

The Impact of ‘SMS’ Language on Standard English

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Abstract: The constant growth of science and technology attracts the entire world. Presently people brief out things especially in the style of using a language to save their time. It leads to the use of ‘SMS’ language in communication. It becomes fashionable to use such language. Unconsciously, the youngsters inculcate the same culture in formal communication also. The unlimited use of mobile phones as well as e-mails preoccupies the minds of the entire society to use the SMS language in many contexts. This paper aims to do research in this area and to study the impact of SMS language on Standard English. The main objective of this paper is to present more details about such usage and also to recommend a solution to solve this problem.

I. Introduction

One can communicate his or her ideas, emotions and beliefs to others as they share a common code that makes up the language. Through language, human beings can send an infinite number of messages to their fellow beings. It is through language that they store knowledge, transfer it to the next generation and yoke the present, past and the future. Though language is creative and productive in the sense, the user of a language should not degrade the standard of English at any cost. So, the productivity should be standard, the best and quality oriented. All human civilization and knowledge are possible only through language. So, one should not degrade, spoil, pollute the nature or the originality of English language rather one should aim to work for the perfection of the language. So, let us preserve the standard English.

The innovations especially Mobile phone technologies have influenced how families and friends communicate. Though we are happy to welcome communication technologies to lead a comfortable life, on the other side knowingly or unknowingly we lose the values, quality and morality. Text messages have become a medium of communication for mobile users. SMS (Short Message Service) minimizes space, time and cost constraints which attract the attention of wide users. SMS language evolves as a trend and occupies the minds of the individuals. People find typing on a phone is normally slower than with a key board. As a result, punctuation, grammar, spelling and capitalization etc are largely ignored especially by the present day users.

The Usage Of Sms Language

1) Misspelling:

B	Be
B4	Before
@	At
R	Are
&	and
2	To, too, two
Suml	Someone

2) Trans-literature:

Example:

a) Nee eppa varuvaai

3) Pupils use “bilingual”

a) Why are you standing in veyil?

The survey reports of mine show the following results. Various districts like Erode, Coimbatore, Tirupur and Salem were taken for my survey.

Nature of SMS language usage	Percentage of educated youth	Percentage of educated adults	Percentage of uneducated
Misspelling	78	10	12
Trans-literature	34	22	44
Bilingual	40	15	45

The above said data clearly indicates that 78 percent of educated youngsters and 10 percent of educated adults and 12 percent of uneducated people do not prefer or give importance to correct spelling. The percentage of data indicates that the majority of mobile users face difficulties with spelling syntax of English. This is due to their ignorance, carelessness, laziness, fashionable to the spelling in English language.

SMS Messages

1. Parichayula fail aayitta thirumba padichu pass pannalaam. Aana paas ayitta thirum padichuu fail aaga mudiyadhu.

2. Mr. Bean removing two wheels from his car,
A Man asks: Y r u removing wheel from ur car?
Bean: U stupid see the board,
Parking for 2 Wheeler Only

Text-speak spellings

After – Rfd
Tonight – 2nite
Great – Gr8

btw - by the way
fyi - for your information
cwof - complete waste of time
hand - have a nice day
ltns - long time no see

Contribution To The Society

- Language is a means of communication. So, the written language should not affect and mislead the readers.
- Though language is creative and productive in the sense that a user of a language should not degrade the standard of English at any cost.
- One should aim to work for the perfection of the language.
- Human civilization has been possible only through language and its usage. So, for the growth and development, let us preserve the standard of English.
- SMS language does not always obey or follow standard grammar and additionally the words used are not usually found in standard dictionaries or recognised by language academies.
- Text messaging is alienating English speakers from their native tongue and confusing non-natives who wish to learn the language.
- It promotes misspellings. English is a beautiful tongue with a rich literary history which does not deserve to be overshadowed by phrases like 'c u l8r' and 'megalolz'.
- The original letters in words are typically replaced by phonetically similar letters or numbers.
- Although various other research supports the use of SMS language, the popular notion that text messaging is damaging to the linguistic development of young people persists and many view it as a corruption of the standard form of language.

II. Keep Language Standard

Increasing numbers of the people around the world use English language to communicate and send message in day to day life. They prefer SMS which drastically changes the nature or the Standard English. To overcome and tackle its danger, some scholars are collaborating with members all around the globe to document and describe this endangered situation of SMS language usage so that present communities may aware, realise, learn and know the importance of Standard English language and pave the way for the future generation. So it is the duty of each and every individual to love and show due respect to one particular language and especially considering universal language help to keep standard.

To overcome the problem, linguistics, writers, mass media, scholars, teachers, youth should play a vital role to rectify the facing problem. Each and every individual should contribute and come forward to promote the Standard and Beautiful English now and forever.

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