



SOCIAL MEDIA: IMPACTS ON LANGUAGE

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Abstract:

This research paper aims to investigate the impact of social media on English language learning, whether it has a positive or negative impact on language learning, and whether it is used. This research paper focuses on several important aspects such as grammar, vocabulary, and the four main language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing, remembering the impact of various elements of communication, and being good at all skills. Based on the results of this study, we can believe that social interaction affects our writing ability more than other skills. Software development continues to make it easier to create a message or statement of any length. Ironically, our smartphones have become smarter than we are, even when it comes to our ability to communicate. The basic building blocks of any language lie in its roots and sentence structure. In this generation, these building blocks are replaced or modified by incorporating several elements such as abbreviations and acronyms, neologisms and slang, emojis, and autocomplete. This article looks at both the positive and negative aspects of social media's impact on language and provides a critical assessment.

Keywords: language, social networks, language skills, vocabulary, social media components

1. Introduction:

The use of social media has a significant influence on language change. Social media platforms have led to changes in alphabet, syntax, and vocabulary, with an increase in the use of bowdlerization, emoticons, and distinctive terms specific to social media. Also, social media communication is characterized by casual jotting styles, on-formal language use, and the adaptation of foreign words. Language changes both side positive and negative aspects. On the positive side, social media enables brisk and more effective communication and strengthens social bonds among druggies. Still, these language changes can also pose challenges to understanding and communication, particularly between different generations or in formal surroundings. Social media has also changed the communication style of scholars, leading to law-mixing and the creation of relaxed and ultramodern relations. Likewise, social media can be used as a pedagogical tool to ameliorate language literacy, particularly in jotting chops and vocabulary accession.

“What we share is what we share.” - Charles W. Leadbeater The emergence of the internet and the consequential array of social media networks have, without doubt, resulted in an exponential increase in new types of written language: blogs, tweets, Facebook posts, Instagram status, etc. There’s no doubt that social media has had a severe impact on the massive volume of people we are now able to communicate with along with the frequency with which we can communicate with them. This has to worldwide exposure to a myriad of



dissimilar personalities and perspectives. Except for social media professionals and academic journalists, the majority of what is written by the general public on social media is unedited, unsupervised, and unchecked. With the freedom to use the English language in whatever way we choose to on social media, trends are bound to appear... Trends have massive implications on people's ideologies and perception of an incident, personality, or the Truth. General grammar is deteriorating due to the use of social media.

David Crystal (2001), a prominent modern linguist, quotes the following when explaining his views on the matter: "When the telephone appeared in the 19th century, people panicked because they thought it would destroy language. Then, in the 1920s, radio broadcasting appeared. People panicked because they thought everyone was being brainwashed. The same goes for the Internet. People panicked because they thought the Internet would be a huge blow to language."

David Crystal (2001), a prominent modern linguist, commented on people's perception of this problem: "When the telephone appeared in the 19th century, People panicked because they thought it would destroy the language. Then in the 1920s radio came along and people got scared because they thought everyone was being brainwashed. It's like the internet. People are afraid of the Internet because they think it will have a huge impact on language.

2. Effects on Key Language Components:

2.1 Vocabulary:

The most important part of social media in the English language is it has appropriated the existing vocabulary of the language. Each word in English has carried a definite and unique meaning since its origin and now the meaning of such words is gradually changing due to the influence of social media.

Social media users use words when they comment and post them and are born new vocabulary of social media. Many words now used in online communication have taken on entirely new meanings. Here are some different uses of some words for use in social media:

1. See your wall, personal homepage, and social media profiles.
2. Hashtags are usually created to link to other people's social media content, such as photos or status updates.
3. Troll is a term used to refer to an Internet user who tries to attract attention by commenting or commenting inappropriately about something or someone.
4. Ping means calling a person by sending a short electronic message (e.g. SMS).
5. Your profile now includes your specified personal information, photos, public users, chat times, etc. It is created by an individual and is associated with their username or online account.
6. Viral means something that spreads quickly from one person to another and becomes very popular, especially on the Internet.

Many words were born in the vast environment of the World Wide Web, and have power and status enough to be listed in the Oxford Dictionary. Some of these words are selfie, twerk, phablet, crazy, photobomb, inbox, sext, noob, etc. Abbreviations like lol, af, and omg have become so common in everyday communication that, along with the new words



mentioned earlier, they have also slipped into our language. Studies show that people prefer to use minimally relevant messages, but almost a third of today's generation tends to expand the scope of their technical knowledge by using a rich vocabulary both on social networks and in formal letters.

2.2 Listening skills:

Listening is the first step of language learning and a vitally important stage of language learning. Listening, defined as “the process of receiving, constructing meaning, and responding to verbal and/or nonverbal messages,” requires significant attention to others. Social media allows us to listen to what other people are saying, but in most cases, a lot of the non-verbal part of communication is missing. Moreover, digital friendships are born from quick responses, not soul-searching. You have to slow down to listen, which is quite difficult on social media. Listening in person takes much more effort and compassion than listening online. Hearing in person allows us to take off the masks we hide so easily online. Worrell commented on his desire for intimacy: “True intimacy requires vulnerability, and vulnerability requires courage.”³⁵ He said that the human element in a relationship can never be replaced by technology, especially by understanding the mind.

2.3 Reading and writing skills:

Reading is the second step and writing is the last step of language learning and a vitally important stage of language learning. Writing is an output stage of language learning. Students tend to omit punctuation marks in social media. Students who spend more time on social media platforms may experience difficulties in spelling, especially during exams and when writing letters.

“Teenagers are reading more than ever because they are glued to their screens,” says David Crystal. Using a discussion journal, almost half of people try to avoid long sentences and replace them with short sentences when writing. However, English expert David Crystal (2008) states in his book “Txtng: Gr8 Db8” that the more students write, the better their writing skills will be. Therefore, its use increases the literacy of users, especially young people, rather than harming them. Poor writing skills eventually lead to poor writing skills. Craig (2003) found that when students use social networks, their reading and writing skills are weak due to the use of uncommon abbreviations and jargon.

3. Components of Social Media:

3.1 Textese:

David Crystal (2008) states in his book “Txtng: Gr8 Db8” As it is, most of the stranger emoticons and abbreviations aren’t used by most people: they turn up only in the text-messaging dictionaries, which seem to have been designed specifically to exclude everyone not taking part. “Faced with a new kind of communication problem . . . people all over the world have set about solving it . . . not by inventing a new language but by adapting old language to suit the new medium.”

Textese is the elimination of words and abbreviations, letter/number homophones, expressions, etc. It is a shortened (constructed) language characterized by the use of letters such as. Word overuse among children and adolescents is associated with poor reading and writing skills and even poor language skills. However, in most studies, a person's prose is



related to writing and reading skills: Accuracy in reading and speed in reading and writing is beneficial to the writer, whether literate or not. Reading scores, Text (some genres), and fast text (mostly single-word text) are beneficial for spelling skills; Orthographic processing capability; Phonology and processing of phonemes, knowledge and memory ability; speaking scores; and writing ability. The use of inverted letters can lead to better knowledge of metalinguistic and increased sensitivity to words, which can affect one's grammatical performance in other languages. People apply grammatical rules by using words and therefore subtracting words from words, and they do so in a context-sensitive way. To decide which word to omit in which context, people analyze their sentences, and in the process, they continue to improve their grammatical knowledge and strengthen their sentences, especially children and teenagers. "Speech offers both written and oral features". Therefore, it is preferred because it is easier to use than traditional communication methods.

The networking texting has already brought a new type of writing by omitting some letters, adding numbers next to the letters, and logograms where punctuation marks gathering together mean a whole complete sentence. Even if the older generation do not want to accept internet slang and tries to avoid using it in texting, the current period requires being engaged and using new types of textese.

3.2 Emoticons/Emoji's:

The term "emoji" comes from the Japanese language and it is a combination of e (picture) and moji (letter/character). Knowing that the verbal form of digital communication is unable to present the kind of authentic information that can be better gained from face-to-face communication, Shigetaka Kurita created a series of icons, known as emojis, to convey the equivalent of facial expressions, and tone of voice, and gestures to reduce the misunderstandings and they are pretty common in digital communication today (Kerslake, & Wegerif, 2017).

Emojis icons are used for nonverbal communication. Emojis are of various types which can be confusing and misunderstood of meaning. Emoticons are facial expressions that many Internet users embed into their messages. Similar to emoticons, emoticons are actual images, not just printed images. Emoticons are ideograms and smileys used in messages and web pages. There are many types of emoji, including faces, objects, places, weather, and animals. Facial cues are more effective than vocal and nonverbal.

Burgoon (12) stated that "The importance of visual perception is stronger in determining quality-related emotions" and added, "Especially when visual effects are related to the face, the face is especially important because it is important in making good decisions." person welcomes cooperation with a smile. Goodness, relationship in body and voice." Yes, that's why emojis and emoticons have become an alternative to sensitive messages, especially expressing emotions. Although they do not directly affect grammar and vocabulary, they are a good alternative in some cases, reducing the need for them.

3.3 Acronyms

An acronym is an abbreviation made up of the initial letters of other words and pronounced as a single word. The word acronym comes from Greek (via German) and is made up of the Greek roots 'acr-' meaning summit or tip and '-onym' meaning name.



Acronyms are newly formed words that are created by taking the first letters of different words present in a phrase. In most the cases, this newly formed word takes up a completely new meaning deviating from its original one. The use of acronyms can shorten communication shortened. In social media, the use of acronyms has become widespread and the users are also very familiar with and comfortable with using acronyms in their everyday communication since it has a great impact to make the communication process speedier.

Conclusion:

Social media is used by all types of people irrespective of their age distribution, gender differences, and professional engagements across our country. As English is treated as a second language, the efficacy of this language is not satisfactory to many of us. Almost everyone from a doctoral candidate to a simple layman plays an active role in social media and obviously, the level of communication will not be the same in both instances. Thus it differs and up to this it is quite acceptable but the crisis moment is that the outlook towards an international language is changing in our country. Technology is evolving at an unprecedented scale and we need to adapt and adapt to the changing digital ecosystem. When we analyze more closely, we see that the positive effects of the relationship outweigh the negatives. The positive effects are mainly related to the expansion of language, the development of speech, and the improvement of the ability to read online. Writing skills were negatively affected. To reduce the negative impact of communication on English language knowledge, it is necessary to teach our future students the use of information and communication technologies in a healthy way and to reduce the use of abbreviations in writing. Handwritten text is more complex than typewritten text due to additional benefits such as self-correcting, text prompts, automatic indentation, and font selection. However, we can still reduce the severity of the message by filtering bad behavior. By using the features given to us, we can better understand the functioning of our language and its words. We should also stay away from social media to avoid addiction. There is nothing better than interacting with real people, social media has born new types of people they are virtually connected medium of the internet—most of the changes in people's behaviour. Finally, this is a sharp difference between the patterns of writing in social media and of course use of the language in other contexts. We can let things be the way it is or we can at least try to use the language properly and then write spontaneously because any language comes from the heart. Language gives birth to literature and literature enriches a civilization. This small intention to read correctly and write flawlessly can do wonders to save English vocabulary and the language as a whole. Social media has impacts on language

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