



INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD
SERIAL
NUMBER
INDIA

2395-2636 (Print);2321-3108 (online)

INTERNET LINGUISTICS, ITS AVENUES AND ITS IMPACT ON LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGE LEARNERS

SHRAMITA MUDGAL

Research scholar, Department of English, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur
e-mail- shramitamudgal23@gmail.com



SHRAMITA MUDGAL

ABSTRACT

Internet is the growing field and is influencing the arena of every genre. As English is the global language so how could it be left untouched? Today's youngsters spend most of their time with mobile phones, computer, internet. So internet is effecting their life and contributing towards education. Its impact is on the language and language learners. This paper previews the scope of internet linguistics in terms of impact on language and language learners.

Key words- internet, internet linguists, language, language learners, text messaging, instant messaging.

Internet linguistics

Internet linguistics is a sub-domain of linguistics advocated by the famous linguist David Crystal. It studies the forms, the patterns, the new language styles which have arisen due to the influence of internet and the other new ever arising media resources which include **text messaging (SMS)**, **instant messaging (IM)** etc.

Internet is a source which provides platform to the different users. It facilitates **language opportunities**. As English is the major language used on internet so it helps not only to preserve *language documentation* but also allows *global dissemination* through internet. It also revitalizes the language by introducing and coining many new terms and symbols. It also tries to minimise the *digital divide*.

Various avenues of internet linguistics-

Internet linguistics with the different vicinity which encompasses the major areas of concern includes the following domains-

- o Text messaging
- o instant messaging
- o e-mails
- o Blogs

Impact on language

- o The major effect of new resources of teaching is on language which leads many a type of issues like **language change**, **language revitalization** and some call it **language decay** depends on the type of perception one carries. The major area of concern is the language change which encompasses all the other related features of it.
- o How much the language change has taken place since the arrival of the internet? The phenomenon is so recent that few people would be able to acknowledge its presence in their lives before the mid- 1990s- that we might expect very little to have happened. Changes in language typically take decades, or even life times, before they are established. But history is no guide, when it comes to electronic technology. In olden times(i.e. before the internet), it would be several years before a new word would achieve the sufficiently high community profile to appear in print, be picked up by lexicographers, and come to be recorded in the dictionaries. Today, a new word can achieve a global profile within hours. It seems likely that the internet will speed up the process of language change.

- o But so far as the effect of internet on the character of the individual languages has been very limited. If we take a cursory look at an instance of internet language, such as an e-mail, web page, a blog, or a tweet, the initial impression is that little has changed. We will notice the occasional novel usage, but on the whole the individual words, the grammatical constructions, and the orthographic pattern seems to be little different from what we observe in language used outside the electronic medium. But the little difference is not the same as 'no difference'. An important initial task of the internet linguistics is therefore to provide a description of the way vocabulary, grammar, graphology and pragmatics are being used in novel ways within the various outputs.

Impact on language learners

- o E-learning is beneficial to education, corporations and to all types of learners. It is affordable, saves time, and produces measurable results. E-learning is more cost effective than traditional learning because less time and money is spent traveling. Since e-learning can be done in any geographic location and there are no travel expenses, this type of learning is much less costly than doing learning at a traditional institute.
- o Flexibility is a major benefit of e-learning. E-learning has the advantage of taking class anytime anywhere. Education is available when and where it is needed. E-learning can be done at the office, at home, on the road, 24 hours a day, and seven days a week. E-learning also has measurable assessments which can be created so the both the instructors and students will know what the students have learned, when they've completed courses, and how they have performed.
- o Students like e-learning because it accommodates different types of learning styles. Students have the advantage of learning at their own pace. Students can also learn through a variety of activities that apply to many different learning styles learners have. Learners can fit e-learning into their busy schedule. If they hold a job, they can still be

working with e-learning. If the learner needs to do the learning at night, then this option is available. Learners can sit in their home in their pajamas and do the learning if they desire.

- o E-learning encourages students to peruse through information by using hyperlinks and sites on the worldwide Web. Students are able to find information relevant to their personal situations and interest. E-learning allows students to select learning materials that meet their level of knowledge, interest and what they need to know to perform more effectively in an activity. E-learning is more focused on the learner and it is more interesting for the learner because it is information that they want to learn. E-learning is flexible and can be customized to meet the individual needs of the learners.
- o E-learning helps students develop knowledge of the Internet. This knowledge will help learners throughout their careers. E-learning encourages students to take personal responsibility for their own learning. When learners succeed, it builds self-knowledge and self-confidence in them.
- o Educators and corporations really benefit from e-learning. Learners enjoy having the opportunity to learn at their own pace, on their own time, and have it less costly.

How reading and writing skills can be improved using new resources of teaching-

- o Social media websites have revolutionized how we interact in the 21st century. In turn, they have also given rise to a more lax approach to spelling and grammar. 'Text-speak' can now be found across the internet – and it threatens to affect how pupils perform in English too.
- o However, many schools are discovering that blogging can be used to develop children's English skills. Writing a blog about something meaningful, and that they're interested in, will inspire them to write more, and write better.
- o But there are other benefits too. So, with blogging a key feature of Learner Journey, we've listed five reasons why you should get your class blogging. **It Will Make Them Better Writers**

- o This is the most obvious benefit of blogging. Setting a subject your pupils can get passionate about, or already have an interest in, will encourage them to actively put more effort into their writing. Not only that, but reading blogs by their classmates will give them experience in understanding topics that have been written about by others. Having their blogs seen by peers – and you can even set a rating system, where pupils rate each other’s posts – will encourage them to be more competitive – and subsequently work harder to create a better piece of work.
- o They Can Get Immediate Feedback On Their Work
- o Learner Journey is accessible anytime, anywhere – so pupils could get instant feedback on their work. This is great, because it not only relieves you of the pressure of checking and marking dozens of blog posts, but allows the pupils to be more proactive and independent in their work. Constructive criticism from their peers will allow them to improve their work, learn more about writing – and also learn to take on board opinions from others. **They Can Learn More About Others**
- o Reading someone’s blog can tell you a great deal about that person. Sharing ideas and insights allows pupils to get to know each other in class as much as in the playground or outside of school. This helps with social skills, and also understanding how other people think, feel and behave.
- o **They Can Become An Expert In A Topic**
- o Setting your class a specific topic to write a blog post about means they’ll have to learn about that topic, researching and reading about it first. However, getting them to read blog posts by others on the same topic, and encouraging them to comment on each other’s work at the same time, will allow them to become experts in that subject.
- o **They Express Themselves**
- o From young childhood to their early teenage years, children will express themselves in lots of different ways – and they should be encouraged to do this from an early age. Writing a blog will

allow them to express themselves – much like a diary allows people to get out their feelings, thoughts and interests. Writing in this way then helps pupils understand each other better – and develop their social skills as they grow. Encouraging reflection and thought is great for learning how they can develop or improve certain aspects of their learning in the future.

Although there are many positive signs of change in language and on language learners but there are certain negative approaches also which must be controlled in a specific manner so as to get the desired output from the new resources of teaching. The major responsibility lies on the mentors who pave the way for the students who themselves toil out their target. So the mentors should streamline the students in the appropriate direction then only the future of the country is secured.

Bibliography-

- Crystal, D. *Internet Linguistics: A Student Guide*. New York: Routledge2011.
- Gee, J. P. *Language and learning in the digital age*. New York: Routledge, 2011.
- Kent, N. and Facer, K. Different worlds? A comparison of young people’s home and school ICT use. *Journal of Computer Assisted Learning*, vol. 20, 2004, pp.440-455.
- Warschauer, M., Shetzer, H. & Meloni, C. *Internet for English teaching*. Alexandria, VA: TESOL Publications, 2000.
- Wenger, E., White, N., Smith, J. D., & Rowe, K. *Technology for communities*. In Cefrio (Ed.), *Communities of practice in 21st-century organizations*, 2005.
- Werry, C. C. Linguistic and interactional features of Internet Relay Chat. In S. C. Herring (Ed.), *Computer-mediated communication: Linguistic, social, and crosscultural perspectives*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 1996, pp. 47-63.
- Wheeler, S. *The New Smart Devices for Learning. Proceedings from Learning Technologies 2010 Conference*, London. Web Dec. 28, 2010. <http://stevewheeler.blogspot.com/2010/01/new-smart-devices.html>