

## *Language in Future World: New Sprouts*

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### **Abstract**

Day by day social network media is becoming an indispensable part of people lives affecting the daily routine of them. Due to the advent of ICT, the world has become SMART. Developments in communication technology affect the style and type of language used by the society. There have been new sprouts in the matter of conceptual use frame of language. For some years the authors have been observing and experiencing the impact of Social Network Medias in the field of language, especially in the syntactic and morphological aspects. Many usages which were considered to be awkward and non-usable have turned to be acceptable through continued use by a good number of people. In this context the authors are forced to think that there should be redefining of what is standard or classic language and what is not. While handling language classes, there emerges lots of confusion regarding the same.

The paper highlights the research findings of *Triumvirate: A Learning Group for Educational Research and Innovations*, in language education. Triumvirate is a team of educational researchers and has the view of promoting a research culture in educationists, teachers, and students especially in language learning in India.

The paper depicts: 1) the issue of acceptability and non-acceptability of the type of language emerging through these social network media. And 2) the strategies to deal with literary language in the context of majorities favoring the digital language culture.

Keywords: Social net work media, Future, Sprouts

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## **Introduction**

Human life will be complete only if the individual gain mastery of languages and they express their emotions and feeling through the languages. Around the world manuses different languages to communicate. What is naturally learnt as a language is what is received by him through the natural situations in which he lives in. Language is not a concrete material rather it is a set of abstractions too. A good number of rules and regulations govern any language. These rules and regulations are mastered by the users of these languages not deliberately always but unknowingly also. Language is an evolving thing. If a language is living, there will be changes in the meanings of words, there would be addition of words and usages from other languages, there would be deletions and alterations in meanings etc.

Ever since language use has been analyzed, we would see the classic language and the colloquial language. So a question the language teachers face is very significant what language is to be taught in the classrooms? Whether we can dilute the classic language or not?

In this context actually the authors thought of the new type of language emerging through the influence of social networkmedia, worldwide discussions and research are held upon the impact of social media on children's language development. The differences between social media text and other forms of written language are a subject of increasing interest for both language technology (Gimpelet al., 2011; Ritter et al., 2011; Foster et al., 2011) and linguistics (Androutsopoulos, 2011; Dresner and Herring, 2010; Paolillo 1996). Research studies show that enumerable words originate daily from these media. Children handle these internet sources rather naturally without being aware of it completely. Re appropriation is a phenomenon that is used and commonly seen during the recent years. It claims that the words which were used previously in a particular way have attained a new meaning.

The newest commonly used words in our society are included every year by the Oxford English Dictionary (OED). So what makes a word 'official' and not just slang? It is reality that what was once considered slang has now become accepted as official. The dictionaries accept vernacular words and phrases regularly. In 2013, the entries for 'tweet', 'follow' and 'follower' have been readjusted in the OED to represent both a noun and verb in order to reflect use in social media.

## **Language affected by Social Media**

The main effect of social media is that sentences and phrases have become much shorter. The almost instant ability of social media, in our fast paced society, to share thoughts with the world has also affected our behavior in actual speech.

For example the alteration of the word 'Facebook' to be both a noun and a verb can change a sentence from 'I will send her a message on Facebook' to 'I will Facebook her'. When you tweet, actually you are shortening sentences in a very effective way, to become more concise and thereby getting more message across with a limited number of letters.

Technology and its influence in our day today life have brought about remarkable changes. They are part and parcel of our life. Our day begins with messages from the media like

WhatsApp and Facebook. The tools available are incredible but it has also changed our communication system.

The role of technology in transforming the words we use into abbreviations and acronyms is amazing, for example: - electronic mail became e – mail which then became email. The physical spacing words have also been shortened, reflecting the need to use as few characters as possible within social media updates. 'E-reader' is a term that has been added to the OED reflecting the size of products available to read e-books on. Certain acronyms like 'LOL' (Laugh Out Loud) and 'OMG' (Oh My God) are widely used that save time in writing a message. Actually these types of abbreviations are to 'dumb – down' language and spelling skills.

From 'unfriend' to 'selfie' social media is clearly having an impact on language. We should be aware of how fast these online platforms change, but also of how they influence the language we write. It is a fact that the words that surround us every day influence the words we use. Language now evolves partly through our interaction with technology and much of the written language we see is now on the screens of our computer, tablets and smartphones.

The language we use to communicate with each other tends to be more malleable than formal writing, for the same reason, the combination of informal, personal communication and the mass audience afforded by social media is a recipe for rapid change. Social media in making its presence felt, from the introduction of new words to new meanings for old words to changes in the way we communicate.

New ways of communicating are emerging using an alphabet soup of acronyms, abbreviations, and neologisms. Social media has also prompted a more subtle revolution in the way we communicate. We share more personal information, but also communicate with larger audiences. Consequently our communication styles become more open, more informal, and this seeps in to other areas of life and culture. We are also more succinct, get to the point quicker, operate within the creative constraints of 140 characters on Twitter or aspire to brevity with blogs, when writing on social media.

### **New words and meanings**

For common words like 'friend', 'like', 'status', 'wall', 'page', 'profile' etc. Facebook has offered new meanings. The dark side of social media also is reflected through the other new meanings which crop up on social media channels. For example: - a *troll* is no longer just a character from Norse folklore, but someone who makes offensive or provocative comments online; *astroturfing* is no longer simply laying a plastic lawn but also a fake online grassroots movements.

## **Current situation**

Social media is making it easier than ever to contribute to the evolution of language. But at the same time a casual attitude to grammar is developed makes us desperate. Undeniably social media changed the way we speak and write – A whole host of words originating from social media and the wider internet have become so common place that they have now slipped into popular usage, and we don't even realize it.

## **What is next?**

Will new words be generated by social media ?Tumble is a word increasingly used on the blogging site 'Tumblr' and people 'pin' items they are interested in on 'Pinterest'. Will these words be officially redefined?

Mallari Jam Tenore (2013), managing editor of Poynter. Org, argues that the use of social media is actually strengthening language, stating that language is always evolving and technology is a healthy part of that evolution. She also mentions that the way in which we use social media takes us back to the oral tradition as it is much more conversational but how can this be true when this communication is non – verbal?

## **Killing Languages**

It is felt sometimes that social media is killing languages. The excessive usage of undecipherable initialisms, incorrect abbreviations and cutesy emoticons can be cited as examples. The media users simply change the ways in which we use language to express ourselves.

Linguist, John Mc Shorter, states that texting is not really written language but rather a form of spoken language. Spoken language is looser, telegraphic and less effective than written language and he calls it fingered speech. Certain acronyms like LOL (Laugh out Loud) are called pragmatic particles. They are words or phrases that are not connected semantically to the context of the sentence, but that indicate the speakers' attitude. Examples for more familiar pragmatic particles are "uh", "um", "like" and "you know".

LOL's change from initialism to pragmatic particle shows the evolutionary nature of language, and the conversational nature of texting and social media.

## **Changes in punctuation**

Another very observable point is with regard to punctuation. Most of the punctuations have been replaced by line breaks on social sites. The best – worst – ever phenomenon, in the words of Mc Shorter, can also be seen as in "Worst. Breakfast. Ever" or "Best. Party .In. History". Here each word is separated by a period to indicate the lofty magnitude of the statement. It is observed that people are using social media as if they are speaking.

Take the case of exclamation mark. It no longer just shows excitement, but is used to indicate that the person really meant what they typed. Question marks also have changed. A question

mark no longer merely shows inquisition, but is now often used to indicate self deprecation or to soften very assertive or self serving messages.

How will social media continue to change our language?

A language consists of symbols that convey meaning, plus rule for combining those symbols, that can be used to generate an infinite variety of messages. Social media fracture language in a variety of ways-using slang language, making use of informal expressions, shortening of words, using homophones, having incomplete sentence structure, meaningless abbreviations violating rules of grammar, making brief but ungrammatical expressions etc.

According to 'the new York times', we will begin communication via images only, without text.

### **The problems in the language classes**

From birth onwards an individual even though he is born in a poor family has the access to the digital technology. Smart phones are no more a luxury, rather necessity in the modern world. By the time an individual is schooled he is familiar with different types of languages ---i.e. ---the language used in communication in a WhatsApp post, a tweet etc in the oral way given out by his parents. The language consciousness among the former generation and the present generation is entirely different. Naturally the wide gap between the classic language and informal language gets reduced. The conceptual frame of languages needs redefining.

The new type of language consciousness emerging in the modern generation impacts poor spelling and punctuation habits resulting in a diminished knowledge of correct Standard English. With the ever increasing use of social network language among students damages the use of language in speaking and writing affecting the standard forms in the long run. We need to use standard form of language so that the beauty and pure form remains safe.

As language teachers the problems faced in the language classes may start from this conceptual frame of languages. The issues of acceptability and non- acceptability of the type of language emerging through the social network media is worth discussing. A set of questions put forth for discussions: how far we can accept the newly emerging language? Who shall set the limits?

What strategies shall be used to deal with standard language in the content of majorities favoring the language of the social network media?

### **Conclusion**

A stay away from changes is not possible for humanity. Social changes are to be accommodated in the finest way possible. The better part of the changes can be smoothly integrated and compromises are to be setup with the other part. The new sprouts in the field of language use emerging from the social network media are to be welcomed

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