

An exhibition of Abstract Emoji is taking place.

Jane had contacted Edith and told her of the exhibition. Unlike many exhibitions this one is being held in a small town in the countryside. Jane and Edith had decided to visit the exhibition and arranged to meet there and then go to lunch and then maybe go back to the exhibition in the afternoon. Edith has brought Caroline with her and Jane has also brought Caroline, so the two ladies each named Caroline have met at the exhibition.

“It’s not much further,” says Edith as they walk past other restaurants “I looked on the web and found a hotel not far from the exhibition with a restaurant open to the public: the restaurant is listed as where one can get a meal with no gluten-containing ingredients in it.”

The four ladies arrive at the hotel.

“Right then, adjacent tables-for-two.” says Jane.

Each Caroline looks puzzled.

Edith smiles.

They enter the hotel and follow the signage to the restaurant.

“Ooh, French windows.” exclaims Jane’s colleague. “They look out onto the garden. Just look at those lovely irises, the colour of lapis lazuli.”

She turns to a nearby waiter.

“Is it possible to go into the garden please?”

“Yes Madame, you are welcome to relax in the garden after your meal if you wish, ... though the French windows are very old and we do not open them. The entrance to the garden is elsewhere. I will gladly show you the way.”

Having heard Caroline’s comment, Edith moves toward the part of the restaurant that is nearest to the French windows. The restaurant is not empty of other customers yet not so many other customers that finding two adjacent tables causes any problems. They choose to sit so that they can see out through the French windows.

Edith sits with a wall behind her and the French windows to her right.

“I like to keep an eye on what is happening.” says Edith.

Jane sits at the next table, to Edith’s left, Jane sits diagonally opposite Edith. From a distance it looks as if the four ladies are all sat at one table, though it is actually two tables-for-two.

A waiter approaches and offers menus.

Edith asks “Can I have the menu for vegan food with no gluten-containing ingredients please?”

The waiter looks embarrassed.

In a voice almost whispering he replies. “Yes madam. I will get it for you.”

The waiter goes to the other side of the restaurant, beyond Jane, and is seen consulting with the Maître d’Hôtel, who then approaches Edith.

“Did Madam ask for the menu for no gluten-containing ingredients?” he asks almost whispering.

“Well, both vegan and no gluten-containing ingredients please.”

The Maître d’Hôtel looks around him in some embarrassment and looks anxiously at Edith.

“Please Madam, the other guests.”

Wishing to avoid causing any problems, Edith asks quietly, almost whispering, “Is there a problem?”.

“Well, we try not to embarrass other guests by mentioning the ... special ... menu.”

“But, you are listed as ...”

“Yes, but only on specialist websites, not on our own website, so as not to cause ... offence.”

Edith is somewhat surprised but decides not to cause the man any problems, so continues in the almost whispering.

“So, ... vegan ... no gluten-containing ingredients?”

“Yes Madam, I will get you our vegetarian menu and our ... the special menu Madam.”

The Maître d’Hôtel goes and Edith looks at Jane and they each both suppress amusement, Jane with somewhat more difficulty than Edith.

The Maître d’Hôtel returns with two menus and hands them to Edith.

Edith tries to find something which is in both menus and is also vegan. There appears to be two items, Chef’s special hot vegetable curry and a glass of lemonade. Yet Edith does not particularly like curry and the phrase ‘special hot’ causes her to decide not to even have curry on this occasion, thinking that even five glasses of lemonade with it might not be enough.

Edith looks at the Maître d’Hôtel.

“Madame?”

“Unfortunately, none of the items listed on the menus is suitable for my diet.” says Edith.

The Maître d’Hôtel looks concerned.

“Well Madame, if you are unsuitable for the food that we offer, what can I do?”

Edith decides not to argue about being termed unsuitable, though she has noticed.

Edith replies, slowly, “Well, since you ask ....”

The Maître d’Hôtel looks surprised, he realizes that he has asked Edith a question, though he had not intended to do so, it was more of a rhetorical question placing responsibility onto Edith, he had not intended that Edith would answer it.

Edith continues. “I notice that some of the meals say that they are served with vegetables, you could perhaps ask Chef if I could have a meal of boiled potatoes, carrots and swede served with unsalted white rice please.”

The Maître d’Hôtel looks surprised, turns and goes.

Edith wonders what, if anything, will happen.

“Oh dear!” says Jane. “I think that you’ve upset him. I mean, I think that he has become upset at what you said. I mean, I mean, well ....”

Edith looks at Jane in a slightly old-fashioned way, but smiles.

However, almost immediately, the Chef enters the dining room, wearing full Chef attire complete with hat, and approaches.

Edith sees him walking toward her.

“Good afternoon Madam, I gather that you would like a special meal, can I help?”

Edith, softly almost whispering explains her dietary needs. The Chef listens attentively, clearly taking it in.

“Yes, I can do that, yes, is that for both of you?”

Edith glances at Caroline, who is sitting opposite her, and Caroline smiles and says “Yes please.” and Jane consults the Caroline at her table.

“Yes, for both of us please?” says Edith.

The Chef nods and is turning to go.

“And for us please.” says Jane.

The Chef turns, somewhat taken aback that another customer at another table has intervened.

“It’s alright,” says Edith “We are all here on business to see the art exhibition and have met up by prior arrangement. We sat at separate tables so as to get separate bills, .... for our expenses.”

“Ah,” says the Chef “quite so.”

“Edith ....” asks Jane.

“Yes ....”

“How does an abstract emoji differ from a localizable sentence that has a glyph? .... I mean, they are both abstract designs, .... I know that the glyph of the abstract emoji is square and the glyph of the localizable sentence is wider, a wide landscape format, but is that all there is to it?”

“Ah, that is a good question. They are not the same because usually an emoji is not defined precisely as regards its meaning, a localizable sentence is precisely defined as regards its meaning. Also, using an emoji is not always to communicate through the language barrier. Emoji are often used when two people who know the same language are communicating. Yet sometimes the glyph of a localizable sentence can be used when two people who know the same language are communicating. Yet there is no absolutely clear distinction if the meaning of the emoji character is precisely defined and represents a whole sentence that is grammatically independent of other sentences. However, there can be some localizable sentences that are emoji, indeed having a few of them is useful.”

“Oh!”

“Well, an emoji is fundamentally for direct display, though there can be text-to-speech and there could be the display of the meaning in another language, though that can be a problem as the meaning of an emoji is not precisely defined. A localizable sentence is fundamentally for localization, for communicating through the language barrier, for producing a display of text in a language, the choice of language being a matter for the particular end user that is viewing the message, .... though, sometimes some people do look at a display of the glyph of a localizable sentence.”

“Ah.”

“As I said, there is no absolutely clear distinction between what is an emoji and what is a localizable sentence if the meaning of the emoji character is precisely defined and represents a whole sentence that is grammatically independent of other sentences.”

“Yes. Thank you for explaining.”

“I mentioned that there can be some localizable sentences that are emoji and that having a few of them is useful. For example, using localizable sentence technology is not the default case, it needs to be switched on, so that an end user is clear that he or she has automated localization of localizable sentences active.

So, there can be an emoji - in fact an abstract emoji of square aspect ratio so that it fits in with the display technology of other emoji - for each of some localizable sentences, so that a precise conversation can take place through the language barrier without necessarily having automated localization being in action.”

“Oh.”

“I have a list. I'll get it.”

Edith produces a list from her bag. She hands the list to Jane. Jane studies the list of meanings carefully.

Here are the precise meanings of some of the emoji on the list.

We do not speak the same language.

Shall we try to communicate using localizable sentence technology?

I agree to your suggestion to try to communicate using localizable sentence technology.

I do not have localizable sentence technology available.

I have used localizable sentence technology on a previous occasion.

“Ah yes,” says Jane “one needs to be able to discuss through the language barrier the possibility of using localizable sentence technology without localizable sentence technology needing to be in action in order to do so. Yes, I follow. Yes, that could be useful.”

“Not only those emoji,” adds Edith “for example, there can be an emoji with the following precise meaning.”

Please consider the following equation.

“Oh,” says Jane “so the distinction between an emoji and a localizable sentence is not precise.”

“Provided always that the meaning of the emoji character is precisely defined and represents a whole sentence that is grammatically independent of other sentences.” adds Edith.

“Yes.”

The waiter returns with four plates of food and serves the ladies.

“Chef asks if you would like some oven chips, he said to say that they are made from just potatoes and sunflower oil, that there is no coating on them and that they have been cooked in an oven that is only used for this type of oven chips. Oh, and would you each like a glass of our lemonade, which is also gluten-free and suitable for a vegan diet?”

“Yes please.” replies Edith. The others all agree.

The waiter goes and then returns a short time later with a large stainless steel bowl containing oven chips from which he serves oven chips, the whole bowlful, to the four ladies. A short while later he brings the glasses of lemonade.

The Maître d'Hôtel is stood at the other side of the room, yet clearly noticing what is happening.

The ladies eat in silence.

After lunch, while paying, Edith and the others make a point of thanking the Maître d'Hôtel for his help and for the help of his staff. The ladies are then shown the entrance to the garden by the waiter and they enter.

"Would you like a bunch of the irises to take with you Madame?" asks the waiter.

"Thank you but no," says Caroline "I'd rather that they are left to grow please. They are beautiful."

The waiter gently nods. "As you wish Madame."

"Thank you anyway." adds Caroline.

The garden is quite large considering that it is in a town, yet perhaps when the hotel was constructed there was not such a premium on land. There are shrubs and a medium-size tree and flower beds that contain quite a selection of flowers.

Later the ladies are returning to the art gallery.

"That chef, he is good at his job." remarks Jane.

"Yes, he listened carefully to what I wanted and then he produced it without insisting on making it fancy. Yes, good at his job, he gave good customer service." replies Edith.

"I wonder if they will add that meal to the menu."

Edith looks at Jane.

"Well, they might .... possibly, well ...." continues Jane.

"Well, I suppose that they might. Perhaps we might go there for a meal when another exhibition is on and then we will find out."

"Yes, that is a good idea."

"Ah, we're here."

The ladies reenter the exhibition and continue to view the Abstract Emoji exhibition. They also purchase various items from the art gallery shop.