

The Developmental Stage of the Internet and Language

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ABSTRACT

The following topics have been discussed in the article: the developmental stage of the internet especially in Uzbekistan, the wide expansion of the English language and its influence on society, internet communication as a new medium, differences between real and virtual communication, the usage of emoji or emoticons in the speech and some opinions of famous researchers have been given as well.

Keywords: Netspeak, Skype, emoji, emoticon, electronic revolution, computer lexicons, internet jargon

INTRODUCTION

We cannot imagine the process of communication without the relationship among people and the influence had on each other. Especially, communication is mainly based on exchange of information in society. The constituents of communication are speech, exchange of opinions, informing.

Coming to now, in a short period of time, with the rapid progress Internet is becoming one of the newest means of communication and in the nearest future it is expected to be in the central point in all spheres as well as linguistics. Currently it is continuously attracting its users with the conveniences which cannot be provided by the other means of communication and expanding its users' number year by year.

Internet developed in the 1960s in the USA as an experimental network which quickly grew to include military, federal, regional, university, business and personal users. It is now the world's largest computer network, with over 300 million hosts connected by the year 2005, providing an increasing range of services and enabling unprecedented numbers of people to be in touch with each other through electronic mail, discussion groups and the provision of digital "pages" on any topic (Crystal 2001: 3).

In Uzbekistan with the globally rapid rise of technology new means of communication got popularized coming to the last century. Only then people got used to taking advantage of such marvelous novelty. Firstly, it took a lot of time for them to use it. Because, it is commonly known that the language of this technology is English and till this period this language was out of use in the republic of Uzbekistan. Within several years Uzbekistan was under the control of the Supreme Soviet Union. In schools, institutions and on TV as well, main spoken language was Russian. Even now we can see that most of the elderly in our country speak in this language and they mention that it became as their mother tongue. However, as the republic got independent, people had more chances to see the world, learn different languages and so on. Nowadays English is taught in Uzbek schools as the second foreign language and huge number of Uzbek people know English and learn it as it is becoming the key to the worldwide progress.

"English is the global language" – a headline of this kind must have appeared in a thousand newspapers and magazines in recent years. "English rules" is an actual example, presenting to the world an uncompleted scenario suggesting the universality of the language's spread and the likelihood of its continuation (Globe and Mail 1997). Of course English is a global language... you hear it on television spoken by politicians from all over the world. Wherever you travel, you see English signs and advertisements. Whenever you enter a hotel or restaurant in a foreign city, they will understand English, and there will be an English menu. Indeed, if there is anything to wonder about at all,

they might add, it is why such headlines should still be newsworthy (Crystal 1997: 2).

There are several reasons for choosing this relatively new way of communication. Firstly, the speed of information is faster and nearly all kinds of materials can be found and got easily. Secondly, the interest for the newest chances available during the mutual connection among the youth is rising rapidly and users can hide their personality or change it and demonstrate themselves in the way that they really desire to be alike. Internet can provide all necessities for them to do it and for this reason most people currently prefer virtual communication to the real one. As the third one we can doubtlessly mention its limitlessness in space and time. As most of the population in Uzbekistan work abroad, it was quite difficult for them to keep in touch with their relatives. However, with the advance of new technologies it has become much easier and more convenient for them to get in touch with the ones far from them.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The topic of virtual communication is rapidly gaining the interest in the sphere of linguistics and not only overseas but also in our republic plentiful scientists are paying particular attention to this theme and doing their scientific works on it. Among the remarkable researchers the works by D. Crystal, P. Wallace, L. Scheidt are well-known globally and nowadays most young researchers use their books as guidelines. In Uzbekistan, as mentioned above, this topic is relatively new, nevertheless a number of young researchers such as R. Khalilova, D. Rustamov, B. Abdullaev are working on the linguistic features of online communication and so far they have published a number of articles and books.

Internet has characteristics of both oral and written language. As D. Crystal states: Many stylistic approaches recognize five main types, for written language:

1. **Graphic features:** the general presentation and organization of the written language, defined in terms of such factors as

- distinctive typography, page design, spacing, use of illustrations, and color;
2. **Orthographic features:** the writing system of an individual language, defined in terms of such factors as distinctive use of the alphabet, capital letters, spelling, punctuation, and ways of expressing emphasis;
 3. **Grammatical features:** the many possibilities of syntax and morphology, defined in terms of such factors as the distinctive use of sentence structure, word order, and word inflections;
 4. **Lexical features:** the vocabulary of a language, defined in terms of the set of words and idioms given distinctive use within a variety;
 5. **Discourse features:** the structural organization of a text, defined in terms of such factors as coherence, relevance, paragraph structure, and the logical progression of ideas (Crystal 2001: 8).

Whatever else Internet culture may be, it is still largely a text-based affair (Wilbur 1996: 6). However, it is undeniable to note that spoken language has its indispensable presence on the internet as well. It can be seen through songs, films, videos, sound clips and other vocal elements. That is the reason why, we can add two more features to the ones listed above: phonological and phonetic features.

Another interesting phenomenon to note is distinguishing real communication from the virtual one coming from their distinctive features. Different researchers have different views on this topic. Baron states: "There are several major differences between net speak and face-to-face conversation, even in those electronic situations which are most speech-like" (Baron 1984: 120). The first is a function of the technology – the lack of simultaneous feedback. Messages sent via a computer are complete and unidirectional. When we send a message to someone, we type it a keystroke at a time, but it does not arrive on that person's screen a keystroke at a time – in the manner of the old teleprinters. The message does not leave our computer until we send it, and that means the whole of a message is

transmitted at once, and arrives on the recipient's screen at once. There is no way that a recipient can react to our message while it is being typed, for the obvious reason that recipients do not know they are getting any messages at all until the text arrives on their screens (Marvin 1996: 6).

One more difference between the two mentioned types of communication is related to interlocutors' computer availabilities. For example, when the participant of the conversation immediately sends reply to the other, this may not be received as fast as expected due to the problems related to the internet access or equipment itself.

When the probability of such potential problems related to online communication process occurs, the conversation may not be as successful as expected. It can be guessed that, any problem small or big contributes to the effectiveness of communication and this case is true for not only real communication, but also for virtual one.

RESULTS

E-mail, instant messaging, texting are expressed through writing, however they also represent a number of speaking features. They are directly linked to time factor as they demand immediate reply. Whilst, there are some programs such as Skype which are really similar to real-life communication. Internet language is unique, it is not identical to speaking or writing style and can demonstrate the characteristics of both. That is the reason why it is considered to be a new form of medium.

In speech communicators can show their expressions, feelings through body language, however in written interaction they use emoji or emoticons in order to show their facial expressions, gestures. Emoji is defined in Merriem-Webster online dictionary as any of various small images, symbols, or icons used in text fields in electronic communication (as in text messages, email, and social media) to express the emotional attitude of the writer, convey information succinctly, communicate a message playfully without using words, etc. In the same dictionary emoticon is defined as a group of keyboard

characters (such as :-)) that typically represents a facial expression or suggests an attitude or emotion and that is used especially in computerized communications (such as email).

Today there are over 60 emoticons usually offered by message exchange systems, and some dictionaries list several hundred possibilities using orthographic features. However, despite the creative artistry, the semantic role of emoticons has proved to be very limited. An individual emoticon can still allow many readings – the basic smile, :) , for example, can mean sympathy, delight, amusement, and much more – and these can be disambiguated only by referring to the verbal context. without care, moreover, they can increase the misunderstanding: adding a smile to an utterance which is ironic can be taken negatively as well as positively (Crystal 2005: 24).

Coming to the means of language economy at the lexical level, acronyms can be generally or individually accepted in each community. The most frequently used acronyms among generally-accepted ones in the internet language are: B4=before, CUL8R=see you later, U2=you too, 4U=for you, 4EVER=forever. Among the individually-accepted acronyms SAT (standardized admission test), PSAT(the preliminary SAT) and others are internationally-known ones. Language compression can also serve for language economy and be attributed to the deliberate reduction of one or more words, already accepted on the internet or familiar to the participants of the communication. For example:

- And by the way, congrats (=congratulations).
- I think you can do with some pics (=pictures) to drive the message home a little bit, but instead of that, this is magnificent blog.
- Great ideas. Keep up the good work!!!☺also luv (=love) the different segments.
- I'm jealous 'cause (=because) I'm jealous that I don't have one....
- G'day (=good day).

At the syntactic level, language economy tends to be elliptical, as a rule, inherent in oral speech and presented especially in unprepared communication. In most cases, personal pronouns and auxiliary verbs are omitted. For instance:

- LOL (=lots of love), “I” totally agree with you!

So, the principle of economy is a communicative speech characteristic of a language in which speech compression is realized at the lexical, syntactic levels.

Due to such linguistic issues, we can meet a problem when analyzing the grammatical structure of online messages. The combination of both shortening structure and wrongly used punctuation marks really make it inaccurate and a bit complicated to understand. This case is present in online announcements and advertisements as well as messages exchanged.

DISCUSSION

The real debated matters are that with such wide expansion of world wide web English is influencing the countries’ national languages and either it’s positive or negative trend; internet language is a new medium in addition to already existing written and spoken mediums; the role of acronyms or emoticons in virtual communication and their impact on the speech process.

As stated above, The English language has been around for many centuries, and it continues to gain dominance as the years go by. English has been deemed a very powerful language due to the expanse of its usage globally. A dependable mode of communication is essential for communication to work, and English has become the key for almost all societal and business sectors of the world (Tumbo 2020: 3).

The electronic medium, to begin with, presents us with a channel which facilitates and constrains our ability to communicate in ways that are fundamentally different from those found in other semiotic situations. Many of the expectations and practices which we associate with spoken and written language,

no longer obtain. The first task is therefore to investigate the linguistic properties of the so-called “electronic revolution”, and to take a view on whether the way in which we use language on the internet is becoming so different from our previous linguistic behavior that it might genuinely be described as revolutionary (Crystal 2001: 5).

Currently most of the Uzbek linguists have fear about the impact of the English language on our mother tongue. Due to the fact that younger section of society tend to use the latest abbreviations typical to English in their speech and it’s getting to be a “tradition” and something to “show off” among them, it poses a threat to the national language reputation. Whereas, not all the researchers in this field consider this phenomenon as bad. In their horizon, English is the gate which opens the way for success and progress in all spheres of life such as, novelties in technology, latest news in medicine, new methods or principles in teaching and so on. That is the reason why it is difficult to assess the expansion of English as bad or good.

Everything happening around us has an enormous influence on our life and all our decisions or minds are directly correlated with these happenings. They happen owing to the changes, news in life and during our interaction in the community we discuss these issues, happenings, changes. And nowadays, on a global scale, most of the attention is paid to the digital sphere and almost everyday a person takes advantage of at least one tool in his personal life. This shows that the role of technology is getting bigger and bigger in our life. Not only for doing chores, but also in the communication process it plays important role and even the language we use is changing and enriching itself with the novelties technology is bringing in our vocabulary.

CONCLUSIONS

After analyzing the Netspeak from different angles we came to the conclusion that, our life is closely attached to the technology and its influence on our society. Everything it causes either bad or good is unavoidable. So, in current digital era any duty or task of ours as possible is carried out with the conveniences

technology has given to us. As the well-known scientist in this sphere states: It is always difficult to predict the future, when it comes to technology. Perhaps it will remain as part of an increasingly sophisticated battery of communicative methods, to be used as circumstances require. Or perhaps in a generation's time texting will seem as archaic a method of communication as the typewriter or the telegraph does today, and new styles will have emerged to replace it. For the moment, texting seems here to stay, though its linguistic character will undoubtedly alter as its use spreads among the older population (Crystal 2008: 175).

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