Attitudes of Basic Stage Students Towards The Use of Facebook in Arabic Language Writing

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Abstract

The writing is playing a main role in the conservation of heritage and civilization of nations, and passed down from generation to generation, where the man used since ancient writing, he wrote on the foliage, and the inscription on the stone, and use different types of pens, and printer machines. Also, developed writing instruments and accompanied the evolution of electronic machinery such as a computer, the Internet and e-mail (alhersh, et al, 2012).

Introduction:

The social communication tools became one of communication media which received much attention from users and subscribers, especially in the educational process by students and teachers, and to design pages on Facebook of their own and write opinions and information and ideas exchanged among them, and encouraged them on the participation and interaction, which reflected positively on the increase (Rana, 2010; Husni, 2012; Levy, 2007). Levy (levy, 2007) mentioned that Facebook helps teachers to teach students the skills of reading and writing. In addition to that (Heba Mubarak, et. al., 2011) mentioned that the use of Facebook in the educational process helps to develop language skills among students and activate their positive role in active participation with their classmates. Also, the results of (Stern and Taylor, 2007) showed that most students did not have negative experiences on Facebook.

As a result, and due to the seldom of studies on the use of Facebook for educational purposes in Jordan the two researchers wanted to conduct this study to identify attitudes of the Basic stage students about the use of Facebook in Arabic language writing.

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Facebook in Arabic writing.

**Statement of the Problem:**

The writing is a medium communication, which helps the learner to express his opinions and ideas, and transfer them to others on the one hand, and to identify the views and ideas of others on the other. Learner seeks to transfer his ideas to the largest possible number of readers in most convenient and easiest way. Therefore, Facebook tool encouraged students to communicate with each other and exchange ideas and information easily and conveniently.

The success of learning to write using Facebook on students' desire to use this tool in writing. Due to the seldom of the use of Facebook in the educational process in general and learn writing skills, in particular, and the seldom of studies in use of Facebook in Arabic writing in Jordan, the two researchers wanted to conduct this study to identify the Attitudes of Basic stage Students Towards The Use of Facebook in Arabic Language Writing. This study tried to answer the following questions:

1. What are the attitudes of Basic Stage students towards the use of Facebook in Arabic writing?
2. Are there any statistically significant differences at ($\alpha = 0.05$) in the Basic Stage students attitudes towards the use of Facebook in Arabic writing due to the gender?

**Limitations of the Study**

The limitation of this study included the following:

- This study was limited to Baraem Al-Aleiman School in the city of Irbid in the first semester of the academic year 2013/2014
- This study was limited to 7th grade students in Baraem Al-Aleiman School in the city of Irbid.

**Definition of Terms:**

**Students Attitudes:** Are tendencies and desires of the seventh grade students towards the use of Facebook in Arabic writing.

**Use of Facebook in Arabic writing:** Facebook is a tool of social networking tools that help the learner to transfer his ideas and his views to his classmates and the exchange of ideas and information among themselves.

**Methodology and procedures:**

**Subjects of the study:**

The subject of the study consisted of (22) male and female students (13 male students and 9 female students) from Baraem Al-Aleiman school in Irbid city in the first semester of the academic year 2013/2014.

**Study Tool:**

To achieve the goal of the study, the two researchers built a questionnaire to explore the basic stage students towards the use of Facebook in Arabic writing.

**Validity of the Study:**

To ensure that the content of the questionnaire is valid, it was handed to a of four judges Arabic language teachers, and three specialists in educational technology. The members of judges were asked to evaluate the appropriateness of the attitudes scale to the whole purpose of the study. Based on the judges recommendations and suggestions, necessary changes were made to the items of the scale. Finally, the questionnaire consisted of (12) items.

**Reliability**

The reliability coefficient was calculated in a study tool internal consistency by Cronbach's alpha of the equation during the same study sample, and amounted to 0.81, and this value is considered suitable to the purposes of this study.

**Variables of the study:**

**Independent variables:** Gender: (Male, Female).

**The dependent variable:** Attitudes

**Statistical Treatment:**

To answer the first question of this study, the means and standard deviations were calculated. To answer the second question, the two researchers used (T-Test) to explore the significant statistical differences between the means of students' responses.

**Results and Discussion**

This study aimed to explore the attitudes in the seventh grade students from the School of Baraem Al-Aleiman towards writing in Arabic on Facebook, results were presented by the following sequence of study questions:
The first question: What are the attitudes of Basic Stage students towards the use of Facebook in Arabic writing?

To answer the first question of this study, the means and standard deviations were calculated, and Table 1 showed this.

Table (1): Means and standard deviations for students' attitudes toward the use of Facebook in Arabic Writing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Means</th>
<th>Standard Deviations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>I enjoy reading the opinions and ideas of Facebook users</td>
<td>2.91</td>
<td>.426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>I really like to know the evaluation of others about my opinions and ideas that had been written on Facebook</td>
<td>2.91</td>
<td>.426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Writing in Facebook encouraged me to communicate with my classmates and others</td>
<td>2.82</td>
<td>.588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Use use of Facebook helps me to develop my writing skills</td>
<td>2.82</td>
<td>.588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>I feel pleasure during leisure time in writing on Facebook</td>
<td>2.82</td>
<td>.588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>I feel that writing on Facebook enhanced my Arabic writing skills</td>
<td>2.64</td>
<td>.790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>I see that others' comments on my writing has helped me to develop my writing skills</td>
<td>2.64</td>
<td>.790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Take advantage of the capabilities and other methods in writing</td>
<td>2.45</td>
<td>.912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Writing is a method to express my own opinion</td>
<td>2.09</td>
<td>1.019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Discussing my Arabic writing with others is an enjoyable</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>1.024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>I like writing stories in Arabic in Facebook.</td>
<td>1.73</td>
<td>.985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Facebook helps and guide students in writing of their homeworks</td>
<td>1.36</td>
<td>.790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2.43</td>
<td>.426</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table (1) shows that item (3) was the highest rank, which states: I enjoy reading the opinions and ideas of Facebook users, as the means value (2.91) and standard deviation (0.426). While item (5) was the lowest rank, which states: Facebook helps and guide students in writing of their homeworks, as the means value (1.36) and standard deviation (0.790), and the means of the attitudes as a whole (2.43) and standard deviation (0.426). It is worth to mention that attitudes among seventh grade students at the School of the Baraeam Al-Aeiman is positive.

This result is consistent with the study of Levy (levy, 2007), which suggests that Facebook helps teachers to teach students the skills of reading and writing. And (Heba Mubarak study, and et. Al., 2011), which indicates that the use of Facebook in the educational process helps to develop language skills among students and activate their positive role in active participation with their classmates.

Second question: Are there any statistically significant differences at (α = 0.05) in the Basic Stage students attitudes towards the use of Facebook in Arabic writing due to the gender?
To answer this question, the two researchers used T-Test, and Table 2 shows that.

Table (2): T-Test results for seventh graders attitudes toward the use of Facebook in Arabic Writing by gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Means</th>
<th>Standard Deviation</th>
<th>T-Value</th>
<th>Degrees of Freedom</th>
<th>The Level of significance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2.26</td>
<td>.470</td>
<td>-2.626</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>.016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2.69</td>
<td>.155</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table (2) shows that there are a significant differences between the means due to the gender, and it was in favor for females.

Recommendations: In light of the results of this study the researchers recommend the following:

- Encourage Arabic language teachers to use Facebook in their teaching, and directing their students to use Facebook in the transfer of their views and ideas to their classmates.
- Further studies that address the use of Facebook for educational purposes.
- Conducting similar studies and applied to larger samples so as to include other educational areas to be able to disseminate the results of such studies.

References


Mubarak, Heba Ahmed, Yasser Maher, Mohamed Ahmed (2011) a Working paper on the use of Facebook in the process of Education. Suez Canal University, Faculty of Education Arish - Department of Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Technology, pp. 1-10 Site: http://docs.com/CQ9X

