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Whatsup with Whatsapp?

Abstract: A rich tribute to the practice of letter writing which has become obsolete and thanks to the advent of the smart phones in not just occupying into the markets but also became an integral part of day to day life. The smart phones, enabled with internet have taken a giant leap in communication and made gave scope to unprecedented ways of conveying our ideas through audio and video clippings. In all the spheres, smart phones are playing a great role in sharing our short files for academics, official purposes, colloquial purposes etc, whatever be the purpose, the smart phones have acquired an irreplaceable position.

This paper throws some insights on the products of Smart phones, i.e, Whatsapp- the app that has been widely used by all sections of people. Whatsapp has got its own advantages and disadvantages and it relies completely on the people how they use it.

Keywords: smart phones- communication-purpose-irreplaceable position-whatsapp-pros and cons

Introduction

These days life without technology has become unimaginable. Most of the tasks are carried out with the ubiquitous nature of technology. The juggernaut of technology has been apparent in all the fields. We are under the firm grip of technology and it has become part and parcel of life. With or without our interference we become part of technology. In the fast changing world, if one has to be in the race of updating, one should be aware of the technological trends.

Communication has become an integral part of human beings and has emerged as one of the basic needs for survival in this cut-throat competitive world. There has been a lot of change and progress in the process of communication. From early man to modern man the world has witnessed many developments. Technology brought an immense change in the life of human beings. The presence of technology marked its own identity in all the fields like education, business, commerce, trade, medicine and space technology, defense, inter and intra personal skills, etc. it left an indelible impression.

Communication played a pivotal role in the development of sharing information and knowledge. Now the growth has become multi folded with the communication through technology. The basic modes of communication like telephone, mobile phone and now the smart phones have shown considerable growth in communication. But, with the advent of smartphones with internet facility has brought a complete change. We can communicate with technology with ease these days and thanks to the social networking sites like whatsapp, facebook, twitter,instagram,skype and so on.

The introduction of smart phones with android technology brought leaps and bounds in communication. The apps like whatsapp, for instance have become user friendly for all the people irrespective of being educated or uneducated.

According to Wikipedia, “WhatsApp Messenger is a freeware and cross-platform messaging and Voice over IP (VoIP) service owned by Facebook. The application allows the sending of text messages and voice calls, as well as video calls, images and other media, documents, and user location. The application runs from a mobile device though it is also accessible from desktop computers; the service requires consumer users to provide a standard cellular mobile number.”

Why is whatsapp more preferred than E-mails?

The fact that most of the people agree about the usage of whatsapp is its user-friendly nature. Compared to E-mails, which are also a mode of communication have not got the popularity like whatsapp, as it is handy on a handset with technology. E-mail needs to be more formal and most of the people do not know how to use formal language, whereas whatsapp has no such kind of restriction.

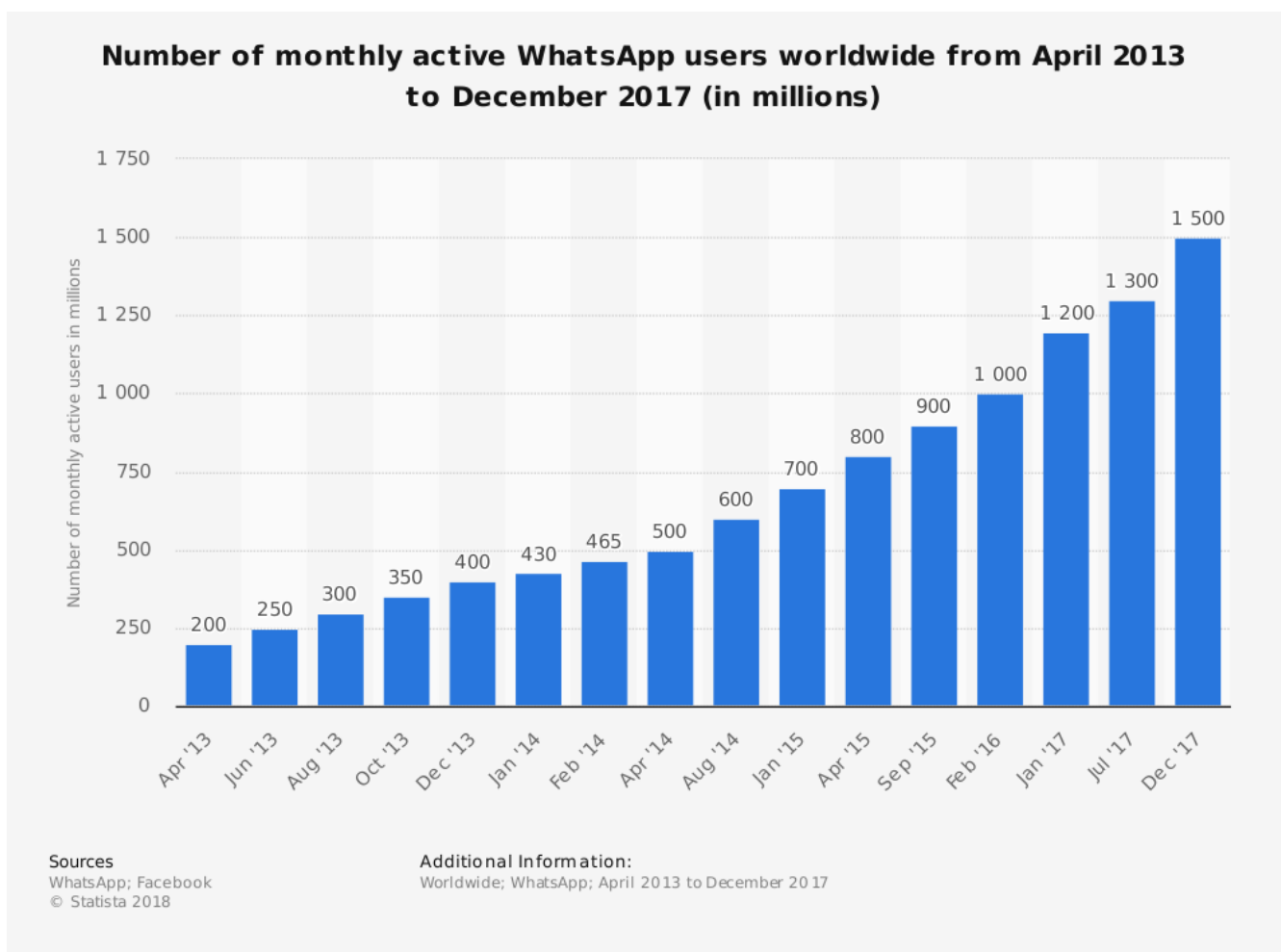
Here are some of the distinctive features of whatsapp which made the people adopt it as part their regular conversations.

1. Whatsapp needs only internet connection and even with a zero balance one can chat with friends, relatives and with other users
2. Video calls are yet another distinct feature of whatsapp. The visuals give great pleasure of interacting face-to-face interactions.
3. Groups and forums have become more rampant these days, elaborating conversations, discussions.
4. Students are using this service for sending teaching notes, pdf files, jpg files and any other material of reading and writing.
5. The use of emoticons is widely used to communicate, thus enhancing non verbal communication to understand.

On the other side of the coin, whatsapp has negative shades too...

1. Involving for a long period of time on whatsapp is killing the time of students.
2. Students and people got more engaged in whatsapp even at work places and it has affected in their performance.
3. Texting for a long period of time and spending more time on smart phone makes one mentally tired.

The following table shows the growth of whatsapp users worldwide for the past four years



There are some constraints in using whatsapp which is murdering English language in its form, grammar and style.

The major concerns are:

1. Spelling
2. Sentence formation
3. Transliteration
4. Translation
5. Code switching

Methodology

The following data of whatsapp conversations of ten people is given here to study the kind of changes taking place in whatsapp English. The conversations on the smart phones of the people and their conversations were taken for study with their consent promising to maintain confidentiality and not causing any problem to the privacy of the people.

Damage to English language with Whatsapp English and SMS English

Literature Review

Many studies have been conducted on Whatsapp on various fronts, nationally and internationally. The research carried out in each paper discussed the perilous aspects of whatsapp.

Here are some of the references

1. “The impact of WhatsApp messenger usage on students performance in tertiary institutions in Ghana” by Johnson Yeboah and George Dominic Ewur published in the journal of Education & Practice in the year 2014, highlights the usage of whatsapp by the students in Ghana and ultimately resulting in the destructive aspect of a language,

i.e, spelling mistakes, poor language exposure and low level of concentration during lectures.

2. “Whatsapp: A Trend Setter in Mobile Communication among Chennai Youth” by Ms. Jisha K, Dr. Jebakumar projected that how the Chennai youth have made Whatsapp an integral part of communication. The accessibility of internet made the youth to make the best use of this wonderful tool of social networking.
3. An online article from the website www.thehindubusinessline.com dated June 16, 2013 states that Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) conducted Gen-Y survey 2012-13 which revealed some shocking revelations. The post millennial kids born during the years 1996 and further took great advantage of technology in communicating with others with some social networking sites like whatsapp, facebook, Twitter, Skype and Instagram.
4. Another online article from The Indian Express.com, dated February 21, 2014 discusses the recent trends in technology and instant communication with whatsapp.

The advent of smart phones with android feature made the people more accessible to social networking sites. Moreover the cheaper data plans and availability of mobile phones at an affordable price is also one of the reasons for the people to interact more with social networking sites.

Methodology

A sample collection of whatsapp conversations have been collected for the study of the categorical errors committed by the teenagers. The study was carried out to show the flaws and the percentage of mistakes done by the students on the same norms of features like

spelling sentence formation mistakes, transliteration, translation, code mixing and code switching. The study shows how the mistakes are done with the similar social networking site with two divergent groups of engineering steam students.

Here are the samples collected by the students through their Whatsapp conversations to strengthen and substantiate the circumstances mentioned above





Findings

All the above screenshots of whatsapp messages have been collected from the teenaged students and we can see the signs of transliteration and code switching, code mixing, grammatical flaws and spelling mistakes on the high in the conversations. Moreover, they are all in informal language and making the communication meaningful, though they have violated the rules of English. For them the purpose of communication is successful but at the cost of killing the language but the spirit is upheld. This has been the tendency in most of the youth who got enticed towards whatsapp and making full use of technology.

For email and other kind of communication, people have to follow certain rules and it is somewhat complicated comparatively. Whatsapp conversations and messages need no rules, only an android enabled mobile with fairly connected internet facility. It has become the order of the day to use whatsapp for conversations and it provides a sense of satisfaction in conversations with funny spellings and sentences. Sometimes it may lead to miscommunication if the person on the other fence could not catch your way of interacting.

It is observed that many of the teenagers and whatsapp users are forwarding messages without authenticating them, which is in turn leading to spreading of rumours and fake news.

Then there is a possibility that even the authentic news may also go unnoticed.

The forwarded rumours on whatsapp as videos of child abductors led an angry mob killing the nomads on the suspicious grounds of child abductors. In that wake, whatsapp has started labeling the forwarded messages as *forwarded*

The fake links and false information on some groups are adding stress to the users. For example, a link is provided and asked to share the information to 10 to 15 groups, even after sending, it shows false status.

The complete study shows that how the academics get disturbed with whatsapp, not only academics, health also have become a major concern. People started chatting till late nights as they do not get perturbed by the ambience.

Even the students who stay in hostels these days prefer to have the accessibility of internet in the hostel. Such is the impact. Though we cannot rule out that all the students' misuse whatsapp, majority of the members are addicted to the usage. Some other students use it for the purpose of sharing notes, material, assignments, etc.

The impact of Reliance Jio internet services on youth

Fortune magazine ranked Mukesh Ambani No 24 amongst the world's greatest leaders of 2018 for his contribution to bringing mobile data to the masses in less than two years.

The local calls and internet accessibility made the youth join Jio network and there was a tremendous growth in the usage of mobile internet data among the youth. Along with this, many of the people, especially the whatsapp users are using the English language with much freedom.

Awareness campaign on the use of Whatsapp

to promote a healthy use of whatsapp, the whatsapp published advertisements in the newspapers to bring awareness among the users and not to follow the rumors received on whatsapp.

The following clipping from the newspaper is an act of bringing awareness in the users.

This photo illustration shows an Indian newspaper vendor reading a newspaper with a full back page advertisement from WhatsApp intended to counter fake information, in New Delhi on July 10, 2018. – Facebook owned messaging service WhatsApp on July 10 published full-page advertisements in Indian dailies in a bid to counter fake information that has sparked mob lynching attacks across the country. (Photo by



Prakash SINGH / AFP) (Photo credit should read PRAKASH SINGH/AFP/Getty Images)

Whatsapp in the present scenario

whatsapp has reached the crux in the field of communication and is taking giant strides in all the domains. Especially, the political campaigning is on all the high with posts related to the politicians, animated videos and audios. The mudslinging comments are going on which is not at all a conducive one for the future generations.

The students are getting all the assignments and teaching notes, writing material on whatsapp groups. They were sent all the material and notes to be written which is causing a lot of stress – physically and mentally. The students have to get accessibility to whatsapp and in one way we are encouraging them to use this social media app.

Recommendations and conclusions

- ❖ It is highly recommended to the users of whatsapp to check the authenticity of the news before forwarding any message
- ❖ one should limit the usage of whatsapp
- ❖ more time spent on whatsapp creates health related issues like radiation effects, sight problems and back ache
- ❖ Continuous texting makes one to forget the actual accurate usage of English and therefore affects academics.
- ❖ awareness has to be created among children and younger generations to minimize the use of social networking sites

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(Photo by Prakash SINGH / AFP) (Photo credit should read PRAKASH SINGH/AFP/Getty Images)

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online article from The Indian Express.com, dated February 21, 2014

screenshots from the mobiles of some people

(*The screenshots used in the paper have been used with the consent of the people. they were aware of it that the screenshots are used in the Research paper and they gave their consent in written form)

<https://www.businessinsider.in/>