



Influence of Social Media on English Language Learning

Dr. Kore S. M.

Asst. Professor,

Raja Shripatrao Bhagwantarao Mahavidyalay, Aundh, Dist-Satara.

Corresponding Author – Dr. Kore S. M.

DOI - 10.5281/zenodo.18654643

Abstract:

The way of communication has been transformed due to the emergence of internet and social networking. Students have opportunities to explore new things with the help of advanced technology. Teachers adhere to technological developments and they engage learners to improve their English language skills.

Teachers are accepting innovative practices in teaching- learning process and have become facilitators rather than mere instructors. They promote group tasks and stress- free learning environment. New technological tools help the language teachers to get updated in their respective areas. Social media has a great impact on English language learning. Obviously, there are certain changes in the way of writing and speaking English due to changing nature of communication in the social media platforms. Social media has introduced a new vocabulary to English language and communication. It offers opportunities to learners to improve their writing and reading. As a result, it helps to improve their vocabulary.

This article focuses on the influence of social media on English language learning.

Keywords: Technology, Language Learning, Social Media, Communication, Etc.

Introduction:

Advancement of technology has completely transformed the teaching learning process. Teachers are using various trends in technology to enable students to become more efficient in language acquisition. The conventional classroom teaching is replaced by social media platforms. It caters teachers and students lots of creative and practical ideas to create a learner-friendly environment. The internet has influenced English language not only adopting existing vocabulary, but also has added new words and phrases.

Social media is a vast area creating new words and helping people for grammatical rules and syntax. Language is ever-evolving phenomena and social media, like Face book, Chat room, Twitter, Skype, We Chat and other

sites help them updated with friends and current happenings around the world. Some new words like '**blogosphere**' are emerging from social media. Social Media has been creating new words of their own meaning. Words like **Blog, Hashtag, Selfie, and Tweet**, never existed before the existence of social media, but with the emergence of social media these words have become more prominent. Acronyms like **OMG, TBT, DM, and LOL** have born from social media.

People who engage with social media are creating new words and giving new meanings to existing words. As result of social media some words have got new meaning. The word 'friend' and 'befriend' is from conventional English originating in the 13th Century, but it has been given an entirely new meaning. Now on Face book, we come across the new words like

'*Friended*' and '*unfriended*'. Another transformation on account of social media is the usage of emojis and emoticons.

Role of Social Media in improving Language Skills:

In the recent years, language learning takes place in various ways such as email exchanges, chat lines, online projects and webinar. People at global level are using social networking websites such as, Face book, Twitter, Whats app, Blogs, Web chat, Skype, etc. Social media platforms help students to practice their language skills online.

1. Twitter: is a micro blogging and social networking service. It is one of the world's largest social media platforms and one of the most visited websites. Users can share short text messages, images, and videos in short posts and like other users' content. The platform also includes direct messaging, video and audio calling, bookmarks, lists, etc. It can be used among the students from the class, institution or from worldwide area. The use of Twitter has given opportunity of discussion beyond the classroom situation.

Use of Twitter helps students learning new words and trends consistently. Due to time limit, each student cannot be given a chance to share their idea in the classroom. In such situation, Twitter can be a good choice to resolve this problem. Twitter can also be used to develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills among learners. Listening skill can also be integrated with writing and speaking. There are plenty of twitted video or audio texts available that can be utilized for this activity. Speaking skill can be developed through Twitter and many activities can be assigned to students.

Students can be encouraged to develop reading habits and they can practice reading skills on Twitter. The theory of multiple intelligences suggests that different learners have different

intelligences and they have unique learning abilities, for example, some students are good at learning through nonverbal presentation while some others are better at verbal one.

Writing can also be developed through Twitter. The students are asked to read written texts and write a similar sort of text and post it.

2. YouTube: YouTube is a massive, free online video-sharing platform owned by Google, where users can upload, watch, share, and comment on an enormous variety of videos, from music and vlogs to tutorials and educational content, functioning as both a social media site and a global entertainment and information hub. Audio visual media helps learners to take interest and break up the monotony of a lecture and brings some fun and joy in the lesson. Students are engaged and get interested in the subject. It is easy to watch videos in the classroom by searching and browsing on the website within seconds. Some people can learn better by audio-visual media rather than mere reading and writing homework assigned to students. One can record class lectures and save them for their future reference.

3. Facebook: Facebook is a massive social networking service owned by Meta Platforms, that allows people to connect with friends, family, and colleagues online by creating profiles, sharing updates, joining groups, and interacting with businesses and organizations through pages, serving as a primary platform for social interaction, news, and digital marketing.

Number of students use Face book, a social networking service, as part of their daily activities. It can be used to share course resources, discussions, promote collaboration, improve relationships between students, include collection of learning tools like videos, images, boards, chatting and private messaging, etc. Face book has transformed our ability to stay in touch with those who are out of reach, and it has

allowed people to get connected with who have common interests and backgrounds, thus creating a social network far beyond one's imagination. The influence of these social media sites and platforms thus definitely impacts our language. It has changed our vocabulary and increased the number and speed of communication.

4. Blog: The word 'Blog' is a short form of 'weblog' which is an online journal or informational website that is regularly updated with new content, called posts, which are displayed in reverse chronological order. Blogs are used to share personal thoughts, professional expertise, news, or information on a specific topic. Blog can be run by an individual or a group and often have an informal or conversational tone. There is an increased demand in blogs as it is one of the most important medium of communication and tool for creative writing. Blogs can effectively facilitate language learning in terms of expressing ideas and establishing arguments. Blogging also gives a kind of satisfaction to learners as they upload their posts and can get comments and feedback from their friends and teachers.

The content of the Blog is noteworthy for the readers. Blogs also help to facilitate language teaching and learning especially in terms of learners' language issues, grammatical concerns and fluency. Blogging helps the students in writing clearly and concisely. Blog writing helps in sharing feelings and opinions. Learners can use

their own subject, language style and vocabulary. Blog writing also helps students to develop their own linguistic skills. Blogs can also be designed to provide class notes, guidelines on learning, learning materials and interactive exercises.

Conclusion:

Advancement of the information and technology has been playing a significant role in every aspect of life in the recent years. Social media has made learning accessible to everyone. It is motivating learners to explore technological advances and helping to transform them into finding new opportunities. Hence, social media has definitely influenced the way of speaking and writing in English.

References:

1. Chandler, D., & Munday, R. (2016). *A Dictionary of Media and Communication*. Oxford University Press.
2. <https://www.theblogstarter.com/>
3. <https://www.facebook.com/>
4. <https://www.youtube.com/>
5. [www.iallt.org/iallt_journal/the changing role of the teacher](http://www.iallt.org/iallt_journal/the_changing_role_of_the_teacher)
6. <https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/blogging-elt>
7. <https://esllibrary.com/blog/12-ways-to-use-twitter-with-language-learners>
8. Gibson, A. (2016). *Engaging Students into Lifelong Learning Using Social Media*.