

ABSTRACT

Social networking on Facebook is one of the most interesting and popular medium which can be used as authentic material for most English learners and is widely used and available in the world. The Textspeak site provides an opportunity for a lot of people who want to improve their English skills, share English knowledge, and to use English.

The main purpose of this study is to identify the linguistic characteristics of textspeak used on Facebook and how the exchange are used to make meaning. The characteristics researched consist of linguistics features and Interactive Functions. All the data is first compared with Standard Written English because this is the usual target of English education in Thailand. The linguistic characteristics of Textspeak are based on Crystal (2008) and the interactive meaning purposes are analyzed by Interactive Functional analysis which reflects spoken communication purposes, Berendt (2009). The language characteristics of Textspeak are first compared by using “*Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English*” and “*Cambridge Grammar of English*” as references and then interactive purposes from Berendt (2009). The data of this study is collected from 209 comments from 7 discussion questions on Englishclub.com on Facebook. The discussions questions mainly focus on question and answer exchange.

The findings of the study indicate that the characteristics of Textspeak used on Facebook in term of linguistic features are mainly related to punctuation (53.86%) and capitalization (26.42%). And in terms of discourse analysis, the Interactive Functions used on Facebook mainly use Cognitive Information (37.94%) and Clarification (32.60%) of the data.