

Data collection

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Desk research

Desk research is the collection of data and information that has already been published, but hasn't been put together with a purpose. It can be done by web search, collection of articles and books, and also reports.

The topic of my choice is “Lego used in the context of children's learning”. Through desk research I found out that a lot has been published about the importance of playfulness integrated into learning, within school classrooms and homes with children. The LEGO Foundation, specially, has been putting effort into informing institutions and parents about the benefits of such action. These reports and studies show that children learn faster and better when they are engaged in a task that brings them joy, and makes them connect with adults. Thus, LEGOs and blocks can be excellent tools for learning in different areas of early education.

Observation

The method of observation is the research done by watching a determined situation and how it is created, evolved and how people react or engage in it. The person observing should be detached from the scene/ situation, and therefore not intervene.

I conducted my study by observing people doing the bus journey, on a weekday, in the morning. Generally, people don't engage with each other, although I observed a few who came together and kept on chatting with each other. These people placed themselves a bit further from the others. People from most age groups were present at that time. Most of them seemed to be relaxed and not in a rush, both waiting at the bus stop and while on the bus. Younger people were more likely to be alone and to have headsets on. A few older people were reading a free newspaper. Many of them got off at stops near studying places.

Interview - transcription of 3 minutes

“Yes, I use Instagram everyday, basically to see people’s posts and stories, Facebook sometimes and occasionally, I also post on Instagram. I rarely ever post on Facebook. (...) Social media benefits me in the way that I can talk to my friends who live abroad, I also come across a lot of things that I otherwise wouldn’t, for instance, some products that might interest me or places to go to, and even news about the world in general. (...) I would like not to use social media as much as I do, because (...) I believe people forget about living the present, relying too much on their phones and social media platforms. I think people become addicted to it. I don’t like this part of social media, even though I do use them. I also think we’re losing the real relationships in life, the conversations. (...) I believe too that it might affect our brains, in the sense that, for me, I can notice that my memory is not as sharp because I rely on my phone to remind me of events, places and appointments.”

Interview - the method

The method of interviewing is an approach that can be used for collecting and learning in-depth informations, opinions, thoughts and experiences about a person or a group of people.

I conducted the interview by creating a guide with questions beforehand. The guide was divided into broad and specific questions about the subject chosen. What I found out from this interview was that my interviewee is an avid user of social medias and has an opinion on it that seems to be popular at the moment, but that does not prevent her from using them.

Insights:

- The interviewee is an avid social media user. “Yes, I use Instagram everyday.”
- She has given up on certain platforms for they have stopped existing. “I don’t use it simply because it doesn’t exist anymore”
- She feels that social media is safe and that it benefits her. “What I use it for doesn’t pose a threat on me. (...) I can keep in touch with my friends, see how they’re doing (...) I also see products and (...) read the news.”

Survey

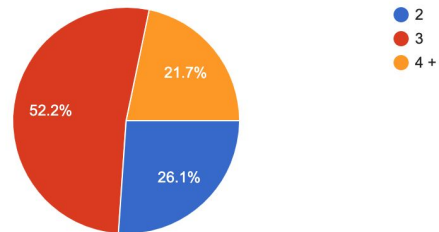
Surveying is an informal and inexpensive way of gathering general and direct information on a larger scale of people. It's done more impersonal and therefore, the information doesn't usually provide a deep and specific view.

I investigated the topic of Danish language learning for international students at KEA's first semester of MMD international.

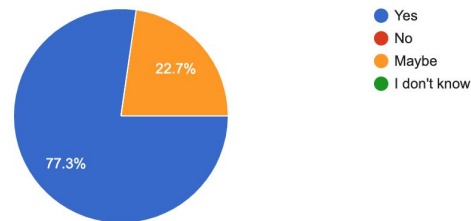
- More than half of the participants speak more than 3 languages.
- Most participants (77,3% of 21 students) want to learn Danish, although the number for the ones who want to stay after they graduate declines to 65,2%, but still most participants.
- 11 (47,8%) out of 21 participants have no knowledge of the language, and 7 (31,8%) responded that they find it easy to live in Denmark without being able to speak Danish.

Survey - graphics

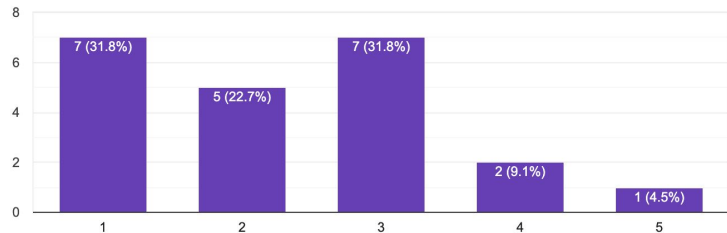
How many languages do you speak?



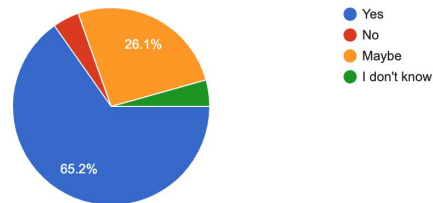
Do you want to learn Danish?



How difficult is it for you to integrate into the Danish society without being able to speak the language?



Do you intend to stay in Denmark after you graduate?





LEGO used in the context of children's learning

- Learning is broad, interconnected and dynamic.
- Children are born to learn through play!
- Bright colors strengthen eye movement and help hand-eye coordination for kids under the age of 1 year.
- Legos and blocks improve and develop fine motor skills.
- Introduces kids to STEM (science, technology, engineering) subjects, and the blocks make math and science fun!
- Learn to reason and problem solving.
- Structure and following instructions is learned.



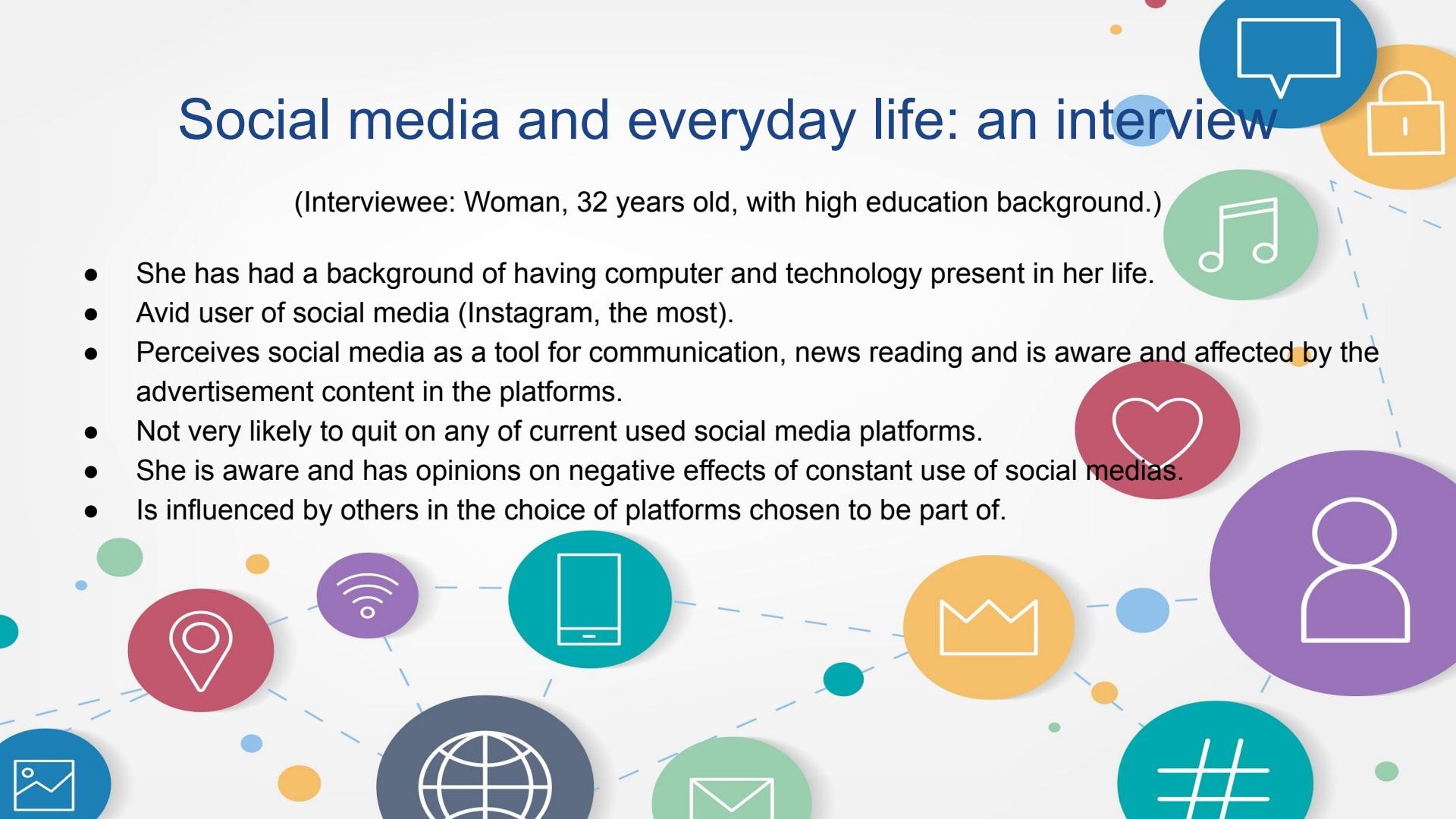
The bus journey

- The bus stop is not a place where people interact with others (strangers).
- Most people use their phone while waiting for the bus - younger people usually have their headsets on.
- Older people tend to grab a free newspaper and read it during the bus trip.
- Students and young adults make up most of bus users.
- People who wait at bus stop, in the morning of a weekday, in Copenhagen, are usually relaxed and not in a rush.
- They seem to rely on the bus schedule displayed at the stop.

Social media and everyday life: an interview

(Interviewee: Woman, 32 years old, with high education background.)

- She has had a background of having computer and technology present in her life.
- Avid user of social media (Instagram, the most).
- Perceives social media as a tool for communication, news reading and is aware and affected by the advertisement content in the platforms.
- Not very likely to quit on any of current used social media platforms.
- She is aware and has opinions on negative effects of constant use of social medias.
- Is influenced by others in the choice of platforms chosen to be part of.



Danish language learning for international students

- Most international students find it easy to get by in Denmark, without speaking Danish.
- International students are mostly interested in learning Danish, whether they have or not decided to stay in Denmark, after graduating.
- Most of the participants did not have a previous knowledge of Danish, upon their arrival in Denmark.
- More than half of the survey responders speak 3 languages.