



Influence of Social Media in Corroborating the Acquisition Process of English Language Skills

¹**Dr.V. Sudhakar Rao**, Associate Professor, Balaji Institute of Technology & Science, Narsampet, Warangal

²**Dr.A.Karunasri**, Assistant Professor, Balaji Institute of Technology & Science, Narsampet, Warangal

³**Mr.P.Ravikumar**, Assistant Professor, Balaji Institute of Technology & Science, Narsampet, Warangal

⁴**Mr.Ch.Naresh**, Assistant Professor, Balaji Institute of Technology & Science, Narsampet, Warangal

ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on the aspects of language learning skills that originated from the impact of social media. Students' behaviour habits have developed over time as a result of the availability of social media. Usage of social networking sites, such as Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter, by University students contributes to the improvement of students' general and English language proficiency. The revolution in information technology in India has created new opportunities for English language teaching for all. This also helped to conduit mobile revolutions and social media. Social media helps students become more competent English writers by allowing them to submit status updates, promote grammatical awareness, express their thoughts, and write in English for academic purposes. Students desirous of improving skills should study the language using social media, podcasts, internet pages, and blogs. English teachers and trainers should be more creative and original in their approach to teaching English, as well as develop new teaching and learning strategies.

Social networking apps help students think, search, organise, and study English differently. It has been noticed that students' use of social media produces a more productive and enjoyable environment than interaction with other students. Social media is now playing an increasingly important role in listening, reading, writing, and speaking English, as students gravitate towards various social media platforms such as YouTube, Google Meet, Snap chat, Zoom, WhatsApp, Instagram, and so on.

Key Words: Social Media, Language skills, Digital tools, Learning Strategies

Introduction:

Among the youth population, especially the student community, the social media has become very popular. The behaviour patterns of students have evolved in the modern period as a result of availability of social media. Experts, parents, and educators chastise young people for their usage of social media and the practices that stem from it. Students' study habits and way of life have fundamentally changed as a result of the internet. While using Internet and Social Media, students spend much of their time speaking and connecting with peers, discussing their plans, performance, social relationships, and educational activities.

Social networking platforms, including Facebook, YouTube, Orkut, and Twitter, are making youngsters more independent. These platforms are used academically by the universities, thus helping to improve knowledge levels in general and English language skills in particular.

This paper aims to explore several facets of social media communication in relation to developmental processes. The primary focus is on the students' community and ways of enhancing communication skills using social media. Social media has made it possible for people to participate and engage in ways that have

never been possible before in the modern era. Social media allows the people for the global sharing and discussion of a wide range of ideas, which in turn improves English language skills.

It has been explored how students use social media, how its usage affects their academic performance, and how they use it to communicate with friends and family.

Outcome of Escalation of Information Technology and Social Media

Based on the geographical regions, mankind was divided and expanded over the world as communities, which evolved various languages to transmit thoughts, emotions, and sentiments among people. A person's native language is the language spoken and written in his geographical and political region, whereas the language of other regions is referred to as a foreign language. The English language as a foreign language reached India as Europeans arrived in India for trading purposes.

During the post-independence period, English was recognised in India as the medium of instruction in various higher educational institutions and as the official language in government communication. "As of April 2019, English was the most important and popular language online and through social media, accounting for 25.2 percent of worldwide social media and internet users (Clement, 2019). It continues to grow by leaps and bounds in the country. The advent of the twenty-first century and the revolution in information technology in India has opened up new avenues for English language instruction for all. All these led to mobile revolutions and social media.

Social platform to share information

Earlier, people were using letters to convey any information. India is a cosmopolitan country with distinct cultural and behavioural contrasts between rural and urban areas. This has a significant influence on current and future use of social media. People in both rural and urban areas listen to and learn about Indian news through radio broadcasts. During the past and present eras, radio, mail, and newspapers have been the principal forms of social media. The use of television and text-based social networking is less popular in India than in other countries due to India's economic status and multilingualism.

Social Media

Social media is the primary source for sharing events and happenings as well as expressing people's thoughts. Malerba and Barcelona (2015) stated that social media networks allow English language learners to work across geographical and sectional barriers and help students learn English. Social media is a mobile and computer-based tool that allows people to share ideas and information while also creating virtual networks and communities.

Language learning skills in English:

In a research article, Arani (2018) stated that many researchers explored the impact of social media on improving the listening, writing, reading, and speaking skills of the English language among students. Using all the technological aspects of social media, English language skills such as listening, speaking, reading, writing, vocabulary & grammar are acquired by students of present generation.

Language skills

Reading talent is the capacity to extract meaning from a text, and is a complicated process that includes word recognition, comprehension, fluency, and motivation. Listening skills help the student learn and use phonetics, stress, and intonation. Speaking is the aural mode of conveyance of language. It's an interactive process in which information is exchanged between speaker and listener. Writing proficiency is a key aspect of formal and informal communication.

Writing skills and norms on social networking sites are both official and casual, making them useful for doing assignments and writing exams. Rusli et al. (2019) highlighted the impact of social media platforms on writing skills among school-going students.

Furthermore, the social media facilitates students who don't write well in English to grasp their views, writing abilities, and ideas. They also enjoy and learn a lot from social media by expanding their vocabulary, writing skills, and grammatical knowledge. Online social media platforms may also aid with online and offline writing by introducing new techniques and events that need to be tested and applied in order to improve and strengthen English writing abilities.

The following aspects of language can be learned effectively through social media:

Word Clarity: The ability to read and talk in a way that is understandable and clear.

Tone: Tone of voice refers to the non-verbal characteristics of speech. It's an intonation, also known as an inflection. A statement can have a multitude of meanings depending on how it is said, including brilliant, confident, and boring.

Fillers: These are brief, meaningless noises. People utilise it to fill the little pauses that occur as they consider what to say next. They are referred to as UMS, UHS, etc.

Speed W.P.M.: It is a measure of how many words are processed in a minute, which is frequently used to assess speaking and reading speed.

Energy levels: Energy is defined as the capacity of the reader and speaker to act in text. It depends on whether the student's level of energy is high, low, or medium.

Errors: A grammatical mistake is a phrase used in prescriptive grammar to express anything wrong or unusual, such as a misplaced modifier or an appropriate verb tense.

Spelling: Good writing is dependent on use of proper spelling. Avoiding typographical errors would make any composition in English a flawless and meaningful work.

Punctuation: Punctuation is the use of space, conventional signs, which would help people interpret and write text correctly.

Learning theories, which are related to English writing skills, describe how students write, absorb, process, and retain English writing knowledge during the learning and writing processes. The area of competence for any writing theory is to focus known English knowledge at the point of implementation and execution. The integration of social media and writing skills in assisting students overall performance was based on communication and writing theories where knowledge can be stored offline and digitally and assigned across the writing and information network establishment. Fattah (2015) also found that using WhatsApp is also very useful for the writing and speaking skills of the students.

Social media platforms play a significant role in helping students of all levels gain writing skills and share information on integrated social platforms like Face book, Instagram, WhatsApp, and other similar platforms and applications. English writing skills have become an important set of skills these days across the world.

Many students are interested in studying English using social media platforms and applications rather than traditional classroom instruction. As writing English is one of the most difficult skills to learn, many students turn to social networking networks. The combination of social media and English writing abilities has been transformed into a current medium used to delegate education in the most inventive ways. Social media is an engaging and widely used platform that allows students to study, develop, and write content via social media applications and share a variety of activities.

Social media has an important role to play, where it is strictly based on current apps and is free to use, support, and communicate to boost English writing abilities for growing students' writing talents and learning experiences in terms of providing employment opportunities. Students are more likely to learn writing approaches, monitor, review, and revise their English writing abilities. These techniques allow pupils to practice appropriate English writing by generating alternative English sentence patterns and by removing erroneous grammatical faults and articles.

Usage of apps

Social media is an essential component of information, communication, and technology (ICT), and today, every individual and businessmen use numerous social media apps for personal and professional objectives. Instructors today are focusing on the successful and beneficial use of social media platforms in English language acquisition by developing writing, reading, and reading abilities among students in their study domain.

It is a bridge between prior and future studies on the function of social media in developing listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills. Al Qahtani (2018) stated that social media networks have the power to facilitate information sharing and collaborative opportunities for students to learn the English language.

Social media has a crucial role to play in encouraging students to write and express themselves in many ways, such as by listening, reading, writing, and speaking English, since it stimulates their intuition and uniqueness. The incorporation of technology devices and social media applications greatly aids pupils in enhancing their writing skills in the English language.

Technical advancements and enactments for students

These technical advancements and enactments can be employed for the allocation of knowledge, information, communication platforms, and writing abilities and can be effectively used for educational and assessment reasons. Additionally, social media helps students become more confident writers of English by posting status updates, promoting grammar awareness, voicing opinions, and writing in English for academic reasons on social media platforms. Students are more inquisitive about writing English and exhibit their interest in social media when they submit their essays and exams on a regular basis.

Students are also taught and given access to social media postings that require them to pull down any acceptable format and legible forms. These practices include editing, coding, and restricting word count. While instructors are teaching English, social media gives students more opportunities to engage in school writing activities and enhance their writing abilities in the classroom and at home. Several academics have noted that social media play an important role in establishing effective English writing abilities, which might impart the chance of creating better writing English language skills that allow students to converse with native English speakers and successfully communicate in their daily lives.

Several studies have been conducted to show that incorporating 'Skype' in the process significantly improved students' listening, reading, speaking, and written skills. This implies that students are encouraged to use the social media network 'Skype' to enhance their abilities in communicating with others very effectively.

Role of a teacher focusing on media platforms:

Several studies found that social media platforms effectively improve students' skills. Thus, diverse social media platforms must be included in teaching and other classroom activities to enable students to acquire all skills.

A significant percentage of English-language students and other users use various social media sites. English speakers have been studying the language through social media, podcasts, internet websites, and blogs. English instructors and trainers should be more imaginative and innovative in their approach to teaching

English, as well as improve new teaching and learning techniques. Furthermore, conventional methods and book-based English learning approaches are becoming antiquated in favour of new online and social technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT). Furthermore, the conventional pattern of learning English through a book-oriented learning technique has shifted to social media platforms.

Social media sites like YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram attract millions of students and are used for marketing and learning. Most platforms enable students to connect with and share their interests, hobbies, and expertise. Social media consists of websites and software that allow students to learn English and engage in social networking sites for educational reasons. Other researchers described social media as online platforms utilised for student learning, involvement, and content-generated applications. In general, there are numerous benefits of social media as a teaching and learning platform, which might provide a better understanding and learning environment for students.

Social networking apps facilitate how students think, search, organise, and study English differently. It is observed that students' contact with social media creates a more productive and pleasant environment than connections with fellow students.

According to Al Qahtani (2018), there are innumerable applications and sites of social media that are normally used by students for learning and teaching purposes, such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc.

Effective utilization of YouTube and Facebook for English learning, combined with speaking courses, has led to increased motivation, confidence, and comfort among students in listening, reading, writing, and speaking English. Furthermore, it is obvious that social media platforms and sites genuinely benefit students in learning the English language and its connected components.

Perspectives of Educators

The verbal and written abilities such as word clarity, tone, filler, speed (words per minute), energy, and knowledge of punctuation of students who regularly use social media excel over those who don't use social media in their routine lives.

Graduates in rural areas who frequently engage with social media platforms have better language skills than others. However, both social media users and non-users exhibit filler, energy, spelling mistakes, and grammatical errors at different levels.

Conclusion

Everyone is on social media in one way or another these days. It is a part of our lives that cannot be ignored. People learn different things every day, consciously and unconsciously, on social networks. So it can be true to say that social media is shaping our lives. Teenagers use social media both for personal use and for acquiring English language skills. It's obvious that social media is a part of our daily lives, and in the near future, it will develop and get more sophisticated in offering education related concepts.

Students upload various publications on social media, such as daily life pictures, videos, and statuses, and share their interests and ideas on their profiles. Users control and modify this content as they interact on social media. Thus, social media facilitates the social process of the individual using it. Compared to face-to-face communication, social media is accessible to everyone at any time. This shows that people are constantly exposed to the opinions and judgements of others on social networks. Such involvement would improve their English language skills unnoticeably.

Social media is playing a very significant role in acquiring listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills of English language these days, as students are more inclined towards different social media platforms such as Youtube, Google Meet, Snap Chat, Zoom, WhatsApp, Instagram, etc.

The majority of college students use social media to interact with their family, friends, and academics. Students also use social networking platforms to learn about their academic or career interests.

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