



A Study of Lexical Features and Ideograms in SMS Language: A Gender Based Study

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Abstract

The purpose of the research is to highlight the language of youth which has been generally debated in face to face communication and in computer mediated communication. This research attempts to investigate the linguistic attitude of young students in SMS text messaging. Gender differentiation in the linguistic aspects of SMS text messaging is an important factor. The methodology of current research is mixed method which is descriptive and quantitative in its nature. Data shows that this informal and abbreviated language which is used by young learners while texting, students often shorten their words and sentences as much as possible. However, text messaging for male and female students differs in lexical reduction and attenuation. Males use more initials, clippings, and subtitles for their messages than females. Females, on the other hand, have a tendency to use letter and number homophones rather than males. This indicates that females use more messaging users than males. It also indicates that men are more experienced in texting, which requires speed and economy. A new way in which texters express and show their feelings and emotions is Semiotic. They often express their feelings through signs instead of words. Male authors embed icons much lower than women's text. Differences are generally higher in the usage of emojis, contraction and letter and number homophones though peripheral to the extent the usage of clipping, punctuation, phonetic spellings, are concerned in both genders. Yet at the same time contrasts are there. This study shows that gender differences have a very important role to play on a regular basis and that there is a noticeable break in the performance of linguistic features (lexical and typographical features) in SMS text messages.

Keywords: SMS messages, Gender differences, Lexical and Typographical features, Lexical reduction, Performance of linguistic features

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Introduction

Language and gender is one of the most discussed issues over the ongoing decades. It is totally unfamiliar to recognize the gender differences in written expression for example lexical and typographical features. It is assumed that the writing, having blunders or non-standard language structure or spellings, is either dismissed by the writers or is revised before the specific writing is published. Herring (2003) said that gender differences have been seen deliberately in different kinds of CMC, for example, conversation emails, blogs and chatting, especially with respect to phenomena of discourse-pragmatic such as politeness and subject. Messaging or SMS (Short Message Service) messaging through phones shows linguistics varieties (Anis, 2007). Holtgraves and Paul (2013) expressed that the text message language is "progressively private, phonetically less complex and very emotional" when compared with language used in calls (p. 289). The prevalence of text messaging among Pakistani people is very confusing. The majority of the individuals in Pakistan disregard the online talks, internet based life, blogging and messages since they think that it's hard to utilize PCs and workstations for this reason. On its highest point, the modest costs of cellphone systems have made it simpler for the individuals to bring all the communication through cell phones. Computer mediated communication has demonstrated that people in general use diverse linguistics features and various styles of communication in their day by day interactivity (Baron, 2004; Herring, 1992, 1993, 1994, 2003, 2004; Ling and Baron, 2007). Though, gender differences in the linguistics features used in SMS texting has not been adequately studied yet. It is a field that is still generally open for research. Particularly, in Pakistan, gender and SMS text messaging is by all accounts a disregarded area in research. The following objectives were formulated for conducting the study:

1. To examine the differences in the use of lexical features i.e., initialism, contraction, clipping and letters in SMS
2. To investigate the gender differences in the use of typographical features i.e., punctuation, emoticons, phonetic spellings and onomatopoeic words in SMS

Literature Review

The ever-developing present day innovation affects various parts of human life including communication and language. The utilization of cell phones and their various services among individuals has become extremely common today and has upgraded or most likely changed the way of communication among individuals all over the world. Among various services of the cell phone, SMS or text message is the most frequently used service. According to Baron (2003) SMS stands for "short message service". Kasesniemi & Rautianen (2002) defined the texting as "the act of sending text messages is termed as texting and the sender is called a texter". Computer-mediated communication is a language which prompts contractions, acronyms and structural reductions (Cho, 2007). Webb & Wright (2011) stated that computer mediated communication is a process of using computer, with certain media may be used for a wide range of purposes, for human communication.

According to Bubas (2002) limited public presence makes CMC distinctive in face-to-face communication. It is also fair to say that some of these so-called limitations are beneficial to telecommunications providers depending on communication reasons. A text message has become short, abbreviated and dense in its language like the language used on web and e-mails. Actually SMS texting is done through mobile phones not by the web so it is considered that it's not the type of CMC. With the passage of time, the computerized innovation has exchanged or shifted its position as accordingly like we can send SMS from web and sends and get messages on our cell phones too. The contingency exists that the form of texts in text messaging, email and short messaging service is likely to become informal, homogeneous, short and replete with acronyms as these platforms have forged switchable escalation (Baron, 2003). Accordingly, linguistic features are alike in the language used in SMS and on internet. Crystal (2008) used the word SMS in 1990. It is observed that in 2007, half of the world (3.3 billion individuals) used cell phones. Out of these, 2.4 billion were dynamic SMS users in Text Messaging in 2016. According to Coates (1993) language has a remarkable function to fulfill our global society. Language and gender are indistinguishable as a key piece of the of individuals' social personality. In general, Herring (1994) described that all speech networks, people are somewhat flexible in voice structures. There are certain linguistic features in human speech. These variations extend from pronunciation or vocabulary to morphology. Kaul (1998) argued that face-to-face communication has been defined as the exchange of ideas and information between two or more people.

Gender differences in the language choices and interpersonal styles of men and women have been identified in many studies on language and gender (Lakoff, 1975; Poynton, 1989; Tannen 1990; Gray, 1992; Coates, 1993; Holmes, 2008). As pointed out by Lakoff (1975), Tannen (1990) and Holmes (2008), men and women contribute in an unexpected way. Moreover, because of these differences in interaction, they appear to be from two different planets (Gray, 1992). For example, observation reveals different perspectives on how men and women use articles, hedges, intensifiers, qualifiers, and personal pronouns in their communications (Coates, 1993; Lakoff, 1975; Poynton, 1989). A pioneering feminist linguist, Robin Lakoff, wrote a book "*Language and Women's Place*" (1975). Her theory on the gender differences of male and female language states that there are significant differences in the language used by men and women. The linguistic determination of gender in various social communications portrays the linguistic contradictions between them. For example, women's speech is viewed as low self-esteem, facilitates social relationships and interactions, whereas male expression deserves more attention to information (Lakoff, 1975 & Tannen, 1990).

In addition, women's language has a tendency to be impotent as women use certain types of languages i.e. question marks, silence and indirectness (Lakoff, 1975; Coates, 1993). Men's language is usually very high, with many different languages being used, such as subject rising and intervention (Poynton, 1989 & Tannen, 1990). Selfe and Meyer (1991) were one of the earliest investigators to find out how people interact using CMC. Their results were consistent with previous researches on face-to-face communication that reveals that males tend to dominate the conversation because they are more confident and assertive than

females. Recent studies has revealed that in the synchronous and asynchronous mechanisms of CMC there are gender differences in linguistic forms and the discourse styles of men and women (Killer & Dundrell, 2006; Herring, 1992, 1993, 1995; Self & Meyer, 1991; Sierbe, 2002). Herring (2001) states that computer mediated language frequently contains non-standard attributes, which are intentionally used by members to streamline the time and exertion of composing, imitate features of communication in language, or to communicate texters' innovativeness. These non-standard structures are not the aftereffects of absence of information or negligence. Grinter and Eldridge (2001) referenced that youngsters used text messaging to manage and alter times to talk and communicate with loved ones. They have likewise announced that close friends have used text messaging for a remarkable function, which was the "good night" function.

Thurlow and Brown (2003) directed an exploration on the reasons for SMS text messages and results uncovered nine communicational angles or directions: informational-practical, practical-arrangements, salutary, chain messages, friendship maintenance, romantic and sexual orientation, informational-relational and social arrangements. Culwin and Faulkner (2006) researched the event of text messages between both the genders and offer definitive affirmation that both the genders send text messages. Anyway they concur that females are more into the usage of specialized devices (p. 8). The females in the exploration found the average value of 6.3 messages every day while male arrived at the midpoint of 4.8. Researchers concur that youths use text messaging from numerous points of view. (Haggon, 2007; Grinter and Eldridge, 2001; Faulkner and Culwin, 2006; Oksman and Turtiainen, 2006).

According to Baron (2004) presence of gender differences is especially there in the usage of emojis and contracted structures. Baron has referenced that females used a greater number of emojis than male texters and male used more contracted structures than females. Indistinguishable results were set up in Finland where teenager's young ladies were more into utilizing complex structure and longer messages than male youngsters (Kasesniemi and Rautiainen, 2002). Tossell, Kortum, Shepard, Laura. Barg-Walkow, Rahmati and Zhong (2011) in their researches of emojis used in text messages found that females used a greater number of emojis than male. According to Al-Khateieb and Sabbah (2008) gender differences in the code switching were additionally seen in the text messages of male and females. Gender differences are particularly there among Jordanian students where male code-exchanged among Arabic and English language less much of the time than their female partners.

According to Bodo (2010) and Crystal (2004) acronyms or contractions are the most prominent lexical features of text messages. These are the most frequently used features of SMS text messages. Lexical features are ordered into contraction, initialism clipping and number and letter homophones. A prominent component of SMS text messages which includes decreases of letter at the center of words or expressions is called contraction. Contraction is characterized as the short type of a word, two words, or numerous words by discarding center letters (Thurlow & Brown, 2003). The elimination of all letters from words

leaving only initial letters is initialism (Crystal, 2008). This term initialism can be additionally broken-down into alphabetisms and acronyms. In Alphabetism, all letters in the term are articulated as independent letter sets or letter by letter for example CD, TV or CNN, AIOU, IIUI, USA and UN. While in Acronyms are shaped from the underlying letters of a few words. (Fromkin, Rodman and Hyams, 2011). They are articulated as single words like NATO. UNESCO, NUML and NUST. They offer proper decrease, for example, LASER (Light enhancement for animated emanation of radiation), and SWAT (Special weapons and strategies) and so forth.

Crystal (2008) characterizes clipped structures as the decreases of longer types of words which can be acquired by dropping the end of the word like 'ad' from advertisement, in some cases expelling the starting piece of a word like plane from plane while some of the time disposing of both starting and ending parts together like 'flu' from the word influenza. Crystal (2008) clarifies that clippings occur in two structures for example G-clippings and different clippings. G-clippings evacuate the letter 'G' from the completion of words like killin, shoppin, and fightin (killing, shopping and fighting). Different types of clipping expel consonants from the end of the words for example shal (shall) wil (will) etc. Typographical Features are a lot of features that are used in the organization of a text so as to make it understandable, clear and intelligent, for example, punctuation, capitalization, visual signs, shading, and textual style.

Research Methodology

The methodology of current research is mixed method (descriptive & quantitative) in nature. The descriptive research approach is a fundamental research technique that analyzes the circumstance, as it exists in its momentum state. The members of the analysis comprised of young Pakistani male and female students from two campuses of an institute. The members gave 500 SMS text messages as the corpus of the analysis. Text messages information was ordered by the gender of the sender of text messages. At that point, the information was examined for the events of lexical and typographical features. Gender differences were then investigated. Young Pakistani male and female students learning at university level are the population of the research. Purposive sampling technique is used, to choose the members, in this study. One hundred students have been selected 50 male and 50 females through purposive sampling strategy. They were equitably adjusted for gender (50 male and 50 females). These members had a place with two distinctive campuses of a university. The students were all between the ages of twenty one to twenty four. A set of 500 messages from 50 men and 50 women were used in this study for analysis. Participants were asked to save SMS messages they sent from their phone to friends and relatives, over a period of three days. They were also asked to send only those texts in the English language without the instructions in Roman Urdu. In the initial step, analyst took the screen captures of all the 500 text messages gathered from 100 respondents. Thus, the corpus of 500 SMS text messages was accumulated. Information reveals and presents different lexical and typographical features used by male and females in their text messages. It additionally incorporates depiction of results and discussions on these linguistics features used in text messaging of male and females. In this research two techniques for data analysis were used: Content

analysis and Descriptive Statistics. Content analysis is viewed as a key methodological device for the analysis of electronic-mediated communication (Herring, 2004). The principle technique in doing content analysis is 'coding'. Coding is a procedure of putting lines, labels and names/marks against the bits of information. Lexical features were additionally ordered into initialism, contraction, clipping; and letter and number homophones. Typographical features were classified as punctuation, phonetic spellings, onomatopoeic words and emojis. Descriptive statistics permits the researcher to portray obtained data in straightforward intelligible scores (Payne and Payne, 2004). The analyses with simple percent means and frequency distribution tables were conducted to look at the occurrence of language features in the text for men and women.

Interpretation and Data Analysis

Language features were categorized as lexical and punctuation marks. They were further organized into initialism, contraction, clipping and letter and number homophones. Typographical features were categorized into emoticons, phonetic spellings, punctuation and onomatopoeic words. These features were coded and used as parameters to distinguish gender differences in the language choices of students of Pakistani university in their SMS text formats. A data-based approach was used to obtain information on frequencies and exact

	Males	Females	

values. Following are the two categories or classes used for the analysis of information:

Lexical features:

- a) Initialism:
 - Acronyms (e.g Rofl, rolling on the floor with laughter; GTH, Go to Hell)
 - Alphabetism (e.g FB, facebook; Omg, Oh my God)
- b) Contraction (e.g thnx, thanks; whn, when)
- c) Clipping (e.g uni, university; Ur, your)
- d) Letter and number homophone (2, to/too/two; d, the; w8, wait)

Typographical Features:

- a) Emoticons (e.g OK, 🙄; happy face, 😊; Danger or Devilish, 😈)
- b) Phonetic Spellings (u, you; r, are/or; wht, what)
- c) Punctuation (regardless of whether punctuation marks like full stop and comma and so forth are available in a sentence or not?)
- d) Onomatopoeic Words (hahaha, xxxxx, zzzzzz)

Lexical Features

Linguistic features			Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Total
Lexical features	Initialism	Alphabetism	21	57%	16	43%	37 (100%)
		Acronyms	12	63%	7	27%	19 (100%)
	Contraction		242	57%	186	43%	428(100%)
	Clipping		71	52%	65	48%	136(100%)
	Letter & Number Homophone		96	41%	187	59%	234(100%)

Table 1: Lexical Features in the Text Messages of Young Pakistani University Students

Table 1 shows extensive varieties in the usage of initialism among the male and females in this analysis. Male appear to utilize initialism more than females do. The information shows that texters utilize alternate ways in their communication and are additionally ready to create new ones. In the gathered information, the recurrence of initialism was 21 (57%) in male' text messages while 16 (43%) in females' text messages. The two sorts of initialism which are alphabetism (e.g., AOA, LOL, FB) and acronyms (e.g., lol, lmao) have been seen in the text messages information. The recurrence of alphabetism and acronyms in the text messages of male is higher than the recurrence of alphabetism and acronyms in the text messages of females. Females used alphabetism and acronyms in 43% and 27% in their text messages while male used alphabetism and acronyms in 57% and 63% of their text messages. Texters have used Initialism like AoA (Assalam o Alaikum) and IA (InshaaAllah) from Urdu language in their text messages. Results demonstrate that acronyms and alphabetism isn't constrained to English language as it were. Regular articulations like 'assalam-o-alaikum', 'take care' and 'peace be upon him' have likewise been used as initialism. Such findings uncover that youthful male and females incline toward shortened spellings to standard spellings which show the significance of quickness in SMS text messages.

Clipping is another lexical element which is for the most part used by texters to spare reality. Aftereffects of the analysis uncover that clipping was used in 52% of the text messages of male. Interestingly, it was used in 48% of the text messages of females. One of the significant finding is that in the majority of the cases just vowels have been clipped. For the most part contractions have been made by excluding vowels e.g *vry* (very), *knw* (know), *nvr* (never), *hv* (have), *grt* (great). The results of the research show that (wil, uni, hav) are three most much of the time used cut words which fall under the class of back clipping and two (nd, ur) words under the classification of fore-clipping. Consonants have likewise been precluded in the words like *msgs* (messages), *wl* (will), *clg* (college), *tomoro* (tomorrow) and *aniversry*

(anniversary). Constriction is used 57% in male' text messages and 43% in the females' text messages. The recurrence of usage of contraction in male' text messages is higher than in females' text messages. The gathered information shows that male utilize contractions more in their SMS text messages.

The most widely recognized contractions used in SMS text messages information by male and females are *M, I m, im, I'm* for (I am/I'm), *can't, cant* for (Cannot), *thats, that's* for (That is), *hv* for (have), *tht* for (that), *alwys* for (always), *hapi* for (happy), *nw* (now), *ppl* for (people), *hw* for (How), *frm, Frm* for (From), *ITS, Itz, I'll, I ll, i'll, he's* for (he is), for (I will/I'll), *bt, Bt* for (But), *Dnt, dn't* for (Do not/don't), *Wth* for (with), *Ws* for (was), *Shud, shoud* for (should), *Vry* for (very), *dont, dnt, its*, for (It is/It's), *Nt* for (Not), *lv* for (love), *wil* (will), *it's* for (it is) and *sm* for (sum, some), *wht, wt, Wht, Wt* for (What), *abt* for (about), *yu* for (you), *jst* for (just), *nvr* for (never), *nthng* (nothing). Contraction with one word and two-words are seen in both gender's text messages. Females have used punctuation marks in constrictions though male have once in a while used punctuation mark. Letter and Number Homophones have been plentifully used in text messages by the two genders. It is shown in the data that there is a pattern that females utilize a bigger number of letters and numbers homophones than male. As the level of letter and number and number homophones in the text messages of females is 59% contrasted with 41% of male' text messages, which is very higher. A few instances of the consolidated/blended usage of letter and number homophones are 'g2g' for 'get to gather', 'f9' for 'fine', 'w8' for 'wait/weight', and 'b4' for 'before' are seen in the information. The critical numbers/digits used in SMS-Corpus as number homophones seem to be "2", "4", "8", and "9". Just these four numbers have been regularly used as number homophones or parts of words. The outcomes have demonstrated that initialism, contraction and clipping are used more by the male than their female partners. Male gave off an impression of being normal clients of initialism including (acronyms and alphabetism), clipping and contraction, while females gave off an impression of being regular clients of letter and number homophones in their text messaging. Concerning the lexical features used by the students, with the exception of letter and number homophone which gave off an impression of being used more by the females than male, the entirety of the other lexical features happened more in the male' text messages.

Typographical Features

Linguistic Features		Males		Females		Total
		Frequency	%	Frequency	%	
Typographical	Emoticons	24	12%	178	88%	202(100%)
	Punctuation	123	38%	202	52%	325(100%)

Features	Phonetic Spellings	182	64%	102	36%	284(100%)
	Onomatopoeic Words	14	25%	17	75%	56(100%)

Table 2: Typographical Features in the Text Messages of Young Pakistani University Students

In Table 2, females used emojis multiple times in their text messages while male used this element less in their text messages which implies that emojis show up in 88% of the messages of females as opposed to 12% of the messages of male. Pakistani male students seldom used emoticons in their messages. It was seen that females and male share the usage of 'smiley' and 'dismal face'. In any case, 'wink', 'tongue', 'snickering', 'straight face', 'irate face', 'symbol of hearts', 'tongue standing out', and 'kissing' were frequently used in Pakistani females' text messages than male' text messages. In text messages information, it was seen that male texters generally exclude commas, full stops, question marks and other punctuation marks. Though females utilize punctuation marks. Question mark is the most often used punctuation mark though minimal normal of everything is shout mark. Results show that there are 123 occurrences of punctuation checks in the text messages of male though in the text messages of females, this proportion is high; it's 202 in females' text messages. Punctuation was found in 38 % of male and 52% of females' text messages the following are the instances of how male and females use punctuation stamps in their text messages. In text messages, redundancy of punctuation marks is accomplished for two reasons; to underline and to communicate forceful feelings like astonishment, melancholy, perplexed and energized. Male and female texters have repetitively used punctuation stamps in text messages. Like in Example "beautiful things ... I didn't mind ..." full stops have been used in a flighty manner. Same in other example "HOW RUDE"!!!! Exclamation marks have been drearily used. Punctuation mark which male texters have generally used in their text messages is full stop like in examples. Furthermore, females have over and over again used question mark and exclamation marks in their text messages in an unconventional way like in upper examples. Another intriguing wonders saw in male' text messages was the non-appearance of regular punctuation marks where it should be essential. It was seen in text messages information that the usage of punctuation was exceptionally famous among females than male. Male didn't focus on the punctuation. The majority of them posed inquiries with no inquiry marks. Though a portion of the females used a portion of the punctuation inadequately particularly commas and exclamation marks, yet a large portion of the females have used punctuation checks in their messages in traditional way.

Phonetic spellings have been used 64% (182) in male' text messages when contrasted with 36% (102) in females' text messages. The texters attempt to rearrange their communication however much as could be expected by utilizing phonetic assimilation like *dunno* (don't have a clue), *wanna* (want to), *luv* (love) and *coz* (because). According to data

there is an undeniable distinction in the text messaging of the male and females as far as onomatopoeic words 25% and 75 % separately. The messaging society has created new and new onomatopoeic sounds used by male and females the same yet with various frequencies, for example (a) zzzzzz for resting, (b) xxxxx for affection you, (c) hahaha for chuckling, (d) uffff for disappointment, (e) hehehe for snickering and so forth. The most widely recognized onomatopoeic words that happen in the SMS messages of the students are: aww, hehehe, Zzzz, hahaha, uffff, bruhhhh, etc.

Most definitely, gender differences were likewise evident in this specific classification. The male students used more phonetic spelling than the female students, though the female students used more punctuation, emojis and onomatopoeic words than the male students. This shows that females are more expressive and enthusiastic than the male.

Table 3: Most Frequently used Lexical Features in the Text Messages of Males and Females

Linguistic Features			Males		Females	
			Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Lexical Features	Initialism	Alphabetisms	21	5.1%	16	3.5%
		Acronyms	12	2.9%	7	1.5%
	Contraction		212	51.5%	186	40.3%
	Clipping		71	17.2%	65	14.1%
	Letter & Number Homophone		96	23.3%	187	40.6%
	Total		412	100%	461	100%

In the table 3 that in the text of the male, contraction, a feature most commonly occurred as compared to other lexical features and 51.5% were used by men in their text messages. Letter and number homophones occurred in 23.3%, clipping 17.2%, alphabetisms 5.1% and acronyms 2.9% in men's texts. In the women's text, the word and number homophones were used 40.6% and the contraction was 40.3%, the clipping was 14.1%, the alphabetisms is counted 3.5% and the acronyms contained 1.5%. Initialism which includes alphabetisms and acronyms was smaller in frequency and percentages as compared to other lexical features in both genders text messages.

Table 4: Most Frequently used Typographical Feature in the Text Messages of Males and Females

Linguistic Features		Males		Females	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Typographical Features	Punctuation	123	35.9%	202	40.5%
	Phonetic	182	53%	102	20.4%
	Spellings				
	Emoticon	24	7%	178	35.7%
	Onomatopoeic Words	14	4.1%	17	3.4%
	Total	343	100%	499	100%

The results of the study as shown in Table 4 indicated that punctuation is the most frequent feature in female messages as compared to other writing features. 35.9% were used for men and 40.5% for women's text. While other symbolic features such as phonetic spelling were used 53% and emoticons were used 7% in male text messages. In women's literary texts, the percentage of phonetic compositions was 20.4% and that of emojis were 35.7%. Onomatopoeic words were used in 3.4% of text in women and 4.1% in men.

Conclusion

Gender differentiation in the linguistic aspects of SMS text messaging is an important factor. As there was a gap in the literature on gender and SMS, the purpose of this study was to fill this gap by focusing on finding out if there were any differences in the language of SMS messages used by men and women. The study concludes that Pakistani men and women use different linguistic features i.e. lexical and typographical. The results indicate that the relationship between new ICTs and new ways of language and use as proposed by Bodomo and Lee (2002) is found with this study. A very popular feature among the writers is Brevity. Data shows that this informal and abbreviated language is used by young learners. While texting, students often shorten their words and sentences as much as possible. However, text messaging for male and female students differs in lexical reduction and attenuation. Males use more initials, clippings, and subtitles for their messages than females. Females, on the other hand, have a tendency to use letter and number homophones rather than males. This may indicate that females use more messaging users than males. It would also indicate that men are more experienced in texting, which requires speed and economy. A new way in which texters express and show their feelings and emotions is Semiotic. They often express their feelings through signs instead of words. Male authors embed icons much lower than women's text. For example, the basic icons used are 😊 - a symbol that expresses joy and ☹️ - a sign that expresses sadness. There is an imaginary list of symbols used by the authors depending on the context. It is seen that the frequency of utilizing punctuations, emojis, and

sound to word imitation is higher among the female students than male. In any case, the frequency of phonetic spelling shows is higher on normal among the male students than their female partners. In view of these findings, we can presume that the young Pakistani females utilize unexpected typographical features in comparison to the male. Differences are generally higher in the usage of emojis, contraction and letter and number homophones though peripheral to the extent the usage of clipping, punctuation, phonetic spellings, are concerned in both genders. Yet at the same time contrasts are there. This study shows that gender has a very important role to play on a regular basis and that there is a noticeable break in the performance of linguistic features (lexical and typographical features) in SMS text messages.

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