THE IMPACT OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE USE AND DEVELOPMENT

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Introduction: The use of electronic communication has become an integral part of our daily lives. People communicate more frequently and easily with others using various electronic devices such as smartphones, laptops, and tablets. The rise of electronic communication has brought about significant changes in language use and development.

Materials and Methods: The primary focus of this study is to explore the impact of electronic communication on language use and development. In this regard, the study has employed various methods such as reviewing the relevant literature, conducting surveys, and analysis of language data. The study also used a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative research methods.

Results: The impact of electronic communication on language use and development has been a topic of interest for researchers in recent years. With the widespread use of electronic communication, such as social media platforms, email, and text messaging, there has been a noticeable change in the way people communicate with one another.

One of the most significant impacts of electronic communication on language use and development is the rise of informal communication. With the use of text messaging and social media, people tend to use informal language and abbreviations to communicate more efficiently. For example, "LOL" is an abbreviation for "laugh out loud," and "BRB" means "be right back." While these abbreviations may be useful in electronic communication, they can hurt language development and communication skills when used in formal settings[1].

In addition to the aforementioned impacts, popular social media platforms like Discord and Twitter have also been recognized as tools for learning the informal English language. Discord, a voice and text chat app widely used by gamers, has created a new communication style for younger people, where casual language and slang are more prevalent. Similarly, Twitter's 280-character limit has led to the development of its own set of conventions and practices, including the use of hashtags and abbreviations, as well as informal language and expressions. While these platforms can be helpful for language learners to practice informal language, it is important to balance it with formal language learning to ensure effective communication in all settings.

The impact of electronic communication on language use and development has also been observed in children and teenagers. With the increased use of electronic devices and social media, children and teenagers are exposed to a wide range of language patterns, including non-standard and informal. This exposure can lead to the adoption of non-standard language and affect their language development and communication skills.

Additionally, a study conducted on the language used in electronic communication among university students revealed that the language used in their emails was more informal and casual

than the traditional letter-writing language. The study involved the sampling of 100 emails from the University Putra Malaysia (UPM) International Students Association (ISA) yahoo group and 50 text messages from Malaysian and international students at UPM. The analysis of the emails showed that some lacked subject lines while others crammed the entire message body into the subject line. Standard spelling, punctuation, and capitalization were not always observed, and some users used SMS language in their messages (Fig. 1.) [2].
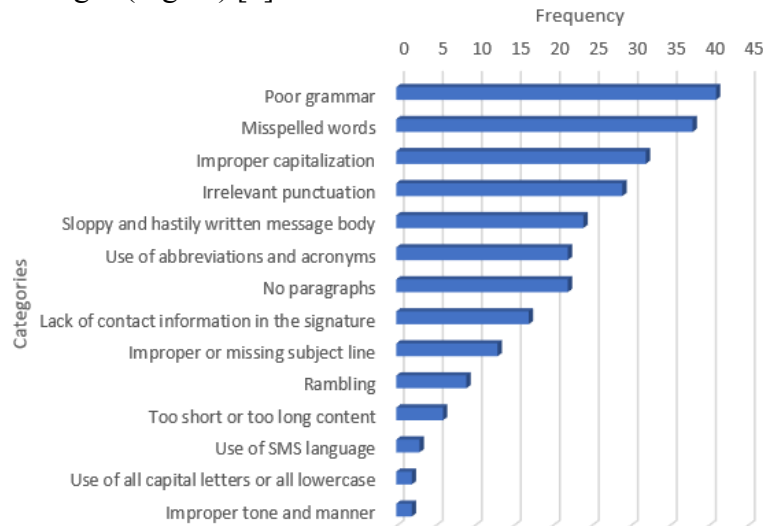
Fig. 1. The main characteristics of the analyzed e-mails (N=100)

Conclusion: In conclusion, the impact of electronic communication on language use and development has both positive and negative effects. While electronic communication has made communication more efficient and convenient, it has also led to an increase in informal language use, overreliance on emoticons and emojis, spelling and grammatical errors.

References:

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