Name   **Ondrej Bursik**
Title: The Impact of ICT on the English Language

Mr. Bursk focuses his study on the impact of ICT on the contemporary English language especially among the younger generation. It attempts to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of communication via computers and electronic communication. Mr. Bursik then claims that the result of his research has shown that the English language has been enhanced through the use of computer mediated communication rather then harmed because the communicative essentials of the language are still intact.

The theoretical chapter discusses the history of the English language and its development through IT and the internet. He then gives a brief view of the impact of ICT on modern communication through email, IM and cell phones. The next section discusses the Impact of ICT on the English Language focusing on "leet speak" and acronyms used mostly among the younger generation. The research section sets out to prove that the use of ICT has in no way harmed the English language but according to Mr. Bursik's results enhanced it. In the final section he offers some thoughts for the future of computers and its effect on the English language.

The problems with this particular Bachelor's Thesis begin on P.5 in the abstract with the first sentence: "This B.A. Thesis is trying to present in what ways is the English language affected by information and communication technologies as they entered our everyday lives." Continuing with: "The thesis explains why is that and furthermore gives an overview of advantages and drawbacks of….."

The problems continue in the introduction(p.6)with the second sentence: " A computer technology is a great example with all the new parts, principles and possibilities," along with the following sentence: "However, computers are influencing the language in many various aspects, not only in vocabulary." Further down on the same page: "This marvel of modern era…." "This is backed up by a research." "The question arises, why is the English language the one of importance for this work?" "It is possible to say that a few years ago, a computer became a prominent instrument of everyday work, brilliant source of entertainment…." These are only a few examples of the mistakes in   language use which occur throughout the thesis.

These examples on the first and second page of the thesis beginning in the abstract and continuing throughout the introduction and into the main body of the thesis give the reader an indication of the low level of English the B.A. is presented in. Poor demonstration of basic grammatical structures, L1 to L2 negative transfer, inappropriate vocabulary as well as often at times incomprehensible sentences make it necessary for the reader, even a native speaker such as myself, to read sentences two or three times in order to begin to understand what Mr. Bursik is trying to express and as a result of this effort having to focus more attention on the technicalities of the language and less attention on the context. In short, Mr. Bursik has demonstrated insufficient knowledge and proficiency in the English language necessary for a B.A. thesis which should actually demonstrate an advanced level proficiency in the English language.

Judging by the level of the language in which the thesis is presented in, it appears to the reader that the final product was written in less than a week offering little care to the professional presentation of the language in the thesis. If by chance this is so, then I feel that Mr. Bursik has not only shown disrespect to the English language but also to the person required to read the work and evaluate it.

In the research section of the B.A. Mr. Bursik asked ten respondents and one expert for his questionaire. For such a contemporary topic among younger computer-savvy individuals,
I am curious as to why Mr. Bursik was not able to gather more non-native speaker respondents for the questionnaire to give his claim to his results greater validity. I also question if the opinion of one expert is enough for a comparable focus group. I would think that a group of at least five or six experts would be more appropriate for the purpose of forming a consensus opinion. I also would have liked to have seen a copy of the questionnaire but since is no appendix this was not possible.

I also have some personal disagreements about some of the focus of the subject matter. Mr. Bursik claims that "leet speak" is most widely used among "hackers and gamers." Since hackers and gamers(mostly boys)make up only a minority of population, I think that the section on acronyms should have been given a greater focus than Leet Speak since it applies more directly to the mass use of the English language and is more widely used among the general populace.

In section 3.2.Impact of ICT on Communication, I think Mr. Bursik could have included a few examples of particular texts especially when referring to email communication on p. 15-16 as well as IM on p. 17 to give it a more direct focus towards the English language rather than simply universal principles which could be applied to any language and in any developed country with ICT access.

Overall, the topic of the thesis has great potential since it does apply to the younger computer-savvy generation and could have been much more interesting(and easier to read) but because Mr. Bursik did not put the necessary care into the presentation of the final product, I have no choice but to recommend a four(4)to the commission.

Date: 21, August, 2011   Craig Morgan M.A.
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