

# Measuring university of anbar EFL Students' Awareness of Emoji Faces in WhatsApp and their Implementations

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## Statement of the Problem of the Study:

A picture is worth a thousand words, from this statement the researchers try to investigate university students' awareness of Emoji faces they use in online messages, and to what extent do they use them communication. Emoji faces as a "semiotic objects" have changed our everyday local communication, informal written communication, Emoji became a part of social media messages between the people all over the world, In a report of "Emoji Report 2015" shows that 92% of virtual on-line. People use Emoji which express their feeling and emotion. Emoji faces are the most popular Emoji being used in social media communication such as Facebook, Viber, Twitter, Whatsapp, and Instagram (Wicke, 2017:2).

## Aim of the Study:

The aim of the study is to reveal EFL university students' use of Emoji faces in written communication, and also to what extent do EFL university students use aware of the meaning of Emoji faces.

## Questions of the Study

To achieve the aim of the study, the researchers set the following questions:

- 1- To what extent do the University of Anbar EFL students use Emoji faces in written communication via WhatsApp?
- 2- To what extent do the University of Anbar EFL students aware of the meaning and representation of Emoji faces?

## Significance of the Study:

- 1- Using Emoji faces in written communication is a common norm in our life. People use them to reflect their moods, feelings,, or/and to save time and efforts in writing message text.
- 2- To know the meaning of each Emoji face is an important thing in order to avoid misunderstanding between the sender and the receiver.
- 3- Using Emoji faces without knowing their meaning can cause fragile communication.

## Limits of the Study

- 1- The participants are from 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades in the departments of English at the College of Education for Humanities and the College of Arts in University of Anbar.
- 2- Questionnaire and test were used to collect the data of the study.

- 3- The survey and the test were conducted during the first semester of the academic year 2019-2020.

### **Procedures of the Study**

To fulfill the aim and answer the questions of the study, the following procedures have been conducted:

- 1- The researchers reviewed the literature to identify the significance of the topic to the field of linguistics and applied linguistics. Investigating people use and awareness of Emoji faces as symbols and signs in written communication is a new topic to be deal with. Definition of Emoji faces characters is not new. It starts since the usage of Emoji faces via Smartphone applications, but investigating peoples' behaviors and knowledge is a new topic, the literature, related studies, is not rich, and there is shortage of sources related to this field.
- 2- The researchers believe that Emoji faces is a branch of linguistics. Thus to find sources and to achieve the aim of the study, we have linked the Emoji faces topic, as linguistics field, with applied linguistics.
- 3- The participants who have participated in the study have been determined. The researchers and the language of the study are related to English language. All the data written in English language, thus the participants are from Department of English. The items of the questionnaire and the test are in English language and need high level of English background, thus the suitable sample that can achieve this task is the students in the Department of English, and specific in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades. In the University of Anbar, there are three Department of English, one in the College of Arts, and in the College of Education and in the college of Education for Women.
- 4- The researchers distributed the questionnaire and explain to the participants how they response correctly. Then a test has been distributed provided with additional explanation, accompanied by example being written on the with-board.
- 5- After gathering the instruments of the study, a percentage ratio was used to analyze the item of the questionnaire and the test.

### **Introduction:**

The present study investigates the animated Emoji that called "Face Emoji", there are different kinds of Emoji that reflect specific event such as: Valentine's Day, New Year, Christmas, Ramadan, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and etc.

People use Emoji as metaphors, Symbols, Signs, and analogies to deliver a message. People use Emoji which they feel that it express their idea, feeling, emotion, and state. Emoji may be understand as "semiotic objects" (Danesi, Rolo)". The question arises here are "Emoji faces Universally understood?", in another word, do most people understand what each Emoji face refers to? Do they use Emoji faces correctly? Do Emoji faces lead to misunderstanding between the sender and the receiver? All these questions are the concerned of the present study.

Emoji has changed the way of communication. Emoji represents idea visually which translate complex ideas. Emoji gets its popularity in 2015, when the Oxford dictionary has chosen the emoji face " face with Tears Joy" as the "Word of the year" Emoji has create novel style of communication via writing, it is time of "digital World"(Danesi, 2017: vi).

The researchers, in the present study, believe that Emoji faces are used to express a complex feeling utterance can that words and sentences fail to express it. It is supposed that one Emoji face, if it uses correctly, can replace long paragraph that reflects or expresses an idea, this notion is fostered by Veale (2016) who sets about Eight-hundred verbs and translate them into Emoji figures, this proves that Emoji figures may deliver messages, and consider as a method of communication. So, it is time to reveal the usefulness of using Emoji in writing communication, that means to investigate the Emoji characters Semiotically. The researchers believe that using Emoji as cross cultural language in communication, it is time to set linguistic rules, or to create a branch to included as one of linguistic branches.

Universal Language understanding is based on the Semantic primes theory. Semantic primes consist of Sixty-One primes in Sixteen taxonomy, there are On-thousand while three hundred sixty-seven taxonomy. (Wierzbicka, 1996).

The first Semiotic is who used the idea of Semiotics as a branch of linguistic was Roland Barthes, his work presents a significant Summary of Semiotics aspect. The most important interpretation was that images and signs are not outcomes of what we realize, i.e. sign is not a mirror of a word or phrase (Curtin, 2010:54)

Semiotics is associated strongly with meaning. The idea is that image, sign, ours Symbol can represent a meaning, provides an interpretation of a phrase. That means Via semiotics we can express our idea, feeling, or/and reaction. Image, symbol, and sign are usually designed based on cultural and social factors (Curtin, 2010: 51).

The researcher in the present study believe that people may face difficulty in using Emoji as pictorial nature, because pictograms, in nature, are ambiguous and one may interpret a sign or Symble in wrong way, for example if the sender wants to say that he is in a restaurant and send an Emoji Sign of folk and knife, the reserve may interpret it that the sender offers an invitation for meal. This notion has been emphasized by kolers (1969) cited in Veale (2016: 5) who states that "one cannot assume an isomorphic relation between a pictogram and its meaning".

The original source of the idiom Emoji is Japanese, the letter "E" stand for "Picture" and "Emoji" stand for "Character" (Wicke, 2017:6).

The phenomena of Emoji spread all over the world and becomes Emoticons phenomena which represents emotion Via icon. The initial goal of creating Emoji is to save time, memory, effort, and space in texting and line message. It is worth to mention that the appearance of Emoji differ different providers, that means the for Emoji face change, a little bit, according to the type of the Mobile or Smartphone devices. This thing create misunderstanding or ambiguity .

### **Usage of Emoji**

Emoji have changed the writing style, but till now there is no evidence that the formal writing such as newspaper, scientific and humanities journals, and literature use Emoji. APP developer (Swiftkey, 2015) found that the usage of Emoji categories are not the same all over the world. For example, Arabic people use Emoji flower and plants more than any other nation.

As a non-verb communication, Emoji can convey emotion and feeling, they are considered ideal emotional icons that people become familiar with in non-verbal communication (Derks et al., 2008).

مقدمه

The early written form of language was in form of icons. The alphabets in Greek and Latin were derived from "Iconic Signs". The pictographs, ideographs and hieroglyphs were used by Mediterranean civilization Danesi, 1999: 35).

Ancient Egypt around 3200 Bc-400 AD is considered the first nation who uses pictures and symbols to write a message or name. A good example is shown in a picture found in the temple Edfu which contains the name of Cleopatra written by symbols of lion, birds, hands, eye and vase (Mattessich, 2002).

Semiotics is the study of signs. تعريف

Ferdinand de Saussure defines Semiotics in Noth's handbook as "it is a science that studies the life of signs within its Society the Social linguistic system is made up of signs and grammatical rules.(Noth, 1995).

Emoji are representative of multiple emotional reactions (Brisson, 2015)

Barthes's collection "Mythologies" in 1957, 1970 and 1980s hashed the light on the awareness of Semiotics approach, he mentioned that Semiology talk the shape in sign, image, object, marker, and gestures (Chandler, 1999:2)

Yakin and Totu (2014) conduct a comparative analysis study between Peirce and Saussure attitudes toward Semiotic theory, also to investigate the connection between Semiotic and communication as signs in our social life.

The study aims to present significance contribution in understanding the importance of semiotic theory in the given field.

### Saussure's Theory of Sign

Saussure's theory emphasizes that language is a system of sign that from reality. His theory is the base of the emergence of semiotic as linguistic branch, in his theory he states that: " A science that study the life of signs within society is conceivable; it would be a part of social psychology and consequently of general psychology; I shall call it Semiology (From Greek Semeion 'Sign'). Semiology would show what constitutes signs, what laws govern them.

Since the science does not yet exist, no one can say what it would be; but it has a right to existence; a place staked out in advance.

They are iconic signs that hold ambiguous meaning behind them. The Emoji in Whatsapp are grouped in Six groups: people, nature, food and drink, activities, travel and places, and objects and signs.

New visual writing code.

Linguistics is only a part of the general science of Semiology; the laws discovered by semiology will be applicable to linguistics, and the latter will circumscribe a well-defined area within the mass of anthropological facts.

### **Peirce's theory of Sign.**

Peirce is famous of pragmatism, he establishes basis theory of signs. He has introduced the term of "Semiotic" which is synonymous with logic of man knowledge. The different between his theory and Saussure's theory is that "Semiotic" is pierce's theory, and "Semiology" is Sassure's theory. Peirce stated that: "logic, in its general sense, is, as I believe I have shown, only another name for semiotic, the quasi-necessary, or formal doctrine of signs. By describing the doctrine as" quasi-necessary", or formal, I mean that we observe the characters of such signs as we know, and from such an observation, by a process which I will not object to naming Abstraction, we are led to statements, eminently fallible, and therefore in one sense by no means necessary, as to what must be characters of all signs used by a "scientific" intelligence, that is to say by an intelligence capable of learning by experience (Leeds-Hurwitz,1993, P.4)

It is worth to mention that Saussure and Peirce lived in the same period about (1839-1914) they did not aware of each other's works (studies), they investigated the meaning symbols and signs represent (leeds-Hurwitz, 1993 mentioned in Chandler, 1999: 6).

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Ferdinand de Saussure is the father of semiotic, he has founded Semiology in the father of semiotic, he has founded Semiology in the twentieth century. He stated that semiotics is related to structuralism. The notion of structuralism is to analyze the deep structure of a sentence, to analyze the unseen rules of people interaction in social context. Saussure mentioned that the sign or symbol is a kind of relationship between a signifier and signified (Curtin,2010: 53).

Saussure classified signs and symbols into two dimensions: "marker-sound image" and "the interpretation of the signs whereas, Peirce classified signs and symbols into three dimensions: "Representatum, referent, (a physical object stand for feeling event; occasion, etc.) and interpretant" According to Saussure, a symbol is a process which reflected man's imagination and feeling and does not occur by chance (Chandler, 2002 P.26). Masinambaw,2001

ECO (1979: 8) states that methodologically there is a strong relationship between semiotic and communication, they have many features like symbols, gestures, meaning .....etc.

Signs and symbols have predictable structures, that based on usage and situation (Sebeok, 2001: 6).

Sebeok (2001:9) classifies signs into six types: the symptom; the signal, icons, indexes, symbols, and name. A name is a sign that represents a person, identifies human variables (Ibid: 11).

A sign becomes iconic when there is a Similarity connection between the signifier and its linguistic expression (Sebeok, 2001: 50).

Sebeok (2001: 55) states that " A sign without either similarity or contiguity, about only with a conventional, and with an intentional class for its designatum, is called a symbol".

## **Methodology**

### **Population and Participants of the study**

The population of the study is all Iraqi University English Language students who study at Department of English in the faculties of Education and faculties of Arts.

The participants of the study are from the College of Education for Humanities and College of Arts at University of Anbar during the first academic year 2019-2020. The participants are 63 male and female students as shown in table1

**Table 1:** Participant distribution in the College of Education and College of Arts

College	3 <sup>rd</sup> grade	4 <sup>th</sup> grade	Total
Arts	15	11	26
Education	16	21	37
Total	31	32	63

The researchers choose 10% as a sample of the study from the Departments of English at the college of Education for Humanities and College of Arts, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades.

### **Instruments of the Study**

The researchers designed two instruments to collect the data of the study. The first instrument is a questionnaire. The second instrument is a multiple choice test. The questionnaire is designed to measure students' use of Emoji face in their daily written communication.

The multiple choice test is design to measure students' awareness of Emoji face, which means to reveal to what extent do the students know the meaning of each Emoji face, and to what it represents or refers to.



### Validity of the Instruments

To ensure the face validity of the instruments, they were exposed to a jury of seven members who specialized in linguistics, applied linguistic, and TEFL. The jury members recommended. Some modification, addition, and deletion.

### Reliability of the Posttest

The researchers conducted the reliability of the questionnaire to assess its quality to collect the data of the study. It is a method to be sure that the designed questionnaire accurately measure students' use of Emoji face in their daily written communication via WhatsApp messages. The questionnaire has been distributed to pilot sample two times, 10 days were the period between the two distributions. A person's Correlation formula was used, which revealed that the reliability coefficient was 0.87. this ratio is considered an acceptable coefficient value.

### The Piloting of the Study:

The instruments were given to 20 students, at Department of English, College of Education for women, University of Anbar. The result revealed that the average length of time needed to respond the items of the questionnaire is 20 minutes, and for the test is 40 minutes. Some Emoji faces are Unknown to the students. the students required move explanations, instructions, and direction (as guide points) to do the task successfully.













### Method of Data Analysis:















The results of the instruments were quantitative. Thus, a percentage ratio was used to describe the statistic analysis. The questionnaire was designed based on likert scale ranged between 3 points (always, sometimes, and never). The items of the test were analyzed utilizing "descriptive statistic". A percentage ratio was used to analyze 26 blanks. Each item has one blank and holds one correct answer. The participants have to fill each blank with one Emoji face.

### Results of the Study:

To answer the first question of the study "To what extent do the University of Anbar EFL students use Emoji face in written communication via WhatsApp?" To answer this question, a percentage ratio was used to analyze the items of the questionnaire. Table 2 shows the answers of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades students' respondents to the items of the questionnaire.

**Table 2: EFL 3<sup>rd</sup> students' responses of the College of Education for Humanities and College of Arts**

Emoji Face	College	1	2	3	Emoji Face	College	1	2	3
	E	12.5	75.00	12.5		E	50.00	43.75	6.25
	A	20.00	60.00	20.00		A	40.00	46.70	13.30
	E	25.00	68.75	6.25		E	12.50	37.50	50.00
	A	13.30	33.3	40.00		A	0.00	33.40	66.60
	E	43.75	50.00	6.25		E	12.5	37.50	50.00
	A	86.70	13.30	0.00		A	6.60	40.00	53.40
	E	37.50	56.25	6.25		E	25.00	43.75	31.25
	A	38.40	26.60	35.00		A	13.30	46.60	40.10
	E	50.00	31.25	18.75		E	6.25	43.75	43.75
	A	6.66	46.60	46.74		A	53.30	6.70	40.00
	E	25.00	31.25	43.75		E	18.75	50.00	31.25

	A	6.60	6.60	86.80		A	13.40	26.60	60.00
	E	6.25	50.00	43.75		E	18.75	50.00	31.25
	A	0.00	20.00	80.00		A	13.40	13.30	73.30
	E	25.00	31.25	43.75		E	18.75	56.25	25.00
	A	26.60	6.80	66.6		A	00.00	40.00	60.00
	E	18.75	62.50	18.75		E	56.25	31.25	12.50
	A	0.00	66.6	33.31		A	60.00	20.00	20.00
	E	18.75	31.25	50.00		E	25.00	43.75	31.25
	A	6.60	40.10	53.30		A	13.30	40.00	46.60
	E	31.25	50.00	18.75		E	37.50	43.75	18.75
	A	20.00	33.30	46.70		A	6.60	20.00	73.40
	E	18.75	37.50	43.75		E	6.25	62.50	31.25
	A	40.00	6.70	53.30		A	0.00	40.00	60.00
	E	18.75	43.75	37.50		E	56.25	31.25	12.50
	A	6.70	53.30	40.00		A	20.00	53.40	26.60

\*E= College of Education for Humanities

\*A= College of Arts.

\* 1= Always.

\* 2= Sometimes.













\* 3=Never.















Table 2 shows that the percentage of respondents who "always" use Emoji face rating from 0.00 for the Emoji "kissing face with smiling eyes" to 86.70 for the Emoji "face with tears of joy". The percentage of respondents who "sometimes" use Emoji face rating from 6.60 for the Emoji of "kissing face" to 66.60 for the Emoji "face with stuck –out Tongue and winking eye". The highest percentage of respondents who "never" use the mentioned Emoji face in the questionnaire was 73.30 for the Emoji "face with medical mask". It can be observed that students in the Department of English sometime use Emoji faces in written communication. It can be observed that majority of the participants never use most of Emoji faces in written communication. This fact is shown in the students' percentage of respondents, the highest percentage was for the common Emoji face who the participants use always "face with tears of joy" with ratio 86.70, while the other Emoji faces who the participants always use were rating from 0.00 to 56.25 this percentage ratio is considered low.

To answer the second question of the study".

The 4<sup>th</sup> grade participants responses on the items of the questionnaire are shown in table 3.

**Table 3: EFL 4<sup>th</sup> students' responses of the College of Education for Humanities and College of Arts**

Emoji Face	College	1	2	3	Emoji Face	College	1	2	3
	E	28.75	61.90	9.35		E	14.28	52.38	33.34
	A	18.10	54.5	27.40		A	72.70	27.30	0.00
	E	19.40	61.50	19.10		E	14.28	38.90	47.70
	A	0.00	72.70	27.30		A	0.00	9.10	90.90
	E	66.60	28.57	4.83		E	19.50	42.85	38.90
	A	90.90	9.10	0.00		A	9.10	9.10	80.20
	E	38.90	47.60	13.5		E	18.70	19.40	61.90
	A	27.28	36.36	36.36		A	45.45	18.20	36.36
	E	33.30	57.14	9.56		E	13.50	38.90	47.60
	A	18.20	36.36	45.45		A	0.00	27.20	72.80
	E	4.67	52.38	42.95		E	9.14	36.36	54.50
	A	9.10	18.10	72.70		A	9.20	36.36	54.50

	E	14.32	52.38	33.30		E	9.55	47.60	42.85
	A	0.00	27.30	72.70		A	27.20	18.30	54.50
	E	23.80	33.30	42.90		E	0.00	57.14	42.86
	A	9.14	54.50	36.36		A	18.19	36.36	45.45
	E	28.57	42.85	28.57		E	28.58	57.14	14.28
	A	54.50	36.36	9.14		A	90.9	9.10	0.00
	E	19.05	28.57	52.38		E	38.90	33.30	27.80
	A	45.45	18.19	36.36		A	9.10	54.50	36.36
	E	9.53	85.71	4.67		E	14.28	61.90	23.90
	A	54.50	36.36	9.14		A	27.20	54.50	18.30
	E	13.5	47.60	38.90		E	14.30	42.85	42.85
	A	0.00	36.37	63.63		A	27.30	36.36	36.36
	E	19.05	52.38	28.57		E	38.59	38.59	22.82
	A	18.30	27.20	54.50		A	90.90	9.10	0.00

\*E= College of Education for Humanities

\*A= College of Arts.

\* 1= Always.


\* 2= Sometimes.

\* 3=Never.

Table 3 shows that the percentage of respondents who "always" use Emoji face rating from 0.00 for the Emoji "kissing face with smiling eyes", "face with open mouth and cold sweat", "frowning face with open mouth", and "face with thermometer" to 90.90 for the Emoji "face with tears of joy" and "face with sunglasses". The percentage of respondents who "sometimes" use Emoji face rating from 9.10 for the Emoji of "kissing face with smiling eyes", and frowning face with open mouth", and "face with sunglasses" to 85.71 for the Emoji "angry face". The highest percentage of respondents who "never" use the mentioned Emoji face in the questionnaire was 90.90 for the Emoji "frowning face with open mouth". It can be observed that 4th grade students in the Department of English in both universities sometime use Emoji faces in written communication, and the high percentages are for the field "sometimes". It can be observed that majority of the participants never use most of Emoji faces in written communication. This fact is shown in the students' percentage responses, the highest percentage was for the common Emoji face who the participants use always "frowning face with open mouth" with ratio 90.90 while the other Emoji faces who the participants always use were rating from 0.00 to 90.90 for the Emoji "face with tears of joy" this percentage ratio is considered low.

To answer the second question of the study "To what extent do the University of Anbar EFL students aware of the meaning and representation of Emoji Faces? a percentage ratio was used to analyze students' responses to the questions. Table 4 shows the percentage ratio of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students' responses in the College of Education for Humanities and College of Arts .

**Table 4: The Percentage ratio of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students' correct responses on the items of the test**

1		4		7		10		13		16		19		22	
2		5		8		11		14		17		20		23	
3		6		9		12		15		18		21		24	
25		26													

\*E= College of Education for Humanities.      \*A= College of Arts.

- 1- \*E= 43.75 / \*A= 26.66. I feel very happy.
- 2- \*E= 0.00 / \*A= 6.66. I feel the subject is so silly or incredibly funny.
- 3- \*E= 93.75/ \*A= 86.66 I am cry laughing.
- 4- \*E= 31.25/ \*A= 20.00 I feel satisfied and speechless. A nice compliment for great that happened.
- 5- \*E= 43.75/ \*A= 20.00 A feel of happiness, contentment, peace of mind and gratitude.
- 6- \*E= 12.50/ \*A= 0.00 I want to say “Thank you“, “Hello“ or “Goodbye“ to a friend or relative.
- 7- \*E= 25.00/ \*A= 6.66 I want to send a kiss to friends or a hug.
- 8- \*E= 12.50/ \*A= 13.33 I want to express a thank for a tip or a favor.
- 9- \*E= 43.75/ \*A=33.33 I want to make a joke or wants to flirt with the chat partner.
- 10- \*E= 56.25/ \*A= 53.33 My mood is exuberant – I am totally silly and crazy.
- 11- \*E= 50.00/ \*A= 33.33 I'm totally self-assured and relaxed. Everything is absolutely easy and cool.
- 12- \*E= 18.75/ \*A=20.00 I want to show expression of disinterest and disapproval.
- 13- \*E= 50.00/ \*A= 40.00 I want to show sorrow, remorse and regret.
- 14- \*E= 43.75/ \*A= 40.00 I want to express a reaction to something unfavorable or a sign of rejection.
- 15- \*E= 0.00/ \*A= 6.66 I feel fear and panic.
- 16- \*E= 12.50/ \*A= 20.00 I'm deeply shocked and surprised by an ominous event or intense experience.
- 17- \*E= 31.25/ \*A= 13.33 I want to say that I'm sweating due to physical or mental stress.
- 18- \*E= 31.25/ \*A= 6.66 I want to express a stressful of situation with an unpleasant outcome.
- 19- \*E= 37.50/ \*A= 26.66 I want to express that I will disregard the message.

- 20- \*E= 37.50/ \*A= 6.66 I want to say that I cannot believe you did that!  
Expresses horror with fear.
- 21- \*E= 25.00/ \*A= 6.66 I want to show a mixture of shock and disappointment, a negative surprises.
- 22- \*E= 50.00/ \*A= 26.66 I want to show an expression of extreme interest and desire for something.
- 23- \*E= 31.25/ \*A= 6.66 I want to show that a conversation is extremely boring and drowsy.
- 24- \*E= 0.00/ \*A=13.33 I want to show that I'm ill or feel uncomfortable.
- 25- \*E= 12.50/ \*A= 20.00 I'm in the hospital, has to go to the doctor or has caught a disease.
- 26- \*E= 43.75/ \*A= 6.66 I want to express that I am worry about getting sick.

Table 4 shows the third grade participants' correct responses to the test items in the both colleges. The highest item that gain high percentage (the item that majority of participants know the meaning and the definition of the Emoji face) was entitled "I am crying laughing". It was 93.75 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade of the College of Education for Humanities, and 86.66 for the participants in the College of Arts. Followed the Emoji face that the participants know its meaning and definition was entitled "My mood is exuberant- I am totally silly and crazy" with percentage 56.25 for the College of Education for Humanities and 53.33 for the participants of the College of Arts. The rest items percentages were ranged between 0.00 to 43.75. The average ratio of the correct answers was very low and there are three Emoji faces got 0.00, which indicated that the participants did not know their meaning, the rest Emoji faces were unknown as shown in the participants' responses.

Concerning the fourth grade participants' responses to the test items in the College of Education for Humanities and College of Arts are shown in table 5.

**Table 5: 4<sup>th</sup> grade students' responses on the items of the test**

1		4		7		10		13		16		19		22	
2		5		8		11		14		17		20		23	
3		6		9		12		15		18		21		24	
25		26													

- 1- \*E= 9.52 / \*A= 36.36 . I feel very happy.
- 2- \*E= 0.00 / \*A= 9.09 . I feel the subject is so silly or incredibly funny.

- 3- \*E= 95.23 / \*A= 90.90 I am cry laughing.
- 4- \*E=4.76 / \*A= 18.18 I feel satisfied and speechless. A nice compliment for great that happened.
- 5- \*E=19.04 / \*A= 18.18 A feel of happiness, contentment, peace of mind and gratitude.
- 6- \*E= 0.00 / \*A= 9.09 I want to say “Thank you“, “Hello“ or “Goodbye“ to a friend or relative.
- 7- \*E= 28.57 / \*A= 27.27 I want to send a kiss to friends or a hug.
- 8- \*E=4.76 / \*A= 18.18 I want to express a thank for a tip or a favor.
- 9- \*E= 28.57 / \*A=54.54 I want to make a joke or wants to flirt with the chat partner.
- 10- \*E=66.66 / \*A= 54.54 My mood is exuberant – I am totally silly and crazy.
- 11- \*E= 76.19 / \*A=27.27 I'm totally self-assured and relaxed. Everything is absolutely easy and cool.
- 12- \*E= 14.28 / \*A=18.18 I want to show expression of disinterest and disapproval.
- 13- \*E= 9.52 / \*A= 54.54 I want to show sorrow, remorse and regret.
- 14- \*E=9.52 / \*A= 27.27 I want to express a reaction to something unfavorable or a sign of rejection.
- 15- \*E= 4.76 / \*A= 0.00 I feel fear and panic.
- 16- \*E=23.80 / \*A=27.27 I'm deeply shocked and surprised by an ominous event or intense experience.
- 17- \*E= 0.00 / \*A=18.18 I want to say that I'm sweating due to physical or mental stress.
- 18- \*E=0.00 / \*A=18.18 I want to express a stressful of situation with an unpleasant outcome.
- 19- \*E=19.04 / \*A= 36.36 I want to express that I will disregard the message.
- 20- \*E= 9.52 / \*A=9.09 I want to say that I cannot believe you did that!  
Expresses horror with fear.

- 21- \*E= 28.57 / \*A= 18.18 I want to show a mixture of shock and disappointment, a negative surprises.
- 22- \*E= 38.09 / \*A= 27.27 I want to show an expression of extreme interest and desire for something.
- 23- \*E= 0.00 / \*A= 45.45 I want to show that a conversation is extremely boring and drowsy.
- 24- \*E=0.00 / \*A= 45.45 I want to show that I'm ill or feel uncomfortable.
- 25- \*E= 42.85 / \*A=27.27 I'm in the hospital, has to go to the doctor or has caught a disease.
- 26- \*E=19.04 / \*A=36.36 I want to express that I am worry about getting sick.

Table 5 shows that average percentages of fourth participants responses on the test items was very low. The majority of participants in both colleges did not know the meaning of the Emoji faces. The highest percentage of correct response was for the Emoji face entitle " I am cry laughing". 95.23 of participants in the College of Education for Humanities know its meaning and recognize it well, and 90.90 of participants in the College of Arts know the Emoji meaning. Followed the Emoji face entitled "I'm totally self-assured and relaxed. Everything is absolutely easy and cool" with percentage 76.19 for College of Education and "My mood is exuberant – I am totally silly and crazy" with percentage 66.66 and 54.54 for the College of Education for Humanities and College of Arts respectively. The rest percentages ratio ranged between 0.00 to 45.45. The lowest percentage ratio was for the Emoji face entitled "I want to say that I'm sweating due to physical or mental stress" 0.00 and 18.18 for participants' responses in College of Education for Humanities and College of Arts respectively. This indicates that no one recognize the meaning of such Emoji face in the College of Education for Humanities, and in the College of Arts, only two participants out of eleven know its meaning which represents 18.18, and seven Emoji faces out of twenty-six no one know their meaning as shown in table 5 above.

### **Discussion of the Results**

After analyzing the questionnaire items and test items, the results refer that most students in the Department of English in the College of Education for Humanities and College of Arts in the University of Anbar use Emoji faces in written communication in a very limited way, and the majority do not know the meaning of most common 26 Emoji faces.

The shortage of using Emoji faces in written communication is due to students' unknown of their meaning, and they even use common Emoji faces in a very limited occasion. This fact is may due to students' local language (colloquial language), the Iraqi colloquial language is rich of emotion and feeling words and idioms that no single symbol, sign, or Emoji can replace it.

Iraqi people is well known of their delicate feeling full of love and emotions, they love courtesy, they have sweet tongue, and poetic speech, thus they tend to use words instead of Emoji faces to represent or reflect their thoughts, feeling, emotion, and status. A according to the Iraqi culture, courtesy and sweet words are their daily life communication. There are more than thirty- four morning and evening welcome salutations in the Iraqi colloquial language. Such thing cannot be replaced by a single Emoji face. The researchers believe that Emoji faces cannot reflect deep emotion and feeling, Emoji faces can reflect or represent one's case and status only, but they cannot reflect the deep feeling and emotion. The fact of the Iraqi people is that they do not like to use pragmatic features in their communication, due to the varieties in culture and habits among the Iraqi provinces. This face is reflected in the postgraduate students' theses and dissertations topics. Most theses and dissertations titles in the Department of English, specialized Linguistics, are about "Pragmatics".

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