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# LANGUAGE CHANGES IN THE DIGITAL ERA: THE IMPACT OF THE INTERNET, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND MOBILE DEVICES ON LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

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**Annotation:** The article covers important information about language changes in the digital era and special features of the use of the changes in the English language under the influence of the Internet. Moreover, role of social media and mobile devices on language and communication between people in the modern world.

**Key words:** Social media, unique vocabulary, abbreviated, generation's culture, Vernacular, communication styles, modern communication, Twitter, Facebook, linguistic backgrounds.

The global Internet does not serve only effective communication tool in general, but also a means of establishing primary contact between its users, including geographically remote from each other. Significance of the internet rises in all areas of human life, including not only science and education, but also the economy, entertainment and hobby. Social media has become an integral part of our daily lives, and we can see its impact everywhere, from the way we interact with each other to the products we buy. Social media has also significantly influenced the way we communicate, and as a result, our language has been shaped by it. Younger generations have adopted new slang, abbreviations, and even emojis to express themselves. But what impact does this have on society as a whole? In this post, we will explore how social media language has transformed the way we talk, write, and communicate. We will also discuss the potential effects of this language shift on future generations and how it is already changing the way we perceive the world around us. Let's go down in and discover the power of social media language! Social media language is a term used to describe the unique vocabulary, syntax, and writing style that has emerged on social media platforms. This language is characterized by its informal tone, use of slang, and brevity, with many words and phrases being abbreviated or shortened. It is a language that is constantly evolving and adapting to new trends and fads and is largely influenced by the current generation's culture and values. In many ways, social media language has become a reflection of the current generation's identity. And a way to express their thoughts, motions, and opinions in a way that is authentic and relatable to their peers. It is also a language that has created a sense of community and belonging among its users, with the use of hashtags,

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memes, and other forms of social media. Vernacular creating a shared language and culture among individuals from different backgrounds and locations. As social media continues to play an increasingly important role in our lives, the influence of social media language is only likely to grow, shaping the way we communicate with each other both online and offline.

Social media has become a dominant force in the way people communicate and interact with one another. With the rise of social media platforms, the way we speak and the words we use have evolved rapidly. The impact of social media language on the current generation is significant and cannot be overstated. The language used on social media platforms has influenced the way individuals communicate with each other. Abbreviations, acronyms, and shortened words have become commonplace, making traditional writing and communication styles seem outdated. The use of emojis has also risen in popularity, providing a visual language that can convey emotions and feelings in a effective way.

Furthermore, social media has given rise to new words and slang that were previously nonexistent. The younger generation is particularly susceptible to these new words and phrases, and they have become a crucial part of their everyday language. This has led to a generational divide in language use, with older generations struggling to understand the constantly evolving social media language.

Overall, the impact of social media language on the current generation is significant. It has given rise to new words, abbreviations, and emojis that have become a ubiquitous part of modern communication. It will be interesting to see how social media language continues to evolve and impact the way we communicate in the future. The informal nature of social media communication has significantly influenced the English language. Platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram encourage a conversational tone, often blurring the lines between spoken and written language. This shift has led to the widespread use of contractions, colloquialisms, and a more relaxed approach to grammar and punctuation. While some purists view these changes as a degradation of language standards, others argue that they represent a natural and dynamic evolution of English[2].

Social media has also played a crucial role in the globalization of English. Platforms are used by people from diverse linguistic backgrounds, leading to the emergence of a more inclusive and accessible form of English. This 'Global English' is characterized by its simplicity and adaptability, accommodating non-native speakers and fostering cross-cultural communication. This phenomenon has implications for English language teaching, where there is an increasing emphasis on practical, conversational skills over strict adherence to traditional

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grammar rules. Social media has introduced a plethora of new words and expressions into the English lexicon. Terms like 'selfie,' 'trending,' and 'viral' are direct products of the social media age. These platforms also facilitate the rapid spread of new terms, often from specific subcultures or communities, into mainstream usage. Moreover, the visual nature of platforms like Instagram and Snapchat has led to the popularization of image-based communication, influencing the way we express emotions and ideas.

With the spread of usage of the internet, gadgets such as mobile phones and computers had to be made more advanced as well. And while these gadgets play a major role in making communication possible, a suitable language is always required for meaningful correspondence, particularly across borders. With the help of the internet, a <u>Filipino</u> assistant can organize electronic diaries for Silicon Valley officials, and German consumers can read product information written in Chinese on eBay.

Moreover, the use of AI and the internet accessibility of these AI-based tools has also greatly changed communication between people. Especially among professionals, there are both negative and positive impacts of this change. On language in terms of translation it provides us with a quick tool, but then again is highly susceptible to errors. Human intervention is still required to operate these tools. Internet language learning is also based on collected data, so hence can be inaccurate in niches. In the future, we may see AI assistants helping people across borders communicate effectively. Such is the impact of the internet. The question that arises here is—how is the internet affecting language? The written English language is free from any abbreviations and slang, but with the advancement in the internet, the words used for communication have shortened considerably[3]. People today are communicating with each other like never before, by using abbreviations, spaces, keystrokes, emojis, and acronyms. Anyone can see that the use of these "abbreviated languages" has badly affected the language of communication globally. The hallmark of Internet communication is efficiency. People who began using e-mail, and later instant messaging, found it efficient to invent a whole new world of acronyms, and these spread like wildfire across the Internet. Acronyms such as 'brb' and 'lol' have made their way into the ordinary speech of young people, and even into the pages of some respectable dictionaries. Meanwhile, it became so easy to communicate over the Internet that people stopped writing things out with a pen and paper. Letters have become obsolete, and everything from school projects to professional reports are created on computers, with the aid of online dictionaries and spellcheckers. Some studies have suggested that young people no longer know how to spell, because they use programs that auto-correct their work. In this way, the

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Internet has had as large an effect on spelling conventions as the printing press did, almost six hundred years ago.

More than any other technology, the Internet has encouraged the invention of new words[4]. Sometimes these words are created by expanding the definition of existing words. 'Traffic' used to refer to foot traffic, and then to horse and carriages, and then to automobiles. Now it refers to people visiting a website. Words like 'cyberspace' and 'virtual' were originally invented by science fiction authors, but they were adopted by early Internet users, and entered the wider vocabulary of the public. A 'virus' used to be something that made you sick, but today it's a destructive program that spreads itself across the Internet. The word 'wireless' was originally used for radio communication, but today it refers to wireless Internet. If you use a social networking site such as Facebook, you will be familiar with 'tagging' people, or 'posting' something to your 'wall.' These words all had similar definitions in the past, but they have been given a new twist and are used to refer to virtual activities.

Sometimes words are given entirely new definitions. A 'troll' used to be a malicious creature from Norse legend, but now it refers to someone who enjoys harassing other people over the Internet. 'Spam' used to be a kind of canned meat, but now it refers to a self-replicating message, often containing advertising, or promoting a scam. A 'stream' used to refer to running water, but now it's a constantly updating stream of information. Sometimes the Internet creates new verbs out of nouns. 'Troll' and 'stream' can both be used as verbs, and 'google' is an entirely new verb that has even been included in some dictionaries. Words that were adopted and modified by Internet users come full circle when they make their way back into everyday speech. The word 'troll' is a prefect example. It used to refer to a strange, inhuman creature living in the woods of Northern Europe, and then it came to refer to someone behaving badly on the Internet. Now someone can be called a troll when they behave obnoxiously in real life. The word 'lurking' is another example. It was adopted by Internet users to refer to someone who views an online conversation without contributing. Now people use it in real life to refer to someone who is part of a group but doesn't join in the conversation.

To conclude all given facts above, it should be noted that the new age of the internet has exerted quite a big impact on every field of life and <u>technology</u>. Today, one can execute tasks that were impossible to do so a few decades ago. Not only that, the internet has opened doors for innovation and improvement in all aspects of life, be it business, science, or technology. Technology has advanced at a remarkably rapid pace in the last few years. One thing that the internet has affected strongly is language. It has completely changed the way people communicate and interact because of the emergence of sophisticated techniques. Therefore, it

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has become one of the most influential factors on how people learn English. Because English is an internationally recognized language for communication across various cultures and languages, the communication platforms on the internet are mostly based on English.

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