

SHORT MESSAGE SERVICE (SMS) TEXTING LANGUAGE AMONG STUDENTS IN NIGERIA: IMPLICATIONS FOR WRITING ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Alufohai, Peace Joan

Department of Curriculum and Instruction,
Faculty of Education, Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma
NIGERIA

ABSTRACT

The use of the Short Messaging Service (SMS) of mobile or smart phones among youths in secondary and tertiary institutions in Nigeria for communication is almost becoming a universal habit. The reasons for the ascendancy of this new telephone writing style in recent times are obvious: it is quick, it does not adhere to the rules of English grammar, it is relatively cheap, more convenient, and allows for flexibility and creativity. Unfortunately, the addictive tendencies that go with this widely accepted writing style among the teeming population has raised and is still raising a lot of concerns among educators based on the possible infiltration or interference of this writing style with British English (BrE) constructions among students in their formal writings. Therefore, this paper x-rays the uses and implications of the Short Message Service (SMS) texting language on learners of English Language in Nigeria. The study contends that the use of SMS texting is in itself not harmful. However, caution must be exercised in encouraging students in its use particularly in ensuring that the basic rules of grammar, punctuations, concord and others are strictly followed in formal writings.

Keywords: Short Messaging Service, Texting Language, English Language, Mobile Phones.