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INTERNET LANGUAGE AND WORDS IN SOCIAL NETWORKS

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Abstract: This article explores the evolution of language influenced by the rapid development of the internet with a particular focus on the emergence of new words and expressions in social networks.This paper analyzes widely used terms, acronyms, emojis, hashtags, and other digital language tools, their integration into daily speech.

Keywords: Internet language, social media, slang, hashtags, abbreviations, digital communication, linguistics, emojis, youth speech, language evolution.

Аннотация: В этой статье рассматривается эволюция языка под влиянием быстрого развития Интернета, с особым акцентом на появлении новых слов и выражений в социальных сетях. В этой статье анализируются широко используемые термины, аббревиатуры, эмодзи, хэштеги и другие цифровые языковые инструменты, их интеграция в повседневную речь.

Ключевые слова: Интернет-язык, социальные сети, сленг, хэштеги, аббревиатуры, цифровая коммуникация, лингвистика, эмодзи, молодежная речь, эволюция языка.

Over the past two decades, the world has experienced a massive shift in how communication takes place. The expansion of internet access and the rise of social media

platforms have not only transformed the way people interact but also significantly affected language use. "**Internet language**" has emerged as a new and dynamic linguistic form, shaped by speed, brevity, informality, and emotional expression. The new digital age has seen the birth of countless phrases, expressions, and writing styles that would be unrecognizable just a few years ago.

In the initial step, we have to know "**what is internet language?**". Internet language - also known as netspeak, digitalk or internet slang refers to unique vocabulary and linguistic style used in digital environments like messaging apps or social media platforms. Their types may include:

Acronyms and abbreviations- shortening of long words (LOL - laughing out loud or BRB - be right back).

Emojis - small reactions that we use in daily messaging(☹ ,☺)

Hashtags - information that include this (#) sign (e.g., #MondayMotivation)

Expressive sounds – writing form of spoken words like aww, ugh.

Text-based emoticons – (e.g., :D)

The primary purpose of internet language is to enable fast, efficient and emotionally charged communication in digital space where character limits or speed of typing may be a factor.

Social media platforms: Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and Snapchat are the most powerful drivers of language change. On these platforms we can see that messages must often be concise and impactful. Besides that, posts are designed to catch immediate attention. Examples of widely used internet phrases include:

FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out)

YOLO (You Only Live Once)

TL; DR (Too Long; Didn't Read)

BFF (Best Friends Forever)

IDK (I Don't Know)

These terms originally emerged in English but have been adopted by users of many different languages. In many cultures, these phrases are directly incorporated into native speech, especially among the youth. Below is a list of frequently used internet expressions and their general meanings:

LOL Laughing Out Loud – intense laughter

BRB Be Right Back – temporary absence

SMH Shaking My Head – disapproval

DM Direct Message – private communication

TBH To Be Honest – expressing honesty

Ghosting - suddenly cutting off all communication

Cringe - something awkward or embarrassing

Ratio when comments or responses outnumber likes on a post

Cap / No Cap Lie / No lie – used to express honesty

These phrases are expressive, emotionally charged, and often replace more formal expressions. Internet language has had a profound impact on how young people speak and write, both online and offline. Digital terms are being used in face-to-face conversations as well:

"Bro, that video went viral, total ratio!" "I ghosted her, it was getting weird." "He's totally capping right now."

Internet slang allows to communicate not only more quickly but also more playfully, often with layers of humor or irony. It has so many positive aspects like Language enrichment - new terms expand vocabulary, creative expression - allows users to express themselves in more personal and emotional ways, community building - shared slang creates a sense of belonging within digital communities and Efficiency - shortened forms help with quick and effective communication. On the other hand we have some negative aspects. For example, Erosion of standard gramma - frequent use of abbreviations and slang can harm formal writing, misunderstandings - not everyone understands internet slang, especially older generations, shallow communication - grevity may sometimes reduce the depth of conversation.

In Uzbekistan, as in many other countries, internet language is quickly merging with the native language. Phrases such as:

"Comment qoldirdim" (I left a comment)

"Like bosdim" (I clicked like)

"Trendga chiqdi" (It became a trend)

 "Story qo'ydim" (I posted a story) are now part of everyday speech among younger users. While some linguists see this as a natural part of language evolution, others worry that it may threaten the purity and structure of the Uzbek language. However, some English-origin terms are being adapted phonetically and semantically into Uzbek, creating a hybrid language used in digital context Internet language is one of the most fascinating examples of how technology drives linguistic evolution. It not only provides new tools for fast and expressive communication but also reflects cultural shifts, generational trends, and

digital identities. Social media platforms continue to shape the way people talk and write, creating a rich field for linguistic analysis. While it brings both benefits and challenges, understanding internet language helps educators, linguists, and society at large better navigate the ongoing digital transformation of communication. For languages like Uzbek, careful attention must be given to balancing innovation with the preservation of linguistic heritage.

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