Shall the Easy-to-Read Adaptation of Micropoems affect Emotions?

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📅 July 13th
📍 Lecco (Italy)

- Introduction
  - Emotions and Poetry
  - Easy-to-Read (E2R) Methodology
  - Aim of our Research
- User Study: Question about Reader's Emotions
  - Survey Design and Participants
  - Key Findings
- Conclusions and Further Research

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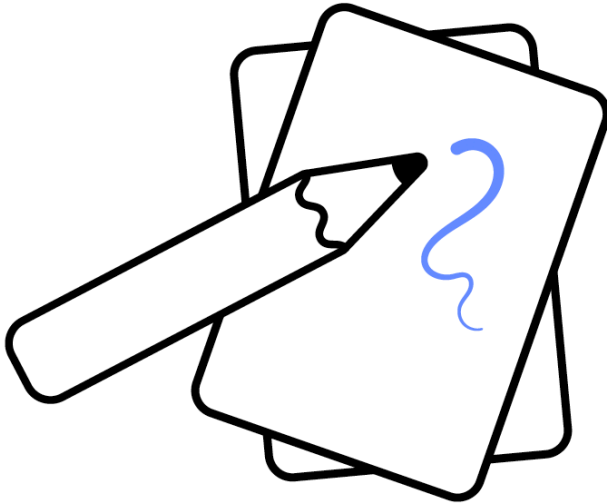- Conclusions and Further Research

Emotions
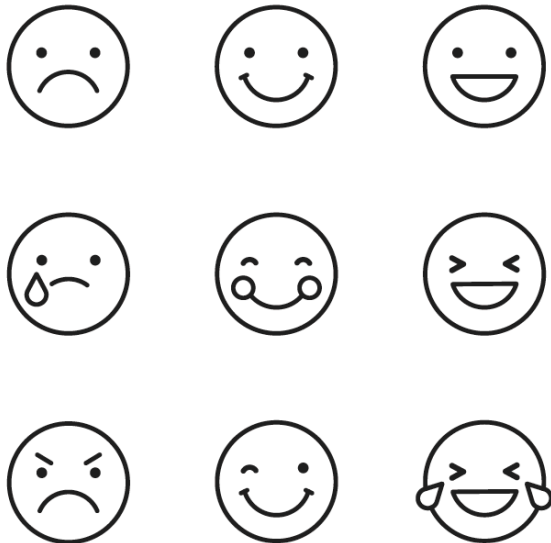
Socially produced.

Related to language and communication: one word labels complex feelings making them more accessible and visible.

Closely **related to the reading experience**: the reader constructs a kinematic model of the events.

All the icons in this presentation come from www.flaticon.com

Poetry

Evokes emotions.

How does it evoke emotions?
- By its **content**.
- By the use of **prosodic** cues such as meter, rhythm and rhyme.

Helps us **understand** and appreciate the **world** around us.

Problem ——————

Cultural materials, in general, and **literary materials** such as poetry, in particular, should be **accessible for all**, including people with reading comprehension difficulties.

Solution ——————

Easy-to-Read Methodology (E2R)

Nomura, M., Nielsen, G.S., International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, Library Services to People with Special Needs Section: **Guidelines for easy-to-read materials**. IFLA Headquarters, (2010).

Easy-to-Read Methodology

Aims to present clear and **easily understood contents** to different sectors of the population that include persons who present cognitive impairments or low literacy skills.

The process of adapting literary texts, such as poetry, into E2R versions consequently helps **enhance the linguistic ability,** leading to a better emotional understanding, but also to a **better social competence.**

SUPER

SUggesting micro-Poems in E2R

Tool that **automatically** suggests **E2R adaptations** of micropoems[1] in two languages:

🇪🇸 Spanish

🇬🇧 English

The E2R Methodology relies on manual adaption. SUPER is **one of our research attempts** addressing this gap.

In order to **validate** it, we performed a two-fold **user study** with Spanish micropoems.

[1] Poems characterised by their extreme brevity, generally limited to 140 characters because they are usually published on online platforms.

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SUPER

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Validation

Questionnaire

Participants

Questions

SUPER

SUggesting micro-Poems in E2R

Validation

Questionnaire in two phases:
1. Phase 1: original micropoems.
2. Phase 2: adapted versions provided by SUPER.

Set:
- **20** Spanish micropoems
- Extracted from **Twitter**
- Main topic: **love**

Phase 1

Phase 2

SUPER

SUggesting micro-Poems in E2R

Validation

Participants: **7** persons with intellectual disabilities who had already evaluated easy-to-read texts in the past (E2R Validators).
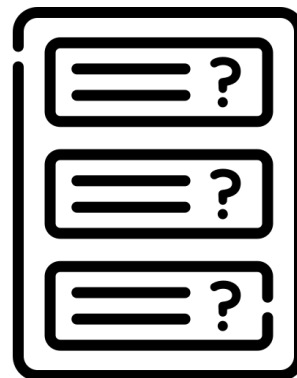

Accedes

Entornos y Servicios Accesibles, S.L.

The questionnaire in both phases contained **8 questions** aimed at analysing the reading comprehension of the micropoems

SUPER

SUggesting micro-Poems in E2R

Validation

Questions: numerous of different nature. One of them was devoted to know which emotion elicits the original and the adapted micropoem.

What did you feel when reading this poem?

Participants had to choose one of the **eight** proposed emotions:
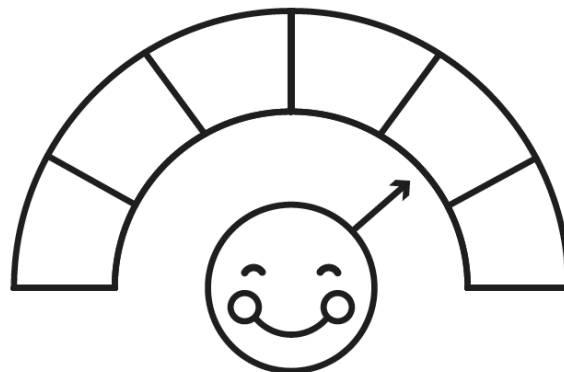
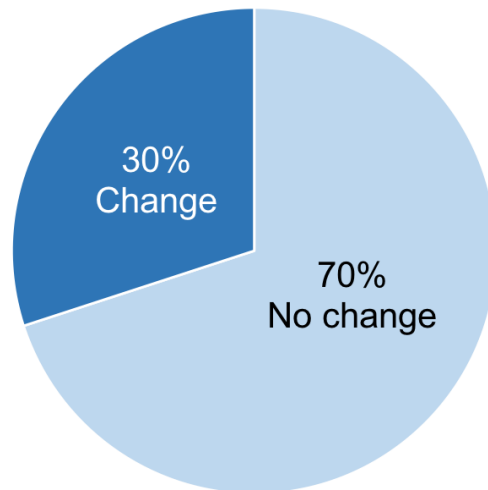● Sadness   ● Joy   ● Illusion   ● Nervousness
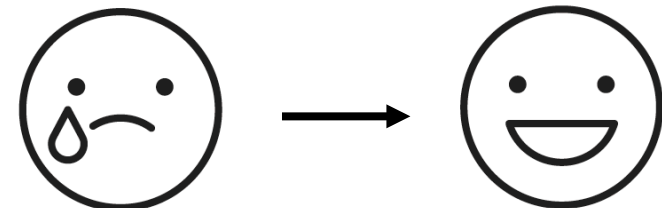
● Rage   ● Other   ● Calmness   ● Anger

We found **interesting outcomes**

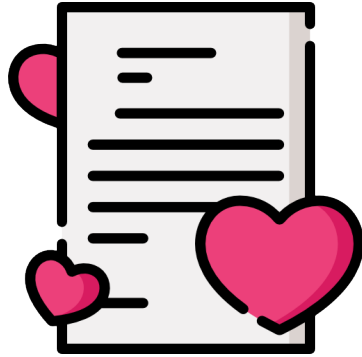1. Out of the 20 pairs of micropoems, **6** had opposite emotions in the adapted version.

2. The change pattern of these 6 pairs of micropoems is repeated: **from joy to sadnes o nervousness**.

30% Change

70% No change

Thus, we searched for possible **causes**:

    a.   The **topic**:

14 micropoems of love

6 micropoems of lovelessness

2 micropoems presented change in emotion in the adapted version
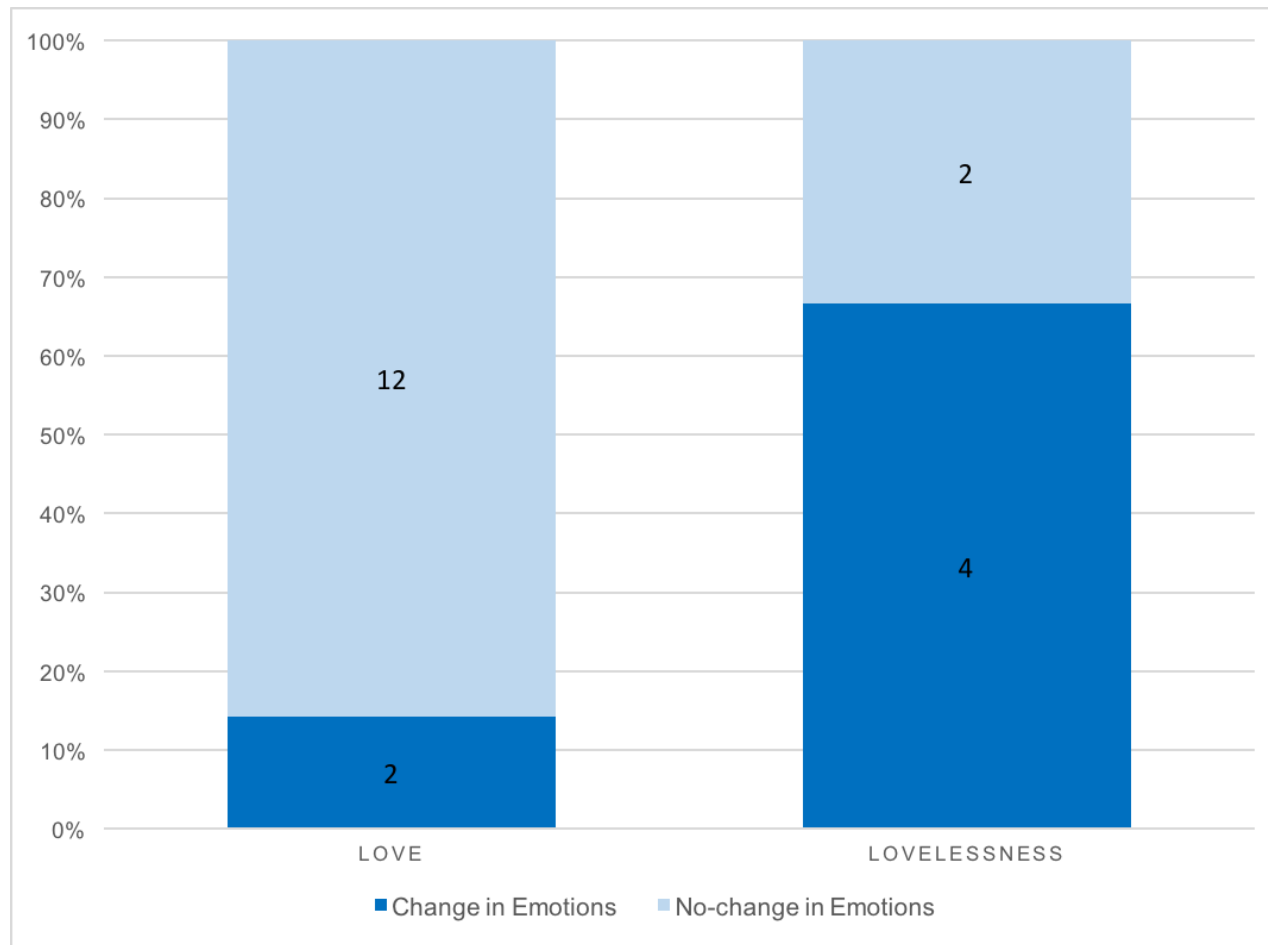
4 micropoems presented change in emotion in the adapted version

Number of micropoems of each sub-topic (love and lovelessness) which evoked a change in readers' emotions when adapted into E2R versions.

b.   The **rhetorical-emotive punctuation**:

Rhetorical-emotive punctuation

- Abbreviations
- Symbols
- Lack of punctuation
- Emoticons

SUPER
SUggesting micro-Poems in E2R

Logical-semantic punctuation

Llovía intensamente. Pero allí estaban, Empapados, besándose. Los miraban como locos. Y lo estaban. El 1 por el otro.

(Translation): It was raining heavily. But there they were, Soaked, kissing. They looked at each other like crazy. And they were. One for the other.

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Conclusions

Participants in our study experimented changes in their emotions when reading the adapted micropoem. These changes can be motivated by:

    a. The **sub-topic** of the sample.

    b. The so-called **rhetorical-emotive punctuation**.

    c. Both assumptions.

Future Work

Data comes from only 7 participants, so it would be worthwhile:

    a. Having a large **amount of participants**.

    b. Increasing the **set of micropoems**.

    c. Considering **more topics** besides love.

- Isa Cano from ACCEDES (Madrid, Spain).
- The 7 participants involved in the user study.

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