

NEW MEDIA TECHNOLOGIES & HUMAN INTERACTION: A CASE STUDY ON HOW BLACKBERRY CHANGES COMMUNICATION BEHAVIOR AMONG FAMILY MEMBERS

By

Jessica Priscila Paat

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SWISS GERMAN UNIVERSITY

Swiss German University
EduTown BSD City
Tangerang 15339
INDONESIA

Telp. +62 21 3045 0045
Fax. +62 21 3045 0001
E-mail: info@sgu.ac.id
www.sgu.ac.id

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STATEMENT BY THE AUTHOR

I hereby declare that this submission is my own work and to the best of my knowledge, contains no material previously published or written by another person, nor material which to a substantial extent has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma at any educational institution, except where due acknowledgement is made in the thesis.

Jessica Priscila Paat

Date

Approved by:

Ezmieralda Melissa, MA

Date

Chairman of the Examination Steering Committee

Date

ABSTRACT

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By

Jessica Priscila Paat

SWISS GERMAN UNIVERISTY

Bumi Serpong Damai

Ezmieralda Melissa, MA

The main purpose of this research is to analyze how *BlackBerry* as a new media technology changes communication behavior among family members, particularly between parents and adolescents, and users' perception of these changes. The method used in this research is qualitative method by Focus Group Discussions with two different groups of *BlackBerry* active users and non-*BlackBerry* users.

The findings revealed that adolescents have the tendency to avoid communication trough *BlackBerry* with their parents. The adolescents also feel that the emoticons in *BlackBerry Messenger* cannot replace the face-to-face expressions. As a result, the changes of communication behavior brought by this medium are seen to be less effective than face-to-face communication. In addition, it is concluded that adolescents who take advantage of communication with parents through *BlackBerry* effectively are those who already maintain good communication with them in everyday life.

Keywords: BlackBerry, BlackBerry Messenger, Communication among Family Members, Emoticons.



DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to my beloved parents:

Jahja Floyd Jonas Paat

and

Ignatia Widiastuti



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