

USING YOUTH SLANGS AMONG TEENAGERS IN SOCIAL MEDIA

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Annotation:

This article explores the growing trend of using youth slangs by teenagers in social media. The author highlights how this trend has become a common language among teenagers in digital communication, leading to the creation of new words and phrases that are not readily understood by adults. With its focus on the intersection of language, culture and social media use, this article offers valuable insights into the ways in which youth slangs are shaping the communication practices of young people today.

Keywords: social media, abbreviation, slang, teenagers, informal language, Generation Z, iGen, GI Generation, Silent Generation.

Before moving to the topic, it is appropriate to dwell on the explanation of the word slang. Slang - vocabulary (words, phrases, and linguistic usages) of verbal conversation but avoided in formal writing.[3] Slang simply is the informal language that is used in everyday interactions. It is defined as “an everchanging set of colloquial words and phrases that speakers use to establish or reinforce social identity or cohesiveness within a group or with a trend or fashion in society at large” [1; p11]

Knowing types of generations helps us understand slang-related changes easily. There are seven types of generations:

1. The Greatest Generation (GI Generation): Born 1901–1927.
2. The Silent Generation: Born 1928–1945.
3. Baby Boom Generation: Born 1946–1964.
4. Generation X: Born 1965–1980.
5. Millennial Generation or Generation Y: Born 1981–1996.
6. Generation Z or iGen: Born 1997–2010.
7. Generation Alpha: Born After 2011.

The meaning of some slang can change depending generation and culture of a certain time. Namely, Gen Z was the first generation to grow up entirely in the internet age, its slang differs significantly from that of previous generations. Here are some examples of words that meanings and usages have changed over time, as well as how different generations used the words in different situations:

- **GOAT**

The verb used to mean *"to annoy or scold someone."* This articulation comes from an old custom in horse racing, which is remembered to meaningfully affect nervous pure bloods; The night before the race, the horse's stall was occupied by a goat. After that, opponents would steal the goat, enrage the horse, and the horse would lose the race.

The term now means *"Greatest of all time,"* derived from famous boxer Muhammad Ali's nickname.

- **SMH**

This abbreviation was utilized to imply *"so much hate"* as a fitting reaction to a destructive or uninformed comment. It is now more commonly known as *"shaking my head."* You use it when you don't know how to respond to something and all you can think to do is shake your head.

- **Tight**

This was used to talk about friends who were close to each other. It is now used to describe exciting and cool things.

Nowadays every user of social media, especially teenager ones unwillingly use slang and/or abbreviation of some words while chatting with his or her friend. Shorten words may affect to structure and syntax of language but on the other hand it can allow us to communicate better, and tell or understand jokes in another language. It also gives us a deep insight into the character and culture of the language we're learning. In addition, abbreviations can help to decrease waiting time between two users. Particularly, social media has influenced language to the point where the connotations of certain words have been changed so that they are now considered slang terms.

It cannot be argued that social media has had an increasingly significant impact upon slang, as well as language in general. Not only has it made slang terms available to a larger audience, but it has given people the means to create and share their own terms and jargon. Additionally, the size of technological devices, as well as character limitations of certain social media sites has affected the length of the words we choose to type. This in turn contributes to our increased use of abbreviations and acronyms, which many people have begun to use outside of texting or social media. Social media and texting have impacted English language immensely. [2]

Interestingly, even name of messengers and social media platforms are shortened by people. For example: YouTube – YT, Telegram – TG, Instagram – IG or Insta, Facebook – FB and etcetera. Below you can see the list of slangs which teenagers use widely while chatting with their friends via abovementioned digital platforms:

- **DM** – *Direct message. Refers to a message sent between two users. Mostly used on Twitter and Instagram.*
- Can you send DM?
- **THANQ** – *Thank you.*
- **CHEUGY** – *Used to describe someone or something that is basic, out of date, or trying too hard.*
- My friend is so cheugy: he participates in Tik Tok trends when they are already weeks old.
- **OOPS** – *If you make a mistake, you can say.*

- Oops! I nearly dropped my cup of tea!
- OMG – *Abbreviation of “Oh my gosh”*
- TBH – *To be honest*
- GR8 – *great*
- TBH its GR8 – *To be honest, its great*
- Noob/n00b - *A person who doesn't know what they're doing or who is bad at something; in other words, a newbie.*
- I was such a noob at the game when I first began to play.
- Cap – *word that means a lie. If someone says “no cap,” it means something like “I’m being totally honest.”*
- No cap, lessons are literally canceled tomorrow.
- AFAIK – *As far as I know. internet slang initialism used as a disclaimer to convey uncertainty.*
- AFAIK our safety is still under trouble, Sir.
- Touch grass¹ – *Used to tell someone to get in touch with reality; telling them to go outside. Used especially on the internet, implying that the person is spending excessive time on screens.*
- I was told to touch grass after playing video games for hours on end.
- Snatched² – *Used to refer to something that is perceived to be good.*

In conclusion, the use of youth slangs among teenagers on social media has become a popular phenomenon in recent years. The article has explored the nature and evolution of youth slang, how it is used by teenagers on social media platforms, and its effects on language use and communication. While the use of slang can be seen as a form of self-expression and identity formation for teenagers, it can also lead to misunderstandings and miscommunication among different generations and cultures. Therefore, it is important for parents, educators, and teenagers themselves to recognize the importance of adapting to different communication styles in different settings. By doing so, we can ensure that we are able to effectively communicate with others and avoid misunderstandings caused by language barriers. Overall, the article highlights the need for further research and discussion on the use of youth slang in modern communication and how it impacts language use and social interactions.

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