

Some Linguistic Features of Internet Texts



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ABSTRACT: Computer communication affects people to such an extent that the term “computer communication” is used instead of “communication through computer”. For example, we talk on the phone, write on the computer; communicate with different people, etc. The technology we use becomes so familiar to us that we even forget that it is a human-made device. It is as if we have dried up our communication over a living person.

Internet linguistics is considered to be a scientific study of the manifestation of language in the electronic environment. Internet linguistics is the study of new language styles and forms created by the Internet. Internet linguistics can be developed in four perspectives: sociolinguistics, pedagogy, stylistics and applied linguistics. If we are talking about communication and conversation, we cannot go without mentioning the term discourse. Electronic discourse and computer-mediated discourse also create a foundation for the interactivity of computer users to maintain active social communication.

KEYWORDS: internet, linguistics, feature, modern, world, discourse

One of the most important features of the Internet in modern times is the creation of its own lexicon. Such terms are associated with the software that allows a person to use the Internet and appears on the screen. Some of the terms that were created are already used in the language very often. For example: *file, edit, insert, paste, format, tools, window, toolbars*, etc.

D. Crystal writes that Internet neologisms are already emerging [Crystal, 2002, p. 11], and with this, the emergence of new nouns is observed. For example: *mouseclick, mousepad, mouseover, click-and-buy, one-click, cost-per-click, double-click*; Internet phraseological verbs, for example: *mouse across, mouse over*, etc.

In the Internet language, there are much funny slang used by hackers and newly created ones. In the use of these terms, lexical suffixes are often multiplied. Some of those suffixes are: */-ity/ – dubious (doubtful) - dubiousity, obvious (obvious) – obviousness, brief (short) – brevity; winitude, hackitude, geekitude; folderfull, windowfull, screenfull, bufferfull; hackification, geekification*, etc.

Various abbreviations are also used in the Internet language. For example: *BBS (bulletin board system), BBC (blind carbon copy), DNS (domain name system), FAQ (frequently asked question) , URL (uniform resource locator)*, etc.

One of the issues that attract attention in the Internet language is the writing style. M. Danesi writes that lowercase writing style is preferred in the Internet language, that is, we already find lowercase writing style instead of writing with uppercase letters [Danesi 2017, p.54]. For example: */amir are you going to paris soon// (Amir, are you going to Paris soon?)*

Now the use of punctuation marks in the Internet language is necessary to be analyzed too. It is known that the use of punctuation marks is of special importance in writing. Incorrect use of punctuation marks can completely change the meaning of a sentence or text and lead to different results. However, the opposite can be observed in the Internet language. That is, punctuation marks can be used in a special way in the Internet writing system.

It is possible to find some confusing writing forms in the writing system of the English language. In order to learn the relationship between sounds and writing, it is necessary to consider some issues. One issue is the use of one or two consonants. For example, there are some words that end in a consonant and are preceded by a short vowel, in which case the final consonant is paired: *sit, hop*, etc. When the suffix */-ing/* is added to these words, the final consonant doubles: *sitting, hopping*, etc.

This type of writing can confuse children. For example, it is possible to find that many students write as *siting, hoping*, etc.

D. Crystal suggests that in order to avoid such problems, it is better to first teach students about long and short vowels or generally vowel and consonant sounds and their characteristics [Crystal 2011, p. 90]. Students who know the difference between long and short vowels will of course also know what spelling changes occur when suffixes are added to the words given below. Let’s compare:

SHORT	LONG
Rob – robbing;	Hope - hoping
Stop –stopping	Cane -caning
Cut –cutting;	Shame -shaming

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Set-setting;	Beat -beating
Bet-betting;	Mean – meaning
Can-canning;	
Man-manning	

The writing system of the English language was the result of an evolving process for 1,000 years. Linguistic and social events have and are affecting this process. The first change in the English writing system was made by the Roman missionaries. They make up 23 letters of the English alphabet. However, there is no difference between the letters I, J, U, and V in the alphabet they accept. There is no letter W in that alphabet. FYI, the letter W was introduced into the English alphabet during the Middle English period. After the Norman invasion, the French tried to impose their ideas on the English alphabet.

With the advent of the printing press in 1476, more changes began to be observed in the writing system of the English language. At the beginning of the 5th century, there were many ways of spelling words. At that time, W. Saxton had to choose a standard writing system for his publishing house. He preferred to choose the form of writing and pronunciation mainly used in the city of London. At the same time, stability was already observed in the pronunciation and writing rules of many words, and as a result, the concept of “correct writing system” was formed.

There is no doubt that today the Internet is a huge and diverse source of information. A new world, a new way of life requires new means of communication or the transformation of old ones. Its flexibility, speed, accessibility among communicators at long and short distances, etc. possibilities double its use as a means of communication. The change in the consciousness of identity on the Internet, the formation of a new network lifestyle and thinking have a significant impact on language. For example, D. Buckingham notes that ‘a new form of interaction with language has emerged today - written spoken language. The Russian language is mainly written on the Internet, but the pace of conversation in interactive network communication has come much closer to its oral type’ [Buckingham 2000, p. 63].

English linguist N. Fairclaw characterizes the modern language situation in the world as “technologicalization” of the language of communication, which can be attributed, first of all, to the intensive use of the Internet in all areas of society’s life [Fairclough 1990, p.193]. Today, the Internet is an integral part of the culture of society, one of the main elements of the development of civilization. Its main feature is that it is not only a technical invention, but also a social phenomenon.

The Internet environment is considered to be as a set of functional, informational, social, economic, and legal components that ensure the presence and activity of individual and group users of the Internet audience. At the same time, linguists talk about the importance of the linguistic aspect of the Internet, even concepts such as virtual language identity, virtual society, virtual communication, virtual language environment. The Internet is a research object of various fields of science - from technical sciences to humanitarian sciences. As for philological sciences, the Internet philological research paradigm is currently in the stage of formation. According to Y. I. Goroshko, “the general anthropological shift in the linguistic paradigm and the emergence of new tools and environments served by language led to the emergence of a new problem area of knowledge - internet linguistics” [Goroshko 2009, p. 11].

Analyzing the Internet phenomenon, U. Eco wrote that “our society will soon be divided into two parts (perhaps it has already been divided) - those who watch TV, that is, those who receive information readily, those who are deprived of the right to criticize information, and those who look at the computer screen, that is, to those who select and reprocess information” [Eco 1998, p. 7].

In the age of global communication, electronic communication is gradually becoming the reality of the day. Some linguists paying attention to this point, for example, Y.I. Goroshko, note that “in most cases, the communicative process is carried out on the basis of text exchanges in the Internet environment” [Goroshko 2009, p. 12]. According to Y. I. Goroshko, a new direction under the name “Internet linguistics” can be distinguished among the mass of modern linguistic research [Goroshko 2009, p. 19].

Thus, the text component comes to the fore on the Internet. Text linguistics should play a major role in the study of the communicative space on the Internet. We would also like to remind you that in the 70s of the last century, M.A.K. Halliday noted that “the text is a language in motion” [Halliday 1978, p. 142]. Based on this opinion, it can be said with complete certainty that the language of electronic communication means is one of the functional types of natural language.

The term “internet linguistics” proposed in this article dedicated to Internet linguistics did not develop and remained only at the level of a terminological nomination. About a year later, L.F. Kompanseva proposed the term “internet-linguistics” and tried to give an initial description of that direction [Kompanseva 2008, p. 28]. It should be noted that it is more appropriate to call this trend observed in the science of linguistics and which is in the process of formation, internet linguistics. However, due to certain reasons, for example, the presence of traditional and established terms in linguistics - the term “computer-mediated communication” - hinders the spread of the new term.

D. Crystal defines internet linguistics as the analysis of language activity in all spheres of the Internet network. According to him, this includes e-mails, various types of chats, games, web pages, and partly computer-based communication, for example, SMS - data. The Internet is gradually becoming a multilingual communicative environment [Crystal 2011, p. 1].

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Some linguists compare the impact of the Internet on language and communication. In the English-language scientific paradigm, various terms are used to define the new electronic language: 'e-language, e-talk, geek speak, netspeak, weblish', and the communicative space of its activity is called computer communication.

The widespread use of the mentioned term began in the 90s with the publication of the "Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication" magazine. A linguist is primarily interested in the spoken and written forms of language, not as a system of language signs, or rather, as a non-verbal communication language. The emergence of new mobile phones, smartphones, products of the 'Apple' company, electronic audio books has removed the association of communication on the Internet only through a computer, because the Internet has gone beyond the limits of this device. As a result, the terms 'electronic communication' and 'digital communication' appeared. Although it is too early to say which of these terms will gain standard functionality, from a linguistic point of view, the term 'internet-linguistics', which covers all the manifestations of natural language activity in the electronic environment - the Internet, can be considered the most suitable for naming this direction.

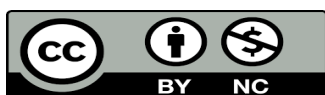
Apparently, this term is more important from the linguistic point of view, because it refers to the linguistic aspect of the communication process, not the technical, sociological, psychological aspects. From this point of view, the position of D. Crystal is more interesting. According to him, the direction dealing with all aspects of communication except linguistics can be called Internet-semiotics [Crystal 2002, p. 2].

Learning communication is considered to be important. Every person communicates, tries to convey the ideas and thoughts that have arisen in his/her mind to those around him/her, to the people with whom he communicates. Speaking sounds used by the majority, in other words, language, are used to convey what is created in the brain. The information transmitted through language is only their material carriers, various language units, for example, sentence, text, discourse, etc. transmitted through Computer-mediated communication is considered one of the means of communication between people. This term has been used since the 1990s. At first, linguists did not want to accept this term. So, the scope of the term was considered wide. It included all kinds of computer communication, such as music, pictures, line drawings, video, and also language that conveys the 'serious meaning' of the world. When we say 'serious meaning', we mean different aspects of spoken language, different forms of written language, sign language, metaphorical language called 'language of painting', metaphorical language called 'language of face', etc. It should be noted that language and communication should not be considered synonymous.

The term internet linguistics is a term has been created recently. The Internet has almost become a part of our lives. Using the Internet should not only be considered a negative thing, on the contrary, Internet language or Internet communication leads to the development of a person's brain, imagination, and outlook. It is true that age limits should be considered in health care! Also, excessive interest in everything leads to addiction, which is not acceptable.

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