

THE ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF PUNCTUATION MARKS IN WRITING

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Annotation

The purpose of this paper is to discuss and analyse punctuation marks in speaking reading, writing skills, devices (stress, intonation, rhythm, pauses sometimes by using facial expressions or by using gestures) which do in speech is entirely handled by "punctuation" . For grasping what punctuation is, it can be tried to pass through its historical development briefly. Depending on many references, Razzak and Helen's classification of punctuation marks, The work is focused on the following four types: 1. End punctuation marks: The full stop, the question mark, and the exclamation mark; 2. Non- end punctuation marks: The comma, the semicolon, the colon, and the dash; 3. Enclosing punctuation marks: Brackets (square and round), inverted commas or quotation marks; 4. Punctuation marks used within the word: The apostrophe, the hyphen, and the abbreviation dot.

Keywords: linguistic devices, stress, intonation, rhythm, pauses sometimes by using facial expressions, gestures, punctuation, logographic, syllabic, indentation, voice tone, . End punctuation marks, The full stop, the question mark, the exclamation mark, Non- end punctuation marks, The comma, the semicolon, the colon, the dash, Enclosing punctuation marks, Brackets (square and round), inverted commas or quotation marks, Punctuation marks used within the word, The apostrophe, the hyphen, the abbreviation dot.

Introduction

Actually, when one speaks, one can use different linguistic devices to make his/her meaning clear such as: stress, intonation, rhythm, pauses sometimes by using facial expressions or by using gestures, even if all else fails , by repeating what one has said. However, when one writes, one cannot use any of these devices and if the words are strung all together without ever indicating where the pauses should be, no one would understand the thoughts and ideas we are trying to express. The work that these devices do in speech is

entirely handled by "punctuation". To grasp what punctuation is, it is important to pass through its historical development briefly.

Truss reveals that the first writing systems were mostly logographic and /or syllabic and they do not necessarily require punctuation because the entire morpheme or word is typically clustered within a single glyph. The Greeks began using punctuation marks, consisting of vertically arranged dots, in around the 5th century B.C. The Romans also adopted symbols to indicate pauses. Punctuation developed dramatically when large numbers of copies of the Christian Bible started to be produced and read aloud and the copyists began to introduce a range of marks to help the readers including indentation, various punctuation marks and initial capitals. With the invention of moveable type in Europe in the 14th and 15th centuries began an increase of printed material. The rise of printing meant that a standard system of punctuation was urgently required. The full stop, colon, and the comma were the only ones used until the close of the 15th century. In process of time, the semicolon was added and the marks of interrogation and admiration were introduced later.

Depending on many references, Razzak and Helen classify punctuation marks into four types: 1. End punctuation marks: The full stop, the question mark, and the exclamation mark; 2. Non- end punctuation marks: The comma, the semicolon, the colon, and the dash; 3. Enclosing punctuation marks: Brackets (square and round), inverted commas or quotation marks; 4. Punctuation marks used within the word: The apostrophe, the hyphen, and the abbreviation dot.

E.g : 1. The modifications in this revision are not of a character to embarrass those teachers who used the previous editions in the same class . (End punctuation marks: **The full stop**)

2.The principal changes are : (2 Non- end punctuation marks: **the colon**)

3. In many instances an improved form of type ; (2 Non- end punctuation marks: **the semicolon**)

4.The omission of orthoëpical marks where they are clearly unnecessary , (2 Non- end punctuation marks: **The comma**) as explained below;

5. Bold has been substituted for Webster's (4. Punctuation marks used within the word: The **apostrophe**) accent marks.

6. "In nine-tenths of the words in our language, a correct pronunciation is better taught by a natural division of the syllables and a direction for placing the accent, than by a minute and endless repetition of characters." (3. Enclosing punctuation marks: **quotation marks**)

7. The correction of a few errors in pronunciation, **etc.**; (4. Punctuation marks used within the word: the **abbreviation dot**.)

8. A vowel is a clear sound made through an open position of the mouthchannel, which molds or shapes the voice without obstructing its utterance;

as a (**in** far, or fate, etc.), e, o. (3. Enclosing punctuation marks: **Brackets** (square and round)

9. The regular long sound of e is indicated by a horizontal mark over it;

as, mēte, se - rēne; the regular short sound, by a curve over it; as, mět, re-běl (4. Punctuation marks used within the word: **the hyphen**)

10. How should spelling words be chosen ? (1. End punctuation marks: the **question mark**)

It is worth noting that some writers such as Trask and MacCaskill add the asterisk and the slash as punctuation marks used in writing. Each of these marks is a sort of short hand device, or road sign that assists the reader. Every mark is effective and it has its own meaning. The presence or absence of every mark is harmful if it impedes the flow of the idea the writer intends to convey to the reader. MacCaskill assures that the function of a punctuation mark is the basis for the rules governing its use and should be the basis for determining whether or not it is needed. Shaw makes it clear that punctuation is a method by which the meaning of written communication is made clear through the use of certain marks.

Punctuation is considered by Ferreiro and Pontecorvo as one of the main streams of writing mechanism; it is of psychological and educational importance because punctuation is a part of writing that needs to be dealt with in text construction. The appropriate use of punctuation shows that a person has good knowledge of grammar and it helps to bring the right kind of expression into writing for which voice, intonation, volume, tone, pauses are used while speaking.

In addition, Truss makes it clear that" on the page, punctuation performs its grammatical function, but in the mind of the reader it does more than that. It tells the reader how to turn the tune. "For instance," Don't stop" means carry on .You are not required to stop. Rewriting the same words as "Don't. stop" immediately. Definitely both sentences would be spoken in a different manner to show the difference in meaning.

Moreover, among the various punctuation marks none has been more explored, used, and abused by Cummings than parentheses. Cummings is the unparalleled poet of parentheses and they are for him an extraordinarily prized poetic device. Lennard in a research traces the history of using the parentheses; he shows that no poet, from Shakespeare to Modernism, has used it more thoroughly or more innovatively than Cummings. Cummings' linguistic innovation and typography serve poetic means within his philosophy. Spencer is accurate when he writes that through his typography, Cummings" wants to control the reading of the poem as much as he can so that to the reader as to the poet, there will be the smallest gap between the experience and its expression."

Speakers may use their voice tone, facial expressions or gestures to indicate power, exclamations, etc. However, they use punctuation marks to do so in writing. They can be classified into different types: end punctuation marks, non-end punctuation marks, enclosing punctuation marks, and punctuation marks used within the words. Each one has its own job to do; their use affects the coherence of the text. They are important in cueing the correct interpretation for many texts. The specific use of certain punctuation marks may refer to the character and show many other features of the writer. In return, they may present different interpretation to the reader. Thus, punctuation marks should be shed sufficient light upon.

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