

MAKING OR MARRING ACADEMIC ENGLISH: A STUDY OF ERRONEOUS USAGE OF ENGLISH BY THE SOCIAL MEDIA AFFLICTED INDIAN STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

English language has undergone a tremendous change over the decades due to the influence of technology, scientific development and the evolution of mass media or, to be more precise, the social media. In the present era, while some words appear quickly and fade away equally fast, others immediately become permanent fixtures of our vocabulary. With the social media dominating the young impressionable minds, the teaching of English as a second language in India to this social media afflicted generation of students is really an ordeal. It is observed that words are overused and misused on social sites like Whatsapp, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc. Social media is negatively affecting language skills in the classroom. From change in lexis to change in syntax and grammar, the language of social media users has undergone a cosmetic refurbishing. Viewed from pedagogical standpoint, this misuse of language on social media is harmful as it negatively affects the learners of English language who do not speak English as their first language. New learners are exposed to errors in writing English without their awareness of the fact, leading to incorrect usage of these words in the classroom. This paper is an attempt to analyse the lexical errors which have crept in English language due to social media usage in the language of Indian students from remote backgrounds.

KEYWORDS: *Lexis, Social Media, Erroneous English*