

Table of Contents

Dedication.....	i
Acknowledgements.....	ii
Abstract.....	iii
List of Abbreviations.....	v
List of Tables.....	vi
List of Figures	vii
Table of Contents	viii

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Statement of the Problem.....	1
1.2 Aims and Objectives of the Study.....	2
1.3 Research Questions.....	2
1.4 Hypothesis.....	3
1.5 Methodology.....	3
1.6 Identification of some Basic Concepts.....	3

CHAPTER 2: REVIEW OF LITERATURE

INTRODUCTION TO THELITERATURE.....	5
------------------------------------	---

2.1 Part One : THE IMPACT OF DIFFERENT MEDIUMS ON WRITING

2.1.1. Introduction.....	6
2.1.2. The Alphabet Impact.....	6
2.1.3. The Print and Media Impacts.....	8
2.1.4. The Word Processor Impact.....	9
2.1.5. The Cyberspace Impact.....	10
2.1.6. Conclusion.....	11

2.2 Part Two : COMPUTER-MEDIATED COMMUNICATION AS A NEW MEDIUM

2.2.1. An Overview of Computer-Mediated Communication.....	12
2.2.1.1. Definition	12
2.2.1.2. Different Modes of (CMC).....	13
2.2.2. Facebook as a New Medium for CMC.....	20
2.2.2.1. Facebook: Introduction and Definition.....	20
2.2.2.2. Some Features of Facebook.....	21

2.3 Part Three : WRITING IN THE AGE OF COMPUTER-MEDIATED

COMMUNICATION

2.3.1. Introduction.....	24
2.3.2. Linguistic Features of CMC.....	25

2.3.2.1.	<i>Typography</i>	26
2.3.2.2.	<i>Orthography</i>	29
2.3.2.3.	<i>Syntax</i>	31
2.3.2.4.	<i>Lexicon</i>	31
2.3.3.	Writing and Speech in Computer-Mediated Communication	32
2.3.3.1.	<i>Understanding Speech and Writing</i>	32
2.3.3.1.1.	Writing and speech.....	33
2.3.3.1.2.	Historical Evolution of Speech and writing.....	37
2.3.3.1.3.	Theoretical model of the relationship between speech and writing.....	39
2.3.3.2.	<i>Computer-mediated Speech and Writing</i>	43
2.3.4.	Conclusion	46
SUMMARY		46

CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY

INTRODUCTION	48
3.1. Tools and Materials.....	48
3.2. Facebook chat as a mode of CMC.....	49
3.3. A note on the use of Facebook chat.....	49
3.4. Data Collection	50
3.5. Ethical Considerations in collecting and handling data.....	52
3.6. Possible limitations	54
3.7. Data coding and Analysis.....	54
SUMMARY	55

CHAPTER 4: Results, Analyses and Interpretations

4.1. Orthography	56
4.1.1. Abbreviations	56
4.1.1.1. Omission of Vowels and Accent simulation.....	58
4.1.1.2. Acronyms.....	59
4.1.1.3. Letter and number homophones.....	60
4.1.1.4. Clippings	60
4.1.2. Capitalization.....	62
4.1.2.1. Proper nouns	62
4.1.2.2. The pronoun ‘I’	63
4.1.2.3. At the beginning of the participants’ contributions	63
4.1.3. Contractions	64
4.2. Grammar.....	66
4.2.1. Telegraphic language.....	66
4.3. Vocabulary.....	66
4.3.1. Informal Vocabulary.....	69

4.4. Paralinguistics and Graphics.....	70
4.4.1. Use of punctuation.....	71
4.4.1.1. <i>Final periods at the end of participants' contributions</i>	72
4.4.1.2. <i>Increased use of unconventional types of punctuation</i>	73
4.4.1.3. <i>Unusual use of different types of symbols</i>	73
4.4.2. Use of Emoticons.....	75
4.4.3. Use of Markers for Emphasis.....	77
4.4.3.1. <i>Capitalization</i>	77
4.4.3.2. <i>Multiple Letters</i>	79
4.4.3.3. <i>Asterisks and Underscores</i>	80
4.4.4. Prosody and interjections.....	81
CHAPTER 5: DISCUSSION	84
CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSION	90
6.1 Pedagogical Implementations	91
6.2 Recommendations for Future Research.....	93
REFERENCES	
APPENDIX : Definitions of Some Terms	