

THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA SLANGS AND ACRONYMS ON STUDENTS' COMMUNICATION SKILLS

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Social media make far-reaching changes in the way people communicate and bond each other, bringing about a shift in the language usage because of slangs and acronyms. This biggest transformation had a profound impact on communication skills, both had positive and negative effects.

With the rise of social media, its slangs and acronyms existed in various forms across different cultures and genre. Every day, people adopt fresh and in trend information, lifestyle, technologies, language and many more. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, TikTok etc. are very popular among the present generation. For them, being up-to-date and through following trends on these different sites; People will find them cool, smart and trendy. Yet, there are influences of digital social media in the language acquisition of young learners since young people are now most connected with other people through this medium of communication. For example, with the character limits on platforms on Twitter has driven the users to create and adopt new abbreviations and shortcuts such as "OTW" (On the Way), "LOL" (Laugh Out Loud), "AFAIK" (As Far As I Know) and "FTW" (For The Win). These become a part of everyday language, not just online but even in spoken communication.

Here are some negative effects of the excessive use of social media slangs and acronyms on the learners' communication skills:

Reduction of language proficiency- with the frequent use of slangs and acronyms, it resulted to a decline in formal language skills. Learners may find struggle and difficulty in grammar, spelling and proper sentence construction.

Lack of clarity and formal tone-Possible misinterpretations or misunderstanding may arise because of the continually evolving of lingo, abbreviations and acronyms. These lingos are not applicable for formal writing since it requires the writer to be clear, precise and more formal.

Exclusivity - People unfamiliar with these terms may feel left out or confused, creating barriers in effective communication.

Poor grammar and spelling - These social media slangs and acronyms could lead to the development of bad writing habits since users are in habits of using character limits, there are misspelled words because of removing vowels in words and overlook grammar rules.

Limited or reduced vocabulary - When learners merely rely on small set of expressions, characters and words, they may find it challenging to articulate broaden and complex thoughts and express emotions effectively. There are also a possibility of the use of repetitive slang words or phrases and informal contractions. In this matter, trouble in finding and using right words in academic writing and communication skills may result.

Social media abbreviations may damage students' communication skills both oral and written. To mitigate the negative effects on the social media slangs and acronyms, educators and parents have a crucial role to encourage the young people to develop their strong foundation of learning language skills. Parents must monitor their children in using gadgets and they should promote reading, writing and face-to-face communication to ensure communication competence. In addition to that, learners should pay serious attention in avoiding the usage of abbreviations and slangs to improve their English communication skills both written and oral.

The influence of social media slangs and acronyms on communication skills is multifaceted. While young learners enhance their creativity, efficiency and cultural connectivity, they should also consider their language proficiency and clarity on the communication.

References:

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