

OMG! R u txting in class?

Factors Observed in Student Texting In College Lecture Classes

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Introduction

- Texting is a growing controversy in college classrooms
- Cell phones are a large part of students' lives
- Professors find cell phones to be a nuisance (Gonzalez , 2009)
- Harley, Winn, Pemberton, & Wilcox (2007) suggested that texting could help students adjust to college setting

Three Hypotheses

- More females would be found texting compared to males due to the demographics on campus and the stereotype that females are more 'chatty'
- Texting would be more frequent in large class sizes due to the fact that students may be less likely to be caught by the professor
- Texting would occur more towards the end of the week compared to earlier because students may be making plans for the weekend

Method

Participants

- 123 UWEC undergraduate students
 - 32% male; 68% female
- Three class sizes: small, medium, & large
- Two lower level psychology classes & an Intro to Religions Class

Setting

- Lecture style classroom
- Researchers observed from back of the room

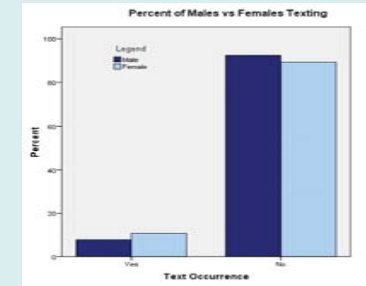
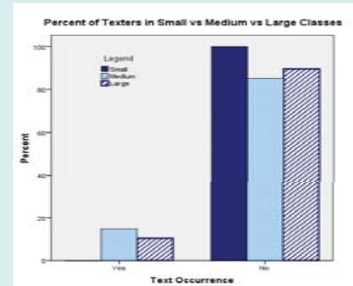
Procedure

- Naturalistic Observation (using operational definitions)
 - Texting*- having phone out and pressing buttons while moving fingers across the keypad
 - Texter*- any student engaging in texting
- Observers scanned the room to find students texting
- Clock time and location of room was recorded on the coding sheet
 - Method of texting was also recorded
- Interrater agreement was calculated after observation period

Results

- Kappa: 1.00 for class size, sex, and time of week
- Kappa: 0.91 for texting in class

	Class Size vs. Texting	Sex vs. Texting	Time of Week vs. Texting
Chi-Squared $\chi^2 (1, N = 123) =$	2.87, $p = .24$.28, $p = .60$	1.00, $p = .32$
Cramer's V	.15	.05	.09



Discussion

- An overall texting rate of 10% of students per class was observed regardless of class size, sex, or the time of week
- Internal Validity = moderate-high
 - Low observer bias due to operational definitions
- External Validity = low
 - Only at one campus, low sample size, & small time frame

Shout Outs

- Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Learning and Technology Services & the Differential Tuition
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