Email Theory Strips

Which of the following pieces of research do you agree with?

Note the dates of the research. What is the problem with this?

Consider what you know about the structure of spoken interaction (topic change, turns, etc…). How is Netiquette different? Does it follow Grice’s maxims?

Herring and Petrie (1996)

In web forums, men are more informative whereas women use such forums for maintaining relationships. Men also counter previous postings whilst women develop them.

Petrie (1999)

After studying 38,000 British emails, Petrie coined the term ‘Emailisms.’ In order of usage, these were: trailing dots, capitalisation, quoting previous emails,. Excessive use of exclamation marks and question marks, email abbreviations, lack of conventional punctuation, non-standard spelling, non-alphanumeric characters, and smileys/emoticons.

Yates (1996)

Computer Mediated Communication (CMC) is closer to writing than speech but uses more second person personal pronouns than either speech or writing.

Collot and Belmore (1996)

Forums fall half way between speech and writing.

Werry (1996)

In internet chat, there is ‘an almost manic tendency to produce auditory and visual effects in writing, a straining to make written words imitate speech.’ He believed this was a sub-culture and that the absence of face-to-face communication along with the casual nature of speech meant that internet chat was more emotional, aggressive, and hypergendered in behaviour.