THE IMPACT OF ENGLISH TEXT-BASED COMMUNICATION ON LANGUAGE CHANGE IN THE DIGITAL ERA

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Abstract: *With the growing dominance of digital communication platforms, English has undergone rapid transformations in vocabulary, syntax, and pragmatics. This paper investigates how frequent text-based communication, particularly through texting, contributes to contemporary language change. Drawing on recent linguistic theories and empirical studies, the paper explores how digital media fosters linguistic creativity, simplification, and the development of new norms.*

Keywords: *digital linguistics, texting, language change, English, pragmatics, sociolinguistics*

INTRODUCTION

The evolution of language has always been influenced by cultural and technological shifts. The digital revolution, especially the widespread use of texting, has created new avenues for informal communication. Unlike conventional writing, texting in English often breaks traditional rules of grammar and spelling, reflecting a new phase in the evolution of the language.

The Nature of Text-Based Communication

Text-based communication on digital platforms includes messaging apps, social media comments, and online forums. These platforms encourage:

• Rapid Turn-Taking: users expect quick replies, leading to brief and direct messages

• Creative Word Formation: blends, clippings, and acronyms are common (e.g., "selfie", "OMG")

• Emotional Markers: emojis and stylized spelling (e.g., "sooo happy") convey affect

• Code-Switching: bilingual users often mix languages within one message

Texting and Language Simplification

The immediacy and informality of texting encourage linguistic simplification. Common patterns include:

• Omission of articles and auxiliary verbs (e.g., "Going home now")

• Use of lower-case letters and lack of punctuation for stylistic effect

• Phonetic spelling and contractions (e.g., "c u l8r", "gonna")

These features reflect a move toward efficiency and user creativity rather than grammatical precision.

Linguistic Innovation through Texting

Texting contributes to language innovation by:

• Spreading new slang and neologisms across user groups

• Accelerating the adoption of informal expressions in formal contexts

• Creating platform-specific dialects (e.g., TikTok captions, Reddit slang)

CONCLUSION

English text-based communication has become a powerful force of language change in the digital age. As users adapt to technological constraints and social norms of digital interaction, they reshape the language in real-time. Understanding these changes is key for linguists, educators, and digital platform designers alike.

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