

**People's Democratic Republic of Algeria**  
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**University of Mostaganem**  
**Faculty of Foreign Languages**  
**Department of English**



**MASTER DEGREE IN**  
**English Language and Linguistics**

**EMOJI USE IN ONLINE COMMUNICATION**  
**& DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GENDERS.**  
**CASE STUDY OF MOSTAGANEM ENGLISH LEARNERS**

Presented by: **DEBBA Imen**

Board of examiners:

Chairman: **Dr. NEDDAR Bel Abbas**

Examiner: **BINDOUKHA Fatima**

Supervisor: **BENYOUCEF Radia**

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# DEDICATIONS

I dedicate this work to my beloved parents

To my brother and sister,

To my friends,

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I am greatly to my supervisor Miss BENYOUCEF Radia for her help, guidance, and patience, and valuable advice through the writing of my dissertation. Without her thoughtful comments, this work would have never been completed.

I am greatly indebted to all my family. I wish to thank the many people among my friends, especially my friend Mohammed who has been always present for help and has made many sacrifices for me. He deserves my gratitude, apologies, and respect. I wish him all the best. Finally, I owe a lot of thanks to all the students who have helped me in conducting the questionnaire.

## **Abstract**

Emojis are increasingly used nowadays in computer mediated communication and even in daily life. This study investigates ‘emoji use in online communication and differences between genders’. It aims not only to highlight emojis impact on language and in communications between males and females, but also to explore if they can be counted as a language in the near future. For the relevance of the study, thirty participants were selected from Mostaganem English department. They were divided according to their gender into two groups. The age varied from seventeen to thirty-five years old and they were either students or teachers. The survey was conducted by a quantitative research method in a questionnaire format. Online and printed papers were distributed among the participants. Findings suggested that emoji is widely used and that those pictographs representations are affecting English language in terms of grammar and pragmatic functions. Then, they are understood and interpreted differently among gender where males demonstrated that they have better emoji competence than do females, and this latter are more to use them than the other gender. After that, results displayed that emoji share many characteristics with natural language. Yet, emoji code surpasses any other outgoing system when it comes to universality and being the ideal communicative system. In other words, re-consideration of emoji system needs more acknowledging in its entire linguistic and social dimensions in order to broaden our awareness.

**Key words: Communication, Online Communication, CMC, Gender, Emoji, Emoticon.**

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## **List of Acronyms**

**CMC:** COMPUTER MEDIATED COMMUNICATION

**NNTP:** NETWORK NEWS TRANSFER PROTOCOLS

**MQTT:** MQ TELEMETRY TRANSPORT

**IOS:** MOBILE OPERATING SYSTEM DEVELOPED BY APPLE INC

**APP:** APPLICATION

**FAQ:** FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF UNITED STATES

**F2F:** FACE TO FACE

**M:** MALES

**F:** FEMALES

**IM:** INSTANT MESSAGE

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## General Introduction

Internet is a remarkable invention of human beings like printing machine, the railways, the telegraph, the automobile, television and telephones. It provides information; allows faster international and national interactions, and the most important issue is that it could gather the two criterions of language namely the written and the spoken forms in one single way of communication that is the instant messages or online chats like in Facebook and Twitter, etc. The impact of internet is perfectly shown in this quote: “*Language itself changes slowly but internet has speeded up the process of those changes so you can notice them quickly.*” (Crystal D. , 2011)

At the present time, writing a message is progressively containing visual images called EMOJI. These new symbols are used to express emotions, or to refer to objects but also to substitute punctuation, full sentences as well as to write quotes, stories and further functions like in advertising, or politics, etc. They are used by most of internet users regardless of their age, education or gender.

Moreover, there are many interesting facts showing that emojis are not just mere pictographs used to express only emotions in written communications. Emojis -the plural can be either *emoji* or *emojis*- have been around since the late 1990s. In 2015, Oxford University Press have partnered with leading mobile technology business to explore frequency and usage statistics for some of the most popular emoji across the world; 😂 was chosen because it was the most used emoji globally. In addition, there is an upcoming 2017 American computer-animated comedy film, written and directed by Tony Leondis, co-written by Eric Siegel and Mike White and Produced by Sony Pictures Animation called *The Emoji Movie* (originally titled *Emojimovie: Express Yourself*); The film will be released on July 28, 2017, by Columbia Pictures. (Wikipedia.org)

My topic is concerned with the sociolinguistic side of emoji and all the implications of its use. As previous research in this concern; I was interested to know more about it and the reasons that made it spread so fast among population from different backgrounds. Besides, as a linguistics student, I learned about the role of social factors in the development of any language. This made me wonder whether gender can affect emoji code being a language or just Para-linguistic cue. This way I asked: how do emoji affect language; Are there differences in how males and females use emoji? And will emoji be a

new form of communication? The importance of these interrogations is long-established through the present study analysis. These inquiries are very interesting because emojis are an actual phenomenon used everywhere in our daily life. They are so integrated that I think it is very important to acquire more knowledge about its functionalities. Furthermore, understanding emojis might be crucial since they are everywhere and there is a need to adopt them since they make the written form of interaction alive just like face to face communications.

The used sources are going to provide relevant answers for the set of sub-questions of this topic; such as: how are we communicating nowadays? What is emojis? And how are they affecting English language? How are they used by different gender? The study is entitled with: "EMOJI USE IN ONLINE COMMUNICATION & DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GENDERS A MOSTAGANEM ENGLISHLEARNERS' CASE STUDY". This dissertation tries to shed light on emoji code is probably the best communicative system in written form in this actual digital world. It might develop to become a language and be affected by gender as a one of the main social factors. The investigation was conducted to find responses for my hypothesis which can be sum up as follow; Emojis are affecting the use of English language among Algerian learners; emojis are not a sort of paralinguistic cue as some assumed; This code shares many similarities with natural language which can make it count as a language in the coming years, and finally emoji code, as good written communicative system, it is affected by gender just like communication in general.

The first chapter discusses online communication and gender, where I could spot communication main concepts in a very concise and precise way. Historical backgrounds were provided in a chronological order to reach online communication in chapter one. Focus was on the computer mediated communication (CMC) in view of the fact that people are using Facebook and Twitter at a high rate during their interaction via internet. Then, in the second chapter emoji code was discussed in a detailed manner. There one my have not only history of pictographs but the functionality of the whole system that govern it use. Finally, chapter three where a questionnaire was conducted then analyzed. The attention was on gender use of emoji and discussion about effect and emojis' future. Results were then examined according to my hypothesis to arrive at a general interesting conclusion.

## **Research Questions**

My concern in this research is to provide relevant responses to these main questions:

- ✓ How do emoji affect language?
- ✓ Are there differences in how males and females use emoji?
- ✓ Will emoji be a new form of communication?

## **Literature Review**

Nowadays people are using the emoji in all online communications to make their messages getting through in a more effective way. This rising use is affecting language because people might prefer them instead of typing a whole phrase for many reasons starting by the easiness and gain of time. It also helps to express the right message in a more successful way through a huge amount of expressions and symbols. Moreover, male and female are different in many fields like language as seen by several researches the usage is also dissimilar in term of emoji use. Consequently, this amassed use of emoji in everyday life might be a sign that this contemporary fashion of communication might reach a new scale to make it a language.as we shall discuss in this present paper.

## **Motivation**

This research project investigates **the role of gender in the use of emoji in online linguistic practices**. This subject attracted my interest because I have learned that language has always been affected by every revolution starting by the printing machine to nowadays the internet, where the use of language is central. My daily interactions through such social networks like Facebook pushed my linguistic critical thinking to wonder about emoticons and emoji which I see almost everywhere used by all users regardless of their gender, age or even their educational level in their interactions.

## **Objectives**

This paper aims to shed light on the system of emoji if there is any, and to refine our current understanding of the emoji use phenomenon as well as to discover whether gender differences represent a social factor that can affect its usage as they do for any language. This linguistic empirical study is going to deal with some comments and

messages used in some well-known social groups such Facebook as well as some quotes and sentences written by symbols brought from the NET and finally analysis of Mostaganem English learners answers.

## **Methodology**

In this research, the first chapter is going to deal with the literature review. It provides all the necessary information for the key concepts related to communication -the direct and the digital one - as well as the main theories to reach differences of gender in communication Then, the second chapter will be about the main concept namely Emoji and all what it might involve such as grammar, semantics, and pragmatics. Finally, a questionnaire will be distributed among learners belonging to the English department as a first step for this investigation. It is going to provide relevant results to make my research representative. The second step is to start trying to answer to my queries about gender differences in emoji use and the potentiality of this code to become a language by giving evidences and some statistics.



# **Chapter 1: COMMUNICATION AND GENDER THROUGH INTERNET**

## **Introduction**

Communication is found anywhere we go, whatever we do. It includes not only human beings but also all living things. As we are social beings, we cannot exist without interaction with our environment in order to understand others and our social realities. Etymologically speaking the word communication is derived from the Latin word “COMMUNIS” which means shared and common. In addition, the presence sender, receiver, message, medium, context, effect, feedback and noise is necessary for each process of communication whether it is verbal or not, formal or not. Furthermore, the invention of internet has affected the linguistic and social practices in terms of communication. As David Crystal declares (2001), “language itself changes slowly but the internet has spread up the process of those changes so you can notice them more quickly” (Crystal D. , 2011).

Internet is defined in Merriam Webster dictionary as “an electronic communications networks that connects computer networks and organizational computer facilities around the world”. It is, according to Jim Clark, “not just one thing and it is a collection of things - of numerous communications networks that all speak the same digital language”. This is to say that it is a global network that gathers millions of computers. Nowadays more than 190 countries are connected and sharing information through this new means of communication. Thus, the ways people interact have changed at present. It is no longer essential to meet face-to-face, one can communicate through e-mails, chats, video conferences, and social networks. This is what we call “ONLINE COMMUNICATION”. Equally important, researches in this field were interesting to shed lights on gender use while communicating. Thus, they have reached the conclusion that they differ in face to face communication as well as in the virtual one as we shall discuss in this present chapter.

## **Definition of Communication:**

Communication means in its broadest sense, the transmission of message from sender to receivers. The sender may be a single person or a group, who express

thoughts and ideas to destination. This destination may also be a person or a group who receive the message. Here is a figure that shows this process which involves three following elements:



Figure 1. Simple Model of Communication

This process helps us to develop and maintain human relationships. Communication aims to develop not only to convey information, but also to maintain and construct socio- cultural relationships. It is a basic human need like food and shelter. However, it is important to mention that communication is not confined to human being alone. All living things communicate like insects, animals, etc. Similarly, anything and everything around us has something to tell such as images, texts, objects, etc. Communication is a continuous process because it does not end with the receiver, but rather continues through responses to the sender or further transmission of the message to other people. It is also a complex process that needs narrower definitions and explanations. (HSS-I-Journalism)

## 1. Models of Communication

There are many models of communication but the basic models are as follow:

### 1.1. Aristotle's Concept of Communication

About 2300 years ago, Aristotle explained that communication comprises five elements: the speaker (sender), the speech (message), the audience (receivers), the occasion (context) and the effect (consequence). Based on his conceptualisation, the following model was developed later by other scholars.

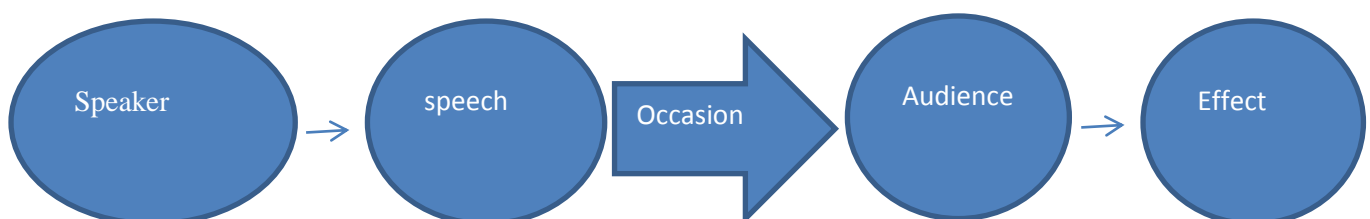
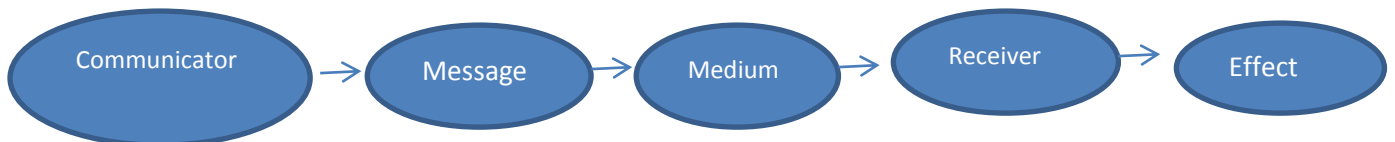


Figure 2. Aristotle's Conceptualisation of Communication

## 1.2. Lasswell Formula:

In 1930's, Harold Dwight Lasswell described the act of communication as the responses to the following questions "who, says what, in which channel, to whom, with what effect... this formula includes five elements: communicator (sender), message, medium (channel), receiver and effect.



**Figure 3. Lasswell's Model of Communication**

## 1.3. De Vito's Definition

It is based on Aristotle's conceptualisation and Lasswell's formula provided by the contemporary communication scholar Joseph A De Vito. He defined it as "the act by one or more persons of sending and receiving messages, distorted by noise, within a context, with some opportunity for feedback". This definition is considered as a significant one because it includes new concepts namely 'feedback' and 'noise' or what is known as communication barriers.

## 2. Communication Elements:

Communication is a dynamic process. It involves a series of activities such as reactions, gestures, postures, etc. It is very important to understand the eight elements of communication that occur in a given context. They are essential in every process of communication:

### 2.1. The Sender:

It is the generator or the source of the communication. S/he creates the message. S/he can be a single person or a group. A sender decides and encodes his ideas into messages. Encoding is the process of transferring ideas into the form of signals and then transmits them through a channel (e.g.: a writer transmits his message through written texts in a form of book).

## **2.2. The Message:**

It is anything that is sent or received through the sensory channels. It can be verbal or non-verbal. The former is the written or the spoken words in a language. The latter is all what represent clothing, body language, colours and space.

## **2.3. The Channel:**

It is the medium that carries the message from the generator to the receiver. It is the air in face-to-face interactions, the internet in the online communications, computer or the cell phones ...

## **2.4. The Receiver:**

It is the recipient of the message. S/he is going to decode every received message by interpreting and understanding.

## **2.5. The Feedback:**

It is the response to the sender messages by the receiver. After the interpretation of the message the receiver is going to encode his response into another message that will be sent to the source through the same medium.

## **2.6. The Noise:**

It refers to anything that distorts the message transmission. It occurs in every process of communication. It is also called 'barriers to communication'. The noise can affect different elements of communication. first, channel noise when there is disturbance in the medium; second, psychological noise when there is interference with psyche of participants; third, semantic noise when it is related to language; finally, contextual noise that is related with the situation itself.

## **2.7. The Context:**

It is "The part of a text or statement that surrounds a particular word or passage and determines its meaning".

## **2.8. The Effect:**

It is the consequences of the communication process. It may be positive or negative. The rate of the achievements of the effect determines the success of any communication. (HSS-I-Journalism)

### **3. Levels of Communication**

It depends on the number and nature of persons involved. It can be intrapersonal, interpersonal, group, public or mass communication.

#### **3.1. Intrapersonal Communication**

It takes place within the self. The individual functions as both the source and the recipient of the message, Like in daydreaming and meditation.

#### **3.2. Interpersonal Communication**

It is the interaction between one person and others to exchange ideas, feelings and thoughts.

#### **3.3. Group Communication**

It occurs among group members. According to Joseph A. De Vito “a group is a collection of individuals, few enough in number so that all members may communicate with relative ease as both senders and receivers, who are related to each other by some common purpose and with some degree of organization or structure among them”.

#### **3.4. Public Communication**

It is when a speaker addresses a comparatively large group of people with a continuous discourse. The feedback is very minimal.

#### **3.5. Mass -Communication.**

It is any communication organized from a source and received by a large group of people from different places. The mass concept means large, widely spread and mass media refers to the channel of communication such as magazines, newspapers, television, radio, films, websites and social networks. It is characterised by the quick and spontaneous delivery of messages, messages are perishable and exhaust immediately after use, and messages are filtered by professional gate keepers, etc. (HSS-I-Journalism)

### **4. Types of Communication**

Depending on the elements of communication, context, objectives, audience, and forms of the message and its delivery, communication can be verbal, non-verbal, formal or informal.

#### **4.1. Non-verbal communication**

It is all the behavioural expressions or cues that do not relay on words.

#### **4.2. Verbal communication**

It can be written or spoken. Language is its major channel.

- a) Written communication
- b) Spoken communication

#### **4.3. Formal communication**

It is defined by the context. It is the official and authentic communication in a much organised environment. It is more systematic, pre-planned and documented.

#### **4.4. Informal communication**

It is defined by the context. It occurs in non-organized situations like in chatting and gossiping.

### **5. Evolution of Communication:**

Our fathers communicated even before the appearance of language. This process of communication has passed through the following developmental stages to reach the prevalent status; it started during the pre-historic era when men interacted using their sensory signs, symbols in other words they were using body language mainly, this is what we call the 'Non-Verbal Communication'. Then, they slowly developed language by giving meaning to every sound they produced on various contexts. Yet, it was still a very primitive form of oral interaction. In order to make this interaction more successful they supplemented those meaningful sounds by nonverbal cues which are still used at present. After that the developing social need required to have systemic stable forms of communication. This gave birth to paintings on cave walls called 'Petroglyphs'.



Figure 4. Petroglyphs (Wikipedia)

Then around 7000BC, there was the use of a series of pictures to convey ideas and thoughts called ‘pictographic’.



Figure 5. Pictographic (Wikipedia)

Long after that, there was the emergence of grammar system. It was the era of writing when people started using manuscripts. They also used papyrus, animal skins, palm leaves, and similar materials.

The propagation of religious texts and the educative one lead to the invention of the printing press. This is known by modern era where humanity saw a number of continuous technological advancements like telegraph, telephone, radio, television and the internet that is the major revolution which is still affecting our way of communication. (HSS-I-Journalism)

Equally important, this modern way of interaction went by five stages also known as the five waves of communication technology:

### **5.1. The Age of Print:**

It was during 1456 with the invention of a durable printing for mass production by Johannes Guttenberg of Mainz, Germany. It was oil-based and wooden printed press.

### **5.2. The Age of Signals:**

It started with the invention of telegraph by Samuel F.B. Morse. It defined as “any system that allows the transmission of enclosed information by signals across a distance”. In addition, there were other considerable inventions like telephone (1876), photography (1826), radio (1901), cinema (1895) and television (1927).

### **5.3. The Age of Man and Machine:**

The invention of computer in 1822 by Charles Babbage, led to machine based human communication. It has increased the rate of data transmission, saved time and improved printing quality.

### **5.4. The Age of Satellite Networks:**

It started by the launch of sputnik, the first artificial satellite in 1957. Here the communication was by sending signals to the satellite which once received is going to amplify it transmit them to earth through television.

### **5.5. The Age of Networks:**

It is the introduction of the internet. It is defined in Merriam-Webster dictionary as an electronic communications network that connects computer networks and organizational computer facilities around the world. Nowadays technological advancement offers new opportunities for its use through simple devices like mobile phones.

## **6. Language and internet**

As John Paolillo puts it, in his introduction to a paper on the virtual speech community; “*if we are to understand truly how the internet might shape our language, then it is essential that we seek to understand how different varieties of language are used on the internet*”. (Crystal, 2011)

It is important to note that internet is a predominately a written medium which is related to speaking as we shall see. This is why many writers have called internet



language as ‘written speech’. It is a written electronic discourse that is very often read as if it was writing talking. It is also called ‘Netspeak’ communication; it is composed from ‘Net’ to refer to internet and ‘speak’ which involves writing as well as talking. It can be an alternative to electronic discourse when the emphasis is on the interactive and dialogue elements, internet language, or computer mediated communication when the focus is on the medium itself.

At this stage, it is important to refresh our knowledge about the nature of spoken and written language and the factors that differentiate them. Speech is a time-bound, spontaneous, face-to-face, socially interactive, loosely structured, immediately revisable and prosodically rich. On the other hand, Writing is typically space-bound, contrived, visually decontextualized, factually communicative, elaborately structured, repeatedly revisable, and graphically rich. (Crystal D. , 2011)

However, it is essential to not confuse between Netspeak and face to face communication. They are different because the former lack the spontaneous feedback. Messages sent via the net are complete and unidirectional. The second difference is that the first is slower in rhythm of interaction which can be from a second to a longer period. Third, Netspeak lacked all the paralinguistic cues which are crucial in face to face interactions. Yet, they introduced what is called emoji and emoticons as we shall discuss later on.

As a consequence, the ways people interact have changed and it is no longer essential to meet face-to-face, one can communicate through e-mails, chats, video conferences, and social networks. This is the “ONLINE COMMUNICATION” age.

## **7. Online Communication**

Online communication dates back to late 1960s. It is considered as an important linguistic means, this what David Crystal stated (in his book ‘Language and the Internet’) “internet is an amazing medium for language”. Online communication is defined in Wikipedia as “any human communication that occurs through the use of two or more electronic devices”. The term refers to those communications via computer-mediated formats (e.g., instant messaging, email, chat rooms, online forums, social network); and also the other forms of text-based interaction such as text messaging. Today’s interactions

involve individuals who are often geographically and culturally dispersed. This interaction makes use synchronous and asynchronous computer mediated communication. It has often been referred to as 'VIRTUAL or ONLINE COMMUNICATION'. It is used to describe a short duration interaction that utilizes *asynchronous* computer mediated interaction specially.

There are numerous terms to refer to online communication like: E-Discourse (Davis and Brewer, 1977; Panchhurst, 2006), Computer Mediated Communication 'CMC' (Herring, 1996), interactive written Discourse (Werry, 1996), etc. According to Davis and Brewer (1997), E-discourse is used to describe the way individuals use language to share and exchange ideas and information, not the medium used in the communication. It also refers to written forms that stand in place of voices. Moreover, Herring (1996, p. 1), states that it refers to text based CMC, in which participants interacts by means of written words, e.g.: typing a message ... which is read by others ..., either immediately (synchronous CMC) or after some times (asynchronous CMC).

### **7.1. Computer mediated communication (CMC):**

It is a kind of communication based on computers and networks. Computer-mediated Communication (CMC) is defined as any communicative transaction that occurs through the use of two or more networked computers. It is a system consisting of human and computer, which means that it is alive instead of some rigid facilities. The participation of humans makes themselves creators, users, ameliorators; furthermore the core of the computer-mediated communication system, which means that without humans, the system would only have cold apparatus left. (triple-c.at)

### **7.2. Components of Computer-Mediated Communication System:**

It corresponds to Harold Dwight Lasswell theory of '*five W model*', it means: Who (says), what, (to) whom, (in) What Channel (with) and What Effect. Similarly, CMC system can be divided into five components: Subject, Host, Information resource, Channel, Relations and Effects. (triple-c.at)

#### **7.2.1. The Subject**

The Subject of CMC system is humans, also called Network Users. They can be creators, providers and recipients of the network. Therefore the subject performs roles as the initiator, the media and also the target. As CMC system implies give-and-take

features, the roles of participants in the network are *changeable*. Being different from other forms of communication, the subject has much closer connections with CMC system itself, even can be embedded part of the system. Since the relationship among the subjects of CMC system is here a presentation of the real one.

### **7.2.2. The Host**

A network host (Internet host, host, or Internet node) is a computer connected to the Internet - or more generically - to any type of data network. A network host can hold information resources as well as application software for providing network services. The host is the most important part of a CMC system. A special host system can be either a client, or a server, both of which are the base of networks communication. In CMC system, a host includes not only hardware, but also software, which is a dynamic integration of them. A host system carries out a communication process by using the network equipment and the network protocol- TCP/IP etc. according to the network users' concrete instruction, in turn, the host system accomplishes the developments of information quantities and services. In brief, an isolated computer without network is just a calculator or a processing unit with the ability of dealing with information. But once it joins internet, forming a CMC system, then it will undergo a qualitative change in terms of dealing and processing. This is the unique power of the whole communication system.

### **7.2.3. Information Resource**

Network information is a summation of all messages transmitted by the computer network and memorized on the network nodes. As for the network information resource, it can be comprehended as “a summation of various information resources gained by using the network. It doesn't include all the information put in the internet, but only the section which meets the information demands of users. In consequence, the scope of Network Information Resource is narrower than that of Network Information. Network information resources are contents and objects of network communication. During the process of CMC, the network information is executed as the commutation of meanings which is also the essence of CMC. CMC makes the network information getting rid of the tie of concrete medium; hence CMC becomes a pure information communication, which is a great leap of human communication. The network information resources have characteristics on huge amounts, diverse types, easy

access, wide distribution and fast transmission, so it can achieve a quickly accurate information dissemination process, which makes CMC different from other forms of communication.

#### **7.2.4. Channels**

It means a path of network information transmitting, which puts different subject together, making the transmission of network information smooth. The effects of CMC are largely determined by the characteristic and state of channel. The channel of CMC is generally made up of network facilities, network news transfer protocols (NNTP) and network media. The facilities and media are hardware, and the protocols are software of CMC channel. CMC channel includes not only the noticeable material passages, such as electric cables, but also includes various software that deliver the network information, such as NNTP, so it is a dynamic integration of hardware and software. The network media have different forms, which can be common communicating electric cables or fibres, or submarine cables, even can be a man-made satellite data communication channel. When they are in the process of CMC, network users don't pay much attention to what actually the form of channel is, because internet provides redundant paths all the time,

#### **7.2.5. Relations and Effects**

CMC effects are the essential part of CMC system, and a presentation of the social functions of CMC. The effects may be positive also called 'Plus Effect', or Negative. The purpose of CMC should be enlarging the Plus Effect and restraining the Negative one. Sometimes the effects of CMC can be seen as the establishment and maintenance of various relationships among network users. In the other kinds of communication, the subjects' relationships are a kind of invisible social existence; whereas in CMC system, the relationship between network users can be reflected by interlink ages and dynamic structures, which are also the expression of the function and fragment of CMC system. It is a reciprocal dynamic process of information communication, and it is an orderly information transmitting system, which has its stable structures. Being dynamic and orderly, CMC system is complicated therefore. Having stable structures makes it possible to understand and analyse the system. (triple-c.at)

## **8. Main Online Communication Tools**

Among the very basic communication tools available in any online environment, we have:

### **8.1. Email**

It is, according to the website small business, derived from the term ‘Electronic Mail’. With the rise of messaging through social networking sites and instant messages, email is not quite as important as it used to be. A typical email address has two parts your user name and domain/server name, separated by “@” email symbol (for example, yourname@domain.com ). (business.com)

### **8.2. Social Networking**

Social networking, according to the website small business, is all about creating groups, exchanging information. In addition to being a major part of social life in the modern world, social networking is an invaluable tool for Internet marketing since it provides a user-friendly and highly accessible platform upon which to exchange information on products and services. For example, if someone likes an article on your business blog or website, he may decide to share it with his friends over Facebook or Twitter, etc. (business.com)

#### **8.2.1. Facebook**

Facebook is defined in the website ‘TECH TERMS’ as a social networking website that was originally designed for college students. Users can create and customize their own profiles with photos, videos, and information about themselves. Friends can browse the profiles of other friends and write messages on their pages. Facebook provides an easy way for friends to keep in touch and for individuals to have a presence on the Web without needing to build a website. (Tech-terms.com)

#### **8.2.2. Twitter**

According to the website ‘your dictionary’, it is a very popular message broadcasting system that lets anyone send alphanumeric text messages up to 140 characters in length to a list of followers. Launched in 2006, Twitter was designed as a social network to keep friends and colleagues informed throughout the day. However, it became widely used for commercial and political purposes to keep customers, voters and fans up-to-date as well as to encourage feedback. (yourdictionary.com)

### 8.3. Instant Messaging

According to the website 'TECH TERMS', it Stands for "Instant Message." Instant messaging, or "IMing," as frequent users call it, has become a popular way to communicate over the Internet. Two people with the same IM client software can type messages back in forth in a private online chat session. IM software allows users to build a list of friends, or "buddies" and displays what other users are online. After seeing who is online, the user can open up chat sessions with as many other people as he or she wants. Instant messaging can be a much more efficient way to communicate with others than sending multiple e-mails back and forth. For this reason, IMing has become a useful tool among friends and co-workers. (Tech-terms.com)

#### 8.3.1. Whatsapp:

According to the website 'your dictionary', it is instant messaging service for cell phones. Founded in 2009 by Brian Acton and Jan Koum, Whatsapp uses the Internet as an alternative to the SMS text messaging system. (yourdictionary.com)

#### 8.3.2. Messenger:

Facebook Messenger is an instant messaging service and software application. It is integrated with Facebook's web-based chat feature and built on the open MQTT protocol. Facebook Messenger lets Facebook users send messages to each other. It was launched as a standalone app on the Android and iOS operating systems in August 2011 and the functionality was then removed from the main Facebook app in April 2014. (Wikipedia.org)

## 9. Online Communication Features

1. Online communication creates a kind of '**Semi-Speech**' that is between speaking and writing, and similar to face-to-face interactions. According to (Lee S. J., 2009)
2. It is a way of information exchange, which is **unusual**, compared to face-to-face interaction, yet they are conversations, as stated by (Crystal, 2003).
3. The presence of **Abbreviations**, unconventional punctuation and misspelling, as well as the use of visual like emojis. As reported by Lee, L; Toyoda. & Harrison (2002)

4. It relies on both reading and writing skills. Abram's (2003) asserts that it is different form of verbal discourse in its written scripts. Therefore, users may require more time for the comprehension of the input and output.
5. Linguistic economy seen through abbreviations, clippings, orthographic reduction, shortening, ellipsis, as stated by Ferrara, Brunner, and Whitemore, 1991; Murry, 1990; Werry, 1996).
6. Averianava (2012, p. 15), states that the unique linguistic and iconographic features of electronic writing comprise but are not limited to innovative abbreviation (acronyms, logograms, letter-numeral hybrids and letters- morpheme substitutes, vowel deletion, etc.), emoticons, shortened simplified grammar, disrespect of capitalisation rules, etc.
7. The creation of new means to convey emotions and facial expressions. They invited linguistic devices like onomatopoeia (e.g.: LOL = laugh out loud) and keyboard symbols, smileys (e.g.:☺, <3). They are commonly used in E-discourse to make up for the absence of paralinguistic features of real time communication. (Lee, 2001, 2006).

## **10. Gender Definition**

Etymologically it is derived from the Latin which means 'race', 'kind'. Gender is defined by Food and Agriculture Organization of United States (FAO, 1997) as *'the relations between men and women, both perceptual and material*. Gender is not determined biologically, as a result of sexual characteristics of either women or men, but is constructed socially. It is a central organizing principle of societies, and often governs the processes of production and reproduction, consumption and distribution' (FAO, 1997). Despite this definition, gender is often misunderstood as being the promotion of women only. However, as we see from the FAO definition, gender issues focus on women and on the relationship between men and women, their roles, access to and control over resources, division of labour, interests and needs. Gender relations affect household security, family well-being, planning, production and many other aspects of life (Bravo-Baumann, 2000). (FAO, 2017)

## 11. Gender Differences in Communication

Men and women communicate differently. This is presented by the best seller book 'Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus' written by Dr Gray. The difference is noticeable and drastic from the way of speaking to the use of body language. Conforming to what Deborah Tanneh in her book 'you don't understand', communication is not as simple as saying what you mean, how you say what you mean is crucial and differs from one person to the next. Here are some differences:

	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>
<b>Body Language:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Desire space</li> <li>❖ Tend to be distant rather than engaged bodily</li> <li>❖ Do not touch, unless with some gender in playful aggression</li> <li>❖ Tend to more shift body postures when conversation is uncomfortable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Body alignment face the other person</li> <li>❖ Use more hand gestures</li> <li>❖ Use more body contact</li> <li>❖ Sat relative still</li> </ul>
<b>Facial Expression</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Do not use a lot of eye contact</li> <li>❖ Use more head motion</li> <li>❖ Conceal and control facial displays</li> <li>❖ Smile less</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Use eye to eye contact</li> <li>❖ Use less head motion than men</li> <li>❖ Tend to express emotion through facial expression</li> <li>❖ Smile more</li> </ul>
<b>Speech</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Use talk to assert their independence</li> <li>❖ Sitting and talking is not essential part of friendship</li> <li>❖ Hear talk of problems as a request for advice or help</li> <li>❖ Give orders as a way of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Use conversation to negotiate closeness intimacy</li> <li>❖ Talking is the essence of intimacy;</li> <li>❖ Sitting and talking means friendship</li> <li>❖ Go in depth on a topic</li> </ul>



	<p>gaining social status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Use more small talk</li> </ul>	
<b>Questions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ A question is usually a honest request for information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ It can often be a rhetorical means of engaging the other's conversational contribution or of acquiring attention from others conversationally involved</li> <li>❖ Use questions more frequently</li> </ul>
<b>Turn-Taking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Tendency towards centring on their own point or remaining silent when presented with such implicit offers of conversational turn-taking, as the work of Victoria Defrancisco shows</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Comprises a desire to take turns in conversation with others</li> </ul>
<b>Changing the Topic of Conversation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ According to Bruce Dorval, males tend to change subject more frequently than females.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Goodwin observes that women relate their utterances to previous speakers and cultivate each topics, rather than introducing new topics.</li> </ul>
<b>Minimal Responses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Both male and female participants in a conversation can employ these minimal responses for interactive functions, rather than gender-specific functions.</li> </ul>	

## **12. Gender Online Communication:**

Researches on CMC date back to 1970's. Results of the conducted study of Susan C. Herring have shown that:

- Males use aggressive expressions more than females in emails, instant messages, etc.
- Males tend to seek a way to be authoritative and gain valuable information, while women tend to see the internet as a way to cultivate existing relationships and develop new ones.

## **13. Gender Online Communication Differences**

This kind of communication is mainly written like in emails and instant messages. The differences are somehow the same lacking those which involve the face-to-face ones. These differences can be summed up through the research conducted by Susan C. Herring (1994). She has made an investigation on various computer mediated discussions lists 'Linguist-L'. According to the findings, male style is characterised by argumentative: put-down, strong, often contentious assertions, lengthy and frequent postings, self-promotion and sarcasm. While female style tends to be reassuring by using expressions of appreciation, thanking, and community-building welcome. Besides being helpful and contributing in the form of suggestions. (Herring, 1994)

Female style tends to consider the 'face' wants of the addressee (the term was given by the sociolinguist Erving Goffman). While the male style tends to threaten the addressee in the process of engaging him in debate. (Herring, 1994) In other words, communication is a complex system that needs the presence of all its components. It makes use of written as well as spoken ways to communicate messages. It can be through direct or indirect means. The first is the face-to-face conversations and the latter is by letters or nowadays digital means like internet. This latter made the world as Cristal David argued as a global village where people interact orally by for instance Skype, as well as in written forms like in instant messages. It could gather both forms into one effective means. Moreover, it could overcome the lack of the Para-lingual cues - very crucial for any successful communication- in non-face-to-face exchanges by introducing the emoji that we are going to discuss deeply in the next chapter.

## CHAPTER 2: EMOJI CODE

Communication has evolved and became shorter due to the internet. The process shifted from the use of full words and sentences in instant messages, to shortened expressions, to finally replacing that by icons created thanks to keyboard of computers or found ready in devices like phones, these are what are commonly known as emoticons and emoji. Here are some examples







Comments	Internet Slang	Emojis
That's funny	haha/lol	
Okay	K	
I like it	like	
Talk to you later	ttyl	
Just kidding	jk	
I love you	ily	

Figure 6. Evolution of Online Written Communication (team, 2012)

Communication was extremely affected by the arrival of Internet. It is no more restricted to face-to-face (F2F) interactions. It is a new form of direct exchange that makes use essentially of the written form of language. People are interacting and chatting in instant messages such as Facebook, Whatsapp, in posts such as tweets and again Facebook or e-mails. However, this kind of communication lacks features of the non-verbal cues that are essential and help to convey messages in a successful way such as the Para-lingual (also known as body language). To overcome this obstacle, humanity saw the creation of a new online communication tools based on the use of a new hieroglyphic language known as ‘**emoji** and **emoticons**’.

### 1. Emoticon

Emoticon is defined in I-emoji website as “an icon made up of punctuation marks, letters, and numbers used to create pictorial icons that generally display an emotion

or sentiment?”. It is an Icon because it is a representation that helps in the delivery of the sender’s message. (I-emoji.com)

In Tech-terms website, “The term emoticon comes from "emotion and icon" and refers to facial expressions represented by keyboard characters. It dates back to 1982’s when Dr. Scott E. Fahlman proposed to use the smiley face :-) or frowning face :-( to show whether a post is serious or a joke. In other words, by inserting an emoticon into a message, you can help the recipient better understand the feeling you want to get across. Here are some examples:

O.O – Confused	=^.^= - Cat	:O3 – Dog
*<:O) – Clown	C[_] – Coffee Cup	T.T – Crying
:D - Very Happy		

**Figure 7. Emoticons**

Similarly, there is what is called "Kaomoji" emoticons, originated from Japan. It is the use of Japanese symbols and uncommon characters to create unique emoticons. For example, the emoticon “ ( ^o^ ) \_ ” represents a person throwing a bowling ball. The "flipping table" emoticon “( °□° ) ” can be used to say you are really upset. The attractiveness of such text-based emotions led to the creation of icons named "Emojis."

Although, emoticons are still being used, they are gradually replaced by digital images or icons that represent better the sender’s emotions and intents called emoji. (Tech-terms.com)

## 2. Emoji

Emoji is defined in Tech-target website, as “a small image, either static or animated, that represents an emotion, an item or a concept”. The name "emoji" comes from the Japanese phrase "E" ( ) and "MOJI" ( ) meaning "picture word". They have

expanded and are universally used in text messaging and diverse social media. They have largely replaced emoticons because they represent people, places, animals, objects, flags, feelings and symbols. Emoji were invented in 1990 by Shigetaka Kurita. They were simple and were inspired by manga and kanji characters. Emoticons and emoji looks similar people would say, however, they are completely different because they differ in the design, the former, has characters which are found in the keyboard, or representation similar to cartoon without any punctuation, number, etc. Emoji, on the other hand, are often pictographs—images of things such as faces, weather, emotions or activities. It is a set of predefined pictures with meanings. (I-emoji.com)

### 3. Origins of Emoji

*“Sometimes, emojis are worth 1,000 words.” (NOWAK)*

It was Shigetaka Kurita who created the first emoji characters. The idea came to birth because of the difficulties faced when typing texts messages which was too limited to express all people ideas and emotions. He was inspired by weather forecast that uses sun in different forms to represent it. He, then, proposed to his company to adopt the same way by adding pictures for diverse emotions. His proposal was accepted, and he had to come up with the world's first 180 emojis. Below you will find some of the first emojis that were the foundation for the emojis we know and love today. (storify.com)



**Figure 8. First Form of Emoji**

After about 10 years, the use spread overseas, this is what is noticeable nowadays through text messages, as well as diverse networks such as Facebook messaging, Twitter, etc.





**Figure 12. Message with Emoji that Expresses Feelings**

Owing to emoji that all human digital communication is fulfilling their goals in transmitting messages not far from face to face communications. Before all, it is important to know about writing system to be able to understand the emoji mechanism, and thus to comprehend the evolution by which humanity passed through to reach the actual way of written communication.

According to Steven Roger Fischer Writing system is characterised by fulfilling the following points: first, it is used for communication purposes; second, it consists of artificial graphic marks on a durable or electronic surface; Finally, it uses marks that relate conventionally to articulate speech (the systematic arrangement of significant vocal sounds) or electronic programming in such a way that communication is achieved. (Fischer, 2001)

Writing system is defined by Coulmas, Florian, as “a set of visible or tactile signs used to represent units of language in a systematic way, with the purpose of recording messages which can be retrieved by everyone who knows the language in question and the rules by virtue of which its units are encoded in the writing system ((The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Writing Systems (Oxford, Blackwell, 1999), P.560).). Moreover, it is important to know that it involves both ‘functionality’ through a visual way for representing language, and ‘symbolism’ that represents all what is culture. It falls into several broad classifications as stated in ‘*the semiotics of emoji - the raise of visual language in the age of the internet*’ by Danesi which can be summarized as follows:

- a) *Pictographic writing* in which picture signs are used to represent what it stands for.
- b) *Idiographic writing* where there is a use of pictographs in some way; the use of pictures and symbols to represent the objects and ideas

- c) *Logographs* are symbols that do not stand for a referent directly but for the words that do.
- d) *Syllabaries* that are made up characters which stands for speech syllables such as the alphabet system. They have from 80 to 100 symbols that can be used to form words.
- e) *Alphabet* which is a standard set of letters, technically identified as ‘graphemes’ representing speech units called ‘phonemes’. Besides being the most economical system for it consists of a finite set of symbols which are from 20 to around 35 that can be used to write an infinite set of sentences and words in a given language. (Danesi, 2017)

The graphical symbols called punctuation, were introduced later to help in the lay out of the written texts. Alphabetic scripts are known to be *linear* because they are put up in some lined form, from left- to- right (Latin languages), right-to-left (Arabic language), up-down, or down-up; A main characteristic of alphabetic writing is that it matches the syntax of the language it transcribes, allowing for the concentration of singular ideas into complex interrelated ones in some rule-based arrangement (Trager, 1974). Pictographic systems are less dependent on the syntax of verbal language (Mallery, 1893).

Researches on this field have shown that a balanced visual and phonetically writing appeared in most writing practices (Schele, 1979). For example the Maya had phonetically based writing symbols which they used in parallel with the pictographs. It was used for dynastic records for their simplicity. It was a mixed model system. The best-known ancient one is the *Egyptian Hieroglyphic* one. It was mainly iconic referring to concrete referents (eyes, animals, food, etc.); as the system became more common, it developed numerous ideographs denoting to abstract referents (verbs). The character ‘A’, for instance, started as a pictograph of a head of an ox in Egypt ‘Aleph’, then when the Greeks started the practice of naming and then later the concept of *alphabet* had finally crystallized in human consciousness. Afterwards, it had gradually introduced various other symbols such as numerals (% , & , @ , etc.) and punctuation marks to indicate non-segmental features of speech (intonation, pauses, etc.).









Figure 13. *Egyptian Hieroglyphic* (Wikipedia)

Moreover, Japanese scripts, for instance, are written with two complete Syllabaries, the *Hiragana* and the *Katakana*. All this suggests that writing is not a haphazard representation of speech, but objectively an extremely adaptive and culturally complex tool for encoding information.

The emergence of internet helped the rise of writing in the interactions processes rather than speech. This new way of communication involves what is called ‘digital writing’ that can be ‘*Asynchronous*’, when the receiver is not aware that the sent message is for him or her and the message will be seen in a delayed time as seen in emails, blogs, etc. or ‘*Synchronous*’, when the receiver is aware that the message is sent for him or her as an on-going one in real time as in the instant messages in social media like Facebook. Nowadays the synchronous aspect of communication is not restricted to the Face-to-face interactions but has evolved to the digital writing one. It needs rapid writing replies which lead to the emergence of new types of literacy and communicative practices based on time-saving by the use of abbreviated forms as discussed earlier. Thus, the use of abbreviated language as well as emoji means people are looking to have a more rapid and efficient communication through instant messages. Besides, that emoji are serving that interaction by adding visual images to writing. (Danesi, 2017)

#### 4. Stylization

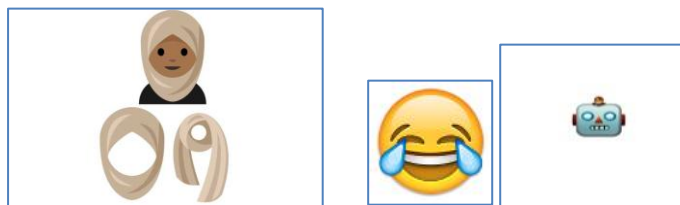
Stylisation is very important when studying emoji, which are mainly iconic forms similar to sketches. For instance, the sun emoji  is a pictographic form that suggests the sun. While A raining cloud emoji  is an ideograph that put forward that it is raining, the same for the Cloudy day emoji  and umbrella with rains drops .

surfer 🏄 refers for the action, the same for the swimmer 🏊, shushing face 🤫 to mean that silence is needed, face with symbols over mouths 🙊 for anger.

The emoji code involves value, colour and perspective.

- **Value:** deals with the representation of differences such as the darkness or the lightness of a line or shade.
- **Colour:** deals with the meanings conveyed through emoji colours such as the red face that depicts a high degree of anger.
- **Perspective:** deals with the representation that comes to mind like the movement in the sunrise emoji.

Besides, studies have shown that emoji can be *Universal* understood in the same way across the global village such as ‘smiling faces’ and precisely the ‘face with tears’ which indicates laughing so hard I am crying, or *Mid-Universal* like the ‘robot face’ and *Non-Universal* which are mainly related to cultural backgrounds of the users such as ‘Muslim women wearing scarf’ and ‘star wars’ emoji.



The main functions of emoji are to provide degrees of meaning to the message, to reinforce the written forms without replacing them, and finally to expend the meaning to any written communication.

## 5. Emoji Uses and Functions

Nowadays, interactions are more and more visual. This is why emoji uses are included in our daily life even in court courts evidences. In fact, in 2015, there were two interesting events about the modern status of emoji in daily life. The first one took place in New York City, where a judge instructed that the accused person is not guilty for criminal intents because this latter has included an emoji in his message which means he was playful without any harmful intentions; the second one, the Pittsburgh police presented three emoji as evidence to solve a double homicide trial. Here emoji were a running man, a

gun and an explosion. They were sent before the robbery and the murder. They depicted, according to the police, that the persecutor has criminal intentions and thus is guilty for that horrific crime. In other words, from these two events one may say that emoji are not restricted to decorate messages, they can be seen more seriously thus represents intents, moods, and state of mind. Discourse functions of emoji code now are somehow similar to the verbal one; this is what will be discussed in the coming part. (Danesi, 2017)

### **5.1. Phatic Function**

Bronislaw Malinowski (1923) was the first who studied this aspect of common discourse. Discourse is the use of language for social and psychological purposes. They are a visually based variety of ‘small talk’ which is mainly used to establish social exchange as well as to maintain satisfying conversations. He proposed the term ‘phatic communication’ for such social talk as a shared proficiency. Phatic speech is crucial to maintain what the sociologist Erving Goffman (1955) named ‘positive social face’ in the interactions. Additionally, according to Marcel Danesi (2017), the most common phatic functions of emoji are as follows:

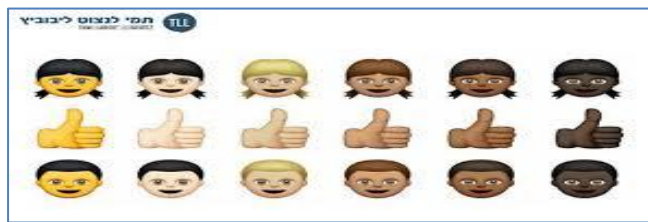
- a) *The utterance opener*: it is used like salutations, allowing the sender to present a positive face and to maintain friendly links with the receiver.
- b) *Utterance ending*: it is used as a goodbye function in a message to avoid any implicit sense of rejection.
- c) *Silence avoidance*: in face-to-face exchanges silence moments are awkward. A usual solution is to fill these silence signs with meaningless expressions. In written interactions, emoji play the role of gaps filler.

### **5.2. Emotive Function**

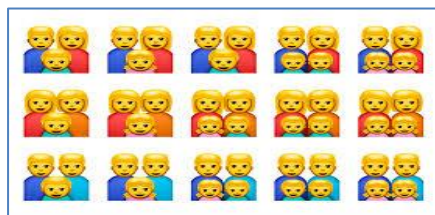
This is defined as the use of discourse compositions (words, intonations, phrasing, etc.) to describe thoughts. In real life communication people use interjections, intonations, and other prosodic strategies to convey feelings in an explicitly or an implicitly way. The emotivity of emoji can be broken down further into two sub-categories: first, as substitutes for facial expressions in face-to-face communication; second, to visually emphasize a point of view.

At present, there is a regular emoji lexicon full of various kinds of universal and cultural-specific ones. Their use was so spread in 2010 because hundreds of them were

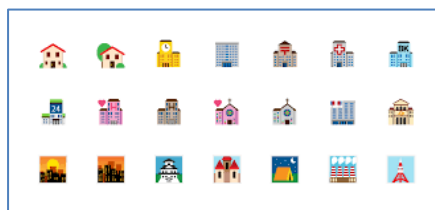
standardized in a Unicode. It is defined in Wikipedia as a computing industry standard for the consistent encoding, representation, and handling of text expressed in most of the world's writing systems. This extensive diffusion have created a need for more specific emoji that represents any user cultural backgrounds as well as the addition of emoji including sports, food items, signs of zodiac, new facial expressions, and places of worship, etc. However, this globalization leads for the creation of some various *Cultural Sensitive Designs*, such as the addition of racial diversity in terms of colours, and the ones reflecting the changing nature of the family units



**Figure 14. Emoji with Different Skin Colour**



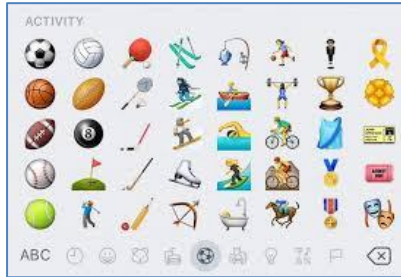
**Figure 15. Emoji Showing Different Social Status**



**Figure 16. Places Emoji**



**Figure 17. Food Emoji**



**Figure 18. Sport Emoji**

*Ambiguity* is one potential danger of the universality of emoji code. It is very risky in any text messages even if the participants share the same language and worse if they share different cultural backgrounds. There is a very useful example about such ambiguity used by the linguist Bar-Hillel (1960) in what is called ‘*The Bar-Hillel Paradox*’. This paradox means that the participant makes use of Para lingual strategies in order to make sense of messages according to the context which determines how messages are interpreted since any utterance might have polysomic meanings. Universal emoji code aims to overcome ambiguity. This is seen in wise choice of the yellow colour of faces emoji, to avoid any possible ethnic, racial messages, this is to say that it was yellow to help people use them for communication without any political- sociological issues even though there are some other variant like the *thump-up* which is interpreted as good while others see it as inappropriate. This universal gesture is offensive in parts of West Africa, Russia, etc. here it is useful to mention De Saussure’s (1916) terminology of signs the same signifier (a physical form such as the thump-up emoji) will have different signified ( conceptual meanings).

## 6. Emoji Competence

Now it is imperative to have knowledge about how to use the emoji code for the reason that it has rules much like natural languages. This code is a system of signs which has rules similar the alphabet. The latter needs a specific order to have meaningful

sentences and words. Emoji code needs a competence, entails knowledge about how to successfully employ images in messages so that the meaning is not misunderstood. Emoji competence means in part having awareness of how to interpret emoji images in a written texts and then to maintain the phatic communication with the receiver. Rules of emoji usage have emerged alike those of natural languages. At present they are implicit developed from the uses and they follow many rules of natural languages syntax and semantics. Emoji code is a kind of visual alphabet code that can be used in two main ways to create meaningful structures as stated by Denesi (2017); first adjunctively within a written text such as salutation with positive tone; second substitutive of such a text such as being familiar with this code uses and meanings for a better understanding. (Danesi, 2017)

## **7. Emoji Code**

The emoji code is universal now and culturally sensitive system. Three main standard features are involved in it, as follow (Danesi, 2017)

- 1) Representationality: implies the use of signs and their combinations are used to stand for a particular thing. ( like picture stories for children);
- 2) Interpretability: entails that messages are understood easily and successfully by anyone who is familiar with this code much more than in natural languages;
- 3) Contextualisation: context is important for the interpretation of this code. It affects the receiver's understanding of the pictographs.



Furthermore, the emoji code is no more restricted to be used as a communication facilitator; it is now also used to meet specific demands that fit any community needs and culture. As a matter of fact, every language have words categories of things that are common to daily life which can be found in a lexicon such as food, animals, parts of the body, tools, family members, etc. emoji code also have such lexicon which gathers all it signs and making them more universal than those of natural language.





It is important to observe that nouns are easily encoded into emoji sings than are the verbs, adjectives and other parts of speech and it is generally used in the same why of the sender's natural language structure. Yet, there is what is called “Peripheral *Lexicon*” which is all what could supplement the core lexicon with specialized items for particular communications. In other words, it is a kind or additional lexicon that helps to meet the demands of any culture or group.


Another feature of the emoji code is represented by this saying ‘a picture is worth a thousand words’. This means that emoji code help to have a *compressed full messages*, shorter than the alphabetic written texts messages. It is an economical and rapid system crucial in instant messages. The concept of compression is generally used by the cognitivists to refer to the process of condensing large amounts of data into compact forms. (Danesi, 2017)


## 8. Emoji Most Used Characters Meanings


Here are some of the commonly accepted meanings of popular emoji by Harry Guinness: (Guinness, 2015)


  **Smiling Face with Smiling Eyes and Smiling Face** are the two most commonly used emoticons. They simply denote happiness or positivity. Infrequently, they may be used following an insult or criticism to remove some of the sting.


    **Smiling Face with Open Mouth, Smiling Face with Open Mouth and Smiling Eyes, Grinning Face, and Smiling Face With Open Mouth And Tightly-Closed Eyes** are similar to the two simpler smiley faces and may be used in the same way. However, they are often used to express greater levels of happiness. A message with one of these emoji will normally be extremely positive.


 **Smiling Face with Open Mouth and Cold Sweat** shows happiness like the other smiling faces, but there is also an element of relief. Messages using this emoji often express joy at how a potentially negative event worked out. For example: if you sent a message explaining that you just passed a difficult test or got the all clear from the doctor then you could use this emoji.


 **Face with Tears of Joy** is used to show laughter. It's closely related to LOL. If someone sends a funny joke, you can respond with this emoji.


 **Smiling Face with Sunglasses** is used to show coolness. It's similar to the sunglasses used in Deal with It GIFs.


 **Flushed Face** shows embarrassment for an awkward situation or mistake. It is frequently used self-deprecatingly as a response to compliments.


 **Face Savoring Delicious Food** is used to express emotion about food. It can be used in anticipation for, during, or after a tasty meal.


 **Smirking Face** has strong sexual connotations. It normally accompanies sexual innuendos or suggestions.


 **Winking Face** shows that the message was sent with humorous intent. Any message that accompanies a Winking Face should not be taken too seriously. Similar to Smirking Face, Winking Face often accompanies suggestive messages.

 **Face with Stuck-Out Tongue, Face with Stuck-Out Tongue and Winking Eye, and Face with Stuck-Out Tongue and Tightly-Closed Eyes** are used interchangeably with Winking Face to show humour.


 **Relieved Face** is, as the name suggests, meant to indicate relief. However, it is mostly used to show contentment or calmness. It can also, in response to a suggestive emoji, be used to show a certain amount of aloofness or innocence.


 **Smiling Face with Halo** shows innocence or goodness. It can be used seriously or humorously. For example, this emoji would be appropriate when messaging your friends on a Friday to explain that you are staying for the night.


 **Devil Faces-Smiling Face with Horns and Imp** can be used interchangeably, although because one is smiling and the other is frowning they can also be used to show subtly different things. Both show naughtiness or mischievousness. Smiling Face with Horns more frequently accompanies minor mischiefs or suggestive messages while Imp implies more malice.


 **Kissing Face, Face Throwing a Kiss, Kissing Face with Smiling Eyes, and Kissing Face with Closed Eyes** are all used to show romance or affection. Face Throwing a Kiss is possibly more romantic due to the small red heart. The other three can also be used to show innocent whistling.





 **Smiling Face with Heart-Shaped Eyes** shows love, adoration, or gratitude. It can be used towards a person, place, or thing.


 **Neutral Face and Expressionless Face** show a deliberate lack of emotion. They may be used to show that someone is unimpressed, indifferent, or awkward.


 **Unamused Face** is used to show dissatisfaction or suspicion. This emoji does not show true anger or sadness, but rather a subtly negative emotion. For example, if you are unhappy or dubious of someone's excuse for why they are late, you could send this emoji.

 **Face with Cold Sweat** shows stress or hard work. It typically refers to a specific situation. For example, messaging your partner to explain that you have to stay late at the office would warrant this emoji.


 **Pensive Face and Disappointed Face** are the two main sad face emoji. Both convey a sense of sadness, remorse, regret, disappointment, or any similarly negative emotion.


 **Disappointed but Relieved Face** is generally used to show fear or hurt rather than disappointment.


 **Crying Face** is similar to Pensive Face and Disappointed Face. It shows a stronger sense of hurt rather than general sadness.


 **Loudly Crying Face** is a stronger version of Crying Face. It shows hurt, pain and upset. Unlike the other sad faces, it is often used ironically.


 **Worried Face** shows shock, horror, disgust and fear.


 **Weary Face and Tired Face** both show tiredness however they are often used to represent world-weariness, stress and a sense of being fed up as well.

 **Sleepy Face** is seldom used to represent tiredness; instead it shows that the sender is sick or unwell.


 **Sleeping Face** is used instead of Sleepy Face to show tiredness, sleepiness or similar. It is difficult for a person to send a message when they're actually sleeping.


 **Confused Face and Confounded Face** are used interchangeably to show confusion. Confused Face is also used to show awkwardness or an apology. For example, if someone has to cancel plans, they might include this emoji at the end of the message.


 **Face with Look of Triumph** is one of the most misused emoji. It is used to show anger or frustration rather than triumph. Face with Look of Triumph is often used ironically.


 **Angry Face and Pouting Face** both show anger, with the red Pouting Face the stronger of the two. Unlike Face with Look of Triumph they are seldom used humorously.

 **Persevering Face** shows stress or fatalism towards a situation.


 **Frowning Face with Open Mouth and Anguished Face** both show shock, horror, and disappointment. They are often used as a lesser version of Pensive Face or Disappointed Face.


 **Fearful Face, Face with Open Mouth and Cold Sweat, and Face Screaming In Fear** all show varying levels of fear, ranging from slightly scared with Face With Open Mouth And Cold Sweat to outright terror with Face Screaming In Fear. They can all be used ironically.


 **See-No-Evil Monkey, Hear-No-Evil Monkey, and Speak-No-Evil Monkey** are used to show shock and embarrassment. Which specific monkey is used depends on the contents of the message.


 **Pile of Poo** is almost always used humorously. It expresses exactly how the sender feels about something.


 **Thumbs up Sign** shows acceptance, or agreement.


 **Thumbs down Sign** shows rejection, dislike or disagreement.





 **OK Hand Sign** shows acceptance, satisfaction, or that everything is OK. It can also be used to show that something is tiny or small.

 **Victory Hand** is more often used to represent the similar peace symbol. It shows coolness, relaxation, or satisfaction.

 **Person Raising Both Hands in Celebration**, more commonly referred to as Praise Hands, is used to show support, appreciation, or celebration.

**Person with Folded Hands**: is normally used to show prayer or pleading. A request for a favour may be accompanied by this emoji.

**Red Heart**: is the classic love heart emoticon; Used to show love, romance, or any similar emotion.

**Coloured Hearts** Purple Heart, Yellow Heart, Green Heart, and Blue Heart: are all similar to Red Heart however the target of their affection is normally related to the colour of the heart. For example, Blue Heart is often used with sports teams who wear blue jerseys. Similarly, the Yellow Heart is associated with the sun and summer.

## 9. Emoji Semantics

Not all codes has semantic structures, the alphabet code for instance do not unless it is elements are used to mean a specific symbol such as ‘A’ for excellence and ‘X’ for an unknown person. On the other hand, emoji code has semantic structures that refer directly to concepts and emotions. Unlike the alphabetic system, emoji system is not used in formal writing but rather to diminish the danger of potential conflicts in online communications. The semantic study of emoji implicates examining their relation to each other in a message, just as Saussure’s signs study. (Danesi, 2017)

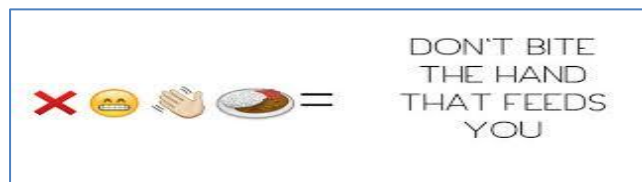
## 10.Emoji Grammar

Grammar is defined in Oxford dictionary as the basic elements of an area of knowledge or skill. Here knowledge is the emoji competence by which one can decipher sentences and paragraphs written with emoji symbols. Like any natural language grammar, emoji design involves a systematic structure, which is not as strict as the natural language one because it has to do with “*Placement*” of the icons. It either follows the user’s language by calquing its rules by the superimposition on those pictograms in to verbal sentences or by a pure conceptualization seen in stories which made of emoji. “*Calquing*” is a process by which verbal expression are converted into emoji. On the other hand, “*Conceptualization*” is to create sentences and stories only by concepts which follow the actual syntax of natural language. It can be seen through advertising, political campaign,

pop culture, songs, quotes with emoji as the illustrated in the figure of Adele’s song rolling in the deep:



**Figure 19. Adele’s Songs with Emoji** (smosh.com)



**Figure 20. Quote with Emoji** (quoteacademy.com)

It is important to notify that as in grammar plurality is formed by adding the ‘s’ in regular words or changes in irregular ones, however, in emoji one plurality is formed by the repetition of the same concept or image which is not grammatically acceptable. In other words, the emoji grammar is not only a visual symbolic imitation of the linguistic one; it has its own syntax for the creation of coherent sentences. (Danesi, 2017)

## 11.Emoji Pragmatics

Before talking about this concept, it is important to define Pragmatics. It is defined in Merriam-Webster as a branch of linguistics that is concerned with the relationship of sentences to the environment in which they occur. Here the main concern is on emoji. Thus, emoji pragmatics refers to the knowledge of how to use those pictographs in different social contexts. It is used to fulfil the following functions according to Marcel Danesi (2017): first, **Adding tone**: by providing the written communication with visual means to convey emotive tone to meaning and thus avoid ambiguity. Second, **injecting a**

**positive mood:** as discussed previously. And attenuate any misunderstandings s argued by Lauren Collister (2015).

At this stage it is important to discuss briefly the pragmatic functions of interactions and to refresh the mind about what was discussed in the first chapter. Communication is the act of using words, or signs to exchange ideas and thoughts to someone else. It needs the presence of the addresser who is the one who sent or creates the message; the addressee who is the receiver of that message, he can be one our many interlocutors; the context which is a key part that helps in the message interpretation; the mode which it the set of personal and social relations distances; the code which is the verbal and nonverbal resources and cues for coding the encoding of the message. They are essential part of any interaction and they fulfil the following pragmatic functions:

1. *Emotive function:* the intent of the sender's message
2. *Conative function:* the effect of the message
3. *Referential function:* the context and purpose
4. *Poetic function:* shed light on the form of the message , the aesthetic effect of the message
5. *Phatic function:* maintain social contact
6. *Meta-lingual function:* messages designed to refer to the code used

The most basic function is seen through salutation by which the interlocutors add emotional tones and emphasize certain phatic aspects of communication as discussed earlier. (Danesi, 2017)

To achieve this present chapter, emoji and emoticons are two varieties of pictographs. They differ slightly in the shape but not in the use. The emoji code is categorised into names and even verbs just like natural languages. It has rules that govern users use similar to the alphabetic system. These rules are known through usage which helps for the acquisition of the competence. This ability helps to master not only the use but the interpretation of messages and texts that contain emoji. Moreover, this code works like the natural language and follow the rules of the user language as discussed earlier. Thus, since there are many similarities between emoji code and natural language code does it mean that the former is going to be used or considered as one, and thus be used as a central mean of communication as it was during the first ages of pictographic writing. This inquiry would be discussed n details in the next chapter. Gender is a determinant factor in

sociolinguistic studies, it is known that it creates variances in term of usage; if the emoji is a code, it might also be affected by that. This very interesting fact will be discussed afterward in the third chapter through an empirical study to prove that emoji is a language to become and gender defers in that use.

## **CHAPTER 3: GENDER ROLE AND DISCUSSION**

After gathering enough information about online communication and gender role in this latter in chapter one; then discoursing emojis code and all what establish its system; it is time to consider gender role in terms of use of emojis. For that sake; a three sections questionnaire is going to be analysed in details. The first section is about the effect of emojis on English language among Mostaganem learners; the second section is going to be a comparison between males and females responses and use of emojis; the third and last section is about emojis future and whether it can be a language in the coming years. Relevant answers are going to be provided for this study purposes.

### **1. Research questions**

The main inquiries of this research are as follow:

- What are the effects that can emojis cause to English language?
- Are there differences in gender use of emojis?
- Can emojis code be counted as language or will it remain only a kind of paralinguage?

### **2. Hypothesis**

Emojis have gained an important place in the digital world. Their use is increasing among any society as far as it uses the internet. This means that it may affect and being affected by the social factors such as gender. Furthermore, this rising practice might lead to the development of the emojis code to be used completely as a language.

### **3. Study design**

For the study on emojis and gender, I have carried out research on the nature of those iconic pictographs for a better understanding of its mechanism. Then, I have introduced gender differences in natural languages usages to make the comparison in the digital communication and thus the use of the emojis among people of different gender. I have used a questionnaire to provide evidence and support my hypothesis that it is a language not only a sort of paralinguage.

#### **4. Population**

The study was conducted at the University of Mostaganem precisely in the department of English language. I have selected Algerian students and teachers only because I want to shed light on the knowledge of this emojis code among them as well as to see how they interpret it in terms of gender and in term of future linguistic use. The participants were randomly selected aged from 17 years old to 33 years old. They are from Mostaganem and its surroundings. They were thirty divided into two equal numbers - fifteen males and females. They were asked to answer individually without any help from my side or others.

#### **5. Data collection**

This study is a quantitative study and a questionnaire was used as a tool for providing relevant answers. Six pages questionnaire was distributed via internet and by printing papers to the respondents. The thirty-five questions were a combination of open and closed ones. Open questions because they need to give their own words to answer while closed ones because they will only cross boxes which are pre-written answers ready to be selected.

#### **6. Data background**

For this present study, I have collected 30 random participants divided in terms of gender into two equal groups. Those instant messages' users via internet social media will help me illustrate differences and similarities between men and women in emojis use rate.

**Table 1. Participants' number**

	Female	Male
Participants number	15	15
Online communication users	15	15



## **7. Data analysis and discussion**

### **7.1. Emojis effects on language:**

Emojis effects can be seen primarily through punctuation. It is the act or practice of inserting standardized marks or signs in written matter to clarify the meaning and separate structural units (MerriamWebster). In fact, emojis are replacing punctuation in instant messages; they are used at the rate of more than 75%. In addition, Emojis have higher impacts on messages in the absence of any exclamation mark. Based on the Ip (2002) carried out an experiment to compare and find out the effects of both emoticons and two grammatical markers (i.e. use of punctuation and exclamation marks) in order to understand Instant Messaging text either positively or negatively. Findings have indicated that emoticons increased the valence of messages and made them much more extreme. On the other hand, exclamation marks make negative messages more negative but do not have any impacts in the presence of emoticons. It has also become evident that emoticons and punctuation marks have tremendous effects on how people perceive and interpret messages. The study concluded that as much as the way emoticons make messages appear emotionally intense, likewise, a number of exclamation marks make positive messages look like more positive (Jibril & Abdullah, 2013).

Furthermore, emojis affect people interpretation of messages. It can make it look positive or negative. It was visible through some questionnaire parts like nineteen and twenty (19-20) where one sentence could have diverse meanings according to the emojis it was attached to. This fact supports this previous research where Walther and D'Addario (2001) examined the impacts of emoticons on message interpretation in CMC. The study was based on an experiment of 3 common emoticons on message understanding. The outcome of the study shows that emoticons' influences were surpassed by verbal content. The results indicate that any negative element in a message, be it verbal or graphic, will move the message understanding to that negative element. In their own opinion, Derks et al. (2008) see that emoticons do affect online communication understanding. They argue that "positive message with a smile is rated more positively than a positive pure message, and a negative message with a supporting frown is more negative than a negative pure message". Though, they believe that "the emoticon do not have the strength to turn around the valence of the verbal message" (Derks et al., 2008; Luor et al., 2010, p. 894). (Jibril & Abdullah, 2013).

Emojis use has made the written interaction look like the face to face one. It has filled the lack of the non-verbal elements which decreased the rate of misunderstanding. The questionnaire results have shown this point in question seven where participants rate was 60% to testify that emojis is better in expressing moods better than natural language. Some argued that they do not fear spelling mistakes or long taking time to look for the appropriate word, they just have to select the face or the representation they like and judge suitable for the meaning then in a very short time send their messages with a compressed way.

Finally, the emojis code is a universal code. It could be used by anyone without necessarily learning its rules. This is shown in questions twenty-one (21), fourteen (14) and thirty-two (32) where 100 percentage of similar employment of emojis was incredibly high.

Another effect is seen through gender use of emojis in different context as we shall see in the coming analysis.

## 7.2. Gender differences and similarities in emojis use

In order to discuss gender differences and similarities in emojis use in online communication, I have asked several questions to help me draw any similarities or differences between males and females in computer mediated communications via instant messages.

First; I have explored Emojis awareness in Question five and six; ‘*what do you call these?* 🤪🧐👹🙌👍 *And what do you call these? <: / :-> <3’*. My objective was to know whether people use emojis and emoticons with a conscious understanding of its nature. The following results present the analysis of the Questionnaire.

**Table 2. Emojis and emoticons awareness rate**

This present table presents the actual finding sorted out from the questionnaire. It shows that emojis identification percentage is higher than the emoticon one in general at 87% among males and only 67% among females. This latter was

Answers	Emojis		Emoticons	
	M	F	M	F
Correct	87%	67%	47%	53%
Wrong	13%	20%	40%	27%
No answer	00%	13%	13%	20%

known by around 50% of the participants only. This rate was lower than expected since emoticons are outdated than emojis. It was remarkable that men are more aware about emoji while females who seem to have assimilated the concept of emoticons better. Men gave more incorrect responses than females for emoticons. In addition to this it was noticeable that females tend to opt for giving no answer rather than daring to propose a non-certain one; as the percentage shows was high at 13% for the emojis and 20% for emoticons. Besides, emoticons were confused by females and named smiley by those aged of 20 to 25 years old. On the other hand, emojis were predictable by 76% of males and 60% of females. This rate indicates that these sorts of icons are very spread and known by population nowadays. Incorrect percentage was higher among females at 33% vs. 15% among males. In other words, from the results it is obvious that males could distinguish between them more than females did and this latter prefer to not feedback rather than give a wrong responses.

**Table 3. Emoji functions**

Second; Emojis main functions in question seven; I wanted to consider reasons that push the two groups to use emojis in their messages. I have selected some functions that could be the key ones. The question was: *Why do you use emojis?*

Answers	M	F
It is fun	27%	33%
To express emotions	27%	33%
It is quicker than the natural writing	27%	20%
It makes the text easier to understand	13%	20%
Do not use them	7%	00%

Data findings reveal that functions of Emojis

differ between the two selected groups. Women’s aim of use was 33% because they are fun and to express emotions. Men, on the other hand, were fewer than that in term of percentage since 27%. It was for fun and emotions besides the fact that emojis is quicker than natural writing. 20% of females and 13% only of males think that emojis makes the text easier to understand. Furthermore, there were 7% of males who do not use them at all which is a slight difference. It means that males do not use these icons more than females, who use it at a higher rate. In other words, emojis functions can be classified as follow: they are fun, to express emotions, make the message clearer, faster than typing...

Third; gender use of emojis in online communication demonstrated in question eight, nine, seventeen and nineteen. The whole group of participants are internet users. The purpose was to see if there are differences between interactions of men and women through instant messages like in face to face communication as it was discussed in chapter one. For this I

have given a number of questions starting by: *How many of the messages that you send include emojis? And how many of them that you receive include emojis?*

<b>Table 4. Sender’s and receiver's rate of use</b>				
Answers	Sender’s rate of use		Receiver’s rate of use	
	M	F	M	F
25%	53%	27%	27%	27%
50%	13%	53%	33%	40%
75%	33%	13%	40%	33%

Results were as shown in the table; in online communications, both send and receive messages that include emojis. However, from the responses 53% of females send emojis in more than half of their messages, while the same percentage of male send only such pictographs in less than a quarter of their messages. Consequently, the rate was of 40% of females who testified that they receive 50% of emojis messages whereas males' rate was 40% saying the rate was more than half of the received messages were including emojis. "This means that females' use of emojis is more consequent than males one".

Then I went further to know what kind of icons they use to add more gender features if there is any. For that I questioned: *Do you use the illustrated emojis or do you type them?*

Results were noticeable, 67% of males are more to use both the pre-written icons and the ones typed with punctuation i.e.: emojis and emoticons. On the other hand, 20% of females prefer using only the illustrated ones i.e.: the emojis only.

**Table 5. Kind of icons used**

Answers	M	F
Both the illustrated ones and the typed ones	67%	20%
Only the typed ones	00%	66%
Only the illustrated ones	33%	7%
Do not use them	00%	7%

Next, I wanted to know how many can replace words with emojis as if it is a language. The question was: *Do you ever send a message containing only emojis and no text?*

Answers were similar in the fact that Emojis are the best

**Table 6. Rate of emojis use within one message**

Answers	M	F
Yes. I do.	27%	46%
No, I don't.	60%	53%
No answer	13%	01%

way to express one-self effectively in a short time and it is the finest approach to convey emotions. However, females were the most to give the affirmative reply adding other reason for their use like that emojis are good when we are in hurry, making fun or not having something to say to the interlocutor. Finally, they replace effectively written words. Thus, female do use only emojis more than males do.

After that, Emojis integration in daily life practice in question ten and eleven (10-11). These two questions are valuable because they would help me know more about the importance of emojis in term of gender. I have given this question: *If you have no access to emojis, do you feel “frustrated” by not being able to express your emotions, sarcasm, anxiety or being annoyed?*

**Table 7. Emoji importance in emotions**

According to the findings, the emojis is not very important to be used. It was 73% of males which is superior to 53% of females. The remaining of the participants argued they might feel frustrated when they want to express emotions with emojis that are the best in transmitting the appropriate mood.

Answers	M	F
Yes, they feel frustrated without it	20%	7%
No, it is ok	73%	53%
Sometimes, I do	7%	33%
No answer	00%	7%

The second one was: *How many emojis can/ should a message include?*

They both groups consider that messages should not exceed 04 emojis per a message at a rate of 67%. In addition, 27% of females go to say it can include a bit more to reach 10. This means there is not noticeable difference in this section.

**Table 8. Emojis rate of use according to participants**

Answers	Male	Female
0	7%	00%
Less than 04	67%	67%
Less than 05-10	20%	27%
Less than 11-20	6%	6%

Again with emojis importance, I investigated by asking: *Is it important to include emojis in a message?*

**Table 9. Emojis importance**

Data findings show that 67% of males don't consider emojis as very important like 45% of Females. Yet, 53% of females think that emojis is very important in a message to express mainly emotions.

Answers	M	F
Yea, it is very important	27%	53%
No, it is not important	67%	45%
Sometimes	06 %	02%

Fourth, Emojis semantics in questions: thirteen, eighteen, twenty-two and twenty-six (13-18-21- 26). These set of questions are going to display the differences and similarities in understanding the emojis code. I started by: *Do you use the same emojis differently?*

**Table 10. Emojis semantics**

Both do not use the same emoji to mean two different senses at the rate of 53%. Still, 40% of males employ one emojis to meaning diverse significances, while only 33% of females do.

Answers	Male	Female
Yes, it can have several meanings according	40%	33%
No, it serves only one meaning	53%	53%
Have no idea	7%	14%

Then, *do you find it hard to interpret what your friends mean when they use emojis?*

**Table 11. Emojis interpretation**

This table displayed that they don't find difficulties in interpreting the received messages that include emojis at a percentage of 87% for males and 80% for females. Though, 13% of the latter still face difficulties in understanding.

Answers	M	F
Yes. I do.	07%	07%
No, I don't.	87%	80%
Sometimes I do.	06%	13%

After that, *how would you interpret these sentences? Honest? Sarcastic? As if the person doesn't care? Regretfully etc.???*

**Table 12. Emojis interpretation of the same emoji**

Sentences	Emoji	Interpretation	Male	Female
I miss you	Smiling face	Honest	17%	43%
		Dishonest	36%	05%
		No answer	26%	40%
		Regretful	07%	02%
		Missing	07%	05%
		Sarcastic	07%	05%
	Red heart	Honest	50%	52%
		Dishonest	02%	03%
		No answer	26%	40%
		Caring	02%	01%
		Not caring	02%	01%
		Sarcastic	00%	03%
	Winkling face	Honest	02%	21%
		Dishonest	47%	02%
		No answer	23%	53%
		Sarcastic	26%	03%
		Back thought	02%	00%



		Kidding	00%	23%
I don't miss you	Winkling face	Honest	02%	27%
		Dishonest	02%	13%
		No answer	26%	47%
		Sarcastic	55%	13%
		Regretful	00%	00%
		Don't care	13%	00%
		Go away	02%	00%
Are you angry	Red heart	Honest	24%	45%
		Dishonest	00%	02%
		No answer	26%	47%
		Sorry	26%	02%
		Caring	24%	00%
		Don't care	00%	02%
		Flirting	00%	02%
		Sarcastic	00%	02%
I might be late for the meeting	Shy face	Honest	02%	43%
		Dishonest	02%	02%
		No answer	26%	53%
		Sorry	02%	00%
		Regretful	46%	02%
		Don't care	02%	02%

		Caring	20%	00%
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According to the findings, I could notice the following notes:

- Female faces more difficulties to interpret the modes from the sentences given. They ignored most of the interpretations in comparison to men who could give interpretation for each sentence according to the emojis
- In the first sentence ‘I miss you + smiling face, red heart or wrinkling face’. It is for 43% of females a sign that the interlocutor is honest, while 36% of males do interpret as dishonest when followed with the smiling face. Around 50% of both genders think that the user is honest when he adds the red heart. It is dishonest when followed with the wrinkling face at a rate of 47% of men and honest among 21% of females. Then there as 26% of man vs. 03% of females who think that it is sarcastic.
- In the sentence ‘I don’t miss you + wrinkling face’, females were divided into groups of 27% seeing the person as honest, another group 13% as dishonest and 13% as sarcastic. On the other hand, 55% men interpreted it as sarcastic and 13% as not caring.
- In the question ‘are you angry + red heart’, 45% of females and 24% of males see the interlocutor as honest.
- The last question ‘I might be late for the meeting + a shy face’, shows that 43% of females interpret that it is honest, while 46% of males see it as the person is regretful and caring.

Fifth, to investigate further the interpretation of emojis in messages I have asked: *If you get an angry message, can you tell the seriousness of the message depending on the emojis?*

Responses displayed an interesting fact that 67% of males do recognize the seriousness of the messages depending on the emojis and as they explained according to the sender while 53% of females' results were that they cannot decipher it.

**Table 13. Interpretation of anger degree from emojis use**

Answers	Male	Female
Yes, they can.	67%	33%
No, they cannot.	27%	53%
I have never thought about it	06%	07%
No answer	00%	07%

Sixth, Emojis universality, lexicon and interpretation in questions: fourteen, twenty, twenty-five, thirty-one (14- 20-25-31). At this stage, my goal was to examine the rate of knowledge in term of gender. For that I have made the participant draw according to the situations as seen below; the first question in this respect was: *What emojis do you use frequently? Illustrate it.*

**Table 14. Emojis use in context**

Answers	Male		Female	
To express anger	Expressionless face	32%	Expressionless face	41%
	angry face, pouting face, frowning face, preserving face	38%	angry face, pouting face, frowning face, face with steam from the nose	42%
	No answer	30%	No answer	17%
To express happiness	Grinning face, smiling face with open mouth	34%	Grinning face, smiling face with open mouth	42%
	smiling face with open mouth and smiling eyes	09%	smiling face with open mouth and smiling eyes	10%
	grinning face with smiling eyes	09%	Smiling face with heart eyes	10%

	smiling face	27%	smiling face	28%
	No answer	20%	No answer	10%
To express sadness	sad face	22%	sad face	46%
	disappointed face	43%	disappointed face	14%
	crying face	11%	crying face	25%
	No answer	22%	No answer	14%
To joke	face with stuck-out tongue	30%	face with stuck-out tongue	24%
	grinning face with smiling eyes	06%	grinning face with smiling eyes	06%
	smiling face with open mouth and closed eyes	17%	smiling face with open mouth and closed eyes	17%
	face with tears of joy	06%	face with tears of joy	17%
	face with stuck-out tongue and winking eyes	17%	face with stuck-out tongue and winking eyes	17%
	No answer	24%	No answer	06%

It was obvious that there is a universal knowledge of the emojis code. Both use the same emojis when expressing anger from the one which represents a high level of anger to an expressionless one at the rate of 32% among males and 41% among females. Happiness has been expressed by several icons even an unexpected one employed by females which is the face with the heart eyes that generally used to denote love. The smiling face with all its derivate pictographs was use at the rate of 42% of females and 34% of males. This fact backup the fact that females attach senses to emojis according to the receiver. Then, sadness is expressed by them from a simple sad face to a crying one; 46% of females express this feeling by the sad face while 43% express it by the disappointed face. Finally, jokes are expressed the same way starting from the smile which again strengthens the statement that emojis can have two different uses; and then 2015 words of the year ‘the face with tears of joy’ when it is too fanny to some mocking ones like the winking face and the grinning one. The results were 30% of males use face with

smiling out tongue again 24% of females. 17% of both genders use smiling face with open mouth and closed eyes or face with stuck-out tongue and winking eyes.

Then, *do you think there are enough emojis to choose from?*

This question was purposely asked because I wanted to see whether there is a need for more emojis in the coming years according to the participants. **Table 15. Participant’s responses about the actual number of emojis**

The results was that 60% of females were more to say that they would like to have more to express different emotions and so on while 67% of males argued that they are enough since

Answers	Male	Female
Yes, there are enough	67%	33%
No, they are not	27%	60%
My device doesn’t include it	00%	07%
No answer	06%	00%

they could use them without facing any feeling of un-satisfaction because they are enough

Then, *is it important what type of emojis you include if you are angry, sad, happy etc.?*

Here the aim is to see if participants use emojis randomly or it is a conscious usage. According to the responses both groups do care about the emojis they employ yet the rate was more by men who recorded 73% while females 53%.

**Table 16. Emoji importance in expressing emotions**

Answers	Male	Female
Yes, it is.	73%	53%
No, it is not.	27%	13%
I have never thought about it	00%	27%
No answer	00%	7%

Again with this question: *Which emojis would you use for the following moods & messages?* I want to test participants’ competence in interpreting different moods according to the emojis.

**Table 17. Emoji competence**

Answers	Emoji	Interpretation	Male	Female
I am fine	With a red heart	Fine	80%	58%
		Angry	00%	02%
		No answer	20%	40%
	With a pill	Sick	64%	73%
		No answer	23%	27%
		Sarcastic	12%	00%
	With a crying face	Not fine	67%	51%
		No answer	16%	43%
		Over acting	16%	03%
I am not angry	With a red heart	Angry	34%	34%
		Not angry	33%	33%
		No answer	33%	33%
	With an emotionless face	Angry	58%	50%
		Not angry	06%	02%
		No answer	24%	42%
		Shocked	04%	04%
		Sarcastic	06%	02%
	With a crying face	Sad	59%	30%
Angry		13%	23%	
No answer		13%	47%	

		Playful	13%	00%
Can I ask you something	With a red heart	A personal question	37%	32%
		Asking for help	29%	05%
		No answer	22%	53%
		Curious	11%	10%
	With a smiling face	Tricky	08%	06%
		Angry	10%	04%
		Nosy	36%	06%
		Asking for a service	28%	44%
		No answer	08%	31%
		Being nice	08%	06%
	With a wrinkling face	Nosy	38%	13%
		Asking for help	05%	02%
		Asking for a service	25%	00%
Joking		05%	32%	
No answer		27%	53%	
Did you really say that	With a wrinkling smiling face	Making sure	27%	32%
		Angry	02%	13%
		Joking	00%	13%
		Nosy	13%	00%
		I like what you said	08%	02%
		No answer	08%	40%

	With an angry red face	Angry	69%	59%
		Joking	09%	08%
		No answer	22%	33%
	With a shocked face	Shocked	65%	58%
		Joking	13%	06%
		No answer	24%	37%

Results displayed a very interesting fact which is that females do not master emojis interpretation like men do. In addition to this, I could notice the following:

- The sentence 'I am fine' could carry different meaning according to the emojis it is used or attached to. With a red heart they both agree that the user is fine at the rate of 80% for men and 58% for women. While it means that he is not fine when followed by a crying face by 67% among men and 51% of women. It is sick when followed with a pill according to 64% of men and 73% of women.
- For the sentence 'I am not angry' they agree on the fact that it means angry at the rate of 58% among males and 50% among females when followed by the expressionless face; and sad when followed by the crying face for men it was 59% while females 30% for sadness and 23% for anger. Besides, they interpret it when followed by a red heart the same way since 34% of both genders say that the user is angry and the second half of them agreed that it might be the opposite as well.
- For 'can I ask you something', 37% of men and 32% of females agree to say when there is a red heart it means that the person is willing to ask something personal. When there is a smiling face means for 44% of females it is when s/he wants to ask for a service while 36% of males consider it as a nosy attitude. Finally, when it is followed by the wrinkling face, 32% of females interpret it as s/he is joking while 25% of males maintain that that person is nosy or asking for a service.
- 'did you really say that' is seen in a similar way in all the three cases the first with wrinkling face as to make sure about the speech for 27% of men and 32% of women who added two other interpretations like being angry or joking. The second with a red angry face is interpreted by 69% of men and 59% of women as meaning



the person is angry. By the addition of the shocked face, 65% of men and 58% of females think that it is being shocked.

Seventh, Emojis pragmatics in questions: twenty-two, twenty-three and twenty-four (22-23-24). Here I wanted to see how the interpretation is affected by the users. I have asked: *Do you interpret the same emojis differently depending on who wrote the message?* Then, *Can emojis mean different things depending on who send you the message? (Sibling, parent, partner, friend)* After that, *do you send the same type of emojis to your parents as you do to your friends?*

**Table 18. Emoji pragmatics**

Answers	Question 1		Question 2		Question 3	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Yes	93%	67%	73%	67%	13%	33%
No	00%	27%	13%	13%	80%	60%
I have never thought about it	7%	6%	13%	13%	7%	07%
No answer	00%	00%	00%	7%	00%	00%

- Question one shows that: They both interpret differently emojis depending on the sender; men were more because the percentage was 93% and 67% of females.

- Question two: They both interpret differently the same emojis. Emojis meaning is affected by the distance between the sender and the receivers as well as the status of their relationship (friends and parents ...) however. Again exceeded they were 73% while 67% for females.

- Question three: both do not use the same emojis when dealing with parents just like natural language vocabulary with 80% for males and 60% for females. It is more formal and polite than those sent to their friends. Though, 33% of females do use the same because they as discussed in the first chapter they tend to be more polite than males this might be why they can use the same icon everywhere.

Eighth, Emojis stereotypes in question thirty (30). Here my objective is to see how far the emojis can affect people perceptions of each other. For this I asked: *Do you ever judge a person depending on the emoticon/ emojis s/he is using?*






Here we can easily see that 53% of males do not make judgments about the interlocutor according to the emojis sent, like 40% of females. And 33% of the latter said that they do sometimes judge by the use of emojis.

**Table 19. Emojis role in stereotyping others**

Answers	Male	Female
Yes, I do.	20%	13%
No, I don't.	53%	40%
Sometimes I do.	27%	33%
No answer	00%	13%

Ninth, Emojis linguistic competence in questions: thirty-four and thirty- five (34-35). Here my only concern is to see which group masters the emojis code than the other. The first test was: *What do these emojis phrases mean?*

**Table 20. Emoji competence in short combinations**

Emojis sentence	Interpretation	Male			Female		
		C.	F.	N.A.	C.	F.	N.A.
	Am sick and getting better	67%	27%	7%	93%	13%	00%
	He farted	53%	33%	13%	47%	60%	00%
	Good night, sleep well	53%	40%	7%	60%	40%	00%
	Speechless	47%	47%	7%	73%	27%	00%
	Insomnia	47%	47%	7%	13%	87%	00%

The table above displays the following results: Females got 93% of correct answers than males with only 67% for the first combination. The rate was again higher in

the third and fourth combination than men's one. Yet, more than 47% of men had a higher degree in the second and last combinations.

Second, Translate this Arabic emojis sentences. Here I have given quotes in Arabic to make the testing more relevant since all the participants share the same background. It was made up of 12 sayings.

**Table 21. Emoji competence in complex combinations**

Answers in Arabic		Male			Females		
		C	F	N.A	C	F	N.A
01	- ضربني و بكى سبقتي و اشتكى	67%	20%	13%	93%	00%	07%
02	اللي يده في الماء موش مثل اللي يده في النار	20%	33%	47%	20%	27%	53%
03	القرد في عين امه غزال	27%	33%	40%	27%	00%	73%
04	النوم سلطان	07%	60%	33%	07%	27%	66%
05	ما طار طير و ارتفع إلا كما طار وقع	07%	33%	60%	00%	20%	80%
06	الوقت كالسيف إن لم تقطعه قطعك	33%	20%	47%	13%	00%	87%
07	العلم نور و الجهل ظلام	27%	27%	46%	7%	00%	93%
08	لسانك حصانك ، ان صنته صانك و إن خنته خانك	13%	27%	60%	00%	00%	100%
09	إذا وقع الجمل كثرت السكاكين	07%	33%	60%	00%	00%	100%
10	يد واحدة ما تصفقش	40%	27%	33%	53%	00%	47%
11	يغرق في شبر ماء	06%	27%	67%	7%	00%	93%
12		40%	20%	40%	47%	00%	53%

Data findings display interesting fact which is that females tend to not give answers rather than proposing a wrong one. This is why the rate of females' no answer results is higher than of males in the whole questionnaire. The rate of wrong answers was

high mainly by males. The percentage of correct answers was really low than was expected. Females were unable to recognize four common quotes like number 05-08-09 while they did score more than man in quotes number 01-10. There was an equal score in number 01-10.

### 7.3. Can Emojis be counted as Language?

According to the latest update by the Unicode Consortium, the organization that dictates language on digital devices, there are now 1,085 officially-recognized emojis in circulation. Emojis have started to dominate messaging and social media apps. Does this phenomenon mean that emojis can be counted as language, or some other form of pictorial communication? First, we need to consider What Makes a Language (grammarly.com) .

#### 7.3.1. Language vs. Emojis Languages:

Assuming that emojis is a language, there is a need to make a comparison in terms of what are the characteristics needed to make it one in the future. Here are the main characteristics that can be shared, or make the distinction between the two systems.

##### *a. Similarities:*

- ✓ **They are a Social Phenomenon.** They resulted from a set of conventional communicative signals used by humans for communication in a community. They exist in society as a means of nourishing and developing culture and establishing human relations. More than 78% of females and 60% of males are emojis users nowadays (expandedramblings.com).
- ✓ **They are Symbolic.** Words in a language, similar to emojis, are not mere signs or figures, but symbols of meaning. The intelligibility of a language depends on a correct interpretation of these symbols (neoenglish.wordpress, 2010).
- ✓ **They are systematic.** They both have rules governing their use just like grammar in natural language. As we could see earlier, the emojis follows grammatical guidelines of the senders or receivers' language. Besides, all languages have their system of arrangements. Though symbols in each human language are finite; they can be arranged infinitely, that is to say, we can produce an infinite set of sentences by a finite set of symbols (english-academy292.blogspot, 2017).

- ✓ **They are culturally transmitted.** Any Language is learnt by an individual from his elders, and is transmitted from one generation to another. Thus using J. Firth's term, language is a '*poly-systematic*' (neoenglish.wordpress, 2010).
- ✓ **They are productive and creative:** The structural elements of any language can be combined to produce new utterances, which neither the sender nor his receiver may ever have made or heard before; yet they both understand without difficulty. Either codes changes according to the needs of society (neoenglish.wordpress, 2010).
- ✓ **Both have the Displacement feature.** It means the ability to talk across time and space (past, present and future); emojis can be also used to talk about every day experiences and to tell stories. 2009 'Moby Dick' was translated into emojis titled "Emojis Dick" which means 200,000 words epic turned into pictographs (neoenglish.wordpress, 2010).
- ✓ **They have the Humanness feature.** It means that animals cannot acquire it.
- ✓ **They are used as an instrument of communication.** Any Language is the most powerful, convenient and permanent means and form of communication. Moreover, Non- linguistic symbols such as expressive gestures, signals of various kinds, traffic lights, road signs, flags, Braille alphabets, the symbols of mathematics and logic, emojis; are also means of communication; they are good means of self-expression sometimes emojis goes further in that. They make use of clearly distinguishable discrete, separately identifiable symbols (neoenglish.wordpress, 2010).
- ✓ **They are Conventional:** No language was created in a day out of a mutually agreed upon formula by a group of humans. Every Language is the outcome of evolution and convention. Each generation transmits this convention on to the next. Like all human institutions languages also change and die, grow and expand. It is non-instinctive because it is acquired by human beings. Nobody gets a language in heritage; he acquires it because he an innate ability (neoenglish.wordpress, 2010).
- ✓ **They need communicative competence.** It is the abstract set of psychological principles and sociological consideration that constitute a person's competence as a speaker in a given situation. These psychological principles make accessible an unlimited number of sentences drawn upon in concrete situations and provide the ability to understand and create entirely new sentences. But mere linguistic or communicative competence is not enough for communication; it has to be coupled with communicative competence. This is the view of the

sociologists who stress the use of language according to the occasion (neoenglish.wordpress, 2010).

***b. Differences***

- ✓ **Emojis are universal.** Language is different from one place to the other, from one person to the other seen through dialects and accents. On the other hand, emojis is universal, it is used by anyone who has the competence and can be understood by others even if they belong to different countries and thus using different languages. It is exceeding the English language as a global language status because they allow us to communicate without learning it through educational institutions.
- ✓ **Duality of patterning of natural Language;** it operates at two levels of systems: Phonological and Syntactical. At the phonological level, Sounds are arranged in certain fixed or established, systematic order to form meaningful units or Words and of smaller formal units called Morphemes. Similarly, words combine to form sentences according to certain conventions i.e. grammatical or structural rules of the language and other conventions called the Syntactical rules of the language. Whereas emojis is purely a visual; it does not need any phonetics or phonology just like the sign language which chiefly uses manual communication to convey meaning, as opposed to acoustically conveyed sound patterns (Wikipedia.org) . It only conveys messages through images (neoenglish.wordpress, 2010).
- ✓ **Language is arbitrary.** By the arbitrariness of language, we mean that there is no inherent or logical relation or similarity between any given feature of language and its meaning. The choice of a word selected to mean a particular thing or idea is purely arbitrary but once a word is selected for a particular referent. While, emojis is far from being arbitrary because each icon is related to the thing it represents, like when using a sun by its representation.
- ✓ **Language is spoken or written** while emojis is only written.
- ✓ **Language is Vocal.** Language is primarily made up of vocal sounds only produced by a physiological articulatory mechanism in the human body. Writing came much later, as an intelligent attempt to represent vocal sounds.
- ✓ **Language is used in formal and informal contexts** while emojis is only used in informal written interactions.

## 8. Discussion

Whether we like it or not, emoji is taking a considerable place in our life. It is affecting language as any other newly used communication system. It is the best one in the actual period for the reason that it could spread to reach a global status in few years. It is now competing with English as a lingua franca. These representations are different from the ancient similar pictographs I have discussed in previous chapters. Their primary function is expressing emotions in a perfect way. However, it is not the only function they serve, they can be used to reinforce the meaning better than some punctuations like '!'. They are quicker than typing letters which makes them perfect for the instant messages communication. Moreover, their presence in the message makes the meaning different; I mean if the positive emojis are used the meaning would necessarily be positive the opposite is for the negative ones; this means that it affects language semantics. Emoji replace the non-verbal elements of direct interaction that were once lacking in written forms.

Like for natural language emojis are affected by gender. Through this study I could notice similarities and differences between men and females. Men are more aware about the meaning of emojis and emoticons than women do; Females tend to not answering more than males when they doubt; Age has an impact of the awareness of the nature of emojis and emoticons; females rate of use is higher than of the males. Males use both emoji and emoticons while females only use emoji. Moreover, both think that even if emojis are spread they are not considering as crucial in every communication act, as well as one emoji can carry more than one sense. Furthermore, there are differences in interpretation of the combination between those pictographs and alphabetic sentences; when a sentence is joined with a positive representation females tend to interpret it as honest the opposite was for men. Similarities appeared on the red heart for instance which was seen as honest by both groups. Another interesting variance was that males have a better competence in understanding the meaning from emoji combination more than females do.

Emoji code has many similarities with natural language. It is it might be hard to decide when a new mode of communication is a “language” rather than a dialect. According to Johanna Nichols, former professor of linguistics at UC Berkeley, the gold standard for distinguishing languages is “mutual intelligibility” (Wikipedia.org). However,

the mutual intelligibility concept doesn't always provide a clear picture of how languages relate to each other, since some dialects seem more different from each other than certain groups of languages do. Before we get to emojis as language proper, let's debunk one misconception—emojis are not hieroglyphics. Although they may represent a shift back toward more representative characters, they function very differently from hieroglyphics. As prominent Internet linguist Gretchen McCulloch pointed out in a recent SXSW presentation on the subject, language has moved from more concrete characters to less concrete versions, allowing humans to communicate abstract concepts. Unfortunately, most signs point to emojis lacking the characteristics of a true language. For example, when given a string of emojis, two people will not always interpret them the same way it can be seen questions number 34 and 35. Additionally, emojis cannot be conjugated or combined in ways that function like a true linguistic system, meaning that, although they are a helpful cluster of symbols, they aren't "a particular, conventionalized system for representing abstract meaning, like English or Japanese or ASL." One thing is for certain: emojis are a communicative system. They allow people to communicate emotions, actions, or impressions that they don't feel they can express in text. If you adhere to the strictest definition of language, emojis definitely do not make the cut. However, if you define a language as "a system of words or signs that people use to express thoughts and feelings to each other," emojis have a chance. Whether or not they can replace English or any other formal language, emojis have evolved into a meaningful communicative system, allowing users worldwide to express feelings, thoughts, and ideas in new visual ways (grammarly.com).



## **General Conclusions**

Communication has changed through time to fit the technological age. It changes from being only through face to face to a new way based on writing through the use of internet. This latter could gather the two gauges of language the written and the spoken forms in instant messages. At the present time, digital writing is ever more containing visual images called EMOJI. They are used not only to express emotion or to refer to objects but also to substitute punctuation, full sentences as well as to write quotes, stories and further functions like in advertising, or politics, etc. They are used by most of internet users regardless of their age, education or gender.

These visual icons are different from the ancient similar pictographs I have discussed in previous chapters. Their primary function is expressing emotions in a perfect way, however, it is not the only function they serve, they can be used to reinforce the meaning, to make the interaction more active, to change or to smoothen the rudeness of any IM or to display a positive impact; finally, Emoji replace the non-verbal elements of direct interaction that were once lacking in written forms.

Males and females are different in the use of language; this is the case for emoji. They tend to use them for the same reasons cited above. Yet, they have differences in their use and interpretations that I could prove through the results. Then, I could reach to the conclusion that though emoji code affect and is affected by gender like any language as well as having many similarities with any linguistic code, it cannot be counted as a language but rather as a eloquent communicative system that allows people to express effectively their ideas, feeling, ... in a visual new way

## **Limitations**

Understanding emoji code use often relies heavily on contextual cues. But on this study most contexts in not available because of the technical limitations related to my random collection methodology through a questionnaire. The scope of my research is focused on understanding how emojis affect language and use among gender, but there is a wide range of emoji dimensions and features that will need to be explored

One of the primary ways is to dig deeper on the emoji effects on language in one of its levels. Emojis are global, but I was only able to study their use among a small group of Mostaganem English learners of my English department.

My sample size is too small to be generalized on global internet users. The purpose of this study is limited to make observations about emojis use and effects that could help inform the public about this new communicative system and discover some general trends and its nature as a code as well as gender use.

### **Recommendations**

I recommend further study that explores emoji use in multiple communications to expand on the comprehension of emoji afforded by this paper.

It would always be preferable to work with people from more diverse or specific criteria. I recommend further research with a diverse group, particularly a global and multilingual study.

I recommend that further studies as much larger sample for the purposes of obtaining more data about emoji code and their gender use.

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## Appendix

### Questionnaire sample:

Gender	Male
	Female
Age	
Where are you from?	
Profession/ field of study	
What do you call these? 🤪🧐👹🙌👍	
What do you call these? <: / :-> <3 ☹('▽')☹	
Why do you use emoji/emoticon?	I don't use them
	Because everyone else does
	To make the text easier to understand
	Because it is quicker than writing the actual word
	They are fun
	To express emotions
How many of the messages that you send include emoticons/ emojis?	No messages
	>25 %
	>50 %
	>75 %
	100 %
How many of the messages that you receive include	No messages









emoticons/ emojis?	>25 %
	>50 %
	>75 %
	100 %
If you have no access to emoticons/ emojis, do you feel “frustrated” by not being able to express your emotions, sarcasm, anxiety or being annoyed?	Yes
	No
	Sometimes
How many emoticons/ emojis can/ should a message include?	0
	<4
	<5-10
	<11-20
Is it important to include emoticons/ emojis in a message?	Yes. Why?
	No
Do you use the same emoji/emoticon differently?	Yes. Why?
	No
Draw to illustrate or explain with words	If you are Angry, what emoticon/ emoji do you use?
	If you are Happy, what emoticon/ emoji do you use?
	If you are Sad, what emoticon/ emoji do you use?
	If you are are joking, what emoticon/ emoji do you use?

<p>Do you use the illustrated emoticons/ emojis   </p> <p>Or do you type, such as; :-P, :-)?</p>	Both the illustrated ones and the typed ones (like    ; and :-P)
	Only the typed ones (like :-P)
	Only the illustrated ones
	None of the above
<p>Do you find it hard to interpret what your friends mean when they use emoticons/ emojis?</p>	Yes. Why?
	No
	Sometimes. Why?
<p>Do you ever send a message containing only emoticons/ emojis and no text?</p>	Yes. Why?
	No
<p>Do you think there are enough emoticons/ emojis to choose from?</p>	Yes. Why?
	No
	My device doesn't include emoticons/ emojis that describe
<p>How would you interpret these sentences? Honest?, Sarcastic?, as if the person doesn't care?, regretfully etc.???</p>	I miss you 
	I miss you 
	I miss you 
	I don't miss you 



	Are you angry? 
	I might be late for the meeting 
Do you interpret the same emoticons/ emojis differently depending on who wrote the message?	Yes
	No
	I have never thought about it
	I don't use emoticons at all why?
Can emoticons/ emojis mean different things depending on who send you the message? (sibling, parent, partner, friend)	Yes
	No
	I have never thought about it
	I don't use emoticons at all
Do you send the same type of emoticons/ emojis to your parents as you do to your friends?	Yes
	No
	I have never thought about it
	I don't use emoticons at all
Is it important what type of emoticons/ emojis you include if you are angry, sad, happy etc.?	Yes
	No
	I have never thought about it
	I don't use emoticons at all
If you get an angry message, can you tell the seriousness	Yes



of the message depending on the emoticon/ emoji?	No
	I have never thought about it
	I don't use emoticons at all
Have you ever asked a friend to help you interpret a message depending on the emoticon/ emoji?	Yes. Why?
	No
Do you ever ask a friend which emoticon/emoji you should include in an important message?	Yes. Why?
	No
Do you ever judge a person depending on the emoticon/ emoji s/he is using?	Yes
	No
	Sometimes
Which emoticon/ emojis would you use for the following moods & messages?	If you are angry: You are late _____ what do you mean? _____
	If you are sad?: I am just very sad _____ It is just too much _____
	If you are happy?: Things are looking great _____ I feel great _____
	If you are in love with the person you're texting? You look amazing today _____

	When can we meet? _____
	If you pretend you are honest (ironic)?  No, I am not angry _____ Green is your colour _____
	If you are sarcastic:  Yes, I am fine _____ No, I changed my mind _____  Of course i'll be there _____
	I'm fine 
	I'm fine 
	I'm fine 
How would you interpret the mood of the sender in the following messages? If you don't know, put a cross on the line.	No, I am not angry 
	No, I am not angry 
	No, I am not angry 
	Can I ask you something? 
	Can I ask you something? 

	Can I ask you something? 🙄	
	Did you really say that? 😏	
	Did you really say that? 😡	
	Did you really say that? 😱	
What do these phrases mean?	🤧💪	*Am sick and getting better
		There is a tough flu going around
	👉💨	Look there they go
		It is going to be windy
		*He farted
	👍🌑😴👍	Time to sleep
		Once in a blue moon
		Going out all night is great , but sleeping is better
		*Good night, sleep well
	😐	*Speechless
		Ashamed
		Faceless

		Shocked
		*Insomnia
		No sleep here!
		I don't want to go to bed
<p>Translate this Arabic emoji sentences</p> 	1-	
	2-	
	3-	
	4-	
	5-	
	6-	
	7-	
	8-	
	9-	
	10-	
	11-	
	12-	