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The Use of Emoticons/Smileys in English and Arabic Netspeak: A Contrastive Study

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| ABSTRACT

The current study is a quantitative-qualitative, descriptive, contrastive study of emoticons/smileys in English and Arabic netspeak "chatgroups". It is an attempt to investigate different types of simleys in both languages with their meanings and functions. The data of this paper are gathered through screenshots from synchronous chatgroups that occur in real time. The size of the data is (50) screenshots, and each language has (25). The findings reveal that simleys/emoticons are widely used in both languages. It appears that English has (15) whereas Arabic has (18) different types. In English, chatters tend to use a single emoticon mostly at the end of the sentence, whereas in Arabic, chatters tend to use combinations of smileys instead of words or sentences. This indicates that using smileys is different between English and Arabic chatters. The simleys that are found in both languages have similar meanings. The functions of these smileys are also similar in both languages, but from similey to smiley.

1. Introduction

The rapid growth of netspeak spaces and the influence of electronic tools and devices on the written language led to the emergence of many new conventions that are used to fulfill the nonverbal cues and to compensate for the lack of paralinguistic features found in face-to-face communication. One of these cues that are widely used in netspeak is smileys/emoticons. Technical platforms still emerge with time, and netspeak users need to reflect and express their interpersonal and emotional expressions as well as their attitudes and feelings. The current study focuses on facial expressions, "smileys/emoticons", that are created by different combinations of keyboard characters to be used in electronic communication.

Since there are many electronic platforms used in netspeak, such as "synchronous and asynchronous" platforms, this study focuses on one type of synchronous netspeak, which is "chatgroups" that take place in real time. In this type of online communication, there are many participants who exchange messages and use many types of facial expressions, "smileys/emoticons", in a random way, and they may or may not know the meanings or usage of such expressions. This may lead to arise of misunderstandings or difficulty in the ways of usage or in conveying the intended meanings of these expressions.

The main goal of the current study is to know and understand different types of smileys/emoticons that are used in English, and Arabic netspeak "chatgroups" with their meanings and functions as well as whether or not they convey the intended purpose behind using them, or they are just used in a mess way without achieving any goal in netspeak. In addition, they could be used to compensate for the lack of face-to-face communication cues such as facial expressions, gestures, intonation and other bodily indicators in netspeak.

This study has limitations in that it focuses on one type of synchronous netspeak, which is "chatgroups". It also focuses on facial expressions, "smileys/emoticons", that are moveable or static. The size of the data is limited, which is (50) screenshots for each language (25).

The main research questions that this study tries to investigate through the analysis are:

1-What are the smileys/emoticons that are used in English and Arabic chatgroups, and what are the most frequent ones?

2-What are the meanings that these smileys/emoticons carry in both languages?

3-What are the functions of such smileys in both languages?

The main aims that the current study tries to achieve are:

1-To know different types of facial expressions used in English and Arabic chatgroups and the most frequent ones.

2-To understand the meanings of these facial expressions used in both languages.

3-To examine the functions of such expressions in both languages.

This paper also hypothesizes that:

1-Smileys/emoticons are widely used in English and Arabic chatgroups, such as those which express happiness or laughing out loud, sadness, irony, etc., which are considered the most frequent in netspeak.

2-Smileys/emoticons carry different meanings according to the expression used, such as "anger, irony, surprise, happiness, sadness, mocking, etc.

3-Smileys/emoticons can express different functions such as expressive, humorous, ironic, phatic, emotive, etc.

2. Netspeak
Netspeak is a term used to describe the type of distinctive language found on the internet (Crystal, 2004: 78). This term serves as an alternative to "Weblish, Netlish, Cyberspace, Internet language, Electronic language, Electronic discourse Interactive written discourse, Computer-Mediated Communication, etc.". These idioms were used before netspeak existed, and each idiom has a different collaboration`; for example, "Netlish and Weblish" are derived from English to make the internet more multilingual (Crystal, 2006: 19). Crystal says that netspeak is a modern medium of communication that does not arrive regularly in the history of the race (ibid: 272). He uses the term "Netizen" to refer to those people who spend an amount of time on the internet (ibid:4).

Moreover, Netspeak is an interesting form of communication because it depends on characteristics belonging to speech and writing. It displays the properties of both. It is better seen that netspeak is a written language that is pulled some way in the direction of a speech than a spoken language that is written down(Crystal, 2006: 31, 51). This interest in netspeak comes from its salient features, which are taken from one of its situational manifestations. These manifestations are begun to use outside of the situation of CMC even though the medium has become available to most people. So, the influence of netspeak is affected vocabulary with graphology in some written varieties and everyday conversations(ibid:20-1). Thurlow et al. (2004: 123-26) declare that netspeak is the social variable that invariably shapes online interaction, and the best place to recognize netspeak on the internet is clearly in the channels of synchronous communication such as instant messaging, chat, etc. They also add that netspeak describes linguistic forms that are used on the internet and the ways people use language in online conversations (ibid:249).

3. Virtual community
Virtual community means people who log on to the Internet for a long period of time to engage in more demanding real-time communication. A virtual community is often asynchronous and mostly solitary, and in general, it is a kind of textual flirtation which only aims at any direct confrontation of bodies or voices (Crystal, 2001:4). Virtual community consists of people with wide-range interests and areas of expertise, and all individuals of the community have often access to the expertise of each other(Shank and Cunningham, 1996:38). Braum (2007: XVIII) argues that within the virtual community people use the technology tools to communicate, create, learn and collaborate. MySpace is a popular example of a virtual community where anyone who registers for the site can build a virtual space that may contain instant messaging, a blog, music, etc.(ibid:73). Yus (2011:26) argues that virtual community is an effect of the progressive adaptation of people to different environments or habitats. He also mentions that virtual communities represent the desire of people to share a certain kind of information, interest or belief, for example, 'social aggregations that emerge from the Net when enough people carry on those public discussions long enough, with sufficient human feeling, to form webs of personal relationships in cyberspace'(ibid: 27).

4. Electronic Communication

Electronic communication is the process of sharing information, ideas and messages with others at a particular time and place by using electronic devices(Olubode-Sawe, 2010: 564). Electronic communication may be divided into two dimensions synchronous, which happens in real time or asynchronous, which takes place in postponed time(Crystal, 2006:11 and Baron, 2008:14). Electronic communication without social contact is being digital without humans or going online without leaving the safety of the electronic bunker(Holmes, 2005:94).

Electronic communication that is written on keyboards and read on screens has many characteristics of both speech and writing, such as telephone conversations. Electronic discourse is supported by a delivery system that replaces face to face communication with writing that stands in place of voices, such as messages(Davis and Brewer, 1997:2).

Electronic communication involves strategies and skills which are different from the ones employed to face to face exchange. CMC cannot take advantage of certain social aspects of oral interaction, such as nonverbal cues 'facial expressions' and prosodic features 'intonation'(Lee, 2009: 129). Electronic communication can be useful in circumstances where there is little or no opportunity for real life contact with native speakers. Therefore, it may be used to learn more about the culture in chat sites or chat groups(Todd and Walker, 2000:64).

Chen and Zhang (2010:798) notice that one of the common features of electronic communication is the use of iconic signs such as emoticons which are similes or graphic representations of facial expressions. These icons are used to reflect the sender's mood or tone of communication. They are also used as means of conveying information about one's availability(Kofod-Petersen and Wegener, 2010:498).

5. Chatgroups

A chatgroup is "a group of people who meet regularly at a particular internet site (chatroom) to discuss topics of common interest". Chatgroups are of two types: synchronous, which take place in real time, and asynchronous, which take place in postponed time, and messages can be posted at any time (Crystal, 2004: 26). In synchronous chatgroups, participants seek to exchange messages quickly to approximate real time face-to-face conversation and the modality of typewritten text. So, communication on the internet tends to represent a casual space for written language use (Sequires, 2010: 462). In synchronous chatgroups, electronic interactions take place in real time. Some systems allow communication between two participants only, such as Unix or "UNIX" in this system, the conversational exchange of texts are displayed as they are typed, and participants are typing at the same time, with input coming in simultaneously with output. The communication in this type is private "one to one" (Crystal, 2006: 156-58

While other systems permit several participants to be in touch with each other, like 'Internet Relay Chat'. In this type, participants connect to one of the IRC servers on a particular network and join one of the channels, "chatrooms". Each room is devoted to a particular topic, and any participant can create a new room and become its operator. Furthermore, this type allows either private communication between participants or public communication in that everyone can see what you type. So, in a synchronous situation, the sender and receiver must be logged on simultaneously in real time (Herring, 2007, cited in Bieswanger, 2016: 283).

6. Emoticons/Smile

Historically speaking, emoticons/ smileys were first invented by the American graphic artist "Harvey Ross Ball" in 1964 when he formed smileys for an insurance company that wanted to put them on the button for its employees to increase their motif (Danesi, 2017:3). Crystal (2008:180) defines smileys as combinations of keyboard characters used for conveying the emotion associated with a particular facial expression. They are typed as a string on a single line. The simplest forms represent basic attitudes, such as positive and negative. Baron (2008: 240) mentions that emoticons are basically used instead of spoken prosodic or paralinguistic cues found in face-to-face communication.

Tseliga (2007:121) points out that the use of smileys considers a unique feature of the electronic language register and interprets an indicator of emotional expressiveness and a means of conveying nonverbal communication in the absence of paralinguistic or extra-linguistic cues. On the other hand, Albert (2020: 65) mentions that the term smiley was commonly used, but progressively emoticons became the preferred name. He adds many attempts to separate smileys, emoticons, emoji and kaomoji from each other; for example, Siever (2015) notes different terminological differentiations are inconsistent because they are partly based on formal criteria and partly on functional differences. So, Siever considers emoticons and kaomoji as special types of emoji (Albert, 2020: 65). Moreover, Luongova (2017: 17-8) says that the basic difference between emoticons and emoji is that emoticons consist of punctuation marks, numbers or letters to create facial expressions, whereas, emoji are colours, picture-based characters or stickers which are close to cartoon images. He adds that kaomoji are more frequent in Japan and Korea, and they convey a similar meaning to emoticons.

Many scholars agree that smileys/emoticons are graphic signs that are used to indicate emotional states to compensate for the lack of nonverbal communication cues such as facial expressions, gestures, intonation, and other bodily indicators in online communication Derks et al. (2007: 847-848).

7. Functions of smileys/emoticons
According to Cougnon (2015), cited in Panckhurst & Frontini (2020: 86), there are four functions of smileys/emoticons:

1-expresive, which indicates the writer's state of mind, such as (sadness, happiness, mocking, anger, tenderness, etc.).

2-humorous and ironic, which refer to the interpretative nature of the message.

3-relational "closeness", which indicates the bond between sender and recipient in order to synchronize both parties' emotions.

4-politeness refers to the situation in which a smiley/emoticon is added and may work as a "softener" so that the recipient does not take the message literally.

On the other hand, Luongova (2017: 29), in his analysis, mentions positive functions such as (humorous, amusement, being moved, gratitude, hopefulness, appreciation, pride, excitement and fondness) and negative functions such as (sadness, condolence, mourning, annoyance, longing complains, criticism and mocking).

The main function of the use of emoticons/smileys is for communication "communicative function", but it takes many shapes. According to Danesi (2017), emoticons/smileys have many functions, such as:

1-logographic function by replacing emoticons instead of words. It is also known as pictographic in early writing. (Danesi, 2017: 4)

2-phatic function to keep interaction friendly and cheerful, and there are three phatic functions:

   a-Utterance opener: the smiley is used in place of opening salutations, such as

   "Hi!" by allowing the sender to present "literally" a positive face to imbue the

   message with a cheerful tone or mood.

  b-The utterance ending: the smiley is used typically as the "good bye" function in

  a message allowing the sender to mitigate the danger of conveying any implicit

   sense of rejection, affirming the friendly bond that exists between the

    interlocutors.

  c-Silence avoidance: unlike face-to-face communication, where many people tend to

   interpret moments of silence as uncomfortable or awkward, in online

   conversations, the equivalent of silence gaps occurs when the receiver expects

   more information about something, whereas the sender wishes to avoid it.

  (ibid:19)

3-emotive function: in face-to-face communication, people use interjections, intonation and other bodily indicators to convey their feelings. In online communications, these feelings are often replaced by smileys/emoticons. So, the emotivity of smileys can be divided into two subcategories:

   a-As substitutes for facial expression in face-to-face communications or their

  graphic punctuation marks in written communications.

   b-To emphasize visually a point of view to convey much more emotional force.

   (ibid: 21-3)

4-retorical function as in the heart-shaped eyes emoticons to convey affection through the symbolic meaning associated with a heart symbol. (ibid:55)

5-pragmatic functions such as adding tone or injecting a positive mood, irony or emphasising attitude. (ibid:95-6)

6-punctuation function or mood breaks to reduce time and effort in processing the message. So, emoticons can be instead of periods, commas, etc. (ibid: 105)

7-conative function to draw attention or to respond to messages that appear as adjacency pairs. (ibid: 129)

8-ego-dynamic function of emoticons is used mainly in the emoticons pairs such as "I love u" followed by "the heart emoticon". (ibid)

9-semantic function, this function concerns denotative and connotative meanings. Denotative meaning is built on a "sign" or "emoticon" that has some referent. Whereas connotative is built when a smiley is used with other structures, it takes on connotative value. So, Peirce calls the denotative aspect of a sign's referent the "immediate" object, whereas calls the many connotations that evoke its "dynamical" objects. Thus, smileys can be selected to serve primarily denotative functions, especially in contexts where ambiguity and connotative meanings are misleading. (ibid: 59-60

8. Data Collection and Description
The data that will be used in this paper is a type of synchronous chatgroups screenshots that are collected randomly from the internet. The source of the data is online public English and Arabic chatgroups. The reason for selecting this kind of data is that "chatrooms" include many participants from different ages, cultures, education, backgrounds and regions who exchange online messages in real time. Another reason is that these chatrooms are open access and free with different topics. This means that the data will be in a variety of formal and informal language. Participants in these chatrooms are looking to communicate with those who share the same interest and those who can collaborate in creating an online dialogue and communicating information. The number of participants in each room varies according to the topics of discussion, and it ranges between 400 to 2600 participants in both languages. Each participant has to choose a nickname before he/she enters the room so that the researcher selects a random nick to enter the rooms and is kept silent while collecting data.

https://chat.ukchat.com/room/Lobby

http://www.chatting.chatkaro.in/online-chat/

https://www.arabic.chat/

The messages of synchronous chatgroups tend to be short because all members are online and messages are sent and received from the same server, and economic messages are preferable. Thus, the language of chatgroups is full of slang, abbreviations, and emoticons. The messages that are sent are displayed immediately on the screen, and the topics of the rooms vary according to the room's name. Most participants have their own nicknames, which are not real, and sometimes they change their nicks during the conversation. The shape of emoticons/smileys varies from participant to participant due to the difference in the systems and servers of electronic communication as well as the use of different keyboards in computers and mobile phones.

The researcher collected 50 screen shots (25) for Arabic and (25) for English, and the number of emoticons in each screen shot ranges between two to seven emoticons. Some of these emoticons are moveable, whereas others are static, and this depends on the electronic devices used by participants.

9. Analysis and Results
The data used in this study will be analyzed and categorized, as the findings of netspeak "synchronous chatgroups" produced by online participants, according to the types of English and Arabic emoticons/smileys with their meanings and functions by adapting Danesi (2017) as a model in this study, some other meanings are taken from Crystal (2004: 120-37). Quantitative-qualitative analyses will be conducted with both English and Arabic data. The examples that are gathered for both languages tend to be more informal and written as they appear in the data. The data show that emoticons/smileys are widely used in English and Arabic chatgroups since chatgroups have many participants talking about different topics, and those participants do not know each other, and even most of them do not use their real nicknames or real profiles.

Moreover, they have a tendency to spend their spare time chatting with each other about different topics, and most of them tend to use short messages, abbreviations, smileys, economic expressions, etc. . All these conventions are used because of the high number of participants who exchange messages in real time, and the screen is scrolling very quickly. Chatgroups' participants are more freely in writing and discussing whatever they have in their minds without any barriers. Some participants do not exchange messages and keep silent; they just read and see what others write, or maybe they do not find their interesting topics in such chatrooms, or they do not know even how to exchange messages. The use of smileys or emoticons varies from participant to participant, and it also varies according to the electronic tools used by those participants.

9.1 English Smileys/Emoticons

The researcher extracts (20) examples from English screenshots, including (15) different types of emoticons/smileys that refer to facial expressions and they are written in the table (1) with their meanings. Most English smileys locate in the final position of the utterances. English chatters have a tendency to use a single smiley at the end of the sentence, and they rarely use combinations of smileys. They may intend to convey something by using such expressions to make the exchange of messages like face-to-face communication.

- In example (1,10,14), participants use a crying emoticon (😢) at the end of the sentence to convey suspicion, disappointment or displeasure. The function behind using such an emoticon is an "expressive function", which indicates the sender's state of mind ", sadness".

- The second example shows that the chatter uses "grinning" smiley (😃) after greeting to convey cheerfulness and joy to other participants. He/She tries to keep interaction friendly and cheerful by using this smiley in the place of opening salutations. This indicates the phatic function that the sender adopts to imbue the message with a cheerful tone or mood as an utterance opener.

- In the third example, the user types this emoticon (😮) to express his shock or surprise and to convey his feelings by using a such emoticon. This choice has an emotive function to emphasize a point of view and to convey more emotional force.

- In the (4,5) examples, the chatter uses (😋)to convey his feelings by using this smiley as a body indicator and to express his emotional force towards something "delicious". So, the sender adopts this strategy as an emotive function to convey his message.

- In the sixth example, the participant writes (🤓) to express his mind loaded with theoretical knowledge by asking a question. This may express a foolish state or a lack of social skills, and this emoticon has a negative function towards other participants.

- The seventh example indicates that the chatter signals a joke or another hidden meaning towards other participants by using (😉), which refers to humorous or ironic functions in the interpretative nature of the message.

- In examples (8,9), participants use (😡) as a way of expressing their strong anger towards other participants or as a response to other messages. This usage has an expressive function that indicates the writer's state of mind, which is strong anger.

- The examples (11,13) show that chatters use combinations of (🤔) to depict going into a deep state of thinking. Users adopt this emoticon as an expressive function to indicate what they have in their minds "thinking".

- In example (12), the chatter uses this smiley (🙂) to express his/her positive mood, happiness or as ironic towards something, and this considers as an expressive function followed by this sender.

- In example (15), the emoticon (😟) states that the sender is worried or pained; it also expresses sadness or disappointment. This expressive function indicates the writer's sate of sadness.

- Example (16) shows that the smiley (😁) reflects the sender's beaming and comfort as a way of expressing emotive function to convey his/her feelings and emotions.

- In example (17), combinations of smileys (🤣) indicate the speaker's feelings that crack a hilarious joke. This may establish the expressive function of feeling happiness or mocking.

- In example, (18) combinations of smileys (😂) express laughing so hard with tears or "laughing out loud" in the way of indicating happiness. The chatter adopts an expressive function to reflect his/her joy towards something in the chat flow.

- In example (19), the smiley (😎) reflects the sender's feeling towards achieving something more than is expected, or he/she feels proud and cool. This considers a positive function to convey the participant's feeling of pride.

- The last example in English data shows that the chatter uses combinations of heart-eyes emoticon (😍) to convey his feelings of love and attraction. Adapting such a way is considered either a rhetorical or ego-dynamic function.
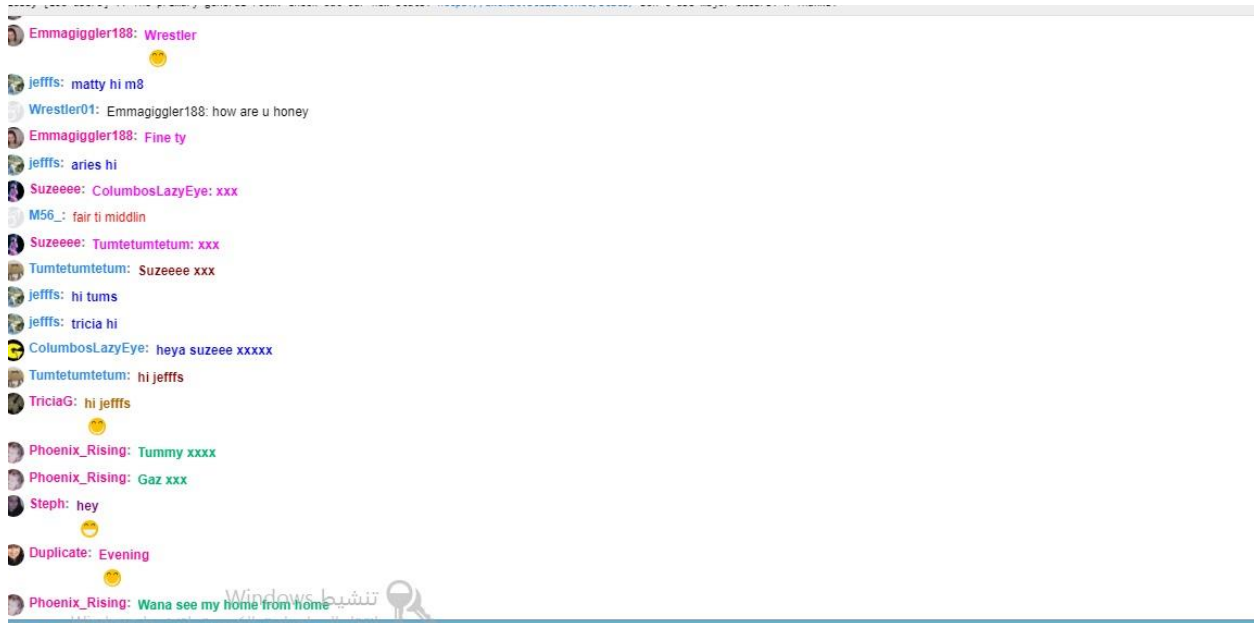
Figure (1) sample of English chatgroups screenshots

No.	Smileys/Emoticons	Their meanings
1		Crying face: conveys suspicion, disappointment, or displeasure.
2		Grinning face: It conveys cheerfulness and joy towards something positive.
3		Exhaling face: describing a shock which makes one go 'wow!' or surprise.
4		Face savoring food or "delicious" meal.
5		Nerd face: Depicting a mind loaded with theoretical knowledge.
6		Winking face: it signals a joke or a hidden meaning which is not be understood by many.
7		Enraged face: means so angry.
8		Smiling face: it can have two or more meanings to it, such as being positive, happy or patronizing and being ironic.
9		Thinking face: Depicts going into a deep state of thinking
10		Worried or pained face: Depicting sadness and disappointment.
11		Beaming face with smiling eyes: it represents mischievousness but can be used to give away excitement and enjoyment.
12		Rolling on the floor laughing: it is used when someone cracks a hilarious joke.

13	😂	Face with tears of joy laughing hahah: Shedding tears because of laughing so hard.
14	😎	Smiling face with sunglasses: Feeling overachieved, "proud", and cool.
15	😍	Smiling face with heart-eyes: it is used to convey the feeling of love and attraction.

Tale (1) English chatgroups emoticons/smileys with their meanings

1-The-jester: clowns are people!!! 😢

2-tn-musicman: hi all 😃

3-smithguy: what do you say hel 😮 😮

4-raccadoodle: omg, so boring, *talix* 😛

5-sarkymare: I wish wolfie 😛

6-colin: who's there 🤓

7-maggot: where have you gone, Maria-Wales? You almost got me 😉

8-meeshymeesh: we have a thing 😡

9-dirtytip: give me likes 😡

10-dirtytip: fine, forget u guys 😢

11-Jaat: Oooo lovely lady u, have channel too 🤔 🤔 🤔

12-bwfclee: hiya dreams 😊 oxoxox

13-Bubbly: who is hema 🤔 🤔

14-spekky: Ive got nasty burn on my arm from making tea for you earlier 😢

15-raccadoodle: yes weedova. He died on Friday 🙁

16-Guest-toby-Juy: a brown one a dark black and a Chinese pz 😁

17-Tudy: he's always looking for new victims 🤣 🤣 🤣

18-Stealth: I'm hiding from my dog he's running all around the house looking for me 😂 😂 😂 😂

19-Carrien: hi 😎

20-Johny: I'll join you latter 😍 😍 😍 😍

9.2 Arabic Smileys/Emoticons:

The researcher extracts (20) examples from Arabic screen shots, including (18) types of different emoticons/smileys that refer to facial expressions, and they are arranged in the table (2) with their meanings. The examples are written as they appear in the data. Most Arab chatters tend to use combinations of emoticons/smileys instead of writing words or sentences. This strategy that Arab chatters follow indicates that they replace emoticons/smileys instead of words in a way known as "pictographic". This tendency of using combinations of emoticons/smileys considers a norm in most Arabic chatgroups. They may or may not adopt this way of writing for speed "to save time" as economic expressions, or they have awareness in using such expressions to convey their intended meaning. Nicknames also contain emoticons inside; this means that Arab chatters use emoticons/smileys everywhere and in a wide range of chatgroups. The language of the data gathered tend to be more informal, and most participants do not use their real nicks, and they hide their identity; this makes them more freely in exchange for whatever they have in their minds.

- Examples (1,8) show that the smiley ( ) reflects the sender's beaming and comfort as a way of expressing emotive function to convey his/her feelings and emotions.

- Examples (2,7) show that the chatters use ( ) to refer to blowing a kiss to convey a goodbye to a very close one. It is used as the utterance ending. This smiley is used typically as "good bye", and it has a phatic function.

- The chatter in the third example uses ( ) unamused emoticon, which has negative emotions. It is used to convey grumpiness or irritation towards someone or something. This indicates a negative or an expressive function of the sender's feelings.

- In the fourth example, the chatter uses combinations of different smileys

  ( ) to convey his/her sentiments of love and affection to a very

  close one but in a lighter way with happiness. This strategy indicates a

  positive and phatic or rhetoric function to imbue the message with

  cheerful tone or mood.

- Example (5,16) shows that the chatter uses combinations of ( ) smiley at the end of the sentence to convey a sense of excitement, fun and cuteness. It has a pragmatic function to express a positive mood, irony or emphasize attitude.

- The chatter in the sixth example uses combinations of smileys ( ) to express laughing so hard with tears or "laughing out loud" in the way of indicating happiness. The chatter adopts an expressive function to reflect his/her joy towards something in the chat flow.

- The participant in the eighth example uses the emoticon ( ) inside his/her nickname to convey suspicion, disappointment, or displeasure. This considers an emotive/negative function of expressing feelings.

- In the ninth example, the sender uses combinations of different emoticons ( ) instead of words to convey different meanings. He/ She tries to signal a joke, express excitement and enjoyment, convey cheerfulness and joy, and feels cool. This strategy considers a positive expressive function of conveying feelings.

- In the tenth example, the chatter sends combinations of two different smileys( ) at the end of the sentence to express the feeling of love and attraction and feels cool. Adapting such a way is considered either a rhetorical or ego-dynamic function.

- The eleventh example shows that the chatter uses two different emoticons ( ) to depict being silly and sarcastic or to denote the irresistibility of yummy food. This strategy has a humorous and ironic function to denote the interpretative nature of the message.

- In the twelfth example, the user types combinations of ( ) smileys to express his shock or surprise and to convey his feelings by using such emoticon. This choice has an emotive function to emphasize a point of view and to convey more emotional force.

- In the examples (13,18), the participant uses combinations of ( ) emoticons to express confusion or showing a way of uncertainty or "puzzled". This emoticon reflects the emotive or expressive function of feelings.

- The chatter in example (14) tries to express his feelings of being bored by choosing combinations of ( ) emoticons. This also indicates protection from viruses and airborne diseases, but it has many rhetorical functions.

- Example (15) indicates that the chatter signals a joke or another hidden meaning towards other participants by using ( ), which refers to humorous or ironic functions in the interpretative nature of the message.

- In example number (17), the participant writes the emoticon( ) to express a state of pain and sorrow. The chatter tries to reflect his/her feelings by adapting expressive negative function.

- Example number (19) shows that the chatter writes combinations of ( ) emoticons to say or express something obvious or too dumb. This establishes negative and emotive functions by using such expressions.

- In the last example (20), the chatter uses combinations of ( ) smiley to denote the irresistibility over delicious food, but it also refers to something delicious in chatting, such as an interesting topic. This feeling establishes to an expressive or emotive function towards something.

Figure (2) sample of Arabic chatgroups screen shots

	Smileys/Emoticons	**Their meanings**
1		Face blowing a kiss: it is used to convey a goodbye to a very close one
2		Grinning face: It conveys cheerfulness and joy towards something positive.
3		winking face: it signals a joke or a hidden meaning which is not be understood by many.

4	😁	Beaming face with smiling eyes: it represents mischievousness but can be used to give away excitement and enjoyment.
5	😂	Face with tears of joy laughing hahah: Shedding tears because of laughing so hard.
6	😍	Smiling face with heart-eyes: it is used to convey feelings of love and attraction.
7	😒	Unamused face: it is related to negative emotions. It conveys grumpiness or irritation towards someone or something.
8	😗	Kissing face: it is used to convey sentiments of love and affection but in a lighter way.
9	😝	Squinting face with the tongue: it conveys a sense of excitement, fun and cuteness.
10	😢	Crying face: conveys suspicion, disappointment, or displeasure.
11	😎	Smiling face with sunglasses: Feeling overachieved, "proud", and cool.
12	🙃	Upside-down face: it depicts being silly and sarcastic.
13	🤤	Drooling face: it denotes the irresistibility over a yummy food.
14	😮	Exhaling face: describing a shock which makes one go 'wow!' or surprise.
15	😔	Pensive face: it describes a state of pain and sorrow.
16	😕	Confused face: giving a look of uncertainty "puzzled".
17	😷	Face with medical mask for the protection from viruses and airborne diseases.
18	🙄	Face with rolling eyes: it is used when the other person says something obvious or too dumb.

Table (2) Arabic chatgroups emoticons/smileys with their meanings

1-Maram (مرام):عيوني دمعت من الفرح 😁 😁

2-سالي Sally: 😘

3- قلبي مانزعة: 😒 😒 😒

4-فوفو العسولة: 😂 🤭 😗

5-حاقد ولن ارحم: رشا35 على طول انشاء الله تتعبي 🤤 🤤 🤤

6-حاقد ولن ارحم: اجمل عمه ليه شايفة حالك 😂 😂 😂 😂

7-خليل: انا شاب سوري القلوب عند بعضها 😘

8-اسمع 😢 محنك

9-شادي وحنان: 😉 😜 😎 😁

10- شادي وحنان: 😍 😍 😎 😎

11-اريام: 🙄 😋 😋 😋

12-سلمى: 😮 😮

13-جادة للزواج: 🙂 🙂 🙂 🙂 🙂 🙂 🙂

14-امبابة: ملل 😖 😖 😖

15-وحيد بدنيتي: بدي ولد 😉 😉 😉 😉 😉

16-دكتور ثوثو: 😜 😜 😜

17-بنت ثانوي: 😌 😌 😌

18- علاوي البغدادي: 🙂 🙂 🙂

19-امرأة من فولاذ: المنتقم.... منو 🙄 🙄 🙄

20-يااااسر الباش: منا العالم استحي 😅 😅 😅

10. Conclusion

Chatters in English and Arabic use emoticons/smileys in a wide range in netspeak "chatgroups". In English (15), different types of emoticons appeared in the example, whereas in Arabic (18), different types. Some smileys/emoticons appeared in both languages, and some others are different. The ways of using emoticons in chat groups are different in English and Arabic; for example, English chatters tend to use a single emoticon at the end of the sentence, whereas Arab chatters tend to use combinations of emoticons from the same expression or from different expressions at the end of the sentence or without a sentence in a way that they replace

emoticons/smileys instead of words. The most frequent emoticons/smileys in English are (🤭) with 5 occurrences and (😂) with (4) occurrences, whereas in Arabic, the most frequent are (🙂) with (10) occurrences and (😉 , 😜) with (6) occurrences for each.

Both languages have the same meanings of emoticons/smileys, but the meaning of each smiley/emoticon differs from expression to expression according to different types. The meanings of English smileys are listed in the table (1), whereas the meanings of Arabic smileys are listed in table (2). These meanings are taken from two resources Crystal (2004) and Danesi (2017). Emoticons and smileys have different functions in both languages, and these functions vary according to different types of emoticons or smileys. The most frequent functions of both English and Arabic smileys are "expressive and emotive", whereas the less frequent functions in both languages are (phatic, negative, positive, humorous or ironic. This means that smileys/emoticons share the same functions in both languages.

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