

# **The Effect of Spell-check Feature on our English Writing**

## Table Of content:

<b>Abstract</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Literature Review</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Significance of Research</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Research Question</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Methodology</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Ethical Considerations</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Limitations of the study</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Appendix</b>	<b>7</b>

## Abstract

Considering the fact that the Spell-check feature is implemented in almost every computer application, it has made an impact on our English writing, either in an advantageous way by checking and minimizing our spelling mistakes or a disadvantageous way by making our spelling skill degrades. In this research, I will be investigating this feature's effects on our English writing and evaluate if using this feature is more positive than negative or the other way around. The survey is my method to gather data on how much people are dependent on using this feature. We will also see the spell-check advantages and disadvantages.

## Introduction

Computers have changed our lives rapidly in last fifty years. With computers, the creativity of the human mind has excelled. The applications that made our lives easier than before have appeared. One of those applications or features that were implemented is the spell-

check feature. Nowadays, every typing application has this feature. For example, Microsoft Word and Apple's Pages Applications have this feature implemented. Most people are more reliant on this feature as makes their papers and letters faster to be typed and presented. On the other hand, it sure makes a bad impact on the spelling skill. So, is this feature more positive or negative?

## **Literature Review**

In an article titled "10 Benefits of a Spelling and Grammar Checker" written by Tom Harel in 2010 stated 10 benefits of using this feature. He said in one of the benefits, "Being able to produce papers without any errors is another great advantage of using a spelling and grammar checker. No longer do people have to worry about rather or not they spelled things correctly or used the right grammar. With a spelling and grammar checker, they can rest assured that their work will be correct." He also pointed on people with learning problems or dyslexia that their paper assignments will be much easier as this feature will take care of their spelling and grammar mistakes.

Another article named "Has Spell-Check ruined us" authored by Thessaly La Force in 2009, he presented a research results of the 20 most common mistakes in student's papers. The research was prepared by Andrea Lunsford and her Partner Robert Connors in 1988 and was repeated by her and her niece Karen J. Lunsford in 2008. The two researches have compared the 20 most common mistakes of students over the course of 20 years. The research in 1988 shows that "Wrong Word" error was the 4<sup>th</sup> most common mistake whereas it jumped to the 1<sup>st</sup> most common mistake in the research of 2008. "Spelling" error was not even in the top 20 most common mistakes in 1988 where it ranked as the 5<sup>th</sup> most common mistake in 2008. La Force adds, "The first spell-checkers were developed in the nineteen-seventies, but I'm guessing that spell-check became ubiquitous in the nineties, with the dominance of Microsoft Word and more reasonably priced personal computers. These days, there is no escaping spell-check or predictive text. And other than a college classroom exam, I can think of few instances where spelling words correctly without the aid of spell-check is even necessary. Should we be worried?"

## **Significance of Research**

The significance of the research is very clear as we need to see how much this feature has changed our writing either positively or negatively. We also need to be aware of the impacts of such application as our intellectual skills may degrade by depending entirely on computer applications.

## **Research Question**

Has the spell-check feature affected our writing? And if so, has it affected our writing in a positive or a negative way?

## **Methodology**

I will be using the survey as my research method. I will post the survey on my Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts. The survey targets the people using the Microsoft Word and Apple's Pages Application mainly. I will post the results on all of my accounts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter too.

## **Ethical Consideration**

The people who are going to participate in the survey will not be harmed. They will participate at their comfort and they will be behind their screens. The survey is going to target ordinary people who are using Microsoft Word and Apple's Pages Application. They will be informed that it's for research purposes and it will be completely safe for both sides.

## **Limitations of study**

We can say that very few researchers have discussed this issue; most of them actually have pointed the benefits of the spell-check feature. The case is monitored by linguists but very little information on this case is provided.

## **Expected results**

I expect to disclose if this feature is advantageous and disadvantageous depending on the utilization of it. I also expect to discover some information concerning this case and if it's more positive or negative to our writing.

## **Conclusion**

Our life is changing very fast by the computer applications. Some of the changes are beneficial and some are not. The question is how are we going to keep our skills and develop them since computers are performing even the most complicated skills so well? Are next generations going to lack writing skills or will the world wake up and try to make the basic human skills in more concern? I think we will see a big debate in the next 10 years.

## References

- Harel, Tom. “10 Benefits Of a Spelling and Grammar Checker”  
<http://ezinearticles.com>. N. p., 03 Oct 2010. Web. 02 Apr 2014
- La Force, Thessaly. “Has Spell-check ruined us?”  
<http://www.newyorker.com>. N. p., 04 Sep 2009. Web. 02 Apr 2014

# Appendix

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3XM5S58>

## 1. What is your gender?

- Female
- Male

## 2. How old are you?

- 10-17
- 18-25

- 26-35
- +35

**3. Which Typing Application do you use?**

- Microsoft Word
- Apple Pages

**4. Are you fully dependent on spell-check feature?**

- Yes
- sometimes
- No

**5. How often do you write without needing this feature?**

- Extremely often
- Very often
- Moderately often
- slightly often
- not at all often

**6. Do you find spell-check feature beneficial?**

- Yes
- Neutral
- No

**7. Is spell-check feature going to degrade our writing skill?**

- Yes
- Neutral
- No

**8. How do you see our English writing Skills in 10 years?**

- they will degrade
- nothing will change
- they will improve

**9. Are we going to go back to learn how to spell English in Future?**

- Yes

- No
- Not sure