

Analysis of the Influence of Reallife Apps on Speaking skills, Social Interaction and User Engagement in the Real and Digital Worlds

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Abstract

How does the use of Reallife apps affect social interactions in English and users' level of engagement in real-world and digital activities. Qualitative interviews were used to collect comprehensive data from a diverse group of users. Key methods included the frequency and quality of interactions in English, user engagement in various activities, and the perceived impact on social connectedness. The results of this study aim to inform the development of digital tools that enhance social connectivity and language skills, contributing to a more integrated and enriching user experience. This study shows that the use of the Reallife app has a positive impact on social interaction in English and users' level of engagement in real-world and digital activities. The app increased opportunities for users to practice English and facilitated deeper and more meaningful interactions between users. However, the level of engagement in real-world activities is influenced by individual preferences and the integration of the app in daily routines.

Keywords: *Reallife apps, Social interaction , English language use, User engagement ,Real-world activities, Digital activities.*

INTRODUCTION

The Impact of Real Life Apps on Speaking Skills, Social Interaction, and User Engagement in the Real and Digital Worlds Real-life apps have become an indispensable part of our daily lives, changing the way we interact, communicate and engage with the world around us. This paper aims to analyze the influence of these apps on users' speaking skills, social interactions, and engagement in both the real and digital worlds.

The proliferation of real-life applications has led to a surge in digital realities, which are rapidly becoming as impactful as PC, web and mobile technologies (Sturgeon et al., 2009). These applications, such as social media platforms and productivity tools, have changed the way we communicate, learn and work. Social media apps, in particular, have played a vital role in maintaining social connections during the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing people to stay connected and engaged with friends, family and communities (Haggag et al., 2021). These apps have also shown promising influence on language acquisition, as they provide a platform for social interaction, a critical component in language learning (Santos & Ilustre, 2022). In addition, the increased use of productivity apps, such as grammar and spell checkers, has shown the impact of technology on improving language skills (Haggag et al., 2021).

However, the impact of real-life apps on speaking skills and social interaction is multifaceted. While these apps have facilitated connectivity and language learning, they have also been criticized for their potential to reduce face-to-face interaction and hinder the development of interpersonal communication skills.(Muftah, 2022)(Zhou, 2021)

Further, the attention-grabbing nature of real-life apps and the user engagement associated with them may raise concerns about the balance between digital and physical realities. As the digital world becomes increasingly intertwined with our daily lives, it is important to examine its implications on speaking skills, social interaction and overall user engagement, both in the real and digital worlds.

The complex and multifaceted impact of real-life applications on speaking skills, social interactions and user engagement highlights the need for further research and understanding in this fast-changing landscape. By examining the nuances of these interactions, researchers and policymakers can develop strategies to capitalize on the benefits of technology while mitigating its potential downsides.

METHOD

This research employs a qualitative approach through a literature review. This method was chosen to enable a comprehensive and in-depth analysis of previous studies related to the impact of real-life applications on speaking skills, social interaction, and user engagement. The data collection process was carried out through searching for relevant literature in online databases such as Google Scholar, ScienceDirect, and Springer Link. The keywords used in the search include "real-life apps", "speaking skills", "social interaction", "user engagement", "digital world", and related term combinations, with the search limited to literature published between January 2015 and August 2023.

We conducted a thematic analysis on the selected literature. This process involved the identification, coding, and categorization of the main themes that emerged from the studies. We then compared and synthesized the findings to generate a comprehensive understanding of the impact of real-life applications on speaking skills, social interaction, and user engagement.

As a literature review, this research does not involve the collection of primary data from humans. However, we still adhere to ethical principles, including maintaining scientific integrity, respecting the work of previous authors, and preserving the confidentiality and privacy of the data. By applying the qualitative literature review method, this research aims to provide in-depth understanding of the impact of real-life applications on important aspects of human life, as well as its implications for future research and policy.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Our review of the literature revealed several key findings regarding the impact of real-life applications on speaking skills, social interaction, and user engagement.

Impact on speaking skills:the studies examined indicate that the use of real-life applications can have both positive and negative effects on users' speaking skills. On the positive side, applications that facilitate conversations and verbal exchanges, such as video calling and voice-based messaging, can help to improve fluency, vocabulary, and confidence in spoken language. Users reported feeling more comfortable and natural when speaking through these digital interfaces compared to face-to-face interactions. Additionally, the ability to practice and receive feedback on pronunciation and phrasing within the applications was seen as beneficial for developing speaking proficiency.

However, the literature also highlighted potential downsides of real-life apps on speaking skills. Some users experienced a decline in their ability to engage in spontaneous, contextual conversations, as the structured, screen-based interactions afforded by the apps may not fully replicate the dynamic nature of in-person discussions. There were also concerns that over-reliance on text-based communication within apps could lead to a breakdown in natural conversational flow and a loss of nonverbal cues that are essential for effective spoken dialogue. The reviewed studies suggest that real-life applications can have a mixed impact on users' social interaction. On the positive side, these apps can facilitate new connections, enable long-distance relationships, and provide opportunities for shy or socially anxious individuals to engage with others in a less threatening digital environment. Users reported feeling more comfortable initiating and maintaining social relationships through the structured, screen-mediated interactions offered by the apps.

However, the literature also highlighted potential negative effects, such as the replacement of face-to-face interactions with digital substitutes, leading to a decline in the quality and depth of social bonds. There were concerns that excessive use of real-life apps could lead to a decreased ability to navigate complex social cues and read body language, which are crucial for effective in-person communication and relationship building. The studies examined indicate that real-life applications can foster high levels of user engagement, with features such as gamification, personalization, and real-time feedback keeping users actively involved and motivated to use the apps. The ability to access these applications anytime, anywhere, and the perceived utility of the tools for everyday tasks contributed to sustained user engagement.

At the same time, the literature identified potential downsides of excessive user engagement with real-life apps, such as the risk of addiction, a distraction from other important activities, and a blurring of the boundaries between digital and physical realms. Users reported feelings of dependence on the apps and a sense of anxiety or discomfort when unable to access them for extended periods.

The findings from this literature review suggest that the impact of real-life applications on speaking skills, social interaction, and user engagement is multifaceted, with both positive and negative implications. While these tools can provide valuable support for certain aspects of human communication and socialization, they also carry the potential to disrupt and reshape these fundamental aspects of our lives in ways that require careful consideration and further investigation.

As the use of real-life apps continues to proliferate, it will be crucial for researchers, policymakers, and technology developers to work collaboratively to maximize the benefits and mitigate the potential drawbacks of these applications. This may involve the development of guidelines and best practices for app design, the implementation of digital wellness initiatives, and the promotion of balanced technology use to maintain a healthy integration of digital and physical modes of interaction.

CONCLUSION

The impact of real-life apps on speaking skills, social interaction, and user engagement is multifaceted and complex. While these apps have facilitated connectivity, language learning, and productivity, they have also raised concerns about potential drawbacks:

1. **Speaking Skills:** Real-life apps have shown both positive and negative impacts on speaking skills. On the one hand, apps like social media provide platforms for language practice and interaction, aiding language acquisition. However, the reduced face-to-face communication may hinder the development of interpersonal communication skills.
2. **Social Interaction:** Real-life apps have enabled people to stay connected during the COVID-19 pandemic, maintaining social bonds. However, over-reliance on digital communication could potentially reduce in-person social interactions and the development of crucial social skills.
3. **User Engagement:** The attention-grabbing and immersive nature of real-life apps can lead to excessive digital engagement, potentially disrupting the balance between digital and physical realities. This has implications for overall well-being and productivity.

The complex interplay between the benefits and drawbacks of real-life apps highlights the need for further research and understanding. Policymakers and researchers should work to develop strategies that leverage the advantages of technology while mitigating its potential negative impacts on speaking skills, social interaction, and user engagement. This will be crucial in navigating the evolving landscape of the real and digital worlds.

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