

**THE EFFECTS OF TEXT MESSAGING ON COMPOSITION WRITING
IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN IKUTHA SUB-COUNTY IN KITUI
COUNTY**

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ABSTRACT

This article seeks to examine the transformative impact of SMS text messaging on student written communication skills. Using the survey method, the article examines how pervasive the use of SMS texting is among secondary students in Ikutha Sub-County in Kitui County; its possible effects on students' composition writing skills; and, what teachers and students themselves think about the phenomenon. Based on responses from survey participants, the article argues that even though mobile phones are handy ICTs for harnessing and disseminating information, they could have their dark side too: the SMS text messaging function could heighten the tendency among students to adopt non-standard uses and contracted forms of English words in their classwork, examinations and research reports especially in an academic environment where English is the second language of most students.