
SILENT BODIES AND TORTURED MINDS: UNVEILING THE HIDDEN MESSAGES OF EMAIL SILENT ENCOUNTERS – A KUWAITI EXPERIENCE



*Dr. Khadija Al-Ali**

Abstract

The paper presents a study that explores my experience of a text-based email communication and the silence within, in a Kuwaiti higher education workplace. Using autoethnography with a feminist eye and searching for the hidden meaning in e-mail texts, I argue that silence is locked in a dichotomy that simplifies the concept and masks the complex dynamics. I discuss the claim that email is a lean medium and show that it is premised on a comparison to face-to-face communication. This study leads me to conclude that silence is strategically used and has multiple meanings and that email context is a terrain of struggle over power.

Keywords: Autoethnography; feminism; email communication; virtual silence; Kuwaiti college.

* Public Authority of Applied Education and Training - College of Basic Education - Department of Educational Technology.