

Text Messaging in English and Arabic with Reference to Translation

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ABSTRACT

In the twenty-first century, many people now live their lives through text messaging. In fact, you can witness people using their cell phones to send character-based messages to their friends, classmates, family members, and coworkers in malls, schools, and pretty much anywhere else. The popularity of this method of communication has increased particularly among young people. One benefit is that technology enables people to speak with others virtually anywhere. Second, it enables individuals to speak softly, which is useful in noisy places like bars, where it would be challenging to have a productive conversation over the phone, or when extraneous communication needs to be done quietly, such as in a school. Thirdly, it combines some of the advantages of phone and email communication by allowing them to communicate both synchronously (i.e., two-way communication occurs concurrently) and asynchronously (i.e., two-way communication is delayed). The usage of acronyms, abbreviations, and other shorthand notations has become commonplace in this technology's creation of a new language form. The focus of this research is on these qualities specifically and how they are used. The aim of this study was to analyze not only how frequently but also how these symbolic expressions are used in relation to the linguistic functions that they signal, which was followed by a number of discoveries.

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1. Introduction

Writing is now a widespread phenomenon. Everyone has the ability to write with more or less accurate spelling. New spellings and more casual written texts have emerged as a result of the modern conversational writings produced by new technology (Sindoni, 2014; Rahman et al., 2019; Ricafort, 2022).

Writing styles employed in contemporary communication are primarily distinguished by their brevity. Teachers and parents frequently encounter the concern that in the age of smartphones and computers, children and pupils use a language that adults are unable to grasp in addition to the well-known right language (Aziz et al., 2013; Horbach et al., 2022). With the advent of social networks, messenger, and chat, they have taken the role of literature and "face to face" communication. They fail to remember the rules for proper grammar, spelling, punctuation, and page structure. The term "SMS language" refers, by extension, to the kind of language used for instant messaging, emails, blogs, forums, and networked games, with the main goal of sending understandable communications with the fewest number of characters feasible. Texting language, txt lingo, SMSish, txtslang, or txt talk are some of the other names for SMS that are used today. Other names include textese, txt-speak, txtese, chatspeak, txt, txtspk, txtk, and txto. The "Oxford English Dictionary" first used the term "texting" in its publication in 2006. Teenagers are drawn to texting because it is quick and handy. The most popular form of communication today is SMS. Nearly 50,000 messages are sent out into the world every minute.

1.1. Translation

The definition of translation and the various models or forms of translation are not universally agreed upon by translation theories. When translating, each translator uses his or her own definition, theory, or model. In a broad sense, translation is frequently seen as an endeavor to convey meaning from one language into another (Latief et al., 2022; Rahman & Rahman, 2019).

As may be seen, this definition has two essential terms: transferring and meaning. Because translation in the normal meaning is a sort of interlingual communication that involves a source language (SL) and a target language (TL), i.e., the language we translate from and into, respectively, the first key term implies that when translating, we must deal with two languages. The second crucial phrase in the description above explains that capturing or conveying meaning in cross-linguistic communication is the translators' primary goal. Meaning is a complicated term that linguists typically divide into denotation (the word's primary conceptual meaning) and connotation (the shades of meaning that are sometimes added to the denotation of the word). For instance, the vocabulary pairs "die" and "pass away" in English have similar denotations but different connotations; pass away communicates positive connotations that die does not.

Translations should, it should be stressed, incorporate both denotation and connotation (Farghal & Shunnaq, 1999, p. 2). Other linguists claim that translation is a skill that entails trying to convey the same idea in a target language (or another language) while maintaining semantic and stylistic equivalences (Newmark, 1982, p. 7). Bell (1991, p. 5) defines translation as "the expression in another language (or target language) of what has been expressed in a source language while maintaining semantic and stylistic equivalences."

Additionally, "translation is an operation that is performed on languages (two or more) in which the source text is replaced by the target text on the basis of equivalence between both texts (lexis and grammar) of the source text are consequently replaced by target language phonology or graphology" (Ilyas, 1989, p. 19). The term "translation" has been defined in a variety of ways, and the need for individuals to share their knowledge and experience led to the development of translation as a way to get ideas across linguistic barriers and to transmit information from one culture to another. Translation is therefore a very old human activity.

1.2. Text Messaging

Text messaging, sometimes known as texting, is the process of creating and exchanging electronic messages between two or more users of mobile devices, desktop/laptop computers, or other types of compatible computers. These messages typically contain alphabetic and numeric characters (Lin & Tong, 2007; Hussain & Lukmana, 2019). Text messages can be transmitted via an Internet connection or a cellphone network.

The phrase was first used to describe communications sent over the Short Message Service (SMS). Alphanumeric text has given way to multimedia messages (also known as MMS) that incorporate digital photos, videos, and sound files as well as ideograms called emoji (happy faces, sad faces, and other icons).

Youth and adults utilize text messaging as of 2017 for social, professional, familial, and personal reasons. Text messaging is used by both governmental and non-governmental organizations to communicate among staff members. Similar to how emailing did before, sending brief informal messages has become widely accepted in various cultures in the 2010s. Because of this, texting is a quick and convenient way to interact with friends, family, and coworkers—even when making a phone call would be rude or improper (e.g., calling very late at night or when one knows the other person is busy with family or work activities). Texting does not require that the caller and recipient be available at the same time, unlike e-mail and voice mail, and unlike calls (in which the caller intends to speak immediately with the recipient), allowing contact even among busy people.

Text messages can be used to communicate with automated systems, such as those that are used to place orders for goods or services on e-commerce websites or to take part in online competitions. Instead of using voicemail, email, or postal mail, advertisers and service providers utilize direct text marketing to communicate with mobile consumers about promotions, payment deadlines, and other notifications (Thurlow & Brown, 2003; Beasley, 2009).

2. Methodology

This research used content analysis method. Content analysis involves systematically examining the content of text messages to identify patterns, themes, and linguistic features. Researchers can collect a large sample of text messages and analyze them for the frequency and types of acronyms, abbreviations, and shorthand notations used. This method can help identify common expressions and their linguistic functions.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1. The Language of Texting and Instant Messaging

Electronic writing has grown to be so prevalent that it might possibly have an impact on traditional writing techniques. Due to the rising ownership of mobile phones and personal computers, even by school-aged children, short

message service (SMS) text messaging and instant messaging (IM) have witnessed a significant and quick increase among younger generations over the past ten years. Texting is the practice of exchanging quick text messages between mobile phones and dates back to the turn of the century. At the beginning of the twenty-first century, IM gained popularity. It is the online text messaging between two or more people that takes place in an online game, either I through a mobile phone application or (ii) through an Internet application. They both fall under the umbrella of computer-mediated communication (CMC), but texting and instant messaging (IM) are synchronous CMCs that take place in real-time.

Both communication methods make use of a language that has many characteristics. Numerous labels are used to describe it, including "SMS language," "text language," "SMS talk," "text speak," and "textese." Standard spelling and grammatical norms are frequently broken in this type of language, and "textisms" are widely used. There are several uses for these orthographically unusual language forms. They serve as writing short cuts that enable speedy responses. They can save time, space, and money since they adhere to the strict requirements of a 160-character text message limit, a tiny screen, and an alphanumeric keypad with multiple letters assigned to each key. Furthermore, many young individuals think they're "cool."

1) Types of Textisms

The following textisms are examples of textese

- a. Orthographic Abbreviations/Contractions, (e.g. msg for message, tmrw for tomorrow)
- b. Phonological Abbreviations, (e.g. thru for through, skool for school, thanx for thanks)
- c. Acronyms/Initialisms, (e.g. ttyl for talk to you later, omg for oh my god, brb for be right back)
- d. Clippings/Shortening, (e.g. goin for going, feb for February, xam for exam)
- e. Single Letter/Number Homophones, (e.g. c for see, u for you, 2 for to/too, 4 for four)
- f. Combined Letter/Number Homophones, (e.g. NEL for any one, 2day for today, 18r for later)
- g. Emoticons/Smileys, (e.g. ☺ - for happy)
- h. Typographic Symbols, (e.g. x for kiss, <3 for love, & for and, @ for at)
- i. Omission of Punctuation, Apostrophes or Capitalization, (e.g. cant for can't, i for I)
- j. Excessive of Punctuation or Capitalization for Expressing Emphasis, (e.g. what!!!! for what! huh?? for huh? NEVER for never)
- k. Repeating Letters to Mirror Lengthening, (e.g. soooo for so, grrreeeeennn for green)
- l. Accent Stylization, (e.g. gonna for going to, anuva for another, dat for that)
- m. Neologisms or "Nonsensical Transmogrifications of other Words", (e.g. lolz for lol [laughing out loud])

Therefore, in terms of normativity, texts and instant messages typically fail to adhere to the formalized rules of proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation. The main problem seems to be competence: being able to communicate as effectively, succinctly, and rapidly as is reasonably possible, regardless of any standard dialect rules that are ignored along the way. All things considered, this does not imply that textese is exclusively composed of rebuses, cutting-edge abbreviations, and iconography, or that it completely deviates from accepted spelling conventions; rather, it simply means that young people's "textiquette" does not demand that their language adhere to these standards. In actuality, it might even be the case that texting has its own standards as opposed to adhering to predetermined ones.

3.2. The Characteristics of SMS

More people than ever communicate via SMS, email, or instant messaging. Every day, millions of SMS are sent worldwide. Texting, which is mostly evolved from verbal communication, has a distinct syntax and vocabulary than "normal" written language. Spelling and grammar are frequently ignored. Young people shorten words, make new ones, use slang, use emoticons or abbreviations like "lol" to communicate their sentiments. The use of obscene language and swear words is also widespread. With this style of writing, they can set themselves apart from adults and demonstrate their group membership. Acronyms and abbreviations are typically created from words in the English language because it is implicitly acknowledged that English is the official language of the Internet. However, "national" acronyms are used

to bolster this vocabulary, creating a hybrid that is frequently referred to as "Frenglish" (French plus English) and "Romnglish" in Romanian (Romanian with English).

Deciphering the "SMS" language is therefore not always simple. Text messages can only include 160 characters, thus the first rule of texting is to use as little as possible to explain oneself. We must use creativity to produce a message that is both clear and succinct. Typically, this is carried out in a variety of methods without regard for particular regulations.

Use of acronyms, such as lol for laugh out loud, lots of love, or brb for be right back, is one method. Vowels are frequently left out of nouns that don't have widespread acronyms, such as keyboard and dictionary, which become kybrd and dctnry, respectively. To make words shorter or for homophonetic purposes, words are occasionally mixed with images, substituted by numbers, or reduced to single letters; examples include writing four as 4, then writing it as l8, and I love you as l 3 u. Additionally, most texters no longer capitalize words. They frequently create emoticons that convey body language and facial expressions using punctuation and capitalization (Geertsema et al., 2011, p. 121-122).

3.3. Texting's Mechanisms

The terms "text messaging" or "texting" refer to the short, authored messages delivered via SMS (Short Message Service) on mobile devices, PDAs (Personal Digital Assistants), or alternatively, web browsers. The traditional text-based messaging service is still quite popular even though messages these days frequently include images, videos, and music (thus the more modern acronym MMS, or Multimedia Message Service). Since its creation and commercial release in the early to mid-1990s and the rapid global adoption of mobile telephony, texting has witnessed a significant increase in popularity. Text messages are most frequently used for one-on-one communication, but they are also increasingly being utilized to connect with robotic systems (for example purchasing products, taking an interest in TV challenges, enlisting voters). The combination of short messaging services with intuitive TV is an intriguing "assemblage" phenomenon that blurs the line between relational and broadcast communications. The invention is continually changing.

In light of this, and when discussing texting in relation to computer-mediated communication more generally, it's critical to accurately understand the connection between what a system itself permits (or bears) and what the communicator herself or himself sends to the technology. Most obviously, this is because text messaging requires small, portable equipment, giving most texters an unobtrusive and reasonably priced means of communication. Text messaging, on the other hand, is currently constrained both logistically and technically, allowing only a certain number of characters per message. Additionally, because it is a text-based CMC, it is essentially QWERTY-driven, or dependant on the conventional keyboard. It always depends on the client and the context of use, regardless of whether any mechanical aspect of any technology introduces as a communication limitation or opportunity.

3.4. Metaphonology of Text Messages

According to certain perspectives, it appears like SMSs are having a significant impact on standard English because numerous expressions that are largely disseminated solely to wireless cell phones have made their way into common speech. "These improvements in communication will have a significant impact on linguistic patterns".

Text message language possesses strong shorthand characteristics. This seems to be the case since, depending on the cell phone model, the SMS protocol allows for between 148 and 160 characters per message. As a result, the "additional" writing will be delivered as a separate SMS if the limit is exceeded.

The range restricted to 160 characters also includes spaces between words. Writing is made more difficult in a situation that is so tightly constrained by space. The use of the numeric keypad on mobile phones adds to the challenge. In certain circumstances, a new quality of the text dialect—sometimes called "textese"—came into being by means of the same symbol.

Textese is a casual phenomena that adheres to the economic principle, which states that a message must be as concise as possible while still conveying the essential information. The dominating principle of keeping everything in an SMS as brief and decodable for the recipient as feasible takes precedence over the body of the message. Thus, mobile phone users alter their English accents in order to get the desired outcome, which is the maximum content in the simplest manner.

Language manipulation, according to Sobkowiak (1991, p. 132), is the circumstance in which "meta phonological competence appears to be crucially involved [...] the function and meta phonological competence especially, acts an important role in the unusual ways which phonological representations can change."

It must be noted that the manipulation of text messages does not result from petty reasons but is instead a result of the technological constraints of the medium. In text messages, word play seems to be imposed by the situation rather than being completed instantly. The subordinating factor that underpins the use of SMSs appears to be the economy of writing. The 160 character limit of the medium necessitates the use of concise word forms.

In reality, it becomes obvious that changing the shape of words is irrelevant. Rarely does texting seem to use extremely unique and inventive techniques to word formation and change. Instead, it appears that the current methods are heavily employed. For instance, a large portion of the text messaging language was previously utilized in instant messaging software on personal computers. The following statement is supported by Thurlow's (2003, p. 59–60) observation: "New linguistic practices seldom spring from nowhere, neatly quashing pre-existing forms and conventions just as technologies do not replace one another, nor is it really possible to imagine communicative practices breaking completely, or that dramatically, with long-established patterns of interaction and language use."

The phenomenon's standardization appears to be truly ground-breaking. Conscious language alteration hasn't always been seen as being extremely widespread, but it has recently become more prevalent thanks to text messaging. Sending SMSs is a traditional form of communication that requires a shared code between the sender and the recipient. If they don't, communication collapses, and the act of communication fails to fulfill its fundamental purpose (Rangarajan et al., 2013; Saxena et al., 2018). It seems that text messaging has become a common form of communication among cell phone users.

Since wireless cell phones are much more accessible than, say, PCs or palmtops, the number of texters is constantly rising. The most visible feature of text messages is their ongoing process of creating new orthographical forms in accordance with the rules already in place. According to Crystal (2001, p. 56), it is clear that SMSs are a possibility.

1) Acronyms

An acronym is a group of letters made up of the initials, as in NATO, OK, BBC, etc. Acronyms are not just used for initials, though. Letters, syllables, and other word fragments are "cut out, rearranged, and combined to form a heretofore nonexistent word or series," according to Sobkowiak (1991, p. 142). The first step in emphasizing conformity with phonotactic constraints and euphony is meta phonological competency. Additionally, the variety of acronyms, as Ronneberger-Sibold (1990, p. 2) notes, is quite successful. They are used to create new lexemes without internal morphological structure, free from the restrictions of conventional word formation rules, according to her definition of their use .

According to Sobkowiak (1991, p. 143), the tampering is done on purpose because it is simpler and shorter to use the letters AIDS than the somewhat lengthy phrase Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome. Additionally, metaphonology is employed, which is seen from the fact that acronyms are frequently created to closely resemble systematic lexical words.

For years, people have been using this method of word construction. According to Marchand (1969, p. 369), "In European languages, letter-words are quite young. The true fashion is exclusive to our century "and observes that during the Middle Ages, personal names were created using the initials of a title, name, and father's name, as in the cases of Rambam and Hida (Rabbi Mosche B. Maimun).

The books devoted to decoding the meanings of the many acronyms used in connection with SMSs benefit from this. If one visits websites devoted to text messages, they will find glossaries with the acronyms associated in case a cell phone user needs assistance understanding them. Some of those abbreviations are similar to those that were once commonly used in mail communications, such as IMHO (in my humble opinion), ASAP (as soon as possible), FYI (for your information), or the classic LOL (laughing out loud) and its variants, LMHO (laughing my head off). Their familiarity can make it easier to interpret what they signify; some of these acronyms are used so frequently that it is easy to recognize them. However, when acronyms seem a little strange and foreign, a particular issue occurs. They can only be used by a small subset of cell phone users, locally, in a particular situation, or even in jargon. The trend is illustrated by the acronyms LND (London), SRO (Standing Room Only), JK (Just kidding), IGU (I give up), TMB (Text Me Back), or PCM (Please Call Me).

Thus, it can be inferred that there is a very uneven distribution of all the acronyms used in text messages. Some acronyms are readily clear, but again, the question of who they apply to arises. The fact that someone knows the acronym TC (Take Care) but not the extremely popular terms THX (Thanks) or BTW (By the Way) may just be an

accident. In contrast, using email, the internet, and playing computer games helps to reinforce familiarity with acronyms used in SMS messages since they overlap. It is highly possible that some acronyms will be popular in specific age, sex, or social affiliation groups but not in others. "With regard to acronyms, which are encoded by joining the first letters of words in English sentences, users may not necessarily understand what the acronyms imply unless they are already familiar with the dialect CMC (Nishimura 2003, p. 89).

2) Blending

This strategy, often known as "portmanteau words," entails including two or more lexemes in the base. The two best examples are brunch and haze (smoke and fog) (breakfast plus lunch). Two or more words are simply combined where they overlap, according to Bauer (1988, p. 39), so that no information is lost but repetition of letter combinations is avoided. The consequence of a blend is invariably a moneme, or an unintelligible, straightforward word, rather than a motivated syntagma, according to Marchand (1969, p. 368). The pieces that make up most words are typically smaller than morphemes. Using numerals in text messages gives the blending technique a specific treatment. Examples of how to utilize the cell phone's numeric keypad include 2nite (tonight), 2morrow (tomorrow), 3dom (freedom), 4ever (forever), 4tun (fortune), m8 (mate), gr8 (great), and w8 (wait). It is a purposeful, intentional method of blending metaphonology to blend a number into a lexical item. To replace a word syllable with a number in such a way that the phonological interpretation of the number and the replaced word syllable or chunk accord, one must be aware of homonymy.

The pronunciation of three, pronounced /Tri:/, and the morpheme for freedom, free, pronounced /fri:/, differ significantly in the case of 3dom (freedom). Even though the dental fricative is "substituted" with the labiodental one, the blend's meaning is still evident. The placement of numerals on the same buttons as alphabetic letters on the keypad makes the use of numerals in text messages necessary rather than a question of style. Utilizing the current environment demonstrates that users use metaphonological tools when creating new word forms. It is only a coincidence that the phonemes from the word great's first syllable overlap with those used to pronounce the number eight. However, it results in the development of a new, condensed, and cost-effective form of the lexical item great. A syllable is frequently substituted by the numeral, as in the instances of 2nite (tonight), 2morrow (tomorrow), 3dom (freedom), 4ever (forever), and 4tun (fortune).

3) The ABC Language

The use of letter names is referred to as the "ABC language." This wordplay uses a phonemic-graphemic trick. When a certain letter name, like r, is associated with a word, like are, the grapheme and phonemic form are the same. Instances like b for be, n for an/and, o for oh (oh, I see), UR for You are or your, c u for see you, y for why, etc. are used in this form of text message. Sometimes a letter can represent an entire word, as in the case of Y for why, while other times it can represent a portion of a word, as in the example of l8r for later. This is an additional instance of the use of meta phonological proficiency.

3.5. Ambiguity

In human dialect, vagueness is unavoidable. By its very nature, dialect is arrangement in which are reacting gradually question and clear up in overwork decrease vagueness. For this exploration, a few sorts of possibility vagueness were recognized. They were: first sort:

1) Length Ambiguity

This refers to a symbol that is involved just a single letter. symbols displaying length equivocalness were overlooked from the analysis because they may be used as initials (e.g., H for Henry).

2) Symbol Vagueness

It makes reference to a picture that either spells a real word (like AS and BAG) or an acronym with another allowed meaning (e.g., ATM and SOB). The difficulty in determining the purpose of the image led to the exclusion of images that depicted symbols from this study

3) Expression Ambiguity

It alludes to an image that has more than one conceivable (e.g. HAHA could mean understanding "Gigging," it could signify "Showing at least a bit of kindness Attack".

4) Culture Ambiguity

Which means and an all the more generally acknowledged importance inside the bigger content informing society (e.g. BOT signifies "Purchased" inside the objective corpus, however its all the more normally perceived importance is Back on Topic")

4. Conclusion

The researchers reached to the following findings: 1) Because they use their shortened language in class, texting and instant messaging have a daily negative impact on pupils' writing quality. Kids are committing countless grammar, subject-verb agreement, and spelling errors in their written projects as a result of their technological chit-chatting. 2) There may be a gender effect. Boys and girls may text in various ways, which could affect literacy in different ways. Research has shown that women tend to employ more textisms than men. 3) It's important to explain the difference between the channel and the manner of communication. In contrast to the latter, which refers to a specific mode of operation, such as "very effective communication mode," the former designates a route or method of information transmission (such as email, television, or cell phone. 4) Text messages can be sent from anywhere because there are no location limits, no special equipment is required, and the cost of sending one text message is still less than the cost of calling.. 5) It is a very practical communication method. Even when in public, communication can be carried out discretely and without disturbing anyone. 6) The generation of text messages is governed by meta phonological competency, which is a significant finding. Textese serves as an example of the power and enormous potential of meta phonology since texters can efficiently alter phonemes, graphemes, syllables, characters, and numbers to get the desired, cost-effective impact. By using a letter or a number instead of an entire syllable, a lexical item can maintain its phonology thanks to meta phonological competence.

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