

‘WHY DIDN’T YOU ANSWER?’; PATTERNS IN ACCEPTING AND DECLINING MOBILE CALLS AND TEXTS

Sevde Uylaş¹, Büşra Yomak², Yeliz Bekbaş³, Allen Scarboro⁴

¹Fatih University, Istanbul, (sevdeuylas@gmail.com)

²Fatih University, Istanbul, (busrayomak@gmail.com)

³Fatih University, Istanbul, (yelizbekbas@gmail.com)

⁴Fatih University, Istanbul, (soccas@gmail.com)

Abstract

Mobile phones or currently popular smart phones are seen as one of the most significant means of socialization lately. Affecting our daily lives and relationship patterns, sometimes mobile phones replace the vivid people around us with those on the other end of the phones. The mobile allows users actually to evaluate situations and people through decisions to respond to or decline calls or messages, that decisions ‘evaluates people in our lives’. This study uses interviews and survey questionnaire data to explore how absent people have control over our lives through peoples’ mobile phone usages. Further, does the form of communication (calls versus texts) make a difference in the decision to accept incoming communication? Survey questionnaires were administered to 891 people over the age of 18 in Istanbul, asking respondents to reflect on the situations in which they decline calls or messages on their mobile phones. This paper compares the categories of people more likely to be declined, versus those who are not declined, that is those who have more control over our lives when they are absent. People declined or not declined were found to be associated with age groups, differences in types, preferences, conditions, environments and usage rates of mobile phones in our daily lives. These little tools claim to free people, allowing us to socialize more and to approach each other. Ironically, our study finds that mobile phones increase social distance. Examining the relationship patterns of usage is critical for understanding and developing awareness of how our mobile phones direct our lives and how absent people may have influence on. The ironic quality in the effects of new technology—often those innovations that are claimed to give us greater autonomy simultaneously tie us more tightly to the normative structure.

Keywords: mobile phones, smart phones, communication, relationships, call, message, decline