**Lesson Plan - The Importance of Emojis in Multimodal Digital Communication – Unit 1**

Part of a sequence of lessons to learn about the importance of Emojis in multimodal digital communication

* Introduce multimodal communication by having students reflect on using text and emojis in everyday digital interactions.
* Demonstrate how emojis modify or enhance meaning in digital communication through examples and class discussion.
* Engage students in a hands-on activity where they create and interpret messages using text and emojis, followed by reflection.

**Skills:** language skills (reading/writing), communication skills, (social) media skills

**Class**: 3rd year

**Material:** PPT, Smartphone/Tablet

**Lesson length**: 45’

**General objectives**

By the end of this lesson, the students will be able to:

* Understand how multimodal communication integrates text and emojis to enhance meaning compared to face-to-face communication.
* Recognise the context-dependent nature of emojis and how their meaning can shift.
* Practice creating and interpreting multimodal messages to explore the relationship between text and emojis.

**Linguistic Awareness:**

* Recognising the shift from prototypical meanings to context-based interpretations.
* Understanding the interaction between text and visual modes (emojis) in communication.
* Introducing the idea of meaning in context.

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| **Timing** | **Tasks/topics** | **Objectives** | **Material used** | **How?** | **Who?** | **Linguistics concepts** |
| 7’ | Hook activity | Explore students’ interest on the topic of multimodality highlighting the difference in “spatiality” between face-to-face interaction and digital interaction. | Smartphones/laptops | Students analyze their online communication to explore how emojis contribute to multimodal interactions by conveying emotions and tone. | Teacher/students | Multimodal communication |
| 10’ | Comprehension | Illustrate how emojis function as a multimodal element that conveys meaning in digital communication. | PPT | Students compare text examples with and without emojis to analyze their impact on meaning. | Teacher + students | Multimodality |
| 10’ | Meaning in context | Show that the meaning of emojis is context dependent and that there is a difference between what is said and what is communicated. | PPT | Students interpret the referential and implicit meanings of emojis, analyze how their meaning changes in different contexts | Teacher | What is said vs. what is communicated |
| 10’ | Hands-on activity | Help students understand and articulate how emojis contribute to meaning in digital communication by translating their meaning into text. | Smartphone/tablet | Students create a short multimodal message using text and emojis | Students in pairs |  |
| 8’ | Discussion | Show how multimodal communication enhances meaning and depends on context. |  | Students explain differences between multimodal and monomodal comments using examples. |  | Multimodality  Context dependency |