SMS AND ITS IMPLICATION TO THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Language plays a vital role in communication between two or more individuals. In fact, many claim that language is one of the greatest gifts of God to mankind. English language is widely used in many parts of the world, including the Philippines. In fact, it is considered as our universal language. With the notable advancement in technology, and with the invention of mobile phones, and internet, text language was born with an increasing popularity day by day, affecting the lives of people, their jobs, education, communication, and the writing and speech styles were dramatically affected.

There are varied names applied to Short Message Service (SMS) Others call it as texting language, text speak or text message lingo. There is an increasing concern over the latest development in matter of communication or merely sharing of information with the birth of a heavily abbreviated text messaging language which could bring about serious problems for the English language in the near future or even at present situations. The pieces of evidence to suggest that manifest in saying that text language is giving a detrimental impact upon English language are highly noticeable. Would it be possible that surfacing of text messaging could lead eventually to poor grammar, poor spelling and even the loss of English Language?

While it is true that text language can be an easier way of communicating with one another in an informal environment, abbreviations such as “atm” or instead of at the moment or “u” instead of you “fyi” for “for your information certainly will be practical ones in the hectic lifestyles of the netizens of the 21st century. While many arguments
arise on the context of lazy spelling that penetrates the English language, however, many finds easiness on such simplicity of text construction.

On the other hand, in spite of the issues in and out of the work place already created by the text language, some researchers claim that in reality, one need have little to worry about. In fact, text language or texting like other technologies have created their own style. It also resort to code switching from Filipino to English or vice versa. For instance, “wer na u” for Where are you now? or What is your present location? Or “D2 na me” for I am already here.

With the code switching, Tagalog to English(Taglish) or partly English and partly Tagalog (Engalog) intentional wrong spelling, wrong grammar, wrong punctuation marks, we can assume that English is nearing its death.

In the end, what will be the implication of SMS to the teaching of English as a Second language to our pupils?

References:

The Educators Journal, The World of SMS 2015