

APPENDIX A

The following are the URLs for the archived emails from the seven email discussion groups:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/englishL1/messages>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/englishL2/messages>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/englishL3/messages>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/englishL4/messages>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/englishL5/messages>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/englishL6/messages>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/englishL7/messages>

APPENDIX B

The articles sent to the seven email discussion groups are as follow:

Article 1

Please read the entire article before you write your response, even though the first half has been given in class. The maximum reading time is given below so you may want to test out your reading speed again. Remember also that your writing speed should be at least 10 words per minute.

962 words; maximum reading time — 4 minutes 49 seconds

Video games: Cause for concern?

[Message truncated]

Article 2

Dear all,

This week's article is about SMS messages and how such a simple service can change the way consumer services are delivered. You may recall that in Malaysia, it has been announced last week that TMTouch users can now check their traffic fines with the Police, by sending an SMS message.

How can such services be expanded further? Will Malaysian make good use of such services, or will this just boil down eventually to a mere commercial hype? How will the communication culture in Malaysia change in the next 5 or 10 years? Is it possible for such simple text messages to compete with the full array of multimedia communication allowed by the proposed 3G?

These are some of the questions that you might ask as you read the following article. Those who are the forum panellists for next week's in-class forums please make sure you take note of all the questions raised by your classmates and try to at least form your own opinions about the issues discussed here in this online forum. And you may want to take the opportunity here to ask some of your questions first before you face everyone in class.

(592 words; Maximum reading time 2 minutes 58 seconds)

Living life by txt msg

[Message truncated]

Article 3

Dear all

The third one is now coming your way. For those who have still not written any response so far please do so as soon as possible and make up your quota. You can forget about responding to the past articles and focus only on the current one.

This week we'll talk about email, another text-based form of communication, just like SMS. But email is much more flexible, now that we can send email in html with colours and some minimal formatting allowable. Not to forget that we can send attachments that can include almost anything that can be digitised, from graphics to sounds and to video. One major difference is that email is sent

predominantly through computers (with WAP still struggling to take off) and SMS through handphones (but you can always email your SMS too through specialised services like those provided by Maxis.Com). So when you discuss the following article please bear this difference in mind and at the same time discuss the outcome of the merging of the two communication network: telephony and Internet. Is it for the worse or for the better? Would there be different usage for different people? Can emailing be popularised and made the default means of communication, replacing telephone eventually? If so, why? And why not?

(766 words; maximum reading time 3 minutes 50 seconds)

H@ppy birthday to you

[Message truncated]

Article 4

This week's article is a follow-up to the previous one on email. It's sent by Mark Warschauer, an Associate Professor at the University of California, who interviewed Elizabeth through email about her experience as a Web-campaigner. Instead of talking about the speed and convenience of email, what we should ask when reading the following passage is the impact of Internet, where email is a main part of it. Does Internet give us freedom of speech? Is democracy given a real meaning now when everyone, I mean EVERYONE who can write and make use of the power of Internet, can have their own voice and get heard, or rather forced to be heard? While you are discussing the bigger issue posted here perhaps you can think of this email discussion group too that you're writing to now. Does it empower you with a voice to speak so that everyone in the class can hear? Perhaps those of you who never speak in the class or never have a chance to speak can voice your opinion this time around. And please make it LOUD and CLEAR, and let me hear the ECHOOOOO.....

(2672 words; maximum reading time 13 minutes 22 seconds)

[Message truncated]

APPENDIX C

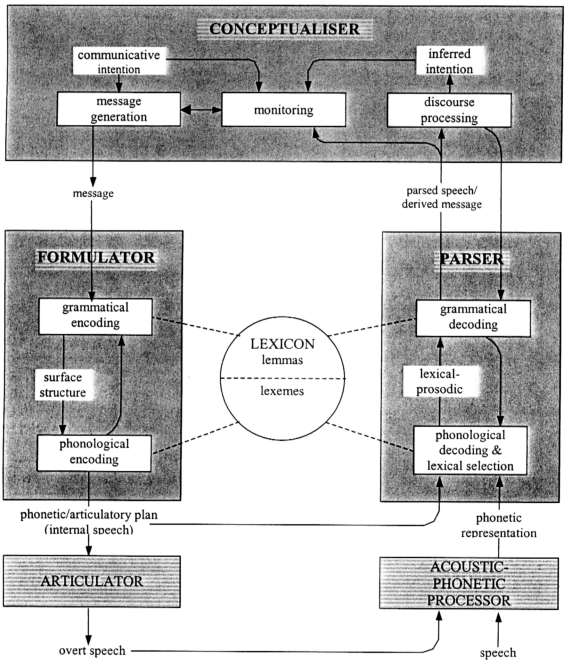


Figure A Language processing model (Levelt 1993)