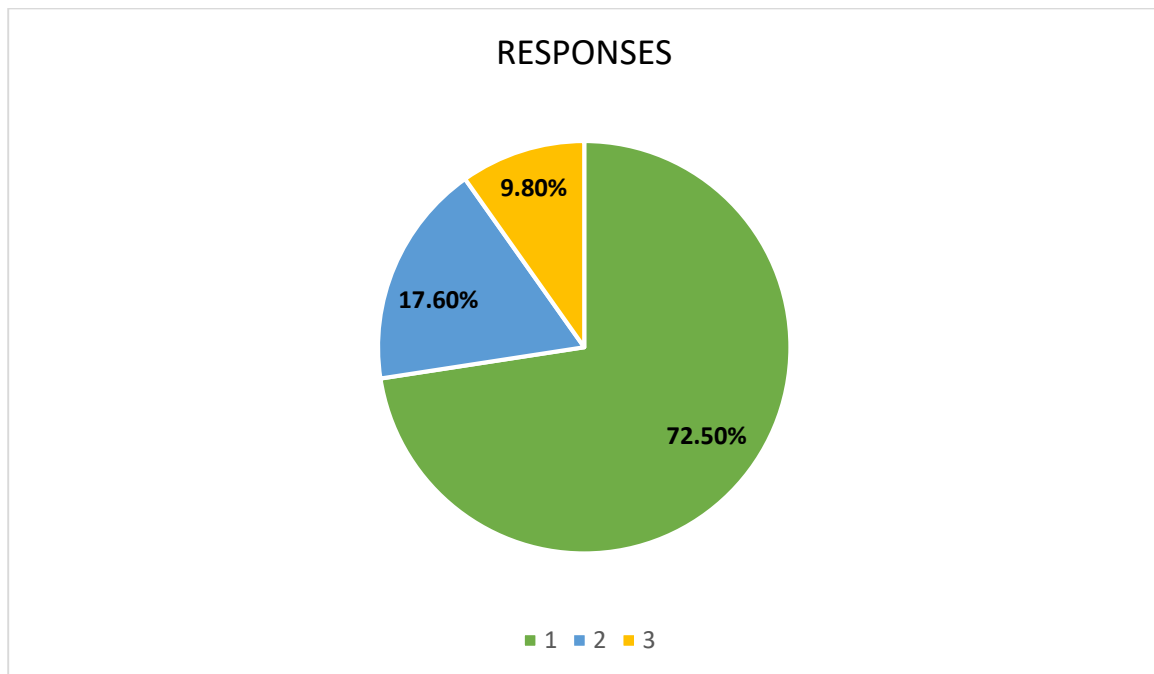
#### INTERPRETATION:

According to the findings of the survey, 39.5% i.e. 39 students prefer using Duolingo App. Among the most popular language learning apps are Duolingo, Hello Talk and Busuu. Duo lingo is the most popular App because it has simpler and more organised material, has flash cards and images with multiple choice questions. 4.7% students i.e. 2 students chose option '3' which is Babbel because the users feel that the app is user friendly and using it for just 5 hours, will allow them to have small conversations. The module of Babbel is designed in such a way, that it allows speakers to focus on their first vocabulary and first conversations.

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7. How much time do you spend on language learning Apps?

1. Less than 30 minutes
2. More than 30 minutes
3. More than 1 hour



### ANALYSIS:-

#### OBJECTIVE:

The purpose of asking this question to students is to know how much of a commitment, importance and time do they have to learn a new language.

#### INTERPRETATION:

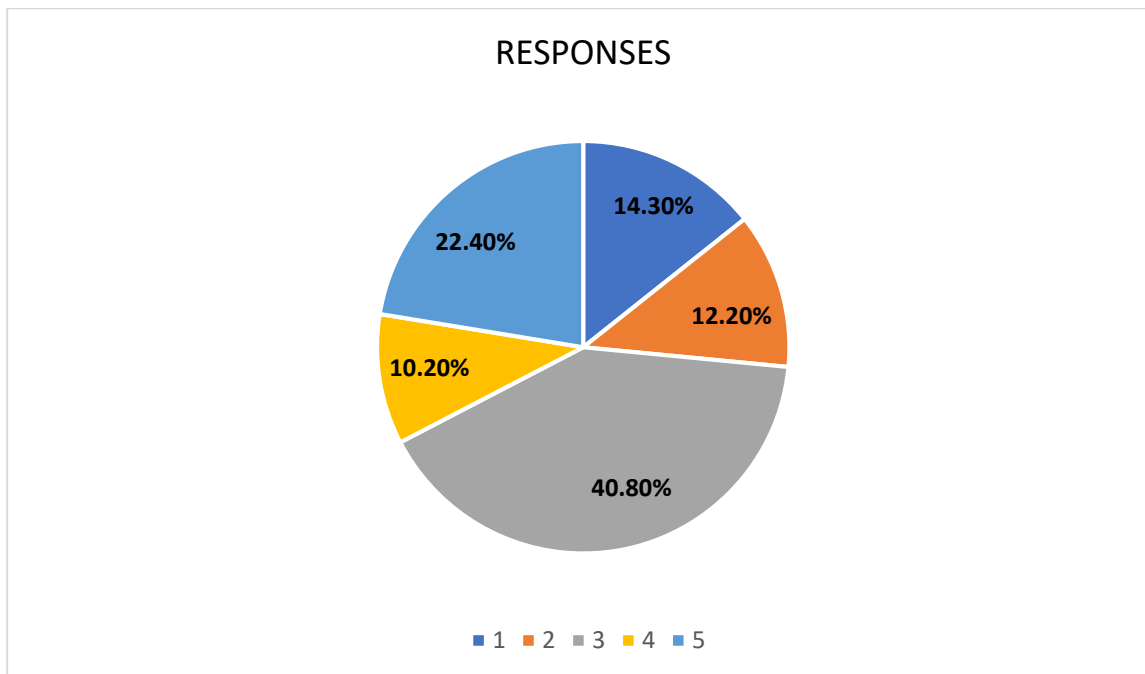
According to the findings of the survey, 72.5 % i.e. 46 students spend less than 30 minutes on a mobile language learning Applications showing that apps do not possess the consistency and commitment a book or a language learning course can have. 9.8% i.e. 5 students spend more than an hour on learning and polishing their language. **Because Kenneth H. Blanchard believes**

**There is a difference between interest and commitment. When you're interested in something, you do it only when it's convenient. When you're committed to something, you accept no excuses, only results.**

8.How effective are language learning Apps in improving your vocabulary, grammar and fluency?

Please note that you can rate your answer from 1 to 5 where 1 is Not at all and 5 is that It helps exceedingly.

1. 1
2. 2
3. 3
4. 4
5. 5



### ANALYSIS:-

#### OBJECTIVE:

The purpose of asking this question to students is to know how beneficial, improving and worth it they think these online learning applications are.

#### INTERPRETATION:

According to the results of the survey, 40.8 % i.e. 31 students think that the language learning applications are quite helpful when used effectively and can also improve the vocabulary upto a certain extent. 10.2% students have chosen option '4' which is near to 5 showing that it can help a dedicated student exceedingly. Learners who use the App for academic purpose suggest a more formal approach for language learning.. In fact, more and more students surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that using the app had helped them improve their knowledge of the language they are learning.

9. Tell us your experience with learning languages through Applications?

SOME OF THE CONSCIENTIOUS AND WELL-PUT RESPONSES FOR ABOVE QUESTION:

- It gives us more knowledge about the culture, cutoms and traditions of a foreign land which I think is not covered accurately in our portions.
- I haven't used any of the language learning app religiously but I do use them occasionally. But my friends gave a positive review about such apps since they are learning good grammar and new phrases from these apps.
- It's very useful and convenient for people who have a very busy routine and cannot find a reliable source to learn a new skill. So, I found it very easy and helpful.
- They are more effective in learning the correct way of pronouncing, it's a new experience. It teaches us clearly and It gives example of conversation with a clear voice note. Learning French language is easier in application.
- We can learn at our own pace and time, and learn what's relevant. Apps help us to set the pace and rhythm of our learning. We can choose whether to follow structured courses which are



conveniently broken down into 10-15 short lessons, or Simply can bypass the structured course and head to a specific lesson on idioms, or animals, or adjectives, or just about anything else.

- I've tried learning Spanish through Busuu because I like Mexican culture. I think Busuu is kind of helpful with vocabulary and grammar. Busuu is different from other applications because it provides immediate feedback on whether the sentence is wrong or right and how you can fix it. I'm still in beginners' level and hope to go further.

10. What are some of the setbacks a person can face by learning language through Applications?

WE GOT 45 RESPONSES FOR THIS QUESTION. SOME OF THE WELL-PUT ANSWERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- It's a recorded sequence of voice notes and we couldn't enquire the alternative applications and phrases, and we couldn't question our doubts.
- I guess through apps and books we could only learn common and generic words but when we hear people talking in a specific language, we tend to grasp not just the words but also the way the common people pronounce, their accent etc.
- There is less interaction with people. It might take a very long time to learn the language and to develop the required fluency for it.
- It definitely won't be able to teach how to speak like the natives and I won't be able to study the language in dept.
- From my experience, it can cause potential eye ache and head ache and can affect other organs because learning through applications means staring at a mobile phone for a long time. I would prefer an alternative like a book or a study material.
- It does not clear doubts as fast as like a teacher and there is minimum to no interactive engagement and my concentration levels keep falling down.

### **CONCLUSION:**

The finding of this survey indicates that most students want to learn new languages and are passionate, excited and motivated about doing it, because Flora Lewis believes that

Learning another language is not only learning different words for the same things, but learning another way to think about things.

A language widens the horizons of an individual to a larger community, to a diverse and comforting surrounding. knowing a foreign language is knowing you have a family away from your own home. It breaks social barriers and a sense of apprehension people have when they meet someone new. This following quote by Frank Smith as mentioned in TeMadrid's article "20 Famous Quotes About Learning Languages" is exceedingly relatable

Language is not a genetic gift, it is a social gift. Learning a new language is becoming a member of the club – the community of speakers of that language.

For the few students who are still in doubt or the ones not wanting to learn a new language will find a new skill to develop other than languages because we connect not only through languages but by sharing love for humanity, by sharing common thoughts, by sharing peace and care for others and also by sharing delicious recipes!

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