

Sakshi Baldawa

Professor Haim Levkowitz

Mobile App Programming II

### Technology in Dating

Our everyday lives are filled with unbelievable amounts of internet technology. In fact, there are over eighty seven million snapchats sent out daily by Snapchat users. Human communication has evolved drastically over the past two decades with the boom of internet technology, changing the way people communicate with each other. One specific way digital media, specifically Snapchat affects human lives is how it negatively impacts dating. Unlike earlier decades where internet technology was not as easily accessible as now, “people don’t want to do the traditional thing”(Orso).

A popular multimedia application used in modern dating is Snapchat released in 2011 which is used to share photos and messages. There are timers that delete the messages and photos immediately after opening them unless saved or screenshotted. Users engage in keeping “streaks” which means two users respond to each other’s snapchats consecutively for a certain amount of days. The concept of keeping streaks turned into a way for people to have somewhat of a connection with each other without actually making conversation with them in person, resulting in “becoming accustomed to the new way of being alone together”(Turkle) as mentioned in her article “The Flight from Conversation”. Snapchat users take the idea of streaks as to keep a relation with one another without even having a meaningful conversation. Millennials forget how to converse with each other about meaningful things and “have little motivation to say something truly self reflective”(Turkle) due to the easy and quick transaction

of snapchats that have no substantial information about one another in them. Dating in the modern world has turned into deciphering how the other person feels by analyzing the angle of the snapchats they send to you, for example whether it is a blank screen or a picture of themselves in the mirror. Human conversation is deterred through the use of Snapchat which leads to lack of chemistry when meeting the significant other in person.

The concept of getting “left on open” is a state of agony for snapchat users who view it as a sign that the person they are snapchatting is not interested in them. Instead of just having a human interaction with one another to figure out if there is the possibility of a romantic connection, people try to “experience an artificial sense of intimacy as compared with when we shutdown our devices and devote our attention to one individual at a time”(Small,Vorgan) as stated in their piece “Meet Your iBrain”. Having someone not respond right away to one’s snapchat leads to a feeling of detachment with an online persona. The quick exchange of snapchats exemplifies Carr’s point from his interview that “we have created a system that kept us in a state of perpetual distraction and constant distraction” and the feelings of happiness with a response or disappointment with no response proves that interruption undermines the attentiveness that leads to deep connections with other people(Carr). Snapchat users move so quickly between one snapchat to another that they cannot comprehend the lack of intimate connection between the digital platform.

The snap score on Snapchat presents how many snapchats a person has received and sent over their time with the account. The higher their score, the more they are engaged with the app and it can be seen by their friends on Snapchat. This allows other users to judge one another based on their snap score. For example, one might judge their romantic interest as a flirty and

amorous person if they have a high snap score which leads to doubt in pursuing the person romantically. With so many dating options with the use of social media, “we’re now focused on finding the best which means the person in front of us is a stepping stone”(Indiana Tech) unlike the olden days when options were limited so we focused on getting to know the people in front of us.

Millenials have lost the skills it takes to make an intimate connection in person because of the development of social media platforms such as Snapchat. They have not learned how to talk to one another about their values, their interests and what they would like in a relationship. Since it is so simple and common to add people that you haven’t even met in person and the timer disappearing messages, Snapchat has also led to the increase hook up culture, where people meet up with each other only for sexual relations. This verifies that “relationships become more disposable with the establishment of dating sites”(Ankee, Yazdanifard). Due to the increased accessibility of just a casual fling over the social media platform, the app has been known for the usage of acquiring one night stands.

However, as much as Snapchat has declined dating through human interaction, it has also allowed the ability of conversation to those who are not able to see their love interests in person. Snapchat also makes it easier to avoid rejection in person, which is an uncomfortable situation to be in. As stated by Anna Orso, “it’s not rejection that stops people, it’s avoiding making the other person uncomfortable”. Millennials resort to using technology to pursuing love interests because it is quite easier and far less awkward to approach someone they find attractive through a phone screen than in person. According to the Inquirer, more singles met their most recent first date on the Internet than in person.

Given the effects of the digital media platform, we should implement some changes while maintaining certain positive aspects of Snapchat. One change society as a whole should incorporate is to lessen the amount of snapchats that are sent with filters that completely change the way one looks in a picture. This often leads to us “expecting more from technology and less from one another”(Turkle). This type of deformation of one’s original looks also can cause different expectations from two people who have interacted over Snapchat but not enough in person to realize the difference there is in human and online persona. With clearer communication about one’s expectations in a relationship over Snapchat, we can evolve as a society and bring back “the cute meet” of the olden days(Orso).

Another way to change how much Snapchat effects the dating life of millenials is to limit the use of the app so much for flings and one night stands that increase hookup culture. Instead of using Snapchat, we must use apps such as Facetime on our phone that at least let people communicate one on one by seeing each other’s face and hearing their voices to understand the emotions behind their spoken words, instead of typed captions. As written in the Indiana Tech article, online communication cuts out non verbal communication which makes up forty percent of human communication.

Conclusively, from a Snapchat notification to an Instagram direct message, human beings are constantly connected through the digital world with the use of smartphones, laptops, tablets and even watches. This type of quick and vast interaction over social media platforms such as Snapchat affects the dating lives of millenials who use such an app to communicate with their romantic interests. With the concept of streaks, photo filters, timers, Snapchat score and getting

“left on open”, Snapchat has changed the way people tend to date and the type of communication couples have due to the use of this digital media platform.

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