Discussion by Evgeniy

**NB**: The paper doesn’t mention the exact number of users in the dataset, for business reasons (lawyers don’t this number to be known).

In this class, just Evgeniy is friend on Facebook with his parents, whereas the paper states that 37% of English-speaking, monthly-active US Facebook users are linked to their parents or children on Facebook.

- **How does the communication on Facebook improved the relation between children and parents (in terms of distant communication)?**

Before, when we weren’t talking to them, we could reach them by email. Now, instant messaging is more used, we use tools with which we get direct responses: almost everybody in the class has a WhatsApp family discussion group. On Facebook, we may use Messenger for this similar kind of instant messaging; but in this paper chat is excluded from analysis.

Indeed, posting on the wall of someone on Facebook is partly private whereas Messenger or WhatsApp is totally private. When posting in a partly private or public way, people are more aware of what they post, they may act as a self-censorship to control what they are about to post. It is sometimes not sure that parents are aware how this technology works; they sometimes act like the wall is private. Oppositely in general teens know about how to use posts and that friends might judge you.

- **How did the adults-children conversation shifted, from being a children to a grown young adult (in general, not only digital)?**

In some cases, mothers still talk like we are small children (mothers are mothers!). But for others, you have something different to offer when you grow up: when you become an adult you have more experience to share, more advice to get.

- **What kind of relationship would we have with our parents on Facebook, if all our friends could see it?**

Maybe it shows that communication is well established. Some people accept their parents on Facebook as by obligation but are not that happy or don’t want to show it to everybody. It is more a social convention; otherwise parents would ask why. It is hard to distinguish between private and public, because you have to accept people you know in real life.
It is also possible to choose the diplomatic move: accept the, and afterwards tag them as acquaintance (it blocks some content for them, it also possible to set more specific settings). Facebook has an algorithm that forces you to react to certain posts until it is removed from your feed.

- Facebook imposes communication between parents and children. Does this affect the relationship?

On the one hand it can improve the communication in the way that adding/sharing content (“I’m currently doing this or that”), but not in the way of direct communication. Facebook can act as a central platform to post pictures or news, instead of having to send it to different people each through different platform.

On the other hand, for the parents it changes their way of communicating: for example at the beginning of using messages they are used to sign each of them, whereas it is instant messaging.

Nowadays most of us - as children - use WhatsApp to communicate with our parents, but 20 years ago, we would have called our parents to say the same things.

With Facebook it is a bit different: again instead of calling our parents, we post news on Facebook; it is more impersonal. The solution would be to post but in a less passive way.