

Abs-247

Patricia Rodríguez-Inés (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

SMS language: Revelations from a personal corpus

SMS language is known for its brevity, a characteristic due in part to restricted space for full words and lengthy texts, but also attributable to such language's playful, creative nature, an aspect of which is the use of expressions from foreign tongues (when available to the senders and receivers of messages). The study to be presented is based on an approximately 15,000-word personal corpus compiled by the author since 2000. While mainly a monolingual Spanish resource, the corpus also contains instances of English and Catalan. The corpus is not only analysed as a unit but is also divided into several subcorpora according to each message sender's relationship with the receiver (i.e. the author of the study). Although the size and representativeness of the corpus might be deemed problematic, the resource's strong points include its homogeneity, in that all the message senders are in one way or another related to a single receiver, and the fact that all the sources of its content are known. Analysis is expected to shed light on both the use of certain features of SMS language in a "multilingual" community and whether proximity between communicating parties affects the characteristics of the actual SMS language being used.