

## CHANGES IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND GRAMMAR: IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY

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### ABSTRACT

*The twenty-first century is the age of technology and is impacting every sphere of our lives, and so is the effect on language. English is growing and varying vigorously over the globe through the rapid use of technology. With the emergence of new technologies, the English language and its Standard Grammar have gone through some radical changes. On the one hand, where the advent of technology has empowered effective communication and dissemination of knowledge, resulting in new dialects and vocabularies, making communication a simple thing. On the other hand, people have brought into play the language of the internet and social media, leading to the evolution of new formations of language. Such as the use of slang terms and phrases, contractions and fragments of sentences, abbreviated languages, code-mixings, and emoticons, which extremely overshadows the youths. With an upswing in digital communication, technology has accelerated various changes in the spelling and grammar of the language. If we look at the language usage in contemporary Indian web series or social media memes, it is abusive, destructive, and handicapped. People of all ages are infringing the rules of standard grammar and erasing the lines between formal and informal language. On the whole, the impact of technology on the English language draws our attention more toward the 'deconstruction' of language rather than its evolution. This paper attempts to analyze the various impacts of technology on the English Language and its usage.*

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**Keywords:** Technology, Language, Impact, Rules of Standard Grammar.

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### Introduction

English is a universal and the easiest of languages, with flexibility and brevity. It is free of Genders, unlike French and German where one has to differentiate between Feminine and Masculine nouns. The 'Lingua Franca' of Science, Administration, Education, Business, Politics, Internet, Social Media, Entertainment as well as Pop Music and what not! English is omnipresent, and at the same time inevitable to a large extent. Since the dawn of the language, English has evolved much!

English has been a dominating language since the epoch of British rule in India. Even for non-native speakers, it has become the common tongue, (official language especially in India). English is all around, from the alleys to the thoroughfares and from rural to urban areas! People from all spheres use English on a routine basis. The emergence of new technologies like smartphones, tablets, the internet, text-speech, AI-like Chat GPT, and social media applications like Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram has led to the elevation in the usage of the English language.

Technology has made the world more connected, leading to the integration of English with other languages. The excessive use of technology has led to the instantaneous evolution of new terminologies in the English language, negligent of the destruction it does to the language and its standard grammar.

Both language and technology are interweaved in such a way that they fabricate the novel carpet of Aladdin which carries the Modern English Language and soars high.

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But due to the imprudent use of technology, the modern English language and its standard grammar are degrading day by day. Moreover, the use of code-mixing has also become a trend in the film and music industries. The usage of English mixed with other languages while speaking or writing (code-mixing) has a huge impact on the masses.

### **Impact of Technology on the English Language**

On the one hand, technology has made it easier for people to communicate across the globe, and English has become the dominant language of international communication. This has led to the development of new vocabulary and the evolution of English as a lingua franca. However, on the other hand, technology has also facilitated the rise of new forms of communication, such as texting and social media, which often involve the use of abbreviations, slang, and informal language. While this has certainly had an impact on how people communicate, it is evolving and adapting to new forms of communication.

Technological advancement arose with the new construction of terms and vocabulary in the English language. Many new words and phrases have been introduced into the English language, such as 'smartphone', 'Wi-Fi', 'emoji', 'caption', 'tweet' and 'hashtag', these words did not exist before the advent of technology.

Another change that is led by technology is grammatical changes and increased use of acronyms and contractions in informal communication.

In addition, there are certain changes visible in the communication style, like technology has changed the way people communicate, with the increased use of email, messaging, and social media. This has led to a more casual and informal communication style, with fewer formalities and more emojis and gifs.

As a result of the globalization of the language with the advent of technology, there are many loanwords and phrases from other languages in the English language, such as 'carpe diem' a Latin phrase to 'seize the day', 'c'est la vie' and 'Bon appetite' from French.

New terminology may be widely adopted and become standard English over time. For example, words such as 'internet', 'email', and 'text message' were once considered non-standard, but are now commonly accepted and included in many dictionaries.

On the contrary, in the process of becoming trendy as well as saving time, people prefer using short forms of words and phrases, such as 'lol' for 'laugh out loud' and 'brb' for 'be right back', these abbreviations have become commonplace in informal communication.

This accelerates various drawbacks like distortion of spellings of words and their meanings etc. and largely in deconstructing the language.

In contemporary times, the use of abbreviated words and WhatsApp slang extremely overshadows the youth. The children and students use WhatsApp language consciously or subconsciously even while writing the answers in notebooks.

The issue that arises here is that an overwhelming number of youths are influenced by such sources of entertainment, and they are picking up the wrong words and language; simply learning incorrect English. The blunder that pulls us in-depth is that no one tries to correct it; people stay in ignorance and continue to enjoy it at the same time.

At present, people are in a race to learn English that they ignore the native language Hindi, yet they are incapable of learning either of the languages perfectly; resulting in hovering between both languages. They fail in using the Tenses correctly; end up using 'Hinglish'.

People have destroyed the English language and its usage. The areas of Spelling, Pronunciation, and Intonation are not focused on as much as they should be. As a consequence of English being a Non-Phonetic Language unlike most Indian languages; English has the concept of silent letters and the inclusion of foreign words, and Indians find it difficult to pronounce the words correctly.

The basic words like 'Bowl', 'Almirah', 'Pizza', 'Café', and 'Restaurant', are mispronounced as 'ba-ul', 'al-me-ra', 'pee-ja', 'ke-fe', and 'res-tau-rent' respectively in the routine life; whereas, the correct pronunciations for the same are 'bohl', 'al-my-rah', 'peet-zuh', 'ka-fey' and 'reh-strawnt'.

Intentionally or unintentionally, the rules of Standard English Grammar are getting subverted gradually. While it is believed that by using the internet and other applications and software, students, children as well as people of all ages become creative and innovative, if we observe the situation

intensely, we would come to the conclusion that the excessive use of the internet and technology encourages people to become dependent and inactive psychologically. People grasp the language that they listen to and read on the internet.

If we look at the language usage in contemporary Indian web series or social media memes, it is abusive, destructive, and handicapped. The meme creators also violate the rules of English Grammar considerably; the users and readers learn the erroneous language. Although there are some content creators on Instagram and Youtube who try to teach the correct English, still the number is less.

People on social media platforms and in industries, somewhere lack artistic depth. They emphasize more on the slang terms, beats, rhythms, attires, and shooting locations rather than the script or lyrics. They keep the concept aside and do not ponder even twice, what message would be delivered through such content to society and worldwide!

### **Code-mixing**

Code-mixing, which refers to the use of multiple languages or language varieties in a single discourse or communication, has been a prevalent feature in the Bollywood and music industry in India. Code-mixing is a process in which two or more languages are mixed or used to attain a common goal. Looking at the usage of English in India, one would find that the rural or the socially deprived people find an eliteness in using the common terms of English through Code-mixing. For instance, 'Movie dekhne' (to watch a movie), 'Meri daughter', and 'nurse ki job' are code-mixed phrases, commonly used in daily life in rural and urban areas.

In the context of Bollywood, code-mixing is often used to appeal to a wider audience, especially those who are multilingual and can understand more than one language. It is also used to portray cultural diversity and to capture the essence of the Indian subcontinent, which is home to a plethora of languages and dialects. In Bollywood songs, code-mixing can be seen in the use of a mixture of Hindi and English, or other regional languages such as Punjabi, Tamil, or Bengali. It is often used to create catchy and memorable lyrics and to make the songs more relatable to the audience.

Similarly, in the music industry, code-mixing has become a popular trend, especially in the fusion genre. Musicians are experimenting with different genres and languages, mixing traditional Indian classical music with western pop or rock, and using multiple languages in a single song.

Moreover, the usage of code-mixing prevails all over the social media, Indian Music, and Bollywood Industry, in the forms of memes, songs, movies, web series, and daily soaps that use English mixed with Hindi or Punjabi or any other language and regional dialects.

An instance of the same can be the songs of Badshah and Milind Gaba (the former a popular Indian singer and rapper, the latter an Indian Singer). The song names go like '*She Move It Like...*' and '*She Don't Know...*'. Firstly, these are the songs that have English mixed with Punjabi and Hindi. Secondly, the titles of both infringe the Subject-Verb Agreement (as per the Std. English Grammar Norms), hence, the singular subject 'She' must use the singular verb '*moves*' and '*doesn't*'.

Taking up the most celebrated song '*Why This Kolaveri Di*' by Dhanush (Indian actor and singer) also draws my attention towards the inadequacies of grammar usage, the absence of articles, verbs, prepositions, and the merging of Tamil vowels in English utterances. The lyrics of this song, for instance, go like '*I am sing song*', '*A distance-u la moon-u moon-u*', '*empty*' pronounced as '*Yumpty*'. However, exceptions can be seen in the last stanza. The beauty of the song lies in its music and rhythm, as a result of which it got famous worldwide!

Overall, code-mixing has become an integral part of the Bollywood and music industry in India, and it has helped to create a unique and diverse cultural identity for the country. The language used in this form highly attracts the youth, leading to the formation of new trends and ways to speak and write the language.

### **Conclusion**

Technology has had a significant impact on the English language in both positive and negative ways. On the one hand, where we have positive impacts such as improved communication, increased access to communication, and plenty of digital tools available for language learning, we have, on the other hand, some negative impacts as well, such as shortened forms of language, over-reliance on spell checkers and simplification of language as the internet has given rise to a lot of informal writing, such as social media posts. This can be detrimental to people's ability to communicate effectively in more formal settings.

However, it is important to maintain basic English grammar rules in professional and formal contexts. Incorrect grammar can be distracting and undermine the credibility of the message being conveyed. Technology is driving the evolution of language and shaping how people communicate in new ways. As such, it is recommended to balance the use of new technology and terminology with proper grammar and language usage appropriate for the context and audience.

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