

Digital language practices and generational differences

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The increasing online presence of older generations have resulted in new digital communication cultures where linguistic and semiotic differences become visible to language users. In this paper, we focus on such differences by studying how young people (16 years old) and their parents articulate different norms of online language use and how they ascribe such norms to different generations. In particular, we focus on how the participants orient towards different norms of emoji use, abbreviations, length of text messages, and proofreading. We study how these linguistic generational differences are articulated in interviews and in online parent-teen interactions. The paper provides new knowledge about digitally mediated language use in contemporary families and provide insights into how young people and their parents (despite their different normative orientations) accommodate linguistically in their online correspondences.

KEYWORDS: digital language practices; generational differences; normativity; accommodation; linguistic ethnography