

Research on Duolingo: Not much

To the editor:

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Despite the popularity of Duolingo (“Gift of Tongues,” July 19), there is very little research on Duolingo.

The only published study I know of was funded by Duolingo. The researchers asked those who responded to an internet ad to use Duolingo for 30 hours. Of those who did the 30 hours, 66 completed a survey, and of these 66 (78.8%) said they were satisfied with Duolingo. But only 90 out of 156 volunteers completed the 30 hours, and 25% did eight hours or less.

Duolingo.com claims that it is “the world's best way to learn a language.” There is no evidence to support such a statement.

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Original article: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/susanadams/2019/07/16/game-of-tongues-how-duolingo-built-a-700-million-business-with-its-addictive-language-learning-app/#2e268c873463>

Published article on Duolingo: Vesselinov, R. and Grego, J. 2012. Duolingo effectiveness study. Final Report. static.duolingo.com/s3/DuolingoReport_Final.pdf

See also: Krashen, S. 2014. Does Duolingo "trump" university-level language learning? *International Journal of Foreign Language Teaching* 9(1):13-15. <http://www.sdkrashen.com/content/articles/krashen-does-duolingo-trump.pdf>

