



FACULTY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE

MASTER THESIS: THE INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

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TABLE OF CONTENT

| | |
|--|-----------|
| List of figures..... | 8 |
| 1. Chapter one- Introduction..... | 9 |
| 1.1. Introducing Social Media in English teaching | 9 |
| 1.2. Background of the study..... | 10 |
| 1.3. The importance of the study..... | 11 |
| 1.4. Aims and objectives of the study..... | 11 |
| 1.5. Research questions | 12 |
| 1.6. Description of the thesis organization..... | 12 |
| 2. Chapter two- Literature review..... | 14 |
| 2.1 Overview | 14 |
| 2.2 The ways of using Social Media in English teaching..... | 14 |
| 2.2.1 Teaching English thorough twitter..... | 14 |
| 2.2.2 Facebook as an English teaching tool..... | 15 |
| 2.2.3 Continuing professional development thorough Social Media..... | 16 |
| 2.3. Benefits of using Social Media in English teaching..... | 17 |
| 2.4. Negative sides of using Social Media in English teaching..... | 21 |
| 3. Chapter three- Research design and methodology..... | 22 |
| 3.1 Overview..... | 22 |
| 3.2 Participants..... | 23 |
| 3.3 Methods and instruments of the research..... | 25 |
| 3.3.1 Written questionnaires | 25 |
| 3.4. Procedures | 26 |
| 3.5 Data analysis..... | 28 |
| 3.5.1 Written questionnaire data analysis..... | 28 |
| 3.6. Quality of the research..... | 29 |
| 3.6.1 Reliability and validity of the research..... | 29 |
| 3.7 Limitations of the research..... | 29 |
| 4. Chapter four- Results of the research..... | 32 |
| 4.1 Overview | 32 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| 4.2 Statistical results..... | 33 |
| 4.3 Comparative results..... | 48 |
| 4.4 Conclusion results..... | 50 |
| 5. Chapter five- Conclusion..... | 52 |
| 5.1 Conclusion..... | 52 |
| 5.2 Conclusion on research findings..... | 54 |
| 5.3 Recommendations..... | 55 |
| References | 56 |
| Appendix | 57 |

ABSTRACT

Social Media is a social networking that helps their members to get and give the information in the fastest way. It offers many opportunities like creating of communities or groups where the information can be exchanged. Nowadays the Social Media is considered to be the most used media by all the people worldwide. They are not using it just to do a simple communication but they are also using it to improve their careers by getting the most diverse information. I know that the Social Media is a media which is mostly used by the people of my country too; I noticed also that some English teachers are practicing it with their students in order to bring new and interesting approaches in English teaching in Kosovo. With the help of Social Media English teachers in Kosovo also are attending many courses online and this is helping them to get in touch with the techniques and methods that the teachers of English language all over the world are using to have an interesting and effective teaching. Social Media is considered to be a great source of materials which teachers may adapt in their English classes. Teaching with Social Media is a modern way of teaching that is one of the most preferred learning styles by the teenagers. Social Media has great features which may be very useful for the English teachers. If they would include it in the process of English teaching, the teaching and learning of English would be easier, colorful, interesting, and unlimited. These are the main reasons which awoke up my curiosity, I think that the English teachers in should always shape their ways of teaching English, they should always be aware on how is English taught by the English teacher worldwide and they should have the opportunity to adapt the most appropriate methods and techniques which are successful. The use of Social Media and the benefits that this offers could help them to stay fresh and professional, productive and effective, so the teaching of English would be never bored.

CHAPTER V - CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Conclusion

As mentioned in the beginning, the main goal of this research was promoting of the use of Social Media as an English modern teaching tool from the Kosovo English teachers. Another important part of this study was highlighting opinion of English teachers in Ferizaj and Gjilan high schools. It is concluded that the aims and objectives of this study are mainly achieved and this research paper offers to the reader satisfactory information about benefits and advantages that Social Media offers for English teachers.

During the investigation the researcher always kept in mind the fourth research question which she had to answer and considers that this research successfully provides clear responses to questions set out in the first chapter.

Research question one: What is the teacher's opinion about the importance of using Social Media in English teaching? Considering the fact that the nature of this research paper was investigative not experimental, the researcher thinks that this master dissertation has offered enough information regarding to this research question. Most of the information presented on this master thesis is collected from the literature which presents teachers' ideas and practices on using of social networks in English teaching. Importance of using Social Media in English teaching is so evident. Tracey Rains an English teacher states: *"I have begun incorporating a blog and Twitter into my instruction in a 9th grade Honors English class this year, and I have found it to be relevant.. The response from my students has been overwhelming. We are only three weeks into the year and already I can see an increase in student engagement in classroom activities"*.

It may have a big role in enriching ways of teaching English and the English teachers should be aware of it. Based on the calculated results the researcher found that English teachers in Ferizaj and Gjilan high schools give a big importance the use of Social Media with their students also. The participants mostly had a positive opinion about this issue even if they're practicing or not Social Media as an effective tool of English teaching-learning.

Research question two: Is the Social Media a modern tool used by the English teachers to enhance their teaching? This question was paved in a wider context. Firstly, the researcher needed to consult the literature part, done researchers and investigations by the other researchers to find out

if Social Media has become a part of the last modern strategies-tools of teaching English in Kosovo. And, the answer is positive considering the fact that the number of English teachers that are practicing it is very large. English teachers can enhance the process of teaching by incorporating the Social Media tools in the classroom. Keeping the students engaged and motivated, including a variety of materials and offering to the students an unlimited space for learning, are crucial factors which may directly affect enhancing of learning and teaching.

A positive attitude derived also from the results of questionnaires completed in Ferizaj and Gjilan high schools. Living in a Social Media era means acting conform it, always trying to adapt its most features that it offers and if they be well managed they may be very helpful for the English teachers, not only in Kosovo but all around.

Research question three: Do the Social Media help the English teachers improve professionally?

The researcher thinks that this study has brought much information on this question also. English teachers who were participants of this study highlighted their attitude on this issue very clearly. They stated on their answers that Social Media can help on improving the career. The researcher thinks that Social Media help English teachers to improve their career by offering many opportunities to attend courses and trainings online, it also offers a great source of materials, great lesson plans, and interesting professional practices posted by great English teachers, schools and councils of English language worldwide. These resources are easy accessible and English teachers may adapt them practically in their teaching benefiting this way the methods and techniques of English teaching. Social Media offers enough space for English teachers of our schools too. They may share their experiences with the English teachers worldwide, it's a great opportunity to publish the teachers' work in the fastest way, so it's the greatest place where English teachers may present to the world their successful tricks of English teaching and also get the best practices by the others. So, being always up to date helps a teacher to stay always fresh with new ideas, plans and strategies offering this way a not bored and a very colorful and interesting teaching.

Research question four: Do the Social Media negatively affect the process of teaching?

Based on the read literature and research findings it can be concluded that even if the balance between advantages and disadvantages weighing more to benefits, Social Media may harm English teaching if it is not well managed by the English teachers. As it was mentioned above, teachers who may use Social Media in the classroom are exposed to some risks like cyber bullying by students or the parents may misuse the conversation for degrading the reputation of teachers. Some other

problems may be that language can negatively be affected by the use of Social Media in the classroom. Parts of the language that may be damaged more in this process are grammar part and using of formal language. The students tend to use slangs and non-formal language forgetting this way the grammar rules, when they communicate in an informal way like in this case when using Social Media. But, the responsibility remains to all English teachers. In the process of integrating the Social Media in English teaching they should always be careful. They should put strictly rules to the groups they create by making clear to students what they are and are not allowed to do. They also should check their used language in order not to misuse it.

5.1.1 Conclusion on research findings

The questionnaire of this study was compiled in full compliance with the requests of this master thesis. It brought enough data on the issue the thesis wanted to highlight. A deep comparison of the results of two cities brought to the reader a clear view of the real situation from two regions. English teachers from Gjilan high school seemed to be one step further regarding the use of Social Media in English teaching. Their answers accurately reflected their real positive attitude on using Social Media in English teaching. On the other side the results from Ferizaj high schools are not so positive. The reason could be the fact that this difference is because the Gjilan English teachers are more exposed to new teaching trends while the Ferizaj English teachers seemed not to be ready to explore new techniques or strategies which may contribute on having productive teaching.

From a deep analyze of research it can be concluded that English teachers from two regions have a positive attitude about the use of Social Media in English teaching. This records a good mark for the researcher because her attitude since the beginning was pro integrating Social Media as an English teaching tool all around in Kosovo.

It is believed that the results which came from a study of this nature may awake the curiosity of all English teachers in Kosovo. The educational system in Kosovo gives English teachers additional space and enough competencies to manipulate with different materials out of the curricula, and not only had to be focused on the textbooks that ministry of education offers. Social Media has great features that may help every English teacher to expand his/her knowledge and experience by gaining new information on how English is taught all over the world. Reaching of great materials and having the opportunity to see and get the best practices of English teaching

by the many English teachers, and experts worldwide is helpful not only for Kosovo English teachers, but also it helps for preparing a great society by enriching the students with great abilities of knowing English language so they will be prepared to face the English speaking environments without any fear or hesitation.

5.2 Recommendations

From all the information collected in all stages of this research paper, always holding the derived results from this study, the researcher has some recommendations.

I. For Ministry of Education in Kosovo

- to create an enabling environment for English teachers who want to share their experiences for example to organize any conference where English teachers may present their works and best practices done by using Social Media as a modern English teaching tool

II. For English teachers in Kosovo

- Try to explore your students preferred learning styles. If you find out how they learn you will find out how to teach them
- try to incorporate Social Media on your teaching, this will be a new teaching or learning style
- if include Social Media on your teaching, try to manage by putting clear limits on what students are allowed to do and not allowed to.
- encourage your students to share their ideas and knowledge on Social Media by offering them a familiar and non-pressure environment where everyone can express what he/she knows or wants to know without feeling judged or offended.

III. For English learners-students

- not to use slang or short words while teachers ask you to complete tasks while use Social Media
- it is required you respect grammatical rules while you post on tasks posted by teachers on Social Media
- respect your teacher and your classmates, also the nature of postings, teaching and learning thorough Social Media doesn't mean being informal
- be careful when "playing" with language. It may result with bad assessment by your teacher

IV. For state and local media

- to broadcast educational programs on how is English language taught by the English teachers in Kosovo
- to create space for successful English teachers who may want to present how Social Media can be a great English teaching tool.

V. *For new researchers on this field*

- to start or continue research studies on this fields.
- not to be focused only in English teaching; expand your research studies on English learning too.