The Future of Language: The Culture of the internet and its Impact on the Evolution of Communication

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Evolution is a crucial factor in a language’s survival, because adaptation is what maintains the relevance of a language as its speakers grow and change. Because young people are most often at the forefront of advancing technology and cultural change, they play an important role in the evolution of language. With the advent of the internet and the ensuing implications of communicating online, today’s teenagers have the future of the English language at the tips of their rapidly typing fingers.

The hours American teenagers spend communicating online are directly affecting their language skills, both in colloquial conversation and formal writing. Unfortunately, many teenagers seem to be losing not only an understanding of traditional grammatical conventions, but more importantly, respect for these rules and standards. In an effort to save time, they often think nothing of abbreviating entire sentences, eliminating punctuation, or changing the spelling of words. Although some argue that any practice with writing is beneficial to students, fluency and articulation cannot be achieved without a basic understanding of grammatical structure and organization.

This internet patois, which can already be considered a dialect of English, could have a profound impact on the way we communicate in the future. While it is impossible to predict how extensive these effects will be, the current changes this new movement is evoking are undeniable. Although this cyber-vernacular is not without its benefits, it may also have a detrimental effect on the future development of our language and should continue to be observed carefully as its young innovators mature and bring their language skills into the mainstream.

Works Consulted


