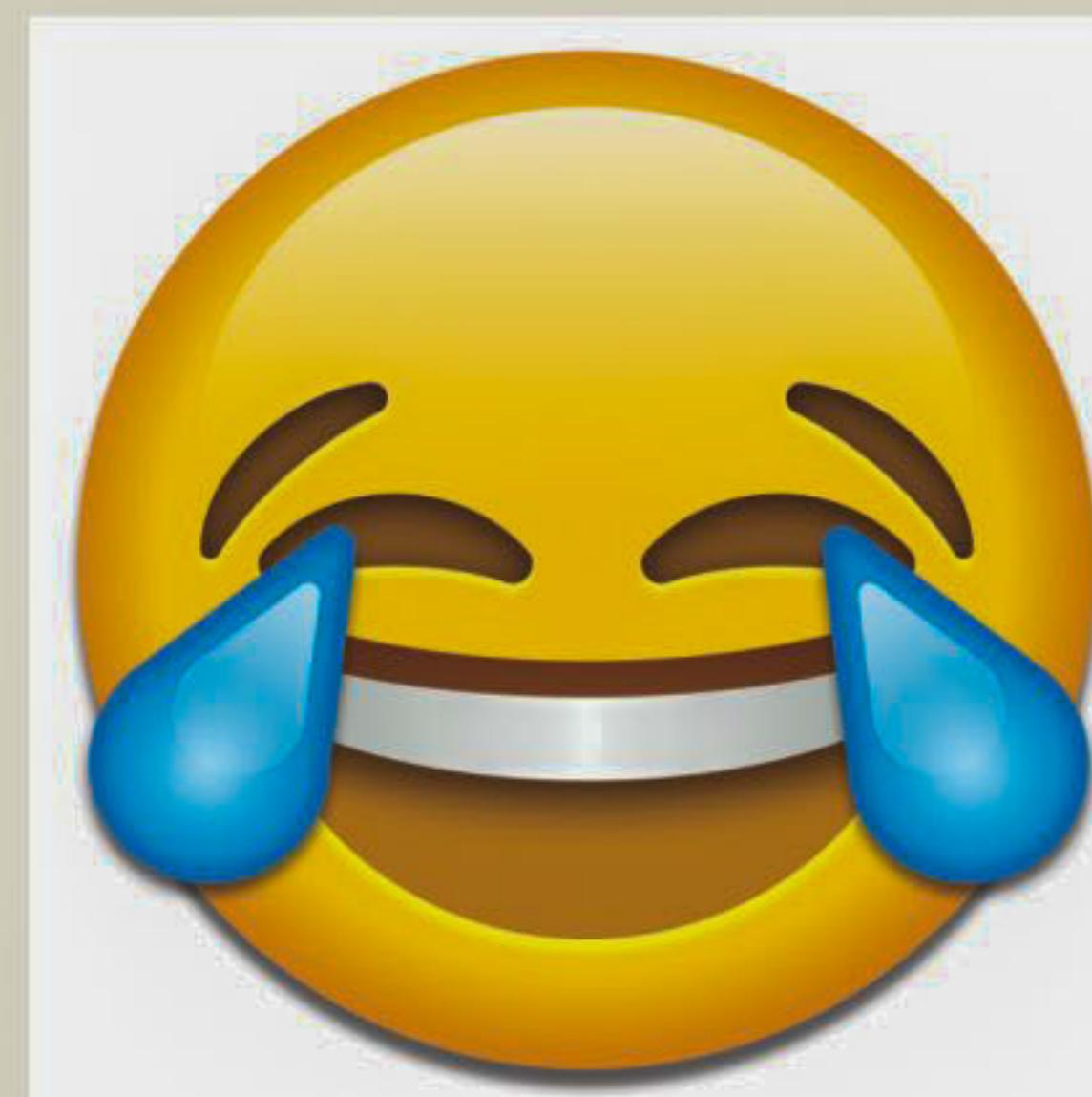


Emojis – the virtual language

If you are an active smartphone user, and the odds are that you are – unless you are the last person on earth using a vintage blackberry – then you must be quite familiar with emojis. Originating in Japan, emojis are now available in every messaging app, on every platform and is one of the most used languages in the world.

But you are right. Emojis cannot be a language! Or can it? It might surprise you to learn that the emoji with "tears of joy" was recently named the "word of the year" by Oxford Dictionary. So why would the people at Oxford Dictionary crown something the word of the year when you cannot even spell it?

The answer is simple. Emojis have taken over as our number one source of expression across the virtual sphere. You can now use emojis to add colours and emotion to tame letters and sentences. Using emojis you can let your friends know that you are getting married, eating cake, blowing up and also that you are



now madly in love with a kitten, that you are the devil and a personal favourite, that you tamed a dolphin.

Yes, there are hundreds of emojis available and they range from pets to faces to people to objects and much more. Whilst all these options might seem unnecessary to you, if used creatively you can narrate all kinds of stories using only the emojis in your phone. No wonder emojis are the first source of online communication. How else would you be able to snarl, be corny, look unsettled, be able to give people the side-eye, blush and look sarcastic, all using just the screen of your phone?

In a world where words might sometimes be taken too seriously, emojis provide a more casual, subtle and perhaps a cheeky approach to online expression.

By Naveed Naushad

CHECK IT OUT

Kakur Kitchen- a flavor of local heritage

A bright pink advertisement on a billboard at the capital's Farmgate area draws the eye. All it says is "Kakur Kitchen" with no address.

Once you are seated at the restaurant you will feel like you're sitting at someplace that is definitely not Farmgate. When you sit at the table, you are not only handed the menu, but books. After placing an order, you can engross yourself in poetry instead of whiling away time browsing through your phone. It seems as if the entire arrangement has been made to bring exposure to Bengali habits and to bring us back to our roots.

"The objective of Kakur Kitchen is not just to own and have a profitable business but rather, we started this business with an intention of providing a service," Jahidul Islam Jami, general manager of the restaurant informed. The way the restaurant functions, you can't help but

believe that he has stayed true to his words. Every night at 10 o'clock, the restaurant provides food free of cost, calling this "bandhur khabar"

The arrangement has been made as a move to extend the hand of humanity and solidarity to the local community. Kakur kitchen can cater to a total of 80 people via four rooms called Padma, Surma, Jamuna and Karnafuli. Different varieties of food are available from 11am to 10pm. Moreover, they also have arrangements to host large parties and ceremonies; another important feature of Kakur Kitchen is that young, indigenous men and women from Chittagong Hill Tracts have been hired to serve as waiters and waitresses.

When asked about the name of the restaurant, Jami said there has been a lot of talk about word "mama" in our country. It's a word

people easily associate with, especially since it's used so often. He said they wanted to make a break though by building another brand name. The image and idea of the word "kaku" represents someone experienced who cooks food using his long-earned excellence of proficiency.

If we look into their menu, there are only three main food items: two types of kebabs and some drinks. The main dish includes Dom Biryani, Dom Tehari and Dom Murogh polao. However, the most interesting part about their food is the use of dum ovens where a live, sealed oven is used for slow cooking. Tasty pickles, kebabs and salads of choice are also provided.

Special ghee is being produced from their own farm in Sathkhira. Basmati rice and high quality spices are used for cooking their biryani.

These are but two quality factors of many that is present in the unassuming setting of Kakur Kitchen. These special biryanis have totally changed the taste of traditional biryani and tehari. The prices too are affordable. Dom Biryani and Dom Murogh Polao are sold at Tk. 190 and Dom Tehari at Tk. 170. Chicken Jaali Kebab and Beef Jaali Kebab are sold at Tk 65 and Tk 55 respectively.

"We prefer improving the quality of food rather than increasing the number of items," he said. He also added that they want to spread the Kakur Kitchen franchise across the country with three biryani items only. They have plans to spread this restaurant in eight divisions and 42 districts.

Kakur Kitchen is worth the visit and not only for the food but also their emphasis on Bangladeshi culture and heritage.

NEWS FLASH

Make your dreams come true

They say money makes the world go round. They are not wrong. Money can indeed make many of your dreams come true. And determination - the power to dream boldly. As President Abraham Lincoln once advised to someone in a letter, "Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed, is more important than any other one thing."

Numerous women in our country have that determination - or 'resolution', as Pres. Lincoln had put it - to succeed. Therefore, even though they might lack financial stability and face humungous pressure from family and peers to quit their studies/career, these women will succeed in making their dreams come true. Their dreams override lack of money and other problems.

For these women, Unilever Bangladesh's social development initiative, named Fair and Lovely Foundation, which was born in 2003 with the aim of empowering women, ran the campaign, 'Tomar Shopno Koro Shotti' (Make Your Dreams Come True).

Women were asked to write and send in essays about their dreams. Thousands of applications poured in. Out of these, 1000 were initially selected for further scrutiny.

Selection was made by Fair & Lovely Foundation's advisory board, which comprises



of Dr. Mizanur Rahman Shelley, Chairman, Centre for Development Research- Bangladesh, Rubana Huq, Managing Director, Mohammadi Group and Selina Hossain, a prominent author.

Finally, 357 impoverished women emerged as winners of this competition. They would now be provided the necessary finance and guidance to help them achieve their dreams.

These women were awarded on 3 categories. 200 of them would receive scholarship for higher education. Research shows that one of

the highest dropouts is of the post-HSC segment. Therefore, Fair & Lovely Foundation aptly decided to target this group. Meanwhile, 150 women would get the opportunity to enrol in vocational training, on crafts, garments, etc. On the other hand, 7 women were provided with capital for their own business.

On 20 November, 2015 Fair & Lovely Foundation organised the certificate giving ceremony for these women. The event took place at International Convention City-

Bashundara. The media partner was RTV.

The winners came to attend the gala event from all corners of the country. For example, one of them was Nargis Akter, who came all the way from Bagha, Rajshahi. She is going to receive scholarship for her education. "My father passed away when I was young, and my mother raised me, battling with poverty. When I grew up, I chipped in by providing tuitions," she said. "The scholarship will help me to continue my education. I would like to be a teacher one day."

Indeed, the programme meant a lot for these women - it was the celebration of their victory, a stepping stone towards fulfilling their dreams.

The event was stylised as a convocation ceremony, where the women wore convocation gowns and hats and received certificates on the stage.

The evening started with a breathtaking sand art by Rahul Arya, which paid a tribute to Roquia Sakhawat Hussain. There was also a dance performance.

The campaign brought 357 women closer to their dreams. The fund-providers have promised to keep track of their progress. Kudos to those brave, confident women for not giving up and to Fair and Lovely Foundation for coming forward to empower them!

By M H Haider