

# USE OF SOCIAL NETWORKING APPLICATIONS TO ENHANCE THE ABILITY OF READING AND WRITING SKILLS OF ENGLISH LEARNER'S AT UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL

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## ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out to know the use of social networking applications to improve English reading and writing skills of students at undergraduate level. We live in the period of technology, innovation, and social networking. Currently the entire world is like a single nation. Relatively every one of the individuals, male and female from young men to maturity individuals and from the working-class individuals to the privileged utilize different web based life apparatuses for assortment of purposes. Presently because of this explanation the researcher led the investigation of online life job in English reading and writing improvement at college level. The target population for the data collection for this study was the students of The University of Lahore, Kinnaird College for women and UMT. A SWOT matrix was specifically used to be able to explore the weaknesses, opportunities, strengths and threats. SWOT analysis is a tool that mostly utilized in business organizations and systems, and here it is employed because of its practicality and affectivity (Pickton & Wright, 1998). It was discovered that internet based life assumes a huge job being developed of English language perusing and composing aptitudes at college level. At last it was suggested in the light of this elucidating study that internet based life is significant particularly being developed of English language getting the hang of perusing and composing abilities.

**Keywords:** *Language Skill, Writing Skill, English Language, Reading Skill, Social Network, Facebook, Email, Twitter*

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## Introduction

Web based life have been persistently changing the individuals' method for living in different viewpoints, for example, discussion, learning trade, business, and training. Language experts and educators explicitly have noticed the encounter of web based life in L2 obtainment and learning.

These web based life applications, contraptions, and regions had been orchestrated into increasingly broad perspectives concerning correspondence, joint exertion, and, expressly for "Social frameworks organization, print, Video, Audio, Live casting, Photo sharing, Micro blogging, Productivity applications, Gaming, Search, Rich site rundown, Mobile, and Interpersonal" (Safko & Brake, 2009). Surely understood electronic life contraptions under these

arrangements join Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, MySpace, Blogger, Wikipedia, Flickr, Picasa, iTunes, YouTube, Twitter, Second Life, World of Warcraft, Google Docs, Digg, RSS 2.0, Yahoo! Search, Google Search, Jott, and Skype.

### Some major objects of Social Networking Sites

#### Facebook

It is most commonly used social networking site to facilitate registered users to make profiles, transfer video and pictures, throw commenting on each other's profiles people stay in contact with family, friends and colleagues. Facebook has about 1.86 billion monthly active users. Facebook is the most accepted one-on-one communication website in the world, in view of number of active client accounts.

### Facebook Messenger

Messenger is linked with Facebook site that is used as a messaging organization and programming application. It is also connected with Facebook's online visit highlight.

### Whatsapp

Whatsapp is most commonly used freeware, cross-stage and all the way mixed messaging application for mobile phones users. It is connected with Internet to send text, make voice calls, one to one video calls; GIF, reports, recordings, pictures, voice notes and phone contacts to unlimited number of customers utilizing standard cell numbers. It also deals with a component called Status, which facilitates customers to move pictures and recordings to a twenty four-hours-lifetime.

### Twitter

Twitter is a form of social networking that reckons as a free micro blogging administration, which enables enlisted individuals to communicate their thoughts through short posts called tweets. On Twitter individuals can share their view through tweets and follow other persons' tweets by using various platforms and gadgets.

### Google+

(Articulated Google in addition to) is Google's long range casual contact scheme, structured to replicate the manner where people share their scholarly articles and papers through a more proper channel than is the circumstance in other social networking administrations. The endeavor proverb is "Genuine sharing reevaluated for the web".

According to Krashen's (1985) "Input Hypothesis, people become acquainted with the language through first experience with data or examining works. An individual, having a passage to amazing proportion of reasonable information, is likely going to adequately acquire and convey the language".

Socialization engages the "language 'juveniles' to pick up from the people who are 'experienced' in most talk systems" (Duff, 2002). Learning a language through socialization is more than an exchange of critical and linguistically stable dialogs in system

based areas. It significantly incorporates distinctive social points as well.

Peña and Hancock (2006) "broke down the socio-emotional messages, the online system video games are trading an electronic situation". This characteristic with "virtual circumstances are inciting the educators nowadays to come up with language learning structures that advance second language acquirement and learning" (Thorne, 2008), "deliberate thinking, and free learning" (Malerba, 2011).

### Research Questions

1. What is the role of social media in the utilization of social networking sites to improve English reading and writing skills of Pakistani students at undergraduate level?
2. What are the opinions of students on the usage of social networking websites for enhancing English writing and reading skills?
3. How the social sites are helpful in increasing English reading and writing skills

### Objectives of the Study

1. To find out the learners opinion on the benefits of social sites in increasing reading and writing skills.
2. To investigate how social sites motivate students to improve reading and writing skills.

### Significance of the Study

With the development of computerized media for instance smart phones and computers, social networks have progressed toward becoming part of human's mundane life. The pattern of becoming part of this standard begins from the term of peer influence and practices. It is a debatable concern that whether people are gaining benefits from these practices or either they are risky. Hence, this study was planned to portray the connection between social networking sites in improving English writing and reading skills. The most significant part is that this research advantages both the learners and the instructor to construct a right way for better future.



## Literature Review

The attraction of social media on the internet may possibly be a reason for challenge, generally large number of college students spend their time on-line. Students who are Undergraduates waste time on social sites such as Facebook, Twitter, whatsapp all the way through smartphones which can be now spreading among youth. Students who are socially addicted cannot pass their time without checking and updating their statuses and other different activities. (Morahan- Martin and Schumacher, 2000) present a justification for social media addiction as the unnecessary usage of internet and the unable to manage this practice can put a person's lifestyle in danger.

### Global Role of English Language

English enjoys the status of standard language. It is spoken in about 70 nations and considers the world's second local language. English possibly employ where ever individual around the globe are taught. It is widely practiced in TV, media, popular music, movies and for any individual who knows English (Bond, Michael, 2003). From Old and Middle English, it's been spoken straight forward in the last one thousand years. Antecedents of language composed around then skillfully designed by Chaucer (mid to late 1300's) are priceless in overseeing semantic growth during the recent thousand years. In these works, often spellings will be vague, however once spoken phonetically, are reasonable to today's English users. (Sapir, Edward, 2006)

English has been regarded as broadly practiced language. Within excess of 350 million individuals in

the region of the world communicating in English as a first language and in glut of 430 million chatting it as a second language, there are many English language speakers around the world. One wonders how English has become most widely spoken language around the globe. (Ebner, 2009).

### Teaching of English as Universal Language

The English language is the most widely premeditated language in the world. According to the British Council, an estimated 1.5 billion people across the globe are currently learning English. There is a universal desire and need for people to learn the English language. This has opened a robust job market for traveling teachers.

English can be seen everywhere around the globe as it the language of electronic media. It is used in films, T.V and popular music. As well as it is the default language of PC. Articulation of English language is as important as its vocabulary throughout the world (Kuss and Griffiths, 2011).

### Institutional Socialization

Whether or not Higher Education as an institution can evolve into an entity with greater depth and which means is tested on the off chance that it is established in social authority that is, the social strength of one social gathering the white, taught, high society in the ivory tower (Gramsci, 1971). I compose this with the conviction of an understudy undertakings proficient that is trilingual. I communicate in Spanish and English. When I was a youngster I talked with a Spanish inflection and being embarrassed about it. I made a decent attempt to define my o's and an's and u's and "th" and "sh"

sounds. There was a reasonable distinction in the sound of my voice that reduced and lessened the estimation of my voice in its perceptions of the world in the study hall (Harro, 2000). .

### **The Importance of English Language**

Language is a crucial device for communication. Language is not just a tool to transfer thoughts and emotions but also it tailors social relationships. Instead of using words, communication can also occur through just the use of signs. A society's uniqueness on international and national level is dependent on the language used in it. Opposite to the theory that we speak what we think, language can shape the thought of its speakers, their cognition and their world view. Culture of society can also be shaped by language. Learning more language broadens the world view of individual and adds depth to his perception.

### **Internet**

Soon after the development of IT and development of World Wide Web English language started ruling the realm of technology. We cannot even use internet without having good command on English language. Like becoming universal language around the globe it has also become official language of internet. Online courses available on web have made it easy for everyone to learn English language. For every individual door to outside world has been opened through internet. Through internet English every individual around the world is being exposed to English language, making it the universal language of web.

### **Education**

The mode of instruction has also played its part in enhancing the population of English speakers. A huge part of educational instruments like books and material is in English making it impossible to get education without English language. Educational courses around the world have English language as a prerequisite. Lacking skill of English language makes one incompetent of training and education in today's world.

McKay (2002) said, the much consideration we provide for every expertise is because of the instructors' information and students' capability just as their needs. Moreover, instructors should know themselves what their identity is and in what capacity can be balanced in the light of the present status of English on the planet. Palmer centers here around the cognizance towards his understudies and how emphatically he needs to be near the understudies. Parker Palmer (1998) underscored on the educator's

aim to see well his understudies; he should know himself previously and when showing his understudies. We can comprehend his outline through the accompanying citation:

### **Research Methodology**

To get to know about the impact and use social networking sites to improve reading and writing skill of students at undergraduate students at The University of Lahore, Kinnaird College for women, UMT. The researcher used qualitative research methods to gather data from students. These methods used to gain access to the purpose of social networking sites for the improvement of reading and writing skills at The University of Lahore, Punjab university, UMT and Kinnaird college for women. Here, Survey was conducted with 100 students randomly who are using social networking sites. The participants comprised of 50 female and 50 male, generally between the ages of 19 and 25. The research instrument in the study was interviews. While answering the questions, the students commented on their experiences to use social networking sites how these sites improve reading and writing skills and how these motivate them.

### **Data Collection Procedure**

To gather material, the examiner initially tried to choose different target groups, who are directly or indirectly connected to the topic of the study. There are number of universities in Lahore. As English is a compulsory subject in our country, the researcher was confirmed prior to the research that there is at least one teacher of English subject in university. To collect data, the researcher physically went to the universities and obtained permission from the authorities concerned to conduct the surveys either instantly or on appointed date and time. Mostly in universities, the authority gave the examiner freedom to randomly choose from the students of targeted groups during spare time. In several universities, the researcher got the opportunity to instantly conduct the survey while others gave appointments for later on.

### **Population**

The target population for the data collection for this study was the students of The University of Lahore, Kinnaird College for women and UMT.

### **Design**

Many facets were reckoned in choosing a suitable research design for this study. Because of its multiple ramifications, the interpretive method of research was used. The opinions and views of the participants were synthesized using a thematic approach to discuss



each aspect of this research". To provide focus, a SWOT matrix was specifically used to be able to explore the weaknesses, opportunities, strengths and threats. SWOT analysis is a tool that mostly utilized in business organizations and systems, and here it is employed because of its practicality and affectivity (Pickton & Wright, 1998). The said approach was proved to be the most appropriate for this research as it led the researcher to explore the important components of the study and reach specific goals.

### **Sampling**

The population in this research included English language teachers, instructors, students of undergraduate level and some English language students. They were reckoned to be the direct users or have proper access to social media.

The Purposive sampling in qualitative research was used in this study. The participants were selected for their ability and background in social media to provide the right kind of information on the field of English language learning and were expected to meaningfully contribute educated insights pertaining to the topic chosen by the researcher.

### **Data Collection**

The data for this research was gathered through a written interview of the participating individuals. The researcher contacted the participants through an online messaging application. The participants were asked to accomplish the written interview guide by email or the same messaging app. All the answers to the interview questions were submitted by the participants in a week or two to the researcher in a written form. That way, it gave the participants ample time to construct their thoughts and suitably address the topics".

### **Ethical Issues**

This study that involves human subjects, each participant's confidentiality was kept in private. The participants were well-informed beforehand about the scope of the study through a written approval and their rights were respected during the data collection, management, and analysis. Only those who voluntarily agreed were considered as participants in this study. Confidentiality of identification and of the results of this study was carefully observed".

### **Data Analysis**

The data analysis was based on the themes that come to light during the conduct of the study. The themes, concepts, or ideas that were mentioned by the participants at least three times shall be considered. To make sure that all the components of the study

were included and all the research questions were answered, a SWOT analysis matrix was utilized for the participants to fill out".

### **Descriptive Analysis**

The descriptive data for this research was analyzed critically before reaching for final findings. The reason behind this move is to elucidate the statistical results and thoroughly analyzing data interpretation process. The collected data from involved participants was processed by SPSS and turned into an understandable numerical data that includes percentage of male/female respondents, number of respondents, age ranged and many more. The collected information from the participants helped in interpreting the received data and eased process in many aspects".

### **Results & Discussions**

The" SWOT analysis matrix was utilized to easily put all findings in a systematic way. The findings from collected data were employed afterwards to analyze the research questions of this study. All the data gathered in this study were treated with caution considering the nature of qualitative research. The result or the different variables of this study were considered to be springboards of future studies that are related to this topic or trend".

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### **Strengths**

The" data gathered presented strengths that are considered in this study. The participants have determined these strengths as key factors on how the social media positively affect English language learning. Most of the insights of the participants were established on the fact that English is recognized as a "global language" (Crystal, 2012), and is widely-used by a majority of people around the world the same thing it is used in most social media sites".

The members demonstrated that online networking is extraordinary wellsprings of modern, important data, for example, news, websites, wikis, and much more that are written in English. Web-based social networking likewise give all the more engaging non-

direct messages that draw all their millennial clients (Howe and Strauss, 2009). Despite the basic understanding of the English language, it requires sound judgment on individuals' part to recognize what genuine or phony news is, and still, the web based life give enormous data prepared to open's utilization. They additionally put weight on the web based life's job in trim one's jargon and language capability. Some of them stated:

"Internet based life are an all-accessible and without all data hotspot for language learning. There is no compelling reason to procure an English guide or go to costly English foundations."

"There is progress in the English language with millennial words; individuals should get familiar with the English language for it is the fundamental language or medium utilized in the web."

"Introduction to the objective language since students are frequently on the web or checking their records."

"There are a ton of articulations, slangs or abbreviations that we can never gain from our course books. Helping us use the language all the more normally and effectively."

"My very own understanding, I've become enamored with Tech as far back as I've been marathon watching surveys of them and equipment teardowns, I have built up a jargon that not many know about like "range" and strangely enough, I was very timid when I am going to begin conversations or questions to various personas potentially because of my rare jargon before I have found the various types of online life. But now I go head on to my partners and different web gatherings and bolster focuses at whatever point I have concerns, it helped me manufacture an association among myself and the English language that most of course books proved unable."

The introduction that web-based social networking give English language students arrives in a domain where these clients are getting a charge out of, learning, and grabbing the language in a progressively regular manner through presentation to correspondence, association and cooperation.

Another information given by the members show more confirmations on the idea of the web based life or especially the long range informal communication destinations to advance human cooperation or association. Taking into account that these locales, applications, or projects are interconnecting individuals, these media give spaces to correspondence and in this way enabling individuals to rehearse on the objective language [English].

According to their perspectives about the online networking's qualities, the members expressed:

"Road for correspondence."

"They can speak with various individuals to improve English language."

"English language students improve relational abilities through web-based social networking connection in a wide premise."

"Presentation to the objective language since students are frequently on the web or checking their records."

"More prominent impact in utilizing the language hence is making more enthusiasm to learn."

"It's amusing to keep in contact with old companions and such. Great approach to sit and unwind for some time."

"Teachers can share content, empower discussion, and answer questions; even the rage of setting up hash tags can enable instructors to create singular/bunch ventures make online discourse among understudies."

Since the vast majority of these members grew up with these sorts of innovation, it appeared to be inborn in them to have ability in utilizing them. Regardless of whether they are sending messages, posting on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, or they are playing web based games, they get an opportunity to work on utilizing the English language and offer data to other individuals.

Online life, innovation implanted on the planet they grew up with. Those of the "advanced locals" members offered reference to this present age as the ones who were conceived in the realm of PCs and high innovation. All things considered, they set forward that these specific individuals are more grounded in innovation and they adapt quicker than their past accomplices. Also, these individuals get a lot of presentation to English language writings at their young age, henceforth driving them to a superior language obtaining and learning. They place that since internet based life are installed in this cutting edge world, all things considered, language students will get a simpler access to a print-rich condition where learning English is unequivocally fortified. Members stated:

"Indeed, even kids at youthful ages can without much of a stretch approach web based life locales and practice the language through speaking with other individuals."

"The correct introduction to the online life among kids can be ground-breaking with regards to English

language learning. PCs, innovation, and web based life are all near; children can undoubtedly get an entrance to them."

"Online networkings are inserted in the cutting edge culture. Youngsters these days can use the utilization of Facebook, Youtube recordings, and games for instructive and correspondence purposes. With these sorts of innovation, language learning and securing is constantly conceivable."

"Internet based life turned into the new reality now. They are great in language learning since they are speaking to the youngsters. Nearly everyone presently got a Facebook account. It's the place they get their jargon and language through other individuals' posts."

### **Weaknesses**

The information accumulated demonstrated three shortcomings of the online life in English language learning. These incorporate the pervasive falsehood, unrefined language, and ungrammatical language writings, nonattendance of genuine language communication, and consumption recorded as a hard copy abilities. These arrangements of shortcomings have unfriendly impacts in the English language learning.

More importantly it spreads the pervasive falsehood, unrefined language, and ungrammatical language writings. While a wide range of data is accessible in web based life, language fledglings generally get phony news, disgusting articulations, and even ungrammatical English writings. These unfiltered language data sources are influencing one's language learning as well as how to concentrate right sort of data.

Falsehood in the online networking shapes one's perspective on the truth. For example, the phony news that is being bolstered in a long range informal communication site can be seen to be valid by a simple tenderfoot. These sorts of data are fairly risky particularly in this general public where a few people will in general accept and acknowledge everything that is part of mainstream in the internet based life.

Albeit online life presents stages for language learning, one of all the more squeezing concern is that the sort of language individuals learns in the web. Foul talks, obscene substance, and exclamations are only a few drawbacks of the online networking that are affecting their spectators these days. The impact is language students will in general lift these up in their talking and composing. One of the members expressed:

"The greater part of us need to access to Internet, many continuous web-based social networking to express their feelings as they are qualified for and tons don't utilize the language accurately endangers the very language by spreading unimportant and once in a while revolting wordings that shouldn't be said on all events, it will start an "innocence" among the watchers of their substance as web based life regularly is the group's decision of reference with regards to learning gathering."

Moreover, ungrammatical phrasings, words, or articulations become increasingly worthy these days due to the impact of the internet based life. Web languages, contractions, abbreviated writings, and such are contrarily adjusting the best possible method for association and causing correspondence breakdown.

The absence of a real individual turns off connection because of non-attendance of genuine language connection. The cooperation procedure in the internet based life come up short on the up close and personal, individual part of correspondence. The non-verbal communication, signals, outward appearances, feelings, and other non-verbal prompts are insufficient, if not thoroughly missing, in some web-based social networking locales. These perspectives are significant in a viable correspondence process. With constrained association, individuals tend not to demonstrate their genuine feelings and aims behind the PC screen and the capacity to adequately discuss verbally is checked. In addition, the more individuals invest energy in the online life, the more they will in general incapably impart face to face.

Exhaustion recorded as hard copy ability. The ascent of the web based life additionally brought the utilization of truncated works, content informing, images, and web languages. The members communicated that these cutting edge arrangement of composing effect less affect the understudies' scholarly composition. The greater part of these digital slang and composing alternate ways show up in individuals' conventional composition. In light of their developing ubiquity, internet based life language amateurs will in general adjust them, with linguistic and grammatical imperfections recorded as a hard copy ignored. Additionally, as individuals center around the how quick they ought to have the option to post or share something; they don't have the opportunity to keep an eye on their own spelling and sentence structure recorded as a hard copy.

### **Opportunities**

Social media provide non-local English speakers an extensive access to native speakers of English

language. Internet based life were seen by others as stages where non-local English speakers are offered chances to increase more extensive access for collaboration and correspondence. It was seen that these advances interface them to local English speakers or language specialists in all pieces of the world. Internet based life likewise cleared to route for the direct of online instruction or classes. Likewise, language students are probably going to impersonate or get how the individuals they "pursue" talk and compose through video web journals, tweets, Facebook posts, Instagram subtitles, web recordings, music sounds and recordings, and significantly more. For them, online networking give chances to language students to communicate with specialists over all fields or intrigue and get the ideal data that they look for. A few members stated:

"Live online classes can be made in the same class as the eye to eye learning whenever organized well."

"Meeting somebody whom they can rehearse their L2 (second language) with in this manner allowing the student to utilize and speak with L1."

"It's the manner in which I get how English-talking vloggers talk. I am urged to talk like these individuals and utilize the language in chatting in school."

"There is much open door for ELLs to build up association with English-talking or English-rehearsing individuals around the globe for social cooperation or connections."

Consistent advancement in innovation: Innovation is seen as a quick evolving marvel. Since computerized media depend intensely on PCs and such equipment, it is expected that internet based life will have their place soon and the ages to come. Members accept that coordinating internet based life to English language learning or the other way around is an incredible chance to lift learning. Despite the fact that it creates the impression that this age gets familiar with any innovation at incredible simplicity and speed, regardless they need directions from grown-ups or specialists with regards to exactness, substance, and legitimacy of data. Members are sure that as online life becomes the eventual fate of correspondence, language teachers and other training precursors should stay informed concerning these adjustments in innovation.

### Threats

Information demonstrated three dangers of the online life in English language learning. To begin with, it is reckoned that online networking's are primarily cause interruption in learning a new language and sometimes consider time wastage. Second are the

language contrasts that reason correspondence obstructions. In conclusion is the ascent of web slangs that undermine language.

Reason for learning interruption and time wastage: Members verified that this present age's engagement to innovation, specifically with the internet based life, is the reason why a considerable lot of them are diverted. Given that technically knowledgeable individuals do performing multiple tasks and do a ton of things simultaneously in the media, they will in general waste their time on insignificant things. It is seen that an excess of time duration spent by people in informal communication locales, internet games, watching video blogs, and other rambling stuff on online networks cause interruption in quality time students should have for their studies. These interruptions brought about by the online life are enormous dangers in learning, center, and soundness of their clients. Being diverted, however online life clients can be mistaken for a monstrous measure of data they manage at once or lose all sense of direction in their presentation to improper sorts of materials. A portion of the members placed:

"There can be covering of information and unfocused or amazed learning."

"Lower inspiration in learning English when ELLs handle their time and pick any exercises they need to learn. Unguided learning eases back language learning."

"Information over-burden or perplexity if learning sources are considered by an understudy in arbitrary or without an arrangement."

The various dialects other than English can meddle language learning and securing. As a portion of the members pointed:

"The Internet is gotten to by individuals with various ethnicity and gatherings, henceforth the correct words for another nation isn't right for another (for example "bae" in Danish signifies "crap" while it is viewed as an expression of closeness in the PH."

"Not all that are posted utilize the objective language rather utilizing L1."

The ascent of web slangs and subverting language: Last among the dangers as indicated by the information is the constant abounding of slangs usage and undermining language on the online life. Individuals may have reckoned this to be something constructive or dynamic, yet most of the members have comprehended this as something causing threats for English language learning. With the passage of time and advancement in social media, language upgraded meanings of words as well and they no



longer possess the same meaning as couple of years ago. With every one of the languages, millennial words/phrasings, and ungrammatical lexis mainstreaming, the web based life clients particularly the language amateurs will in general grasp such arrangement of language and acknowledge them regardless of their mistakenness. Besides, the notoriety of these internet based life glossary is benefiting from the gullibility of the young. A few members communicated:

"The young will in general worth or accept what they find in the web based life progressively; paying little heed to their legitimacy, rightness, and worth."

"On the off chance that it's prevalent to many, it turns out to be correct."

"Steady presentation to language utilized by natives influence their method for learning."

"Web clients might be inclined in utilizing condensing or abbreviations than genuine words in talking." Referring to the objective of this examination, 5 research addresses drove the analyst to this investigation. It looked for discover the qualities, shortcomings, openings, and dangers of web-based social networking in English language learning. This likewise investigated on the systems that can be determined to boost the utilization of internet based life in English language learning.

#### Strengths of social media supporting ELL

This study has revealed that social media have several strengths that positively reinforce or boost the English language learning among their users. These strengths are seen as people nowadays get a considerable amount of exposure or comprehensible language input (Krashen, 1985) from information, texts, and vocabularies in social media sites. Also, people get to use the language in any social media interaction, communication, connection and sharing of knowledge. Another strong link between social media and language learning is that fact that social media or any related technologies are deeply embedded in the modern world and culture.

#### Weaknesses of social media adversely affecting ELL

Data revealed social media's downsides despite their positive implications in English language learning. Though some say that social media make huge amount of information available for people, language novices are not spared from picking up all the fake information, obscenity in language, and ungrammatical language texts. The absence of real human interaction in computer screens also surfaced as a disadvantage of social media in ELL. Last, the modern way of

communication has hampered the social media users' writing skills.

#### Opportunities social media provide in ELL

Social media provide several opportunities in language learning. In these sites people can have an opportunity to get access to native speakers of English on wider basis. Social media also subtly provide a 21st century learning experience alongside the relevant skills like communication, creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration. The future of learning through social media is also secure knowing that technology is constantly innovating —it will always be a thing in the future.

#### Threats social media pose to ELL

Data presented that there are three major threats of social media in learning second language. If not used properly, social media would cause disruption for language learners. Being exposed to unhealthy posts and content wastes learners' time unlike when they are into more relevant materials. The different languages spoken by people in social media can also interfere in English language learning and can build a barrier in communication. Last, the rise of internet slangs and subverting languages also play as threats in language learning and can be dangerous if not properly addressed by educators.

#### Strategies to maximize social media's use in ELL

Maximizing the use of the social media in learning English language involves capitalizing on their strengths and opportunities and mitigating as much as possible all their weaknesses and threats. One approach focuses on the direct integration and incorporation of social media in teaching the language. It can be done by giving guided activities using these sites, programs, and apps. Since the learners nowadays intuitively pick up media literacy, social networking sites can also be incorporated in the classroom. Allowing the learners to get the right kind of exposure, input, and platforms in the social media, alongside adults' supervision, would eventually create a positive impact in their language learning.

#### Results, Findings, Conclusion and Recommendation

The results and findings of this study revealed that social media plays a significant role in reading and writing skills development of English learners at university level like; it helps the second language learners to assimilate new vocabulary and words in their mundane routine that are suitable for them in the ability of learning English language, because it is an easy way to learn English language instead of reading

books and other text materials. This way the medium of social media raises the interest of English learners towards acquiring English language reading and writing skills and English language learners use social sites or rather spend their long enough time without any boredom, hindrance or hesitation. Similarly, the data and findings of the research showed that the easy access to social media make it convenient for young university level learners as compare to access for language learning books, or other related text materials which is a tedious task to go to library and get their hands on books pertinent to vocabulary development. Therefore, the English language learners would prefer to use, social media sites like WhatsApp, Facebook, youtube, twitter, flicker, , and other so many sources of social media to enhance their English vocabulary not only by reading different words on different sites but also assimilating those new learned words in their writing as well.

## Conclusion

After the critical analysis and descriptive study of the collected data it was concluded that the role of social media is significant in development of English language reading and writing skills at university level. The social media altogether provides a novel and easily accessible way in acquiring English language reading and writing skills and facilitates the learners who are learning English as a second language with new words and phrases to improve their vocabulary.

This study elucidates that college students generally prefer to spend most of their time on social media in checking different social sites. There is no way out except to recognize the fact that social media do have a major role on the ways we communicate with each other. This medium of social media that is perpetually upgrading also left impact on language to be evolved simultaneously and stays remain in state of alteration and regeneration. Therefore, social networking is definitely influencing students' potentials, efficiencies, academic writing and most importantly their grades. The English language used in social media has a positive effect to some extent but the informal language used while chatting, posting status and commenting students have a negative impact on their academic writing and English learning as a foreign language.

It transpired in this study that social media do have positive outcome in learning English language for their users. However, they can also have downsides and threats that interfere in one's learning of sound English language. The internet-based social media sites can be effective platforms in providing up-to-

date information, considerable amount of language input, interaction with native language speakers, and innovative learning. But the same media can also distract the language learners with all their misinformation, unscholarly and ungrammatical content, obscene language, and artificial kind of human interaction.

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