

Impacts of SMS on Writing Skills of the University Students in Sri Lanka (A Case Study of South Eastern University of Sri Lanka)

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Abstract: The present research is intended to realize the result of the Short Message Service (SMS) using habits on writing skills of the undergraduate students of Sri Lanka and to illustrate how this new medium of communication is affecting the writing skills of the undergraduates. Survey research was used to collect primary data in quantitative form using multiphase method of sampling. Time period of the study was from January 2016 to June 2016. It is originated that the higher the experience to the SMS, more the harmful outcome on the writing skills of the undergraduates in Sri Lanka. The extreme use of this medium is guiding students in the direction of writing incorrect spellings and using SMS language's short acronyms that are not standard in examinations, assignment and daily academic writing work that is very harmful in their day to day academic works and it may lead to affect their career in near future.

Keywords: SMS, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka Undergraduates, Writing skills.

I. INTRODUCTION

Today, this is an accepted arena that a lot of the young generation, specially students, while talking, walking, eating, reading, even in classroom, in foreground of teacher, continuously striking the keys of an accessory that seems to be a part of their hand, called mobile phone, a lot of deliberate interactive media. That's all about messaging which is the recent development in the field of communication technology and the favorite of youth especially acceptance about the globe due to its inexpensive tariff. This analysis is concerned with the entertaining and rational impacts of SMS argument messaging or "texting" on the university acceptance of Sri Lanka which is an advanced over extension and revolutionizing advice in today's world. Why this is happened, because adaptable phone, the latest accumulation media.

SMS

Short messaging service or Text messaging is supposed as the fast and most reliable means of communication. It has achieved universal reputation and has fascinated billions of subscribers. Text messaging or usually called texting is the procedure of transferring short messages generally 160 lettering from a cellular phone. The most recent mobile phones are competent of transferring a lot as 20 pages having 160 lettering of text communication.) (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Text_messaging).

Writing Skills

Writing skills mean write actual language in daily academic works and in examinations by the students relating rammer and spellings reproducing.

II. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Selected Media and Target Audience

Along with the development in technology, media studies require to be shifted towards those novel technological widgets that appear to have become well-liked internationally. Cellular phone has been placed under investigation as it is the mainly eagerly on hand type of media and is gaining enormous reputation amongst the masses in Pakistan. Latest technologies such as wireless communication tools are presently at the core of both analysis and attraction. As cellular phone contributions continue to increase, inquiry is hoisted about the special effects of this latest communication equipment. How do these technologies alter people and their societal associations and actions? The progressively more extensive use of text-messaging has led to the probing of the societal and psychosomatic belongings of this new communication means. As Rafi (2010) found that the observed data demonstrate that SMS language ignores orthographic and syntactic regulations of a language with a enormous stress on written sounds and compressions e.g, 8 for 'ate', 4 for 'four and for', bcz for 'because', and short sentences as 'how r u? hopu'll b busy in urstdy. Ma 2. When r v gona meet 4 datwork? Here the main concern derives the attention of the researcher and focal argument to check the effect of those phenomena on university students regarding their writing skills. Crystal (2008) says that texters are prone to ignore spellings, either intentionally or reflexively.

Mobile phone and Sri Lanka

The mobile telephone users in Sri Lanka have increased rapidly over the year 2011 with more than 105 telephone connections for 100 people. According to a Central Bank annual report, telephone connections have increased 5.4 percent and the connections increased to 22 million by the end of 2011. There is also a considerable increase in the Internet connections as new connections have increased by 4 percent over the year 2011. The country's population is estimated at 22 million. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's mobile phone sales reached one million unities in the third quarter of 2014 while smart phone shipment up by 100 percent which accounts for 20 percent of the total sales, a recent market research report said. In the overall Sri Lanka mobile handsets market, Nokia retained leadership position with a 22 percent share, followed by Micromax at second position with 19 percent and E-Tel at third position with 12 percent, in terms of sales (unit shipments) during third quarter of 2014. In the smartphone market segment, Samsung leads with a 20.6 market share followed by E-Tel with 17.7 percent market share.

III. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

The basic objective is to find and study the impact of SMS usage on writing skills of undergraduates. And analyze also whether the students writing skills are effecting through SMS or not. So, the hypothesis is that more the using habit of SMS, more the negative impact on undergraduates' writing skills.

IV. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Cultivation theory by George Grebner in mass communications holds ground in media effect studies. The central claim of that theory is that persistent long term exposure to media content has small but measurable effects on the perceptual worlds of audience members and the more a person is exposed to a message provided by the media, the more likely that person is to believe the message is real. Here the effect of SMS is being measured with proportion to the usage.

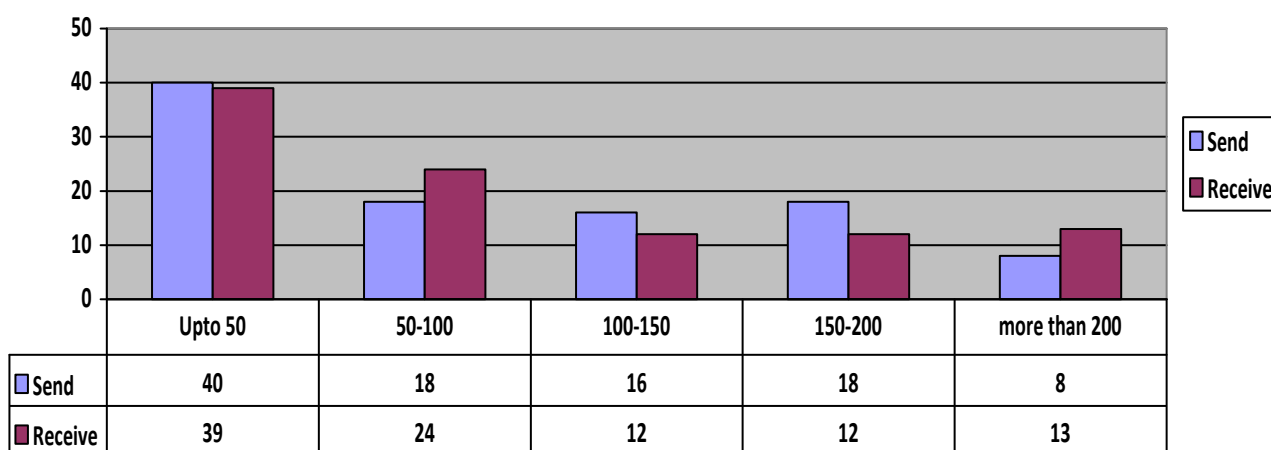
V. METHODOLOGY

In this research, survey method has been applied to get the primary data that is quantitative in nature from representative population through questionnaire. Multiphase sampling is used and the 100 respondents are measured.

VI. MAJOR FINDINGS

Measuring the amount of messages/SMS daily sent and received by the undergraduate, current study shows that 42% students are heavy users of texting as they send and receive 100 to more than 200 SMS/messages per day and 8% of them are excessive users who use to text more than 200 in a day. while a majority (18%-24%) can be considered as moderate users limits between 50 to 100 messages both send and receive per day. Other 40% are the light users who text up to 50 messages daily. The data collected from the respondents shows that a majority of respondents (60%) daily send 50 to 200 messages and 8% of the respondents say that they use to send more than 200 SMS per day. As well as, almost same data of receiving SMS that shows a significant number of 63% respondents receive 50 to 200 SMS per day while the 13% show the number of more than 200 SMS receiving per day. This also categories the respondents and shows a majority of respondents sends and receives a relatively high amount of SMS daily.

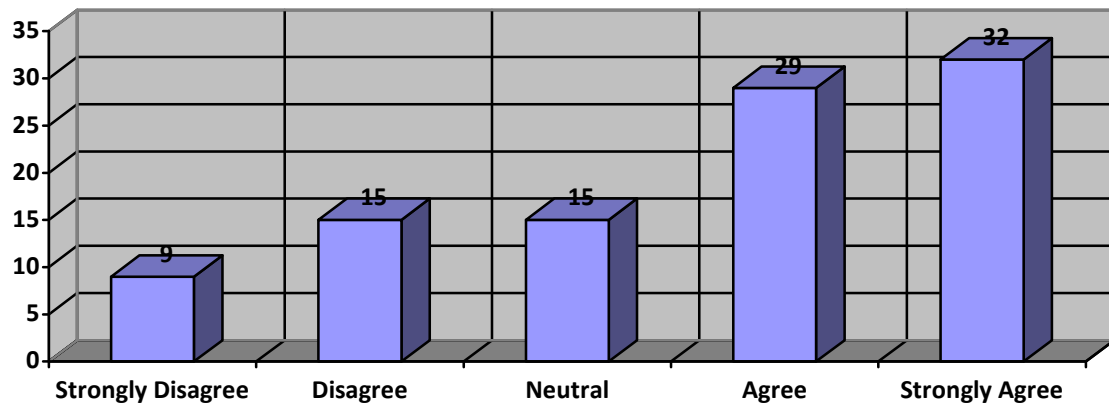
Frequency of Messaging



Discussing the language selection, information says that a high significant majority of the students (88%) use a mixture of Tamil and English overall in SMS/texting with the ratio of 66% of bilingual and 22% of Tamil (typing Tamil pronunciation in English font), while only 12% of the whole use proper English in texting.

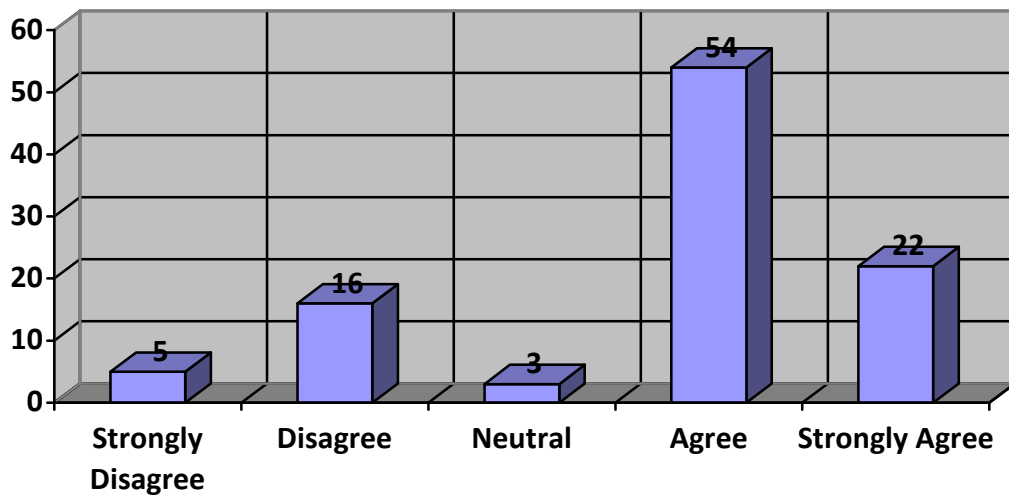
So, the factor of impact of SMS/texting on the writing skills of the respondents result that a significant proportion of the students (61%) found it working that their daily written work is affected in the way by the use of texting that they often feel spell errors due to the habit of SMS/texting. Here 24 % of the respondents disagree that their writing skills are affected.

Experienced spelling errors in writing due to SMS language in daily written work



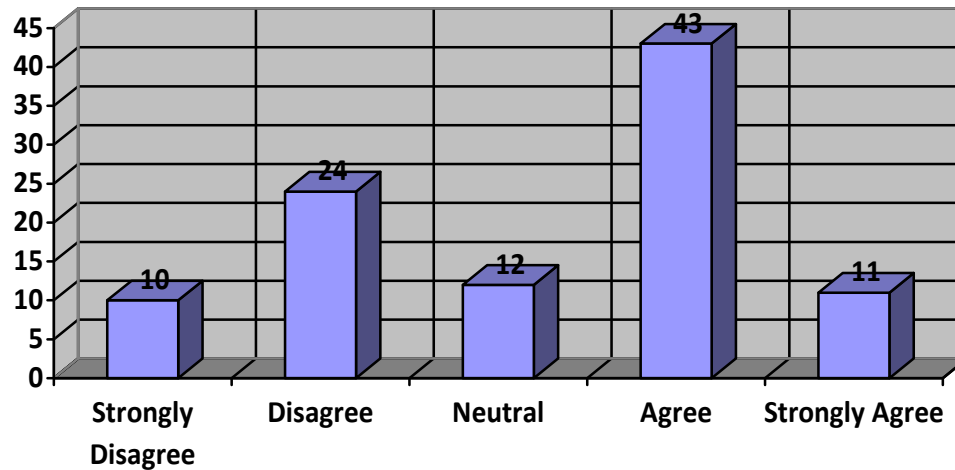
Text messaging effect on writing skill

The study shows that a significant majority (76%) of the students feel problems in their writing skills especially in writing English. Researcher also find a considerable difference in the comparative study of the data gathered from male and female students as the female students (56%) feel the problem of writing more as compared to male students (44%).



Problem facing in written exams due to texting habit

The study shows that a significant majority (54%) of the students feel problems in their written examinations especially in writing English.



VII. CONCLUSION

As the results show that a two-third majority of students feel difficulty in writing English and they often make spelling mistakes due to the SMS using habit that is also directly proportional to the excessive use of the SMS. More than half of the respondents report and worry about the problem in writing English in examination. These results discover that the manner people converse, as well as people writes, has been influenced by text messaging. Now it is evident that either texters are prone to ignore spellings, intentionally or reflexively. The accepted credence is that texting has developed as a twenty-first-century trend as a highly idiosyncratic vivid style, full of contractions and out of the ordinary uses of language, used by an immature generation that doesn't worry about standards. There is a broadly voiced apprehension that the practice is nurturing a decline in literacy. So the hypothesis concerned is approved and it's clear that the excessive use of texting affects the writing skills. Here it is important to say that this media should be used carefully when needed and not for leisure especially for students.

VIII. REFERENCES

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