

# Impact of Social Media for the Improvement of Language Abilities among the Local Users

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**Abstract:-** With the developing technology, people have made different ways to make the things easy and effective. In this sense learning also has become very easily accessible matter for the people and they have started to do it through social media. This is reasonable to call as unknowing learning through social media since the social media make the people to learn through the using and sharing. This study has proved that using social media as an effective tool to learn English language among local users in Sri Lanka and how it benefitted in several sections to make the people aware at least about the language in speaking than the other three sections including writing, listening and reading.

**Keywords:** Social media, skills, language, Effects

## I. INTRODUCTION

As social animals always people like to deal and connect with others to share or distribute what they and others have and interested with. For this purpose, they use languages with coding systems. However, in current society with the development of the technology different media have established within society that can connect people together. Simply these media are called social media since it works in the society. Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia has defined social media as follow. "Social media are interactive computer-mediated technologies that facilitate the creation or sharing of information, ideas, career interests and other forms of expression via virtual communities and networks. The variety of stand-alone and built-in social media services currently available introduces challenges of definition; however, there are some common features". So, this definition tells about the features of social media and how it serves to the society. There are several social media are existing in the society. Among them people use Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Youtube, LinkedIn and WhatsApp as the most popular and common as social media.

There are many more social media users worldwide and they use it with more advanced settings. And also, these social media are doing a great service in the society to share educational materials and knowledge among users. In the same way it says that people who are using these have a big impact on the language. So, this survey has done to see the impact of these social media to improve language abilities of the users. In some situations, it has reported that social media affect for the destruction of native languages and to spoil the original forms of many languages. Any how according to the survey, it has proved that social media has benefited on many users to improve their skills in English language. So, this has done to see the impact of Social media for the improvement of

English language abilities among the local users. Here language abilities refer to the four skills including reading, writing, speaking and listening. Here main focus of this study has taken to see the acquiring of language than memorizing certain elements.

When the survey was conducting, in certain events it was possible to identify that the peasantry had taken massive impact by using social media including students to younger generation who are idling to and fro. The survey was conducted by collecting information from the provinces including North Western, Central, Western and North central province. All together hundred participants were cooperated to conduct the study and it was planned in 2019 and data was collected in July 2019.

### *Objectives*

1. To find out the effects of social media on the lives of local users.
2. To see the mostly benefitted sections in language development of the social media users.

### *Research Questions*

1. How social media affect for the language development of the users?
2. What is the mostly affected social media?

## II. METHODOLOGY

This study has conducted in the form of a quantitative research design that helps to explores research questions and objectives. Here the quantitative study becomes an effective method for data collection since it makes the way to investigate the reliability of the evidences for all the readers and reviewers. All together the researcher has selected group discussions, and distributing questionnaire to collect information for the study. In group discussions, it has taken the participants as small groups by taking five to six people per group. When it comes as group discussions the information are direct and no need to have more data to see the reliability. However, to collect some additional information, the researcher has given questionnaire for the participants for this study. So, these two methods have been used for the survey.

## III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this section it is going to analyze the collected data related to the study of "Impact of Social media for the improvement

of language abilities among the local users”. Two types of data are analyzed by the researcher to keep the reliability of the survey and to take the actual result.

3.1. *Improving four skills of the language*

This heading talks about the answers that got as the ideas of participants for the survey regarding the improving of English language skills through using social media. According to that number 10 of the questionnaire was to check the opinions of the social media users on the improvement of the English language. The question is “have you improved skills in English language after initiating to use social media?” Here skills refer to the ability of reading, writing, speaking and listening. The question was set to gain the ideas by giving options as agree, strongly agree, disagree and strongly disagree. So, the answers of the hundred participants say that they have improved their capability in English since they use social media. The following chart shows the collected data for the above-mentioned question.

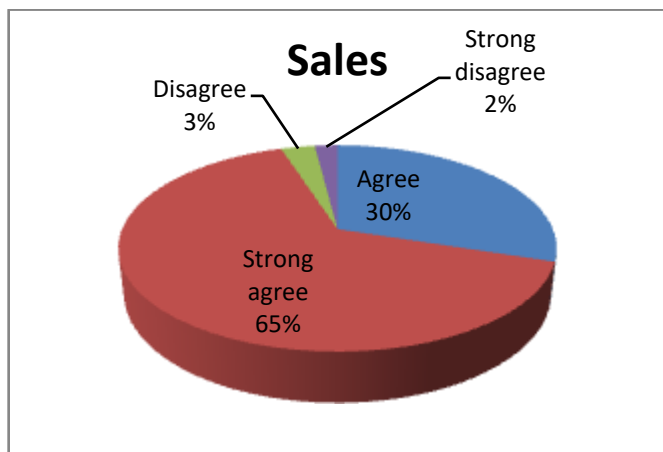


Chart 01. Effect of social media to improve the skills of English language

The above chart shows the result of the survey to identify the opinions of the social media users towards how it affects to develop the particular language. This displays that maximum number has taken by the option strongly agree and the percentage is 65%. Simply that is enough to argue that social media has influenced positively to improve English language skills of the users.

3.2. *Notion of spoiling native languages*

As we say that social media improve the English language skills, there is a notion in the society regarding the spoiling native languages. So, some questions in the questionnaire were allocated to search that idea. In according to that number 15 of the questionnaire was about spoiling languages. Mainly the collected data say that the participants who are in fifty to fifty-five stated that social media spoil the native languages. It was got to know in small group discussions that they have no idea about using or accessing to social media. The analyzed data shows there are only 10 participants stand for strongly agree and four people like to say agree. All the other

participants are agreed to see that social media does not spoil native languages.

3.3. *Sectional improvement of the language.*

In the same manner number 11 of the given questionnaire was to have an idea about the section that the users got improved. The participants were given the headings as improving vocabulary, sentences, grammar and all sections of the language. The question is “which is the section that you got improved?”. This question put in the questionnaire purposefully to know the level of improving of the participants. Because active participants deal with social media not just share something but they are fond of getting something to their lives. The result was surprised to see in the following chart.

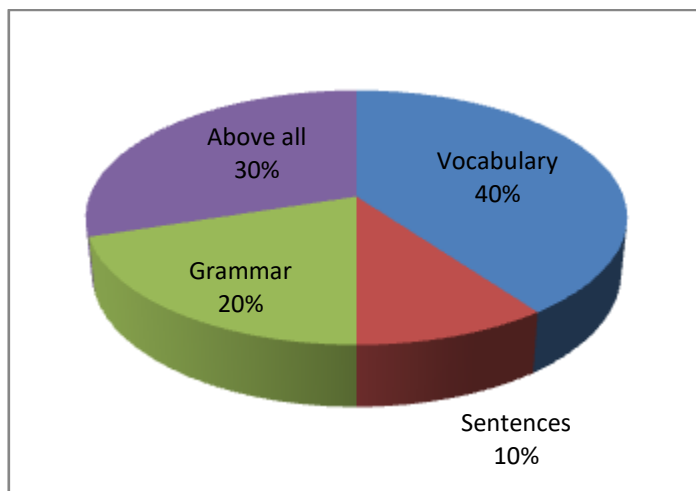


Chart 02. Sections that improved

The above chart says that using social media have benefited for the users to improve their vocabulary in English much and it shows 40% in the chart. That is the maximum in the chart and all these sections got improved as they answered for 30%. The lowest improvement has recorded from sentence level improvement and finally the chart shows that grammar also has taken 20% as the answers suggested. Ironically this chart suggests that all the aspect of the English language have been improved.

3.4. *Keeping the language familiar.*

Always a language should be familiar to the speakers or learners. Then only the acquisition can be done properly. So, there was one question to see this habit of the social media users. Here the number 12 of the questionnaire was “Do you think that dealing with social media keep the people familiar with the English language?”. According to the answers that the participants had given the following chart was prepared. Especially the participants who represent the age category twenty to thirty had mentioned their answers with a positive mood. See the following chart.

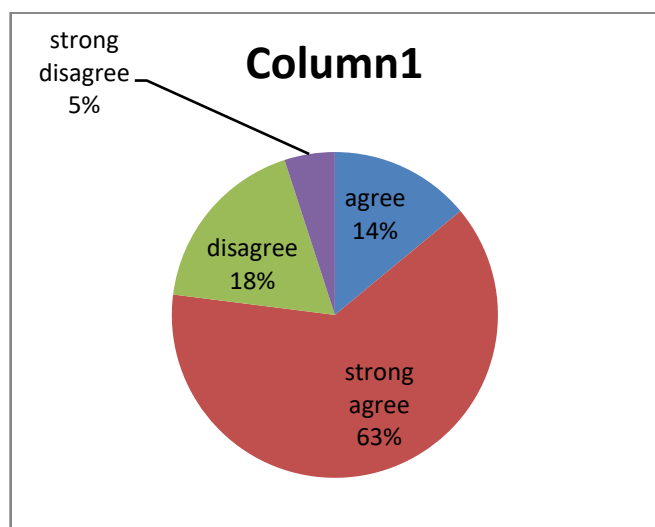


Chart 03. Keeping the language familiar

### 3.5. *Improving positive attitudes related to English language.*

According to the facts collected from the small group discussion, it shows the attitudes of the local users of social media towards the English language. Here the discussion was based on mainly on sharing knowledge, opportunities and accuracy. The attitudes of the participants related to sharing knowledge and opportunities were highlighted during their discussion. However, most of the participants had doubts with the accuracy of the things they are sharing. Anyhow regarding opportunities to learn English and share what they and others know about the language was the most important for the participants for the study. And also, many of the local participants have given their ideas based on using Facebook as the social media that gives them more benefits. As a whole when the data is analyzed it was found that 97% of the participants are bearing positive attitudes regarding the improving of English language through using social media.

#### IV. FINDINGS

According to the result of the study it has found that

1. Using social media among local users have benefited to enhance the English language skills.
2. It has mainly affected to improve vocabulary of the users than the grammar and the sentence patterns.
3. Users are bearing positive attitudes about the benefits of using social media.

4. Local users are using Facebook mainly than the other social media.

#### V. CONCLUSION

This study has conducted to see the effect of social media for improving English language skills of the local users. Here language skills refer to the four skills including reading, writing, speaking and listening. And also, the study found that the positive attitudes have been showed by the local users regarding the improving of English language. In the same manner the study proved that using social media, users can improve their vocabulary which affects the improvement of overall development of the language. So as a conclusion, it says that social media can use for effective educational purposes than merely wasting the time.

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