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How technology has influenced English Language

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Abstract

Today, the Internet has become a central informational medium that has completely transformed the way we learn, teach, and communicate. Social media offers an online platform that allows users to exchange information and ideas through posts, tweets, and comments, although with word or character count restrictions. Evidently, creativity cannot be curtailed through content length restrainment.

This lead to the emergence of a new genre of short-stories called short-short stories along with the birth of a new English dialect called Text-Speak. The prevalence of social media exchanges shows that technology users have readily accepted these quick social site interactions as a new way of communicating and have also adjusted their writing to match the content restrictions. The phenomenal popularity of short stories that can fit in a tweet or text is an example of how an obstacle can be turned into an opportunity for the unfolding of new innovations. Literary purists and educators, however, are concerned that the attitudes and habits of tech-savvy generation are muddying Standard English as Text-Speak has started to infiltrate students' assignments, blurring the distinction between formal and informal writing at an alarming rate. This paper delineates the impact of technology on daily English writing and literature.

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1. Introduction

Would Shakespeare be able to read and comprehend the abstracted & abbreviated English language subject matter currently circulated on the Internet? Being the greatest English writer for generations to come, is this even a fair question to ask? May be yes.

The English, he knew and promoted is eroding at a fast pace due to the limitations of online content which leads to the introduction of Text-Speak and a new genre of short stories called flash fiction. This new dialect is especially popular among the net-generation (Rosen et al., 2010). The net-generation adeptly uses online resources to develop thinking skills, experiment with different methods of learning, gain self-understanding, complete school work, and collaborate with peers and teachers. Nevertheless, the frequent exchange of information and ideas in the form of tweets, emails, posts, and comments which has become a part of our lives now, can be mentally exhausting. Unsurprisingly, with this constant information deluge, students have less time to give thought to and perfect their assignments. As a result, Text-Speak has started appearing in students' projects and assignments which is concerning, as the characteristic elements of English Language are getting severed and it is also affecting their academic performance. Therefore, teachers are sounding alarms about the disadvantages of Text-speak and emphasizing that Standard English is the foundation of academic as well as professional success in this era of globalisation.

2. The Influence of Technology on Learning

Internet provides us with unlimited resources and the internet users indisputably use these to enhance their skills of learning, communication, career planning and relationship development. Technology furnishes students with such imperative learning tools that it facilitates cooperative learning and offers exciting alternatives for language skill development through experimentation and helps students in learning the operating rules of formal and informal languages. Internet based learning promotes motivation, making the learning experience more student-centered. The pandemic era, has neccesitated all educational institutions to adopt web platforms for perseverance .Softwares are commonly employed in order to encourage web based learning and online portals are exercised for syllabus, assignments submissions, checking of grades and writing tests.

3. Distractions by Technology

Despite of the fact that a recent literature review concluded that technology promotes students' creativity and improves language learning skills (Ahmadi, 2018), the Internet allows short and frequent communications via limited bandwidth. The Internet facilitates short and frequent communications through restricted tweets and posts. A very common problem faced by present generation is of attention deficit which probably is a result of extensive and expedious flooding of informatio on the digital platforms. People are hooked to them and intend to be the first to be updated with the happenings worldwide. For example, the net-generation adeptly multi-tasks digital activities (Bromley, 2010) such as browsing websites, responding or writing emails, communicating through messages, listening to music, and viewing advertisements, alongwith completing their school assignments . It is apparent that students are loosing attention and are no longer focussed. They are engaged in numerous activities at the same time. In a research study, students admitted to multi-tasking their school work with other online activities and reported that online activities distracted them from concentrating on academic tasks, which sometimes resulted in incomplete assignments (Adams, 2007).The attraction & involvement in the internet activities impedes the academic as well as professional achievements of individuals. Not only this, students also feel less inspired to use Standard English (Strain-Moritz, 2016), which could explain their low commitment to perfection and grammar.

4. Online Media and Text-Speak

Social communication permits us to adequately articulate our thoughts into words, words to foster bonds, convey significant data, learn from our experiences, and keep on expanding on work done by others (Shariatmadari, 2019). Socially, media today has altered social associations and offers an unhindered admittance to individuals across the globe. Online media clicks permit speedy associations through famous and much used features such as labels, likes, retweets, and reposts. This simplicity of sharing and communicating makes advanced social interchanges limitless. Social media has also generated the need for short term dialect (Akbarov&Tankosić, 2016),

which is interchangeably called Textese, Digi-talk, Text-speak, Tech-talk, and Internet slang (Akbarov and Tankosi, 2016; Cingel and Sundar, 2012; Drouin and Davis, 2009). In both, private and public web-based cooperations, Text talk is the primary method of public and private communication of the net-generation (Moyle,

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2010). To the fierceness of teachers and guardians, Text-speak, sms or texting language pores a short spray of shortened content overflowing with inadequate sentences, mis-spelled words, and emoticons (symbols that mostly convey a feeling).

Text speak was established in Standard English language, however it imitates the informal communication in language (French, 2018). Abbreviations and shortened spellings are used in Text-speak work and communicate productively using phones in very less time. Basically, the net generation has changed Standard English words (i.e., word adaptation) using short forms (e.g., brb for be right back), unnecessary letter sets (i.e. wud for would), (i.e., tc for take care), substituted homo-phones (gr8 for great, f9 for fine), and de-emphasized appropriate punctuation and capitalization causing structural adaptations to the English language (Cingel, &Sundar, 2012). Text-speak could likewise be considered as a work by youngsters to systematise (youth code; French, 2018) interchanges to shield them from accidental beneficiaries

(Parents ; Akbarov and Tankosi, 2016). Additionally, Text-speak could likewise be viewed as an indication of rebellion against language rules (Akbarov and Tankosi, 2016).

The word transformations found in Text-talk sprawling in the usage of English language day by day. As anyone might expect, regularly utilising printed transformations might radiate an impression of business as usual and acknowledgment, which makes it hard to learn Standard English (Cingel and Sundar, 2012). Standard English alludes to the right utilization of jargons and language structures in organisations (baker , 2014). It is additionally the type of language that is acknowledged in government workplaces, the scholarly community, furthermore, in other conventional settings (Birner, 1991).

Text speak stomps on the principles of Standard English and presents a

challenge to academicians and guardians. Teachers are worried that too much abbreviations widespread with incorrectly spelled words and linguistically inaccurate sentences are crawling into understudies tasks, which obscures the difference among formal and informal writing (Strain-Moritz, 2016). Results from a review showed that there is an inverse relation between professionally written and informally written communication (Drouin, 2011).

These days, grammar and language are both collapsing (Sonn, 2006);

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People are progressively distancing themselves from reading and writing in Standard English. Essentially, ordinary composition, that once required the appropriate utilization of Standard grammar principles, has obviously fallen into a void. Students and parents both know about the disadvantages of Text-speak. There are innumerable examples that notify the weaknesses of utilising Text-speak . For instance, students who are occupied with casual internet based communication revealed they are keeping themselves away from a more significant level of grammar (Adams, 2007), and the other half in another study revealed that incessant messaging is a reason for their trouble in reviewing Standard English (Drouin)

5. Technology and Literature

Rapid advancements in the arena of technology has metamorphosed literature to an extent that its structure , shape and purpose has completely changed. The advent of alacritous electronic media has replaced personal meetings to digitalised ones. Reason being, the readers emotional, temporal, and spatial relationship with books is changing rapidly (Sesek&Pusnik, 2014), the production and consumption of literature is also evolving to shorter and more frequent communications (Strain-Moritz, 2016). A new literary genre has emerged in the form of short digital stories such as flash fiction, mini- fiction, minute stories, sudden fiction, hint fiction, mobile phone fiction, and twitter fiction (Barnard, 2016). These stories have word limit restrictions. For example, twitter imposes a 280 characters limit for each tweet, which increased from 140 characters (For a review see Al Sharqi&Abbasi, 2015, 2016). Ironically this genre lacks the traditional flavour of the characters, backdrop setting and a strong plot in which the story use to blossom , nurturing the imagination of a child. Short-digital stories also lack vivid descriptions and fail to articulate expressions of characters; therefore, readers connect with characters using their own experiences or the experiences of others (Sethi, 2017).

The creative outflow of authors in literary writings have been curbed through filters imposed to check unessential inclusions, deviations, peripheral descriptions & illustrations. Literary text, devoid of literary devices, rhythm & rhyme scheme has lost its very essence & fragrance. Advocaters of short-stories claim that social media promotes a sophisticated form of literary performance art (Franklin, 2014).

Today, a new terminology has been introduced in English language like message - msg, important - imp, Good morning - G.m and the list is neverending. These short forms save one from reading as well as writing long messages . This is also because the 21st century generation has less patience for writing and decreasing attention

span in reading. The authors aim to attract whatever amount of attention they can garner from readers with mite-sized attention span (Rudin, 2011). Opponents of short stories call post-modern digital stories as plot less anti-stories (Patea, 2012) and compare it with a lightweight accessory written for lightweight thinkers (Penny, 2014). On one hand, brevity mars the beauty of expression and depletes language proficiency and on the other, it is believed that social media communication is blisteringly responsible for "the linguistic ruin of generation" (Axtman 2002). Undoubtedly it is citable that in the past also, many illustrious authors and poets had exercised their literary prowess in the field of short stories and poems. One such example is the six words story: "For Sale: baby shoes, never worn" penned by Ernest Hemingway. Unquestioningly, there has been an alarming boom in the short story culture with the digitalization of media. The kernel is, technology has unusually feigned both language and literature. Ineluctably, language and literature will continue to evolve with further technology advancements and new dialects and literary genres will appear. The duty falls on our shoulders to retain the Standard English from being maculated or forsaken with the changing trends.

6. Conclusion

Internet has linked the entire world regardless of time and space. Innovation has affected how we think, write and communicate with others. The notoriety of speedy social interactions on social media has changed our communication designs and gave birth to Text-speak, which is the most adapted mode of communication of the net-generation. The adolescents cannot be criticised for composing in short-hand as they have adjusted their composing style to comply with the word number limitations. Content talk is presently considered a lingo of English dialect and children are considered bilingual on the off chance that they can communicate in Standard English and text-speak. The matter of concern with short hand writing surfaces when the Text-speak interferes with scholastic writing and influences students' performance. At the same time, social media has generously contributed to the ubiquity of Facebook, Whatsapp, Twitter, Flash fiction and many more. The length of these stories, concords with the concentration range of the techno-savvy readers. With encouraged innovations in the technical field , we can be sure to see the origin of more dialects and genres as a product of necessity.

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