The English in Facebook Comments: Formality in Social Communication

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ABSTRAKT

Tato bakalářská práce se zabývá analýzou Facebookových komentářů určitých

obchodních značek, jako je BBC News, CNN News a Discovery News. Cílem bakalářské

práce je lingvisticky analyzovat jazyk používaný v komentářích Facebooku na základě

shromážděného materiálu z Facebookových stránek zmíněných výše a dokázat, že jsou tyto

komentáře více formálního než neformálního charakteru.

Teoretická část se zabývá jazykem internetu a stručně představuje Facebook jako

sociální síť. Dále se zaměřuje na lexikální hledisko, které se zabývá zejména tvořením slov

v anglickém jazyku. Další částí je stylistické hledisko, které je rozděleno na neutrální a

hovorový jazyk. Poslední část se zabývá ortografickým hlediskem, tedy na pravidla a

zásady pravopisu spisovného jazyka. V praktické části jsou poté tyto lingvistická hlediska

prozkoumány a analyzovány v rámci vytvořeného korpusu.

Klíčová slova: Facebook, lexikální analýza, stylistická analýza, ortografická analýza

ABSTRACT

This bachelor thesis deals with analysis of Facebook comments of certain brands such

as BBC News, CNN News or Discovery News. Its aim is to understand the synergy

between Facebook and language, analyze it from different linguistic points of view and

prove that comments on the selected Facebook sites are more formal than informal.

The thesis is divided into two parts, theoretical and practical. The theoretical part

provides general information about communication on the Internet and focuses on

Facebook communication. Lexical, stylistic and orthographic features of Facebook

comments, such as word-formation, colloquial layer or spelling innovations are described.

For research in the practical part Facebook sites of above mentioned big brands were

visited to find suitable material with a sufficient amount of data for analysis and samples of

those features mentioned in the theoretical part are found and then explored and commented in

practical part.

Keywords: Facebook, lexical analysis, stylistic analysis, orthographic analysis

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INTRODUCTION

I was 13 years old when Facebook was established. At that time none of my friends used it because most of us would not even own a personal computer. Later we started to use communication programs such as ICQ or QIP. I first heard about Facebook when I was 18. I resisted it as long as I could, but right after my high school leaving examination I registered and I have to admit that now, Facebook is a part of my life. Facebook has become literally a phenomenon among social networks, because it has the highest number of users, it is spread almost all over the world and it focuses on a wide range of users. When choosing a bachelor thesis topic I decided to combine my interest in Facebook with the English language, because as Guy Cook (2003) claims, language is at the heart of our lives and without language, many of our most important activities are unthinkable.

As David Crystal (2001) and Naomi Baron (2010) claim in their books social networks, included Facebook, has caused many changes in the language. Almost every day we face these changes, willingly or not, directly or indirectly. These modern technologies are replacing face-to-face communication and we have to deal with changes in the language. Whether it is a job related e-mail or an instant message (IM) from our friends, participating in chats or Facebook comments, playing on-line games or simply by surfing the Internet, the Internet is interconnected with all that we do.

In the past few years a lot has been said about the negative impacts of the Internet on the English language. Linguists such as Jean Aitchison (2001), Baron Naomi (2010) or David Crystal (2001) focus on the impact of the Internet and modern communication technologies on the English language. They are mainly interested in the use of abbreviations, emoticons, neologisms, overuse of capital letters and punctuation marks or their complete omission in chats, e-mails and other modern communication technologies.

This thesis deals with Facebook comments of big brands such as BBC News, Discovery News, National Geographic News or CNN News. I selected these brands because I consider them as formal and for educated people and I expect that the comments on their Facebook sites will be rather formal than informal. Therefore my goal in this thesis is to understand the synergy between Facebook and language, analyze it from different linguistic points of view and prove that comments on the selected Facebook sites are more formal than informal.

The thesis is divided into two parts, theoretical and practical. The theoretical part provides general information about communication on the Internet and focuses on

Facebook communication. Lexical, stylistic and orthographic features of Facebook comments, such as word-formation, colloquial layer or spelling innovations etc. are described. For research in the practical part I visited Facebook sites of above mentioned big brands to find suitable material with a sufficient amount of data for analysis. The corpus consists of 37 pages (approximately 11 300 words) and samples of those features mentioned in the theoretical part are found and then explored and commented in practical part.

I. THEORY

1 LANGUAGE AND THE INTERNET

The internet is an interactive, electronic and global medium, and each of these properties has consequences for the kind of language which can be found there (Crystal 2001, 24). The internet was established in the 1960s and in recent years it has become a global communication network. It provides an increasing range of services and enables remarkable numbers of people to be in touch through discussion groups or electronic mail or other types of digital pages on any topic. "The electronic medium presents us with a channel which constrains our ability in ways that are basically different from those found in other semiotic situations" (Crystal 2001, 3-5).

According to Crystal we can divide internet situations into four groups and the language they contain is likely to be considerably distinctive. The first group is Chatgroups. Chatgroups are organized in 'rooms' at specific Internet sites, where more people can participate. In Chatgroups two situations can happen – synchronous or asynchronous. The communication which takes place in real time is called synchronous, and the communication which takes place in postponed time is called asynchronous. In a synchronous situation, a user joins a current conversation in a chat room in real time and sends contributions which are inserted into a screen along with other contributions from other users. A participant can enter more than just one room and therefore can engage two or more conversations simultaneously. On the other hand, in asynchronous situation the communication is saved in some format and made available to users upon demand and therefore the user can catch up with the discussion, or add to it, at any time, even after a perceptible period has passed (Crystal 2001, 11). Among the newest arrivals on the asynchronous communication have been social networks such as MySpace, YouTube and Facebook.

The second group is Electronic mail, often shortened as e-mail. E-mail is the use of computer systems to transfer messages between private mailboxes. E-mail can be sent either to one or more recipients (Crystal 2001, 10). According to Schwalbe and Shipley (2008) e-mails can be divided into 6 groups according to their message. The groups are: question and answers, grateful, apologetic and informative emails and the e-mail to reassure friendships, where the main content is 'how are you'.

The next group is Virtual worlds. "Virtual worlds are imaginary environments which people can enter to engage in text-based fantasy social interaction" (Crystal 2001, 12).

They offer players the opportunity to experience vividly described environments in which they explore fantasy worlds, adopt new identities and use their mask to interact with other users (Crystal 2001, 12).

The last group is World Wide Web (WWW). It is usually abbreviated to Web or W3 and in site addresses it is presented as the acronym www. Web is the full collection of all computers linked to the Internet which hold documents that are mutually available through the use of a standard protocol. It is designed for multimedia interaction between computer users anywhere in the world (Crystal 2001, 12).

These four situations can be combined. It is possible to find sites in which all elements are mixed.

2 FACEBOOK AS A SOCIAL NETWORK

2.1 Social network

Nowadays social networks are an essential part of the Internet and they represent one of the most used parts. As Pavlíček (2010, 125) claims, it is a service of a Web which allows individual users to create public or semi-public profile within the system and create a list of friends with whom they share certain information and monitor friends and other users who are also registered in the system. They are formed on the basis of common interests, family ties or other pragmatic reasons (e.g. economic, political, cultural interests).

Pavlíček (2010, 125) describes that the first internet social network was built up in 1995 with the name classmates.com. Later social networks such as SixDegrees.com and social networks based on belonging to an ethnic group (e.g. AsianAvenue, BlackPlanet, MiGente) were established. At the beginning of the 20th century social networks such as Ryze.com, Tribe.net or Friendster were created. After 2003 social networks became mainstream affair and a lot of popular social networks came into being (LinkedIn, MySpace, Twitter, Facebook).

As Pavlíček suggests (2010, 125) social networks can be used to search strangers, but their main function is to create virtual profile and share with other fellow users their activities. Each social network allows people to create profiles and lists of friends, writing posts and comments and send private messages, which are intended only to selected users. Some of them also offer the possibility of inserting links, uploading and sharing photos or videos, use chat rooms and some of them also provide calls and video calls.

2.2 Facebook

Facebook comments are the focus of my research in the practical part. Therefore a brief introduction of Facebook and its features follows next.

Facebook was established in February 2004 by Mark Zuckerberg and originally it was designed only for Harvard students. In 2005 it expanded to other universities in USA and Europe and at the final stage it opened up for everyone else. There are more than 600 million users who are daily active and therefore it is the most widely used social network. 147 million users come from USA, 32 million from Indonesia and 28 million from UK. The average Facebook user has 130 friends and is connected to 80 groups or events and every month contributes with ninety new items to his/her profile (3 times a day). Currently

Facebook is available in more than seventy languages. People can connect to Facebook also through mobile phone through the application Facebook Mobile, which is used by more than 200 million active users (Pavlíček 2010, 136).

Facebook enables people to manage, maintain and enhance their social connections. Facebook helps people to accomplish tasks such as remembering everyone's birthday, getting the phone number of an old friend, getting recommendations for movies or planning an event. According to Baron (2010, 81), the main social-networking features of Facebook can be divided into three categories: information about yourself, social affiliations, and online interaction.

In Facebook Help Center websites (Facebook, 2014) the description of Facebook profile can be found. When a Facebook profile is entered, it opens with a picture, but the user can choose not to post one. User's personal information such as name, sex, birthday, hometown, relationship status or political views can feature in the profile. In personal settings people can add information about their activities, interests, preferences and they can also enter their favorite quotations through personal settings. Users can share as much information as they are comfortable with. If the user does not want other users to see his/her particular information, he/she can block specific people from seeing anything about him/her or he/she can give limited access.

Social affiliations refer to building online relationships. In Facebook Help Center (Facebook, 2014) is said that the user can add up to 5000 friends. The request to add other people can be accepted or declined. Another way of forming social affiliations is by joining a group.

Two types of interaction with other people exist on Facebook. The first one is the personal messages and the second is the Wall, where people can post their own contributions and other people can comment on it.

As Pearlman and Abram (2018, 17) claim there are also rules and policies. Users should not lie about their basic information, because it is a violation of the Facebook Terms of Use and grounds for profile deactivation. Facebook also prohibits minors under the age of 13 from creating a profile. Users also cannot send unsolicited messages and upload illegal content, such as hate speak or depictions of crimes

A lot of big brands have Facebook profiles. In my research I focus on brands such as BBC News, CNN news and other, where the number of comments can reach up to thousands.

3 LANGUAGE OF FACEBOOK COMMENTS

This chapter provides theoretical information about specific language features which are typically used in Facebook comments. These features are theoretically analyzed from lexical, stylistic, syntactic and sociolinguistic point of view, and then they are represented by emoticons, omission of capital letters, punctuation and apostrophes.

3.1 Lexical point of view

We understand language as a system of levels: lexical, grammatical and phonic (vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation). According to Jackson and Zé Amvela (2007, 2) lexicology is the study of lexis, understood as the stock of words and the notion of 'word' is central in the study of lexicology. Lexicology does not deal only with simple words, but also with complex and compound words and is concerned with word groups and morphemes which form new words.

3.1.1 Word formation

As Jackson and Zé Amvela (2007, 81) claim word-formation processes are different devices which are used to build new words from existing ones. Each word-formation process results in the production of a specific type of word. Compounding, abbreviation, conversion, coinage and neologism are widely used word-formation processes in English.

3.1.1.1 Compounding

According to Plag (2003, 135) compounding is the combination of at least two words (bases, roots) which create a new word. It is one of the oldest ways of creating words in English. Compound words can be found in popular journals as well as in science.

Kvetko (2005, 27) claims that two-base compounds are the most common (e.g. armchair, biochemistry, classroom, breakdown) and that we can divide compounding into three sections. The first one is compounding proper (e.g. bedroom), the second one is phrasal compounds (e.g. matter-of-fact, good-for-nothing), the third one is based on repetition (e.g. goody-goody, pom-pom). We can compound different word groups, for instance adjectives and nouns (e.g. blackboard, madman), nouns and adjectives (e.g. worldwide, duty-free), nouns and nouns (e.g. toothache, doorknob), adjectives and adjectives (e.g. bittersweet, easy-going, widespread, Anglo-American), verbs and nouns (e.g. pickpocket, cutthroat, playboy), nouns and verbs (e.g. housekeep, day-dream, sunrise), or adverbs and adjectives (e.g. everlasting, well-known, underdeveloped).

From the orthographic point of view, we can find compounds written as one word (e.g. *fireman*), or hyphenated (e.g. *tax-free*, *king-size*), or written as separate words (e.g. *sitting room*) (Kvetko 2005, 28).

According to the type of composition we can divide compounds into two sections – with or without linking elements. For example, compounds without linking elements can be *armchair*, *paperback*, *dark-blue*, *raincoat*. Compounds with linking elements can be connected by vowels or consonants (e.g. *sportsman*, *nowadays*, *statesman*, *handyman*), or by prepositions or conjunctions (e.g. *mother-in-law*, *out-of-the-way*, *bread-and-butter*) (Kvetko 2005, 29).

According to the type of relationship between components we can divide compounds into coordinative (e.g. *bread-and-butter*, *south-west*, *green-yellow*) and subordinative compounds (e.g. *blackbird*, *blue-eyed*, *armchair*). According to Kvetko (2005, 30) the majority of compounds in English are subordinative.

3.1.1.2 Shortenings

Shortening is another popular way of forming words. It is a process in which a part of the original word is taken away.

3.1.1.2.1 Clipping

Clipping is a reduction of a word to a shorter form and it cuts off one or more syllables of a word. Clipping are mostly used in oral speech, but some of them occur both in oral and written speech.

According to Kvetko (2005, 39) we can distinguish four types of clippings. The first one is final (back) clipping, which means, that the words are shortened at the end (e.g. $laboratory \rightarrow lab$, $advertisement \rightarrow ad$, $vegetable \rightarrow veg$, $rehab \rightarrow rehabilitation$). The second type is initial (front) clipping, where words have been shortened at the beginning (e.g. $violoncello \rightarrow cello$, $telephone \rightarrow phone$, $hamburger \rightarrow burger$, $omnibus \rightarrow bus$). The next type is mixed clipping, the words that have been shortened at both ends (e.g. $influenza \rightarrow flu$, $refrigerator \rightarrow fridge$). And the last type of clipping is medial clipping, which is less frequent. Those are words in which some syllables or sounds are omitted from the middle (e.g. $fantasy \rightarrow fancy$, $San\ Francisco \rightarrow Frisco$, $spectacles \rightarrow specs$, $mathematics \rightarrow maths$).

3.1.1.2.2Acronyms

According to Kvetko (2005, 40) acronyms can be called syllable words, because they are formed from the initials of expressions and they are read as ordinary words. They are for instance NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization), UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific, and Cultural Organization), radar (radio detection and ranging), laser (light amplification by stimulated emission), AIDS (acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

3.1.1.2.3 Initialisms

Initialisms can be called letter words, because they are formed from the initials of expressions with alphabetic reading (spelling pronunciation). Initialisms are for example VIP (very important person), SOS (save your soul), SMS (short message service), FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) (Kvetko 2005, 40).

3.1.1.2.4Blending

Blending is a process of shortening two different words, which are then combined with merging into one word. Blends are also called telescope words or portmanteau words. Usually the initial part of one word merges with the final part of the other word. There are some examples: breakfast + lunch \rightarrow brunch, sheep + goat \rightarrow shoat, slang + language \rightarrow slanguage, television + course \rightarrow telecourse (Kvetko 2005, 42).

Kvetko (2005, 42) suggest that blends usually belong to the colloquial layer of vocabulary, but some of the blends belong originally to professional terminology (e.g. binary digit \rightarrow bit, transfer resistor \rightarrow transit).

3.1.1.2.5 Back-Formation

According to Jackson and Zé Amvela (2007, 102) backformation is the process of making a new word from an older word which is mistakenly assumed to be its derivate. According to Kvetko (2005, 41) it is a derivation of new words by subtracting suffix from existing word. The huge majority of English words formed by back-formation are verbs. Examples of back-formation can be *typewrite* (from *typewriter*), *beg* (from *beggar*), *edit* (from *editor*).

3.1.1.3 Conversion

Both Kolář (2006, 48) and Plag (2003, 107) agree that conversion can be defined as the derivation of a new word without using affixation and they are completely identical in their phonetic realization. Plag (2003, 111) claims that derived words are less frequent than the basic words. To support this statement there is the example: for instance the noun *water* is more frequent than the verb *to water*, which is an indication that the verb *to water* is derived from the noun *water*. We can find different types of conversion, in particular noun to verb (e.g. *the answer* \rightarrow *to answer*, *the walk* \rightarrow *to walk*), verb to noun (e.g. *to call* \rightarrow *a call*, *to jump* \rightarrow *a jump*), adjective to verb (e.g. *empty* \rightarrow *to empty*, *open* \rightarrow *to open*) and adjective to noun (e.g. *poor* \rightarrow *the poor*, *blind* \rightarrow *the blind*). Kolář adds one more type of conversion – noun to adjective (e.g. *the garage is brick* \rightarrow *a brick garage*).

3.1.1.4 **Eponyms**

According to Stockwell and Minkova (2001, 15) eponyms are new words based on names and they necessarily involve change in the meaning of the word. Eponyms can be based on personal names, for instance *Charles Boycott* \rightarrow *boycott, Guy Fawkes Days* \rightarrow *guy* (where is obvious that English has generalized and neutralized the word), or *Jacques Nicot* (who introduced tobacco into France) \rightarrow *nicotine*. They can be also based on geographical names (e.g. *cheddar* \rightarrow a village in Somerset whence the cheese first came, *jean* \rightarrow the Italian city of Genoa, where the cloth was first made). Eponyms are also based on names from literature, folklore and mythology (e.g. *atlas* \rightarrow the leader of the Greek gods, *casanova* \rightarrow Giovanni Casanova who wrote vividly about his sexual adventures). And they are based on commercial brand names (e.g. *tampax* \rightarrow feminine hygiene devices, generalized to them all, *levis* \rightarrow canvas trousers, now refers to any denim-like trousers)

3.1.2 Creating new English words

This chapter briefly reviews the processes used in creating new words in English, other than by borrowing and word-formation.

3.1.2.1 Ejaculations

As Jackson and Zé Amvela (2007, 51) suggest ejaculations can be also called natural utterances and they attempt to imitate natural vocal responses to emotional situations. They can be for example *ha-ha* for laughter, *pshaw* for disdain, *phew* for a bad smell or *uh-huh* for agreement.

3.1.2.2 Neologism

Stockwell and Minkova (2001, 5) claimm that neologism is a creation of a new word without basing it on some pre-existing word or part of a word and these creations are

extremely rare. Peprník (2001, 76) claims that most neologisms have an anonymous origin and just in extremely few cases it is known who created the new word (e.g. *utopia* was coined by Thomas More and *lilliput* by Jonathan Swift). Usually the motif for producing neologism is to replace foreign terms by domestic ones. Neologisms can be sort by decades (e.g. in 1940s: *radar*, *cold war*, *call girl*, in 1950s: *beatnik*, *egghead*, *hotline*, in 1960s: *fast-food*, *sitcom*, *disco*, in 1970s: *junk food*, *downsize*, in 1980s: *cash point*, *telemarketing*). There are some examples of nowadays neologisms: *laptop*, *omnishambles* or *tebowing*.

3.1.3 Loanwords

Loanwords (also called borrowings) are words taken over from another language and during this process are these words modified in spelling, grammar and phonemic shape. The majority of loanwords are taken from French, Latin and Greek and it is one of the most common processes of enriching vocabulary (Kvetko 2005, 96).

Kvetko (2005, 96) suggest that loanwords can be divided into semantic loans, translation loans, international loans and hybrids. Semantic loans (or loan shifts) are loanwords, where only new meaning of the word is borrowed (e.g. reaction, foot). Translation loans (or calques) are loanwords formed by the translation of each of the elements from another language (e.g. white night from French nuit blanche, inferiority complex from German Wertigkeitskomplex). International words are loanwords, which are used in different languages (e.g. parliament, republic, video, sport). Hybrids are loanwords which contain native and also borrowed components, which means, that only a part of the word is borrowed (e.g. beautiful).

According to Kvetko (2005, 97) loanwords can be fully or partially assimilated to the language. Fully assimilated words are for example *wine*, *bishop*, *husband*, *table*, *chair*. Partially assimilated words are divided into three sections. The first one is loanwords, which are not assimilated semantically, because they express objects and notions which are characteristic to the country from which they come (e.g. *sombrero*, *maharaja*). The second type is loanwords not assimilated grammatically (e.g. Latin plural: *bacillus* – *bacilli*, *formula* – *formulae*). The last type is loanwords not assimilated phonetically or orthographically (e.g. *machine*, *bourgeois*, *garage*).

As it was already said, loanwords are mostly taken from French, Latin and Greek. From French were taken for example words like *serve*, *bacon*, *weapon*, *castle* and also

affixes such as *con-, trans-, pre-, -ance, -tion, -ment* come from French language. Three-quarters of French loans are still in use in English today. Also Latin had a major influence on English. Words such as *shirt, wall, city, road, monastery, butter, cheese* come from Latin. And from Greek were taken for example these words: *acronym, agnostic, xylophone* (Jackson and Zé Amvela 2007, 39-45).

3.2 Stylistic point of view

"Stylistics concerns with the idea of style, with the analysis of texts, and with the use of linguistics." (Štulajterová and Jesenská 2013, 8). Stylistics has three main aims. The first one is to identify and analyze features of language, which are limited to certain kinds of social and linguistic contexts. The second one is to give a reason why such features have been used and the third one is to categorize the features into categories according to their functions.

As Štulajterová and Jesenská (2013, 43) claim that when we study stylistics we also need to take account of vocabulary items at which they operate. The vocabulary of the English language can be divided into three main layers. The first one is the literary layer, which contains terms, poetic and highly literary words, archaic, obsolescent and obsolete words, barbarisms and foreignisms. The second one is the neutral layer (Standard English vocabulary) and the third one is the colloquial layer, which contains slang, jargon, professionalisms, dialectal words, vulgarisms and colloquial coinages.

3.2.1 The neutral layer

The neutral layer means Standard English vocabulary. It is an official language taught at schools and universities, used by the press and spoken by educated people. The neutral layer of words has no degree of emotiveness. For example *child* is neutral world, but *infant* is literary and *kid* is colloquial. The verb *continue* is neutral, *proceed* is literary and *go on* is colloquial (Štulajterová and Jesenská 2013, 45).

3.2.2 The colloquial layer

The colloquial layer includes vocabulary that people actually use under various circumstances, but is does not mean that the vocabulary is slangy or vulgar, although slang and vulgarism are part of colloquial vocabulary. It includes also professionalisms, jargon, dialectal words and nonce words.

According to Štulajterová and Jesenská (2013, 46) this layer can be divided into three main groups. The first one is literary colloquial group which includes vocabulary used by educated people in ordinary conversation or private correspondence. The second one is familiar colloquial group which contains vocabulary of the younger generation whose speech is more free and casual. The third one is low colloquial group which means illiterate popular speech.

3.2.2.1 Slang

Slang is the special vocabulary used by any set of persons of a low or dishonorable character and it is considered as below the level of standard educated speech. It is a deviation from the established norms and it is a reflection of the personality. Slang can be used to signal group identity, for example students slang (e.g. *fresher*, *fresher*'s *flu*, *chav*). (Štulajterová and Jesenská 2013, 46).

3.2.2.2 Professionalisms

Štulajterová and Jesenská (2013, 48) suggest that we can find professionalisms among students, sportsmen, soldiers, actors, musicians etc. and in activities such as crime, drug addiction or homosexuality. They are used by people connected by common interests at work. Unlike terms, professionalisms are used primarily in spoken language. Drug addiction professionalisms are for example: *pot*, *weed* (*cannabis*), *snow* (*cocaine*), *smack head* (*drug taker*).

3.2.2.3 Dialectal words

Štulajterová and Jesenská (2013, 48) claim that these are words or phrases which are used by people who speak or write differently depending on where they are from. For example dialect of Liverpool includes words such as *kecks* (*trousers*), *meg* (*half penny*) or ozzy (*hospital*).

3.2.2.4 Vulgarisms

Vulgarisms are expletives of an offensive character and they include taboo words and swear words. People usually avoid using these words in polite society, because they are abusive and indecent. Their function is to express strong emotions, usually anger and annoyance. They can be replaced by a more technical terms, e.g. in medicine (*anus*, *genitalia*, *vagina*) (Štulajterová and Jesenská 2013, 49).

3.2.2.4.1 Taboo words

As Kolář (2006, 87) claims taboo words are considered dangerous and they are used only in certain situations or by certain people. In order not to break social rules we can use euphemism which is inoffensive word (e.g $die \rightarrow pass\ away,\ drunk \rightarrow tired\ and\ emotional$). Taboo words can be divided into four main groups. The first group is religion (e.g. hell, God, Jesus). The second group is parts of the body (e.g. arsehole, bollocks, dick, prick, tits). The third group is sexual activity (e.g. fuck, bugger, wank, bitch, whore). And the last group is elimination of bodily wastes (e.g. piss, shit, crap).

3.2.2.4.2 Swear words

Kolář (2006, 88) suggests that the meaning of a swear words differs from the meaning of taboo words. For example in the sentence *What are you doing fucking in my bed?* is the word *fucking* used as a taboo word and it has literal meaning (making love). But in the sentence *What are you fucking doing in my bed?* is the word *fucking* used as a swear word and it means *why the hell are you in my bed?*.

Swear words can function as exclamation of annoyance (e.g. *Shit!*, *Fuck!*, *Damn!*), as exclamation of surprise (e.g. *My God! Look at that!*), as surprised question (e.g. *Why the hell..., What the fuck...*), or as insult (e.g. *Stupid fucker!*, *She is such a bitch!*) (Kolář 2006, 88).

3.2.3 Emotionally coloured vs. emotionally neutral vocabulary

The purpose of words may be to express the speaker's attitude to what they are talking about and their emotional reaction. Words or expressions with some emotion are called emotive words. They do not directly affect the basic meaning of the sentence, but they make it more emotional. Typical emotional words are interjections, which express emotions such as surprise, annoyance, anger or joy (e.g. *ouch*, *hey*, *whoops*, *wow*). Child's words are also considered as emotionally coloured words (e.g. *tootsies*, *birdie*, *kitty*, *nightie*). The emphatic words (intensifiers) are a subgroup of emotionally-coloured words (e.g. *ever*, *even*, *all*, *so*, *awfully*, *pretty*, *terribly*, *great*) (Kvetko 2005, 80).

We have to distinguish emotionally coloured words from emotionally neutral words, which do not say anything about the speaker's attitude (e.g. *eat*, *drink*, *task*, *say*, *reach*).

3.3 Orthographic point of view

3.3.1 Misspelling

Misspelling is the act of spelling incorrectly. People usually misspell words because they are in hurry and therefore they do typing errors or they have lack knowledge of correct spelling. In typing errors usually occur that letters are mistakenly doubled (e.g. *beccause*), or they are singled (e.g. *betwen*) or the letters are transported (e.g. *becuase*) or the letter is missing completely (e.g. *parliment*). Another feature found in my corpus is that participants in Facebook comments misspell contracted forms and omit apostrophes (e.g. *Im, thats*).

3.3.2 Spelling innovations based on homophony

Homophones are words which are pronounced the same, but their meaning is different. These words can be spelled the same (e.g. rose - a flower, rose - past tense of rise), or they can be spelled differently (e.g. to - two).

The use of "incorrect" homophonic characters (characters chosen on the basis of sound rather than meaning) has become very popular in English writing system. We can suggest that this process is due to the following reasons: laziness (using homophones is easier), time-saving convenience (using homophones is quicker) or to be more creative and we can see that users of social networks are stripping language down to bare bones, but still comprehensible and understandable for others.

Blakeman (2004, 30) claims that due to the process of phonological reduction, users remove letters from a word, but they keep it in an understandable form (e.g. what r u doing – where r means the verb are and u means you, y means why, or cos means because)

In English are often used numeric homophones (e.g. $2 = to \ or \ too$, 4 = for, sk8 = skate, b4 = before, every1 = everyone).

3.3.3 Omission of capital letters

Another typical linguistic feature used in social networks is omission of capital letters or their overuse. There exist main rules when to use capital letters. According to Oxford Dictionaries they should be used in the names of people or places (e.g. *Africa, Shakespeare*), at the beginnings of a sentence (e.g. *The museum has huge potential*), in the titles of books, films, organizations – in such cases we need to use capital letters in all main

words but not for the connecting words (e.g. *Pride and Prejudice, the House of Parliament*). Then also personal pronoun *I* is always capitalized.

Capital letters can be also overused and therefore they are used to emphasis something or to simulate shouting and screaming (e.g. *I MUST HAVE THIS T-SHIRT*).

3.3.4 Overuse of exclamation marks

Participants in social networks very often overuse exclamation marks, which means, that instead of only one exclamation mark after the sentence, they use three or more. This happens in order to emphasize the utterance (e.g. *I miss you!!!!*).

3.3.5 Contractions

3.4 Ellipsis

Ellipsis is an operation by which a word or more words are omitted, because they are not necessary for a phrase to be understood, for example *Begin when ready*, where *you are* is omitted and the full sentence should be *Begin when you are ready*. Ellipsis is usually used in order to avoid repetition. For instance in the sentence *I will do it if you will do it* we can omit the second appearance of *do it* to avoid repetition and therefore the sentence is *I will do it if you will* (Radford 2004, 335). Ellipsis is also used to signify a pause in a speech or unfinished thoughts and can be identified by using three dots (e.g. *What do you think? – Well...*).

3.5 Emoticons

In virtual worlds is the lack of facial expressions, gestures and conventions of body posture, which express personal opinions and attitudes and therefore punctuation became a form of artwork (Carter 2001, 11). This limitation led to the introduction of smileys or emoticons, which role is disambiguation. They are mixture of keyboard characters designed

to show an emotional facial expression. There are two basic types of emoticons which express positive or negative attitudes - :-), :-(. They can forestall misperception of user's intention, but an individual smiley still allows a large number of readings (joke, sympathy, good mood).

Emoticons in social networks bring the communication one step closer to face-to-face communication.

II. ANALYSIS

4 ANALYSIS INTRODUCTION

The practical part of this bachelor thesis focuses on an analysis of the Facebook comments. The main aim of the analysis is to find out what type of language is used in these comments, either formal or informal. Another objective of the practical part is to analyze language from the lexical, stylistic and orthographic point of view and to find main features and examples associated with each linguistic discipline which is mentioned above.

The data were collected from Facebook websites of brands such as CNN, BBC News, Discovery News or National Geographic News and they were compiled into corpus. The corpus consists of 37 pages (approximately 11 300 words). In theoretical part, samples of those features mentioned in the theoretical part are found and then explored and commented in practical part.

After every sample in my corpus follows a circled number/letter which signifies a certain finding such as compounding, blending, slang, misspelling etc. The explanatory notes describing what each number/letter means are at the end of the corpus.

5 LEXICAL POINT OF VIEW

Word formation, creating new English words and loanwords are analyzed in this part of analysis.

5.1 Word formation

Word formation types like compounding, conversion, eponyms and shortenings and their examples that users of Facebook use in comments are closely analyzed in individual sub-chapters.

5.1.1 Compounding

As it was said in theoretical part compounds are words formed by putting two or more words together and it is one of the oldest ways of creating words in English. In my corpus a lot of compound words were found.

For instance in this sentence are two compounds:

• Dan Egnew I've always wanted <u>headphones</u> that were <u>waterproof</u> and a music player.

I would love to do this. Very interesting way to get exercise.

The word *headphone* is created by putting words *head* and *phone* together and it means a headset designed for use with a stereo system. The word *waterproof* is formed from words *water* and *proof* and resulted as something which is impervious to water.

In the following example we can find phrasal compound *God-knows-why* as a mixture of noun-verb-adverbial to create a complex idea:

• Gianni Effe The fella's been unemployed since he was born yet <u>God-knows-why</u> makes more an hour than the amazing scientists who revived this virus

A lot of compounds from my corpus are hyphenated as we can see from following examples: God-knows-why, fast-response, battle-rifle, acid-gases, sister-in-law, ultra-late-term, part-time, wrongly-convicted, man-made, God-create

In the following Table 1 are examples of compounds from my corpus created by different word groups:

WORD GROUPS	COMPOUND
Adjective + noun	mainstream, supermodel, fast-response, smallpox, wildlife,
	headphone, waterproof, mankind, battle-rifle, acid-gases,
	bloodlines, network, manslaughter, girlfriend, classroom,
Noun + noun	horseshit, part-time, boyfriend, bathroom, volleyball, cheerleaders,
	rainwater, airline, headline, salesman, breadwinner, lifestyle,
	fairytale, foxfire, battlefield, soundtrack

Adjective + adjective	counterproductive,
Verb + noun	paycheck, passport,
Noun + verb	self-driving, man-made, household,
Adverb + adjective	wrongly-convicted,
Preposition + noun	alongside, onboard, inside, onlooker,
Adverb + verb	outcome,
Verb + adverb	payout

Table 1: Creating compounds by different word groups (self-created table)

Compounds allow participants in Facebook comments to condense the information and create complex ideas.

5.1.2 Shortenings

Shortening is very popular way of forming words and this chapter is divided into subchapters which deal with different types of shortenings such as clipping, acronym, initialism, blending and back-formation.

5.1.2.1 Clipping

Clippings are shorter forms of already existing words. In my corpus a few clippings were found as we can see from following examples:

- James Smith We still have stores if smallpox in <u>labs</u> around the world just incase.
- John Gambino and a kick in the butt.
- Kevin Pinel They should talk to Dick Smith. He was a genius at moving bergs LOL
- Shaun Mcinnes House music created in Chicago was not to everyone's taste in USA so that's when it came to England think it was about 85ish when it came over here I remember he came here a lot <u>cause</u> we started the rave era and he influenced some of the biggest dj's in the world

In the first sentence is clipping *labs* which is a shortened form the word *laboratories* and it is example of final (back) clipping. In the second sentence is also final clipping *butt* created from the word *buttock*. In the last two examples are initial (front) clippings *bergs* which is shortened form of the word *icebergs* and *cause* which is shortening from the conjunction *because*.

Another examples of clippings found in my corpus are: webcam (web camera), burger (hamburger), gym (gymnasium), carbs (carbohydrates), pic (picture), dinos (dinosaurs), mass-psych (mass-psychology).

Mixed clippings and medial clippings were not found in my corpus.

Clippings belong rather to the colloquial layer and they are usually used by people who are in hurry and do not want to waste the time by writing the full word.

5.1.2.2 Acronyms

Acronyms are created from the initials of expressions and they are read as ordinary words. A few examples of acronyms were found in my corpus.

- Mike Drawbridge This could potentially be a cure for cancer, HIV/AIDS.
- **Dong Kun Lim** What we need is a fast-response special corps under the orders of the UN with a mix of <u>SEALs</u>, <u>SWATs</u>, Spetznaz, <u>SAS</u>, KSK and others armed with machetes, battle-rifles and acid-gases to combat zombies.
- **Danny Hunter** Should do a map with all the <u>NATO</u> bases all over the world and not single one in Russia.

In these three sentences are acronyms such as AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), SEAL (Sea, Air, Land which is military special forces team), SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics), SAS (Special Air Service), NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization). Shortenings such as UN and KSK are initialisms which are going to be described in the next sub-chapter.

5.1.2.3 Initialisms

In contrast with acronyms, initialisms are read alphabetically, not as ordinary words. In my corpus were found a lot of examples of initialisms.

- Live Wire lol people only over 80 turn up pmsl no thanks
- Angel A. Licerio <u>LMAO</u>!!!!! My son got suspended for pretending to "make it rain in class lol this is freaking hilarious!
- Tony Miller Someone watches too much <u>TV!</u>
- Phenecia Allen Get her birth control ASAP & a psychiatrist!!!
- Marcia Elizabeth Evans RIP Frankie

In the first sentence are two initialisms *lol* and *pmsl*, where *lol* means *Laughing out Loud* and *pmsl* means *piss myself laughing*. The initialism *lol* is the most common in Facebook comments; It occurs in the corpus eighteen times. In the second sentence is initialism *LMAO* which means *Laughing My Ass Off*. In the third sentence is initialism *TV* which means *Television*. And in the fourth sentence initialism *ASAP* can be found which

means As Soon As Possible and the last sentence contains initialism RIP which means Rest in Peace.

The list of other initialisms found in my corpus follows: HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), TGI (Triump Group Inc.), DNA, GMO (Genetically Modified Organism), GM (Genetic Modification), btw (by the way), EAC (East African Community), UN (the United Nations), KSK (Kommando Spezialstreit Kräfte), NYPD (New York City Police Department), UK (United Kingdom), USA (United States of America), U of Wyoming (University), WA (Washington), BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation), BNA (British North America), DC (District of Columbia), OK (okay), CNN (Cable News Network), CIA (Central Intelligence Agency), AK (Automat Kalashnikov), BS (BullShit), EU (European Union), CFC (Chlorofluorocarbon), DJ (disk jockey)

Both acronyms and initialisms are reduction processes and they allow participants in Facebook comments to reduce the information into few letters instead of writing the entire words. This can happen because people are in hurry and they do not want to waste their time and because they know that these abbreviations are still in understandable form.

5.1.2.4 Blending

Blend words are rare in my corpus, I found only four blendings:

- Steve Benner As the Siberian <u>permafrost</u> increasingly thaws through global climate change, these things will be being released into the natural environment and we need to be ready for them!
- Richard Mace There is now a non-zero probability that the pathogenic microbes that bothered [ancient human populations] could be revived, and most likely infect us as well," study co-author Jean-Michel Claverie, a bioinformatics researcher at Aix-Marseille University in France, wrote in an email.
- Stu Johnson Local radio in Birmingham predicted 'snowmageddon' on friday, and that never happened.

The first blending is *permafrost*, which is shortened form of two words *permanent* and *frost*, therefore the adjective *permanent* loses its final part *-nent*. The second blending is *co-author*, which is created by words *collaborating* and *author*. The third example is *bioinformatics*, where the word *biochemical* loses its final part *-chemical*. And the last blending is *snowmageddon*, where the word *Armageddon* loses its initial part *Ar*-.

Blends usually belong to the colloquial vocabulary which appears rather in informal texts. They are probably used to condense the information and therefore to save the time instead of writing the entire words.

5.1.2.5 Back-Formation

As it was said in theoretical part, back-formation is derivation of new words by subtracting suffix from existing word. Back-formation is rarely used in my corpus, there are only four examples:

- Mohamed Reza Fahlavy greed has whispered and for some, and there will be some, that will fight for lifelong financial support.
- Colby Wentland Ooo look a reward!!! From a highly reputable salesman!
- Stu Johnson Local radio in Birmingham <u>predicted</u> 'snowmageddon' on friday, and that never happened.
- Joshua Burnham Luckily we have this thing called an immune system

The noun *greed* is back-formation from adjective *greedy*. The noun *reward* is back-formation from *rewarder*. The verb *predict* is created by subtracting suffix from the noun *prediction*, and the adjective *immune* is back-formation from the noun *immunity*.

5.1.3 Conversion

In my corpus a lot of words created by conversion were found as we can see from following examples:

- Sharon Sanders Does anyone have an environmental impact study on this???
- Xandra Escorsa Hello discovery news! I hate those people who <u>spam</u> your awesome wall and comment nasty things. <u>Block</u> them pls.

The first example is the noun *impact* which is originally created from the verb *to impact*. Another example is the verb *spam* which formerly comes from the noun *spam*. And the last one is the verb *block* which comes from the noun the *block*.

Another examples from my corpus are: the access \rightarrow to access, the shelter \rightarrow to shelter, to support \rightarrow the support, blind (adj) \rightarrow the blind, negative (adj) \rightarrow the negative, positive (adj) \rightarrow the positive

5.1.4 Eponyms

In my corpus were found only three eponyms:

- Tony Haskins didn't we fight a world war over some guy wanting to create a master race?
- Austin Cole Well, you can make shrimp tacos, shrimp stew, shrimp <u>sandwiches</u>, shrimp gumbo.
- Laura Carter You need to google how much \$\$ Catholic charities doles out each year before you make uninformed comments.

The first two eponyms *guy* and *sandwich* are based on personal names. *Guy* comes from the name *Guy Fawkes Days* and it is very commonly used in my corpus (about eight times). This noun belongs rather to the colloquial vocabulary and it means *a boy or man*. On the other hand the noun *sandwich* belongs to the neutral layer and it comes from the name *John Montagu*, *Fourth Earl Sandwich*.

The third eponym is rather modern and it is the verb *to google* which is based on the American corporation Google and it means using the Google search engine to obtain information.

5.2 Creating new English words

This chapter analyzes the processes used in creating new words in English, other than by word-formation and borrowing.

5.2.1 Ejaculations

Ejaculations are imitations of natural vocal responses to emotional situations and they are often used in my corpus.

- Zohal Naderi wow amazing
- Irina Olaru Ha ha ha!!! It is so funny! You, sir, have an exceptional sense of humor
- Larry Plummer Yum double bacon cheeseburger looks delicious!!
- Colby Wentland Ooo look a reward!!! From a highly reputable salesman!

Ejaculations are usually used at the beginning of the sentence and they express certain feeling. For instance *wow* expresses enthusiasm, *ha ha ha* signifies laughter, *yum* is a word used to express that something tastes good and *ooo* is expression of astonishment.

These ejaculations are highly informal and they should not appear in formal written text.

5.2.2 Neologism

According to the description of neologism in theoretical part I suggest that the following three examples we can count as neologisms which already entered the Oxford Dictionary.

- Deborah Dopp It's the way of the world. Selfies are just a way of sharing. Get over it.
- Joe Culler She's twerking all the way to the bank.
- Daniel Alexandre Use bitcoin. So basic. Much income

The noun *selfie* is informal and is highly connected with social networks, especially with Facebook. Its accurate definition according to Oxford Dictionary is "A photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam and uploaded to a social media website" and this noun has been named as the word of the year 2013. And the last two words that can be considered as neologism is the verb *twerk* which is informal and means "Dance to popular music in a sexually provocative manner involving thrusting hip movements and a low, squatting stance" (Oxford Dictionary, 2014) and the noun *bitcoin* which is "A digital currency in which transactions can be performed without the need for a central bank" (Oxford Dictionary, 2014).

Hypothetically the motif for producing such neologisms can be the need to invent or discover something new and participants in Facebook comments probably use them to be more creative and original.

5.3 Loanwords

As it can be seen from this sub-chapter, many words in English were taken over from another language and almost all of them are fully assimilated to the English language. Mostly in every sentence borrowings can be found in my corpus.

- Denae Hughes Money would help with funeral or memorial services and to support their families but besides that money means nothing. I got a small inheritance from my father and whatever I bought with the money was just a constant reminder that he was gone. So money can make things easier but it does nothing to ease the pain...
- Georgios Maccuswel The headline for this <u>article/blog post is ridiculous</u>. Do you even think for one second these families will feel better getting <u>monetary</u> (man-made bullshit) <u>compensation</u> will <u>alleviate</u> the loss of a loved one? To even <u>posit</u> such a <u>query</u> is deplorable. These poor souls have been through hell.

The words *money, funeral, support, inheritance, pain, article* are borrowings from French. On the other hand the words *constant, ridiculous, monetary, compensation, alleviate, query, posit* are borrowings from Latin.

For example the word *money* was taken from original French word *monoie*, therefore it was modified in spelling. On the other hand the noun *article* comes from the French origin *article*, so it is not modified in spelling, but it was modified in phonemic shape, because the French word *article* has different pronunciation than the English word *article*.

There is a tabular summary of words from my corpus which come from different languages:

ORIGIN	WORD
Latin	Etcetera, vaccine, virus, cell, disease, penicillin, infect, sex, corporation, lethal, bacteria, curious, science, beautiful (beau), victim, quiet, infect, nature, horror, amoeba, meningitis, project, idea, dinosaur, prediction, letter, missile, distinguish, adult, sarcasm, school, private, asylum, pope, opponent, pirate, additive, preservative, plant, nutrition, radiation, polar, species, project, genius, protect, amen, infinite, tribute, fact, ridiculous, second, monetary, alleviate, posit, query, gesture, cremation, status, intact, relative, incident, mammal, inferior, mutation, result, equal, negative, positive
French	Robust, plenty, government, combat, comment, aid, research, invasion, microbe, antibiotic, resistant, guide, effect, ignorant, protocol, avalanche, community, couple, current, capacity, assault, medal, article, office, violence, class, issue, horrible, jail, face, college, access, honor, degree, lunatic, harassment, sentence, execute, innocent, evidence, revoke, crime, cause, accomplish, republic, male, particular, forfeit, perfect, diet, pristine, exercise, medication, dinner, protein, planet, turtle, guarantee, glacier, damage, brilliant, scarce, universe, chance, reproduce, official, funeral, constant, pain, price, tragedy, console, cause, grief, ocean, relieve, campaign, passenger, sense, cost, satellite, stress, uncle, risk, addition, accident, event, legion, station, vampire, safe, channel, potion, research, tissue, expression, therapy, opposite, diversity, stable, exist, device, consequence
German	Halt, finger, gene
Greek	Episode, microscope, phenomenon, automatic, kudos, hormone, cancer, cannabis
Spanish	Machete, taco, marijuana, tobacco, hacienda
Hindi	Namaste,
Norse	Skull, dam
Italian	Bravo,
Portuguese	Mango
Dutch	Soy
West African	Zombie

Table 2: Loanwords

The Table 2 was remade into pie chart for easier understanding, which proves that loanwords are mostly taken from French, Latin and Greek, as it was mentioned in theoretical part.

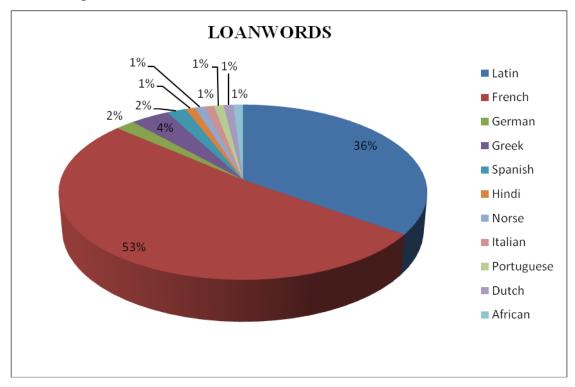


Chart 1: Percentage of Loanwords

The incentive for accepting loanwords is probably the need of filling a gap in the vocabulary, but another motif can be also the prestige of a particular foreign language. For example participant who wrote the word *query* could use the word *question* instead, but the noun *query* is more prestigious and adds formality into the sentence. The same can be said with the adjective *deplorable* which comes from Latin and the participant could use more neutral and less elegant adjective *pathetic* instead.

Participants in Facebook comments also use words from Spanish, Italian or Hindi origin probably to be more creative and original. For example the word *Namaste* which originally comes from Hindi indicates a peaceful greeting commonly used in yoga.

6 STYLISTIC POINT OF VIEW

As it was said in theoretical part, the vocabulary from stylistic point of view can be divided into three main layers.

The first one is literary layer and I have not found any terms, poetic, archaic, obsolete words or barbarisms and foreignisms in my corpus. These vocabulary items are highly formal and it shows us that people who write these comments on Facebook websites do not need to be polite and use this formal vocabulary. Also as Peprník (2001) states, using formal words in informal context could sound quite ridiculously. The only formal term I could find is the noun *sir* which originally meant a title of honor of a knight and nowadays is used as a salutation at the beginning of letters.

The second one is neutral layer which is Standard English vocabulary and it does not have any degree of emotiveness. Neutral words form the bulk of the English vocabulary and also of my corpus, for example: *child, boy, girl, woman, friend, article, mother, father, school, home, thing, family, people, hand, finger, sport, food, cheese, meat, car, work, learn, eat etc.*

The third one is colloquial layer which is going to be analyzed more in details in the following sub-chapter.

6.1 The colloquial layer

The colloquial vocabulary (also called informal vocabulary) is very often used in Facebook comments, even though I selected my samples from websites such as BBC or CNN, which are considered to be formal and for educated people. By using informal language people are much more personal.

Colloquial words appear frequently in the corpus, such as: mom (mother), dad (father), nope (no), fire (dismiss), kids (children), moron (stupid person), granny (grandmother), hubby (husband), guy (boy, man), cop (police officer). Also phrasal verbs can be considered as colloquial vocabulary: go ahead, check out, go on with, mess up, babbling about, mess with, shut down, kick down, get over, calm down, cheer up etc.

The colloquial layer can be divided into following sub-chapters: slang, jargon, professionalisms, dialectal words and vulgarisms. All these were found in my corpus and are going to be analyzed.

6.1.1 Slang

Slang is considered as below the level of standard educated speech and I found a few examples of slang in my corpus:

- Gianni Effe a friend of my cousin has a sister, who has a mom who knows a granny who has a second-grade relative that makes 200 <u>bucks</u> an hour on her laptop. The <u>fella's</u> been unemployed since he was born yet God-knows-why makes more an hour than the amazing scientists who revived this virus.
- Arnel Siranovic Tim French, you sir are one ignorant twat.
- Derek Teal Another reason to stop <u>fracking</u> with nature.
- Brian McQuiston This is a predictable outcome of <u>chicks</u> being allowed to run things the way they have.
- Richard Persaud Stupid freakin' jerk society we live in.
- Leonardo Vides the <u>wussification</u> of America happening right before our own eyes. wth makes these decisions?
- Talia Lippe <u>Dude!!!!</u> I had thought of this! And wondered why no one had thought about it!! Finally!! Hope in humanity is restored!!
- Eric Ong Mess with mother nature and she will find ways to screw back at you
- Marko Laci Rafaj In case any of you are wondering I am from that part of Europe and NO since americans arrived we do NOT feel safe with russian <u>nukes</u> pointing at us.
- Martyn Van Der Voort Not an April fools hordes of <u>hipster</u> kids are now frantically googling who Knuckles was.

The underlined words from previous samples are slang words, such as bucks (money), fella (fellow), twat (foolish person), fracking (euphemism for fucking), chicks (young girls), jerk (foolish person), wussification (the act of turning one into a wussy, which is a weakling), dude (fellow), nukes (nuclear weapons) and hipster which is according to Oxford Dictionary "a person who follows the latest trends and fashions, especially those regarded as being outside the cultural mainstream".

Participants in Facebook comments probably do not have the need to use educated speech and they rather use slang which is highly informal and therefore the conversation between participants becomes more personal.

6.1.2 Professionalisms

In the corpus only one professionalism was found, connected with drug addiction:

• **Ìan Grày** Russia can invade a country but I can't buy weed legally yet

As Peprník (2003, 18) claims professionalisms are used only in communication with fellow workers and with those who share a particular activity. Participants in Facebook comments highly probably do not know each other and they likely do not share a particular activity and therefore professionalisms are rare in Facebook comments.

6.1.3 Dialectal words

Only one dialectal word was found in my corpus:

•Nick Wiggill Steve Benner, rarely do I say it, but you have changed my mind 180 degrees on this topic. I think that is a highly valid argument... it is very likely that more of these <u>critters</u> are waiting to thaw.

Critter is a Canadian dialect noun which in Standard English means a living creature or an animal.

6.1.4 Vulgarisms

Participants in Facebook comments use a lot of vulgarisms which have offensive character and they should avoid it if they do not want to be abusive. This indicates that people in Facebook comments do not care about politeness and they express their strong emotions by using vulgarisms.

6.1.4.1 Taboo words

A lot of taboo words can be found in the corpus and I extracted those which were the most frequently used:

- Mohammad ST she needs my dick.
- Shannon Robbins Solomon Yeah I'm not even going to read this horseshit
- John Gambino and a kick in the butt.
- Maya Warren This is what happens when you put <u>cock</u> in front of family. Family will always be there for you. Boyfriends come and go everyday.
- Kevin Brown Id rather eat that juicy looking bitch and die young! Lol
- Nick Wiggill Yes, smartarse.

These taboo words break social rules and are very offensive. Participants in Facebook comments could use euphemism but they rather use informal and abusive words to express their anger and annoyance.

6.1.4.2 Swear words

Swear words also appear quite often in the corpus:

- Katy Metzler Hell yes!
- Violet Don <u>Damn</u> that burger looks good
- Andres Hernandez That's the problem, looks fucking delicious!!!

These swear words are hypothetically used in order to express surprise or joy.

6.2 Emotionally coloured vocabulary

Emotionally coloured vocabulary appears often in the corpus usually in order to express the participant's attitude and his/her emotional reaction.

Typical emotional words are interjection:

- Zohal Naderi wow amazing
- Joe Hernandez Wow, you scared me.
- Colby Wentland Ooo look a reward!!!

Another subgroup of emotional words can be intensifiers:

- Roque Hucajluk Most soulless and boring music ever
- Mandy Jayne Wright every thing stops even when there are leaves on the line lol
- Liudmila Tsylvik Even Russian winter revenge

And also adjectives and adverbials can be suggested as emotional vocabulary:

- Jill Agnew RN That looks amazing
- Phil Will Man,.. He looks so <u>cool</u>,.. Like an <u>awesome</u> friend
- Apisit Sk Stupid project

All these underlined words are different from neutral words because neutral vocabulary does not say anything about the participant's attitude, but in these examples is subjectivity and emotions and it makes the sentences friendlier.

7 ORTHOGRAPHIC POINT OF VIEW

7.1 Misspelling

Misspelling is the most typical feature in Facebook comments. The most typical misspelling is omission of apostrophes in contracted forms of words:

- Iván Morelos Best pope weve had
- Demetrios L. Consolo Its not protein that kills. Watch "Forks over knives"
- Rey Mark Bilon ...nobody there inside ..i dont think its safe..anything can go wrong...
- Kevin Brown Id rather eat that juicy looking bitch and die young! Lol
- Geraldine Elizabeth Drewlo And when you need them they arent there

Another misspelling is that letters in word are mistakenly doubled or singled:

- Jorge Arellano No, it can't. If i would <u>loose</u> a loved one I would not take the money...
- Allan Dinsdale No sense in it! Man has messed with nature to much!
- Tyrone Sibley Putin will send a crate of flame throwers and some <u>cannisters</u> of Napalm
- Saim Butt plz addd me friends

Participants in Facebook comments also misspell words by transporting letters or omit letters completely:

- Neil Pawson where is the sonw?
- Andy Cee What possible use could it be examing mouldy bread?
- Rusty Zerafa Why don't you havest the plastic and clean up the oceans first
- Frank Moore Every time the wind blows, you end up with a massive dust storm eminating from the plant for miles and you'd think it's the end of the world

Other examples of misspelling follow:

- Sully Jackson I really don't want an ancient virus no one has had immunity to for a long time running around wreaking <u>havok</u>.
- Mojaki Oa Bo Keke mike...and they shud try it first in france.
- Apisit Sk Stupid project. You are destroying nature and world. How the earth effect if <u>iceburg</u> melt faster?
- Joe Siano I'm sure the somolian pirates will love these ships especially since no one is on board to fight back

• Jessica Forrester You can, if there is a team that is all girls and there is not an equilivent for the boys then you can join

Participants probably misspell words because they are in hurry and they do not have the time to double check their comments or they have lack of knowledge of English language and do not know how to spell the words correctly.

7.2 Spelling innovations based on homophony

This sub-chapter shows how the spoken form of words influences the written form. Wati Kws i'd luv to try n the water should be warm

- Tammy Perez I pray you and your pope wake up <u>b4</u> its to late in Jesus Christ Holy name!
- Cindy Seto this gotta be a joke
- Xue Huang Wanna to ba a panda, so amazing life!
- Stephen Fredrick Just sayin'.
- Richard Persaud Stupid freakin' jerk society we live in.
- Arnold Kuyindama the pope needs to read the book of life in which name he's standing up there even tho God never asked a pope to rule His church.
- Cheerry Sheerry kool
- Elizabeth Paul Harley... If retardation doesnt come from that then \underline{y} cant \underline{u} learn grammar? \underline{R} \underline{u} retarded?

All these underlined words above are examples of spelling innovations. They are based on phonological aspects. Participants write as they speak. For instance the second example b4 is based on numeric homophones (before). Words such as gotta and wanna are based on spoken variety of language (got to and want to). In following examples sayin' and freakin' is reduction of the last letter of inflectional morpheme -g. The last example shows the process of phonological reduction as users remove letters from words (y = why, u = you, r = are)

Spelling innovations are very common in Facebook comments and it can be suggested that people use the homophonic characters because of laziness, time-saving convenience or they want to be creative.

7.3 Omission or overuse of capital letters

Omission of capital letters is another typical linguistic feature which is very frequent in Facebook comments. The rules, where to use capital letters, are described in theoretical part. Examples of omission of capital letters follow:

- Ash Breese governmental control is not the problem. people need to take personal responsibility for their actions instead of blaming everyone else. no one makes us eat it.
- Gaetano Gary Pacitti What about the risk of pirates? <u>nobody</u> on board to stop them taking everything!
- Dori Allen I was in a spa swimming pool in germany where they had this. It was so relaxing just lying in the water listening to classic music.
- David Handley Send it to russia kill em all off!!
- Fwed Smerb send it to england
- Cheikh Gaïndé Fatma Mbaye poor oscar!
- Eric D Molino steve, what about cheerleading
- **Todd Parsons** CNN/CIA network ..wife and <u>i</u> turn on CNN to get a good laugh at the bad acting
- Carlos Shinji Mariona Ok.... now <u>im</u> just waiting for all the nut bags who are going to say thats niburu.

One of the motives for omitting capital letters can be that participants do not care about rules of using capital letters. They do not use them in beginnings of sentences, in the names of places or people and even the personal pronoun *I* is not often capitalized. Another motif can be time pressure or it can be considered as modern trend and participants want to fit in the crowd.

Participants also overuse capital letter to emphasize something or to simulate shouting and screaming. Examples of overuse of capital letters follow:

- Shirley Barrett NO WAY
- **Donald Leynaud** This scares me! What are we re-releasing back into the environment that killed WHO KNOWS WHAT??!! Don't mess with MOTHER NATURE! (shouting)
- Annamarie Rios GOD BLESS!

• Andrew L Lampart SENTENCING and CONVICTION are COMPLETELY different things. (emphasizing)

7.4 Overuse of exclamation marks

In order to emphasize the sentence participants in Facebook comments very frequently overuse exclamation marks as we can see from the following examples:

- Talia Lippe Dude!!!! I had thought of this! And wondered why no one had thought about it!! Finally!! Hope in humanity is restored!!
- Daeng Roberchoe Waste of money !!!!
- Elena Michael Great! Maybe Elvis is there?!!!!
- Tania Rajbangsi Yes find out the missing plane not planet !!!!!!!

7.5 Contractions

Contracted forms of words are very often used in Facebook comments.

- Cosmic Badger That's no small planet. I've got a bad feeling about this
- Jamie Bonner Can't put a price on loved ones.
- Caitlin Elizabeth C he might've had the safety off
- Darren K. Nelson Zombies <u>aren't</u> what we need to worry about...<u>it's</u> Dracula and his legions of werewolves, everybody knows that

Contractions are very informal and participants probably use them because of timesaving convenience.

8 ELLIPSIS

Ellipsis is frequently used syntactic feature in Facebook comments. Usually is omitted subject or subject with verb or other parts of phrases but it is still kept in understandable form. Participants use ellipsis to save time, to avoid repetition or to signify a pause in a speech or unfinished thoughts:

- Angeline Ng Wet sounds wrong
- Kevin Luby That's why I live in Florida now. Went through the Blizzard of 78 in Boston area. Fun when you are seven. Not fun when you are 43.
- Ashley Appayya lol, not sure this would work with Metal
- Best Superoek Sorry to hear that but it has been sunny here in Lancashire
- Shawn Hughes had a booger bullet i seen it

In first example is missing subject (*It sounds wrong*). In second example is missing subject (*I went*...) and subject with verb (*it is fun*..., *it is not fun*...). In third example is ellipsis of subject and verb (*I am not sure*). Fourth example shows ellipsis of subject and verb (*I am sorry*) and in the last sentence is subject and verb missing (*He had a booger I have seen it*).

The following example shows using of ellipsis in order to signify an unfinished thought and it can be considered as an invitation into the conversation:

• Marcia Elizabeth Evans Roque and your comment matters because......

9 EMOTICONS

Emoticons are very rare in Facebook comments which signify that people do not have the need to show emotional facial expression. In my corpus only two emoticons were found:

- Shaun Mcinnes I might be wrong people about my dates but please forgive me I am after all one of the hacienda faithful so memory isn't at it's best if you were there you will have a memory like mine :-)
- Shae Molloy great, now some top medical firm will get it, let it out on the quiet, then charge millions for there anti virus :((

CONCLUSION

English is considered to be a worldwide language and the language can be written or spoken. Traditional ways of written language are now replaced by emails and social networks. Face to face communication among people is not as often as it was earlier in the times without modern equipment. Nowadays people use mobile phones and computers and it brings changes into the language.

This bachelor thesis was focused on the English language in Facebook comments. The theoretical part provided general information about language and the internet, about Facebook itself and lexical, syntactical, orthographical features and ellipsis and emoticons were described. The practical part analyzed all these features. For the analysis research corpus was composed from 37 pages (approximately 11 200 words).

It can be said, that language became definitely shorter. With regard to lexicology especially from the word-formation point of view, participants in Facebook comments very often use compounding and all types of shortenings in order to condense or reduce the information and therefore they do not have to write entire words. The motif for using such processes can be that participants are in hurry or that they are lazy and they do not want to waste their time. Shortenings such as blendings, acronyms, initialisms or clippings are considered to be rather informal and they belong to colloquial vocabulary. It is proven from practical part that participants also create new words by using ejaculations. They probably use them in order to be more emotive and then the conversation becomes friendlier. Also neologisms as a part of creating new words are used in Facebook comments. Neologisms can be used to show creativeness and originality and most of the neologisms found in the corpus are informal. The practical part also proves that participants apply loanwords in Facebook comments probably to fill a gap in the vocabulary but also maybe to be more prestigious or creative because they use foreign language.

Stylistic analysis proves that participants in Facebook comments do not use literary or formal layer, but they are rather informal and use colloquial vocabulary. The corpus is full of phrasal verbs and slang and therefore the communication becomes more personal. They also use vulgarisms which signify that participants do not have the need to be polite but they rather express their strong emotions by using taboo words or swear words. And in order to express their emotions and attitude they also apply emotionally coloured vocabulary.

From orthographic point of view it can be said that the language used in Facebook comments is highly informal. Participants very often misspell words probably because they are foreigners and they do not know how to spell the words correctly or because they are in hurry and they do not have the time to double check their comments. They probably want to be creative or save their time and therefore use spelling innovation based on homophony. Another often used feature in Facebook comments in omission of capital letters or their overuse or overuse of exclamation marks in order to emphasize the utterance. They also apply shortened forms of a word group known as contractions hypothetically because of time-saving convenience.

Ellipsis is another characteristic feature which is very often found in the corpus. Participants usually omit subject or subject with a verb because they are not necessary for a phrase to be understood or they want to imply their unfinished thoughts.

Emoticons are very rare in Facebook comments which indicated that they do not have the need to express their personal opinions and attitude by using smileys but only by using ejaculations or emotionally coloured vocabulary.

To conclude, I can say that after the analysis of my self-created corpus I have found out that participants in Facebook comments use rather informal than formal language which is in contradiction with my hypothesis stated in introduction. I expected that in Facebook websites of such brands like BBC and CNN participants will use rather formal and educated language to show their prestige, but the corpus is full of abbreviations, slang words, colloquial vocabulary, misspelling, ellipsis which proves that the language is mostly informal and they even break social rules by using vulgarisms instead of euphemism which shows that they need to express their anger and annoyance in abusive form.

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APPENDICES

P I Corpus of Facebook Comments

APPENDIX P I: CORPUS OF FACEBOOK COMMENTS

Lexical point of view	Stylistic point of view	Orthographic point of view
Compounding ③ Clippings ④ Acronyms ⑤ Initialism ⑥ Blending ⑦ Back-formation ⑧ Conversion ⑨ Eponyms ⑩ Ejaculations ③ Neologism ⑭ Loanwords ⑤	Slang ® Jargon © Professionalism © Dialectal words © Taboo words © Swear words © Emotionally coloured vocabulary ⊕	Misspelling ① Spelling innovations ② Omission/Overuse of capital letters ® Contractions ② Overuse of exclamation marks ③ Ellipsis M Emoticons ®

Angeline Ng Wet sounds wrong. **™**

David Cummings The world is a lunatic asylum! (5)

Sean Joseph Middleton it's good huh **(L) (6)**

Richard Muschette l love this l will enter a few of the these concerts when l can, as l love to swim and most all to understand thoroughly the science of the sound in the wet(water) and difference from the dry(air), so l am very inspired about it for sure ...

Dan Egnew I've always wanted headphones that were waterproof and a music player. I would love to do this. Very interesting way to get exercise. ①③ M

Trevor Spedding Will be a bit of a Wet Wet affair. **M**

Sue Harwood Interesting that sound travels faster through water than through air.

Sam Hunt faster still through solids, the denser the material, the easier sound can travel through it **(C)**

Dave Hagley Pointless really!!!! **M**

Sheila Reynolds Carlo Alaimo you can do this at The Shippen (8)

Wati Kws i'd luv to try n the water should be warm. **O O O Ashley Appayya** lol, not sure this would work with Metal, watching a mosh pit or a wall of death kick off, in a swimming pool would be funny. M® Rosalyn Viovicente yes **6** M Zohal Naderi wow amazing (3) (6) (H) Susan Gage I should think it's like the sound of a baby in the womb (1) **Antonio Pliego** I would love to live that experience. Katy Metzler Hell yes! 6 Live Wire lol people only over 80 turn up pmsl no thanks 6 F & **Gregoris Gregoriou** I wouldent go to something like that ① **Angela Goodwin** haven't we all been doing that this year? **O**® Mwangi Josphat It's a really nice idea....i wld love to visit such.....it's like a close connection with nature (1)(1) Hasan Raza Harmony wet is amazing! (H) Cheerry Sheerry kool ① June Krengel And how much is this 'waffle' going to cost the tax payer or was it another waste of time lottery funded waste of money? Es Irlanda Hell yeah! @ (H) Audrey Bomse I love it! Maybe I can get these folks to come and play at the pool where I swim.

Dekker Diao This is so cool (H)

Edith Miller I can't imagine anything worse (L)

Dori Allen Defiantly. I was in a spa swimming pool in germany where they had this. It was so relaxing just lying in the water listening to classic music. **(8)**

Graeme Lindsay-Foot I heard some of this on Radio 4 this morning. I nearly crashed my car in order to stop myself listening to it. Idea's interesting but the musical content would have to be a bit more mainstream (no pun intended). ③ ①

Helen-Elizabeth Anderson Love it, music therapy. **M** Shirley Barrett NO WAY. **(6) David Shaw** Where's the bar? ① **Rosanne Britten** Different but creepy **M Adie Freedom** have u seen this **① (** Anne Zuidema No M **Andy Beadle** bet he slips in jaws theme to empty the pool...lol **6 M 8** Meg Thomas This sounds amazing! I would definitely go Krishna Kumar exce3llent ①®M **Dominic Murphy** Radiohead in disguise? **M**3 Barry Watts I've produced a few wet sounds of my own in the past. Normally after a curry.... (L)

Joseph Williams well we can use it to create a vaccine or cure etc. in the possibility that is accidentally released into the general population. 4 **6 6**

Joseph Williams plus so far we can't actually catch it **O6**

Christian Idol good point joseph! now we can create a vaccine against this virus that was dead that we brought back! **ⓒ ◉**

Sughosh Tyagi Evolution

Derek Millar or it's going to be unleashed on us and this is the cover story **©**

Samiuddin M Afroze I'm Legend (L)

Nazmul Huda undead virus

James Anderson Well, since we can see it (it's much larger than other virus) we can study how it works. However, the article does say that there are other virus that could be released by the thawing arctic. (5) ①

Demz Tenorio biological weapon as expected...

Steve Benner We need to study these things NOW to see whether or not they pose a threat and if so what to. As the Siberian permafrost increasingly thaws through global climate change, these things will be being released into the natural environment and we need to be ready for them! **?**

Nick Wiggill Steve Benner, rarely do I say it, but you have changed my mind 180 degrees on this topic. I think that is a highly valid argument... it is very likely that more of these critters are waiting to thaw. **©**

Mike Drawbridge "It comes into the cell, multiplies and finally kills the cell. It is able to kill the amoeba - but it won't infect a human cell."

This could potentially be a cure for cancer, HIV/AIDS. Or a vaccine against current diseases. It's possible it could hunt out damaging cells and kill them without harming the host.

Bit of a long shot but you never know (5) 5 (L)

Andy Cee What possible use could it be examing mouldy bread? Oh yeah, Penicillin!

Rhŷn Williams going back could help us make us robust 15 (8)

Sam Yu Elle Jackson I don't get why people are so worried about this. There are plenty of grown lab viruses that could potentially wipe out mankind: stop worrying about ones that can't even infect humans. **Q34 (5)**

Gianni Effe a friend of my cousin has a sister, who has a mom who knows a granny who has a second-grade relative that makes 200 bucks an hour on her laptop. The fella's been

unemployed since he was born yet God-knows-why makes more an hour than the amazing scientists who revived this virus. (© (B) (3) (4) (5)

Mojaki Oa Bo Keke mike...and they shud try it first in france. ⊗①

James Harrison Better than a dud government bringing back dead ideas... (5)

David Kitchener-Martin All these people who make all this money on their laptops. (It's amazing how much you can make on these adults only webcam sex sites). 34450

Ernestas Kalnins u guys are fulls **B J D 10**

Ernestas Kalnins iven if this will be answear to ultimate vacine u think government and corporations will tell that and iven give to us they will not iven sell to us that vacine they want us to extinct ①①(5)

Terri Hunter my best friend's mother makes \$75 every hour on the internet. She has been out of work for 6 months but last month her paycheck was \$13644 just working on the internet for a few hours. why not find out more ③⑥

Tony DasRymer This is how the Zombie Apocalypse starts! (5)

Geron Stark Well said, sir!! M

Gianni Effe fast, we need a lethal supermodel! (6) (3) (5)

Dong Kun Lim What we need is a fast-response special corps under the orders of the UN with a mix of SEALs, SWATs, Spetznaz, SAS, KSK and others armed with machetes, battle-rifles and acid-gases to combat zombies 3 5 6 15

Clouie Jane Shan Lumanta lol 6

David Handley Send it to russia kill em all off!! (©1)

Fwed Smerb send it to england ... **(6)**

Morag Cumming How can three other people actually like this comment? (5)

Paul Kavanagh Should scientist's be messing with "past" extinct bacteria(s)? ① 18 (5)

James Smith Its a virus... but also if we study it not only can we learn how it can be used in the future for possible vaccines incase this ever comes back but also viruses are a great biological aid in studying human cells. We still have stores if smallpox in labs around the world - just incase... ①345

James Smith and bacteria is plural so no need for the (s). Singular is bacterium **(K)**

Mark John Mcfarlane I'm pretty sure I watched a zombie flick that started with a similar story ① H

Annamarie Machray lol 6

Chigozie Anekwe Why are humans so curious to open the Pandora Box...... Either this "discovery" will be used for good science or for making money at the expense of human life. (5)

Giorgos Tsampekidis because this beautiful (talent ?) is in our nature what differs as from other living beings it's called curiositynamaste (5000)

Enya Ivara As dangerous as this kind of research might seem, I feel it's a worthwhile venture. Assuming somebody accidentally steps on another ancient one that "behaves" differently, recognizing it's history and characteristics are keys to knowing how to curb it **OO**

Stacy Hill we already have our zombie invasion....15 to 35yo's skunked up Call of Duty victims unable to talk or walk wandering around moaning 'cameron where are my benefits' **B © (5)**

Shae Molloy. great, now some top medical firm will get it, let it out on the quiet, then charge millions for there anti virus :((① N C M 5

Zsolt Szilágyi I am not quite sure if it is a good idea to bring to surface such stuff. Certain things are better left untouched.

Kingsley Isla Mayborn science will destroy humanity. (8)

Gerard Edwards Like we havn't got enough viruses to worry about. ①

Dale Urevig I saw the movie, this does not end well...

Joshua Burnham Luckily we have this thing called an immune system **8**

Richard Mace There is now a non-zero probability that the pathogenic microbes that bothered [ancient human populations] could be revived, and most likely infect us as well," study co-author Jean-Michel Claverie, a bioinformatics researcher at Aix-Marseille University in France, wrote in an email. "Those pathogens could be banal bacteria (curable with antibiotics) or resistant bacteria or nasty viruses. If they have been extinct for a long time, then our immune system is no longer prepared to respond to them. 3 (§)?

Allan Dinsdale No sense in it! Man has messed with nature to much! MO

Sully Jackson I really don't want an ancient virus no one has had immunity to for a long time running around wreaking havok. Freeze it again and put it back where you found it please. **LO**

Amanda Speier Did we not learn from the x files? Bad things could happen. Leave it in the ice

Donald Leynaud This scares me! What are we re-releasing back into the environment that killed WHO KNOWS WHAT??!! Don't mess with MOTHER NATURE! ©

Romesh Nongmeikapam what if a zombie virus is found? **(K)**

Viktor Marosvary A few horror movies started just like that. (5)

Julie Liddington The Walking Dead is now the ultimate survival guide!! (5)

Ravi Teja Viruses aren't 'alive'. (L)

James Smith arguable..... I would suggest they are. **®**

Stan Kirby Neither is earth!...or is it? **™**

Muhammad Aqib It only affects unicellular organisms like amoebas not humans 36

Stephen T Varty Destroy it.

Maya Dziriya since it will the ice be day after day in thawed shall expect more threat viral , Pithovirus sibericum attacks amoebas which are reason of some dangerous illness like parasitic meningitis we shall say it going in right way with human health since it's not represent a dangerous effect on human and animals health, scientists should be more

worried about other threats viral which lives with us now and they still didn't found for it a treatment like AIDS & cancers. © (© (L) (5) (1)

Scott Meyer you know it will be used on someone or a lot of someones **(K)**

Terence-Jean Collier-Bowers Yes, believe it was an X File episode, or something similar, when drilling in the artic forced nasties to the surface, killing those involved in the project. Entrance the dynamic duo. Problem solved. **15 M**

Bortsch Ator what a brilliant idea! That's all we need what's the point of reawaking that virus ????? (6) (5)

Anthony Asirigwa Then start a story about how it came from Central Africa.

Arnel Siranovic Tim French, you sir are one ignorant twat ®

Derek Teal Another reason to stop fracking with nature. **(B)**

Pete Clark If they can bring back to life a 30,000 year old virus, what next, dinosaurs?? **M 5**

Lee Paul It's not a virus that concerns humans, don't be freaking out without checking the facts (b4 mass panic) ①①

Hajara U Bornu Did scientists have microscopes 30,000 years back? (5)

Joshua Trapp Give it to Obama.

Stephanie Cass Interesting and strange M

June Krengel So now we end up like the dinosaurs because of some idiot **(F)** Like · Reply · 1 · 14 hours ago

Alan Wordley Maybe Putin will send some aid?

Laura Carter But only if you have Russian bloodlines 3

Richard Brooks This time Victoria Nuland will be alongside the NYPD and beating the hell out of old people as they pass by. 36

Irina Olaru Ha ha ha!!! It is so funny! You, sir, have an exceptional sense of humor... (3)

Tyrone Sibley Putin will send a crate of flame throwers and some cannisters of Napalm.

Sara Patricia my co-worker's sister-in-law makes \$83 an hour on the internet. She has been fired for nine months but last month her paycheck was \$19782 just working on the internet for a few hours. (3)

Joe Joe We have the same safety protocol in the UK when we have an inch of snow.

Sam Crosby So does the train service with an inch of rain.

Mandy Jayne Wright every thing stops even when there are leaves on the line lol ①6 ®

Stu Johnson Local radio in Birmingham predicted 'snowmageddon' on friday, and that never happened. We panic at the mere threat of snow, at least the USA has actually had snow to panic about! And guess what, they just get on with it! (7.6) (6.6)

Richard John Allen Here in the USA, we get out of work and school for predictions. It snowed 3 inches and there was no school yesterday here in Baltimore. Though, there was a lot of ice this morning, which was not fun to drive across. (5)

Caroline Donaldson Katongole....lol....what a stupid worthless comment. Homosexuality causes heavy snow?? Have heard it all now. 6 M

Zuzanna Cecylia Florentyna Nowacka I will tell u something guys. I live in Norway, up up in the mniddle of nowhere with more than 1m of snow, and storms and snowing every day. And somehow we r all fine, going to work, school and having a normal life. **B**① ①

Paul Hunter The US Winter Olympic team had trouble getting out of Russia for this very reason... apparently they were Snow'den...

Liudmila Tsylvik Even Russian winter revenge (H)

July Lion very so cool **⊗** M

Bill H. Moore Poor people. I attended the U of Wyoming in '81. We took delivery of 24" of snow over night. Didn't shut down. Years later & retired, driving school bus in Spokane, WA. 12" snow and didn't even chain up. The difference is, like the folk in Mich. It's an inconvenience, but know how to handle it and go on with life. 6 \(\mathbb{O}\)

Omoesiri Akarenuhon I guess it's punishment from GOD on America for legalising gay union (not marriage). **Icepac Navarro Jon Whitton** yhea! Got off early to escaped the wild snow storm.. ① M Jon Whitton Icepac Navarro how's Chicago, or are you still in the Wild West? **O**® Cleo Kaerf I'm not affected at all. I'm canadian. Here in Alberta that's spring time. **© Q Keerthana Gunaretnam** i don't know. But we pray of our god. **®** Eva Sennesvik Shut down USA and forget them 6 **Neil Pawson** where is the sonw? ① **(** Amin Elhassan No, as I live in England. BBC News is English too, so I do not understand why they would post this if the majority of their likes are from the UK. Lol. 6 M **John Kyle** will the trains still run here? **(Best Superoek** Sorry to hear that but it has been sunny here in Lancashire. **M** Alain Kiana Yes, I am, I was supposed to take my flight this morning from BNA to Miami, but the flight is cancelled 6 Lily Prazsky Happy snow day. Check out The Present on www.truthcontest.com on your day off. M Saim Butt plz addd me friends **①**① **Shannon Melinda** i would have been affected but am not... **60 Drammeh Ba Abdallah** Thats the will of God. ① Lê Khánh Loan luckily, my country don't have phenomenon (5)(8) **Lipa Lindsay** yes...endless apologies at work to customers who don't understand the power of snow **6 6**

Kevin Luby That's why I live in Florida now. Went through the Blizzard of 78 in Boston area. Fun when you are seven. Not fun when you are 43. ① M

Wanjogu G Musa A god lives some place else, but not on this land . . . M

Joyce McCallum So! What else is new? I live in Michigan!

Noor Rawan mabey bush busterd send some aid ① ®

Brianna Clark Oh poor Washington DC is having an inch of snow. Wish that we here in California could get some of that, or even more of the wet stuff (rain) to feed the rest of the U.S. Prices are already going up on food in stores, and they are worried about an inch of snow. 6 3 4

Gift Nyirenda Africa is blessed, no such kind of weather. What a beautiful continent. M

Shamim Siddique II go ahead (6)

Danny Wurr A heavy Russian storm is causing disruption in eastern areas of Europe.

Peter Graves I thought it was only the UK that shut down for a bit of snow!

Brian Johnston All white around the White House! **M**

Paul Duncan Extreme levels of stupidity here, why on earth would you film a forced resignation letter? 15 M

Justin Mead Its better then hearing about obama. **©**①

Jonathan Buttall So why are you babbling about him? Go away to a more appropriate site, this is not the place for moronic jokes.

Alia Fernandez Really? You'd rather hear about a boy being buried in an avalanche? This speaks volumes about you Obama haters ① (5)

Mike Walker Thoughts and prayers headed your way!!!!!

Eric Rex Old news M

Michael Skjervem Didn't that happen last Friday? (1)

Frank Ryan This is old news! **Lavonne Morris** Hope he is found OK! **M6 Peggy Porter DeFoor** Wonderful neighbors come together **Darrell Monaco** I was so happy to see the whole community help this family out. (5) **Laura L. Sifuentez** This is the first I heard of this story...just glad the boy & the elderly couple were okay. M (5) Elder Moses Akintan Can u see it? (1) **Justin Mead** Haha, you idiot. ^③ **F M Frank Ruggiero** Justin, the word is than not then. Yvette Marie Gaudreau hope he is safe M Annamarie Rios GOD BLESS! 60 **Bryan Bissell** Silly CNN every other network on earth already beat you to this story. 36 **Sri Vaddadi** This is a facebook page, not their main site. **60** Justin Mead Ya, I would. I'm from North Dakota and missoula news is much more informational then obama sucking russian dick. That speaks volume of you obama lovers. **OKE Muhammad S. Islam** This was a great thing to do. **Beth Martin** Praying for all involved! **M** Todd Parsons CNN/CIA network .. wife and i turn on CNN to get a good laugh at the bad acting .. **®**6 Arinda Geilla Rafael give current nws **OMK** (5) **Justin Newsome** Who's to say it wasn't loaded? ①

Bri MacArthur Could have been an automatic! M(5)

Artu Deetew ALWAYS assume it's loaded! **© L**

Gary Lay Someone could have been wounded by a booger missile. (5)

Alex Ravenelle They need to think about banning high capacity finger magazines if you ask me. No one needs more than 2 fingers. (5)

Caitlin Elizabeth C he might've had the safety off **O O**

Александар Пејовски An assault with laser pointer finger gun. Extremely dangerous!

⑤ №

Dave Peterson You have a good point there Justin.

Stephanie Crisp "Halt! I have a NAIL GUN" Bud-um tss. I'll show myself out.... 13 (5)

Joe Murawski How about the Emperor from Star Wars and the way he could shoot lightning from his fingers?

Ernny Ellsworth A loaded finger? That's funny. (5)

Shawn Hughes had a booger bullet i seen it **®**

Holly Pitkin O'Brien Gary Lay - that made me laugh out loud.

Bob Cameron Has the right to bear arms ... but not fingers???? №

Will C Pace I bare my finger all the time in traffic.

Barry Ballew Meanwhile in other countries that hate us,10 year Olds are trained to use real AK-47s.. **6**

Eric D Molino lol in africa and afghanistan 6 18

Mark Stürsy Eric, and the middle east, and south america, and asia. (8)

Leonardo Vides the wussification of America happening right before our own eyes. wth makes these decisions? **BMOK**

Brian McQuiston I blame the lack of positive male identity brought about by single mothers and the implication that we're disposable. This is a predictable outcome of chicks being allowed to run things the way they have. **B \bigcup**

Richard Persaud In a few years, he'll be arrested for attempted manslaughter when he's caught fingering his girlfriend. Stupid freakin' jerk society we live in. **QB**(3)

Wayne N Mary Higgins You win sir! Someone give this man a gold medal! (5)

Mark Stürsy Winner of March Internet comment

Lisa Lescarbeau Because you can't distinguish the gun shaped hand of a 10 year old from the real thing??? (5)

Kerrie Jaques Read the article. (15)

Jeni Moran I'm a teacher... That would not be acceptable in my classroom... I do not have the power to suspend kids but I would refer the child to the office... You cannot take gun violence lightly... I work in a school district where violence is common ... I don't want to promote that as acceptable behavior ③⑤①

Eric Isaac Glad you don't work here because I would have you run off if it was the last thing I did. Teachers like you bringing political BS into the classroom should be kicked in the rear end right out the door.

Skeet Hirsch "Can't take gun violence lightly". Do you even hear yourself? H

Jim Layfield Chop his hands off. That'll disarm him. If that statement seemed ridiculous, so is that schools rule

Ulrika Miller This is getting so stupid!! Kids are not allowed to be kids anymore! SHAME on the adults here! idiots all of you. ⊕ № €

Jeff Biggerstaff I'd say that blew my mind, but then I'd be suspended... **()**

Shannon Robbins Solomon Yeah I'm not even going to read this horseshit. ③ 🗗 🛈

Kerrie Jaques Then you shouldn't bother commenting. **(**

David Bell We used to make rubber band guns and blow darts in class. We would have been little felons by this measure. (5)

Heather Walters Come on people! Let's just make EVERYTHING an issue! **(1)** (5)

Angel A. Licerio LMAO!!!!! My son got suspended for pretending to "make it rain in class lol this is freaking hilarious! **B**6

Gary Reardon it could have been loaded with a booger! **®**

Joe Hernandez Wow, you scared me. I thought he did something crazy like bring a bible to school or wear a shirt with an American flag. (3)

Dustón McCreary Neither of those are banned legally, so stop crying.

Petie Draszt Good grief! Now they get suspended for being children. I'm 60 and we all played cops and robbers doing the same thing. What the hell is the matter with people!!!

(H) (B)

Mayor Marcia Kulp this is why planned parenthood and free birth control is so important. **⊗**

Geraldine Elizabeth Drewlo And when you need them they arent there. ①

Benjamin Springer Planned parenthood and free birth control? Give me a break! Go back to your video games and leave the problem solving to the ADULTS. ① 15

Yvonne Erdman Yes Benjamin Springer, that comment was very adult. Sarcasm intended.

Peggy George Uliasz If you don't want your children, don't kill them. There are couples who do. How horrible for those children to know she wanted to kill them. **O**(5)

Terry Rumler Really Penny? YOU have no clue what her mental state or that she feared for the safety of her children because of her husband. How judgemental of you. ①

Phenecia Allen Get her birth control ASAP & a psychiatrist!!! 6

Mar Gonzalez she doesn't need a mental evaluation. She knew when to get out of the car. She needs jail time. ①②f5

Stephen Fredrick "...ended up in the ocean..." ? Seriously? She tried to whack her kids, or as you at CNN would call it, "ultra-late-term abortion". Just sayin'. ②③①M

Dylan Black They really try to paint what she did in the rosiest of hues, don't they? ①

Taylor Gilman She needs a job.

Terica Pickrell According to one of her lawyers she does have a job.

Taylor Gilman Good. Then she can pay for school herself. **M** (5)

James E Taylor She needs a bat to her skull! (5)

Robert Beneux and a slap to the face **(6)**

John Gambino and a kick in the butt. **© (E)**

Mohammad ST she needs my dick. **⑤ ⑥**

Danielle Allen she works part-time but she still has not learned nothing! **3 ®**

Nicole Lesiak because we all know a job she can get at this age will really pay the cost of college. **(S)**

Taylor Gilman Good point but she could at least save up. **M**

Farmer Tess Mohammad, that was rude and uncalled for.

Conni Spellman She has a college fund and will have access to it according to what I read. (5)

Robert Groves Her private school tuition is paid for already. She can get grants, scholarships, and loans to get into school. She's an honor student. She should be able to handle it. (15)

Ronda Betts lots of people need jibs, most of those jobs require a degree ① 6 to

Susan James I read the same thing. Her parents created a college fund. She can use that at an affordable college. She thinks her parents owe her more than that though!

Theo R. Balabanis its called a college loan ⊕®

Joel Javan College fund all used up for the lawyers....sorry honey...welcome home!!!!

Tim Millerman Of course this girl was out of line, but some of these comments calling for violence and sexual harassment are uncalled for. Two wrongs don't make a right. \bigcirc

Anthony Michael Auernheimer I mean I have a friend who works and pays for most of his tuition at 19 soo.... ①

Maya Warren She has a job already working at TGI Fridays. Look up her profile page. This is what happens when you put cock in front of family. Family will always be there for you. Boyfriends come and go everyday. **6**③**F**

James Burczyk It worked before it took decades to actually carry out the sentence (5)

Elliot Gilfix Yeah, let's do whatever we can to increase the number of wrongly-convicted people being executed. 3500

Andrew L Lampart SENTENCING and CONVICTION are COMPLETELY different things. Know the difference between the two before you go posting on everybody's comments. **©**

Jakub Kuźmiński How about those people you hear about every day, that they were convicted yet innocent, and it took years to prove through DNA evidence. If they had been executed you wouldn't be able to revoke that now. You would have killed innocent people, can you imagine a greater crime? Just think about it, not only do you kill an innocent person but at the same time you are letting the murderer go free. (6) (5) (1)

Elliot Gilfix No Andrew, I understood what was said. The reason it takes so long is because of appeals.

Rick McCarthy There are many there in California and there is no debate, they were mass murderers. More have died from natural causes than from being put to death. (5)

Paul B. Frieling Shut up CNN!!! 86

Daniel Alexandre Use bitcoin. So basic. Much income M

Cheikh Gaïndé Fatma Mbaye poor oscar! (6)

Rachel Patrick send him to prison, he knew what he was doing.... (8)

Lancelot Muzvidziwa He shld rot in jail ①

Lizzie Garner Elliott He's so guilty! What kind of intruder takes a wizz before they rob you!! Come on!! **&**

Iván Morelos Best pope weve had ① M (5)

Mazi Jack Sunday I think the pope should be a little more democratic. Majority of catholics would be against this. I am moderate. €

Jonathan Buttall Mazi Democracy does not create wisdom or good decisions and no religion can be democratic and accomplish anything. The US is a Republic for this reason as well, our Founders knew that a pure Democracy would make bad and bigoted decisions. (5) (6)

Arnold Kuyindama the pope needs to read the book of life in which name he's standing up there even tho God never asked a pope to rule His church. popoty it's a human conception **®QQ**

Tammy Perez I pray you and your pope wake up b4 its to late in Jesus Christ Holy name!

John Menyhard Can a male join a girl team. just to be fare ① 6 to

Jessica Forrester You can, if there is a team that is all girls and there is not an equilivent for the boys then you can join. We had one guy in volleyball and one in cheerleaders the years I fought to wrestle. The worst though is the parent I don't want my sons putting their hands there. (3)(1)

Cassandra Case There were male cheerleaders at my high school.

Mikell Reed Carroll Fair not fare and only if there is not a boy's team, lets be serious though there are almost always a boys team. **W**①

Stephen D. Trawick How about we don't separate sports teams by sex? ①

Eric D Molino steve, what about cheerleading **6**

Lau Ryder Normally girls join boys teams because there isn't a girls team for that particular sport. But if there was ever a girls team for a sport & not a boys team, you should totally be able to join. Fair is fair, right? ①⑤

Nathan Swenson How many of her 107 "wins" are through forfeit where a male refused to wrestle her? She's maybe 120lbs, so probably not too many males her age in her weight class, so not a real comparison. What built in defense does she have if she's "groped" during a match? Suddenly her opponent is a registered sex offender. (5) (8)

Jenna Nand What an awesome young woman! Kudos, Julia! My mom wouldn't let me join the wrestling team in middle school, and I still regret not being able to participate in this sport. (5)

Lobsan Barrera Now that is some great wrestleling skills!!! ①

Rico Marquez Naje Go girl.

Sean McCurdy Check it out Zach McCurdy ... Bravo !!! (5)

Alexander Terech unmanned ships = more unemployement ①

Santanna Potts My thoughts exactly! M

Salvator Smolinski You rekon they build themselves? ① ₩

Rene Weiland Yhe but if there are not inaf jobs you can train yourself as mutch as you want, but your not gething a job! ①

Asad Tirmizi Somali pirate's wet dream. (5)

Margo Francois Lejeune agree with you ...only in a perfect world! So dream on! M (5)

Ire Mb Maybe if the government didn't allow all the additives, preservatives, hormones, GMOs, pesticides, herbicides, and other carcinogenic shit that's allowed in our foods for food companies to save money, we'd be able to eat whatever we wanted... ① **(5) (6) (F)**

Andreas Stürmer Leave away GMO and I agree. GMO itself is not bad. Just if the farmer uses the pesticides (wich the gm plants are resistant to) **6 1**

John Furr There is just no way around it. A plant based diet is going to be significantly better over the long haul that a meat based diet. There are just to many studies to refute this at this point. Even perfectly wild game in a pristine environment isn't going to compete the nutrition of plants. (5) (1)

Chris Aristonyme How do you expect food to stay good if you use no preservatives? (salt is a preservative, btw). **6**

Ash Breese governmental control is not the problem. people need to take personal responsibility for their actions instead of blaming everyone else. no one makes us eat it. **(K)**

Rochelle Marie Eloranta That burger looks amazing. 4

Ron Martin Looks tasty. M

Derek Birch it's up to you not the government just do not go down that road give it a miss

Andres Hernandez That's the problem, looks fucking delicious!!! ⊚ ∪ №

Kenneth Copeland Jr. Eat healthy, exercise, die anyway. (5)

Kevin Brown Id rather eat that juicy looking bitch and die young! Lol 600 F

Rachel Lungile Lwantale I'm lucky to be in uganda, where i can access fresh fruits and vegetables, just had pineapple and mango salad. (© ① (5)

Damian Pritchett your place looks so beautiful **(6)**

Violet Don Damn that burger looks good €

Steve Curtin Yeah, except what you're looking at is not cheese. Probably not really meat either. (C)

Larry Plummer Yum - double bacon cheeseburger looks delicious!! (3)

Linda Stokes Tell that to my 97 year old father whose favorite food is meat, potatoes, gravy, cheese and peanut butter. He is on no medication. (5)

Jill Agnew RN That looks amazing. I'm going to five guys for dinner. (5)

Terry Hallman Damn that burgers look awesome!!! **©**

Lenny Hatzinger Wait, what?!? Horses go to the gym? 4

Peter Bourgoin Everybody loves meat. Lol. Kill it an grill it. Lol 360

Jon Smith II Totally getting cancer. M(5)

Demetrios L. Consolo Its not protein that kills. Watch "Forks over knives" ① M (5)

Lynn Ferguson Go ahead. Eat lots of slimy cheese and greasy meat, morons...and die off fast! (B)

Matt Pitts They never do studies about how soy killed my dog and stole my Nintendo. (15)

Joe Kohnke Our health is more important than anything else on this planet. If you struggle being healthy stop looking at pictures like this. God bless. (3)(5)

Jarrod Jrock And on the other scientifically backed proven and accredited side diets high in meat and low in carbs is the healthiest way to go.....hmmm 4 13

John Furr Show a single scientific reference that backs this claim. (5)

Javier Vasquez Vazquez What about a hacker makes the ship go elsewhere 3

Vanguard Villarta Rebucas there are a lot things in a ship that only a human can do..so it's still going to be a long shot for these things... **O**

Andy Pryor Yeah right! Millions of dollars onboard and electronic failure bound to happen believe they always will be manned! **M**3 **(5)**

Zimmer Zim Rolls Royce better be aware of Skynet taking over!

Joe Siano I'm sure the somolian pirates will love these ships especially since no one is on board to fight back ①①

Gaetano Gary Pacitti What about the risk of pirates? nobody on board to stop them taking everything! **⊗**

Sziyang Cheah Easier for Pirates. M

Eduardo Virmond Possible and logical, but not practical at all. M

Conor White Great for technology but very bad for jobs. All these machines taking over, nothing will be left for humans. If there is no need for human workers then how can we earn a living? **M**

Rey Mark Bilon ...nobody there inside ..i dont think its safe..anything can go wrong... ①

Lorin Sherman What a fascinating idea! Much more realistic than self-driving cars. **M3**

Andy Pryor Yeah out of control and coming to a harbor near you M

Steve Johnstone Do they work in McDonalds?

Joe Culler She's twerking all the way to the bank. (4)

Phil Will Man,.. He looks so cool,.. Like an awesome friend ,.. He looks like he would have my back,.. If I gotta go swim and take care of some serious stuff,.. I want him with me,.. Coolest turtle I've ever seen ① 15

Chris Mcwonderful They travel along the EAC and help guide Dory and Marlin to find Nemo6

Zarinahb Subahan Abdul Subahan love them. M®

Kevin Hickerson had to adjust my eyes that's a cool pic Eric... **M**4

Manila Lamichhane its amazing (1)

Matt Haynes When my father was born his dad was almost 60, when I was born my father was 36. We are just fine. They keep filling our heads with reasons we are born fucked up to distract from the true causes like vaccines, radiation, pharmaceuticals. (5)

Kayla Rogers Interesting article I can understand how it increases the risk, its not a guarantee. Just like it isnt a guarantee for women. (5) (1)

Harley Alderson Bullshit on this "study" retardation don't happen because of that **(F)**

Nangu Mbishi You guyz,do you kno the story of zakaria??that man he got a child when he was old,ril old ,and his son YAHYA was bright ,non of physical and mental problems.what can you say abt this,,??) ① ®

Elizabeth Paul Harley... If retardation doesnt come from that then y cant u learn grammar? R u retarded? ①①

Matt Haynes You made grammar mistakes too lady. Focus on the point.

Tom Tredinnick I don't mind bad grammar but "retardation" is a bit of a harsh way to put it. ①

Rithu Vichu Wtf? New theories nd innovatins...! Damn 50

Val K. Nakahara But if an 80 yr. old man impregnates a 18 yr old girl, it all cancels out. Right. SM

Betterdays When Maybe people having children at a later age is because society is now so greedy & self centered that having children doesn't enter they're minds until they're partying life ends or they realize oh shit I'm going to be alone when I'm old. ① ① ② ②

Michael William Stormwolf I'll make babies nonstop (1)3

Fernanda Boer Go ahed and NOW destroy the polar bear environment!! What a mess humanity is! STOP reproducing people, so that other species do not have to give away their homes because we cant stop ① ⑤

Talia Lippe Dude!!!! I had thought of this! And wondered why no one had thought about it!! Finally!! Hope in humanity is restored!! **® M**

Rusty Zerafa Why don't you havest the plastic and clean up the oceans first OO

Jim Mulholland Desalination and more dams. This is a waste of money. (5)

Lisa Tamis I agree. And the waste of energy transporting the ice.

Bartley Dacutanan dams are no good jim. (8)

Bill Cohen Seems like it would be easier to just build a desalinization plant. **M**

Apisit Sk Stupid project. You are destroying nature and world. How the earth effect if iceburg melt faster? **№** ① **⑤**

Daeng Roberchoe Waste of money!!!! M

Mary Jane Buenaventura Awesome! M

Chris Niewiarowski U know what makes much more sense? Desalinization ①

Syed Rizwi Earth is going to be slowly slowly in danger zone....must we should be concern and respect our planet.... M

Linda Cleaver This is very interesting!!

Spring D. Lamb Desalination is better by far. You still have costs for transporting fresh from a glacier, and it's irresponsible to rob the "world's bank" of fresh water instead of working to desalinate and clean ocean water off our coasts. (5)

Sharon Sanders Does anyone have an environmental impact study on this??? 9

Rae Siui And why don't they build dams / tanks for all the storm water run off??? And also dig the rivers deeper and wider to lessen damage of flood waters?? (5)

Richard Faulkner I think it's a brilliant idea & I believe a combination of ideas like this are what's needed to save us all;-) **D** (5)

Marvin Sato We are 70% water..right? But cost for desalination is rather high..how about rainwater or snow for that matter..I heard some are really harvesting bergs as is..sort of designer water for the haves... **M3**

Kevin Pinel They should talk to Dick Smith. He was a genius at moving bergs LOL (5)4 **Yusef Tamemy** so nice **M®** Garet Mair Scarce? It hasn't stopped raining since October here! (5) Cindy Moser Logan Some of them resemble todays domestic chickens. Little dinos! 04 Matthew Linsner Bet they didn't have to worry about someone telling them they can't eat a hamburger. **M①③** Harry Baweja we must protect our wildlife 3 (5) **Linda Devening** if u carry it in, then take it out... **① (Angela Christine** AMEN! and that goes for anywhere you go, not just Mt Everest (3)(15)(H)(K) Xandra Escorsa Hello discovery news! I hate those people who spam your awesome wall and comment nasty things. Block them pls. **19 Lmi Persian** You can do that yourself.. just Click on the "x" on the right side of their comment.. (3) **Sparsh Chandra** Lets go there.. I'm bored being on Earth for so long **OO Kenneth Olasiman Tilos** dude! cant blame them it;s their joblooking for planets not planes! wat if we turn it around those marines and those others who are searching for the lost plane and let them find a new planet i am 1000000 sure they cannot find it because its not their job... just saying **BOM®** Eric Haley Just goes to show that God is infinite and our finite minds simply cannot keep up or imagine how great the universe really is.i believe that we are living in an infinite universe. (15) (6) Elena Michael Great! Maybe Elvis is there?!!!! M Paula Suzanne Pollitt Any chance I can move there? **M**(5)

Cristian Vecchiet maybe this is the Sumerian planet called Nibiru (8)

Iyke Emanuel We need the misin flight not a new planet **① M**

Cosmic Badger That's no small planet. I've got a bad feeling about this. **()**

Tania Rajbangsi Yes find out the missing plane not planet !!!!!!

Arash Ahmadi we have done nothing in this planet what the hell should we do there. millions of people facing with poverity and suffering from the uncomfortable situation which we and our government has made it we haven.t finish school how can join university lol ① 🍪

Fabio Parente One can only hope the people commenting in this thread will not reproduce. Ever. **M**(**1**)

Carlos Shinji Mariona Ok.... now im just waiting for all the nut bags who are going to say thats niburu. 5... 4... 3.... 2... 1...... **B** ① **K**

Moon Glow why don't ya find a way to feed, shelter, heal the people on earth? **O (8)**

Fabio Parente Because those are not scientific problems, they are political ones. Stop complaining that astronomers are not fixing the planet (which is not their job) and go complain to your elected officials. Idiot. (5)

Austin Cole Well, you can make shrimp tacos, shrimp stew, shrimp sandwiches, shrimp gumbo. (5) (0)

Denae Hughes Money would help with funeral or memorial services and to support their families but besides that money means nothing. I got a small inheritance from my father and whatever I bought with the money was just a constant reminder that he was gone. So money can make things easier but it does nothing to ease the pain... (5)

Sydney Love Richburg Money means nothing when it comes to the loss of a loved one. If they had life insurance, that can cover memorial tributes and pay off bills. But I'm not sure if the airline has any payouts due to the fact that there's no guarantee that a flight will be successful. Now if it's proven that it was compromised by something faulty or those stolen passports or pilots, then the airline shout compensate (3) (5) (15)

Thokozane H Njirayafa I dont think that plane crashed, there is something fishy about this, but the trueth shull come out coz even the blind can see what is going on **900**

Jorge Arellano No, it can't. If i would loose a loved one I would not take the money... humans have lost the meaning of compensation. You can't ever replace a loved one with money. I would want justice. ①① &

Georgios Maccuswel The headline for this article/blog post is ridiculous. Do you even think for one second these families will feel better getting monetary (man-made bullshit) compensation will alleviate the loss of a loved one? To even posit such a query is deplorable. These poor souls have been through hell. 3 **(5)**

Mohamed Reza Fahlavy greed has whispered and for some, and there will be some, that will fight for lifelong financial support. **89** ©

Jamie Bonner Can't put a price on loved ones. **M** (5)

James Walper Get life insurance, or travel insurance... I don't see how every tragedy needs to be payed out by other people. ① ① ⑤ ⑤

Everist Yang-blunt Ben Money can't bring back the dead,
It has happened and nothing can change it, not even money,
But I pray that the Merciful God console every family involved in this terrible victim,
Amen!! ① (5)

Heather Bieke Do they offer life insurance in case of an accident on a plane? I don't think the airline should pay, since they don't even have a cause! IF they find bodies in any pieces of wreckage, then I guess it would be a nice gesture to give the families a small sum of money to cover burial/cremation. (5) (1)

Colby Wentland Ooo look a reward!!! From a highly reputable salesman! 38(3)

Alex Ibarra hell no it can't... maybe greedy people who only care about money will be relieved but from there on out it's impossible © ①

Fernnanda Freyre Money can relieve alots! What can not, the person can to use the money for to solve or for to feel better or more confortble. Money is good! Money is freedom! Money is power too! Grief is a grief anyway. If have a gillty, that gillty have to pay! All the rest its you with what rest of that your life, and yours deals with God! ① (5)

Lynn Cernosek No. But it can pay for some bills while they are grieving imagining their loved ones in the bottom of the ocean. Make life not quite so hard.

(5)

Mark James It won't relieve grief, but it darn sure will prevent many OTHER things from stressing them out. Plus it is also a gesture of good will. (5)

Jesse Andujo It depends on the current economic status of the family. When families are prepared they tend to start campaigns of awareness to help avoid other families go through the same pain. Being pro active helps a great deal. When families are not prepared cash payouts help but just until the money runs out. (5)

Joey Martorano What if the missing parts they found were from something else the plane can still be intact it could have even been hijacked so many possibilities (5)

Vilas Mandlik Paying money may relieve guilt. Passengers traveling by air, it doesn't matter much. (5)

Coachcliff Jordan Nope! (B)

Dawn Haight Money does help grief in the sense of finance relief.. While grieving not stressing out over money allows you to focus on recovering from your loss.. Other wise money can't bring back the people you love... (500)

Eye Onyu A million for each dead person would ease some of the grief but not the measly five thousand I heard they would get. **(B)**

Elisa Nepomuceno Yes, Money relieves one from anything.

Marzane Nieuwoudt If the people that were on the flight were the breadwinners of the household then yes it will help... 3

Francis Gamboa Bagatsing I think in the end yes. Especilly if they have a family to feed.

①

Ana Surita Anadon hell no! money can't buy life @ 60

Anthony Esekhaigbe Total up all man hour spent searching for this plane, total up the cost of all the planes, ships, and satellites involved in this search and the stress caused us the helpless onlookers then share this sum to the bereaved families. That's what the lost lives are worth. 3 (5)

Mizbah Saiyed No, money cannot give them relieve

Kenneth Copeland Jr. So tell me, Discovery. Who's writing your material now? Uncle Scrooge? (5) (L)

Martha Usinomare Cash can't bring dead love ones back, it can only help dos bereving ones to cope to some extent ①①①

Aaron Rutherford nope. We know the risks every time we fly. (5)8

Benjamin Bdk Kutian No, Money can not bring the human nature.....Pleas how was it going now, about a plane because its unbeliveable think that occours so please any good details from you... ①

John Thiel First of all, it couldn't hurt. In some cultures, like Japan, it's traditional to give a small amount of money to a grieving family because it's the one thing you can do to take the stress off a bit. In addition to funeral expenses, and I'm sure a lot of other expenses in a case like this, money is a helping hand in time of need, even if the money isn't actually necessary.

And money from sympathetic strangers is not the same as money from the liable party. Whatever money they do get--speaking as someone who was horribly injured in an accident and did collect from the responsible party--it's never enough.

Events like this turn your life upside down in every possible way, including financially. You can't even predict what this is going to do to one person's life, much less the hundreds of relatives and friends effected by this incident. (8) (5) (1)

Ashley Hughes This is what happens when people watch too much tv or play too much blackops. **6**

Darren K. Nelson Zombies aren't what we need to worry about...it's Dracula and his legions of werewolves, everybody knows that. These news journalists really need to get their facts straight.

...O.K. I just lost 2 minutes of my life writing this post that I'll never get back. Bahahaha!

Toritsegin Abiburg Faith After liking it i couldnt wait to coment. u made my day hilarious. **(**)**

Senad Kolina i just wasted a minute to comment on your useless post in which you lost 2 minutes writing lol **⊗**

Deborah Dopp It's the way of the world. Selfies are just a way of sharing. Get over it. **9 C Krystal Delaney** Well looks like Discovery went to shit too.... **F M**

Damian Pritchett Not a news station (M) (15)

Eric Uff Yes...but they have already proven that they will fail if vampires attack....especially in that 30 days of night stretch. (5)

Senad Kolina lol 6

Selice Bradley This is news worthy?

Fad Deelah Zombie eats brain.....You are safe! (5)

Chere Nicholas of course alaska is ready...they all already live off the grid! **(8)**

Steve Davey Is this a serious news channel/page?? (5)

Gaurang Gupta Ya, they told that in resident evil 3 movie.... 🚱 🔾

Tony Miller Someone watches too much TV! **6**

Shelby Pollock But how long can it live without food relative to rats with the gene. There's a reason why mammals stack on fat. It's a way to survive during times where food is scarce. (5)

Charles Nicole John Sevilleja yep, but unless you're below the poverty line, this trait is counterproductive ①①③

Danilo Oliveira I was thinking the same, some stuff that help us in the wild won't help us in a modern society. but it still need more study in humans, we don't know if that gene has more roles **O C**

Mahbuba Siddiqua I believe that this basic research shows us only the effect of FAT10 gene in terms of fat tissue accumulation in mice. Hopefully, this findings will expedite further research on possible factors associated to the expression of that gene. Once those

factors are known, people can incorporate those information in their eating and exercise habit, of course according to their body mass, to improve the overall lifestyle. (5)3

Angelo Inanoria GIVE THAT MAGICAL POTION TO ME NOW whatever. **65**

Andreas Stürmer Gene therapy is illegal still... But totally feasible (5)

Tony Haskins sorry...I don't wanna be a GMO person...or have GMO kids.....didn't we fight a world war over some guy wanting to create a master race ?....isn't GMO people the same ? 6 0 0 0

Andreas Stürmer No. Exactly the opposite. The guy you mentioned killed all the guys with "inferior genes" and disabled persons. Now we can offer them gene therapy and they can live a normal life again if they choose to do so. GMO in people increases genetic diversity (1) (15)

Missy Mcgovern-Prather So how long before big money tries to convince people they should have this done to their child and they will only need to take a pill to help the body adjust and then a pill to help the 1st pill work better and eventually unexplained diseases and cancer rates rise which leads to more pills....ugh...leave nature alone and all living things. They have survived millions of years without our interference! (13)

Andreas Stürmer Nature is no stable system. There have always been mutations and recombinations. Even if we let nature alone, it would still exist. (5)

Chris Ryckman How about more people exercise, eat better and read the packaging for desired results! (5)

Robert Marks Way to go Allon! cannot wait and read more of your great work **₩**€

Sean Gunn I wonder how well they would survive in the wild. The gene exists for a reason it seems to me.

Krista Jean Klaas Now if they could only make a glow in the dark marijuana plant! (5)

Joseph Ross Jeanes *cannabis. Marijuana is a Mexican tobacco. Unless you meant the tobacco one. (5)

Aditya Pawar agree with his man M

Eduardo Bosch I won't buy any unless God made them... Not man. MQ

Luke NightRunner Carter What are you even doing on a Science Page if you're such a God Fearing fool? Some LOGIC for your ass-backwards self: God creates Universe, creates Humans, to create whatever the fuck we like. Stop believing in fairytales and Get over It! ① ③ 3

Keng Hua Tan Using a God-created device, commenting on a God-created social media on God-created internet? (3)(5)

Will Onii Santiago If you don't like this, then perhaps you would like a glowing mushroom? If you know where to look, you can find them with out having a scientist alter them just to glow in the dark. ①①

Dok Beall Foxfire glows naturally 3

Ashley Vernon This is unnecessary and could have serious consequences. What's to keep these plants from mating with plants from the outside world? ① 15

Arsh Dhillon "Bluntly put, not all GMOs are equal," Holmes told Fox News. "It depends on what plant you're using, genes you're using, and what you're using it for." The risks are higher when plants in question are intended for human consumption, but Arabidopsis is just a "WEED". In terms of invasive species danger, risks also plant-specific. "This depends partly on how easy it is for the plant involved to spread its pollen and therefore its genes to other plants," Holmes said. **6 15 L 8**

Cindy Seto this gotta be a joke. **① ®**

Eric Ong Mess with mother nature and she will find ways to screw back at you. **©**®

Joseph Ross Jeanes Instead of looking to the negatives, try looking at the positives. (5)

Matthew Bermudez Plants from Fukushima....I'm good (1)

Bradley McDonald I want these. M

Arsh Dhillon What Next....? Glowing patatoez...? **№**①

James Taylor What about Cameron and Obama's aggression against the world?

Ronnie Murphy I think that's much the same as our "War on Terror" (or what we decide is terrorism).... ①

Guo Xiongwei Cameron & Obama don't put protestors & Opposition politicians into jail; u can always migrate to Russia if u think it's great for your democratic rights & Freedom of Speech. Q ①

Muyingo Abdulhakim Long live russia and a great shame 2 NATO and its allies **⊗ ○**

Mario Gohill I think bbc is run by some comedians!

Marko Laci Rafaj If NATO didn't place radars and missiles in Eastern Europe none of this would have happened. In case any of you are wondering I am from that part of Europe and NO since americans arrived we do NOT feel safe with russian nukes pointing at us. Europe has become one big battlefield for americans and their european puppets same as we have seen in Iraq recently! ③⑤®

Alan David Burgess Suggest you watch Russia Today new channel, now that's comical!

Miracle Dip BBC is full of propaganda as u are most of the time ①

Tim French Still ignoring the fact that the power crazy EU started all this then?. **6**

Luke Welshy Grattan You're the one making it worse then BBC ① ①

Danny Hunter Should do a map with all the NATO bases all over the world and not single one in Russia. (5) M

William Wachira It woun't end well if smthng is not done ① ①

Mario Gohill Let us talk abt the island south of south america and the british terrorism there. ① **(C)**

Alan Slater Free Europe? You think Britain is free? M

Ìan Grày Russia can invade a country but I can't buy weed legally yet.... **®**

Manuel Bogner wonderful, there is evident how the EU and the Nato expand in the region of the former satellite-states during the last years!! ③

Miracle Dip I agree mario (6)

Paul Humphry James Taylor its about Ukraine don't take it off Topic. ① (1)

Michael Smith Its good that NATO is making a stand against Russia to let Putin walk all over countries is wrong. I am also not surprised that Russia has now slowly started to talk with Ukraine and also started to calm things down a tiny bit.. they have the gas and oil they wanted why risk more sanctions. ①

Robin Saxby Yet more biased reporting by the BBC... M

Martyn Van Der Voort Not an April fools - hordes of hipster kids are now frantically googling who Knuckles was. The man was a legend and all that love true house music owe to him and his vision. RIP one of music's greatest. **B 6**

Shaun Mcinnes House music created in Chicago was not to everyone's taste in USA so that's when it came to England think it was about 85ish when it came over here I remember he came here a lot cause we started the rave era and he influenced some of the biggest dj's in the world just ask the likes of sasha and Carl cox and if you don't know who they are educate yourselves R.I.P big man you influenced a generation ① **(L) (A) (6)**

Ben Reynolds Real Shame. He was DJ'ing at the Pleasuredome in Skegness back in 1993. One of the best nights I (don't really) remember... ① M

Geraldine Wall Gabhan. You really don't know what you are talking about, do you? Dance came from Chicago house. And here in manchester UK we embraced it big time. Thank you, Frankie and goodnight **®**

Karen Ann Marie Gabhan, you can find his history anywhere on the internet - even his Wikipedia. Quit acting like you know everything. You're wrong. Accept it. ①

Louisa Davis Lucy Fowler It's house! It's house! (L)

Marcia Elizabeth Evans RIP Frankie 6

Marcia Elizabeth Evans Roque and your comment matters because...... M

William Hutchinson Girl dies at school when a wall falls on her and first story on news is about royal mail, ridiculous ₩

Moses Akanbang Roland oh iz alwayz sad jxt 2 wake up n hear abt great people dead ①

Emi Beach Repent. Bible says in James 4 life is but a vapor. You need to repent of sin and trust Jesus. I used to be on extacy listening to franki. But no longer. Praise God. Repent. Death is real **OOK**

Adam Collier You were better off with the pills and house music, they were real.

Steve Locking That too young to die

Nele Zimele R.I.P Mr Knuckles i was your big fan. 6 (8)

Oumar Bestman Saye be it an april fool or no, may his soul rest and God grant him the luck to be to the HEAVEN **(C)**

Roque Hucajluk Most soulless and boring music ever, I didn't even know his name or that he was behind it. •

Eoin O'Donnghaile And you are of course entitled to that opinion Roque. Even if it is wrong. The fact remains that he helped start a genre that has brought joy to millions **W**

Roque Hucajluk Yes, indeed, he brought joy to millions, that fine. I just thought it was boring for my pleasure, but dull people love dull music, it doesn't mean that I'm right or wrong. Enjoy. \bigcirc

Sean MacDonald One of the best. A big part of my 90's soundtrack. **M3**

Christian Ascencio Jardinel R.I.P. Frankie Knuckles. One of the best DJ's. He will be missed. LOVE his music as well. **6**

Shaun Mcinnes I might be wrong people about my dates but please forgive me I am after all one of the hacienda faithful so memory isn't at it's best if you were there you will have a memory like mine :-) (5)(1)

Nick Wiggill Yes, smartarse. ®

David D Stanton As long as we are slaves to money there cannot be true freedom.

Feyyaz Cihangir I am from Turkey. and freedom for me use to Twitter and Youtube ...what a fun isnt it ?? ① ®

Terry Ndokosho what a fun indeed my friend..

Graham Joyce no such thing as freedom.. **M**

James Taylor We're all going to die. We're all going to the same dark, rancid hole. Accept it, and try and live your life the best you can. Scientists will only spoil it for you.

Jim Burton Those same people spent decades claiming that cigarette smoking was not harmful. I guess they lost that argument and now have another project.

Max Ferris I look forward to more propaganda (mass-psych) terms like "global warming" meaning anything the media wants to apply it to at anytime.... just like "terrorist" or "racist" or "Nazi". 7

Evan Kafara They are today's "the-earth-is-flat" people. 3

Will Happen They are yesterday's "smoking is safe", "asbestos is safe", "CFCs are safe", "lead in petrol is safe", "nuclear is safe" people. Still pumping out the corporate greed message at the expense of humanity, society and environment. **6**

David Thurston It has no credibility as it is political hot potato used to increase tax!

Chris Horner Thanks for fulfilling my expectations to the letter, David.

Bill Riley The best source for facts proving man-made climate change! 3

Robert John Newton-Howes "Media" is the plural of "medium". I really wish people wouldn't write "the media is", or "the media tells". ①

Gordon Fox It's an unproven theory at best, as is this report which is full of 'likelys' and 'coulds' and there's nothing more dangerous than an unproven theory that is presented as science fact. ①

Gregory D Esparza Ice ages happened before naturally so we are screwed regardless. **(B)**

Kelly Silva The sky is falling!!!! Run for your lives!!! **()**

Odero Sidney let him try smoking he'll see fire literary **(**

Ezeh John Obinna I was gobsmacked when i saw this picture. This goes to show what the sons of men do through in times of war. War isn't a good thing. That is why it must be avoided at all cost. According to General Emeka Ojukwu, he said, "i expect my soldiers to be gentle men in peace times. But, in times of war, they should be beast. I don't care if they eat with their foot. All i expect from them for them to win battles". This is the life of soldier. I am proud to be a soldier. ©①

Ang Kimsan They are close friends....

Bhokaali Aadmi Party Imagine a world war now in the times of selfies and facebook (4)

Danielle Edmondson Things that make u go boom!!! ①

Marge George My hubby is a Korean war veteran, one purple heart, 4 Bronze stars, don't tell him I told you ①

Let's Smile the war is horible i wish that the life wouldn't have a war ①®

Aldrin Rey slowy china (6)

Frank Moore You apparently have never lived in the vicinity of a large scale solar energy plant. They plow up all of the vegetation under and around the panels. Every time the wind blows, you end up with a massive dust storm eminating from the plant for miles and you'd think it's the end of the world. ①①

Anita Valdes they can't make big and quick money through solar panels so they wont push any further towards other better ways of making/using energy ①①

Pete McLeod Yea lots of 'amusing' comments (?) but this is the world you are leaving for your kids. Dumbasses. ©

Lorraine Newhill how sad. shouldnt be in a bloody cage to start off with. MOO

Lee Bailey Yeah, because it's in there because humans are just cruel and not because it's endangered and the zoos are trying to get the bloody things to breed. Plus it looks like quite a spacious place to live. ①

Christiaan O'Connell She's not soposed to be in a cage in the first place! Its actually depressing... ①①

Laura Carter You need to google how much \$\$ Catholic charities doles out each year before you make uninformed comments. (10)

Heather Cartwright How to cheer anyone up: baby pandas

Kerry Lynn Jacob let him go back to nature

Steve Weston What did they do to cheer her up? Build her an environment she deserved to have in the first place. Sad! **№**

Xue Huang Wanna to ba a panda, so amazing life! **① M**