Folayemi Akinbolaji

Introduction to Language and Technology

The Evolution of Technology

*I almost wish I was born before the era when digital technology would overrule society*. *Technology crepe into my life almost like a plague in that a Dian people really knew what it was until everyone else wanted to know “the latest and greatest.” Before I knew it, it was widespread and could no longer be stopped. As I grew older I slowly learned to conform to technology. What I thought I would never like or use, I now own and sometimes addicted to. But I realize what my limits are, if only people could do the same and not idolize technology so much. I truly wonder what the next ten years of technology will involve. I guess I have to wait and see.*

I knew I loved to read at the age of four years old. My memories of my days at preschool were a blur but one thing I remembered was during our free time, I chose to read while kids chose to play around. I wasn’t a proficient reader but I knew words here and there all thanks to my parents, most especially my dad who liked to teach me how to read using the newspaper. My dad was an avid reader of the newspaper of course and that’s where I learned most of my first words. As a child I was never the type to play with dolls or play dress up, what I appreciated the most was a good book.

Just as my father taught me how to read a newspaper he also challenged me to write down words from the newspaper. My father is very big on education so it only made sense to teach me the tools that I would use towards my future. Beginning kindergarten made the process of learning to read and write easier. Other than school, I mostly read at home and I love to read books that were series such as the Lizzie McGuire series and the Scooby-doo series those were some of my all time favorite books as a kid. At home I could read for hours to the point that I may sometimes miss dinner thereby being forced to stop reading just so I can eat. At school reading was mandatory so I didn’t mind it compared to my classmates but at home I think I have more time to myself to reflect as I read and to imagine the scenes in my head. As far as writing goes I mostly wrote when it involved my feelings. At one time during my childhood I kept a journal where I wrote down my feelings every day but it kept getting broken into so I quit writing in a sense. Not that I don’t appreciate writing but the only time I truly wrote was when it was mandatory; when a class assignment was given. Although I think I write best when I’m under pressure. My favorite aspect about writing is the editing portion because I always believed that I was a good editor however now that I’m taking professional editing and revising I’ve learned there’s lots more to just editing grammar and punctuation. My parents loved when I read my books because it kept me busy and they knew it was something productive rather than doing nothing at all. They didn't have to encourage me because they knew it was something I thoroughly enjoyed.

My first ever technological device was an mp3 player. I practically had to beg for it as all my other classmates were using the latest gadgets which was the iPod. The mp3 player was the best they could do as the iPod was just a bit too expensive. And I appreciated it because at the age of ten I was riding the train to school and because of the noise I was easily distracted when reading so therefore music was the next best thing to entertainment. Technology grew to be such a big trend that Leap Frog became the “it” technological tool to teach children how to read but at that point I did not need it. Other than my mp3 player, television was allowed following three conditions: in the morning while getting ready for school, when all homework was completed and double checked by my father and on weekends. I believe music is essential to life and as I grew older I've learned to appreciate it more. As a kid, there was all the music I could listen to during my train ride going to school as well as coming back from school; bobbing my head, tapping my feet to the beat, even singing out loud uncontrollably sometimes. And on Sundays there was church music, solemn, peaceful, and uplifting.

Because I convinced my parents to get me an mp3 player it also prompted me to learn how to sync music from the computer into this ridiculously small device. And I always wondered, “how does it work?” But that's the beauty of technology isn't it? As technology grew into an all time high, it became much easier to learn to do the little things. By no means am I “tech savvy” as there are things I can do on my cell phone that I am still not aware of. My knowledge of technology and how to use it came about through friends in school. Learning how to use technology was not taught in school, it was something I had to teach myself and till this day I am still learning.

I don’t make technology a priority in my life however, I keep it around because it is essential to life because it is utilized in an abundance of ways. Of all the technological devices introduced I cannot stand the Nook. There is nothing better than holding a good book in your hand and wrestling the pages through your finger tips. I think the Nook is a cop out and because it is a technological advancement, it is easy for everyone to grasp towards it. Toss had been evident in the number of Barnes and Noble stores that have closed down around the city and most notorious is the Barnes and Noble store dedicated to textbooks for college students was the first to go. I look at technology as “the latest is the greatest” because the newest technological device is always sought after. Take Apple versus Samsung, you're either #teamIphone or #teamgalaxy as they are depicted as hash tags on social media. The only social media account I own is Facebook because I don’t see the point in having multiple social media accounts. I think people become to strapped up in it and self absorbed about their appearances on these sites. Even if people don't mean to, they still conform to society's idealistic appearances on social media which I want no part of.

The only two technological tools I need to use to ensure my future is a computer/tablet and my mobile device. I can do an abundance of things with either of them, I don't need multiple gadgets that I eventually won't be able to keep up with. I know we live in the age of technology but I refuse to let technology define me. Writing was once considered an invention which could take society to new heights but all people seem to know how to do is write on a technological device. Times have drastically changed and I believe people have become less inclined to be social with one another and to use the knowledge they were taught or are currently being taught in their education.