

أثر التكنولوجيا على اللغة: منظور اجتماعي لغوي

**The Impact of Technology on Language
A sociolinguistic perspective**

م. علي مصعب حميد

Ali Musaab Hameed

م.م عثمان محمد محمود

Othman Mohammed Mahmood

جامعة سامراء - كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية

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المخلص

تهدف الدراسة الحالية إلى التعرف على أهمية اللغة كوسيلة للتواصل في حياة الإنسان. والتعرف على أهمية التكنولوجيا الحديثة في حياة الناس حول العالم. والتعرف على التأثيرات الإيجابية للتكنولوجيا الحديثة على اللغات حول العالم. والتعرف على التأثيرات السلبية للتكنولوجيا الرقمية على اللغات حول العالم. وتقديم المقترحات حول أهم الأساليب والأساليب التي يمكن من خلالها استخدام التكنولوجيا الحديثة للحفاظ على مستقبل اللغات حول العالم.

وتم الاعتماد على مجموعة من مناهج البحث: المنهج التاريخي - المنهج الوصفي المسحي - والمنهج الوصفي التحليلي. وتوصلت الدراسة إلى مجموعة من النتائج أهمها: اللغة وسيلة التواصل بين الناس. من خلالها، فهم الثقافة والتقاليد. تلعب اللغة دوراً رئيسياً في تطوير العلاقات بين الناس داخل الوطن الواحد، كما توحد اللغة فكرة التواصل والتفاهم. للتكنولوجيا أهمية كبيرة في حياة الإنسان، فهي تجمع وجهات نظر مختلفة وتوجهات فكرية مختلفة حول مختلف مواضيع الحياة. ومن الآثار السلبية للتكنولوجيا على اللغة: خلط مفردات ورموز بعض اللغات مع بعضها البعض لمواكبة الوتيرة السريعة - استبدال بعض التعبيرات من لغة غير شائعة الاستخدام - إدخال كلمات أجنبية إلى اللغات العربية مما يضر مفرداتهم النحوية وأصولهم ومفرداتهم -

Abstract

The current study aims to identify the importance of language as a means of communication in human life. And it represent the importance of modern technology in the lives of people around the world, it also refers to the positive effects of modern technology on languages around the world. This research mentions the negative effects of digital technology on languages around the world, and provides suggestions on the most important methods and modern technology which can be used to keep the future of languages around the world.

A set of research methods were relied upon: the historical method - the descriptive survey method - and the descriptive analysis.

The study reaches a set of results, the most important of which are: Language is a means of communication between people. Through it, people understand culture, traditions. Language plays a major role in developing relationships between people within one nation, and language unifies the idea of communication and understanding. Technology is important in human life, as it brings different viewpoints and different intellectual orientations on various topics of life. Among the negative effects of technology on the language are Mixing the vocabulary and symbols of some languages with each other to keep up with the fast pace - Replacing some expressions from a language that is not commonly used - Introducing foreign words into Arabic languages, which lack their grammatical vocabulary, origins, and vocabulary -



Introduction:

Language is considered as an essential tool for communication and developing relationships between people, and communication and understanding between individuals. It also enables individuals to exchange ideas and express their feelings. Learning the language contributes to personality development, increasing a person's self-confidence, understanding culture, traditions and other customs, strengthening social relations and strengthening relations between people. The language enhances effective participation in societies and contributes to social and cultural development. (Brown, 1994, p:9)

In the modern era, technology holds a more important position than wealth and other resources. Whoever possesses technology possesses the elements of power and control, and technology is the base from which any progress begins. (Harja, 2016, p. 55)

Technology has a direct impact on languages, in increasing information between people in different countries, automatic translation, technology provides electronic communication, people who speak the same language can be easily communicated, and technology is used to teach new languages. (Razzaq, 2023, p:6)

Despite the importance of technology in language development, it has a negative impact on some languages. With the emergence of social media, messaging applications, and other digital communication platforms, new forms of communication have emerged, leading to the creation of new words, phrases, and expressions. The speed and ease of digital communication have led to a decrease in the length and complexity of sentences, as well as the tendency towards using abbreviations. This is also led to changes in the way we communicate and had an impact on the overall development of language. (Harja, 2016, p. 57)

Study Problem:

The results of some studies revealed that the languages spoken by large numbers of people are not necessarily the most widely spread globally. For example, the Arabic and Hindi languages are spoken by hundreds of millions, but they are located far from the center of language networks. Dutch, which is spoken by 27 million people, have a more important and central position than the Arabic language, which is spoken by 530 million people, as a first and second language. Due to "Dutch" being more closely related to other languages and its spread on the Internet. in addition to as for the language network centers, "English," there are the following languages: "French," "Spanish," and "German."

The problem of the current study revolves around identifying the dual impact of modern technology on the development and future of languages and Technological factors that affect language development .



We find positive effects of technology on languages in terms of construction, structure, vocabulary, and expressions, as well as the development of the method of using them, increasing the number of people who speak them, getting to know people from different cultures and races all over the world, and developing mechanisms for dealing with them in daily life.

In contrast, we find negative effects that bring about a comprehensive change in the future and development of languages, and perhaps their loss of the basics and basic rules that they relied on for many centuries, and the occurrence of a gap and separation between individuals who speak one language between the past, the present, and the future.... Hence, the problem of the current study crystallizes in the following main question:

What is the impact of modern technology on the development and future of languages around the world?

Study questions:

Through the main question of the study, we can derive a set of the following sub-questions:

What is the importance of language in the lives of people around the world?

What are the most used languages in interaction between people around the world?

What are the characteristics and advantages of languages in relation to human life?

What is the importance of modern technology in the lives of people around the world?

What are the capabilities and advantages of information technology?

What are the positive effects of modern technology on languages around the world?

What are the negative effects of digital technology on languages around the world?

What technological factors affect language development?

How can modern technology be used to preserve the future of languages?

The Importance of study:

The importance of the current study is that it highlights the dual impact of modern digital technology on the future and development of languages around the world and monitoring technological factors that affect language development. In terms of the benefit that technology has on the development of the structure of languages, their structure and vocabulary, and the methods and methods of communication between people around the world. An explanation of the most important languages that have benefited from this technology, and the number of its users has increased. On the other hand, we will find out the negative effects on the



future development of languages, the separation they cause between generations in the present, the past, and the future, and what may happen in their vocabulary, styles, expressions, and ability to express human feelings and thoughts, and their role in the absence of some cultures and civilizations.

Study Goals:

The current study seeks to achieve a set of the following goals:

Recognizing the importance of language as a means of communication in human life.

Monitoring the most important and most used languages in interaction between people around the world.

Identify the characteristics and advantages of languages in relation to human interaction around the world.

Learn about the importance of modern technology in the lives of people around the world.

Discover the most important features and capabilities of modern information technology.

Understanding the positive effects of modern technology on languages around the world.

Identify the negative effects of digital technology on languages around the world.

Monitoring technological factors that affect language development.

Proposing methods and methods through which modern technology can be used to preserve the future of languages around the world.

methodology:

The study relies on a set of research methods as follows:

1) Historical approach:

It is used to monitor and track the importance of life in the development of human beings' use of languages and their role in achieving communication and linguistic, cultural, social and civilizational interaction between them. And what languages achieve in communicating between generations within or outside regions and countries.

2) Descriptive survey method:

In collecting data and information on the subject of the study, analyzing the literature and drawing study results from it.

3) Descriptive analysis method:

In analyzing some data from tables and statistics on the subject of the study to come up with results that serve the subject of the study.

Study literature:

Language concept:

There are many definitions of language put forward by researchers in the field of language, and all definitions focus on the phonetic nature of language, its social function, and the diversity of linguistic structure from



one society to another. We find “Carroll” defining language as: (any language is a structural system) of customary spoken sounds, and of sequences of sounds that are used or that can be used in dealing between individuals when A group of people, and classifies the things, events, and processes that It takes place in the human environment). Sapir’s definition: (Language is a purely human, non-instinctive way of communicating thoughts, emotions, and desires through symbols produced voluntarily). (Lyons, 1995)

The importance of languages in communication and relationships between humans:

Language is a way for people to communicate. Through learning the language, communication is achieved in all aspects, understanding of culture, traditions and other customs is achieved, social relations are strengthened and bonds between people are strengthened. Language promotes effective participation in communities and contributes to social and cultural development. Without language, this would not be possible. Symbols are part of our daily life and also another part of language. Language is a very broad word, which is essential in everyday life. (Prasanna. 2020).

There are some languages that are interacted with and communicated with around the world more than others, as a result of the use of these languages by regions, countries, and peoples over successive centuries.

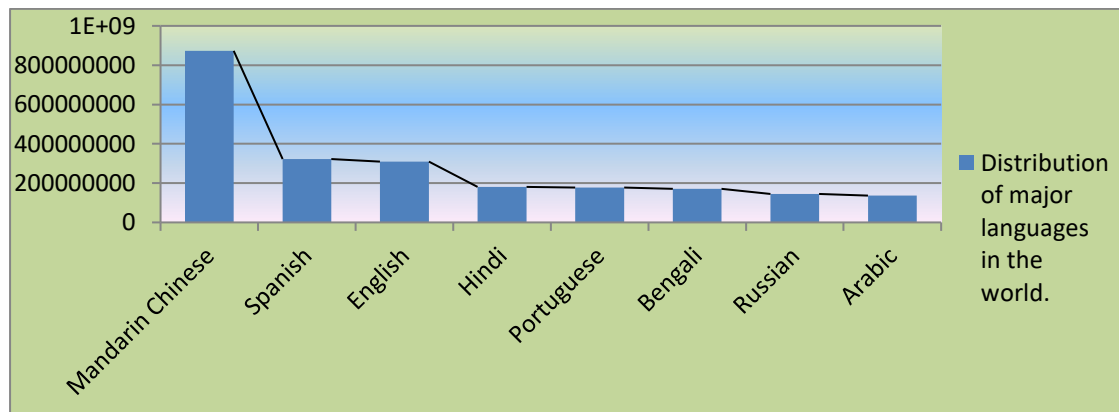


figure (1) the most important languages used in communication between the majority of people, and the number of people in the world who speak them.

The impact of languages on the unity and communication of peoples across generations:

Language, as an essential tool for communication and unifying peoples, plays a major role in developing relationships between people within one nation, and perhaps outside it. Here, language unifies the idea of communication, understanding, exchanging ideas, and expressing their feelings. Language also facilitates the process of understanding culture,

traditions, and customs passed down through generations in one culture and other cultures. (Dewi, Intan, Sari ,2016,p:18)

Language strengthens social relations and strengthens connections between people over many decades and centuries. Language also enhances the effective participation of individuals with their communities in societies and contributes to the social and cultural development of this society. (Jean ,2009,p:54)

Language is also used to build strong relationships between generations in the past, present, and future, as using it correctly can contribute to establishing trust between individuals. By expressing clearly and directly between individuals, presenting thoughts and feelings clearly to others, while using positive language vocabulary to reach the minds of others and the communication process continues properly. (Dewi, Intan Sari ,2016,p:19)

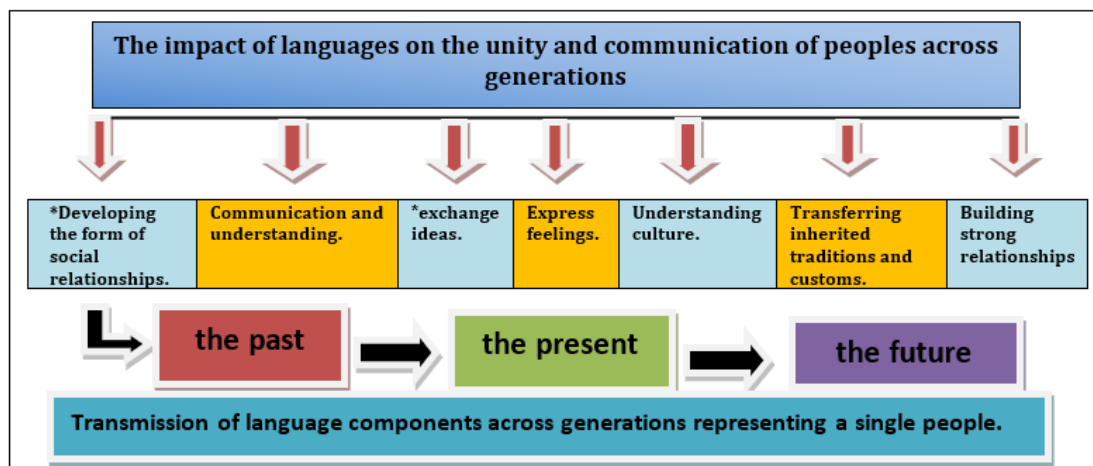


Figure (2) The impact of languages on the unity of peoples and their communication across generations.

Definition of technology:

The term technology consists of two parts (techno), which come from ancient Greek, which means “what” is industry or work (ogia), which means the science of method, and the words technology mean the applied science of industrial aspects. As for (Webster), he defines it as: “technical language, applied science, and artistic method to achieve a practical purpose, as well as being a set of means used to provide everything necessary for human livelihood and well-being” (Shaukat, M., et. al., 2010, p. 229).

So technology can be defined as: “that science that is concerned with the process of applying the method of research and theories and employing human and non-human elements in a specific field to address problems and



design, develop, use and manage scientific solutions to them to achieve specific goals” (Al-Ayashi, 2016, p. 38).

Modern Digital Technology:

Modern technology is a term used to describe new and advanced technologies, tools and equipment that aim to improve and facilitate human lives in various fields. Modern technology is an important part of the development of human life in the current era, as it greatly affects various aspects of life and its daily dealings, whether in the humanitarian, economic or social fields. ” (Al-Ayashi, 2016, p. 40).

The Impact of Technology on Human Lives:

We can summarize the most important benefits of modern technology for human life as follows:

Enabling humans to get what they need at the right time, giving them a greater sense of freedom.

Modern technology brings different points of view and different intellectual orientations on various life topics, and helps communicate, discuss, and exchange ideas and cultures.

Modern technology contributes the development of e-commerce, facilitating ways of buying and selling, in addition to the ability to exchange currencies..

Technology is considered as the choice best in terms of cost, as it has helped improve work productivity, which has led to an increase in the wages of employees and workers.

Modern technology has opened the doors to distance education and conducting more practical and literary studies and research.

Modern technology helps to save time and effort spent daily.

Technology has made the world a small village despite the distances.

Modern technology has created new fields of work and job creation, such as programming and web development.

Technology has enabled all humans to know the latest details and news around the world, moment by moment, as soon as the event occurs. ” (Al-Ayashi, 2016, p. 56).

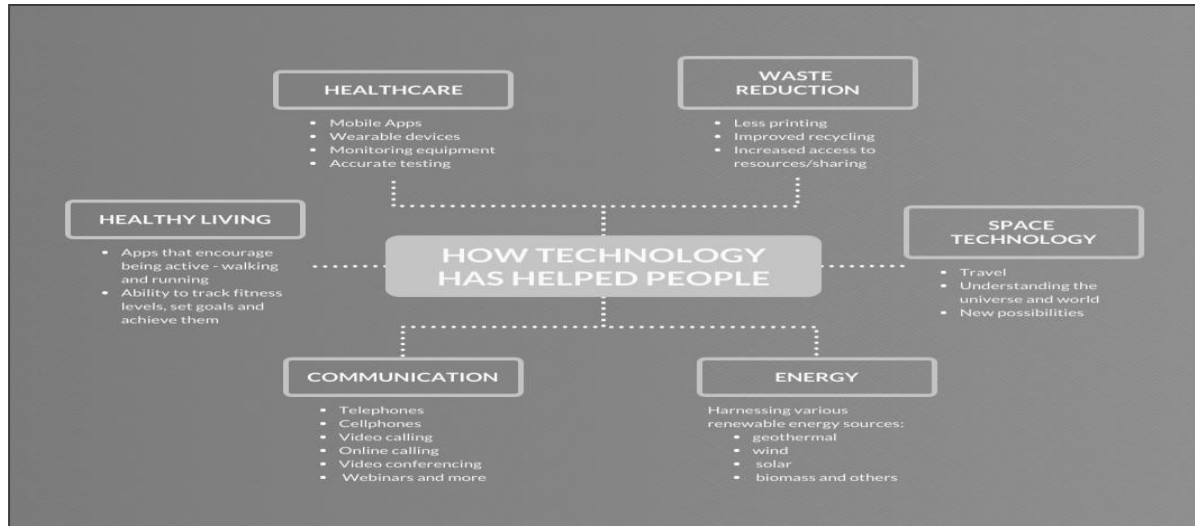


Figure (3) The impact of modern technology on human lives.

The impact of modern technology on the development of languages:

Modern technology has positive effects on the languages actively in the use among the world's population - from a sociolinguistic perspective - as follows: (Shaukat, M., et. al., 2010, p. 236).

First: increasing the exchange of information.

Technology has a direct impact on languages, as it increases the exchange of information and knowledge between people in different countries, and leads to the expansion and development of languages to include new words, vocabulary and expressions.

Second: Machine translation.

Machines and machine translation programs convert texts and conversations into different languages, and this facilitates communication between people who speak different languages. Sometimes, relying on machine translation reduces the need to learn other languages,

Third: Electronic communications.

Technology provides electronic communications such as emails, chats, social media sharing, etc. This encourages the usage by the world's most common languages in public communication.

Fourth: Familiar language.

Relying on technology, people who speak the same language can be easily communicated with each other that means the most common language in the region or country will remain the preferred language of communication.

Fifth: Learning new and difficult languages.

Technology can be used to teach and learn new languages, and educational resources available on the Internet and similar applications may help people who want to learn a new language understand it better. Another acceptable influence on the Arabic language is that the dominance of the digital revolution and technological development has increased



recently, and the scope of its influence on the vocabulary of the Arabic language has expanded, and has become present in our daily lives. For example, let's look at home appliances. There is a large spread of words such as: "heater", "toaster", "freezer", "remote", or "receiver", and these words are foreign to the Arabic language from other foreign languages. People began to use and deal with them as if they were words from the core of their original Arabic language, and they rolled off the tongue easily, just like Arabic vocabulary. .(Abdel Razzaq, 2023,p:17)

The following table shows the most nine languages used in the world on electronic communication sites.

R	Languages.	Number of users	Usage activities
١	Easy Chinese.	٧٧.	Social networking - electronic commerce.
٢	Spanish.	٥٥.	Social networking - electronic commerce.
٣	Indonesian.	١٥.	electronic commerce.
٤	Portuguese.	١٤.	Social networking - electronic commerce.
٥	Japanese.	١٢٢.	electronic commerce.
٦	Russian.	١.٩.	Social networking - electronic commerce.
٧	Arabic.	٤٦.	Social networking - electronic commerce.
٨	French.	٣٦.	Social networking - electronic commerce.
٩	German.	٢٨.	electronic commerce.

Table (1): The most widely used languages on electronic communication sites in the world.

And The following figure shows the nine most languages used in the world on electronic communication sites.

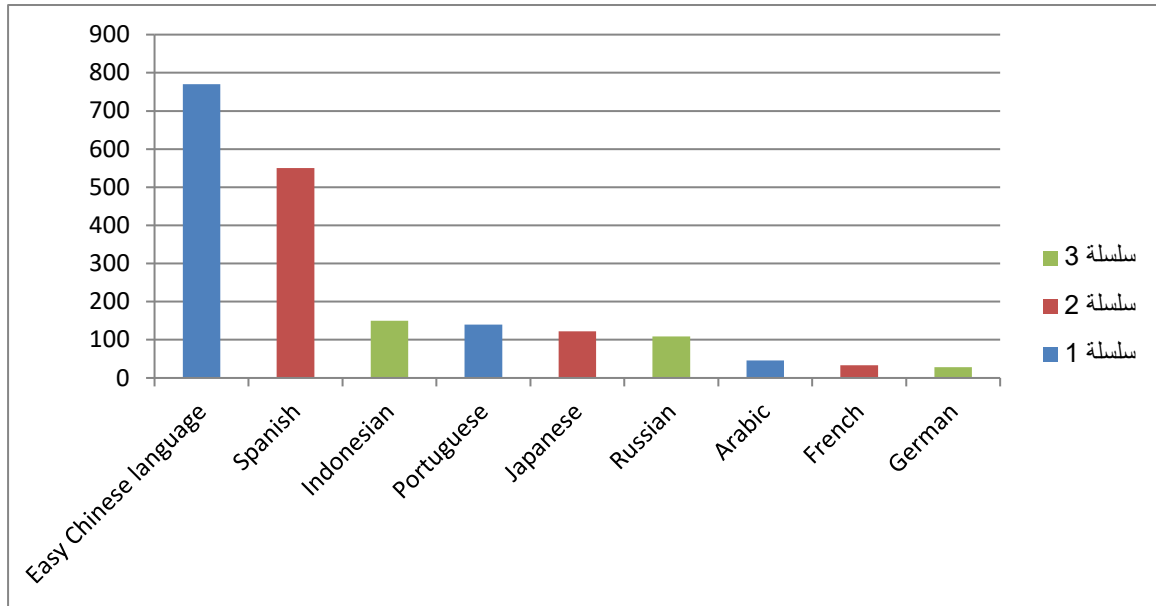


Figure (4): The most commonly used languages on electronic communication sites in the world.

Negative effects of technology on language:

Despite the many positives and benefits that modern language technology offers in people's lives, technology has some negative effects that are reflected on their language directly or indirectly, as follows: .(Razzaq, 2023,p:28)

Mixing the vocabulary and symbols of some languages with each other to keep up with the rapid pace of social communication across different countries and cultures.

Replacing some expressions from a language that is not in common use, and inserting them into active languages in common use among large numbers of people, which distorts the purity of those languages in dealing and understanding in the long term.

Incorporating foreign words into Arabic languages, which lacks their unique grammar, foundations, and vocabulary.

Misuse of some letters and words of the Arabic language among the younger generation. Due to modern technology and social media, the shape of words and their images that are familiar to the eye are distorted and changed into a different, distorted form.

Modern technology has contributed to the spread of languages that are not recognized by UNESCO and have no codified rules.

Modern technology does not help in spreading local languages that are spoken by small numbers of the world's population, by creating applications on the computer and the Internet to promote them. Which ultimately leads to its extinction and loss forever.



Technological factors that affect language development:

There are many technological factors that influence language development, which are: (Harja, 2016, p. 72)

1. Social Media: Social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram have become important tools for language development. It allows individuals to communicate, interact, exchange information and data, and create interaction on common interests.

2. Mobile phones: The demand for smart mobile phones and tablets has led to a great development in languages, as these devices allow humans to communicate effectively from anywhere and at any time. All of this led to the emergence of new forms of language.

3. Artificial Intelligence: This modern technology has contributed to the development of language, as it is used in language processing to achieve communication between humans, which contributes to the emergence and development of new forms of language.

4. Virtual Reality: It is relied upon to support and develop language, by integrating humans into a virtual environment, through which they can acquire linguistic skills, through interaction among themselves.

It can be said that all previous technological factors clearly contributed to the growth and development of the language, as they provided us with modern programs, technologies, and platforms for communication and learning.

How modern techniques and technology are used to maintain the dynamism of languages around the world?

It allows relying on modern techniques and technology to achieve the dynamism and effectiveness of languages, and then protect and preserve them from extinction and disappearance. Especially those languages that are spoken by a very limited number of people around the world, such as local languages in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Technology companies can also issue applications in languages other than the languages distributed globally, to increase people's recognition and learning of them around the world.

Using modern technology to explain the vocabulary and structures of different languages to reduce their bad mixing.

Using modern technology applications in teaching the Arabic language in non-Arabic-speaking Muslim countries. Providing them with modern Arabic dictionaries that are easy to learn without complexity or ambiguity.

Summary of results:

Language is a means of communication between people. Through it, understanding of culture, traditions, and other customs is achieved, social relationships are strengthened, and bonds between people are strengthened. It contributes to social and cultural development.



Language plays a major role in developing relationships between people within one nation, and language unifies the idea of communication, understanding, exchanging ideas, and expressing their feelings. Language also facilitates the process of understanding culture, traditions, and customs that are transmitted across generations in one culture.

Language is used to build strong relationships between generations in the past, present, and future. Using it correctly can contribute to building trust between individuals. Through expression clearly and directly between individuals.

Technology is important in human life, as it brings together different viewpoints and different intellectual orientations on various topics of life, and helps communicate, discuss, and exchange ideas and cultures - developing e-commerce, facilitating methods of buying and selling - distance education and conducting more practical and literary studies and research - saving time and effort. Spent daily.

The impact of modern technology on the development of languages: increasing the exchange of information- Machine translation- Electronic communications- Familiar language- Learning new and difficult languages.

Among the negative effects of technology on the language: Mixing the vocabulary and symbols of some languages with each other to keep up with the fast pace - Replacing some expressions from a language that is not commonly used, and inserting them into active, commonly used languages - Introducing foreign words into Arabic languages, which harms their grammatical vocabulary, origins, and vocabulary - Misuse Some letters and words of the Arabic language among the younger generation - the spread of languages that are not recognized by UNESCO and do not have codified rules.

Technological factors that affect language development: Social Media- Mobile devices- Artificial Intelligence- Virtual Reality.

Recommendations:

Based on the previous results, the following points of recommendations can be made:

Preparing simplified dictionaries for many unpopular languages that are spoken by a small number of people.

It is necessary for technical companies to produce applications and websites in a language that is not widely used, in order to attract large numbers of users around the world.

Preparing and producing dictionaries of the Arabic language and presenting them through websites so that people around the world can learn about it and speak it, especially in Muslim countries that do not speak it.



Educating groups of Arab youth about the importance of separating foreign words and expressions and not integrating them into the vocabulary and grammar of the Arabic language.

Using artificial intelligence applications to translate from different languages to facilitate communication and electronic commerce among the peoples of the world.

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