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The Influence of Social Media on Enhancing and Hindering English Language Acquisition Among Students

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Abstract

Social media has become one of the most influential technological developments in modern education. Students today spend a significant amount of time using digital platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, and WhatsApp, where they are continuously exposed to English language content. This study examines both the positive and negative effects of social media on English language acquisition among students. The research explores how social media contributes to vocabulary development, pronunciation improvement, listening skills, reading comprehension, communication abilities, and intercultural awareness. At the same time, the study investigates the negative effects of informal language, slang expressions, grammatical inaccuracies, distraction, and excessive screen time on students' academic English proficiency. The study adopts a qualitative analytical approach based on reviewing previous studies, educational reports, and student experiences related to digital learning environments. The findings indicate that social media can significantly support English language learning when used effectively and responsibly under educational guidance. However, uncontrolled use may negatively affect students' academic performance and formal language skills. The study concludes that social media should be integrated into language learning in a balanced and educationally guided manner.

Keywords: Social Media, English Language Acquisition, Digital Learning, Students, Educational Technology, Online Communication, English Learning