



# Promote Learner Autonomy and Create a Language Community with Social Apps



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# Presentation Outline

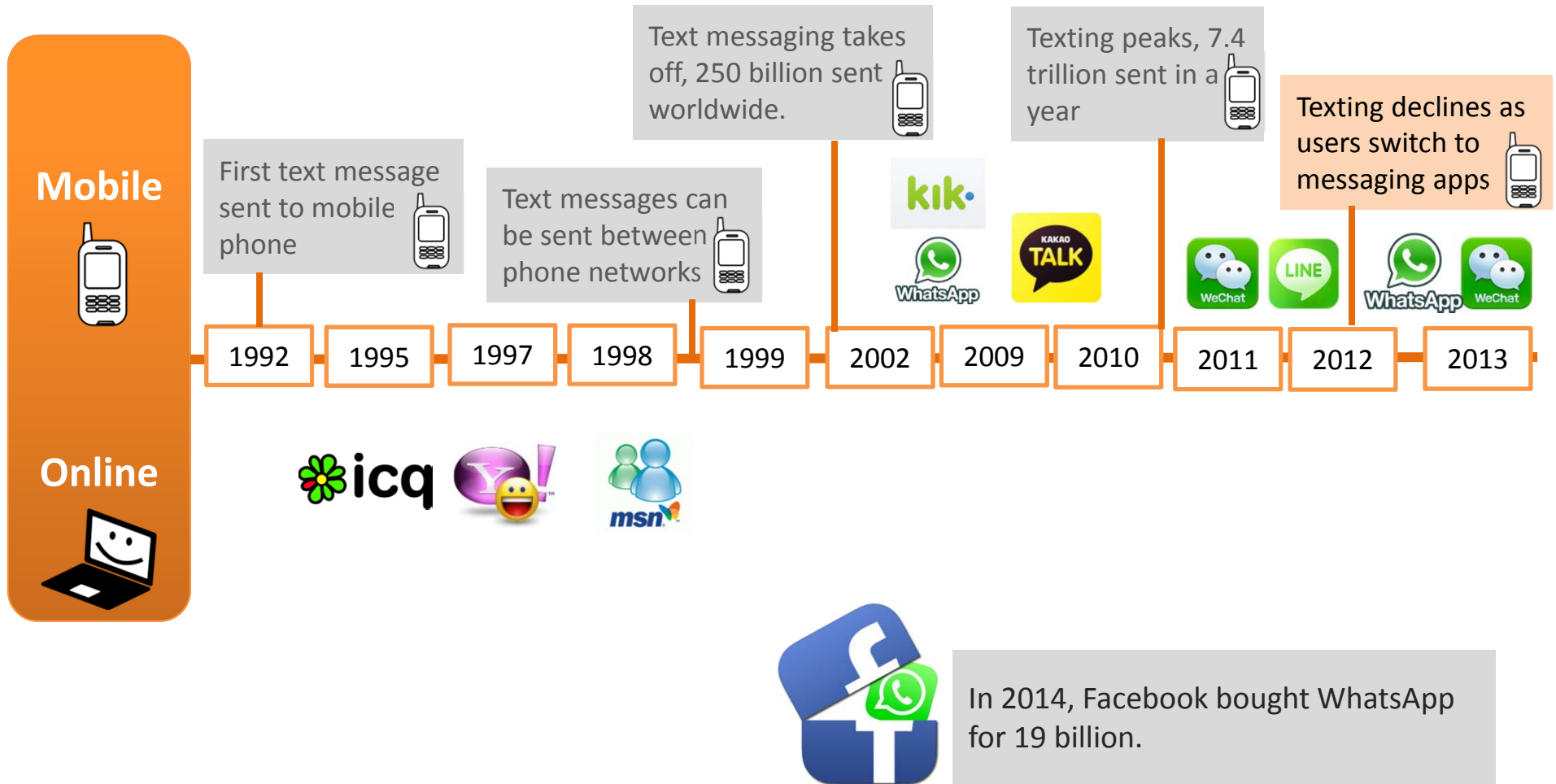
- **Overview** of social messaging apps
- **Survey results:** learners' perceptions and attitudes toward social messaging apps
- **Pedagogical use** of social messaging apps
  - WeChat
  - LINE



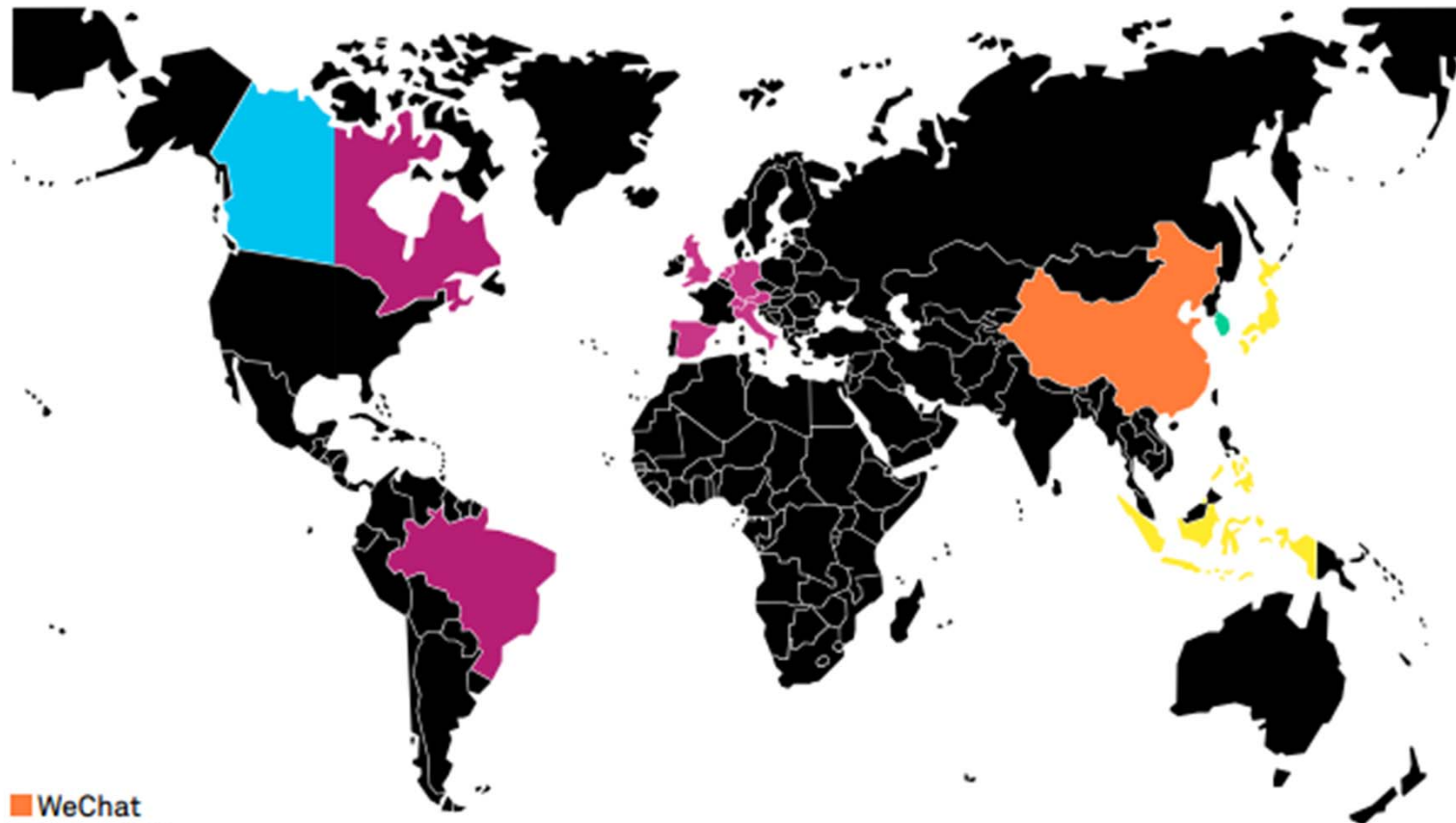
Part I.

# **OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL MESSAGING APPS**

# Message History



# Dominant apps in different regions



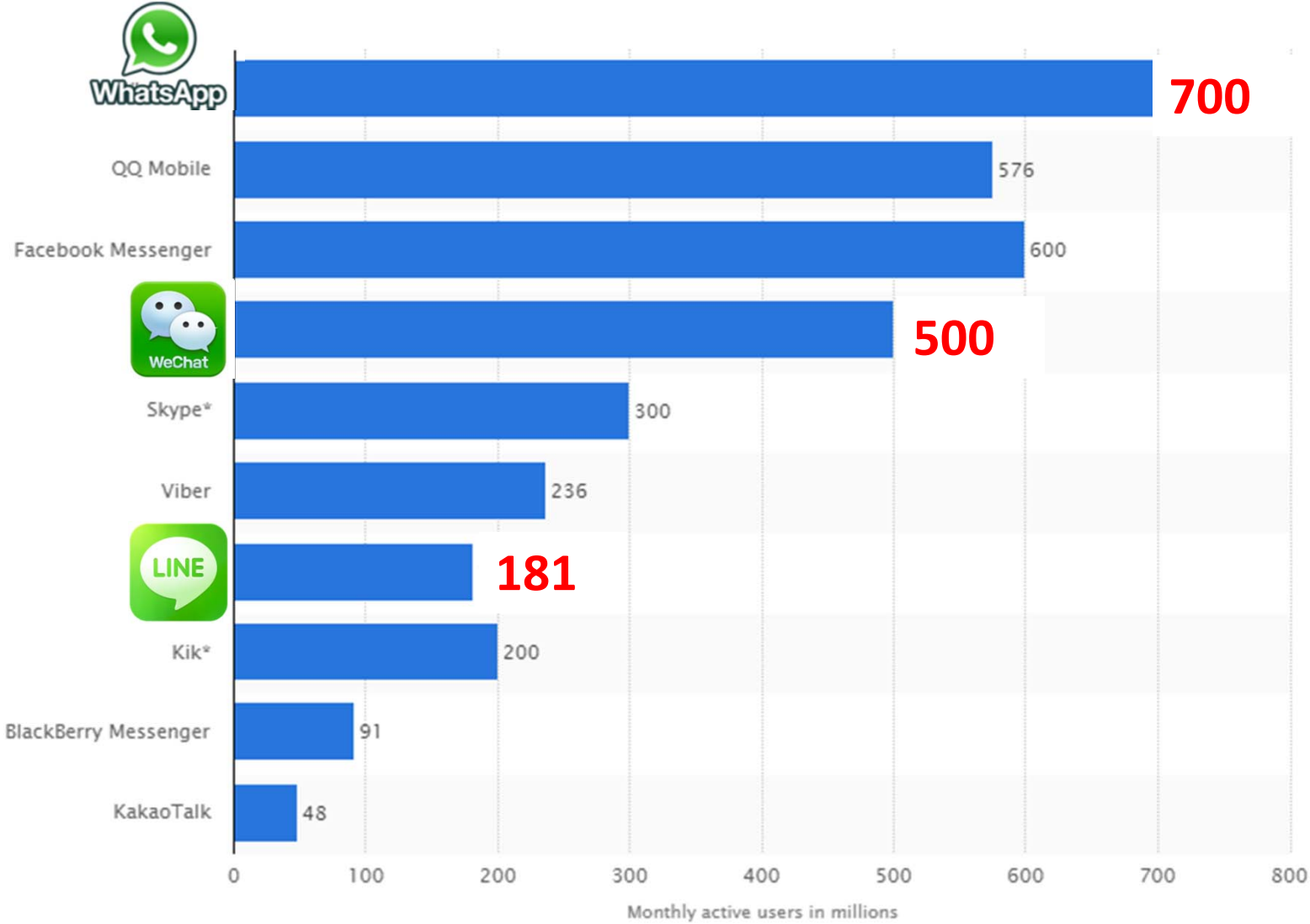
- WeChat
- KakaoTalk
- Facebook Messenger
- WhatsApp
- LINE

## Demographics


The average age of social messaging app users does not always skew to teens or younger adults, but in fact, messaging apps appeal to a wide range of users. Nearly 60 percent of Line's audiences are between 30 and 50 years old

# Most popular global mobile messenger apps

(March 2015, based on number of monthly active users (in millions))



# Basic features

			
Chat	☺	☺	☺
Video	☺	☺	☺
Calling	☺	☺	☺
Voice Message	☺	☺	☺
Media Sharing		☺	☺
Stickers		☺	☺
Gaming		☺	☺

Language  
practice

Part II.

# **SURVEY RESULTS**



## **Purpose**

- Investigate learners' perceptions and attitudes of using mobile apps in language learning
- Get a better understanding about mobile apps used in self-study

## **Data collection**

- Site: FSI (Chinese language programs)
- Time duration: 4 weeks
- Method: small-scale survey + follow-up interview
- Participants: 11 learners of Chinese
- Language: English and Chinese (depending on participant's Chinese proficiency level)

# Participants demographics

## Gender

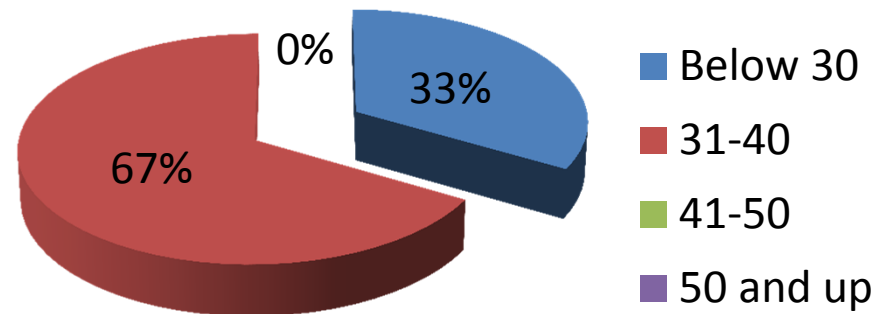


Male 55%



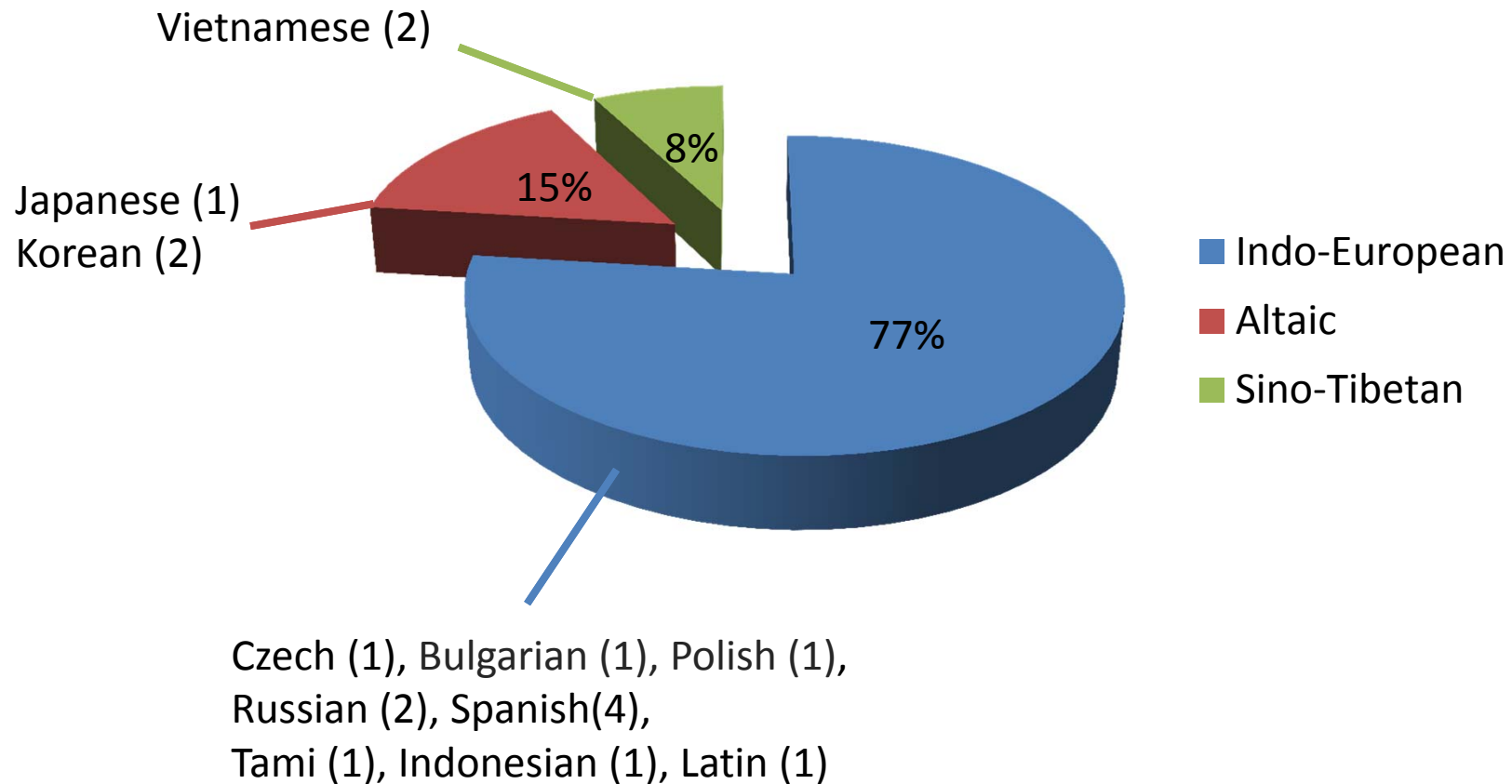
Female 45%

## Age

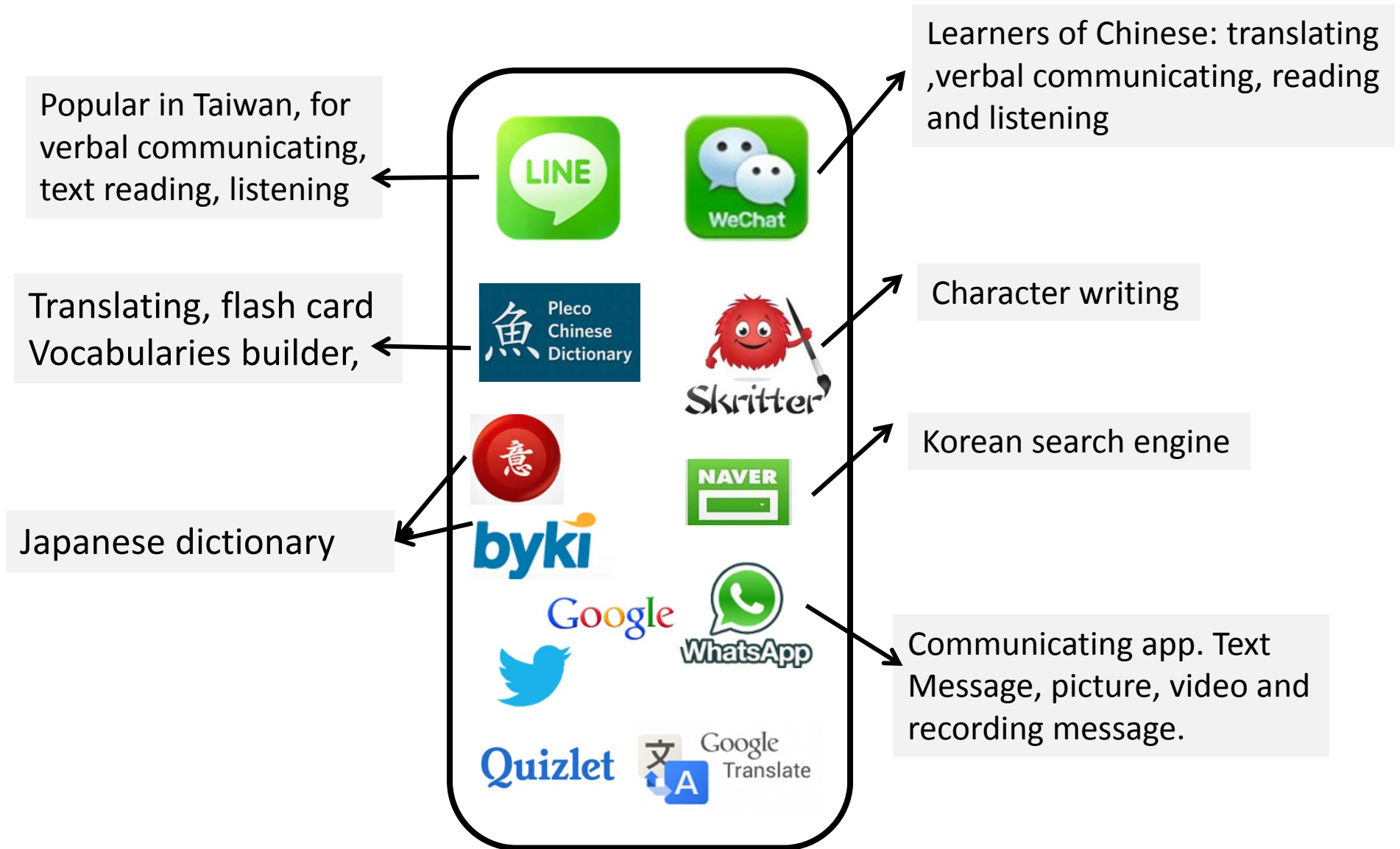


# Participants demographics

## Previous language learning experience



# What are the popular apps?



# Top 5 popular functions for students

1

**Translation**



Google  
Translate

2

**Vocabulary Building**



3

**Verbal Communication**



4

**Character Writing**

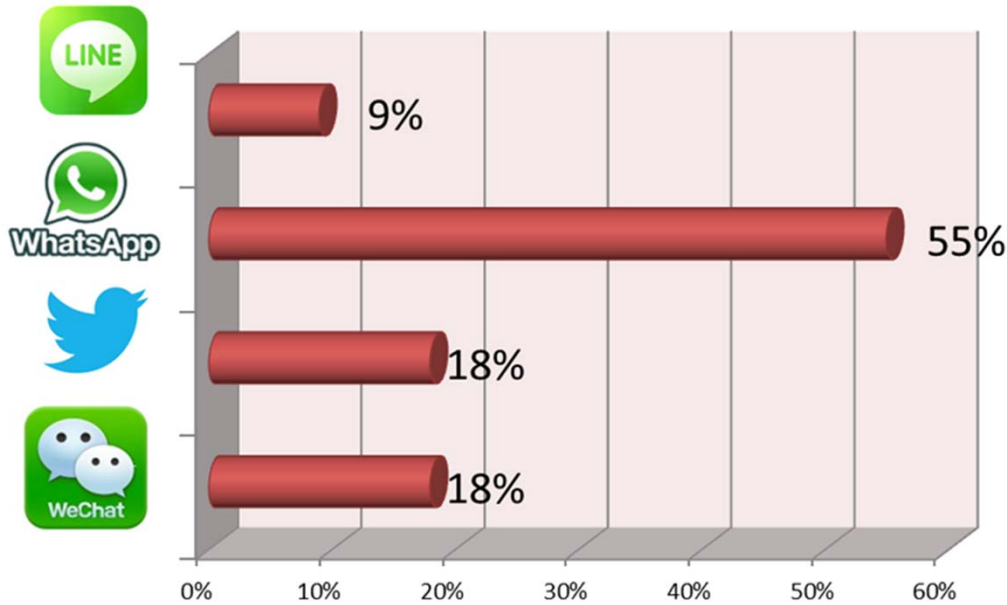


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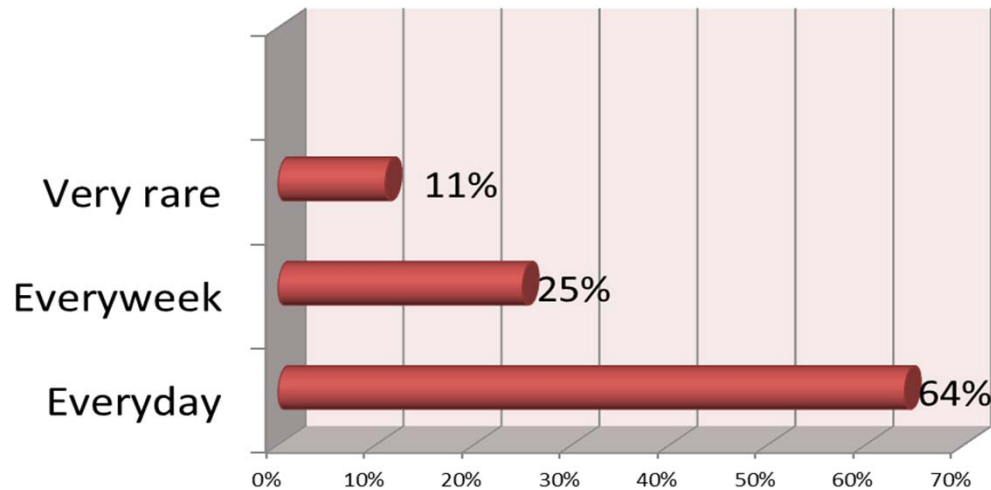
**Grammar practice**



# The most popular messaging apps



## Frequency of use

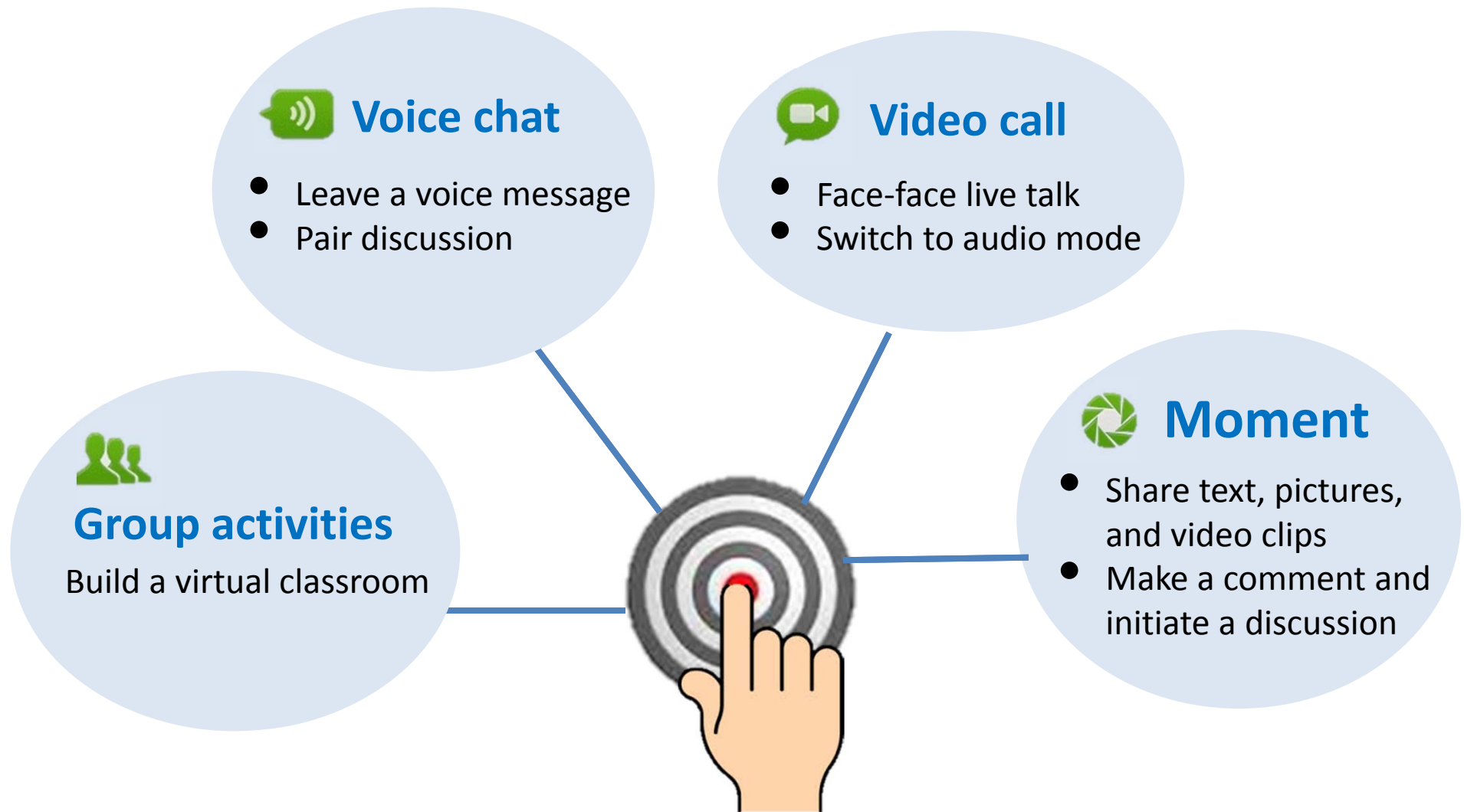


- Most learners use messaging apps for textual and verbal communication
- Can messaging apps do SOMETHING ELSE?
- Can messaging apps be used in language teaching and learning?

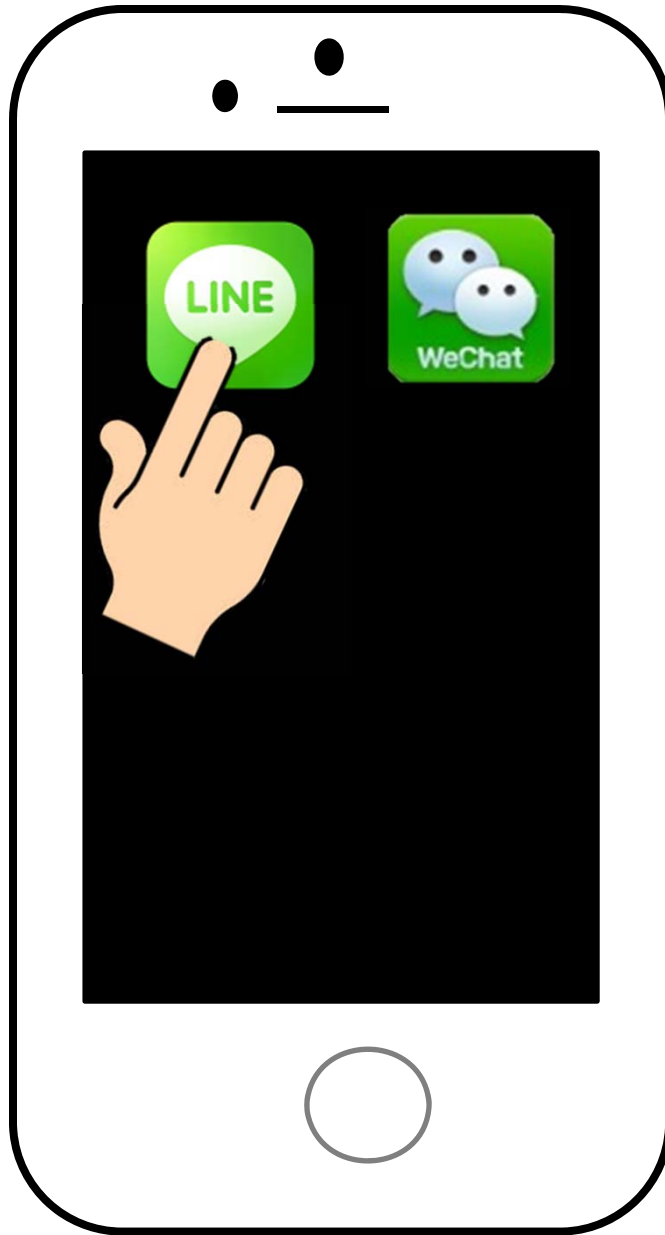
Part III.

# **PEDAGOGICAL PRACTICE**

# Features can be applied in language learning

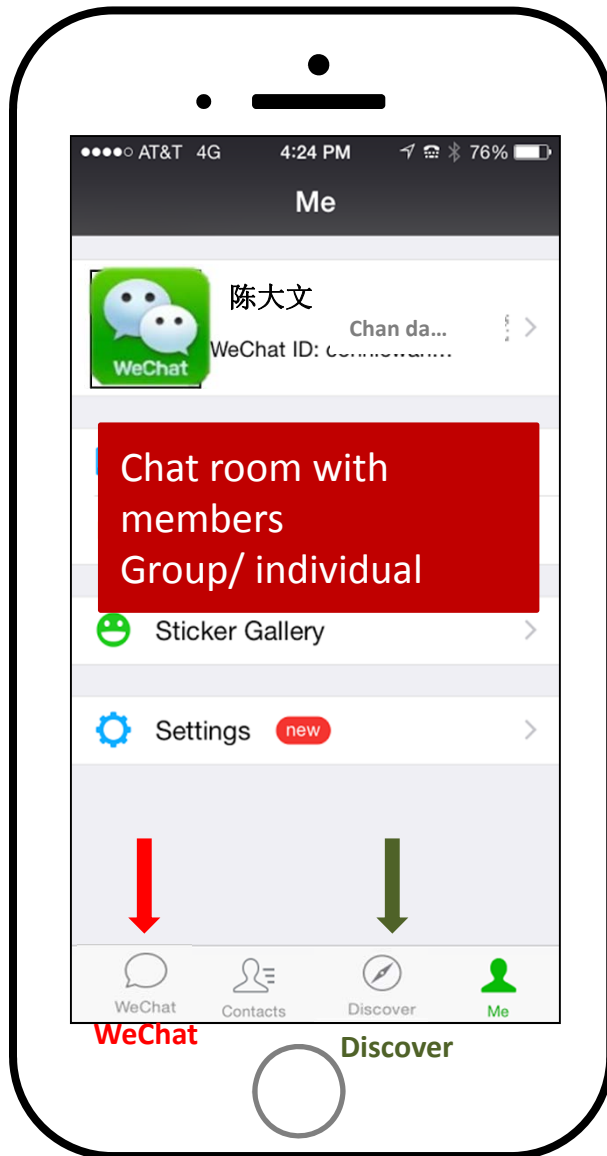




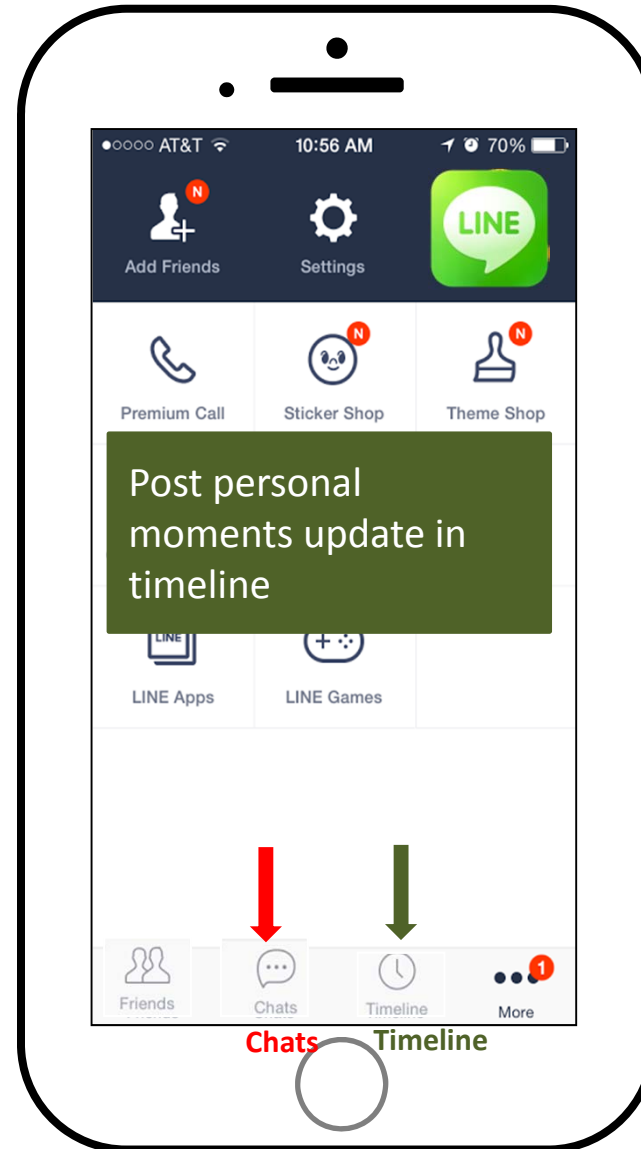


# Using Messaging app in classroom

## WeChat

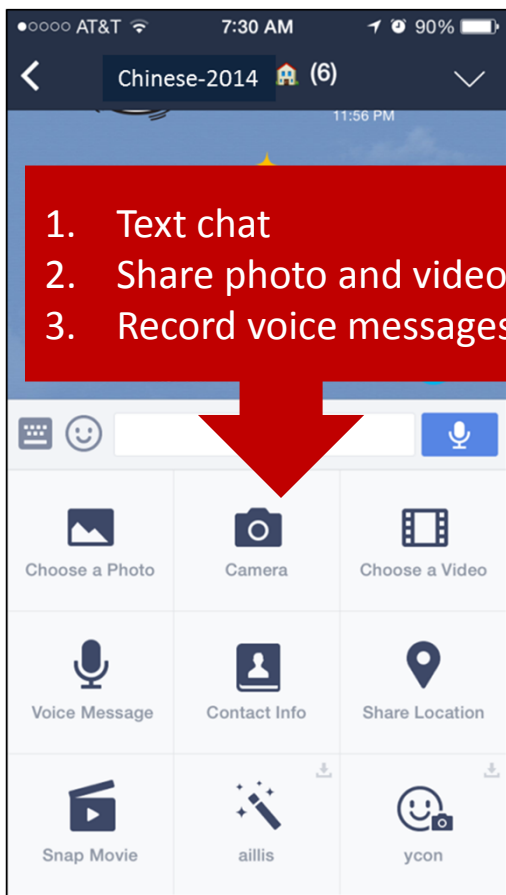
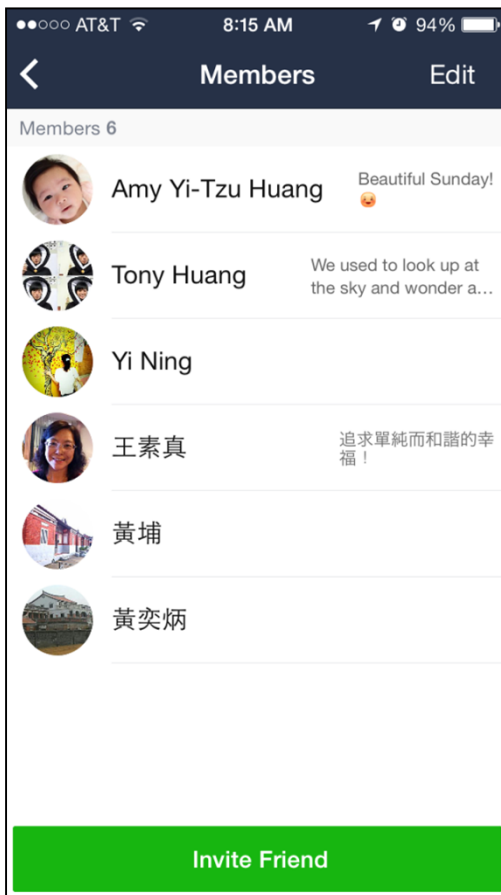


## LINE



# Discussion Group

1. Create a closed discussion group/learning community
2. Asking learners to post questions and have peer/group discussions.



# Moments & Timeline

- Share articles → reading comprehension → follow-up discussion
- Share video links → listening comprehension → follow-up discussion
- Status updates → writing (grammatical competence)



1. Share articles
2. make comments



Post personal status updates in the TL



# Individual assignment

- Examples of individual assignments:

1. **Verbal report**

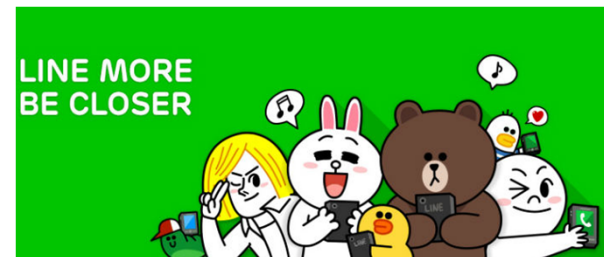
- Ask students to use the “voice message” function and deliver a brief timed verbal report

2. **Story-telling**

- Write daily/weekly journal with upload images (with subtitle or brief description) or record, discuss and document their insights
- Post an image and invite students to give more details.

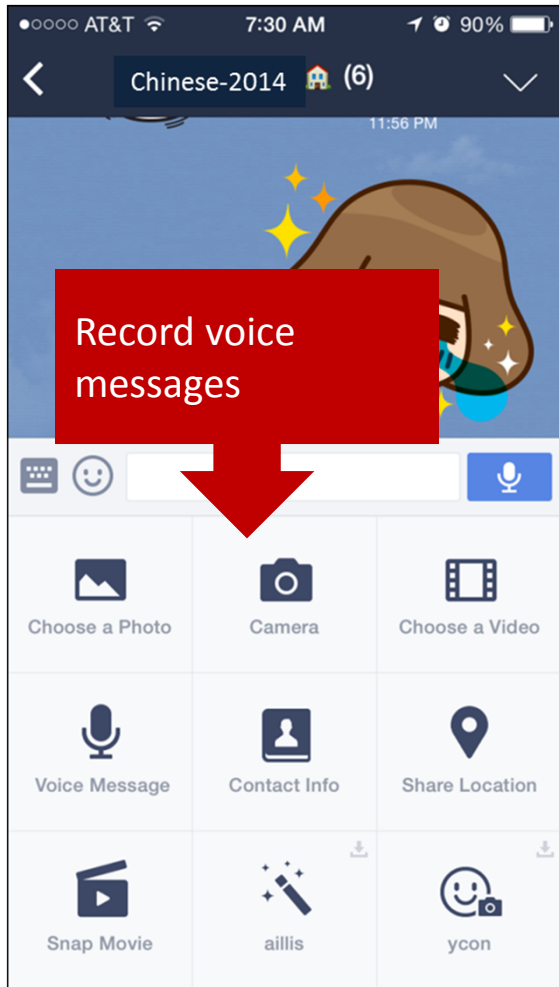
3. **Individual projects**

- Interview a native speaker of the TL and upload the video clip.
- Share their helpful language learning and technology strategies



# Individual assignment

## Verbal report



## Story-telling



## Individual projects



# Collaborative work

- Examples of diverse tasks:

## 1. Create a digital book or a language survival kit

Format: text + image

- Ask students to discuss via WeChat or LINE and upload their work before publishing their final version

## 2. Create a “how-to video” or “what-to video”

Format: video clip

- “How (not) to introduce your self at a meeting/party”
- “10 Things you need to do in Paris”
- “What to do when you travel with Kids”

## 3. Problem-solving tasks

Format: text, voice chat, and audio (voice message)

- Create a “to-do” list for your new nanny
- Choose the best destination for incoming field trip
- Report the car accident to the insurance company



# Assessment

- Examples of assessment:
  1. **Mini talk**
    - Impromptu monologue (WeChat's time limit: 1 minute)
    - Q-A conversation (voice chat, video chat, or group chat)
  2. **Reading/listening assessment**
    - Use English to summarize a text/audio clip
    - Answer a set of comprehension questions
  3. **Writing test**
    - Sentence-level
    - Paragraph-level
  4. **Mobile-based proficiency test**
    - Mobile-based SOPI and OPI?





# Group assignment

- Different features use in classroom

reading

AT&T 9:55 AM 51%

< Discover Moments

**Yi-Tzu Huang**

中国很大，有很多方言。平常外国学生学中文，都学普通话。普通话在台湾叫“国语”。中国人学习和工作的时候说普通话，回家跟家人聊天的时候说方言。有的中国方言很难懂。一个人要学别的方言，常常要学一年。

Collapse

hànyǔ qī dà fāngyán tú  
汉语七大方言图  
Distribution map of the 7 major Han dialects

3 day(s) ago

♡ connie, yan Xu, Lei

speaking

AT&T 9:46 AM 63%

< Chinese 88 Group (6)

9:04 AM

黄奕炳  
大家好!

9:05 AM

Yi Ning  
今天我们来谈谈运动

Read by 2  
9:45 AM

0:03

Read by 2  
9:45 AM

0:10

Yi Ning  
第三声的声调不好。

+ 😊 🎤

listening

AT&T 4G 9:50 AM 55%

< Discover Moments

connie

尚竹舞 shared a link  
下班互相问候用语言

18 mins

♡ Like Comment

Sis shared a link  
几元钱就能治好你的白头发，太厉害了

45 mins ago

尚竹舞 shared a link  
神奇！家家都有的东西，烧伤烫伤 用他连红印和水泡都不...



Feel free to contact us:

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