THE FUTURE OF ENGLISH: HOW TECHNOLOGY IS SHAPING LANGUAGE?

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Abstract:
This article discusses how technology is shaping the future of the English language, focusing on the impact of digital communication, artificial intelligence, voice technology, and the globalization of English. It highlights the potential benefits of these changes, such as increased accessibility and efficiency in communication, as well as the challenges, including concerns about language degradation and loss of traditional literacy skills.

Key words: digital communication, Globish, multimodal literacy, voice technology, linguistic diversity, AI-driven language tools.

Language has always been in a state of flux, shaped by cultural, political, and technological forces. Among these, technology is now one of the most significant influencers, particularly in the development of the English language. With the rise of digital communication platforms, artificial intelligence, and global connectivity, English is evolving at an unprecedented pace. According to Informal Language in Digital Communication, the internet has fundamentally transformed how people communicate, with social media, texting, and messaging apps leading to the widespread use of informal language. Shortened words, acronyms, and abbreviations like "LOL" (laugh out loud), "BTW" (by the way), and "IDK" (I don't know) have become commonplace. Emojis, a form of visual shorthand, are now integral to digital conversations, often conveying emotions and reactions that words alone cannot express. The internet, in particular, has amplified the use of English in business, science, technology, and entertainment. As a result, a simplified form of English, often referred to as "Globish," has emerged. Globish is characterized by its minimal vocabulary and simplified grammar, making it easier for non-native speakers to communicate. This version of English is highly functional, particularly in international business settings where clarity and efficiency are prioritized over linguistic nuance. While Globish helps break down communication barriers, some linguists worry that the richness and cultural depth of the English language may be diminished as it becomes more homogenized. In terms of AI and Machine Learning in Language Standardization, Artificial intelligence and machine learning are transforming the way people interact with the English language. AI also plays a significant role in language learning, with apps like Duolingo and Babbel offering

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personalized lessons that adapt to individual learners' progress. AI-powered translation tools, such as Google Translate, are improving rapidly, allowing for more accurate and nuanced translations. As these tools advance, they could contribute to a more standardized version of English, as people across the world adopt similar linguistic structures and styles based on AI recommendations. Digital communication often involves not only text but also images, videos, and other multimedia elements. As a result, individuals must now be proficient in interpreting and using these various forms of communication. For example, social media platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube emphasize visual and auditory content, often supplemented by text. Memes, GIFs, and emojis have become important elements of online discourse, and understanding their meaning requires a different set of literacy skills. This shift towards multimodal literacy reflects a broader change in how people consume and produce information. According to Voice Technology and the Future of Spoken English, Voice-activated technology, such as virtual assistants like Siri, Alexa, and Google Assistant, is becoming increasingly prevalent. These technologies rely on natural language processing (NLP) to understand and respond to human speech, making spoken English a key component of digital interactions. As voice technology continues to improve, it may influence how people structure their speech. Commands given to virtual assistants are typically short and direct, which could lead to a simplification of spoken English in certain contexts. Voice technology also holds potential for language learning, offering real-time feedback on pronunciation and fluency. Despite the many benefits of technology in shaping English, there are concerns about the potential degradation of the language. The reliance on AI for spelling, grammar, and even content generation raises questions about the future of human creativity in language use. Moreover, the standardization driven by AI and machine learning could lead to a loss of linguistic diversity. As people increasingly rely on these tools, unique dialects, regional accents, and idiomatic expressions may disappear in favor of more uniform language use.

The future of English is inextricably linked to technological advancements. As digital communication, artificial intelligence, and voice technology continue to evolve, they will profoundly shape how English is used, learned, and understood. While these changes offer exciting opportunities for global communication and language learning, they also present challenges, particularly regarding language preservation and traditional literacy skills. Ultimately, the ongoing interaction between technology and language will define the future of English, creating a dynamic and ever-evolving linguistic landscape.

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