

# Social Media – A New Trend of Enhancing Language Skills

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## INTRODUCTION:

Learning a language is an energetic and enthusiastic process. Today, a language teacher has to acclimatize with an imperative change from a normal teacher to an ingenious enabler which makes the learners empathize and converse efficiently.

With the advancement of technology, English language grew in leaps and bound and it is no more considered as a foreign language. A learner can learn the English language confidently through technology. Through this new technology, learners are learning through authentic learning sources which are attractive, friendly interface and vivid pictures which arouse interest in learning English.

In the present scenario, internet is playing a major role in learning and enhancing the language skills. It became a requisite for a teacher to teach by using new different technologies. Encompassing of social media in learning language skills makes the learners accessible to these new learning technologies like blogs, Wikipedia, podcast, You tube, Tedx, Face Book, Twitter, SnapFish, Shutterfly, Social Walls, Padlet and so on. Social media and technology play a prominent role in enhancing language skills of a learner and to become an excellent communicator.

## LEARNING ALTERNATIVE VOCABULARY:

With the help of social media, a learner can rapidly learn new and alternative vocabulary such as 'selfie', 'unfriend', 'photobombing' and so on. The words like 'tablet', 'wall', 'wireless' meanings are superseded with the new meaning and with a new setting. Most of the content available on online is in English language and most of the internet users are adolescents i.e., between 11-24 years age group which is an austere effect on learning the language and makes them speak English outside the world. Internet English created a new type of Pidgin, a cut-down linguistic communication which is formed from words, sounds and non-verbal communication as well as onomatopoeia. It is constructed by an impromptu or conversion between two or more people. It is not a native language but learned as a second language.

## A PLAYFUL WAY OF LEARNING:

In this contemporary period, learning with new technologies has brought an insurrection in the ambit of learning language. It has turn out to be a hub of

novelty, innovation, perfection and expansion. A learner can learn new vocabulary in a playful way and have fun in English. Such as –

**To go viral** – Something popular and spreads quickly'

**Troll** – A person who deliberately starts arguments in the comments sections of sites'

**Hater**- Someone who voices negative opinions about other people.

**Vlogger** – Blogging through video instead of writing.

**Meme**– Funny pictures with text on them.

**Mash-up** – Combining two different things such as characters, music and so on

**Blogosphere** – Lots of people talking about an issue

**AMA (Ask me anything)** – A person agrees to answer all the questions that people ask them. It's a great way to share knowledge and connect with different people. For instance, "worldpress.org", "quora.com", "amafeed.com", "elt-connect.com", etc.

**Clickbait**– Bait is a catchy headline where people share their articles on social media. If we want to read we have click on headlines but these articles will not have any lively expectations. Ex: 'Why we love', 'A list of best', etc.

**IMHO** - 'in my humble opinion' - a fact but based on your own ideas.

**IRL** - 'in real life' - To talk about the world outside the internet.

**ICYMI** - 'in case you missed it' - Sharing a link or some information using the abbreviation.

**FYI** - 'for your information' - Sharing information and don't expect someone to do anything in response to your message.

## SPRINGBOARD FOR INFORMAL WRITING:

Social media became a catalyst in enhancing LSRW Skills. Acquiescent and Captivating vocabulary and grammar were replaced in place of traditional grammar such as "LOL" laughing out loud. A learner can write blogs and E-Chat to develop not only their LSRW skills, critical, analytical and logical thinking skills but also increase their social and political awareness. For instance, *Geocities* is the first Web domain associated with a free Web hosting service. *Twitter* is a micro-blogging service where people post tweets. It allows messages of 140 characters. As there is a limit in characters the learners should eliminate unnecessary words and choose the acronyms and smiley's like *ASAP* (as soon as possible), *MAD* (make a difference),

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CU (see you), etc..to convey their message.Thus, learners can play on the language to suit the number limit when they post their tweets.

#### DEVELOPING DIFFERENT SKILLS:

Through social networking sites such as Facebook, Pinterest, Myspace, Tumblr, LinkedIn, Instagram, Medium.com, Snapchat, Lifehack, YouTube, Flickr, Google+, Vocabulary.com, quora.com, ask.com, etc., a learner can get information for his resource research or for general information. A learner can learn or share languages around the world with some websites like 'Busuu', 'My Happy Planet', 'Conversation Exchange' and so on. This is a new trend to learn English to make the learner self-empowered and also to empower others.

#### SPAWNING NEW WORDS AND MORPHED OLD ONES:

Social Media leads to an insurrection in enhancing language skills. It helps the learners in honing their language skills. Various internet slangs are being crafted in place of traditional vocabulary like using letter homophones –*thanks a million astnx6, for you as4u, before you as b4u* and so on. Even the quiescent ones show interest becomes active by regular blogging and messaging because there are no rules, regulations and restrictions of English grammar and the main concern is to share information. This makes the learners feel free in expressing their thoughts and ideas in a perfect way. Even a zero level student is made to respond and sharing the live issues in the social media by the concepts of tagging, making vine videos etc. This helps the learners to express themselves and to become empower themselves.

Learning through games and apps:

Innovative teachers are taking advantage and finding ways to use 'education' apps for teaching. For example,

- **Mine craft** is a massive game which is used by a huge community of educators for real learning. Here, the teachers and also the learners can communicate in English and can build their own words.
- **Cambridge Assessment English Face book**page makes the learner practice English. In this page, a learner can talk to other English language learners and take part in fun language activities to practice English.
- **LiveMocha.com** is one of the top 50 websites of 2010. Here, a learner can build his/her own profile and indicate their known languages and the languages they want to learn. The Live chat is available where a learner can chat with anyone or can send an audio file or written form to correct his/her grammar.
- **Bussuu** is an interactive game of learning. It offers many features like free interactive lessons, exams, text, video chat, writing exercises, reading comprehension tests, etc. Here, a learner can write text in a foreign language and submit it to a native foreign speaker. Most of the features like audio samples, PDFs and Podcasts are available on this site.
- **English Baby** specializes in idioms and slang.

- **Duolingo** helps the learners to translate the text into other language and also helps the learner to improve their English.
- **Language Exchange** helps to enhance their language skills by interacting with many people throughout the world.
- **Conversation Exchange** – Here, the learners can improve their LSRW Skills by chatting through text or video.
- **Language for Exchange, Easy Language Exchange, talki.com & Pronounced I-talk-I:** These apps or sites help the learners to learn English or other languages by contact with the speakers of other countries. These sites or apps offer to interact with many speakers throughout the world where a learner can interact with new people and can make friends and can also learn other languages too. A learner can also find a language teacher and can develop his/her language skills.
- **Palabea** is like a virtual classroom where it helps the learners to learn language through video. He can learn lessons through videos and podcast by qualified and certified professors or institutions. Even a learner can also upload his/her lesson. In this, the learner can also use the facility of translation tools.
- **Lang 8** helps the learnersto interact with indigenously qualified language speakers and professors from different countries. Here, a learner can submit his/her writing and speakers will correct it and give the tips to enhance the learner's writing skills. Lang8 is helpful for learners for writing papers and translations.
- **Vox Swap**helps the learners to learn a new language by linking up with competent language speakers. This site will see that the learner is linked up with the specific language speaker which the learner is in need. Here, the learner can watch the expert speakers' videos or chat or ask questions to practice and develop their LSRW skills.
- **My Happy Planet** helps the learners to interact with new people by way of chatting. Here, a learner can watch many video lessons and written lessons that are posted by others.

#### CONCLUSION:

Social networking sites have redefined the way we communicate. It has helped improve not just personal communication but has also greatly changed ways in which people and individuals can advance their career to contribute to social and political causes. Political activism through sites like Facebook, Twitter has toppled governments. There are now dedicated sites for research, education, learning a new language, enhance language skills, media and other fields. Its influence and persuade the learners and also helps them to enhance their skills by connecting the dexterous speakers across the globe.



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