



## THE MODISH TENOR- LEARNING ENGLISH LANGUAGE THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA, A GLANCE

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### ABSTRACT

*Technology and social media plays an essential and vital role in the educational development of a learner in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Technical tools like laptop, computer, tablet, notepad, smart phones, and social media can help a learner in developing and enhancing the four skills-reading, writing, listening and speaking, leading a learner to become an excellent communicator. When we speak about digital nation and actually working on that scheme then social media and tools related to technology are very much helpful for a learner to improve his language skills. People have understood and realized the importance of not only social media but also English language. English is an international language. With the advancement and growth of technology English language also grew in leaps and bound. It is no more considered as a foreign language. It is used in every walk of life. A learner can learn the English language confidently through technology to express him or herself. There is a tenor to learn English because it not only helps to become self empowered but also to empower others.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Advancement, Communicator, Empowered, Enhancing, Prominent.*

### INTRODUCTION

Language is the means of communication. It is the way through which we express ourselves. Educators and Philosophers opine that language is the tool which separates us from animals and raise us above them. The question that arises is –of all the languages, “Why English is very important”?

### IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE:

As time rolled on, English has gained prominence and importance due to various reasons. English became essential in the field of research, education, professional courses, social media and the list is endless. English holds a prominent place in international communication and domain. On the internet, the majority of websites are written and created in English Any travel booking site, one can find English as a booking option. E-banking, E-learning, shopping online everything is in English. Again electricity bills, credit cards, debit cards, bills at shopping malls, signboards, instructions on manuals, how to use gadgets – all these are written in English. Even on our Indian currency-it is written in English, though we have other languages too .To be precise English has become a part and parcel of our linguistic use. We cannot deny the importance and existence of English.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA ENHANCED THE GROWTH OF ENGLISH:**

In the present scenario, learning the English language has become a necessity and so people are learning the language using technology. If a student wants to pursue his higher studies or join a reputed organization, then his communicative competence is tested. Thus English is very much needed. The fast development of technology which involves the use of smart phones, tablets, laptops, notepads, I-phones have opened infinite opportunities for learners to learn the English language and also access information related to the language. In the modern days, English language is needed to communicate and connect with others locally and globally.

### **NEW WAYS OF LEARNING THE LANGUAGE:**

People are using social media to learn and improve English. With the advancement of internet, there are various options for enhancing English skills. Social Networking sites like – instant Messenger, Face book, Twitter, Whatsapp help people in conversing online without any difficulty. The number of people conversing online is increasing every day. People are benefited and advantaged because they can converse and send a message, text or mail anytime to anyone from any place. Eaton, S. E. (2010).

### **TWITTER:**

Twitter is a social networking site, where one has to post or tweet in limited characters. Obviously people are forced to choose the words carefully and convey the message clearly. This helps to learn and improve English.

### **YOU-TUBE:**

You-tube is a video sharing website. People are learning English via You-tube. Particularly reading and listening skills are improved to a great extent. One has to listen to the videos carefully. Again, there are comments posted in English, situated below each video. One has to read that which naturally helps him to polish his reading skill.

### **FACEBOOK:**

Facebook is another important social media where a person is connected with his friends, siblings, family members and business partners where information is exchanged through messages, wall posts, comments, pokes timeline notifications etc. Which they have to type in English. (Though you have options for other languages, English is preferred) This helps to develop writing skills. Facebook has taken the world by storm and became an indispensable element in the field of communication.

### **SKYPE:**

Skype is one of the most popular inventions of technology. It is a video chat and people can call across the whole world as it is free communication. A teacher can teach a student through video chat. We can say” Virtual classroom”. Children can learn English through Skype lectures.



### **SMART PHONES:**

Smart phones have many features which can help the students in the teaching learning process. The grownups and working people can also improve their knowledge. Gautam, D. A. (2014)

**Whatsapp:** is very common now a day. Most of the people have a smart phone. Messages are sent through whatsapp. It is very easy to type in English. When using a smart phone the words automatically appear during a sentence formation. Even one can check the spellings and grammar from the dictionary. Thus it helps a person to learn spellings in English.

### **UPDATING HIM WITH THE LATEST NEWS:**

A person travelling in a bus, car, auto- rickshaw, train can update himself by reading the news. This not only helps him to develop his reading skill but also his writing skill. A voracious reader can become a good writer.

### **LEARNING THE CORRECT PRONUNCIATION:**

English is a foreign language. Therefore people coming from remote areas, vernacular medium schools will definitely face difficulty in learning the pronunciation of the English words. Smart phones help the learners to listen and learn the correct pronunciation.

### **VOCABULARY:**

To quote Wilkins, "Without grammar very little can be conveyed, without vocabulary nothing at all can be conveyed". Harmer (1994) too echoes, "If language structures make up the skeleton of language, then it is vocabulary that provides the vital organs and the flesh". Thus mastery in vocabulary is vital to comprehend and express thoughts in English. Again, language can be learnt not only within the four walls of the classroom and but also outside the classroom and school premises. Similarly office goers, professionals, working people, social workers, homemakers and of course the students can use smart phones to develop their vocabulary anywhere, anytime according to their convenience and leisure. Mittal, D. R. (2014).

### **MOVIES AND T.V SHOWS:**

Anyone can download movies and T.V shows in their smart phones. They can learn the English language by watching classic movies and T.V shows. Subtitles in English are given and one can pick up good, correct and proper English in no time.

### **LISTENING TO MUSIC:**

Listening to music in English helps to develop listening skill. Listening helps to become an excellent communicator. Everyone can listen to the music online with the help of their smart phones or offline by downloading the songs.



### **STORIES AND ARTICLES:**

A person who has flair in the language can read value based stories and articles on research which again enhances their reading skill. E-books can be read on line.

### **E-MAILS:**

People can cultivate the habit of writing mails and sending to various persons with the gadget called smart phone. While writing mails the people can seek the help of a dictionary to avoid incorrect sentences. This practice will foster among them the art of impressive writing.

### **RECORDING VOICE:**

People can listen to an expert, a newsreader or an orator attentively and later imitate the person. They can read out a passage aloud and then record their voice. Afterwards listen to their own recorded voice and check if they have picked up correct or incorrect pronunciation, intonation and accent. This can be achieved again with the help of a smart phone.

### **Advantages of social media and technology**

#### **Social media as a tool:**

Social media and technology can be used in the field of education as a tool to learn English.

### **ENHANCEMENT OF THE FOUR SKILLS:**

All the four skills - reading, writing, listening and speaking are developed and polished. The learners and particularly the students tend to become confident, if their communication skills are excellent. This confidence boosts them to face the challenges of life.

### **SELF –LEARNING:**

People can improve their communication skills independently. They can practice all the four skills during their leisure time. Learning independently again builds up the morale of the learners.

### **No Restrictions:**

People can learn on their own anywhere and anytime with no restrictions. While travelling in a bus or a train, they can use this facility.

### **DISADVANTAGES OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

#### **NOT ACCESSIBLE EVERYWHERE:**

The main disadvantage is that internet is not available everywhere. When in need, if there is no accessibility, then people lose interest and enthusiasm in learning. Particularly the students are not matured to understand the circumstances and therefore lose patience quickly.

#### **NOT AFFORDABLE:**

In a developing country like India, we cannot expect everyone to possess a smart phone. In our country many people and students in particular, come from such a background where their financial condition is beyond our imagination. They strive hard to pay the fees. In such a



condition, how can we expect them to have a smart phone? Even if they have one, every month they have to get their mobile charged. This again is a question to be pondered or thought off. There are many students who cannot afford to buy a computer or a laptop. If they do not have a computer or a laptop how can they be connected on the social media. In the schools and colleges social media sites are not accessible to the students due to ethical reasons.

#### **FAST GROWTH OF TECHNOLOGY:**

Technology is growing very fast. The devices used today are outdated tomorrow. The devices need an up gradation frequently. This again poses a big problem to the students who come from economically backward class.

#### **LACK OF MATURITY AMONG THE STUDENTS:**

Every coin has two sides. Likewise, from internet useful information as well as obscene information can be downloaded. Due to their tender age and immaturity, if the students are misguided, they may land up in various difficulties and problems, which may be beyond our imagination. So using internet as a tool for learning may prove to be a bane.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

Learning through social media and technology is very effective and interesting. It is also time saving. Computer, laptop, notepad, tablet and smart phone are definitely great tools of learning. But then all these are restricted only to those who belong to the privileged class. Again the use of all these technical tools should be monitored by parents and teachers regularly if students are using them.

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