THE INFLUENCE OF TECHNOLOGY ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Abdusattorov Sanjar Alisher o'g'li
First-year Master's student
Almalyk Branch of National University
of Science and Technology MISIS
Rusana Ruslanovna Sinjapova
Associate professor, doctor of philosophy
in philological sciences (PhD)
Almalyk Branch of National University
of Science and Technology MISIS
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Abstract: In the modern world, technological development has become one of the most important factors influencing language evolution. The rapid development of the internet, social media, smartphones, artificial intelligence, and digital communication platforms has significantly transformed the English language. These technologies have influenced vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, writing styles, and communication habits. New words and expressions have appeared, while some traditional words have acquired additional meanings. This research examines the relationship between technological progress and the development of modern English, identifies its positive and negative effects, and explores the future of the English language in the digital era.

Keywords: technology, English language, artificial intelligence, digital communication, social media, vocabulary, language development, globalization.

Introduction

Language is a dynamic system that develops together with society. Throughout history, political, economic, cultural, scientific, and technological changes have influenced the way people communicate. Among these factors, modern technology has become particularly important in the development of the English language.

Today, English is widely used in international communication, science, education, business, and information technology. The development of digital technologies has made English communication faster, more accessible, and more global.

In the past, people mainly communicated through books, newspapers, letters, and face-to-face conversations. Nowadays, communication takes place through social networks, messaging applications, video conferences, websites, and other digital platforms.

The purpose of this research is to analyse how modern technologies influence the English language, identify the main changes in vocabulary and communication, and evaluate the opportunities and challenges created by technological development.

2. The Influence of Technology on English Vocabulary

One of the most noticeable effects of technological development is the expansion of English vocabulary. New inventions, digital services, and online activities regularly introduce new words into everyday communication.

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For example, words such as "selfie", "hashtag", "blog", "podcast", "livestream", and "emoji" have become widely used in modern English.

Technology has also changed the meanings of some existing words. For instance, the word "cloud" traditionally refers to a natural formation in the sky. However, in information technology, it also refers to online data storage and computing services.

Similarly, the word "viral" originally had a biological meaning, but today it is frequently used to describe information, videos, and images that spread rapidly across the internet.

These examples demonstrate that technological progress not only creates new vocabulary but also changes the meanings and functions of existing words.

3. Social Media and Digital Communication

Social media has become one of the strongest influences on modern English communication. Platforms such as Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, YouTube, and Telegram allow millions of people to exchange information and communicate internationally.

One important feature of digital communication is the frequent use of abbreviations and informal expressions. Examples include:

- LOL – Laughing Out Loud.
- OMG – Oh My God.
- BTW – By The Way.
- IDK – I Don't Know.
- BRB – Be Right Back.

Emojis, GIFs, hashtags, and internet slang have also become important elements of online communication. These forms help people express emotions and ideas quickly. However, excessive use of abbreviations and informal language can negatively influence formal writing skills.

Therefore, it is important to understand the difference between informal digital communication and academic or professional English.

4. Artificial Intelligence and the Development of English

Artificial intelligence (AI) is becoming an increasingly important tool in language learning and communication. Modern AI technologies can translate texts, correct grammatical mistakes, explain vocabulary, recognize speech, and generate educational exercises.

For example, students can use AI-based applications to improve their writing, practise English conversations, and understand complex grammatical structures.

Machine translation has also made communication between people speaking different languages easier. This is particularly useful in international education, scientific research, and business.

However, artificial intelligence is not always completely accurate. Some translations may lose their original cultural meaning, and AI-generated information may contain errors. For this reason, technology should be used as a supporting tool rather than a complete replacement for human knowledge and independent thinking.

5. The Role of Technology in English Language Education

Modern technology has significantly changed the methods of teaching and learning English. Traditional education mainly depended on textbooks, dictionaries, and classroom activities. Today, students can access online courses, electronic dictionaries, educational videos, language applications, and virtual classrooms.

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Digital learning platforms allow students to study English at their own pace and from almost any location. Furthermore, speech recognition technology helps learners improve pronunciation and listening comprehension. Interactive exercises and online communication provide additional opportunities to develop speaking and writing skills.

These technologies are especially important for students who want to improve their English independently. In higher education, digital resources also provide access to international scientific publications, research materials, and academic communication.

6. Positive and Negative Effects of Technology on English

Technological development has both positive and negative consequences for the English language.

Positive effects:

1. It expands English vocabulary with new words and expressions.
2. It makes international communication faster and easier.
3. It provides access to educational and scientific information.
4. It creates new opportunities for independent language learning.
5. It helps people communicate across cultural and national boundaries.
6. It supports translation, pronunciation, and grammar improvement.

Negative effects:

7. Excessive use of abbreviations may weaken formal writing habits.
8. Informal online communication can encourage grammatical mistakes.
9. Dependence on automatic translation may reduce independent language skills.
10. Incorrect information can spread rapidly through digital platforms.
11. Excessive use of technology may reduce opportunities for direct human communication.

Consequently, people should use digital technologies responsibly and maintain a balance between modern communication methods and traditional language skills.

7. The Future of the English Language in the Digital Era

The future of English will be closely connected with technological innovation. Artificial intelligence, virtual reality, machine translation, and advanced speech recognition systems are expected to create new possibilities for communication and education.

In the coming years, people may be able to communicate with speakers of other languages more easily through real-time translation technologies. At the same time, English will continue to play an important role in international science, business, education, and technological development.

Although digital communication may introduce new expressions and change traditional writing habits, the importance of grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and critical thinking will remain.

The future development of English will therefore depend on the interaction between human communication, cultural exchange, and technological progress.

In conclusion, technology has become one of the major driving forces behind the evolution of the English language. The internet, social media, smartphones, and artificial intelligence have significantly changed the ways people communicate, write, read, and learn English.

Technological progress has expanded vocabulary, introduced new expressions, created new communication styles, and improved access to language education. At the same time, it has created challenges related to grammar, spelling, formal writing, and dependence on automatic translation.

The analysis shows that technology should not be considered a threat to the English language. Instead, it should be viewed as an important instrument that supports its continuous development.

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Ultimately, the successful use of modern technology requires a combination of digital skills, language knowledge, independent thinking, and effective communication.

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