Correct and Current English Usage: Adopting The Trendy Forms In An ICT Age

SOLA AFOLAYAN

Department of English, Ekiti State University, Ado Ekit, Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

Kirkpatrick (2007:15) opines "never has there been a greater need to make sure that you write and speak good English". This mandate to use good/correct English, according to her, is also essential for all English users irrespective of how distant or close their demographic placements are to the language, noting that such mandate

> …is true of people in countries such as UK where English is a second or foreign language. In countries where English is the native tongue, a marked emphasis is now being placed on the need for competent communicative skills in the workplace (15).

It is with this assumption that this chapter attempts to edify students of the tertiary institution (the university in this regard) on the basics of generating correct and *current* forms each time there is the necessity to write or say something within the gamut permissible in communication. The manifestation of *current* as a feature in this discussion evokes the prerogative to capture the English language as that which is always in transition perhaps because of its mandate to accommodate several modern conventions from different ethno-linguistic and techno-industrial coinages characteristic of the modern world. The English language is, unparaphraseably, *the melting pot* of these conventions because of its status as the most sought-after language which has

> …become the most used among the major languages of the world. The language was the only recognized native speech of some 15 million people. It is today used regularly by more than 400 million people. English as one of the most [in fact the most] influential and growing language[s] is spoken in areas widely scattered over the globe (Bamisaye and Afolayan 2005:1).

Little wonder Gelernter has warned passionately that although "the English language needs to be shaken up on occasion" we must still "beware the smiley-face and the plague of nowness" (*The Wall Street Journal*). In the contemporary usage, the most prominent *nowness* or *newness* that English has to come to term with is the emergence of the Computer Mediated Communication (CMC) which operates upon the rule-governed ethics of the cyberspace. This factor has emerged

as one of the restrictions that the evolutions of the modern times have brought into the English language. Before we move into the CMC-generated expressions, it is apt to highlight some of the various misconceive usage of the English expressions under different sub-headings, as inspired by Bamisaye and Afolayan (2006).

USING THE CORRECT ENGLISH EXPRESSIONS

English language is characterized by certain grammatical complexities. These complexities often result from the kind of illogicality that governs the formation of English expressions. A speaker of English as a second language is made susceptible to some errors, even which do not have the bias of grammar, in his day-to-day usage, especially if he is not quite familiar with the current and correct usage of some expression in the language. Errors that border on faulty vocabulary, wrong pronouns, tenses, wrong positioning of words, mis-spelling, wrong usage *et cetera* are often noticeable even among evident scholars of repute. The following attempt to bring to the fore, instances of such errors is only an indication of some of the areas which require learners' attention and correction (Bamisaye and Afolayan 2006).

Faulty Vocabulary

Fault vocabulary results from an attempt by a non-native speaker of English to adopt an expression which is not common to the language. Let us consider the following instances:

Faulty: The car has an air-condition.

Correct: The car has an air-conditioner.

Faulty: He told him to dress forward.

Correct: He told him to move (shift) forward.

> *Note that members of the military and paramilitary disciplines 'dress ranks' on parades when there is the necessity to straighten a line. The word 'dress' however, cannot be employed loosely as people use it to mean shift or move.*

Faulty: Olu is a very <u>trickish</u> man.

Correct: Olu is a very <u>tricky</u> man.

> *Note that trickish is unEnglish.*

Faulty: The guy is a <u>cheater</u>.

Correct: The guy is a <u>cheat</u>.

> *Note that 'cheat' does not need the 'er' inflection to become a noun. In fact, cheater is un-English.*

Page38

Faulty: Mr Ojo will chairman the occasion.

Correct: Mr Ojo will chair the occasion.

Faulty: Mary is yellow in complexion.

Correct: Mary is light in complexion.

Faulty: We joined a taxi at Adebayo.

Correct: We took a taxi at Adebayo.

Faulty: He came yesternight.

Correct: He came last night (yesterday night).

Wrong Pronouns

When the pronoun is applied wrongly, there is the likelihood to obscure the intended meaning of a language user. Consider the following:

Faulty: The man and his wife love themselves.

Correct: The man and his wife love each other.

> *Note that the first sentence simply means that the man loves himself and the wife loves herself and this might not be the intended meaning.*

Faulty: The five pupils love themselves.

Correct: The five pupils love one another.

> *Note that interaction among three or more entities necessarily attracts the use of 'one another', while 'each other' is preferable in the interaction involving only two people.*

Faulty: I returned the book to Jide, from <u>who</u> I took it.

Correct: I returned the book to Jide, from <u>whom</u> I took it.

> *Note that: (i)   a preposition cannot precede 'who'*
>
> *(ii)   'whom' is often used for the object while 'who' is for the subject. Since Tola is the object in the above sentence; 'whom' becomes the appropriate choice.*

Faulty Insertion of Infinitive

Faulty:	He must to cry before I stop beating.
Correct:	He must cry before I stop beating.
Faulty:	Shade did nothing but to smile.
Correct:	Shade did nothing but smile.
Faulty:	I would rather go hungry than to see my children suffer.
Correct:	I would rather go hungry than see my children suffer.
Faulty:	I need only to see John and I will solve the problem.
Correct:	I need only see John and I will solve the problem.

Faulty Conjunction

Faulty:	Yemisi will have no choice than to agree.
Correct:	Yemisi will have no choice but to agree.
Faulty:	Bade does not dress like his brother does.
Correct:	Bade does not dress as his brother does.
Faulty:	Ade neither prays or sings daily.
Correct:	Ade neither prays nor sings daily.
Faulty:	Scarcely had I started plucking the mangoes than the dog started barking.
Correct:	Scarcely had I started plucking the mangoes when the dog started barking.
Faulty:	Mr Ojo had left the hall when the bomb exploded.
Correct:	Mr Ojo had left the hall before the bomb exploded.

Undue Pluralisation or Singularization

Faulty:	Knickers is not only meant for men.
Correct:	Knickers are not only meant for men.
	(*Note that the word knickers is a plural noun. It is in fact compulsorily aligned to plural verbs. In this category are words like scissors, trousers, clergy and police. The expression "police is your friend" is wrong*

Faulty:	Sports are compulsory everywhere.
Correct:	Sports is compulsory everywhere.
Faulty:	We have new staffs.
Correct:	We have new staff.
Faulty:	The police is tough.
Correct:	The police are tough.
Faulty:	There are no new news.
Correct:	There is no new news.
Faulty:	Daddy bought some furnitures yesterday.
Correct:	Daddy bought some furniture yesterday.
Faulty:	'Please cut your bushy hairs.'
Correct:	'Please cut your bushy hair.'
Faulty:	The wages of sin are deaths.
Correct:	The wage of sin is death.
Faulty:	All are well.
Correct:	All is well.

Misapplication of Tenses

Faulty:	The ladies sung Awilo's track.
Correct:	The ladies sang Awilo's track.
Faulty:	I know him for many months now.
Correct:	I have known him for many months now.
Faulty:	My hen has lain some eggs.
Correct:	My hen has laid some eggs.
Faulty:	Shade had been there.
Correct:	Shade was there.

Note that the faulty expression can only be correct if it is used as a main clause succeeded by a subordinate clause. Hence, it is correct to have 'Shade had been there before the President's arrival'.

Faulty:	I use to go home late.
Correct:	I used to go home late.
Faulty:	I suppose to go to Abuja tomorrow.
Correct:	I am supposed to go to Abuja tomorrow.
Faulty:	A man had forecasted the future of the world long ago.
Correct:	A man had forecast the future of the world long ago.
Faulty:	Bayo quitted the service because of his school.
Correct:	Bayo quit the service because of his school.
Faulty:	The news was broadcasted yesterday.
Correct:	The news was broadcast yesterday.
Faulty:	Alao bursted into tears on seeing the woman.
Correct:	Alao burst into tears on seeing the woman.
Faulty:	Owning a pair of shoes costed much in the 80's.
Correct:	Owning a pair of shoes cost much in the 80's.
Faulty:	He hitted the nail on the head.
Correct:	He hit the nail on the head.
Faulty:	Bird Flu has spreaded to the North.
Correct:	Bird Flu has spread to the North.

Tautology (undue repetition of same idea)

Faulty:	He crashed and, so therefore died.
Correct:	He crashed and, so died (or therefore died).
Faulty:	There is lack of no infrastructure in my school.
Correct:	There is lack of infrastructure in my school.

Note that 'lack' and 'no' convey almost the same idea.

Faulty: My friend came in but I did not take no notice.

Correct: My friend came in but I did not take notice.

Note that the constructions like the faulty expression here are wrong even though they are noticed in the verbal forms of the Americans and the Caribbeans. Grammatically speaking, when two negatives are found in one sentential environment, the result is positive and this may not convey the intended idea.

Faulty: Should in case my friend comes, tell him I am in.

Correct: Should my friend comes, tell him I am in.

Note that the sentence can still be written as 'In case my friend comes, tell him I am in'

Faulty: Repeat what you said again.

Correct: Repeat what you said or say that again.

Faulty: Reverse the car back.

Correct: Reverse the car.

Faulty: Sola always eats rice all the times.

Correct: Sola always eats rice.

Faulty: I gave him a knock, still yet he laughed.

Correct: I gave him a knock, yet he laughed (or still he laughed).

Faulty: Samuel Eto'o Fils is a more better footballer than Drogba.

Correct: Samuel Eto'o Fils is a better footballer than Drogba.

Faulty: We read hard, but however we performed woefully.

Correct: We read hard but, we performed woefully.

Note that 'however' can also replace 'but'.

Faulty: You must have to go now.

Correct: You must go now.

Note that 'You have to go now' is also correct.

Faulty:	He denied he did not steal the money.
Correct:	He denied stealing the money.

Note that denied already contains negativity.

Faulty:	The prisoner in short knickers is tough.
Correct:	The prisoner in knickers is tough.

Note that it is correct to use either 'shorts' or 'knickers' but not the two.

As much as it will be difficult for any simple book to collate all the instances of noticeable errors arising from incorrect and incurrent usage to which a non-native speaker of English subjects the language what has been done here is only to bring some significant areas of our interest. A good number of books are available that are committed to helping learners of the English Language maintain their balance in the use of the language.

COMPUTER MEDIATED COMMUNICATION: THE EMERGING ARCHITECTURE OF NEW ENGLISH EXPRESSIONS

Recently, David Crystal had evolved what he tagged "Internet linguistics" which he explains as the consequence of the various impacts that the Internet has brought into language generally. Crystal defines Internet linguistics as

> the synchronic analysis of language in all arrears of internet activity, including e-mail, the various kinds of chartroom and game interactions, instant messaging, and Web pages, and including associated areas of Computer Mediated Communication (CMC) such as SMS messaging (texting)" (2005:1)

The various outlets of communication expressed above by Crystal have infused the English language with several expressions and structuro-symbolic permutations (ranging from regular orthographic letters to the specialized alpha-numeric graphetics) which are worth studying at this level. These emerging linguistic possibilities have gone a long way to colourate the macrocosmic build up of the English language such that the English we speak today is far removed from what it used to be when it took off as a taxonomic fuse of dialects in AD 450. The English language today seems like an architecture of diverse expressions, interestingly, whose etymologies transcend the regular lexicon of the language. It may be rewarding to consider the following cyber conventions, and their meanings, which have constituted themselves into a bundle of registers available for a contemporary English user.

Netiquette: Internet etiquette. The informal rules of behavior for the internet users. These internet customs have evolved over time, and have helped to make the internet a pleasant place.

Online - The time that a user is actually logged onto the internet.

Plug-in - A software component required by an Internet browser to expand its abilities. For example, QuickTime is a plug-in that enables the browser to display Virtual Reality movies.

Portable Document Format (PDF) - A file type gaining popularity on the Internet due

to its ability to maintain document formatting.

Proxy Server - A filter for the Internet that can be used to prevent access to web sites

containing questionable material. It connects to the Internet on your behalf, fetches pages for you, stores them locally, and delivers them to your desktop when requested to do so.

Search Engine - Programs and utilities that will search the Internet for relevant sites.

Examples include AltaVista, HotBot, and iWon.

Top Level Domains (TLD) - Information contained at the end of a web address

indicating its nature. For instance, the following are some of the abbreviations commonly found within TDL:

.com = commercial

.edu = education

.gov = government

.int = international organization

.mil = military

.net = network

.org = organization

Uniform Resource Locator (URL) – This specifies the server and path information for

documents on the World Wide Web. For example The URL for the brochure where the various terms explained in this section is: *http://fcit.coedu.usf.edu/language/default.htm*

Upload - Copying a file from your computer to a remote computer.

Virus - A software program that it written with the intent of doing harm to your computer.

Web Page - A single document on the Internet.

Web Site - A collection of web pages grouped around a particular message or topic. All of the linked pages produced by one school would be considered a web site.

WebTV - A product offering the ability to connect to the Internet using a television.

World Wide Web (WWW) - A part of the Internet that contains documents with hyperlinks to other documents and multimedia components.

(Adapted from the Florida Center for Instructional Technology's Brochure 2000)

These expressions have gradually found their ways into the English lexicon and a user of English would do well to come to term with them as they are applied in daily conversations. Fortunately, the emergence of the Internet and other ICT outlets has brought a reasonable compactness into the whole world that the cliché is that the world has *become a global village.* Unfortunately, many English users still fail to flow along with this articulate techno-linguistic revolution of modernity brought about by the intrusion of technology into language.

The Internet has evolved numerous words and terms which are either coinages from extant vocabulary of the English language or slangy approximations. As Crystal (2004:17) informs us,

> The term 'Netspeak' is an alternative to 'Netlish', 'Weblish', 'Internet language', 'cyberspeak', 'electronic discourse', 'electronic language', 'interactive written discourse', 'computer-mediated communication' (CMC), and other more cumbersome locutions. Each term has a different implication: 'Netlish', for example, is plainly derived from 'English', and is of decreasing usefulness as the Net becomes more multilingual

For instance in *Gulliver's Travel* (1726) Jonathan Swift deployed the term *Yahoo* to refer to a group of unrefined human-like creatures that Gulliver met during one of his four voyages. The term has become a cyber jargon that internet users deploy without minding its etymology. To corroborate this, Crystal further educates us that

> It is perhaps unsurprising to see 'Netspeak', as a term, being given some popular currency – following the Orwellian introduction of *Newspeak* and *Oldspeak* in *1984*, later developments such as *Doublespeak* and *Seaspeak*, and media labels such as *Royalspeak* and *Blairspeak* (2004:17).

THE CMC WRITTEN FORMAT: AN EVOLUTION OF THE MUTILATED ENGLISH

What constitutes the mutilated or defaced English forms are the various aberrant constructions that typically festoon the faces of the internet pages. These constructions are evolutions that are typical departures from the orthographic or spelling conventions of the English language. Wasden writes:

> Means of communication continually change with the introduction of new technologies. It wasn't long ago that our kids thought e-mail was the greatest form of communicating with their friends and family. Now, texting, instant messaging, blogging, and Twittering have taken the place of e-mail, and are just a few of the ways your children might be communicating with others (2010:1).

It is important to note that when theses various activities of communication ensue, the specialized letterings essentially depart from the known convention, as we have stressed, and this is notable in the excerpt below adapted from Wasden's "example of a chat room conversation taken directly from a live chat room":

Tex it if u qtz et n if u dnt ask 4 et no pix no add dnt add n nt tlk no white peepz 14-17

Ne body wanna b my txtin buddies while iam n class…plz no pmz.. AND NO PERVES

Neddd new txt buddys so addd me

Ne girls wana have phonesx wit me an my bf

Ello

Dis room a drag

Addddd mee ppl griz n guys…it dnt mata I wl txt u any 1 dat ku it u.

Single n lokin. Want bf nice n hott treat me rite. 14-16.

Im bored add and mssg me girls.

HiT Me uP For THE NuMBeR BoiZ Letz TraDe A CoUPIE… Hmmhmm NaUgHty BaBii

ADD MEh MEh I M MEh…SEXy GUyS & GIRLS.. HiT ME UP ASAP

i ned sum one 2 tk 2 get at me ppl.

From the foregoing we know that Cyber space literacy programme operates on a great deal of abbreviations and very queer representations prevalent in the written form of the CMC. These are, more often than not, deployed at the instances provided by the interpersonal communication. The facility of such interpersonal communication is often provided by the E-mail, the Chatgroup and the SMS.

The E-mail and the SMS, for instance, have come to modify the popular letter writing. The most interesting thing about these CMC outlets is that there is that active immediacy which allows both the sender and the receiver to interact without much delay. Hence,

> The Internet allows people to engage in a multiparty conversation online, either synchronously, in real time, or asynchronously, in postponed time (chapter 1). The situations in which such interactions take place have been referred to in various ways, partly reflecting the period in Internet history when they were introduced, and partly reflecting the orientation and subject-matter of the group involved, such as *chatgroups*, *newsgroups*, *usergroups*, *chatrooms*, *mailing lists*, *discussion lists*, *e-conferences*, and *bulletin boards.*(Crystal, 2004:129)

Going by this, we shall regard E-mail and the SMS as the Asynchronous writing outlet of the CMC while we regard the Chartgroup as the Synchronous outlet basically because it allows that active/continuous online conversations.

Both Synchronous and Asynchronous written formats encourages the use of abbreviations and emoticons which are gradually finding expressive correlations in the English language.

Some CMC-oriented Abbreviations

The following is a list of some popular abbreviations and alpha-numeric connotations, and their meanings.

^5 .... High five
^urs .... Up yours
?4U .... Question for you
! .... Surprised
? .... Confused
1336 .... Gamer that is new OR doesn't play well
1337 .... Gamer that is the best OR a "leet"(elite)
143 .... I love you
182 .... I hate you
20 .... Location
2BH .... To be honest
2C4S .... Too cool for school
2H2F .... Too high to function

```
2H2H ............................................................. Too hot to handle
2G2BT ............................................... Too good to be true
2G4 ............................................................................ Together
2H4T .............................................................. Too hot for text
2G4U .............................................................. Too good for you
2M2T ............................................................. Too much to type
2moro ............................................................... Tomorrow
2nite ....................................................................... Tonight
2T2T ...................................................... Too tired to think
404 ................................................................ I don't know
411 ............................................................... Information
AAF ................................................................. As a friend
AAK ................ Asleep at keyboard OR Always at keyboard
ABT2 ........................................................... About to
ADBB ...................................................... All done bye-bye
ADD ............................................................... Address
ADIH ............................................. Another day in (profanity)
ADR ................................................................. Address
AFAIK ........................................................ As far as I know
AFC ............................................... Away from computer
AFDN ............................................. Any (profanity) day now
AFK ................................................. Away from keyboard
AFT .................................................. About (profanity) time
AIGHT .................................................................... Alright
AIM .................................................. AOL Instant Messenger
AIR ............................................................. Adult in room
AKA ................................................................ Also known as
B .................................................................................. Be
B/C ......................................................................... Because
B/F .......................................................................... Boyfriend
B4 ............................................................................... Before
B4N ............................................................. Bye for now
B4U ............................................................. Before you
BAF ................................................... Brought a friend
BAG ................................................................. Bursting a gut
BAK ................................................. Back at my keyboard
BB4N ............................................................. Bye-bye for now
BBBG ...................................................... Bye-bye, be good
BBFN ...................................................... Bye-bye for now
CBB ...................................................... Can't be bothered
CD9 ........................................... Code 9 – parents are around
Ciao ............................................................. Goodbye
CL ............................................................... Clan leader
Clan ...........................................Organized team of players
```

CM .... Call me
CMA .... Cover my (profanity)
CMON .... Come on
CMU .... Crack me up
DIKU .... Do I know you?
DKDC .... Don't know, don't care
DL .... Download
DOC .... Drug of choice
Dood .... Dude
DPS .... Damage per second
DSTR8 .... (Profanity) straight
DTS .... Don't think so
EOD .... End of day
EOL .... End of life
EOT .... End of thread (discussion)
EOM .... End of message
ESAD .... Eat (profanity) and die
EVRE1 .... Everyone
EWI .... E-mailing while intoxicated
EZ .... Easy
EZY .... Easy
F .... Female
F2F .... Face to face
F2T .... Free to talk
FAB .... Features/attributes/benefits
FAQ .... Frequently asked questions
FB .... FaceBook (.com)
GA .... Go ahead
GAB .... Getting a beer
GAL .... Get a life
GAP .... Got a picture?
GAS .... Got a second?
GB .... Goodbye
GB4N .... Goodbye for now
G2CU .... Good to see you
G2G .... Got to go
G2G4N .... Got to go for now
G2R .... Got to run
G4I .... Go for it
G4N .... Good for nothing
H2CUS .... Hope to see you soon
H8 .... Hate
HAGN .... Have a good night
HAGO .... Have a good one

HAK .... Hugs and kisses
HB .... Hurry back
HD .... Hold
HF .... Have fun
HHIS .... Hanging head in shame
HHO1/2K .... Ha-ha, only half kidding
HHOJ .... Ha-ha, only joking
HHOK .... Ha-ha, only kidding
IBK .... Idiot behind keyboard
IBRB .... I will be right back
IBTL .... In before the lock
IC .... I see OR In character
J2LUK .... Just to let you know
J4F .... Just for fun
J4G .... Just for grins
JAM .... Just a minute
JAS .... Just a second
JC .... Just chilling (hanging out) OR Just curious
JJ .... Just joking
JK .... Just kidding
KIR .... Keep it real
KISS .... Keep it simple, stupid
KIT .... Keep in touch
KK .... Kiss kiss
LMK .... Let me know
LOL .... Laughing out loud
LOM .... Low on mana
LONH .... Lights on, nobody home
LOP .... Low on power
LP .... Login, password
LSV .... Language, sex, violence
LTM .... Laugh to myself
LTNS .... Long time no see
MUSM .... Miss you so much
MYOB .... Mind your own business
N1 .... Nice one
N2M .... Not to mention
N64 .... Nintendo 64 (gaming system)
NAZ .... Name, address, zip
NBD .... No big deal
NE .... Any OR Anyway
NE1 .... Anyone
Newb ..... Newbie (New gamer OR new person to chat room)
OLL .... Online love

OMDB .... Over my dead body
OMG .... Oh my God OR Oh my gosh
OMW .... On my way
OO .... Over and out
OOC .... Out of character
OOE .... Out of endurance
PB .... Potty break
PBB .... Parent behind back
PBM .... Parent behind me
PCM .... Please call me
PDQ .... Pretty darn quick
TTG .... Time to go
TTTT .... These things take time
TTUL .... Talk to you later
TTYL .... Talk to you later
TTYS .... Talk to you soon
TU .... Thank you
TXS .... Thanks
SWALK .... Sealed with a loving kiss
SYL .... See you later
SYS .... See you soon
SYT .... See you tomorrow
U .... You
U2 .... You too?
UGTBK .... You've got to be kidding
UL .... Upload OR You will
UR .... Your/You're
UW .... You're welcome
VEG .... Very evil grin
VM .... Voice mail
VSF .... Very sad face
W00t .... Expression of joy
W8 .... Wait
WB .... Write back
W/E .... Whatever
W/O .... Without
WAD .... Without a doubt
XI 10 .... Exciting
XLNT .... Excellent
XME .... Excuse me
XOXO .... Hugs and kisses
YHM .... You have mail
YKW .... You know what?
YKWYCD .... You know what you can do

YNK .... You never know
YR .... Your OR Yeah, right

In what he calls "Internet Lingo" Wasden (2010) provides a very rich compendium of the CMC abbreviations and what we have done is only to bring a few of his compilation as a glossary to guide our numerous English language user.

Emoticon
        According to Wasden, "an emoticon is a sequence of symbols, letters, and numbers that emulate a facial expression" (30). These emoticons are used together with text acronyms in instant messages, comments, gaming sites, e-mails, texting, blogs, and chats. Some are read straight-on, but most are intended to be read sideways. For example, you can recognize the smiley face emoticon :-) with your head tilted to the left (Wasden 2010).

        It is also apt to bring a list of some emoticons as follows:
!-(.... Black eye
!-) .... Proud of black eye
#-) .... Partied all night
#:-) .... Messy Hair
#:-o .... Shocked
%-(.... Confused
%(|:-) .... Propeller-head
%') .... Very Tired
%-) .... Dazed OR silly
%*@:-(.... Hungover with headache
%*@:-) .... Freaking Out
%*} .... Inebriated
%\ .... Hangover
%-{ .... Ironic
%-| .... Been up All Night
%-} .... Dizzy
%+{ .... Lost a Fight
%-6 .... Brain Dead
%OD .... Laughing like crazy
&:-) .... Curly Hair
&-| .... Crying 31
(( )):** .... Hugs and kisses
(((((:-{= .... Rave Dude
((())) OR {{{}}} OR [[[]]] .... Lots of hugging
(((H))) .... Big Hug
() .... Hugging
(-) .... Needs Haircut
(.)(.) .... Breasts
(.V.) .... Breasts

```
(:- ......................................... Blank Expression OR Unsmiley
(-: ........................................... Left handed smile
(:& ................................................. Angry
(:-& ................................................ Angry
(:-( ................................................ Very unhappy
(:-) ................................................. Big Face
(___:___) ....................................... A large bottom
(_|_) ............................................... Bottom
 (8-{)} .................................... Sunglasses, Mustache, Beard
'-) ................................................... Winking
):-) .................................................. Smile
)8-) .................................................. Scuba Diver
* ..................................................... Kiss
*<):o) .............................................. Clown
*<|:-) ............................................... Santa Claus
*<<<<+ ........................................... Christmas tree
/:-) ................................................... Beret
/;-) .................................................. Heavy Eyebrows
/\/\/\ ................................................ Laughter
:) .................................................... Smile
: [ .................................................... Bored OR sad
: | .................................................... Bored OR sad
:-! ................................................... Foot in Mouth
:-" ................................................... Whistling
:-# .................................................. My Lips Are Sealed
:#) ................................................... Drunk
:-#| .................................................. Bushy Mustache
:%)% ................................................ Has Acne
:-& ................................................... Tongue-tied
:-( ................................................... Sad OR Frown
:( ) .................... Loudmouth, talks all the time, OR shouting
:(#) ................................................... Has Braces
:-(*) ................................................ Makes Me Sick
:-(=) ................................................. Bucktoothed
:-(0) ................................................. Yelling
:-) .................................................... Basic smile
:-)--- ................................................ Thin, skinny
```

Emoticons are often used by text message composers to conform to the restricted cyberspace available at an instance of text messaging.

CONCLUSION

It important to conclude on the note that technology has become a large part of human lives. As Wasden tells us, whether it is on a computer or on a cell phone, most of us, use these abbreviations and emoticons every day. With the fast-paced development of new technologies, the linguistic knowledge gap is becoming widening especially with the trajectory of the English lexicon packed with modern infusions and trappings. With all of the time that young and old spend texting, e-mailing, instant messaging, blogging, gaming, and chatting, a new language, or "lingo," has developed. This language consists of "acronyms and abbreviated text used as shortcuts in messages" and can be very hard to decipher at times. These have found their ways into the English language we speak and write on daily basis and a user of the language must be conversant with the fact that a new identity is in the making for the Queen's language.

WORKS CITED :

i.   Bamisaye, T.O and Afolayan, S.O. (2005) "Communication in English: An Introduction to Literature in English" in Olajide, Wale (ed) *Introductory Readings in Humanities* Ado Ekiti: MacAnthony publishers

ii.   Bamisaye, T.O and Afolayan, S.O. (2006) *Basic English Structure and Literary Studies* Lagos: King Julius

iii.   Bouman, Ole (1996) *Real Space in Quick Times: Architecture and Digitization*, Rosbeek, Nuth,

iv.   Crystal, D a v i d (2004) *Language and the Internet* New York Cambridge University Press

v.   _____(2005) "The Scope of Internet Linguistics" A Paper Given Online to the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting

vi.   Gelernter, David (2012)"The Pros and Cons of Cyber-English" *The Wall Street Journal* Sunday March 2012

vii.   Kirkpatrick, Betty (2007) *Correct English* Poland: Polskabook

viii.   "The language of the Internet" http://fcit.coedu.usf.edu/

ix.   Wasden, L. (2010) *Internet Lingo Dictionary: A Parents' Guide to Codes Used in Chat Rooms," Instant Messaging, Text Messaging, and Blogs* Idaho: The State of Idaho