

Increasing Demand In Usage Of Smartphones Among Undergraduatesto Enhance The English Language Skills: An Analysis

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Abstract:

The invention of smartphones influenced every area of people's life. According to the needs of the people, companies are producing the latest versions of Smartphones with modern technologies. Demand in the market shows with much evidence that the usage of smartphones is increasing day by day in the world. Smartphones are not only used for communication purposes but also other purposes like web surfing, entertainment, education, camera, and so on. Educational institutions have introduced Smart-education using Smartphones in all the fields of education. Coming to language learning, Mobile language learning was first started in the year 1980 by Twarog and Pereszlenyi Pinter to take feedback and assistance for distant language learners and gradually increased its usage due to the advantages it offers. This study focuses on analyzing the increasing demand for smartphone users to learn the English language among Undergraduate students and identify the language skills that are enhanced after using a smartphone. As a part of the research, a questionnaire is administered among the undergraduates of urban and rural areas of Telangana state in India. After collecting and analyzing the data, it is considered that the usage of smartphones enhanced English language skills, such as listening, reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, communication, etc. And for the past 5 years, the usage of smartphones among undergraduates has helped in improving their English language skills tremendously and its influence would be more in the coming years.

Keywords: *English language skills, Language Learning, Usage of the smartphone, Undergraduates.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Today, the supremacy of smartphones is very much evident in every walks of human life, it includes communication, social life, business, education, and so on. According to the needs of the people, companies are producing the latest versions of Smartphones with modern technologies. Recent Statics was done by the "Backmycell" organization have proven that in the last 5 years 40% of the smartphone users increased globally and by 2025 the number of users may go up to 75% (Turner, 2020). Demand in the market shows with much evidence that the usage of smartphones is increasing day by day in the world. Educational institutions have introduced Smart-education using Smartphones in all the fields of education. In the present

scenario, It is significantly proven that the development of the Smart-education impacting globally in the entire field of education (Zane L. Berge, Lin Y. Muilenburg, 2014)

Smartphones are used to enhance language learning for many decades. Mobile language learning was first started in the year 1980 by Twarog and Pereszlenyi Pinter to take feedback and assistance for distant language learners and gradually increased its usage due to the advantages it offers (Green, Collier, & Evans, 2001). The impact of smartphones in English language learning has been proven in several research studies due to its abundant advantages. Thus, “Mobile-assisted Language Learning (MALL) was introduced in the English language teaching-learning process” (Hashim, Yunus, Embi, & Ozir, 2017). Anil (2018) mentioned that “using technology in the classroom may create a real world that will develop learners’ real world skills”. History has proven that from the past few decades learning English through smartphones is accelerating time to time.

Smartphones enable learners to practice languages anytime and everywhere. Accessibility to the internet is adding features to the learners in equipping language skills. Severely studies have approved that smartphones are a powerful tool to drill vocabulary and spellings. Pegrum M. (2014) study found that “This gives rise to repetitive drilling of vocabulary, spelling, grammar, and pronunciation, aiming at consolidation of foundational knowledge through flashcard exercises, quizzes, or simple games (p.89)”. According to Aziz et al. (2018, p. 238) Students are not bored with learning new vocabulary. Smartphones facilitate personalized learning, students can listen to their preferable topics to improve listening skills and read online to develop reading comprehension. According to new research learners get motivated to study in formal settings as well as informal settings using Smartphones (Kacetl & Klímová, 2019, p. 179), This helps to learn languages more proficiently.

Research questions

Why is the demand for smartphone usage increasing day by day to learning the English language among Undergraduate students?

What are the language skills that are enhanced after using smartphones?

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE RESEARCH

To understand the increasing demand in the usage of Smartphones to Enhance the English Language Skills among undergraduates.

To study the enhancement of undergraduates in English Language Skills after using Smartphones.

Hypothesis

Increasing Demand in Usage of Smartphones among Undergraduates to Enhance the English Language Skills

Aim of research

The research aims to study the increasing demand in the usage of Smartphones to Enhance the English Language Skills among Undergraduates of urban and rural areas of Telangana.

3. METHODOLOGY

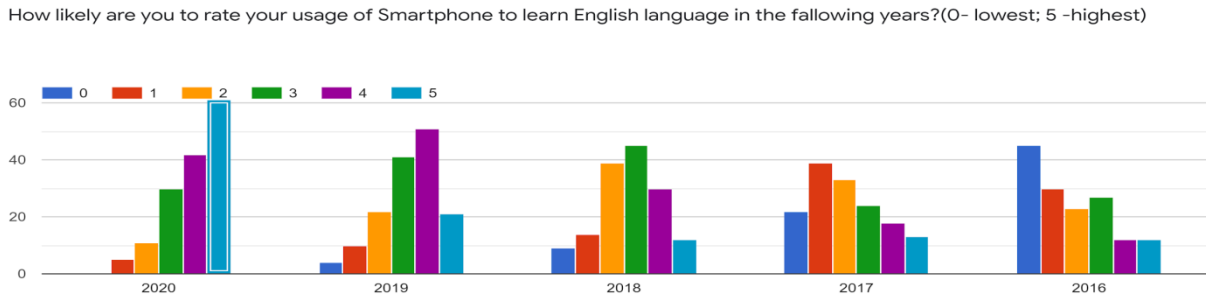
As part of the research, 149 undergraduate students from urban and rural areas of Telangana state in India were taken as the sample for the research. 118 urban students and 31 rural students. In order to administer questionnaires among students, A questionnaire was prepared using Likert scale related to the usages of the Smartphone to enhance English language skills. Responses were gathered and analyzed systematically.

Findings

Based on the findings of this research it is clear that the usage of smartphones to enhance English language skills is growing at an extremely rapid rate. From Table-1, The finding of the questionnaire shows that the number of students using smartphones increased every year from

2016 to 2020. In the year 2020, 61 participants out of 149 gave the highest rate of using smartphones to improve the English language. Whereas only 12 participants in the year 2016, 13 participants in the year 2017, 12 participants in the year 2018, and 21 participants in the year 2019 rated highest.

Table-1

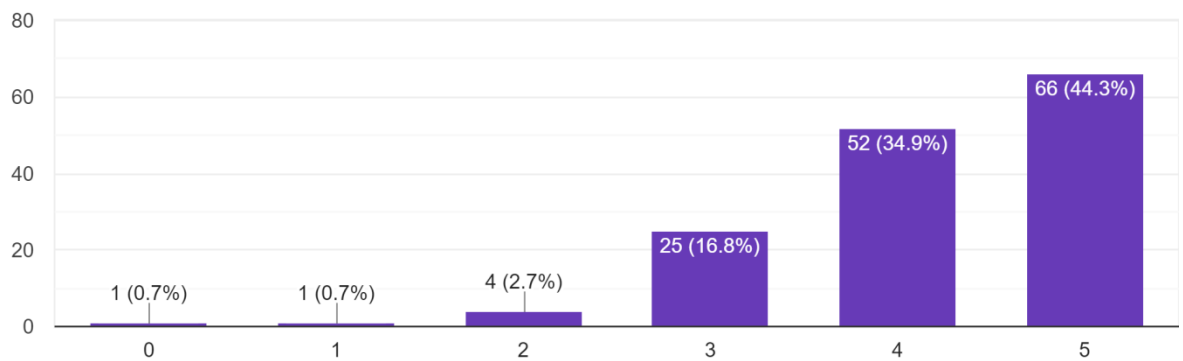


Findings of the questionnaire in Table-2 advocate that the more numbers of students use smartphones to develop English language skills in the coming 5 years. 66 participants out of 149 gave the highest rate, Which is calculated as 44% agreed that they use Smartphones to learn English language skills in the coming 5 years.

Table-2

How likely are you to rate your usage of Smartphone to learn English language in coming 5 years?(0- lowest ; 5- highest)

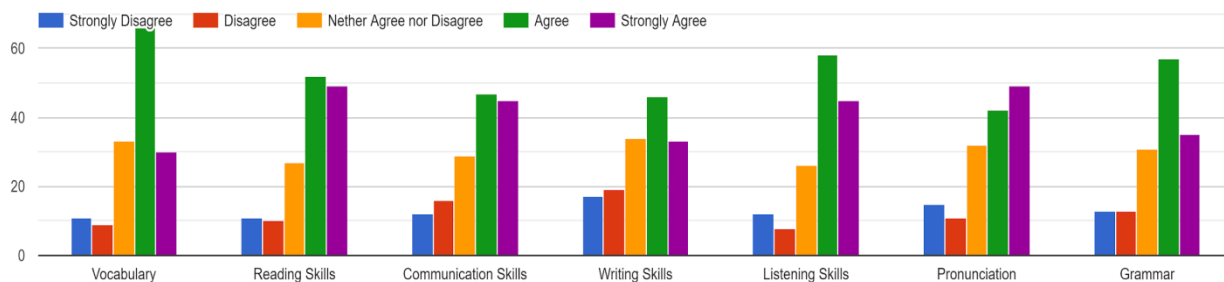
149 responses



Results of the research in Table-3 propose that Smartphone use is more adequate in equipping English language skills, such as vocabulary, reading, communication skills, writing skills, listening skills, pronunciation, and grammar. 64% of the students greatly agreed that they enhance their vocabulary by using smartphones, 68% of the students greatly agreed that they enhance their reading skills by using smartphones, 62% of the students greatly agreed that they enhance their communication skills by using smartphones, 53% of the students greatly agreed that they enhance their writing skills by using smartphones, 69% of the students greatly agreed that they enhance their listening skills by using smartphones, 61% of the students greatly agreed that they enhance their pronunciation by using smartphones, 62% of the students greatly agreed that they enhance their grammar by using smartphones. Look at table 3, for a detailed description.

Table-3

Rank the following language skills that are enhanced after using smartphone?



Discussions

Based on the analysis of the data it is proven that the demand for the usage of smartphones to enhance English language skills is increasing every year among undergraduate students. The study revealed that 61% in the year 2020 and 66% in the years 2021 to 2025 students are likely to use Smartphones to learn English language skills. Godwin-Jones, R. (2017) research findings also says that technological innovations and new features in the latest smartphones foresee to use these Smartphones as more powerful devices in the teaching-learning process.

In addition to that, analysis of the data showed that 64 percent of all participants use smartphones for vocabulary, 68 percent for Reading skills, 62 percent for communication skills, 53 percent for writing skills, 69 percent for listening skills, 61 percent for pronunciation and 62 percent for grammar. Thus, Analysis of the data attested that the majority of undergraduates are using smartphones to improve their vocabulary, reading skills, communication skills, writing skills, listening skills, pronunciation, and grammar. Research findings of Chiu et al. (2015) also supported that the students learn vocabulary, pronunciation, listening skills, grammar, reading skills, and spelling and improved tremendously by using smartphones.

Recommendations

Findings of the research in increasing demand in the usage of smartphones among undergraduates recommend the following:

1. Use Smartphones for language learning purpose
2. Smartphones usage helps to Improve vocabulary, reading skills, communication skills, writing skills, listening skills, pronunciation, grammar, etc.
3. Smartphone helps to accelerate personalized language learning

Limitations

The limitations of this research follows as:

1. only a very few numbers of students participated in the research
2. The study conducted only from at learner point of view, not from experts from language teaching-learning fields
3. Research used only the quantitative method and the qualitative approach might give a better understanding of the usage of Smartphones to acquire English language skills.

4. Conclusions

As the findings of the research suggest that the usage of smartphones enhanced English language skills due to many advantages. Students can avail themselves of many learning opportunities everywhere and anytime because of their portability and internet connectivity. Finally, it is considered that the usage of smartphones enhances English language skills, such as listening, reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, communication, etc. And for the past 5 years, the usage of smartphones among undergraduates has helped in improving their English language skills tremendously and its influence would be more in the coming years.

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