Communication in a Text Only World

Sarah L. Surface
Indiana University - Purdue University Fort Wayne

Follow this and additional works at: http://opus.ipfw.edu/stu_symp1999

Recommended Citation

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the IPFW Student Research and Creative Endeavor Symposium at Opus: Research & Creativity at IPFW. It has been accepted for inclusion in 1999 IPFW Student Research and Creative Endeavor Symposium by an authorized administrator of Opus: Research & Creativity at IPFW. For more information, please contact admin@lib.ipfw.edu.
COMMUNICATION IN A TEXT-ONLY WORLD
Sarah L. Surface
(Beth Simon, Assistant Professor of Linguistics)
Department of English and Linguistics, School of Arts and Sciences

As electronic communication expands, so too do the mis-communication problems that it often creates. Communication on the Internet and in other electronic venues has the unique characteristic of being text-only. This paper explores the types of mis-communications that occur in text-only situations and the social ramifications of such impediments on communication exchange. The absence of social cues, norms, and patterns in electronic communication presents interpretational problems. The nature of these communicative problems reveals how real-world power relationships are conveyed in electronic communities.