

## SCRIPT

[SFX- IPHONE UNLOCKING]

[EMILY EMOJI CLIP]

[SFX-TEXT TONE]

[LEO EMOJI CLIP]

[SFX- TYPING]

[MICAH EMOJI CLIP]

[SFX- TEXT TONE]

[RACHEL EMOJI CLIP]

[SFX- IPHONE LOCKING]

[INTRO BED]

I'm Kendall Fahey and this is Parlerai, or Will Speak in French. On today's episode, I'm going to only speak in emojis... I'm only slightly kidding. Let's get started.

[INTRO]

Emojis are relatively new. I'm talkin' like they were created in the late '90s. They haven't been around for very long but they have quickly become a staple in world communications.

[FADE OUT BED]

They were originally created by N-T-T Do-Co-Mo, a popular Japanese mobile carrier like Verizon or A-T and T in the United States. They gained more and more popularity in Japan but were inaccessible to anyone outside of Japan.

The solution? Unicode. A standard designed to make character encoding consistent across all platforms with the goal of making those little symbols accessible all around the world.

But it's not always that easy.

[INTRO BED 2]

Take flags for example. When they first were released, everyone wanted their flag as part of the big emoji family but that's just not logical. With one hundred ninety six countries currently in the world, not everyone could be included. So, it was decided that there were to be 26 "diplomatically-safe" flags to be used.

Despite their flaws, it seems like everyone nowadays uses emojis

But are emojis a language? They are global-understandable and we use them all the time. Heck even apple gives them their own keyboard. So why not?

[FADE OUT BED 2]

Well, what defines a language?

[INTRO BED 3]

Language is purely human. We aren't the only organism with the ability to communicate but we are the only known species to have languages. Chimpanzees, gorilla, and orangutans can exchange different kinds of information through shrieks, different facial expressions, gestures despite them lacking a language. Language has grammar, names for things, and meaning.

So, are emojis a language? Well, according to the Unicode Emoji Subcommittee, the group that has the official list of emojis, they aren't a language. They don't have the grammar or vocabulary to substitute for written language. They say that you can probably view them more like borrowing foreign words rather than a full language themselves.

However, other sources, such as Wired dot com, see emojis as a new language. They claim that we are developing syntax and rules for the use of emojis.

For example, when we use face emojis, we tend to put them before other object to convey how we feel about said object. In linguistic terms, they is called conveying "stance". The expression illustrates our stance on a topic before we've spoken a word.

The order of emojis can impact how the reader sees the situation. Emojis help clear up miscommunications.

Sending a text could be seen as angry but you want it to be funny? Slap on a laughing emoji. Want to explain that you feel embarrassed by something? An emoji can save the typing and the explanation.

I think the real question is, do languages have to be spoken in order to be a language because you can't speak emojis like you can with English or French or Spanish. But you can write emojis. They still have meaning and convey ideas and feelings. Just like hand motions and laughter.

[FADE OUT BED 3]

Wired dot com ended their article, titled “The Emoji is the birth of a new type of language”, by saying that text will always be our go-to communicators but emojis are just a cool upgrade to an already functional system. So maybe we can see them as a supplement to language in general. Maybe they will evolve into more.

[FADE BACK IN BED 3]

Language is always changing, growing, and fading but for now I’m comfortable with a little face on my phone showing my emotions to the world.

[SFX- IPHONE TYPING AND SENDING MESSAGE]]

For W-H-J-E, I’m Kendall Fahey with Parlerai, or Will Speak in French. For more stories like this, visit W-H-J-E dot com.