

2020HovermaleOlivia-abstract

Abstract

Depression has been linked with negative interpretations of stimuli and information. When communicating, those with depression have produced negative affect in peers which results in peers rejecting those with depression. Self-esteem is an individual's feelings of self-worth based on self-evaluations that come from acceptance or rejections from peers. The role of depression and self-esteem in digital communication, specifically the use and interpretation of emoji, is under-researched. In this study, I examined effects of the individual differences of depression and self-esteem on emoji perception. Specially, I examined if depression and/or low self-esteem caused a more negative perception of emoji. The results of the study were contradictory. Those with lower self-esteem perceived negative emoji as both more negative and more positive than those with higher scores. Those with higher depression scores perceived negative emoji more negatively but perceived neutral emoji more positively than those with lower scores of depression.

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