THE INFLUENCE OF INTERNET SLANGS ON THE YOUTH

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to determine the influence of internet slang on youngsters. The study mainly analyses the effect of internet slangs on young people's communication skills, writing skills and language development. There are presented the data on the experience of internet slang use among students, aiming to express research more clearly.

Keywords. Internet slang, social media, networking, communication skills, academic writing, non-standard English.

Introduction. In a globalized society, individuals are continuously embracing new technologies, information, lifestyles, and languages. The younger generation is particularly drawn to popular social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Yahoo Messenger, and Google Plus, exerting a significant influence on their communication and expression. Social media not only shapes the way people write and speak but also impacts their emotions, feelings, and ideas, serving as a means to observe shifts in vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and pronunciation. Additionally, social media facilitates the sharing of thoughts and emotions, allowing users to freely employ various languages and informal communication styles, including emoticons, dialects, and acronyms. However, this pervasive influence extends to academic writing, potentially blurring the line between informal social media language and formal

academic writing. Consequently, students may struggle with punctuation and vocabulary usage, emphasizing the importance of mindful word selection and adherence to proper grammar and punctuation when crafting written work.

Internet slang, commonly known as "netspeak," has significantly influenced the communication habits of young individuals. It has become an integral component of everyday language, particularly within the realms of social media, text messaging, and online interactions. This form of language has a distinct ability to condense and simplify expression, fostering more efficient and lighthearted communication. Despite its benefits, concerns have been raised regarding its potential impact on spelling, grammar, and overall language proficiency, with some apprehensions about its possible detrimental effects on formal communication skills. However, internet slang also offers avenues for creative self-expression and fosters a sense of belonging within online communities. As with any linguistic development, it is crucial for educators and parents to strike a balance between embracing the creativity and connectivity facilitated by internet slang and emphasizing the importance of conventional language competencies.

Internet slang has emerged as a fresh and inventive form of language, encompassing diverse dialects, foreign languages, digital expressions, and icons. This signifies its development within a more varied linguistic environment, offering people exposure to unconventional syntax and varied word formation methods through engagement with internet communities. While some individuals express concerns about the potential erosion of writing fluency due to internet slang usage on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, McCulloch argues that our texting and tweeting activities are enhancing our capacity for written expression. A study conducted by McCulloch indicates that messaging in 2018 was notably more succinct than in 2016, as observed in the interactions of a million Russian social media users. This suggests that internet slang has significantly enriched its expressive capabilities with vibrant local nuances and abundant connotations among young users.

Materials and methods. The English language, renowned for its adaptability and creativity, is characterized by its flexibility and potential for variation. This variability

can manifest in the selection of language formality to suit different contexts, whether formal or informal. For example, McCulloch underscores the discrepancy between the outdated expression "shall" and the contemporary verbal expression "aaaaaaagh" in a real teenage text context, emphasizing the heightened emotional precision and verbosity in the writing style of modern generations. Teenagers today exhibit a tendency to challenge traditional sentence structures, grammar rules, and punctuation, reflecting a liberated writing style that delves into human emotions, reminiscent of innovations from the twentieth century.

Apparently, as technology development, internet slang enters everyday life, exploiting the innovative and convenient characteristic of itself. It transforms the language, behavior and psychology of communication. Many internet slang originates from the TV shows, or Youtube. A catchphrase online causing by an incident can be publicized overnight. For example, 13-year-old Danielle Bregoli from the The Dr. Phil Show uttered a memorable phrase, "Cash me ousside, howbow dah." ("Catch me outside, how about that?") It went viral because of the thick accent and rebellious attitude of her. Online, the clip has made into different internet memes and been widely mocked in a series of image macros captioned with various frustrating experiences. Memes are known as humorous and ironic, like Danielle's, and there are other kinds of memes that spreading racist, aggressive messages in order to incite hatred, although the reasons they spread and they exert influence remain unknown.

Results and conclusion. Internet slang, which has surged in popularity alongside the proliferation of computers, smartphones, and social media, is recognized as the contemporary language of today. It has permeated online communities and reshaped the vernacular within these spaces throughout the lifespan of the information highway. The impact of this slang is particularly evident among secondary school students, who not only employ abbreviations on social media platforms but also integrate them into their written exams, leading to confusion for examiners and a tendency to overlook proper spelling and pronunciation. Despite numerous studies investigating internet language among day students in private secondary schools, no research has explored

the influence of internet slang on the spoken and written English language in secondary schools. Conducting such a study would offer significant benefits for all secondary schools, enabling educational institutions to recognize and address students affected by this phenomenon in their academic endeavors. While entirely eliminating the use of internet slang among secondary school students may present challenges, efforts to diminish its prevalence are feasible. Furthermore, such research would empower teachers to implement appropriate measures for students who persist in using slang. In essence, this research not only contributes to the existing literature.

In light of the investigations' findings, it is evident that the younger generation is heavily engaged with social media platforms in today's context. While these platforms and educational groups have played a role in educating these social media enthusiasts, there have also been adverse effects on the educational process due to the influence of social media. The prevalence of slang on social media, or internet slang, has seeped into classrooms and impacted the learning process of students. This form of expression, characterized by slang words, phrases, and abbreviated communication, has exerted various influences on social media interactions. Students have been observed making spelling and grammar errors when using excessively informal language on social media, adversely affecting their academic performance. It is apparent that the excessive time spent by the younger generation on social media, engaging in conversations with friends using informal language, has significantly hindered their written and verbal communication skills. The use of internet slang on social media has also been found to impede students' creativity and contribute to feelings of irritability and impatience. The recommendation is for students to strive to use complete words in their informal communication as a way to enhance their command over both oral and written skills.

It is recommended that students may be encouraged to limit the amount of time they spend on social media sites each day in order to read more fiction and academic books that will help them write better. Students should still be monitored by teachers on how they use social networking sites to create balance between social media and academic activities of students to avoid setbacks in the academic performance of the

students. Since the results confirmed that the use of social media sites had somehow negatively affected the vocabulary of students, they should be warned about the risks of being addicted to social networking sites.

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