Textese is the Bane of the English Language

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Abstract

This paper focuses on the overuse of textese that is widely exploited by students in the form of written communication, especially, in social forums and its impact on language. It traces how a language is abused by many educated fools on the pretext of creating a new era of language which is an eyesore to language lovers. To eschew the textese in the text is the cynosure of this paper.

Key words

Nomophopia, Texter's thumb, Pidgin, Creole, Emoticons, and Textese.

Language, a perfect mixture of many cultures, is considered to be a linguistic gift endowed with human beings who have been contributing to the advancement of language by pepping up the quintessence of oral and written communication whenever the change requires. Language and culture are inseparable like Beaumont and Fletcher who embraced a hand- in- glove relationship in literature. Language, an inherent part of culture, embedded in societies where both of them have a reciprocal bonhomie like Holmes and Watson. The rudiments of language have been added, polished, perfected, improved, fortified, interpolated, expunged and expurgated by learned people who have added a sense of beauty by beefing it up as an intellectual ornament. In spite of evolution, experienced by a different set of people who belong to different periods, its purity remains uninjured and undamaged.

The above passage seems to be a utopian dream where everything is perfect but it doesn't exist in the real world where everything is topsy- turvy. Expecting perfection in language is a tall order. The English language, a cornucopia of Greek and Latin and a mélange of many dialects, has been spoken in many countries by different people. With the arrival of modern transition (a drastic change in language) the purity has been corrupted by ill-informed madcaps who spoil the very essence of language by impairing it in the form of textese, a collection of handicapped vocabulary made of abbreviated words that are a dime a dozen in social media. Once, the uniqueness of English was elegantly expressed by erudite scholars who had left an indelible impression on the academic world but, now, the beauty of language has faded its charms away. Spoken English has deliberately been broken on the pretext of feigned modernization where everything is shortened, liberalized, eased, and relaxed to cater to the needs of complacent fools who are unwilling to widen their intellectual horizons.

Gorge Orwell registered his view against the rape of language in "Politics and the English Language" in which he roasted English people for the misuse of language as "ugly and inaccurate" (Orwell 11). He believed that language is a communal vehicle conveying unintelligible emotions experienced by uncouth laymen. He despises the vagueness of language used in heterogeneous countries where everything is politically influenced and regionally manipulated. 'Pidgin', 'Creole', 'Patios', Elvish and other regional languages are being used by people who are scrupulous of the importance of Standard English. Unfortunately, the term 'Standard English' has become a myth because the language which people are using now is completely different from the language that was used by people many years ago. Thus, language is in a state of flux, constantly changing and growing like Topsy.

The glamour of grammar has become a nightmare in linguistically divided countries like India. The use of dictionary is on the wane in the technically- driven era where everything is simplified. Students, especially from nonlinguistic background, are developing a wad of complacent attitude with modern education system which has an eye on fluency rather than accuracy. They want to cut down on the use of language by simplifying it for the sake of mere simplicity and do away with new words on purpose, besides, they eschew difficult vocabulary on the grounds that they are hard to learn and difficult to reproduce. Students who are incapable of acquiring proficiency in language have contracted a sense of aversion towards Johnson, Dryden, Pope, Arnold, Eliot and other legends of English language who zeroed in on *mote justes* and felicity of words.

Students are habituated to making use of modern gadgets in which they misspend much time in texting messages and addicted to using many social apps without knowing catastrophe that may ruin their life and cause language disorder and disabilities. Social media, an anathema to traditional books, gradually dampens the reading habit like a toxic slow poison. The overuse of smart phones causes 'Nomophobia' and 'Texter's Thumb', inflicting severe brain damage on them. The smart phone culture has deteriorated and inhibited young minds by imprisoning them with attractive delusions. Students are not aware of the ill-effect that may cause irreparable loss in their life. The rules of android are much easier than that of the rules of grammar in this modern age. Acquiring linguistic acumen from a standard- language- usage- book is an uphill task in the age of technology where the art of proficiency in language has been denied and discarded.

Textese is the bane of the English language which has been preferred by many half -spoiled youths who curb, coin, rephrase, reinvent, shorten, and diminish words as their wish. This evil custom, practised by many college pupils, may constrain language in which by creating new signs and symbols to achieve their implied meanings which result in aphasia. They are well versed in using many short words in order to create a textspeak where they can discuss many things with the help of broken words. A text book creates a good language habit by giving away many opportunities to learn language even though it is time-

consuming. Smart phones, on the contrary, make students indolence and lazy by feeding everything on the palm of their hands.

Text message, a bête noire to language, is completely making away with the English language. The essential skills are alienated by misapplication of words employed by the users who have a smattering of knowledge about technology in which they tend to eliminate the original sense of language. Though people fail to speak good English, they can learn how to avoid errors until unless they work hard. As G.B. Shaw, nicely says, "There is no such thing as ideally correct English and no two British men speak English alike" (Shaw 23). There is no wrong in committing mistakes while learning a language because it is a continual process which is completely based on trial and error; Out of mistakes one can learn. On the other hand, it is wrong in committing errors by creating a language within a language for a separate group with the help of half-derived-broken words even though the communication has been successfully transmitted.

Emoticons are a special way of imparting emotions in which facial expressions are formed by various symbols in order to express implied meanings of a person who fails to express his true feelings in the form of words. It is good to apply emoticons when for want of words. If the usage will be extended to more than enough, it deprives the faculty of applying words and damages the 'hippocampi, a critical faculty for learning new concepts. If people desire to use signs and symbols instead of words, Once again, they will have to go back to the past where they should use sign language as forefathers did. Is this development? Is this intellectual growth? Is this enhancement of language? Is this progression?

Owing to sick-hurry attitude, books are shunned and teachers are neglected. Students are engrossed in perusing messages with wide-mouth-wonder, without knowing who are coming in front of them. An introvert is turned into a webtrovert by the influence of social networking. The phrase 'digital village' is misconstrued and misapplied by semi-barbarians in the age of modern pandemonium. Social media opens a can of worms, creating language disorders which are hard to eliminate from the memory of people, especially, language students who are polluted by the delusion of being aware of social media. As their Achilles' heel is emotion, they fall prey to into the hands of smart phones which capture the values of students and kill the language skill.

 2-two, 4- for, b4- before, bcoz- because, ec- easy, f2f- face to face are the examples of textese. The nonstandard use of language creates a negative impact on English dictions. Students are encouraged to use curtailed words in their texts and trained to use spell-checkers which cripple their faculty of thinking. The panacea for all the problems is to teach them proper language by erasing undignified use of language and by educating them to avoid textese in their regular diction.

Work Cited

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