



SOCIAL MEDIA AS A BOON IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

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ABSTRACT



Signs and symbols are the tools that humans use for their communication. As the civilization has started growing, the way of communication has changed from stone Age to Modern age, signs to languages and text to digital form. Many tools are used to learn languages and social media plays a vital role in English language learning process. There are many social media websites where one can bring out his or her views and contribute their thoughts and ideas in public. They also provide a rich playground for experimenting, developing and subverting language. The language has taken a new form through social media. Social media are emerging in various forms to bring people together as one community. Thus, social media provide a platform for English language learning.

Keywords: *Communication, Language, Social Media*



INTRODUCTION

Signs and Symbols are used to communicate with each other during Stone Age period. Humans didn't have any specific language to communicate. People lived in forests and did cave painting and hunted animals for their survival. They drew on stones, caves and through that they expressed their thoughts and ideas. Cave painting are the first type of recorded communication we see in history and probably led to the development of spoken language and written form. The interesting fact about the Stone Age people is that everyone understood what they have drawn on caves. The tools which are used for their cave paintings are clay and charcoal mixed with spit. This is how the Stone Age people used to communicate with each other. As the civilization started growing the way of living and the way of communicating are totally changed. Languages are found according to the region and people started communicating in their own language. It is not stopped with that, there emerged the writing form. Many languages found their own writing form. As the result of that many educational institutions started teaching written form and more important are given to it. This is how the language took its root and now it has grown into many branches.

METHODS USED IN EARLY TIMES AND IN MODERN CONTEXT

There are many languages spoken around the world, in that English became a dominant language and spoken as a second language in many parts of the country. Due to its influence, the medium of study in many educational institutes are in English. The English language teaching in the past has a long tradition. The major learning processes in the past are translation of sentences and memorization of vocabulary. In English language teaching there are three key terms namely method, approach and technique are used frequently. In the traditional way of teaching only the teacher is active and the listeners are passive. Only the bookish information and the things known to teachers are taught to the students and they are not taken out of the four walls. In early times much importance are given to grammar in a language learning process. In the past English is just taught as a subject and not much importance are given to the spoken form.

Bilingual method is followed in the classroom where teacher reads the entire sentence in English and then explains it in the local language. This is how the English language is taught in a conventional classroom.

The modern way of teaching English language is totally different from the traditional way of teaching. In today's modern world, technology has an ever changing effect on many things and that includes English language teaching and learning. In modern days many tools and gadgets are used in teaching English language and a classroom has a projector where the teacher projects things which he or she want to show to the students. Things around the world are brought within the four walls with the help of internet. Power points are used to take classes and students take those power points with them in their gadgets. Students get the materials of their need in their place with the help of internet. Technology has gained more prominent place in classrooms. Among those technologies social media takes an upper hand in language learning process both inside and outside the classroom.

INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

Internet is highly used in educational institutes; day to day usage of internet among students has been increasing gradually. In that social media are playing a vital role in learning a language. Social media are emerging in various forms to bring people together. Social media like face book, twitter, you tube, whatsapp etc., help students to know the things happening in and around the country. In the present global scenario millions use social media, teachers are learning how to incorporate the medium into the classroom successfully. The social media help the teachers to be in contact with their peer groups and stay updated about their fields. Social media help the students in attending many online courses and this help them to get in touch with the techniques and methods using by the students of English in other part of the world. Teaching through social media is the modern way of teaching and the students show much interest towards this method. Learning of English through social media would be easier, colorful, interesting and unlimited, so that the students will never get bored in learning the English



language. Many new words are used in social media, through which the learner can learn many vocabularies and that help them to speak the language without any hesitation. There are many free online courses which help the students to join, learn and develop language skills. Nowadays schools and colleges are well built with technologies and it gives free Wi-Fi for the students and allow them to use electronic gadgets inside the campus. So, this setup helps the students to have a close connection with social media and students can make use of it in learning English language.

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

Social media is a huge network and it helps the students have a worldwide knowledge from their place. If a student needs to know information about a particular he or she need not to approach the teacher, social media will pave way for their doubts. Social media enables students to develop communication and language skills. It helps to interact with people and to contribute their ideas in public where even they can get feedbacks for their ideas. Social media is also good for students to gain knowledge which can be from outside their classroom.

Social media also has some disadvantages in using it. Using electronic gadgets for a long time may cause eye problems. We can't get signal everywhere and the gadgets should be charged every time. Social media are lack of humanitarian's aspects and cause confusing languages because of using slang words or abbreviations. So, it has both advantages and disadvantages in using, it depends on how the users use the media.

SUMMING UP

English language teaching has changed down the years, methods and approaches have seen a terrific change between the early and modern way of teaching and learning. As the technology grows the ways of teaching also changes. Social media have played a vital role in English language teaching and learning. It influenced students towards itself and holds a prominent place in English language learning. With the help of these social media one can learn a language from his or her place without the help of a teacher. So, as mentioned above social media serves

as a helpful tool in English language teaching.

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