

**CHALLENGING BORDERS OF LANGUAGE AND THE INTERNET**

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**Abstract:** This paper deals with the phenomenon of the twentieth century – the Internet and its inseparable relationship with language. The Internet has a great impact on our lives, covering almost all spheres of human activity. Together with the Internet, a need for a common, international language appeared as well. The aim of this research is to display how the Internet revolution has led to the Internet language with no language regulations and rules, particularly popular with the youth. “To Google” has become a universally understood verb and many countries have been developing their own internet slang. But, is the web changing language and is everyone up to speed? The analyses is based on the corpus from emails, viber and facebook. All this will help to show how and to what degree the Internet has radically changed the language people use, that is, the way people use the language, as David Crystal, the well-known British linguist, states in his book “Language and the Internet”.

The language used online is of great diversity. Unlike a library, the Internet is an interactive and dynamic world. In a library we find books, generally written by authors in their fields. There is so much more on the Internet than the passive one-way information flow in a library. People create their own web pages, send one another e-mails, “talk” to complete strangers in chat rooms, keep in touch with friends via messenger programmes, subscribe to mailing lists, interact in virtual worlds, and more. These are the main initiators of creation of a new language for information communication.

In the paper we will also give answers to questions such as: How has the Internet leapt into our lives rapidly? How did it happen that English has become the most dominant and widespread language in the world? Why do we face language change and will we have a completely new “Internet Language”?

David Crystal points out that we are on the brink of the biggest revolution in language ever, that Netspeak, this is how he calls online language, is not a monolithic creation, but rather a disparate set of communication methods and types such as e-mail, chatrooms, Internet Relay Chat, World Wide Web pages, Websites etc. David Crystal examines the phenomenon of language use online in his book “[Language and the Internet](#)”.

Is the Internet bad for the future of language? The change of the language affects even people who never log on or use the letters “ITA” in regular communication to say “I totally agree”, or “ASAP”, that is “as soon as possible”.

We can conclude that the Internet has a huge impact on all spheres of our lives and its users become more and more addicted to it. Moreover, we face the change of language generally and the English impact on other languages. The best possible outcome to be expected is that hybrid language will continue to exist as a sort of jargon, mostly limited to younger generations.

**Keywords:** the Internet, language, English, influence.

## **1. INTRODUCTION – HOW THE INTERNET HAS CHANGED THE WORLD**

The Internet plays a very important role in humans` lives nowadays. It is a great innovation that can serve as good source of any information, whether it is for jobs, education, entertainment, etc. It much helps students in doing their essays, seminars, paper research, and different kinds of projects. The Internet presents the basic means of communication regardless of the distance. Due to many social networks, people all over the world are connected and can communicate with their friends or relatives who live far away. In terms of culture, this innovation helps raise awareness and promote a country in the best way and attract tourists to the country. Each country relies on various tools to advertise. Furthermore, thanks to the Internet in the last twenty years some truly new innovations have appeared. The development of modern information technology occurs simultaneously with the development of globalization. The Internet appears to revolutionize the ways of human communication and language learning as languages are being acquired and communication continues to occur between people. In the past an individual was considered educated according to their reading and writing skills. However, being educated today, in the Internet era, means having great skills and knowledge of digital technology, primarily the Internet. This tends to show that people need to gain digital education.

## 2. ENGLISH – THE DOMINANT LANGUAGE

Computers are English-oriented, Netscape and Java are in English, the vocabulary of computing and of the Internet is overwhelmingly English, and most of the texts that are accessible in English. The search engines are in English. The reasons for the dominance of English are firstly historical - the Internet began in the USA, which is still the leading user of it, and the USA is an English-using nation.

According to Crystal (1997), 85% of the world's international organizations use English as their official language in transnational communication. The world's important film productions and markets use English as well, and 90% of the published academic articles in several academic fields, such as linguistics, are written in English. The twentieth century launched expansion of varied scientific fields all over the world. Apart from this, many inventions appeared which resulted the need for the international language. Why does English have a role of the international language? Due to powerful economy and politics in the USA and Great Britain, English must have become the most widespread and dominant language in the world.

## 3. BORDERS OF THE INTERNET AND LANGUAGE

More than any other technology, the Internet has encouraged the invention of new words. Sometimes these words are created by expanding the definition of existing words. On the other hand, it might happen that these words are completely new. A 'virus' used to be something that made you sick, but today it's a destructive program that spreads itself across the Internet. The word 'wireless' was originally used for radio communication, but today it refers to wireless Internet. A 'stream' used to refer to running water, but now it is a constantly updating stream of information. Facebook users are familiar with 'tagging' people, or 'posting' something to someone's 'wall.' These words all had similar definitions in the past, but they have been given a new twist and are used to refer to virtual activities.

"Online Social Networking sites have invented new modes of communication such as Facebook pokes, Wall posts, and tweets that are easier and more casual than forms of communication in the past. Although personalized, private messages still play an important role, and pokes are creating efficient yet emotional ways for us to keep in touch." (Clara Shih, 2010).

Internet communication means efficiency. People who began using e-mail, and later instant messaging, found it efficient to invent a whole new world of acronyms, and these spread across the Internet. Acronyms such as 'BRB' and 'LOL' have made their way into the ordinary speech of young people, and even into the pages of some respectable dictionaries. (<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com>).

The Internet has also an ever growing impact on the lexical, phonetic, syntactic standards of language. For example, this global technology has led to the evolution of an abbreviated English language that emerged in chat groups and in what is referred to as the virtual world. Examples for this feature include:

- @home (at home)
- 2day (today),
- Cu (see you),
- b4 (before),
- RUOK? (Are you OK?),
- c%l (cool).

Capital letters give syllabic values, as in thN (then), nEd (need) in Internet communications. In one creation such as **ru2cnmel8r?** (Are you two seeing me later?), less than half of the characters applied in the traditional sentence formation are used. It seems that sentence length will tend to be short, and that certain types of complex structures (relative clauses, for instance) will be avoided in Internet communication. In everyday conversation, terms from the computer technology provide a new application among people who tend to have a "cool" tone (In slang - great, terrific). Such examples include:

- It's my turn to download now
- I've heard all your gossip, now hear mine
- She's multitasking (She is doing two things at once).

The Internet seems to have important implications for linguistics or language learning. Capitalization is regularly ignored, even for *I*. (i know that). "Capitalization might be reduced, including grammar or lexicon" (David Crystal, 2006) – "dear Jenny, I hope you don't work in st. John hospital anymore..." The use of punctuation might be seriously exaggerated:

Why???????????

No way!!!!!!!!!!

Majority of Internet users are addicted to smileys and they sometimes communicate only in this way, with the help of smileys. The reason for this, as they say, is saving their precious time. The omission of a copular verb (to be) is a popular way of communication particularly among teenagers, no concord between subject and verb (she ill, me is angry) belongs to the new Internet language nowadays as well. An important element of Twitter syntax is the hashtag – a clickable keyword used to categorize tweets. Hashtags have also spread to other social media platforms – and they’ve even reached everyday speech.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Technology’s role in our lives is astonishing. Not only does the Internet have a huge impact on our everyday life, but it also affects and shapes the language in spoken and written form. The words that surround us every day influence the words we use. However, what is hugely different is the way we write today. Since so much of the written language we see is now on the screens of our computers, tablets, and smartphones, language now evolves partly through our interaction with technology. That is the area where technology has had the biggest impact. The Internet language is non-standard. It’s important to remember that a lot of internet vocabulary belongs to the category of slang or jargon; it serves a particular purpose within an in-group, like professional slang. The internet is a fertile breeding ground for undiscovered talent. As Paolillo (1999) puts it, in his introduction to a paper on the virtual speech community: “If we are to understand truly how the Internet might shape our language, then it is essential that we seek to understand how different varieties of language aroused on the Internet.” In many cases, the increased growth in the use of the English language can be attributed to educational, economic, or cultural globalization.

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