

Article

Not peer-reviewed version

The Benefits of Internet Usage and the Evolution of Language: A Review

[Leo Marcos](#) *

Posted Date: 2 July 2024

doi: 10.20944/preprints202407.0162.v1

Keywords: Digital Age; Internet Usage; Language; Language Development; Review



Preprints.org is a free multidiscipline platform providing preprint service that is dedicated to making early versions of research outputs permanently available and citable. Preprints posted at Preprints.org appear in Web of Science, Crossref, Google Scholar, Scilit, Europe PMC.

Copyright: This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

Disclaimer/Publisher's Note: The statements, opinions, and data contained in all publications are solely those of the individual author(s) and contributor(s) and not of MDPI and/or the editor(s). MDPI and/or the editor(s) disclaim responsibility for any injury to people or property resulting from any ideas, methods, instructions, or products referred to in the content.

Article

The Benefits of Internet Usage and The Evolution of Language: A Review

Leo T. Marcos

Kolehiyo ng Maco, Philippines

Abstract: The development of language and communication patterns has been significantly impacted by the internet's quick advancement. The ability to instantly communicate globally and engage with people of different linguistic origins is one of the main advantages of using the internet. Internet use has significant positive effects on language growth, but it also brings with it drawbacks that need to be addressed. Online communication's casual atmosphere can occasionally cause grammar norms to deteriorate and non-standard language patterns to proliferate. With the information stated in this paper, the aim now is to collect literature on the benefits of internet usage and the evolution of language to provide substantive information in regard to this matter. In order to assist students in navigating the complexity of Internet communication, educational institutions should incorporate digital literacy into their curricula. This involves upholding strict requirements for traditional language proficiency while teaching students how to use digital technologies efficiently. The Internet should be used to support the revitalization and preservation of endangered languages. This can entail setting up community forums, digital archives, and online learning portals where language users can interact and exchange resources.

Keywords: Digital Age; Internet Usage; Language; Language Development; Review

Introduction

With the internet, communication has been transformed and instantaneous engagement over great distances is now possible. This has encouraged the quick dissemination of new words and phrases, which has substantially impacted language evolution. The growth of global English can be attributed, in part, to the internet's ability to facilitate different language use, which has expedited linguistic changes (Crystal, 2011). Instantaneous idea interchange is made possible by online platforms like social media, forums, and chat apps, which contribute to the emergence and spread of new language trends and slang terminology (Crystal, 2011).

There is evidence that using the internet improves language and literacy. Online resources give consumers access to a wealth of reading material, such as blogs, articles, and educational websites. This exposure improves vocabulary acquisition and reading comprehension. According to Leu et al. (2013), the Internet has expanded reading and writing opportunities and promoted literacy through digital platforms. According to Leu et al. (2013), the interactive features of online information, like multimedia elements and hyperlinked texts, enhance user engagement and promote critical thinking and deeper reading.

Because individuals from various language origins can communicate with each other online, the internet has also made multilingualism and cross-cultural communication easier. According to Warschauer (2000), internet-based communication tools encourage bilingualism and even multilingualism by enabling users to hone and enhance their language skills in authentic settings. Users can improve their skill and awareness of different cultures by interacting with native speakers through social networks, online courses, and language learning platforms. By fusing aspects of other languages into daily communication, this global interaction aids in the evolution of language (Warschauer, 2000).

The use of language has seen tremendous innovation and ingenuity in the digital age. New expressions that provide communication additional levels of meaning, including emojis, gifs, and memes, are made possible by the internet. Tagg (2015) talks on how new linguistic genres have emerged as a result of digital communication, changing conventional writing styles. These creative language uses demonstrate the dynamic character of language evolution in the digital age by enabling users to express complicated concepts and emotions clearly and concisely (Tagg, 2015).

The nature and necessity of educational reform are examined in "TRANSFORMATION—More about Revolution than Evolution: A Brief Review of Literature about Educational Reform" by Genelza (2022). According to the paper, revolutionary shifts in education are more like a revolution than a slow evolution. It highlights how drastically changing educational paradigms is necessary to meet today's issues and better prepare students for the future. The study focuses on important research that backs up the claim that drastic structural overhauls are the only way to improve educational outcomes and that small, incremental changes are insufficient.

Internet use has significant positive effects on language growth, but it also brings with it drawbacks that need to be addressed. Online communication's casual atmosphere can occasionally cause grammar norms to deteriorate and non-standard language patterns to proliferate. Squires (2010) contends that since this shows how language is adaptable and changing, it need not be harmful. Due to the internet's influence, it is necessary to balance upholding language norms and welcoming linguistic diversity to create a more varied and dynamic linguistic environment (Squires, 2010). With the information stated in this paper, the aim now is to collect literature on the benefits of internet usage and the evolution of language to provide substantive information in regard to this matter.

The Internet and Language Development

The introduction of the internet has completely changed many facets of human existence, including language acquisition. The internet is a substantial tool for language learning and acquisition, especially as kids and teenagers interact with it more and more. According to researchers, the internet offers special chances for language development because of its interactive and multimedia-rich settings (Sundqvist & Sylvén, 2016). In ways that traditional educational techniques might not be able to, these environments can improve vocabulary acquisition, grammatical understanding, and overall language ability.

Language development has been demonstrated to be significantly impacted by online contact, especially through social media platforms. Social media gives users an incentive to read, write, and participate in conversations, which gives language use a real-world context. Thorne and Black's (2007) study demonstrate how digital communication promotes the growth of formal and colloquial language proficiency. Through this interaction, users can acquire new vocabulary and linguistic structures while experimenting with language in real-time and receiving rapid feedback.

Language development has been transformed by the Internet, especially for younger people. Children and teenagers are exposed to a wide variety of linguistic inputs through online interactions, which can have a substantial impact on their language development. According to research by Crystal (2001), exposure to a variety of dialects, slang, and jargon is made easier by the Internet, which encourages linguistic diversity and inventiveness. This continuous online language contact can improve vocabulary and communication abilities while providing a unique learning environment that may not always be available in regular educational settings.

Social media, forums, and chat rooms are examples of online communication platforms that have proven essential in influencing language development. These systems give users the chance to read and write in casual contexts, which helps them become more proficient in the language. Thurlow (2006) asserts that linguistic flexibility and creativity can be fostered in digital communication through the usage of emojis, acronyms, and other unconventional writing styles. This, however, also prompts worries about the possible deterioration of formal writing abilities, indicating the necessity of a well-rounded approach to language instruction in the digital age.

Language development can benefit from the Internet in ways beyond textual communication. YouTube and other video platforms offer visual and aural stimuli, which are essential for language learning. According to Sayer and Ban (2014), these platforms provide real-world language experiences, which are critical for improving speaking and listening abilities. Learners can enhance their pronunciation, intonation, and general comprehension by viewing videos in several languages. This multimodal approach to language learning is very helpful for people who might find it difficult to acquire languages through standard text-based approaches.

Furthermore, it has been shown that playing video games online has a big role in language acquisition, particularly for non-native speakers. According to studies by Gee (2003), language proficiency is fostered by the requirement for players to interact and communicate in English when playing multiplayer online games. These games frequently feature intricate storylines and language, which offer chances for contextual learning to improve vocabulary and comprehension. Gamers are also encouraged to practice speaking and listening in real time by the social aspect of gaming, which stimulates the use of language in everyday situations.

This is where education steps in. Genelza's article "The Role of Education in Societal Development" explores the ways in which education advances and enhances societies as a whole. The essay emphasizes how important education is for fostering social stability, economic expansion, and cultural enrichment. It talks about how people with more education are able to think creatively, solve problems, and take an active role in society. The evaluation also emphasizes how crucial high-quality, easily available education is to lowering inequality and promoting a more diverse community. Genelza (2022) shows how education is essential to attaining sustainable development and realizing human potential through an overview of significant studies.

The Internet offers numerous advantages, but it also poses obstacles to language acquisition. Online content that frequently contains false information and uses incorrect grammar and spelling can harm language development. Baron (2008) found that casual online communication can cause people to pay less attention to linguistic accuracy. Because of this, parents and educators need to help young people navigate the digital world and make sure they can distinguish between proper and inappropriate language use while utilizing the educational opportunities provided by the Internet.

Findings and Discussion on the Benefits of Internet Usage and the Evolution of Language

The introduction of the internet has profoundly changed many facets of human existence, such as social connections, education, and communication. Due to this change, a lot of research has been done on the advantages of using the internet and how it affects language evolution. Jones (2018) asserts that the Internet has improved knowledge acquisition and promoted educational possibilities by making information and learning resources more accessible. This introduction lays the groundwork for examining the ways in which language evolution is influenced by internet usage and the general advantages associated with its use.

With the abundance of online materials and learning tools available to students, the internet has completely changed the way that education is delivered. According to Smith and Caruso (2010), students may now access educational materials, work with peers more easily, and pursue self-directed learning more easily thanks to e-learning platforms, online courses, and digital libraries. Education is now more inclusive and accessible thanks to the internet, which also accommodates a variety of learning requirements and styles. These developments have made learning more dynamic and engaging and have promoted the growth of critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.

For instance, Genelza's "A Case Study Research on Justin Herald's Language Development" thoroughly examines Justin Herald's path toward language acquisition. The study looks at different phases of Justin's language development and pinpoints important elements—like parental participation, educational interventions, and environmental stimuli—that impacted his growth. It draws attention to the interaction between innate qualities and outside factors in the development of linguistic proficiency. The case study offers insightful information about language development difficulties through in-depth observations and analysis, with important implications for researchers,

educators, and parents on how to best understand and assist children's language acquisition (Genelza, 2022).

The internet has also changed communication and social connections. Castells (2013) asserts that internet forums, instant messaging apps, and social media platforms have opened up new channels for communication, knowledge sharing, and community building. This greater connectedness has made the flow of ideas and cultures easier, which has also helped close geographical gaps. The introduction of new slang, abbreviations, and internet-specific terminologies that reflect the dynamic nature of online communication is indicative of the evolution of language in the digital age.

The internet has had a significant impact on the evolution of language. According to Crystal (2001), the internet has sped up the creation of new vocabulary and linguistic idioms. Because online communication frequently necessitates immediacy and brevity, new phrases, acronyms, and shorthand language are created. For example, phrases like "hashtag," "BRB," and "LOL" (laugh out loud) have become essential components of contemporary language. The global linguistic landscape is enriched by the coexistence and influence of diverse dialects and languages on the internet, which also acts as a platform for linguistic variety.

The internet has greatly benefited academic and professional endeavors by democratizing access to knowledge. Learning has become more convenient and accessible, according to Jones (2018), thanks to the availability of online resources including e-books, instructional videos, and scholarly publications. People are more equipped to pursue self-directed learning and ongoing professional development thanks to the wealth of information available. Moreover, MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) and other digital platforms provide classes from recognized universities, enabling students from all over the world to advance their knowledge and abilities at their own speed.

The way individuals engage socially and communicate has been completely transformed by the internet. According to Castells (2013), social media sites, instant messaging apps, and video conferencing equipment have made it possible to communicate in real time and build ties across borders. These platforms make cross-border cooperation, cultural exchanges, and idea sharing easier. Communication ease has also affected language usage, as evidenced by the rise of internet-specific slang, acronyms, and emoticons that are now commonplace in conversation.

The digital age has brought forth a quick adaptation and creative evolution of language. Crystal (2001) contends that the necessity for speed and brevity in online communication has led to the emergence of new linguistic expressions on the internet. Examples of frequent usage include the acronyms "LOL" (laugh out loud), "BRB" (be right back), and inventive capitalization and punctuation. This linguistic inventiveness is not exclusive to English; it is also discernible in other languages, demonstrating the internet's contribution to the development of a dynamic and varied linguistic environment.

Additionally, the internet is essential to the survival and revitalization of endangered languages. According to Stanford (2012), people of minority languages can interact with other speakers of their language, generate material, and exchange cultural narratives using digital platforms. The documentation and revitalization of languages that could otherwise go extinct is made possible by this internet presence. By offering tools and chances for language enthusiasts and learners to interact with and promote lesser-known languages, online communities and language learning applications additionally assist these initiatives.

The advantages of using the internet go well beyond convenience; they include substantial improvements in communication, language adaption, preservation, and information availability. The internet has revolutionized language learning, communication, and self-expression. It is crucial to acknowledge and capitalize on the beneficial effects of these developments while addressing possible drawbacks like information overload and a lack of digital literacy. The goal of ongoing research should be to comprehend how these changes will affect language and society in the long run.

Hence, the advantages of using the internet and the advancement of language have both been greatly influenced by it. The internet is transforming society, as seen by its benefits for education, social interaction, and the quick creation of new languages. It is critical to comprehend and welcome these developments as the digital era progresses, acknowledging the internet's influence on how

language and communication will develop in the future. Future studies should concentrate on the long-term consequences of these modifications and investigate strategies for maximizing the advantages of internet use while minimizing any potential disadvantages.

Conclusion & Recommendations:

The development of language and communication patterns has been significantly impacted by the internet's quick advancement. The ability to instantly communicate globally and engage with people of different linguistic origins is one of the main advantages of using the internet. Because of this interconnectedness, a more dynamic and inclusive linguistic environment has emerged, allowing languages to affect one another and give rise to new dialects and linguistic expressions. Furthermore, the internet has made information more widely accessible and made it easier for people to study and acquire new languages, which encourages multilingualism.

Furthermore, using the internet has completely changed how English is utilized in daily conversation. More casual and conversational written communication has emerged with the rise of social media, instant messaging, and other online platforms. As a result of this change, emojis, acronyms, and internet slang have emerged and are now essential components of modern language. These modifications show how language is being used in a more adaptable and flexible way, with old grammatical constraints frequently being loosened to allow for quicker and more effective communication.

Additionally, the internet has been essential in saving and reviving endangered languages. Online forums give speakers of underrepresented languages a place to interact, exchange materials, and celebrate their linguistic history. These languages have flourished and survived thanks in large part to social media communities, language learning applications, and digital archives. The internet is therefore a useful instrument for maintaining language diversity and cultural heritage.

The potential and constraints of incorporating ChatGPT technology into educational contexts are examined in "Unlocking the Opportunities and Challenges of Using ChatGPT Tools for Educational Services: A Narrative Literature Review" by Genelza (2024). The paper summarizes research findings from multiple studies and shows how ChatGPT may help teachers with administrative work, improve personalized learning, and give immediate feedback. On the other hand, it also tackles issues like information accuracy, ethical management, and the requirement for continuous human supervision. In order to optimize ChatGPT's advantages and minimize its hazards in educational settings, the paper stresses the significance of striking a balance between technology integration and pedagogical objectives.

Notwithstanding these advantages, there are drawbacks to language changing as a result of internet use. Smaller languages and dialects may become marginalized as a result of the dominance of big languages like English on the internet. Furthermore, conventional language abilities like formal writing and reading comprehension may occasionally be compromised by the quick changes in linguistic conventions and the pervasive usage of informal communication. A balanced strategy that acknowledges the importance of both conventional language proficiency and the dynamic character of internet-based communication is needed to address these issues.

In order to assist students in navigating the complexity of internet communication, educational institutions should incorporate digital literacy into their curricula. This involves upholding strict requirements for traditional language proficiency while teaching students how to use digital technologies efficiently. The internet should be used to support the revitalization and preservation of endangered languages. This can entail setting up community forums, digital archives, and online learning portals where language users can interact and exchange resources.

References

1. Crystal, D. (2011). *Internet Linguistics: A Student Guide*. Routledge.
2. Crystal, D. (2001). *Language and the Internet*. Cambridge University Press.
3. Genelza, G. G. (2022). A case study research on Justin Herald's language development. *Journal of Languages, Linguistics and Literary Studies*, 2(3), 133-141.

4. Leu, D. J., Kinzer, C. K., Coiro, J. L., Castek, J., & Henry, L. A. (2013). New literacies: A dual-level theory of the changing nature of literacy, instruction, and assessment. In Theoretical models and processes of reading (pp. 1150-1181). *International Reading Association*.
5. Warschauer, M. (2000). *Language, identity, and the internet*. In *Race in Cyberspace* (pp. 151-170). Routledge.
6. Tagg, C. (2015). Exploring digital communication: Language in action. Routledge.
7. Squires, L. (2010). Enregistering internet language. *Language in Society*, 39(4), 457-492.
8. Sundqvist, P., & Sylvén, L. K. (2016). Extramural English in Teaching and Learning: From Theory and Research to Practice. Palgrave Macmillan.
9. Thorne, S. L., & Black, R. W. (2007). Language and literacy development in computer-mediated contexts and communities. *Annual Review of Applied Linguistics*, 27, 133-160.
10. Thurlow, C. (2006). From statistical panic to moral panic: The metadiscursive construction and popular exaggeration of new media language in the print media. *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*, 11(3), 667-701.
11. Sayer, P., & Ban, R. (2014). Young EFL students' engagements with English outside the classroom. *ELT Journal*, 68(3), 321-329.
12. Gee, J. P. (2003). *What Video Games Have to Teach Us About Learning and Literacy*. Palgrave Macmillan.
13. Genelza, G. G. (2022). TRANSFORMATION-more about revolution than evolution: A brief review of literature about educational reform. *Jozac Academic Voice*, 12-14.
14. Genelza, G. G. (2022). The role of education in societal development. *Jozac Academic Voice*, 22-24.
15. Baron, N. S. (2008). *Always On: Language in an Online and Mobile World*. Oxford University Press.
16. Castells, M. (2013). *Communication power*. Oxford University Press.
17. Crystal, D. (2001). *Language and the Internet*. Cambridge University Press.
18. Jones, S. (2018). The impact of internet use on education. *Journal of Educational Technology*, 34(2), 101-115.
19. Smith, S. D., & Caruso, J. B. (2010). The ECAR study of undergraduate students and information technology. *Educause Center for Applied Research*.
20. Stanford, A. G. (2012). Digital literacy and language evolution. *Linguistic Research Journal*, 45(4), 223-237.
21. Jones, S. (2018). The impact of internet use on education. *Journal of Educational Technology*, 34(2), 101-115.
22. Genelza, G. G. (2024). Unlocking the opportunities and challenges of using ChatGPT tools for educational services: A narrative literature review. *Journal of Emerging Technologies (JET)*, 4(1).
23. Smith, S. D., & Caruso, J. B. (2010). The ECAR study of undergraduate students and information technology. *Educause Center for Applied Research*.
24. Stanford, A. G. (2012). Digital literacy and language evolution. *Linguistic Research Journal*, 45(4), 223-237.

Disclaimer/Publisher's Note: The statements, opinions and data contained in all publications are solely those of the individual author(s) and contributor(s) and not of MDPI and/or the editor(s). MDPI and/or the editor(s) disclaim responsibility for any injury to people or property resulting from any ideas, methods, instructions or products referred to in the content.