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Growing Up with Technology

As technology changes throughout the years, I have grown to adapt with the change. I’ve adapted with the change without even thinking about it. From writing papers in notebooks to typing up papers on a computer, the change has been significant. We, as a society, strive to find the easiest path in completing a task.

My relationship with language and technology has changed through the different interactions I have had with it. Technology has influenced me with orality and literacy from the way I speak to what I read. Some examples can be talking on phone to reading articles online. Certain video games require a different set of communicative skills. When it comes to competitive Pokémon, you’re relying more on your literacy skills. You’re not orally communicating with anyone. You’ve put together your team of six Pokémon through research. You need to put together each individual move sets and through reading what everything does you begin to put the pieces together. Some other video games are more oriented on orality. Call of Duty, for example, is more reliant on spoken language. Talking to your teammates for cues about the apposing side. It’s less about reading and studying and more about listening and communicating through spoken language.

I’ve been using digital technology as far back as I can remember. The earliest memory can probably be watching kids shows on the television when I was a child. I remember waking up early on the weekends and watching Teletubbies and Arthur. Digital technologies were also present in my education. The first memory I have of technology in my education is in elementary school. We were allowed to “create” our own websites using information we gathered for a certain topic. It was the early 2000s and the websites weren’t anything spectacular. There weren’t any “hamburger menus” to click one to enter a different page or any other fancy page layouts. We also practiced how to type and search for information. This seems to be where technology has influenced me the most with literacy and orality and my education.

My experience with digital technology is different from that with analog technology in that I didn’t have much interaction with analog technology. As far as I can remember, my first interaction with analog technology was possibly a watch. I never really owned a digital watch, until I started running competitively through high school into college. I couldn’t use an analog watch as efficiently to time and pace myself. I needed to obtain information at a more productive and timely manner than normal.

Over the years, my parents and friends have been the biggest influences I have had regarding the use of technology. Game consoles were and remains one of the popular gadgets growing up. I first became exposed to the gaming world through friends who used to play online games. Later, I got exposed to gaming consoles, which is one of the gadgets I mostly use until this day to help me stay in contact with some friends.

Although my main use of technology is playing video games with friends, I am open and reliant on the other uses of technology. My parents have always been technology savvy and have incorporated technology into our daily lives. For instance, we use Alexa to set up reminders or look up food recipes. This has helped me become more open on how I use technology to help me complete tasks such as cooking or setting up reminders for assignment deadlines. Additionally, I have access to most academic readings with the use of digital technology, which allows me to read wherever I go without having to carry heavy books all the time.

One of the benefits of digital technologies is that it not only makes books accessible but that it also makes writing easier. For instance, I can write from anywhere (i.e. my phone, laptop, at home, and while commuting). I also use it to for grammar and spelling check on my papers. Digital technology can work against writing and reading at times. No one really uses books these days since digital technology allows various books to be accessible in one single device.

Digital technology sometimes works against writing in that it can make people rely on it while writing. I know this is true for myself. As I previously mentioned, I use it for grammar and spelling check on my papers. I also let auto correct help draft texts to my friends and family. We must be mindful on how we are becoming reliant on technology to help us write. In *Technopoly,* it is mentioned how Freud goes on about the advances in technology and what was undone by these advances (Postman, 6). We must be wary of it because there are consequences. We lose skills like penmanship and like I mentioned earlier, how to write.

Furthermore, the author goes on to mention “if only writing would be used for the production of certain kinds of texts and not others (let us say, for dramatic literature but not for history or philosophy)” (Postman, 7). He makes me contemplate of how people use digital technology such as social media to communicate and express themselves. I have scrolled through posts with useful information and others that are about arguments that does not have any informational value to me. When scrolling through the comments, you can find a variety of responses. Some engage in arguments with other users. I personally stay away from being confrontational or even write something in social media. What I write can be misinterpreted and I am not sure how other people will react. Postman goes on saying, “Thamus is concerned not with *what* people will write; he is concerned *that* people will write” (Postman, 7). Social media allows many people to write whatever they want to write. The written word lacks the emotions verbal communication carries. As more and more people choose to communicate online, we become unable to read through people’s intentions and feelings.

Nevertheless, it is hard to avoid the use of technology and its influence on literacy and orality and vice versa. As stated by Gee in *orality and literacy*, “literacy is necessary for the development of science, history, and philosophy and for the explicative understanding of literature, art and language, including speech itself” (Gee, 725). Literacy has an influence on many parts of our life, including the sciences and speech. We can keep records and track a numerous number of subjects through literacy. Oral communication can be like a game of telephone. Over time the accuracy of the message becomes skewed. Jesus spread his message of God through spoken language. He did not write any of his teachings or messages, so the accuracy of his messages is reliant on his disciples and those that came after them. Today we write our findings as we go along with what we’re studying, so we can pass information down more accurately.

Conclusion, today’s society is exposed to technology at a very young age. A lot of our earliest memories can be watching a tv show or playing video games. These technologies guide and shape our way of life. These technologies have impacted orality and literacy in an expansive way over time.