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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evripides Zantides and Aspasia Papadima</td>
<td>Depicting time: Visualizing the duration of existence and facts in past, present and future</td>
<td>5-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charoula Statthopolou and Darlinda Moreira</td>
<td>Diversity in European school populations: A study in Portugal and Greece with particular attention to Romany cultures</td>
<td>20-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anastasia Kappatou</td>
<td>Investigating young people’s online discussions from a linguistic and sociological perspective</td>
<td>32-43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eriola Qafzezi</td>
<td>Linguistic phenomena observed in translating multiple sentences from English into Albanian: The case of Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland</td>
<td>44-57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna Fterniati, Argiris Archakis, Villy Tsakona and Vasia Tsami</td>
<td>Media and literacy: Evidence from elementary school students’ literacy practices and the current teaching practices in Greece</td>
<td>58-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iliadou-Tachou Sofia, Kalerante Evaggelia Tsigeni and Paraskevi</td>
<td>PASOK’s education policy about the transferring of Greek students attending Foreign Universities (1982-1991): A Study Case – Florina’s Pedagogical Academy</td>
<td>71-85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charalambos Lemonidis and Anastasia Kaimakami</td>
<td>Prospective elementary teachers’ knowledge in computational estimation</td>
<td>86-98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggeliki Tsapanidou, Argyrios Kyridis and Eirini Sivropoulou</td>
<td>The effect of a learning group in the understanding of the structure of illustrated short stories for children of a preschool age</td>
<td>99-109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panagiotis Giavrimis, Makrina Zafiri, Vasilis Charitos and Adamantios Papastamatis</td>
<td>The conception of the “self” in immigrant children: The case of Albanians in the Greek educational system</td>
<td>110-121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christos Tzikas</td>
<td>The social conditions of educational changes. The case of primary education in Greece 1878-1880</td>
<td>122-138</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Investigating young people’s online discussions from a linguistic and sociological perspective

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Abstract
This article aims at demonstrating the research methodology and results coming from the linguistic study of online discourse and the sociological analysis based on the perceptions of users for the online communication channel (chatting). Specifically the stages of the research study are described as long as the research tools utilized within the linguistic processing of the sample but also within the sociological analysis of the attitudes of subjects. Alongside representative results obtained from both research approaches are exhibited and discussed. As far as the linguistic approach is concerned it is worth noting that the lines of online discussions gathered from public and private press talks were 4560 in number and their study was based on classification in the categories of linguistic analysis (morphology, syntax, spelling, pragmatics, semantics, lexical origin). On the other hand, in the context of sociological research the participants were in the age class of 13-25 years old and were asked to complete a questionnaire in order to collect information of social survey and reflection of their wider attitude towards online chat. The results obtained from processing the responses of the respondents were crossed with their responses to questions addressed to them in conducting individual semi-structured interview type.

Keywords: chat, communication, internet language.

Introduction
The contribution of the particular research to the linguistic and sociological studies of digital media is significant. This is due, on one hand, to the lack of similar research approaches in the Greek scientific literature. Despite the fact that during the past few years several surveys have been conducted regarding internet communication whereas none of them handles the combination of research tools (linguistic and sociological) that offers an overall perception of the internet discussion. In particular, the sample of internet conversations is linguistically examined focusing to the special features of the language used by the internet communicators. Besides the user’s attitude towards the new communication media is examined through answering a questionnaire in written form and in oral by taking part in an interview conducted by the researcher.

1. Methodology
1.1. Linguistic research
The goal of the linguistic research comprises on one hand to the emergence of specific morphological, syntactic, lexical, factual, spelling and semantics consistent with the online language code and differentiate it from the common language tool and on the other, in comparing and contrasting the characteristics of speech utilized in online discussions of young users depending on the social networking page or discussion platform they choose.
1.1.1. Research course

Firstly the sample collection of online discussions took place. This procedure was made in two ways depending on the type of conversation. In specific, public online conversations, meaning those that take place in the electronic platform of IRC were retrieved from the internet. Preceded the manufacture and distribution to users of an online questionnaire in which they were asked to fill in their age and the communication channel they use the most so as to discriminate the most popular communication channels. The private conversations that took place on social networking website of Facebook and the implementation of online chat MSN, due to the confidentiality of personal conversation were gathered by using the method of personal approach to users who were in the age of new grade and came from the researcher’s social surroundings. Specifically, they were asked to talk about any topic they wish and then with partners of their choice, to record their conversations and deliver them to the researcher.

Following the sample collection was the study per line of internet dialogue according to the following categories:

A. Writing
   1. Syntax
   2. Extralinguistic elements (intonation emphasis)
   3. Extralinguistic elements (intonation abeyance)
   4. Graphology
   5. Spelling
B. Morphology
C. Pragmatics
D. Lexical source
   1. Insulting vocabulary
E. Semantics
   1. Sentence Semantics
   2. Lexical Semantics

The final stage of the linguistic analysis consisted of the conduction of frequencies using the program of SPSS.

1.2. Sociological analysis

The sociological analysis aims both at highlighting the most popular conversation topics of users in an online discussion and also at creating an establishment of the sociological profile, which consists of information regarding their social characteristics and mapping of their general attitude towards the online communication tool.

1.2.1. Research course

The research study followed the steps below:

1. The emergence of topics in the online discussion held by categorizing the issues that users grapple with using the method of content analysis.
2. The sociological profile of users was established by both the answers given by the users to a questionnaire distributed (sample 250) to them and also in individual semi-structured interviews that participated which were held by the researcher.
1.3. Demographics

In relation to the demographic characteristics of 250 subjects that constituted the sample of this research we deposit that they showed equal distribution to the factor of gender (boys 50%, girls 50%) while regarding their ages they were divided into three groups. Specifically, the first age group consists of users aged 13-15 years old and covers the 53.2% of the total sample, the second group consists of young people aged 16-20 years old and represents 35.6% of the total sample and the third age group includes subjects aged 21-25 years old accounting for 11.2% of the sample.

Regarding their socioeconomic status, in majority, the occupation of the father belongs to the category of public employees with percentage of 30.6% and free-professional craftsman with percentage 20.0%. The mother’s profession is primarily a public servant with a percentage of 31.8% and household with percentage of 26.0%.

The educational level of parents and specifically from the father’s side corresponds mainly to the levels of graduate of Secondary education at a percentage of 39.0% and graduate of higher education at a percentage of 24.8%. The mother is primarily graduate of secondary (34.2% share) and higher education (30.9%).

Finally, regarding the residence of young people that took part in this survey it is indicated that 54.4% of them come from the two major urban centers (Athens and Thessaloniki) and other from urban centers by 45.6%.

2. Results

2.1 Linguistic research results

The linguistic study of the sample of internet dialogue lines (4560) showed the following results.

a. From the syntax opinion it was observed that the dominant shape perception of the hybrid version of an internet conversation is the one that includes strong elements of orality. This means that in the syntactic structure of each message were inserted orality indicators, such as «Oxi an psifistei katalipsi tha traviksei mexri ta xristougenna re su .den xanetai to eksamino dld.». The relationship of online discourse with the spoken word and especially with regard to retirement was highlighted by G. Androutsopoulos (Androutsopoulos 2012) arguing that "the particular circumstances of literacy on the Internet have effects on the texture of language. An important part is summarized by the term of "oral capture". "The oral conception begins with the whole layout of the text. Particularly in circumstances of dense communication the text size is dramatically reduced. The whole message may well consist of only one sentence." Besides, Crystal notes that "often presented in the online floor speech language forms, such as short syntactic structures, repetition of phrases and the more relaxed propositional structure" (Crystal 2006).

b. During chatting users lack the possibility of personal contact with their partner, and thus they are inserted between the computer screen. This hampers the observation of non-verbal behavior of their partner as well as their emotional state. For this reason, they use marks from the written word to emphasise their writings and thus to convey their feelings to their partner (intonation emphasis).
a. The most basic form of expression of intonation emphasis in the sample of online dialogues collected was the repetition of punctuation. This finding is consistent with literature data related to this aspect. In particular, Basiliki Markou mentions in her doctoral thesis amongst other features of speech in Modern Written Communication 'innovative use of punctuation for emphasis. It was observed heavy use of punctuation to indicate emotions. (Markou 2010). " Besides G. Androutsopoulos notes that " in the Internet you can not see nor hear the querent. So the users invent new ways of communicating to indicate smiling or crying, to show that they are surprised, angry or excited. Taking inspiration from the comics, repeating punctuation helps in demonstrating these feelings (Androutsopoulos 2012).

b. Regarding the results of the study referring to graphology features the lead of the use of the Greek font was demonstrated. According to the responses of the subjects to similar question put to them in the interview it seems to be a trend by some young peoples the abandoning of greeklish and the return to the use of Greek. The reason for this is that some young people consider the use of greeklish harmful to their performance in language courses at school. Within research that took place in secondary school students in order to study the phenomenon of greeklish and explore their attitude on "whether the students consider that the use of greeklish is a threat to the Greek language, 58.5% of the students placed positively but with some caution, since the 32.3% of them recorded the option "probably yes."(It should also be noted that around 2004 appeared in many Greek online forum (where greeklish was the main communication language code) a movement against the use of greeklish. Administrators threatened with ostracism users who continue to use greeklish, making in this way mandatory the use of Greek, but nevertheless the use of greeklish did not became reason for exclusion from the forum. Such examples were Translatum Greek Translation Forum, the AthensWireless Metropolitan Network Forum, the Venus Project Forum, the adslgr.com Forum and Greek Technological Forum.

c. In the category of morphology was found that users make extensive use of abbreviations. Abbreviations emerged as a need for users to meet the requirements of the operating system communication platforms that posed as a maximum limit of 160 characters per message. Most of these abbreviations have been used long before the advent of mobile phones in our lives. However as mentioned by Crystal «when limitations arising from the operating program were overcome, the use of abbreviations was expanded to impart a playful character to online discussion and enhance the fascination of one user to another" (Crystal 2006). The most common abbreviations in the sample we collected were: dn (den), k (kai), pc (personal computer), gt (giati), fb (facebook), tn (thn).

d. The study of the factual characteristics in online speech highlighted the lead of subcategory of speech acts in comparison with the others. In particular the subcategory of "expressive speech act" consentred the higher percentages. The desire of users of online communication to convey aspects of their emotional state to their interlocutors expressed through the use of expressive speech act. According to Marketa Johnova «the main motivation for the use of speech acts is for users to introduce movement and life in an online discussion. Speech acts help
personification of respondents. Sometimes the discussion in a communication channel resembles a movie script (Johnova 2004). In particular, the use of expressive speech acts is particularly popular as the online discussion is related to expression of feelings and personal views. However, the researcher faces with distrust to the public expression of feelings that is taking place in chat rooms. Specifically she comments that "emotions in chat have more to do with the description of what the user says that he feels and not what he actually feels. As soon as every feeling is described it becomes an object of thought and not an emotion. In online communication is easy for users to hide their true feelings. Users often guess the psychological status of respondents from the way they write" (Johnova 2004).

e. The study of the lexical origin of online discourse revealed that the main source of linguistic influence is the everyday vocabulary, particularly the slang language. This feature of online communication code language has been also identified by other researchers. Examples include the observation of G. Androutsopoulos that "the vocabulary of electronic communication incorporates expressions of everyday language and elements of the code of each gang." (Androutsopoulos 1999).

f. As far as the appearance of the class of semantics is concerned and especially the sentencial semantics, it was highlighted the primacy of orality subset of data. As mentioned in the syntax category where the dominion of orality as syntactic form was identified, the existence of semantic phrasal units coming from verbal speech is an expected phenomenon in an online chat. In users quest to create an atmosphere of intimacy between them, as the online discussion is by definition a cold and impersonal communication pathway, they tend to integrate in their discourse elements from the spoken word. Similarly, in the lexical semantics subcategory the highest incidence was the one that includes figures of speech, the use of which comes from the verbal speech and serves the users need to attract attention to their messages and be more descriptive.

g. In relation to the incidence of abusive vocabulary it seems to have little appearance to the whole sample including mild acidity expressions which usually have other recipient apart from the interlocutor. In contrast to the previous years where there was a widespread perception that young people were entering the channels of communication to express themselves freely and without censorship using insulting vocabulary, it seems that the situation has changed. Young people are opting for other reasons the online communication and not to use insulting expressions. Besides, we should not overlook the fact that "scurrilous friendly addresses (eh asshole) and some offensive stereotypical phrases (damn) are typical of youth culture" and as such they should be treated.

h. Considering then the spelling of greeklish we observe that it follows, in the majority of cases, the pattern of visual transcription, thus this does not mean that there are not also other types of transcription (sound, positional). Interesting alternative ways of writing the same word were noted depending on the transcription system that each participant selects.

i. As far as the comparison of the dialogues that take place in different media is concerned we can support, summarizing the results, that discussions composed
on IRC include more elements of orality and expressive verbal acts, in morphological aspect there is an abound of acronyms and in lexical view the words used are influenced by the slang language. This relates to the fact that the participants in the dialogue via IRC have not advance any connection between them, thus they seek through the use of those elements above the preference of their interlocutors (acronyms), to pique their attention (expressive speech acts) and foster an atmosphere of intimacy between them (borrowing language from slang orality).

2.2 Social results

Young people prefer online chat site by social networking sites with a rate amounting to 90.3%, while they prefer this medium rather than using the electronic platform of discussions on IRC in an percentage of 93.6%. The favorite social networking website among young people are Facebook (62,5%) and MSN (22,3%). Besides, we should not overlook that the statistics showed that "in 2010, Greece was the 26th country to use Facebook, according to the official data of Facebook. Within two years, Facebook users in Greece increased by 462% (in 2008 it was 505,000, in 2009 was 1,639,000 and in 2010 came to 2,838,700) " (www.enet.gr).

The main reason that young people use chat rooms are: for communication at a rate of 51.8% and the use of multimedia (rate 25.0%). Similarly, Bratitsis Th., Kyridis A., & A. Karaspyrou, say "mostly (young people) prefer to interact with subordinates, but also to create new friends. This suggests that more young people prefer the virtual environment in order to "build" bridges of communication easier with their peers, rather than personal, direct contact." (Bratitsis et al. 2010).

Regarding the significance of communication in relation to the variable of gender and space used by youths to make chat, it appears to be a correlation between gender and communication with girls to show precedence (small) compared with boys in this field. Also it was found that when chatting takes place from the home computer the main reason is to communicate with others.

The average frequency use of online communication is 4 hours (35.2%). Correlations with social characteristics, such as father education level showed that the most the educational level of the father is increasing the greater time is spend to online communication. Similar research (katerelos et al. 2010) records as average time use of chatting by pupils / students and high school students the 3 hours, while another study reported as average time spent in order to make new acquaintances through internet the 3.71 hours, while users participation in discussion rooms grades more than 2.50 hours (Tsouvelas & Giwtakos 2011).

The language tool most commonly used by young people in their online discussions is greeklish at a rate of 69.4%, Greek by 14.0%, English at a percentage of 5.1% and all of the above at a percentage of 17.0%. These data are supported by similar research conducted in 2004-2006 by the Centre for the Greek Language. According to research findings adolescents when entering chat rooms they choose, in their majority (43.3%) the use of Greek with Latin characters (greeklish) (koutsogiannis 2007). Their preference in the specific language code is attributed to the maximum speed offered in their internet involvement. Besides, young people prefer the use of greeklish compared with other language tools for usability reasons at a rate of 47.4% and interest in the language (17.7%
share). When subjects were asked to clarify what is meant by the term usability respondents indicated maximum speed by 73.3%. In order to study further the use of greeklish it is associated with several parameters. Originally it is associated with the place where the online communication takes place, which showed that greeklish appear more often among young people who use social networking sites to chat. Then, there was a correlation with the frequency of time of online discussion and use of greeklish where it became evident that an increase in the time spent by young people for chat-over 4 hours-is an equivalent of abandonment of greeklish as basic linguistic tool. Also, the use of greeklish is correlated with the number of computers available to the users to determine that increasing the number of P/C make a similar increase in the use of greeklish. Finally, the use of greeklish was examined in light of the constraints imposed by their parents in the use of P/C in general and use of social networking sites in particular. This correlation showed that in cases where there is no or little parental exercise in the use of H/Y the use of greeklish displayed an increase and as the constraints imposed by their parents to children rise the use of greeklish is reduced.

Young people have by average 1 P/C (in percentage 37.9%) and personal computer at a rate of 72.7%. This fact was associated with socio-economic characteristics such as parental education and father occupation, interdependency was indicated. In particular, there is a proportional relationship between the number of H/C and parental education whereby when the educational background of parents is increasing respectively a quantitative increase is marked in the number of the household PC. In a corresponding manner acts the influence of the father profession.

Users were asked to undertake a self-assessment of their knowledge about the PC. They mostly valued their cognitive level as good (55.4%). Exploring this issue in relation to the number of PC that users possess it has emerged a proportional relationship between the two data. Increase of the number of PC in each household means better knowledge level on PC for users (according to self-assessment of the users themselves).

The subjects of this study seem to keep a good relationship with new technologies which is generally showed by the number of new technology devices that use other than the computer. The most popular device used by young people is the mobile phone at a percentage of 26.8%. Starting from the Greek data, the results of a qualitative research conducted by the company Mind search on behalf of mobile operator Wind in December of 2011 on a sample of 2176 children aged over 13 years, are indicative (Mind search 2011). In particular according to them:

1. The computer and the mobile phone is now a member of the family and the gang: number one in frequency communication media with friends is the mobile phone, second is msn, third is the e-mail and fourth is sms.
2. Children play complex games on mobile phone of their parents before they even learn the multiplication tables.

The contact of young people with new technologies was also approached in relation to the variable of residence and it was found that users who reside in one of the two major urban centers (Athens, Thessaloniki) have greater familiarity with technology compared to users who reside to other urban centers.

Regarding the place used primarily by the research subjects for their Internet communications is home (93.3% share) and the Internet cafe (rate 13.0%). Next issue of concern to users was that referring to the knowledge level of their parents
over the PC use. The subjects, most of them deem their parents familiarization with the P/C as moderate (28.0%) and low (27.6%). This issue has been studied in relation to the variables of place of residence, profession and maternal educational attainment of both parents. Firstly interrelationships revealed between the degree of parents familiarity with the P/C (according to the judgment of their children) and place of residence. Specifically, parents who live in the two major urban centers (Athens-Thessaloniki) are more familiar with the P/C compared with residents of other urban centers. Then, the correlation between the good use of the P/C with the educational level of the parents showed that in both cases (maternal education, father education) there is a proportional relationship: as education increases so does the degree of familiarity with the P/C. Corresponding results showed the association with mother’s profession as well.

In relation to the space their parents use more the P/C the subjects of the research testified that it is the house (with a rate of 76.1%).

Regarding the issue of parental control over the use of P/C research subjects testified that do not accept any limitation on percentage (44%) and that sometimes this can happen at a rate of 32.7%.

3. Discussion of results underlying users attitude

This section will summarize the results of the processing of responses given by users in questions related to the classification of motives when conducting online discussions. All the above parameters contribute to the formation of the general attitude of users towards online communication.

The reasons, according to the users responses to similar questions that motivate the online communication in order of preference are as follows:

1. "The online communication is useful when you are away from your friends" (75.8%).
2. "I share with my friends audiovisual material (video song)" (70.7% share).
3. "All my friends communicate via internet " (61.4% share).
4. "I spend my time doing chat» (55.8%).
5. "I am informed about issues that interest me from my friends (fashion, sports, gossip, new diets, sex etc) (52.5% share).
6. "I choose internet communication because it is cheaper" (48.0%). This statement is further investigated in relation to the age of the users and mothers occupation. Specifically, the correlation showed that users at the ages of 16-25 years are interested in cheaper communication, while ages 13-15 are indifferent. As for the occupation of the mother it was recorded a higher frequency of underlying agreement with the content of this statement when the mother is working in a job belonging to middle socioeconomic professions.
7. "The online communication is fashionable" (47.1%).

Regarding the views expressed by the research subjects in the online discussion we distinguish two directions.

Skepticism towards the media. The subjects expressed suspicion about the authenticity of relationships created online, as the manipulation of the identity of the interlocutors (rate 63.2%) is a common phenomenon. The content of this declaration has been studied in relation to gender and it was revealed that girls are more shy towards the medium for the
reason mentioned earlier. Also, subjects expressed their concerns regarding the lack of personal contact with the interlocutor (rate 59.5%) and the majority responded negatively to the possibility of meeting in real life with an online acquaintance (54.6% share). Regarding this issue, the correlation with the variable of sex showed girls to be more negative toward this possibility in comparison with boys. Moreover, the users mostly regard as superficial the acquaintances created through the online channel of communication with the girls to appear more proponents of this view compared with boys. The majority of users expressed their views on the harmful effects of online communication in cases of prolonged use (66.8%) and utilization of children who are vulnerable to deception on the Internet (75.5% share).

With the data obtained from this group of statements of the attitude scale are corresponding the results of the research conducted by Papanis (2008), according to which "Facebook is accused by users themselves that promotes superficial relationships and that they can not find support through this." In a parallel research conducted by Bratitsis & Karaspyrou & Kyridis it is said that "the majority of respondents (60%) believes that ultimately it is not safe being in social networking websites. That uncertainty is reflected to some extent also in the explicit declaration of the 45% of respondents that they are opposed to creating a relationship with a person of the opposite sex who would know via Facebook » (Bratitsis et al. 2011).

Positive attitude towards the media. Young people who were the sample survey indicated the advantages of the online communication, in accordance with their own judgment. In particular, they highlighted the fact that through chat they have the opportunity to talk briefly about a variety of topics and direct interest to them with their friends. This dimension was approached in correlation with domicile and proved that young people of the two major urban centers (Athens, Thessaloniki) attach greater weight to the contents of the above declaration. Young people also reported that they evaluate positively the role of online communication in relation to the demands of the modern era (rate 62.3%). Finally, users assessed positively the multifunctional environment of social networking websites (65.0% share).

Communication problems. This section contains statements related to structural features of online communication. Specifically, the subjects reported that they like to chat or have the opportunity to talk with their friends (70.4% share). This dimension was approached in relation to the variables of gender and age and showed that girls more than boys and the age of puberty (13-15 years) more than other age groups tend to seek online contact with friends. These data are confirmed by the findings of research conducted by Efstratios Papanis, according to which "the boys are more favorably disposed towards social networking compared to girls" (Papanis, 2008).

Also, online communication, according to its users is an economical way of communication. This attitude of users was studied in relation to place of residence and age and it seemed that the residents of the two major urban centers (Athens, Thessaloniki) and ages 16-20 years old show concern for the fact that chatting is equivalent to economical way of communication.

Another feature of electronic communication which arouses the interest of the users because they say that they consider it as "their own language" which allows them quick communication and without thinking about the spelling of words is the use of greeklish (54.0% share). The use of abbreviations (rate 44.2%) and emoticon (62,3%) are the most
attractive features of this linguistic tool in the view of users and are utilized primarily by girls and adolescents (13-15 years), who stated that they utilize them more than all other age groups at the aggregate level.

Additionally, subjects consider high the merits of the electronic communication of the multimedia environment that enables them to engage in many activities simultaneously (computer games, chat, video etc) (70.5% share).

Furthermore, young people positively evaluate the potential offered by chatting to talk with friends who are in distant geographical distance from themselves (79.2% share), a fact which attach greater importance among ages 13-15 and to reestablish contact with people who for various reasons had lost contact (77.2% share), a very important element especially for individuals residing in two large cities (Athens, Thessaloniki) and ages 16-20.

Furthermore, the direct accessibility of internet contact that is opposed to the limitations of parents for spending time on personal contacts (56.9% rate) is important for users who reside particularly in urban centers than for those living either in Athens either in Thessaloniki.

Finally, subjects answer that they primarily enter the online chat room using their real identity. Mostly girls showed their agreement with the statement above, however some differences were identified when examined the contents of this declaration with the education of the father. Specifically it appears to be a dependency relationship between professions belonging to low socio-economic backgrounds and the tendency of users in this case to falsify their identity.

Entertainment. In the context of the statements contained in this section users have submitted their views on the characteristics of online communication that are entertaining for them. Specifically, users have reported that they like that in the online contact can be simultaneously involved in many activities (54.3% share) which spurs more interest in the ages of 13-15 years. Also, subjects characterize internet communication as a pleasant pastime leisure (31.2% share) and a break from their homework (rate 46.8%). Then the boys more than girls consider entertaining the prospect of establishing relationships with the opposite sex through the online contact, taking information for the new games that can be played on the computer (share 51.2%) as well as viewing of nude photos, activity non-liking for girls. Finally, subjects belonging to ages 13-15 find it fun to use patter language among members of friendly parties by their Internet contact. Finally, they were identified incidents which boys find entertaining even cyber bullying (25%) under the form of verbal aggression.

Topics discussed. The research subjects were asked to choose from a list of preferable topics in an online discussion those of the most important to them and classify them based on this criterion. The processing of the results to this question showed that "personal issues of friendly gang" come first in the preference of users, an element which is also identified by the results of the content analysis within the sociological analysis of sample conversations. Research conducted within the EU Kids Online project led by the LSE (London School of Economics and Political Science) on the occasion of the "Safer Internet Day 2011" showed that "nearly half of young people aged 11-16 years in Europe agree that it is easier being "themselves" online than in their interpersonal relationships, and one in eight (12%) agree with this completely. Another finding is that almost half of young people who participated in the survey (45%) discuss different issues on the Internet than when they do face to face discussions and the third (32%) speaks on the
Internet for personal matters that do not affect face to face discussions. These research findings show that when teenagers communicate via the internet brings them in less embarrassment than interpersonal communication. According to researchers from the EU Kids Online, experimentation with identity is part of puberty, so those who say that it is "partly true" that they feel more like "themselves" on the internet, can enjoy the benefits of online communication - for example, may be less embarrassing to discuss a few issues online than in person.

4. Conclusions

Chatting has evolved into a preferable way of communicating especially among young people.
The language code that is used in sending messages during a communication via internet is quite different from the common verbal or written language. This is due, mainly, to the fact that this language code resembles the written language in its forming and the verbal language in its structure. This conclusion comes after examining 4560 dialogue lines and noting their features. As far as syntax is concerned the influence of the verbal code is obvious since there are many elements of orality evident in the messages that users sent. Moreover users tend to use abbreviations and emoticons so as to send as quickly as possible their statement and they express their emotions through extensive use of emotional speech acts. They also tend to use words coming from the common language and they avoid insulting vocabulary. The public conversations differ from the private ones in the greater use of abbreviations, slang language and expressive speech acts.

From the sociology point of view, young users prefer chatting to other means of communication because their friends use it and because of the multifunctional environment that networking sites offer to them. Their attitude towards chatting is both positive and negative. They appreciate the possibility offered to them by chatting to communicate with their friends but they feel insecure about the authenticity of relationships formed through internet communication. Especially girls tend to be more anxious about this issue whereas boys in the contrary seem to be more relaxed with the possibility of meeting in real life someone they meet in chat or view nude photographs for that reason. Besides boys tend to find chatting as a nice way of entertainment since they collect information about new P/C games. Finally the discussion topics that young people indulge with during chatting are those that have to do with personal issues of the friendly group.

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Brief biography

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