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**ENGLISH IN FACEBOOK**

**Master's thesis**

written by the student of the 2nd year of studies  
of master's programme

"English Communication Studies  
and Translation and Two  
Western European Languages"

Field of science: 03 "Humanities"

Specialty: 035 "Philology"

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«Допущено до захисту»

Протокол засідання кафедри англійської філології

та міжкультурної комунікації

Протокол № 8 від 12.05.2020

Завідувач кафедри \_\_\_\_\_ д. філол. н., проф. Белова А.Д.

KYIV – 2020

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## Introduction

Nowadays, people can't imagine their lives without mobile phones or computers that do not have access to the Internet. The World Wide Web is not only a huge search engine, but also a tool that is increasingly used for communication, especially by the younger generation. Language constantly develops throughout its existence, and the virtual environment undoubtedly changes it, imposes its special imprint.

The main problem of communication on the Internet is the complexity of transmission of emotions and feelings, which often entails a misinterpretation of communication. Users of social networks are almost completely devoid of means that are typical for real life communication - intonation, gestures or facial expressions. Thus, the reliability of computer-mediated communication is extremely low, since in spoken language, the success of communication is achieved through non-verbal means.

When communicating through instant messaging programs, participants in the communicative act do not see and hear each other, which significantly complicates the process of understanding, as it eliminates the ability to focus on non-verbal components of the interlocutor's language. Users of Facebook try to express their feelings not only with words, expressions, but also using punctuation marks, abbreviations and of course emoticons that can save time for explaining emotions and reduce the size of the message. The possibility of using different means of actualizing emotions allows people to understand each other, even if the text of the message does not always adhere to the rules of grammar. Communication in Facebook is of great importance in the unification of humanity, and emotions are what enriches this communication. Therefore, this work is devoted to the study of linguistic and paralinguistic features of English in Facebook.

**The relevance of this work** is due to the rapid development of the Internet and its influence on communication. Internet as a medium of communication has defined new ways of communication, new stereotypes of speech behavior, and new forms of language existence that are of great interest to its users. Communication in social networking service Facebook, being a relatively recent form of communication, has

not yet been sufficiently studied from a linguistic and paralinguistic point of view. In addition, Internet communication is an extremely dynamic sphere of the existence of a language, therefore, a description of the state of Internet communication at the modern stage of language development introduces new language material into scientific usage.

**The aim of the work** is to study the linguistic and paralinguistic features of the communication in Facebook, as well as the expression of emotions in it.

The aim determines the following **research objectives**:

1. to characterize the Internet discourse and define its place and functions in the modern world;

2. to delimitate such concepts as "virtual" discourse, "computer" discourse, "electronic" discourse, "network" discourse and "Internet" discourse;

3. to find out the features of written and oral speech in Internet discourse;

4. to consider the Internet communication and the notion of slang.

5. to identify genres and basic situations of Internet usage;

6. to consider types, groups and functions of paralinguistic means;

7. to identify the linguistic features of English in Facebook, mainly grammatical and lexical;

8. to characterize the paralinguistic means of expression of emotions in on-line communication;

9. to consider creolized texts and to highlight their main features and types in Facebook.

**The object of the work** is the communication of the users in Facebook. **The subject** is grammar, lexical, graphic and phonetic peculiarities of Facebook comments in English, their linguistic and paralinguistic features.

**The language data** consists of more than 160 texts of Facebook posts and comments selected at random in period from July 2015 to April 2020.

In our study, we used the following **methods**:

- theoretical analysis;
- discursive analysis;

- method of linguistic research;
- syntactic analysis;
- lexical analysis;
- semantic analysis;
- descriptive method.

The paper consists of three parts with summaries to each of them, introductory and concluding parts, a list of analysed sources and an appendix containing illustration material.

The first part "Internet discourse in modern communication space" provides analytical reviews of the leading linguistic concepts of Internet discourse; gives the definition of discourse; describes the genres of Internet discourse; determines the use of paralinguistic means, their types and manifestations.

The second part "Linguistic features of English in Facebook" considers the main linguistic features of Facebook communication, mainly grammatical and lexical ones; identifies the role of interjections and their use in on-line interaction.

The third part "Paralinguistic features of English in Facebook" identifies the paralinguistic features of English, mainly the use of punctuation marks, emoticons, emojis, stickers and creolized texts.

**The novelty of the work** lies in a comprehensive study of the comments of English-speaking Internet users in Facebook in terms of the peculiarities of their grammar, lexical, stylistic structuring and spelling or graphic design. The Master's thesis shows the diversity of ways to create in English-language Internet discourse the uniqueness of a user on the Internet as a linguistic person, reveals and theoretically substantiates the difference between a real person and a virtual person in the framework of Internet communication, which is exposed to the unique influence of technological factors.

# **1. INTERNET DISCOURSE IN MODERN COMMUNICATION SPACE**

## **1.1. Internet discourse as a specific type of speech**

The development of information technology in modern society stimulates the emergence of new forms of communication. The Global Network formed new distinctive communicative genres, the main linguistic feature of which is the synthesis of writing and oral speech. The language of the Internet is a new kind of communication, a new type of discourse – Internet discourse, which combines the features of written and spoken language, and also has its own properties mediated by computer communication [43, c. 171].

Various genres of Internet communication represent the implementation of Internet discourse, since there is a linguistic expression of the cognitive process of perception of a certain conceptsphere (the Internet, in its individual manifestations – concepts) [7, c. 4]. The proof of this is the establishment of pragmatic, sociocultural, psychological factors, the description of the targeted social action of speech production, the identification of emotional attitude to a particular concept, the interpretation of the assessment of this phenomenon, the decoding of the means of forming an opinion about the certain event and the factors that motivate the communicants to actions and reactions [21, c. 58].

The term "discourse analysis" first entered general use in a series of papers published by American linguist and sociologist Zellig Harris in 1952. He called the discourse as the method of coherent speech analysis, "intended to expand descriptive linguistics beyond one sentence at a certain point of time and to correlate culture and language" [74, p. 16].

In modern linguistics, there is another approach to define this term. The famous linguist, Teun Van Dijk, believes that in broad sense, discourse is a speech act that occurs with the participation of two communicants in a particular social, cultural, temporal, and spatial context. In a narrower sense, discourse is equivalent to the notion of "text" and "conversation," and is defined as a concrete verbal language product [91, p. 47].

Some linguists delimitate the concepts of "virtual discourse", "computer discourse", "electronic discourse", "network discourse" and "Internet discourse". The terms "computer discourse" and "electronic discourse" are absolute synonyms because they involve communication via a computer. "Internet discourse" is understood as communication on the Global Network and is a type of "network discourse", which, in addition to communication on the Internet, also includes communication in local networks. Thus, these types of discourse are in hyper-hyponymic relations, where the computer (electronic) discourse is the hyperonym, and the communication environment is determined by the communication channel. However, such ambiguity does not exist between "computer discourse" and "virtual discourse" [34, c. 31]

"Virtual discourse" is understood in a narrower sense than "computer discourse", since the last one is not only communication via a computer, but also between a person and a computer. In addition, the direct communication of communicants is inherent in computer discourse, which is not the case with virtual communication, where the communicant is thought up by our consciousness. And on the other hand, "virtual discourse" is interpreted more broadly than computer discourse, since communication in virtual reality is created not only through a computer, but also other means of communication. Electronic (computer) and virtual discourse denote texts on the Internet; non-paper media (audio books, films, records, games, programs etc.); multimedia devices (smart phones, iPods, eBooks etc.) and other means [34, c. 42]. Internet discourse in contrast to electronic, virtual, and computer discourse, "focuses not on the media and the means by which these media transmit messages, but on how the language is used in the exchange of information" [20, c. 27].

Internet discourse as a separate type of discourse is a combination of different texts, formed by linguistic means that exist in certain conditions and include psychological, social and cultural factors. This complex discourse involves an integrated approach to analysis [91, p. 57].

The Internet is an electronic, global and interactive means of communication, which definitely influences language characteristics [62, p. 5]. One of the most

remarkable features of Internet discourse is the existence of technological factor, that has a great impact on the linguistic organization of communication. This influence is observed at all levels of the language system, which gives the opportunity to attribute the Internet language to a special form of language functioning [23, c. 11].

The origins of the Internet date back to the development of packet switching and research commissioned by the United States Department of Defense in the 1960s to enable time-sharing of mainframe computers [85, p. 13]. Internet discourse rapidly began to develop in 1971, when the first e-mail program was developed, the first new technological way of communication, which launched the global reconstruction of the entire human communication system. In 1973 international organizations were connected to the network, which provided a tremendous impetus for the development of Internet discourse [77].

In foreign linguistics, the study of the features of Internet communication began in the 80's of the last century, and is associated with the names of Susan Barnes, Naomi Baron, and Susan Herring.

As an artificially created way of communication, Internet discourse is not just a technical communication channel, like a phone, but a new medium of communication in which communicants do not see each other, but are involved in direct communication. That is why Internet discourse acquires many distinctive features, while preserving the properties typical for discourse as a whole [56, p. 9].

In modern linguistics, Internet discourse is interpreted differently. It is understood as:

- cognitive-communicative space of the Global Network, in which a communicative interaction (the replacement of the real image with the fictitious) is performed through the use of an electronic data transmission channel and hypertextual mechanism of their structuring and routing with the help of verbal means [7, c. 8].
- the process of creating texts in conjunction with pragmalinguistic, socio-cultural, and psychological factors. Due to a peculiar area of appearance and

distribution, there are graphic, lexical and grammatical features of Internet discourse [39, c. 57].

Features of Internet communication give grounds to speak about the emergence of the third form of language – the intermediate between oral and written speech. Trying to differentiate between oral, written and Netspeak, D. Crystal points out that the last one is better seen as a written language which is more closely related to speech than as spoken language which has been written down. The scientist also defines the Netspeak by the formula: ‘speech + writing + electronically mediated properties’ and considers it not as a hybrid, but as a new type of speech [62, p. 31].

Electronic texts are not similar to other texts. They are characterized by inconstancy, synchrony (being available on many computers at once), and permeable borders (due to the possibility of the text to be combined in other texts or to contain references to them). All these features impose an imprint on the language and make it third means of communication [45, c. 257].

In the scientific paradigm, the terms *e-language*, *netlingo*, *etalk*, *geekspeak*, *netspeak*, *weblish*, *written speech*, and *language centaur* are used to describe the language on the Internet. Language features of Internet communication are determined by objective technical reasons, such as: the size of the message; the time during which the message is available and the possibility / impossibility to: a) quote the previous message in the answer; b) send an anonymous message, and c) use audio, video inserts [75].

The choice of linguistic means also depends on the type of communication. The communication system has two different transmission types, which are the synchronous mode and the asynchronous mode. In synchronous communication (chats), the user must respond quickly to the received message. Deviations from the language norms are often observed in this mode. In the asynchronous communication, on the contrary, the user can think his/her message more thoroughly and check the written several times [83].

Internet communication combines the features common to other types of communication. In scope Internet communication has the features of mass

(communication with the whole world), intrapersonal (communication between the user and the computer) and group (communication in groups, chats, forums) [38, c. 56]. Regarding the time factor of Internet communication, the duration of the communication process can be short-term (checking email or receiving messages), as well as long and unlimited in time (participation in streams or conferences).

From the point of view of the contact method, Internet communication is an indirect communication, as it is carried out with the help of a technical tool (computer, tablet, phone etc.) [12, c. 121]. Regarding the channel of transmission and perception of information, Internet communication is divided into actual (communication with real people and acquaintances) and virtual (anonymous communication with unknown or imaginary interlocutors).

For the first time, the main features of Internet discourse were highlighted in the dissertation paper by E.N. Galichkina, devoted to the discourse of Internet forums:

- electronic signal as a communication channel;
- virtuality;
- distance;
- mediation (carried out through technical means);
- high degree of permeability (the ability for any user to be engaged in communication);
- the presence of hypertext;
- creolized language;
- transfer of emotions, facial expressions, and feelings through "emoticons" – graphic symbols available in text mode on a normal keyboard;
- equal rights of participants;
- a combination of different types of discourse;
- specific computer ethics [12, c. 21].

In the same work, E.N. Galichkina considers Internet communication as a complex combination of discourses, which "contains the features of all kinds of discourse, but does not belong to any of them completely": the transfer of personal mail (domestic discourse), official exchange and information request (business

discourse), discussion of scientific issues in newsgroups or conferences (scientific discourse), advertising banners and sites (advertising discourse), etc. [12, c. 22].

The Internet language is also characterized by:

- the existence of special pictograms that replace non-verbal means of communication. These include: "emoticons" that convey various feelings of the speaker in the form of funny faces; capital letters which symbolize a rising voice, etc.;

- widespread abbreviations;

- the formation of neologisms according to productive word-formation models (clippings, affixation, compounding, blending, etc.);

- the emergence of new words under the influence of technical (computer) jargon;

- the presence of onomastic vocabulary with increased expression;

- violation of grammatical rules (deviation from the syntactic and punctuation norms of the literary language);

- emotional syntax, which has a compensatory nature in the conditions of almost complete absence of non-verbal means for transmission of emotions and description of emotional states. In this case, communication is achieved both through graphic verbal means (the use of capital letters, punctuation, emoticons, etc.), and special software graphics such as emojis or stickers (schematic, graphic or non-linguistic icon, that expresses a certain emotion, is attached to any text message) [51].

The most popular feature of the Internet discourse is slang. Slang is the kind of speech used by a separate relatively stable social group [5, c. 17], where the users of social networking service such as Facebook share a common interest. English slang contains so many linguistic derivations that amaze with its popularity. It reflects the desire of young people to be different from adults and to be like other teenagers in their speech. Such a unique feature helps them to abstract from the world of adults and create their own one with certain rules and language.

There are various theories of the emergence of such phenomenon in the language. For example, Eric Partridge wrote in his book "Slang, Today and Yesterday" about how such words arise and what are the reasons for their further use: "the desire to be witty, different, novel, and unmistakably arresting, even startling, the desire to enrich the language, to reduce the solemnity, the pomposity, the excessive seriousness of a conversation, and the desire to escape from clichés, or to be brief and concise" [86, p. 135].

According to T.E. Zakharchenko, there are three main reasons why a particular word falls into the general category of slang: usefulness, fashion, and the need for expression. Usefulness is understood as the demand for a concept denoted by a given word in a traditional society [22, c. 145]

So, as we can see, there are various reasons for the widespread use of slang and the main of them are to make the speech more emotional, lively, vibrant and to create an informal and friendly atmosphere. The use of slang unites people and makes them stand out in society [45, c. 2]. One of the important reasons of slang is its convenience, which is the brevity of words and word forms. Sometimes it's easier to use a short abbreviation, especially if someone is in a hurry.

There are five main functions of the youth slang:

1. Nominative: more emotional names for existing phenomena as well as new names for words that do not exist in the literary language;
2. Cognitive: words that contain additional information which is absent in standard representation and is characterized by metaphor;
3. Expressive: words that express a certain speaker's attitude to reality;
4. Identifying: words-passwords that are used to hide the topic of conversation and to isolate the group from others;
5. Time saving function: slang helps to save time using a variety of acronyms and abbreviations [49, c. 70].

According to the field of use, E.V. Limarova and L.P. Son divide Internet slang into several thematic groups:

- 1) identification of people (*guys, gf, mom, etc.*);

- 2) identification of human qualities (especially negative) (*mummy's boy*);
- 3) identification of things, places or other objects (*Ebooks, ICQ, FAQ, etc.*);
- 4) the commission of any action (*to troll, I wanna ask u a qstn, etc.*);
- 5) assessment of the situation (*ASAP, I dunno, cool, etc.*);
- 6) the expression of various emotions (*wow, woo, LOL, OMG, etc.*) [32, c. 113].

Slang is typical for colloquial speech of modern English. It is constantly changing and depends on the language differences and dialects. Slang is especially developed in the USA and Australia, where such words as: *Attaboy!*; *cute*; *full of pep*; *swell* and many others came from.

In addition to the above classification, slang can be of two types:

1. General slang. It includes stable phrases with a pronounced emotional and evaluative colouring, distinguished by originality and located outside the literary language (while slang remains clear to a wide circle). An example is such words as: *bed-sitter* (*bed-sitting room*), *bob* (*shilling*), *booze* (*a drink, to drink liquor*), or *a glamour girl* (*a social success*);

2. Special slang. These are words and phrases that are accepted in certain narrow circles. This slang contains special or professional vocabulary (slang of the military, students and teachers) and slang of social groups (Cockney, secular jargon or thieves' jargon), etc.[6, c. 14]

As we can see, Internet slang has a variety of derivational resources that can be borrowed from the language of the real communication environment. At the same time, Internet slang has its own word-building processes, which vary for both objective and subjective reasons [32, c. 114].

According to Internet World Stats, there are approximately 4,574,150,134 Internet users in the world. The most widely spoken languages of the Internet are English (owned by nearly 74.5% of users) and Chinese (59.2%). These indicators depend not only on the number of speakers, but also on the level of cultural and technical development of a particular country. All European countries have quite large Internet penetration, for example in the UK 94.8% of residents have Internet

access [78]. Such a huge number of users means that Internet communication has become a necessity and people cannot imagine the life without it.

The expansion of various spheres of virtual communication has led to the development of specific rules of behaviour on the Internet, which is called netiquette, or network etiquette. Like any type of etiquette, netiquette has its own characteristics: administrative, technical (including design) and psycho-emotional, moral rules of behaviour. All these features are described in detail on many pages of the Web and differ little from the established norms of non-virtual communication: courtesy, politeness, adherence to the rules established in a particular network group, etc. However, the most relevant are the features of language netiquette [9, c. 126].

There are certain formal features of written Internet communication: the use of easy-to-read fonts; the preferred non-mixing of uppercase and lowercase letters; the limited use of emoticons, emojis or stickers in the messages and the avoidance of writing without spaces. The limited use of graphic characters such as quotation marks and semicolons (as a sign of separating one part of a complex sentence from another) – a feature of commentary writing genres of Internet communication. Another aspect of netiquette is the rude and obscene expressions that users of social networks assume. At present, all non-etiquette manuals on the Web pay particular attention and caution against avoiding such forms of communication [9, c. 127].

Summarizing the views on Internet discourse, we can describe this phenomenon according to such characteristics [14, c. 24]:

- the scale of communication (mass, group and interpersonal);
- the time (short and unlimited in time, synchronous and asynchronous);
- the form (written (text and graphic) and oral (if there is a sound modem));
- the channel of transmission (actual or virtual);
- the way of contact (always mediated).

Consequently, the greatest influence on the language features of Internet discourse is carried out by a technological factor. Communication in the Web is implemented in written form, resulting in a new type of discourse – an oral-written one (Netspeak) with specific features at all levels of language system. Internet

discourse is a global way of communication, that unites the largest number of participants (network users) into a single community.

## **1.2 Genre classification of Internet discourse**

The important characteristics of Internet discourse are the variety of genres. Recently, the communicative space of the Internet has become a kind of genre-generating environment, which contributed to the more intensive development of genre studies and the emergence of new ones, peculiar to this information space.

According to the definition of M.M. Bakhtin, the genre is "... a stable type of text, united by a single communicative function, as well as similar compositional and stylistic features". With the help of the system of genres, our communication and the text, produced by a person in any form (oral, written or electronic), are ordered in a certain way [8, c. 10].

There are many classifications of Internet genres, which are based on various criteria. N.A. Akhrenova notes that "Internet discourse has its own genres in which it implements both general and individual properties specific to this type of discourse" [7, c. 2].

Professor D. Crystal identifies five genres or basic situations of Internet usage (broad Internet-using situations): e-mail; synchronous and asynchronous chat rooms, including BBS (bulletin board system); virtual worlds (MUDs) and the World Wide Web [62, p. 13]. Each of the five situations of using the Internet has its own language features. For example, e-mails have their own compositional structure: the title page contains information about the sender, the topic, the text of the letter, instructions for attachments and the date, when the message was sent.

By allowing users to implement many activities due to the large number of opportunities, the Internet space is divided into the following areas:

- Passive form (website);
- World Wide Web;
- Active form (forum, chat, blog, social network, online store, e-mail, instant messaging system, online games, newsgroups, etc.) [41, c. 7].

All areas that correspond to the goals and functions of the Internet discourse can be divided into such genres [60]:

Informational:

- website;
- Internet document;
- search engine.

The informational genre forms the technologies and strategies for obtaining information of a different nature (cognitive, entertaining, etc.).

Communicative:

- email;
- instant messaging systems;
- social networks.

Communicative genre is responsible for information-sharing strategies.

Developing:

- game worlds and on-line games.

The developmental function, which can be performed without speech interactions between game participants, comes to the fore.

Substitutional:

- on-line store;
- payment systems.

This genre involves technological ways to perform certain speech operations for the use of various services.

A.A. Ushakov, the author of the article "Internet discourse as a special type of speech", offers a more accurate classification of the main genres of Internet discourse. He identifies such components of online communication as: e-mail, blog, microblog, social networks and communication via Skype [43, c. 172].

E-mail – the use of computer systems to transfer messages between users – now chiefly used to refer to messages sent between private mailboxes (as opposed to those posted to a chatgroup) [62, p. 15]. The "e-mail" genre is offline communication, a distinctive feature of which is the time interval between the initiative and response

letter. As the specific type of genre, it requires more serious adherence to a language standard, fewer incomplete elliptical sentences, repetitions, the presence of an appeal to a particular person, the presence of a certain structure, and adherence to the rules of etiquette. E-mails are frequently an example of competent spoken business language [43, c. 173].

Blog – a regularly updated website or web page, typically maintained by an individual or small group, that is written in an informal or conversational style [96]. A.A. Ushakov states that it is a virtual diary where records are dated and divided by topics and categories. A web diary differs from a regular website as it has a form of content and is open to all users of cyberspace. In their personal virtual diaries bloggers may post photos, leave comments or share news. The linguistic aspect of such communication is characterized by a serious deviation from the grammatical norms: spelling errors, lack of capital letters, punctuation marks, the use of abbreviations, the replacement of letters with numbers and the use of full stops at the end of the sentence [43, c. 173].

The next important genre of Internet discourse is microblog – a social media site to which a user makes short, frequent posts. The most popular site for microblogging is Twitter, an online service where posts must have no more than 140 characters, including spaces. It was cofounded in 2006 by Jack Dorsey, American Web developer and entrepreneur, Evan Williams and Christopher Stone [64]. Today the number of Twitter users is 321 million, which indicates its popularity [58]. The purposes of Twitter are:

- acquaintance and chatting with friends;
- watching news;
- the possibility of developing own business;
- job search [43, c. 174].

Another equally important genre of Internet discourse is a social network. The term was invented by James Barnes in 1954 and means a social structure, which includes individuals or groups tied with the same type of activity, common interests, friendship or relationships [71]. The communication model involves both public

communication (recordings on the "wall") and private (private messages). The multimedia communication is fully manifested on the pages of social networks, despite the fact that most of the texts on the Internet are creolized (contain not only verbal, but also iconic, video and audio elements) [43, c. 173]. Social networks are a unique source of data about people's lives, interests and preferences. Within this genre, there are two groups of communication tools:

1. Communication tools that are used to record, store and present communication data, most frequently in text form, but also in audio and video formats.

2. Interactive tools that are used to support data-mediated interaction between users and their groups [43, c. 173].

Communication in social networks actually corresponds to face-to-face communication, regardless of the distance between users. In the case of instant messaging, the inability to think and consult the dictionary arise typos and errors that are often not perceived by communicants [52, p. 25].

Communication in chat rooms, forums, guest books, conferences, and e-mail is a rather specific phenomenon, which blurs the line between oral and written forms of communication. Spoken language is used with its inherent lexical features in communication between users. Internet discourse in various communities and social networks is characterized by the ease of speech, ease of communication, informality, youth slang, vernacular words, jargon, and profanity. The function of intonation is taken over by emoticons, emojis or stickers that help the interlocutor to add an emotional colouring to the statements [40, c. 10].

A.N. Kiyanovskaya says that the feeling of real time fills messages on Internet communication with various features of colloquial speech, which is distinguished by spontaneity, lack of preliminary thoughtfulness, emotionality and expressiveness [27, c. 97]. The syntactic level is based on spontaneous speech and on the imitation of oral speech: simple, elliptical sentences, spelling of proper names with a lowercase letter, lack of punctuation marks, the use of Active voice etc. L.P. Son mentions that as a

rule, Internet interaction is free from national dialects, patois, accents, etc., which allows communicants to freely communicate online [42, c. 95].

There is a clear inconsistency between the language on the Internet and literary standards. A.G. Avramova distinguished several categories of this discrepancy [2, c. 56]:

- destruction of the graphic boundaries of words;
- spelling inconsistency with the spelling norm;
- lack of dividing long lines into sentences;
- inconsistency of punctuation marks with existing rules.

A specific feature of Internet language is the tendency towards agrammatism, i.e. deviation from the syntactic and punctuation norms of the literary language by the sender of the message.

O.E. Kotova mentioned that abbreviations significantly influenced the formation of the elements of the everyday language of ordinary PC users [30]. It's because the desire of Internet users to save linguistic means due to time restrictions. Replacing a whole word or a complete sentence with just a few letters increases how much information can be transmitted in a certain time. This is one of the main reasons for the widespread use of abbreviations on the Internet language and the regular appearance of new ones. Based on V.E. Abramov and A. Khusnullina statement that the abbreviation on the Internet discourse allows users to fill lexical or word-building gaps in the vocabulary, confirming the need of society to name a new reality, we can say that abbreviation performs not only communicative and cognitive, but also nominative functions” [1, c. 28].

“The specifics of Internet communication is determined by the global scale and the possibility of almost instant free distribution of any information” [50, c. 160]. On the Internet discourse various types of information are closely intertwined: textual, visual and audio. Written speech is accompanied by non-verbal, and graphical means. In this case, we are talking about such a thing as a creolized text – a special phenomenon in which the verbal and non-verbal components form one visual,

structural, semantic and functioning whole, which suggests its complex pragmatic impact on the recipient” [4, c. 71].

Creolized text has a distinctive structure. The main components are the verbal part (text, inscription or signature), as well as the non-verbal, and graphic part, which can be represented by various images, photographs, emoticons (emoji), tables, diagrams, etc. Interactions between these elements can be different. The non-verbal element may in no way depend on the written text, which helps in creating a comic effect. The text can be a continuation or a logical complement to the non-verbal element, and also the image or text can lose their meaning without the second element [4, c. 72]

Today, Facebook allows any user to create a profile with information about himself/herself, organize and join interest groups, and run business. The success of a social network is ensured by the fact that the exchange of own opinions, thoughts or information is carried out in real time.

Social networks as communities can be divided into several main groups:

1) private ("Facebook", "Instagram", "MySpace", etc.) – leisure activities, entertainment, communication with friends, relatives, acquaintances;

2) specialized ("DateMyPet" (for pet owners), "GoodReads" (for book lovers), etc.) – general creative or professional communication with like-minded people; expert comments and assessments in the area of interest;

3) business ("LinkedIn", etc.) – establishing business contacts, professional development, career building [19, c. 77].

Communication in Facebook is a mediated virtual communication, the main features of which include:

- globality (international network and mass user access to it);
- communicants' anonymity;
- interactivity;
- hypertextuality;
- creativity;
- continuity;

- technicality;
- ease of handling network data;
- brevity and jargon of the expression of thoughts;
- lack of sensory perception of the communicant;
- difficulty of the emotional communication;
- the desire for emotional filling of the text;
- genres (Internet message, Internet newspaper and magazine, forum, news feed network, post, repost, Internet commentary, etc.) [19, c. 78].

The last Internet genre, according to Ushakov's classification, is communication via Skype. This type of interaction provides voice communication, text messaging (chat), file transfer and allows users to make conference calls [43, c. 174].

So, according to the analyzed works of various linguists, the genre classification of Internet discourse is insufficiently studied at the moment and requires further analysis. Today there is no single approach to classification and explicit opinion among scientists regarding the criteria for distinguishing genres of Internet discourse. Since virtual genres have not been formed completely yet, they will evolve and change during the development of Internet technologies. Communication in chats, forums, social networks, conferences, and e-mail is a very specific phenomenon that blurs the boundaries between oral and written communication. This is evidenced by the large number of discursive words specific of oral spoken language, their own ways of conveying intonation and emotions. However, written computer discourse loses some of the meaningful means inherent in oral communication – intonation, facial expressions and gestures (those means of expression that convey an emotional component).

### **1.3 Paralinguistic features of Internet discourse**

The main purpose of communication is the exchange of information or passing of information, ideas or thoughts from one person to the other. In face-to-face communication, meaning is carried by blending two components: the verbal (with words) and the nonverbal (without words). Nonverbal communication adds nuance or

richness of meaning that cannot be communicated by verbal elements alone [70, p. 13].

Internet communication – one of the possible terms to denote communication on the Internet, which creates a special model of reality, characterized by the effect of the presence of a person in it and which allows to act with imagined and real objects. The characteristic trends of the last decades demonstrate the desire of the modern man to reduce the text space, preserving the information field (and sometimes even increasing it). The textual space of the English text is reduced by the inclusion of additional semiotic characters and means that perform various functions in the organization and the formation of meaning that make effect on the reader and contain more information than the nominative units in the text.

The development of communication at the present stage leads to a great interest in the possibilities of using non-verbal (paralinguistic) means along with verbal ones. A universal orientation to the visual way of presenting information leads to the need for a clear and objective systematization of such tools. However, at the moment there is no single generally accepted classification of paralinguistic tools. This phenomenon is explained by a complex and multi-temporal process of formation of paralinguistic means as an object for study. Paralinguistic (or paragraph-based) tools are defined as tools that exist near the grapheme system of language, accompanying verbal speech and serving to express various connotations [73, p. 33].

During the study of paralinguistic communication as a separate type of communication, this concept has expanded significantly. So, the first studies of paralinguistic tools affected the functioning of these means mainly in spoken language, which made it possible to distinguish three types of paralinguistic tools:

1. phonological – tempo, timbre, speech volume, pause fillers (for example, uh or mmm), melody, dialect, social features of sound articulation, etc.;
2. kinetic – gestures, posture or facial expressions of the speaker;
3. graphical – features of handwriting, graphic additions to letters and letter substitute (&, §, etc.) [73, p. 34].

However, the growing role of visual information has drawn the attention of researchers to the need for a separate study of the problem of paralinguistic design of written (printed) texts. Currently, paralinguistic tools are being intensively studied in the context of paragraphs as a special section of linguistics about the written language [43]. Paragraphemics is an applied field of linguistics that studies the graphic organization of text and the functions of non-verbal media. It includes all non-verbal means used in printed text to transmit and represent information [28, c. 62].

L. Makaruk distinguishes several distinct groups of non-verbal graphic tools:

1) text segmentation and other graphic effects – text placement, line spacing, page orientation, margins, width of the text, text-align (vertical, horizontal), correction, underlining, inserts, strikethrough, highlighting, etc.;

2) font and colour variations – italics, capitalization, bold, unusual spelling, font sizes, etc.;

3) non-photographic text elements – punctuation marks (full stop, comma, semicolon, exclamation mark, question mark, colon, hyphen, single and double quotation marks, parentheses (round and square), apostrophes, dash, etc.), diacritic marks (acute, circumflex, grave, accent, macron, tilde, etc.), numbers, mathematical symbols, abbreviations that consist solely of non-verbal units, or combine both verbal and non-verbal components at the same time. It should be noted that the punctuation marks in this category, not only perform their primary function, but also play a completely different role, which is absolutely different from the generally accepted standards and norms.

4) iconic language elements (images) – diverse and multi-genre illustrations (drawings created by pencil, paint or computer applications), cartoons, comics and other non-photographic illustrations, logos and emblems, cards, photos or emoticons. The role of images is growing not only as a medium, but also as a means of communication, since people better perceive iconic information.

5) other non-verbal means – tables, charts (column, radial) or graphs [36, c. 139].

I.V. Vashunina also believes that paragraphemic tools such as the use of quotation marks, hyphen, insertions, strikethroughs, etc. have a certain communicative purpose – to achieve originality and imagery. Paragraphemic means are a wide variety of non-verbal means of speech that involved in the transmission of information [10].

Defining the external organization of the text, paragraphemic tools include: graphical segmentation of the text and its placement, the length of the line, space, font, italics, underlining, colour, typographic characters, graphic symbols, numbers, logographs (#, \$, %, +, =, etc.), means of iconic language (drawing, photograph, table, diagram, etc.), unconventional spelling of words, punctuation and other means that may vary depending on the nature of the specific text. While some paragraphemic means act as independent storage media and are self-sufficient for revealing the content of the text (photographs, drawing or diagram), the others are additional in relation to the verbal means and add supplementary semantic or expressive shades to its contents (for example, font, colour, underlining, etc.) [4, c. 4].

In addition to the above, paragraphemic means also include superior and inferior figures, mathematical symbols, and currency symbols. The spectrum of paragraphemic tools is quite large. All of them are important components of the text that perform a number of functions. In many cases, their use goes beyond the established rules and regulations, which, accordingly, creates the effect of a graphic game [36, c. 139]. T. van Leewen notes that paragraphemic means are an important and integral component of the text. They allow us to identify an additional value [81, p. 140].

Graphic stylistic tools are quite diverse and can be related to phonetic, grammatical, lexical and other expressive means of language. Spelling distortions are also stylistically relevant, as they carry emotionally expressive function [12, c. 2].

E.V. Gorina determines the main functions attributed to paragraphemics that cover all of the above groups of non-verbal elements on the Internet:

- 1) graphic tools make information easier to interpret and reduce the risk of communication conflict;

2) paragraphemic tools help to strengthen the Internet's friendly relationship with a human being;

3) spatial composition techniques, graphic tools and illustrations create image of an Internet page, make it expressive, rich, attractive and understandable to a targeted audience;

4) due to paragraphemic tools users may distinguish between primary and secondary information, understand the message status and go after data scores by author or other Web users;

5) graphic tools help to complete the start and end of a verbal message, allow the sender to emphasize his message in a vast information flow;

6) paragraphemics makes the Internet users active. Drawings, marks, colour, various symbols, icons, etc. – all of them prove to be significant offering something to user;

7) paragraphemic tools play a crucial role in triggering emotional responses that are insufficient when indirectly communicating on the Internet [17, c. 151].

In English, there is a tendency to highlight certain parts of the word in a different font or colour. Among the other methods are the following: defixation, quotation, parenthesis, convergence, correction and insertion. Among the types listed above, only a few are typical for English: defixation, quotation, parenthesis, and convergence. Defixation is the atypical use of a hyphen, the division of a word into several syllables, or other variants of its involvement that go beyond the usual ones. The process of quotation (the game with quotes) is the variation of quotes (their sizes and form), which, accordingly, transforms their primary functions [12, c. 3].

The following types of quotation marks are specific for the English language: two-element double quotes (traditional use of double quotes), one-element double quote (opening or closing double quotes), two-element single quotes (use of single quotes (closing and opening)) and single prime quote (from the elements of single quotes). In addition, a separate type of single or double quotes may be used, which are located close to, but not near the sentence or utterance and which are an integral part of it. Parenthesis is typical of advertising texts, but this process is not widespread. The

famous linguist D. Crystal first used the following English terms for the designation of modern means and processes: "graphemic symbolism", "graphitic contradictions", "graphological freedom", "graphological distinctiveness", and "graphitic distinctiveness" [36, c. 140].

There is a clear tendency among users of Facebook to apply various paragraphemic means. For example, the usage of:

- a particular font or colour for the words with the special "Text Delight" feature. Some phrases (*best wishes, lol, rad, lmao*, etc.) may appear in a different colour and clicking on them triggers a brief animation;

- multiple exclamation marks or question marks to express different emotions, feelings (astonishment, anger, sarcasm etc.) or acts (commands and orders);

- paired exclamation and question marks;

- inverted commas. They may be used for several reasons: 1) to emphasize a word or a phrase; 2) to disagree with the use of a term or word and 3) to indicate irony, inaccuracy or scepticism;

- capitalization in order to attract attention to the semantically significant part of the whole statement or its individual parts;

- asterisks. They can be used to: 1) emphasize a word or a part of sentence; 2) denote virtual actions; 3) mark censorship over all or part of the word or 4) denote corrections to misspellings or misstatements;

- ellipsis. It may be used to: show uncertainty or hesitation, make a pause, show voice trailing off in order to mimic real life talking or to denote an unfinished statement. E.V. Kuznetsova notes that "understatement usually has expressive and emotional meaning in the text", thus, the frequent use of ellipses confirms the idea of expressiveness of the comments in Facebook [31, c. 108].

- expressive lengthening (vowels o, a, e and u) to incorporate verbal speech in digital communication;

- emoticons, emojis and stickers to express different levels of emotions;

- creolized text which allows people to transfer information in the most efficient and concise way [102].

It should be noted that all these paragraphemic tools are often used in combination with verbal stylistic means (for example, repetitions or interjections). So, non-verbal and paragraphemic means play an essential role in the planning and organization of the text, its communicative and pragmatic function. The purpose of non-verbal elements in the text is to make it more expressive, attractive, structured and to convey clarity to its meaning. Adequate perception and interpretation of the printed text implies the presence of the so-called "visual literacy" of the recipient – the ability to perceive the visual image and identify the functions of signs and means used in the text.

### **Conclusion I**

Today, there are quite a lot of means, forms and methods of communication in the world. Many of them are connected with the modern technical capabilities, which, in particular, are represented by the use of a global computer network – the Internet. This is primarily due to the fact that humanity over the last century has made a huge leap in the development of science and technology, which opened new spaces for human activity. Thus, the emergence and development of digital and computer technologies, and subsequently the widespread proliferation of personal computers, opened a new kind of human-computer interaction. Moreover, a new possibility of human-computer-human interaction emerged with the advent of the Internet.

In connection with the intensive implementation of computer and the Internet in the life of society, a special type of discourse was formed – Internet discourse. The specificity of the Internet discourse is manifested in all areas: lexical, grammatical and paragraphemic features. Thus, we can speak about the new type of discourse – oral-written discourse.

It is important to delimitate the concepts of "virtual discourse", that is communication through a computer and other means (multimedia devices); "computer discourse" and "electronic discourse", which are absolute synonyms since they involve communication via a computer and interaction between a person and a computer; "network discourse" which implies communication on the Internet and in

local networks, and "Internet discourse" which is considered to be a type of "network discourse", that involves the communication on the Global Network. Thus, Internet discourse in contrast to electronic, virtual, and computer discourse focuses on how the language is used in the exchange of information.

Internet discourse is a process of creating texts in conjunction with pragmatic, sociocultural, psychological factors, and targeted social action, including the interaction of people and the mechanisms of their consciousness – cognitive processes. Internet discourse has its own genres (e-mail, blog, microblog, and social network) in which it implements both general and individual properties specific for this type of discourse.

The main communicative-pragmatic features of Internet discourse are: the presence of an electronic communication channel; virtuality; distance; permeability; the presence of hypertext; creolization; mediation, the equality of participants, and the presence of specific computer ethics. All these characteristics determine the specificity of communication within the framework of the Internet discourse and distinguish it from other communication media.

Internet communication takes place in a new information space characterized by a large number of communication entities and their interaction. Internet communication combines and complements various genres, styles and types of the language. Some of them are mixed, others, on the contrary, are shared, and retain their characteristic features. The pragmatic organization of Internet communication as the basic units considers such categories as hypertext, virtual discourse and genre format.

The subject of Internet communication may simultaneously perform many roles and exist in many realities. Therefore, the communication has a transformational, cross-cultural nature. Internet communication is based on the principles of relevance, accessibility, interactivity, autonomy and intertextuality. Distance, division in time and space, computer mediocrity complicate the process of communication on the Internet. It becomes multicomponent and acquires two models of implementation – asynchronous and synchronous. Internet communication uses a new form of language

– oral-written, which specifically makes an effect on the rulemaking, genre-building and implementation of all communication on the network.

Internet language has also acquired distinctive linguistic features, among which the most significant are the grammatical, lexical and paragraphemic ones. It is also characterized by the adaptation of spoken (intonation, tone, etc.) to written language using paralinguistic means, which include: the iconic language (drawings, photos, tables, and diagrams), fonts, typographic characters, numbers, graphic segmentation of text and its placement and other means that may vary depending on the nature of the specific text. There is also a tendency in Facebook to use emoticons, emojis and stickers in communication. All these means are of particular importance, since they form content and pragmatic aspects together with verbal tools.

Thus, we can conclude that the characteristic features of Internet discourse are very multifaceted, as they give it a unique place in the system of other discourses, due to not only the genre, functional and stylistic diversity of its textual and other realizations, but also a number of communicative and technical features of the electronic environment.

## 2. LINGUISTIC FEATURES OF ENGLISH IN FACEBOOK

### 2.1 Grammatical features of English in Facebook

#### 2.1.1 Common mistakes and mistypes

In the process of online communication, the rules of the language undergo certain changes. E.V. Kholodkovskaya, who explored grammatical features of communication in social networks, concludes that deviation from the norms increases the emotionality of speech. Since online communication cannot be as emotional and expressive as verbal communication, grammatical deviations are almost the only way to express feelings. Such features, on the one hand, confirm the convergence of written and oral communication, and on the other, show a dramatic difference between traditional rules and norms of the language [46, c. 2].

Misuse of prepositions, omission of the apostrophe, lack of articles, substitution of pronouns, use of inappropriate forms of the word and changes in the formation of comparative forms of adjectives are found in almost every post and comment in Facebook. Users intentionally ignore grammar rules either to save time or to maintain a particular speech style. While in normal communication a violation of linguistic norms is mainly a sign of an individual's lack of education, in chat rooms this is a normal phenomenon. For example:

#### 1) Agrammatical forms of plural nouns

In the process of Internet communication, there is such feature as the agrammatical formation of nouns, but this does not prevent the addressee from getting the necessary information. For example:

*Ashly Walter: I really like these. Most of the time I wonder what kind of drugs are being done before these post are made (Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 8:43 PM)*

*Salsabila Hany: love those girl (Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 2:25 AM)*

As we can see from the examples above, people used incorrect forms of plural nouns, such as "post" instead of "posts" and "girl" instead of "girls". In the last two examples, the senders used the demonstrative pronouns "these" and "those" which identify plural nouns, but didn't change the nouns into plural. Judging from these

mistakes, we can say that the users were in a hurry and didn't pay much attention to the mistakes.

#### Agrammatical use of articles

The specific feature of the Internet discourse is the weakening of the norms of the language in the process of communication. This allows users not to pay attention to the articles. For instance:

*Charlotte Forkum: No way – I want a actual slice of cake. (Friday, December 27, 2019 at 12:23 PM)*

*Kaitlyn Marie: In conclusion, you need a expensive camera to take amazing photos (Sunday, March 8, 2020 at 9:50 PM)*

*Michael Whitehead: Very lovely and peaceful place. (Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 4:16 PM)*

The sender put an article "a" instead of "an" in the first and second examples and decided to omit the article in the last one. In all these cases, there is a mistake, but despite this, it doesn't prevent the communicants to get the idea of the message.

#### 2) Agrammatical use of a word form

The choice of the word form on the Internet discourse recedes into the background, but still it does not prevent users from understanding of one another.

*Tim Vattakavanich: Eating Nigiri(sushi) is not a hack.. That how you suppose to do it. Most people just don't wrong. (Friday, December 27, 2019 at 12:13 AM)*

*Mel Harris: Kool Idea's.... (Tuesday, December 24, 2019 at 10:39 AM)*

*Kim Berry: looks delish (Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 10:46 PM)*

In all the examples, the idea of the messages is clear and doesn't demand explanations, though some of the words are written incorrectly, such as "dont" instead of "do it", "kool" – "cool" and "delish" – "delicious".

#### 3) Agrammatical use of tenses

In linguistic analysis, we speak of "competence" and "performance". "Competence" is what we have learned is the right way, and usually try to practice, but "performance" is what actually happens. Users are often in a hurry while chatting

with others, they are limited in time and try to write comments as fast as they can. That is why people make lots of mistakes in on-line communication. For example:

*Melody Lejeune: Where has she buy her shoes? (Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 10:22 PM)*

*Nolene Mafakala: How does she presses the button with the phone against the ceiling (Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 8:14 AM)*

*Rasheedah Roe: I just want the ice.. it look like its that good soft ice too (Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 12:32 PM)*

All these examples show inappropriate use of verb tenses, such as: "has buy" instead of "has bought", "presses" instead of "press" and "look" instead of "looks". The users aren't even aware of the mistakes they have made. They pay attention to the underlying "message" of what they are trying to put across to the reader. Likewise, the readers often aren't aware of the mistakes because they pay attention to the message and meanings of the writer.

#### 4) Agrammatical use of prepositions and conjunctions

Defining the preposition, linguists usually point out three main properties: 1) the preposition is a functional part of speech, i.e. a preposition cannot perform an independent syntactic function; 2) the preposition is a word expressing subordinate relations between lexical parts of speech, and 3) the preposition is a word with an obligatory pre-nounal position: it may follow almost any part of speech, but it must precede a noun or its syntactic equivalent [3, c. 132].

The units, that fell into the focus of the study, show a clear deviation from the norms of using prepositions in modern English. For instance:

*Kasie McCall: That's why you can't cook noodles on the water you boiled an egg with. (Saturday, August 3, 2019 at 12:37 PM)*

*Pummy Kaur: I'm fine, thank u. Yes, I can, tomorrow in 12:30. (Monday, July 22, 2019 at 10:01 AM)*

*Samantha Sanchez: She kinda looks like a better version on taylor swift (Sunday, March 8, 2020 at 6:11 AM)*

As we can see from the examples above, people made mistakes using prepositions in phrases, such as "on water" instead of "in water", "in 12:30" instead of "at 12:30" and "on Taylor Swift " instead of "of Taylor Swift". When speaking, native English speakers often do not clearly pronounce prepositions since they are such small and common words. Therefore, in writing, it is common for English speaker to use prepositions by mistake.

Sometimes people can also make mistakes while using such a conjunction as "*than*". Conjunctions are functional words that connect separate words, word combinations, clauses or sentences and in doing so mark the relations of coordination and subordination [3, c. 135]. The words "*then*" and "*than*" look and sound similar, but their uses are very different. "Then" is related to time and is commonly used as an adverb, while "than" introduces a comparison and is often seen with comparatives [3, c. 49]. But, despite the difference, people often confuse these two words in on-line communication. For instance:

*Dog Lovers: Nothing Is Sweeter Then The Shelter Dog That Can't Stop Smiling (Monday, February 3, 2020 at 4:57 PM)*

*Ricki Cooper: I've been told I look way younger then 57 (Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 8:12 PM)*

People often type "verbally" which basically means reading the script in the head while typing it. Since "then" and "than" basically have the same sound, users may have made the typo and didn't even notice it.

#### 5) Confusing homophones

A homophone is a word that has the same pronunciation as another word, but whose meaning and spelling are different [80, p. 60]. In verbal communication, there's no confusion because the pronunciation is the same. However, in writing there is a difference. For example:

- "Alot" instead of "A lot"

The use of "alot" instead of "a lot" is a common mistake throughout Internet commenting. Many people don't even know that there is no such word as "alot" and if they go to any dictionary, they won't find it. The two-word construction "a lot"

consists of the article "a" and the noun "lot" which means a large number or amount of something [100]. Still, there are many examples when native speakers write "a lot" as one word, which is considered as misspelling. For instance:

*Ryan Henniges: Lol alot of similar facial features (Monday, March 9, 2020 at 12:52 PM)*

*Georgina Carroll: So u dont have a muffin bake tray... but u have alot of mason jars? (Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 11:24 AM)*

*Sue Rentoul: I have got rid of alot of people in my life due to the fact my dog didnt like them.. (Monday, March 2, 2020 at 9:58 AM)*

- "Your" instead of "You're"

The difference between these two pronouns is owning something versus actually being something. "Your" is the possessive form of "you" which is used to describe objects belonging to the person or people being spoken or written to. "You're" is a contraction of "you are," which is used to refer to the person [3, c. 53]. The omission of the apostrophe is the most common morphological feature on the Internet discourse. Most likely, it is due to the increasing speed of interaction between the users. The percentage of those who do not use punctuation marks is very high, either because they have to type quickly, or because of a simple ignorance of the existing rules. For example:

*Teresa Nevarez: Your doing a great job! (Sunday, April 24, 2020 at 1:50 PM)*

*Taylor Mccloud: I know your not a dog person but omg (Monday, March 26, 2018 at 11:01 PM)*

*Jen Wagnon: Great that your recycling, but glitter is the devil for the environment (Tuesday, April 19, 2020 at 07:29 AM)*

As we can see from the examples above, people write "your" instead of "you're" because they don't care about proper grammar or anything like that. The only thing that matters for them is getting their point across.

- "Its" instead of "It's"

Despite the fact that the words "it's" and "its" are spelled with a slight difference, they have completely different meanings. "It's" is the contraction of "it is" and "its" is

a possessive form of the pronoun "it", meaning belonging to someone or something [3, c. 54].

However, people often get into habits with things like "its" and "it's", along with other common errors. The reason for such a mistake is that people type or write quickly and inadvertently make an error because they aren't paying enough attention. For instance:

*Ashley Pelts Chapman: especially since its a daddy dog (Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 8:50 PM)*

*Elmer Aviso Cañeta: Its like a peacock but its a spider.. So that there is a peacock spider there is peahen spider lol.. (Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 4:27 AM)*

In both examples, the users made a mistake using "its" instead of "it's" or "it is", but still the misunderstanding didn't occur and all people got the message across.

Judging from these mistakes, we can say, that people usually don't think about rules while communicating on-line. They try to answer instantly and don't put much efforts. That, of course, is not standard language, but it's spoken language in a written form. We cannot judge the literacy or illiteracy of the users in social networks. Of course, this is primarily the informal behaviour of participants in communication. They relate to writing without prejudice. The principle of economy towards on-line communication made their written language spontaneous and not so limited in terms of grammar and punctuation. The most important thing for communication partners is just to understand each other.

### **2.1.2 Syntactic features**

The relevant characteristics of Internet comments in a social networking service Facebook are linguistic brevity, less standardization, the use of emotional syntax, simplification of syntactic structures and the influence of the syntax of colloquial speech. The Internet has influenced the language structure, where formal writing remains unchanged and informal one has seen some stylistic changes. For example:

- 1) Elliptical sentences

Omission (ellipsis) presupposes dropping some structurally necessary element of a construction. Elliptical sentences are sentences with one or more of their parts left out, which can be unambiguously inferred from the context or from their grammatical structure [3, c. 241]. It is common knowledge, that English sentence has a strict fixed word order: subject, predicate, object and adverbial modifier. Moreover, the presence of a subject is an essential condition. But it is often possible to observe a violation of the rules of the sentence construction in on-line communication. Various types of incomplete and elliptical sentences are widely used as a fact of the spoken language. People often use them in order to save time and to make the sentence shorter. When analyzing elliptical sentences, we revealed that they mainly arise on the basis of the main members of the sentence.

- The most frequent type of elliptical constructions is a nominal ellipsis, which presupposes the omission of the subject. Subject omission is usually occurs at the beginning of the sentence. The most commonly omitted subjects are considered to be "I" and "it", for example:

*Angela Butler Arizola: Ahhhhhh was enjoying until the pomegranate and then the pistachios gave me the cringes! (Saturday, December 21, 2019 at 5:01 AM)*

*LaVerne Elrod: Love the butter one! (Sunday, December 22, 2019 at 9:10 PM)*

*Taylor Glaze: looks amazing but a heart attack coming... (Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 1:19 AM)*

In the examples above, the elided subjects can be easily restored from the context. In the first and second cases the subject "I" is missing and in the last one "it". However, the absence of the subjects doesn't prevent the communicants to get the idea of the message, since the context is wide enough for an adequate understanding.

- Omission of the auxiliary verbs in the declarative and interrogative sentences. Auxiliary verbs are used as purely grammatical means to form analytical forms of the verb. Interrogative sentences are characterized by the idea of an informational lacuna expressed structurally. Interrogative sentences are typically marked by inversion of the subject and predicate, which means that the first verb in a verb phrase appears before the subject [3, c. 66]. As comments should cover less

space and be easy to grasp, the auxiliaries are usually omitted for the sake of space-saving. Despite this, people often preserve the direct word order in interrogative sentences, which is against the rules. For instance:

*Ong Shu Siang: Six cuts on the pomegranate make a pentagon opening?  
Hmm...(Thursday, January 2, 2020 at 8:55 AM)*

*Ben Kläy: Eating sushi the correct way is a hack now?(Saturday, December 21, 2019 at 10:44 PM)*

In the given examples, the auxiliary verbs (do and does) are omitted, but the intended meaning is interpretable. Users try to write questions as quick as possible and do not think about the rules while communicating on-line. They do not use "do" or "does" at the beginning of the question and do not follow the rules of the word order. The use of elliptic constructions in writing is a stylistic device. O.A. Golovach writes that the implication as a whole is a typical feature of oral speech. The implicative tendency manifests itself through the saving of linguistic means, the brevity, and laconicism of the dialogical forms of sentences. Thus, the abundance of elliptic constructions conceptually brings the language of Internet comments to oral speech [15, c. 138].

2) The predominance of simple syntactic structures, for example: *Victor Restani de Castro: Cats are awesome (Thursday, April 16, 2020 at 12:45 PM)* or *Tea Milosevic: Kitty needs a friend (Thursday, April 16, 2020 at 11:47 AM)*.

3) The use of Active Voice, since it is less wordy than Passive Voice. The Active Voice shows that the action is performed by its subject, i.e. that the subject is the doer of the action. The Passive Voice shows that the subject is acted upon, that it is the recipient of the action [3, c.101]. People often use Active voice since it sounds capable and direct. For instance: *Nora Pollarolo: I need an emotional support kitten (Thursday, April 16, 2020 at 10:56 AM)* or *Elsie Mendoza Gamao: She's having fun doing it..I love her tough-guy facial expression (Thursday, April 16, 2020 at 9:59 AM)*.

### **2.1.3 The use of punctuation marks**

Even the most competent users of social networks skip commas, start sentences and proper names with a lower case letter, and most importantly – do not put full stops at the end of the sentences. For example:

*Hamizun Wahab: Is the best must try (Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 4:12 PM)*

*Prisilla A. Zafra: Its so interesting must learn also different style of cooking thnk you for sharing (Friday, December 27, 2019 at 10:39 AM)*

Erika Darics, a lecturer in linguistics at Aston University in Birmingham, says that the use of full stops is all down to context. If a person and his friends don't normally use full stops in a WhatsApp group and then somebody does, they are probably trying to tell something about how they feel [84]. According to a study by Binghamton University in 2015 published in the journal *Computers in Human Behavior*, 126 undergraduates who took part claimed to find text messages that ended in a full stop less sincere than the same message without the punctuation mark [55]. Live speech is full of unfinished thoughts, inaccuracies and errors. That's why, the full stop is often perceived differently – especially if the message is not accompanied by emoticons, emojis or stickers [7, c. 13]. For instance:

*Fook Lee: Nice and creative but not healthy at all..too many cream, colour and candy. (Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 1:33 PM)*

The user puts dot at the end of the sentence, because he may have been unsatisfied with the posted video. He doesn't like the hacks and expresses his feelings in such a way.

Another common feature of Facebook communication is run-on sentences and comma splice.

A run-on sentence occurs when two or more independent clauses are not joined correctly. There are two types of run-on sentences: fused sentences and comma splices [72].

A fused sentence occurs when independent clauses run together with no marks of punctuation or coordinating conjunctions to separate them [72]. For example: *Neera Katwal: Please remove the article people will only read the headline and start abandoning pets (Monday, April 6, 2020 at 1:35 AM)*. The woman wrote two

independent sentences, but didn't separate them by a dot. The whole sentence should look like this: *Please remove the article. People will only read the headline and start abandoning pets.*

A comma splice occurs when two or more independent clauses are joined only by a comma. For example: *Lucas Moavro: There is a dimming cancelled partially, we could see a Sharp raise in temperature (Sunday, April 5, 2020 at 5:48 PM).* The man wrote two independent sentences and separated them by a comma, which is not correct. According to English grammar, when there are two or more independent clauses, there are three ways to separate them [72]:

1) add a conjunction: *There is a dimming cancelled partially, and (so) we could see a Sharp raise in temperature;*

2) change the comma to a semicolon: *There is a dimming cancelled partially; we could see a Sharp raise in temperature;*

3) make separate sentences: *There is a dimming cancelled partially. We could see a Sharp raise in temperature.*

Judging from all these mistakes, we can say, that people usually don't think about rules while communicating on-line. They try to answer instantly and don't put much efforts. That, of course, is not standard language, but it's spoken language in a written form. We cannot judge the literacy or illiteracy of the users in social networks. Of course, this is primarily the informal behaviour of participants in communication. They relate to writing without prejudice. The principle of economy towards on-line communication made their written language spontaneous and not so limited in terms of grammar and punctuation. The most important thing for communication partners is just to understand each other.

## **2.2 Lexical features of English in Facebook**

The modern world changes and develops very fast. Of course, all these changes are displayed in speech. That is why more and more neologisms, that describe modern reality, appear every year in English language. They cover social issues, new technologies and phenomena. The examples of such phenomena can be very often

observed in Facebook, because the users are mainly young people from 18 to 25 years old, who use slang in everyday speech, in conversation with each other [57]. On the Internet discourse, it mainly has emotionally-evaluative and expressive functions. There is also a tendency among people in Facebook to use stylistically degraded vocabulary: slang and taboo lexical units [25, c. 135]. The use of them is explained by the following factors:

- the heterogeneity of the social status of users of social networks;
- anonymity of communication, which in turn creates the conditions for the emergence of a virtual personality that may be different from a person in real life. As a result, favorable conditions are created to reduce the sense of responsibility and fear of condemnation by other users;
- the further spread of the trend towards the democratization of the language [11].

Word-formation is a branch of lexicology which studies patterns of derivation, categories and types of word-formation devices and the lexical units built with the help of these devices. Word-formation is considered to be a simple nomination type. It is also the most productive way of vocabulary enrichment in the English language [80, p. 87].

The basic derivational patterns fall into two groups: linear and non-linear patterns. Linear word-formation is characterized by the change in form, while non-linear word-formation takes place without such changes.

The following types of word-formation belong to the group of linear derivation types [80, p. 93]:

1. Abbreviations are words produced by means of combining initial letters or parts of two or more words. The reasons for using abbreviated forms are: linguistic economy, succinctness and precision, conveying a sense of social identity (to use an abbreviated form is to be "in the know" – part of the social group to which the abbreviation belongs) [80, p. 136].

There are two types of abbreviation:

- Initialisms are the items which are spoken as individual letters. They are also called alphabetisms. The vast majority of abbreviations fall into this category [80, p. 136]:

*FBO* (Facebook official) – abbreviation that refers to relationship status in Facebook and may also be used to claim that a person won't believe something until he/she see it on-line [101]. – *Fostercom: Believe it or not, i'm walking on air. It's FBO! (Monday, November 6, 2017 at 11:13 PM)*

*NPP* (Nice profile picture) – an initialism used when making a comment on forums or social networking services as Facebook [101]. – *Ruth Stevenson: NPP! I would love to have this cute puppy! (Saturday, January 11, 2020 at 12:58 PM)*

*LMS* (Like my status) – this abbreviation is used by senders who have the need to know how much people like them. It can also be used to confirm that people actually have friends [101]. – *Jordan Collins: LMS and i will rate and say ur best feature (Sunday, February 19, 2020 at 12:58 PM)*

*FBF* (Facebook friend) – many users often add unknown people to the list of friends and that is why this abbreviation is used when people want to highlight friendly relations within the social network Facebook [101]. – *Thanapin Khumpoo: Baby & Puppy the cutest FBF (Saturday, July 11, 2015 at 1:00 AM)*

*FBOCD* (Facebook Obsessive Compulsive Disorder) – this abbreviation is used to refer to a friend who repeatedly checks his/her Facebook account, chats or updates profiles [101]. – *Ron Patton: ... been diagnosed with FBOCD. Should I self-quarantine without the use of technology? (Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 7:46 PM)*

*PC4PC* (Picture comment for picture comment) – an abbreviation with substitution which means that someone will make a comment on an image, in return for the comment on one he/she has posted [101]. – *Marissa Williams: New Myspace pic. PC4PC (Friday, November 29, 2019 at 7:14 PM)*

- Acronyms are the initialisms which are pronounced as single words [80, p. 137]. For example:

*Lol* (laughing out loud) – the acronym which is used to denote great amusement in chat conversations [101]. It does not carry anything offensive in itself. It just adds

expressiveness to the message. – *Nicolette Allen: lol we need a demo dog like this when explaining about brushing.....George? ( Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 3:14 PM)*

*OMG* (Oh my God) – the acronym which is used to express strong emotions as: surprise, indignation, fear and others [101]. This abbreviation does not carry either a positive or a brightly negative meaning. It only shows that a user saw something unusual, which was very unexpected to him. – *Zack Como: THAT IS TOO MUCH GLITTER OMG (Sunday, June 30, 2019 at 3:43 AM)*

*ROFL* (Rolling on Floor laughing) – the acronym that means a very violent emotional reaction to a joke, in fact, the next step in demonstrating laughter after the already familiar *LOL*. It has neither positive nor negative connotation. It is just neutral [101]. – *Charlie Muise: ROFL!!!!!! I can't wait to go to an airport (Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 4:02 AM)*

*ASAP* (As soon as possible) – the acronym used by people to inform that they want to get or do something as soon as possible [101]. – *5-Minute Crafts: 8 dangerous smartphone apps it's better to delete ASAP (Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 2:30 PM)*

## 2. Clipping

Clipping is deriving new words by means of omitting a rear or an initial part of a word. The beginning or the ending of the word functions instead of the full word. In most cases, the meaning of the word remains unchanged, but it acquires a new stylistic colouring [80, p. 132]. There are 3 ways for users to clip words:

1) Back clipping, clipping of the final part, of the end of the word:

*Pic* – short for *picture*. It is used to describe any photograph or picture posted on the Internet [101]. – *5-Minute Crafts: 10 pics that show what having a sibling is all about (Friday, January 3, 2020 at 3:30 AM)*

2) Fore-clipping, clipping of the initial part, of the beginning of the word:

*Cause* – a slang variant of *because*. For example: *Larrikan Bob: Cause people just love receiving presents in someone's empty chip packet (Sunday, June 30, 2019 at 5:32 AM)*

3) Middle clipping or syncope, clipping of the middle part of the word:

*Fbook* – a clipped word for the popular online networking site Facebook [95]. –  
*Eric LeClair: Join us on fbook (Thursday, September 6, 2018 at 8:21PM).*

### 3. Compounding

A compound is a word (lexeme) that consists of more than one free morpheme (more than one lexical stem). Such words can be written both together and through a hyphen. Compounding is considered to be the most productive word-building model in modern English [80, p. 121].

*Timeline* – the phrase consists of two words "time" and "line" and means the public display of the user's personal information in Facebook. It includes status updates, photos, posts and everything people have done as others can see them [101]. For instance: *Kathy Hill Lee: share this video to your timeline (Monday, December 16, 2019 at 3:45 AM)*

*News feed* – the list of newly published content in Facebook, which allows the users to see updates about people who are in their friend's list [101]. – *Lethbridge Animal Services: Need Something To Lighten Your News feed? (Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 9:16 PM)*

*Facepalm* – is a popular online expression in the form of a physical gesture. It is the act of slapping a forehead with the palm of the hand in exasperation. *Facepalm* is perhaps a well-known word that expresses a whole range of emotions, from irritation to disappointment and even disgust [95]. For example: *5-Minute Crafts: 25 facepalm cases where designers failed dramatically (Thursday, December 21, 2017 at 12:30 AM)*

### 4. Affixation

Affixation is creating new words by adding affixes to the base morpheme (a root or a stem). The main types of affixes in the English language are suffixes and prefixes. Derivation types using affixes are called, respectively, suffixation and prefixation [80, p. 101].

Suffixation is adding a word-forming morpheme (a suffix) to the end of the base morpheme to coin a new word [80, p. 101]. Here are some examples of the words formed by following suffixes:

-ie – a diminutive noun-forming suffix added to monosyllabic bases to denote familiarity, intimacy, or tenderness and to create words that are almost always informal [95]. For instance:

*Facebook junkie* – a phrase that characterizes a person addicted to Facebook [95]. – *Nichole Wurth: Being a Facebook junkie I've noticed something that really gets under my skin (Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 9:00 PM)*

*Facebookie* – a phrase that is used to describe a person who is addicted to Facebook and constantly checks if he/she has new notifications. It can also be used in reference to other members or "friends" of Facebook [101]. – *Chuck E. Fiore: Happy Friday Facebookie! (Friday, March 6, 2020 at 5:41 PM)*

*Selfie* – an image that includes oneself (often with another person or as part of a group) and is taken by oneself using a digital camera especially for posting on social networks [98]. It is the famous neologism of the era of social networks and "the Word of 2013" [99]. The compilers of the Oxford English Dictionary said that the word *selfie* took first place in the category of neologisms, which made a significant contribution to the development of the English language [87]. – *Nadia Kotelenets: But first, let me take a selfie! (Friday, January 3, 2020 at 4:30 AM)*

-er – the most common and productive suffix to form nouns from verbs. A noun with such an ending means either a device that performs an action, expressed by the verb from which it is formed, or a person who performs this action [3, c. 29]. For example:

*Hater* – a person who writes unpleasant things about someone or criticizes their achievements on the Internet [94]. – *Oscar Romero: This is how to handle the haters around you. (Thursday, December 20, 2018 at 5:54 AM)*

-ing – the suffix used to form nouns from the verb, expressing the action of the verb or its result [82, p. 15]. For example:

*Tagging* – a social feature that started in Facebook. It involves linking a friend's name and profile to a social networking photo, post or comment [95]. – *Oraro254: I feel like tagging someone (Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 7:25 AM)*

*Trending* – currently popular or widely discussed online, especially on social media websites. It is also a feature of Facebook that shows users a list of popular topics across the Facebook community [101]. – *Beiruting.com: Trending now... COVID19, Coronavirus (Friday, March 13, 2020 at 12:30 PM)*

Prefixation is adding a word-forming morpheme (a prefix) to the beginning of the base morpheme (the root or stem) to coin a new word [80, p. 112]. Here are some examples of the words formed by following prefixes:

un – a prefix meaning "not," freely used as an English formative, giving negative or opposite force in adjectives and their derivative adverbs and nouns [95]. For example:

*Unfriend* – the act of removing a friend from Facebook account [101]. The New Oxford American Dictionary has named "unfriend" as its 2009 Word of the Year [67]. – *Amanda Blount: Well, that was easy. I unfriended three people this morning (Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 4:52 PM)*

*Unlike* – the phrase that means taking back the approval of something that's been said or done, or something posted online. This term originates from Facebook, where a user can publicly say he/she "like" something, and then have the option to take the "like" back [101]. – *Shawna Smith: want to unlike this (Tuesday, December 31, 2019 at 12:05 PM)*

*Untag* – the act of removing oneself from a Facebook picture or post [101]. Sometimes user might not wish to be tagged in a certain photo, so he/she can easily untag himself/herself from it. – *Kailleen Nanooch: Um I do untag someone from a picture?? (Saturday, March 7, 2020 at 9:42 PM)*

de- a prefix which is added to a word in order to refer to the removal of something or to change the meaning of the word to its opposite [100]. For example:

*Deface* – the phrase which means "to remove someone from the list of friends in Facebook" [101]. – *Matty De Vere: want to deface you from my Facebook page!!! (Friday, March 27, 2020 at 6:12 PM)*

*Defriend* – to remove someone from Facebook in an aggressive manner, without telling the person that you no longer want to be friends [101]. – *Anita Maguire: to*

*defriend or not to defriend... That is the question? (Tuesday, November 5, 2019 at 10:47 PM)*

## 5. Blending

Blending is also described by the term *telescopy*. This type of word-formation suggests fusing two or more words or parts of words to produce a combined meaning. The result of blending is called a blend, a portmanteau or a telescopic word. Typically, a blend is a word that is formed by combining both sounds and meanings from two or more words [80, p. 133]. For instance:

*Vaguebooking* – a blend of *vague* and *Facebooking*. *Vaguebooking* is the practice of making a post on social media, primarily Facebook, that is intentionally vague but highly personal and emotional [95]. – *Jessica Sauer Foster: Here is the answer to my vaguebooking yesterday! (Friday, February 7, 2020 at 11:14 PM)*.

*Propic* (profile picture) – a common blend of *profile* and *picture*. It is a term used in Facebook and other sites that have a main picture option [101]. For example: *Maerine Maldii Bekepio: Propic update. Cos I miss u lil sis (Saturday, June 22/ 2019 at 7:50 AM)*

*Frignore* – a blend of *friend* and *ignore*. The word means to accept a friend request from someone in Facebook and then proceed to ignore him/she [101]. The phrase was created by clipping the word "friend" and by adding the word "ignore". For example: *El Ham: I was so glad to reconnect with her in Facebook, but she's been totally frignoring me (Wednesday, April 22, 2009 at 1:34 PM)*

*Facebuddy* – a blend of *Facebook* and *buddy*. The phrase used to describe someone you are friends with in Facebook. It is a person you can trust to view your posts in Facebook and either like or comment [101]. For instance: *Thanapin Khumpoo: happy thanksgiving to all my facebuddies! (Thursday, November 27, 2014 at 11:36 PM)*

*Falking* - a blend of *Facebook* and *stalking*. The word means looking at someone's Facebook profile and reading their recent news and wall posts. Monitoring another person's Facebook life [101]. For example: *Amy's Groom Room: After falking*

*Miss Vivian for the last couple months, I finally got to meet her!! (Monday, March 23, 2020 at 10:35 PM)*

## 6. Semantic shift

Semantic change, also known as semantic shift or semantic progression describes the evolution of word usage – usually to the point that the modern meaning is radically different from the original usage. Every word has a variety of senses and connotations which can be added, removed, or altered over time, often to the extent that cognates across space and time have very different meanings [80, p. 40]. The new words emerged by new things or new tradition. That means, semantic change frequently occurs due to new tradition as well as new inventions. For example:

*To block* – the verb with the meanings: 1) to prevent movement through something, and 2) to stop something from happening or succeeding. A lexeme widened its meaning with the advent of Facebook and began to be used in the sense of "to stop a particular person from being able to communicate with you or read what you have written" [94]. For instance: *Mary Linski: I want to block Facebook friend, Darlene (Sunday, October 13, 2019 at 11:12 PM)*

*Status* – a noun with the meanings: 1) an accepted or official position, and 2) the amount of respect, admiration, or importance given to a person, organization, or object. Today Facebook widened the meaning of the word to "a piece of information that you publish about yourself telling people what you are doing, thinking, etc. at a particular time" [94]. For example: *Harry Richardson: your Facebook status is so funny!! (Friday, March 20, 2020 at 6:43 PM).*

*Page* – a noun with the meaning "a side of one of the pieces of paper in a book, newspaper, or magazine, usually with a number printed on it" [94]. Since the appearance of Facebook the word has come to mean "a profile created by businesses, organizations, celebrities and anyone seeking to promote themselves publicly through social media" [88]. For instance: *DJ Loonyo: how can I delete my Facebook page? (Saturday, March 28, 2020 at 8:55 AM)*

*Follower* – a noun which denotes "someone who supports, admires, or believes in a particular person, group, or idea" [94]. Since the appearance of Facebook the

word gained the new meaning and is now used to describe a person who subscribes to celebrities, companies, or organizations in order to gain instant access to their thoughts or ideas. It comes from the verb "to follow" which means "to go, proceed, or come after" [98]. – *Gevette Ocasio: Teaching students ways to cheat? Really? You have just lost a follower.* (Saturday, January 4, 2020 at 5:58 AM)

*Messenger* – a noun which denotes "someone who takes a message or documents from one person to another" [94]. Nowadays, it can also mean Facebook app that is used to communicate with all the people and businesses in the world [101]. – *Sonya Pollard: I am unable to access my messenger from my Facebook menu* (Saturday, March 21, 2020 at 3:38 AM)

In conclusion, we can say that the Internet discourse is based on an informal communication style, that focuses mainly on the easy expression of opinion or sentence. Participants of communication in Facebook use lexical units that are common for the majority of Internet users as well as newly coined Facebook slang that distinguishes them from participants of other types of on-line discourse. Such syntactic features arise from the great influence of informal mode of speech and from the participants' wish to save time and efforts.

### **2.3 The use of interjections in Facebook**

Internet communication often eliminates the literary (normative) nature of colloquial speech, preserving its features (connotation, expressiveness and everyday style) and without excluding its stylistic markers. The language of the comments of the social network Facebook is a symbiosis of the spoken and written speech, although it also has its own special features. The reason for this is the same ease of colloquial and social networking communication. The fact of quick sending and delivery of messages makes the speed of such communication closer to real life.

Facebook communication is full of interjections, that imply an emotional reaction to reality and the use of which is largely understandable from the context. An interjection is a short sound, word or phrase spoken suddenly to express an emotion [100]. A lexicographer's definition of interjections provides the following

explanations: “a) the utterance of ejaculations expressive of emotion; an ejaculation or exclamation, and b) a neutral ejaculation expressive of some feeling or emotion, used or viewed as a part of speech” [79, p. 18].

The use of interjections in on-line chatting often expresses the person's willingness to communicate. For example:

*Kevin Rock Valencia: dude, they just release the new PS5!!*

*Zovin Niigo: Oh, what?! That's great!! Now I can buy PS2!!! (Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 5:01 PM)*

As we can see, interjection acts not only as a means of expressing an emotional reaction, but also as a means of establishing and maintaining verbal contact between the users.

Emotions are an integral part of communication that can unite participants and be universal, culturally specific or individual. V.I. Shakhovsky mentioned that every language personality, regardless of cultural differences, is able to express the same basic emotions that unites people. Emotions make people of different cultures more or less alike [47, c. 134]. They also make us unique due to individual variation of basic and other emotions. That is why users of social networks want to make their messages emotional and expressive. They tend to use interjections which can represent all feelings and help other communicators understand what emotion is behind the message.

There are lots of emotional interjections which express various feelings (joy, fear, sadness, doubt, surprise and others) without naming them. Most emotional interjections are multifunctional (i.e., have several meanings) [26, c. 3]. A group of words with a stable, fixed meaning relate to emotional-evaluative interjections. They express a certain feeling or emotional attitude towards reality. For example:

- joy or delight:

*Wow* – an interjection that is used to express absolute amazement. It is often used to verbalize an overwhelming pleasant feeling [101]. – *Cherisse Corner: Wow!! Beautiful baby seal! (Thursday, August 8, 2019 at 10:15 PM)*. It can also be used to

express shock of a seemingly unbelievable fact – *Tony Jeffries: Wow I'm in shock, March. If it continues at the rate (Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 3:18 AM)*

*Awesome* – an interjection that means "extremely good" and can express feelings of great admiration or respect [94]. For example: *Jaimee McCombe: Awesome!!! Love it so much! (Friday, March 6, 2020 at 11:30 AM)*. The interjection *awesome* shows girl's delight and strong positive emotions towards the video.

*Aww* – a popular interjection for sentimental approval among Facebook users that expresses endearment, or when somebody feels like something is cute, sweet, touching or whatever [101]. – *Jackie Oliver: Cutest thing Ive ever seen - awwwwwwwww (Tuesday, January 16, 2019 at 1:12 AM)*

*Oh* – an interjection which can be used to express different emotions, such as surprise, disappointment, and pleasure, often as a reaction to something someone has said [94]. For example, the expression of pleasure: *Catherine Johnson: Oh! I love this wonderful dad loving his babies (Saturday, December 30, 2019 at 7:32 PM)*

- annoyance or irritation:

*Hmph* – an interjection used when somebody offended you or to admit something you dislike or disagree with. It can also express annoyance or apathy towards something [101]. – *Mary Wright: Hmph....how dare he underestimate me!!! (Wednesday, January 16, 2019 12:18 AM)* The interjection *hmph* was used with negative connotation, which expresses sender's irritation and concern about an act.

*Duh* – an interjection used to show that a person or statement is stupid, or that something is obvious [94]. – *9GAG: World's most obvious twist. Duh. (Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 0:01 PM)*

- hesitation, uncertainty:

*Er* – an interjection that people often use when pause in the middle of what they are saying or before they speak, often because they are deciding what to say [94]. – *Wendy Mast: Er... pringles carton... for a gift wrap idea? .... er NO! (Sunday, June 30, 2019 at 11:27 AM)* The interjection *er* at the beginning of the sentence indicates sender's hesitation and doubts about the material in the video.

*Um* – an interjection used to represent the sound that people make when they are pausing or deciding what to say next [94]. – *Yureida Rocha: You should umm try and make me and the boys some (Friday, July 12, 2019 at 5:34 PM)*. The interjection *um* refers to the process of thinking and shows uncertainty about how a person will react to what the woman is going to write.

- approval and praise:

*Well done* – an interjection that is used in order to praise someone and say that you are pleased and approve something [94]. – *Blossom: The Color Crew is helping celebrate a very special day! Well done!! (Monday, February 10, 2014 at 3:00 PM)*. The interjection *well done* was used to praise the crew for organizing the great holiday and show support towards people who did this.

*Yummy* – an interjection that is used as a response to the taste of something delicious and expresses a strong sense of approval and agreement on what is written [94]. – *Sandra Caggiano: yummy...and soooooooooooooo Much sugar!! (Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 4:54 AM)*. The sender found the video with recipes delicious and expressed it with the interjection *yummy*.

*Hmm* – a primary interjection used to express uncertainty or when somebody is thinking about something or doesn't know exactly what to say [101]. – *Lost Island Waterpark: Hmm something looks different in this photo, don't you think? Wonder what's coming! (Friday, November 3, 2019 at 7:00 PM)*. The interjection *hmm* expresses the process of thinking and also attracts the attention of the users.

- disgust or dislike:

*Yuck* – an interjection used to express that something is disgusting or nasty. It is usually used by someone who thinks that something is very unpleasant [97]. – *Saad Zia: Even pineapple on a pizza would be better. Yuck! (Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 6:19 PM)*. The interjection *yuck* was used to express the sender's negative feelings and thus to show his extreme distaste.

*Eww* – an interjection people use when they want to express that something looks horrible, unpleasant and hideous [97]. – *Beauty studio: Snail slime facial????!!*

*eww!* (Wednesday, August 15, 2018 at 1:24 AM). The interjection *eww* was used to express the disgust and a strong feeling of dislike to the snails.

Facebook users often try to express their will, orders or appeal to the readers by using such imperative interjection as:

*Hey* – an interjection that is used in order to attract attention of the readers in an impolite way. It can also be used to express annoyance or frustration [94]. – *Barbara Ocon Hulsizer: Hey, we will NEVER let facts or science get in the way of a good conspiracy theory (Friday, March 27, 2020 at 2:38PM).*

People in Facebook also tend to use lots of informal interjections for greetings, farewells, requests, appreciation, etc. For example, the most popular ones are:

*Yeah* – an informal variant of *yes* used as an affirmative response in a written conversation [101]. – *Javelin Patricks: Yeah! That bag of chips in boiling water, stupidity (Thursday, March 2, 2020 at 2:54 PM).*

*Yep* – another word for *yes*, used in a text message to continue the conversation [101]. – *Kathy Sheere: Yep! you are in trouble! lolol (Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 10:13 AM).*

*Nah* – a casual form of *no* used to disagree with a person and express distrust, misbelieve or disobedience [101]. – *Andrew Ainslie: Nah, you got it all wrong. Here's the updated map (Thursday, March 2, 2020 at 2:54 PM).*

*Nope* – an emphatic form of *no* which implies the negative response to the statement [101]. – *Betsy Kirkhoff Duncan: Nope, I just tried an apple. Either I am wimpy or it doesn't work (Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 11:43 AM).*

*Howdy* – an informal way of saying *hello* used when greeting with someone. It can also be used to attract attention [94]. – *Miroslava Riley: Howdy from Park City Utah (Saturday, December 28, 2019 at 12:59 AM).*

The meaning of interjection depends on the context. For instance, the interjection *Ah!* may implement different meanings:

1) annoyance or irritation: *E Soledad Noblecilla: Ah! it's not funny! I cannot laugh when other people have bad time! (Tuesday, April 1, 2020 at 10:56 AM)*

2) delight or admiration: *Suzanne Edwards Jones: Ah! so gorgeous xx!!!*  
(Sunday, March 15, 2020 at 7:15 AM)

3) disappointment or frustration: *Rahul Vandana Gaikwad: Ah! First one was so easy* (Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 4:37 PM)

Interjections are usually separated by comma, – *Kimmy Grijaldo: Yehey, you might want to try thee clay arts* (Monday, April 29, 2019 at 2:57 AM) or exclamation mark, – *Carol Diane Huggins: Yay! Mr. President we support you and pray for you!* (Sunday, April 5, 2020 at 9:37 PM)

Sometimes people omit punctuation marks to minimize the efforts and time, to answer instantly and make a message shorter. – *Emily Kennedy: haha it's like Facebook knew exactly what I needed to see!* (Friday, February 28, 2020 at 8:36 PM)

So, as we can see, interjections serve as signal words used to express demands, desires and promptings to action, as well as for a person's quick response. Users of social networks do not see and hear each other, which greatly complicates the process of understanding, since there is no opportunity to focus on non-verbal components of the interlocutor's speech. That is why, people use interjections in order to make their message emotional, expressive and emphatic. Different interjections represent various emotions. Some of them can have multiple meanings and express both positive and negative feelings. Interjections can perform several functions. Firstly, to convey the emotions or will of the users. Secondly, an interjection can replace the whole sentence (*humph! - I don't like this!*).

## **Conclusion II**

The development of the technology made a great impact on the language use in on-line communication and contributed to the appearance of many linguistic properties. People in Facebook use language that is unique to the social networking services and different from the Standard English. The second part of the work looked into grammatical and lexical features of English in Facebook, its word-forming processes, establishing that social media neologisms, just like Standard English

words undergo the same processes as: abbreviations and acronyms, clipping, compounding, affixation (prefixation and suffixation), blending and semantic change to produce new words that are used for communication in social media.

Facebook may be characterized not only as a lexical field, but also as a virtual linguistic landscape with its own language and peculiarities. Thus, in our work we examined English in Facebook with special emphasis on grammatical and lexical features, mainly word-formation processes of vogue words which seem to rule the contemporary cyberworld and its digital community.

Spelling errors, omission of punctuation marks, elliptical sentences are the most common grammatical features of communication in Facebook. Social media is a conversation, that's why people usually loosen up their writing in order to organize the ideas as they would speak them.

It may rightly be assumed that shortenings are among the most frequently employed word-formation processes within Facebook communication. The use of abbreviations is one of the main lexical features of English in Facebook. They are divided into two groups: initialisms (*FBO, LMS, FBF, etc.*) and acronyms (*LOL, ROFL, OMG, etc.*). The widespread use of this method of forming new words is explained by the need to simplify the process of typing in order to communicate as quickly as possible and to make this type of communication closer to spoken language. All these on-going changes are a new source of a huge enrichment of the language. The new e-word-forms serve to prove the productivity of language and creativity of its users.

The grammar of English in Facebook communication is largely similar to the spoken language as it is characterized by simplifications of grammatical structures, the use of simple tenses, incomplete and simple sentences. The social networking service Facebook has also changed the way people talk. It has introduced a great number of words and phrases to the language of modern world. Most of them Facebook just rethought and added new meanings, for example: *friend, unfriend, like, tag, share, wall, timeline* and others. Some of these words have undergone such

word-formation processes as compounding (*timeline*), affixation (*unfriend*) and semantic change (*wall, post, tag*).

Interjections are another popular feature of Facebook English. As a lexical and grammatical class of unchanging words and phrases, they help to express different feelings and make a message more expressive and emotionally coloured. Interjections do not act as members of sentences, but may sometimes replace them. The main purpose of such phrases is to attract attention of other people. They are usually separated by comma or exclamation marks and play an independent role in the statement. People often use interjections to confirm or react on what was said, to agree with the assessment or in turn to refuse the interlocutor. They also have such important features of utterance as intentionality and targeting. The meaning of an interjection is revealed in utterances, preceding or following an interjection, in senders' remarks. A context, situation, and extralinguistic means not only help to single out interjections, but also to clarify their meanings, for most English interjections are polysemantic. For example, the interjection *Ah!* may express such diverse emotions as annoyance, admiration or disappointment.

Communication in a social network actually corresponds to face-to-face communication, regardless of the distance of users from each other. Facebook English is characterized by rapprochement with everyday speech, including the active use of interjections, which were designed to reduce the uncertainty and emotional-gestural insufficiency of written forms of communication. From the point of view of syntax, statements do not have a complex structure and are often simplified or expressed through incomplete sentences. People on Internet actively use a variety of emotionally-evaluative words, which were designed to smooth the gaps and misunderstandings that naturally arise in communication mediated by modern technical means.

### 3. PARALINGUISTIC FEATURES OF ENGLISH IN FACEBOOK

#### 3.1 Graphic and phonetic features of Facebook communication

In the rapid flow of modern life, people are surrounded by technology that not only simplifies their lives, but also changes them. New opportunities modify the person's perception of objective reality, which is reflected in the language. Spontaneous, unplanned and unedited speech in such types of network texts as chats, instant messages, and comments is a way of realizing colloquial speech in writing. The important feature of Facebook communication is the use of punctuation marks. These symbols are a very important aspect of the language. They can not only change, but also give new meanings to sentences. In traditional writing, punctuation marks mainly structure the text and make it easier to read. However, people do not pay much attention to them while chatting with their friends or posting things in Facebook.

The first feature of Facebook communication is the tendency to use capital letters in comments. The capital letters in the message stand out from the rest of the text and make other users pay attention to them, since against the background of a neutral text, capital letters cannot but attract the readers. Visual capitalization of some words or phrases may have pragmatic functions. Such graphic highlighting serves as a means of special intonational emphasis. The intonation as a paralinguistic means of expressing the speaker's emotionally-evaluative attitude to the statement is considered to be a characteristic of oral communication [35, c. 131]. However, capitalization has taken over this function.

In the following examples from Facebook comments, capitalization would probably have been characterized by a marked increase in voice timbre in the spoken language of the user: *Saundra Flynn: LOVE SPONGE! (Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 9:03 PM)*. All capital letters convey the sender's strong feelings and emotions and also capture the eye of the readers. The user is happy, overwhelmed and wants to share mood with other people.

The use of capitalization has not only graphic and intonational function, but also semantic one. The users may focus the attention of other people on the semantically

significant part of the whole statement or its individual parts: *Carol Dixson: Now this is really sweet and cute, THANK YOU for posting it (Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 11:12 AM)*. The man stressed only the phrase *THANK YOU* in order to emphasize it and show that he is grateful for the post. He wanted to attract attention and give special importance to the phrase.

People may also express various emotions using capitalization. There are several reasons why people type all capital letters in Facebook:

1) They are venting out their frustration. For instance: *Lara Keppler: WHAT?! WHAT DID YOU DO? (Monday, March 30, 2020 at 11:54 PM)*. All capital letters mean that the sender is angry, annoyed or irritated.

2) They are excited about something. For example: *Maria Curton: WHAT A BEAUTIFUL BABY!! (Monday, March 30, 2020 at 04:16 AM)*. Capital letters show the sender's positive emotions towards the baby. The user feels happy, contented, delighted and wants to convey an extremely good mood.

3) They are trying to get attention. The use of capital letters depends on the message and to whom it is intended. They can indicate the importance of the statement to the recipients from the sender. For instance: *Sanyog Desai: Jennie To GIVE IT TO ME (Monday, March 30, 2020 at 07:04 AM)*. The user tagged the friend in his comment and wanted to attract the attention to his words by using capitalization.

The next popular punctuation mark among Facebook users is ellipsis. In traditional English writing, ellipsis dots are a punctuation mark that consists of three consecutive periods, which are typically used for indicating omission of texts in quotations [61, p. 121]. However, the development of the Internet has led to its excessive usage as a typographic strategy in comments, SMS, microblogs or instant messengers [75]. In informal writing, an ellipsis can be used to:

1) show uncertainty or hesitation. For example: *Renato Ferrer: hmm...I don't think that's the same stick (Friday, February 7, 2020 at 4:47 PM)*. The ellipsis represents doubt and reluctance. The interjection *hmm* conveys the process of

thinking and confirms that the person is unconfident and doesn't know exactly what to say.

2) make a pause. While communicating verbally, people usually insert lots of fillers as *hmmm* or *err* into the conversation, but in Facebook communication, the ellipsis allows to replace such pauses and make the written speech more real. For instance: *Geynell Phillips: Sorry Sebastian...but this little guy is tugging at my heart (Monday, March 30, 2020 at 1:52 PM)*. Ellipsis in the middle of the statement was used to make a pause as if a person is thinking what to say next and to imitate live speech.

3) show voice trailing off in order to mimic real life talking. For example: *Mayra Deleon: Awww... What's the breed of this kitty? (Monday, March 30, 2020 at 05:09 AM)*. Three dots depict how the sender's voice trails off and becomes quieter as if in real speech.

4) denote an unfinished statement. For example: *Audrey Richardson: What a face... (Monday, March 30, 2020 at 02:27 AM)*. The use of ellipsis at the end of the statement indicates that the person's thought is incomplete. Such an unfinished statement allows other users to draw their own conclusions based on what was said.

Another popular feature of communication in Facebook is the use of multiple question marks. A question mark is a symbol used in writing at the end of a word or group of words to show that it is a question [94]. However, users of Facebook rarely put only one question mark at the end of the statement. They often use several ones to make the message more expressive, emotional and powerful [89, p. 22]. Multiple exclamation marks are often used to denote a whole range of emotions. For instance:

a) anger, frustration or irritation. For example: *Rashmee Anand: What's it all about?????Did I ask for all that???? (Thursday, April 2, 2020 at 7:03 PM)*. Multiple question marks show that the sender is full of anger, feels extremely furious, annoyed and wants to convey a strong displeasure.

b) astonishment or amazement. For instance: *Mita Singh: What's on the plate Manisha.... chicken?????? (Monday, April 6, 2020 at 6:35 PM)*. The reduplication of

the question mark makes the message more emphatic and meaningful. The emotions behind these multiple symbols are wonder, shock and surprise.

c) confusion or disbelief. For example: *Daisy Weston: Are you really try to tell me she curled her hair with a water pipe?????? (Friday, April 10, 2020 at 1:59 PM)*. The user didn't believe that it is possible to curl hair with a water pipe and thus confirmed doubt with multiple question marks at the end of the statement, which express uncertainty and scepticism about the material in the video.

The other common way to make a message in Facebook more explicit and distinct is to use multiple exclamation marks. An exclamation mark is a symbol written immediately after an exclamation [94]. This punctuation mark adds additional emphasis to the statement and can be used to express different emotions or acts, such as:

a) astonishment, excitement or happiness – *Lisa Laberge: MY LITTLE PONY!!!! (Monday, April 6, 2020 at 4:31 AM)*. Multiple exclamation marks indicate the sender's strong feelings and emotional outburst. The combination of capitalization and reduplication of the symbol adds the expressive power to the statement.

b) anger, sadness or frustration – *Ye Eun Song: putting toothpaste as a spread is not funny!!!! (Friday, March 31, 2020 at 7:36 PM)*. Multiple exclamation marks express the person's annoyance and irritation with the video.

c) sarcasm – *Shyla Goracke: LOL!!!!!!! (Wednesday, August 14, 2019 at 10:31 AM)*. The person made an ironical remark to the video with the use of capitalization and exclamation marks. The acronym *LOL* strengthens the emotions and adds the message more emphatic meaning.

d) commands and orders to give an imperative tone to the message: *Debrah Jobe: Stop smoking!!!! (Friday, April 3, 2020 at 9:08 PM)*. Several exclamation marks were used to give an authoritative order and to somehow influence the person.

The use of paired exclamation mark and question mark. People may end the message by using a combination of such symbols to show the emphasis and that the person is at once shocked and asking a question. For instance: *Claire AnimalMad Bryson: do you believe anyone would actually do that?!?! (Tuesday, November 12,*

2019 at 12:58 PM). The sender is surprised and wants to convey at the same time a raised voice as if in real life and the emotions of impression and puzzlement.

The use of asterisks is another way to emphasize words in Facebook. An asterisk is a star-shaped figure used chiefly to indicate an omission, a reference to a footnote, or an unattested word, sound, or affix. It is the phonological phenomenon of metathesis that involves the transposition of sounds or syllables in a word [93]. Asterisks can be used in Facebook to represent emphasis when bold or italic text is not available. There are several reasons why people use asterisks:

1) to emphasize a word or a part of a sentence. For example: *Juan Leiva: Bought a ps4 4 months ago \*ps5 release in 2020\* (Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 1:57 AM)*. The sender highlighted the part of the sentence with asterisks to stress and make accent on it. He wanted to show that this part is especially important and worth giving attention to.

2) to denote virtual actions. For example: *Deo Paolo Mendez: \*just woke up\* \*stretches\* \*Zzzzzz\* (Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 10:24 AM)*. Asterisks represent the sequence of acts in real life and give them more emphasis.

3) to mark censorship over all or part of a word. For instance: *Emese Luminita Makfalvi: He scares the sh\*t out of me. There is something so evil in his eyes lol... (Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 1:19 AM)*. An asterisk in a taboo word avoids causing offence.

4) to denote corrections to misspelling or misstatements in the message. Sometimes people may use asterisks when they spell the word wrong while texting on-line. For example: *Victoria Camara: That pancake \*BATTER\* not dough (Friday, March 27, 2020 at 9:41 AM)*. Asterisks were used to correct the word and capitalization to make emphasis on it.

The next popular way to convey emotions and feelings in Facebook is to use the expressive lengthening, a non-standard orthography in which individual characters in a word string are repeated [59]. Linguist Michael Erard told that word lengthening stems from a desire to incorporate verbal speech in digital communication. "When

people talk, they use intonation in a number of varied and subtle ways ... There's a lot of emotional nuance that can be conveyed that you can't do in writing." [65].

The most frequent vowels for multiplication among Facebook users are:

**o** – *Tori Horn: Gino Delang can we have all of them??? Ooooooooooh my goodness (Saturday, November 9, 2019 at 12:09 PM)*. The elongated vowel *o* in the interjection *Oh* makes the sentence more emphatic and allows the user to effectively convey the emotions;

**a** – *Steve Corradi: Aaaaaah we all need a good laugh right about now... (Monday, March 23, 2020 at 6:39 AM)*. The interjection *Ah* and the prolonged vowel *a* show that the sender is extremely curious and excited;

**e** – *Jennifer Levante: Love it!!!! so sweeeet and clever... (Sunday, September 1, 2019 at 3:41 PM)*. The expressive lengthening of the vowel *e* stresses and makes the word *sweet* more expressive and distinct;

**u** – *Tet Dg Russ: So cuuuuuute!!! (Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 1:26 PM)*. The highlighted word *cute* attracts the attention of other users.

The most important reason for the expressive lengthening is to intensify the semantic property of the word. People often use lots of intensifiers to show emphasis and strengthen the meaning of the expressions. For example: *Tina Anderson: It was soooooooooo cute! I LOVED IT (Thursday, October 3, 2019 at 3:26 AM)*. The intensifier *so* and repeated vowel *o* make the message more affective and expressive. The word lengthening and capitalization help to share intonation and get the point across.

Another important feature of Facebook communication is the use of inverted commas – the symbols that are put around a word or phrase to show that someone else has written or said it [94]. People may put quotation marks for several reasons:














1) to emphasize a word or a phrase: *Terry Lozada: Some more "cake" ideas Chick Lorenzen. Interesting (Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 3:34 PM)*. Quotation marks highlight the word, stress and give importance to it.

2) to disagree with the use of a term or word. For example: *Beth Hedges: "brown too dark" yeah. You're using eyeliner pen lol (Friday, January 10, 2020 at*

5:16 PM). The sender expressed a different opinion and emphasized that the phrase isn't correct.

3) to indicate irony, inaccuracy, or scepticism. When inverted commas are used around a word in this way, they are called scare quotes. For example: *Jessica McManus: Ah, another compilation of unrealistic "hacks" that take advantage of people's stupidity (Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 6:23 PM)*. Inverted commas were used as a distancing device to indicate doubt about the use of the word *hack*.

Facebook also allows users to make their messages vivid, rich and colourful with the special "Text Delight" feature. When posted, some words as *congratulations*, *best wishes*, *lol*, *rad*, *lmao*, *thank you so much bff*, *etc.* appear in a different colour and clicking on them triggers a brief animation (hearts or confetti). This separates the message from others, draws attention to it, and adds meaning and importance to lexical units. For example: *Ruth Mills: Enjoy doing, dearest! Best wishes! (Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 11:15 AM)* or *Judy Davies: Congrats from the USA! (Monday, April 6, 2020 at 01:53 AM)*. Both people used special colour to emphasize important keywords and make them visually attractive.

Another important graphic feature is the Facebook like button – . Users of Facebook can rate a photo, statement or comment by clicking on this button. The expression of emotion in this case requires even less efforts than when choosing an emoji or emoticon. With the intensive development of the Internet and paralanguage means, additional variations have been added to help people express different levels of emotions. Since 2016, Facebook has introduced new "likes" to users. Now the post can be estimated not only with the help of , but also with different emojis as –     . For example: *Eurovision Song Contest: We are all still heartbroken that the Eurovision Song Contest 2020 will not take place in May (Thursday, April 2, 2020 at 1:34 PM)*. Under this post, 1000 users clicked on the button , 295 on – , 183 on – , 26 on – , 25 on – , 3 on – . Users have different emotions towards the post. Some people are sad and upset, others are angry, depressed or vice versa happy and satisfied. Such choice of emojis allows

people to express not only support, but also dissatisfaction, joy, sadness and wonder. It facilitates and accelerates the communication and, at the same time, expands the range of feelings.

Summarizing all the above, we can say that the impossibility of an adequate exchange of emotions in the process of virtual communication leads to the search for the new forms of the expression of feelings. When people communicate verbally, emotions are delivered via various non-verbal channels: gestures, body language, tonality, etc. In long-read contexts like books, media publications or letters, the authors have enough time and space to thoroughly explain their point. However, the communication is too fast and concise in on-line chats and instant messaging on the mobile phones. That's why users of the social networking service Facebook use "internet language" or "text-language" in order to minimize the effort and time for communication. They try to better express their emotions and feelings with various additional means as punctuation marks, emojis or emoticons.

### **3.2 Emoticon and emoji usage in Facebook**

Graphic means are one of the types of paralinguistic means of written communication for transmitting information without the use of words. The goal of using graphic means is to convey the feelings or the emotional state of the users of the social networks, to strengthen the message and attract the reader's attention to it. Users understand the content of the message through its visual perception. Graphic means, their order and connection create a certain meaning and an emotive connotation. Herring and Dainas termed online visual communicative elements as "graphicons" (graphical icons) which include emoticons, emoji, GIFS, images, and videos [76, p. 5].

Emoticon is an image made up of symbols such as punctuation marks, used in text messages, emails, etc. to express a particular emotion [94]. These icons are intended to give the language an emotional colour, to revive it and to specify an emotion. As the emoticon does not reflect any grammatical, phonetic or other

features of the language, it can be attributed to paralinguistic graphical means of written communication.

There are Western and Asian emoticons. The difference between them lies in the way of reading. Western emoticons are most commonly used while communicating in social networks. In order to understand them, users must tilt their head to the side.

Smiles :), =) and sad faces :(, =( are the basic ideograms which form the basis for many derivatives. People in Facebook often use such emoticons due to a common tendency for simplification and linguistic economy, more precisely, sign-saving. Sometimes the users do not write the colon for the eyes since it does not carry any semantic load. They transmit happy and sad smile using only the parenthesis. For example:

:) or ) – popular emoticons among Facebook users that represent positive feelings. People usually put them at the end of the message to make them look happy [101]. – *Julius Sma: I bet on my cat vs your rooster on gambling games:)* (Thursday, April 2, 2020 at 10:27 PM) The emoticon :) at the end of the statement indicates the person's good mood.

:( or ( – popular sad emoticons which convey negative feelings as sorrow, dejection or grief. People use them to depict an unhappy or sad face [101]. – *Liane Kreijkes: I'm ashamed sometimes about being human... that human can do this... horrible(((* (Saturday, February 29, 2020 at 7:58 PM). The emoticons ((( show the sender's indignation and frustration with people who mock the animals. The reduplication of the parenthesis strengthens the emotion of sadness.

*XD* – a laughing face with the symbol X for eyes which indicates that a person is laughing so hard that he/she may have fallen off the chair [101]. That is why, this emoticon is usually used to replace the acronym *Lol*. People usually put this emoticon after a funny video or photo. – *Priesca Aulia Dwieyanti: What a good voice XD* (Friday, April 3, 2020 at 4:58 PM) The emoticon *XD* conveys laughter and means that the person found something incredibly funny.

:0 – an emoticon used by people who want to express surprise or astonishment [101]. – *Julian Seidler: Every year the same situation but with thinner hair on my*

*head :0 (Thursday, April 2, 2020 at 2:56 AM)* The emoticon *:0* expresses the sender's shock and amazement due to the April fools of his friends.




Another type of emoticons is Asian. Asian emoticons are not so popular as Western ones, but also take place in Facebook. People don't need to tilt their heads in order to understand them. They only need to read them left to right. For example:

*-. -* – an emoticon used to convey negative emotions as sadness or frustration [101]. – *Andre Bandi: I managed 3 until I forgot to water it once and it died... -. - (Monday, February 24, 2020 at 1:28 PM)* The emoticon *-. -* shows the user's bad mood and annoyance as the plant, that he grew, died.

*O.o* – an emoticon which can represent surprise, shock or confusion [101]. – *Victor Redfield: Any trick like these for egg? O.o (Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 4:21 AM)*. The emoticon *O.o* means that the person is shocked and doesn't understand the trick with the egg.

*>\_<* – an emoticon that conveys positive emotions as joy or delight [101]. – *Salman Brando: so cute >\_< (Friday, April 3, 2020 at 4:55 PM)* The emoticon *>\_<* expresses the sender's amazement and shows that he likes the photo.

Nowadays emoticons begin to fade into the past. Digital images that depict faces, objects and signs replaced them. If the emoticons were not understood by everyone, the digital ones allowed to expand the circle of people who use such a virtual reality mean to add emotionality to their messages. This is because the visual emotion has become more interesting and more understandable for people of all ages.

Emoji is a digital image that is added to a message in electronic communication in order to express a particular idea or feeling [94]. On World Emoji Day in 2017, Facebook determined which emoji people use the most. The most popular emoji was –  (a face with tears of joy), the second place was taken by emoji –  (smiling face with heart-eyes), in the third place was –  (a face blowing a kiss) [68].

Vyvyan Evans, an expert in communication and cognitive linguistics and author of *The Emoji Code*, explains that such icons help to reproduce in the digital environment almost all the characteristics of human communication in the real world.

The symbols work in a manner similar to non-verbal cues in face-to-face interactions (body language, intonation, and facial expressions) and communicate the nuances of mood and emotion between people who cannot see the gestures of their interlocutor [92, p. 132]. A sequence of icons reflects a sequence of events. People often use emojis instead of punctuation marks and place them at the end of the text or the logical part of the statement. However, there is also a tendency towards users of Facebook to replace various words. For example:




- Words (adjectives like *funny*, *silly*, *happy*, and *glad*, verbs like *laugh*, and *giggle*, interjections like *haha* or *hehe*, acronyms like *LOL* (*laughing out loud*) or *ROFL* (*rolling on the floor laughing*) etc.) that express emotions such as joy, happiness or pleasure may be replaced by popular faces as 😄, 😂, 😂. For example:




*John Lehman: The things people do while self-quarantining* 😂 (Thursday, April 2, 2020 at 6:10 AM). The user sent the emoji instead of the interjection *haha* or an acronym *LOL* which shows that he found something humorous and entertaining. Oxford Dictionaries announced a face with tears of joy as the ‘word’ that best reflected the ethos, mood and preoccupations of 2015. People widely use it to show that something is extremely funny or pleasing [66].




*Sah Ariful Islam: I think she was not a student of science* 😄 (Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at 9:37 AM). A man sent a grinning face with big eyes instead of the interjection *hehe*, which is an approximation to the sound of a giggle and means that he is excited and enthusiastic.




*Brian Rogers: She looked far too comfortable being tied up* 😂 (Saturday, April 4, 2020 at 7:45 AM). The man sent the face, which conveys hysterical laughter and indicates that he saw something crazy and ridiculous. An emoji can be used instead of the acronym *ROFL* (*rolling on the floor laughing*).




- Words that convey various warm feelings as love, passion, affection or adoration (interjections like *xoxo*, and *muahhh*, acronyms like *ILY* (*I love you*) or *luv*,


verbs like *love* and *kiss*, adjectives like *dear*, *lovely*, *beloved*, and *sweet* etc.) may be replaced by faces as , , . For instance:

*Mark Jay: cute pugs pups with their caring and golden heart mother*   
(Sunday, March 15, 2020 at 1:54 AM). The man sent a smiling face with heart-eyes which replaces such phrases as *I love/am in love with* or *I'm crazy about/obsessed with*, and indicates his extreme positivity towards dogs, his love and fondness for them. The reduplication of the faces means that the person is in immensely good mood and has such emotions as admiration, delight and adoration.

*Margaret Goldsmith: This'll be y'all soon*  (Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 8:43 AM). The woman sent a smiling face with hearts that conveys her kindness and affection for the puppies. The emoji replaces the verbs as *love*, *adore* or nouns as *obsession*, *admiration*. The reduplication of the faces shows that she is extremely happy and satisfied to see such a nice video on the page.

*Rod Oman: nothing makes me happier than being with you my sweetheart*   
 (Saturday, February 15, 2020 at 7:23 AM). The man is in love with the girl and wants to show his tender, warm and kind relation to her. He sent a red heart that helps him to convey warmth, infatuation and devotion. The person tried to replace nouns as *heart*, *love* *passion* with the popular emoji. The reduplication of the emoji adds intimacy to the message and indicates that a man has strong feelings.

- Words that help users to express interest, curiosity, thoughtfulness or even boredom (interjections like *hmm*, and *aha*, verbs like *think* and *ponder*, nouns like *thought* and *idea* etc.) may be replaced with such popular faces as , , . For instance:

*Ember Lynn Motsinger: Why add white food coloring when you're supposed to leave it that beautiful amber color?*  (Friday, April 3, 2020 at 1:44 PM). The girl sent a thinking face, which indicates the process of thinking and her puzzled mood as she doesn't understand the sense of the act. The emoji may replace such interjection

as *hmm*, which means that a person is deep in thoughts and thinks about something carefully.

*Masuma Islam: How they show useless things and get famous* 🙄 (Friday, March 20, 2020 at 12:22 PM). The man shows his indignation over the unfair popularity of the page with a face with rolling eyes. He used this emoji to express sarcastic, indignant mood and replace interjections as *yeah*, adjectives like *strange*, *weird*, *odd* or phrase like *never expected that*.

*Atunu Saha: This is a European song contest, why is Israel in it and why Australia gets to vote?* 😐 (Friday, March 26, 2020 at 3:54 PM). The man sent an expressionless face which is instead of a phrase *no words*. The user is baffled, perplexed and does not understand why it happened so.

- If the users want to share their sad or bad mood without such verbs like *cry*, *grieved* and *troubled*, nouns like *sadness* and *pain*, adjectives like *lonely*, *disappointed*, *unhappy* and *lost* then they try to reflect it using such popular faces as 🙄, 😭 or 😞. For example:

*Pam Davis: Oh dear ...poor bubba* 😭 (Sunday, March 29, 2020 at 11:20 AM). A crying face represents the woman's sad emotions and indicates that she sympathizes and feels sorry for the dog. The emoji may replace words as *pain*, *sad* or *miserable*.

*Merhan Rasmy: Who would hurt such a beautiful boy in such a vicious way?* 😭 (Friday, February 28, 2020 at 5:24 PM). The woman shows her grief and depression. A loudly crying face does not mean that she cries, but that she is very upset, and to confirm this, sends a smile with tears, which emphasizes her extremely bad mood. The emoji is instead of words like *tears*, *sobbing*, *sad* or *bawling*.

*Patti Heinrich: I need a hug.. a lap to lean over.. im enough* 😞 (Sunday, April 5, 2020 at 7:56 PM). A pensive face replaces the adjectives as *disappointed*, *unhappy*, *lonesome* and means that the woman is sad and hopeless, because she feels lonely and needs a hug.

• Words and phrases (nouns as *kiss*, *hug* and *facepalm* or verbs as *cover*, *blow*, etc.) that express body language. Some popular examples in Facebook are:

*Tom Young: Nancy Sanattha all I want is you* 🍷 *I want to spend every minute with you* 🍷🍷🍷 (Friday, March 20, 2020 at 4:10 PM). Reduplication of a face blowing a kiss indicates that there is a very warm relationship between the users. The man is in love and wants to add intimacy to the message and express his affection for a girl. The emoji is instead of a noun *kiss* or *love*.

*Mabel Shaira: that's why I wouldn't show my face haha* 🙈 (Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 5:34 PM). The girl doesn't want to show her face. She is shy and embarrassed. A monkey face covering its eyes is used in a playful way to convey emotions of awkwardness or shyness and to replace the phrase *I'm a bit embarrassed*.

*Catrien Haan: so cutee!! want to* 🤗 *them all* (Monday, April 6, 2020 at 7:58 PM). The woman sent a hugging face instead of a verb *hug*, which depicts her gestures. She likes the puppies in the video and want to express warm, positive feelings.

*Ellen Lane: 10 ways to have fun and relax at home..... first video is done in a public restroom* 🙄 (Tuesday, 31 March, 2020 at 10:32 AM). The woman sent a popular emoji among Facebook users, which indicates her indignation as she doesn't understand why the page posted such a video. The emoji is used as a synonym to the word *facepalm*.

The semantic characteristics include the ability of emojis to make paradigmatic connections. In particular, they are characterized by a phenomenon of synonymy.

Different emojis may represent the same emotions, for example: 😄, 😁, 😂, 😊 – happiness, joy or delight; 🍷, 🍷, 🍷 – love, passion or affection; 😲, 😱, 😨 – shock, surprise or amazement; 😡, 😠 – anger, frustration or annoyance. Some emojis can be characterized by polysemy, the capacity for a sign or signs to have multiple meanings [15, c. 51]. For example, the emoji 🤗 may represent various

positive feelings, such as amusement, enthusiasm, excitement or a sense of accomplishment. Some emojis can also denote antonymic concepts, for instance: happiness – 😊 and sadness – 😞; laughter – 😂 and cry – 😭; pleasure – 😄 and annoyance – 😡.

However, emoticons and emojis are not the only ways to express the feelings and emotions of the users at the distance. Space and freedom of expression, creativity and imagination allow each person to convey their feelings individually, using a set of special Facebook non-standard stickers.

De Seta defined stickers as "images, usually larger than graphical emoticons and emoji, offered as thematic sets in the communication interfaces of instant messaging apps and social networking services, often organized in tabs and personalized collections [69]. Compared with emoticons and emoji, stickers are more expressive. They can be textual, pictorial, or a combination of both. The unique feature of stickers is the high level of personalization. Users of Facebook have an opportunity to originally express their emotions, thoughts, state or actions. For example:

*Eric Vetter: Miss u babe (Friday, April 10, 2020 at 11:42 PM).*



The sender used a cartoon-like sticker with detailed illustration of a flower resembling real-life nonverbal cue to express intimacy and make the message original and unusual. The user is not able to give the rose to the girl in on-line communication and thus sends a sticker that creates an improved level of individualization and amusement.

So, as we can see, such extra elements as emoticons, emojis and stickers help people: 1) graphically express emotions; 2) save time explaining feelings; 3) make the message short and clear; 4) add tone and clarity to the communication; 5) communicate when words fail since sometimes a picture may be worth a thousand words; 6) replace words, phrases or even sentences, and 7) make the digital

communication original, creative and bright. Over the past few years, there has been a real boom in the use of emojis in society, both in correspondence and in the real world. Thus, ideograms have become part of the mainstream culture, due to the fact that people began to understand and actively use them.

### **3.3 Creolized texts in Facebook**

In the modern world, Internet communication is of particular importance: with its help, the social, communicative and creative potential of a person is revealed. Thanks to the global Internet network, an individual has the opportunity to express thoughts and communicate in various ways: chats, forums, comments, blogs and other educational and entertaining resources. The main linguistic component of these types of communication is text.

One of the widely used universal means that allows people to transfer information in the process of communication in the most efficient and concise way is creolized text. Recently, the scientific interest in non-verbal components of the text has been growing, since the so-called super-phrasal unity with extralinguistic elements not only has an additional informational characteristic, but also often performs pragmatic functions. According to E.E. Anisimova, a creolized text is a complex text, in which verbal and iconic elements form one visual, structural, semantic and functional unity which is aimed at pragmatic influence on the recipient. She also notes that the linguistics of the text is increasingly being transformed into the linguistics of a semiotically complicated text [4, c. 90].

According to the definition, the main components of a creolized text are its verbal (inscription / signature) and iconic part (drawing, photograph, table, size, colour, sound, composition, etc.). In different types of texts they are found in various combinations. Moreover, the most important component of creolized text is the image. Given this fact, E.E. Anisimova and other researchers such as O.A. Korda, E.A. Elina, single out the most important image and text functions in creolized texts [4, c. 45]. So, the image functions are:

- a) attractive (attracting the attention of the recipient);

b) informative (transmission of certain information and correct understanding of the message);

c) expressive (expression of feelings of the sender and the effect on the emotions of the recipient);

d) aesthetic (the realization of artistic intent, providing aesthetic influence on the feelings of the addressee).

The functions of the text are:

a) nominative (use of a signature for an iconic sign);

b) informative (like any other text, a creolized text acts as a medium of certain information);

c) deictic (text indicates an image);

d) a coherent function that ensures the coherence of the creolized text;

e) an integrative function that interacts between verbal and iconic codes.

People from all countries often encounter a situation of misunderstanding while interpreting a regular written, and non-creolized text. The reason for this is the lack of non-verbal means of transmitting information (gestures, facial expressions, postures). That is why the phenomenon of creolized Internet text is of great interest to many researchers because of the combination of the qualities of both verbal and non-verbal components. Creolized Internet text is a way of compensating the missing non-verbal means in order to bring communication closer to reality.

The creolization of text messages on the social network Facebook is a combination of verbal and non-verbal codes that appear in a certain interaction [54, p. 135]. Values of visual images in social media posts are usually supported by language material.

L.V. Golovina formulates three types of correlation of text and image [16, c. 57]:

1) parallel: semantics and pragmatic potential of verbal and non-verbal components coincide. For example: The verbal part of picture 1 "When Trump builds a wall... You shall not pass" is based on an image which was initially taken from the scenes of the popular movie, "Lord of the Rings", where Gandalf, one of the

protagonists, declared "You shall not pass". The primary context is combined with the famous immigration campaign and the supposed "wall building" held by Donald Trump. The content of the picture and verbal part completely coincide, that's why the correlation between the components is parallel.

2) complementary: verbal and non-verbal components partially overlap each other. Picture 2 shows this complementary correlation. The non-verbal component, that is the image of the American president, complements the verbal part, which is presented by the words: "TRUMP 2020. YES WE WANT HIM AGAIN". The words, in the same way as the image, are fragments of a more general syntagm and the unity of the message is realized at a higher level. The caption contains the president's name, that's why, the function of the nonverbal part is not informative, but attributive. An image and a text are joined equally and modify one another, so their status is considered complementary.

3) interpretive: when there are no direct contact points between the content of verbal and non-verbal parts, the connection is established on associative basis. Picture 3 shows the image of an anthropomorphic dog sitting in a burning house saying "This is fine". At first glance there is no any coincidence between the verbal part and non-verbal one. However, a meme is a reaction image to convey a sense of self-denial or acceptance in the face of a hopeless situation. Interpretive type of correlation lets the author create a comic effect and make the meme not only informative, but entertaining.

According to E.E. Anisimova, creolized texts can be divided into two main groups of texts depending on the image presence and the nature of its connection with the verbal part [4, c. 32]:

1) partially creolized texts – the verbal part is relatively autonomous, the image is an optional element of the text, and the relations between the verbal and visual components are auto-semantic. All these data indicate the secondary role of the image in the text and its partial creolization. Verbal and non-verbal components are connected at the content, content-compositional and content-language level. The

choice of the relation is determined by the communicative task and the functional purpose of the creolized text as a whole. For example:

*Joanne Sigular: Tomorrow is my birthday. Can't decide what room to celebrate in (Friday, April 10, 2020 at 01:07 AM) (Pic. 4)*

The user creates a message which consists of two inhomogeneous parts: the verbal message and graphic image. In the example above, the form of correlation between image and text is complementary. The verbal message (Tomorrow is my birthday. Can't decide what room to celebrate in) is relatively autonomous, and the image acts as an additional element of the text. The addressee thinks about where to celebrate birthday and attaches an image that illustrates opinion.

2) fully creolized texts – synsemantic relations are established between verbal and visual components, the verbal part cannot exist autonomously, regardless of the visual component. The image is an important element in the organizational structure of a two-code formation, without which the text loses its textuality. For example, in picture 5 visual images are represented as the answers to the questions which are expressed verbally. The message is considered to be fully creolized, since the images play a semantic role in the text.

Posts in Facebook may also contain messages with both fully and partially creolized texts [24, c. 139]. For example, in a message: *Charis Lee: Shania Springer this reminds me of your patient lying on the floor (Saturday, April 4, 2020 at 03:48 AM) (Pic. 6)*. There are three parts in this example: a verbal message of the user (this reminds me of your patient lying on the floor), a visual image and a verbal part of it (Me during quarantine). The verbal component *Me during quarantine* forms a unitary whole with the image, so it is the fully creolized text. The verbal message *this reminds me of your patient lying on the floor* is complementary because it provides additional information that is not necessary for the understanding of the main content as users of Facebook often share with their friends what they like, what amazed them and so on. Therefore, considering the relationship between the author's note and the image, we can say that this part of the message is partially creolized.

A. Bernatskaya singles out three degrees of verbal and non-verbal components participation in organization of creolized text: weak, moderate and strong [53, p. 106]. She introduces the term of weak creolization, that is typical of paralinguistic means of communication (phonational, kinetic, and graphic).

As an example of the creolized text with weak creolization we use picture 7 with no any explicit visual component. In the centre of the image we can see the phrase "be a nice human" written in the attractive font which should be taken into consideration, since it serves as a graphic paralinguistic expressive mean of communication.

Creolized texts with moderate creolization show the domination of one component and the supporting role of the other. In picture 8 we can see clear predominance of the non-verbal component. The Trump's T-shirt has an inscription "T", that is of no use, because the image of Donald Trump is completely recognizable. The elephant also has the inscription "GOP" which is not quite important, since all the Americans know the traditional mascot of the Republican party. That's why we can speak about moderate realization of this political cartoon.

The texts with strong creolization are characterized by the equality of the components. Since none of the components of the political cartoon (pic.9) is dominant and information decoding becomes impossible in case of leaving out one of its parts, we can say that we deal with a strong degree of creolization, that is typical of political cartoons, posters and advertisements [4, p. 16].

In creolized texts, one element may also outweigh the other. For example, in picture 8 the verbal part only clarifies the content of the message, but in picture 10 the verbal component of the message dominates the nonverbal one, since the main content is revealed by language, and the visual image only complements it.

In modern linguistics, creolized text is seen as a polycoding text that uses elements of different semiotic systems (images, animation, music, etc.). In modern practice, these are primarily texts in which verbal and visual components interact. Photos, drawings, diagrams, maps, and more are commonly used [29, c. 12]. The choice of a particular tool depends on many characteristics: the author's intent; genre of material; addressee

factor: social status, educational level, age, gender; sphere of functioning of creolized texts and many others. At the same time, "the constituents of the creolized text form a unitary whole, both visually and functionally" [37].

### **Conclusion III**

The advent of the Internet creates a new environment for language functioning – the electronic language. Quite often on Internet communication, the emotionality of messages, due to the inability to transmit it at the level of voice or facial expressions, is transmitted graphically. Emotions can be expressed verbally, with the help of words or phrases and non-verbally – emoticons, emojis, stickers, capitalization, etc. All these means set the word or phrase out of context.

Personal data of users of social networks (pictures, biographical data and preferences) become a basis for interpretation of their communicative acts. Communication on the Internet is implemented through various channels and can be represented through written text (private messages, comments, group communication and wall recordings), images, audio and video files, as well as indirect, passive ways: in the form of shares and likes. Communication in Facebook is mainly characterized by written text and images. The main characteristic features of the language in Facebook are the implementation of the tendency for the conversational style, the key attributes of which are spontaneity, informality, dialogical character, the tendency to brevity and expressiveness and, as a result, the use of linguistic elements of informal communication.

Due to the impossibility of using extra-lingual means (voice, tone, facial expressions etc), people in Facebook often use capital letters, expressive lengthening, multiple exclamation marks and other paragraphemic means to emphasize words and sentences or to enhance emotionality and expressiveness. In addition, emoticons, mathematical symbols and creolized texts are used to express feelings, emotions and mental state.

The most popular way is to use emoticons, emojis or stickers. Graphic information is needed to adequately convey the emotional segment of the message.

During written communication, the intonation, facial expressions and gestures are lost and the addressee cannot convey emotions and feelings. Therefore, the role of compensatory mechanisms that cause the recipient to understand and save efforts is played by emoticon – an image made up of symbols such as punctuation marks.

However, emoticons begin to fade into the past, since more modern and newer digital images (emojis) appeared, that depict faces, objects and signs. In most cases, people may add several emojis after the text, which may express a whole range of emotions and carry additional information. The desire for quick communication makes graphic symbols more used instead of phrases, which leads to the emergence of new options for graphic communication tools. These are not only emoticons and pictures, but also stickers that are images, usually larger than graphical emoticons and emojis. All these features show that the main thing in on-line communication is to convey thoughts and emotions. That's why the traditional rules of grammar and norms of communication fall into the shade.

Thus, visual-graphic elements are intended to reproduce the expressiveness of statements, to fill the act of communication with emotional shades and images for the most complete and accurate reflection of the intentions of the addressees on Internet communication. The comments in Facebook are distinguished both by verbal means of communication and by graphical means, which are an important element of modern Internet language.

## CONCLUSIONS

In today's society, due to the globalization and rapid development of science and technology, the increase in the number of Internet users and the expansion of communication, not only within one country, but around the world are inevitable. Internet discourse has no boundaries, only restrictions due to the presence or absence of appropriate technology that allows to join the "World Wide Web". Social networking services enrich and facilitate online communication. Expressing the emotions in virtual text messaging is no longer a big deal. Various modern tools such as emojis, emoticons and stickers have emerged, enabling users to convey their feelings and thoughts and express them quickly, easily and conveniently.

Conducted analysis allows to come to the following conclusions:

1) Internet discourse as a separate type of discourse is a combination of different texts, formed by linguistic means that exist in certain conditions and include psychological, social and cultural factors. It is a new medium of communication in which communicants do not see each other and are involved in direct communication. It has its particular features that influence the flow of interaction. Electronic signal, virtuality, time and space distance between the participants of communication, mediation, high degree of permeability, hypertextuality, abundance of creolized texts, graphic symbols, equal rights of participants and specific computer etiquette (netiquette) are among these peculiar traits;

2) Internet discourse differs from the concepts of "virtual discourse" that implies communication through a computer and other multimedia devices; "computer discourse" or "electronic discourse" which means communication via a computer and interaction between a person and a computer and "network discourse" that is communication on the Internet and local networks. Internet discourse is considered to be a type of "network discourse", which involves the communication in the Global Network and in contrast to electronic, virtual, and computer discourses focuses on how the language is used in the exchange of information.

3) Internet discourse combines features of both written and oral discourse, such as unprepared flow of communication, emotionality and expressiveness, spontaneous

speech and the imitation of oral one, mainly the use of simple, elliptical sentences, spelling of proper names with a lowercase letter, lack of punctuation marks, the use of Active voice and the abundance of non-verbal and graphical means. A specific feature of Internet language is the tendency towards agrammatism, i.e. deviation from the syntactic and punctuation norms of the literary language by the sender of the message.

4) Internet communication is an indirect communication, since it is carried out with the help of a technical tool (computer, tablet or phone). Regarding the channel of transmission and perception of information, Internet communication is divided into actual (communication with real people, acquaintances) and virtual (anonymous communication with unknown, imaginary interlocutors). Terms as *e-language*, *netlingo*, *etalk*, *geekspeak*, *netspeak*, *weblish*, *written speech*, *language centaur* are used to describe the language on the Internet.

5) Slang is an important feature of e-communication, which reflects the desire of young people to be different from adults and to be like other teenagers in their speech. The main reasons for the widespread use of slang are its convenience, which is the brevity of words and word forms; the ability to make the speech more emotional, lively, vibrant and to create an informal, friendly atmosphere. The functions that are typical for slang are: nominative (new names for words), cognitive (additional information), expressive (attitude to reality), identifying (words-passwords), time saving (abbreviations or clippings).

6) The genres of on-line communication have not been formed completely yet, since they constantly evolving and changing due to the continuous development of this communicative environment. The main genres of Internet discourse are represented by e-mail, blog, microblog, social networks and communication via Skype. Communication in all these genres is a very specific phenomenon that blurs the boundaries between written and oral speech. In face-to-face communication, meaning is carried by blending two components: the verbal (with words) and non-verbal (without words).

7) The main types of paralinguistic tools are phonological (speech volume, tempo, timbre etc.), kinetic (posture, gestures, facial expressions etc.) and graphical (handwriting, letter substitute (&) etc.). Paralinguistic tools are being intensively studied in the context of paragraphs as a special section of linguistics about the written language. There are several groups of non-verbal graphic means: text segmentation, font and colour variations, non-photographic text elements, iconic language elements, and other non-verbal means (tables, charts etc.). The main reasons for using paragraphemic means are to make information easier to interpret and reduce the risk of communication conflict; to strengthen the Internet's friendly relationship with a human being; to make e-communication expressive, rich, attractive and understandable to a targeted audience; to complete the start and end of a verbal message, allow the author to emphasize his message in a vast information flow and to make the Internet users active.

8) The grammar level of the language of Facebook posts and comments is characterized by various violations of the norms of written language such as: agrammatical forms of plural nouns, lack of articles, the use of inappropriate forms of the words, agrammatical use of tenses, misuse of prepositions, omission of apostrophes and punctuation marks (run-on sentences and comma splice). Users intentionally ignore grammar rules either to save time or to maintain a particular speech style.

9) On the syntax level it is typical for people in Facebook to use simple tenses, elliptical and simple syntactic structures. The most frequent type of elliptical constructions is a nominal ellipsis with the commonly omitted subjects "I" and "it". Auxiliary verbs and some parts of speech like articles and prepositions also belong to this group. Such syntactic features arise from the great influence of informal mode of speech and from the participants' wish for time and message length economy.

10) Users of social networking service Facebook have created lots of abbreviations (*FBO, LMS, LOL, ROFL, OMG*, etc.); neologisms formed by affixation or by blending and semantic change. Facebook communication is also full of

interjections, that imply an emotional reaction to reality and the use of which is largely understandable from the context.

11) Graphic and phonetic features are also typical for Facebook communication. Among graphic features there is a tendency to use all capital letters, ellipsis, exclamation and question marks, asterisks, inverted commas and expressive lengthening in comments. The main goal of using such paragraphemic means is to minimize the effort and time for communication. Users of Facebook try to better express their emotions and feelings with various additional means.

12) Graphic means as emoticons, emojis and stickers may transmit information without the use of words. There are Western and Asian emoticons. The difference between them lies in the way of reading. In order to understand Western emoticons, the users must tilt their head to the side, while Asian ones to read left to right. Emojis are more popular than emoticons, since they become more interesting, creative and understandable. Emojis may replace different adjectives as *funny*, *silly*, *happy* or *glad*, verbs like *laugh* and *giggle*, interjections like *haha* or *hehe*, acronyms like *LOL* or *ROFL*. Moreover, they are characterized by a phenomenon of synonymy, and antonymy. Space and freedom of expression on Internet allow people to use special Facebook stickers, which are more expressive than emoticons and emojis.

13) Creolized text is the widely used universal means that allows people to transfer information in the process of communication in the most efficient and concise way. The main types are parallel, complementary and interpretive. Depending on the image presence and the nature of its connection with the verbal part creolized text may be partially and fully creolized. There are also three degrees of verbal and non-verbal components participation in organization of creolized text: weak, moderate and strong creolization.

Thus, we can conclude that with the advent of communication in social networks began to form a new, network thinking, which significantly made an effect on the linguistic situation around the globe. With the development of society, new objects and phenomena appear, which are reflected in new words and new meanings. The advent of the Internet creates a new environment for the functioning of the

language. During its existence, this language has acquired specific linguistic features, among which the most characteristic are the lexical properties of the Internet.

The ability to use different linguistic and paralinguistic means allows users of Facebook to understand each other, even if the text of the message does not always follow the rules of grammar. Communication on the Internet is of great importance in bringing humanity together and emotions are what enrich this communication. The need to understand the feelings of users and the ways of expressing them in English confirms the novelty of the study of the specificity of choice of various linguistic and paralinguistic means by English native speakers.

## SUMMARY

The Master's paper deals with the issue of communication in social networking service Facebook, its linguistic and paralinguistic features. This study researches how English language evolves in technology based on the use of this language and the neologisms formed in social networking online, mainly in Facebook. The paper aims to show the main aspects and peculiarities of communication in Facebook, the ways to convey emotions, feelings and thoughts by using different linguistic and paralinguistic means.

The paper is devoted to the description of general features of Internet discourse as well as features of Facebook comments considering grammar, lexical, graphic and phonetic preferences of participants of speech interaction.

The aim of the paper is the analysis of linguistic and paralinguistic features of the communication in Facebook, as well as the ways of the expression of emotions in it.

Facebook communication in English served as the object of the investigation.

Grammar, lexical, graphic and phonetic peculiarities of Facebook comments in English, their linguistic and paralinguistic features were considered as the subject of the investigation.

More than 160 texts of Facebook posts and comments selected at random in period from July 2015 to April 2020 constituted the language data.

The novelty of the investigation consists in a comprehensive study of the posts and comments of English-speaking Internet users in Facebook in terms of the peculiarities of their grammar, lexical, stylistic structuring, spelling and graphic design.

The paper consists of three parts with summaries to each of them, introductory and concluding parts, a list of analysed sources and an appendix containing illustration material.

Conducted analysis allows to come to the following conclusions:

1. Internet discourse has its particular features that influence the flow of interaction. Electronic signal, virtuality, time and space distance between the

participants of communication, mediation, high degree of permeability, hypertextuality, abundance of creolized texts, graphic symbols, equal rights of participants and specific computer etiquette (netiquette) are among these peculiar traits.

2. Internet discourse differs from the concepts of "virtual discourse" that implies communication through a computer and other means (multimedia devices); "computer discourse" or "electronic discourse" which means communication via a computer and interaction between a person and a computer and "network discourse" that is communication on the Internet and local networks. Internet discourse is considered to be a type of "network discourse", which involves the communication in the Global Network and in contrast to electronic, virtual, and computer discourses focuses on how the language is used in the exchange of information.

3. Features of computer mediated communication give grounds to speak about the emergence of the third form of language – the intermediate between oral and written speech. The terms such as *e-language*, *netlingo*, *etalk*, *geekspeak*, *netspeak*, *weblish*, *written speech*, and *language centaur* can be used to describe the language on the Internet.

4. Internet discourse combines features of both written and oral discourse, such as unprepared flow of communication, emotionality and expressiveness, spontaneous speech and the imitation of oral one, mainly the use of simple, elliptical sentences, spelling of proper names with a lowercase letter, lack of punctuation marks, the use of Active voice and the abundance of non-verbal and graphical means.

5. Slang is an important feature of e-communication, which reflects the desire of young people to be different from adults and to be like other teenagers in their speech. The reasons for its widespread use are the desire to be witty, original, creative, different, novel, and unmistakably arresting, even startling, the desire to enrich the language, to reduce the solemnity, the pomposity, the excessive seriousness of a conversation, and the desire to escape from clichés, or to be brief and concise

6. The genres of on-line communication have not been formed completely yet, since they constantly evolving and changing due to the continuous development of this communicative environment. The major genres of Internet discourse are represented by e-mail, blog, microblog, social networking and communication via Skype.

7. Facebook is a social networking service that allows any users to create a profile with information about themselves, organize and join interest groups, and run business. The exchange of own opinions, thoughts or information is carried out in real time.

8. Communication in Facebook is a mediated virtual communication, the main features of which include: globality, anonymity of communicants, interactivity, hypertextuality, creativity, continuity, technicality, ease of handling network data as well as brevity and jargon of the expression of thoughts.

9. The development of on-line communication leads to an increase interest in the possibilities of using non-verbal (paralinguistic) means along with verbal ones. Such paragraphemic tools as quotation marks, hyphen, insertions, strikethroughs, emoticons, emojis, etc. have a certain communicative purpose – to to make the text more expressive, attractive, structured and to convey clarity to its meaning. Paragraphemic means are a wide variety of non-verbal means of speech that involved in the transmission of information.

10. The grammar level of the language of Facebook posts and comments is characterized by: misuse of prepositions, agrammatical forms of plural nouns, lack of articles due to the weakening of the norms of the language in the process of on-line communication, the use of inappropriate forms of the words, misuse of prepositions, the use of confusing homophones and agrammatical use of tenses and punctuation marks.

11. The syntax of English in Facebook communication is largely similar to the spoken language as it is characterized by simplifications of grammatical structures, the use of simple tenses, elliptical and simple syntactic structures. The subjects and the auxiliary verbs as well as some articles and prepositions belong to the group of

frequently omitted units. Such syntactic features arise from the participants' wish for time and message length economy.

12. On the lexical level the most appropriate types of word-formation can be traced. One of the main lexical features of Facebook communication is the use of abbreviations, which are divided into initialisms and acronyms. The other common types of word-formation processes include: clipping (back, fore and middle); compounding; affixation, with the widespread suffixes *-ie*, *-er* and *-ing* and prefixes *un-* and *de-*; blending and semantic shift that occurs due to new tradition as well as new inventions (for instance, derived meanings of the verb *block* and nouns *status*, *page*, etc.).

13. Participants of communication in Facebook use lexical units, that are common for the majority of Internet users as well as newly coined Facebook words that distinguishes them from participants of other types of on-line discourse.

14. The use of interjections in Facebook posts and comments is the manifestation of the influence of oral speech on the form of Facebook communication. As a lexical and grammatical class of unchanging words and phrases, they help to express different feelings and make a message more expressive and emotionally coloured. The use of interjection is largely understandable from the context. For example, the interjection *Ah!* may express such diverse emotions as admiration or even annoyance and disappointment.

15. An absence of ability to use extra-lingual means such as voice, tone or facial expressions has led to the intensive use of different paragraphemic means as capital letters, ellipsis, multiple exclamation and question marks, asterisks, inverted commas and expressive lengthening in comments. In addition, emoticons, emojis, stickers and creolized texts are widely used to express feelings, emotions and mental state.

16. Graphic means as emoticons, emojis and stickers may transmit information without the use of words. Emojis are also characterized by a phenomenon of synonymy, polysemy and antonymy. Compared with emoticons and emojis, stickers are more expressive. They can be textual, pictorial, or a combination of both. The unique feature of stickers is the high level of personalization. Users of

Facebook have an opportunity to originally express their emotions, thoughts, state or actions.

17. Paralinguistic features of communication in Facebook include prevalence of creolized texts. The analysis shows that it is one of the widely used universal means which allows people to transfer information in the process of communication in the most efficient and concise way. The phenomenon of creolized Internet text is of great interest to many researchers because of the combination of the qualities of both verbal and non-verbal components. It is also a way of compensating the missing non-verbal means in order to bring communication closer to reality.

18. The need to understand the feelings of users and the ways of expressing them in English confirms the novelty of the study of the specificity of choice of various linguistic and paralinguistic means by English native speakers.

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### **Illustrative material**

102. Facebook [Электронный ресурс]. – Режим доступа:  
<https://www.facebook.com/>

Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3



Picture 4

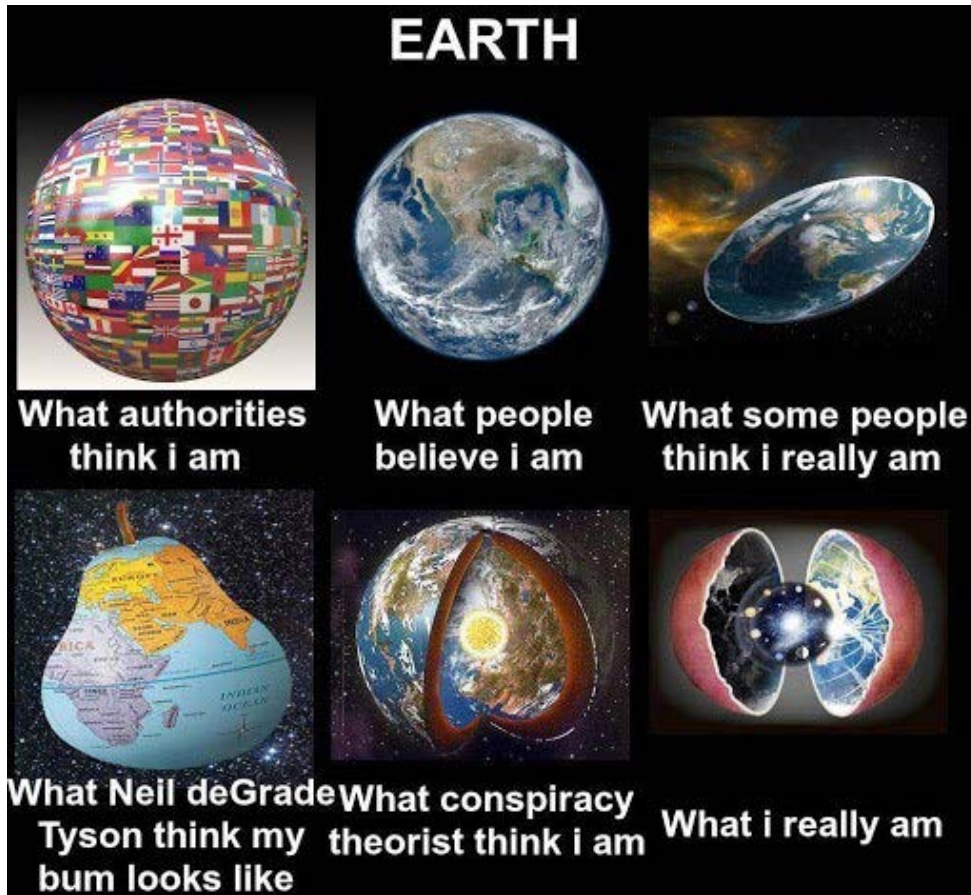


Mat  
@matchu\_chutrain



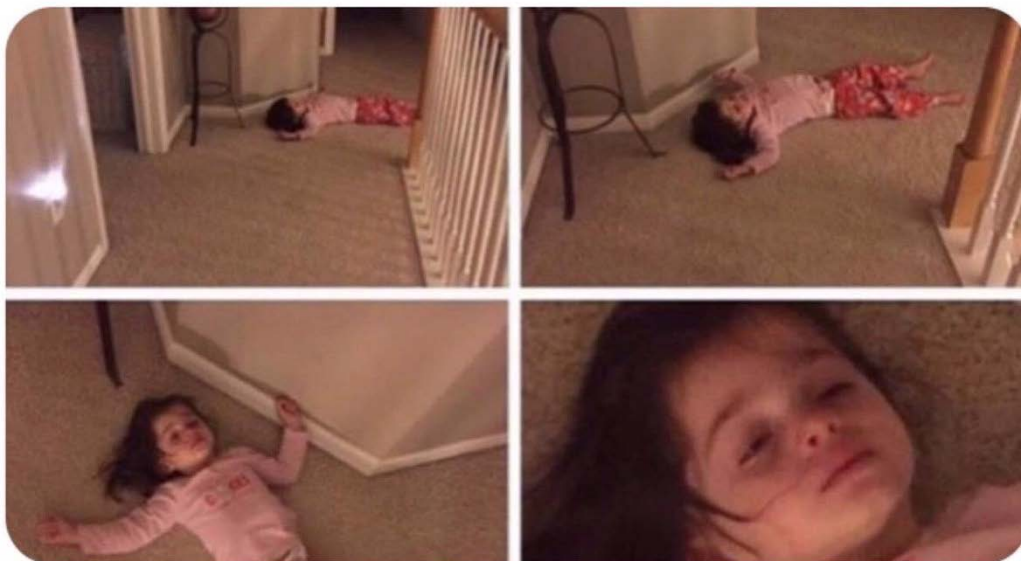
My birthday is coming up and I'm trying to decide where I should go to celebrate. I've narrowed it down to Kitchen or Basement

Picture 5



Picture 6

Me during quarantine



Picture 7

be  
a  
nice  
human

Picture 8



Picture 9



Picture 10

