



TWEET TALK VS. TEXTBOOKS: DISTINGUISHING SOCIAL MEDIA LANGUAGE FROM ACADEMIC DISCOURSE

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Abstract : Throughout history, the function of language in society has been a pertinent and contentious topic. With the rise of technology came a significant shift in the idea of communication. The main distinctions between academic and social media language are examined in this paper. This paper explores the positive and negative aspects of these modifications on education and everyday discourse. The study makes the case that social media has altered how we communicate and access language for our personal convenience because, at the end of the day, the goal is the clear delivery of the message and not the immaculacy of the vocabulary.

Keywords – Language, Social Media, Vocabulary, Communication

I. INTRODUCTION

Social media platforms have taken over as the primary means of communication in daily life in recent years. Platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Skype and many others fulfil various functions for diverse audience in communication. These platforms have altered the ways for learners to use English language as a whole. It has both positive and negative impact on learners, why because some people use social media effectively and some use it for the sake of just being tech savvy and standing amongst those wannabes. Different studies have claimed different outcomes. According to studies, Facebook has a significant impact on learning a second language (Derakshan & Hasanabbasi, 2015). Social media usage in the classroom has been shown to increase student engagement since it offers sufficient and current content, according to a study conducted in 2013 by Al-Rahmi and Othman. Students are also exposed to social media contact with people all around the world. According to research by Bicen, Sadikoglu, and Sadikoglu (2015), using social media while learning a foreign language provides advantages. However, a study by Kasuma (2017) and Abbasova (2016) discovered that utilizing social media has a negative impact on writing ability. According to Abbasova (2016), there are other benefits associated with social media use, including enhanced vocabulary and better pronunciation. According to the study by Zainal and Rahmat (2020) entitled *Social Media and its influence on vocabulary and language learning: A Case Study*, it was analyzed that social media contributes in a positive way to spark the learning of individuals. However, as per this study, social media has major influence on our daily conversation because the goal is delivery of message which has been discussed further. It sheds light on the possible differences and how our ways towards communication have altered.

II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This study confers about the possible differences between social media language and academic language and how it has affected the way we converse in our daily life. It also discusses the ongoing problems social media has created in language learning of an individual. But at the end of the day the goal is to deliver the message clearly which is being fulfilled by welcoming these modifications.

III. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

To explore main distinctions between academic and social media language.

To explore the both positive and negative aspects of technology on education and daily communication.

To understand how social media has altered our ways of communication.

IV. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

What are the main distinctions between academic and social media language.

What are the positive and negative aspects of technology on education and daily communication.

How social media has altered our ways of communication.

V. ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

Social media serves a great purpose in people's life these days. From sharing their daily life adventures to their achievements to their special occasions it has become a platform that makes them feel alive. But it is very rare set of people those who realize the shortcomings of social media. Social media uses a language that is only limited to this technical world and not the real one. For reference, table 1 shows these visible differences in written communication on social media and how they are supposed to be in real context.

Table 1: Social Media Language vs. Academic Discourse

SOCIAL MEDIA LANGUAGE	ACADEMIC LANGUAGE
HYE, HEYO, HY	HI, HEY
BIE	BYE
C U	SEE YOU
MSG	MESSAGE
COL, CAL	CALL
POV	POINT OF VIEW
THNQ, THX,	THANK YOU, THANKS
PLSS	PLEASE
OKI, OKU, OKY	OKAY
BIRO, BRUSKI, BRUH, BRO	BROTHER
SIZI, SISSY (MEANS COWARD)	SISTER
GUD	GOOD
NOI, NOPE, NAH	NO
DAT	THAT
GOIN	GOING TO
LYF	LIFE
MAH	MY
TYM	TIME
BCOZ	BECAUSE
RN	RIGHT NOW
SMOLL	SMALL
TEETS	TREATS
ROFL	ROLLING ON FLOOR LAUGHING
BTW	BY THE WAY
FYI	FOR YOUR INFORMATION
TTYL	TALK TO YOU LATER
LOL	LAUGH OUT LOUD
SRY	SORRY
CLLG	COLLEGE
OSM	AWESOME
BC	BECAUSE

These online shortforms and slangs also known as jargons are affecting the learning of a person in terms of vocabulary. It is making the typing easier for them and also making message delivery quick and convenient for them but it is affecting the learning process where people are limited to these shortforms instead of bringing purity in their content. Not only this many words have different meanings in different languages which might be responsible for wrong interpretation of a message if reaches the wrong audience.

For instance, LOL is used to represent numbers in Thailand. (Jimma, 2017) The Thai word "555" means "lol" in English. It's a light-hearted method to text someone to express laughter. This is because the sound that individuals create when they laugh is resembled by the Thai word "ha," which represents the number five. So, the way Thai people laugh over the internet is by typing a bunch of 5s (555). Likewise, "sissy" used to represent "sister" on internet is a derogatory term used to characterize a boy or man who is seen as helpless, easily alarmed, or drawn to things that are only appropriate for women or girls in English language and literal sense. Because of these changes in writing patterns, the very basic vocabulary is losing its essence. Majority of people are

not aware of full forms and the correct meanings of these simple words. Also, they find it difficult to recall the original spellings because of the constant use of these shortforms mentioned in the table 1.

Regarding the positive impact, these changes have simplified communication and shown to be an excellent resource for learning social language. By eliminating the need to type out entire words and substituting these shortforms for them, the modifications have also made it possible for users to obtain answers to inquiries more rapidly. Though, Tweet talk tend to have so much of opinionated content and so less of factual content, it nonetheless allows people to exercise their right to free speech and respect one another's point of views and opinions.

Not every post has relevant stuff for future reference but if we see these shortforms and abbreviations circulating all over the internet, they somehow caught the attention as well as gained notice and became a reference eventually. Although people might believe that these shortforms are poor selection of words and phrases but they fail to realize that this selection and choice of words became apparent because of its usage taking the central stage for a number of audiences and also became the focal point of discussion.

Not to mention but not all social media platform has made themselves into a no-nos. For instance, Netflix and Chill is the biggest social media influence in this era and if we consider watching series on this platform it does improvise our language a lot but again this improvisation is also limited to content that we choose to expose ourselves to. People can watch series in other language too which again won't serve the purpose but majority of users however are watching the series in English language and actually learning and expanding a great vocabulary on daily basis.

In addition to the aforementioned discussion, emoticons are important in social media communication since they can occasionally replace words when expressing our feelings. Different emoticon sets represent various emotions, which also serves as a foundation for message delivery that is understandable. This feature genuinely allows you to speak without actually speaking. In addition to using music as a medium for communication, social networking platforms enable users to exchange content in the form of reels or videos, allowing others to connect with one another without actually exchanging words through text. This highlights even further of the key distinctions between academic discourse and social media communication.

When we are upset or need to get a message over to someone we don't get along with, we frequently use WhatsApp status as a communication tool. Normally, we would share quotes that are addressed to specific individuals, but using textbooks prevents us from doing this. We must speak up in the appropriate language if we wish to learn anything or express an opinion. While we can't depend on resources like social media, reference books can be helpful in terms of education. On social media, miscommunication and incorrect interpretations can lead to misunderstandings and false claims. We must be factual about the content discussed in books instead of making assumptions and claims.

Taking into account the aforementioned variations, we can conclude that the language used on social media has certain disadvantages, such as a detrimental impact on vocabulary, learning, slow learning, low interest in factual learning, interpreting texts incorrectly, improper exposure to content, hesitancy when speaking in English, and fear of being in a crowd.

Similarly, there are other advantages such as message clarity when utilizing abbreviations, alternative modes of communication, exposure to appropriate material that expands vocabulary, public speaking, freedom of expression that fosters confidence, and exposure to fundamental information not found in textbooks.

However, since various people have different strategies—which are covered in more detail—not all of the drawbacks described in the paper can be totally true. These social media implementations are worthless unless someone uses them; otherwise, they are ineffective. These days, slang terms like "whatcha and gotcha" are merely influenced terms that don't belong in textbooks or qualify as proper English. People can use the proper forms of these terms by using social media intelligently. "Gotcha" signifies "got it" or "got you," while "whatcha" indicates "what are you."

Diverse approaches can be employed by individuals to satisfy their needs for language acquisition and communication. Similar to how utilizing slang and short forms is a tactic, people can try gradually getting used to full forms. They can attempt mimicking well-versed-in sentences and discover the definitions of challenging terms used on social media. Another tactic for learning vocabulary is to infer the meaning of a challenging word from the beginning and conclusion of sentences, which happens frequently when we watch a television show. Every day, they can pick up new vocabulary from social media. They may read the pages that disseminate information. They can turn the pages of a dictionary to improve their linguistic skills in the age of scrolling reels.

It is crucial to make an effort to work on your language because it not only increases your ability to communicate in English but also strengthens your personality and gives you more self-assurance. One of the skills that requires high discipline is public speaking. In this case, discipline extends beyond daily routine and includes learning discipline as well. You are in charge of your own growth, which will only accelerate if you select mental stimulation that is appropriate for you. One should eat discipline as a soul meal. In just six months, taking these small changes can significantly improve your general well-being. Everything has two sides: good and terrible. It is entirely up to you to decide which side you want to see yourself on in the future.

With this we can say that technology can have both beneficial as well as negative influence on learning of an individual, it totally depends from person to person how they acquire the information and knowledge from these sources. It is totally in the hands of an individual to be a deer or dear.

With the right set of exposure anyone can excel.

VI. CONCLUSION

English is still regarded as a challenging language since people all over the world still have trouble communicating in it. Because of the way people use language in daily life, it is still controversial to assume that someone who is fluent in English can only make a statement in a crowd. These unfavorable developments are the result of social media-influenced language. This study set out to determine whether academic and social media language differed in any way, as well as how these differences affected and were affected by language. It has discussed the potential variations by bringing up the examples. It has also examined the potential drawbacks and benefits that could result from implementing such changes. Hence, it concludes that social media has altered our ways of communication up to very extent.

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