

Abstract

Instant messaging (IM) is extensively used other than social interactions reported by 83% of Hong Kong workers compared with a global average of 64% per an international study with over 96.6% of Internet service users by different age groups between 10 and 44 years old per a Hong Kong Annual Digest of Statistics 2015 Edition from Census and Statistics Department of HKSAR. The behavior of deception by text messages, therefore, emerges as an interesting research topic given its indispensability of self-preservation in social and political interactions while its nature of being against culture and social norm. The findings of this pilot study were a list of key words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and discourses of lying messages as well as the correlations of respondents' demographic data with individual total number of lies and different categories of content of lies and motive of lies.

Keywords: instant messaging, text messages, deception, everyday lies, serious lies