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Asian Language Teaching and Learning – The Influence of Technology on Students' Skills in SL Classroom

LANGUAGE TECHNOLOGIES & DIGITAL HUMANITIES 2016
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Outline

1. Mobile learning and language teaching
2. Introduction of MemAsia project
    1. Motivation and objectives
    2. Preliminary research
    3. Construction of materials
    4. Presentation of software
    5. Results
3. Commentary and conclusions

Introduction of MemAsia project

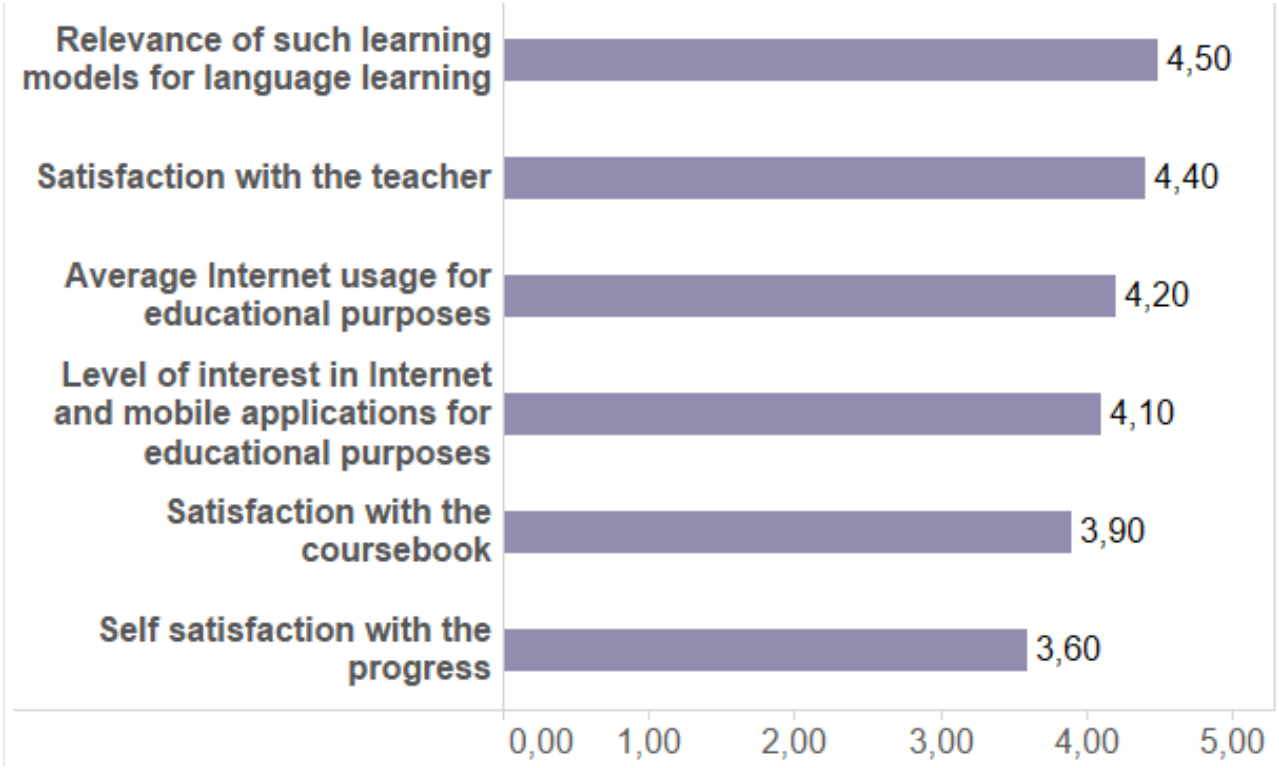
- **Asian** language education and technology
- Supported by **EU** social funds 2015/2016
- Three researchers, 4 languages
  - Japanese
  - Korean
  - Hindi
  - Sanskrit
- Introduction of **memory algorhitms** to classroom study

Asian languages in Croatia: motivation for this project

- To find out more about Croatian learners of four target languages
  - Difficulties in learning
  - How to enhance results
  - The role of technology
- To provide a basis for construction of systematic study materials
- Long-term: to provide an e-enviroment for Asian languages study
  - Include in the classrooms of Croatia
  - Share all materials online for (inter)national use

Preliminary research: attitudes

- Attitudes about mobile and traditional learning



MEMAZIJA
ALGORITMI ZA PAMĆENJE I NJIHOVA PRIMJENA U UČENJU AZIJSKIH JEZIKA

Experience prior to MemAsia

- **over 60%** of students engage with their mobile devices at least 3-4 times an hour
- only **48 out of 203** students had had a chance to engage with e-tools in their language classrooms
  - mostly students of Japanese language
- Majority have **at least once** used one of the following:
  - Duolingo, Memrise, Quizlet, Anki, Lang8, WaniKani. Resources such as Busuu, Cram, Pleco, Lingvist.io, FluentU
- Students inclined to try e-learning more

- **Memrise, Quizlet and Anki** chosen as a basis for Croatian materials

Construction of e-learning and mobile learning materials

- Goal: produce systematic materials to follow classroom curriculum for Japanese, Korean Hindi and Sanskrit
  - **All** vocabulary and grammar from textbooks
  - Divided in **levels** and standardized
  - Translated to **Croatian** (not English)
  - Accessible from any **computer or smartphone**
  - Students in need provided with phones
  - Implemented in **different courses**

Examples

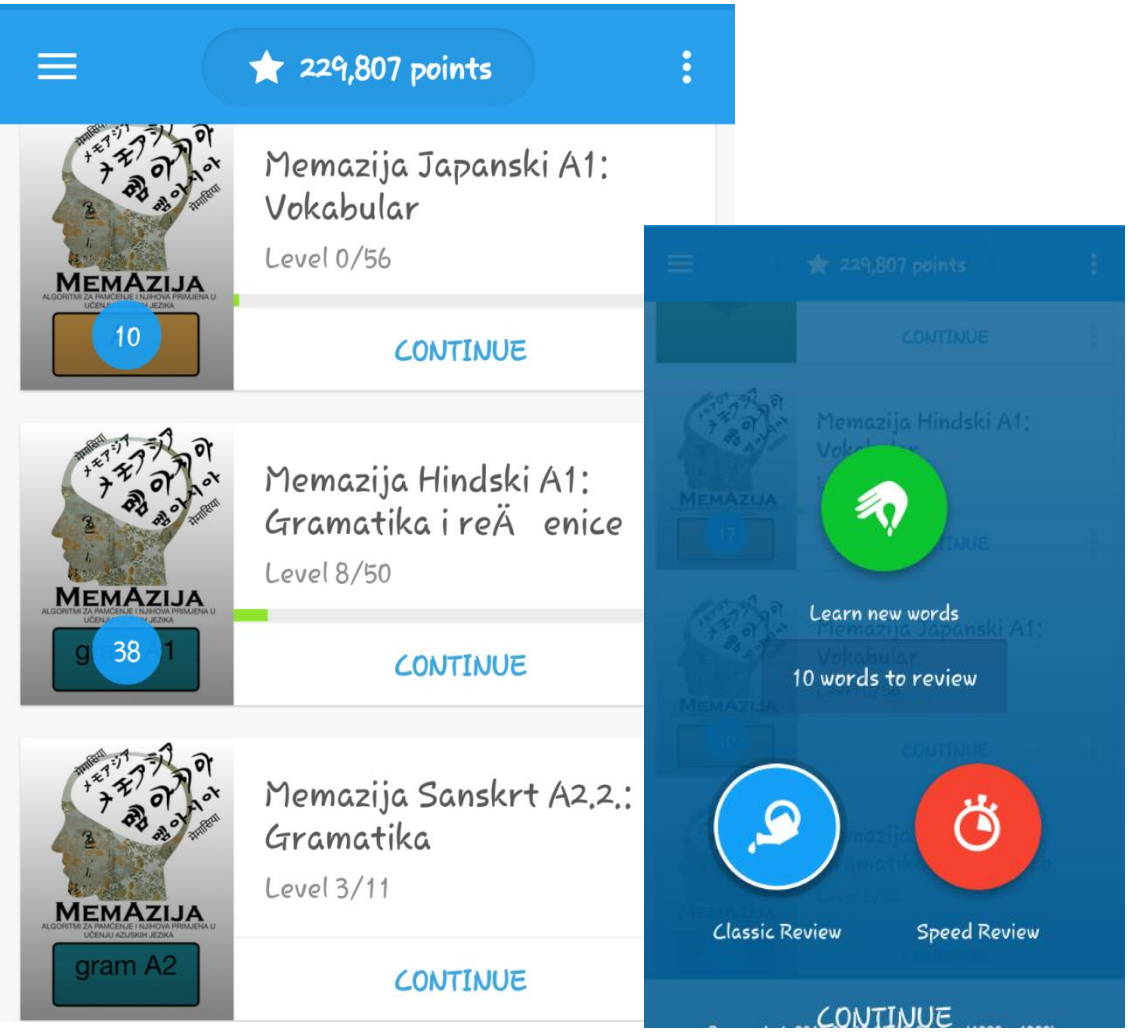
- Materials can be used on both desktop and mobile platforms
- Most students use the **mobile** versions
- Note:

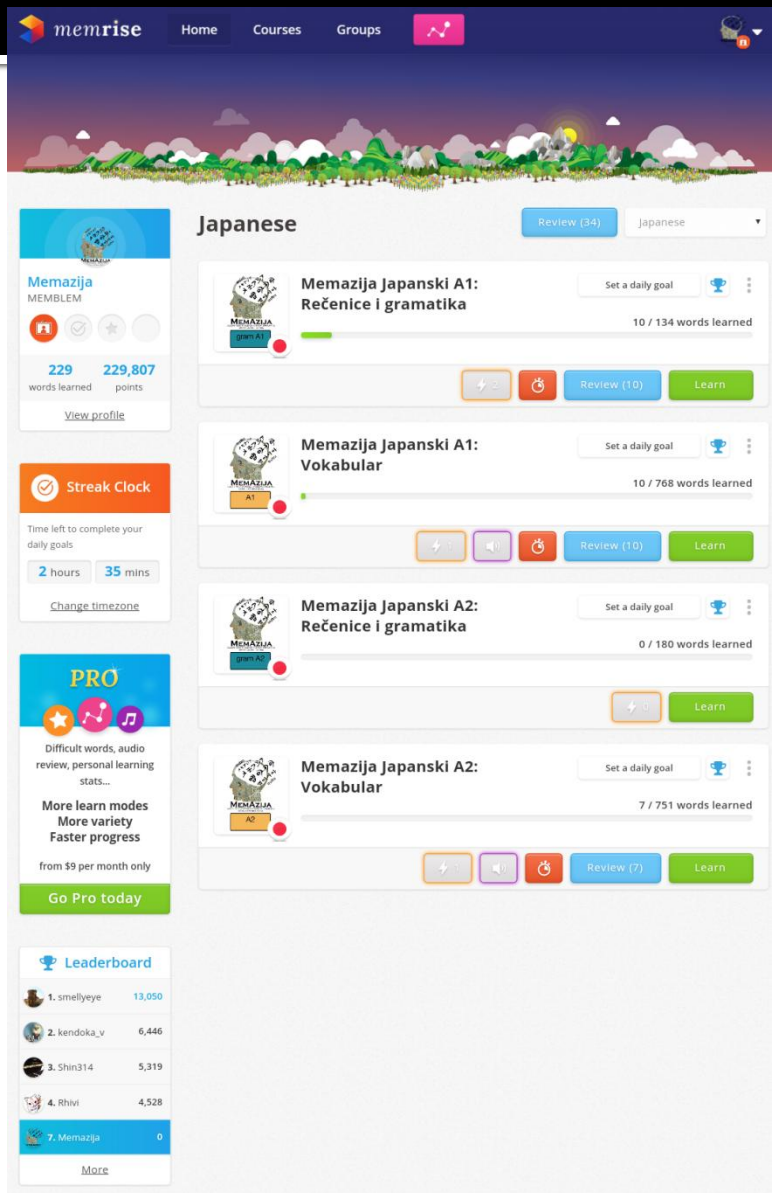
Applications developed by various external developers

Materials developed by MemAsia

- Presenting the examples of mobile version of applications

Example 1: Memrise





Example 1: Memrise

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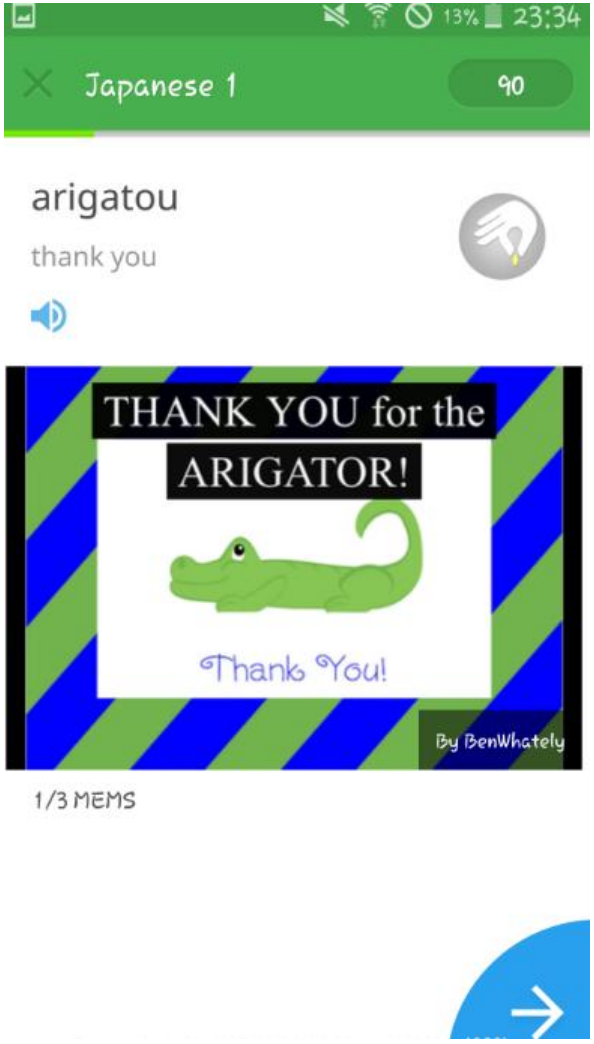
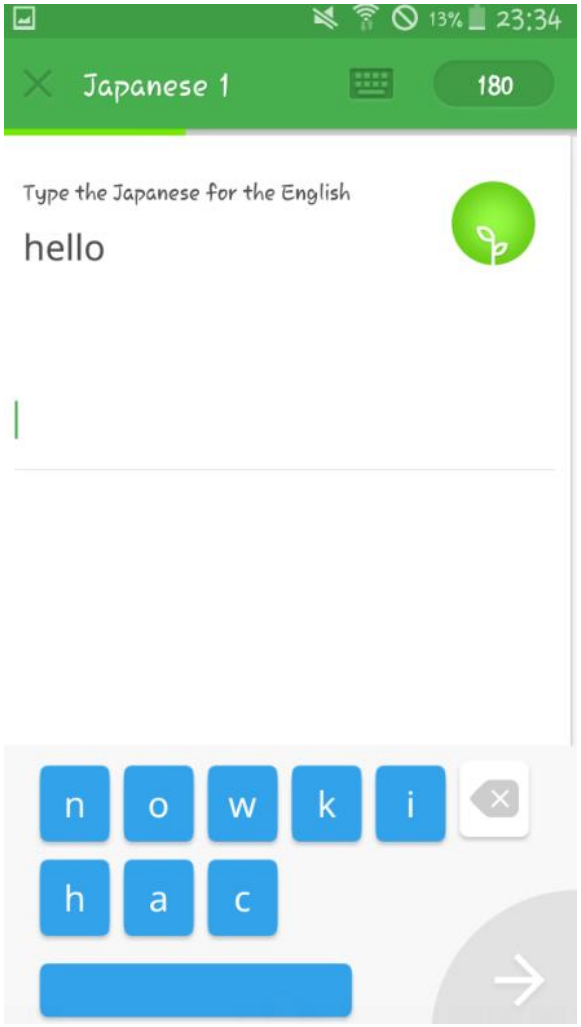
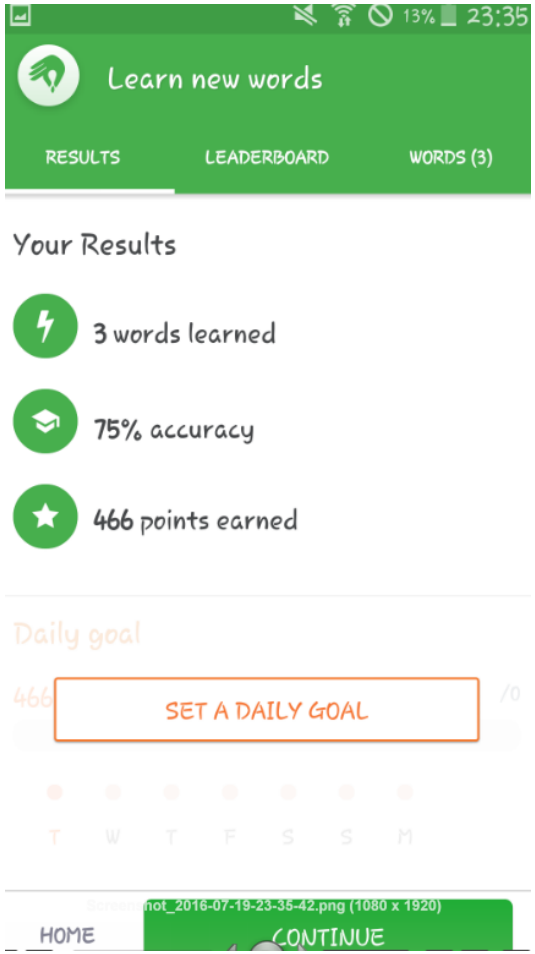
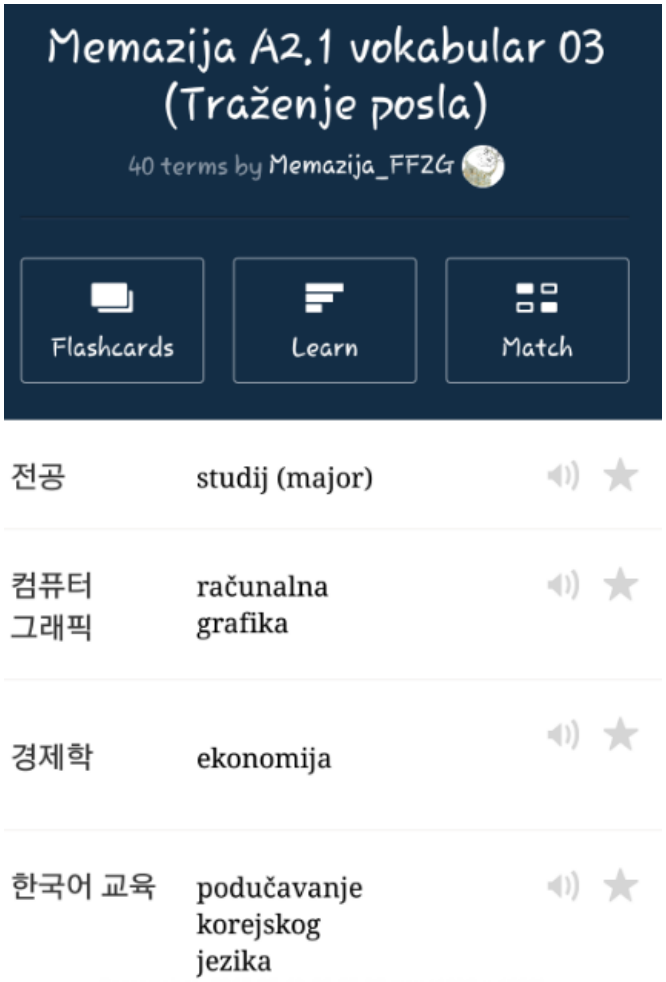
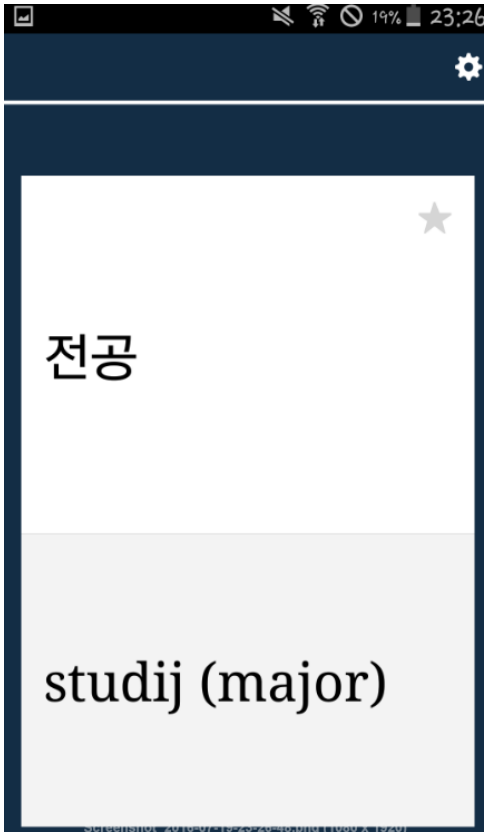






Example 2: Quizlet





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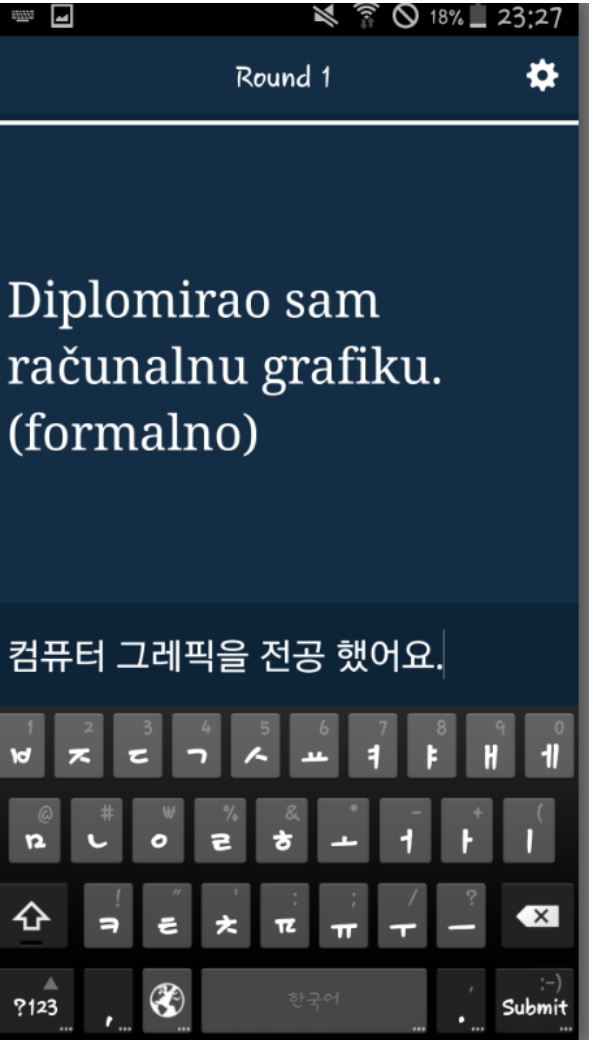
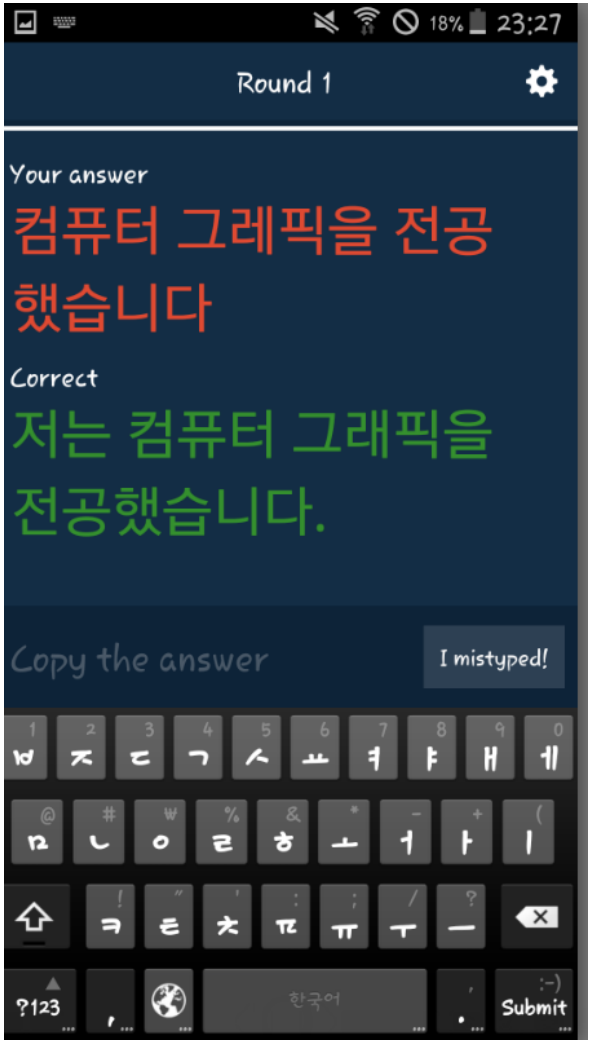
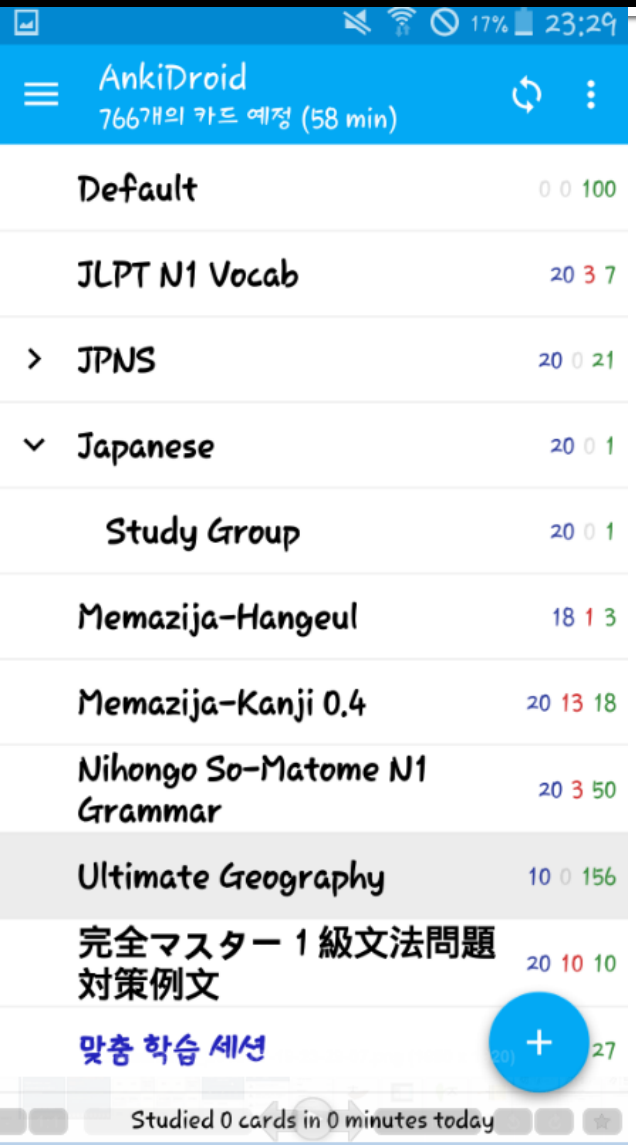
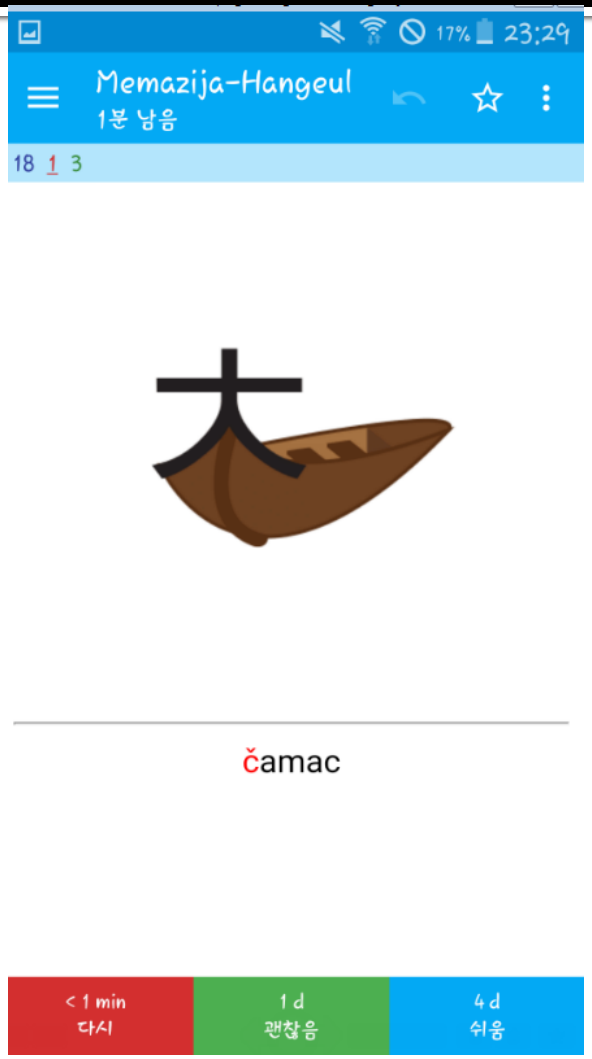




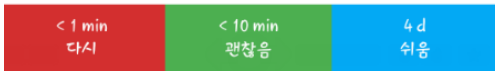
Example 3: Anki



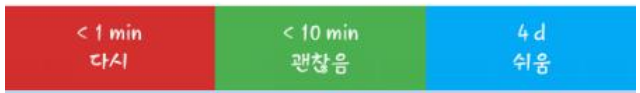


Example 3: Anki

snaga
リキ, リョク, ちから
toliko sam SNAŽAN da mogu podići katanu

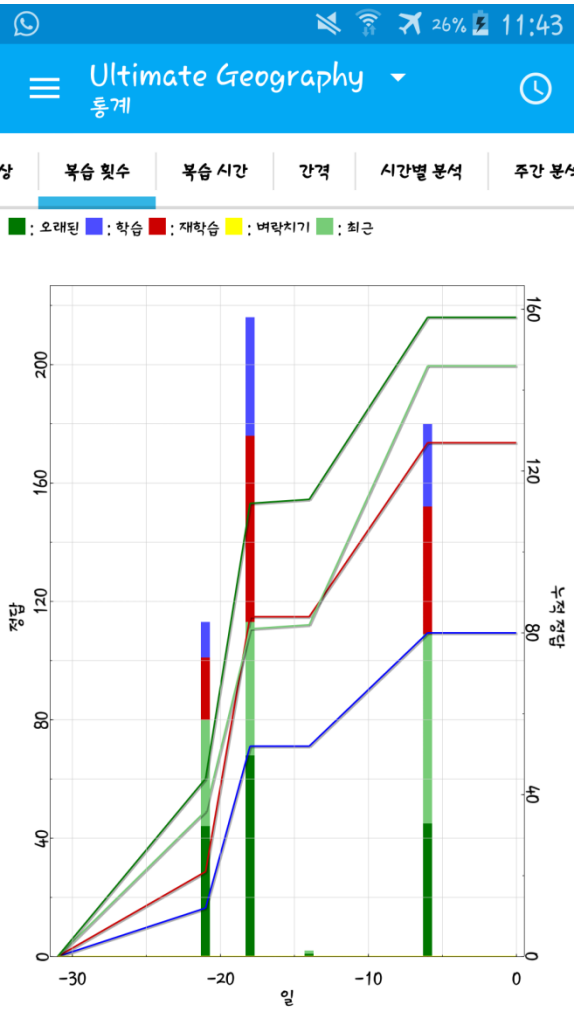


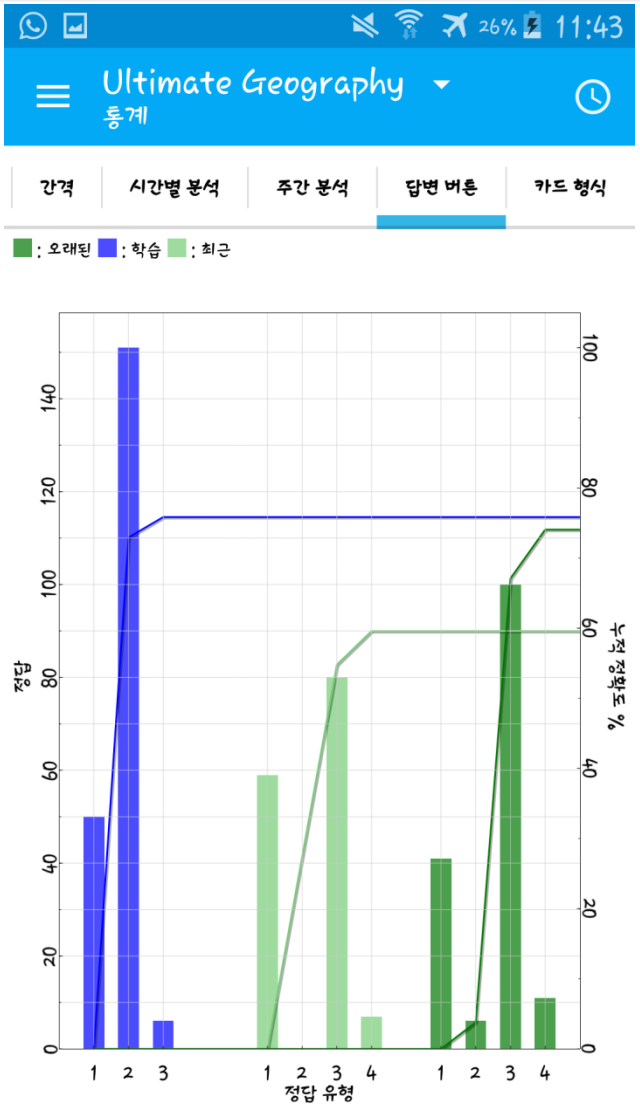
rezati
サイ, セツ, き・る
sedam katana koje REŽU

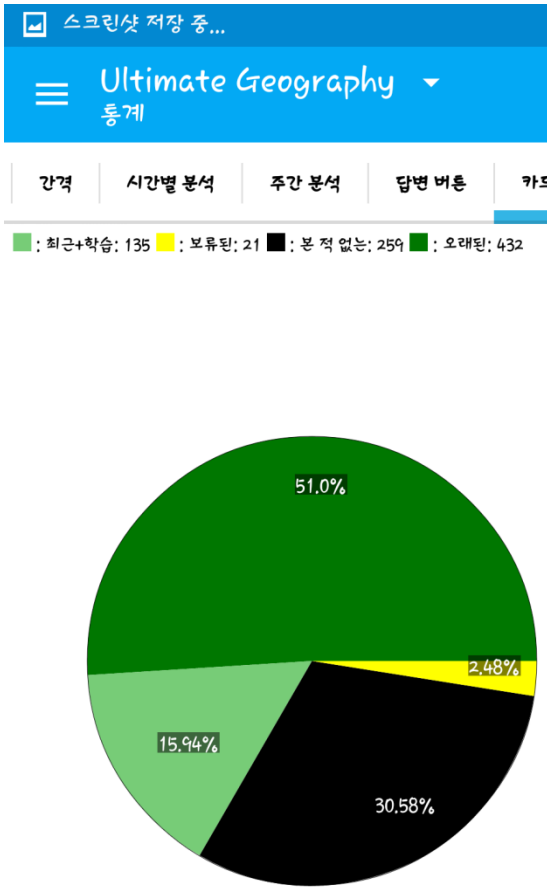


žlica / čovjek koji sjedi
ヒ, さじ
žlica sliči na "hi" u katakani, hito = čovjek

Example 3: Anki







Results (so far)

- Students of all four languages
  - Tested every 2-3 months
  - Standardized tests on a computer
  - Measuring results and comparing with usage
- Results from **regular** users and **occasional** users significantly different
- Regular users show **~20% improvement** in test results on each testing

Additional applications

- Data from the apps can be used for various research on **memory and study issues**
- Collected and stored for future work and reference
- Insight about human memory, learning and importance of **algorthitms** for spaced repetition

Conclusions, comments…

- **Most important elements** in successful implementation of mobile and e-learning in classrooms
  - **Systematic** and wholesome materials which **follow classwork**
  - **Motivation**
    - Promotion of usage by teachers (weekly quizzies)
    - Tracking and measuring progress
    - **Fun** : charts and games

Conclusions, comments…

- **Other** important elements in successful implementation of mobile and e-learning in classrooms
  - Smart **alghoritm** for repetition
  - Avaliability and **stability** of applications
  - **Ease** of usage
    - Both for construction of materials and usage by students

Thank you for your attention!