



Digital Families Research Network

MOBILE TECHNOLOGY FOR LIVING AND LEARNING

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Project background

- European Roma
- Roma children and school in Glasgow
- Staff concerns over poor parental participation and community cohesion.

The project partners were parents from the European Roma communities, Glasgow City Council, STEP, Scottish Government.

The nature of exclusion

Low literacy



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graph TD; A[Low literacy] --> B[Exclusion]; B --> C[Poverty]
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Exclusion

Poverty

“Low literacy is a contributing factor to social exclusion and, ultimately, to the women’s poverty.”

School staff member

How did 'exclusion' play out?

- Within family?
- With children's school?
- Within Roma community?
- Out with community?

Children become 'cultural brokers' for families (Schaeffer, 2013)

Could digital agency impact on women's lives?

Low literacy



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graph TD; A[Low literacy] --> B[Exclusion]; B --> C[Poverty];
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Exclusion

Poverty

- Learning language
- Supporting children
- Accessing school information
- Communicating with women home and abroad
- Accessing information and services

Creating a dialogic space—real and virtual

The workshop

The workshop had to be a place where various social languages could come together. (Bakhtin 86)

The app

We would use technology to “open, widen, deepen and resource the ‘dialogic space’” (Wegerif & Mansour 2009:1).

The medium

The app and its mobile technology “dismantles the established hierarchy of literary language” (Lachmann 2004:53).

A dialogic approach guided the design

- Roma women led the design of an innovative multilingual language learning app for mobile devices
- Existing digital resources and app unsuitable
- Relevance of digital content
- Affordance of digital technology
- Using and building on existing digital literacy and skills

The *Ro/M/App* pilot project

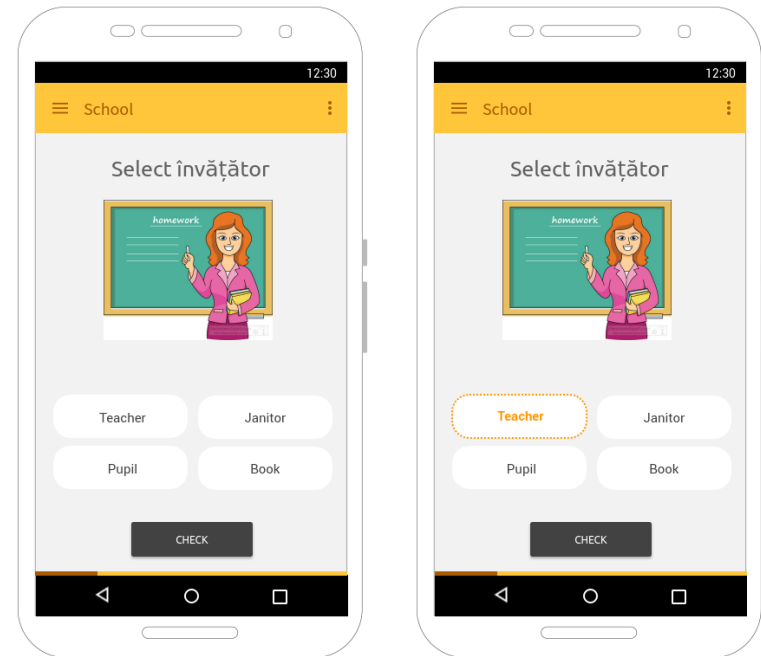
The screenshot shows the Google Play Store interface. At the top, the Google Play logo and a search bar are visible. Below the search bar, there are navigation options: 'Apps', 'Categories', 'Home', 'Top charts', and 'New releases'. The 'Apps' section is highlighted in green. On the left side, there is a sidebar menu with options: 'My apps', 'Shop', 'Games', 'Family', and 'Editors' Choice'. The main content area displays the app details for 'Glasgow SK/RO Language Pilot (Unreleased)'. The app is by 'Barker Creations' and is in the 'Education' category. It has a PEGI 3 rating. A warning icon indicates that this is an unreleased app and may be unstable. There are buttons for 'Add to wishlist' and 'Install'. Below the text, there are three preview images: the first shows the 'Lessons' screen with 'Stupen 1' (School Školske and Family Rodina) and 'Stupen 2' (Health Zdravie); the second and third show the 'Karty' (Cards) screen with 'Pero/Ceruzka' (Pen/pencil) and 'Obratit sa' (Turn) buttons. A right arrow indicates more preview images. At the bottom, a description reads: 'Pilot Slovakian and Romanian language app for women in Govanhill, Glasgow to use in learning English.'

Free to download from:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ionicframework.romapp182686>

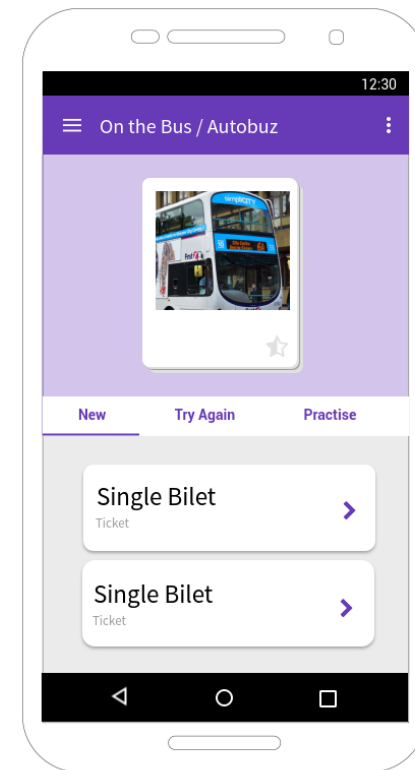
Working toward a digital solution: A dialogic approach guided the design

- Content authored by therefore 'owned' by women
- Customisable
- Bridging cultures absorbing new forms of language
- Acknowledging stratification
- Ever-evolving



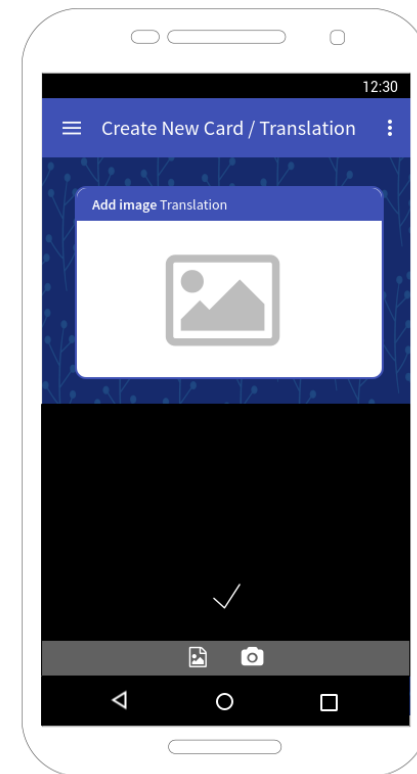
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The current position

- The App
- Our research

Thank you

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