Communication Studies

Internal Assessment

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Topic: An examination into the impact of technology on the social development of young people in Jamaica.

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# General Introduction

The focus of this research is “Technology and Social Behavior in Jamaica” The topic chosen is, “The Impact of Technology on the Social Development of Young People in Jamaica.” The purpose for selecting the topic is to inform the public about the concerning effects of technology on the mental wellbeing of youths in society so that adequate programs can be implemented to teach them to use technology in moderation.

The expository piece will feature data obtained from a questionnaire that has relevant information from students and newspaper articles that is related to the topic. The reflective piece will be in the form of a story. It will be about Nickoya, who experienced being kidnapped due to her excessive careless use of social media.

The topic has personally interested me because of the recent pandemic that has caused many young people; including myself to rely more upon technology to stay connected which has affected us. As an aspiring Software Engineer, this research will help me obtain more knowledge of technology uses in Jamaica. The research will be beneficial for my future pursuits to become aware and responsible of my wellbeing.

# Preface

The theme of my reflective piece is Technology and Social Behaviors.  The genre I have selected is a narrative entitled, “Technical Lesson". It will be about Nickoya, who experienced being kidnapped due to her excessive careless use of social media. The purpose of the story is to describe how addiction to social media can harm a person’s well-being and to make people aware of these harms so that they can avoid these situations to better take care of themself.

My target audiences are high school students. I want to reach out to this audience because the majority of them have access to smartphones and a good number of them are active on social media. Hence, they are most likely to be the most impacted by it.

The narrative will be shared on YouTube with links from Wattpad. They are most effective because YouTube is a popular and powerful platform that can reach students easily and capture their attention both visually and auditory. Meanwhile, Wattpad is a good alternative for them to use if they want to read the story at their own pace and from the direct source.

# Technical Lesson

POW!!!

The marker was thrown at my head at high speed. My body reacted with an aching feeling.

“Ouch! That hurts.”

“Nickoya, please pay attention to the lesson and stop staring at your phone.” Laughter echoed throughout the classroom.

I picked up the marker beside me and rose from my chair to walk to the teacher. I returned the marker to him, sneering at him. I went back to my seat and eventually the class stopped laughing. The lesson continued on. I yawned and noticed that the whole class was put under a sleeping spell. The teacher scribbled on the board the homework.

RIIINNNNG!!!

Everybody rose from their slumber because that was the signal to leave. I packed my bag. I saw Christeen waiting outside. The teacher passed Christeen on his way out. Christeen then headed towards me.

“Wah gwan mi girl! Ready fi mek wan another banger video?”

“Den nuh muss!”

Christeen excitedly took out her phone to show some video ideas that I could use in my next Tik Tok video.

“You know Christeen, we can buss this dance.”

“We could probably ask Rinoya pan some advice how fi buss dis dance.”, Christeen said.

We both then headed out of the classroom to travel to the Music Room to see Rinoya. We walked in and saw Rinoya and Ashley dancing and singing while looking straight at their phones. We waited until they were done.

“Wah gwan Tik Tok influensa!”

“Mi good, mi need some help wid something.”

I explained my idea to Rinoya.

“Say less. Just follow my technique and yuh good girl.”

I started to follow Rinoya’s instructions. I did the helicopter dance like I was in Dancing Dynamite while the others were doing the shoulder bounce dance. Rinoya uploaded these moments on Tik Tok and it blew up instantly. Mostly male fans were praising the video including my crush, Julian.

I decided to privately text Julian and he immediately replied. I texted him with, “do you want to talk at the back of the school tomorrow?” and his reply was "DEN NUH MUSS.”

I continued dancing with my friends until we were finished for the day. My friends decided to leave while I stayed back to post more selfies on Tik Tok. Before I knew it, several hours had passed and the sun was already down in the hills. I packed my bag, left school and went to the bus stop. I checked my phone to realize that I left on the GPS/location feature on my phone ever since I was dancing with my friends. I turned it off and looked at some posts on Tik Tok while I was waiting for a taxi to arrive. During that moment, the road was almost completely empty. A taxi arrived some time later and the next moment I knew I saw the three men approaching me out of the taxi.

They wore black hooded clothes. My first instinct was to run. I tried to run but I did not react quickly enough because one of the men grabbed the back of my bag, the other lifted me up and the third used a cloth with a chemical on my mouth to mute out the sound. I slowly lost consciousness.

I regained consciousness when it was night time. I screamed inaudibly. I tried moving my hands and legs with no avail. I could see darkness and smell gasoline. I heard the two males talking.

"Yo dag wi get a thickaz enuh dag"

"Yeah man an har skin clean to."

I heard a long stick hitting against the ground. The sound got closer and closer. I heard a man who sounded of the elderly speaking to the men.

“Youngster, can you give mi wan lift? Mi wan fi head home.”

“Sorry gramps, wi busy wid other mattas right now.”

The elderly man slowly took out his gun that was hidden behind him.

“Do you want to say hello to my little friend?”, the elder man said.

POW POW POW!!

I heard bullets blowing out the car tires. The two men panicked and surrendered by holding their hands in the air.

“Mi did only did duh dis fi mi mada.”

“Spare wan life please.”

I immediately heard sirens in all directions coming. I saw a glance of blue light. I breathed calmly. The police came to rescue me. They took the tape off my body. I saw Christeen’s worried face beside the police. I thanked the senior police officer that found me. The kidnappers got arrested except the third man that was in the car who fled into the woods. I was safely escorted by the police back to my home.

# Analysis of Reflection

In the story entitled, “Technical Lesson” the writer explores the harm people can face when being alone not being alert of their environment when using social media. The character, Nickoya experienced being kidnapped due to her excessive careless use of social media. This illustrates Nickoya great day which quickly turned into a horrifying experience for her. The two features the writer chose to analyze in the narrative were communicative behaviors and language registers.

Communicative behaviors can be in the form of non-verbal communication that is the communication without the use of words. The non-verbal communications that were present in the story were appearance and kinesis. The use of appearance was the most impactful communication behavior portrayed. For example, “They wore black hooded clothes”. This line in the story indicated Nickoya that the men were suspicious persons that had bad intention. The next non-verbal communication was kinesis. Nickoya, at the beginning of the story did not like her teacher and displayed it non-verbally. For example, “I returned the marker to him, sneering at him.” and “I yawned and noticed that the whole class was put under a sleeping spell.”

Language Registers are used to show the level of formality between people. The registers that were in the story were causal and formal. The dominant register was causal. This is because communication in the story mainly involved friends. For example, “Wah gwan mi girl! Ready fi mek wan another banger video?” Christeen used casual register because she was friends with Nickoya and friends usually use casual register to communicate with each other. The other register was formal. The teacher chose to communicate to Nickoya with formal register because he was being professional. For example,”Nickoya, please pay attention to the lesson and stop staring at your phone.” This helped to show that he was authoritative and teachers usually behave formally towards their students.

In conclusion, the communicative behaviours and registers are influenced by how a character is perceived by another and the relationship level of them. Hence, the writer used the appropriate linguistic features to portray the events of Nickoya throughout the story.

# Bibliography

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# Appendix

Questionnaire

Instruction: For each question in the questionnaire, please tick the option that you agree most with. There is no right or wrong answer. Your answers will be recorded anonymously and you will not be identified.

1. What is your gender

Male

Female

1. Which device do you primarily use?

Smart

Tablet

Laptop

Other

1. What do you like doing most online?

Music

Chat online

News

Watch Videos

Gaming

Shopping

Other

1. What social media platforms do you enjoy using? (You can tick more than one option)

WhatsApp

YouTube

Instagram

Twitter

Tik Tok

Facebook

Reddit

Pinterest

Other

1. How often do you spend your time on social media?

All the time (4+)

Once a day

1-2 times a day

3 times a day

1. “Social media is the first thing you do in the morning.” How do you feel about this statement?

Strongly Agree

Slightly Agree

Neutral

Slightly Disagree

Strongly Disagree

1. “Checking social media is the first thing you do whenever you are free.” How do you feel about this statement?

Strongly Agree

Slightly Agree

Neutral

Slightly Disagree

Strongly Disagree

1. Do you often check the notifications on your phone?

Very Often

Often

Not so often

Never

1. “You check and use social media until right before you go to bed.” How do you feel about this statement?

Strongly Agree

Slightly Agree

Neutral

Slightly Disagree

Strongly Disagree

1. Would you say you feel obligated to use social media?

Yes

No