
The Net-lingo Abbreviations Delineated in Facebook Language Amongst The Iraqi EFL Learners: A Socio-Pragmatic Analysis

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Abstract

This pilot study is anchored on the fact that the internet has mostly been one of the sources that inspired the slang variety of language. Even back to the early 1980s, net users had their own particular argot and abbreviations. Some of these contractions eventually find their avenue into a more enduring part of the society, where they are used for years by people of all ages. Therefore, this study attempts to investigate the most popular net-lingo abbreviations and contractions with specific reference to the functions conveyed socially and pragmatically through the occurrence of these cyber structures amongst Iraqi EFL students. Remarkably, the utilization of such expressions reveals the ability of Iraqi facebookers to make use of their linguistic knowledge in order to develop net-lingo abbreviations in communication. Accordingly, the researcher built a questionnaire which was conducted to elicit those abbreviations from the EFL learners' views. To assess the validity of the questionnaire results, a list of 34 abbreviations was created depending on various sources. Then, the list of those abbreviations was distributed amongst four groups of English-department students at the College of Education for Human Sciences / Diyala University. Consequently, the results were analyzed statistically and a set of conclusions was drawn.

Introduction

Not surprisingly, technology has occupied a large part of our lives, whether language is used online or on a cell phone. Accordingly, communication and interaction through technology nowadays have gone beyond the limitations of usual face-to-face communication to tackle even the far-distance communication . So, the advent of

technology suggested a new avenue for the growth of language and encouraged many researchers to carry out detailed studies on the online communicative language. Going beyond the detailed studies of the language of technology , it has been noticed that this language has been named variously as "online communicative language" ,"digital language", "electronic communication", "netspeak language" ,"txtslang", "textese"and so many other namings to express the significance and spread of this everyday used language (Maynor,1994:34; Yates,1996: 29-46; Crystal,2001:18 ; Lewin and Donner,2002:65).

Crystal (2001:17-24) goes further to suggest that "Netspeak", online language, is not a linguist's vandalism but is best viewed as a new species of interaction, a genuine "third medium" (besides the written and oral forms of English), which is evolving its own systematic rules to suit new circumstances. Accordingly , such language has its own rules , features and even norms of interaction

The research intends to focus on the most common social media site used by the young netizens in Iraqi facebook site(henceforth FB).It aims at investigating the frequent use of abbreviations (clipping, acronyms, combination of letters and blending) and the use of the emoticons. So, Baron (2008: 158) for instance, classifies emoticons, lexical shortenings, acronyms, abbreviations, contractions as among the lexical patterning of language of internet. FB ,as one of the social media sites of communication , has become one of the most popular site among people since it allows them to be in contact with each other through a new medium of communication. Furthermore, using FB is more friendly where the interaction is often used as the super ordinate concept that includes any type of two-way exchanges. Such exchanges might be enacted through the use of both linguistic and non-linguistic means.

Kazeniak(2009:56)proclaims that since the emergence of FB in 2004 till this moment, the number of FB users is increment to reach the 900 millionth milestone (except for China, Vietnam and a few other countries that block access to FB).In the light of what has been mentioned, FB has greatly impacted persons' lives, the young users in particular. So, those who frequently use FB have a greater impact on their styles in online spoken written text. Moreover,FB is considered as the language extension as people participate in such dynamic,

ongoing social interaction with others prevailing remarkable diversity and creativity (Cronk in Ellis, 2010: 40-41).

Over and above, many researchers and specialists have investigated the salient features of net language, among these is Greenfield (2003:727) who examined the most important features of the basic patterns used in chat rooms. The scholars apparently found "the presence of shorter, and often incomplete, grammatical simple sentences". With regard to those features , FB users employ repetitions, visual cues, abbreviations as(clipping, reductions, short acronyms "shortenings", combination of letters ,blending, in addition to the use of numbers to stand for certain morphological words). In this domain,Derks, Bos and von Grumbkow(2008: 379)state that “ abbreviations may be used to emphasize or clarify one’s feelings but also to soften a negative tone and to regulate the interaction, just as smiles and frowns do in daily life”.

Rationale and Aims of the Study

This study attempts to answer the following questions quantitatively :

- 1. Which abbreviations are most frequently used in the language of FB comments,posts and MC among the department of English students?*
- 2. What socio-pragmatic functions are played by using such cyber structures "abbreviations and emoticons"?*
- 3. Is there any difference in using these abbreviations amongst the students of all grades in the Department of English /College of education/Diyala University.*

Procedures of the Study

To achieve the aims of the study , the following procedures have been adopted :

- 1. The researcher has constructed a questionnaire depending on the following steps:*
 - Intentionally observing the cyber abbreviations that the students of the Department of English used in their FB posts, comments and MC .*
 - Studying other similar researches and previous studies that tackled the same topic in other different societies .*
 - Coming to know about the authentic bases in constructing the tools and the questionnaire .*

- *Exposing the open-ended questionnaire to some staff members in the department of English requesting them to kindly put down (list) the cyber abbreviations they notice remarkably in their students' everyday use of FB comments, posts and CM. Thereby the researcher has collected (40) cyber structures "abbreviations" on listing them in a closed- ended questionnaire with two scales (yes/no).*

Doubtlessly, such open-ended questionnaire gives the sample a great deal of freedom to list the abbreviations that the students use in their FB comments and posts. Besides, the open questionnaire helps the researcher to analyze the context in which such cyber structures are used through the deep responses provided by the participants. (Reja, Manfreda, Hlebec&Vehovar, 2003).

The open-ended questions manipulated in the questionnaire are; "what are the cyber structures(abbreviations)that the students excessively use in their FB comments , posts and MC ?" and "Why do they prefer to use such abbreviations?"

2. At last the researcher has checked the psychometric characteristics of the questionnaire.

Face Validity

After constructing the questionnaire's items fully, the researcher exposed it to a jury (specialists in the department of English/College of Education/ Diyala University) to assess to it. Doubtlessly, face validity is the best type of validity since it is secured and deals with self-rating (Nunnally, 1972:353).

Each member of the jury was requested to point out his/her remarks and suggestions(modification, changing and dumping) in terms of the questionnaire items,so as to assess its suitability. Accordingly, the majority of the abbreviations have been accepted ,more than 80% of the items were accepted with a little modification whereas (6) abbreviations have been excluded.

Results and Discussions

After putting into effect the questionnaire designed by the researcher and applying it on a corpus of 170 students (the four grades students /Dep. of English/College of Education),the results figured out by the researcher , revealed that some abbreviations are used excessively among the students while on the contrary other abbreviations are null in use having <0 ratio. The analysis of the corpus results is divided into two tables, the first gives the sums and percentages of using the

cyber abbreviations among the students with reference to the yes/no sums and the purposes the participants in the questionnaire wanted to convey through this use, whereas the second table fulfills the third aim through the analysis of the sums and percentages of using these abbreviations distributed on the four grades students to pinpoint which grade attains the highest percentages in using these structures. So, the results are discussed in two tables as follows:

No. of items in questionnaire	No. of items	Item	Yes Frequencies	No Frequencies	Percentage
1	1	Do you use the abbreviation "HHHHH" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	139	31	%82
3	2	Do you use the abbreviation "OMG" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	131	39	%77
6	3	Do you use the abbreviation "LOL" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	114	56	%67
2	4	Do you use the abbreviation "CU" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	113	57	%66
12	5	Do you use the abbreviation "PLZ" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	109	61	%64
24	6	Do you use the abbreviation "ZZZZ" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	97	73	%57
29	7	Do you use the abbreviation "HRU" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	86	84	%51
30	8	Do you use the abbreviation "B4" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	76	94	%45
18	9	Do you use the abbreviation "NVM" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	71	99	%42
31	10	Do you use the abbreviation "WT" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	63	107	%38
20	11	Do you use the abbreviation "TYT" in your FB Posts	59	111	%35
21	12	Do you use the abbreviation "BRO" in your FB Posts	53	117	%31
16	13	Do you use the abbreviation "OOPS" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	53	117	%31
13	14	Do you use the abbreviation "4U" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	53	117	%31
19	15	Do you use the abbreviation "BRB" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	49	121	%29
7	16	Do you use the abbreviation "BTW" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	47	123	%28
17	17	Do you use the abbreviation "GR8" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	41	129	%24
11	18	Do you use the abbreviation "M2" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	39	131	%23

10	19	Do you use the abbreviation "THX" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	33	137	%19
14	20	Do you use the abbreviation "GN" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	29	141	%17
34	21	Do you use the abbreviation "SD" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	27	143	%16
32	22	Do you use the abbreviation "WB" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	19	151	%11
15	23	Do you use the abbreviation "BFN" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	19	151	%11
4	24	Do you use the abbreviation "BC" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	18	152	%11
8	25	Do you use the abbreviation "MUSM" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	18	152	%11
5	26	Do you use the abbreviation "BFF" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	11	159	%06
33	27	Do you use the abbreviation "JK" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	7	163	04%
9	28	Do you use the abbreviation "IDK" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	7	163	04%
22	29	Do you use the abbreviation "HAK" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	7	163	04%
23	30	Do you use the abbreviation "IDC" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	4	166	02%
25	31	Do you use the abbreviation "ADN" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	4	166	02%
28	32	Do you use the abbreviation "BBL" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	2	168	01%
26	33	Do you use the abbreviation "AFAIA" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	0	170	00%
27	34	Do you use the abbreviation "AFAIK" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	0	170	00%

-Table (1) indicates the frequencies of using the net-lingo abbreviations, and the percentages or means of these structures from the perspective of the corpus understudy.

Table (1) The frequencies of "yes" and "No" with percentages of using the net lingo abbreviations among the students of the Department of English.

The table above disclosed that "32" of the abbreviations are used with divergent proportions. Respectively, these were graded from the most used abbreviations to the least ones which graded "0". In whatever manner, "AFAIA" and "AFAIC" are used by none of the students (sum < 0, perc. 0.00%), whilst " HHHHH , OMG, LOL, CU, PLZ , HRU, B4, NVM, WT...." are used excessively showing the functions the students tend to convey through this intended use. The abbreviations in the aforementioned table were listed in a descending

order .The abbreviation "HHHHH" is mostly used by the participants in the questionnaire because as an unquestionable indication of laughter ,happiness and felicity. Conspicuously, this abbreviation is the simplest and widely known one since it consisted of the repetition of single letter[h],having its Arabic counterpart "ههههههه" <https://www.reddit.com/>.

So ,the frequency of this abbreviation in the questionnaire is (139 yes) with ratio 82% came in the first rank.

"OMG" is used 131 times with a proportion 77%, this net-lingo abbreviation is used by most of the students for the popular exclamation "Oh my God!" (generally used in FB to exclaim surprise , excitement, embarrassment or disgust). This is most commonly used by the participants because they might find it depressingly hard to type out an entire word. Originally , this phrase was first used in 1917 when the admiral John Arbuthnot sent a letter to Winston Churchill giving a new favorite catch phrase: "[I hear that a new order of Knighthood is on the tapis — O.M.G (Oh! My! God!)— Shower it on the Admiralty!!](We think it means go on with your bad self." <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/08/06/first-known-use-of-omg-winston>.

"LOL" occupies the third rank with 114 yeses and 67% ratio demonstrating the widespread use of this abbreviation among the students participated in the questionnaire. Generally, it is used to mean "Laughing out loud" as a brief acronym to denote and express great amusement, desire and happiness in FB. It has been noticed that most of the students use this abbreviation to mean "laugh out loud" while some other students used it to mean "lots of love" showing a kind of coquettish behavior in FB ,or to mean "lots of luck" wishing someone well ,or rarely used to mean "lack of laughter =fake laughter" to be considered as a kind of mitigate repulsiveness.

Furthermore, the "CU" is used with "yes" option 113 times having 66% proportion, by all means the students use it to mean "see you" winding up their FB chats or comments on certain posts. "CU" is one of the prevalent acronyms among the students of the Department of English" henceforth ELD" even in their everyday verbal talk.

The fourth abbreviation in the arrangement is "PLZ". It occurred 109 times with 64% .This cyber abbreviation is used to show the short form of "please".In FB,the ELD students write such abbreviation in different forms as "pls, plz, or ples" .In the Urban dictionary "PLZ" is

preferable by users of net and social media as the fact that there is a need to change all instances of the letters "ease" to [z] in the English language, since, apparently, they make the same sound.

The fifth rank is occupied by the abbreviation "ZZZZ" which stands for "sleepy, drowsy and very fatigued". The ELD students preferred this abbreviation in their FB posts, comments and chats to show inconvenience as they are overworked and need some rest. Also, they may use this abbreviation to finalize their talk in FB referring to weariness or boredom.

"HRU" is used by the students in the questionnaire to fill the sixth position with 86 yeses and 51% percentage. It stands for the question "How are you?". The participants in FB mostly preferred this acronym to reduce the number of words, to add more facility to their FB communication, and to save time and effort in their talk showing a special kind conversant with net salient features. "B4" comes next with 76 yeses and 45% ratio to mean the word "BEFORE". It has been noticed that this acronym usually used to refer to a lazy or hurried typist's way of spelling "before".

"NVM" recurred 71 times in the questionnaire, i.e. 42%. The NVM abbreviation means "never mind". In FB language, this acronym is favored among close friends. Remarkably, ELD students vary in using this abbreviation to get 71 yes-option out of 170 total number of students. Those who used this abbreviation wanted to show a special kind consideration of others to mean in other words "don't bother yourself" and "leave or ignore it".

Then, "WT" comes ninth with 63 times and 38% percentage. It is an abbreviation that stands for "What". Surveying the possible phrases or words that the students conveyed through the deliberate use of "WT", it has been revealed that it may be used to mean the phrase "work time" as an allusion to the end of their FB communications.

"TYT" is reiterated 59 times with a percentage of 35%. TYT is a phrase representing the short form of "take your time", which is used by most students in their comments and MC to proclaim the time of leaving FB for an interval without irritating others. Surprisingly, it has been found that some other students swayed in using this "TYT" acronym as for its meaning since it may mean "to you too", or "than you too". Next, three acronyms "BRO" "OOPS", and "4U" are repeated 53 times with 31% ratio to stand respectively for "brother", "a word said after doing something wrong" and "for you". BRO in FB comments,

posts and chats symbolized a special kind of close relations and reliability among the netizens while OOPS indicates astonishment or displeasure at something wrongly said. "4U" stands for the phrase "for you" indicating the ability of ELD students used to incorporate letters with numbers as informal way of using language in FB.

"BRB" was iterated 49 times with a ratio of 29% to stand for the shortened version of "be right back". Here, the ELD students who remarked the yes column aimed at their capacity to discriminate between the end of their FB communication and the momentarily leaving of FB connection. The frequency of using "BTW" is 47 times with 28% ratio. The phrase that it usually stands for is the anagram phrase "by the way" which regarded as common internet catch meaning among most of students, though others may use it as an abbreviation of "back to work".

"GR8" occurred 41 times with 129% ratio and "M2" appeared 39 times with a percentage of 23%. "GR8" is used by the participants to represent the word "great" and "M2" for the phrase "me too". Students opted for this combination of letters and numbers to show a kind of dominance they have and to use these abbreviations as short codes to talk smartly and professionally in day-to-day FB communications, when on the other hand, those who opted for the "no" option considered "GR8" and "M2" as alien abbreviations. Doubtlessly, FB communication and language are rich in these cyber structures which are nonexistent in the questionnaire as "F2F=face to face, L8R=later, W8=wait, G2G=got to go, B4N=bye for now, S4L=spam for life, 143=I love you, 1432=I love you 2, 2N8=tonight, 4EVA=for ever etc..." (<http://www.shoutmeloud.com>).

"THX" was repeated 33 times with 19% revealing that it is the bastardization of the word "thanks", formally means "thank you". Students reiteratively made a lot of use of this acronym in their online conversations or comments on others' status (<http://www.urbandictionary.com>).

"GN" is reiterated 29 times in the questionnaire with a ratio of 17%. It means the night wish phrase "Good night". This abbreviation is used informally among the students who use FB chat and status showing a distinguished kind affinity with each other. It is used to initiate their status "posts or comments" or used in chit-chatting beginning or in ending their net speech.

The acronym "SD" occupied 27 yeses with 16% percentage. It used by only 27 participants "students" to express their close relationship with other lovely friends or interlocutors. Having sweet nights, here, is just a kind of bringing to an end of an entertaining FB communications. Hence, It is usually used after "GN" acronym in informal posts or chattings.

"WB" and "BFN" were repeated 19 times with 11% percent. The "WB" acronym stands for "welcome back" and is excessively used in FB communication. It is a common messaging abbreviation which expresses the recommencement of FB connection after leaving communication momentarily or for a span of time. The acronym "BFN" is used to mean "by for now". It is usually preferred by the participants to end their conversation suddenly. Inclosing the sentence with this abbreviation, the FB users want other interlocutors to wait for some time.

Noticeably, the abbreviations "BC" and "MUSM" are used 18 times with 11% percentage. The "BC" acronym as used by the ED students revealed that they make a remarkable use of it to stand for a shorthand of the word "because". "MUSM" is the acronym of the romance phrase "miss you so much ". It is particularly used among close friends or couples who has very firm relation .The users of FB tend to make use of this acronym though not so intensive but to add a special effect to their communication as much as possible.

"BFF" is a phrase which is used in FB communication to stand for a very pathetic phrase " best friends forever". It is used in the questionnaire yes-column 11 times to attain a very inconsiderable ratio of 06%. Surely the ELD students put this acronym in use to describe some type of friendship which is based on intimacy and trust. Later, the "JK" abbreviation was lined up with 7 times of yes- option and 04% ratio. This acronym is used in FB comments, posts and MC to refer to "just kidding". It is in FB communication as a best liked way of carrying out various things as: evading from upsetting and embarrassing communication, apologizing for uncomfortable and annoying FB posts and chatting. Distinctively, this acronym is connected with the "HHHHH" abbreviation as in "hhhhhhJk..".

Moreover, "IDK" and "HAK" come next having the same frequency of occurrence which is seven times presenting 4% of the content for each item ."IDK" which is the definition of the sentence "I do not know", is used infrequently in social network communication . It is utilized by

the FB participants either to evade specific communication or to express the users' unenlightenment of certain talk. Additionally, "HAK" is not widely used among the corpus of students but some use to mean the phrase "hugs and kisses". Actually, it is used among the loving couples and very close friends in particular amongst the female FB participants to end their communication in FB whether in terms of comments or chattings.

Practically "IDC" and "AND", are reiterated only 4 times which is 02%. IDC acronym stands for the phrase "I don't care". The ELD students who ticked this abbreviation attempted to show and express their nonchalance about any specific situation, words or persons. Investigating the reasons behind such abbreviation use in their FB comments or chatting is to infuriate the other FB users or to show indifference about the talk. When on the other hand "ADN" is used to refer to the phrase "any day now".

A small number of students who kept on using this abbreviation in their FB attempted to show their ability of ending an FB communication with other partners through the use of this acronym which means "let's resume our communication at an unspecified time in the future, soon, someday, later or in the long run. So, this AND is another way of ending FB conversations.

"BBL" occupied only 2 times of yes-choice with 01% percentage revealing the meaning of the expression "Bye-Bye-Later". The ELD students who used it in their FB comments and chats meant it as an alternative of 'see u later' which is excessively used. It comes at the end of the sentence to close it off as an informal way of seeing off again on FB site. It is used among friends who belong to the same status. BBL might also be used among the loving couples or female FB users to mean "Bye- Bye- Love". In this case, it demonstrates a specific kind of intimacy and love. So, this abbreviation is not used between interlocutors (superior speaking with a subordinate but it happens between two peers speaking together)

Finally, the two acronyms "AFAIA" and "AFAIK" are used by none of the participants in the questionnaire to have 0% percentage 'null ratio'. AFAIA means the phrase "as far as I am aware" and AFAIK stands for the phrase "as far as I know". There is no doubt that these abbreviations were used by none of ELD students due to their obscure form with the letters contains.

-Table(2) sheds light on the use of the abbreviations amongst the ELD four-grade students with the percentages of each item in the questionnaire. The significance of this table is to manifest the diversity among the four grade EDL students and to justify the reasons behind such remarkable differences in use.

Table(2):The frequencies ,sums and percentages of using the abbreviations distributed on the four grade students of the Department of English

No. of item in the Ques.	NO.	Items	Sums and perc. of all grades ELD Students who answered "yes" out of(170)s	Sums and perc. of the 1 st grade ELD students who answered "yes" out of(42)s	Sums and perc. of the 2 nd grade ELD students who answered "yes" out of(42)s	Sums and perc. of the 3 rd grade ELD students who answered "yes" out of(42)s	Sums and perc. of the 4 th grade ELD students who answered "yes" out of(42)s
1	1	Do you use the abbreviation "HHH" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	139	29	33	35	41
			%82	%17	%20	%21	%24
3	2	Do you use the abbreviation "OMG" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	131	12	16	52	51
			%77	%07	%09	%31	%30
6	3	Do you use the abbreviation "LOL" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	114	11	16	40	47
			%67	%06	%09	%24	%28
2	4	Do you use the abbreviation "CU" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	113	12	18	34	49
			%66	%07	%11	%20	%28
12	5	Do you use the abbreviation "PLZ" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	109	4	21	28	56
			%64	%02	%12	%17	%33
24	6	Do you use the abbreviation "ZZZZ" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	97	6	2	38	51
			%57	%04	%01	%22	%30
29	7	Do you use the abbreviation "HRU" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	86	1	11	30	44
			%51	%6.0	%06	%18	%26
30	8	Do you use the abbreviation "B4" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	76	1	15	33	27
			%45	%6.0	%09	%19	%16
18	9	Do you use the abbreviation "NVM" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	71	1	7	29	34
			%42	%6.0	%04	%17	%20
31	10	Do you use the abbreviation "WT" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	63	0	19	21	23
			%38	%00	%11	%12	%14
20	11	Do you use the abbreviation "TYT" in your FB Posts, comments ,and CM	59	4	12	17	26
			%35	%02	%08	%10	%15
21	12	Do you use the abbreviation "BRO" in your FB Posts, comments and CM	53	8	11	21	13
			%31	%05	%06	%12	%08
16	13	Do you use the abbreviation "OOPS" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	53	6	8	20	19
			%31	%04	%05	%11	%11
13	14	Do you use the abbreviation "4U" in	53	5	4	23	21

		your FB Posts, comments and CM.	%31	%03	%02	%14	%12
19	15	Do you use the abbreviation "BRB" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	49	3	10	17	19
			%29	%02	%06	%10	%11
7	16	Do you use the abbreviation "BTW" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	47	2	5	22	18
			%28	%01	%03	%13	%11
17	17	Do you use the abbreviation "GR8" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	41	0	5	17	19
			%24	%00	%03	%10	%11
11	18	Do you use the abbreviation "M2" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	39	2	4	12	21
			%23	%01	%02	%07	%12
10	19	Do you use the abbreviation "THX" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	33	0	7	17	9
			%19	%00	%04	%10	%05
14	20	Do you use the abbreviation "GN" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	29	1	3	12	13
			%17	%6.0	%02	%07	%08
34	21	Do you use the abbreviation "SD" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	27	0	3	11	13
			%16	%00	%02	%06	%08
32	22	Do you use the abbreviation "WB" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	19	1	3	8	7
			%11	%6.0	%02	%05	%04
15	23	Do you use the abbreviation "BFN" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	19	0	0	8	11
			%11	%00	%00	%05	%06
4	24	Do you use the abbreviation "BC" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	18	0	2	8	8
			%11	%00	%01	%05	%05
8	25	Do you use the abbreviation "MUSM" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	18	2	1	6	9
			%11	%01	%6.0	%04	%05
5	26	Do you use the abbreviation "BFF" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	11	1	1	1	8
			%06	%6.0	%6.0	%6.0	%05
33	27	Do you use the abbreviation "JK" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	7	0	1	0	6
			%04	%00	%6.0	%00	%04
9	28	Do you use the abbreviation "IDK" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	7	0	1	1	5
			%04	%00	%6.0	%6.0	%03
22	29	Do you use the abbreviation "HAK" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	7	0	0	1	3
			%04	%00	%00	%6.0	%02
23	30	Do you use the abbreviation "IDC" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	4	1	0	0	3
			%02	%6.0	%00	%00	%02
25	31	Do you use the abbreviation "ADN" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	4	0	0	0	4
			%02	%00	%00	%00	%02
28	32	Do you use the abbreviation "BBL" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	2	0	0	0	2
			%01	%00	%00	%00	%01
26	33	Do you use the abbreviation "AFAIA" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	0	-	-	-	-
			%00	-	-	-	-
27	34	Do you use the abbreviation "AFAIK" in your FB Posts, comments and CM.	0	-	-	-	-
			%00	-	-	-	-

Paying attention to the statistics shown in the above table, it has been noticed that the sums and percentages of the cyber abbreviations used among the four grade EDL students became varied due to divergent reasons. Doubtlessly, the users of FB have their experience

with the use of FB structure and acronyms, so the EDL students are one of those who tried to show a specific level of prevalence. The last two grades, i.e., the 3rd and 4th grade students got over all expectations through the higher sums and ratios they gained in the questionnaire. Accordingly, these percentages are derived from the following two reasons:

- The experience attained by the EDL students was gradual, the 1st and 2nd grade students, accordingly and mostly got the lowest sums and ratios whereas the 3rd and 4th graders gained the highest level of frequent use of cyber abbreviations in FB.
- Showing a specific kind of mastering these structures and avoiding formality in net language. The 1st grade students kept on using the formal forms of writing in FB posts and comments to show their capacity in learning the English language and its full structures.

Also, it has been surprisingly observed that some items have been distributed equally among the four groups such as "HHHHH , BRO, OMG, THNX, BRB...etc." because they are prevalent and widespread among most netizens even those who speak Arabic. While on the contrary, other items are less in use having very low levels of frequency or even null in use attaining 0.0% such as "AFAIC, AFAIA, BBL, AND, IDC...etc." Actually, the null occurrence of the cyber structures might be attributed to the non-popularity of these abbreviations among the Iraqi netizens particularly the EDL students. Also, the inconsiderableness of using some net abbreviations could be attributed to the fact that Iraqi EFL learners are still in the studying ladder and preferring the use of their mother tongue to speak out his/her emotions and status easily. More and more , it has been substantiated that the less use of some abbreviation or another might be based on the fact that the difficulty the EDL students confronted in interacting with other FB users particularly those who do not have any experience with the English language .

Conclusions

This study creates a linguistic profile of FB abbreviations used by the students of ELD. The current study validates the aims the researcher wants and attempts to confirm concerning the use of Abbreviations "acronyms, blending, reduction and combination of letters with numbers". Analyzing the results and statistically discussing them revealed the following points:

- *The use of these cyber structures and abbreviations is regarded as one of the salient features the FB participants preferred to use. They are utilized to save time, space in writing and effort. So, these cyber abbreviations have various pragmatic functions and roles to enrich the electronic communication with diversity and to make it successful.*
- *EDL students in all grades tend to use cyber abbreviations in their FB posts , comments and MC in a way that shows that their relations with interlocutors are informal and friendly and to express that they spend a considerable time of their everyday life communicating through FB, so , they think they want to be unique with those who share the same dominance of English language and its cyber abbreviations and contractions,*
- *Generally, the use of the net-lingo abbreviations in FB amongst the Iraqi users "the corpus as a sample" is not spaced out widely as in other countries and cultures. Noticeably, only 34 items are well- known in net communication among the sample groups with various ratios and frequencies.*
- *The abbreviations become diverse in their occurrences , i.e. some were set at the top of the questionnaire with more than 130 yes - choices having 82% as" HHHH, OMG, LOL, CU, PLZ..."whereas others are rarely or never used by the participants as "BBL, AFAIA ,AFAIK" gaining null scores and 0.0% ratio.*
- *There is a remarkable and unmistakable diversity among the four grade students in using these cyber abbreviations. Obviously , the fourth graders,on most occasions, attained the top of the list having the highest sums and ratios of utilizing these abbreviations and contractions due to different reasons "experience with the English language, self-dominance of second language with its informal contractions,..etc.*

المختصرات النت-لغوية المستخدمة في لغة الفيسبوك بين الطلاب العراقيين الدرايين للغة الانكليزية كلغة أجنبية: تحليل اجتماعي تداولي

الكلمات المفتاحية: نت – لغوية/ مختصرات/ تحليل اجتماعي- تداولي
المدرس: ايمان رياض اديب/ جامعة ديالى /كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية.

المخلص

تقوم هذه الدراسة حقيقة أن الشبكة العنكبوتية تعد من أهم المصادر التي تلهم وتخلق المصطلحات العامية في اللغة الفصحى . وبالعودة إلى بداية ثمانينات القرن المنصرم، وجد أن مستخدمي تلك الشبكة كانت لهم لغتهم الخاصة بهم ومختصراتهم المتداولة بينهم حصرا .وعليه فان بعض هذه المختصرات قد نجحت أخيرا في شق مسار لها ضمن جزء ثابت ومعين من المجتمع وذلك باستخدامها من قبل فئات عمرية مختلفة ولسنوات عدة. وعليه، فان هذه الدراسة تحاول أن تبحث في أكثر المصطلحات أنت-اللغوية شيوعا مع إشارة إلى أهم الوظائف التي تؤديها تلك المختصرات اجتماعيا ودلاليا من خلال معرفة مدى تكرارها وحدوثها ضمن الطلاب العراقيين الدراسيين للغة الأجنبية.

وبشكل ملفت للاهتمام، فقد اظهر استخدام هذه المختصرات مقدرة مستخدمي شبكة التواصل الاجتماعي "الفيسبوك"العراقيين في استخدام معرفتهم اللغوية لغرض تطوير تلك المختصرات الخاصة بشبكة أنت خاصة في التواصل مع الآخر.ونسبة إلى ذلك، فقد قامت الباحثة ببناء استبانة لمعرفة المختصرات أنت-لغوية التي يستخدمها الطلاب العراقيين في الفيسبوك، حيث تكونت الاستبانة من ٣٤ فقرة معتمدة على مصادر مختلفة ومن ثم تم توزيعها على طلاب المراحل الأربعة في قسم اللغة الانكليزية /كلية التربية للعلوم الإنسانية/ جامعة ديالى. وبعد تحليل البيانات إحصائيا ومناقشتها تم التوصل للعديد من النتائج التي تم توضيحها في الفصل النهائي لهذا البحث.

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