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Social Media as a Language Learning Tool to Teach English Communication Skills among Urdu Speakers of English

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Abstract:

The purpose of this paper is to explain how to learn English through social media we live in the new world of technology, and social networking. All most all people like especially students, teachers use various social media tools for multiple purposes. social media technologies to enhance the overall teaching and learning process. It also provides learners to access useful information but also stays connected with learning groups and other educational systems that make their overall learning process more interesting and engaging. Through social networks, it is easier and convenient to exchange information, communicate with each other and stay connected. learners use social platforms to stay connected with each other to improve the teaching-learning process. These online buttons help learners to find solutions to their problems and improve their language fluency. this paper usually focuses on the role of social media in learning the English language.

Keywords: Social Media, Facebook, Twitter, Whatsapp, Instagram

Definitions to Social Media:

- According to Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary, social media is a form that allows people to communicate and share information using the internet.
- In 2019 Merriam Webster defined “social media” as “forms of electronic communication through which users create online communities to share information, ideas, personal messages, and others.

- According to Wikipedia social media is a primarily internet-based tool for sharing and discussing information among human beings.

What is Social media?

Social media tools help language learners to stay connected around the world and stay updated about their fields. Social media includes various electronic devices like mobile phone, computers, tablets through which people can share their own ideas with others in a systematic way. Social media plays a vital role in English language learning because it provides many opportunities for English language learners to improve their writing, learning, teaching skills.

Definitions on Language:

A language is a tool of communication. It is a medium of communication. The word language has been derived from the Latin word “LINGUA” which implies “TONGUE”.

1. According to Collins co-build, English language dictionary “ language is a system of communication which consists of a set of sounds and written symbols which are used by the people of a particular country or religion for talking or writing”.
2. According to oxford English dictionary “ language means a system of sounds, words, patterns etc used by humans to communicate thoughts and feelings.

Importance of English Language:

English is a global language because it is used almost in every field of life science, business, sports, etc. English is a very important language and it is a compulsory subject till+2 level, graduation, and post-graduation. Learning the English language is very important to survive in the present day competitive world. So the English language is learned with proper care and concentration. there are four skills to learn the English language in a systematic way.

- 1. Listening:** usually, the learners of English language finds it more difficult because of the new pronunciation of words. so they feel this skill as difficult for them. if they make habituate of watching videos and listening to the pronunciation it may become easy for them to listen.
- 2. Speaking:** a Language is a tool of communication. Learners can communicate with others to express their ideas, thoughts and feelings and they can improve their language.
- 3. Reading:** Reading is also a part of learning skill. Through reading, learners can improve their grammar, vocabulary, spelling in the English language.
- 4. Writing:** Writing is a systematic process. Learners can present their own ideas in a précised manner through writing. But writing is the skill which has to be developed by themselves.

Discussion :

Through social media websites, learners can improve English language. There are many social media websites like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Whatsapp, pin interest, you tube people use them regularly. These websites provides many advantages and also disadvantages to the users.

Facebook: This is one of the most world's popular social media website .through this website people can keep in touch with friends , family members, and colleagues etc. to improve English language try to change language settings on face book from native language to English because it will give some experience to learners towards the language when they are spending time on face book. Try to connect with English speakers on face book. Learners have to chat in the English so that they can improve or get benefited towards the language . there are some face book groups which gives more importance to the new language learners . English learners can join in this groups and improve the skills in their language .

Twitter: Through twitter learners can improve their English language. if learners are using twitter set your account language from your native language to English and follow English speaking users in it. So it may help the learners to improve their language. Even in the twitter also you can express your hobbies, events, and funny moments which happens in your life. If someone follows your twitter events they can give some suggestions so in this case also you can improve your language. Learners also can follow news in the twitter what is happening around the world . we can follow these news in the twitter trends page with new stories and comments .by following these news also we can learn language .

Whatsapp: It is one of the common popular app used by all most everyone in the present generation . with this app you can connect with the known people to practice your English language . you can communicate with the people across the world to learn English language .through what s app chatting people can learn proper spelling. It also has free video calling , so we can learn and practice speaking and listening in English . Individual chat also plays a vital role. When you chat try to use complete sentences , vocabulary, grammar, to improve your language skills. Because when you are chatting with a language expert in what s app avoid using acronyms to improve fluency in the language. Learners can create a group with the known people who are expert in the language and can chat with them in English and correct mistakes and exchange language learning tips and techniques . we can improve our language skills through knowledge sharing . What s app has both neat features voice call and video call? Through video call we can communicate with language experts and we can understand their pronunciation and fluency easily by looking their facial expressions. And we can improve language skills. These what s app calls improves our fluency in the language . even though it is very difficult to communicate face –to-face conversation gives more comfortable to speak with people whenever we want. Learners can use what s app in proper way to learn the language .

Instagram: Through instagram learners can learn language easily. Even in instagram learners can find insta learning page if you follow them regularly. You can get end number of language videos regularly. Through this also we can learn language easily. Even with this website also learners can communicate with people in English language.

There are popular dictionaries for learning English.

Cambridge English Pronouncing Dictionary 17th edition : In order to learn pronunciation clearly or fluently users can use this software. You can install this app in your phones. and you can install this software with C.D also. You can learn two different pronunciations with this software. One is British English pronunciation (U.K) & American English pronunciation (U.S). Learners can learn sounds with phonetic transcription. In this software learners can also practice some exercises and improve their fluency in the language.

Advanced English Dictionary: This app includes words, meanings, definitions, synonyms, words search. Learners can learn language easily through this app. It is freely downloadable in play store. There are popular apps for learning English.

Oxford English Grammar & English Listening : This app can be downloaded easily through mobile. Users can learn English grammar easily. Users can listen to various lessons on grammar to improve English language.

Fluent U: It is one of the best unique app for learning English. this app includes real – world videos, news etc. when we are using this app we will learn English as if we are learning in reality.

Learn English daily: This is one of the simple app to learn English easily. With this app you can listen and speak. This app contains many words, phrases, sentences. You can listen to the phrases and sentences and you can speak the sentences to improve your fluency in English. and we can compare our pronunciation with the speaker.

Hello talk: Through this app we can stay connected with the native speakers of English which helps us to improve our language skills. this is one of the interesting app which contains additional features like you can chat, you send them a audio message so it improves your fluency in English.

Utter: We can learn many courses through this app. Tap on the course on which you would like to learn. we can learn the language in easy way. We can ask questions and we can get suggestions from the chat expert. you can practice learning with utter chat expert and improve your fluency in the language.

So, through all these social websites and apps people can learn English language easily and fluently.

Conclusion:

Social media plays a vital role in the development of English language. through social media learners can improve their grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, phrases etc. there are certain advantages and disadvantages of social media. Learners can improve their language easily. Learners can sign in to many websites as many they want. and they can join in end number of groups and they can communicate with the people in English language. they can ask questions, tips, techniques, in order to development their language fluency. through these websites learners can practice their learning skills, speaking skills with the English masters. These are advantages for learners through social networking sites.

There are certain disadvantages of social media: people get addictive very quickly to social media. They waste so much of time unwontedly without any use. The excess usage of social media can also leads to a negative impact on individuals health. Most of the people become lazy, it also increases their eyesight. our personal information from our face book or twitter accounts can be hacked by the known or unknown people. this is one of the dangerous disadvantages of social media. so every user is advised to keep their personal data and accounts in safe to avoid such hacking incidents.

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