

PRAGMATICS AND SOCIAL MEDIA BLOGS

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***Abstract:** The goal of the current study is to examine language use in social media from a pragmatic standpoint. The social media blogs will be the main topic of the pragmatic examination. We began by investigating what social media actually is and stands for. Thus, social media refers to any kind of electronic communication, such as social networking websites that help build online communities (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Myspace). Users contribute information, images, audio and video files, and other resources inside these communities. We'll try to demonstrate how the language used in these societies has evolved its own quirks and traits. Due to the rapid advancement of technology, Internet slang is extremely significant, and users must stay current with the most recent incarnations of the language in use. Even though they are occasionally inadvertently broken, pragmatic tools like Conversational Implicature, Maxims of Conversation, intended meaning, etc. are nonetheless observed and respected.*

***Keywords:** blogs, pragmatics, social media, conversational implicature;*

We already live in an online global village in the 21st century of blogs, Twitter, and social media networks, dividing ourselves into tribes based on beliefs, way of life, and ideologies. We are very close to experiencing cataclysmic changes in people's methods of thinking, living, and behaving if, as McLuhan claimed, how individuals communicate impacts how they think, live, and behave. The entire world seems to be at "an uncharted frontier," as New York Times columnist Frank Rich put it, poised for enormous change. It's possible that www stands for the wild, wild web. Twitter, blogs, and other social media platforms on the Internet have leveled the playing field and allowed regular people to express themselves without the customary gatekeepers. Every hour, bloggers of all types and ideologies publish news articles and op-eds covering a wide range of topics, including politics, current affairs, parenting, fly-fishing, Jimmy Choo shoes, gambling, and much more. Everyone from Lady Gaga to Joe the plumber may record every thought and action on Twitter, the social media platform for 140-character messages. Every time there is a crisis, the Twitterati are first on the scene, and Twitter has become into the go-to source for eyewitness accounts of whatever is happening.

Celebrity While New Yorkers fret over a mosque at Ground Zero and bemoan LeBron's choice to leave, Twitterati in Los Angeles post about earthquakes. Nearly 200 million users use Twitter each month, submitting messages at an average rate of 140 million per day and 1 billion per week. Twitter was the first place where news of the earthquake, tsunami, and protests

in Egypt and Libya broke. Twitterati were the first to report on emergencies like the "miracle on the Hudson" landing of a bird-stalled airliner and the low-flying 747 Air Force One plane being pursued by fighter planes over Lower Manhattan in 2009, which terrified office workers with 9/11 déjà vu. The laws of how we interact with the world and other people are shifting as a result of constant Twitter updates on conferences, current events, and even breakfast menus. In addition to being extremely quick (TV is one-way), participatory, and ideal for audiences with short attention spans.

When a piece of news or rumor goes viral online, this is what occurs. The exponential growth of information has engulfed and colonized social media. It exemplifies the tremendous impact of the Internet, the fundamental digital infrastructure that links massive computer networks throughout the world and was first developed for military use. The World Wide Web, a component of the Internet system that permits browsers, social media, and broad access to information, is found on the Internet. This has developed into "the de facto center of American culture," according to Harper's senior editor Bill Wasik, "the public area in which our most significant dialogues unfold, in which our new celebrities are discovered and lauded, in which followers are won and careers are formed. "More and more individuals are indeed residing in this brand-new public space. In fact, some contend that the rapid advancement of digital technology is leading to the biggest cultural transformation since the Industrial Revolution. The printing press, please.

Additionally, mobile devices such as smartphones and the iPad have replaced computers to make it simpler than ever for everyone to be always "on." Apple said in the summer of 2010 that the iPhone was generating more revenue than the Mac, confirming Steve Jobs' earlier claim that the computer is in decline. In fact, today's web users prefer using mobile devices. People check their cell phones first thing in the morning, possibly even before getting out of bed. Children now complain that they don't receive enough attention at home. During the intermissions between courses at dinner parties, some visitors may be sneakily checking their Black Berries and iPhones to send texts, check e-mail, or browse the internet. People are doing it during meetings at work as well, acting as though their online location is more significant than their physical location. It is terrifying to think that even drivers on turnpikes and throughways, especially those operating 18-wheelers, are tweeting, texting, and checking their email while on the road. In England, people are already going to jail for this.

What is happening? Are all of us only online users who only make their lives public? It's crucial to consider what cultural shifts have resulted from this shift to cyberspace and how they are impacting our own behavior.

This article was written in an attempt to answer that question, not only with regard to the Internet but also with regard to the 159 million or so

bloggers, the bloggerati, who publish online comments on just about any topic you can imagine, and the nearly 200 million daily (and counting) Twitter users, the Twitterati, who condense their messages into haiku-like 140-character counts. People all across the world spend massive, previously unheard-of amounts of time online every day, at home, at work, and when traveling, if we consider the 500 million "friends" on Facebook, which we kind of have to give they make up 22% of everyone on the Internet. How is this new frontier affecting American culture as well as culture around the world? And what does the rapid adoption of blogging and Twitter indicate about us as a culture? What's the main draw? The first benefit is that it is free. The pleasure of connecting with others on a fast, back-and-forth wavelength that is comparable to face-to-face communication makes up a large portion of the allure, as well as connectivity and quick gratification (or, sometimes, better). It may get addicted to doing this. In fact, ReSTART, one of the first rehabilitation centers for Internet addicts, recently opened in Redmond, Washington.

It's also the simplicity and spontaneity with which one may express oneself through blogging, tweeting, and posting on social media platforms like Facebook. You are free to speak whenever you wish. However, having an audience is the main draw. You aren't simply speaking to yourself. There are people out there who are listening to what you have to say and responding to it—many people, in fact, if you've been "friending" people on Facebook or gaining followers on Twitter and your blog.

This is the key distinction between blogs, Twitter, and social media networks: you already have an audience for your self-expression on these platforms. On Twitter and your blog, you are not just expressing yourself; you are acting for an audience, frequently one of total strangers, as opposed to writing in a diary for your eyes only. Your performance will elicit feedback from them, who will rate, comment, and either love or detest it. Where else could you purchase that?

It's difficult to resist the simple joy of talking about oneself and getting attention for it. In 2010, there were 25 billion tweets published, according to a Twitter poll. As long as you post your most recent blog update or tweet, you can use your fifteen minutes of fame repeatedly because many people will see them. And they will. The number of bloggers and Twitter users are growing right now. Someone must be reading and listening with more than 1.9 billion people using the Internet daily, 200 million of whom are publishing 140 million tweets every day (97K per second), according to Twitter, and an estimated 156 million bloggers (and counting).

Similar to how you add friends on Facebook and blog hits to indicate your place in the statusphere, you amass followers on Twitter as an indication of your notoriety and popularity.

Twitter and other social media platforms appear to legitimize self-promotion. It's the Daily Me, as computer whiz Nicholas Negroponte of Massachusetts Institute of Technology describes it. ⁷ Is it any surprise that narcissists are drawn to them inexplicably, like the proverbial moth to the flame?

In truth, privacy is a crucial problem of the new digital age that Facebook and other social media platforms are battling with due to this technology and its capacity to watch what we do. One of the most important side effects of social media is the blurring of the barriers between public and private, which exposes everyone's secret wants and covert exhibitionist tendencies to the public. People do seem less restrained while communicating online, whether because they can remain anonymous, use a pen name or assumed identity, or perhaps because no one can see them; conversing online also makes other people feel farther away. There are many trolls—people who exist only to cause commotion. Because anonymity was designed into the Internet from the start, it serves as a cover for every kind of wrongdoing. We don't need to be reminded that Al-Qaeda utilizes the Internet, that hate sites have increased by 20% as a result of social networking, or that cyberbullying is on the rise.

These fundamental adjustments to reality are known as "conceptual transpositions," in which one conception of reality is altered and replaced by another. Institutions are falling apart, fracturing categories, and everything is becoming unstable. Traditional publishers and newspapers are scrambling to get ready for the new online era as they panic about the possibility of their annihilation in the face of Internet-based journalism and e-books. Magazines either cease publication or redesign their pages for the iPad. In a challenging economic climate, advertising is already struggling and is battling to compete online. As consumers increasingly download their own songs and albums to their iPods and leave CDs at the store to collect dust, the music industry has already collapsed. Restaurants bemoan the immediate, occasionally unfavorable reviews that patrons may leave on Yelp.com following their meal. Mobile devices are displacing computers as we know them. Instead of being confined to a PC at a desk, people choose to check Twitter and other social media on their smartphones while on the go. For the first time in 2009, according to a Nielsen study, people spent more time on social networks, games, and blogs than they did on e-mail. Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg has predicted that e-mail will eventually become obsolete as social media platforms take their place (e-mail, largely the province of an older demographic, is scorned by younger generations).

Artificial intelligence is predicted to arrive in the future, and Google is working hard to make it happen. Cloud computing, in which computers replace the software and browsers we currently use to access the internet, is just getting

started. One day, all you'll need to complete tasks that you currently complete on a computer will be an iPad or a smartphone.

The word is ascendant on the internet. To use social media, email, texting, instant messaging, blogs, and Twitter, a person must be able to read and write. Not that they haven't developed linguistic innovations and streamlined forms of communication. They tend to write and read in a more conversational style that is emotive, unfiltered, and occasionally blue. Marshall McLuhan was right when he said that we have returned to an oral culture because we are dividing into online tribes and communicating with one another more than before. Hey, it's no cost. It may be a free-for-all at times. Even though visual information is processed by the brain more quickly and is quickly replacing written communication (such as through YouTube), print culture is still alive and well in a new, viral form online. However, (OMG) you still need to read to be online. It has been transformed into emoticons like smiling faces, abbreviations, plenty of acronyms (LOL), and respectable slang, and new coinage. There are several brand-new nouns and proper nouns, such as blog, Wikipedia, YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter, not to mention brand-new verbs like "friend," "google," "text," "tweet," and "download." To the dismay of language experts, even the venerable OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY chose to add the initialisms LOL, OMG, and FYI to its pages in 2011. The language on the Internet is constantly changing and, in the absence of editors or gatekeepers, is at best experimental and, at worst, illegible. Language used online is more conversational and immediate. It is not usually presentable because it is in casual, informal clothing, like most of culture. However, according to specialists who examine these issues, language offline has not been significantly impacted, children can still construct coherent papers in whole sentences, and even all the additional writing they do online is helping them improve their written language skills. A decades-long trend toward a more conversational, speech-based style is not due to the Internet. Language is becoming brasher in the culture as norms in public speaking and on television decline. It could be inevitable to learn the slang of the streets. Advertisers are turning to earthier language to promote their products online, on television, or in print, even though a "family newspaper" can't print some of it. They may bleep themselves (with plenty of innuendoes to ensure consumers get it) or use deliberate dashes. All of the candid street conversation is intended to demonstrate their seriousness about their business and perhaps to create a polarizing debate.

On the web, in print, and even on broadcast television, vulgarity is becoming more accepted, despite the fact that the brokerage firm Goldman Sachs had to issue a policy prohibiting profanity in its emails. However, even President Obama resorted to an uncommon "kicking-ass" phrase during an interview with Matt Lauer on the TODAY show, possibly to underscore the

emotional impact he is frequently accused of missing. Especially online, we do "unintentionally let things escape," as Aaron Barlow writes in *BLOGGING AMERICA*. Additionally, since you cannot modify your text messages, tweets, or emails once you have sent them, you run the risk of making the same mistakes in actual conversation. Male bloggers tend to feel comfortable using harsh language on their blogs, adding comedy and purposefully controversial comments to spice up their writing. One common type of question was posed by Adrian Monck in his blog post for the *GUARDIAN*: "Where does the rise of the app leave the news business, the flatulent Rottweiler in the dog shelter of internet content?"

The language naturally produces new words every day, but thanks to the Internet, they are now appearing at Mach 2. Mashups, a term used for combining or remixing digital content to produce something new, are everywhere. *BLOG*, a combination of the words "web" and "log," of course; *WEBINAR* for an online seminar; *EMOTICON* (*EMOTE* plus icon); Facebook. Then there are words we're becoming accustomed to, such as *BROWSER*, a noun created from a verb; *AVATAR*, which is now the name of a blockbuster movie; *ICON*; and *PHISHING* (hoax e-mail). Slang is consistently the most dynamic part of language, and it produces the most novel new terms (or, as scholars say, neologisms). Slang serves mostly as a barrier between the "in" crowd from the "out," or the cool youngsters from the uninformed, such as parents. It would have taken 20 years before the Internet for slang to go from one continent to the next, but now it does so at the speed of light. The amount of slang produced by the internet today is enormous.

Slang terms like "I'm just saying," which is frequently used to defuse an aggressive remark, are becoming more common on blogs and Twitter, but there are still 2,500 slang words for "drunk," according to certain websites like *GAWKER*. Old words have a new lease of life: Linguists point out that instead of being employed as a connective in the midst of sentences, the term *SO* is now frequently utilized at the start of them. Like *THUS* and *THEREFORE*, *SO* carries a logical undertone that helps to bring disparate pieces of internet dialogue together.

According to Microsoft staff, the "if this, then that" connection that engineers liked was what started the *SO* boom. In a world of tweeting, uploading, and blogging where the certainty of black-and-white statements has a tendency to swamp out the gray, it's also a method to keep on message. However, the status of online language has led to the emergence of an unofficial Twitter patrol—a subculture of grammar police who alert other Twitterati when they make mistakes in their spelling and syntax.

Without a doubt, the Internet has already changed the English language and will continue to do so. Because of the online lifestyles we now lead, we are actually using our language in novel ways, creating new terms, and

communicating with one another in a variety of ways. If the language we speak and write has an impact on how we think, that is the greater question that has been studied for years. There are many theories floating around, but there is still no clear answer to this age-old topic.

Without a doubt, the physical and intellectual environment has an impact on how a culture's lexicon expresses distinctions. One common misconception is that Eskimo society needs about 26 phrases to describe snow (the English language has maybe 12). The notion has been proven to be a myth: the Eskimo language, which uses compounds and suffixes, only has a handful of fundamental root words that can be precisely tuned to distinguish one set of snow conditions from another. However, having a versatile vocabulary is undoubtedly helpful when you are surrounded by snow. More research has been done on the ideas of color and direction. For instance, visual separation of blue hues is much more possible in Russian. Because causation is abandoned in Spanish and Japanese, a speaker is more likely to say "The vase broke itself" than "John broke the vase." But linguists agree that the structure of the language we speak does influence the way we think, so why do these languages permit these perceptions?

Despite its ambiguity and irrationality, human language remains the most effective tool for understanding the world. How will it change in the face of the Internet age's pressures? Similar to Shakespeare's England, a kind of quasi-anarchy may exist now, but just like then, when the culture is in flux and giving rise to fresh concepts and words, creative outbursts may occur. It can be handled in English.

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Selected websites

- Blogger, <http://www.blogger.com>
- eMarketer, <http://www.emarketer.com>
- <http://www.internetstats.com>
- <http://www.quantcast.com>
- <http://www.sysomos.com>