

2. Textalk and Steevspell

I began revising English about 40 years ago. It was a lonely road back then, but strangely, unpredictably, altered English is almost the norm these days. From texting and twittering, to graffiti, to youth oriented advertizing, we now see English undergoing a wide range of modifications, which I will, for the sake of brevity call "textalk".

There are some important similarities in the origins of textalk and steevspell. I began with the dual impetuses of normalizing English and breaking open its grammar to allow the infusion of new rhythmic and conceptual energy. Textalk seems to have a similar, tho less articulated dual impetus: to speed up (and maybe also normalize) spelling, and to allow, or promote, an "individualized" voice (or more accurately, a counter-cultural voice, since there's nothing terribly individual about it). Textalk has the virtue of being organic, grass roots, and interactively evolving. Steevspell has the virtue of being more conceptually articulated and purposeful in its evolutions. Both are testaments to my belief that as ideas evolve, language must, and will evolve with them.