



SOCIAL MEDIA AND IT'S INFLUENCE ON VOCABULARY

RESEARCH PAPER (SYNOPSIS)

Abstract:

The most efficient and powerful tool for communication is social media which is used by all generations nowadays. Social media platforms such as Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, etc help the communication easier with the students so they are effectively being used in institutions and organizations for learning purposes and offering newer information. Social media platforms have gained gigantic popularity over the past few years. The purpose of this paper is to see the impact of social media on language learning. The study will investigate the negative and positive effects of these platforms on learning the language. The best way to collect comprehensive data is by using questionnaires and analyzing the data quantitatively. Then the responses will reveal the influence of social media platforms on language learning.

1) Introduction:

Social media nowadays is a tool for daily interaction and communication as Instagram, Zoom, Facebook, Skype, Microsoft teams, and many other-each platforms has their own unique feature and helps the different purpose of communication-these platforms are a great influence on the people as they have made the language learning extremely simple. These platforms are the best tools for learning the language efficiently. There are some platforms such as YouTube and google meet on which the students can share and discuss the information they have learned with other students. The research was conducted by Derakshan and Hassanabbi and found that Facebook had a huge influence on people's second language learning. Plenty of vocabulary or language learning information and references are easily available on these platforms. The research conducted by Bicen Sadikoglu and Sadikoglu in 2015-the study revealed skills that there are thousands of positive influences on foreign language learning whereas there was a study that was conducted by Kasuma in 2017 and Abbova in 2016 that social media had caused a lot of negative effects on the writing skills of the people.

Social media is an effective way to learn a language. We can notice the impacts of language learning through the research of Alharthy and Alfaki (2014) where it was discovered that social media learning is way better than regular learning- It is because these internet platforms expose the students to different learning ways and the students learn the new information. Not only do the platforms provide the learning of new words and the latest vocabulary but they also make the learning easier because social media give the exposure to use the language learned in the real life. There are countless positive influences of language learning through social media such as better pronunciation and vocabulary of the people is enlarged.

Despite all the positive influences, there are some negative impacts of the social media platforms such as the language used on social media is not accurate sometimes and this affects the learning users. The inaccurate language, slang, and not using proper grammar is a tradition seen on social media platforms which creates a problem for the people who are using social media for formal language learning. The biggest problem with social media language learning is that on these platforms people use informal short forms very often such as "wanna" and "gotcha" and these can't be used in formal language. People who are learning the language can be influenced by the informal language and use the informal language in their writing. In 2017 according to Swam, social media had gotten a backlash because of the negative impacts of the platforms.

2) Literature Review:

2.1) Introduction

Internet-based technology-social media is used by a lot of individuals of all generations for communicative purposes. According to the research done by Gaytan in 2013 the social networking sites such as Twitter, Facebook, Google, YouTube, etc serve the purpose of communication and is used as learning assistant by the students, the students here share the information they have as well as get new knowledge about what they need. Regan in 2015 did research on a billion active users who were recorded and it basically caters to 30% of the population of the world. It is also important that social media should be used by language learners to learn the language more efficiently.

2.2) The language used on social media

Every platform has different features and elements and different services to offer. According to Sebah Al-Ali (2014) and Mansor (2016), every platform such as Twitter and YouTube, etc is different and has diverse features and this affects the way people communicate. For example, Facebook is best for writing long messages and Twitter is used for reading new information. Instagram on the other hand is just used for pictures and videos.

The popularity of social media emerged on the internet slangs-people use slang which helps them to express themselves in a good manner. Though, this can also cause a negative influence. Internet slang such as “LOL” (laugh out loud),” BTW” (by the way), and “TTYL”(talk to you later) cause some problems as they affect language learning.

The language is changing frequently to accommodate technological developments. The social networking sites such as Facebook are used to learn and understand the language. Along with all the benefits, one of the major advantages of social media platforms is that they increase motivation as well as develops social skills. The study was conducted by Namaziandost and Nasri in 2019 and Dhanya in 2016-according to their research they found that due to the variety of paths on social media language learning is enhanced. In 2014 belal conducted research in which he claimed that the use of social media reduces the anxiety of people and enhances language production because social media is the experience of real-time actual conversations.

According to Rehmat in 2019 social media is the best way to motivate a language learner as it is an active learning process. The student can easily use Facebook and other networking sites and allocate their time and can learn the language without meeting the native speaker in real-time. Where there are multiple benefits of social media there is a tendency that people can have a negative impact on learning. The usage of slang and abbreviations risks the literacy of the learner. In 2017 according to Swan, grammar and vocabulary are also affected by the excessive use of social media. Facebook usage also increases negative behaviors according to the research of Fodeman and Monroe.

These social networking platforms are a great source for acquiring a language. One of the foremost effects of social media language learners is that they are confident, and have a great memory. According to Kabilan et al. 2010 claim that the learners have stated that due to the platforms of social media learning is improved that the students are motivated toward effective

learning. There are a variety of written texts on these platforms which makes language learning extremely easy. Learners will gain a lot of new information through the platforms such as Twitter. The learners will learn new phrases and writing styles when they read different texts and the learners will have improved vocabulary (Khan, Ayaz Khan & Khan, 2016).

In 2017 according to Kasuma social media has made interaction extremely easy for people. There are several kinds of activities that make language learning tremendously stress-free. There are multiple online interactive courses that help the learners learn the native language and the original content effortlessly and students are introduced to a wide variety of discourse functions that help their language ability. This helps in language creativity.

These online platforms are highly critiqued as the students are heavily dependent upon these social networking sites such as Facebook and YouTube because of the easy access to the content they don't focus on learning rather the focus is to get the get data easily. Despite all the positive influences of Facebook, YouTube and Twitter there are some negative impacts on the people such as Facebook is a website where people write different content in a variety of writing styles and people express themselves freely so there are a lot of informal posts that can be seen and that affects the academic writing skills of the people.

2.3) Vocabulary learning

The most challenging aspect of language is learning the vocabulary-This is the most significant element of any Language. It is important that a person should master the language that they are learning this would not only help them understand the language in a much better way but they will be able to speak the language in a much better way with extreme confidence. Listening reading and speaking are the foremost elements that help people develop their vocabulary (Haddad, 2016 and Farjami and Aidinlou, 2013). The previous experiences and the learning of people influence the vocabulary development of a person. Second language learning plays an extremely essential part when language learners develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. There was a research that claims that targeted language learning increases vocabulary knowledge and this study found that repeated exposures, semantic strategies, and contextual analysis are the three factors that help develop our vocabulary. This research was conducted by Hairrell, Rupley, and Simmons in 2011 Another research according to Butler, Urrutia, Buenger, Gonzalez, Hunt, and Eisenhart in 2010, and Nagy and Heibert in 2011 claimed that reading is a fundamental aspect that develops vocabulary.

Kabilan et al., 2010 as cited in Kasuma, 2017 state that vocabulary that is learned online is considered secondary learning. Online learning whether academic, non-academic, problemsolving, or any kind of unintentional learning is called incidental learning. So it is important for the instructors to see what they are putting out as this will influence the people.

3) Objectives:

People have different opinions on the influence of these platforms on the lives of people as it is an active part of our lives. The purpose of this paper is to see the influence on language learning and vocabulary skills. This study also sees the reason for the negative and positive influence of social media platforms. The questions that the study objectives are:

1. How does social media impact the vocabulary of people?
2. What is the influence of social media on language learning?
3. How does social media affect grammar?

4) Hypothesis:

4.1) Vocabulary skills

The two main functions of the vocabulary are identification of the new words and understanding the functions of each word. Identifying the words is vital as it helps people use different words in different contexts. It is my hypothesis that with the methodology I am using the results would likely be that the students will search for the meaning of the words which are new to them on social media. They will understand easily how to use the words in a particular context and this will definitely play a part in the language enhancement of a person.

4.2) Interest in Language learning

The expected results of my research would likely be that if the learners are keen to learn they would prefer to use the language in the context. The speaker would be interested to use the language outside their learning zone which would make them confident and motivate them to learn more and more.

4.3) The negative and positive impacts of social media on people

According to the methodology which will be used for my research-the expected result would be that social media influences the learning of the people. Social media is a platform that encourages people to use different languages. One of the negative influences of the usage of social media is the excessive use of short forms and slang which results in the usage of informal language. Another negative impact is that social media causes anxiety among users who are in the race of learning.

5) Methodology:

The study was conducted through a quantitative method. The data collected by the quantitative methods are numerical. This research will be done with the help of the collection of data through a quantitative method that will answer the questions. Research surveys will be conducted to help analyze the data from the large population. The population of this study will be students from public and private universities ranging from the first year to the last year-all from different educational backgrounds. The sample will be collected through the random sampling method. Every person from the population will be selected randomly.

To achieve the goal of the study-the set of questions will be given to the people to answer and this will give us valid results. A questionnaire is a set of structured questions which helps to the most accurate results. Then the questionnaire will be divided into two sections. The first section caters to personal background whereas the second section caters to the usage of social media in terms of vocabulary skills and interest in language learning. Each portion will have 28 questions in total and every question will have four pointer scale varying from 1 being the highest and 4

being the lowest. Then the data will be analyzed quantitatively using SPSS to find the average total.

6) Findings:

6.1) Vocabulary skills

The research will indicate that new words are attained because of the heavy use of social media. According to the research and methodology use the findings are most likely that vocabulary is enhanced through social media. Social media platforms help in improving and enhancing the student's vocabulary and other literary skills and it will give an opportunity to the learners to involve with the language. Social media also enhance the understanding that how to use the language in a particular context. The possibility is that the students agree that the platforms such as Facebook and Twitter help in refining their language skills. Through the results of the research, we can easily show that social media provides wide paths for learning skills. Hopefully, the results will show that social media has a positive impact on learners.

6.2) Interest in language learning

The research will show that social media has encouraged language users to use the language in a better way. Moreover, the findings will show that social media motivates to use the language in a broader perspective as it is the platform where the learners practice their language in a fun way. These platforms not only provide an opportunity for learners to express themselves in a more confident way but also give learners a chance to practice the language because of the helpful and motivating environment. These social media platforms are extremely effective for learning skills.

6.3) Impacts of language learning:

The findings of the research will show both the negative and the positive influences on the users of social media. The positives include that social media provides accurate knowledge and learning of skills such as grammar and vocabulary. The negative is that social media have gathered a lot of complaints regarding the negative impact on students' grammar use and spelling. Next, some respondents agreed that the use of internet slang such as LOL, BTW and, FTW) on social media impacts their formal writing and most of the respondents agreed that the use of informal contractions on social media (such as gonna, whatcha, and gimme) affect formal language.

7) Conclusion:

The main objective of this study was to find out the influence, benefits, and drawbacks of using social media on language vocabulary skills findings of this study provide can be concluded that social media sparks language learning interest among students. The words that surround us a day influence the words we use. Since most of the written communication we see is now on the screens of our computers, tablets, and smartphones, language now evolves partly through our interaction with technology. The words that surround us a day influence the words we use. Since most of the written communication we see is now on the screens of our computers, tablets, and smartphones, language now evolves partly through our interaction with technology. Words that

had existing meanings have now been given other meanings in an internet context, which then spills over into verbal communication.

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