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The Use of abbreviations in electronic Texting on Facebook
The case of English LMD Students at sahli Ahmed
University Center of Naama

Dissertation submitted to the Department of English in Candidacy for the requirement of the 'Master' Degree in Linguistics

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this modest work to the source of my success and continual life: my parents. I promised that you would be proud of me.

To my brothers "Souffien" , "Moussa" and the spoiled home and closest to my heart "Iyad". I Love you all .Thanks to you I feel proud as you are really my true support .

To my only sister "Narimene" and her husband "boutkhil" . These lines do not express how much I love you sister,I wish you days full of joy and happiness as beautiful as your eyes .

To my best friends : "Ines " , "Hanane " , "chahinaz " , "Faiza" and "khadija" for sharing hard moments with me .

To the most beautiful person with whom coincidence brought us together. To the person who never fails to provide me with hope: "Putine". Thanks for being in my life and for your support.

To all those who believe in me and pray for me

Katre el nada

DEDICATION

First of all, I want to thank GOD For giving me the strength and the courage to

lead good at this modest job.

I dedicate this modest work to my dear parents.

To my husband

With great joy of love and of esteem, to my daughters Chahinez andInes

To all my family Kadi and Hashas .

And to all those who encouraged me. And to all my friends

Fatima zohra

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ABSTRACT

Human communication evolved; moving from face to face natural interaction to a modern form of computerized communication. The internet and computer networks have made the communication easier than the past. Accordingly, Facebook is one of the largest and the most popular social networks used nowadays. Facebook has excessively used by many students in which they create new vocabularies and various forms such as: abbreviations. Therefore, the current study endeavours to look for the main reasons that lead students to integrate these abbreviations as well as to depict their attitudes towards their use. It also seeks at identifying the significant types of abbreviations used in Facebook. Students of English language at Naama University Centre are used as a sample population for the study. Through the use of a mixed method approach; mainly two research instruments which are: a questionnaire and observation, the findings revealed that most of the students hold positive attitudes towards abbreviations' use since the latter facilitate online communication and create an enjoyable environment. It has been also showed that the students employed various types of abbreviations in their Facebook communications.

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

- **AA :** Algerian Arabic

- **E-language :** Electronic language

- **Engl :** English

- **FB :** Facebook

- **Fr :** French

- **MSA :** Modern Standard Arabic

- **EUSN :** English University Students Naama

- **WWW:** World Wide Web

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

General introduction

Communication through the internet has gradually changed the technological improvement of the internet. Electronic texting has become a unique form of language that is full of shortened expressions. This structure has exceptional features that make it more sociable and immediate than most varieties of written communication.

In fact, Facebook is considered to be one of the most used social networks among university students. Its users are looking for convenient and easy communication development such as the use of abbreviations. Therefore, the present work aims to analyze the use of abbreviations in Electronic text messages on Facebook by English language students at Naama –Salhi Ahmed- University Center; taking all the five levels: first, second, and third year students as well as first and second year master students. A questionnaire, as a research tool, was administered to 100 students at the Department in addition to observation of distinct text messages on Facebook as the second instrument. Through the use of a mixed-methods approach, the current study attempts to answer the following questions:

1/ Why do English language students at Naama University Centre use abbreviations in electronic texting in Facebook?

2/ What are the attitudes of English students towards these abbreviations?

3/ What kinds of abbreviations can be encountered in Facebook communication?

From these questions, the following hypotheses have been raised:

1- English language students at Naama University Centre may use abbreviations since the latter facilitate the online communication and provide them with plenty opportunities to be more connected with others.

2 - The English students seem to have positive attitudes towards these abbreviations.

3 - It has been hypothesized that English language students use various kinds of abbreviations in their Facebook communication.

This research consists of two chapters. The first chapter is theoretical part. It introduces the main aspects of abbreviation's use in Facebook. It also identifies the key concepts; showing insights of the impact of these abbreviations on students of the university of Salhi Ahmed. The second chapter is practical in form in which data were collected through the use of mainly a questionnaire and observation. Then, these data have been discussed and analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively.

CHAPTER ONE

Review of Literature

Chapter One

Review of Literature

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1.1 Introduction

The currentchapter attempts to define the fundamental concepts which are related to the research study. Its gives some elements about the differences between dialect and language as two major tools of communication.It demonstrates a general overview about internet by giving clear insights about electronic languagee,social grid, and Facebook application. Finally,it highlights the relationship between abbreviations and vocabulary since abbreviation isconsidered as a new written form; in addition to discussing its impact on university students .

1.2.Language Vs Dialect

One of the most difficult issues in linguistics is how to distinguish between the two terms language and dialect since from a human perspective there seems to be no differences between them.However, Haugen (1966) points out that language and dialect are ambiguous terms .He factors out that the confusion goes lower back to the ancient Greeks. Wells (1982, p.3) notes the term dialect ″ **is applied ,often in a rather vague way ,to any speech variety which is more than an idiolect but less than a language** ″ **.**

The difference between dialect and standard language seems to reside primarily in a ranking evaluation ; the dialect is considered as the subordinate variety ; whereas, the standard language as the super ordinate or overarching language.(cf .German uberdachung , Goossens 1973a ,1985) .

In this respect, Wardhaugh (2006, p.28) says that ″ **ordinary people use these term (dialect and language) quite freely in speech, for them a dialect is almost certainly no more than a local non-prestigious (therefore powerless) variety of reallanguage** ″**.**Thus ,it can be stated that language is more prestigious than a dialect .

In addition, the term dialect can be broadlydefined as the variety of a language that is spoken by a population in a specific geographic area. Language is actually

thought to be nation‟s more popular tongue .This means that a″**dialect is a variety of language which differs grammatically, phonologically and lexically from other variety**

″(Julita(2011,p.22).Language and dialect, hence, are two different varieties in terms of grammar, lexis, and pronunciation as well .They″represent a simple dichotomy is a situation that is almost infinitely complex ″Haugen (1966) .

1.3 Internet

In this section, the researchers aim at giving a general overview about the internet in general and Facebook in particular.

1.3.2 General Overview

The impact of new technological inventions on people has been in various ways .The current opportunities for human life and needs take into account the present possibilities for human life and desires reflect on consideration on the internet as the most famous factor for modern day life. According to Oxford dictionary (2012, p. 390),internet is international system of computers that makes it possible for you to see information from all around the world on your computer and to send information computers .

Thanks to the internet, language has been able to evolve into a new kind of communication that differs fundamentally from spoken and written interactions Crystal (2005, p.25) claims that :

> **The internet has given language new stylistic varieties ,in particular ,increasing a language's expressive range at the informal end of the spectrum. He adds that it is a common place these days to acknowledge the way the internet can be exploited for good or evil, and this tension equally to its communicative capabilities .**

Accordingly, internet offers the world a first- hand stumble upon with multilingualism; it offers minority and endangered languages a new chance for development in two aspects.

The internet aids documentationthanksto the fact that digital techniques permit the easy recording of technological material and of high importance. It also aids language revitalization; by enabling audio system separated with the aid of house to preserve a digital contact through email, chat, and instant messaging environment.In this sense, Crystal (2006,p .2) notices that:

The internet is an association of computer networks with common standards which enables message to be sent from any registered computer (or host) on one network to any host on any other. It developed in the 1960s in the USA as experimental network which quickly grew to include military, federal, business, university and personal users.

Thus, the internet is a digital and interactive environment where communication is visibly different from other places .Face to face contact and verbal -nonverbal communication were the two most common types of communication in the past; however, people are now more interested when chatting onlinethank to digital networks .

1.3.2 World Wide Web

The laptop scientist and the net creator Tim Berners -Lee (1999,p .343) defines world wide web (WWW, henceforth) as ″**the universe of network accessible information's , an embodiment of human knowledge**″.He led the improvement of the world wide web in the late 1980s and early 1990s. David Crystal (2004,p.13) points out **"the World Wide Web is the full collection all the computer systems linked to the internet which hold documents that are mutually through the use of a standard protocol (the hypertext transfer protocol, or HTTP),usually abbreviated to web or W3 and ,in site addresses ,presented as the acronym www″.**It means that the web has many advantages. It can be said that WWW is the complete collection of all computers associated with software.

The WWW refers to the network of open web sites that are globally connected to the internetas well as the client hardwaresuch as: computers and smartphonesthat allow users to access to its content. It has been referred to for many years simply as "the web" Bradley Mitchell (2017). Particularly,the WWW serves as a foundation for many other types and kinds of written language. It encourages people to express themselves in ways they have never done before.

 The web is a dynamic and permanent medium where people can find a website for their requirements and needs, which is another way to view the internet as a

revolution. Human communication is, then, evolving and shifting from verbal communication to online communication with each new technological advancement.

1.3.3 Netspeak

Internet offers people a huge platform for non-face to face communication as online communication or Netspeak. David Crystal (2006,p.17) puts forward that :

The term 'Netspeak ' is an alternative to 'Netlish ','Weblish', 'Internet language ','cyber speak', 'electronic discourse ', 'electronic language , interactive written discourse ,computer-mediated communication'(CMC),and other more cumbersome locutions .Each term has a different implication :'Netlish' ,for example is plainly derived from 'English ',and is of decreasing usefulness as the Net becomes more multilingual ,'electronic discourse 'emphasizes the interactive and dialogue elements ; 'CMC ' focuses on the medium itself.

Nowadays, language is currently spoken by people on the internet and is rapidly spilling over into advertising and business. The word of Netspeak is occurring more and more frequently in our magazines and television

1.4 Social Network

Recently, people have become very interested in communicating with each other through social networks. A social network is an online service where individuals create their own virtual world. It attracts millions of users as it has become an essential part of their personal and daily lives and private activities where they can interact with others, share, and exchange information.

Boyd and Ellision(2007,p.4) define the term social networks as:

Web-based services that allow individuals to construct a public or semipublic profile within a bounded system, articulate a list of other users with whom they share and a connection, and view and traverse their list of connections and those made by others within the system.

It means that the web-based on services allow users to develop a public or semi-public profile inside of a limited system.

Broadly speaking, social networks have provided a crucial opportunity for people to be in constant contact with each other through the internet, as Facebook (FB, henceforth). FBhas become more used than others in various fields in general and among university students in particular.University students; thus, prefer to use FB over other networks: Twitter, WhatsApp, Google,My space because it provides easy access to all parts of the entire world.

1.4.1 Facebook Application

Social networking has changed and evolved communication through the use of Facebook for instance,which is considered as the most commonly utilized network by university learners.FB enables people to communicate freely with one another wherever they are at any time, to discuss their hobbies, activities, and images as well. Students can also utilize FB as a resource for education and sharing ideas.

FB users can connect with individuals from other nations and cultures through their FB profiles. As a result, they consciously search for a language that may be determined as an electronic code between them such as : abbreviations that are the most popular online character at the moment .

FB users can connect with individuals from other nations and cultures through their FB profiles. As a result, they consciously search for a language that may be determined as an electronic code between them such as : abbreviations that are the most popular online character at the moment .

Facebook was initially created by Mark Zukerberg (2004) with the intention of establishing a virtual network at Harvard University. Hence, it rapidly expands to other institutions .In 2005, FB was made available to high school pupils ,and finally it was permitted in 2006 for any person to join Boyd & Ellison (2007).

Rosen (2007,p.17) claims that ″**the name FB emerges from the small photo album that colleges once gave to incoming freshmen and faculty to help them cope with meeting to many new people**″ **.**Today‟s facebook users are more satisfied connecting with other

colleagues .Accordingly, Kent Joshi (2011,p.05) states that ″**in a paper facebook ,you see photos and biographies of your classmates. On facebook, you see friend's latest photos and videos with, at times, an extensive biography**″.Therefore,FB has made the world a small village for communication where you are able to share pictures and social statuses, and so that you can see people and talk to them face to face .

1.4.2 Electronic texting

Text messaging or texting via electronic devices is referred by the term *'electronic texting* ″. Internet based electronic messaging is sent and received by online communicators .When texting, emojis, numbers, and other symbols may be used.

In this regard, David Crystal(2007,P.17) puts forwards that :

> I**n any collection of text messages , it is the combination of standard and nonstandard features which is the most striking characteristic-and with good reason .Although many young texters like to be different, and enjoy breaking the rules , they also know they used to be understood** .

Crystal, in this quotation, examines obviously the use of texting by distinct users and each user aims to seem different and enjoyable through the employment of various features such as: abbreviations.

1.5 Abbreviations in Texting

Facebook users prefer to employ abbreviations because it adds enjoyable and appeal online interactions. Instead of spelling a word or phrase out in full, abbreviations are condensed versions of those entire words.Abbreviation is a short form from a word or more by taking the initial letter or another letter. According to David Crystal (2008, p.45), « **abbreviation is a shortened word which has been refined in linguistic study, this kind of word formation has been familiar among people**″.

An abbreviation is a short form of a word or phrase used rather than writing the whole word. For example:*„2day* ″is an abbreviation of the word *„today*″*.* Marchand

(2006, p.204) declaresthat "**this type of word formation is mostly used to create names of organizations and sometimes also scientific discoveries**".In a pivotal discussion on

this issue and its effect on student"s language, linguists asserted that abbreviations might have a negative impact on students language .

Additionally, David Crystal did a study in (2008) that contradicted the generally accepted assertions and opinions that abbreviations have a negative impact on students" language skills. He(2008, p.36) thinks otherwise that**:**

> **Text messaging does not really pose a threat as many fear it can. The more students write, the more they improve upon their writing skills .Therefore ,its increased use rather enhances the literacy of users, especially the youth instead of harming it**.

Accordingly, his study (2008) and claim was based on six main points which are :

1 - In a typical text message , less than 10% of the words are abbreviated .

2 - Abbreviating has been in use for decade, and thus is not a new language .

3 - Children and adults alike use text language .The latter being more likely to do so.

4 - Students do not habitually use abbreviations in their homework and examinations.

5 - Before people text, they must first know how to spell. Texting cannot, therefore, be a cause of bad spelling .

6 - Since texting provides people with the opportunity of engaging with the language through reading and writing ,it improves peoples literacy .

1.5.1 Kinds of Abbreviations

In their Facebook chats, people in general and university students in particular utilize abbreviations in various ways .Online abbreviations that save time are now a common part of daily life as stated by Crystal (2008,p.37) ″**there are several distinctive features on the way texts are written which combine to give the impression of novelty that so attracts the attention of media commentators**″.

Accordingly,Crystal(2008,p37-53) identifies six major kinds of abbreviations:

- **Pictograms and logograms:** the use of single letters, numerals and typographic symbols to present words, parts of words ,or evenin the case of "*x*" and "*z*" noises associated with actions ; for instance, „x‟ to indicate the word„*kiss*‟ or „*2* to present „ *to* ‟.

- **Initialism:** is the reduction of words to their initial letters .Initialises are familiar in proper names ;they are often called acronyms such as *''CMC''* to refer to Computer Mediated Communication.Many initialism have been used in specialized contextssuch as : *"VGC" t*o refer to Very Good Condition or APR to indicate„Annual Percentage rate‟ in economic .

- **Omission or omitted letters:** refers to the cases where texters shorten words by omitting letters from the middle (often called contractions) or dropping a letter at the end (often called clippings).Usually, these are vowels ,but final consonants are often dropped too ,as are „silent‟ consonants and double medial consonants are reduced to single tones as "getn‟‟"for the word "getting" .

- **Shortenings:** are kinds of abbreviations where a word is shortened by omitting one of its meaningful elements,either at the end but or   at the beginning as "doc"to refer to "doctor".

- **Nonstandard spelling**:It occurs when texters are also prone to miss- spell both consciously and deliberately. The list of nonstandard spelling used in texting is not very great for instance the abbreviation*"cuz"*for the word "*because*".

- **Genuine novelties :** Some of the juxtapositions also create forms which have little precedent ,apart from in puzzles .All conceivable types of features can be juxtaposed of shortened and full words,logograms and nonstandard spellings ,and so on , such as *IMHO* to say *:in my humble opinion*

1.5.2 The significance of Abbreviations of English Conversation

Abbreviations are often used in chatroom because they are easy to type and save time. They are also used for texting or direct messaging .Many people also use abbreviations on social media.However, the excessive usage of abbreviations affectsstudenrs‟ formal English writing in which it leads to spelling,punctuation and

grammar errors on the one hand. Abbreviations, on the other hand,facilitate business communication; for example, long and complex letters or message are difficult to read and are often ignored. A clear and concise message using abbreviations makes sure that others understand it and makes it more likely that the recipient will read it in its entirety.Abbreviations ;consequently, have helped people to gain time and made the communication easy and funny for them .

1.5.3 Vocabulary and Abbreviation

Vocabulary, the language‟s core structure, serves as the foundation for the English language .Any language needs vocabulary in order to be understood .Siriwan (2007 ,p.19) proposes that ″**vocabulary learning is referred to as learning a collection or the total stock of words in a language that are used in particular contexts** ″. This implies that learning a language‟s foundational vocabulary will enable its comprehension and use. Face to face indeed, communication use different vocabularies .

Students use Facebook extensively for a variety of purposes and in a variety of ways such as: abbreviations which are the most popular ones. Due to the need for immediate and direct communication, a particular type of new vocabulary has emerged in the form of abbreviation communication .There are different ways that these abbreviations affect children‟s vocabulary ,from one scientist to the next .

It is important to distinguish between the new type of language known as "abbreviations" and language issues like "dyslexia".Thus, texting has a positive impact on student‟s literacy rather than a negative one Crystal (2007). In internet language, everything is possible even mistakes are acceptable .Researchers like *Rosen et al (*2009) agree that regular use of text messaging using abbreviations can impact negatively on the everyday language of texters .O‟Connor (2005) claims that some teachers were of the view that abbreviations used in text messaging was negatively affecting written English, reporting that papers had been written without due regard to proper punctuation, good grammar ,and standard abbreviations ,other educators felt that the more you got students to write , the better

1.6.Conclusion

    People can now communicate easily and freely using a variety of new forms that appear to be codes thanks to the development of the internet. By highlighting the crucial information,this chapter has provided a clear understanding of internet communications and languages ideas of the usage of abbreviations on online communications and chatting; specifically in the context of Facebook. The following section will look how English university students of Naama Center use abbreviations in their conversations on Facebook .

CHAPTER TWO

Practical Part

Chapter Two

Practical Part

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2.1 Introduction

The next step in any research is the practical part that investigates what has been mentioned in the review of literature .The present chapter is devoted to the presentation and analysis of the obtained data through the use of questionnaire and an observation .Therefore, this chapter is divided into two main parts .The first part is devoted to research methodology. The second part is assigned for the analysis and the interpretation of the data collected from the informants .

2.2.Research Methdology

This reserach work aims at investigating the use of abbreviations among English language students at Naama University Centre. In order to achieve these abjectives, the current reserach work adopts a mixed methods approch via using two main research instruments. The data collected were analyzed both quantitatively and qualitatively.

2.3 Sample Population

For the sake of accomplishing the present work, one hundred   (100) students were selected randomly to answer the questionnaire. The respondents were English language students at Naama University Center, taking different age groups and distinct educational levels.Through the selection; one hundred (100) questionnaires were given to respondents in order to collect data. The respondents of the study composed of 64% are females and 36% are males. . Their ages range from 20 to 24 years old .Concernig the educational level, 40% are first year English students ,30% are the second year licence participants and 20% are third year English , while Master students class composed of 10% participants .

Table 2.1 Participant's levels

Levels	Percentage
First year students	40%
Second year students	30%
Third year students	20%
Master class students	10%
Total	100%

Reaserch Instruments

In this study, two research instruments are utilized to collect both quantitative and qualitative data because using more than one research instrument presents the researcher with enough data and ensures the reliability and validity of the data .The results will be analyzed using both quantitative and qualitative approaches . After choosing the sample, the research instruments that were addressed to the participants are a questionnaire and observation .

Description of the Questionnaire

A questionnaire is a research instrument consisting of a series of questions for the purpose of gathering information from respondents . A Questionnaire ,which is also used as an analytical tool .The current tool is used to gather information about the informants" thoughts about abbreviations use in the electrnic texting on Facebook .It could contain three different kinds of questions :close-ended, open-ended and multiple choice questions :

-**Close-ended questions:**when the respondent is requested to select the appropriate answer (s) without any explanation or addition; this type is known as close -ended question .

- Open-ended question:this type gives respondents the freedom to express their knowledge and understanding in an open-text manner, the answer to their kind of questions in not limited to a set of options .

-**Multiple-choice questions** : in this type, there are a variety of alternative answers. Multiple choice questions can in general have one or more response choices; where the respondents are asked to choose one or more answers from the available choices .

The questionnaire consists of 12 questions , it includes two parts:the first part is related to personal information about the respondent. However, the second part contains (2) closed-ended question and (5) open-ended once, and it has (5) multiple choice questions .The questionnaire has been distributed to one hundred respondents from Center University of Naama .It is devoted to test the second and third hypotheses . More precisely ,it endeavours to look for use   of abbreviations in the electronic texting on Facebook .The questionnaire was written in English language; hoping that everyone can answer it without any difficulties and it is analyzed both qualitatively and quantitatively .

Description of the Observation

The test the third research hypothesis, the researcher added an observation. The observation is based mainly on FB conversations to explore the mostly used abbreviation‟ kinds .

Analysis and Interpretation of the Results

In this section, the analysis and interpretation of the questionnaire and observation are discussed .The data collected from participants would be analyzed quantitatively , and qualitatively.

Analysis of Student's Questionnaire

Section One: General Overview about the use of Internet

The present section is devoted to provide a general overview about the use of internet among students; it composed of 03 closed question in order to have precised statistics .

Question 1 and 2: Students‟ age and gender

The first two (2) questions were about age and gender. The questionnaire was administered to 100 students whose age varied from 20 to 24 years old.

Table 2.2.Participant's Gender

Gender	Male	Female	Total
Number	36	64	100
Percentage %	36%	64%	100%

As it is represented in table 2.1. the majority of the population consisted of female students (64%). However, males form only 36% of the total population who were selected randomly.

Question 3: How long have you been learning the English Language?

Table 2.3.The English Learning

Year	Number	Percentage
4 to 5 years	20	20%
11 years	80	80%
Total	100	100%

As indicated in table 2.3.most of the students (80%) who answered question two declared that they have been learning English for the past eleven (11) years. On the other hand, 20% of the students said that they have been learning it for the past 4 to 5 years

Section Two:

Question 1: Do you use Facebook in your daily life?

Table 2.4.Facebook Use Among Students

Option	Number	Percentage
Yes	100	100%
No	0	0%
Total	100	100%

As indicated in table 2.4, 100% of the students preferred to use Facebook daily. That is to say, all the students are interested in the use of this particular social media tool

Question 2: Why do you use Facebook?

Table 2.5. Participants Purpose of Using Facebook

Option	Number	Percentage
Study	3	3%
Entertainment	20	20%
Both	77	77%
Total	100	100%

The obtained data from Table 2.5. revealed that the majority of students (77%) preferred to use Facebook for both studying and entertainment purposes. Whereas; a small percentage of 20% were in favor of using it for its sheer entertainment and an even smaller percentage of 3% indicated that they used it to learn

Question 3: In which language do you prefer to chat or text?

Table 2.6.The Chat Language

Option	Number	Percentage
Modern Standard Arabic	2	2%
Algerian Arabic	38	38%
French	20	20%
English	40	40%

Others	0	0%
Total	100	100%

When students were asked about their favorite chat language, 40% of them claimed they

preferred English; moreover, 38% of them claimed that they liked Algerian Arabic. Add to that, 20% of the students chose French as their chat language. However, only 2% of the students opted for choosing modern standard Arabic

Question 4:How do you find writing on facebook ?

Table.2.7.Students opinions ' About Writing on Facebook

Answers	Number	Percentage
Easy	95	95%
Hard	0	0%
Boring	0	0%
Pleasurable	5	5%
Total	100	100%

Table 2.7. indicated that the majority of the students (95 %) found chatting on Facebook to be easy. When asked why, some of them replied by saying that there are no grammatical rules there to block their thoughts. Whereas, the rest of the students with a percentage of 5% opted for saying they found it pleasurable because they got used to the fun habit of it.

Question 5: How often do you prefer using abbreviations on F.B texting?

Table 2.8.Abbreviations Use in Facebook Texting Among Students .

Answers	Number	Percentage
Always	86	86%
Often	4	4%
Sometimes	6	6%
Rarely	4	4%
Never	0	0%
Total	100	100%

This question aimed to see how often learners used. Frequency preferences, abbreviations on Facebook while chatting. Most of the students (86%) who answered question 8 declared that

they always use abbreviations. On the other hand, only (4 %) said that they often used them; at the same time, another (4 %) stated that they, rarely, used them

Question 6: When texting your friends, which of the followings do you prefer?

Table 2.9. Students 'Reasons behind Using Abbreviations

options	Number	perrcentage
Before → before	10	10 %
Before ↘ B4	90	90 %
Today → Today	14	14 %
Today ↘ 2 day	2	86 %
Face to face → Face to	16	16 %
Face to face ↘ FTF	84	84 %
I love you → I luv u	5	5 %
I love you ↘ ILY	95	95 %

After students answered question 06 and confirmed that they preferred using abbreviations most of the time while chatting on Facebook, they were asked to identify their preferred abbreviations. According to table 2.9, b4 is the highly used abbreviation (40%), then F.t.f with a percentage of (35%). 2day took place with 15%; moreover, 10% opted for I ♥ U

Question 7: Cite some examples of abbreviations used in Facebook ?

In this research ,it was found there are five types of abbreviations on facebook (see section) , the following table shows the types used on facebook, text messages by our informanants .It also provides some examples and their meanings

Table 2.10.Abbreviations' Use in Electronic Texting

Abbreviations kinds :	Examples :	Meanings :
Pictogramsand logograms:	2 B4 2day 2Moro W8	To Before Today Tomorrow Wait
Initialism:	Ftf Np Hru	Face to face No problem How are you
Omission and omitted letter :	Msg comin	Message Coming
Nonstandard spelling :	Luv Fone Cuz, coz	Love Phone Because
Shortenings :	Etc Poss Max	Etcetra Possible Maximum

When students were asked to give their own abbreviation examples ,they provided the following :

Table 2.11.Students Examples Abbreviations

Symbol	Explanation
Lol	Laugh out loud
AAMOF	As a matter of fact
ATM	At this moment
Idk	I do not know
Btw	By the way
Tyt	Take your time
OMG	Oh my god
Tbh	To be honest
Brb	Be right back
Wbu	What about you
Gm/Gn	Good morning/good night
Gr8	great
Cyl	See you later
Sth	something
Ppl	people
ASAP	As soon as possible
AFAIK	As far as I know
2moro	Tomorrow
2N8	Tonight
BRB	Be right back
N	And
BFF	Best Friends forever
Abt	About
Y	Why or Yes
Wru	Where are you?
BC	Be Cool
BOT	Back on Topic
CTS	Changing the Subject
G2B	Going to Bed
HAND	Have a Nice Day
JIC	Just in Case
LAM	Leave a Message
LMK	Let me Know

Question 8:how do you feel when use abbreviated terms ?

Students „ responses to this question varied .The majority of them said that they felt comfortable and at ease , while some of them expressed the fact that using abbreviations made them feeling fashion and up to date .

Question 9: According to you, what are the factors that contribute to the use of abbreviations in FB?

The majority of students offered the same answer to question 9. They agreed that using abbreviations while chatting on FB not only facilitates the daily communication between friends, but it also makes the conversation very entertaining and not boring ,to save space and avoid distracting the reader .

Question 10: In your opinion, why are abbreviations used in social media?

When the students were asked about their opinion about the use of abbreviations in social media, they presented some interesting answers. They are as follows :

- They help us to gain time

- They are practical and easy

- They facilitate chatting

- We use them unconsciously

- Avoid distracting The reader .

- To save space

- To organize or term appears two or more times in the text .

Question 11: Do you think your social and academic communication will definitely be affected by these abbreviations?

Table 2.12. The Effects of Abbreviations on Social and Academic Communication

Options	Number	Percentage
Yes	42	42%
No	58	58%
Total	100	100%

When students were asked if abbreviations would be associated with their social or academic communication, (58%) of them said ""No"" while(42%) answered ""Yes".

Question 12:   Do you think that the use of abbreviations has disadvantages on university students?

Table 2.13. Students' Opinion about the Disadvantage of Using Abbreviations

Option	Number	Percentage
Yes	50	50%
No	50	50%
Total	100	100%

As it is represented in Table 2.13, half of the students (50%) believed that using abbreviations may negatively affect university students, while the other half did not share the same opinion. Some of them elaborated by expressing their concerns about abbreviations, according to the students, abbreviations may hinder their ability to write properly. They further explained by saying that students may mistake the abbreviations for formal writing and as such compromise their academic writing.

Interpretation of the Questionnaire Results

The analysis of the students" questionnaire has revealed some insights concerning students" attitudes as well as perceptions towards the use of abbreviations on FB chatting and the impact of the latter on students" communication. To start with, section one portrays the students" general information. The results demonstrated that students

have been learning English for a long time, which could indicate that they are familiar with the language and possesits basic skills.

Moving along to the second section, we attempted to identify students" attitudes towards the use of abbreviations on Facebook texting. The findings of the first two questions revealed that the vast majority of students daily used Facebook for both learning and entertainment purposes. This implies that Facebook is a social network where most students foond themselves comfortable enough to engage in an either learning or relaxing environment. This is later confirmed in question 3 and 4 where students asserted that they use either English or Algerian Arabic to communicate on Facebook because they are easy and pleasurable to use

> Moreover, the finding of question 5 revealed that students always use abbreviations; this is a clear demonstration that they are interested in them. Furthermore, questions 6 and 7 demonstrated students" knowledge about abbreviations. They were able to provide many examples and express their positive feelings about the use of abbreviations in question 8. This question assisted us to accept the second hypothesis: "The students of university seem to have positive attitudes towards these abbreviations".

As for questions 9 and 10 which were able to deduce that students used abbreviations while chatting on Facebook because of many factors and reasons; including the fact that they ease the conversation and help them to   gain time. The latter two questions helped us confirm the first hypothesis: "Students of university can use abbreviations since the latter facilitate online communication and provide them with plenty opportunities to be more connected to others .It also busy then time, when we write only two letters of the word"

Question 11,however, indicated that most of the students" (58%) social and academic communication were not affected by FB abbreviations. The last question in this questionnaire, number twelve (12), was dedicated to students" perceptions about the negative effect of using abbreviations on university students. Half of the students (50%) believed that they could pose a threat to students academic writing style; this suggests that students, though having positive attitudes towards abbreviations; they are aware of the risks of daily using them to chat and how it could reflect badly on their studies.

Analysis of the Observation Results

Upon conducting our observation, the researchers noticed the use of over 33 abbreviations. 6 samples had been analyzed as follows
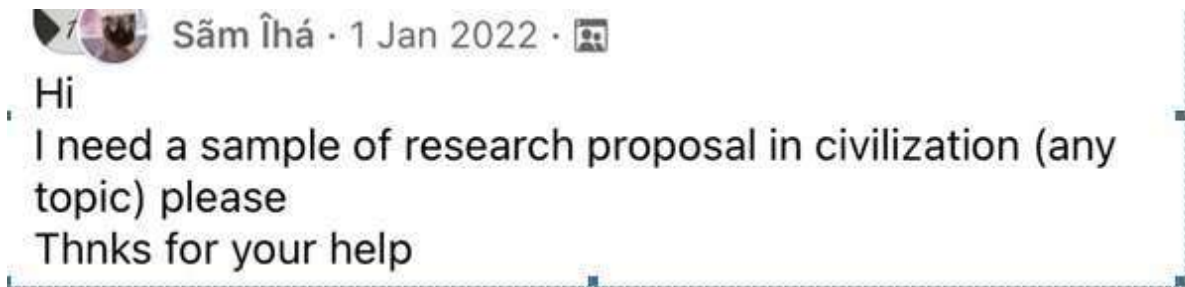
Figure 2.1The use of 'Thnks' Abbreviation

The first example showed that the student used thnks instead of „thanks‟ to express her gratitude. This was seen as the case in many comments in this group.

Figure 2.2The use of 'idk' and'lol' Abbreviations

The second example demonstrated the use of two different abbreviations. The first one „idk‟ (I do not know) was used as a form of expressing the lack of information on the subject, while the second abbreviation „lol‟ (laugh out loud) was used in a sarcastic manner.

Figure 2.3.The use of congrats Abbreviation

Congrats is another common abbreviation that was observed in this particular study group. It is a shortening for congratulations.

Figure

2.4.The use of 'Omg' Abbreviation

Figure 2.4.showed the use of „omg" abbreviation, which means oh my god, to express the students" disbelief.

Figure 2.5.The use of 'Plz' Abbreviation

Plz stands for Please. It is used in the case above to express the polite request of a student.

Figure 2.6.The use of 'Tbh' Abbreviation

In figure 2.6, the student used the informal acronym „tbh" to admit something, or express her opinion; „tbh" is short for to be honest.

Interpretation of Observation Results

When observing the chat language in the comments of the study group, it had been noticed the presence of a plenty of abbreviations. In general, there are six types of abbreviations, but the findings demonstrated that Naama EFL students used five forms, including :Pictograms and Logograms,Initialisms ,Omission or Omitted letters, nonstandard spelling and shortenings. Moreover , it was noticeable that the last kind Genuine novelties cited by Crystal (2008,53) was not used on facebook. Furthermore, it had been deducedthrough the analysis of the observation findings that the second hypothesis "it seems that English language students seems to have positive attitudes towards these abbreviations """ and, it may increase its development, especially, for English University Center students" is accepted. In brief, students used these abbreviations in order to facilitate their learning process and help them gain time.

Conclusion

Through the findings of chapter two, it can be said that Naama University Centre students have a positive outlook towards the use of abbreviations since they help them with texting. Moreover, the gathered data from the questionnaire revealed that they believe that using abbreviations is a gain of time and effort; without it, they would be lost trying to write the exact spelling of a certain word. However, they also expressed their concerns about using them in their academic writing and the harm they could cause. The observation, on the other hand, assisted us in determining that the participants used different types of abbreviations. On this ground, students should be aware of the negative impact of these abbreviations on their academic writing

GENERAL CONCLUSION

General conclusion

The present research investigates the use of abbreviations in electronic text messages on Facebook by Naama University Centre students of the English department. It aims at revealing the motives behind these abbreviations' use as well as highlighting the attitudes of the students towards them.

Through the use of two main research instruments; mainly questionnaire and observation, the finding showed that the majority of the students have shown a positive attitude towards the use of abbreviations. They frequently used them because they helped them to gain time and facilitate their online conversations .

The findings also showed that the majority of the students freqently used facebook abbreviations because they helped them to gain time, and facilitate their online conversations. They also indicated that EFL students at Naama University Center used five types of abbreviations including : Pictograms and logograms for example,it used W8 instead to say wait, initialism like 'np' instead to say 'No problem', omiission or omitted letters, in order to say a 'msg' saying message
,shortennings for example possible to say possible, non-standed spelling like the word luv is an abbreviation for love .

However, the use of excessive abbreviations may lead to misunderstandings ,as not everyone may be familiar with all the abbreviations. The Internet; then, has introduced new written forms that are distinct and beneficial for online purposes. As a result, one may wonder this question: can the use of abbreviations take place in the academic writing as a new code ?

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APPENDICES

Appendices

Appendix I: students˴ Questionnaire

Dear students,

     You are kindly asked to answer the following questionnaire which is designed to investigate FB texting abbreviation and its impact on students' communication. Your contribution will be useful for the success of this research.

Thank you for your collaboration

Section One : General Information

Age :   ☐

Gender :   a- Male   ☐   b- Female   ☐

How long have you been learning English language ?.....................

Section Two : The Impact of Abbreviations in FB on Students' Communication

1. Do you use Facebook in your daily life ?
     a- Yes ☐   b-No ☐

2. Why do you use Facebook ?
     a- For your stusy ☐

     b- For entertainment ☐

     c- Both ☐

3. In which language do you prefer to chat or text ?
       a- Modern Standard Arabic (M.S.A) ☐   b- Algerian Arabic (A.A) ☐

       c-French ☐   d- English ☐   e- Others ☐

4. How do you find writing on Facebook ?
     a- easy ☐   b- hard ☐   c- boring ☐   d-pleasurable ☐

     Why ?...

     ....

5. Do you prefer using abbreviations on F.B texting?

   a- always ☐   b- often ☐   c-rarely ☐   d- never ☐   E- Sometimes ☐

6. When texting your friends which of the followings do you prefer ?

before	☐	be 4	☐
today	☐	2 day	☐
face to face	☐	f. t. f	☐
I love you	☐	I.♥.u	☐

7. Cite some examples of abbreviations used in facebook

   ………………………………………………………………………………………

   ………………………………………………………………………………………

   …………………………………………………………………………..

8. How do you feel when you writing abbreviated terms ?

   ………………………………………………………………………………………

   ………………………………………………………………………………………

   …………

9. According to you, what are the factors that contribute to the use of abbreviations in F.B.

   ………………………………………………………………………………………

   ………………………………………………………………………………………

   …………………………………………………………………………………

10. In your opinion, why are abbreviations used in social media ?

    ………………………………………………………………………………………

    ………………………………………………………………………………………

    …………………………………………………………………………………

11. Do think your social and academic communication will definitely be affected with these abbreviations ?

    a- Yes ☐   b- No ☐

12. Do you think the abbreviations have disadvantages on university students ?

    ………………………………………………………………………………………

    …………………………………………………………………………………………