

**CURRENT ISSUES IN MODERN LINGUISTICS**

Quroqova Maxsuda Dagar qizi

English teacher of Oriental Private School

Abstract: *In this article, it was clearly discussed about core issues that school students come across while learning modern English. Because of technology, students are exposed to a lot of different online websites, online games, and social media, so they are involved in informal language a lot. The article integrates student surveys, teacher interviews, and writing samples to identify why students confuse with formal language and informal language. According to results, most of school students use informal spelling, grammar, and slang words in their academic writings. Teachers also mentioned that some students are addicted to AI a lot, so they just copy the assignment and do not realize what thing they did in their tasks. The study concludes that even though modern English provides different opportunities to learn language effectively, students are required instructions for the usage of correct English. In the recommendation part, teachers and schools are recommended to develop English learning by involving real-life examples and teaching the variation between formal and informal English.*

Keywords: *modern English, language learning, formal writing, social media English, grammar problems, informal English, formal English, AI tools, grammar problems, slang*

Introduction

These days, English is considered one of the most commonly used languages around the world, as it is an international language. Most people speak, write, and learn English frequently, both in English-speaking countries and in non-native countries. For example, in Uzbekistan, the English language is taught in schools from a very young age. Most learners use and apply English in different contexts, such as on YouTube, on social media, in video games, and when talking with friends and family members.



Since English is used commonly in different places and for different purposes, this language is changing a lot and quickly. In the past, English was seen and learned only through textbooks and other paper-version materials. But, now, it is found almost everywhere, like in movies, on YouTube, on TikTok, and in AI tools such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, and others. These ways of learning language can bring benefits, but they also lead to big issues in language. In this article, the main problems will be discussed that have occurred with students who are learning the modern English language. It mainly presents why the English language is challenging for school learners and how the social media and internet influence their vocabulary, spelling, and grammar. Also, it points out what teachers notice in the classroom atmosphere. Lastly, this article provides valuable points for developing the way we teach and learn English in the modern era.

Literature review

Linguists and researchers agree that today English varies from the past. They state that globalization and technology affected English growth; both of them also led to difficulties in control.

- David Crystal (2003) stated that English is a “global language.” “New words are added frequently, mainly from social media. For instance, there were not these words like “selfie” and “vlog” 20 years ago. Recently, these words became part of English” [1: 146].

- M.A.K. Halliday (2007) mentioned grammar. He said that “the young generation uses informal English a lot. When they write comments or messages, they do not follow grammar rules. That’s why they struggle in writing essays and other formal letters, as they are quite obsessed with informal language” [2: 211].

- Peter Trudgill (2000) pointed out that “different accents of English, like American English, British English, and Indian English. He stated that because of different accents, it is quite difficult to teach standard English in the classroom setting” [3: 105].

According to these articles, it is clear that English is not wrong; rather, it is changing quickly, so people and linguists have to learn how to keep up with it.



Materials and methods

To clarify and identify what kind of problems students come across while learning modern English, this research was conducted among private school students. And in this research, there were used two types of methods. The first one is the “quantitative” method with student surveys. The second one is the “qualitative” method with teacher interviews.

1. *Quantitative method – student survey*

A simple and short survey was conducted with 10 *multiple-choice* and *true/false questions*. The main purpose is to identify students’ English learning habits, like acquiring the language, learning new words, their dependence on AI tools, and their usage of online content. All of them are relevant to modern English and the words that are coming into the students’ lives. There are some statements given for questions.

- In most cases, where do you learn English apart from inside the classroom?
- What do you think modern English affects your learning?
- Do you use any AI tools to do your homework?

The survey was conducted among private school students in Tashkent, and their grades are between 8 and 11, and their ages are from 13 to 17. The survey was analyzed with simple percentages to see and notice the common patterns.

2. *Qualitative method – teacher interviews*

To know more information and learn basic issues, teachers were also interviewed by asking simple but more important questions. These questions involve the teachers’ experiences and also their problems with students. There were 4 English teachers, and they had more than 4 years of teaching experience in the teaching field. Each interview lasted about 25 minutes, by considering their language knowledge. And there were given open-ended questions. There are the questions that were asked during the interview.

- What kind of challenges do you face while teaching English in the modern digital world?



- Are there a lot of grammar and vocabulary mistakes available these days?
- Did you notice some changes in students' speaking and writing?

Tools used:

- A short survey for students, and this survey is about how students use English
- Interviews with English teacher

Results and analysis

Student survey results:

- 75% of students said that they learn a lot when they learn English from YouTube, TikTok, online video games, and Instagram. This is because they can see the things that they want and they are interested in.
- 63% of students stated that modern English impacts them a lot, mainly in their grammar and vocabulary acquisition. That's why they tend to use these words like "u" for "you" or "bcz" for "because."
- 55% of students admitted that they are likely to use AI tools like ChatGPT and Grammarly in their assignments, and they said that sometimes they just copy without changing anything.

From these surveys, it is obviously seen that most students are engaged with different English, and there is informal and unclear language available. They learn words in different places without knowing their properness for school, such as from online videos, online games, and different bloggers. That's why they might face difficulties in applying proper words in their speaking and writing.

Teacher interview results:

Teachers who participated in this interview said that they noticed quite big changes in their students' writing.

- These days, students are more likely to write simple and short essays. They use the words that are mainly used in the spoken language.
- Most of them forget capital letters and punctuation marks while writing essays.



- Also, some students mix formal and informal language in their formal writings. For example: “I’m going to share about my favorite book in this essay.”

By seeing this condition, one teacher said that “Students are learning and acquiring language from different places like video games and YouTube shorts, not just from the textbooks. That’s why it causes challenges to explain and teach formal writing for them.”

Real examples from student writing:

- “I’m going to visit London, as it is my favorite city around the world.” (Informal words and no punctuation are used in this sentence.)
- “I enjoyed this movie because it was fire” (an informal word was used, in which “fire” is considered slang).
- “With ChatGPT, I wrote this essay, so I do not know what kind of meaning it conveys” (the student just copied the essay without realizing its content).

From these real examples, it is clear that students do not know what is formal and casual English, or they are just too dependent on using AI tools in their writing.

Discussion

In this research, it is shown that modern English is almost everywhere. This creates opportunities for students to use and apply language in various ways and styles. It can be a great chance for students to acquire language naturally and faster by observing language in different contexts, not just in the textbooks. Since they can see the real-life communications there and read the real-world news that is occurring around the world. That’s why students find it more comfortable to use casual English, not the formal English words, for their writings. But this also leads to some serious issues for them, as everything has its own drawbacks with its positive sides. For instance, on the one hand, online and social media language is considered short, simple, and sometimes not true, as it has a lot of slang and other collocations. On the other hand, school English language requires being formal and using correct vocabulary, grammar, and punctuation marks. Due to this difference, students can be confused a lot, and they are not certain about which language should be used in



which context. Below, there were mentioned some of them which are common nowadays.

1. *Social media English vs. school English:* Students frequently write down the essays and formal letters with the language that is used a lot in oral communication and that is not proper in written language. This causes some challenges, since they do not follow the grammatical rules, lexical resources, punctuation marks, and others. In this way, the students break the school and exam rules, as they are exposed to a lot with social media and its language. Since social media provides and shares the short and interesting videos and posts, students tend to follow them, not the boring and exhausting textbooks and structures.

2. *Too much dependence on AI:* Due to technological advancements, almost all students rely on these digital tools, like ChatGPT and Google Translate, for their tasks. That's why they just upload their tasks and ask them to get their assignments done. By doing this, they do not notice they lose their creativity and interest towards learning. Especially, it occurs with their writing; they just copy the essays and other small paragraphs. It badly impacts on their language learning and loses their motivation if they take real exams in which they cannot use AI tools.

3. *Mixed English types:* At schools, English teachers do not pay attention to the accents a lot. Sometimes, they do not care about them at all, mainly in public schools. That's why it causes a lot of bad effects for students. For example, firstly, they tend to get confused when they need to differentiate them from each other. They mix these accents in their speech; they do not follow only one accent. They might think, All of them are one language, so they do not worry about it.

4. *Lack of understanding:* Students use slang and other short casual forms of language in their everyday conversations, so when they write, they do not know and understand clearly if these words are proper or not. That's why, in school writings, they use these words, such as "bcz," "u," or "idc," and short forms a lot. They require more guidance and instructions from their teachers in their lexical resources, which should be used in writing.



Conclusion

The English language is not considered only a school subject anymore; it has rather widely appeared everywhere and in different contexts. That's why this language is part of students' lives, since they come across the English language in social media, videos, games, and apps. This commonness supports students a lot to acquire language quickly; however, it has a bad effect on understanding what is true and proper in a school setting.

Modern English is changing a lot because of technology, and it impacts students differently. This is because both teachers and students have to know and learn how to use it wisely. It is true that we cannot stop the language from changing, but teachers and linguists support each other to use and apply it properly and in the correct context. If students want to pass their exams, find their future careers, and communicate in international contexts successfully, they are required to know how to speak and write with the correct language and lexical resources, not just with the social media language.

Recommendations

To develop modern English language learning effectively, we recommend these important tips to schools and teachers.

- Integrate real and authentic language, not just the textbook language. In this way, students show their interest towards learning and language itself.
- Create an atmosphere in which students can compare the accents easily. For example, show the tables or provide authentic audios and videos in which students can easily notice which one is American English and which one is British English.
- Organize lessons in a way that students can practice formal writing such as essays, letters, and formal reports.
- Explain and teach the difference between school writing and texting language, so students do not struggle and get confused when they are needed to apply them.



- Provide special IT lessons in which students should learn how to use and apply AI tools for learning purposes, not just for copying and pasting the tasks.
- Urge and motivate students to read and comprehend the books, articles, and news, not to just watch the videos and shorts. In this way, teachers and instructors can keep the balance between the social media content and school content.

References

Crystal, D. (2003). *English as a Global Language*. Cambridge University Press.

Halliday, M.A.K. (2007). *Exploring Functional Grammar*. Routledge.

Trudgill, P. (2000). *Sociolinguistics: An Introduction to Language and Society*. Penguin Books.