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ROSETTA STONE SOFTWARE – AN INTERACTIVE EDUCATIONAL TOOL FOR LEARNING FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Snežana Kirova¹

Summary: *One easily understandable reason for learning a foreign language is to be able to communicate with the people who speak it. The act of learning a language other than your native one shows respect for the culture of the language you are learning. This in turn improves communication and makes understanding other cultures easier. At this time of globalization, being multilingual is one of the most important special skills and an obvious advantage when looking for a job.*

Of course, there are a number of ways to learn foreign languages such as at school, at home, online, attending courses or living in the country where a particular language is spoken; this paper presents some of the features of the Rosetta Stone comprehensive software for learning foreign languages. This is already being used by millions of learners throughout the world (including the Peace Corps, the US State Department - NASA even used it on the Mir Space Station).

It is available in more than 30 languages and it combines advanced interactive technology with your intuition and natural ability to pick up a language, offering opportunities for acquiring the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Key words: *learning, foreign language, rosetta stone, software, comprehensive.*

ROZETA STOUN – INTERAKTIVNA OBRAZOVNA ALATKA ZA UČENJE STRANIH JEZIKA

Rezime: *Jedan lako razumljiv razlog za učenje stranih jezika jeste da bi mogli da komuniciramo sa ljudima koji taj jezik govore. Sam čin učenja nekog jezika koji ti nije maternji pokazuje poštovanje prema kulturi jezika koji učimo. Ovo s druge strane poboljšava komunikaciju i olakšava razumevanje drugih kultura. U ovo vreme globalizacije, da se bude višejezičan je jedna od najvažnijih posebnih veština i očevidna prednost kada se traži posao.*

Svakako, postoji veliki broj načina za učenje stranih jezika, kao na primer u školi, kod kuće, onlajn, posećivanjem kurseva ili živeći u zemlji gde se određeni jezik govori; ovaj rad predstavlja neke crte Rozeta Stoun razumljivog softvera za učenje stranih jezika. Ovaj

¹ Snežana Kirova, Philology faculty, Krste Misirkov bb, Shtip, E-mail: snezana.kirova@ugd.edu.mk

softver već koriste milioni učenika širom sveta (uključujući i Mirovne Snage, Stejt Department SAD-a, NASA ga je čak koristila na svemirskoj stanici MIR). Dostupan je na više od 30 jezika i kombinuje naprednu interaktivnu tehnologiju sa vašom intuicijom i prirodnom sposobnošću za učenje jezika, pružanje mogućnosti za sticanje četiri osnovne jezične veštine: slušanje, govorenje, čitanje i pisanje.

Ključne reči: učenje, strani jezik, rozeta stoun, softver, razumljiv.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Why do we learn foreign languages?

One easily understandable reason for learning a foreign language is to be able to communicate with the people who speak it. The act of learning a language other than your native one shows respect for the culture of the people whose language you are learning. You can cope with a number of situations

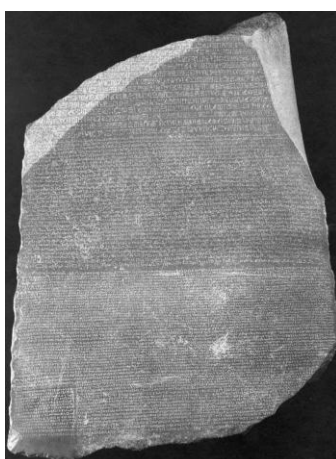
When you have learnt a new language, you can move your business to another market and sell whatever you produce. By speaking their language, you show respect to your business partners. At this time of globalization, being multilingual is one of the most important special skills and an obvious advantage when looking for a job as well.

There are a number of ways to learn foreign languages, such as at school, at home, online, attending courses or living in the country where a particular language is spoken.

This paper presents some of the features of the Rosetta Stone comprehensive software for learning foreign languages.

2. ROSETTA STONE LANGUAGE SOFTWARE

The Rosetta Stone, discovered in 1799 by French soldiers rebuilding Fort St. Julien 30 miles from Alexandria near a town named El-Rashid, a harbour on the Mediterranean coast, is a famous ancient Egyptian artifact. The town of El-Rashid is traditionally known as Rosetta, lending the Rosetta Stone its modern name.



Picture 1: The Rosetta Stone

It helped linguists unlock the secrets of Egyptian hieroglyphics because it carries the same text in 3 different languages - Egyptian hieroglyphic and Demotic scripts, along with classical Greek.

The Rosetta Stone was carved during the Ptolemaic Era (325 BC to 30 BC) circa 196 BC, and is dark blue, pinkish and grey in color. It is approximately 45 inches tall, by 29 inches wide, almost a foot thick, and weighs more than a ton and a half. The Rosetta Stone currently resides on public display in the British Museum in London as a result of the French surrendering Egypt and its captured relics to the British in 1801.

2.2 How does it work?

It offers self-study learning solutions in 31 languages

- This approach uses pictures and sounds in context, without translation; this method is similar to the way children communicate when they are learning.
- It teaches words and phrases by association-linking to a photograph, and the verbal pronunciation makes it easy to figure out the meaning of the phrase.
- With its online portability, you will find that it can enhance your language learning experience anywhere
- Rosetta Stone Language Learning Software uses the copyrighted Dynamic Immersion Method. It is similar to the way a newborn child learns his or her first language.
- It functions much the same way by using thousands of real life images to convey the meaning of not only spoken but written words and phrases the same way.
- The structure is sequenced, native speakers are used, it provides instantaneous feedback.
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It effectively teaches all 4 language skills: listening comprehension, reading, writing, and speaking.

When you use this software, you see English only on the Home Page, when selecting your lessons. After the lesson starts, it is the language you are studying only, starting the learning process as a child would, visually learning the words for “man,” “woman,” “boy,” and “girl” from pictures, and then using those words in different pictured contexts of everyday activities. The primary mode of operation involves being presented with a group of 4 photographs (out of thousands of images) and a word or phrase spoken by a native speaker. You then select the image that corresponds to what you heard. Once a correct answer is selected, the images are shuffled and you are given another spoken phrase. You get immediate feedback, and you learn to directly associate what you see with what you hear, without going through the process of translation. You learn to think directly in the new language, which is the best way to achieve fluency. As you learn new words, nouns and verbs, they are then used in more complex contexts to develop and expand your vocabulary organically.



Picture 2: Russian



Picture 3: Spanish

3. ADVANTAGES OF THE ROSETTA STONE LANGUAGE SOFTWARE

The Rosetta Stone method is based on scientific understanding of how we learn and remember. By building connections between words and images, and by using a sophisticated system of repetition, you quickly begin to learn the basics of the language that you are studying. In addition, everything in the Rosetta Stone method is practical knowledge.

This curriculum gradually incorporates new words, phrases and grammar into each new lesson while also introducing previously learned vocabulary.

You can progress at your own pace and at times that suit you and your lifestyle. With your computer and a set of headphones, you can use the listen and test and write and test features of the program to learn your new language anywhere without disturbing those around you.

- ❑ You can choose from 31 languages; it is used by the U.S. Army, many companies, NASA, and over 10,000 schools worldwide.
- ❑ Its balanced curriculum includes listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and

writing (all 4 Language Skills).

- ❑ You improve your speech by imitating a native speaker.
- ❑ Systematic structure teaches vocabulary and grammar naturally, without boring memorization and translation.
- ❑ Dynamic Immersion™ method connects people again to the language skills they used successfully to master their first language.
- ❑ The Rosetta Stone is a very comprehensive language learning program
- ❑ Each unit builds on the vocabulary and structures of the unit before it, which is sound language learning instruction
- ❑ The program also has the advantage of not telling you the answers. Rather, it encourages you to find them out for yourself. This takes longer, but the repetition ensures that you will remember the lesson

4. ROSETTA STONE'S VOICE RECOGNITION SOFTWARE

The voice recognition interactive feature of the program can be very helpful but could use some adjustments. You can repeat a word spoken by a native speaker and Rosetta will respond with sounds to indicate that you have pronounced the word correctly, or that you have not. The Speech Recognition feature lets you fine tune your pronunciation and compare it to the native pronunciation.

However, if sometimes you mispronounce a word on purpose, it is rather often recognized as correct by the speech recognition software. The vocal interactive feature of the program is a great idea but could use refining. You can repeat a word spoken by a native speaker and Rosetta will respond with sounds to indicate you've done a good job, or not.

5. STRUCTURE

- ❑ Level 1, 2 & 3 Set Includes:
- ❑ **The** **Basics**
Nouns, verbs, adjectives, numbers, questions, colors, clothing.
- ❑ **Friends** **and** **Family**
Ages, family relations, household items, introductions, landmarks, states, descriptions.
- ❑ **Work** **and** **School**
Times of day, greetings, calendar terms, body parts, speaking, personal hygiene.
- ❑ **Shopping**
Buying, selling and shopping; entertainment and sports; merchandise, speed and weight, comparing and contrasting.
- ❑ **Travel**
Destinations, transportation, directions, locations, telling time, distance, cost, weather.
- ❑ **Past** **and** **Future**
Tenses, letter writing, school subjects, signs, workplace terms, polite requests.
- ❑ **Friends** **and** **Social** **Life**
Months of the year, arrivals and departures, social interaction, celebrations, meal courses, quality terms, apologies.
- ❑ **Dining** **and** **Vacation**
Future tense; terms for art, architecture and music; emotions, places of worship, travel and lodging.
- ❑ **Home** **and** **Health**
Terms for home, garden and backyard activities; household items and appliances;

- terms for strength and physical activity.
- **Life** **and** **World**
Emotions, continents, life milestones, oceans, botanical terms, terms for animals.
 - **Places** **and** **Events**
Opinion and judgments, currency exchange and transactions; measurements, household repair tools, culinary terms.
 - **Talking** **About** **the** **World**
Nationalities, governmental leaders, political terms, media terms, business terms, religious terms. Doing things

The lessons are organized into Units. Units are divided into sections in vocabulary, grammar, reading, writing and review that build on each other to reinforce learning.

Each Unit ends with a Milestone. A Milestone presents a real-life scenario that allows you to practice what you have learned by participating in the conversation.

The User's Guide gives a full description of all the steps in the process if you should want some guidance.

6. CONCLUSION

Rosetta Stone is a very detailed, well-thought-out program for language learning. Once you are in the program you don't need to slip out to refer to other resources in order to enhance your learning experience. It keeps track of where you left off so you know where to begin the next time. The program not only covers the spoken language, but written language also. It combines advanced interactive technology with your intuition and natural ability to pick up a language. Documentation is clear with lots of pictures and is easy to read. Additional learning resources are available for 'learning on the go' with MP3 capability. Furthermore, unlike a lot of other language programs, learning a different language with Rosetta Stone software is amazingly easy, fun and effective for all ages.

ROSETTA STONE IS AVAILABLE IN THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGES:

<u><i>Rosetta Stone Arabic</i></u> <u><i>Rosetta Stone Chinese (Mandarin)</i></u> <u><i>Rosetta Stone Danish</i></u> <u><i>Rosetta Stone Dutch</i></u> <u><i>Rosetta Stone English (American)</i></u> <u><i>Rosetta Stone English (British)</i></u> <u><i>Rosetta Stone Farsi (Persian)</i></u> <u><i>Rosetta Stone French</i></u> <u><i>Rosetta Stone German</i></u> <u><i>Rosetta Stone Greek</i></u> <u><i>Rosetta Stone Hebrew</i></u> <u><i>Rosetta Stone Hindi</i></u> <u><i>Rosetta Stone Indonesian</i></u> <u><i>Rosetta Stone Irish</i></u> <u><i>Rosetta Stone Italian</i></u> <u><i>Rosetta Stone Japanese</i></u>	<u><i>Rosetta Stone Korean</i></u> <u><i>Rosetta Stone Latin</i></u> <u><i>Rosetta Stone Pashto</i></u> <u><i>Rosetta Stone Polish</i></u> <u><i>Rosetta Stone Portuguese (Brazil)</i></u> <u><i>Rosetta Stone Russian</i></u> <u><i>Rosetta Stone Spanish (Latin American)</i></u> <u><i>Rosetta Stone Spanish (Spain)</i></u> <u><i>Rosetta Stone Swahili</i></u> <u><i>Rosetta Stone Swedish</i></u> <u><i>Rosetta Stone Tagalog</i></u> <u><i>Rosetta Stone Thai</i></u> <u><i>Rosetta Stone Turkish</i></u> <u><i>Rosetta Stone Vietnamese</i></u>
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