

Relationship of Instant Messaging to the Face-to-Face Communication and Social Relationship of College Students

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Abstract

Instant messaging has become a very popular and common application in everyday life. It is perceived to be useful for interpersonal communication. However, this application may affect the social aspects of individuals. Thus, this study determined the relationship of instant messaging to college students' face-to-face communication, particularly in the aspects of kinesics, and their social relationship with their peers, classmates, family, relatives and teachers. Sixty seven college students participated in the study through a researcher-made questionnaire. The data was analyzed using Pearson's r , ANOVA, and Mann Whitney U-test. The findings of the study are as follows: 1) the respondents use smartphones more than their other devices, and that Facebook Messenger is the application they used most for communication; 2) the respondents use instant messaging more frequently to communicate with their classmates and peers than with their family, relatives, and teachers; and 3) that respondents' face-to-face communication happens more frequently with their peers and classmates than with their family, relatives, and teachers. This study also revealed that the more the respondents use instant messaging, the more their face-to-face communication improved. In the same way, their social relationship also develops as they use instant messaging. Make use of instant messaging as a tool to improve the quality of students life is one of the many implications of the study.

Keywords: *instant messaging, face-to-face-communication, social relationship*