

Copyright: The author/s
This work is licensed under a CC-BY 4.0 license
(*) Corresponding author
DOI: 10.20544/nhjsr.2026.599



WORD SHORTENINGS IN GEN Z SLANG: IYKYK

Dimitar Atanasovski*

Faculty of Education – Bitola, University “St. Kliment Ohridski” – Bitola, North Macedonia

Department of English Language and Literature

ORCID iD: <https://orcid.org/0009-0004-5803-3814>

dimitar.atanasovski@uklo.edu.mk

Elena Shalevska, PhD (Advisor)

Faculty of Education – Bitola, University “St. Kliment Ohridski” – Bitola, North Macedonia

Department of English Language and Literature

ORCID iD: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3270-7137>

elena.shalevska@uklo.edu.mk

ABSTRACT

Even though linguistic innovation has always been synonymous with youth culture in the modern world, the rise of the internet and social media platforms has fundamentally and permanently transformed the way this language is created and shared. As a result, the Gen Z slang has appeared – a variety truly unique, and often confusing and opaque to older, less tech-savvy generations. To better understand this unique digital lexicon, this mixed-methods paper explored the use and characteristics of Gen Z slang, focusing specifically on acronyms, initialisms, and clippings. To do so, popular Gen Z websites and apps were initially screened to identify key terms. Then, a sample of non-native English speakers, Gen zers themselves, was surveyed, to check if these speakers actually understand and use the selected terms. The findings show that even those who didn't grow up speaking English fluently have surprisingly high levels of comprehension and use of this digital slang.

Keywords: Slang, TikTok slang, Generation Z, GenZ, Internet dialect

1. Introduction

Language never stops changing. It's a phenomenon that has evolved over history for all sorts of reasons. Since every era has a new generation, each one essentially "takes ownership" of the language they learn and develops their own unique spin on it. That's where generational slang really takes hold. Generational slang is a type of language consisting of very informal words and phrases that are more common in spoken language and restricted to a particular context or group (OED, nd), (Baby Boomer, Generation X, Millennials, Generation Z), and it is often a result of cultural, societal, economical factors. Though very popular now, it is important to note that slang is not a new linguistic phenomenon. Moreover, in the past, slang was commonly associated as a language for uneducated people or for criminals yet, nowadays it is a language that carries nuance of trendiness. It is because slang develops in line with the trends of society. (Karin Lihawa. 2021,1). According to Juli et al. (2024, 1) slang is not only a means of communication, but also a reflection of the identity, values and social experiences of individuals and groups. Every generation has its own slang; however, some would say that the most specific and uncommon slang belongs to generation

Z. This particular generation, also known as digital natives due to the fact that they grew up with access to the internet, computers, and phones, is every person born between 1997 and 2012. They are also influenced by the quick use of digital communication technologies like texting, social media, and memes, which have become essential to how this generation interacts (Grandez et al. 2023,15). It is also noteworthy that previous generations especially Baby Boomers, and Generation X find this use of language baffling since they are generations that do not naturally understand advanced technology having not grown up with it. Furthermore, in this day and age we must note that the main lingua franca of the world is the English language. Young people all around the world use and know English and since online communication is done mainly through English combined with the fact that Gen Z are “chronically online” it can be stated that Gen Z’s slang is universal. This means that no matter the nationality, ethnicity, or mother language, Gen Z’s slang can be understood by most that belong to this generation even if English is not their first language. Recognizing the widespread use of Gen Z slang, this paper aims to analyze the main features of select items of this language variety and check to which extent Gen Z speakers of English in North Macedonia use them,

2. Literature review

Interest in Gen Z slang and its linguistic features has grown noticeably in recent years, mostly due to the ever growing influence of social media and online communication. As everyday language becomes more and more shaped by digital trends, scholars have turned their attention to how young speakers create and circulate new expressions.

A useful starting point is the concept of neologism, which refers to newly created words or expressions entering a language. The term originates from the Greek *neo* (“new”) and *logos* (“word”). Pimat (2016) defines a neologism as “a new word that has recently been included in the vocabulary of a language.” The growing use of neologisms, often appearing in the form of slang, has been closely linked to Generation Z, whose language practices are shaped by constant online engagement. Wadea (2024) explores this relationship directly, arguing that Gen Z’s cultural influence, particularly through digital platforms, plays a major role in accelerating the creation and spread of internet-based slang. The study highlights how social media trends serve not only as spaces for communication but also as rapid incubators for new slang terms that frequently cross linguistic and national boundaries.

This global influence is the starting point of Shalevska’s (2023) research and on Gen Z speakers in North Macedonia. The study demonstrates that familiarity with English-based slang extends well beyond native-speaking communities. To begin with, Shalevska identified ten commonly used expressions like *lit*, *cap/no cap*, *salty*, *flex*, *to stan/a stan*, *lowkey*, *highkey*, *tea*, *main character*, and *(it’s) giving*. Then, she collected data from 52 respondents. Results showed that many young people in non-English-speaking contexts were already actively using or recognizing these terms. These findings further show that Gen Z slang has become a shared generational code rather than a strictly local or language-specific phenomenon. Building on this idea of global reach, the present study focuses more specifically on abbreviations and shortened forms within Gen Z slang and how these compact forms contribute to meaning-making in online discourse.

How these slang items come to be has also raised some research interest. At the morphological level, Grandez et al. (2023) investigated how Filipino Gen Z students form slang terms on Facebook. Their analysis examined whether the creative word-formation processes observed online follow traditional morphological patterns or depart from established norms. The results showed that while many slang expressions display innovation driven by digital culture, they still rely on recognizable linguistic strategies such as blending, clipping, and abbreviation. The authors emphasized the importance of expanding data beyond public posts to better capture everyday youth language practices occurring in more private online spaces.

Additional insight comes from research on Indonesian Gen Z slang. Yunisrina et al. (2022) analyzed 50 slang expressions found in WhatsApp group chats, revealing a wide range of slang types. These included fresh and creative slang (e.g., “oww shoot”), flippant slang (“spill the tea”), imitative shorthand (“lemme”), acronyms (such as “ss” for screenshot), and clipped forms (“congrats”). Their findings illustrate how Gen Z speakers mix playful creativity with efficient communication strategies, adapting language to suit the fast-paced, casual style of digital messaging.

Regardless of their origin, these slang items mark an entire generation. And some of them may not be comprehensible to older speakers. Recognizing this, Juli et al. (2024) conducted a comparative study of millennial and Gen Z slang usage by analyzing articles, posts on X, and interactions on Facebook and Instagram. The researchers observed code-mixing across twenty slang expressions and identified notable generational contrasts. Gen Z speakers tended to favor abbreviations and humorous mispronunciations, while millennials relied more on abbreviations and emotive interjections. The study also found that millennials’ slang reflected pop culture and technologies associated with their youth, whereas Gen Z slang was more heavily shaped by ongoing digital trends and platform-based interaction styles.

Taken together, these studies show that Gen Z slang is not only highly creative but also deeply connected to digital communication

2.1. Theoretical Lenses

To truly understand how Gen Z uses and shortens language, especially on platforms like TikTok and Instagram, we need to look at it through established academic frameworks and theories.

The first framework is the, so called, Speech Act Theory, developed by J. L. Austin (1962) and later refined by John Searle (1969). This framework helps analyze how abbreviations aren't just shortened words, but actual performative actions that efficiently convey attitudes and social standing in digital spaces.

The Communities of Practice (CoP) theory (Lave & Wenger 1991) also helps us understand the social function of this slang. On platforms like TikTok and Instagram, users form groups where specific sets of abbreviations serve as linguistic identifiers. Knowing and using these abbreviations is a way of signaling membership and fostering a sense of social cohesion and belonging within the community. language variation and change allows us to view Gen Z's lexicon not as a degradation of language, but as a natural, ongoing wave of linguistic innovation.

2.2. The Internet Slang

A person doesn't need to do an internet “deep dive” to find slang. On the contrary, merely touching the surface of the online world immediately exposes you to its unique form of slang. According to Crystal (2006), internet slang is the informal language that has originated and spread mainly through online communication (social media, websites, blogs, video games). It is the language of the youth, the language of the socials, and ultimately, the language of the modern world. Or so many think.

The structure of this online language variety is defined by several key elements:

2.2.1. Abbreviations and acronyms

Users rely on these to dramatically shorten long phrases, making communication quicker and more efficient. While common examples like LOL (laugh out loud) and IDK (I don't know) started online, their use has become so frequent that they are now often adopted in spoken, face-to-face language, demonstrating a clear influence on how we talk offline (Crystal 2006; Marzona 2025).

2.2.2. Emojis and emoticons

These are used to add emotional expression to the otherwise emotionless text-based communication by helping convey tone, nuance, and mood, and many times replacing entire sentences (Rahardi 2024)

2.2.3. Memes

Humorous images, videos, or pieces of text that are heavily dependent on user creativity, and which spread rapidly throughout the internet. They often reflect cultural moments, trends, and have become a core part of online communication (Kostadinovska-Stojchevska & Shalevska 2018).

2.2.4. Cross-cultural blending

The internet is a kind of unifier of people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Words, phrases, and even culture-specific humour can spread globally within hours, thus shaping a more universal, hybrid online vocabulary (Park & Kwon 2024)

2.2.5. Creative spelling

Traditional spelling rules are often broken in favour of conveying effect, humor, or brevity. Some examples include “thx”, “pls”, “srsly”, or “gurl” (Kulkarni & Wang 2017).

2.2.6. The TikTok dialect

TikTok being one of the trendiest platforms created has been a channel for a unique set of expressions and sounds (Langdon 2022) such as “it’s giving...”, “delulu”, “slay” etc. Furthermore, the fast-paced nature of TikTok trends make these new expressions highly influential among young users.

3. Methodology

This study employs a mixed-methods design (Ackroyd & Hughes 1992) combining (1) qualitative analysis of online Gen Z language use and (2) qualitative-quantitative survey data from non-native English-speaking Gen Z participants in North Macedonia. The qualitative component was used to identify and categorize examples of Gen Z slang, particularly abbreviations, initialisms, and clippings, while the quantitative component measured participants’ knowledge and usage of these items. This design makes it possible to compare how slang circulates online with how it is actually understood and used by young speakers in North Macedonia. The first stage consisted of identifying widely circulating slang terms used by Gen Z internet users. To do so, a purposive sampling approach was applied (Lincoln & Guba 1985). From this initial screening, a large pool of slang expressions was collected. These were then filtered to form a self made corpus (Biber 1993) that consists of only abbreviations, initialisms, and clippings, i.e. the focus of this study. The second stage of the research involved the distribution of an online survey. The survey sample consisted of 38 participants, all non-native English speakers aged 15-29, corresponding to the commonly accepted age range defining Generation Z (Grandez et al, 2023). Convenience sampling was used, using student group chats. Participation was voluntary and anonymous. The survey instrument consisted of a) open-ended question, through which participants were asked to list the abbreviations or acronyms they use in everyday communication; b) knowledge assessment, with responses categorized as correct, incorrect, or “I don’t know”; and c) a 5-point Likert usage-frequency scale meant to measure how often participants use each slang item online. The instrument was distributed using Google Forms. All questions were in

English, as English is the primary medium in which these slang terms circulate online. Data was analyzed objectively, using both descriptive and comparative methods. It is important to note that the study adhered to basic research ethics principles: Participation was voluntary and anonymous, with no personal identifiers collected; Respondents were informed of the study's purpose before completing the survey; and All data was stored securely.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. The GenZ abbreviations

According to the analysis of various online videos, the following 10 key defining abbreviations have been singled out to serve as a corpus:

1. SUS

Meaning: Sus is used as a synonym of suspicious, or suspect, as in “you’ve been acting pretty sus, I think you’re up to something.” It’s a slang word used to say that someone or something shouldn’t be trusted. While many who’ve only recently adopted the word believe it to be new and to have come out of the game “Among Us,” sus is in fact much older than that 2018 game: there is evidence of it in use from as early as the 1920s. (Merriam-Webster)
Usage: I remember the SUS law and it’s disproportional use against black and asian youth. (@gotthetrotts. X)

2. CAP/NO CAP

Meaning: Cap means to tell a lie. (Cambridge dictionary), and no cap is used for emphasizing that what you are saying is true (Cambridge dictionary). According to linguists such as Barnette et al. (2021): the slang term “cap” comes from a back-formation of the 16th -century “capping”, a game in which players quoted poems and dramatic lines successively, each attempting to outdo the previous speaker. The activity later shifted toward a chain of escalating insults; in that setting, “no cap” came to mean “I’m not kidding.”
Usage: Marriage favors the WOMEN more than the MEN... CAP OR NO CAP. (@YoungRejoice1. X)

3. W

Meaning: “W” means win ([DIY.ORG](https://www.diy.org)), and Win which means to achieve first position and/or get a prize in a competition, election fight etc. (Cambridge dictionary), however in the gen z sense it means that the people that have witnessed the person’s act approve of it thus saying “W” as a form of approval mainly in social media comment sections.
Usage: this is a big W guys i don't think u get it □□□(@waduhh_x. X)

4. NPC

Meaning: NPC is a character in a video game that does not represent and cannot be manipulated by a player. (Merriem-Webster)
Usage: Every single person defending Hasan has used Palestine to deflect. Crazy crazy NPC behaviour. (@KDuncan_ALBA. X)

5. RIZZ

Meaning: “Rizz” is a clipping from the word charisma with a more narrow use because unlike charisma which is a special quality that some people have naturally that makes them able to influence other people and attract their attention and admiration(Cambridge dictionary), “Rizz” is the ability to attract people’s attention and make them like you, often in a romantic or sexual way(Cambridge dictionary). “Rizz” is a term especially popular among males which consider the male, who can easily win the attraction of a woman, to have the best rizz.

Usage: Sigma rizz. (@O2JAEY. X)

6. **FR**

Meaning: FR is an abbreviation for “For Real,” and it’s used in casual conversation or online to emphasize that you’re being honest or serious. It’s like saying, “I’m not joking”, or “I mean it.” You’ll often see people use it when they want to stress that something is true or when they’re surprised by something and want to confirm that it’s really happening. (Socialbee.com)

Usage: A Hug fr. (@efedontfwx. X)

7. **FOMO**

Meaning: FOMO is an abbreviation for “Fear of missing out”: a worried feeling that you may miss exciting events that other people are going to, especially caused by things you see on social media (Cambridge dictionary)

Usage: The only fomo i have is missing out on Travis Scott show. These South African tweets, I have rager fomo. (@KeithOneAl_. X)

8. **TFW**

Meaning: TFW is an abbreviation for “That feeling when”, “That feel when”, or “That face when”: used on social media to introduce a funny picture that shows someone’s feelings or expression in a particular situation (Cambridge dictionary).

Usage: TFW your fav character dies twice (@withoutzeuzey. X)

9. **IFYKYK**

Meaning: IFYKYK is an abbreviation of the phrase “if you know, you know” which is used to state that a person has acquired knowledge which only certain people that have experienced something or have dealt with a certain situation could have. For example, on social media, and in text messages, to show that there is a shared joke or shared knowledge with the reader that other people might not understand (Cambridge dictionary).

Usage: IFYKY #LoveIsBlind. (@netflix. X)

10. **TTYL**

Meaning: The initialism tyl stands for “talk to you later.” Popularized in Internet chat forums, ttyl is one of a host of abbreviations that sprang into widespread use in the 1980s and 1990s. (Merriem-Webster)

Usage: Leaving for a bit... TTYL (= ° ω °) / °. (@RealSonjaME. X)

11. **GOAT**

Meaning: GOAT is an acronym for “Greatest of All Time” which is used to refer to or describe a person who has performed better than anyone else, especially in a sport (Cambridge dictionary). For example, in football, people often refer to Messi as the GOAT, or in the video game League of Legends, gamers refer to the professional player “Faker” as the GOAT.

Usage: Ancellotti might just win the World Cup and exit football as the GOAT. (@the_marcolilboy. X)

4.2. Survey results

While the examples above illustrate how these abbreviations function naturally in online discourse, the next step was to investigate how familiar Gen Z users themselves are with these forms and how often they use them in everyday communication. To do this, a

survey (with an online survey as a data collection instrument) was conducted with 38 participants aged 15-29, all of whom self-identified as frequent internet users.

At the heart of the survey, alongside the participants, are 11 specific Gen Z abbreviations or shortenings, singled out by the authors as a self-made corpus (Bieber 1993): SUS, CAP/NO CAP, W, RIZZ, FR, NPC, FOMO, TFW, IYKYK, TTYL, and GOAT. This approach linked the qualitative examples with the survey data, helping show not only which terms are familiar to participants, but also how often they use them in everyday communication.

The initial findings indicate high overall awareness of the sample of acronyms (100% of the participants know what acronyms are), and 92% report using them in daily internet communication. In terms of knowledge, the results indicate that it varies by term: For instance, FR (for real) and SUS (suspicious) seem to be best known, while TFW (that feeling when) is the least known one in the sample. Usage frequency (measured on a Linkert, 1-5 scale, where 5 is very often) is highest for FR (3.26) and correlates positively with knowledge for most terms. The data also shows that younger respondents (15-20) show higher knowledge and usage of gaming-related terms like NPC, while older ones (25-29) better recognize experience-based terms like FOMO.

4.2.1. Most commonly used acronyms (self-reported data)

Before measuring participants' knowledge and use-frequency of the selected terms, the survey first asked an open-ended question: respondents were prompted to list the acronyms they use in their daily communication. Based on their self-reported responses, the 10 most commonly used acronyms are:

Table 1: Acronyms used by respondents

No.	Acronym	Mentions	No.	Acronym	Mentions
1	lol	11	6	brb	5
2	irl	8	7	omg	5
3	wtf	8	8	btw	5
4	idk	7	9	nvm	5
5	fr	6	10	etc	4

It seems that respondents list evergreen internet slang (e.g., LOL, WTF) over niche Gen Z terms when no additional prompting is included in the question.

4.2.2. Knowledge of Specific Gen Z Slang

Building on the list of commonly used acronyms, the survey next explored participants' understanding of selected Gen Z slang terms. Knowledge was assessed by examining how accurately respondents could identify or define the meanings of these acronyms, based on their self-reported answers, and the data obtained is as follows:

Table 2: Knowledge of sampled Gen Z acronyms

Term	Meaning (Standard)	Correct	“I don’t know”	Wrong	Accuracy rate %
SUS	Suspicious	36	2	0	94.7%
CAP/NO CAP	Lie/No lie	31	7	0	81.6%
W	Win	33	3	2	84.6%
RIZZ	Charisma	26	7	5	65.0%
FR	For real	36	2	0	94.7%
NPC	Non-playable character	34	3	1	89.5%
FOMO	Fear of missing out	28	10	0	73.7%
TFW	That feeling when	25	13	0	65.8%
IYKYK	If you know you know	34	4	0	89.5%
TTYL	Talk to you later	30	7	1	78.9%
GOAT	Greatest of all time	35	1	3	89.7%

4.2.3. General Usage Frequency

In addition to assessing knowledge, the survey examined how often participants use these acronyms in daily communication. Respondents rated their frequency of use on a 5-point Likert scale (1 = never, 5 = very often). Overall, average ratings were low to moderate (mean = 2.1 across terms), suggesting that while these acronyms are recognized by the sample of non-native Gen Z speakers, they are used only occasionally. The data in full is as follows:

Table 3: Usage-frequency

Term	Avg Frequency	Term	Avg Frequency
FR	3.3	CAP	2.0
GOAT	2.6	RIZZ	2.0

NPC	2.6	FOMO	1.7
W	2.2	TTYL	1.5
IYKYK	2.1	TFW	1.4
SUS	2.0		

4.2.4. Frequency of use by age-group

To explore how usage varies across the different ages of Gen Zers, we analyzed the frequency patterns by age group. The results (Table 4) indicate that younger Gen Z participants tend to use the sampled slang acronyms slightly more frequently than their older counterparts. This may be a sign of some subtle generational differences.

Table 4: Usage-frequency by age-group

Term	15-20	21-24	25-29	Term	15-20	21-24	25-29
FR	3.7	3.0	2.4	RIZZ	2.3	1.9	1.3
NPC	2.9	2.3	2.1	IYKYK	2.2	2.9	1.0
W	2.9	1.2	1.5	FOMO	1.3	2.0	2.1
GOAT	2.8	2.8	2.0	TTYL	1.6	1.7	1.1
SUS	2.1	2.3	1.3	TFW	1.4	1.4	1.3
CAP	2.1	2.0	1.8				

4.2.5. Additional insights

The analysis showed that some terms (e.g., SUS, GOAT, NPC) are widely understood even though they're not frequently self-used, suggesting passive familiarity from media exposure. Others (like RIZZ) show higher usage than understanding, indicating slang still in diffusion a.k.a. people know it exists but may misuse or misunderstand it. Furthermore, it seems that older internet slang (e.g., TTYL, TFW, FOMO) is not used as frequently. This may mean that these terms may be possibly considered “outdated” by the participants.

In terms of the specific terms, FR has the highest overall understanding and usage (94.7% / 3.3). This shows that this acronym has become fully mainstream even among non-native speakers. GOAT similarly bridges generational gaps as it seems to be widely known across all tested age groups.

It is also interesting to note that the survey includes a minimal number of wrong answers (average 0.8 per term), suggesting that non-natives rarely guess completely off-base; and when they do (e.g., for RIZZ or GOAT), it's jokes.

Overall, the data suggests Gen Z's slang awareness exceeds self-use. This means that the sample of non-native speakers can recognize more terms than they actively use day-to-day. Social context and media exposure (e.g., TikTok, memes, gaming) likely drive recognition even when personal usage is somewhat limited. Or, in simpler terms: young people recognize more slang than they actually use. They might know the words from TikTok, memes, or gaming, but that doesn't mean they're "dropping them" into daily conversation.

5. Conclusion

From comment sections to everyday conversations, Gen Z slang has become a familiar part of how young people communicate. Recognizing this, this study aimed to identify key types of slang and to explore how the internet influences their development. The results show that these expressions have grown into a kind of *generational lingua franca*, a language variety that knows no geographical boundaries. Previous research and our survey findings clearly show that online culture, gaming communities, and especially trends on social media platforms play a major role in how these slang forms appear and spread.

And they have indeed spread far! The survey also shows that many slang terms are recognized even when they are not used very often. Younger participants tend to know more of the newer gaming-related expressions, while older respondents recognize slang that has been around longer, including terms that became popular with millennials. At the same time, acronyms like FR, SUS, and GOAT have become truly mainstream since almost everyone knows them, regardless of age. Overall, the findings suggest that young people understand more slang than they actually use in everyday communication. Still, Gen Z slang clearly matters because it helps shape identity and build social connections, especially online. As digital culture keeps changing, the language that comes from it will change too, creating space for future research to follow new slang terms as they emerge.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Ackroyd, S., & Hughes, J. 1992. *Data collection in context*, II ed. London: Longman
2. Austin, J. L. 1962. *How to Do Things with Words*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
Barnette, M. & Barret, G. 2011. "No cap no lie". Way With Words. Retrieved from: https://open.spotify.com/episode/2tVvfkNOQqPxzLDqBuJMky?si=3P_bdXxpQeOSlcL7qqQPZg%E2%81%A9%20 on November 29, 2025
3. Biber, D. 1993. "Using register-diversified corpora for generalized linguistic description. Corpus-based studies in English", 3-29. *Rodopi*.
4. Cambridge dictionary. (n.d.). "CAP". In [dictionary.cambridge.org dictionary](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/cap). Retrieved November 29, 2025, from <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/cap>
5. Cambridge dictionary. (n.d.). "FOMO". In [dictionary.cambridge.com dictionary](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/fomo). Retrieved November 29, 2025, from <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/fomo>
6. Cambridge dictionary. (n.d.). "goat" In *Cambridge dictionary*. Retrieved November 29, 2025, from <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/goat>
7. Cambridge dictionary. (n.d.). "IYKYK". In *Cambridge dictionary*. Retrieved November 29, 2025, from <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/iykyk>
8. Cambridge dictionary. (n.d.). "tfw". In *Cambridge dictionary*. Retrieved November 29, 2025, from <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/tfw>
9. Cambridge dictionary. (n.d.). "Rizz". In *Cambridge dictionary*. Retrieved November 29, 2025, from <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/rizz>

10. Cambridge dictionary. (n.d). "Win". In [dictionary.cambridge.com](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/win) dictionary. Retrieved November 29 2025, from <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/win>
11. Crystal, D. 2006. *Language and the Internet*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
12. [DIY.ORG](https://www.diy.org/tools/gen-z-slang-dictionary/w), (n.d). "W". Retrieved November 29, 2025, from <https://www.diy.org/tools/gen-z-slang-dictionary/w>
13. Grandez, M., et al. 2023. "Forda Person: The Morphological Structure of Generation Z in Social Media". *Journal of English as a Foreign Language Teaching and Research* 3(2): 14-30. Philippine Normal University Visayas, Philippines.
14. Juli, A., Suci, M., and Esti, A. 2024. "Comparison of Slang in Millennials and Gen Z: A Semantic Analysis in the Context of Linguistic Learning". *Semantik: Jurnal Riset Ilmu Pendidikan, Bahasa dan Budaya* 2(3): 206–215.
15. Kostadinovska-Stojchevska, B., and Shalevska, E. 2018. "Internet Memes and Their Sociolinguistic Features". *European Journal of Literature, Language and Linguistics Studies* 2(4). Available at: <https://oapub.org/lit/index.php/EJLLL/article/view/73> (accessed November 16, 2025).
16. Kulkarni, V., and Wang, W. Y. 2017. "TFW, DamnGina, Juvie, and Hotsie-Totsie: On the Linguistic and Social Aspects of Internet Slang". *arXiv preprint arXiv:1712.08291*.
17. Langdon, S. 2022. "TikTok Slang: The Exclusive Language of Gen Z". HigherVisibility. Available at: <https://www.highervisibility.com/ppc/learn/tiktok-slang/> (accessed November 16, 2025).
18. Lave, J., and Wenger, E. 1991. *Situated Learning: Legitimate Peripheral Participation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. DOI: 10.1017/CBO9780511815355.
19. Lihawa, K., Muziatun, M., Malingkas, S. R., and Fatsah, H. 2021. "Word Formation Process of Gen Z Slang in Callahan's *Generation Z Dictionary*". *Lingua* 17(1): 1–17.
20. Lincoln, Y. S., & Guba, E. G. 1985. *Naturalistic inquiry*. Beverly Hills, CA: Sage.
21. Marzona, Y. 2025. "Language Change in the Communication of Generation Z". *Jurnal Ilmiah Langue and Parole* 8(2): 2581–0804. Available at: <http://e-journal.sastra-unes.com/index.php/JILP> (accessed November 16, 2025).
22. Merriam-Webster. (n.d.). "NPC". In *Merriam-Webster dictionary*. Retrieved November 29, 2025, from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/NPC>
23. Merriam-Webster. (n.d.). "SUS". In *Merriam-Webster dictionary*. Retrieved November 29, 2025, from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/wordplay/what-does-sus-mean>
24. Merriam-Webster dictionary.. (n.d.) "ttyl". In *Merriam-Webster dictionary*. Retrieved November 29, 2025, from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/wordplay/what-does-ttyl-mean-talk-to-you-later>
25. Munera Martínez, M. 2022. *The Influence of Social Media on Gen-Z Students' Knowledge of Slang: How Motivation and Age Influence This Process*. Undergraduate dissertation. Castellón: Universitat Jaume I.
26. Oxford University Press. n.d. "Slang, n." In *Oxford English Dictionary*. Retrieved November 16, 2025, from <https://doi.org/10.1093/OED/7883991956>.
27. Park, S., and Kwon, S. 2024. "Social Links vs. Language Barriers: Decoding the Global Dissemination of Content across Streaming Platforms". *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications* 11(1): 226. DOI: 10.1057/s41599-025-04400-2.
28. Rahardi, R. K. 2024. "Peran Konteks Siberteks Multimodal Visual dalam Mengungkap Maksud Penutur di Ruang Publik Maya". *Linguistik Indonesia* 42(1): 127-140.
29. Searle, J. R. 1969. *Speech Acts: An Essay in the Philosophy of Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
30. Shalevska, E. 2023. "The Gen Z Internet Slang and EFL Speakers: The Case of North Macedonia". *Horizons International Scientific Journal* 1(1). University "St. Kliment Ohridski" – Bitola.
31. Socialbee glossary. (n.d). "FR". In [socialbee.com](https://socialbee.com/glossary/for-real/) glossary. Retrieved November 29, 2025, from <https://socialbee.com/glossary/for-real/>
32. Wadea, S. J. 2024. "The Cultural Impact of Generation Z on Neologism and Its Translation: Internet Slangs as a Model," *Educational Administration Theory and Practice* 30(6): 2751-2756.

33. Barnette, M. & Barret, G. 2021. "No cap no lie". Way With Words. Retrieved from: https://open.spotify.com/episode/2tVvfkNOQqPxzLDqBuJMky?si=3P_bdXxpQeOSlcl7qqQPZg on November 29, 2025.
34. Yunisrina, Y. et al. 2022. "“GOTCHUU!”: The Use of Slang in Social Media by Generation Z." *LINGUA: Jurnal Ilmu Bahasa dan Sastra*, 17(2): 167-174. <https://ejournal.uin-malang.ac.id/index.php/humbud/article/view/17756>.

Sample of observed slang usage:

1. gotthetrotts. 2025. X (formerly Twitter), available at: <https://x.com/gotthetrotts/status/1974736037600739764> (accessed November 29, 2025).
2. YoungRejoice1. 2025. X (formerly Twitter), available at: <https://x.com/YoungRejoice1/status/1985384439346540662> (accessed November 29, 2025).
3. Waduhh_x. 2025. X (formerly Twitter), available at: https://x.com/waduhh_x/status/1852763226741911943 (accessed November 29, 2025).
4. KDuncan_ALBA. 2025. X (formerly Twitter), available at: https://x.com/KDuncan_ALBA/status/1976589644776313186 (accessed November 29, 2025).
5. O2JAEY. 2025. X (formerly Twitter), available at: <https://x.com/O2JAEY/status/1977328624610255212> (accessed November 29, 2025).
6. efedontfwx. 2025. X (formerly Twitter), available at: <https://x.com/efedontfwx/status/1977330006171992454> (accessed November 29, 2025).
7. KeithOneAl_. 2025. X (formerly Twitter), available at: https://x.com/KeithOneAl_/status/1977330277501579377 (accessed November 29, 2025).
8. withoutzeuzey. 2025. X (formerly Twitter), available at: <https://x.com/withoutzeuzey/status/1974571205400416431> (accessed November 29, 2025).
9. Netflix. 2025. X (formerly Twitter), available at: <https://x.com/netflix/status/1973523320160067765> (accessed November 29, 2025).
10. RealSonjaME. 2025. X (formerly Twitter), available at: <https://x.com/RealSonjaME/status/1976012099127291917> (accessed November 29, 2025).
11. the_marcoliboy. 2025. X (formerly Twitter), available at: https://x.com/the_marcoliboy/status/1976632066554089634 (accessed November 29, 2025).