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DIFFERENCES IN EXPRESSING EMOTIVENESS IN FACEBOOK CHATS

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Declaration

I hereby declare that this thesis ‚Differences in expressing emotiveness in Facebook chats‘ is my own original work and all sources used for the purposes of this thesis have been duly acknowledged.

Prohlášení

Prohlašuji, že svoji bakalářskou práci jsem vypracovala samostatně pouze s použitím pramenů a literatury uvedených v seznamu citované literatury.

Prohlašuji, že v souladu § 47b zákona č. 111/1998 Sb. v platném znění souhlasím se zveřejněním své bakalářské práce, a to v nezkrácené podobě elektronickou cestou ve veřejně přístupné části databáze STAG provozované Jihočeskou univerzitou v Českých Budějovicích na jejích internetových stránkách, a to se zachováním mého autorského práva k odevzdanému textu této kvalifikační práce. Souhlasím dále s tím, aby toutéž elektronickou cestou byly v souladu s uvedeným ustanovením zákona č. 111/1998 Sb. zveřejněny posudky školitele a oponentů práce i záznam o průběhu a výsledku obhajoby kvalifikační práce. Rovněž souhlasím s porovnáním textu mé kvalifikační práce s databází kvalifikačních prací Theses.cz provozovanou Národním registrem vysokoškolských kvalifikačních prací a systémem na odhalování plagiátů.

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Anotace

Tato bakalářská práce se zabývá jazykovými prostředky používanými na internetu a sociálních sítích, konkrétně na Facebooku, a genderovými studii, které se zabývají rozdíly mezi vyjadřováním emotivnosti v jazyce mužů a žen. Analýza v praktické části vychází z konverzací, které jsem si sama opatřila od rodilých mluvčích, kteří pocházejí z Anglie. Hlavním zaměřením je poukázat na rozdíly mezi vyjadřováním emocí a náklonnosti v konverzaci muž-žena, muž-muž a žena-žena. Důraz je kladen na okomentování těchto rozdílů, které jsou také vztaženy k teoriím důležitých autorů a vědců v tomto oboru. Cílem této bakalářské práce je poukázat na rozdíly ve vyjadřování pocitů a emotivnosti, okomentovat tyto rozdíly a srovnat je s ostatními konverzacemi stejného charakteru, z čehož bude usouzen obecný závěr v rámci velikosti tohoto rozsahově omezeného korpusu.

Klíčová slova: Facebook, sociální sítě, sociolingvistika, genderová lingvistika, genderové rozdíly, emotivnost jazyka

Abstract

This bachelor's thesis is concerned with the characteristics of language means used on the internet and social media, specifically on Facebook, and with gender-related studies concerned with the differences between expressing emotiveness in the language of men and women. Analysis in the empirical part is based on the conversations I obtained myself from native English speakers who are from England. The main focus is to point out the differences between expressing emotiveness and affection in male-male, male-female and female-female conversations. The emphasis is put on commenting on these differences, which are connected to the theories of the most fundamental authors and experts in this field. The aim of this thesis is to point out these differences in expressing feelings and emotiveness, comment on these differences and compare them with the other conversation excerpts of the same nature, from which I am going to draw a conclusion within the limited extent of this corpus, in the final chapter of this thesis.

Key words: Facebook, social networks, sociolinguistics, gender linguistics, gender differences, emotiveness of the language

Poděkování

Tímto bych chtěla poděkovat vedoucí mé bakalářské práce, Mgr. Janě Kozubíkové Šandové Ph.D., za její rady, komentáře, připomínky a podporu při psaní této práce. Také bych tímto ráda poděkovala rodilým mluvčím, kteří mi poskytli materiál pro analytickou část této práce.

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1. Introduction

This bachelor's thesis on the topic of *emotiveness* is concerned with the rising interest in the internet and to which extent social media impacts the language of its users, as well as the gender linguistics and differences between male and female speech and how the expressions of emotiveness differ between men and women. Understanding that we, as human-beings, are all unique and our ways of expressing our thoughts and feelings differ is very important and it is something we are all aware of, yet, at times, we fail to realise that these potential differences are taking place which leads to unnecessary miscommunication.

The reason I chose the topic of emotive language in Facebook chats is that understanding the differences of expressing emotiveness is essential for reaching a successful communication. Similarly, comprehension of the significance of the internet, social media and virtual communication is immense for the whole society and by analysing Facebook chats of native English speakers, I aim to shed more light on how the interactions between the speakers might differ. The purpose of these analyses is to point out how different the expressions are, make comments on these differences and compare them with the theories of the most fundamental linguists of this academic field.

The theoretical part of this thesis is concerned with presenting the main ideas that are important for understanding the gender-related topics, as well as how the internet has formed its distinctive discourse and in each chapter that follows, I am going to present relevant topics. Firstly, I am going to focus on the online world and how the internet language works, and also mention David Crystal, who in his academic studies has paid his attention to internet language and its impact on the society. Then, I am going to move on to the gender linguistics and introduce you the academic fields that are connected with gender linguistics, such as sociolinguistics and psychology, as well as the fields of gender linguistics itself, and, finally, I am going to present the most fundamental linguists who earned their status by their tireless efforts which they dedicated to the research.

In the analytical part of this thesis I am going to analyse conversations from ten native English speakers, more specifically, ten British people of all ages and from all locations around the United Kingdom. Each participant has provided me with one same-gender and mixed-gender conversation except, which means there are twenty conversations analyses overall, from which I am going to draw conclusions and point out potential differences in the expressions of emotiveness.

2. The internet and social media

The introduction of the internet to the public has emerged changes in every aspect of human lives and what appeared as a small change, snowballed into changes of many fields of academic studies and new branches of linguistics were created. With the internet, everything became just a click away and soon internet became people's best tool. It is very important to begin this thesis with the question what is the internet and social media and how does it affect our society and the language we use?

2.1 Introduction to the internet

The notion of the internet varies and every user considers the internet as a tool for something else, meaning that for a professional programmer it will be a tool used for their personal working projects, while for a blogger it can be a tool for finding a platform where they can express themselves and for a common user it is a place where they can find anything and anyone and find new friends. The definition by the *Oxford Dictionary* is that the internet is a global computer network providing a variety of information and communication facilities, consisting of interconnected networks using standardised communication protocols. Even though this definition is accurate, the internet is far more complex than what the *Oxford Dictionary* suggests and I find the following definition from *Brief History of The Internet* more concise and explanatory: The internet has become a world-wide broadcasting medium and a medium for collaboration and interaction between people and their computers. It is one of the most successful examples of the benefits of sustained investment and commitment to research and development of technology. Beginning with the early research in packet switching, the government, industry and academia have been contributing to the evolution of this new technology.“¹

This thesis is dealing with the communication that occurs on the social media, more specifically on Facebook which is why I think that the proper definition of social media is needed in order to understand this phenomenon, because in this age, the term and meaning behind social media networking sites differ and each of these sites are used for something else and there is not one apply-to-all definition. That is why defining social media in terms of proper explanation is, in this case, crucial. *Handbook of Research on Effective Advertising Strategies in the Social Media Age* states that this term stands for

¹ Barry M. Leiner, Vinton G. Cerf, David D. Clark, Robert E. Kahn, Leonard Kleinrock, Daniel C. Lynch, Jon Postel, Larry G. Roberts, Stephen Wolff. *Brief History of the Internet*. 1997, pp. 2. PDF.

the area where the users share information, idea and personal interests and this also includes online tools and web sites. At the same time, it is also seen that also the term social media is an umbrella conception that combines technology and social entrepreneurship with pictures, videos, and audio files. This definition is very accurate, however, the book *Understanding Social Media* gives a more detailed description of social media that, in my opinion, is better in the sense that it can be considered the core idea of all social networking sites, that the internet users use as a platform to express themselves. This definition claims that social media consists of people keen on networking and connecting with friends, sharing content, sending messages, collaborating with each other in real-time, gathering news/information/feedback or just uploading/downloading media files and any media in the form of websites that allows them to do all this becomes a social media site.

Social media is a wonderful tool to connect with people who we do not have the chance to meet regularly. It gives us the option of sharing our life journey via photos, statuses and comments. While many people use it for personal reasons, there are numerous organisations that use it for marketing purposes and slowly transferred from investing into TV commercials to social media ads. Social media users are exposed to hundreds of ads every day and it is becoming the most influential place for advertising your services. However, the overall impact of social media and platforms like Facebook could mean that its users are sacrificing their mental health without their knowledge. Survey done by *Pew Research Center* proved that women feel more stressed when they use social media networks which made them exposed to the problems of others.

When it comes to the actual impact of social media on the language used on the websites, it might be hard to point out any differences because the language used in chats and posts resembles spoken language and it is usually intended as informal, yet personal way of interaction between not only friends, but also strangers and anyone with the connection to the internet. According to the linguist David Crystal, author of *Internet Linguistics*, the language has not significantly changed, it has only shifted and evolved, which is an unstoppable and unavoidable process that would take place with or without the internet, just like in the past when the printing press appeared for the first time.

In conclusion, social media can be utilised for a variety of educational purposes, it can bring us closer to the people we wish but cannot see on a daily basis and it serves as a media broadcaster, but it can also be a significant tool for sharing and consuming work-related content, as well as the educational content in Facebook groups that a lot of

pupils and students are a part of. Facebook provides its users with multiple options of interactions (posts, comments, groups...), which highlights the importance of Facebook in our society and the era we live in and the portrayal we create alongside with our profile.

2.2 Internet Language

As the internet began affecting the way people behave and speak in the real world, alternations in the means of expressing and communications were made which as well resulted in fundamental differences across the language, as it has differentiated traditional spoken language and the written form. It has been estimated that over 60% of human interaction happens nonverbally. From changes in the language mediated over computer, the internet language has emerged. Even though the language itself has not been changed in its nature, it had definitely shifted, and new means of online communication were created, and from abbreviations to acronyms, slang words and phrases, new ways of communication have arisen. Since the internet has been introduced to the public in early 1990s, there were separations into various domains which were distinguished by David Crystal in *Language and the Internet*. These domains include e-mail, instant messaging systems, chat groups, virtual world and the World, Wide Web. In the following years when the internet has been continuously expanding and with the addition to those domains mentioned were added: forums, blogging and instant messaging. Furthermore, Crystal divides chat groups into two separate parts which he calls synchronous and asynchronous groups. In the synchronous groups is the occurring communication happening in real time and asynchronous means that the time of the communication is postponed and is usually supervised by so-called moderators.

It is important to keep in mind that analysis of the internet language might be problematic because it concerns many aspects which need to be taken into consideration, as well as the fact that not only does the internet language change constantly, but also the old-fashioned language that we use on a daily basis that is influenced by the internet and new internet words have been added to our day-to-day vocabulary, which is discussed in the chapter 2.3.1. However, we can focus on these distinctions and point out the ways of converting our everyday language into texts written on the internet. There are many shifts and specific changes that appear in the language used in chats and special conventions

take place (e.g. abbreviations, emoticons/emojis, modifications of sentences etc.) and constructions that natural language does not use.²

The notion of a distinctive internet language is intuitive and expected. The unique kind of features that we cannot find in traditional non-electronic communication, and because of the immense influence of the social media in the past couple of years, features taken from the internet language have started appearing in the conventional communication outside of the screens. Terms like *software*, *bytes*, *cable*, *hardware* shifted from technological terms into the traditional speech by now, as well as the relatively new words like *blog/vlog*– *blogging/vlogging*, which are now widely popular and used on a daily basis.

Regarding online communication via e-mails, chats or other instant messaging systems which is realised through writing, the language is characterised by specific speech properties, like the possibility of replying within seconds of a text being delivered, replying using only emoticons/emojis or even gifs and even choosing whether we want the text sent to us to be marked as “seen”. Using instant messaging systems requires a quick and energetic response to the text and the fact that Facebook chats mark a message that was read by the addressee as “seen” is pressuring people into even quicker replies.³

It is impossible to determine whether the internet language could or ever will become a permanent feature of the language because we cannot foresee these language shifts and changes, only recognize and reflect on them after they have taken place. Internet language keeps evolving and its significance keeps growing. We can only assume that as the internet becomes increasingly more important not only for personal use, but also commercial and educational purposes, the language will keep evolving and changing and become richer which will consequently expand our already extensive vocabulary of new words along with technological terms, due to the essential use of computers, as well as social media networks. The topic of internet language, its processes and evolvement is explained and discussed in David Crystal’s book *Language and the Internet*, which I find relevant for this thesis, hence in the following chapter I am going to introduce this author and linguist, in order to further discuss language on the internet.

² Baron, Naomi. *Language of the Internet. The Stanford Handbook for Language Engineers*. Ed. Ali Farghali. Stanford: CSLI Publications, 2003. 59–127. PDF.

³ Crystal, David. *Language and the Internet*. Repr. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002. pp. 29. Print.

2.2.1 David Crystal

David Crystal is a writer based in North Wales. He is one of the most influential British linguists who has worked on over 120 books on an extensive variety of topics, specialising mostly on internet linguistics which resulted in him publishing *Language and the Internet* in 2001. Crystal has been lecturing on linguistics at Bangor University and despite having retired from full-time researching studies, he keeps writing and editing books, as well as contributing to TV and radio broadcasts. On BBC Radio 4 that enabled him to speak about the language and BBC World Service website on which he podcasts for English learners.

Crystal's main focus is on the internet and "netspeak" and his book called *Language and the Internet* has been a fundamental source of information for further CMC-related studies. In this book, he tries to find the actual role of the internet language and its effect on the conventional form of language. However, in contrast to the popular belief that the internet will destroy our language, his research has been in favour of the contrary and in the book *Language and the Internet* he provides many viewpoints on the vast expansion of language varieties and shows that the online world does not necessarily rid its users of their creativity.⁴

In Crystal's paper *The scope of Internet linguistics* given to the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in 2003, he made a synchronic analysis of CMD, or as he calls it "Internet linguistics" to which he included all computer-mediated systems (such as e-mails, instant messaging, web pages and sms). In this paper, he claims that the amount of newly made words and expressions is not as large as we may think and only a few hundred words make it into the traditional language, considering that English adopts thousands of new expressions from various global sources, the number of those coming from the internet is negligible (only a few dozen spoken language examples) which he collected and covered in his *Glossary of Textspeak and Netspeak*.⁵

Crystal is the main advocate for teaching children to text because it can potentially improve their ability to read and write, which he discusses in his article for *The Guardian* "2b or not 2b" where he also claims that in spite of the popular belief that virtual communication hinders the literacy of those participating in texting, it has more

⁴ Crystal, David. *Language and the Internet*. Repr. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002. pp. 1. Print,

⁵ Crystal, David. "The Scope of Internet Linguistics", paper given online to the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting, http://davidcrystal.com/DC_articles/Internet2.pdf, PDF, 2005, pp. 2

advantages than disadvantages.⁶ He objects to Humphrys' (2007) article in which he expressed his negative thoughts on language and how texting destroys it, to which Crystal replies that since the printing press has arrived the language has evolved and even back then, similarly to the common thoughts on texting now, people assumed that the language will undergo disastrous changes. Therefore, what some linguists now assume is wrecking the language, is just texters challenging linguistic rules but not to such extent that it would not make sense to the addressee.

This article is not the only evidence of Crystal's interest in the phenomenon of texting, over all, the already mentioned article in *The Guardian* is a summarised version of what he explained in length in the book *Txtng: The Gr8 Db8*, where he debunks the mystery behind what happens when someone writes a text. He destroys the popular idea of texts as full of abbreviations and deviant uses of language created only to wreck the linguistic standards.⁷ Crystal argues that the distinctiveness of the text messages is not restricted to the youth, nor is it something completely alien to the society and the reason why some people are still under the impression that the different spellings is that symbols take up all our attention and then we do not recognise the basic and casual elements. The collection of standard and non-standard symbols is one of the most distinctive features of texting – not only on the internet and in the chat rooms, but also while sending a text message on our phone.

The most striking characteristics of Crystal's theories is him defending the evolution of the language, especially when it comes to the online world and consequently the evolution of the internet language. He praises diversity and argues that we move forward, our creativity is being stimulated due to the variety of systems we are able to use in computer-mediated communication. It is important to mention that most of his works on this topic might seem outdated now, however, the core idea of language development and the novelty of texting and chatting persists and with the introduction of new social media networks, there will always be a subsequent variations of the language we know now.

⁶ Crystal, David. "2b or Not 2b: David Crystal on Why Texting Is Good For Language". *The Guardian*, 5 Jul 2008. <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2008/jul/05/saturdayreviewsfeatres.guardianreview>

⁷ Crystal, David. *Txtng: The Gr8 Db8*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2008. pp. 7. PDF.

2.3 Communication over the internet

New encounters with people abroad were not possible up until the introduction of the online spaces allowing communication and for the first time, people became exposed to new opportunities for language contact and constant interactions. And even multilingual participants can now use and deploy their language in multilingual encounters.⁸ When we interact with each other in these online spaces, we participate in the so-called Computer Mediated Communication (or CMC). CMC is a communication taking place through electronic devices – not only via computer, as the term suggests, but also communicating with one another via e-mail, social networks, forums and it even applies to text-message based interaction. This term had been spread and known after the internet became a worldwide sensation. It refers to real-time, asynchronous and synchronous communication for which any electronic devices can be used.

Written language is time consuming and when it comes to the convenient aspect of the interaction, the goal is to make the conversation seem natural, fast and adapted to the conditions of its participants. The reason why the CMC bears such noticeable features with spoken language is because just like spoken interaction is fast and efficient, the tendencies are to lead an online communication in the same way and the faster the written medium is, the more the messages resemble spoken language (Segerstad, 2002: 161).

With the introduction of new ways of interaction, people can reflect more on their choices of language, they become more conscious and aware of their own speech and attitudes and with the exposure to foreign language varieties, and they learn to be more tolerant of the differences they encounter. The internet allows its users to be more creative in every aspect of their life, including their language. This creativity is connected to the notion of the online world being a place where language changes non-stop and discussing, reflecting and challenging the stereotypes related to the language leads to developments in the areas of people's everyday life, like their affordances of language and their expected behaviour.⁹

With the introduction of the internet and the development of the internet language, a new type of discourse was developed. Computer-mediated discourse, CMD in short, is “the communication produced when human beings interact with one another by

⁸ Barton, David, Lee Carmen. *Language Online. Investigating Digital Texts and Practices, 1st*. London: Routledge, 2013. pp. 15. Print.

⁹ Barton, David, Lee Carmen. *Language Online. Investigating Digital Texts and Practices, 1st*. London: Routledge, 2013. pp. 5. Print.

transmitting messages via networked computers. The study of computer-mediated discourse is a specialization within the broader interdisciplinary study of computer-mediated communication (CMC), distinguished by its focus on *language and language use* in computer networked environments, and by its use of methods of *discourse analysis* to address that focus.”¹⁰

Discourse of the CMD has certain structural features, just like the classic day-to-day use of language. These structures are at the sentence level and below: creative and conventional typography, processes of word-formation, word spelling and syntactical features.¹¹ It is important to note the language nuances in grammar when it comes to various computer-mediated communication. Sometimes, especially when the e-mail correspondence is expected to be mostly grammatically correct and formal in style, the language of Facebook users is going to be very different. Both styles of interaction might consist of small mistakes, however, e-mail communication is usually on the professional level, hence the expectancy of higher level of correctness.

2.3.1 Internet vocabulary

When the internet was introduced to the public, linguists have shifted their interests and began studies regarding the change and innovations in the language. Since the late 1980s up until now, researchers have been classifying the language used on the internet based on multiple principles and divided computer-mediated discourse (CMD) into four branches. The list of these branches is CMD as a modality, CMD as individual modes/genres, CMD as sets of characteristics that cross-cut modes, and CMD in relation to its offline and online antecedents.”¹²

The reason why the internet and social media is so accessible to everyone is that the potential users do not need to get acquainted with new terms or any other specific language. Internet vocabulary took on most of the characteristics of English and its vocabulary is based on words and phrases that already exist. Newly made words are sometimes created to replace them – these words do not get institutionalised – and usually they consist of abbreviations, however, this happens rarely (e.g. FYI, OMG became a part

¹⁰ Schiffrin, Deborah, Deborah Tannen, and Heidi E. Hamilton. *The Handbook of Discourse Analysis*. Malden, Mass: Blackwell Publishers, 2001. pp. 127. Print.

¹¹ Schiffrin, Deborah, Deborah Tannen, and Heidi E. Hamilton. *The Handbook of Discourse Analysis*. Malden, Mass: Blackwell Publishers, 2001. pp. 128. Print.

¹² Schiffrin, Deborah, Deborah Tannen, and Heidi E. Hamilton. *The Handbook of Discourse Analysis*. Malden, Mass: Blackwell Publishers, 2001. pp. 128. Print.

of everyday communication). The internet has allowed its users to take part in creation of a communication different from traditional language due to its lack of simultaneous feedback, phonological aspects of language (e.g. tone and intonation), but on the contrary, its ability to be a part of multiple interactions all at once (e.g. many chat windows with different people).¹³

Despite the attempts of characterising the internet language as a single variety (e.g. Crystal 2001) or as written/typed speech (Maynor 1994), Herring (2007) argues that CMD does not have a single modality and while the form of speech is written, the language shows features of spoken discourse and on top of that, it has its own unique features and characteristics that no other modality has. She claims that the internet language is not even a single language variety, hence with the increasing use of the internet as a means of communication, the diversified language became used differently, in its own specific and unique way, by each individual internet user.¹⁴

Some of the terms we use in our everyday conversations are influenced by the internet and some people even use their technological vocabulary to seem more inventive, therefore we would not be surprised had we heard someone saying “I’m multitasking”, “Something is wrong with this software” or “The cable doesn’t fit in this port” which are all phrases that appeared for the first time on the internet and/or used by people working in this environment and became commonly used in the old-fashioned conversations. It also makes sense that people working in computer-related jobs are using a special language that consists of codes used on the internet that is not understandable for the basic internet users, however, with the increased frequency of computer-related jobs and professions, these words are slowly incorporated to the everyday life of many people.

2.3.2 Abbreviations and acronyms

One of the most frequent features of the internet language are abbreviations. But what are abbreviations and how are they different from acronyms? The proper definition of the abbreviation from *Dictionary of the Prague School of Linguistics* is that an abbreviation is a special case of a naming unit. From phonological and morphological points of view, abbreviations form an isolated and characteristic system. Abbreviations appear as

¹³ Crystal, David. "The Scope of Internet Linguistics", paper given online to the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting. 2005. http://davidcrystal.com/DC_articles/Internet2.pdf. PDF.

¹⁴ Schiffrin, Deborah, Deborah Tannen, and Heidi E. Hamilton. *The Handbook of Discourse Analysis*. Malden, Mass: Blackwell Publishers, 2001. pp. 129. Print,

elements foreign even to the language itself, they are a kind of a wedge driven into the language development. Language adapts them to its main tendencies only slowly and partially. Abbreviations originate on the graphic level, i.e. in a sign domain other than that to which language appertains. In acronymic abbreviations letters stand for sounds and words; letters functioning as words are typical of magic and technical formulae. This definition is extremely descriptive and precise, however, the explanation offered by Meyer in is more user-friendly and still conveys the meaning of this term appropriately in a more coherent way. The definition by her is that acronyms and abbreviations are formed using the first letters of two or more words to form a single word. The difference between the two processes is that while acronyms can be pronounced as a single word, abbreviations have to be spelled out. Thus, *AIDS* is an acronym because it can be pronounced as a single word, while *CIA* is an abbreviation because the individual letters have to be pronounced... Typically, an abbreviation or acronym is spelled entirely with capital letters. However, *lol* is entirely in lower case because it comes from a medium – instant messaging – in which lower-case letters are generally preferred.¹⁵ Both of these two definitions are referring to the same phenomenon, however, the one provided by Meyer is far easier to understand and actually assign to various words belonging to this linguistic field.

But why do the basic internet users even use abbreviations? It is because CMC is often pressuring the participants of the conversations to reply as fast as they can and in order to achieve the fastest and most efficient interaction, some of the shortened phrases are being used? The reason is that whenever there is a way to save time and shorten words, phrases and sentences, it is most likely to happen by using various abbreviations or acronyms that serve this purpose quite well. The variety of abbreviations appearing on the internet is immense and it is one of its most notable and remarkable features. Some of the most commonly used abbreviations are *cya* (see you), *irl* (in real life), *jk* (just kidding), *imo* (in my opinion) or even longer sentences and phrases like *mtfbwu* (may the force be with you, origins of phrase from the Star Wars movies) or *wadr* (with all due respect).

Not every abbreviation we know has its origins in the online world because some of them have been introduced even before the internet has become so popular. Some of these abbreviations are *TGIF* (thank god it's Friday), *KISS* (keep it simple stupid), *ASAP*

¹⁵ Meyer, Charles F. *Introducing English Linguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2009. Print. Cambridge Introductions to Language and Linguistics.

(as soon as possible), *VIP* (very important person) and even *CD* (certificate of deposit to compact disc) which has expanded its meaning over the course of many years. According to Dixon, the character limitations for sharing posts are the reason we want to get our message around as fast as we can, and the need to come up with something to save space appeared resulted in the creation of abbreviations.¹⁶

A different phenomenon that belongs to this category is the symbol @ that used to be characteristic for e-mail correspondence, however, soon it became a part of the day-to-day language for most English-speaking people. What used to be a unique symbol that did not appear in any other word, has become a substitute for *at* in written – mostly internet – language. Furthermore, the symbol @ started appearing in names of corporations and organizations, as they replaced the letter *a* with this symbol, hence the names (e.g. @llgood, @cafe, @pex etc.).¹⁷







2.3.3 Emojis

In the last few years, internet communication has been associated with emojis. Emoticons, smileys or emojis became a very important part of online communication and what started as an informal communicative tool to upgrade a text message has become a phenomenon, now used even in formal communication and even for marketing purposes. When instant messaging systems were fairly new, internet users were provided with a limited number of emoticons – usually expressing emotions and feelings, whereas now the set of emojis keeps expanding and new emojis keep being introduced.

Emojis are invented to support online communication and they are created on emoji conferences. They are meant to be a portrayal of everyday objects that we might need in our everyday conversations. Due to the occasional inability of internet users to read or express emotions using only words, they simply add a corresponding emoji to hint how the message should be read or how it was intended to be read. In the following table are the most used emojis on Facebook according to *Emojipedia*, which reflect the needs of Facebook users. These emojis could be predicted because they reflect the basic emotions, what is interesting though, is that none of these emojis has a negative emotion, as and all of them refer to positive feelings and objects.

¹⁶ Dixon Jr., Herbert B. “Texting, Tweeting, and Other Internet Abbreviations.” *Judges’ Journal*, vol. 50, no. 4, Fall 2011, pp. 30–33.

¹⁷ Crystal, David. *Language and the Internet*. Repr. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002. pp.21. Print.

					
<i>Face with tears of joy</i>	<i>Smiling face with heart- eyes</i>	<i>Face blowing a kiss</i>	<i>Birthday cake</i>	<i>Heart</i>	<i>Smiling face with smiling eyes</i>

Emoticons and emojis used to differ visually, but when an internet user types the symbols “: -)” into the Facebook chats window, they get the same emoticon – same emoji – just as if they manually picked a smiling emoji in the emoji collection window. Small number of simple emoticons and emojis can be typed by internet users on keyboard using characters that resemble facial expressions and they are usually added at the end of sentence. However, emojis have such a variety of expressions that they can be used on their own and almost 1 billion messages containing emojis only are sent every day. There are over 2800 emojis available on Facebook and the majority of them (over 2200) are used every day. In England, the most used emoji is the laughing-crying emoji “😂”, which sometimes substitutes abbreviations such as *LOL* or *ROFL* which used to be commonly used in the pre-emoji era.

It is said that emojis modify the meaning of text messages, however, there have been arguments whether emojis can actually change, modify or shift the meaning of a text message which has emotive connotations even when it stands alone. There is a lot of entertaining and humorous content online, usually aimed at specific targeted audience, who are likely to understand the content and connotations necessary to understand the intention of the sender.¹⁸ It is very important to take into consideration that by using emojis, the speakers are expressing themselves by an alternative way that is quite new in our society and emoticons and emojis are the new communicative feature that can convey the meaning of a message, represent the attitude of the speaker and even further explain the speaker’s mental processes – all that by using an appropriate emoji and as it is known that women are more sensitive and emotional, it can be expected that the use of emojis across both genders will differ, just like the language differs.

¹⁸ Baron, Naomi. *The Myth of Impoverished Signal: Dispelling the Spoken-language Fallacy for Emoticons in Online Communication*. Ed. Leopoldina Fortunati and Jane Vincent. *Electronic Emotion: The Mediation of Emotion via Information and Communication Technologies*. N.p.: Verlag Peter Lang, 2009. 107-36. Print.

3. Language and gender

3.1 Introduction

The behaviour of individual people is influenced by many aspects and everyone is different and unique in their own way. This is something that people have been aware of for thousands of years but with the development and evolution of humankind, people became intrigued by the ways that we differ from one another, so when sciences became widely popular all around the world, first mentions of studying language and gender appeared. In the last few decades, we have been using the term gender in many different senses. What used to be biological term has expanded its meaning and we began associating “gender” with linguistics, sociology, psychology and many disciplines started focusing on gender differences, which is partially a result of the feminist movement and its influence on society.

However, it was not until early 1970s when the language phenomenon attracted many linguists and psychologists who became interested in the importance of distinguishing gender differences between the language used by women and men. Some of them dedicated their careers to studying this field of linguistics. The first representatives included Robin Lakoff, who came up with the theory of female language being inferior to male language and who became a key figure in feminism movement later on. Then there is Thorne, who introduced the dominance theory. These linguists followed more of a stereotypical approach which tremendously contributed to the understanding and openness to the differences and complexities behind language and gender related studies.

The 1970s are considered as a beginning of new linguistic study and as a time when linguists began to explore language and gender systematically from a feminist point of view, therefore the definition of feminism is required in order to fully grasp the meaning of these gender-related matters. Mills and Mullany (2011) describe feminism as a political movement that focuses on investigating gender, that is, the way women and men come to construct themselves, their identities and their views of others as more or less feminine or masculine, straight or gay. As this definition is quite new, it is clear that it explains the notion of the movement in an intelligible way, but what is missing is the goal of the movement and that is specified by Christie (2000), who claims that the overall emancipatory aim of redressing gender inequalities. This explains why the rise of feminism movement brought also linguists whose goal was to point out the language

differences between genders and establish a theory that would bring equality and a sense of power to both sides.

However, not all researches and studies are from the feminist-linguist perspective (e.g. Milroy or Labov who are contributed to this matter from a descriptive-linguistics account). The feminist research differs from the descriptive, knowledge-gathering basis because it has a specific political purpose which is usually focusing on gender as a social, and ideological category. For a complete comprehension of the concept as a whole, it is important to look at both sides and consider them while doing a research or an analysis.

3.2 A brief history

Language is the most powerful medium that affects the whole world and when people realised that by studying the language we can discover ancient ideologies, understand them and explore the world in a wide historical context and find out more about how cultures used to work in the past. Gender differences in language are rooted in sociology and they reflect evolution of not only the language itself, but also social life and how we perceive gender stereotypes and how we characterise them. At any given time in history, there are profound social roles assigned to men and women which affect the language used by individual people. Not only does this affect our personal lives and relationships, it also has a significant importance in international communication even between countries and by understanding these cultural and social differences we bring ourselves closer to tolerance and respect for one another.

In Western cultures, the first signs of gender and language studies as an academic discipline are dating back to mid-1970s when feminist perspectives began coming to light and linguists began exploring the field of gender language. There is no doubt that feminism, as a political movement, is firmly linked to the development of language and gender studies. The field of gender studies is interdisciplinary and cannot be taken out of context, as it is shaped by disciplines like psychology and mostly sociology, but it is also affected by political and economic issues of the given area.¹⁹

Within our society remains a deep-rooted stereotypes and beliefs about what is appropriate for men and women not only in the language field, but also how they are supposed to behave. From women having almost zero rights to feminist movements, there

¹⁹ Mills, Sara, and Louise Mullany. *Language, gender and feminism: theory, methodology and practice*. London: Routledge, Routledge advances in feminist studies and intersectionalit. 2011. pp. 1. Print.

are many changes in our society. As the humankind evolves, so do the science fields and new movements are formed each and every day. This affects how we view gender related topics, but also what we consider appropriate or desirable for both genders. In the early 20th century there was this new belief that women are worthy of respect and basic human rights and suddenly, there has been an immense emphasis on the equality – not only in human rights aspect, but also the freedom of speech that most women did not have because of the stereotypes they had to adapt to.

There have been many attempts to distinguish gender differences and many linguists and scientists have dedicated their lives to differentiate how does gender affect brain functions and they try to establish a basis for women's and men's behaviour. Nowadays, pointing out the differences that these researchers found might be highly controversial and often these theories are criticised by feminists. However, according to Philips, Steele and Tanz (1987), there are indeed slight differences in brain functions in each gender (e.g. girls are more likely to develop their language skills earlier than boys and are less likely to suffer from speech-related disturbances like stuttering). Nonetheless, it is debatable whether these qualities are innate or whether the environment and social pressures affect them because it is known that the way boys and girls in their childhood are spoken to is quite different, which is more plausible to be the real reason behind these documented differences.

3.3 Gender differences based on psychology

It is often said that men and women are so different from each other as if men were from a different planet, or even universe. While this saying is amusing to some, it also raises the question why we are so unlike one another and how to overcome the controversial problems arising from experiencing miscommunication on a daily basis. While the outer appearance and physical difference is obvious, the difference between male and female brain is less apparent and much more complicated. There might be even arguments whether society and culture shapes men and women differently or whether the cause of these differences is rooted in biology and if we are just born that way. A research conducted in 2013 closely studied over 350 pairs of three-year-old twins has shown that men and female start to differ in their early years, which was proven by girls being more shy and more careful, controlling their behaviour better, whereas boys were proven to be more active than the girls.

Understanding the factors that create evolutionary psychology is crucial for an accurate view of psychology. Evolutionary processes have made evolved organisms over the course of thousands of years, in other words, humans and everything related to humans has an evolutionary origin.²⁰ This evolutionary approach explains that our psychological traits are reflecting those of our ancestors who had to develop survival skills and gender roles started to differ even back then, when women were taking care of new-borns and nurturing them while men were hunting and were more competitive, which are the traits that have been inherited by further generations along with the acquisition of language which was further studied by Chomsky.

In cognitive abilities, the stereotypical notion of male and female abilities is that men are good at science, such as physics, maths or chemistry and women excel in humanitarian studies, like learning new languages, studying politics or art. This is also proven by the lack of women in engineering fields where men represent the majority. Even if the numbers of female scientists and engineers is still not as high as the number of men, the appearance of women in scientific fields has fundamentally changed over the past 40 years and now we can notice the increase of women in health and biological sciences.²¹

When it comes to nuances of personality traits and self-esteem, they are almost negligible because they are so small. Despite an analysis done by Alan Feingold, who found out that women tend to suffer from higher anxiety and neuroticism, they also tend to express positive emotions much more than men. Emotions started to be seen as a social process which is a change that is now connected to the context within which emotions occur.²² Expressing emotions has become a part of stereotypical view of genders when there is the notion of men being tough, never crying and women being fragile. This view of emotions is influenced by the particular culture of a given area. The rules and expectations about how women and men should be expressing their emotions is presumed, expected and taught within a particular social group which might be the reason of inter-cultural miscommunication that is often happening.²³

²⁰ Dunbar, Robin, and Louise Barrett. *Oxford Handbook of Evolutionary Psychology*. Oxford University Press. 2009. pp. 22. Print.

²¹ Smyth, Frederick L, and Brian A Nosek. "On the gender-science stereotypes held by scientists: explicit accord with gender-ratios, implicit accord with scientific identity." *Frontiers in psychology* vol. 6 415. 27 Apr. 2015. Web.

²² Fischer, Agneta H. *Gender and Emotion Social Psychological Perspectives*. Cambridge University Press, 2001. pp. 6. Print.

²³ Fischer, Agneta H. *Gender and Emotion Social Psychological Perspectives*. Cambridge University Press, 2001. pp. 25. Print.

It also important to mention the difference in sexual behaviour because double standard still persists among some areas and it may also be a factor affecting one's behaviour. Usually, it is more acceptable for men to be sexual, flirty and they are often even encouraged by society to engage in sexual intercours with multiple women outside of marriage, whereas the same behaviour would be more often than not frowned upon if done by a female. Men are often taught to be the first to make a move and women should be those timid, shy and reserved creatures who appear to be fragile, however, this stereotypes are slowly wearing off and thanks to the feminism movement, women are not judged based on their sexual history as much as they used to. ²⁴

Another psychological distinction is that men are thought to be more radical than women, however, the differences between men's and female's attitudes are so small they are also considered negligible. Women have shown incredible willpower and drive since late 1970s when the feminist movement became a worldwide topic and many women begun standing up for themselves which was unusual up until then. *Pew Research Center* claims that women tend to be more accepting and tolerant to minorities and people of different sexual preferences, and they are often active supporters of LGBT+ movements despite not belonging to that group and the statistics still prove that women are in the lead since 1994 when it comes to acceptance of homosexuality.

Many gender differences are shown since early childhood and as the body ages, the development of one's sense of gender and self-awareness progresses, and the child experiences the first senses of identity related to the adoption of roles that are expected and assumed for them. However, there is a difference between being aware of one's gender identity and one's sexuality which are not the same, even though this tends to be often forgotten and people expect a correlation between these two. According to Freud's psychological-sexual theory of development, we need to distinguish a person's sexual development and its subordinate, gender development. ²⁵

3.4 Gender differences based on sociolinguistics

The sociolinguistic studies are focused on how the language practices of one social group or community differ from others and it can study the relationship in a particular community between language use and social categories, such as class and status, gender

²⁴ Chrisler, Joan C., and Donald R. McCreary. *Handbook of Gender Research in Psychology*. New York: Springer, 2010. pp. 484. Print.

²⁵ Bolich, Gregory G. *Conversing on Gender*. Eastbourne: Gardners Books, 2007. pp. 136. Print.

and sexuality and ethnicity. Sociolinguists wonder whether the perception of these categories is fixed or open to an active performance and construction, but it can also study relationships across communities or how people feel about the varieties of a given language.²⁶

Interactional sociolinguistics is rooted in the approach that has its origins in the search of repeatable ways of analyses that make us able to understand and interpret what the participants in the interaction intend to express in everyday communications. Sociolinguistics is required for establishing gender differences within the language and is a crucial part of gender linguistics and language studies in general. It provides us the most valuable tool when analysing the internet discourse, as well as a fundamental insight into the problematics of social classes and language. The key point about the conversation held by the participants is that they both rely on the knowledge that is expressed beyond the means of grammar and lexicon to make themselves understood.²⁷

Internet users and their attitudes, along with their overall behaviour is constructed in such way as to create a reflection of one's actual personality, attitudes, behaviour, social identity and that nuances of emotive language that influences both the spoken and written discourse. In spoken language, there are nuances of pronunciation which are not relevant for this thesis, however, differences between written speech are further to be discussed. Interactions over the internet can be tricky in a sense that unless we truly know the person we are talking to, their speech might be altered and for instance make themselves appear in a higher social class than they really are, or worse, present themselves as completely someone else.

More doubts and questions that might arise when wondering whether hiding behind the shield of anonymity that social media provides is affecting their speech and changes their "internet personality", as well as whether it differs from way they communicate in real life conversations. This, too, is not relevant for this thesis as I have chosen participants who know each other well, personally and can be sure that the person they are talking to are who they claim to be.

The behaviour of the people using social media is affected by not only dialectical differences, but also class differentiations within and sometimes even reaches into

²⁶ Herk, Gerard Van. *What Is Sociolinguistics?* John Wiley & Sons, 2018. pp. 3. Print.

²⁷ Gumperz, John J. *Handbook of Discourse Analysis 2, Interactional Sociolinguistics A Personal Perspective*. Edited by Deborah Schiffrin et al., John Wiley & Sons, 2015. pp. 215. Print.

regional differences of speech. The differences of social status and social gradations people are exposed to involve more complex behaviour aspects than habits of speech.²⁸ These speech features are described by sociolinguists at all levels of linguistic description.

The texts, messages, posts and comments internet users compose and create are a way of marking and proving their intellect and thus the online expressed thoughts may affect the social position we assign to them. The most common stereotype related to this topic is that female speech is far more conservative than men's, due to their awareness of statuses and social classes, and women's speech is also thought to be far more polite. On the other hand, men's speech is tough but also down-to-earth.²⁹ Features appearing in the online speech are related to all of the social markers mentioned, which is the reason sociolinguistics provide us with such remarkable and important tools that allow us to analyse and examine the language thoroughly and from various points of view that might be relevant in order to convey a meaningful analysis of the language that observed individuals use in the online world.

3.5 Gender linguistics

I established the social and psychological differences between male and female population in the previous chapters, so now I shall move on to the linguistic differences which are the most relevant for this thesis. Language is the most powerful tool which helps us to express ourselves and everything we do is influenced by language, furthermore, the ways people express and talk about themselves on the internet is an important aspect of further language and identity researches. The language choices online are considerably the most crucial when expressing one's identity.³⁰

For language studies and understanding linguistics in wider context, many new concepts have been developed in the past few years as this field of study became increasingly popular, not only among feminists, but also by the general public audience. For understanding the matters presented by gender studies, it is important to outline what the lenses of gender are. This term, created by Bem, stands for the idea that people can observe women and men through one or more lenses, the first one being polarization that

²⁸ Robins, Robert Henry. *General Linguistics. An Introductory Survey*, 4th ed., London: Routledge, 1989, pp. 401. Longman Linguistics Library.

²⁹ Coates, Jennifer, Pichler Pia. *Language and Gender: A Reader*. 2nd ed., Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011. pp. 59. Print.

³⁰ Barton, David, and Carmen Lee. *Language Online: Investigating Digital Texts and Practices*. London: Routledge, 2013. pp. 4. Print.

maximizes the differences between male and female population from genetic point of view and experiences of human living set them apart. Every complementary but different theories belong to this category, even if there are slight construction differences. The second lens is that of androcentrism that claims that men are the dominant and superior gender, exemplifying the normative way of humans. Therefore, women are considered to be the problematic ones, who cannot be denied of their humanity, but neither can be fully validated. The third lens is the one of biological essentialism which claims that the gender differences are natural and given. Bem then argues that it is important to be aware through which lenses we observe people and through which we make generalisations, thus striving for a complete awareness of how these lenses shape our expectations and assumptions is the essence of understanding our shared humanity on the basis of gendered models.³¹

We can divide gender studies into three phases depending on which perspective is dominant while conducting a research. The first phase is one of theory of dominance and deficit which appeared in the late 1970s. The most influential and popular linguists who belong to this category are Lakoff, Spender and Trömmel-Plötz who argue that women do not have the same status in public communicative speech as men do. Men's speech is considered the norm and it is women who have to adjust.

The second phase occurred in 1980s and was based on the theory of two cultures, also known as the difference theory. The book that made this phase popular was *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus* written by Gray (1992). This theory is based on the idea of men being so different from women, it is as if they were from a foreign culture, therefore it is important to respect and tolerate these distinctions that are specific for both genders. This phase is known to be dissociating from the feminist linguistics and its research is based on a non-sexist expression.

This was followed by the gender theory that has been taking place since the 1990s up until now. The main linguists who belong to this category are Butler, West & Zimmermann, Wodak, Kotthoff etc. According to the researchers from this phase, gender is performed in interaction. The first conducted researches were studying spoken discourse and the goal was to find distinctions that would divide the speech figures into those specific for men and women, e.g. women using more diminutives, feminine adjectives and emotional features in their interactions and men, on the other hand, look for a feedback from the other speaker(s), they talk faster but let others interrupt their

³¹ Murphy, Anne. *The Lenses of Gender*. *The Way*, vol. 36, no. 4, Oct. 1996, pp. 323–330. PDF.

speech, which is considered to be a sign of submissive behaviour. Nowadays, when a new research is put together, the researchers put an emphasis on the context of the interaction and more often than not, what they pay attention to the most is a research done in social constructivism which extended the term gender and added other social sexes. Gender linguistics is now interested in discourse practices in the relations to homosexuality etc.

There have been many linguists who point out various differences and distinguish features of gender speech on different levels. One of the first linguists to focus on gender-related studies was Maybin (1966), who claimed that men's speech is far more competitive and confrontational and women tend to be less dominant around men, are likely to be hesitant and indirect with their proposals and orders, but the key difference is that they use different, weaker, vocabulary.³²

In the following chapters I am going to present three linguists who are very unlike one another. Robin Lakoff, who is a classic feminist that points out the differences between male and female language and who belongs to the category representing the dominance theory. Then, Deborah Cameron, who debunks and challenges the theories of other researchers in the field and contemplates about the dilemmas occurring in our modern age. Third linguist is Deborah Tannen who takes the stance of supporting the 'difference model', that is characterized by putting men's and women's language in context of the two sexes' contrasting language styles.

Finally, it is important to mention David Crystal who specialises in internet language and objects to the belief that Internet is going to ruin our society and our language. He presents his ideas and theories about the expansion of language varieties and the importance of understanding the evolution of the internet language due to its rapid changes and impact on society.

3.5.1 Robin Lakoff

With the first publication of Robin Lakoff's book *Language and Woman's place* in 1975, the new beginning of linguistic subdiscipline and gender studies was born. Not only has this book influenced and shaken one science, it has also ushered all the gender related studies and disciplines (e.g. communication studies, psychology, sociology or anthropology). The message of this book has inspired many people since the first

³² Maybin, Janet, and Mercer, Neil. *Using English: From Conversation to Canon*. 1st ed. London: Routledge, 1996. pp. 19. Print.

publishing and raised various fundamental questions that everyone began asking. Lakoff's insight into the problematics of gender studies answered questions, such as whether women's speech is associated with different linguistic practices; how women's role in society is affecting what is said about them and many more.

Lakoff's insightful answers to these questions resulted in continuous and steady interest in gender related studies which has been changing and shaping the society and since 1975, due to the growing and tireless efforts of feminists, the women's place in society – and within language – has drastically changed for the better and since gender studies have stepped into various disciplines, we are able to recognize the differences occurring between genders on many levels and beyond (e.g. linguistics and differences in syntax, grammar, phonetics etc.)

One of the fundamental differences occur on a lexical level and it is represented by the words we choose to describe casual things like colours. According to Lakoff, women are more likely to use an adjective that is more precise and specifies the colour much better. While words like beige, lavender, mauve or burgundy would be considered unusual and strange coming from a male speaker, they seem ordinary and unremarkable for female speech. The reason why men refrain from using such words is that they find them useless, trivial and irrelevant to the real world.³³ These lexical nuances of speech are very common, and the choice of certain words represent one's status, hobbies and interests, or even the extent of one's knowledge.

Lakoff states that along with the choices of lexical items naming colours, another difference is the use of “meaningless” particles that define the social context of a given sentence and it determines how forceful the speaker feels about the information it contains, therefore we can guess which speaker is more likely to say “oh dear” and “oh shit”.³⁴ This has been proven in my analysis number 1, where unlike the male speaker, the female speaker chose an expression far less vulgar and less strong. This is something that we can observe in all discourses – written, spoken and even internet discourse – because of the expectations that female speakers are going to use stronger words (often swear words and expletives) and expressions less frequently, which can be either due to the stereotypical approach to raising girls or the deep-rooted assumptions of the society. However, this stereotype has been recently challenged by feminists who claim that

³³ Lakoff, Robin T. *Language and Woman's Place*. New York: Harper & Row, 1975. pp. 43. Print.

³⁴ Lakoff, Robin T. *Language and Woman's Place*. New York: Harper & Row, 1975. pp. 44. Print.

women should be able to use the same words men use without causing other people to flinch or react negatively.

Similar to the lexical items chosen for colour discrimination, Lakoff distinguishes sets of adjectives indicating speaker's stance on the matter. These groups of adjectives have also literal and specific meaning and they can be gender-neutral or gender-specific, used by either men or women.³⁵ For example, men are less likely to opt for the adjectives presumed as "womanly" or "feminine" because if they do use them, they are ridiculed or laughed at. However, unlike men, women have the option to choose which set of adjectives they want to use, and this choice is indicating their personality and opinion, therefore if a female speaker chooses a word with a sarcastic connotation, the actual meaning of a sentence is altered.

When it comes to the syntactical changes, there are not any specific restrictions to a syntactical rule that would apply to only one gender, however, the rule of tag-question formation is, according to Lakoff, far more frequently used in a day-to-day interaction by female speakers.³⁶ Tag-questions are a tool used by speakers under various circumstances, as it is not an outright yes-no question, nor a statement. If a speaker employs tag-question rules in the conversation they are having, it is usually because of the lack of confidence in the topic that is being discussed and the speaker seeks reassurance. In a context in which a speaker looks for information that would fill in the gap of their knowledge, they use tag-question usually expecting a positive answer. In addition to that, Lakoff argues that tag-questions can also be used in a contextual situation such as a small talk. In such cases, it is clear that both participants of the interaction know the answer, hence employing tag-questions in one's speech is used only to maintain some sort of conversation.³⁷

Lakoff's approach to linguistics and the differences between women's and men's speech is often characterised as "deficit approach". Not only has the extent of researches evolved, even the term itself undergoes evolution. The approach to the research was called "dominance approach" (hence dominance theory of linguistics), "difference approach" and "discourse approach". What distinguishes these terms is that "difference approach" is rooted in the notion of different cultures breed different behaviour and Lakoff's personal approach is that it highlights male power and appreciates the female

³⁵ Lakoff, Robin T. *Language and Woman's Place*. New York: Harper & Row, 1975. pp. 45. Print.

³⁶ Lakoff, Robin T. *Language and Woman's Place*. New York: Harper & Row, 1975. pp. 46. Print.

³⁷ Lakoff, Robin T. *Language and Woman's Place*. New York: Harper & Row, 1975. pp. 49. Print.

language abilities, whereas “dominance approach” is concerned with the role of gender differences in language and how they impact social status and the notion of power in society. Lastly, discourse approach is influenced by postmodernists and it severs the necessary connections between gender and social practice, because all gender is performance.³⁸

3.5.2 Deborah Cameron

Deborah Cameron is one of the leading British language researchers, educators and feminists, whose work is based in the disciplines of sociolinguistics and linguistic anthropology. She worked extensively on studying language, gender and sexuality, but is also well-known for publishing studies and articles on the topics of interactions, analysis of the discourse, language in public life and in the media etc. Cameron has been writing about various topics that have a lot of things to do with other academic fields, such as sociology, language and gender, which is something that further stroke the interest of many other linguists because most of her publications are addressing specialists in gender and women’s studies, as well as academic readers. Furthermore, she is aware of her responsibility in this field, hence she produces various articles and books for all the readers interested in these matters.³⁹

Cameron’s first published book, *Feminism and Linguistic Theory* (1985), was written while she was still a graduate student of linguistics at Oxford. It was a feminist book at its core (as the title suggests), it is an introduction to the then-current works in this discipline and she also discusses and reviews works of other linguists and scientists here. The reason I chose to talk about Deborah Cameron is that in this particular book she focused on finding the missing links in the discussed studies. In this book, she concluded that by reflecting on and changing an individual person’s ways of using a language, one that can resist stereotyping and assuming in what is the gender-based inequality rooted, but the restructure of institution that support these assumptions is inevitable for that. She discusses and talks about understanding what the core of oppression is, which does not necessarily mean it is rooted in linguistics.⁴⁰

³⁸ Lakoff, Robin T. *Language and Woman's Place*. New York: Harper & Row, 1975. pp. 127. Print.

³⁹ Thomas, Margaret. *Fifty key thinkers on language and linguistics*. Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2011. pp. 266. Print.

⁴⁰ Cameron, Deborah. *Feminism and Linguistic Theory: Feminist Models of Language (II): Semiology, Postmodernism and the Debate on the 'Gendered Subject*. Palgrave Macmillan, London. 1992. pp. 172. PDF.

Her main contribution to linguistics and gender studies has been proven in her own conducted researches and studies in the already mentioned book *Feminism and Linguistic Theory*. Even before publishing this book, she was known to criticise the loose ends in the studies by other linguists, for example Australian feminist Dale Spender and her book *Man Made Language*, who argued that the use of language is a reflection of experiences and opinions of men.⁴¹ This would mean that women are disadvantaged and excluded from being in control of meaning and cannot obtain the same self-expression as men do. This is something that Cameron opposes. She claims that language can indeed be contextually defined and that the meanings of words are and can be fixed.

In the previous chapter I presented theories of one of the early classic linguists, Robin Lakoff. Her book *Language and Women's Place* (1975) is mentioning the most crucial gender-related questions and discusses gender differences. She argues that women's speech consists of specific attributes that suggest social inferiority (e.g. extensive use of tag questions, rising intonation, hedges, set of feminine adjectives, exaggerations etc.). These assumptions were a reason she was criticised and many specialists in the field pointed out that her own perspective and observations were those of a white, upper middle-class speech community. Cameron contributed to this discussion with the so-called 'deficit' model of women's language. According to Cameron, tag questions are not a sign of women's inferiority, rather their resistance to subordination and when a female speaker employs a tag question in the role of conversational manager, it opposes the idea of female lack of power. Cameron objects to Lakoff's interpretation and claims that counting the times of overlapping or simultaneous speeches does not necessarily mean it is a kind of 'interruption' that is specific for one or the other gender and it might be even collaborative from the perspective of the participants in the interaction.⁴²

Not only did Cameron disagree with Lakoff, she also found Tannen's stance unsatisfactory. Tannen argues that women are socialized to value cooperation and to use interactions as means to establish connections with other people, whereas men use language to solve problems and enhance their status. Cross-gender miscommunication happens when the two genders overlook their language style differences and that is why

⁴¹ Thomas, Margaret. *Fifty key thinkers on language and linguistics*. Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2011. pp. 267. Print.

⁴² Thomas, Margaret. *Fifty key thinkers on language and linguistics*. Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2011. pp. 268. Print.

in 2006 and 2006 Cameron decided to work on analysing men's and women's language in the difference-related context.⁴³ However, she had issues with the notion of neither parties being at fault and Tannen's difference model is aimed and targeted at (and also received by) women which only causes them to be troubled about having learnt these gender-related language differences.

In Cameron's book review in the *Signs*, she claims that answers to the questions about how language reflects and helps constitute sexual inequality and how can the language of sexism be reconstructed and changed, are based on the assumption that men and women can be considered homogeneous groups. The reason for reframing those questions is related to the "turn to language". This means that the language is no longer studied only by linguists, but sociologists, philosophers, psychologists and even historians found themselves to be digging into this topic.

Deborah Cameron is a very important linguist in the aspect of rational criticism, as she reminds us how useful it is to always consider every possible point of view while debating a subject as controversial and, most importantly, complex as gender language. What Cameron brings to the table is the ability of broadening the horizon of the readers of her articles and books, who are interested in expanding their knowledge.

3.5.3 Deborah Tannen

Deborah Tannen is an American linguist of second half of 20th century and author of twelve books. She is a worldwide lecturer in her field and published many works on discourse analysis, linguistics and interpersonal communication. Tannen's main focus is interpersonal relationships in communication and the differences of speeches connected to gender and culture. She has done an influential research on miscommunication between the genders for which she is criticised by other linguists who argued that the research is influenced by her feminist point of view.

Tannen's contribution to the linguist department has been immense, as she focused on collecting several conversation samples on tapes and collected data from various interviews for the purpose of analysis. Not only has she done many researches on her own, but she also gathered information from other linguists, analysed their studies and researches so she could be able to establish several styles and types of interactions.

⁴³ Thomas, Margaret. *Fifty key thinkers on language and linguistics*. Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2011. pp. 269. Print.

She is a big supporter of the approach that women and men indeed do use language in different way and that their way of communication is not the same and she is an advocate of the approach that when speakers from different areas or regions of the country or social class backgrounds converse, it is far more likely to misinterpret and misunderstand what they meant.⁴⁴

She claims that the gender differences of an individual person start coming to the surface in early age and that is why childhood is so important for language development. It is all affected by girls being talked to about feelings and emotions and using extensive number of verbs in communication with boys. She controversially claims that men and women will never be able to understand each other, and the core of the problem is our language and our style of communication. Her main study is based on the dominance theory which suggests that men and female conversation differs in six main aspects which she presents in her book *You Just Don't Understand* and another book of hers that has been very influential, called *That's Not What I Meant!* which shows the different conversational styles between men and women.

She suggests that main differences are shown in the status and support aspect because women are far more supportive than men, who are, on the other hand, more likely to use language as a means of showing higher status and asserting dominance. She claims that even high-involvement style is an indicator of support and participation, whereas high considerateness prioritises being considerate of other speakers by not imposing or interrupting. Her studies have shown that when some interruptions in an interaction occurred, it was because high-considerateness speakers were expecting long pauses between turn-taking while having a conversation. This was regarded as a lack of words by high-involvement speakers which resulted in them filling in to avoid silence.⁴⁵

Very important difference between men and women is the expectations of advice or understanding because men are more likely to talk about their own personal experiences and are often speaking about having acted alone in the personal story which results in a favourable outcome and rarely do men report on having been advised while telling their story.⁴⁶ This is related to men being fond of facts, rather than misleading

⁴⁴ Tannen, Deborah. *You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation*. New York, NY: Morrow, 1990. PDF.

⁴⁵ Tannen, Deborah. *You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation*. New York, NY: Morrow, 1990. pp. 96. PDF.

⁴⁶ Tannen, Deborah. *You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation*. New York, NY: Morrow, 1990. pp. 87. PDF.

information, and on the other hand, women preferring emotional support via discussions. Interestingly enough, there are cases when women seek empathy and/or reassurance from men, and they are given a problem-solving advice which might be unsatisfactory for those women who want confirmation of their feelings and discuss their problem, rather than find an easy solution. It is more important for women to share and express their worries and in return, they expect some sense of empathy, reassurance and offer comfort. On the contrary, when men share their worries and women sympathise with them and respond by offering matching worries, some men get frustrated by this action. This miscommunication is very common and often ends with an argument.⁴⁷

Another crucial difference is the fact that women are more likely to try to find middle ground when they want to avoid arguments and fights, whereas men tend to get annoyed and argue. When children's ways of talking while arguing were observed by researchers, they were surprised to find that even among young children, girls were more likely to propose a compromise and preserve harmonious atmosphere, boys made no attempts to find the middle ground and their fight was prolonged and even threats of physical violence appeared. Boys also used more insistence and appealed to rules which resulted in the fight lasting two and half times longer than the one of girls.⁴⁸

What might be the most significant difference is that women use indirect orders and proposals, and are more likely to manipulate others in their favour, whereas men use direct imperatives and give orders without having to hide it. This is slightly connected to personality of the given individual and whether they have high or low self-confidence. However, it is important to mention that the indirectness itself does not mean lack of power. It might be even more powerful because using the ultimate indirect order is getting someone to do something without having to really say it. Tannen's research showed that the indirectness varies across cultures and if a woman asks "*Would you like to go to a party?*", she is hinting that she wants to go. The reason why some women opt for an indirect order is that they feel they do not have the right to ask for something directly, furthermore, it might be connected to her seeking connection with the recipient of the order.⁴⁹

⁴⁷ Tannen, Deborah. *You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation*. New York, NY: Morrow, 1990. pp. 22. PDF.

⁴⁸ Tannen, Deborah. *You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation*. New York, NY: Morrow, 1990. pp. 19. PDF.

⁴⁹ Tannen, Deborah. *You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation*. New York, NY: Morrow, 1990. pp. 112. PDF.

3.6 Comparison of the main authors

If we were to compare these three authors that are the key linguists in the analyses that are following in the empirical part of this thesis, it is important to note that all of them based their theories on researches they have conducted and evaluated all the results they came up with. They present their theories based on these results, which makes their claims relevant and thought-provoking.

Firstly, while Lakoff's theory is mainly concerned with the feminist point of view and her 'dominance approach' led to very comprehensive and extensive discoveries, it also brought the entire society closer to understanding the differences between male and female language and that we are, thanks to Lakoff, able to spot and comment on these nuances of expressions. Lakoff became a very influential figure in the field of gender-studies and her books like *The logic of politeness; or, minding your P's and Q's* or *The Language War*, as well as the one that is connected to this thesis, *Language and Woman's Place*, became a key sources for feminists, humanists and anyone in gender-related studies, because of her extensive enlightening results of her researches.

Secondly, Deborah Cameron is very unlike the other linguists. Her main focus is to analyse the studies conducted by other linguistics, compare them and draw conclusions based on these more generalised results. Thanks to her impressive ability to connect the dots when the other experts were unable to do so, or who did not manage to do so on a larger-scale, the book *Feminism & Linguistic theory* became a very important and influential work. She is also the author of the popular book called *The myth of Mars and Venus: Do men and women really speak different languages?* which brought attention to the complexity of understanding linguistic differences between the two genders. In this book, she claims that the ideas of the gender-based differences in language are mostly subjective and constructed by the society. This book is also a partial reaction to the work by John Gray *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus* which is concerned with the immeasurable differences between the language of men and women.

Lastly, Tannen's with her 'difference approach' and theories are opposing the ones of Lakoff's and ultimately, her theories are opposing some of the claims of the linguists that made researches in the gender linguistics field which she analysed. She believes that the reason the language between the gender varies this much is the influence of upbringing, especially how the individual person was raised and talked to as a child based on their gender and these "genderlects" are essentially the reason why women's and

men's speech differs. Her book *You just don't understand* comments and points out various forms of miscommunication between these subcultures and she makes comments on many examples why the speech of men and women differs.

4. Analysis of Facebook chats

4.1 Introduction to the analysis

This is the beginning of the analytical part of this thesis. For this part, I asked ten people to send me excerpts of their Facebook chat conversations. From these ten participants, five of them were women and five were men, which is why the analytical part is divided into groups of “female participants” and “male participants”. Each participant has provided me with two conversation excerpts, one being with the same gender, and one being with the opposite gender. This means that in the “female participants” part, there are five analyses of female-female and female-male conversations, and similarly, the “male participants” part consists of male-male and male-female conversations. Overall, there are twenty analyses of twenty conversations of ten native English speakers. The age group has not been set, therefore the age, as well as the region and matter of friendship between the speakers varies across the whole analytical part. The only mutual characteristic of the speakers is that they are all from the United Kingdom and use Facebook on a daily basis to connect with other people.

These analyses are interconnected with the theoretical part of this thesis. There are mentions of various topics that were already discussed in the previous theoretical part to which I am occasionally referring to. The analyses are corresponding with the already mentioned information and I shall be commenting on the relevant parts, connecting and comparing them, and ultimately, putting them into context of the individual conversation.

4.2 Female participants

The first five conversations are from the female participants, therefore both parts of each analysis are going to consist of at least one woman. From the first glance at these interactions, it is clear to see that all of them are very polite, they have similarly used language elements and the features that appear in these conversations are, more or less, similar.

4.2.1 Analysis 1.

FEMALE – FEMALE

D – female, 19 years old

L – female, 18 years old

Friends for 6 months, met through University Course

First common feature of women's speech that is occurring in this conversation is that both female speakers use *x* that is a symbol that has been appearing on envelopes since the Middle Ages and it expresses affection (Thurlow & Brown, 2003). Interestingly enough, it is a symbol only in female-female conversation or occasionally in male-female conversations, never in male-male conversations. Tannen claims that this symbol is a common expressive symbol to show their level of enthusiasm and sincerity that is expected from female speakers.⁵⁰ Related to the use of expressive symbols are the extensive use of emojis – mostly laughing emojis that indicate amusement and laughter. Crystal mentions in *Internet Language* that what is the computer-mediated communication missing is seeing reactions of the addressee and that is why emojis make it easier to convey the real meaning behind a message.

The use of swear words is affected by the cultural aspects and upbringing, however, as Lakoff argues in the book *Language and Women's Place* female speakers are less likely to choose stronger words (e.g. *shit, fucking* etc.), instead, they choose polite profanities known as minced oaths. Minced oath is an expletive-deletive, form of euphemisms formed by misspelling a part of a profane word, in this case, one of the speakers used *bloody freezing*. However, this is not consistent throughout the whole conversation and both speakers use *shit* to emphasise the feelings or emotional context of the speech. Therefore, it is not used in an offensive way, nor is it directed at anyone and as Lakoff says, women's speech is being liberalised thanks to feminism, and female speakers have more freedom to express their attitudes these days, even if it means using profanities.⁵¹

Female speakers are known to express their attitudes more often and are likely to show it directly to the other participants of the conversation which shows their supportive behaviour, which is mentioned by Deborah Tannen in *You just don't understand*. Both female speakers in this case use interjections like *aw, ooo*, that both expresses not only their emotional attitude towards the text message they are reacting to, but in internet discourse it may be considered a filling word. Similarly, the element of laughter *haha* (verbalised laugh) is considered to be expression of laugh – despite the option of choosing

⁵⁰ Tannen, Deborah. "The Medium Is the Metamessage: Conversational Style in New Media Interaction." *Discourse 2.0: Language and New Media*, edited by Deborah Tannen and Anna Marie Trester, Georgetown University Press, 2013, pp. 99–118. Web.

⁵¹ Lakoff, Robin T. *Language and Woman's Place*. New York: Harper & Row, 1975. Print.

laughing emojis, the speakers use the word rather than an emoticon, that would have the same effect. The reason why internet users use emojis is discussed in chapter 1.2.2. of this thesis, however, in this case it indicates the amusement of the speaker, that would not have been communicated through plain text and as Crystal claims, CMC differs from real-life communication because we cannot determine the reaction of the addressee of the message based on pure text.

Many linguists pointed out that female speakers focus more on the emotional aspect of the communication, they are more likely to offer reassurance and support and put emphasis on polite elements of their speech (Tannen 1990, Lakoff 1975, Coates 1986). As women speakers show more concern for relational aspects, they also show more supportive and cooperative style of speech, especially among other women because they feel equal, rather than during interaction with men, when they feel dominated (Coates, 1986) which is proven in this conversation when female speaker asks for approval and reassurance *is it alright if my mate lucy tags along too?*.⁵²

What corresponds completely with the claims of Robin Lakoff is that female speakers often opt to use feminine or even women-only adjectives, in this conversation for example *oh sweet thanks*. However, there are still signs of gender-neutral adjectives such as *good, alright, fine* etc., as well as empty adjectives (e.g. *sweet*) that add friendly elements to the interaction as a whole. This is also achieved by the use of colloquial phrases and diminutives (such as *alrighty*). There are even nicknames in this conversation (in instance *girl, babe, man*) that are used to deepen the level of friendliness of the conversation.

While there are no hypercorrect forms, there certainly are informal elements such as contradictions of phrases like want to (*wanna*), going to (*gonna*) which are used to make the conversation more laid-back and collaborative. A feature common in women speech that occurs in this conversation is the use of tag questions *she really hasn't explained well has she*. This is a commonly used element not only in female speech, however, the context in which it is used is important and because it is accompanied by frequent polite forms and verbalising internal thoughts and feelings (Newman, 2008). The frequent use of polite phrases (e.g. *thank you for that!, yes please! thank you babe! life saver* etc.) is a proof of Lakoff's early claims, that female speakers are more likely to create bonds using their language and are concerned with personal connections they

⁵² Coates, Jennifer. *Language and Gender: A Reader*. London: Blackwell, 1998. pp. 186. Print.

achieve via their choice of words (e.g. offers – in this case, *do you want me to send you some sources I found super helpful?*)

Overall, this conversation shows elements of politeness, both speakers are addressing each other in nicknames that show affection and their friendship is clearly personal and they are good friends. Despite Lakoff's claims that women's speech contains hedging, there is not many cases of hedging in this conversation (e.g. *kinda, guess..*). Even the style of writing of both speakers is not to be considered hypercorrect, as it is rather a laid-back style of speech. The occurring topics are often related to school, making plans and even alcohol, however, they can be considered all over the place which only suggests that they are confident enough to speak about anything that happens in their real life and despite living far from each other, they keep in touch all the time. The style of chatting is cooperative, and both speakers are participating in story-telling, focus on personal anecdotes and speak freely about feelings (Pillington, 1992).

FEMALE – MALE

J – male, 20 years old

L – female, 18 years old

Friends for 2 and a half years, met through working together and have been dating for 7 months

Striking resemblance to the female conversation is the frequent use of nicknames that are showing affection and close relationship of the two speakers, hence calling one another names like gorgeous, sweet, beautiful etc. is a proof that they are very close, and it is not gender restricted to show affection. Another sign of affectionate speech is the use of *x* throughout the whole conversation. The meaning behind this symbol is affection and love, therefore it is assumed that this symbol would be used only when the interaction happens between people who are close, in this case, the excessive amount of use points out to the fact that they are in a relationship. In this conversation we can clearly see that showing emotions and feelings is not limited only to female speakers only, furthermore, male speaker uses *x* symbol and contextual cues point to the direction of love relationship just like the female speaker.

Profanities are not very frequent; sometimes *shit* or *fuck you* is used in a teasing and humorous way; less vulgar words (e.g. *damn*) are used too. *Shit* is used mostly by the male speaker which proves Lakoff's claims that women tend to use less swear words and

avoid coarse language and expletives which is a typical feature of female speech (Maybin, 1966). What female speaker here shows, unlike male speaker, is her supportive which is proven for example when she says *good luck, do me proud*. The politeness is on a higher level than the one of male speaker, which does not necessarily mean that he is rude, it is another language difference as mentioned by Lakoff (1975), who claims that women offer emotional support fairly easy, while male speakers focus rather on solutions and analytical approach to the problem.

Despite Newman's (2008), Lakoff's (1975) or Weatherall's (2002) claims that the use of hedges is a feature occurring in female language, in this conversation it is used by both participants (*kinda, gonna, lemme* etc.) and even shortened versions of words (e.g. okay → *k*), as well as abbreviations (*lol*), that are now one of the most common features of the internet language (Crystal, 2001). What is an interesting element of the male speaker's speech is that he uses further-extended phrase *okie dokie*, which has ultimately the opposite effect of an abbreviation, however, in this case it shows the affectionate side of a person that uses child-like language, perhaps in order to sound more friendly.

When it comes to the choice of adjectives, both speakers opt for neutral adjectives which are preceded by neutral intensifiers (e.g. *quite, pretty* etc.) which is according to Carli (1990) a speech style adopted by female speakers more often because it is related to powerlessness and low-status behaviour. The fact that intensifiers are used by male and female speaker just as much is opposing that claims. An often-occurring feature is the omission of certain personal pronouns, which could be considered a result of CMC relying on fast replies and thanks to abbreviations, omissions and contractions of words (Crystal, 2001) which suggests that the participants of the conversation want to reply as fast as possible.

Interjections, such as *oh, ahh, yeah*, etc., are also used by both speakers and it is a form of back-channelling via using minor interjections that are a signal showing a reaction to what has been said and it expresses that the other speaker is listening (in this case reading) and receiving what the person says. These responses come in handy for when the participants of the conversation are discussing a topic and they feel the need to prove to one another that they are supporting them and their message, which is a sign to continue the debate.

It is said that women care more about establishing connections and relationships using their language (Basow & Rubenfield, 2003) and interestingly enough, the female speaker always asks *how are you* first except one occasion. This does not mean that there is a lack

of care on the male's speaker side, however, it shows that women tend to create bonds and care about other people, which is something that Lakoff (1975) also said. The phrase *how's you*, which is a slang expression used by younger generation is used in this conversation too, which proves that both speakers tend to use informal and purposely incorrect phrases to seem more playful.

All in all, there are not many significant differences between these speakers and what is interesting is that they both express their affection and feelings via their choice of words and the attitude attributed to them. Both of them express themselves in a very similar way and it would be hard to determine whether a text is from a woman or man without any context. It is clear that their relationship is on a personal level, they are very close and they both feel comfortable enough to even use expletives, not to offend each other, but more so as an expression or a part of a banter.

4.2.2 Analysis 2.

FEMALE – FEMALE

Olivia: female, 18 years old

Lowri: female, 19 years old

Close friends for 3 years, met at sixth form (school)

First noticeable feature of these female speakers is the use of abbreviations, in addition to shortened versions of expressions, words and phrases. That is why using shortened words like *acc* might seem strange, however, in this particular scenario it shows the closeness of the speakers which is an effect of informal speech like this. Abbreviations like *rip, tbf, ygm, omg, omfg, idk, wtf* etc. are indicators of internet language and by using these features we avoid taking a long time typing in the message, as well as it shows the emotions and feelings of the person who wrote these words, because they have a certain connotation that adds to the effect of the text message. Informal words and phrases (e.g. *cause, deffo, smth*) are a way of shortening words in order to reply fast, yet appropriately.

Back-channelling by using certain interjections (e.g. *aww, ewww, ohhh, ayyy, wooooo, woah*) is a way of providing certain support and show the cooperative aspect of

the speech (Cameron, 2000).⁵³ Even *haha*, the interjection of laugh is used here to function as not only back-channel, but also expression of feelings and amusement. By using these back-channelling features it makes the speaker feel like their message is being heard and well received (e.g. in the context of “wow” – *wooo* – *lowri did work for school*). This is also achieved by using *yeah*, *nah*, *yup* as means of agreeing or disagreeing. Similarly to these reactions, the repeatedly used *x* appears in this conversation again and functions as means of expressing the fondness of one another, as well as it indicates politeness and affection and supports the loving friendship between the speakers. This affection is also supported by the choice of nicknames for one another (e.g. *babe*, *man*, *mate*, *lord farquad*; *knob for other people*). Picking nicknames is common for friends and friend groups since early childhood and it brings the people closer and shows the depth of their friendship.

Again, in this conversation there are omission of personal pronouns, often when using transitive verbs. This phenomenon is called null-subject and it is influenced by cultural developments and is considered gender neutral, especially on the internet. An intriguing fact is that while there are many abbreviations, contractions and shortened expressions, the messages tend to be longer and provide personal anecdotes and stories, which is according to Lakoff a way of establishing connections between people. Often discussed topic is school and while these speakers are very close, the messages do not contain a lot of personal information which is probably due to the closeness being pursued mostly in real-life interactions. Something that is often argued by linguists (Lakoff 1975, Holmes 1988, Maybin 1966, Coastes, 1998) is that women use tag-questions far more than men and even in this conversation the use of tag-questions is evident.

Another striking feature that appears in this conversation is the frequent use of the filler word *like* (e.g. *I'm like here like I need more time, like he seems*). Not only is it used as a filler word that gives the speaker time to think about what they are typing, it is also used in phrases (e.g. *I was like*) which adds the dramatic feeling to the information that is being communicated. This is one of the modern figures of speech that appears in every discourse there is and while it seems informal, in a conversation between friends, such as this one, it is a way of the speaker expressing themselves freely without having to use

⁵³ Cameron, Deborah. Styling the worker: Gender and the commodification of language in the globalized service economy. *Journal of Sociolinguistics*. 2002. pp. 323-347. PDF.. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9481.00119>

rich vocabulary. As a part of internet language, there are contractions of phrases of going to, want to that are shortened into phrases like *wanna, gonna, gotta* etc (*I wanna go back, I'm gonna go to Eva, just gotta power through girl*). These informal features are a kind of fast speech which is expected in CMC because the nature of chatting is replies as fast as possible, therefore writing message shorter without having to get rid of the meaning behind certain phrases (via linguistic reductions, e.g. contractions).

Profanities are a part of this interaction too and swear words like *shit, fucked up, fuck, piss*, however, they are not very common, and they are used mostly to avoid weaker vocabulary that would not express the attitude of the speaker as well as an expletive would. There is also an example of using weaker form of an expletive in *I bloody hope not*, which shows that the speaker uses appropriately the words based on how strong they feel about the discussed topic. Despite the speakers using profanities, the politeness of the conversation is not interrupted, and the inappropriate words are either overlooked or ignored, however, it shows that they are comfortable around each other enough to express themselves across the whole spectrum of vocabulary.

In terms of a specific vocabulary, in this conversation we can notice that the use of intensifiers is quite broad and sometimes even collocations occur (e.g. *dead good!*). Intensifier *so* is used very often and proves that Lakoff's claims (1975) about female speakers using intensifiers more frequently than men. In the conversation, there are many examples, such as *so gross, so so similar to dutch, so busy, so much effort, so similar* or intensifier really in *really hard, really unfair* etc. Along with use of intensifiers, the feminine adjectives appear in this conversation as well (e.g. *loopy, cute, harsh* etc.). This choice of words is not particularly related to emotiveness, however, it shows that the rather feminine vocabulary exists. Interestingly enough, what demonstrates female language features in a sense is that the speakers in this conversation ask questions with a negative undertone, or as if they were expecting negative response (e.g. *has she not..?, you're not surrounded by it are you, can you not get... etc.*).

When it comes to the expression of feelings and emotions, the conversation contains many elements that contribute to the fact of female caring behaviour. This is claimed by many linguists like Gray (2004) or Basow & Rubenfield (2003) and expressions like *I was so sad, are you coping with everything okay? – no, and I am proud of you* are proofs that female speakers do not hesitate or hold back when talking about feelings and emotions, they tend to speak truth when asked whether they are doing okay and this contributes to the stereotypical thinking that women are sensitive, however, that cannot

be substantiated in essence, and all we can assume is that female speakers are transparent whilst speaking about feelings.

FEMALE – MALE

Carl: male, 19 years old

Lowri: female, 19 years old

A couple, dating for 8 months

First very distinguishing feature of the male speech in this conversation is the amount of abbreviations and shortened words (e.g. *tbh, tho, hun, ikr, ur* etc.) and while the female speaker uses some of these elements too (e.g. *acc, u, smth, omfg*), it is far less common than the use by the male speaker. This proves that his speech is oriented towards the content rather than form and using shortened expressions does not mean that the meaning or content of it is lost or decreased. It proves Gray's (2004) theory of men being goal oriented – in this case the goal is the interaction – and the side aspects (such as the form of speech) is less precise. Gray argues that this can lead to miscommunication because the way women communicate their feelings is very different than the way men do and both genders have different ideas and expectations about the way feelings ought to be communicated. However, in this conversation we can see that both speakers understand each other perfectly and no miscommunication at any point is taking place, which could suggest that when two speakers of the opposite gender spend some time together and get used to the ways of each other's expressions, it decreases the chances of misunderstanding one another.

Other features related to the use of abbreviation are hedges, omissions and substitution of verb forms. Hedges (*kinda*) are used usually by the female speaker, along with phrases like *I mean, I think, I mean* etc. and this proves Tannen's (1994) claims that when a speaker wants their authority and status to remain, phrases like these are a way of avoiding criticism in order save their face in front of the other speaker or speakers. Lakoff similarly argues that due to the natural uncertainty of female speakers, these expressions are used to maintain the neutral, less directive approach and in spoken language, this would be accompanied by rising intonation.

Interesting element of the female speech is the use of the word *like*. Not only does she use it instead of the word *about* (*I have like £85 Too*), she also uses it in comparisons (*my legs were like NOPE*), as means of explanation (*get it for me like a new one*), as a

filler word (*like I could afford a new one now but im still waiting*) but also instead of the verb *say* (*she was just like now let me put my fingers in the muscle and PUNCH IT*). What is interesting about this linguistic element is that it is rarely used by the male speaker, whereas the female speaker uses it throughout the whole conversation many times and with many functions. This contradicts Lakoff's idea of women's speech being grammatically more correct than one of men, and instead of having a wide variety of vocabulary, this particular speaker opts for a multifunctional word *like*. We can presume that she uses this expression to make her the meaning more colloquial without having to use complicated and complex phrases.

As I already mentioned in previous analysis, the use of swear words and expletives by women is limited and usually female speakers tend to avoid these expressions. In this conversation, there are cases of the female speaker using words like *bullshit*, *fuck up*, *ffs* (abbreviation of *for fucks sake*) and *shit*. This can mean either that the female speaker is comfortable enough to use these words, because she knows that the male speaker will not consider them inappropriate. This would point out to the contextual aspect of every conversation, because with certain people that we know well, our vocabulary tends to be more unrestrained and freer. On the other hand, the weaker form of coarse language occurs as well (*Oh dear that's no fun*) which could potentially mean that the female speaker is used to the limited language around other people which makes her use it sometimes even in a conversation like this. On the contrary, male speaker's use of swear words is frequent (e.g. *shit*, *fuck*, *ffs* (for fucks sake), *wtf* (what the fuck), *fucked* etc.) and it is clear to see, that he does not consider these phrases inappropriate and does not particularly avoid using them.

Lastly, one of the most noticeable features of this conversation is the way both speakers use emphasis. In spoken discourse, people emphasise certain words by means of intonation, stress shifts and even loudness. In written – internet – discourse, the only way to emphasise a word is either by using capitalised letters, exclamation point or by specific vocabulary (e.g. intensifiers). These speakers both use capitalised letters to express the emphasis, therefore words like *EXTREME*, *PACKED* or *EXCITED* are the indication of emphasised words. A fascinating thing about this is that while Lakoff claims that it is a women's speech feature, here it is used by both participants. Even interjections such as *YAY*, *OOO* or *AHHHH* are emphasised which makes both speakers seem thrilled and excited about the discussed topic and it can be considered as means of communicating internal thoughts.

4.2.3 Analysis 3.

FEMALE – FEMALE

Rhiannon: female, 23 years old

B: female, 24 years old

Known each other for one year, met in university

One of the most striking features in this conversation is the amount of expressive words like *haha* (adding “ha” when the conversation is funnier, hence the more amusing topic, the longer “haha” gets). This is a sign of support and collaborative attitude towards the other speaker, because it shows them the interest of the addressee of the message and proves them that the addressee is responding well to the topic that is being discussed. The use of *haha* is often a substitute for laughing emoticons, so even though there is not many emojis used, the verbalised laugh is given by this expression.

Along with the expressive words, interjections are used in this conversation quite often, as well as lengthening certain syllables or consonants of the words to emphasise the specific word or phrase. This is a typical female speech attribute, that according to Tannen (1990) is a feature of feminine behaviour and it is expected to show exaggerated amount of emotions, especially when it comes to positive subjects – which is related to the supportive women’s speech. Therefore, interjections that provide this sense of comfort and support are shown in messages like *YAYYYYYY congratzzzzzz, yasss!!!, woo, aww yay, fancyyyy* etc. Some of these interjections are emphasised by two ways – either adding additional letters to the words and lengthening them or adding exclamation points – sometimes both at the same time. On the contrary, interjections can also symbolise negative feelings and carry different connotations than those mentioned above, hence saying *ohhh [I see], ugh* or *oh well* and lengthening such as *awwwwwful* can be considered a feature of weaker negative expression chosen over using stronger manlike words.

A thing that brings people closer is always nicknames. It does not matter whether you are a male or a female, a child or an adult, nicknames are always considered a sign of closeness to certain people and calling someone by their nicknames is an indicator of the friendship/relationship, therefore nicknames like *gal* that appears here show that the speakers are close enough to be comfortable enough to call each other by these, however, when they refer to someone outside the friendship group (in a sarcastic manner, e.g. again *mate*) it shows that the speakers are also close enough to speak about other people, which

is essentially gossiping and stereotypically, that is a part of women's speech. On the contrary, nicknames like a little loser for one another are a form of a weakened insult, which is used by women to seem less mean and more polite (Lakoff, 1975).

An expression that shows affection, often occurring in the female conversation is the use of *x*, or in this case *xoxoxox*. This is similar to the original meaning behind *xo*, which essentially added the connotations of love, faith and affection, which gives the addressee the feeling of closeness and support. This is also related to the over-politeness of some of the messages, which, in this case, is portrayed by the use of *thank you* (even twice in row, e.g. *thanks; aw thanks gal*) phrases. Similarly, a way of expressing affection on the level of supportive friendship is by sympathising and in this conversation, it is clearly expressed by using the word *same*, which brings the participants closer together, due to the relatability and supportive attitude that this simple word expresses.

I already mentioned the shift of grammar in the internet discourse and the shortenings such as *you* → *u/yo*, *sorry* → *soz*, *good* → *gd*, *thank you* → *thanks/thx*, probably → *probs* and omission of *g* in verb forms, such as *waitin* (instead of *waiting*). Similarly, the abbreviations that are common for the internet language (e.g. *lol*, *tbh*, *ffs*, *tbh*) are a significant part of the conversation. Along with these features, the omission of the first person pronouns is common (e.g. *sorry forgot to ask*, *still can't get over that ha*, *spent the last week..*) and all these features refer to one thing. The improper form of words, omissions of letters and pronouns, shortenings of phrases and incomplete expressions are an indicator of informal speech that is common between friends, who are close to one another, they want their message to get across, yet they do not want to spend excessive amount of time typing the text, therefore, we can assume that even though the speech of these speakers is not particularly correct and proper, the need to keep in touch is greater than the need to be grammatically correct.

An important feature of women's speech is, as Lakoff argues, the adjectives that belong to the feminine category. In this conversation, there are many feminine adjectives, such as *fancy*, *fab*, *thrilled*, *redic*, *thrilled*, *subtle*, to name a few. The use of these adjectives show that female speech is extensive especially when it comes to descriptive words that reflect all kinds of qualities and by using these words, the speech becomes far deeper and meaningful than if there were used neutral adjectives that does not reflect exactly the meaning. A part of feminine speech is the use of weaker imperatives, such as *don't you worry*, which includes the pronoun that makes the imperative less directive. Similar function is performed by intensifier *bit and quite* (e.g. *bit disappointing*, *a bit*

academically superior; quite confusing) which makes the statement, that has certain emotional connotations (in this case, negative connotations), weaker. On the contrary, the intensifier *so* (in messages *so stressed, so irritating, so annoying, so awful etc.*) is used to enhance the meaning of the adjectives and make them more urgent.

Profanities or swear words are not very common in this conversation, however, there are few messages that contain the expletive *shit* (e.g. *oh shit, pile of shit*) that are informal features of the speech that essentially modify the emotional value and meaning behind the discussed topic, for example *oh shit* can be considered as a way of expressing sympathy. Bucholtz (1999) argues that what some people might consider inappropriate might vary and not one person has the same boundaries and limits as the other, therefore it might be problematic to comment on the appropriateness and what is considered the norm. Politeness is expressed in many messages and acts of kindness are easy to spot (e.g. *I can pick you up, if you fancy etc.*). This suggests that these speakers must be quite close, yet they still respect one another and express their affection via their words and ultimately actions, which is related to the speakers expressing their feelings, opinions and emotions, so the conversations seems very friendly, supportive and kind, due to using expressions like these: *I think it's unfair, yeh I agree, same* which are a source of emotional support and relating to each other.

FEMALE – MALE

B: male, 25 years old,

R: female, 23 years old

He is her brother's good friend, they used to hang out often

First thing worth mentioning is that this conversation includes some wrongly typed words and mistakes which already sets the tone for the interaction between the speakers. The conversation is informal, typos indicate the lack of precision and interest in checking the messages before sending them, therefore we can assume that the participants do not pay too much attention to the actual conversation. The informality here is proven also by using expressions such as *yeah*, abbreviations (e.g. *atm, tbf, bf* etc.) and the omission of personal pronouns (usually first-person pronouns) that appears mostly in the male speech. According to Coates, the non-standard forms are the most common feature of male speech and is related to their assertive and dominant attitude. The fact that male speech is closer to vernacular makes the speakers seem more care-free and less precise. In these examples

– *don't think I've ever had the pleasure.., just at the vets, loving life, love them now, hoping the insurance pays out, just waiting for the vet* etc. – it is clear that the precision and interest in correctness subsides, while only function becomes the informative one, which is the male speaker's aim.

The expressions of affection in this conversation are less evident and even though the symbol *xo* occurs here just like in the previous conversation, it seems less sincere, due to the context surrounding it. The original meaning behind *xo* is faith, love and affection, as I already mentioned, however, the way these speakers use it seem quite off and that is mostly thanks to the sarcastic connotations in certain messages (e.g. *well enjoy xo, and I'm glad xo, just nearly threw up..... xo*), hence determination of the genuine affection and sarcastic comments might be harder than in the previous conversations. Sarcastic comments are not only expressed by using this symbol, but the male speaker's expressions contain a lot of irony or even presumptuous opinions (e.g. *someone's clearly changed, it was love*), that are evident only when taking the context into consideration.

As I already mentioned, Lakoff assigns the use of hedges and tag-questions mostly to women speech, however, this conversation lacks this feature and the word *kinda*, which is a contraction of kind of, is used only once and by the male speaker. Similarly the use of tag-questions, this conversation does not contain any instances of that and when they do, they come from the male speaker (e.g. *it's just nice being home isn't it, just the cutest isn't he*), but a similar and interesting element of this interaction is influenced by spoken discourse and that is indication of a rising intonation by using question marks at the end of declarative sentences, as well as when the speaker seeks reassurance or when they lack confidence in their statement (e.g. *I assume you are?, you still in the shire yes?, I seem to remember...?, I thought you didn't like cats?*). Lakoff attributes this feature to the women's speech, however, in this conversation it is used by both speakers, so we can assume that they use this way of expression when they want to ask about something, they lack the confidence and wish to avoid looking silly, so they choose this form of a statement with question mark that mimics spoken language.

What occurs throughout the whole conversation is the use of interjections that function as an additional value of the message and its emotional connotation, so when the male speaker says *woah*, the emotional undertone is a surprise, when female speaker says *ah*, it is a sign of understanding. Some of the other interjections are *aww* (male speaker) or even verbalised laugh instead of laughing emoji *haha*, which is representing laugh and

amusement. When the speaker uses this word to indicate laughter, the longer *haha* gets, the more amusing the discussed topic for them is.

The choice of certain words, specifically adjectives, proves Lakoff's claims that there are groups that can be considered gender neutral and feminine. The contrast can be seen especially on the word *lovely*, that is used by the male speaker sarcastically and when we take into consideration the context surrounding this word, it is clear that it is meant sarcastically, whereas had the word been used by the female speaker, we would not consider it sarcastic. For example, when she uses the word *adorable*, it sounds far more natural than the male using the word *lovely*. This proves that some adjectives really are feminine and we can notice them on the first sight, because when they come from a male speaker, they do not seem as natural as these neutral adjectives like *questionable*, *excellent*, *decent*, *cool* (here used only by male speaker), *great etc.*.

Similarly, the choice of intensifiers is exactly as Lakoff described and the female speaker here uses various intensifiers, as claimed by Wardhaugh (1993), that serve a specific purpose and that is to add an unsaid emotive connotation to the communicated information, or to add an effect that would emphasise the attitude. Therefore, the intensifiers *so* and *very* (here contracted into *v*) (which were marked as feminine intensifier by Lakoff) appears in some of the messages from the female speaker (e.g. *v quiet*, *so caring*, *so out of my way*), while the more neutral intensifiers, such as *absolute* and *pretty* (e.g. *an absolute fortune*, *pretty decent*) is generally used by male speaker more often than the so-called feminine intensifier.

Another feature worth mentioning is the emphasis of certain words. This effect is achieved by adding extra letters to the adjectives (e.g. *goood*) which makes the message seem more urgent and more supportive, the emotive aspect adds up and the effect on the addressee is possibly far greater than if there was no emphasis. This is a part of female speech, as claimed by Coates (1998), or again, Lakoff (1975). This is ultimately rooted in the emotional approach to the interactions women are part of and the fostering of positive, feelings-oriented attitude are a significant part of that. The fact that the female speaker is indeed feelings-oriented is proven when her feelings get hurt and she says *why are you being like this*, which could be considered as significant expression of internal thoughts and feelings and the speech is used to indicate the feelings and while male speakers would probably have difficulties expressing their intimate thoughts, it is not unusual for women to speak of such things (Newman 2008).

4.2.4 Analysis 4.

FEMALE – FEMALE

Lucy: female, 26 years old

Alice: female, 42 years old

Alice was Lucy's teaching mentor

Every linguist that has been studying the language in terms of gender differences pointed out the differences between vocabulary of men and women. Lakoff spoke about the adjectives and certain words assigned to the speech of a specific gender group and her focus fell on adjectives and the so-called feminine adjectives that male speakers hesitate to use, because otherwise they risk their social status and masculinity being damaged. In this conversation we can see examples of these feminine adjectives that are used freely and make the speakers look feminine, even if the rest of the text was not in the same feminine mood. Therefore, when these speakers use verbs, such as *fancies*, *moaning* or *thrives*, that are surrounded by use of feminine adjectives, such as *perfect* and *lovely*, the conversation seems not only very friendly, but you also get the impression that a typical female conversation is occurring.

Coates (1998) argues that men's speech is goal-oriented and focused on activities, while female's speech shows concern for relational aspects and its supportive style makes the conversation more polite and formal, even between two close friends. This is proven in this conversation, especially in the messages that are naturally to be considered polite when instead of using directives, the speakers use interrogative form (e.g. *would you be willing to sign....? Shall I message... , is there any way..?*) that indicates the polite tone of the whole message and meaning behind it. Maybin (1966), Basow & Rubenfield (2003) and even Lakoff (1975) all claim that female speech is generally super-polite and the expressions like thank you or please are used very often. This is proven by the number of times that the speakers in this conversation use phrases like *thank you*, *please*, *no problem*, *truly sorry good luck* or even *congrats*. Politeness is expressed also by offering help several times (*I can ask someone in the faculty though, If you need any help just text me*) and by asking about a third person (*how is she anyway?*) which is how women create bonds and establish closer relationships and friendships. The style of their speech is very cooperative and supportive and although it is clear to see that their friendship is on a professional level and they do not share a lot of personal information, it is rooted in helping and showing respect to each other.

This interaction proves that the means of expressing feelings, internal thoughts and creating bonds is through phrases that Lakoff or Tannen would call cooperative and supportive style of speech. Phrases like *what a blast, kudos to her!, I miss James!* show the speakers expressing their feelings, which is ultimately the most important difference between the speech of females and males. These phrases are accompanied by the use of the symbol *x* again, which again proves the importance of keeping the conversation polite and friendly. The speakers add this symbol to many texts which indicates that they both wish to make the addressee feel their affection and fondness of one another. There is this contrast, however, that while the speakers tend to talk about less personal things, they still try to keep the conversation background positive, affectionate and friendly.

Despite maintaining the closeness of their friendship on a professional, less personal level, the speech contains several informal features that are in contrast to the stereotypical assumptions. First of these features is again the omission of personal pronouns (especially first-person pronoun) that occurs in all of the collected conversations I present in this thesis. It is debatable whether it can be considered a feature that occurs in all informal interactions between speakers who know each other on such level that allows them to leave out several linguistic rules in their speech. However, in the context of these conversations, messages like *Trying to pretend...* seem like a way of expressing a certain behaviour and attitude towards the addressee of that message, especially when we take into account that some of the messages contain unfinished sentences (e.g. *It stopped being funny in my twenties so*) which ultimately proves that these messages denote speaker's specific approach.

The use of interjections in written discourse is very important for the addressee to understand the meaning of the message. The interjections that appear in this conversation function as additional expression of internal thoughts, therefore when the speaker uses *ohh* it indicates understanding, *aww* indicates sigh with connotation of positive feelings, *zzzzzz zzzzzz* indicates tiredness and sleepiness and lastly and the interjection that is used the most, verbalised laugh *haha* which indicates amusement. In this conversation, there are several emojis used (laughing emoji and smiling emoji) that help the messages to convey the emotions behind them. Related to these features are emphasised words (e.g. **ALREADY**, **ALWAYS**) that are also expressing the attitude of the speaker. Due to the speaker's inability to use facial expressions that the addressee can react to, the words that the speaker wants to emphasise need to be distinguished from the rest of the text. For female speakers this is an important aspect of their speech, therefore even while chatting,

the need to put stress on certain words remains and, in this conversation, there is used capitalisation as means of emphasising the given word that the speaker puts stress on.

MALE – FEMALE

Lucy: female, 28 years old

Kat: male, 37 years old

Met in the school where Lucy worked with him

Firstly, I am going to focus on the vocabulary again. At first glance, this conversation seems very friendly, laid-back and positive, however it is clear that the friendship is not that deep and that speakers communicate on the level of polite conversation in a friendly manner. Therefore, it is not surprising to see rich vocabulary, mostly correct grammar and indications of emotive approach. The uncommon adjectives in this conversation are for example *self righteous*, *over-indulged*, *weird*, *ecstatic* etc. Among these adjectives, the specific use of some of the phrases (e.g. *mad as a box of frogs* (female speaker) and *preach to that!* (male speaker)) by both speakers eliminate the differences between expressing the internal thoughts and it makes the interaction seem more balanced. In addition to that, these adjectives prove that once the conversation is between speakers who are not so close, their language gets more formal, hyper-correct and the vocabulary tends to be wider.

Again, despite the rather impersonal interaction, the speakers use the symbol x, that indicates affection as I already mentioned in previous analyses, that make the conversation friendly, elevates it to another level of politeness and if we take into consideration the topics discussed, the nostalgic approach might make the speakers prone to sentiment and emotional statements. Reminiscing is an important aspect of this interaction and it is clear that it affects the use of the speech features such as interjections, especially *haha* that appears throughout the whole conversation several times. This interjection again indicates amusement, the longer the *haha* phrase is, the funnier the speaker finds the discussed subject and it is simultaneously used with the laughing emoji. This combination conveys the meaning behind the given text messages far more precisely than if there had not been used one of these features. Some of the other interjections include *huh*, that indicate understanding and functions as a filler element, along with the adverbial *well* (*Huh, well deep fried cake...*).

According to Lakoff's theory, women tend to avoid coarse language and using profanities and this conversation proves just that. Even though expletives and swear words are not very common, there is a slight contrast between the male and female speaker. Even though there are no extremely vulgar or harsh words, the male speaker opts for stronger words a few times and uses the words *ass* and *damn*, while the female speaker uses *crumbs* that is far weaker and even considered a regional slang. Another feature that proves Lakoff's theory is the use of intensifiers. In this conversation, the female speaker frequently uses the intensifier *so* (*so weird, so nervous, so cold* etc.), while the male speaker uses the more man-like intensifiers *quite* or *a lot*. Intensification of a meaning is also expressed by exclamation points that are used to emphasise or intensify the given statement and it usually follows the interjection *haha* to put stress on the laughter. In this conversation we can see, again, that emphasis can be achieved by these exclamation points or capitalisation of a word or letter in a certain word – in this case the word *EVERYone*. This points to Lakoff's idea of female speech and the way women tend to emphasise sentences by, for example, using alternative intonation.

When it comes to actual expressions of feelings, emotions and internal thoughts, the number of examples is very limited. Male speaker tends to use direct polite forms to indicate his intentions (e.g. *would love to catch up*), whereas the female speaker keeps her feelings-oriented talk condensed and her expressions do not express much, which contradicts the claims of many linguists. What affirms their claims though is the use of the directive form. Male speaker tends to use more imperative forms (e.g. *make sure to watch BBC at 3:30!*), which is in contrast to the we-oriented forms from the female speaker (e.g. *we should be proud of ourselves, we should get a medal* etc.). Her speech does not contain any directive statements in that sense, which, according to Coates (1986), is due to the status given to women and because the natural feeling of being dominated by men in mixed-gender interactions.

4.2.5 Analysis 5.

FEMALE – FEMALE

Serena: female, 22 years old

Amy: female, 22 years old

High school friends for about 5 years

One of the first noticeable features in this conversation is the frequent use of interjections that not only are emphasised by added extra letters in the particular words, but also they are functioning as additional emphasis on the feelings-oriented speech, therefore when the speaker say *yaaay*, it is clear that the excitement it indicates is greater than had she used *yay*. Some of the other interjections are *ooo*, *ooooh* and they denote the emotion behind the communicated subject. In addition to emphasis of interjections, the use of exclamation points is very common and it adds the sense of sincerity and honesty of the message (e.g. *Perfect!*, *On my way!*, *Hopefully it will be okay!*), which proves Tannen's theory of women's excessive expressions of their attitudes towards the interaction and the other speaker, which makes the communication more cooperative and generally also supportive.

The use of the symbol *x* in this conversation is very common and similarly to the emphasis by adding extra letters, this symbol too is stressed and emphasised by the additional letter *x* and appears throughout the whole conversation even if the communicated information did not necessarily need the symbol of affection (e.g. *These are the dates I have off in December xx*). As stated by Coates (1998), Lakoff (1975) or Tannen (1990), the main goal of women's speech is to create bonds and establish friendly, polite bonds with the other speaker and the use of this symbol stresses its function and gives the whole conversation a friendly, polite feel. Along with this symbol, the conversation contains emojis that, as mentioned in the chapter 2.3.3., reflect the emotional aspects of the speakers and often occurring emojis contain smiling emoji, kissing face, heart eyes emoji and a symbol of a heart. This would be most likely considered unmanly in any conversation between two male speakers, therefore it suggests that female speakers always make sure to show and express the affection towards their female friends.

There is a specific group of adjectives in this conversation that Lakoff describes as feminine (e.g. *cute*, *lovely*, *perfect* etc.). When we take into consideration the already mentioned use of emojis, the emphasised interjections and these adjectives, the conversation would appear undoubtedly feminine, even if we did not know the gender of these speakers. These features contribute to the overall effect of emotional speech in which the speakers are not afraid of expressing affection, prove their feelings and attitudes for each other and expressions like *you're my favourite person*, *I love you!* prove that these female speakers are not hesitant to use phrases that give the interaction feeling of a friendly, affectionate matters.

In this interaction, it is very common that the female speakers agree with each other frequently, they tend to show understanding of the discussed topic. This proves that their speech style is very cooperative and supportive, because by using these expressions of agreement (*yes definitely!, I thought so too, yes definitely too early* etc.) and understanding, the other participant of the conversation is given the feeling of reassurance and support. The actual vocabulary that can be considered a part of emotion-expressing behaviour is the polite form of questions seeking reassurance and appealing to the internal feelings of the addressee. These phrases prove that the speaker cares about how the addressee feels and lets them know by using these specific expressions, such as *does that still sound okay?, would you like to meet Olly..., if that's okay?, if that works* etc.).

The vocabulary of these speakers does not contain many abbreviations or shortened expressions, only *omg* and *probs* (originally probably) appear in this conversation, the grammar is more or less correct and the only noticeable feature is the omission of first-person or deictic pronouns (e.g. *will be weird coming back.., should be able to...., thought I park up..., should be about 45....*) and slang-related use of the word *like* that functions as a filler word (*It literally like disappeared*) or as means of comparison (*it was like a big puppy*). In this case, the female speech features some of the already mentioned elements, such as feminine intensifiers (e.g. *quite straight forward, quite fancy that...* etc.). These features contribute to the polite and very friendly atmosphere of the conversation. It is obvious that both speakers feel at ease talking to each other, they do not hesitate to show affection and support and the speech is very cooperative, both women express their thoughts and internal feelings, which is in a contrast with the mixed-gender conversation.

MALE – FEMALE



Liam: male, 23 years old

Serena: female, 22 years old

Met two years ago through mutual friend on a bonfire night

One of the most noticeable features in this conversation is the use of interjections that is, in comparison with previous analyses, excessive. The speakers' use of these interjections suggests that it can function either as an additional value to the expression of feelings and attitude or, considering the context of this not-so-personal interaction, filling element that makes the messages seem friendlier and laid-back. The emotional connotation behind

these interjections vary (e.g. *oo wow*, *oo very nice* functions as an expression of admiration and support; *ahh I see* functions as understanding and indicates the addressee's support, *haha* functions similarly as the laughing emoji etc.) and interestingly enough, they are used by both speakers.

The use of abbreviations is not very common, there are only a few abbreviated expressions (lmao) that do not add a significant meaning to the text. However, the use of emojis and symbol x is quite frequent and the emoji that is used the most is the monkey hiding its face () and smiling face emoji (). These emojis add up to the emotional connotations and function as additional feedback to the preceding message in the conversation. Crystal (2001) suggests that despite the inability of CMC, there are still methods of indicating the feelings-oriented response and that is achieved by emoticons. This conversation does not contain any coarse language, the only swear word being *ass* used by male speaker does not make the conversation seem any less appropriate than if the word was omitted.

As in all the previous conversations, there is a set of adjectives that could be assigned to the gender of the speaker. Female speaker uses rather feminine adjectives along with feminine intensifiers (e.g. *nice and early*, *romantic*, *nearly finished*, *highly doubt it*, *quite a bit*, *a bit stop start* etc.) which contrasts the word choices in the previous analysis in which she chose undoubtedly feminine and women-like words. It can be assumed that the choice of words is influenced by the addressee and if the addressee is of the opposite gender, there is a slight shift in the choice of feminine words. Male speaker uses more neutral intensifiers that do not denote a particular emotive aspect (e.g. *very nice!*, *quite private*, *pretty important*, *a little warmer* etc.) Similarly, the only emphasis is used by the female speaker and that is by capitalisation and division of the word (*OBSESSED*) that is essentially affected by the spoken discourse in which speakers tend to emphasise words by intonation and stress.

A feature that Lakoff often mentions is the use of tag question by female speakers and that is proven in this conversation as well (*you only care about the food don't you*), along with the use of hedges (*kinda*) and shortening of words (*prob*). When it comes to the actual expression of both speakers, they both tend to use certain phrases, however, the male speaker uses them more often (*two birds one stone*, *full on day of budgets*, *good stuff!*, *hot minute*). As Coates (1998) argues, the speech of men tends to be less grammatically correct, it frequently contains non-standard forms and the speech tends to

be more related to their social status. The non-standard speech occurs even in this conversation and that is by using the grammatically incorrect expression *could have been worst*. On the other hand, female language is more elevated, contains more polite forms using standard correct grammar and the use of idioms and phrases is less common. In this conversation, there is only one phrase that distinguishes itself from the rest of the text and that is *I ship them*, which essentially expresses the attitude towards certain people who the female speaker considers perfect for one another. This is something generally done by women, as men are less gossip-oriented and does not focus on the relationships of other people.

When it comes to the style of the conversation, it is informal, yet very polite and friendly. The informality of it is influenced by elements such as using *yeah* by both speakers when they agree with each other or the omission of words. The omissions are very frequent, and words omitted are either auxiliary verbs or personal pronouns. Male speaker tends to use the omission more often (e.g. *much planned with them?, you dropping me goodies off* etc.), as stated by Coates and Lakoff, while the female speech tends to be more proper and grammatically correct except a few instances, such as *what time you leaving?*. The omission of personal pronouns occurs in the speech of both participants (e.g. male speaker's messages: *almost finished, never forgot to shove it up... can't wait to actually get...*; female speaker's messages: *was driving then, should maybe search that up, finally made it, currently baking* etc.).

As both speakers keep their language informal, the expression of feelings and attitudes is influenced by the context. Therefore, when the speaker uses the word *same*, which is used by both of them, it is clear that the word indicates understanding of the speaker. By relating to one another, the conversation gets not only more polite, but also more cooperative. When a participant of a conversation shows that they agree and relate to the speaker, along with polite forms (e.g. *would you mind sending me...*), it strengthens the bonds between the participants and create a friendly, affectionate. Overall, it is clear that this is a typical friendly conversation and it is obvious that these speakers are good friends, even though they do not share too personal information. Both of them lead the conversation in a kind and polite manner, they express their feelings with ease but at the same time not excessively and both of them tend to express their feelings and attitudes through emojis and interjections.

4.3 Male participants:

This is the part with male participants' conversations which is clear to see, even from the first look at these interactions. Even at only one glance, it is impossible not to acknowledge and notice the very different language between two male speakers than the ones of female speakers, in the previous analyses. The differences occur on all levels of language and it is very fascinating to compare these text messages.

4.3.1 Analysis 6.

MALE – MALE

Saleem: male, 26 years old

Jay: male, 27 years old

They grew up in the same area

The first feature that is used the most throughout the whole conversation is the use of abbreviations (e.g. *lol, lmao, wtf, ftw, gl, omg, hbu, btw* etc.). The abbreviated language suggests that the communication in which it is used is very informal, it does not necessarily denote any emotional context, as it is more on the gender-neutral side of language. Similarly, the informal and non-standard form of agreeing and disagreeing (*yeah, nah*) is rather gender-neutral and occurs in CMC very often and because it is not gender restricted, it appears in all of the conversations I have collected. Swear words appear a few times in this conversation and not only in these mentioned abbreviated forms, they are also used independently (*shit*), along with weaker forms of coarse language (*damn, flippin*) Considering the context of the whole conversation, the use of profanities and expletives is not very frequent, therefore it can be assumed that the speakers participate in the so-called banter – defined by *Oxford Learner's Dictionary* as “friendly remarks and jokes” – yet they are aware of the boundaries of using such strong language.

On the contrary, what somehow denotes the emotional aspect of the conversation is the use of nicknames. As I already mentioned not only in analysis 1., the use of nicknames is related to the expression of closeness in a friendship group. As children refer to one another by various nicknames, this habit persists even in the language of adult people and they often reflect social status, biological aspects or physical similarities. The nicknames that these speakers use for each other consist of *bro, man, u rat, yo* or *g*. These

nicknames could be considered defining of and asserting of an identity (Rymes, 1996).⁵⁴ Therefore, if a male speaker refers to the other as *bro*, it can be assumed that their friendship is very close and brother-like. However, the opposite meaning could have the nickname *u rat* which would suggest that the addressee is insincere and dishonest. There are contextual aspects that need to be taken into consideration when describing nicknames like these, however, in this conversation the overall language style is based on friendliness, which is why we can assume that these nicknames are all based on friendship.

The vocabulary and grammar of male speakers is far less precise and correct, which according to Coates is not rare, especially among men in working-class. The use of shortened words, phrases and expressions along with abbreviations is the most noticeable feature. Both speakers tend to use the shortest words as possible (e.g. *u* instead of you, *r* instead of are, *fam* instead of family, *tho* instead of though, *k* instead of okay, *doc* instead of doctor, *smth* instead of something etc.). In addition to the shortened expressions, the chosen adjectives in this conversation are very slang-based and could be considered masculine (especially *junky*, *wounded*, *safe*) and those that are more gender-neutral (*nice*, *furious* etc.) are balancing the conversation to make it appear less tough and man-like.

There are a lot of phrases, some of them are very specific and gender restricted (*crack a cold one*), some of them might be seen as offensive or inappropriate (banging your girl lol) and some of them are more neutral (*how's you*, *u down?*, *what's up*, *u good?* etc.), yet they still appear as man-like due to the context surrounding them. Similarly, the omission of final *g* in verb forms (e.g. *sayin*, *feelin*, *linkin*, *doin*, *flippin*, *chillin*, *thinkin*, *finishin* etc.) makes the conversation appear more laid-back, careless and closer to the spoken language. J. Gray and D. Tannen (1990) argue that because of the natural men's need to be dominant in the conversation, they perceive the interactions with others as means of maintaining of social status and by maintaining their dominant and assertive language, they appear far more goal-oriented and powerful. This applies for the speakers in this conversation as well, because the goal here is to use the language to maintain the status in this particular friendship group by choosing appropriate expressions to achieve this goal.

⁵⁴ Rymes, Betsy. "Naming as Social Practice: The Case of Little Creeper from Diamond Street." *Language in Society*, vol. 25, no. 2, 1996, pp. 237–260. Web.

Along with several phrases that suggest the vernacular, non-standard form of verbs, the conscious and voluntary substitutions of certain letters – as if trying to make a phonological transcription – to bring them closer to the spoken discourse appears in this conversation in the form of the word *gainz*. This element is related to the use of contracted versions of phrases such as going to, want to etc., which turn into *gonna order Mexican, gotta book a place, gonna go, gotta ask, wanna go, imma call*. If we compare the use of these non-standard verb forms to those the male speaker uses in the following female-male conversation, it is very interesting to spot these differences, as the speaker in the conversation with the male seems to attempt to use as little of the language as possible and expressions as short as possible. Similarly, the non-standard and incorrect verb form in this phrase *I only seen it or where you bro* proves Coates's claims about the male speech being non-standard and close to vernacular. However, these incorrect forms do not ruin the overall interactive function, more so, it proves Gray's claims that men and women speak completely different language and due to the expectations of the speakers what the conversation should be like, miscommunication tends to occur.

Overall, this conversation is not very comprehensible for an outsider and it is easy to analyse the features it consists of. There are usually a lot of inside jokes, which does not appear as funny or amusing for someone outside the friendship group and the grammar can be very hard to read at times. We can assume that these speakers are good friends who got used to each other's speech style and the specific form of expressions, as their language shows informality and ungrammatical elements that only close friends can understand.

MALE – FEMALE

Emma: female, 27 years old

Jay: female, 27 years old

Met on Tinder and stayed friends

This conversation differs from the previous one on many levels of language, including the syntactical, morphological and lexical level, as well as even the use of emoticons, which is unusual. It is very interesting to compare these two excerpts because at the first sight, they do not even seem to be both from the same person. The most striking feature is the vocabulary by both male and female speakers. The words speakers use represent the discussed topic, therefore words like *spiritual* used by female speaker or *materialistic*

used by male speaker are appropriately chosen and while observing the conversation from the outside, the use of such words make us feel as if the speakers try to make each other question everything and express the most internal thoughts, which is for a mixed-gender conversation usual.

While the conversation might seem elevated and the subjects discussed are very intellectual, there are features that might be comparable with spoken language, specifically with the use of filling words when talking about something deeper. Thanks to phrases like *wellllll* or *yeah well yeah*, the speaker has more time to think about typing the actual message and even though it is unnecessary, it is a way of merging written internet discourse with spoken discourse. In this conversation we can see the use of the multifunctional word *like* again, which I talked about in previous analyses (5.,2.) that simplifies the language because it can be used in any context and proves the informality of the language, as it is considered a non-standard form.

When it comes to expressions of feelings, it is clear that this conversation contains many expressions and many situations in which the speakers are not hesitant to share their attitudes and internal thoughts. This contradicts linguists like Coates (1998) who argue that men have difficulties expressing their feelings and emotions, however, this male speaker even admits his faults and bleak sides of his personality (especially while discussing veganism). Similarly, while these linguists consider men as assertive and less feelings-oriented, this speaker pays attention to the way the female addressee feels and makes sure she does not get confused by the discussed topics (e.g. *if that makes sense to you*). By using phrases like this, we can assume it indicates interest in quality conversation. On the other hand, female speech contains polite-forms of questions (e.g. *can I ask...?*) which, as Lakoff states, is a significant feature of women's speech.

Another noticeable feature in this conversation is the frequent use of phrases and idioms that are used by both participants, although more frequently by the female speaker (e.g. *make or break*, *fills my heart with joy*, *line of thought*, *put a bug in my ear* etc.). The male speaker uses one interesting phrase *been a sheep*, which has more negative connotation due to the contextual use (as he is describing himself). Basow & Rubenfield (2003) claim that women tend to be more understanding in negative situations, they tend to relate more to the other speaker and unlike men who offer analytical approach to solving the problem, they are more likely to relate to the addressee by expressing their own personal struggles and promote the friendly connection. This is proven by this female

speaker tendency to agree more verbally (frequent use of *yeah, I agree, me too!* etc.) and to express understanding and support of the male speaker.

When it comes to abbreviations which are so common and frequent in the previous analysis, they still appear even in this conversation, but way less. Their function is to reply faster, because the abbreviations do not carry any significant meaning (*lol, tbh, imo*). They can be considered as an unnecessary addition to the speech of both speakers. Interestingly enough, even this conversation contains one swear word, *shit*, which is used by the male speaker, which proves Lakoff's theory in which she claims that women tend to avoid coarse language. Along with the use of abbreviations, there are some symbols, specifically the already discussed symbol *x* and emojis. These symbols function as supporting elements of the emotional connotation of the given text message, similarly to the interjections that do not occur very often (*aw, haha, oh*).

This conversation is the exact opposite of the previous one because it is very comprehensible, grammar of both speakers is, usually, more or less correct and topics are very different, much more intellectual and the thought processes are different due to the speakers' attempts to discuss spiritual topics that are unusual and uncommon in male-male conversations. It is clear that it is important for both speakers to share their internal thoughts and feelings, even if their opinions differ (e.g. opinions on veganism). Vocabulary of both speakers is rich, more conventional and extensive.

4.3.2 Analysis 7.

MALE – MALE

Ryan: male, 21 years old

Gary: male, 22 years old

Met in college, they play online games together often

Similarly to the first male-male analysis, this interaction is very different to those female-oriented conversations in which the level of grammar is very unlike these ones, as well as the discussed subjects and matters are far deeper, as Lakoff claims is the natural element of female speech. Not only does the grammar differ this much, but also the actual choices of words and expressions of thoughts and feelings are used differently. However, there are some similar features and one of them is used frequently in this conversation and it is the use of interjections. They function as additional emotional meaning to the text message, they support emotional connotations behind the discussed topics and they

indicate the emotional aspects of the written discourse, and as Crystal claims, CMC might be lacking the feedback from the participants, hence the use of interjections in text messages gives the addressee clearer idea about how the speaker actually feels about the situations, therefore *ugh* indicates annoyance and aggravation, *awh* indicates admiration, *haha* amusement and similarly other interjections (e.g. *ow*, *oh*, *ouh*) convey the emotional meaning of a message better than pure text.

The use of hedges was assigned to women's language by Lakoff, but even this male-male conversation contains hedges which contradicts Lakoff's claims that hedging is a sign of women's lack of power. It is said, that hedges are lacking assertive aspects of language, but interestingly enough, this conversation does not show this effect. This feature can be considered rather as a substitute for intensifier and is not related, in this context, to the status of the speakers. The informal language consists of colloquial contractions such as *shouldda* (should have), *gonna*, *wanna*, *gotta* or *woulda*. This feature appears in many of the previous analyses and has the same effect on the meaning. Along with these non-standard expressions, there are verbs with the reduction of their final letter (e.g. *pickin*, *streamin*, *doin*, *partyin* etc.) which, according to Coates, is related to the male speech being closer to vernacular and this proves that it is valid in all discourses – written, spoken and internet discourse. Similarly, the use of phrases such as *get smashed*, *for a pint or six*, *bummer*, *scars the crap outta me* etc., can be considered masculine due to their meaning, as well as non-standard and slang-related, therefore a part of the language close to vernacular.

The use of intensifiers is undoubtedly excessive and there are used various intensifiers that could be even considered feminine, such as the intensifier *so* (*so chill*), which Lakoff claims is feminine intensifier. On the other hand, the intensifier *very* is considered manly and that one is used here as well, along with its shortened form *v* (*v productive*, *very well polished*). Some of the other intensifying adjectives are *quite*, *extra*, *super*, *a lot* etc. It is interesting to compare the use of *a lot*, because one of them is emphasised by added extra letters (*there's a looooot of the story*) and one is more emotionally neutral (*which hurt a lot*). The emphasis is can be either by adding extra letters to the particular words or by capitalised letters, in this conversation there are both combined (*REALLLLLLLY*, *BUUUUT* and *a looooot*). The function of these words are to put emphasis on the words, so the speakers can express their attitudes or stress the given context in which they are related to.

Another noticeable feature that occurs very frequently is abbreviated speech. There are many examples where both speakers use abbreviations (*idk, lol, lmao, imo, tbh, dw, btw, wtf* etc.) as well as shortened expressions and phrases (*tho* instead of *though*, *ya* instead of *you*). Lakoff claims that men tend to use coarse language and expletives more often than women and we can see a proof of that in this interaction. There are several cases in which both speakers use profanities and swear words – both strong and weak (*damn*), which suggests that they are familiar with each other's humour because it can be considered inappropriate or even offensive at times (*cripple club*). The ideas about what is or is not appropriate varies and often it is hard to establish the limits in which these words are acceptable, but friendship groups are naturally used to the same idea of appropriateness, therefore phrases like *pile of crap* or *shithole* the speakers deem acceptable or even desirable for a particular effect, such as using *fucking* as an intensifier (*fuckin amazing, fucking corny*).

When it comes to the lexical items of the speakers, their vocabulary often revolves around gaming and specific games, which shows their interests and their knowledge of the topic, as it is discussed often after the specific speaker expresses their thoughts on it. Therefore, phrases like *new battletech DLC is amazing looking, and they added in a big patch to fix nearly all the small issues people had with the game* or *and then added in more content ontop of the DLC* might be an unusual way of expressing internal thoughts and feelings about a certain thing. As Lakoff (1975) argues, men's language is more concerned with activities and hobbies than women's language and this conversation proves that as the speakers discuss their hobby or an activity.

As I already mentioned in previous analyses, nicknames are a part of language and friendship groups from early childhood, up until adulthood. These speakers refer to each other often as *mate* or *man*, which can be considered as a way of expressing their affection (particularly by using *mate*), because nicknames like these are common in friendship groups between people who are close to each other, which is a proof that these speakers are good friends. What is an interesting, yet noticeable feature is that both speakers express their polite behaviour which is proven in many messages, usually when apologising or when the speaker is interested in the other participants thoughts and asks about them (e.g. *what do you think*), which proves that the friendship is rooted in respect and tolerance for one another.

Overall, this conversation is quite polite and shows two speakers, friends, with same interest in video games, which is proven by their choice of vocabulary that revolves

around that topic and might not be very clear to someone outside of this community. Their relationship is not based on sharing personal information, even though they occasionally talk about personal things, they never reveal anything that could potentially be used against them or further discussed.

MALE – FEMALE

Gary: male, 21 years old

Lisa: female, 22 years old

Used to be neighbours when they were kids, stayed close since then

First noticeable element in this conversation is the use of nicknames. The speakers relate to each other by using affectionate nicknames (*bubba, bee, noodle*) that they are very close. All the nicknames that appear in their interaction are positive and they function as means of deepening their connection. Even just by taking into account the choice of these nicknames, we can assume that their friendship is very personal which is proven in the text as a whole, because the speakers discuss personal things that they might be hesitant to tell someone else outside their friendship group.

An interesting feature is the very frequent use of interjections. As I already mentioned in many of the previous analyses, the function of interjections is to denote the emotional aspect of the communicated information, to emphasise the attitude of the speaker and provide the speaker feedback, because unlike real-life spoken communication, CMC lacks this feedback from the addressee. The interjections that appear in this conversation are *woah* indicating surprise, *aww* indicating admiration, *oh* indicating understanding, *uhhhhhh* and *hmm* have two functions, one as a filler word and the other as indication of the thinking process and lastly *haha* which indicates amusement and laughter.

A significant and frequently used feature in this conversation is again, the use of emphasis and the way speakers express their attitude by emphasising certain words. For example, when the speaker uses capitalised *YESSSSSS*, it is clear that her attitude towards the discussed topic is positive and she is excited about it. The emphasis in this conversation is expressed in two ways, one of them is when speakers add extra letters to the given word (*lonnnnng, sooooooooooooo nice!*) or by capitalising the letters (*OR, AND, YOUR* etc.). Putting emphasis on words like these give the overall meaning of the text a new level and it denotes the speaker's thoughts and ideas of the subject to which it relates

to. The emphasis is put not only on specific words, but also expressions and their function is to stress the whole situation and add emotional connotations into the statements and questions (LITTLE RONIN?!, THEY HAD A KID). Similarly, the use of punctuation is indicating the rising intonation that would appear in spoken discourse which is here used with the same purpose – to stress or emphasise the given context.

The style of this conversation is informal, and it is very polite and friendly interaction. Some of the often-occurring elements that appear throughout the whole conversations are abbreviations and shortened and slang expressions. Some of the abbreviations have the function similar to interjections (lmao – laughing my ass off and lol – lots of laugh, indicating amusement, idk – I don't know, indicating the unsure attitude of the speaker). Among those shortened phrases is the use of *ofc* and even contractions, non-standard verb forms *gotta* and *gonna*, which are used by the female speaker. Despite Coates's claims about men's speech being more non-standard and the grammar is less paid attention to, this conversation proves that the level of the correctness is more or less the same and the speech of both speakers do not differ from one another, which is interesting considering the previous analysis of the male speaker's language.

Both speakers are not hesitant to express their feelings or show that they agree with one another by using simple expressions, such as *yep* or *yeah*, the male speaker expresses his concerns for his female friend (*I'd have to rough him up*). This proves that men tend to express themselves as more dominant, as claimed by Basow and Rubenfield (2003). Similarly, he shows his interest in the female speaker's experience from her trip and encourages her to talk about it (*Do tell!!!*). None of the speakers use inappropriate language, nor any offensive remarks. The use of swear words is not very common and appears in only one example, in which the word *fucking* is used by the male speaker as an intensifier (*fucking terrible*).

When it comes to the vocabulary of both speakers, we may notice the use of feminine adjectives by the female participant and more gender-neutral adjectives by the male speaker which proves Lakoff's theory that feminine language tends to consist words like *precious* and *adorable*, which this conversation contains. The use of the adjective *adorable* is not gender restricted though, as it is used by the male speaker as well (*That's still adorable though*). The rest of the adjectives used by him are very neutral (*awesome, terrible, good, great* etc.). The use of intensifiers is also not gender restricted and, despite what Lakoff considers feminine intensifier, the intensifier of *so* is used by both speakers (female: *so nice*, male: *so kind, so accepting*). This could mean that if the interaction is

between two close friends of opposite genders, who know each other for a long time and share personal information, the male speaker does not maintain his masculinity throughout the whole conversation and trusts his female friend enough to use these feminine expressions, along with the feature of tag questions, that Lakoff assigned to women's speech again, but here it is used by the male participant (*oh was it?*)

This conversation is undoubtedly very personal, and it is clear that the speakers are good friends who share their internal thoughts, experiences, personal anecdotes and have their own way of communicating (e.g. choosing specific nicknames). Their vocabulary is very specific, none of the participants avoid expressing their attitudes and feelings, occasionally we may notice some non-standard expressions coming not only from the male speaker, but the female as well which suggests that the language they use is laid-back.. The style of their speech is very polite and friendly and the whole communication appears as a pleasant interaction between two friends catching up on their personal lives.

4.3.3 Analysis 8.

MALE – MALE

Ntuba: male, 23 years old

Ben: male, 22 years old

High school friends, used to play football together

Even from the first glance, this conversation is very man-like. Not only is that reflected on the vocabulary of the participants, but also the topics that are discussed are very men-related (e.g. pubs, entrepreneurship, alcohol etc.). Even though this conversation does not contain any exchange of too personal information, it is clear that the speakers are close and comfortable with each other enough to discuss their life goals. The greetings (*hiya, hey, sup*), along with the nicknames by which they refer to each other, prove that their conversation is informal, yet friendly. The set of nicknames are *bro, mate, man* and *son*, and we can assume that they reflect the closeness of the participants.

Unlike the previous conversation, this one does not contain any serious interjections that would convey the emotional aspect of the discussed topic or provide the speaker with a feedback, there is only one interjection that is used sarcastically and in a humorous way (*aww*). Instead of interjections, this conversation contains emojis which are used

frequently – the one used most often is 😊. The function of these emojis is a substitution of the lacking interjections that would convey the meaning beyond words. Emojis show the speaker support, similarly to interjections, and they give the speaker some sort of feedback.

According to Coates (1998), men are more goal-oriented and their interests tend to be based on analytical approach, which is proven in this conversation by the way speakers discuss the economic goals and aspects of entrepreneurship. Their vocabulary is revolving around their goals (*minimum wage, basic salary, 9-5 job* etc.), education (*my mind has been cooped up in my maths books*) and interests (*head to the pub*). There is a striking contrast between the topics that are being discussed, because while a part of a conversation seems more intellectual and philosophical, the other part is when the participants discuss alcohol, bars and feeling hungover.

When it comes to the vocabulary of the participants, their choice of words and expression is typical for male speech. According to Coates (1998), the use of non-standard forms and language that is close to the spoken discourse is the most striking feature of male language, which is something that this conversation proves to be true. The non-standard and grammatically unprecise speech occurs throughout the whole conversation and some of the most frequent features are omissions of personal pronouns, using contractions (*gonna, woulda, gotta, wanna*), use slang-related expressions (*got hammered, okay square, bust your ass* etc.) or coarse language. There are many swear words in this conversation, but none of them appears as offensive. The profanities include words like *shit, fuck, dumbass, ass* or *shit ton* in which the swear word functions as an intensifier.

What is interesting in this conversation is that the male speakers emphasise certain words the same way women do. While most men do not put stress on certain parts of the sentences and they rather use simple statements that are clear enough that emphasis is not needed or they indicate what the important information is by exclamation marks, this conversation contains emphasis using capitalised letters (*EXTREMELY*) or adding exclamation point at the end of the statement along with an intensifier (*very frustrating!*). Intensifiers are used in this conversation frequently and the chosen words to intensify the meaning corresponds with what Lakoff considers either neutral or masculine. Most common intensifiers are *pretty (pretty much, pretty neat), a bit (little bit tired, sparing my liver a bit)* and the swear word *shit* functions as an intensifier in a particular context (*shit ton*), along with feminine *so (so dead)*.

Overall, this conversation can be considered very polite, cooperative and full of contrasts. The participants discuss intellectual topics, and then suddenly change it to alcohol-related conversation, which makes the interaction appear less personal, yet very friendly. The vocabulary is very broad and both speakers use variety of language features that distinguish this conversation from the other male-male interactions. Neither of these men express their feelings, nor is their speech emotionally-oriented, however, there are elements that suggest that they express their internal thoughts and supportive approach to each other's attitudes. Both of them express interest in each other's lives, even though they never discuss details from their personal lives.

MALE – FEMALE

Ben: male, 22 years old

Kyra: female, 21 years old

Same group of friends, grew up in the same area and used to work in the same shop

Firstly, this conversation is no different from those previous ones in that sense that it contains, again, nicknames by which the speakers refer to each other, however, unlike those previous interactions, these nicknames do not reflect the personal friendship of the participants and they are more neutral than the previous ones. The female speaker refers to the other participant as *man* and he refers to her as *cool beans*, which does not allow us to observe the closeness or depth of their relationship. When we compare how the speakers refer to each other in this and most of the previous conversations, this one contains a very common use of real names of the participants, so instead of using nicknames reflecting a quality of the person, they call each other by their own names.

This conversation contains the use of emojis and the ones used the most are a variety of smiling or laughing emojis (😄, 😊, 😂). These emojis function as additional element to the messages, to support the emotional connotations of the given text and indicate what the reaction of the addressee is and provides the speaker with a form of a feedback. Along with emojis, interjections frequently appear throughout the whole conversation and they have the same function as emojis – to provide the each other with a feedback, therefore when the female speaker says *haha*, it indicates the amusement and laughter. Similarly, the function of the other interjections, such as *oh* (indicating understanding), *yay* (indicating excitement), *awh* (indicating admiration), is to support the text message with the given emotional connotation.

When it comes to the vocabulary, both speakers tend to express themselves using slang-related phrases (male speaker: *she hit me up, pop him a message, smasher, bummer*; female speaker: *heat up, through with it*). The use of adjectives is more or less neutral, especially those used by male speaker (e.g. *cool, stupid* etc.) and slightly more feminine by female speaker (e.g. *perfect, cheeky*). Similarly, the choice of intensifiers is related to each gender, as the male speaker opts most often for the intensifier *definitely* (*celebrations are definitely in order, definitely much better, yeah definitely*), while the female speaker uses feminine *so* (*I'm so excited, it's been so long!*). A frequently occurring feature is the omission of personal pronouns by both speakers (male speaker: *glad you guys enjoyed!*, female speaker: *just finishing packing*), which suggests that the speakers are not grammatically correct and precise while talking to each other. The use of non-standard forms (*catch any fish?*), along with contractions (*gonna*) is common in the male speaker's texts, which contributes to the whole feeling of informality and friendly environment between the speakers.

When it comes to emphasis of certain texts, there are not many examples of stressing or emphasising a text message, however, the use of exclamation points functions as intensifier and emphasiser of the whole sentence. Messages like *get well soon then!* Or *before the trip if possible!* contain the exclamation point symbol at the end of the sentence which puts emphasis on the whole text message and not just a sequence or a specific word. Interestingly enough, even though it is clear that these speakers are not very close and do not have a deep sense of trust for one another, there are many indicators of a polite conversation and more importantly, the actual context makes especially the female speaker seem very helpful, kind and generous because she offers to buy food. Along with that, she also expresses interest and emotional support by asking about the male speaker's shoulder, which suggests that she cares about other people and it is not uncommon for her to show these kind gestures.

This conversation is a typical and standard form of a friendship between two people who are not very close and do not share any personal information, yet they spend time together and still provide a friendly environment for an interaction that is taking place. Both speakers are very polite, their attitude to each other is positive and they offer help and random acts of kindness to each other. However, there is no sign or form of expressing feelings or affection, therefore we can assume their friendship is based on politeness, rather than closeness.

4.3.4 Analysis 9.

MALE – MALE

Lewis: male, 20 years old

Jamie: male, 21 years old

Friends for two years, met on a bike convention

Firstly, the most noticeable feature in this conversation is the amount of sarcastic remarks and inside jokes. Both of the participants use typical masculine nicknames (*mate, dude*) which reflect their status in the friendship group and function as indicator of the closeness and depth of their friendship. In addition to masculine nicknames, they also call each other nicknames that are considered feminine, but they serve a sarcastic function and they are not meant to be taken literally, as they are usually mocking feminine language with them, which Pilkington (1998) assigns to typical masculine behaviour. These sarcastic nicknames are *darling, boo, bae, babe* or *babes* and the use of them indicates that the speakers are so close to each other, they feel comfortable making these joking and participate in a banter interaction. Similarly, the use of the symbol *x* is sarcastic and the nickname *babe* is usually accompanied by this symbol to indicate its sarcastic connotation. And in addition to that, even the interjection indicating sigh *aww* which functions as a feminine expression of admiration, is used sarcastically.

When it comes to the non-sarcastic content of this interactions, it is clear to see that both speakers tend to express themselves and their thoughts by using minimal language and the shortest words possible, therefore it is no surprise that we can find plenty of abbreviations here, as well as omissions of personal pronouns, shortened phrases or contractions. The most frequently used abbreviation is *lol*, which functions here as a form of recipient's feedback that indicates laughter. However, both speakers indicate amusement and laughter in three ways, one of them being the use of *lol*, second being emojis and third the interjection *haha*. Some of the other abbreviations are *brb, omg, jk, ps* (Playstation) or *rn*. For the purpose of fast replies, some of the messages contain very short sentences (*smoking*) and shortened words by means of various word-formation processes which results in words like *sec, tho, min, whateves* etc. To save the time, both speakers tend to express their activities without using personal pronouns (*smoking, won't see you on* etc.) which supports Coates's claims about men's speech being non-standard and close to vernacular.

Interestingly enough, both men tend to speak in slang-related expressions or non-standard forms that would be considered inappropriate or ungrammatical in interactions with other people. One of these non-standard forms is *dunno* (I don't know) which is a contraction, slang expression, as well as vernacular form adapted from spoken discourse. Similarly, the incorrectly spelled word *halp* expresses humorously adapted form of the word help. Some of the phrases containing other non-standard and ungrammatical forms are *couldn't of been lewis mill*, *why you sending me that stuff*, or the American-english Ebonic expression *I ain't no matt*. The contractions such as *gonna*, *gotta*, *wanna* are very frequent and they contribute to the overall impression of the conversation being very informal, yet very polite.

When it comes to the choice of adjectives, we can consider them being gender-neutral. Words like funny, awful or cool are not typically gender-restricted and even female speakers tend to reach out for these adjectives, whereas words like vague, properly, unlucky appear as more of the masculine group of adjectives. Similarly to these adjectives, the use of intensifiers is rather neutral and the most common intensifier is *pretty* (pretty sure, pretty silent) which corresponds with Lakoff's theory. None of these participants use emphasis, nor do they necessarily stress particular words in the conversation. However, what could be considered a form of emphasis is the use of adding extra letters to the conjunction *sooooo*, and its function is a filler word, rather than an emphasised phrase. This conversation contains coarse language (*shit*), which Lakoff attributes to typical male speech in friendship groups. Interestingly enough, one of the expletives is used even in an expression *scared the shit outta me*, which indicates that the speakers consider the word *shit* contextually appropriate enough to add it to the phrase,

This conversation challenges the stereotypical understanding of the language differences between genders and both speakers tend to use expressive features that are normally considered feminine, like inserting tag-questions (*now that was kinda harsh wasn't it*) in joking and mocking way, or the use of nicknames mentioned in the first paragraph. We can see that this interaction is between two close friends, who are familiar with the each other's humour, hence they do not deem it inappropriate. The conversation is mostly based on banter and even though there are no signs of sharing personal things, it appears that both speakers are naturally supportive of each other.

MALE – FEMALE

Jamie: male, 21 years old

Britney: female, 19 years old

Long-time friends who share interest in bikes, know each other for about 4 years

Firstly, the most common feature in the speech of both participants is the use of abbreviations and shortened phrases and words. Some of these abbreviations are *dw* used by male speaker, *tbh* used by female speaker. Among those shortened expressions are words like *tho*, *bout* or *k*. The use of these shortened words suggests that the participants opt for the shortest expressions possible where they can, without having to sacrifice the meaning of the text message and its coherence. Shortened expressions like these save time and allow the speakers to reply faster, however, it is unclear if the goal is fast and simple interaction, or whether the speakers adapted this form of internet language into their casual vocabulary.

Related to the use of abbreviations are word forms resembling spoken language, in a way of phrases that do not necessarily mean they were shortened or contracted, only adopted from spoken discourse and applied in the written one. These expressions are *g'night* or *a'ight*. It is debatable whether the male speaker intended to enhance his vocabulary with these phrases from spoken language or whether he wanted to use shortened versions of these expressions to save time. Similarly, the use of the contraction *gonna* by both speakers is not unusual and appears a few times in the conversation. This all adds up and creates the impression of informal interaction between friends who appear to be close enough to express their attitudes and thoughts by non-standard language.

Despite the conversation being less personal and clearly the friendship not being so deep, the male speaker calls the female with nicknames like *champ* or *b*, which suggests that they know each other for some time, long enough to come up with nicknames, however, the female speaker uses no names to refer to the male speaker which makes the interaction look emotionally unbalanced in a way that the male speaker shows more affection than the female by using these nicknames. Interestingly enough, this conversation appears as being reversed, because the man shows more feelings-oriented talk than the woman. He even uses interjections expressing the emotional connotation (e.g. *awh* indicating a sigh of admiration twice). The female speaker uses interjections a few times as well, some of them being *ahahahaha* (indicating amusement) or *oh* (indicating understanding). This suggests that both speakers tend to express their immediate emotional reaction to the discussed topics, but on the contrary, they never express their long-term internal thoughts or emotions.

Just like in the previous conversations, the male speaker tends to opt for coarse language more often than the female speaker. Some of the profanities he uses are *shit*, *fucking hell*, *fuck it* and a phrase *pain in the ass*. Swear words used by the female speakers are either a part of an abbreviation (*af* meaning as fuck) or when she repeats the male speaker's statement *fuck it? Do you not want to?*. Along with the use of swear words, the male speaker tends to omit personal pronouns (e.g. *sorry*, *been playing a little*, *waiting for driver*, *won't be long now*, *walking up now* etc.) and use phrases and slang-related expressions much more than the female speaker (e.g. *nick this cap tho*, *get hyped*, *you one upped because...*). Emphasising certain parts of the conversation is not very frequent. Some of examples of the emphasised parts of text messages come from both the female (*sammee* or *awesome!!!*) and the male speaker (*nick my cap AND the drawing too*). Both of them use the emphasising elements differently; male speaker uses capitalised letters, female speaker adds extra letters or exclamation points.

This conversation is, in a way, unlike all the previous ones in which the speakers talked to each other with respect and in a polite matter, this conversation appears as less personal, the speakers express their internal thoughts and attitudes, however, they messages lack emotional context and we cannot determine whether they are really close, or whether their friendship is only based on the same interests. Another proof of the interaction not being personal is that no personal information is shared, only the descriptions of activities and no particular topic is being discussed.

4.3.5 Analysis 10.

MALE – MALE

Brandon: male, 23 years old

Kevin: male, 23 years old

Met in a pub while playing foosie, became friends 4 or 5 years ago

One of the first features that appear in this interaction and also the most striking one is the use of nicknames. Throughout the whole conversation, there are many nicknames that the men use to refer to each other that reflect their relationship. One of these are *bro*, that reflects the depth of their friendship and suggests that the speakers are close enough to use this nickname. Another interesting one is *you tit*, which is a humorous nickname that is not meant to be insulting or offensive, as it is supposed to be playful and banter-like expression. Other nicknames in this conversation are *dude* or *man*.

The vocabulary that appears in this interaction is very man-like and, for example, the choice of adjectives is very masculine and corresponds with the age and gender of the speakers. Adjectives like *rad*, *harsh*, *sick*, *lit* or *sound* could be considered slang-related expressions used in internet discourse, as well as in informal conversations between friends in the more or less same age group. Just like these adjectives, some of the phrases used by both speakers are more of the vernacular and expressive forms of speech, which according to Coates is typical especially for working-class men. These phrases contain expressions like *grinds my gears*, *get on that bird*, *hold your horses*, *gonna be rammed* or *nig nogs* and *skint*. These phrases are not gender-restricted, but as Lakoff or Coates claims, they are used by men more often than by women.

Similarly, there are cases of speech that is related to the same hobbies and interests of both speakers. These phrases might not be clear to people outside the friendship group or even people with different hobbies, as the terms refer to the parts of a machine (*spark plug wire*, *stock exhaust*, *akra*, *mt07* etc.). What is interesting is that despite the fact that most linguists claim that men are hesitant to ask for help and express their needs, one of the male speakers in this conversation is not afraid to ask for help (*gonna need your help at some point in the next couple weeks if cool*). Similarly, both of the participants use interjections and emojis that add up to the emotional connotations of the text messages. The emoji used the most frequently is laughing emoji with tears (😂) and the used interjections are *gahhh*, *ooooh* and *huh*.

Along with these features, we can find a lot of abbreviations throughout the whole conversation, some of them function as addition to the expression of attitudes, feelings and thoughts (*lmao*, *lol*, *wtf*) and some of them are more neutral (*cba*, *btw*, *hbu*, *tbh*). Often occurring words with the same meaning are *yeah*, *yeh*, *yh*, *yup*, which are all in the same group of gender-neutral words used to agree with the speaker, similarly as *same* which the speakers use here as a word which expresses the relatability of the situation. The emotional connotation is also attached to the use of emphasis and intensifiers, which in this case, is not represented in many examples. For instance, the intensifier *so*, which Lakoff attributes to the female speech, is used by male speakers (e.g. *sooo tired man* and *so bad*). Some of the other intensifiers are *nearly*, *quite* or, unusual adverb created from an adjective *ridiculously hard worker*.

When it comes to the use of non-standard forms, there are typical examples of hobby-related activities described using ungrammatical forms (*been bmxing*), some of the expressions are adopted from spoken language (*thinkin*, *goin*), contractions (*gonna*,

wanna, gotta, tryna), American-english adopted *ain't* and incorrect expressions, such as *ennit*. The use of coarse language is quite frequent too and swear words appear in phrases and even on their own (*fucking hell, cba meaning can't be arsed, fucking, fuck man, twat, fuck it* etc.). This proves that the speakers must be really close, because otherwise they would be hesitant to use this much expletives and profanities, as it might be considered inappropriate, and they would be afraid of losing their social status.

This conversation is very interesting because it shows the typical male friendship that revolves around the same interests and mutual friends. None of the speakers express their affection, even though there are contextual cues that ultimately prove their closeness (e.g. the situation when the speaker was asking for help with the bike) however, it is clear that they are very good and close friends who share personal information, slightly gossip about other people, are willing to help when asked to and they share similar interests. Despite the constant humorous expressions and attitudes, it seems like their messages are corresponding with their age and maturity.

MALE – FEMALE

Grace: female, 22 years old

Brandon: male, 23 years old

Met a year ago while working on a uni project together

First thing in this conversation that we can notice is the very frequent use of the interjection *haha*, along with emojis. This conversation consists of an excessive amount of the *haha* element in many forms and used by both speakers – the longer the word gets, the more amused the speaker is, towards the end of the excerpt, the length of this word is really extreme (*hahahahahahahahaha*). Due to the use of this interjection, we can assume that the speakers lead the whole conversation in a humorous way, therefore we may expect some inside jokes or even banter-related discussion. Interestingly enough, the use of emojis is not consistent and a variety of emojis appear at the beginning of the conversation, but as the interaction continues, the emojis are not used anymore.

When it comes to the vocabulary, this conversation is very controversial as the female speaker uses far more expletives and coarse language than the male speaker (e.g. she uses words like *pissed, shit*, weaker form of a swear word – *damn* etc., he uses *damn* as an intensifier), which is unusual and contradicts with Lakoff's claims that women tend to avoid the use of swear words, therefore we can assume that either the female speaker's

language reflects her social status or she is comfortable enough with the male speaker to use such words, because otherwise she would avoid using profanities that might be inappropriate and could damage her reputation and overall impression of her.

The use of abbreviations is also quite frequent, and some of the abbreviated expressions function as recipient's additional feedback to the speaker's statement (*lmao* functions similarly as laughing emoji), but the rest of the used abbreviations are emotionally neutral (*btw, tbh, tbf, omg*). Related to the emotional aspect of the interaction, the male speaker uses only once *x*, the symbol of affection, but on the other hand, the use of interjections, that support the emotional connotations of the discussed topic or given text messages, is quite frequent. Some of the interjections have a specific meaning (e.g. *uh* indicates thinking and hesitating, *hmmm* indicates in this context understanding, *haha* indicates laughter).

This conversation contains a group of adjectives that could be considered feminine, neutral and slightly masculine. The female speaker used adjectives from all the categories (e.g. *adorable and tiny* from feminine set of adjectives), as well as the male speaker (e.g. *weird* would be considered neutral, *fluffy* as feminine etc.). Their choice of intensifiers corresponds with what Lakoff considers feminine and masculine, therefore the intensifier *pretty* in combination with *damn* (*pretty damn good*), which is used by the male speaker would be considered typical man's expression, similarly as *really hard day* or *extremely weird*. The female speaker uses intensifiers like *far* (*far worse*), *so* (*not so much*) or *very* (*might not be very accurate*). An interesting feature in this conversation is emphasis, which is used only by the female speaker and it is done in various ways. First way is when she uses capitalised words to emphasise their meaning or to add emotional connotation to the statement, for example putting emphasis only on one word (on the adjective in *I'll just GENTLY put you to sleep*, on the verb in *you know you can DIE from sleep deprivation* or on the pronoun in *what would that make ME?*), second way is adding exclamation points at the end of the sentence (e.g. *yes!, you know I'm right!* etc.).

What is worth mentioning is also the use some of the phrases and expressions that is not very common or mentioned in previous analyses. These phrases could be considered slang-related and rarely used. They come from both speakers and each of them uses phrases that could be considered typical for their gender (*blow me up* used by male speaker, *maternal instincts are quaking* used by female). On the contrary, the expressions used by the male speaker, like *tough cookie* or *odd ball* could be considered more playful and feminine, which makes the speaker sound more women-like. In this interaction are

also used non-standard forms, which is, according to Lakoff or Coates, a typical feature of a man's speech, which contrasts with this conversation where these non-standard forms are used by both speakers (e.g. *dunno* by male, *cuz* by female).

Overall, it seems like these speakers are very close, yet their language is not showing any form of affectionate speech, however female speaker provides the male participant with advice in health-related topics, which suggests that she cares about his well-being, even though she does not explicitly telling him in the text messages. The male speaker does not show any significant signs of affection or unusual emotional expressions, nor does he express his internal thoughts or feelings. Interestingly, in this interaction the female speaker shows more features of a typical male language which may make her appear masculine or inappropriate, but considering the context, it seems that the speakers are close enough to know what they think is appropriate and what is not. There were not too many personal information revealed, which gives the impression of the friendship being based on polite, humorous level but not so deep that the speakers would discuss their personal problems or share their internal thoughts.

5. Conclusion

Despite the small, limited amount of the collected excerpts I have presented in the analytical part of this thesis, we can draw conclusions based on the features that appeared multiple times in the conversations, as well as the repetitive character of certain expressions. The extent of this research is nowhere near as wide and broad as the ones conducted by the most eminent authors (e.g. Lakoff), and it is impossible to make generalisations based on only a few excerpts, however, there are patterns that are undoubtedly intriguing and could eventually become a part of a more solid research on a bigger scale.

Based on all of the conversations I have analysed in this thesis, we can definitely say that there are many exceptional distinctions and each of the conversation is unique and each and every single speaker in these interactions has a distinctive way of expressing their thoughts, attitude and affection. As I have already mentioned in chapter 3.3, which is about gender differences based on psychology, the nuances of expressing personality traits are negligible, however, if there are any differences, women's tendencies of expressing their emotions is more prominent. The analyses of the conversations I have presented here are a proof of that, because the majority of women tended to be more straight-forward with their feelings.

Some of the most frequent and reoccurring features were aligned with Lakoff's theories. Some of these features are the use of feminine adjectives, far more polite forms and expressions, as well as more affectionate attitudes from female speakers. Not only have these differences been on a lexical level, even the grammatical forms varied, and female speakers have proved to be more precise with their language and their expressions were more correct in comparison between their language and the one of male speakers.

Interestingly, the differences between the expressions of emotions and affections were the most prominent and not one speaker expressed their feelings in the same way, like the other. In conversations between British speakers, the most occurring symbol representing affection and love appeared in most of these conversations, therefore we can presume that the speakers who use this symbol are more transparent with showing their emotions and attitudes towards other people, which, unsurprisingly, occurred the most often among the female speakers and in female-female conversations, and less often in female-male conversations, and a little to no expression of affection appeared in male-male conversations.

Taking into consideration how small this research has been, we cannot generalise the results, assume how the emotive language works and what are the differences of its use and take them as true for all the conversations that take place on the social media platforms, not even on Facebook specifically.

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Attachments

Conversation extract 1.

1.1 Conversation with the same gender

D – female, 19 years old

L – female, 18 years old

Friends for 6 months, met through University Course

D: heyaa liv, what was that place called that you was talking about on the bus? x

L: Hey girl, Fenton Fireworks, if you google it and allow your location it should come up, if not just google stoke on Trent afterwards and it'll be there x

D: aw perfect, thank you! what time you making your way up there? x

L: I'm meeting people in spoons at 4:30ish and then we'll probably head down between 6:30-7 x

D: aw yeah fair enough sounds good, got to make sure i wrap up warm, its bloody freezing lol x

L: You're welcome to join 😊 and I know!! 😂 I'm not prepared for it x

D: ooo yeah can do 😊 would need a drink before to warm me up haha! is it alright if my mate lucy tags along too? aw tell me about it, majority of my wardrobe all summer stuff 😂 x

L: I know! 😂 yeah of course! And I'm the opposite I have like 40 jumpers and hoodies 😂 x

D: aw sweet thanks! please lend me some? 😂😂 got tons of dresses lol, been looking in shops and there gone to like £30 each, looks like im freezing this winter 😂 x

L: No problem girl and hahaha 😂 take a dip in my wardrobe 😂😂 omg, it's so bad how much they raise the prices over Christmas!! I managed to get one from primark for like £3 the other day so keep an eye out 😂 x

D: Hahaha might have too! 😂😂 ooo really, yeah might have to the chairty shops, im not ashamed haha x

L: there's plenty of them in castle! 😂 were meeting in Hanley spoons at 4:30 not castle just in case you go to the wrong one 😂 xx

D: haha sweet then, pick up one before i go lol! ooo okay then well might not be bang on half 4 as lucy going watch the new thor, haha alright then going to google map it now x

D: if you wouldnt of said that,i probably would have haha x

L: Ahaha, and yeah that's fine! One of my friends doesn't get back from London till 5 anyway so no rush girl! And I thought you might have!😂😂x

D: aw thats sweet then! 😊 you getting food at wetherspoons, or just drinking?xx

L: Both I think😂xx

D: haha fair enough, may join you, cant be bothered to cook xx

L: Haha, good shout tbf! Xx

D: haha no energy on a sunday x

L: Exactly😂😂were in spoons now so come anytime cx

D: alrightyy then, just waiting for my friend to get back and will be on our way xx

D: so you get on the bus to hanley bus station then whats the weatherspoons called again lol?xx

L: Okay babe, it's called The Reginald Mitchell, it's across from the maccies xx

D: perfect okay thank you! making myself a map lolxx

D: does it actually say anything about the essay tomorrow on the KLE, because can't find anything, unless im being blind as a bat xx

L: It only says under the folder for today's lecture xxx

D: aw thank you lool, would of been there for a while, need to get my head in to gear xx

L: what have you chosen to write about?X

L: I'll send you a pic of the mind map we did in the lecture xxx

D: okay thank you!xx

D: heya liv, im super confused is it this week we got no tutorial for crim or next week?xxx

L: Hey girl, this week we have feedback for the essay plans so don't have tutorial and she's cancelled it for next week with it being the last week xxxx

D: ohhh, okay thank you for that! was getting so baffled by what it said on the kle lol xxx

L: She really hasn't explained well has she!! Hahaha xxx

D: no she hasn't 😂😂 dreading to what she says about my draft, feel like she going to turn around and say dani it's shit😂😂 xxx

L: Have you read your feedback yet??😂 I'm hoping she's helpful cause I don't even know where to begin😂xxx

D: where do you find it lol? got an email about it but doesnt say where to get it and hahaha me and you both, just going to write words and hope for the best xxx

L: Have you not looked at your glossary task marks yet then?? And baso go into the Dropbox where you submitted it and there's a button that says "view", click on that and it'll take you to the feedback xxxx

D: oooooooh, shit i havent thanks, going to have a look now xxx

L: Oooo lemme know what you got!! Xx

D: oh liv, ive done shit... got 38%! how tragic lol xxx

L: Oh no!! Can you resub it?? Xx

D: have no idea, im going to ask today at the meeting xxx

L: That's a good shout xxx

D: pray to god there is, did you know how much it meant to the module?xxx

L: 40% and the essay is 60% xxxx

D: shit, i've just got to do really well on this essay 😞 xxx

L: If there's no re-sub then yeah xxx

D: most likely isnt so guess the pressure on 😂 xxx

L: You'll be okay! Do you want me to send you some sources that I found super useful?? I've got so many honestly xxxx

D: aw yes please! thank you babe! life saver xxx

L: What's your email address? I'll send some over for psych as well xxx

D: heyy, just quick question you know how many words the essay has to be? #lastminute haha, hows your going anyways xxx

L: Both crim and psych are 1500 girl! 😂 and its finally coming together! After about 4 meltdowns 😂 hows yours going? Xx

D: 😂 oh that's alright then! omg same hahaha, been screaming at myself for why i always think i have more time than i do, it's going alright but personally think im doing it wrong 😂😂 just keep telling myself if i fuck up at least its only 20% xxx

L: Hahaha I feel your pain!!!! And I feel exactly the same, I feel like I've just written a load of shit! 😂 I'm just stressed because we have to get 70% in this module 😞😞😞 cxxx

D: yeah trust me, i've just threw a lot of shit together and hoped for the best lol, oh god yeah, just going to have to ace the exams! we can resub this though i swear xxx

L: I pray to god that we can 😂😂😂😂 xxxx

D: hahaha heard it from somewhere, uploaded it now but won't tell me the similiarity so shitting my pants xxx

L: Should be alright don't worry about it!! Xxx

D: thank you! just can't wait until everything handed in and can finally breathe xxx

L: Same!! Just got geogebra to submit and then it's all done and we can chill for Christmas! Xxx

D: woop woop yeah same, just done it now, hoping for the best haha xxx

L: All submitted and finished!! You still in stoke or have you gone home? Xxx

D: yeah same! feel like a weight been lifted of my shoulders lool and still in newcastle, not sure when im going back yet xxx

L: Ahhh fair enough! Going the SU tonight for bar clearance if you're up for it! Xxx

D: Aw man was going to go but they sister picking me up tonight instead 😞 hope you have fun anyways xxx

L: Damn!! Well have a good Christmas! Xxx

D: I know! Yeah you too! and a happy new year haha xxx

L: 😊xxxx

D: Heyy, do you have any idea where the PC labs are? 😊 I'm guessing the library but not sure if its different for other people xxx

L: Hey!! Which PC labs are you in? I'm not sure, I'm gonna head to the library at 12 and ask at the desk 😊 want to meet me at the entrance to the library? Xx

D: I have no idea lol, I just know the PC lab when I last checked, hopefully they have a list 😊 oh yeah please outside here now just smoking a fag xxx

L: Okay will be there in 5 babe cxxx

D: Alrightyyy then xxx

L: Are you in the smoking thing? Xxx

D: Yeah haha xxx

D: Can you see me is are you just asking haha xxx

D: What time is the psychology revision tomorrow xxx

L: 12-1 babe xxx

D: Aw thank you! Sorry I messaged so late was a little drunk 😂😂 xxx

L: I thought you might have been after seeing the piccolo status 😂😂 xx

D: Hahaha oh yeah, it's that app game, pretty good, gets you smashed fast lmao x

L: My go to game before a night out! 😂xxx

L: What time are you coming on campus? Xxx

D: Aw man, thought I could go to sleep for half an hour before but my alarm decides to not to go off! 😞 xxx

L: I'll send you the notes I made babe xxx

D: Omg thank you so much! You still on campus?xxx

L: Noo I've gone home xx

D: aw no worries xxx

L: I've shared some more revision stuff with you babe xxx

D: aw you're a legend, starting to stress now lmao xxx

D: thank god we get to redo them, is all i keep thinking haha xx

L: same same hahaha and I know!! So scared ahahaah xxx

D: hahaha tempted to take some Valium before it starts or smoke a spliff 😂😂 xxx

L: hahahaha sounds like a shout tbf 😂xxx

D: 😂 know any dealers haha xxx

L: If you want one I could find one 😂😂😂xxxx

D: 😂😂 I joke, if I had a spliff before the exam, I'll be tripping out rather than relaxed haha, can't handle if anymore xxx

L: 😂 bless you, probs not the best idea before psych 😂😂xxxx

L: Hey babe, you on campus? Xxxx

D: Heya not yet, on the way now though xxx

L: Okay babe xxx

D: Where you? At campus now xxx

L: Sports hall xxx

D: Alrighty then, on route there now xx

L: Just seen you I think, you got that workshop at 10 too?xx

D: No babe, still in bed hanging out my arse hahaha. Xxx

L: hahaha, found your doppelganger then or im just still half asleep, good night then im guessing xxx

D: i was like that sunday pmsl xxx

L: My body thinks otherwise 😂 but yeah was decent 😂 and oh god I can imagine, wasn't Sunday comedy club?? 😂xxxx

D: hahaha you not have anything today? and nah im mean hungover wise, this is after the headphone disco, i spent the last of the night with my head in a bowl😂😂 i kissed this kid outside i can't even tell you what he looks like ahhh xxx

L: I'm in at 12 so I'm gonna have a cold shower and sober up😂😂😂and ohhhh!!! Yeah I saw you dancing with my friend max at one point😂had to pull him away!😂and omfg, you legend😂😂😂xxxx

D: 😂😂 and a nice coffee! oh my god was i , honestly can't remember for the life of me that whole night, don't even remember giving in my headphones haha xxx

L: Yep!! And yeah😂I was pulling him away like “no hunny you ain't god enough to dance with her”😂and omg😂I remember bumping into you when you were getting your headphones and you were pretty smashed then as well😂xxxx

D: 😂😂 aw bless you, yeah was fucked from the get go, woke up with tons of friend request from people I didn't even remember speaking to haha xxx

D: So excited for your bday thooo xx

L: Omg😂😂😂that's so funny!! I'm so excited for my birthday😂I'm thinking of doing something for my actual birthday as well if you're up for it😂xxxx

D: Any excuse to get drunk I'm there 😂 what you thinking xxx

L: Probs a pub crawl or something😂xxx

1.2 Conversation with the opposite gender

J – male, 20 years old

L – female, 18 years old

Friends for 2 and a half years, met through working together

L: Morning gorgeous xxxxx

J: Morning beautiful xxxx

L: How are you? Xxxx

J: Tired and stressed haha, last exam tomorrow and we're only just revising for it! You? Xxxx

L: Oh bless you! Just getting my nails done with muma, enjoying a bit of relaxing before I have to start revising again xxxxxx

J: Lucky you! I'm not going to be replying for a bit now baba because we're putting our phones on the other side of the room. I love you xxxx

L: I know!! They're really pretty, I'll send you a picture hahah! And okay baba! I love you too xxxxx

L: WE GOT 76% IN MY MATHS ASSIGNMENT

J: btw love your nails

J: Very pretty

L: Why thank you

L: They're quite long

L: But I kinda like it

J: Oops didn't mean to send that pic

J: but there you go

L: Well you ruined that

J: Can that photo really ruin everything

L: When you're flirting yes

J: All we do is flirt and chat shit

J: Usually at the same time

L: Can't combine the two

J: Well how can I argue when I'm flirting with this

L: Fuck you

L: I'm blocking your number

J: Go for it

J: I'm cool

L: thought you were gonna be cute and send a selfie of me but no

J: Nah you kicked off so I wasn't gonna be nice

L: Male logic

J: Female logic is you be horrible and still expect me to be nice

J: That makes no sense

J: On that confident note

J: back to revision

J: Talk to you soon! Love you xxxx

L: No I wasn't being horrible you sent a picture of a wet baby!

L: K bye

L: Love u

J: Goodnight my beautiful baba 🥰 I love you more than anything xxxxxxx

L: Good morning gorgeous!!n good luck, do me proud😘love you😘xxxxxxxxz

J: Morning you! I tried my hardest and I think I may have just passed 😊 not sure though 😊 love you too! Xxxxxxxxxxx

L: Did you leave early or was it just a short exam? Xxxxxxxxxxx

J: Left early, wasn't able to answer anymore 😊 how's baba? Xxxxxxxx

L: Oh bless you😘😘I'm okay, struggling to focus on these mock papers, they're really difficult😘don't understand how it's gone from the class test to this😘😘Aeron is also really poorly so I'm looking after him as well! How are you? Xxxxxxxx

J: Ahh damn, you can always come round once your parents are home if you want? I can make you food and look after you so you can just focus on revision? I'm okay thanks, just a bit sleepy but so glad the exam period is over for me now 😊 xxxxxxxx

L: I would but no ones home until tea time😘and good!! It's alright for some😘xxxxxxx

J: Yeah still come round! I can pay for a taxi if you want 😘 can even help you with revision if you're here! Xxxxxxx

L: Nooo it's okay, if I come round I'll wanna stay over and Sandra's funeral is at 9am so I'm not gonna want to get up for that either xxxxxxxx

J: Ahh of course I forgot 😘 where is it taking place? Xxxxxxxx

L: It's okay sweet! It's at carmoutside crematorium, then there's a wake in her local pub afterwards xxxxxxxx

L: Hey you! are you okay?xxxx

L: Are you alive?

J: Hey, yeah are you? And barely 😊 can ring me if your free? I miss you 😘 xxxxxxx

L: Morning gorgeous! Xxxxxzz

L: At the wake now😘xxxxxx

L: Are you up?

J: Lol now I am 😊 just got up and that was only because of the heywoods viewing 😘😘😘 how are you? How is everything? 😘 xxxxxxxx

L: What time did you go to bed? And I'm alright, really not in the mood to revise but I've got an exam tomorrow so I need to suck it up😘😘😘xxxxxxx

J: Pretty much as soon as we went off! I was clearly very tired 😊 oh baba, I know must be shit but just make sure you crack on a bit and you'll be fine 🙄 remember you literally just need to pass! I love you xxxxxxxx

L: 🙄🙄🙄the questions are really difficult so I'm debating whether I'll actually pass or not! I love you too xxxxxxxx

J: If you want we can face time in a bit and I can go over some stuff with you? What time is the exam? Xxxxxxxx

L: I'm working through a paper now so I'll see how I do! What time can you FaceTime?xxxxxxxxxx

J: I can actually FaceTime now for a bit?

L: Hey sweetie you free??

L: Joey I really need your help

J: I'm here I'm here

J: So guess who has had literally no sleep

L: If it helps I've been on and off all night

L: Still waiting on a taxi

L: In a taxi xx

L: You up???

L: If you awake hoe call me xoxo

J: Where are you? Xxx

L: We've been served cxxx

L: We're in the ballroom

L: We here

J: Yeah in a taxi now

J: You home?

L: Are you okay??

L: Just got in

J: Yeah in a taxi now

L: Okay we're waiting at the front door for you

L: Where are you??

J: Ballroom, centre at the back

L: Joey you need to hurry up

L: Don't forget to ring the doctors xxx

J: All done
L: Good good xx
L: Give us a ring when you finish XX
L: Almost home xx
L: We're in the su safe xx
J: Okie dokie let me know when you're coming home xxx
L: Will do, love you xxx
L: I hate myself
J: Why?
L: I've just sat in a cold shower
L: Cause of last night
L: I'm so sorry you had to deal with me
J: Usually it would be okay but I'm dead
J: Loving the 9-5 life
L: I'm afraid to eat anything but I really want a sausage sarnie
J: Just have toast
L: Where are you
J: Colin reeves big PC labs
L: Which one is the big one
J: The main one as you walk in
J: It's the really obvious big one
L: You on your own?
J: No with Sabin
J: I have to leave to do a group project thing at 12
J: I'll be back at 2 tho
L: You hungry?
J: For food? Yes
L: Quesadilla?
J: I love you
L: I'll take that as a yes, I love you too
L: Does Sabin want anything
J: Chicken please
J: Me and Sabin are staying on camps to finish the reports
J: So it's up to you whether you go home or not

L: I'll speak to cass

L: We're heading home now

L: Do we know the whereabouts of the northern clan

J: He messaged me an hour ago saying they were leaving

J: I'm in K2

L: Okay I'm with some girls from my course

J: We're in the outback

L: Okay still in ballroom

L: I love you

L: He's taking a route I don't know so here's his details *just in case*

L: Your taxi has arrived, Reg number is LV62 TDX it's Colour is WHITE Be BOOKED be INSURED get into the RIGHT TAXI For your FARE refer to in car (PDA) METER

L: Mate he's purposely taken the longest route

L: He's gone down into trentham and looped round up to longton and then he's gonna go longton go home

L: So it's gonna cost like £10

L: Cause he hasn't set his meter up as bentilee he's done it as "as directed"

L: Running a little bit late but should still be there not long after 11 xx

L: On my way from Newcastle now xxx

J: Okie dokie baba! My lesson finishes at 11 then we're going SU xxx

L: Want me get a seat in squirrel? Xxx

J: Yeah if you want baba xxx

L: Got a booth in blueprint cause I don't think squirrel is open😂

J: It will be xxx

J: Shutters on the bar will just be down

L: I'll wait till you get here then

L: Hey gorgeous how's you

J: Hey beautiful I'm good thankyou! How's you?

L: In need of baba cuddles

J: Come here and I can hug your face

L: Do I have clean underwear at yours?

L: How do u text me and then just disappear😞😞😞

J: Hey baba! Sorry I've been on the phone to my parents for ages then I just got caught up doing some stuff 😂 as far as I know you have some clean underwear but I'll check in a min 🙄

L: I feel like I might pass out

J: Hey sorry been swimming 😊 you feeling that bad?

J: Was about to ask if you wanted to workout tonight but I'm assuming that's a no

L: A workout might help

L: I genuinely feel like I might cry

L: I'm leaving you for 24 HOURS

J: No pls don't

J: I love you

L: I DIDNT GET A KEY

J: Oh fuck

L: I love you too

L: Can you hide your key pls

J: Getting one done now

J: I'll give it you tomorrow

L: How much do I owe you? And I need it before uni so I can shower lol

J: I thought you needed it Friday

L: Tomorrow is Friday hun

J: Oh shit yeah, I forgot it was Thursday

J: It's on top of the boiler

L: Don't forget about the key

J: Okie dokie

J: I've overslept big time

L: Oh no!! What time should you have been up?

J: I feel dead

L: Me too me too

L: Is the key defo on the boiler

L: I'm gonna start ringing you when you need to be up! You need a nanny

J: I'm gonna put the key up my bum

L: Well that's not helpful

J: It's on the boiler

L: Whereeeee

J: ON THE BOILER

J: YOU CANT MISS IT

L: have you managed to pull yourself together

J: How are you

J: Nice butt?

L: I'm doing okay

L: Just got to ur house

J: You found the key?

L: Yeah but the back door was already unlocked, that really needs to be checked more often

J: The key that I got cut didn't work so I just left mine

L: Weird

J: Oh, either I forgot or will has been out

L: You gonna take it back?

J: Yeah of course

L: Something from ASOS has arrived for you today

L: Gonna head home as I feel really ill

J: For me?? And Okie dokie gorgeous, have a lie down

L: I think it might be that t-shirt that you designed and I'm gonna try but I have so much work to do

J: Oooo cool!

J: An hour or so will do you some good

J: Besides we can do some work together tonight

L: Come home

L: I want cuddles

L: Fuck your education

J: I have one more lecture

J: I have to attend because he doesn't upload it

L: What a fanny flap

J: Can you not hang around for a bit

L: Where r u

J: Coming back now

L: Okay see you soon

J: Hey walmo, I don't know if you'll see this but I was going to take that chicken in a wrap or something if that's okay? I'll obvs replace it 🤔

L: Hey sweet that's fine, probs gonna have food whilst I'm out xxx

J: You coming my pub? Xxx

L: I'll message Dani now and see what we're doing xxxx

J: You still at your pub? Xxxx

L: No I'm getting ready to go out now xxxx

J: Let me know what's gwarning then xxxx

L: Waiting for a taxi now sweet xxxx

J: My mum tried ringing me so of course I tried ringing her back when I was in the cellar and Catrina caught me and is now chatting shit to everyone in the pub

J: Even told Tom but he doesn't give a shit

J: Literally the moment she would tell someone they'd come up to me and tell me 😂

L: Hey sweetie did you make it in on time

J: Yeah had to get an Uber, I'm so broke after this

J: Sabin is a no show though

L: No way, have you heard off him?

J: Yeah same, he was up till late as well so I kinda guessed it would happen 😂 nah I've messaged him and tried calling but nothing

L: I'm in chancellors refec right now 😂

L: I'm also staying on campus until late as well cause I'm completely changing my report again

J: Okie dokie, I'm trying to be as quick as I can but this weeks problems sheet is pretty hard

J: My price for helping you later is a coffee waiting for me as I arrive and a cookie

J: Because if I don't have caffeine in me I will genuinely fall asleep

L: I'll get you a coffee when you arrive

Conversation extract 2.

2.1 Conversation with the same gender

Olivia: female, 18 years old

Lowri: female, 19 years old

Close friends for 3 years, met at sixth form (school)

Lowri: What's acc happening with bonfire night, are people still going spoons. I'm lonely and wanna see people

Olivia: Awww bless you what day is it again? I'll try my best to get everyone together xx

Lowri: It's the 5th I'll be there. Bonfire night!!

I miss people

Olivia: So a Sunday

Should be able do that

I know Leo doesn't work Sundays Neither do I

Lowri: Okay good, thank you!!

Olivia: No problem babe xx

I've just seen lord farquard in a cafe at keele didn't realise she came her

*Here

Lowri: Ong I always see her snapchats like 'going to uni' I'm like that's like most people in our year then u mong

Olivia: So many people from college go keele it's mad

Lowri: I know I always see people on snapchat and I'm like that's a lot of people

Olivia: Literally

Every corner I turn

There's someone from college there

Do you remember that really tall guy Jono?

He did geography

He's in like all my lessons

But I don't know him enough to have a chat with him so we awkwardly smile at one another and sit next to one another so it looks like we have friends

Lowri: Omg that's so awkward

He wa in my geo in the first year

It must be kinda nice to see people

I'm can't wait to hear like English again

Properly

Cause 2 hours of full Swedish with no English first thing on a Monday nej

Olivia: Ewwwww Pre warning babe It's 1 degrees today 1

It's literally freezing

So you're gonna be cold

I can imagine!!!

Do you speak more in English or like other languages now?

Lowri: Omg

It's 11 here and I'm cold cause of the water That doesn't make sense

Olivia: The water???

Lowri: The canals make it colder

Olivia: Ohhhhhh That makes sense

Lowri: Sorry I didn't explain well And nah, use English most but like

Olivia: It's okay hahaha

Yeah you're not surrounded by it are you

Lowri: But like Swedish is like please don't

Olivia: In the same way you are here

Lowri: I got 70/100 on my test For Swedish

Olivia: Ayyyyy thats dead good!!!

Lowri: And they said it was a fail :(((

Olivia: I'm sorry how?????????

Lowri: And yeah I need English

Olivia: How is that a fail

Lowri: Cause idk, it was 5.1 which is an E in England

Olivia: I don't like how they do uni in dam WHAT THE HELL

Lowri: Nor do i

Like I needed 5.5 to pass the whole course and I got 5.4 so I have to do a resit

Olivia: I legit just got 70 out of 100 on stats and it's a first??? And yours is a fail

WHAT THE HELL

Lowri: And I was really upset and cried for like 3 days

Olivia: That's so shit

Oh babe 😞😞😞

Lowri: Then I got the rest today

And they were like yeah you were 3 marks off passing And I was like wtf

Olivia: They could find 3 marks!!! They're just being nasty

Lowri: They could listen to my speaking exam again and try and get more marks I passed speaking



Olivia: Easy!!!

Lecturers are such knobs

Especially when it comes to giving you extra marks

Lowri: Even tho they marked my speaking as a D, but I didn't think it was that bad

Olivia: What even

I hate ur uni

Lowri: Cause I would have thought 50/100 would be 5 (E)

But no, 74/75 is a 5

I was so sad cause I thought I totally fucked up, but I only dropped 30 marks, for an exam in Swedish it's not that bad

I need to get 60/80 to pass my linguistics exam

Olivia: Omg that is actually so shit

Are you coping with everything okay?

Lowri: No

I'll show u how much homework I have for one Swedish lesson

It won't let me screenshot

But it's a whole a 4 page

And then I have another 6 pages of phonetics a week

I've had a six hour break today and have a lecture 5-7 rip

Olivia: Oh god

Is it just Swedish that's got shit tonnes of work

Or is linguistics bad too

Lowri: Linguistics used to be like an hour homework a week

Then now phonetics is 10 hours per week

Olivia: Oh god

That's so gross

Some girl just came and sat next to me and has been talking to me for like 25mins

And I was trying tell her I've got a deadline and I need to do my shit

But she just kept talking

And talking

And talking

Lowri: Omg, that's no fun, just tell her you're sorry but you have to do your work
When's your deadline
Or like laugh at what she says and nod or whatever but then keep typing so you turn
away
One more hour and my 11 hour day is done
I did work for 6 hours earlier and I thought I had loads left but I only got 8 pages of
Swedish left
So that means like only an hour and a half left for tomorrow
WINNER

Olivia: Woooooo!!!

And I escaped her eventually

Lowri: Which is good cause I have Zara Larsson tomorrow too so I was panicking I
wouldn't have enough time

Do I want 4 hours of Swedish then 2 hours of phonetics on Wednesday tho
With no break

And I am proud of you

How did you escape

Olivia: When I read that I was like "no way is Zara Larson a lecturer at lowris uni" and
then I realised

Hahahahaha

And I told her I needed food before my lecture

Which wasn't a lie

Lowri: Omfg

Yes, Zara Larsson does my Swedish lessons now

We're that good

You didn't lie

'I need food' 'you are eating now?' 'I always need food' Hashtag me

Olivia: Imagine Hahahaha

Lowri: I think I'd enjoy Swedish more then Swedish is so so similar to ditch
Dutch

So the Dutch are doing great

I'm like here like I need more time

Olivia: Sorry babe just and the worlds most boring lecture

Awww

Oh bless you

I'm dreading doing a language

Lowri: Omg, how come it was boring

And yeah it won't be too bad for you

Cause they don't expect you to know Spanish

They put the lights up

Olivia: Telling us how to write a lab report oh yeah tbf

OMG I LOVE IT

I wanna go back

Lowri: Oh wow, that sounds like great fun

You should come back!

Sorry about my birthday it was just yeah it was just a mess

Olivia: You know

And don't worry about it babe!! Will have to come visit for a weekend in the new year or something

When you've not got a lot on x

Lowri: Yeah deffo do it!

Best in like January

Cause that's the only time I don't have Swedish



Whooooooooo

But we got a new lecturer for this topic, cause the time table changes every 8 weeks, and he doesn't use PowerPoints so this could be a hard term

I preferred the lecturer for the introduction to linguistics bring back Eva Van Lier

Olivia: My exams finish second week of January if you're down for a visit then?

Oh fuck man

That's really harsh

that sounds like such a fake name

Lowri: Oh yeah deffo, I have to do a transcription paper then And I'm in uni 2 hours a day for 4 days

So like

Lots of time to work on it

Like he seems like a fine lecturer and everything, even tho he informed it it was his first day today, just I prefer to have PowerPoints to revise from

But he's one I think I'll learn a lot from

But bring on February when Eva Van Lier comes back

I say that like she isn't my tutor and I don't have a general catch up meeting with her in like 2 weeks

Olivia: Yeah tbf

I feel you tho

Power points are the best

Lowri: Oh yeah deffo, I need them

My friend just sent me a voice recording and I think she's hit a wall or smth

She sent me a voice recording about how she's excited that janneke (teacher) is good because she puts the PowerPoints on after the lesson and we should be grateful for that and how excited she is to go to Ikea

And idk if she's okay

Olivia: Omg

I think you might have to check on her Sounds like she's gone loopy

Lowri: But

Idk, I'm going a concert with her tomorrow She should be fine

Olivia: She'll probably break at the concert

Lowri: I bloody hope not

She's got suffer 4 hours of Swedish with me tomorrow morning

Olivia: Maaaaate

4 hours straight???

Lowri: Yup No breaks

Olivia: Hahahaha

So you literally only have time to swap rooms?? My timetable is piss compared to yours

Lowri: Yup!

Olivia: 2 have my lectures have been cancelled for this week tho

So I'm 2 hours down

Lowri: I have like 10 mins break every hour but that's it, I want food not 6 hours straight Your week is so busy omg

Ours never get cancelled

Olivia: Mine get cancelled all the time

Yours looks like nothing but it's like hardcore

Lowri: Like every other week that Wednesday phonetics gets moved to 6-8 on a Tuesday So much effort to keep going in to central dam

Olivia: Does it cost a lot For travel

Lowri: Like €1.60

But I got a pass thing for it so just scan that instead of like paying each time

Olivia: Can you not get like a student pass or something?

Lowri: Which u can't even do but ygm

Nah

Cause student pass is free

Olivia: Your message sent as I sent mine

Lowri: But only for Dutch students

Olivia: What even That's so rude

Lowri: If I've lived here for 2 years I can apply for it But I haven't

Obviously

Olivia: So you'll have a cheap 3rd year

Lowri: Nah cause I don't think it works that way

Like

You have to have been living here 2 years not as an international student Like permanent residence

Olivia: Ohhhhh That makes sense

Lowri:

look how nice this weeks homework is compared to





next weeks

Olivia: Woah why do they hate you

Lowri: because the dutch can read swedish without even knowing the language
so they expect we know a lot
but don't

well the dutch do cause words are so similar and the grammar is exactly the same but

Olivia: Shit man

I don't understand why your uni is so mean

Is there no one you can go to for extra help or anything

Lowri: Nor do I

I'm gonna go to Eva To talk to her

Cause she's my tutor

Olivia: That's a good shout

Lowri: Cause I feel like I'm doing two bachelors

Olivia: I get you

It shouldn't be like that

Lowri: It really shouldn't

I have done my homework now tho All is good

Olivia: Winning U can chill

Lowri: I'm meeting Belana in centraal in like an hour and I only just got out the shower
I canny chill

Olivia: Oh shit hahahahaha

Fun

Lowri: Oh okay she changed the time

Don't have to be at centraal till 3.45

All is good

Olivia: Ahhh your winning

What u gonna wear??

Lowri: I put my københavn top with shorts and tights on

And even tho it's gonna be annoying it's freezing so I got my coat and hoodie

Olivia: Cuteeeeeeee

Have fun

I'm super jealous

Lowri: I'm waiting to go in and it's so cold

Olivia: It'll be worth it!!!

Just gotta power through girl

Lowri: And now I'm

Alone

Cause Belana went to the toilet

Olivia: Oh no

You'll be okay

It's gonna be okay

I know I'm of no use

Lowri: She's back

Olivia: As I'm in a different country

But hey

Woah that was a fast wee

Lowri: She went like 10 mins

Olivia: Okay that wasn't a quick wee

Lowri: Nah wasn't a quick one

Olivia: When you gotta pee you gotta pee

Lowri: It doesn't start until 8 We just found out

Olivia: What time do the tickets say it starts??? That's so shut

Shit

Is there nowhere warm you can go??

Lowri: Well doors open at 6.30 But doesn't start till 8

So 17 mins to go

Olivia: Whaaaaaaat

oh god I forgot you're an hour ahead

Lowri: Yes! Not as bad as if it was english time like

Olivia: Has she not got a support act?

And I know

Lowri: Yeah she does! But that's 8-9

Zara at 9

Olivia: TF?????

I'm judging

Have fun being cold Curtesy of Zara Larson

Lowri: Hahahahaha all thanks to Zara I get frost bite

Olivia: And a night of entertainment What more could you want

2.2 Conversation with the opposite gender:

Carl: male, 19 years old

Lowri: female, 19 years old

A couple, dating for 8 months

Lowri: I decided I'm deffo coming home in my break Cause 3 hours 45? Chilling st uni on my own? No thanks

Carl : do it! also

Lowri: Yes

Carl : next time im around, we'll go to AH and HEMA and ill take list of EVERYTHING that you like/ will eat, and I'll try and help you plan like, balanced meals, mainly for post workout but also whenever you have time like

Lowri: Okay kokey, that could be a good idea

Or dirk, cause dirk is cheaper

Carl: all 3

i meant dirk tbf rather than hema

I mixed the names tho

but yeah!! i think it will be!

and We'll try some new things and cook from yours like

Lowri: Ahhh! I was kinda confused about hema I found out there's a Lidl also

I just found out I have like £85 Too

That's not in my bank

Cause Mum has £50 at home that she hasn't put in my bank yet And I have £35

Carl: apologies ooo is there now Oh wjnnerp thats huge tbf

Lowri: Yeah it's not bad

Carl : postive development imo

i want to go for a walk at lunch hmmm might drag someone to the tate

Lowri: Hmmm go for it I wanna go the Tate But I never went

Carl : I might do it depends tho how coemsv

Lowri: Cause I trecked all the way to Buckingham palace didn't I
Then it was too late
Then I couldn't walk
Carl : You did indeed
you could not, that is true
Lowri: My legs were like NOPE and I was DYING
Carl :I bet!!!
but
the health benefits are worth it
Lowri: Oh yeah I know, I wish I could walk that often
Carl : Oh yeah i know 😂
But
you'll get better and stronger when you add protein into your diet more!!
Lowri:Oh yeah I know
I mean I could literally walk more
But I have work, and it's cold so I just wanna be at home
Carl : i know hun
whats your lesson start? is it 1?
Lowri: it starts now yes but on my laptop so
Carl: Ahh right! i gotbu
hello laptop
Lowri: yes, you're talking to the laptop
Carl : and it is replying
Lowri: shitttt yeaaaah you be right
Carl : MY CARD ARRIVED
i didnt get a notification wtf
Lowri: YAY
Carl : i am right tho
Lowri: ill let you off
and you can buy your phone now
Carl: thank you x
I can indeed
about to get a dog and bone AHHHHH
Lowri: oooooo, which one are you getting 8x???

Carl: 8+ 256GB

Lowri: thats what i meant

oooo goals

Carl : Space grey

Lowri: i want one

Carl: i cant wait tbh gunna be SICK



Lowri: i'm gonna get one next christmas i think i hope

Carl : OOO do it!!!

Lowri:well, i think my parents are gonna get it for me like a new one whatever is out by then

Carl: ooo that could be quality then

Lowri: i mean, i hope

like i could afford a new one now but im still waiting for them to bring PINK OUT AGAIN

Carl: that could be very good

oh yeah i know

Pink is goals

i wanted black but (...)

Lowri: Why dont you get a black one then

Carl : they dont do it anymore

Lowri: oh no sad

Carl : ikr very

Carl: The trains are fucked

And im not cold

Lowri: Well that's a surprise

But now how come they're ducked Fucked

Carl: im just so FULL of surprises

One's doors were broken so they all stopped

sent a selfie

Lowri: Thats so dumb

I had a WEIRD DREAM

Carl: IM NOT DUMB

oh u meant the trains not the picture ignore me

Lowri: Yes the train Ffs

Carl: What was ur weird train

WELL U DIDNT COMMENT ON IT

Lowri: Are u ok

I'm sORRY, ITC CUTE

Carl: i am ok x

weird dream not train fuck

THANK YOU

Lowri: Noticed in the end 😂😂😂

It was weird, I was in a hotel waiting for you, cause you were at Tesco for 8 hours for some unknown reason, and it was December, before Christmas, and eventually after your 8 hours in Tesco you came back, with no foot for some reason, then ate a cookie off the floor then we went up to my bedroom

Carl: Ffs

Lowri: Food* not foot

Carl: WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY FOOT

and why are u making me eat like a dog ://

oh

Lowri: I meant food

Carl: i realised now

Lowri: I didn't, you looked at the cookie went 'I'm starving' and picked I up off the floor and ate it It*

Carl: :///

Forcing me to eat the scraps

Lowri: It was apparently hairy

Well if you hadn't have gone to TESCO FOR EIGHT HOURS TO BUY FOOD THEN NOT BOUGHT FOOD YOU COULD HAVW COOKED SMTH

Carl: wtf ://

WELL IF U CAME WITH ME

Lowri: You insisted on going on your OWN Omfg

You know cam? From the friendship group?



Apparently this is his tinder thing, lucy sent it in to the group chat

Lucy and Katie are in the photo more 😭

Carl: well y should have stopped me :/ i do

wow 😭😭😭 i mean tbf



id be hiding too lifeguard

Lowri: i should have done

but like its HIS TINDER

and hes hardly there

i did the test for chapter one of the dutch book and i got 98% so i'll take that

Carl: You should have

i KNOW ffs

its terrible

ooooo

Proud of you!

Lowri: like they're gonna expect katie or lucy and get him

funny

and i mean its only the basics

Carl: 😂😂😂😂 funny tbh

poor people

Lowri:

'Did'

\$

Carl: dont anymore :(((

Lowri: I was just quoting that

What post did u make

Carl: i know u were

i didnt

it was a reblog

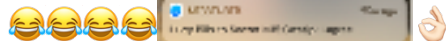
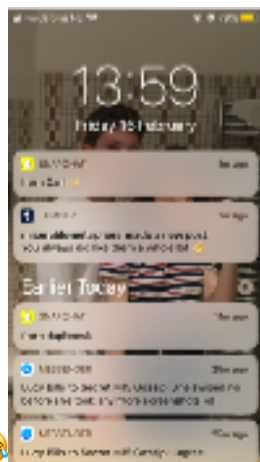
Lowri: My left calf feels like how my left hamstring did when I proper damaged it

So I think I give up with my left side

No right, not left

Carl: Oh??? you sick note

Lowri: I really hope it gets better



And isn't painful for like three months straight like my hamstring

Carl: it will im sure

Lowri: Physio woman didn't care she just wanted to beat my hamstring up

Carl: 🤣🤣🤣🤣🤣 ffs

beat it up

Lowri: She did

Carl: how did she beat it up

Lowri: She was just like now let me put my fingers in the muscle and PUNCH IT

Carl: :////

kinda aggressive imo

Lowri: She had her fingers on the part of the muscle that was extremely painful poking it and then you know what she said ?

Carl: ouchhh

what did she say

Lowri: she said

'you dont keep still do you'

Carl: 🤣🤣🤣🤣🤣 funny

Lowri: i was like

YOUR GIANT FINGER IS POKING MY MUSCLE

Carl: sorry, was wrapping one of your packages its gonna be 3 or 4 separate packages
BUT I SEE THE PAIN

Lowri: how come???

but thank you

i ate a bowl of yogurt again, hashtag mistake and oh so painful

Carl: Bc of the weight, each box needs to be below 2kg

Lowri: really???

Carl: big mistake yeah, for royal mail

Lowri: oh dear thats no fun, but thank you!!

Carl: its okay!!

you know what else is no fun?

Lowri: whats no fun

Carl: the EXTREME pain my hand is in



Lowri: same with my leg

try and get some like heat cream or numbing spray

Carl: we are a right pair of sick notes

im gonna have ibuprofen

Lowri: we acc are

see if you can get anything stronger

Carl: We are ffs

what do you mean?

Lowri: stronger painkillers

Carl: ohh!!!

ill see how these do first

Wrapping the third package

Lowri: exciting

YAY

Should I get excited over spaghetti hoops and beans? Probably not

Carl: very

all 4 are PACKED

ofc you should :////

Lowri: I have DONE my Dutch homework

Carl: HAVE YOU

Lowri: Now I'm gonna see if I can be bothered to do to one of the ungraded assignments later or just do it tomorrow

Cause I can just bullshit and doesn't matter if it's exactly right

Cause no grade

And YES

Carl: Oooo do it

Lowri: And I'm EXCITED

Carl: Thats true

YESSSS

BE EXCITES

Lowri: I have Saturday and Sunday to do the remaining assignments so it's okay

Then I also have to read chapter 5 before assignment that's in for Thursday

And no thank you

Carl: it is indeed

Why no thank u

Lowri: Cause it's like 40 pages long

I have 3 assignments in by the end of next week :/

Carl: fuck that ouchhhh

no fun

Lowri: But then all the graded ones are over

So technically I could 100% fuck the others up

And it wouldn't matter

Carl: Thats a winner then!! silver linings!

Lowri: Cause they said we're getting the important assignments out of the way at the start of the course so then you can concentrate on the exam

Carl: Ah right!!! i got you!

Lowri: And the Dutch midterm doesn't count for anything

So it's all on the final exam

Carl: Ahhh!! thats true got a focus then

Lowri: Yeah, like it shouldn't be /too/ bad I don't think

Like we're going through things at a pace that's acceptable, and repeating lots

Carl: It shouldnt! Thats good then!

Lowri: The teacher is like 'this class is picking Dutch up weirdly quick' and I'm guessing she says that to all her classes for motivation but

Carl: I mean, idk if you would say weirdly if it was

Lowri: Cause we did this activity and everyone was done in 30 seconds

And she was like what you're acc done ??

And we were like yeah and she went through the answers and everyone had got everything right and she was like right okay then

Carl : 😂😂😂 the swedish stress meant everyone's brain has learnt to adapt and learn at superhuman speed 😂

😂😂

"welp ok then"

Lowri: There's only 3 of us that were in Swedish

The rest are from different courses all together

Carl : ahhhh i got u

still tho

Lowri: Yeah, I mean it's very very basic stuff

Carl : but still

Lowri: I be in so much pain

Carl : how comes hun

Lowri: Cause of my leg

The muscle feels like it's just burning and getting tighter and tighter

Carl : ohhh

you need to keep stretching it for a bit then leave it for a while

😂😂😂😂😂😂

Lowri: I'm trying to keep it active

Like walking round

Still haven't got my package from my mum

Carl : Ahh right stretch it too

You beed to do that

Lowri: I am trying but it makes me feel sick the pain is that bad

Carl : thats not meant to happen

Lowri: It looks kinda swollen

So much pain

Carl : thats not good hoot ahower on it

Lowri: Hoot Hoooot hoot

Carl: Hoot

get a hot shower

thats what o mean

Lowri: Nope I be hooting

Carl : why ://

Lowri: Cause I gotta hoot now

Carl : ://

hoot in a hot shower

Lowri: I'm eating through the pain

It's working a lot more now

Probs cause I get up to pee every 2 seconds

Carl : Im glad!!!

Oooo thats good then



drinking water a bit

Lowri: I finally got myself to drink enough water

Carl : proud of you!!

Lowri: Thank u

Carl : u r welcome

Lowri: 💕💕💕

Carl: Miss u

Lowri: I miss you too

Carl : can we facetime today?



Lowri: Yeah sure

Unless my Mum rings me, cause she said she wanted to ring for like just a catch up

Carl : oh yeah, thats fine, let me know what happens

Lowri: We can face time till she rings / after whatever time she rings

Carl : Okay!!!

thats fine xx

JUST DID THE MADDEST MOVES TO FINISH WARSAR ON CHAOS

Lowri: I dot even have it unlocked

Carl : Im WINNING then its a fun one tbh

Lowri: I haven't played it in about 2 weeks

Carl : i cant get south so im going east :o

Lowri: Go for it !

Carl :Why havent u played

im home btw

Lowri: Uni

And I'm glad

Carl : ah right!! fairs!!

Lowri: I just moved and kicked my calf by accident

Ouch

Carl: Ouch!!! thats not fun!!

Lowri: I squealed 😂😂😂

Carl: i bet!!!

New phone!

Lowri: I would like to DIE

Carl:You CANT

still doing the same thing

my phone is set up!!!

presumably youre either doing hw or on the lower with Wendy

Lowri: Oooooo yay! That's cool

I was looking at accommodation for next year

Carl : ahhh i was t even close

but im signing into all me shit on me new dog and bone

Lowri: Nah not at all

And fair enough

😂😂😂😂😂😂

Carl : 😂😂😂

nice sugar coating it

Lowri: Just being truthful

Carl : i know 😂

let me know when ur good to facetime

Conversation excerpt 3.

3.1 Conversation with the same gender

Rhiannon: female, 23 years old

B: female, 24 years old

Known each other for one year, met in university

R: I'm such a little loser, I got ethical approval and I'm so excited about it hahaha

B: YAYYYYYYYYYYYY

congrattzzzz

R: Thanks so much xoxoxox what a big day

B: big day indeed

can u start testin now

R: No I still need to finish making it in psychopy

So that's my plan for tomorrow and Friday

B: Then I need Wakefield 🙄 to refine it for me



B: Why

R: Is this what she wants us to do?

She just messaged me

B: She wants me to do it

I said no

R: Is it her ethics thing?

B: Yeah

I can't do it tomorrow I have experiments all day and then have to go straight to meet David

R: She has asked me when I'm at uni tomorrow

But I'm doing Annie's experiment

B: sorry forgot to ask are you on any medication 😊]

R: Only for acne lol

B: xoxoox

i'll find a way to get that into my dissertation don't you worry

R: Hahahahah

Ok xo

R: I feel so fancy. I decided to go to a talk at Oxford uni today on multilingualism

B: That is fancyyyy

R: Got grant proposal back

B: Oh shit I don't want to look at mine

How was it

R: Mine was awwwwful hahaha

But a merit overall

B: What did you get?

B: So that's fine

58

Let me know how you do xo

R: My stats mark for the first coursework went up to 74.5% so my overall mark is 66%
Which I'm fine with

B: Yasss!!

R: Woo

B: 66 is a strong merit

R: It's a bit disappointing after the distinction I'm stats bu5 I can't quibble with a merit

B: Bu5

I like that as an alternative to but

R: Hahah thanks

My spelling is as good as my grant proposal
Trust me I bet people got WAY worse than 58
I'm trying to think of a subtle way to ask

R: Yeah I think it's a fair mark considering the effort I put in

B: Some people will have got 40

R: Which was minimal hahaha

B: Yeah you're probs right

B: How was yo exam

R: Low merit

Which is better than expected but I'm not thrilled about it haha how about you?

B: Same with me

R: I was expecting something in the 30s

B: I'm happy because I wrote a pile of a shit

Ahahah same

R: Same

Like mine was so awful

How did you self-hair-cut go?

B: So fab thanks

R: Gooooood, v glad

If you fancy coming to the festival on Saturday then I'll drive us there, I can pick you up! Just let me know if you want to come 😊

B: Hello sorry for late reply

My dilemma is that selina asked me to volunteer

R: Ohhhhhh I seee

B: And I didn't want to so I made an excuse

So not sure how it's going to look if I now turn up!!

R: Selina ruining everything

B: Ahahaha

R: Yeah that's fair enough

Are you at uni today?

B: hello!

i am indeed

R: this is like the second time i've been in where its been easy to find a seat in the library

B:ahaha woo

have you sorted your psychopy issues??

R: nope

wakefield isnt in today



R: so stressed l o l

annoyingly, it seems he is the only person who can help haha Olivia said shes going to speak to him tomorrow

considering i'm just waitin on Wakefield and i cant really do anything else i'm just going to start writing my abstract and introduction etc

B: Good that Olivia's gonna get involved

R: yeah, she was like "i head him say it would go online, i was there!"

shes got my back xo

B: Aww yay

R: Look at our psych group

What annie posted

B: Thats annoying of Annie I would just ignore it tbh
I will do it first thing tomorrow!!

R: Thanks
Aw thanks gal

B: I am sure it works lol

R: Soz I wasn't concentrating when i sent that first "thanks"

B: ahahahah dont worry

R: She couldn't find the answers to one of the questions because she didn't scroll a long
Ffs

B: l o l
she kept pointing out spelling mistakes on my questionnaire
i was like i dont care mate just get on with it

R: Ffs
Thats so irritating
It's annoying because the questions on my questionnaire are quite confusing and
strangely worded, but I didn't come up with the questionnaire I just copied it from
someone else haha

B: yeah i like annie but i think she thinks shes a bit academically superior to us
which she may well be
but still

R: then surely she will be able to work it out

B: haha quite

R: she didnt even make her experiment

B: yeh i know!!

R: sorry
still cant get over that ha
i will stop ranting haha

B: no honestly its fine

R: i was explaining to my dad about how she didnt make her own experiment and the whole idea and study was just given to her. I think its unfair that we are going to be marked against the same criteria when we have clearly put more time and effort in

B: yeh i agree

R: anyway... i'm waiting for her to point out that in the second stage of my study there is one section where i forgot to write 'press the space bar to continue'
i'll get a message like "I'm unsure how to proceed because there are no instructions"

B: ugh thats so annoying

R: oh well

B: im going to moan to sanjay that annie didnt make her experiment because its really unfair
i spent literally five weeks making mine
and so did nila

R: yeah same!
its redic

B: tbf i think most people have made their own
it does seem unfair that she was just given it

R: spent the last week battling with Wakefield which i think deserve extra credit in itself haha
yeah she didnt even make a questionnaire

B: yeh i agree wakefield a nightmare

R: when i spoke to her about making my experiment she was like "well i dont have any experience with qualtrics or psychopy so i should probably try them out at some point"

B:
interesting

R: yeah
sorry, how is your experiment going?

B: its alright lol

R: have you done all of your data collection?

B: yeh but that means nothing the analysis is going to take a month minimum hel help

R: i have looked over the analysis from 1 run of my experiment and i have NO IDEA what it means so i do not envy you
i'm going to start writing all the parts that dont need analysis and data. like the introduction and all that jazzzzzz

B: gd plan

R: thnx xo

3.2 Conversation with the opposite gender

B: male, 25 years old,

R: female, 23 years old

He is her brother's good friend, they used to hang out often

R: truck this year? are you too big time for that now

B: Would love too but I don't have a ticket unfortunately and it's questionable how much effort I'm going to put in trying to get one.. I assume you are?

R: I am Yeah. great line up

B. Excellent news, yeah seems like a step up this year. How's things with you anyway? Jobbing it?

R: Yeah massively I am excited. things are good I am currently jobbing yes. how is London life?

B: I'm glad, you still in the shire yes? London life's decent. Works a bit of a grind atm though.

R: Yeah I do. goood, what do you do? I seem to remember it's something about banks?

B: Cool. Do kinda miss being back home sometimes. Yeah I'm essentially a financial adviser well training to become one anyway. Where are you working now then? Feel like I haven't seen you in years, which is probably true

R: Yeah it probably literally has been years. in working in a school in Headington. to be fair being home isn't great atm, none of my friends are home yet! this year has been socially v quiet

B: Oh cool. Well you always were such a social butterfly..

R: why are you being like this. we were having such a nice conversation and you went and ruined it with your sarcasm

B: Woah you always used to love my sarcasm. Someone's clearly changed.

R: you've read me all wrong

B: Yeah that's probably fair

R: how come you miss home??

B: Not sure really, it's just nice being home isn't it.

R: sometimes
that sounded more intense than intended

B: Haha, how's things with the bf by the way? Don't think I've ever had the pleasure of meeting him

R: Yeah I get that but living at home is annoying. it is fine, currently trying to plan a holiday but I have no idea where to go. what about you?
and no I doubt you've ever met him

B: It's better than paying an absolute fortune on rent that's for sure. Oh cool, I'm sure he's a good egg. Well we're currently in Venice and it's pretty decent. I'd give a 8/10 so far.

R: ah Venice is great!
I've only been in the winter though

B: 34 degrees today which is lovely weather for walking around in all day as you can imagine

Sarcasm

Clearly

R: sounds sweaty

B: A little yes

R: well enjoy xo

Thanks

R: Just nearly threw up from cringing so much at our messages from 2011 xo

B: It was love.

R: Hahaha

B: You like cats right. Just at the vets.

Loving life

R: Cats are great, why are you at the vets?

Are you ill



B:

Winstons ill

R: Oh my god!

That cat!

B: Just the cutest isn't he

R: Definitely top 5

B: Top 1

R: Each to their own

I thought you didn't like cats?

B: Love them now

I'm such a cat person



R: I'm glad you've seen sense

That cat is adorable I want it



R: I won't send you cat pictures back

B: Is that because your cat isn't as lovely?

Winstons ill though

R: My cats are just massive and I think you will be mean about them

B: Haha yeah true

R: What's wrong with Winston?

B: He doesn't poop very well and isn't getting any bigger. Currently at the queen mother hospital for small animals. Hoping the insurance pays out.

Only the best for winston

R: Of course

I lied I an going to send you a picture of my massive photogenic cat



B: Hahaha

Looks a bit like you tbf

R: He's about the same size too

B: Awww bless

R: Anyway I hope Winston recovers and gets bigger

B: Thanks. Just waiting for the vet to come back now. Tense times.

R: Did you have to take a day off work to go to the vets?

B: Currently just the morning but it's looking like a whole day yes

R: You're so caring, you've changed

B: Lift back from oxy later?

Right when I needed you most

R: Why would I want to give you a lift home that is so out of my way

B: on route surely. real friends came to my rescue anyway.

R: On route to where???. And I'm glad xo

Conversation extract 4.

4.1 Conversation with the same gender

Lucy: female, 26 years old

Alice: female, 42 years old

Alice was Lucy's teaching mentor

A: Malbec night! :D

Anna said she fancies a Malbec night

L: Trying to pretend to my boyfriend I don't desperately want to sleep

Anna only drinks organic

A: zzzzzz zzzzz

No Sainsbury's House for her then

L: I love the ones meant to go with steak
But I have them with melt in the middle chocolate puddings instead

A: Hahaha! I like them with wasabi peas

L: Much healthier

A: Hi Lucy. Would you be willing to sign a nomination form for a candidate in the local elections? I could pop around tonight, tomorrow or Saturday. If not do not fret :D

L: Yes will do! Shall I message when you're back? X

A: Yep, just off in the school run. I need to get the forms done the candidate. By the way, have you heard of the Progressive Alliance?

L: Nope!

A: Okay, I will explain before u get to sign!

L: Perfect!

Could you come tomorrow afternoon please? I will be home helping with Samantha's project

A: No problem, how is she anyway? I haven't seen her in ages!
Is she happy with her university choice after all?

L: Yep! She just keeps moaning about all the homework and project she has to do. :D
But then again, we've all been through this hahaha!

A: She will do just fine, physio is hard but she managed to get halfway through already.

L: I keep telling her the same thing but it seems she thrives only when she is complaining hahaha!

Alice, do you remember Jack Haywood? Supposedly he graduated ALREADY and Sam wanted to get in touch with him too!

Is there any chance you know a way we could contact him?

A: Ohh, I am truly sorry, I don't even know if he has any social media whatsoever. I can ask someone in the faculty though!

L: That would be great, thank you! X

L: Hello Alice, are you in town this weekend?

A: Hi Lucy. I am off to Headington, not sure when exactly but on Sunday there is a conference I have to attend.

L: Oh, what a shame! Sam and I planned to go out, possibly to the opening of the Fever bar on Friday or Saturday.

A: That sounds lovely! I might manage to find a wee bit of free time to do that before I leave :D

Is it ladies night?

L: Hahaha! It's whoever wants to come night! Sam might take some of her uni friends and I'm taking John with me too :D

A: Okay, could you hit me up with the details please? I will take an escort too! Hahaha

L: No problem, we haven't really decided when exactly should we be heading there but once we know I'll send you a message! X

A: ☺

L: Good luck with the conference!

A: Thanks Lucy X

A: Do you remember James from the mentoring group? He sends his best regards!

L: Aww, I miss James! :) My regards to him.

A: What a bore this conf is! :D

I remembered what a blast it used to be when we would plan these meetings, now that other people plan them it's no fun... it is the very opposite actually! :D

L: Tell me about it! Any tutor of mentor group is no fun these days :D

A: Hahaha!

L: True story haha.

L: Alice they just published our faculty list for the final group (the whole document should be in your e-mail box though!)

A: I will have a look in a sec X

A: Congrats Lucy! If you need any help just text me and we can go through the overview together if you fancy X

L: Thank you! But I hope there will not be any need for that haha.

A: As you want dear ☺)

Did you see the video of that old lady in the gym? I sure as heck feel old now, she is in better shape than I ever was, even in my 20s! hahaha

L: Yes! Hahahaha

No worries, I have ALWAYS been so out of shape it stopped being funny in my twenties so (...)

Hahaha! Kudos to her though!

4.2 Conversation with the opposite gender:

Lucy: female, 28 years old

Kat: male, 37 years old

Met in the school where Lucy worked with him

K: You should make chocolate jumbles since you've got the cutters for it haha x

L: Come on Kat hahahaha

Don't try to be funny now :D

You know I won't haha!

K: Huh, well deep fried cake from Tesco will save your ass then hahahaha

Kataruki should see this haha!

L: Kataruki would be thrilled! We used to get the sour cream doughnuts every Tuesday evening hahahaha

K: Damn! :D

L: Are you free the Monday or Tuesday of half term for catch up?

K: Thinking of going away. Could do Friday of half term? Would love to catch up x

L: Today our heating broke and I had to teach 60 children spelling in the hall because it was so cold. It felt a lot like being at Clifton Hampden!

K: If it had been CH you could have cuddled round the photocopier for warmth. I told you, if you can teach at CH you can teach anywhere!

L: All whilst during a learning walk!

K: And talking about diary dates in June.

L: People need to know!

Learning walk rescheduled for tomorrow...

K: (gif of a man walking)

Good luck with that.

Love a learning walk....

L: Maybe I'll take them to the village hall for PE lesson where they all run

(gif of a man doing weird faces)

K: Selwyn's face when he's really annoyed with you :D

L: When he was sent to Denise!

K: The self righteous anger of an over-indulged four year old!

L: Mad as a box of frogs

L: Do you remember when we went to the earths trusts because that mad boy who always wore a fleece's mum worked there?

And it was me, you, Lindsay and Julie and none of the children learnt anything and you and I were fuming because we wanted to teach maths?

And they sat in a teepee drinking hot chocolate

K: I remember that very well. It was Joe's mum.

L: He was so weird

But I remember saying if we left now we could get back to do maths and Lindsay said not to bother

Despite giving me their data and saying they weren't making enough progress

K: Yes indeed. And his mum. In fact his whole family. He's at Moulsoford school now so probably even weirder. She came in once to tell me he'd been too busy building with lego to learn his spellings or do his homework!

There's no school quite like CH! Hahaha

L: Crumbs he's probably rocking backwards and forwards in his fleece now! I don't know how we got anything done! :D

K: I'm not sure why we bothered trying really. Tag rugby in the sleet in your PE kit anyone?

Although remembering it with you does make me smile so that's probably why we did it! :D

L: It was when we drove past with my current school.
They we're like did you teach here???

K: I think that a lot.
And I was there for over 3 years!!!

L: Unbelievable! :D
We should be proud of ourselves really. In fact, we should get a medal for all the efforts and all! Hahaha

K: Preach to that!
I almost forgot how hard teaching can be in certain cases, however, we should be remembering all these fun moments to get us through this "misery-path" hahahaha

L: I would lie if I said I do not agree.
I am quite certain that soon we will be rewarded, and if anything, at least these fun times will always stick! ☺)

K: Definitely!

K: Make sure to watch BBC at 3:30!
You'll be surprised to see who will be interviewed for like two minutes!

L: Oh my god, so it's true? Haha!

Grace has told EVERYone today! It seems unreal that she will ever get herself on there.

K: We should be proud haha

L: Who would have thought that a substitute can get an interview for all of us :D

K: If you ask me, I would say nobody :D

(gif of a laughing women)

L: Hahaha! I'd be so nervous if I were her

She seemed ecstatic when she made sure everyone knows here.

K: Good for her ☺

Conversation excerpt 5.

5.1 Conversation with the same gender:

Serena: female, 22 years old

Amy: female, 22 years old

S: (gif of a cute puppy)

A: Ooooh, I hope you look like that puppy when you remember! I saw a really cute sausage dog the other day walking with a Dalmatian and thought of you <3

S: It literally like disappeared out of my head ☹ I'm sure it went too important though.

OMG cute combo, but Dalmatian *heart eyes emoji* , I saw one the other day and it was like a big puppy – that in between stage of a pup and an adult xx

Look for the happy spots in life, remember? (gif of Dalmatian dog)

What time will you finish on Friday x

A: <3 I finish at 6ish on Friday – does that still sound okay? Can't wait to see you x

S: Yes that's perfect. Just ask my manager if I can leave a bit early so I'll definitely be leaving latest 4 ☺ xx

I'll be like a fat penguin! (gif of a penguin)

I can't wait either xx

A: Lovely time to finish on a Friday! ☺ I was going to ask, would you like to meet Olly whilst you're here? We could always go for a drink after dinner for a bit if you did – he'd love to meet you but if not then no worries, can always do another time! Xx

S: I know, hoping I won't hit too much traffic, will be earlier though! Yes definitely!

Sounds good to me, where were you thinking of going? Xx

Do you start 8?

Or 8:30ish? On Saturday xx

A: Hopefully it will be okay! ☺

Not sure yet! There's a few places so will sort tonight! Lovely – we can just go for a drink at the rusty or something. I'll be starting 8:45 on Saturday xx

S: It's literally motorway all the way with the normal m25 traffic. Sounds good to me, will be weird coming back I think. Not too early then xx

Where have you booked

X

A: Yeah should be quite straight forward ☺

I haven't actually booked anywhere yet – I've been trying to call taberu since yesterday as I quite fancy that but they aren't picking up and when they do it keeps disconnecting. I'll try again in a bit – think there must be something wrong with their line.. Too early for a Saturday in my opinion ☹ xx

S: Yes. Will definitely message tomorrow when leaving.

I just had nandos, literally can't remember the last time I had it, that's why I thought and was interested. Yes, probably, will probs be able to get a table without.

Yes definitely too early for Saturday, plus I start at 9 on weekdays xx

A: Yaaay <3 you? Eating Nando's?! What did you get?

I thought so too but I'm going to try again this morning just to confirm.

We can then go for drinks at the Maggie I was thinking ☺

Ooooh is it normally 9-5 on weekdays or later? Xx

S: I know a rare moment but it was a team lunch. The Italian guy in my team was even more unimpressed with it.

Yeah let me know I'm walking home to grab some things at lunch so will have time then.

Ooo sounds perfect, yes those are my normal hours, but have been doing overtime xx

Am I able to park at yours? X

A: Should be able to – we only have one car parking space allocated to the flat which kat's car is in but there are others with V's on them which are the visitor spaces ☺ x

S: Perfect! What's your post code? X

Thought I park up around there and meet you on Cowley

A: OX4 2UQ X

S: Perfect!

On my way!

Should be about 45 to yours, just at beaconsfield service stations x

A: Lovely – just let me know when you're on your way down Cowley and I'll meet you at our place? <3 xx

S: Will do!

Am I meeting you at your flat? Xx

A: No I'm still at work so will probably just meet you there if that's okay?

Instead of walking up and then back again xx

S: on the buss x

A: see you soon x

S: I'm here xx

A: 2 mins x

S: That's alright just going toilet x

A: Of course 😊) xx

You're my favourite person, I love you! Thank you for coming to stay, miss your face lots! <3 xx

3rd, 9th, 13th, 21st December. These are the dates I have off in December xx

S: I love you and it was lovely seeing you :* Olly is lovely and glad you are happy. Think another sleepover is definitely needed and in the new year you two can come and see Brighton/ hove. I got here safely and had an alternative stop off xx
I'm thinkin the 21st I'm in London on the 22nd if that works xx

5.2 Conversation with the opposite gender:

Liam: male, 23 years old

Serena: female, 22 years old

Met two years ago through mutual friend on a bonfire night

L: It's currently me with power 🧑 a little warmer... still cold mornings! Yeah real fun.. even more fun when got 9am board meeting in Lincoln tomorrow 😞

S: Yesh I've nearly finished that 🧑. I thought it was my manager Deidre no. Oo wow that's nice and early. Are you training it or driving

I've got an early start on Friday so I can finish early to drive up to ox 🤔

L: Where you up to?

I'm driving, nice 45p per mile for fuel 🚗

Ohh how come your in Ox?

S: 5th season you

Oo very nice. What time you leaving

Coming to see Waller and then up to Uttoxeter on Saturday

L: Same, almost finished I think

6 ish I think need to route it out tbh

Ah nice, how come Uttoxeter?

S: yeah it's been good

Oo early

Amy Allen lives up there

breaking the journey up in oxford on Friday

L: Yeah I've enjoyed it!

Yeah too early

Ahh I see, makes sense.. two birds one stone

S: Did you get there on time

Yes I guess helps to break the journey. Will be driving home home Sunday night as in London Monday

L: I did.. long old drive and a full on day of budgets haven't stopped!

Yeah for sure,

Much planned with them?

then back to Brighton Monday night?

S: Are you bsck tonight

L: Yeah back 🙄🙄

S: Taberu I think. And dinner at Amy's new flat Saturday. No bsck Tuesday. In London on Monday

Currently baking 😊

L:Ooo very nice!

Ahh I see, sounds like a good weekend

You dropping me goodies off ;)

S: If some left. I highly doubt it

Finally made it 😊

L: Ahh good stuff! How was it?

S: Three hours but wasn't too bad

L: Could of been worst

S: That's not bad at all, I did that twice yesterday and I enjoyed it x

It was just a bit stop start c

L: Could be worse though! How was dinner? X

S: Sushi was good and then went to vine

L: Ahh very nice, how longs your next drive?

S: Should maybe search that up

Last night it said 1 hour 50

L: That's not bad at all, time you off?

S: Was driving then. Took just over two hours

L: Ahh that's not too bad, the split the journey again tomorrow with a trip home

S: Yes, that's the plan. Well I'm in London Monday

L: And probably some nice food

S: Yesh parents are actually in Northampton. But a bit of home comfort and good food Monday probably

L: Yeah home comforts are always good 😊

S: Tell me about that!

L: I remember my mum's snacks . those were always something I looked forward the most whilst living with James

S: I actually haven't seen James in quite a bit? How's he doing?

L: He is alright I reckon

I haven't talked to him in a hot minute because he keeps going out with that basketball team of his

S: I was wondering if he is still into basketball, he used to be OB SESSED 😊

L: Yeah, never forgot to shove it up everyone's ass when they won that basketball academy thing lmao

S: Don't be so harsh! Is he still dating Brit?

L: They got engaged shortly after Christmas actually, they are getting married in a barn 🤔

S: How romantic 🤔

I didn't even know about his engagement! I ship them hahah

L: Yeah they keep everything quite private 😊

Can't wait to actually get into food coma during the whole wedding weekend!

S: You only care about the food don't you?! Haha

L: Noo, not only that 😊

But it's pretty important to stuff the belly you know hahaha

S: Hahaha I wonder where all the food goes! If I ate as much as you, I would transform into Michelin!

L: Oh shush! 😊

S: It's true though! 🙄 I envy you for having such a fast metabolism haha!

L: You're fit though! Your figure is what the millennials call hashtag body goals 🙄

You don't need to worry about the food that much haha.

Trust me on that

A: You're way too kind! And kinda cheeky too mister! 🙄

Would you mind sending me Joshua's fb account please? Olly needs to talk to him 😊

L: No prob! I'll send it when I get home x

A: Thank you <3

Conversation excerpt 6.

6.1 Conversation with the same gender:

Saleem: male, 26 years old

Jay: male, 27 years old

They grew up in the same area

S: bro sorry man I left my phone in your car last night

J: I gave it to Jamie last night bro

S: lol wounded

Safe

Respect realised after fam went in

Proper junky

J: Yh u r lmao

I only seen it when I dropped robin off

S: Safe

J: Yeah lucky you didn't lose it

S: Lmao yeah

I'd be furious bro

Memorys shit

J: Yh worth celebrating

S: Wtf

What are you saying

Open twitch

J: Im good bro how's u

S: Chilling just with Jamie had food feel so bloated man

Too much pasta and half chicken

Gonna order Mexican anyway

Feelin burritos

Spicy life ftw

As if im not bloated enough

J: Nice

Haven't had Mexican in ages lmao

Don't really dig the aftermath lmao

So gl with that bro

S: omg lol

no risks no gainz

J: Nice

What's the gainz sayin? I've not long got out the gym myself

S: lol gains slowly but surely bro

How fam

J: That's good bro

Fam all good hbu

S: Same old same old bro

What's up bro

J: Nothing lol u goof

*good

Lmao

S: No work today

Finally

Been waiting for day off for ages

J: Same lol

Gotta book a place in Norwich

Thought u were linkin the weekend u rat

S: I was but got carried away banging your girl lol

Tomorrow caught bus today so cold wet
And tired bro hard man ☹️
Got busy had to fix my car no gym all weekend how's your eye

J: Still infected

Sucks

Gonna go to the doc on Wednesday prolly

Ain't nobody got time for the waiting tho

Need a lift too

Gotta ask my sis

S: Well if u don't wanna go all cyclop and stuff

U better go bro lmao

Reminds me of when Charlie got the ear infection and refused to go to his gp for weeks
until it was so bad his hearing got really shit lol

J: Damn that was like years ago tho

Haven't seen Charlie in a long time btw how's he doin do u know?

I'm not putting it off I just don't wanna wait there for hours or smth lmao

Just to get flippin eye drops lol

S: lol

J: Yo

S: what's up bro

What's you saying g

J: chillin u good?

S: yeh safe at work tired late nights you at work?

J: nah letting my eye get better yano

S: yeh good let it heal at work finish around 1

J: early finish bro

S: yeh what you saying

Check ur sc

Fall sleep waiting for Jamie

J: bro

S: what's up

J: u going gym?

S: yeh later maybe where you bro

With Jamie

Link up end

facetimed you

J: joe wanna crack a cold one this weekend

U down?

Bro

S: yeh

Unless sumthin comes up in work

When

J: was thinkin Saturday around 7

S: when u finishin in work?

Thought you won't make it this weekend

All good tho

J: yeh the eye is better

So I figured why not celebrate u know what im sayin lmao
Yano how it is

S: lol bro
Take it easy tho
Won't be able to ride if u go blind

J: tryin to

S: bro u know pat's address pls
She's not responding to me

J: sorry bro

S: can u ask nd find out

J: how lmao
How am I gonna do this lmao

S: ermmmm
Lmao
It's urgent bro

J: what u want
Rob her or sumthin lmao

S: need to send her individual packages from the carrier here

J: u don't want much do you lol
check ur email

S: thanks bro
Might have to go in the area
When u off today

J: idk yet

5 maybe

Hbu

S: 3 but I gotta run some errands around u know

J: hit me up when u done

Ok?

S: k

Jamies got car today

We'll pick u up if u want

J: lmao

k imma call you when im done

S: k bro

6.2 Conversation with the same gender:

E: female, 27 years old

S: male, 27 years old

Met on Tinder and stayed friends

E: Hi ☺ so whatdo you think is beyond our universe?

Because if the univers eis expanding, what is it expanding into?

S: Welllll

That's one reason I believe someone or something must have created life

Because we can never get the end

If that makes sense to you

E: I get what you mean. Like god was what caused the Big Bang.

The more I think about space and life the more I feel spiritual about it. It's hard to comprehend without believing in something more. It fills in the gaps.

S: Yeah well yeah, I get exactly what you mean like what's the point in life
Can't just all be about reproducing lol
I love anything to do with space
Makes me so happy can't explain the feeling it gives me

E: Oh yeah! Me too. I love it when I'm thinking about these sorts of things and you talk about it until your brain hurts because it's so incomprehensible. Nothing better than lying looking at the stars with someone talking about the meaning of life.
There 100% has to be a purpose. There can't be no purpose.

S: Unfortunately humans have made life shit here on earth, all about materialistic items
It's like we can't even find happiness in memories and feelings for people, only ownership of the items make humans stoked and happy
At least there are all these cool movements now that deal with reversing the mentality of the screwed up society
I find minimalism quite perfect for our era because IMO it has the power to make world a bearable place
Did you say you were vegetarian?

E: I agree, we're at a really important point in our history where it's make or break.
I actually love the fact that so many people started being interested in the environment!
From minimalism to zero waste, even to the dietary preferences! It fills my heart with joy seeing the world making a step forward and not back. For once. Haha!
Yes I am. 80% vegan in fact. ☺

S: That's a beautiful thing to do
I think reincarnation is a possibility
<http://youtu.be/1Eh5BpSnBBw>

E: Yeah I could never go back to eating meat now. I've learned too much about the industry and the damage it's doing and how the animals are treated.

I'm unsure on reincarnation but I read this really interesting story where this guy meets god and god tells him what his next life will be and this person realises he will live every life that's every been lived so he can experience every emotion and understand how his actions make other feel

S: Yeah I've seen some horrible things to do with animals been killed, but I'm selfish and still eat meat. One day I'd like to stop. Pretty much brought up on vegi food. Yeah that does sound like an interesting story. I think anything is a possibility. For us to be here is pretty amazing and mind blowing. Even nature how beautiful it is and what it does for life to exist is so interesting.

E: Can I ask why you still eat meat? I'm not judging, I just like to know peoples line of thought

I agree. How it all works together to create and sustain life.

Another thing I think about. How did it go from one day there being no life then the next day there was? Even in its similar form, how did life come to existence?

I remember when we went out that one time and you told me that not a day is the same to any other and it's all unique and every human experiences it in a different form. That made me think.

You put a bug in my ear that day haha.

S: I think I still eat meat through laziness, socially easier, been a sheep tbh

I go to the gym so can use that as an excuse lol more protein in meat etc I understand there are substitutes

I think humans were put on earth

Im a bit slow today because I'm hungover ☹️

Sorry x

E: Aw it's all okay, you should rest today x

Drink soda with orange juice, that's my secret hangover recipe which works every time we go to the frat house parties around here ☺️

S: Thanks xx

I'll definitely try

I'm getting desperate haha. I really am getting old!

Hangovers are not the same anymore haha

Conversation excerpt 7.

7.1 Conversation with the same gender:

Ryan: male, 21 years old

Gary: male, 22 years old

Met in college, they play online games together often

G: I'm home and alive

Sorta alive

Slowly dying

The pain, the suffering

Ugh

Idk if I can go on

R: ?

What's up

Lol

G: My back hurts

It feels like I'm literally dying

Shouldda write my last will

Please come to my funeral

Make eulogy

Get smashed

R: What did you do?

Also, I have meatloaf in the oven right now.

Now you can be in pain and be envious at the same time.

G: I was pickin up something heavy and some old lady ran into my back with a card of food, which hurt a lot

But I lost my handling on the heavy thing, and tried to grab it quick and hurt something in my back from doing so
Awh maaan, I only have a stale bread here lmao
Sharing is caring, come and share!

R: Oh god ow.
What are you gonna do?

G: so I'm dying
So what I'm gonna do is simply die
New battletech DLC is amazing looking
And they added in a big patch to fix nearly all the small issues people had with the game
And then added in more content ontop of the DLC
It's always nice when a dev team actually cares about their product
What do you think

R: It is!
You may not be a fan of them, but I see that a lot for Nintendo games.
Take the extra time to polish it and throw in a bunch of goodies/easter eggs.
Nobody would ever complain about that. It's a nice extra touch.

G: Well tbh, you see it a lot cept for Bethesda games, EA and activation games
There's not a lot of games that are rushed, the ones that are tend to be the super hyped things
Usually thnks to the stupid youtube community which promotes mostly the hyped up stuff imo

R: Remember how rushed Assassin Creed III was?
Yeah that's right actually that's why gamer channels are good for literally nothing.
Promoting the lamest games :-D

G: like PIBG, it was the biggest game of all time for a while, it still is a buggy pile of crap and instead of fixing it, they just try and add more content and break more

Absolutely useless I'd say

R: Also, now that you're back, VLR will start in 2:20-3:00 range

G: But then there's games like Red Dead, very well polished, Darksiders 3 is well made
Idk really I might hang out a bit with my cousin in a bit and go to a pub
For a pint or six
He's buzzed after the Gloucester trip I told you about

R: When is he coming?

I wonder whether he liked that shithole haha.

G: He already came, not over here but he texted me he'd like to come over
Unless I die from the pain before he comes tho

R: Still finishing up my meatloaf and potatoes.
Gotta eat big since I'll be streaming for a while.

G: I just assume anything from Bethesda, EA and activation isn't polished and the
release of the game is actually early access
Like the current thing from WoW
The game to me is still early access and isn't being fully released till next massive patch
in December
Yeah you better eat tons if you gonna be streamin half a day again :-D :-D
Your neck is gonna be stiff lol
I'm gonna welcome you in our cripple club dw

R: Damn, also I realised earlier today that I hadn't even installed VLR yet.
That has been rectified.
My neck is used to that :-D
Thnks though

G: Not like it takes long
Oh yeah btw

Wanna know how bad fallout 76 is doin?

Bethesda had a 50+ gb patch

But then accidentally deleted it

R: With no backups?

Ouch

G: Apparently not all 50gb

They had to push the patching back like 3 weeks

Also

R: Bummer for them.

Insane tbh.

G: All the bugs that fallout 4 has is in fallout 76, but because ther's no modding from the community, none of it is fixed

And what REALLLLLLLY scares the crap outta me

What you up to today mate

R: I got a bunch of stuff done today.

Applied for a job, highlighted all my streams that haven't been highlighted as of yet, cleaned up the kitchen, scheduled my physical and dental appointment. Been a good and v productive day so far.

I was gonna hit you up earlier today too, but folks came home so I had to be social for a bit. :-D

G: Good for you!

When did you wake up? This sounds like something that would take me a whole week :-D

Also, btw

They are using the same engine as fallout 4/76 for the new Elder Scrolls so basically, with FO76, they have 2 choices

They abandon it

OR

They have to fix it and make it great... F76 will still be hated on by the entire gaming community, BUUUUT

If they fix it all, ES6 may be the most polished game Bethesda has ever made

R: Good luck with that though.

You seem quite into it today :-D What's up with that?

G: well I mean, I hope they don't abandon FO76 cause it has potential to be amazing

Like potential to be the best Bethesda game ever

Yes indeed. I've done my homework tonight after hearing Jess yesterday and I felt useless not knowing much

R: Jess is into his stuff way too much, id say.

But it won't be their best game, Bethesda has the unique ability to almost always make the wrong choice, especially lately.

G: Way too much of not, he knows everything about everything it seems. :-D

It's all up to them if they just abandon the game all together and focus on the next fallout game or fix it, which would fix their other games... but yeah like you just said.

They're REALLY good at making the wrong choice

On a side note

Warcraft 3 remastered is gonna be fuckin amazing

R: For sure

G: Well they are redoing the story of it

When are you gonna start the stream?

Jess is coming in an hour or so, we can have a fag before that

Also, sorry for the ramble today but

When I say redo, I mean add more to it so there isn't just jumping between missions

Kinda like how SC1

SC1 was amazing but there's a looooot of the story that wasn't explained, unfortunately

R: Sorry I won't make it in an hour

Maybe later in the evening
What did they add in SC1?

G: Alrighty then
With the remastered?

R: Yeah

G: SC1 they updated the voices, dialogue in the permission briefing
Added in extra dialogue during missions

R: Ah yeah right.
Did you ever go out with that chick from EC classes you were talking about?
Found her Instagram

G: No we never went out

R: That was a mistake.
Why?

G: She woulda been celebrating 21 at the time

R: And?

G: She didn't want a random bloke there :-D
I guess

R: Lies

G: Wtf :-D :-D
She said she was gonna celebrate with her ""lady friends""

R: She was partyin with the whole club tho

G: Sounds about right, she is so chill everyone joined in

R: She seems alright
She is quite smart too

G: Well there ya go

R: I'm still sad that you didn't make your move :-D

G: Jesus...
:-D
Don't be so fuckn corny

7.2 Conversation with the opposite gender:

Gary: male, 21 years old

Lisa: female, 22 years old

Used to be neighbours when they were kids, stayed close since then

G: El el beeeee 😊

L: HAI NOODLE! ♥

G: Tell me everything
Long time no speak

L: lol it was a lonnnng 2 weeks

G: do tell!

L: well, hey parents and other family love me

G: That's great!
Who wouldn't haha
What more!

L: well, they want me to go meet the rest of the family in the philippines

G: Whoa!

That's huge, I'm proud of you little bubba

L: Aww :D

And omg they're asking when we're getting married and when I'm gonna get pregnant and if I'm gonna move to Phillipines or stay in Norwich and blah blah blah

Lol

Feels like nonstop stream of questions!

G: Haha aww 😊

And you haven't even dated for that long!

That's still adorable though

L: well apparently his aunt and uncle only for 3 weeks before they married, and his parents only dated for a few months... so I guess it's normal for them?

It feels so unreal though

In a good way ofc

G: 3 weeks? What the hell

I wouldn't marry anyone in such a short time

I see

Well, go at YOUR pace!

L: Oh I am haha

G: Good! Haha

I'd have to rough him up a bit if he was forcing you into something 😊

L: He doesn't really want to get married for a while as well, so no pressure from his family lol

But they love me at least!

Or it seems like it haha

G: That's great!

I'm really glad it's been so good

Been quite concerned at first

L: Got a whole lot of pictures... but he took them all on his phone and his dad's phone

so gotta wait for them to upload them all for me to share

I told you there is no need to be concerned noodle 🙄😍♥️

G: Fair enough 😊

That's awesome

L: but omg so many pics

Every 10 seconds they wanted everyone to get together for pics

G: Really?

Is that just a cultural thing?

L: yep

Anywhere they go, they always take hundreds of pics

We have about 800+ pics in total from the whole trip

G: Like the Japanese and Chinese in a way 😊

L: they've said i'm a part of the family now and his dad wants me to go to the
philippines to him so i can drink all day every day together

G: They're so accepting!

That's awesome

L: Omg and his aunt and uncle were soooooooooooooooooo nice!

G: Do tell!!

L: they want me to call them Tito and Tita (uncle/aunt) and invited me back to stay in their apartment anytime. They'll treat me like their own daughter and if I ever want to, I could live with them

G: That's so kind!

Very generous

L: They also fed me SOOOOOOOOOOOO much food omg I was full 24/7

G: Of course haha

Food is life

Been munching like crazy lately myself whilst binge watching narcos lmao

L: omg so how's my noodle doing?!?!?!

G: Noodle's okay!

Noodle's free from Uni for a while

L: Oh that's good! What have you been up to then?

G: Well, I've been playing Animal crossing new leaf like crazy OR watching narcos

I've also partially been playing witcher 3

Chris is playing, then I watch and make all the decisions

Which so far have been fucking terrible

So that's fun

L: hah

G: you know, release an evil spirit (without knowing it's evil) to save some kids

Then kill someone's mum with it after which her ex husband (who was trying to find her) commits suicide

L: I gotta play Witcher 3 sometime then, it sounds really great

G: AND to make it worse, that spirit destroyed a village

L: Well hey, you saved the kids at least
...right?

G: I know right!

L: ok good

G: It just gives you such difficult decisions

Also, we should play games again 😊

Either mon hun or some other pc game or whatever

I miss the good ol' dayz haha

L: YESSSSSSSSSS

Mon hun needs to happen again, I haven't played that since Siege event months ago

G: I haven't played for longer than that hahaha

We could also find a pc game to play together

L: yes please, I haven't played a game with you in ages... well I mean other than
playing flashlight with craz in few days

It's like a competition to get the highest score

G: What pc games do you have?

That you'd like to play?

L: uhhhhhh

Sadly I have a lot of solo games, I really do need more multiplayer/co-op games

G: Hmmm

Well idk

L: I've lost my abilities to score since we went to uni and got too busy
Clearly we have to bring D&D back 🤔

G: I'll try to come up with something
What are you up to now then

L: just watching an episode of Critical role before I pass out

G: Fair enough! I'm way behind
OH
Did you see???
LITTLE RONIN??

L: THEY HAD A KID
SO ADORABLE
SO PRECIOUS
YES

G: I'm so happy

L: and of course it was on Thursday

G: Oh was it? Hahaha of course

L: During the afternoon though

G: Still haha

L: ok bed time!

Goodnight noodle! 😊

G: Good night!

I'm glad you had such a good time! Sleep well and don't let the bedbugs bite!

Conversation excerpt 8.

8.1 Conversation with the same gender:

Ntuba: male, 23 years old

Ben: male, 22 years old

High school friends, used to play football together

N: Hiya bro

Been a hot minute since last chat

What's up? How are things going? How about uni?

Wanted to give you update on my business life, been thinking of the start up project we talked about. Attended a workshop where they talked about setting a business up yourself and getting the money to keep it going and once it's all set up it just earns money on its own.

Are you still not drinking? Was about to head to the pub tonight

B: Hey mate

Yeah brother I'm easing off on the alcohol until December, and trying to take care of my body cause Christmas/New years is gonna be a pungwe 🥰🥰

Otherwise though, things are good hey, just got a shit ton of work going on at the moment.

Assignment after assignment after test after test...it never ends 😓

This whole entrepreneurship idea is definitely the key to a happy, easy life. It's definitely risky but hey, once you're established, you should be able to be in a situation where your business or whatever you've set up will keep ticking over and earning you money, regardless of whether you're actually at work or not. In other words, a situation where your money works for you and multiplies itself, rather than you having to bust you're ass at a 9-5 job and earn a basic salary.

That's pretty much all I can remember you talking about, my mind has been cooped up in my maths books this morning studying so it's a little bit tired at the moment 😓

Also, I woulda sent this in a voice note but I'm in the library, so I didn't want to look like a dumbass and just start making noise talking

Sorry for the essay 😂😂

Is Shisha open on a Sunday?

N: Yeah it is, like every day bro.

In the weekends it's open till 3 AM I think.

I like the essay man! Don't sweat it. I'll reply in a bit.

Also no voice note from me, surrounded by weirdos.

B: We're gonna have to have a cheeky sesh there when I'm back, cause I've heard the whiskeys they have there are 🍷🍷

N: Indeed, they definitely hit the spot. Got hammered the other day so bad I remember only arriving at the bar.

Was pretty neat.

When you're less busy with shit for Uni we gotta go there and drink every whiskey bottle in sight 😂

Okay bro I'm free now. It's good you're easing off on the alcohol, been actually thinking of sparing my liver a bit before the New years Glasgow trip 😂 Same here, there are so many flippin projects to do to get extra credits but so little time...very frustrating! Yeah that's exactly what I thought, when a person is persistent and has an idea what to do, the whole business thing seems so easy, however when you wanna finally get on with it, you find out so many obstacles, one would cry 😂 Also, working minimum wage and being expected to put maximum effort is fucked up.

We gotta hang out this week after the workshop it's like I'm a completely new person and I need someone open minded to listen to my impressions 😂😂😂

B: Sorry I just came from the library.

I literally fell asleep there, I'm so dead.

Have you got WhatsApp going on your other line?

N: Not yet bro. That's what's keeping me on the old line still. Should be sorted by tomorrow though.

B: Okay square 🤔 how you doing though son?

N: Bro I am so drunk it's shocking.
I had a conversation with my charger.

B: That's the best thing I've heard all week 😂😂😂
Sunday is meant to be a day of worship

N: Bro
Call me

B: I'll call you in a bit

N: 🤔

B: Sup bro
Fell asleep huh?

N: Fuck
Sorry mate, I blacked out on a toilet seat after throwing up
Well that was a wild night. Days when I don't plan to get drunk always end up with me being EXTREMELY drunk. 😂😂😂

B: You good though?
Why did you want me to call?

N: Yeah yeah all's good.
Bro
I don't remember
I was feeling kinda down and wanted to talk for a bit 😂

B: Awww emotional drinking?! 😂😂😂😂

N: Yeah. I should consider the abstinence until the Scotland trip thing 😂

B: Don't sweat it mate 😂

8.2 Conversation with the opposite gender:

Ben: male, 22 years old

Kyra: female, 21 years old

Same group of friends, grew up in the same area and used to work in the same shop

B: Morning morning 🌤️ so the plan is that we'll meet at my house at about half 1, all hop onto one car and then head from there. Sounds cool?

K: Heyy

Yeah that sounds good 😊 Just finishing packing and things but I should be sorted

B: Okay cool beans 😊 I've got meat and stuff for the braai, so just bring whatever drinks you'll want

K: Okay perfect, thanks. 😊

B: Helloooo 😊 I sent you the Ecocash for Matopos hey. Confirm it was 4 quid?

K: Heyy sorry haven't had signal but yes I got it thanks

B: Okay cool beans 😊

How was Olive beadle?

K: It was great hey, such a nice break

How were you doing?

Did Sam let you know about the poll for the eco project?

B: Ya I can imagine! Catch any fish? 😊

No not really, she hit me up yesterday about going to the Port

K: Yeah a few, but the fishing isn't great in winter.

Oh I assume she is either through with it, or simply forgot. 😓

B: Yeah summer is definitely much better time to go if you're gonna be doing serious fishing.

But glad you guys enjoyed!

Yeah definitely, she would tell me if she needed any help or whatever.

What are you up to anyway?

K: Thinking of getting Prat muffins

Want to meet up tomorrow before we head off? I was thinking of having a cheeky pre-breakfast snack.

B: It's gonna be early but I can give you a list of presnacks 😊

K: I'm so excited about the muffins yay

Okay if you want send me a list and I'll get it

B: I'm thinking their blondies for sure

K: Just anything I won't crush on my way 😊

Do you want like a main event to the snacks?

Like a baguette or rice box kinda thing

Or do we just want snack snacks

B: 🤔🤔🤔🤔

Whatever you want, surprise me cool beans

K: How is your shoulder?

Are you in less pain?

B: Yeah it's not so bad today, still not a OK completely tho

K: Awh, get well soon then!

Before the trip if possible!

B: Hey Kyra! 😊 I was trying to get hold of Dan, did something happen to his phone cause none of my messages are going through

K: Hey Ben! 😊 Yeah his playstore is broken so he can't update Messenger 😩 but if you message him on Instagram, he should reply 😂
Hopefully he's getting a new phone soon!

B: Okay cool, I suspected something was up. I'll pop him a message just now then 😊
How you doing though? 😊 Haven't heard from you or the rest of crew for ages!!

K: Cool haha typical Dan hey 😊

I'm good hey, nothing to complain about, work is starting to heat up through with exams coming but....not too bad hey 😊 and you?

I know it's been so long!

So jealous you got to see Cat though

B: Ya sorry I had a hectic deadline today so I spent most of the day trying to get my stupid assignment done and turn it in

I need a break finally 😂

Ya I'm glad I got to see her before I headed, even it was only for an afternoon 😂

K: Ya even that counts 😂

B: HAPPY BIRTHDAY KYRA!!!! 🎉🎂🎁🎊

Hope you have a smasher of a day!! Celebrations are definitely in order once we're all back in town!

K: Thanks so much Ben! ♥ yessss definitely!! Can't wait to be home finally.

B: Ya I'm counting down the days until I'm back in a place with semi liveable weather
Hope all the exams are going well hey 😊

K: Shame man haha 😂

Yeah not too bad hey, have one tomorrow which isn't great but whatever I guess 😂😂

B: Stay strong soldier! You'll be done in no time
When we both get home we will smash the pub's whole alcohol storage to celebrate a big girl's day 🎉

K: Sounds good!

I will have to get some stuff sorted in town when I come so I should be in a presentable state haha so we might smash only few bottles hey 😂😂

B: Bummer, gonna do it myself then 😂

Dan's wishing you a happy birthday too cool beans 😊

Conversation excerpt 9.

9.1 Conversation with the same gender:

Lewis: male, 20 years old

Jamie: male, 21 years old

J: Sam won't let me leave
She said "You're mine for now"
Why you sending me that stuff

L: You are mine you can do what you want
Cos it's funny lol

Colon

J: It really aint

L: Cologne

Colon as in your body

J: Oh I get it lol lol

L:



Pretty sure that's Pam

Told you it was funny haha

J: Yes mate

L: I ain't no matt

J: Help

L: With what

J: Pam

Being catfished ain't cool dude

Dunno what to do

L: Being vague doesn't help

J: wat

I'll be on later properly

L: Being boring won't be on here all night

Maybe you should call her out on her fb lol

J: Unlucky, people more important than you require my attention

Yeah, tell everyone about her using ten different photo editors lol

L: won't see you on later then mate

Now that was kinda harsh wasn't it

She just wanted to lure you in her castle and imprison you lol

J: lol seems like it

Are you still chatting to sam?

L: in a game brb

J: ok

L: yeah I'm replying to her hahaha

J: still arguing over me darling?

Hahaha

X

L: would sending you a towel selfie get me the same attention? :P

J: of course babes xxx



L: You haven't earned one

You finished your keynote project thing

J: but babe pleaseeee

I'm on it

I'm dying here tbh

It's taking forever

Halppppp

L: Omg

Bry is on tinder looking did you know that?

Can I call you?

J: no I'm busy sorry

L: doing what? I need to tell you something dude

J: smoking

Jk

Not this time xD this time I'm actually playing some red dead before I go in the bath
soooooo xxx

L: that's what I wanted to talk about

Lewlew is trying to add me there

J: holy jesus Christ

Where did he find you?

I actually feel bad for him since his brother moved out

His parents are being awful to him maybe you should add him there

L: My phone is going nuts wait a sec

I messaged him

J: don't make him claim your prize tho XD

L: did he say something to you?

Jesus xD 😂

He share good stuff

J: What?

My phone is dying and it's on charge

Haha

L: see you don't even need tinder

There's your new bae x

hahahaha

J: he's old mate of mine, so not quite

L: "old friend" heard that one before xD

He's popped up because he wants some

J: indeed

On fb he says that when Rhy's body shows up in an alley in Plymouth and everyone's questioning how it managed to get all the way down there, we'll know what happened

L: It couldn't of been lewis mill, cuz he couldn't care less hahahahaha

J: I may have gone around a corner too fast and I may have had the tractor on two wheels

And you may see the clean spots on the side from where it was leaning over

I'm dying



L: What a drip hahaha

J: brb gonna order takeout

What u up to on Thursday mate

Been thinking about coming over matt's

L: sounds good im free on Thursday all day actually

Wanted to go to gym but whatevs 🍌

U cool with fifa? Or no ps this time? 😞

J: fifa is cool

We could of check out some bars

And pubs

Been wanting to go out for ages but it always ends up with u guys playing fifa and me eating pizza lol

L: matts holding me hostage

Gotta play till I die 😂

We out here with sam at Shawn's

Wanna join? It's pretty silent

He's drawing and I'm on my phone

L: Maybe, my friend might be joining the party though, give me a min

J: Okay

Can't answer ur call right now sorry, listening to podcast

Gonna be on Gears later tho?

L: Gonna send a message before I ring next time

J: Yeah lol you scared the shit outta me

L: aww boo



Are you gonna be on tonight?

J: maybe

Just had a fight with my mum, shits not good rn sorry guys x

L: Oh sorry then

If you wanna we could take your mind off it

With fifa ofc

9.2 Conversation with the opposite gender:

Jamie: male, 21 years old

Britney: female, 19 years old

Long time friends who share interest in bikes , know each other for about 4 years

B: You can be effort sometimes 😂

Tbh my back is still hurting a lot

J: Why am I effort? 😂😂

B: Cause you're gonna wear a cap I'm gonna have to steal

J: You know it b

B: Exactly

J: I mean you don't have to steal it

B: I do

J: Nah, you're just a pain in the ass

You're definitely gonna try and Nick this cap tho 😂😂

B: How's the drawing going?

J: I haven't started yet

I'll let you know on my progress when I do B

B: Awesome!!!

J: Calm down, it's just me 😂😂

B: Done

J: Don't get hyped, not like I'm a worldclass tumblr artist 😂😂😂

How bout tomorrow B

B: I have to stay home with Liv

But you can still keep me virtual company

J: K

Not like we're gonna do anything exciting other than chat shit 😂😂😂

B: I wasn't getting hyped really just appreciating

J: You're probably gonna nick my cap AND the drawing too

B: Obviously

J: I look like I got into a fight with a baby shark

B: Your hair is long af

Maybe I am

J: you're a shark? That could explain your weird obsession with biting me

Awh bless, how's your back?

B: Aha not good, at all

J: Awh. *rubs more shit on your back*

B: Aha thanks

J: I feel like I've been pushed down a flight of stairs after staying awake for 3 days

B: Sammee

J: 👍



B: 😂 it's voluntary tho
And nahh, I have fallout

J: Well you'd lose random, pointless conversations at 2 in the morning 😂😂

B: I get that on fallout 😂

J: Not as pointless as me though..... wait a second 😂😂😂

B: Ahahahaha

J: Slow down with those responses

B: Sorry been playing a little

J: Night

B: Morning champ

J: Good morning

"My friend is the world's best person at V Rally 4, he's famous and really awesome"



B: Right, what I want to say!

J: I know, you claim to fame is knowing me 😂

*your

B: Obviously!! It's what I've always wanted

J: Well you one upped because you get to say you're my friend 😂😂

B: Oh I thought that was a bad thing 🤔🤔

J: Don't be my friend then, your loss 😄

B: Yup, and is it the one I said I liked more or am I gonna hate

J: Hate it 😄

B: Fun

J: *annoying

B: Yup

J: Fucking hell, that's impressive. I'm amazing ain't I 😄😄

Meant for my boss

I massively improve the kiln and it's reaching 87" in under 24 hours which would normally normally take it 3 days

B: Some can't spend so much time on just improving your kiln tho

J: I can

B: Lucky for some

J: Hard work

Not luck

B: And a pay rise

J: Only a little

B: I meant that all of my money flies out of my account on bills

J: I don't have that problem too much

B: Exactly

Is today still on? Don't know what we will do but yeah

J: Which bus do I get from town?

B: I do have work at 6

7

7 bus

J: I'll be gone by then dw

A'ight I'll start getting ready

B: Actually get you home on bus!

Awesome

J: I just got on the 7 bus

Waiting for driver to have a break I think

Won't be long now

B: Cool

J: Walking up now

G'night

B: Night

J: You want to meet up today again?

B: Fuck it, why not, need to get myself in the shower though

J: Fuck it? Do you not want to? 😂😂

B: I'm tired 😂

J: Me too 😂

Would you be alright meeting up with Kieran or would you rather not?

B: I mean at this point I'd rather you come mine aha but if you want to see Keiran go ahead

J: I could do if you wanted, don't really fancy playing footy right now tbh

Conversation excerpt 10.

10.1 Conversation with the same gender:

Brandon: male, 23 years old

Kevin: male, 23 years old

K: Sooo tired man

B: Same. And I don't know why

Could be the weather lmao

K: Yeh that's what I was thinkin too

It gets dark after lunch

I keep wanting to nap 24/7

Sucks dude

B: Yeah it does

K: Gahhh

B: What's up man

How's it going?

K: Not too bad

Been bmxing quite a lot these days

Hbu

More importantly how's work?

Heard Char applied for a job in your office

B: She did man and she already started 2 days ago

K: How's it goin with her

B: She is ridiculously hard worker it seems. But it all got mixed up around here and nobody is really sure who's gonna be doing what and where on the close apart from tony

Xx*

K: Tony washup, you boards and Charlotte da and front?

B: What about Tianna?

K: Nothin much tbh we haven't talked in ages

B: That's a shame man sorry about that

Anyway

How's you

K: Bought Nintendo 64

So yeh, not too bad lol

You?

B: I'm good, in work doing online training for manager on my day off

Why's that?

K: Oooh look at you mr manager lol

Just blew past a copper on opposite side on a 38 going up 😂

Think I made tem get the choppers out I don't know. Was doing triple digita

No way was thise nog nogs catching me 😂

Nig nogs

B: Fuckin hell you tit 😂😂

K: Had to dip under a tunnel ennit

B: Omg 😂

You wanna go in zombies in a bit?

K: Yeah come round

My phone was recording my ride. Sound not footage. I'll show ya how that sounds

😂😂

B: Rad

Yo what you saying

Come chill round mine tonight?

K: I'm just chilling man I cba to do anything

B: Come on xbox later then

K: Yh defo

B: How's life with a woman btw

Do you feel grown up? 😂

K: It's not so bad bro

But what grinds my gears is when the whole flat smells like fucking coconut cause of those stupid candles

I hate coconut bro 😂😂😂

B: Fuck man

Sounds harsh

At least you got someone to game with then? Double bonus if you know what I mean



K: How about your lass

B: Nothing really 😂

We barely talk these days cause work is hectic

K: wtf

Gotta work your magic bro 😂😂😂😂

B: huh

K: Ask her out won't ya

B: I was planning to but something always comes up bro

K: Just text her

B: 😂😂

K: Go on it man

Get on that bird 😊

B: What are you up to bro

Wanna come chill round mine later

Or wanna come kfc?

K: I will text you when I finish presentation

K done

Call me

B: I'll meet you outside kfc

K: alright we're here

B: Be there in 5

K: Hurry up I'm hungry

B: Hold your horses, on route now 😂

K: what's up bro

B: Guess what

I was riding mt07

Was the best bike I wanted

K: That's sick

B: Last night good?

K: Yh it was fucking lit 😂

B: You still there are you

K: Nearly home will come see if you want we're going kfc first 😂

B: Mod 1 all passed bro! 1 Mod left to go!

K: Yh man won't take long 😊

B: Bless it won't be until August anyway

Wanna wield my akra can to new bike as pipe won't fit

K: I'll have a look man when you get it

B: Sicceck

K: Chill tonight?

Or should I say, kfc and chill?

B: Working

K: Skint till Friday? 😊

B: Yup

K: I got some troubles with the port

Check ur snapchat I sent a video

HALP

B: You can just disconnect the spark plug wire and do what Bran did when he installed it

K: You tryna set me on fire 😂😂

B: Might be 😂😂

K: Twat haha

Gonna need your help at some point in next couple weeks if cool

To swoop over stock exhaust

B: I'll see what I can do 😂

K: Thanks man

B: Are we going regal or queys? 😊

K: I don't mind

Anyone else coming?

B: Let me ring jack

K: Sound man 😊

B: He ain't picking up 😂

Will go man fuck it there still be an atmosphere 😂

K: Hell yeah

Go regal man

B: You on for the England game tomorrow?

I wanna leave early so we can actually get a drink 😂

K: Working all day mateee

B: What time? 😂

K: 12:15

I know it's gonna be rammed 😂

10.2 Conversation with the opposite gender:

Grace: female, 22 years old

Brandon: male, 23 years old

G: I saw that video of the lady with her first push up I want to do it!!!

B: You'll be there by the end of the year!

G: I hope so! So if I pay membership at that gym can I go whenever or just with you?
(not that I'd probably go without you I'm terrified)

B: You can indeed x

I'm too hungry to sleep but too tired to get food 🙄🙄

G: I'm sorry I fell asleep 😴 I hope you fell asleep at least, I'm sorry I wasn't here! had
it been a work day I'd be here but I was sound asleep tonight 😄 Good morning btw
Hahahahaha omg the babyyyyy hahahahaha that's adorable

B: You don't need to apologise to me for falling asleep haha

G: It's indirect apology for not replying haha

B: Haha you don't need to worry about it

I went to bed about 5am and woke up about 11 haha

G: That's still not much sleep tbh

It would be healthy to sleep about 8 hrs haha

I know you hate when I say that but you know I'm right!

B: I feel alright tbh, I was up talking to my mate on the Xbox

How did you sleep last night?

G: Damn I wanna whoop your ass for this hahaha

I fixed all my friends sleeping schedules and now everyone's getting 8 hours of sleep
haha especially when you work and need to have natural source of energy lmao

My maternal instincts are quaking

B: Hahahahaha

G: I slept fine tbh I had stupid dreams about some of my mates stealing my car so I woke up pissed haha

B: Trust me, you won't be able to change my sleep

G: I'd have to use my fist then 🧑🏻

Hahahaha jk

But I hate seeing people voluntarily do this to themselves

B: I have a high pain tolerance so punch away hahaha

G: Hahahahaha well then I'd have to learn the little finger move from Kung fu panda

B: Hahahahahahahaha

Yes!

G:



B: Skadoosh

G: Hahahahaha

Don't underestimate me just because I'm tiny hahahaha

B: Blow me up then

G: Hahahahaha don't worry I'll just GENTLY put you to sleep hahahaha

You can thank me later

You know you can DIE from sleep deprivation right? Lmao hahahaha

B: Uh no

This is news to me hahahaha

It won't kill me, I'm a tough cookie

Many things have tried hahahaha

They all failed

G: Hmmm hahaha

Why risk it though hahaha

B: Because I can? Hahaha

G: Fair enough hahahaha

But I have my disapproval face on



B: The only way you'd get me to fall asleep is by tiring me out and my stamina is pretty damn good hahaha

You'd have to work me harder than throwing logs around

So good luck with that

G: I think I should take you to some of my lectures

in uni

5 minutes in and you'd be sleeping

B: I said tire me, not kill me

Hahahaha

G: Plus mental exhaustion is allegedly worse because it affects the whole body haha

Physical exhaustion doesn't mean you will go to sleep.. voluntarily anyway haha

B: It works for me

G: Hhaahahaha yeah some of the lectures here are unbearable

B: When I've had a really hard day at work I come home and just collapse on my bed

G: Really? That's interesting, when I go to the gym, have a killer session and smash it hey and go to work and then uni I'm physically tired but mentally not so much, so I tend to just stay in bed but like watch movies for hours

But then there are those days when I have just the lectures or like 4 lectures in one day and thats a killer

B: I work for 10 hours do the same thing all day

G: I come home dead and the only thing I wanna do sleep

I guess it works differently for different ppl but according to buzzfeed and all those researches they claim that mental exhaustion is FAR worse

Also, that's why most depressed kidz can't do shit

Cuz they are physically and mentally exhausted

#facts lmao might be wrong though I got all this from internet soooo it might not be very accurate or realistic tbf

B: I dunno, I'm an odd ball so it wouldn't surprise if it was just me
I'm weird like that

G: If you were weird, what would that make ME? Haha
Extreme level of weirdness

B: You are extremely weird, but that just makes you stand out and means you're special
hahaha

G: Hahahahaha

Thanks?

I guess

B: You're welcome, I'm heading out for an hour, so I'll talk then

G: Sure 🍷

B: Hahaha the big fluffy bed on snapchat
you trying to feed me hahahaha

When your friend tries to make you
join them in eating healthy



G: Hahaha yeahhh he likes to sleep in my fluffy pjs so I got him something similar haha
Hahahahahahahahaha when I tried feeding you vegan food

B: Hahahahaha yep

G: I bet I can fool you with my seasoning skills cuz the food doesn't even taste vegan
haha

B: Well you'll have to cook me something I can actually eat so I can be a judge of that