GENDER DIFFERENCES IN COMPUTER-MEDIATED COMMUNICATION ENVIRONMENT: A STUDY ON UPM STUDENTS' RESPONSES IN AN ONLINE WRITING FORUM

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Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Masters in Education in Teaching of English as a Second Language (TESL)

Faculty of Education

March 2011
Declaration

I declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the result of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This topic has not been submitted to any academic institution or non-academic institution for any other degree or qualification.

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Abstract

The technology has greatly benefited our lives in many ways. In education, computer-mediated communication is now integrated in teaching and learning. The purpose of this study is to examine the differences of the linguistic and autographic features used between male and female students of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) in the Online Writing Forum. The instrumentation used to facilitate the present study is UPM Online Writing Forum. The students’ writings in the forum were analyzed and discussed and further compared to previous research. The results of the research revealed that females tend to use more pronouns that show relationship with the readers than males. Females also tend to use boosters more in their writings rather than males. In contrast, males tend to hedge slightly more than females in their writings. For autographic feature differences, females tend to make more mistakes in the use of upper and lower cases in their writings, and they also use more emoticons in their posts in the Online Writing Forum. These findings could be useful to language instructors and curriculum implementers in understanding the language and autographic features differences between males and females in computer-mediated-communication environment. Further studies should be carried out to investigate other linguistic and autographic features differences between males and females when interacting in Online Writing Forums.
Abstrak

Acknowledgement

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim
In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful

This dissertation owes its existence to the help, support, and inspiration of many people. First and foremost, I thank the Almighty Allah for bestowing me the courage and good health in completing this study and also for answering my prayers in achieving my dreams and my parents' dreams.

First and foremost, my deepest gratitude goes to my supervisor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Richard Holmes. I really appreciate the guidance, trust, commitment and encouragement given by you in the completion of my dissertation. You have been a steadfast mentor and a *guru*, and I would have been lost without your guidance.

I would also like to thank the institution, Universiti Teknologi MARA for giving me the opportunity to further my studies, and at the same time broaden my knowledge. My warmest gratitude to all my lecturers: Prof. Syukor Abdul Rahman, Prof. Hazadiah Mohd Dahan, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gurnam Kaur Sidhu, Dr. Shireena Basree Abdul Rahman, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Faizah Abdul Majid, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Parmjit Singh, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Shariff Omar, Dr. Lee Lai Fong and Dr. Nabilah Abdullah. I truly appreciate your guidance, and I am grateful to have the chance sharing valuable knowledge from you.

To my beloved parents, Haji Ramli Abd Aziz and Hajah Norrizan Ismail, whom have always been my pillar of strengths, and the ones who are always on my mind during the completion of my dissertation, I can never thank you enough for the support and encouragement you have given me. I love you, and I am forever indebted.

To my course mates, Azah, Sue, Nana, Farina, Munira, Amira, and Sarmad, thank you for your co-operation and guidance whenever needed. All of you will always be close to my mind and heart.

Finally, to my special friends, Mohammad Firdaus Azhar and Nur Aqilah Norwahi, thank you for being my personal cheerleaders and motivate me throughout the completion of this course. To my sister, Nurul Adira Anuar, thank you for always being there for me. I love you, and I am forever indebted.