

Tweeting on the move? It's all about you

Tweeting from a mobile phone rather than a computer makes people more likely to write something about themselves, according to a new study. They also are more likely to use negative language than if they are sitting in front of a screen.

Researchers analysed 235 million tweets from mobile, non-mobile and mixed sources over a six-week period, noting the frequency and ratios of words traditionally associated with social and behavioural characteristics.

The results showed that mobile tweets were more likely to be egocentric in language than in any other group. The researchers also found that the ratio of egocentric to non-egocentric tweets was consistently greater for mobile tweets.

The study, conducted by researchers based at Goldsmiths, University of London, Bowdoin College, in Maine, and the University of Maine, was published in the *Journal of Communication*.

Its authors say that it is one of the first surveys to look at how mobile versus non-mobile devices play a part in the language used on social media.

The results did not show that mobile tweets were particularly gendered. Regardless of platform, tweets tended to use words traditionally considered masculine, the researchers noted.