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Impact of Internet on language and literature

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Internet is internationally most celebrated electric tool. Covid 19 duration will always remain thankful to Internet. In era of instant communications, it's hard to imagine life without internet. Similarly, English is the internationally accepted language of communication. One must accept that before internet, English had limited role either as a part of syllabus in academics or in hard bound books for reading pleasure. It was considered as language of elite class (still the misbelief prevails though!).

Internet has played a major role to provide platform for communication and exchange of ideas. Blogs, vlogs, posts on FB or wats app have provided successful platforms to talented minds, no doubt in that. But it has also divided and diverted the writing practice of writers. Earlier what used to be a collection of poems in hard bound books, now it is written in blogs and daily posts. One may say that literature has taken digital platform, but it has also started losing the charm unlike olden days when books were pure pleasure on reading.

Internet has also given emergence to new teaching-learning methods and platforms. Academic world has received huge change the way students prefer to learn language. Grammer has been shifted from books to software and applications. internet has also given rise to online and offline platforms for Language learning. Notwithstanding the efforts to teach Standard English language rules at schools, children fail to apply those rules outside the classroom or even in examinations. (Laila Al-Sharqi & Irum Saeed, 2020) For example, researchers investigated if there had been a change in the level of formality in sixteen-year-old students writing between 2004 and 2016 by examining 858 extracts that were given as a part of English Language examination (Constantinou et al., 2019). The results showed that students writing between both years became more informal, and that the informal writing trend was stronger among low achieving students. It is noteworthy that, currently, children are writing more than they did twenty years ago. Nevertheless, it seems that their ability to correctly remember Standard English language rules is hindered (Merritt, 2013). However, research has also shown that primary school children who made fewer punctuation errors during texting were more likely to exhibit a better grasp of Standard English spellings and were more capable of processing English writing quickly (Smith, 2015). Features like 'auto-correction' and 'text to speech' have also affected cognitive power of learner. Learner is now less interested in writing or remembering correct spelling on one's own. Relying on auto correction has made learner to be less focused on syntax. we can all agree that technology is here to stay and Text-speak is the main mode of communication used by the net-generation. Parents and teachers must make a difficult choice: either accept and recognize Text-speak as a



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skilful dialect or reject it as an unorthodox alien language. It is important to acknowledge that humans are wired to acquire the language and dialect articulated around them. Therefore, the net-generation cannot be blamed for developing the capacity to process, analyse, and evaluate Text-speak messages and adeptly produce a reply to share opinions, ideas, personal experiences, and narratives (Moyle, 2010). Social media platforms through internet have made learner liberal in using self-made words or spellings as well as shortforms. Mixing two languages is taken for granted and casual on such platforms. Hence the originality of language suffers!

Classrooms are now made available on links. Sessions on tough topics are made available on YouTube with multiple tutors. Hence the role of teacher has turned as role of facilitator. Earlier, writers used to read a lot before they could write anything. Now a days, surfing on internet and copying from sites have also affected the reading and retaining capacity of writers. Many amateur writers search quotations or ideas and would add in their own content, claiming the originality. It is commendable truly that internet has made digital literary platforms available for literature where literature is easily accessible to the readers and writers. Online libraries have made fast dissemination of literary e books. The limitation of getting rare books has been conquered by e-books, available just a click away. Undoubtedly it has given rise in new readership.

Facing a book was not as dangerous to eyesight as facing a screen. Online reading and writing habits have also affected the psycho-motor skills. Scribbling on paper and writing manuscripts are being forgotten due to shift in linguistic usage since pen-media to net media. Shakespeare did not have to compromise unlike present writers due to restricted length of content! Laila Al-Sharqi & Irum Saeed Abbasi mentions in their paper on '**The influence of Technology on English Language and Literature**',

“Technology is advancing at a high pace and literature is changing with it. With the advent of social media, quick digital interactions appear to be the future of social communication. Because readers emotional, temporal, and spatial relationship with books is changing rapidly (Sesek & Pusnik, 2014), the production and consumption of literature is also evolving to shorter and more frequent communications (Strain-Moritz, 2016). Short-short digital stories are now considered a new literary genre with different aliases such as flash fiction, mini-fiction, minute stories, sudden fiction, hint fiction, mobile phone fiction, and twitter fiction (Barnard, 2016). As the names suggests, these stories are extremely brief mostly due to the character or word count restrictions. For example, twitter imposes a 280 characters limit for each tweet, which increased from 140 characters (For a



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review see Al Sharqi & Abbasi, 2015, 2016). It is not surprising that short-short digital stories lack the traditional elements of a story including setting, characters, plot, conflict, and resolution. Short-short digital stories also lack vivid description and articulate expressions of characters; therefore, readers connect with characters using their own experiences or the experiences of others (Sethi, 2017). In addition, authors are also forced to filter out unnecessary information, digressions, extraneous descriptions, and iterations while also compensating for the lack of details with acronyms, contractions, puns, alliterations, rhythms, and even typos. Advocates of short-short stories claim that social media promotes a sophisticated form of literary performance art (Franklin, 2014).”

One can't deny the fact that internet will remain the inseparable part of human life for time immemorial. It will still change the efficiency of reading, writing, and thinking. It will give huge rise to bilingual interest of learners. Digital platforms available for literary discussion and online poetry recitation or competition may give time being popularity to the writer but can't make them much celebrated writers unlike Gulzar or Rahat Indori! Upcoming time shall be challenging for literature where true imaginations must play huge role on print rather than on sites.



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