

Rania's Emoji Story

Rania's task was executed in a fashion very similar to my own. Both the title and plot of the film that she watched were depicted by using ideas the emojis represented rather than syllables or words. In her explanation, Rania confessed that this task was a bit of a challenge as she does not use emojis in her own communication. I also had a harder time doing this than I thought I would, but my struggle was that I wanted emoji options that strayed from Western culture. My film was about religion. As you can imagine, there were limited examples of religious iconography for anything other than Christianity.

In her last section, Rania offered her view that increased use of emojis might mean a decline in written languages. We have very different opinions on that theoretical question. I do not believe that emojis could replace words simply because they do not have equal semiotic capabilities. Many emojis carry meaning that is in no way tied to what the object being depicted actually is. In addition, these meanings are often very specific to age groups or cultural groups that have the same lifeworld and don't extend beyond a contained population. An example would be the peach emoji 🍑 that is also known as the *butt* emoji ([Emoji Dictionary](#)). If my retiree next door neighbour sent me a text of 🍑, they would be intending to use it to talk about the fruit and would never dream that it could be construed as being a racy exchange.

Ultimately, emojis are used more as a complement to a written word than as a substitute. Their primary use being to "add emotion to digital communication" (Kerslake & Wegerif, 2017, p.77).

Rania's Wordpress blog looks to be incomplete. After reading through this entry, I attempted to go back to her homepage and look at other elements of her layout. The homepage contains placeholders for future content with instructional text for the blog user on how to select themes, insert images, buttons, etc. Without the completion of some of these early steps, Rania's blog has no real interactive or visual elements for the reader. Finding her posts made throughout this semester is challenging and not intuitive. The best bet is to visit our class 'student webspace' section in Canvas, find her name, and look up various entries that way. I enjoyed Rania's entry and would love to see a bit more of her personality through blog personalization.

References

Kerslake, Laura & Wegerif, Rupert. (2017) The Semiotics of Emoji: The Rise of Visual Language in the Age of the Internet. *Media and Communication*. 5. 75. [10.17645/mac.v5i4.1041](https://doi.org/10.17645/mac.v5i4.1041).