INTERNET LINGUISTICS

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Part 1

1. What is one of the main problems the lecturer identifies in researching the area of internet linguistics?

2. Where does the lecturer get his data from?

3. He mentioned his book: *Language and the Internet* for which he had to write a second edition (2005) only four years after its first edition (2001). What is the reason behind this?

Part 2

4. Why is it contentious talk about a 'linguistic revolution'?

5. What percentage of the words in text messages are abbreviations, such as 'C U L8R (see you later)' used?

6. Has the Internet had a significant influence on English grammar?

Part 3

7. What aspect of the language IS affected by the Internet?

8. David Crystal talks about a 'tolerance level' on the internet. What is this?

Part 4

9. In what way does he refer to 'linguistic democracy'?

10. What is the relevance of the 'top-down' and 'bottom-up' approach in relation to the evolution of language?

Part 5

11. What are some of the distinguishing linguistic factors 'blogging'?

Part 6

12. What percentage of speech is used in conversational settings?

13. What is the key which makes a conversation work?

14. The internet, such as email and instant message are not really simultaneous speech. What has been the real breakthrough in this area?

Part 7

15. What is another major difference between c.m.c. and speech?

16. What is the most fundamental feature of the written language? How is it different from the internet language?

17. What is another big difference between the written language and the internet language?

18. State the two controversial points of view on the internet revolution.

Key

1. Collecting data. Communication in electronic form is difficult because people are very reluctant to give data (as it is personal)

2. E-mail, chat rooms, messages in games, instant message, and text message.

3. The first edition did not refer to the phenomena of instant messaging or blogging, which became very common, very fast.

4. If the usual criteria of linguistic revolution is applied, e.g. then it does not seem as if there is in fact a revolution happening in language as a result of the internet, as he arrival of the internet actually has not brought a major effect on individual languages, in terms of usual criteria of language change. The only impact on the English language is a few hundred words, which is very little. However, there is no doubt that the internet has had a major impact on communication and thus language.

5. 6% to 10%, varying depending on the studies.

6. There are certain tendencies such as shorter sentences, and more use of grammatical constrictions, but no real impact on grammatical construction.

7. Punctuation. People do not have the same standards for punctuation in e-mails as they have in other areas of written language

8. He is referring to the acceptance of language style that would not be accepted in essays, books etc. e.g . non-use of capital case, non-traditional punctuation system, spelling errors, etc. are tolerated and perfectly normal in the internet.

9. He means that in the past control of the language and how it developed was in the hands of a few people – these few people decided on the conventions of spelling and grammar etc. Now with the Internet millions of people can have an impact on the language.

10. Until the internet, decisions about language were made by a select few, then by publishing companies, and imposed from above ('top down'). Now with the Internet, in the past five or even ten years, the users are influencing what is commonly acceptable ('bottom up').

11. Unlike other publication, no copy editor can change your writing. You write as you want to write, so that the language is very spontaneous sort of grammatical construction that previously you would only have encountered in informal speech.

12. 95%.

13. Simultaneous feedback accompanying the dialogue.

14. Video conferencing like iChat.

15. You can interact with multiple (twenty) conversations going on at a time on the internet, but this is inappropriate behaviour in regular speech.

16. The most fundamental feature of written language is that it is permanent. It is not constantly changing. However, internet language can be altered often and refreshed a few minutes later on the internet.

17. You do not have to have hypertext link, such as cross-reference, in the written language while internet texts often have hypertexts link to send you to some other web.

18. a)The internet has not been linguistically revolutionary at all because there is no impact on individual languages so far.

b)The internet is an introduction of a new electric medium of communication.