

## Computers and Writing 2014

### Introduction Discussion Thread Examples

#### Suzanne Blum Malley: Making Big Room for Small Talk

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In the first example introduction thread, s\_\_\_ uses all forms of playful and paralinguistic discourse strategies discussed explored in my research. He very successfully generates responses and in different ways. One student respondent, t\_\_\_, is so excited by the lion that s/he responds in all upper case, missing the playing altogether. Another respondent, n\_\_\_, skips the lion completely, responding to the Hip Hop reference instead. S\_\_\_ then clearly articulates his overall approach to using the playful small talk, saying “yo about the lion i was just kiddin I don't really have a lion just wanted to see if anybody fell for it sorry about that I didnt think that anyone was that gullable sorry Im not trying to be rude...” He makes sure that the misinformed reader understands that he meant to have fun, not to harm. This demonstrates student awareness of the overall social goals of the project and the potential hurt caused by playing with assumptions in this way

#### **The GREAT one himself it's FIASCO but not lupe!!**

Whats up!!!! My name is S \_\_\_\_\_ aka fiasco how u guys doing? Im first year student at NMMU im studying Media Studies. Im young Xhosa male just came back frm the UK, I took a two year break, living and working in the UK. It was cool the British are cool people really friendly and quiet open to many cultures. I was born in Cape Town then moved to Bloemfontien at the age of sixteen. after arriving back in SA I was really keen to be back in the country and studying, it's been alright so far I've met lots of cool peeps local and international. I enjoy listen to music, watching movies, chillin with my friends and going out. Im down to earth, ambitious just a normal cool dude. Yo people I got to go can't chat here 4eva hopefully I'll might some of one day and we kick it go out 4 a beer or something, until we chat again **snap' almost 4got ya i got a pet lion it's called Simba,** anyway tar! tar! asta la vista! peace! cheers have a good one.

By s\_\_\_ NMMU at 2007-03-05 11:17 | Introductions | |

#### **THATS AWSOME**

**YOUR SO LUCKY TO HAVE A PET LION.** I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED AN EXOTIC PET LIKE THAT. EITHER A LION OR A CAPOOCHEN MONKEY OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. HOW OLD IS YOUR LION? IS IT A MALE OR FEMALE? IS IT NICE, AND IS IT TRAINED? LIKE, CAN YOU GO AND JUST PLAY AROUND WITH IT? I ONLY HAVE DOGS, THREE OF THEM. HOPE TO TALK TO YOU SOON.

By t \_\_\_\_\_ CCC at Mon, 2007-03-05 16:23 | reply

#### **Hey whats up!!!!**

Hi how are you? im "chillin" **yo about the lion i was just kiddin I don't really have a lion just wanted to see if anybody fell for it sorry about that I didnt think that anyone was that gullable sorry Im not trying to be rude we ( South Africans) are not allowed to tame wild animals unless you have a resort or reserve, but its cool that you want one I think its allowed in the States.** Thanks for the message and I hope it goes well with the pet thing.

What are you studing and what do hope to achieve with degree?

By s \_\_\_\_\_ NMMU at Mon, 2007-03-12 10:55 | reply

**yeah!**

When I looked at your title I saw Fiasco and I Was like YEAH! I never really liked any sort of hip hop till I heard Lupe. I read somewhere that he is not considered one of the new pioneers of hip hop, and is one of the only artists that is keeping what he does real. Unlike a lot of the crap that is played on the radio here. Plus he's from Chicago so its even sweeter. You into Common or Kanye?

The name is N\_\_\_\_\_ by th way.

By n\_\_\_\_\_ccc at Tue, 2007-03-13 01:01 | reply

In another example, sv\_\_\_ warns readers that s/he is playing with assumptions by titling her/his introduction "stereotype type." Here the students respond primarily to the music references in his post, but they also congratulate sv\_\_\_ on her/his effective play for attention in the introduction, with one exception. Unlike in the example above, sv\_\_\_ does not gently rebuke the student who asks if riding bears is safe. It is possible that because in that particular response post, there are no paralinguistic cues from bf\_\_\_ about whether or not he or she is joking back. Whatever the case, sv\_\_\_ simply ignores the post; the student didn't "get it," so sv\_\_\_ does not interact. Instead s/he mentions how much s/he appreciates the fact that the other students are aware of her/his play. The playful small talk filter, then, has worked, connecting her/him to people s/he now considers, and thanks for, being "open minded."

### **stereotype type**

Hey there, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, from Mthatha. If you have no idea where that is, go to google and look up 'crime capital of the world' and if that doesn't work try "universe". I am a first year Law student at NMMU. Studying here has made me more tolerant towards animals as we have a very intelligent elephant in our class. The monkeys are good in practical exercises but they lack in theory. In between lectures we hangout at the dining hall, where we share the spoils of the previous days hunt. Coming to school is a hustle because bears (our official mode of transport) are in hibernation. I enjoy listening to hip-hop and neo soul. My favourite artists are Common, Aesope Rock, Jill Scott, Gaopele and Mos Def. I have to go now

By sv\_\_\_\_\_ NMMU at 2007-03-09 08:13 | Introductions | blog |

### **BEARS?**

Is riding bears safe? if it is, thats cool, i would like to ride a bear some day then. thats kind of funny, because here in chicago out profesional football team is called the chicago bears, although i have never seen one here. whatever, i find it intresting that you consider Mthatha the murder capital of the world, and i have never herd of it. I know that a lot of people who come to America are afraid because so many peopel think that we have an outrageous amount of crime, and we might, but i never feel like my life is in danger. Do you feel like your life is in danger when you walk arond in your home town?

By bf\_\_\_\_\_ CCC at Wed, 2007-03-10 01:41 | reply

## FOR THE LOVE OF MUSIC

Wud up Sv \_\_\_\_\_! Your introduction caught my attention so i thought i would drop you a comment. ITs was interesting how you used stereotypes to introduce your self. I noticed that we have something in common HIP-HOP! I LOVE HIP-HOP! And i also like common, mizz Scott and MOS DEF! I acually saw Mos Def last year in New York at the Apollo. Well write me back if you want to chit chat!!  
BYE

By I \_\_\_\_\_ ccc at Tue, 2007-03-13 16:34 | reply

## Hello

Haha! That was funny. I do realize that you're joking. But ya made me laugh. I wish we COULD ride bears around, that would be awesome. Imagine a world without cars, but bears! I love Aesope Rock too, have you ever listened to Jurassic 5 or Atmosphere or Michael Franti? You'd like them if you like Aesope. Haha, I'm still laughing. Dude, thanks for making my day. Check out the music.  
Peace,

By sb \_\_\_\_\_ ccc at Tue, 2007-03-13 16:31 | reply

## The new danger

Ha ha I love this. We should all have intros like this.

I LOVE MOS DEF!

By sa \_\_\_\_\_ ccc at Wed, 2007-03-14 00:33 | reply

## Thanks for realising that I

Thanks for realising that I was joking, its not often that foreigners discard that garbage that CNN shoves down your throats. For example, Ludacris came to South Africa last year and asked that we make him chief for a day. I personally thought that was the most ignorant thing I've ever heard. Anyway,thanks for being open-minded and I've Atomsphere but not the other two,I'll check them out. By the way, you should try finding albums by two of the dopest South African cats, Tumi and the Volume, and Hymphatic Thabs.Iam sure you'll love them.

peace

By sv \_\_\_\_\_ NMMU at Fri, 2007-03-16 07:35 | reply

Aesope Rock is so awesome!