Lexical Features of Gendered Language on Facebook: A Qualitative Analysis

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Abstract:- This study on exploring the lexical features of gendered language on Facebook is a qualitative analysis on how the use of gendered language differs in terms of word compounds and blends, abbreviations and acronyms, creative use of punctuation and stylized spelling. In-depth understanding on how male and female use language in Facebook was investigated with a purposive sampling of 90 status updates taken from the posts of respondents who are enrolled in one of the premier public high schools in Northern Philippines.

General Features of Netlingo by Thurlow, Lengel and Tomic (2003) was utilized as a basis to look into how the use of gendered language differs in terms of word compounds and blends, abbreviations and acronyms, creative use of punctuations and stylized spelling.

Results show that a person's Facebook social network has an impact on how they utilize language. Their use of creativity and resourcefulness is evident in the language they employ in their writings. Furthermore, Facebook status updates allow both men and women to publish information about their everyday activities, including what they were doing and what was happening in their lives at the time, in addition to expressing their emotions. Therefore, in order to foster youth empowerment, gender-neutral language, and awareness of cyberbullying, it is advised that teachers and students participate in training and seminars on maintaining cultural and linguistic preservation as part of the curriculum. This will strengthen their communication skills and foster a deeper understanding of one another.

Keywords:- Gendered Language, Status Updates, Qualitative Analysis

I. INTRODUCTION

People today live in a society where language is thought to be constantly changing. This is regarded as a social phenomenon as well. New words are created, obsolete ones are forgotten, and some others undergo morphological and semantic changes in order to adapt to a changing reality.

New forms of literacy have emerged as a result of the rapid evolution of information and communication technology in recent years. This has led to the emergence of new online genres and discourses in academics (Kuteeva 2011). University organizations' usage of long-standing, conventional communication exchange media has been impacted by the introduction of new electronic genres into the academic sphere. Our writing styles and genres have evolved as a result of computer-mediated engagement in the academic setting (Hayland and Hamp-Lyons 2002). With an emphasis on this particular context, the growth of social networking and its growing significance in education need scholarly investigation of the matter.

Not surprisingly, surveys have revealed disparities in Internet usage between men and women. Male and female media consumption tendencies are different. There are a lot of options under the broad hypothesis that the Internet is "gendered" in some way. Some theorists contend that the technology itself has a cultural relationship with masculine identity because its developers have institutionalized male values in it (Cockburn, 1992).

The goal of the current study was to determine how gendered language is used on Facebook. Under the assumption that men and women have distinct speech patterns, this study examined how language functions on social networking sites and how men's linguistic activity differs from women's (Holmes, 1997). Because Facebook has significantly impacted both language and society, it is also centered on examining the degree to which social, cultural, and linguistic habits are being altered as a result of its use.

In addition to examining the linguistic structures of men and women, the researcher's results will help close the gap between cultures and communities because they took into account the language used and the speakers' intentions. Importantly, the researcher used illustrations to show the respondents' genuine messages so that readers could see their expressions, emoticon usage, and writing style. This allows the study's findings to influence how culture is formed. This is how the current study came to be.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

A. Research Design and Procedure

Communicating the realization of this study was fulfilled should there be a call for protocols. First, the participants from the seven classes with 50 students of the researcher signed informed consent forms before the conduct of the research. The respondents were informed that the researcher is conducting a study on Facebook; however, the specific area was not mentioned to ensure that the participants did not alter the content of their posts and delete some of their status updates.

After determining which Facebook users were active, the researcher selected 15 men and 15 women, or at least that is how they identified themselves. According to Ludlow (1996), there is no technique to verify gender swapping, therefore physical characteristics and behavior alone cannot reveal a person's true identity.

Using purposive sampling, the researcher collected three Facebook status updates from each active user, and the primary data consisted of screenshots of the status updates. With the help of Thurlow, Lengel, and Tomic's general Netlingo features, the researcher purposefully chose Facebook status updates that she was certain would align with the goals of her investigation (2003). To confirm the categorization of the data in this study, the researcher consulted subject-matter experts after examining screenshots of the students' most recent Facebook status updates.

Lastly, the researcher conducted an informal interview to the respondents for verification and further probing based on the findings made by the researcher. The researcher also observed the respondents while answering the questions to establish the veracity and sincerity of their claims. The translation of the excerpts from the informal interview conducted was checked, validated and signed by the validators from the same field of specialization.

In investigating the language differences between male and female, the General Features of Netlingo by Thurlow, Lengel and Tomic (2003) was utilized as a basis to look into how the use gendered language differ in terms of word compounds and blends, abbreviations and acronyms, creative use of punctuations and stylized spelling.

B. Participants

The participants of this study were the senior high school students in one of the public schools in northern Philippines.

C. Research Instrument

The General Features of Netlingo by Thurlow, Lengel and Tomic (2003) was used as a basis to look into how the use of gendered language differs in terms of word compounds and blends, abbreviations and acronyms, creative use of punctuations and stylized spelling.

After analyzing the corpus of the study, the researcher later used semi-structured interviews to verify the respondents' answers should there be a need for further probing and clarifications.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIOM

The analyses that follow underscore the differences between male and female as far as language is concerned. Here, the researcher followed some general features of Netlingo explained by Thurlow et al (2003). The researcher looked into the following category to identify the use of language between male and female: word compounds and blends, abbreviations and acronyms, creative use of punctuation and stylized spelling.

A. On Word Compounds and Blends

Of the 45 Facebook updates gathered from the male respondents, the researcher noticed the participants' use of word compounds and blends. Compound words are made up of two or more smaller words that are combined to make a new word with its own meaning (Plag, 2004). Also, Bauer (2003) defines a compound as 'the formation of a new lexeme by adjoining two or more lexemes'.

Similar to compounding, blending also involves the combination of two separate forms to produce a single new term. However, blending is typically accomplished by taking only the beginning of one word and joining it to the end of the other word (Yule, 2006).

Following Thurlow, Lengel and Tomic (2006) general features of netlingo as a basis in analyzing the respondents' use of language, figure 1 presents an example of a Facebook status update of a male respondent. It can be gleaned on the figure that the respondent has written the word fcbk in his post. The respondent explained that this compound word was originally spelled as fuckback. In his status updates, he describes life as boring and uses the expression fcbk or fuckback to express his boredom. It can be noticed however that the word fcbk or fuckback is not present in the dictionary. This expression was believed to be a word invented by the participants themselves to express their negative feelings. For the participants, the compound word fcbk or fucback is a combination of the words fuck and back which means fucking irritating.

➢ *An Excerpt of Dialogue Exchange between the Informant and the researcher:*

- *R: In one of your Facebook posts, you have used the compound word fcbk. What does that word mean and why are you using it?*
- *I: In that post, I used that word to express my feeling because I was bored at that time. Fckbk is short for fuckback which means fucking irritating.*
- *R: Where did you learn that word?*
- *I: I have read that word from my friends' Facebook status updates that is why I am also using it.*

Fig 1: Screenshot of a Status Update of a Male Respondent

Figure 2 also shows that a male respondent used the compound word realtalk in one of his status updates. The word realtalk is not also present in the English dictionary. However, this word is used by the youth nowadays because it is the "in-thing". According to the respondent who posted this status update, the compound word realtalk is a combination of the words, real and talk which means an honest word or to be honest. It can be noticed however that in this post, the participant used the word realtalk in exchange of the word to be honest. When asked about where he learned the word, the participant explained that he encountered the compound word realtalk on his friends' status updates that is why he is also using it.

➢ *An Excerpt of Dialogue Exchange between the Informant and the Researcher:*

• *R: In one of your Facebook posts, you have used the compound word realtalk. What does that word mean and why are you using it?*

• *I: That word is considered the "in-thing" nowadays. If you want to give advice to a person, you need to give him a realtalk. Realtalk means "honest words". That word can also mean "to be honest". For example, "Brother, to be honest, you are ugly."*

• *R: Where did you learn that word?*

• *I: I just heard that word and read it in my friends' Facebook posts.*

Fig 2: Screenshot of a Status Update of a Male Respondent

Figure 3 shows another compound word used by a male respondent. It can be noticed on his post that the word fuccboii would mean a negative word since the respondent made use of angry emoticons which means that the writer is very mad. In this post, the participant explained that the compound word fuccboi or fuckboy is a combination of the words, fuck and boy which means pervert or describes someone who loves sex. This word has been used by the youth nowadays.

➢ *An Excerpt of Dialogue Exchange between the Informant and the Researcher:*

• *R: In one of your Facebook posts, you have used the compound word realtalk. What does that word mean and why are you using it?*

• *I: I was mad that time. That was an indirect message to a girl who messaged me. The word "fuccboii" is actually spelled as "fuckboy" . I just beautified the spelling. That word actually means pervert or a person who loves sex.*

• *R: Where did you learn that word?*

• *I: There are a lot of millennials like me who are actually using that word in messenger, text messages and Facebook posts.*

Fig 3: Screenshot of a Status Update of a Male Respondent

Female respondents also use compound words and blends in their Facebook status updates. Of the 45 posts gathered from the female respondents, some examples of the compound words and blends written by the respondents are: sembreak, likezone, seenlord and chillax.

Figure 4 shows the status update of one female respondent. It can be gleaned from the figure that the respondents wrote two compound words in her post: sembreak and likezone. The first compound word used in these status updates is already known and used by many. "Sembreak", a combination of the words, semester and break mean a short vacation which lasts for two weeks in the month of October in the Philippines. On the other hand, the participant who posted the noted compound word said that likezone is a new compound invented by the youth nowadays. This compound word is a combination of the words, like and zone which describes a person who always likes his or her friends' status updates. According to the participant who used the compound word, likezone is also used to describe a situation wherein one's Facebook friends would like a post without leaving a comment in their status updates.

➢ *An Excerpt of Dialogue Exchange Between the Informant and the Researcher:*

• *R: In one of your Facebook posts, you have used the compound word sembreak and likezone. What do these words mean and why are you using them?*

• *I: The word sembreak means the most awaited short vacation which lasts for two weeks in the month of October. The word likezone, on the other hand, describes a person who always likes his or her friends'*

status updates. However, in my post, I used it to describe the situation wherein my Facebook friends would frequently like my post without leaving a comment in my status updates.

- *R: Where did you learn that word?*
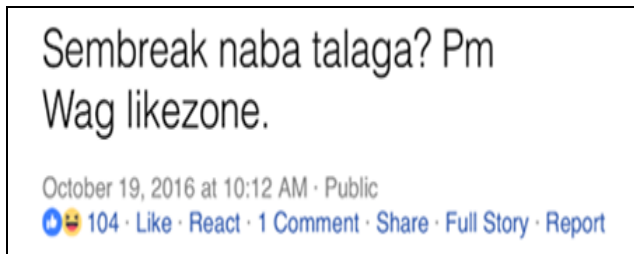- *I: I have learned those words from my friends and also in social media.*

Fig 4: Screenshot of a Status Update of a Female Respondent

Figure 5 also shows the status update of another female respondent. It can be noticed that in the status update, the participant used the compound word seenlord and clarified that this is a combination of the words, seen and lord. This word would actually be used to describe a person who is fond of avoiding and ignoring. Similarly, the participant who made use of the noted compound word explained that seenlord is also synonymous to the word snob as widely known by many.

In this status update, the researcher also noticed that the participant wrote the word ampu after the compound word seenlord. Here, the participant clarified that her status update shows her irritation even without using angry emoticons. The word ampu that is used in her status update is a short word for putang – ina, a cathartic expression that is deliberately meant to hurt or insult. However, according to Montenegro (1982) as mentioned by Bayag, Dayag-Vecaldo and Medriano Jr. (2018), Putang-ina may not be considered insulting anymore, for it can be uttered in jest, out of frustration, or sometimes even a way of complimenting. It is the putang-ina mo with the mo that is considered insulting and derogatory.

➢ *An Excerpt of Dialogue Exchange between the Informant and the Researcher:*

- *R: In one of your Facebook posts, you have used the compound word seenlord. What does this word mean and why are you using it?*
- *I: The word seenlord is used to describe a person who is fond of avoiding and ignoring.*
- *R: Where did you learn that word?*
- *I: I have learned those words from my friends and also in the Facebook posts of my friends.*
- *R: What does the word ampu mean in your post?*
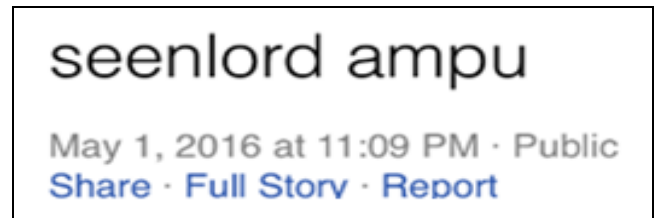- *I: The word ampu is short for putang- ina. I was not in the mood that time, that is why I uttered that.*

Fig 5: Screenshot of a Status Update of a Female Respondent

Figure 6 also shows one of the Facebook status updates of a female respondent. It can be seen on the figure that the respondent made use of a blended word in her status update. As mentioned, similar to compounding, blending also involves the combination of two separate forms to produce a single new term. In this status update, it can be noticed that the participant made use of the blended word chillax, which is a combination of the word chill and relax. This word is widely known and used by people on a daily basis. Based on the explanation of the participant who used the blended word chillax, it is usually said to people who are suffering from stress.

➢ *An Excerpt of Dialogue Exchange between the Informant and the Researcher:*

- *R: In one of your Facebook posts, you have used the blended word chillax. What does this word mean and why are you using it?*
- *I: Chillax means to become energized and avoid stress. It is usually said to people who are suffering from stress.*
- *R: Where did you learn that word?*
- *I: Those words are already an expression of many whenever they encounter people who are mad and stressed.*
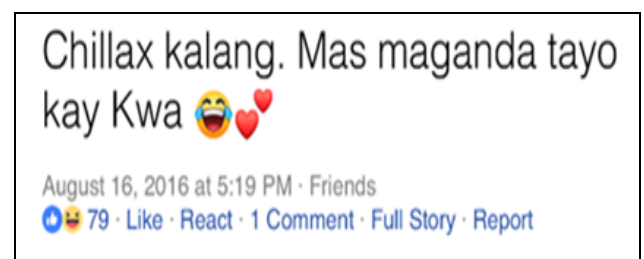

Fig 6: Screenshot of a Status Update of a Female Respondent

As far as language is concerned, the researcher noted some similarities and differences on how male and females use compound words and blends. The data shows that both men and women are fond of using compound and blended words. However, the researcher noticed that both men and women are using compound and blended words which do not conform to standard English. This means that men and women's exposure to Facebook and computer-mediated communication would make them creative in communicating. They would invent compound words and surprisingly, their network friends would understand these compound words and would also use them in their

everyday conversation. Furthermore, the researcher also noticed that the compound words which are invented by both male and female would have negative connotations. Compound words such as fuckboy, fuckback, seenlord and likezone denote negative meaning.

There are also differences that the researcher observed between male and female as far as the use of compound words is concerned. Male participants are not only creative in inventing compound words but also artistic on how to spell out these compound words. Fcbk and Fuccboii are not spelled as they are supposed to be. This implies that when a negative compound word is used by the male respondents, they tend to make the spelling creative so as not to make their statement very offensive. On the other hand, female respondents also create their own compound words, however; they do not make the spelling creative. This shows that females conform to the rules of how to properly spell compound words; whether the compound word suggests positive or negative meaning. Findings of this study show similarities in the findings of Xia (2013) in her claim that women pay more attention to using standard language than men do, so they are stricter with the rules of the use of language. What is remarkable is the capacity of females to utter degrading expressions such as putang ina. Findings of Xia (2013) shows similarities; however, in her findings, women are gentle and docile, they usually avoid using swear words and dirty words. They believe that these kinds of words will not only make others uncomfortable and give an impression of "no civilization", but also destroy the relationship between her and others.

B. On Abbreviations and Acronyms

Abbreviations and acronyms are widely popular across the Internet, especially on social media and texting apps, because in some cases, they offer shorthand for communication that is meant to be instant (Colman, 2015). They provide a faster and easier way of communication since language used in the internet turns phrases, or even sentences into much shorter words. It is convenient for everyone, especially the teenage netizens since it goes with their generation. In this study, the researcher observed that the use of abbreviations and acronyms are evident in the Facebook status updates of both male and female.

Figure 7 shows one of the status updates of a male respondent. As can be gleaned on the figure, the participant had written the acronym GGWP. Here one participant expounded that the acronym GGWP stands for Good Game Well Played which means feeling accomplished. Another participant explained that this acronym is also considered an expression by youth nowadays whenever they feel happy, contented and excited for their accomplishments. It can be noticed however that GGWP is a new term being used by youth nowadays. Based on the words of another respondent, this acronym is not only found in Facebook status updates but also uttered by the teenagers when they play online games and when they do outdoor activities.

➢ *An Excerpt of Dialogue Exchange between the Informant and the Researcher:*

• *R: In one of your Facebook posts, you have used the acronym, GGWP. What does this word mean and why are you using it?*
• *I: GGWP means Good Game Well Played. This acronym is used as an expression of a person who is happy and content. It also means feeling accomplished. Other than that, it is also an expression of online gamers and outdoor goers.*
• *R: Where did you learn that word?*
• *I: I have read it on my friends' status updates and at the same time, I also hear that acronym.*

Fig 7: Screenshot of a Status Update of a Male Respondent

The researcher also noticed that male respondents do not only use acronyms. Figure 8 presents the status update of a male respondent. It can be observed that the word ex is used by the respondent. Accordingly, the respondent said that the word Ex is actually an abbreviation for ex-boyfriend or ex-girlfriend. Instead of saying ex-boyfriend or ex-girlfriend, people would say the abbreviation ex for convenience.

➢ *An Excerpt of Dialogue Exchange between the Informant and the Researcher:*

• *T: In one of your Facebook posts, you have used the word ex. What does this word mean and why are you using it?*
• *S: That word would actually mean ex- girlfriend. We can also refer to ex-girlfriend because that is the abbreviation. I find it more convenient since the word ex-girlfriend is too long.*
• *T: Where did you learn that word?*
• *S: In televisions, movies and social media as well.*

Fig 8: Screenshot a of Status Updates of a Male Respondent

Figure 9 also shows the Facebook status update of a male respondent. It can be observed the writer used the word bes as an abbreviation for the word best friend. However, one respondent clarified that in today's generation, the word bes is no longer an abbreviation for

best friend alone but also, it can be an abbreviation for the word friend, Surprisingly, bes can also refer to fake friends and enemies as well.

➢ *An Excerpt of Dialogue Exchange between the Informant and the Researcher:*

- *R: In one of your Facebook posts, you have used the word, Bes. What does this word mean and why are you using it?*
- *I: Bes is actually a short word or acronym for best-friend. However, it could also refer to fake friends and enemies as well.*
- *R: Where did you learn that word?*
- *I: I have learned that word from my friends and on social media.*

Fig 9: Screenshot of a Status Update of a Male Respondent

The researcher also observed that female respondents also use abbreviation and acronym in posting their Facebook status updates. Figure 10 presents one of the status updates of a female respondent wherein the acronym WTF was used. Anyone who has encountered WTF in the wild probably knows that its primary meaning is "what the fuck,". In this post however, the participant explained that the acronym WTF was used to express her happiness during the teachers' day. In the context of her status update, WTF stands for Wow! That's Fun! This implies that though acronyms were used long ago, its meaning can change overtime. Its meaning would depend on one's usage especially in utterances in different situations.

➢ *An Excerpt of Dialogue Exchange between the Informant and the Researcher:*

- *R: In one of your Facebook posts, you have used the acronym WTF. What does this word mean and why are you using it?*
- *I: In that post, WTF doesn't actually mean What The Fuck. Since I was happy that time, WTF in that post means Wow! That's Fun!*
- *R: Where did you learn that word?*
- *I: I often encounter that word in social media that is why I am also using it.*

Fig 10: Screenshot of a Status Update of a Female Respondent

Figure 11 also presents another acronym that is used by a female respondent. In the figure, it can be noted that the acronym FL was used by the writer. The participant clarified that FL can be considered as a new acronym popularized by the youth nowadays since only few are using this. In this post, the participant explained that FL is an acronym for Flood Likes. According to him, Flood Likes refers to a scenario when a Facebook friend would click "like" in one's Facebook status update. If a Facebook friend would be clicking the "like" button every now and then until the notification will be flooded with "likes", then this can be termed as Flood Likes or FL.

➢ *An Excerpt of Dialogue Exchange between the Informant and the Researcher:*

- *R: In one of your Facebook posts, you have used the acronym FL. What does this mean and why are you using it?*
- *I: The acronym FL stands for Flood Likes. FL is used when a Facebook friend would click the "like" button in all your status updates.*
- *R: Where did you learn that word?*
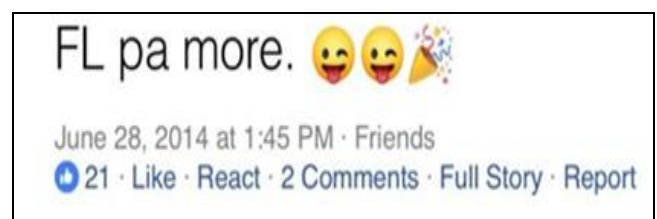- *I: It is the "in-thing" in Facebook.*

Fig 11: Screenshot of Status Updates of a Female Respondent

Other than WTF and FL, the acronym PM was also written by a female respondent. Figure 12 shows that PM was used by the participant as an acronym for Personal Message. Personal message is a kind of computer-mediated communication where the message of the sender is sent through the "messenger". "Messenger"is a free downloadable application on the internet where one can send a message, share photos and videos, send a voice message, hop on a call or video chat and play games with friends.

➢ *An Excerpt of Dialogue Exchange between the Informant and the Researcher:*

• *R: In one of your Facebook posts, you have used the acronym FL. What does this mean and why are you using it?*
• *I: The acronym PM stands for Personal Message.*
• *R: Where did you learn that word?*
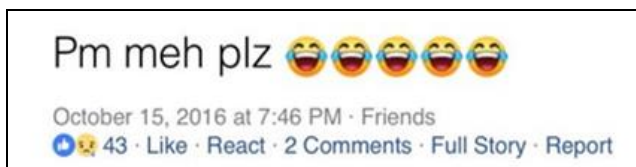• *I: My friends are using that acronym*

Fig 12: Screenshot of a Status Update of a Female Respondent

The analyses show that social media, particularly Facebook in general, has the capacity of changing people's language. Every now and then, a new word is added and of course, every "netizen", refers to people who use social media, and begin to use these for communication and even in their everyday lives.

In this study, it can be observed that there are similarities and differences between male and females as they use abbreviations and acronyms in their Facebook status updates. Both male and female tend to use acronyms which are new and created by the youth nowadays whenever they communicate in social media and even in their daily conversation. The acronyms GGWP, FL, WTF and PM are also proof that people can now see the changes in language. If there is a new thing and the language community has no word for it, there are several options to create a new one. These acronyms also offer shorthand for communication that is meant to be instant. Moreover, these acronyms also provide convenience for everyone, especially the teenage netizens since it goes with their generation.

On the other hand, there is also a difference that is noted from the analyses. Female respondents use acronyms that do not have the same meaning as that of usually used by many. Before, the commonly used acronym WTF in Facebook would mean "What the fuck". From the analyses of the status updates in this study, WTF could actually mean, "WOW! That's fun!". This implies that indeed, language is dynamic and it changes constantly. The key here is usage. If a new word is used by many speakers of a language, it will probably survive and it can happen that one day, it becomes an everyday word and enters in the dictionaries. The finding of this study supports the claim of Crystal (2001) that if the internet is a revolution, then there is likely to be a linguistic revolution.

C. On Creative Use of Punctuation

When a person communicates verbally, one uses certain queues like pausing or changing the tone of the voice to indicate breaks in speech or emphasis. In written communication, these types of breaks in sentences or other places of emphasis are indicated through the use of punctuation. Also, using punctuation in writing helps the reader to clearly understand the message that is being conveyed. Punctuation primarily helps to indicate the pauses and the emphasis on certain ideas or thoughts that are discussed in the text.

Figure 13 presents the Facebook status updates of the male respondents. It can be noticed on the status updates that male participants are creative in using punctuations. In the status updates, male do not use period and comma properly. In addition, male participants do not observe the proper use of punctuations.

It can be gleaned on figure 13 that male participants are fond of using emoticons instead of punctuations. They tend to insert emoticons between and after their sentences to denote breaks and emphasis. As observed on their status updates, emoticons also serve a signal whether a statement denotes positive or negative expression. A male participant in this study explained that he prefers to use emoticons to emphasize the content of his post, making it more realistic to the readers. Moreover, another respondent clarified that using emoticons and creative use of punctuations would make their status updates more readable.

➢ *Excerpts of Dialogue Exchange between the Informant and the Researcher:*

• *R: Why do you use emoticons in your posts instead of using punctuations?*
• *I(1): I cannot express my real intention and feelings if I only use punctuation.*
• *I(2): Emoticons are more appealing and more comprehensive than punctuations.*
• *I(3): Using emoticons rather than punctuations make the statement more pleasing. Millennials nowadays could no longer understand the message well if only punctuations are used in it.*
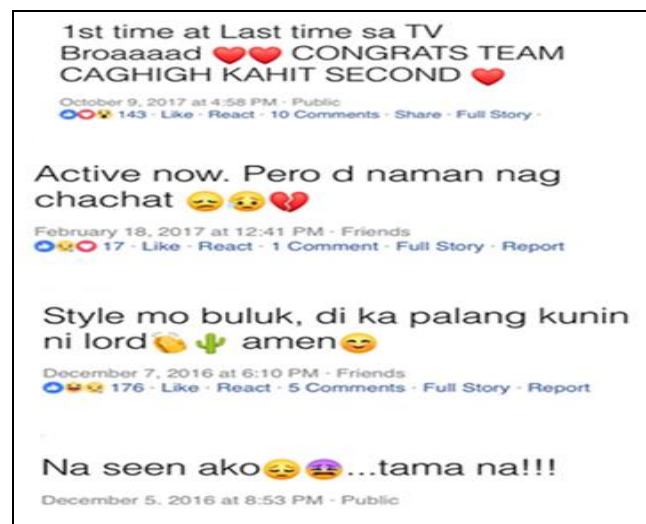

Fig 13: Screenshots of the Status Update of Male Respondents

Figure 14 shows how female respondents make use of punctuations. It can be gleaned from the figure that female respondents observe the proper way of using punctuations. In these status updates, a participant said, period is used after a sentence which denotes finality in her statement. It can also be noticed that other punctuations such as the comma which is used to separate words in their sentences are used properly. Moreover, a female respondent clarified that the use of question mark in her status update is correct because it denotes that she is posing a question to the readers.

Female participants in this study also make use of emoticons in their Facebook status updates. Aside from the use of punctuation to emphasize their message, emoticons are also used after sentences to express well their thoughts and feelings.

➢ *Excerpts of Dialogue Exchange between the Informant and the Researcher:*

- *R: Why are you using stylized spelling in your Facebook status updates?*
- *I(1): It is the "in-thing" nowadays.*
- *I(2): I use stylized spelling because my friends are using it. That is why I am also using it in messenger, Facebook and other social media.*
- *I(3): I don't even know why. I actually adopted those words on social media.*

Fig 14: Screenshots of Status Updates of Female Respondents

Based on the data gathered and analyses above, the researcher claims that there are similarities and differences between male and female as far as creative use of punctuation is concerned. Both male and female use emoticons in their Facebook status updates to emphasize the content of their post, making the emotions on their posts more realistic to the readers. Moreover, using emoticons and creative use of punctuations would make their status updates more readable. However, from the analyses made by the researcher, the only difference that has been noted is that, male respondents use emoticons heavily compared to female respondents in their Facebook status updates. Their use of punctuation is so personalized that they do not use period and comma properly.

The findings made in this study support the findings of (Steele, 2010) that men may speak nonstandard language to express their feeling of freedom and creative power. On the contrary, female respondents observe the proper way of using punctuation. This supports Eckert & McConnell-Ginet (1992) in their claim that women's language is more standard as compared to men's.

D. On Stylized Spelling

According to Archibido (2016), although the spelling of words may be erroneous by formal standards, it is recognized that spelling is highly personalized. They may not conform to standards, but what matters is that the meaning being conveyed is understood by the communicator.

Figure 15 presents the Facebook status updates of the male respondents. It can be noticed on their posts the use of stylized spelling. Stylized spelling is done in a way that is not natural in order to create an artistic effect. In the Facebook status updates shown in figure 15, some words which the spelling is being stylized are happeh for happy, iz for is, diz for this, studiuss for studious, I kennot for I cannot and christMUST for Christmas. Male participants would stylize their spelling because it is already the "in-thing" today. Many have been using this style in writing since it is already used especially by the youth nowadays in Facebook and other forms of social media. This implies that males nowadays are adaptive to the current trend in language.

➢ *Excerpts of Dialogue Exchange between the Informant and the Researcher:*

- R: Why are you are using stylized spelling in your Facebook status updates?
- I: So it will look more artistic
- I: I am just doing what others are doing.
- I: I use stylized spelling to make my sentence appealing and so as not to make my readers bored in reading my posts.

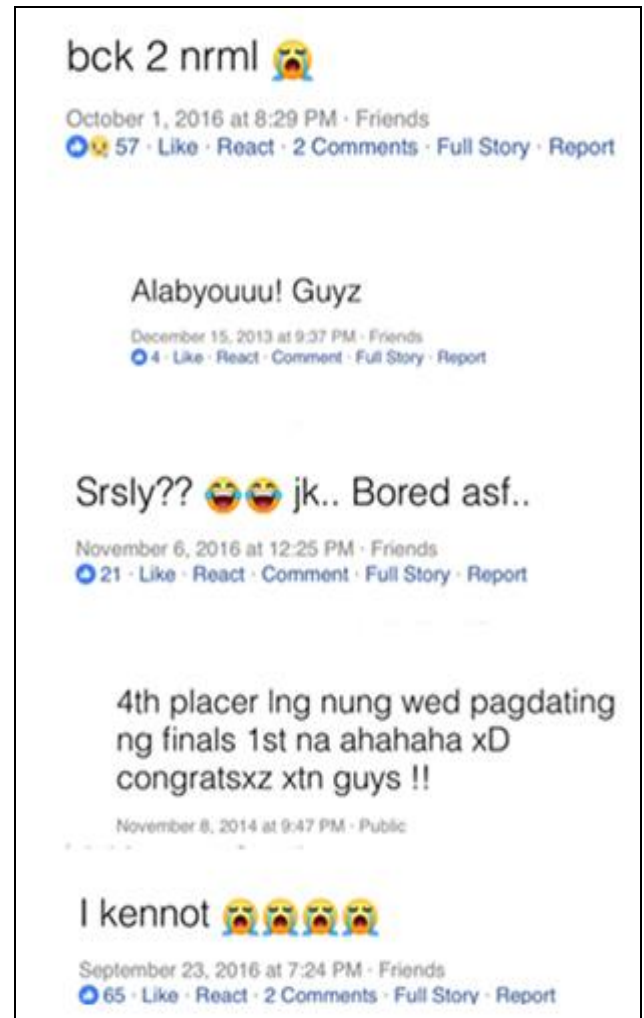Fig 15: Screenshots of Status Updates of Male Respondents

Fig 16: Screenshots of Status Updates of Female Respondents

Figure 16 shows that female respondents are also using stylized spelling whenever they post their Facebook status updates. It can be gleaned on the figure that some of the English words which are stylize are bck for back, 2 for two, nrml for normal, alabyouuu for I love You, guyz for guys, srsly for seriously, jk for joke, and I kennot for I cannot. The researcher also noted that female participants do not only stylize the spelling of the English words but also some Filipino words. An example of this is the spelling of xtn for sa atin, a Filipino word which means to us. A respondent explained that the reason why female respondents are using stylized spelling is to make their sentences good and so as not to make my readers bored their reading their posts.

From the analyses made by the researcher, male and female participants in this study have no difference in using stylized spelling. Both are adaptive to language change. Male participants would stylize their spelling because it is already the "in- thing" today while females are using stylized spelling to make their sentences good and so as not to make their readers bored in reading their posts. It can be noticed however that many have been using this style in writing since it is already used especially by the youth nowadays in Facebook and other forms of social media. Among themselves, both male and female participants in this study can actually understand the message even if there are alterations in the spelling.

IV. CONCLUSION

In light of the findings, this study concludes that male and female have differences as far as the use of language in Facebook is concerned. Both male and female who are active users of Facebook are multilingual whenever they go online. The discussion on the variety of topics speaks of the diversity of the interest of those involved in the communication platform. The interactivity that Facebook provides makes it a medium through which people define

themselves by sharing what is going on in their lives or how they are feeling, so this makes this forum an extension of a person's real-life identity. Moreover, the use of language by male and females are influenced by their social network in Facebook. They are resourceful and artistic based on the words that they are using in their posts. Furthermore, through Facebook status updates, male and female do not only express their emotions but also share details about their daily life activities as to what they were doing or what was going on in their lives at that moment.

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