

Nerdic: The new geek language

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Wimax, Dongle, Mash-up... these may sound greek to you but it is actually 'geek-speak' for many in Europe. Techno-lovers have invented a new techno-language popularly known as 'Nerdic' or 'geek-speak'. Nerdic is said to be Europe's fastest growing language at present.

Pixmania, one of Europe's largest electronic internet retailers, claims that in the last twelve months 100 new words were added to the Nerdic dictionary, which is roughly three times more than that Oxford English Dictionary added to the English language. Some odd terms from the Nerdic dictionary include: 'Alpha Geek' (most knowledgeable technically proficient person in the office or work-group), 'Cobweb' (a website that hasn't been updated for a long-time), 'Cube Farm' (an office packed with cubicles, full of busy workers). Many believe that this dialect, has all the three core elements necessary to qualify it as a new language i.e. words, phrases and pronunciation. Owing to this belief, Nerdic lovers have applied to the Foreign and Commonwealth office in the UK to recognise it as an official language.

'Slanguage'

It is indeed fascinating how communication worldwide is undergoing a revolutionary transformation. Another significant development worth noting is the new 'slanguage' among text messengers — primarily comprising of teens and youth. Some examples of popular 'slanguage' terms are 'TC' (Take Care), 'AAMOF' (As a matter of fact), 'Dis N Dat' (This and that), 'L8R' (Later), 'THKQ' (Thank You), 'XLNT' (Excellent).

We may like it or have our reservations about these new, evolving languages of communication but the fact remains that we cannot simply ignore them! Digital World Research Centre (DWRC) in its research, a few years ago, actually found that cell phones enhances a teenager's social learning skills and communication abilities. The new age of communication is fascinating and challenging. And it's time to realise that to keep pace with this growing breed of 'new gen' kids on the block, it is a must to understand and communicate in their language.

Nelson Mandela, as far back as the 1960s, began studying 'Afrikaans' the language of the white South Africans. Although, his comrades in the ANC teased him about it, he firmly believed, that knowing his opponents' language would help him understand their view of the world. Further it would help him to understand their tactics and to negotiate with them. He knew that 'his destiny was tied to theirs'.

The destinies of our present and future generations are also tied in the similar fashion. Language is not only a mode of communication but also a reflection of how a generation looks at the world and approaches the same. So the next time we teach our future generation the language that we know, we should make sure to learn their's as well.

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