

## Message 19

### Trends in Computer Mediated Communication (CMC)

- Nonnative English-speaking networkers tend to simplify linguistic constructions in online communication. Stylistic, laconic and metaphorical English texts are usually impractical in online conversations among nonnative English-speaking networkers. By simplification and by mistakenly introducing some features of their native languages (such as different word order), nonnative English-speaking networkers could be considered to actively developing a new form of English.
- People who use CMC frequently acquire a nonofficial style of conversation including attributes such as using first names, treating colleagues in an unceremonious manner, adopting specific kinds of slang expressions and various types of jokes.
- CMC has no time zones and no brakes. Participants in CMC tend to feel that everybody holds the floor at any time. Awareness and initiative are characteristics of CMC participants.
- The culture of quoting is a well-known feature in CMC. Quoting is thought to be necessary for professional and specialized CMC (e.g. legal interaction, contract negotiation etc). Quoting is considered to be more argumentative than the face-to-face interaction in which the opposition's arguments are not repeated.
- Interactivity is a condition of communication in which simultaneous and continuous exchanges of messages occur; these exchanges carry a social, binding force. Interactivity in CMC is associated with the attitudinal dimensions of acceptance and satisfaction. But it is also related to performance quality, motivation, sense of fun, cognition, learning, openness, frankness and sociability. Interactivity in CMC leads to more cooperation.
- In interactive CMC, the propensity to agree is enhanced along with (and maybe despite) the fact that interactive messages are more

opinionated. Interactive CMC tends to be more humorous and is more likely to contain self-disclosure. Interactive CMC indicates an association with a sense of involvement and belonging.

- While less interactive use of CMC is not likely to see stable memberships, interactive CMC tends to sustain memberships and to yield other desired outcomes such as symmetry in contributions, creativity and productivity.

- Playfulness has been cultivated and valued by the pioneers of CMC, the hackers. Four interrelated features of CMC foster online playfulness:

1. Ephemerality
2. Speed
3. Interactivity
4. Freedom from the tyranny of materials

## references

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