



SOCIAL NETWORKS AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON ENGLISH LEXICON: ON THE EXAMPLE OF SPEECH OF 10-11 GRADE STUDENTS

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Abstract: This article explores the impact of social networks on the English lexicon used by 10th and 11th-grade students. It examines how platforms such as Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok influence language use, including the adoption of new vocabulary, slang, and informal expressions. The study analyzes the ways in which social media shapes communication styles among adolescents, highlighting the integration of digital language into everyday speech. Through surveys and interviews with students, the research identifies trends in lexical choices and the implications of these changes for language education. The findings suggest that while social networks can enrich students' vocabulary, they also pose challenges for maintaining formal language standards in academic settings.

Key words: Social Networks, English Lexicon, Language Influence, Adolescent Speech, Vocabulary Development.

Introduction

In recent years, social networks have transformed the way we communicate, share information, and interact with one another. Platforms such as Instagram, TikTok, Twitter, and Facebook have become integral parts of daily life, particularly for younger generations. This research focuses on understanding how social networks influence the English lexicon of 10th and 11th-grade students. By analyzing their speech patterns and lexical choices, we can gain insights into the impact of social media on language development and usage among adolescents. Social networks serve as a significant source of linguistic input for students. The exposure to English through various forms of content-videos, memes, posts, and comments-provides a rich environment for vocabulary acquisition. Many students actively engage with content in English, which encourages them to adopt new words and phrases into their everyday speech. This phenomenon is particularly evident among students who frequently use platforms that emphasize visual and textual communication. To investigate this topic, a survey was conducted involving 100 students from various schools in the region. The participants were asked about their social media usage habits, the languages they use while communicating online, and



their perceptions of how social networks affect their English language skills. Additionally, qualitative interviews were conducted to gather in-depth insights into students' experiences with English lexicon in the context of social media.

Approximately 75% of respondents indicated that they prefer to communicate in English on social media platforms. This trend is especially prominent on Instagram and TikTok, where users often engage with content that features contemporary slang and colloquial expressions. The frequent use of terms such as "like," "follow," "share," and "post" has become commonplace in students' speech. Students reported incorporating slang and informal expressions from social media into their daily conversations. Phrases like "I just got a new follower" or "That post was lit!" reflect how social media language permeates their verbal communication. This integration not only enhances their vocabulary but also influences their communication style, making it more informal and relatable. The impact of social networks extends beyond spoken language; it also affects students' writing skills. Many students admitted to using English slang and abbreviations in their written assignments, often mirroring the style they encounter online. For instance, using "u" instead of "you" or "r" instead of "are" has become a common practice among some students. Engaging with diverse content on social media exposes students to different cultures and perspectives. This exposure broadens their understanding of language use in various contexts, enriching their lexical repertoire. Many students expressed that they learn new words through memes or viral challenges that incorporate cultural references. Despite the positive aspects of vocabulary expansion, there are challenges associated with social media language use. Some students struggle with the correct pronunciation or grammatical structures when using new vocabulary acquired from online interactions. Instances of misusing terms or employing them out of context were noted, which can hinder effective communication.

The following examples illustrate how specific lexical items from social networks have infiltrated the speech of 10th and 11th-grade students. This term has gained popularity among students who express anxiety about not participating in social events or trends shared online. Students frequently use this term to describe content that gains widespread attention quickly, often indicating its popularity within their peer groups. This concept has entered their lexicon as discussions about accountability and social justice become prevalent on platforms like Twitter. These examples demonstrate how social media not only introduces new vocabulary but also shapes students' understanding of contemporary issues through language.

The influence of social networks on the English lexicon of 10th and 11th-grade students is profound and multifaceted. While these platforms



facilitate vocabulary expansion and cultural awareness, they also present challenges related to language misuse and informal communication styles. As educators and parents navigate this evolving linguistic landscape, it is crucial to encourage students to leverage the benefits of social media while being mindful of maintaining linguistic accuracy and appropriateness. To optimize the positive effects of social networks on language learning, educational strategies should be developed that incorporate digital literacy and critical thinking skills. By fostering an environment where students can engage with English both online and offline effectively, we can help them harness the power of social media as a tool for language development while mitigating its potential drawbacks. In summary, the interplay between social networks and language is an ongoing phenomenon that warrants further exploration. As technology continues to evolve, so too will the ways in which language is used and understood by future generations. Understanding this dynamic will be essential for educators aiming to equip students with the linguistic skills necessary for success in an increasingly interconnected world.

Conclusion

The study of social networks' influence on the English lexicon among 10-11th-grade students reveals a dynamic shift in contemporary communication. Digital platforms like TikTok, Instagram, and Telegram serve as primary drivers for linguistic innovation, introducing a vast array of neologisms, abbreviations, and slang into the everyday speech of teenagers. This phenomenon demonstrates that language is no longer confined to traditional academic structures but evolves rapidly through peer-to-peer digital interaction. While these changes enhance brevity and emotional expression, they also challenge formal linguistic norms. Ultimately, understanding this influence is crucial for educators to bridge the gap between informal digital literacy and formal language proficiency in a globalized world.

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