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The Impact of Social Media on EFL students' Writing

**A Case study: 1st Year LMD and 1st Year Master
Students of English at Ahmed Draia University - Adrar**

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Dedication

I dedicate this work to the spirit of my grand father

To my beloved parents

To all my dear brothers

To all my family members and my friends



Acknowledgments

Thanks TO ALLAH the Almighty for all your gifts.

Peace be upon our prophet Mohammed, the merciful messenger to mankind.

I would like to thank my supervisor Pr.Rachid Mahieddine for his help, and his patience. May Allah reward him.

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List of Acronyms

% : Percentage

EFL: English as Foreign Language

FB: Facebook

FIG: Figure

LMD: Licence Master Doctorate

M1: Master1

N: Number

NA: No Answer

SM: Social Media

TV: Television

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Abstract

The world has become a small village due to the expansion of social media in our daily life. This expansion affects people's life in many aspects among them is educational aspect. Thus, students use social media to improve and develop their skills especially EFL students. This study aims to tackle what are the effects of social media on EFL students' writing? And why students use abbreviations and acronyms in academic writing. The qualitative and the quantitative methodologies are fitted this study. The results show that most students revealed that social media have a negative impact on their formal writing, and the main reasons behind using abbreviations in academic writing are gaining time, facilitating the process of communication, being a habit, and forgetting the form of the words. Finally, we propose suggestions for the future study to make differences between the academic writing and informal writing.

Key words

Social Media, EFL Students, Academic Writing, Acronyms, writing.

ملخص

أصبح العالم قرية صغيرة نظراً لتوسع وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي في حياتنا اليومية. هذا التوسع يؤثر على حياة الناس في جوانب كثيرة من بينها المجال التعليمي. وبالتالي ، يستخدم الطلاب وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي لتحسين وتطوير مهاراتهم وخاصة طلاب اللغة الإنجليزية كلغة أجنبية. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى إيجاد و معرفة آثار وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي على كتابة طلاب اللغة الإنجليزية كلغة أجنبية؟ ولماذا يستخدم الطلاب الاختصارات والمختصرات في الكتابة الأكاديمية. كما أن هذه الدراسة زودت بالمنهجية الكمية و المنهجية النوعية، حيث أظهرت النتائج أن معظم الطلاب كشفوا أن وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي لها تأثير سلبي على كتاباتهم الأكاديمية، وأن الأسباب الرئيسية وراء استخدام الاختصارات في الكتابة الأكاديمية تتجلى في ما يلي: ربح الوقت، الدقة في التعبير، كونها عادة، وعدم تذكر شكل الكلمات. و أخيراً، اقترحنا على الدراسة المستقبلية إجراء فروق بين الكتابة الأكاديمية والكتابة غير الأكاديمية على فيسبوك.

الكلمات الدالة

وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي، طلاب اللغة الإنجليزية كلغة أجنبية، الاختصارات، المختصرات.

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General Introduction

General Introduction

Social media refers to social software in the form of web sites and other online communities. They are created by users to share information, ideas, personal messages, and conversations. (Tharinee Kamnoetsin, 2014). Davis III, Devil. Amen, Rios- Aguilar, and Gonzalez Canche (2012) defines social media as web based and mobile application which allow people to create, engage, and share ideas in different means of communications in digital environments.

Social media has been viewed as referring to networked tools that allow people to meet , interact, and share ideas with each other.(T. Aderson, 2010) cited in (Gameel Mahmoud,2016).

The world has become a small village due to the developments of technology and its uses as best source to investigate about knowledge. Social media as a part of this technology, and it is an essential element in people s' lives. This importance of social media has been presented in using it in different aspects of life such as, commerce, economics, politics, and education.

This latter has encouraged the use of social media as a tool to help students especially EFL learners in learning because English became the language of globalization. EFL students became addicts in using social media; this addictiveness makes them unaware about their academic writing.

Writing is a very important skill because it is a principle vehicle for learning EFL. However, this importance will be lost if students neglect their rules by using social media.

The main research questions of this study are:

General Introduction

What is the effect of social media on EFL students' writing?

Why EFL students use abbreviations and acronyms in formal writing?

This study aims to find the various impacts of social media on students' writing, and to identify whether these impacts positive or negative.

From this research, we hypothesize that:

1. Social media has an impact on the students writing.
2. Students used abbreviations because of forgetting the full form of the words.
3. Students have a lack of concentration during the writing process.

This study is composed of three chapters. The first chapter deals with the writing and its importance, and also shed lights on social media, and its different sites, and their role in students' daily life.

Chapter two presents the effects of social media on students' formal writing. Chapter three defines the research methodology, research instruments, and the sample. It also describes the questionnaire and analysis it.

Chapter one :
Writing and Social Media

Introduction

Writing is a tool of communication which includes a group of letters or symbols written on a surface (Collins &Gentner, 1980). Therefore, it must be learned and taught as a basic skill. The first chapter presents the writing skill in general including its definitions, academic writing, its components, as well as its importance to the learners of EFL. Writing is affected by many factors among them the social media. In this chapter, we will define the social media and its different sites, and mention its role in our daily life.

1.1. The Nature of Writing

Any language in the world has spoken and written forms. In the far past, people used to focus on spoken language more than the written one, and they considered it as the main language. Daniels and Bright (1996:2) made a distinction between the two skills. They said that "language is a natural product of the human mind while writing is a deliberate product of human intellect Language continually develops and changes without the conscious interference of its speakers, but writing can be petrified or reformed or adapted or adopted at will." They emphasized that spoken language is learned without specific rules or formal instructions, whereas writing must be taught and learned by planned efforts. For instance, in every society there are some people who are unable to write, but they can speak fluently. So speaking comes naturally yet writing doesn't.

In the twentieth century, people were interested in learning spoken language as the means of communication in order to interact with each other. In doing so, they neglected the writing competence. Many linguists state this negligence like De Saussure and Chomsky(Brooks and Grundy ,2001, p.01).The difficulty in learning

and teaching this productive skill is one of the reasons behind the abandonment of writing. Tribble (1996,p.03) stated that" writing is a language skill which is difficult to acquire." Learning to write in any foreign language is a big struggle for any student; it needs a lot of practice and training such as thinking, organizing ideas, and following grammar rules for writing a coherent piece of writing.

Moreover, writing is so difficult to be mastered. Teachers should motivate their students to write in a corrected way. This helps students to be careful about the structure of the sentences, punctuation, spelling mistakes, format, and content. These regulations help learners to write easy without committing mistakes, and they can express their thoughts and ideas without any complexities or difficulties. In addition speaking and writing belong to the same category of the language which is productive skill, therefore we must give them the same importance in teaching and learning language.

1.2. Definition of Writing

Writing is a means of communication between people. It is the process of translating an idea into a written form; also it is the way that people tend to express their thoughts, ideas and feelings. English oxford dictionary defines writing as "a sequence of letters, words, or symbols marked on a surface."

According to Harmer (1998) writing is" a basic language skill, just as important as reading, speaking, and listening". It means that writing is a principle vehicle for learning ESL or EFL. Bell and Burnaby (1984) cited in Nunan (1989, p.36) point out that" Writing is an extremely complex cognitive activity in which the writer requires to demonstrate control of a number of variables simultaneously. At the sentence level these include control of content, format, sentence structure, vocabulary, punctuation,

spelling and letter formation. Beyond the sentence, the writer must be able to structure and integrate information into cohesive and coherent paragraphs and texts." We assume that the writer should master in writing conventions such as capitalization, punctuation, and other mechanics of writing to achieve a successful piece of writing.

In addition, Cushing Weigle (2002, p.19) defines "writing as social and phenomenon and as cognitive activity." Writing is a product of social and cultural act, for instance, learners of English language when they write, they have predispositions regarding to their cultural aspects and native language. As a result, the writer is influenced by his own environment and culture. According to that fact , Cushing refers to Hayes (2002,p.19)" writing is also social because it is a social artifact and is carried out in a social setting what we write , how we write ,and to whom we are writing is shaped by social convention, social context, and history of social interaction ."

Moreover, the writer through the operation of writing spent a lot of time to organize and plan his ideas in order to be explicit for the readers; also he makes an explanation for his ideas and gives examples to convince the readers by his writing.

To sum up, writing is a broad term because it is an important component in language teaching and learning.

1.3. Academic Writing

Academic writing is a formal writing that is used in schools, universities, colleges and so on. It can be used in writing essays, reports, texts, books, articles, translation, research papers ...etc. The Oxford companion to the English language defines academic writing as" the registers of English used by scholars and scientists;

an elevated and often complex style associated with concern for accuracy, objectivity, and dispassionate comment. "

Academic writing required kind of structure such as a beginning, middle and end, this structure is typically of an essay format. It also, follows grammar rules and punctuation.

K.Gocsik (2005) cited in Gitana Simanskiene (2005) consider three concepts that are crucial to understanding of academic writing:

Firstly, academic writing is writing done by scholars for other scholars. Students in university, school are part of a community of scholars. They will be engaged in activities that scholars have been engaged. Such as reading, thinking, arguing, and writing about great ideas. Of course, being a scholar requires that kinds of activities. So academic writing will help students to understand the expectations, conventions, and requirements of scholarship.

Secondly, academic writing is devoted to topics and questions that are of interest to the academic community. Student must write interesting and helpful topics for the readers. Thirdly, the important obligation of academic writing is to advance the reader with an informed argument. We notice that the writers will consider what is known about a subject, and then they determine what they think about it. If their papers fail to inform, or if they fail to argue, then they will fail to meet the expectations of the academic readers.

1.4. Components of writing

Since writing skill is a complex task to learn and teach, so it earns some components or elements to follow them in sequence to create an effective piece of

writing. There are five elements to effective writing skill which are: organization, clarity, coherence, word choice, and mechanics.

1.4.1. Organization

Organization is regarded as the first step in writing skill. Any writer needs to organize his ideas or thoughts before he starts writing, to achieve well organized piece of writing. Organization makes the writing process easy and clearly for the writers and readers. According to Starkey (2004:2) states that "Organization benefits the readers to be able to see how the various points you make in your essay work to gather and how they support your thesis". Writer's credibility is improved by organizing and planning his ideas and thoughts. It includes some techniques such as free writing and brainstorming in order to write clear and understandable piece of writing.

1.4.2. Clarity

Clarity is the important element in writing process. Being clear and understandable in your style of writing allows the readers to be interested and followed your writing and not get bored. This means clarity convey the writers' message to their readers.

Galko (2001:103) points out three strategies to make your sentence clear:

1. Be concise: the writer should choose appropriate words carefully, and omit unnecessary words.
2. Use active voice: using the active voice informs the reader who is doing the action; also it shows the sentence in clear and easy way.

3. Avoid unnecessarily "big" words: the writer has to avoid ambiguity, unclear, and repetition words because it destroys the meaning of the written text or paragraph.

1.4.3. Word Choice

The writer has to select words that he knows the lexical meaning to send his message. According to Starkey (2004) there are two features the learner should take into consideration while he chooses his words: denotation and connotation meanings

Denotation is "literal meaning of a word". So the writer's searching about the exact meaning of the word, while connotation is "a word's implied meaning, which involves emotions, cultural assumptions, and suggestions". Knowing these aspects of word choice by the writers help them to get a positive message across their readers.

1.4.4. Coherence

Coherence is a necessary element in writing any piece of writing such as text, paragraph, and passage. It is related to the chronological of ideas, and how they are organized. According to Bailey and Powell (2008:38) stated that "the best way to define coherence is to look at its opposite incoherent". When a paragraph or an essay has coherence, the reader can get the principles ideas easily.

To sum up, coherence makes the writer writes in a good and correct way.

1.4.5. Mechanics

Mechanics are related with the origin of the words and its appearance in sentence or paragraph, and how they are arranged or spelled Kane (2000:15). Mechanics include grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.

1-Grammar

Grammar is the principles of language used by the writer, it is focused on patterns of speech and their relations to one another. Such as: pronouns, adverbs, verbs, adjectives...ect.

2-Capitalazation

The writer should use this technique especially in specific words for getting reader's attention. Capitalization is very important in academic writing; there are six occasions that require capitalization according to Starkey (2004:51):

- The first word of the sentence
- Proper nouns (names of people , and places)
- The first word of a complete quotation, but not a partial quotation.
- The first, last, and any other important words of a title
- Names of days and months
- The pronoun I and any contractions made with it.
- Names of nationals and religions.

3- Punctuation

English Dictionary defines punctuation as a set of symbols and marks which are used to clarify meaning in text by separating strings of words into clauses, phrases, sentences. A proper Punctuation helps the writers to meet the goal of their voice correctly and directly.

1.5. The Importance of Writing

Writing is an essential skill in any sphere of life after speaking and writing because any language in the world contains the two main forms spoken and

written. Since it is the complex and difficult task to acquire, students didn't take it into consideration when they learn it. According to Tribble (1996:5) "students are unlikely find themselves involved in the social roles that require this skill". He explained the students are obliged to learn writing for the reason that they need to use it in their social roles such as: shopping list, technical manual, letter to their parents or friends, a telephone message, letter to bank manager, letter to business contact...ect

Moreover, writing is considered as the core of communication. For instance, people who are living far from each other they cannot communicate with one another without using such a means of communication. Olson, Judith (2009) added that" writing helps students to express their ideas and thoughts in clear way". Some students can't express their thoughts, emotions, and ideas verbally so they need to express it in written way because it gives them liberty to write.

Additionally, we need writing in any profession we choose, you will need to know how to write. Any job almost acquires to be a writer, for example in police officer has to write precise and clear reports, also for a pilot to write a clear flight plan and so on. learning express (2008).In short, writing is also important for developing the mental abilities of the students or writers ,the more they write, the more they require knowledge and advantages. Also it provides students how to build a good argument for persuade.

To sum up, writing is a part from society, if the person doesn't know how to write, he/she will be isolated from a community .language without writing as a house without pillars.

1.6. Definition of social media

In the past people used to communicate and interact with each other by traditional ways, until the emergence of technology and social media. The social media becomes the principle means of communication and interaction between them. Even in learning and teaching process, people use it as a tool of communication and learning. The term social media was defined by Merriam Webster Dictionary as "forms of electronic communication such as websites for social networking and microblogging through which users create online communities to share information, ideas, personal messages and other content as video".

"Social media is a group of internet based applications that build on the ideological and technological foundations of web 2.0, and allow the creation and exchange of user generated content" (Kaplan and Haenlein, 2010, p.10) cited in Tharine Kamoetsin (2014). That is to say, social media are web sites which allow individuals to create profiles, videos, photos to interact and communicate with them. The following figures clarified the social media sites:

1.6.1. Facebook

Facebook is the most popular social networking among different people, especially high school students. It was founded by Mark Zuckerberg in 2004. It allows users to communicate with each other by exchange their thoughts and ideas over the world. "Facebook is defined as an online social networking website where people can create profiles, share information such as photos and quotes about themselves, and respond or link to the information posted by others." Your Dictionary (2018)

In addition, facebook allows each user to set privacy settings. For example, only your friends can view your profile, if another person wants to view your profile, he can't do due to privacy settings. "It provides an easy way for friends to keep in touch and for individuals to have a presence on the web without needing to create a website." Christenson (2008), also facebook facilitates the private communication. For instance, any person can send to his /her friend a private message which will receive it in his/her private inbox.

1.6.2. You Tube

You Tube is a web site which allows people posted and shared videos. It started as an independent web site in 2005 and was acquired by Google in 2006. (Christenson in 2009).

Margret Rouse (2012) defined you tube as" a free video – hosting website that allows members to store and serve video content. You Tube members and website visitors can share you tube videos on a variety of web platforms by using a link or by embedding HTML code".People used you tube to post several videos such as sport videos, funny videos, business videos, and music videos.

1.6.3. Twitter

Twitter was designed by Jack Porsey in March 2006.Twitter is a social networking and microblogging online service that allows users to send and receive text-based messages or posts of up to 140 characters called" Tweets".(www.techopedia.com).

Margret (2005) defined the term of twitter is a free social networking microblogging service that allows registered members to broadcast short posts called Tweets. People can send and receive tweets by computer, cellphone, smart

phone. Twitter is considered as SMS of the internet, as the SMS of text messaging of cell phone. It is used by persons to view different news such as art news, economic news, and politics news ...ect.

1.6.4. My space

My space .com is the name of a social media website used especially for sharing music, music videos, and information about musical artists. (Cambridge Dictionary). My space is a website that bands could use to promote their music, but has since grown into a more general community of friends. (Christenson, 2007)

Furthermore, My space is a popular social net working web site .It generally was founded as a venue for aspiring musicians and bands to share music and concert dates, and it has grown into a complex site where users can create profiles, including photographs, blog, music or movie preference. (Margret, 2006)

In order to create a my space account you need to choose a username and password, which is used logging in to your account.(Teach Terms,2007)

1.6.5. Wikipedia

Wikipedia is a free, open online encyclopedia created by the collaborative effort of community of users known as wikipedians. The word Wikipedia derived from the word 'Wiki' a server website that enables anyone to edit website content through their web browser.(Margret,2016)

Anyone with internet access can write and make changes to Wikipedia articles. Its articles provides links to guide the user to related pages with additional information.(http :// www.Wikipedia.org)

1.6.6. E-mail

Margret (2005) defined E-mail short for 'electronic mail' is the exchange of computer-stored messages by telecommunication. It is one of the most widely used features of the internet, along with the web.

E-mail allows you to send and receive messages to anyone with an email address, and anywhere in the world. (Christenson, 2014)

1.6.7. Google+

"Google+ is a Google social net working platform .It design team sought to replicate the way people interact offline more closely than is the case in other social networking services, such as facebook and twitter. Google+ is integrated with other Google applications such as Gmail, Google Maps. Google Drives ,and Google calendar." (Margret 2016)

Google + is the fourth social product by Google after Google Buzz,Orkut and Google friend connect. In June 2011, it launched a lot of hype as a viable competitor to facebook.(www.techopedia.com)

1.6.8. Instagram

"Instagram is a social media networking application which allows its users to share pictures and videos with their friends .It started by Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger in 2010"(.Web wise ,2018)

Instagram users can comment on and bookmark others' posts, as well as send private messages to their friends via the Instagram direct feature. Photos can be shared on one or several other social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook.Also the individuals can use Instagram not only for communication, but also for business and jobs.(Margret ,2007)

1.7. The Role of Social Media

Social media plays an important role in our life nowadays because it becomes popular tool for communication after the traditional ways (TV, Radio, and Newspaper). This Traditional media has one-way to communicate which is to view news and information, unlike the social media which has two- ways of communication 'send and receive'. Bouchikhi and Bounani (2017)

"Social media opens up the possibilities of discovering and learning new information, sharing ideas and interacting with others". By Crystal J.Briscoe (2011) cited in Webmaster (2014).So, through social media people act to gather and exchange information, ideas, between them in everywhere and every time.

In addition, the emergence and expansion of phones such as smart phones among people, encourage the individuals to have access internet and social networking (Facebook, Twitter, You Tube).Moreover, the social media changed the way that people interact and deal with each other. For instance, they prefer to connect with their friends, and know new people through social networking more than in real world.(Webmaster view 2014).In short, social media have a great role in our life because it make life easier for all people over the world.

Conclusion

Indeed, Writing is an important skill in learning and teaching English as second language or foreign language. This chapter explained general view of writing and its importance to EFL learners. As it is the core of communication, it is necessary to learn writing. Second, it presents what social media mean and identifies their different sites such as Face book, Twitter, My space, and you

Tube...ect. These sites of social media have a beneficial role in society which facilitates the process of communication.

Chapter Two :

The Impact of Social Media on EFL
Students

Chapter Two The impact of social media on EFL students

Introduction

In fact, social media plays an essential role in our life. This chapter presents the impact of social media on EFL students writing, first it tackles with the language of social media that used between students which is abbreviations, acronyms, and emoticons. Second it deals with the use of these linguistics features in academic writing by students. Third it explains the advantages and disadvantages of SM generally .Then, at the last includes the effects of SM on EFL students' writing positively and negatively.

2.1. Language of Social Media

During the process of communication through social media, people use special language which is Texting or sometimes called ' text messaging'. This one contains features such as abbreviations, acronyms, and emoticons. These features are essential for expressing the exact meaning of expressions (eg. Sadness, happiness, sarcasm, tentativeness....ect) .Whereby, the use of these elements through conversation between users gives full and understandable meaning.

2.1.1. Abbreviations and Acronyms

Merriam Webster (2018) in her dictionary defined abbreviation as "a shortened form of a written word or phrase." For example,"LOL" for "Laugh Out Loud","abbrev" "abbreviation". It is used to avoid repetition of a long sentences or words, to save time and space.

Acronym is a part of abbreviation; it is a shortened form of a phrase, but to take the first letter of that phrase. such as "ASAP" comes from "as soon as possible", "UK" for "United Kingdom". Merriam Webster (2018)

Chapter Two The impact of social media on EFL students

List of common Abbreviations that used in social media

Abbreviations and Acronyms	Their Meanings
2MI	Too much information
2N8	Tonight
2MOR	Tomorrow
AAF	AS a friend
ABT	About
AND	Any day now
AFAIK	AS far as I know
AIR	As I remember
AKA	Also known as
ALOL	Actually laughing out loud
B2B	Business - to- business
B4	Before
B4N	Bye for now
B4E	Before anyone else
BAO	BE aware of
BB	Big brother
BB	Be back
BC	Because
BD	Big deal
BN	Bad news
CM	Call me
CLD	Could

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CR8	Create
CRZ	Crazy
CTN	Can't talk now
CU	See you
DC	Disconnect
DIKU	Do I know you?
DL	Download
DM	Doesn't matter
E1	Everyone
E4FT	Effort
EZ	Easy
FB	Facebook
G2R	Got to run
GFI	Go for it
GN	Good night
H8	Hate
IDUNNO	I don't know
IK	I know
ILU	I LOVE YOU
IMO	In my opinion
IMS	I am sorry
L8R	Later

Table2: Abbreviations and Acronyms cited by Vangie Beal (2004) in

(www.webopedia.com)

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2.1.2. Emoticons or smileys






The third feature of social media. It is derived from the words "emotions and icon" and it refers to facial expressions represented by keyboard characters. By using these emoticons into a message, you can express your feeling in understood way for the recipient. Emoticons have been classified to symbolize many other things such as people, animals, objects, and actions. (Teach term .com)

These are some examples of different types of emoticons:

- **:-D-** very happy
- **:-O** Shocked, amazed
- **:-(** Sadness, displeased
- **T.T.** Crying
- **=^.^=.Cat**
- **o.O.** Confused
- **:o3.**Dog

Chapter Two The impact of social media on EFL students

List of common Emoticons used in social media

Emoticons	Meanings
	Smiley
	Happy
	Sad
	Crying
	Tongue Out

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	Angel Smiley
	Devil Smiley
	Suprised
	Winking
	Angry
	Squinting

Chapter Two The impact of social media on EFL students



	Face with sunglasses
	Heart emoticon

Table2: Emoticons and smileys adopted from

<file:///C:/Users/pc/Downloads/ListEmoticonsFacebookSymbolsEmoticons.htm>

2.2. The Use of Abbreviation and Acronyms in Academic Writing

Social media has a great impact in our daily life even in the way of learning process. The addictiveness of SM especially Facebook, Twitter, Instagram by EFL students has changed their writing, and the use language. Moreover, they acquire informal written and neglect formal one. Manan et al (2012) cited in Tharinee Kamnoetsin (2014) pointed out "engaging with social media may also increase the usage of English of poor quality because students tend to use non-standard English when interacting with each other online."

In addition, the linguistics features of social media abbreviation, emoticons impact on EFL students' academic writing through using it in their usual activities. Yunus et al's (2012) cited in Tharinee (2014) stated that "using short forms and abbreviations is not a positive learning experience because students may get used to the habit and then use it in the formal writing tasks in school".

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The use of these features leads to bad grammar, poor punctuations, spelling mistakes. For instance 'guyz ' for' guys', 'luv' instead 'love', 'u' instead 'you', and 'i' instead 'I', 'r' for 'are' ,also 'yes!!!' for 'yes'.

To conclude with, SM media mostly influenced on writing skill since it is used as a tool of learning. This impact distracts the principles of writing.

2.3. Advantages and Disadvantages of Social Media

Social media became popular in the last few years because of the growth of technology. They have brought a lot of advantages and disadvantages for the society.

2.3.1. The Advantages of social media

The advantages of social media for people are numerous among them:

1. Connectivity

The main and principle advantage of social media is communication. Anyone can communicate with each other from anywhere. People can connect with other people from different location and religion, and they learn and discover different cultures and thoughts. (www.techmaish.com) .

2. Education

Social media is so beneficial for the students and the teachers. It facilitates the process of education. The student can easy educate from experts and professionals through the social media in order to enhance his/her knowledge about any field. She/he educates her/him self without money due to free courses of social media. (www.techmaish.com).

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3. Information and updates

In the past people used to watch television for specific time for getting the news or wait until next week to reach news paper. But with social media you can get real information and news in every time you want with limitations.

(www.techmaish.com).

4. Fun and Enjoyment

People prefer to share their images, posts, videos, especially funny one. So, they will be happy, if they see their friends' comments on their own videos. These sites provides enjoyable atmosphere among connectors. (www.quora.com)

5. Great Opportunity for Businesses

Business owners put their official pages on the social media platform for getting more customers to sell their products. .(www.quora.com)

6. Easy and Instant Communication

Social media makes the process of communication easier and faster. With its messages such as facebook messenger, Twitter...ect, you can send and receive your messages in the same time. (www.quora.com)

2.3.2. The Disadvantages of Social Media

Anything can be used for both good and bad , social media have also the disadvantages aspects for the people among them:

1. Hacking

This one is the most dangerous disadvantage of the social media. A lot of personal accounts and privacy can easily be hacked and shared on the internet. That make huge problems for people in their life and they lost many things. Every

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user is advised to keep his personal data to avoid this dilemma.
(www.techmaish.com)

2. Addiction

The addiction to the social media is very bad habit, especially on the Teenagers because they are affected by this addiction. They engaged and involved with it, eventually they became isolated from the society. As well as, the individuals waste their time by setting front of this social media.(www.techmaish.com)

3. Reputation

Social media can easily ruin someone by create false photos and story about him, and post it across the social media. Demonising used to changed the business of someone and causes crisis for him.([www.techmaish .com](http://www.techmaish.com))

4. Substitution for offline Interaction

Due to online connection, people spend most of their time on the social media. This online connection makes people isolated and less interacted with each other. (www.quora.com)

5. Information is Overwhelming

Many people are sharing ,posting videos ,and tweeting daily information on the internet .Most of these information people are not interested in .So it gets some noisy and confusing.(www.quora.com)

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6. Health Issues

The usage of social media can affect negatively the health. People get lazy because of the excessive use of social networking sites; also it causes disorder in the routine life and many illnesses. (Www. techmaish .com)

2.4. The Effects of Social Media on FEL Students' Writing

The percentage of addiction of SM among people especially students has increased in everyday life. This addictiveness leads students to use social networking as a helpful means for learning English language. However, the use of this means may affect either positive or negative on EFL students' writing.

2.4.1- The Positive Effects of Social Media

a. It helps learners to acquire new vocabulary .For example, during communication process between students and their peers, they learn new words and they make their efforts to know the meaning of unknown words by using a dictionary. (Omar et al. 2012)

b. Students' interaction between them via SM encourages them to write in academic way by reading their friends' essays and correct each others' paragraphs.(Shih,2011) cited in Tharinee (2014)

c. It improves students' writing by creating a group of discussion between teacher and his students. Then, he posts different topics in order to discuss it at the same time he corrects various mistakes of his students. In this way learners improve their own grammar, sentence structure, content, and organization of writing. (Gameel Mahmmoud,2016)

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d.English that used in SM is differentiated from English that used in academic writing so that social media is not a suitable environment for learning formal writing.(Kabilan et al.2010)

2.4.2. The Negative Effects of Social Media

Despite of the positive impacts of SM on students' writing, there are also its negative impacts

a. It causes grammar, capitalization, and spelling problems. These sites such as facebook, twitter are not supporting the grammar usage in correctly because students usually when they are chatting, they always use short forms (abbreviations, acronyms), and incomplete sentences that results uncompleted thought. The use of short forms also drives some students to use it in their formal writing. Selwyn (2009) cited in Tharinee (2014) point out that facebook failed the opportunity to develop students' writing because they tend to use informal writing instead of formal academic writing.

The use of short hand communication provokes students to commit spelling and capitalization mistakes. For instance, your as 'UR', you as 'U', are as 'R', and the pronoun ' i' for I and so on.

b. It creates a distraction for students .For case , learners may not follow or concentrate on learning when they are connecting because they are engaged with activities on SM instead of doing their academic activities.(Yunus et al, 2012)

c.English that used in SM is differentiated from English that is used in academic writing so that social media is not a suitable environment for learning formal writing. (Kabilan et al .2010)

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d. David Crystal in (2004) stated that the standard language is lost, and creativity will be diminished by the impact of SM. This means that SM hurts the formality of academic writing through using this short hand, and fragments in formal papers which are related to grammar and spelling mistakes.

Conclusion

This chapter explained the effect of social media on EFL students. Researchers consider the language of social media as informal way of writing among them abbreviations, and acronyms. The use of social media has a great impact on EFL students 'writing since they use them as a tool to enhance their academic writing. In addition to this, the positive effects of SM on EFL learners' writing which are acquiring new vocabulary, and interacting with foreigners that help them to improve their level in writing. Whereas, the negative effects are the use of abbreviations in formal writing which causes grammar, spelling, and punctuation mistakes.

Chapter three :

The Case Study

Introduction

This chapter represents the practical part of the research. It explains the research methodology, research instrument, the participants' questionnaire and its analysis which helped presenting this study. This chapter ends with the findings and discussion the results that we obtained from this research work.

3.1. Research Design

This study aims to show how the social media affects the EFL students' academic writing either positively or negatively, and do the social media improve the students' formal writing?

The quantitative and qualitative methodologies are used to accomplish this work. Babbie , Earl R .(2010) cited in(<http://libguides.usc.edu/writingguide>) defined the quantitative as " as objective measurements and the statistical , or numerical analysis of data collected through questionnaires, and surveys, or by manipulating pre-existing statistical data using computational techniques." This methodology emphasizes on collecting numerical data and generalizing it through group of people, or to demonstrate a specific phenomenon. While, "qualitative research provides insights into the problem or gets to improve ideas or hypotheses for potential quantitative research." By Susan E. Defranzo (2011) cited in (www.snapsurveys.com). These two methodologies are appropriate for this work.

3.2. Research Instruments

In this work, a questionnaire is used as a tool for collecting data. It aims to know how the use of social media impacts the formal writing of the students at English department at Ahmad Draia University. Adrar. Meanwhile, the questionnaire tries to find the reasons behind using these abbreviations and

acronyms by students in their academic writing. Thus, questionnaire is a suitable tool for reach given results.

3.3. The Sample

The questionnaire is distributed to forty (40) students of the English department at Ahmad Draia University .Adrar from two levels first year LMD and first year master.

We randomly selected 20 participants, 10 males and 10 females from 141 students of first year LMD because they are three groups and each group contains 47 students. While first year master are two specialists, we choose 20 participants from 41 students.

3.4. Questionnaire's Description

Students' questionnaire is composed from 13 questions. It was distributed between males and females from different ages. It includes yes or no questions and multiple choice questions. This one is mixed between students' examples and justifies which improve how formal writing can be impacted by the use of these abbreviations and acronyms. Not all the participants backed their questionnaire, 40 questionnaires were distributed, yet we received only 34 questionnaire.

3.4.1. Analysis and Interpretation of The results

Question 01

Are you male or female?

Gender	N	Percentage
Males	18	52.9%
Females	16	47.1%
Total	34	100%

Table 03: Participants' Gender

As it is shown in table3, the respondents of this research are mostly males (52, 9%), whereas the females (47, 1%). The participants' Gender is unequal due to the lost questionnaire. This proves that the males are more collaborated than females in this research.

Question 02: How old are you?

Age	N	Percentage
18-20	12	35.3%
21-23	14	41.2%
24-26	8	23.5%
Total	34	100%

Table 04: Students' Age

From the table above, we can see the age of the participants different from 18 to 26. The largest category is the ages between 21 to 23 old years and it represents 41, 2% from the whole sample. The middle category is the ages

between 18 to 20 and it is 35,3% .Whereas the smallest category contained 8 students from 24 to 26 ages , and it represents 23,5% from the Sample.

Question 03: Do you use the internet?

Option	N	Percentage
Yes	34	100%
No	0	0%
Total	34	100%

Table 05: Students' Use of the Internet

The results showed that all the participants (100%) use the access internet in their daily life, which means the internet has a big importance in the students' life.

Question 04: If yes, how often do you use it?

Time	N	Percentages
Everyday	22	64,7%
Occasionally	6	17,6%
Two hour in 3 day		
Sometimes	6	17,6%
One hour in week		
Total	34	100%

Table 06: How much time?

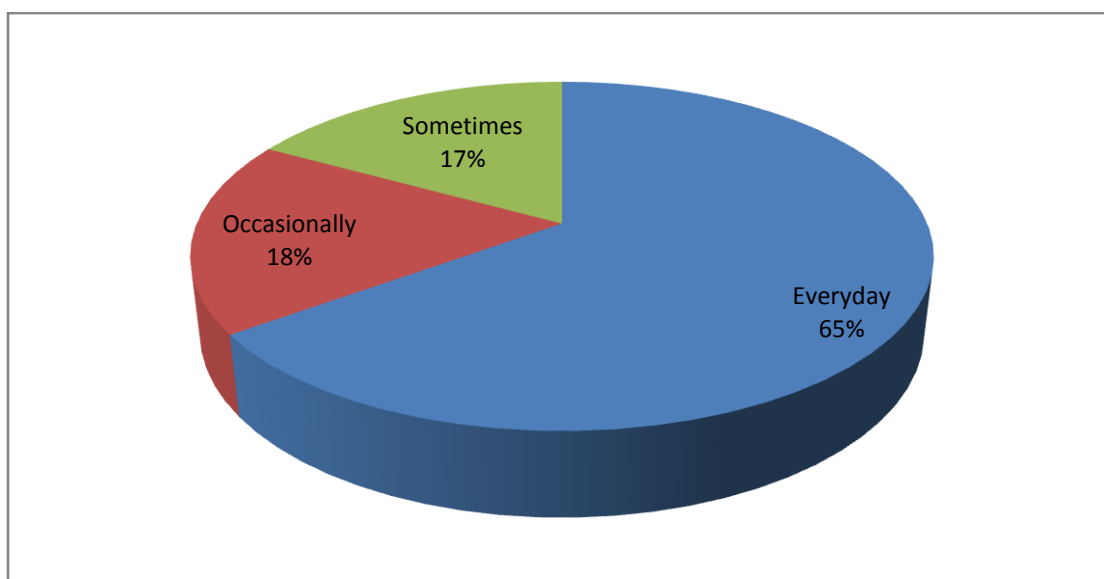


Fig 01 : Students' Time in Using Internet

From table 06 and fig 02 , the results revealed that 65% of the learners use the internet in everyday ,while 18% of them use the Internet two hour in three days. 17% of the students use the access internet one hour in week. The majority of the students use social media in every day which means they are addictive in using it .

Question 05: which social media do you prefer to use ?

Social Media	N	Percentages
Facebook	18	52,9%
Instagram	4	11,8%
Twitter	5	14,7%
Others	7	20,6%
Total	34	100%

Table 07

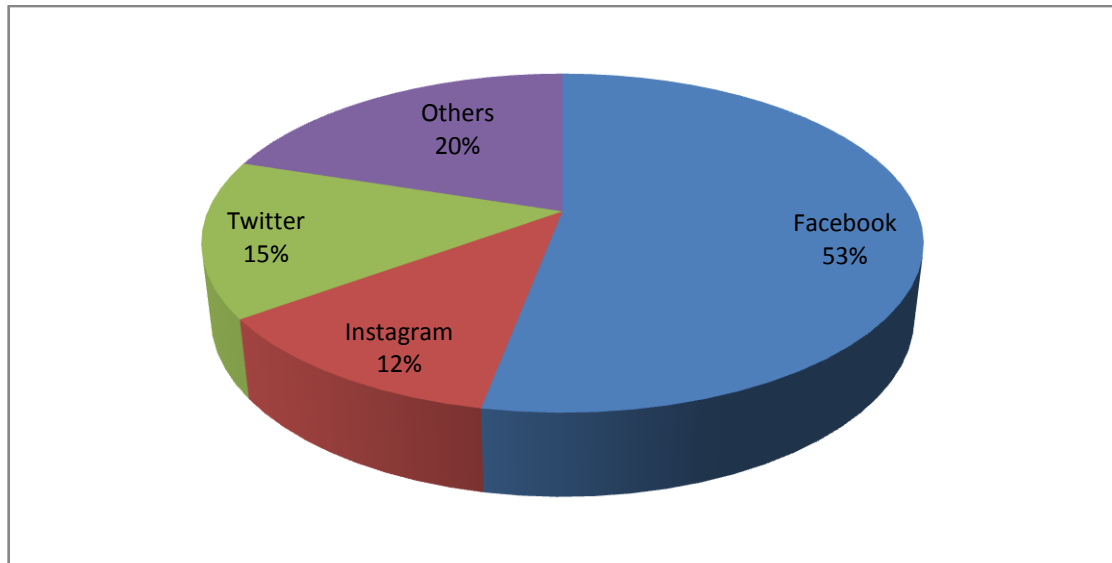


Fig 02 and Table 07 : The Favorite Sites of Students

The results showed that most of the participants used the Facebook site with 53%. After that, 20% from students used other sites like : Viber ,Email, Snapchat, Youtube. While 15% of students use Twitter, and 12% of them used Instagram. so Facebook ranks the first percentage among student that proves Facebook is a popular site between students , they are using it to communicate over the world.

Question 06: Do you enjoy using social networking?

Option	N	Percentages
Yes	34	100%
No	0	0%
Total	34	100%

Table 08: Students' Enjoyment about the use of social media

The table indicates all the participants 100% enjoy in using social networking.

Question 07 : How do you communicate through social media?

Option	N	Percentages
Speaking	7	20,6%
Writing	7	20,6%
Both	20	58,8%
Total	34	100%

Table 09: The favorite ways of students in communication

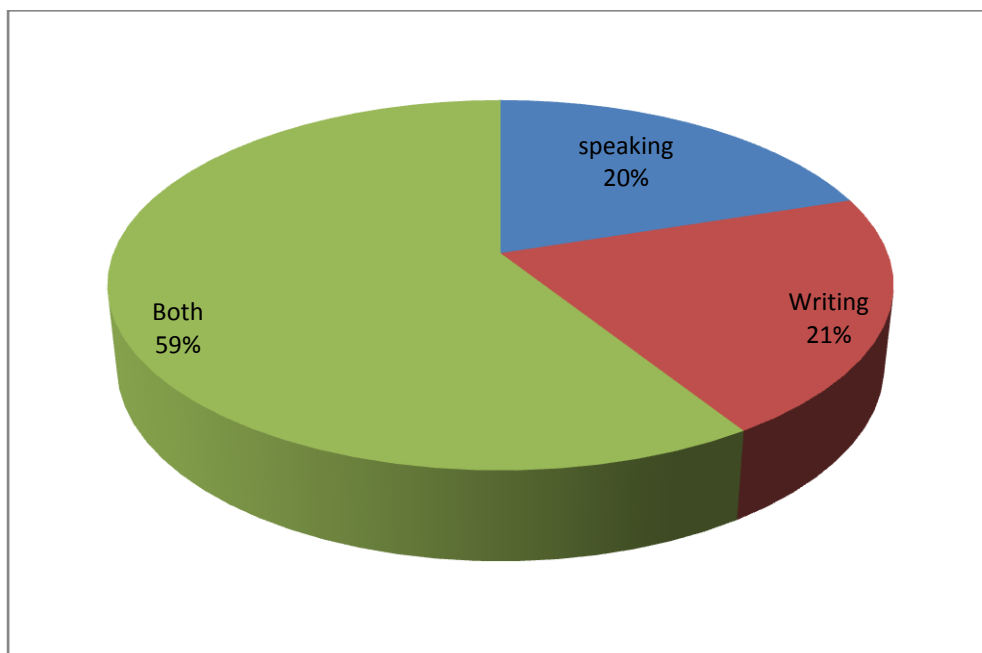


Fig 03: The favourite ways of students in communication

The results claimed that the majority of students used both ways in communication with 59%. Whereas other students prefer only speaking with 20% and only writing with 21%.

Question 08: Do you use abbreviation and acronyms during connecting with your friends like (BFF: Best friend for ever/ OMG: Oh my God)?

Option	N	Percentages
Yes	32	94,1%
No	2	5,9%
Total	34	100%

Table 10: The use of Abbreviation and acronyms by students

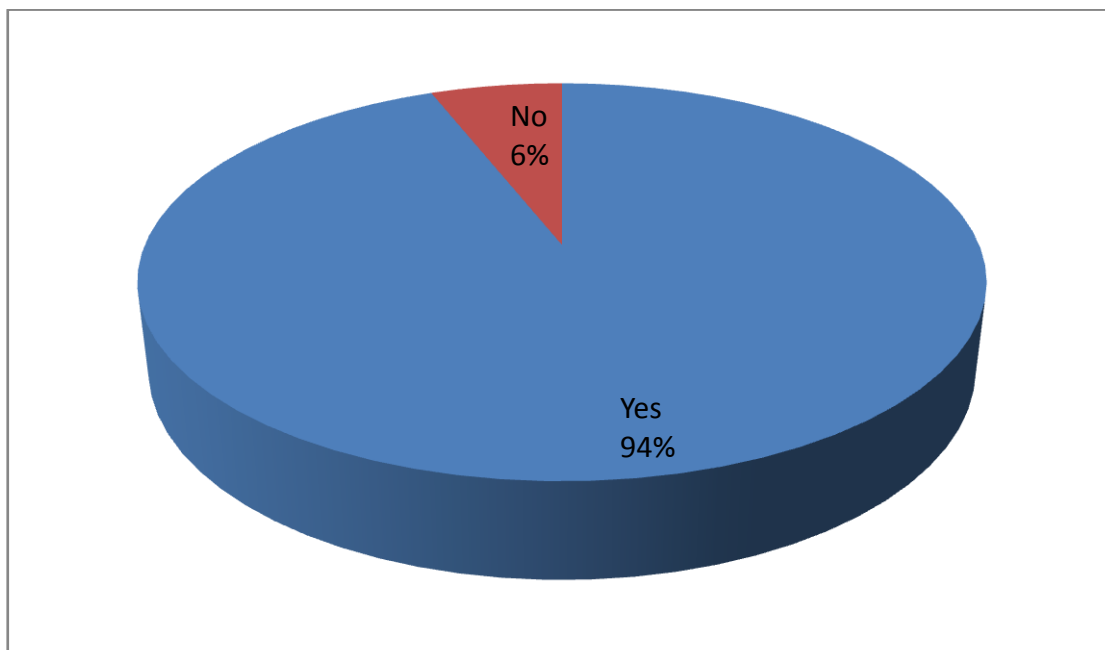


Fig 04: The use of Abbreviation and acronyms by students

The results showed that 94% of the students said "yes" they use the abbreviation during connecting with each other. While 6 % of students said "no"

they didn't use them. The following Table demonstrates some examples of abbreviation and acronyms given by students with their explanations.

Examples	Explanations
CYT	See you Tomorrow
IRL	In real life
L8R	Later
GR	Great
PLS	Please
H R U	How are you
T Y	Thank you
U 2	You too
M B	May be
C U	See you
B M	Blieve me
G B Y	God be with you
B T W	By the way
F Y I	For your information
LOL	Laugh out loud
G T G	Get to go
K	Okey

I DUNO	I don't know
Nd	And
B4	Before
2mrrow	Tomorrow
Sth	Something
I D K	I don't know
I K R	I know right
U	You
N8	Night
WH R U	Where are you?
I D C	I don't care
GM	Good morning
ABT	About
Y	Yes
B C Z	Because

Table 11: The common abbreviation used between students.

Question 09 : Do you think that the use of these abbreviations and acronyms can affect the students' academic writing? And how?

Option	N	Percentages
Yes	26	76,5%
No	8	23,5%
Total	34	100%

Table 12:The Impact of using abbreviation and acronyms in formal writing.

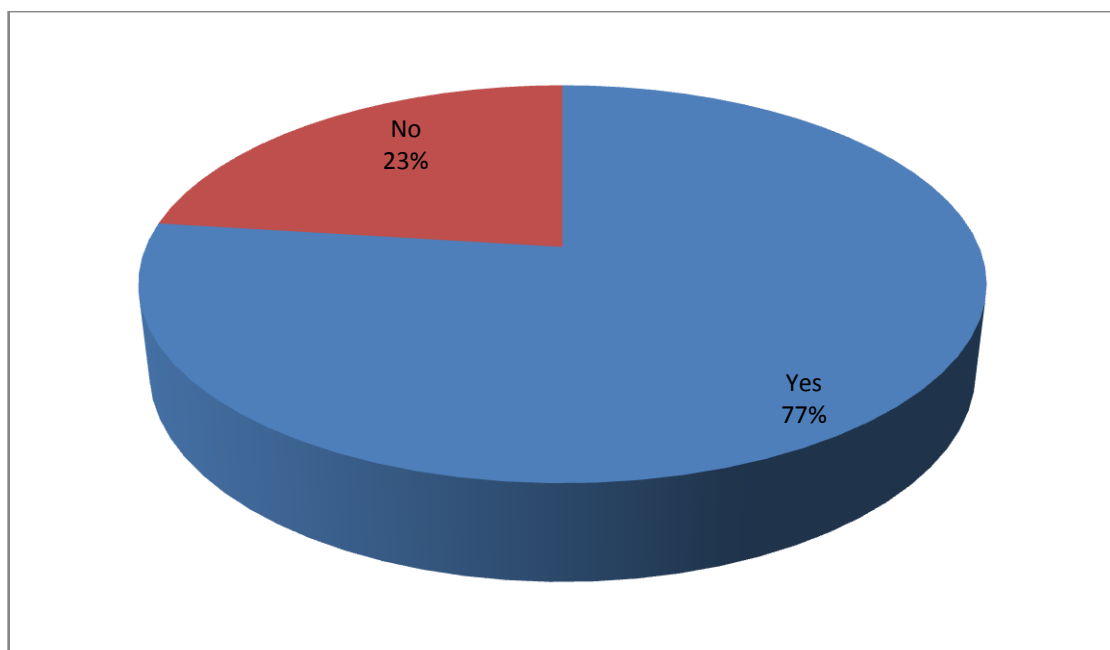


Fig 05: The Impact of using abbreviation and acronyms on formal writing.

The results indicates that 77% of students said" yes" the use of these later affect on their academic writing . However, 23% of students said" no" it doesn't affect their academic writing.

How?

According to the students who said the use of abbreviation and acronyms impacts their formal writing justify their answers by:

- ✓ The use of these abbreviations is considered informal in academic writing.
- ✓ they lead students make a lot of mistakes such as spelling ,punctuation, and grammar mistakes.
- ✓ The addictiveness of the students in using it during communication ,allows him to use it in formal writing.

Create misunderstanding between the readers and writers . for example , teachers and students during the exams.

Those students who said the use of abbreviation and acronyms doesn't impact their formal writing. They justify their answers by :

- The students should know the correct forms of the word.
- In fact it is called informal words.
- Through the use of these abbreviations, they know new words.

Question 10 : What are the abbreviations and acronyms that you use in academic writing?

In this question , 11 students said they didn't use these abbreviations. Where as the rest they wrote these following forms:

Forms	Explanations
LIT	Literature

CIV	Civilization
LEG	Language
ENG	English
W.E	Written Expression
USA	United State of America
UK	United Kingdom
IR	Industrial Revolution
ESP	English for specific Purposes
EFL	English Foreign language

Table 13 :The abbreviation that are used by students in formal writing.

Question 11: why do you use these abbreviations in formal writing?

Option	N	Percentages
To gain time	6	17.6%
To be creative	5	14.7%
It is easy	5	14.7%
A habit	6	17.6%
Forgot the form of the word	4	11.8%
No answer	8	23.5%
Total	34	100%

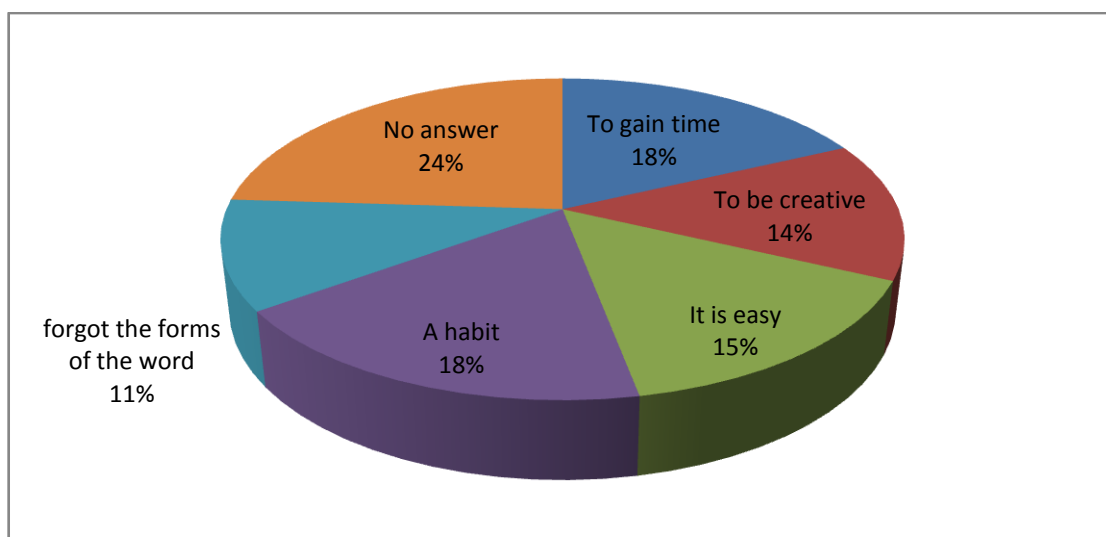


Fig 06 and Table 14:Reasons of the students behind using the abbreviations in academic writing.

From the fig 07 and table 14 we conclude that 23% of students didn't answer about this question, while 18% of the students used the abbreviation for gaining time and a habit to use it. 15% of them use it because it is easy, and 14% of participants used abbreviations in order to be creative. At the last 11% of them used abbreviations to avoid mistakes because they forgot the form of the word.

Question 12: Do you think that the use of social media can develop your writing skill?

Option	N	Percentages
Yes	15	44,1%
No	19	55,9%
Total	34	100%

Table 15

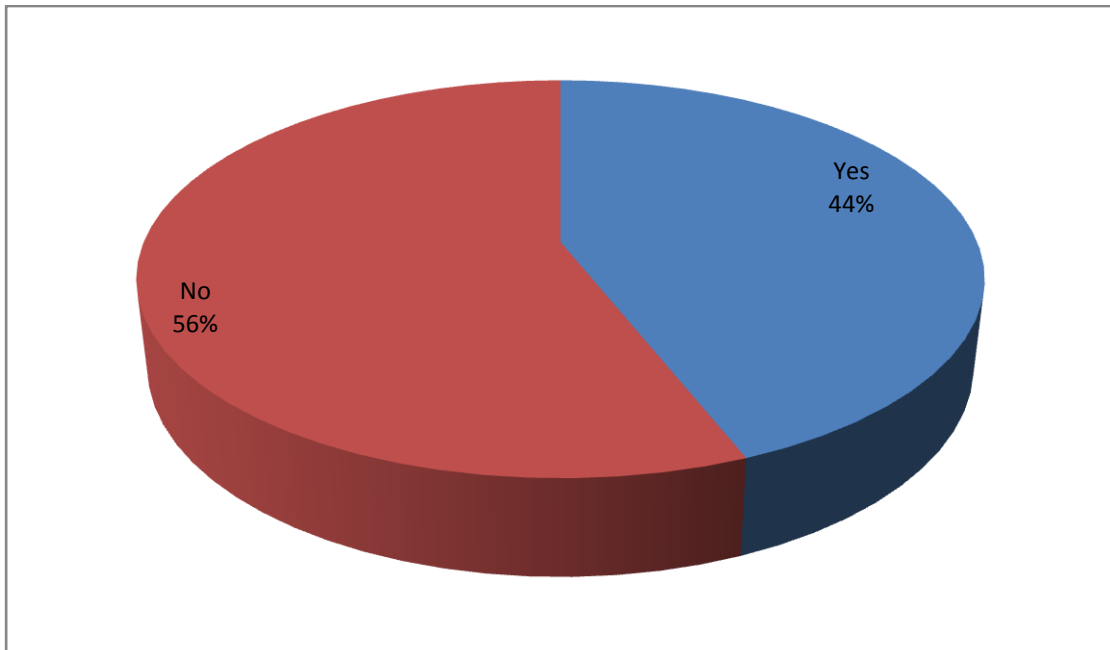


Fig 07 and Table 15 : Students' opinion about the use of social media in the writing skill.

The results show that 56% of students said "no" the use of social media doesn't improve their writing skill. Whereas 44% of students said "yes" the use of social media develop their writing skill.

Question 13 : If yes or no justify your answer?

The students who answer with "no " the use of SM dosen't enhance their writing for the following causes:

- ✓ It damages the academic writing.
- ✓ It makes students committ a lot of mistakes .
- ✓ It harms the formality of Formal writing.
- ✓ It leads some students to neglecte the principles of formal writing.
- ✓ SM acquires students to use informal words (abbreviations and acronyms) in their academic writing.

According to the students who answered with "yes" SM is developing their writing skill because :

- SM acquires students new vocabulary.
- Enable students to write more through group of discussion.
- SM improves students' critical writing by writing formal comments and debating.

3.5. Findings and Discussion

The findings showed that all the participants used the internet access (table 05) in different time , and they enjoyed in using social media sites (table 08) especially facebook site which ranks 53% from other sites (see fig 3.3) which means that social media have a big value in the participants' life.

Furthermore, 94% of the students use abbreviations and acronyms while connecting with each others (see fig 3.5) involved different abbreviations and acronyms (table 11) . This refers to students have a specific language that they used between them. Whereas 68% of the students used abbreviations in their academic writing. Most of the students didn't justify why they use these forms in formal writing . However, the others used these forms for different reasons: to gain time , to forget the forms of the words , to be easy, and to be creative.

On the other hand, 77% of the respondents said the use of abbreviation and acronyms impacts negatively the students' formal writing (table 12) . They justified their answers with:

- ❖ The use of these abbreviations drive student to comitt mistakes such as spelling, punctuation, and grammar mistakes.
- ❖ The use of these forms is considered informal in academic writing.

- ❖ Create misunderstanding between students and teachers during exams period.

Moreover, 56% of students think that the use of SM in doesn't improve their writing skill, according to them this due to :

- The use of SM by students drives them to neglect the principles of formal writing.
- It damages the formality of academic writing.
- The use of abbreviations and acronyms.

According to the results of this study, some suggestions are giving for the students. This latter should make a clear difference between formal writing and informal one , which means writing that they used with their friends during chatting is not the same that is used in academic places. In addition, students can improve their academic writing through SM by making a group of discussion between teacher and students. Then , he supervised them to write in a good way by correcting their grammar , punctuation, and spelling mistakes.

Conclusion

This chapter deals with the analysis of the data obtained from students' questionnaire about the impact of social media on formal writing of EFL students. In this research, the results claimed two main findings: firstly, social media have a big impact on the students' formal writing which is presented in using abbreviations and short forms in their academic writing. Secondly, the use of SM doesn't improve the students' writing skill because it leads them to neglect the principles of academic writing such grammar, punctuation, spelling, and capitalization rules .

Moreover, social media has a great role in students' daily life either from personal or educational sides. Since they help students to interact with each others,

and provide them with different information. On the other hand, this study concluded that there is another side which is social media impacts the students' academic writing in negative way.

General Conclusion

General Conclusion

General Conclusion

Social media plays an important role in life. It offers many benefits for the people. Where, it facilitates the process of communication over the world by its different sites such as facebook. It is a popular site that enables them to connect with each other easily. This communication doesn't success with writing process.

On the other hand, social media have also affected in negative way for the students because of most users of facebook are university students, exactly EFL students. Thus, the rate of writing informally is rising between students.

The results of this study revealed that social media have a negative impact on students' formal writing. Moreover, the findings explained that students use short forms in academic writing for many reasons are: gaining time, to be creative, forgetting the form of the words, and getting easy. Furthermore, students confirmed that SM doesn't improve their formal writing because of the use of informal words (abbreviations, acronyms), harming the formality of academic writing, neglecting the academic writing, committing a lot of mistakes such as spelling ,grammar , and punctuation mistakes.

The obstacle that the researcher faced in this work is the lack of books that served this study. Whereas, the articles are available more than books.

Social media are a fundamental part in students' lives this leads to make some suggestions for using SM to improve students ' writing.

- Learners should differentiate between academic writing and social media writing.
- Students should make a group of discussion in facebook and learn how to write correctly by correcting mistakes each others.

General Conclusion

- EFL teachers should forbid the use of informal words like abbreviation during academic writing.

As a final point, the hypotheses are confirmed; social media have an impact on EFL students' formal writing, and students use the abbreviations in their academic writing because of forgetting the form of the word.

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Appendix

Students 'Questionnaire

Questionnaire to the First year LMD and First year Master Students of African University English Department

This survey is part of my Master Dissertation under the title "The impact of social media on students' writing skills". You are kindly requested to answer the following questions carefully. Thank you for your helping

1. Are you male or female?

a. Male

b. Female

2. How old are you?

.....

3. Do you use the internet?

a. Yes

b. No

4. If yes, how often do you use it?

a. Everyday

b. Occasionally

c. Sometimes

5. Which social media do you prefer to use?

Facebook

Instagram

Twitter

others

6. Do you enjoy using social networking?

a. Yes

b. No

7. How do you communicate with social media?

a. Speaking

b. Writing

Both

8. Do you use abbreviations and acronyms during connecting with you friend like (BFF: Best friend forever/ OMG: oh my God)?

Yes

b. No

If yes, give your own examples with explanation

Symbols	Explanation

9. Do you think that the use of abbreviations and acronyms can impact the students' academic writing? And how?

a. Yes b. No

How?

.....
.....
.....

10. What are the abbreviations that you use in academic writing?

e.g :ling for Linguistics

.....
.....

11. Why do you use these forms in formal writing?

.....
.....

12. Do you think that the use of social media is developing your writing skill?

Yes No

13. If **yes** or **no** justify your answer?

.....
.....