The Internet has undoubtedly become one of the most popular means for people to communicate. This statement applies even more to the type of online conversations we have when we use instant messengers or other text-based apps. However, although it is very popular, text-based online communication is vastly different from face-to-face conversation: it is very often fragmented, messages are not submitted as wholes, but in smaller pieces, and ambiguities are plentiful. This is so because of a number of technological limitations that we encounter in computer-mediated communication. In this project, we argue that not only does text-based communication look different because of the technology, but also because of *pressures on sentence production and processing*.

In order to verify whether the argument above is true, we need to approach the problem from the perspective of psycholinguistics, which is an area of linguistics dealing with the issues of, among others, language production and comprehension mechanisms. Since the project is going to study online conversations, a model of dialogue processing, the Interactive Alignment Model, is going to be used in research. The model argues that when people have conversations, they mechanistically start using the same sentence structures and the same words in order to communicate more efficiently.

We decided to choose the topic because of the popularity of instant messaging which definitely is the most popular *mediated* type of communication, and whose popularity will probably not dwindle in the upcoming years. Such a situation makes studying computer-mediated communication even more important. The experiments that the project envisages will involve verifying whether the Interactive Alignment Model is able to explain the phenomena which we encounter in text-based computer-mediated communication. Furthermore, the project will also investigate whether we send messages in smaller pieces because in this way they are easier to understand. The ultimate aim of experiments is to answer whether CMC emerged as we see it now because of our capacities to produce and understand language, and which are limited by the medium.