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Audio Essay Draft

[Insert introduction music “High Clover” from Videvo]

Emojis are found everywhere on digital media. From text messages with your friends and to social media posts. There was even a whole movie based on emojis known as the Emoji Movie. Why have emojis become so common in how we interact on digital media? How do emojis shape the way we communicate with people?

Emojis were first created in 1999 in Japan. Shigetaka Kurita wanted to express concepts on the internet used in Japan at the time called i-mode without having it become too wordy. He created a set of 176 emojis to express items such as a car emoji to show the traffic. From there, the use and scope of emojis has increased exponentially.

1:19-1:40 [Insert clip, “Linguistics Research: Are emojis the future of communication,” explaining why emojis are used on the digital web] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ca8t9JMxLwc>

Indeed, on the digital media we do not have gestures, facial expressions, and tone to express everything that we want. Emojis provide as a mean to express our thoughts more accurately. Like words, are emojis used in different contexts? Are emojis only used in more informal interactions? People wonder if emojis can actually be utilized in more formal contexts when people interact digitally.

4:29-4:56 [Insert clip, “Psychology of Emojis: How Language Changed” how emojis are used in various digital social contexts]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7pWqBWLQLk>

Emojis are conveyed differently based on the context. It is possible to further your topic and argument by using them. Yet, some people argue that emojis do not provide the same interaction as in real life. People think an emoji cannot express people’s real intentions, facial expressions, and tone. However, there has been evidence against this common notion.

6:33-6:51 [Insert clip, “Emoji: The Language of the Future TED Talk” providing evidence] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dzlek8nMrc8>

Interestingly, humans are taking images and creating greater meaning toward them. We used to only make meaning to words on the digital media. Now, we can take emojis and make more meaning from these conversations online. This system of emojis is a new way to understanding and communicating on digital media. However, we still have a long way to go as emojis do not represent everything and everyone’s use of the language yet.

8:01-8:17 [Insert clip, “Emoji: The Language of the Future TED Talk” needing more expansive set of emojis to accommodate for everyone] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dzlek8nMrc8>

Having diversity and inclusion in emojis is important. It helps for everyone to better express their thoughts and ideas. There has been more of an attempt to include emojis of various races, ethnicities, expressions, and items. We are moving away from the standard one-dimensional smiley face emoji toward more creative and complex emojis.

8:45-8:56 [Insert clip, “Emoji: The Language of the Future TED Talk” reason for more complex emojis] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dzlek8nMrc8>

As mentioned, having emojis that provide lively expressions are changing the complexity of emojis. These emojis create greater meaning and steer away from the flat, one-dimension of an emoji. There has been more development of these types of emojis. For instance, Apple has developed animojis where the person’s facial features and what the person said it placed onto an emoji. It ranges from animals, a customized person who looks like you, to other characters such as a ghost.

Before emojis, the digital media space lacked emotion and deep meaning. Now, emojis create a richer communicative culture that is found similarly in real life. Despite the increased usage of emojis in digital conversations, there is still a need for the written language. Emojis enhance the written language to mimic real life interactions. In the future, we will rely more on integrating both mediums to communicate on the digital platform.

[Insert conclusion music “Constellation-Upbeat Spacey Song” from Freesound]