

**WHEN (FILIPINO) TWEENERS SPEAK.....VIRTUALLY**

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**ABSTRACT**

At present the virtual world is a social space considered by some society members to be an extension of the physical, face-to-face (ftf) social world. Through computer mediated communication (CMC) we are able to simulate human interactions. Social relationships and alliances are established and maintained as well. Online social networks are social settings where

we can examine this contention. It is a communication setting located on the Internet where anyone

and everyone can create and maintain social relationships. The proliferation of various social groups that intermingle in virtual spaces is evidence that online networking sites are already regarded as communicative spaces.

The tweeners (pre-teens) set is one kind of social group actively interacting and participating in this

social place. As a social group the tweeners most likely communicate differently compared to adults. It is interesting to discover how this "difference" is manifested in the online social world.

Do they communicate similarly in this space compared to the ftf society? Is there a special speech

employed, influenced and inspired by this type of communicative space? These are queries focused

on in this initial exploration of the Filipino tweeners' online language. The social performative drama staged by the tweeners on an online social network was the primary data. Analysis of findings looked into the context of the conversations and discussions conducted initiated and participated in by the respondents in their specific virtual speech community. The current most popular online social network Facebook is the online space where this study attempted to make sense of the tweeners' online speak.

**Key words:** online communicative discourse, speech community, dramatistic pentad, facebook, culture change, tweeners

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