



THE EFFECT OF INTERNET SLANGS IN THE EVOLUTION OF LANGUAGE

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Abstract. The base of the study is to determine the influence of internet slangs in the gradual development of English language. Internet slang is a non-standard or unofficial form of language used by people on the Internet to communicate to one another. Other specific objective of the study is to define the extent to which internet slangs affects the writing and speaking of English language. There are presented causative factors of internet slangs on the language and proffered possible solutions to them.

Keywords. Internet slangs, non-standard, abbreviations, acronyms, keyboard symbols, text slang, networking.

Introduction. Internet slang is also called Internet shorthand, cyber-slang, netspeak, digispeak or chatspeak. It has had a significant impact on the evolution of the English language. It has introduced new words, phrases, and expressions that have become widely used in digital communication, social media, and everyday conversations. Some ways in which internet slang has influenced the evolution of English include:

- **Creation of New Words:** Internet slang has led to the creation of new words and abbreviations, such as "LOL" (laugh out loud), "BRB" (be right back), "ICYMI" (in case you missed it), and "selfie." These words have become part of everyday language and are now commonly understood by English speakers.
- **Changes in Spelling and Grammar:** Internet slang often involves creative spelling and grammar, such as "u" instead of "you," "thx" instead of "thanks," and the use of emojis and emoticons to convey emotions and tone. These changes have influenced informal writing styles and have sometimes blurred the lines between formal and informal language usage.
- **Influence on Linguistic Creativity:** Internet slang has encouraged linguistic creativity and playfulness, leading to the development of memes, viral phrases, and cultural references that contribute to the rich tapestry of the language. This creativity has also sparked new forms of expression and humor.
- **Globalization of Language:** The internet has facilitated the rapid spread of internet slang across different regions and countries, contributing to the globalization of English and the adoption of new words and expressions by non-native speakers.



- Evolution of Communication Norms: Internet slang has influenced the way people communicate online, shaping the norms of digital interaction and fostering a sense of community and belonging among users who share common linguistic codes.

So the internet slang has played a significant role in shaping the contemporary landscape of the English language, reflecting the dynamic nature of language evolution in response to technological and social changes. An example of Internet slang is "LOL" meaning "laugh out loud". Since Internet slang is constantly changing, it is difficult to provide a standardized definition. However, it can be understood to be any type of slang that Internet users have popularized, and in many cases, have coined. Such terms often originate with the purpose of saving keystrokes or to compensate for small character limits. Many people use the same abbreviations in texting, instant messaging, and social networking websites. Acronyms, keyboard symbols, and abbreviations are common types of Internet slang. New dialects of slang, such as leet or Lolspeak, develop as ingroup Internet memes rather than time savers. Many people also use Internet slang in face-to-face, real life communication.

Materials and methods. The inception of Internet slang dates back to the year 2005, preceding the emergence of the Internet itself. It is noted that the utilization of slang commenced within the "hacker culture," which possesses a nuanced aspect of expression that is akin to the slang used by jazz musicians and certain types of artists, yet it is not easily discernible in most technical or scientific circles; some elements of it serve as code for shared states of consciousness. Platforms like Facebook have facilitated the formation of communities and the development of novel methods of interpreting communication, particularly among teenagers as they interact with one another. According to "The Cambridge Online Dictionary," slang is described as exceedingly informal language that is employed predominantly in spoken discourse within specific social groups, occasionally encompassing impolite terms. The advent of social networking has enabled these communities to forge their own linguistic codes. Additionally, Internetslang.com is a platform that monitors and defines over 9,000 presently utilized Internet Slang terms and also monitors the top 10 trending terms, thus offering contemporary teenagers an accessible resource for comprehending and referencing the Internet Slang language within their community. There exist literary works that explore the use of Internet Slang in educational settings and on academic tasks. In studying the topic of Internet Slang usage, the opinions of teachers have been found on both sides of the issue. There have been debates amongst teachers and scholars regarding the effects of Internet Slang used in secondary education. According to a Nielsen poll conducted in late 2008, teens in the United States send and receive, on average, 80 daily, a number that doubled in only one year. It is noted that teens primarily use smartphones for texting and less for voice calling, pictures, music, and vide. Researchers are beginning to define effects of the use of Internet Slang - via text messaging on secondary education, and some researchers are finding negative results between the use of Internet Slang in text messages and tests results on academic assignments. Some students demonstrate a strong inclination towards utilizing



Internet Slang in their academic assignments, and they have been observed encountering difficulties in transitioning from "text slang" used in informal contexts to employing proper English grammar during examinations. In other research, adolescents perceive texting as providing them with a sense of immediacy in conversations and take pride in their ability to type swiftly. This suggests that slang is prevalent in text messages, often involving word abbreviations. This mode of communication deviates from standard English conventions and prioritizes brevity for expediency. Nevertheless, while the debate on whether internet slang is reshaping language norms continues, it cannot be overlooked that it has undeniably made a substantial impact and rapidly gained relevance in society, influencing new linguistic trends.

Results and conclusion. Each year, numerous words and expressions stemming from internet slang are incorporated into dictionaries. Some of these additions consist of abbreviations, such as FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out) and YOLO (You Only Live Once). Others involve words being utilized in different parts of speech than originally intended — for instance, the transformation of "trend" into a verb ("It's trending worldwide"). Additionally, certain terms have surfaced as our language adapts to new technologies; consider "crowdfunding," "selfie," and "cyberbullying." It's worth noting that many of these "new" words are essentially borrowed from existing vocabulary, either through combining existing words or assigning them entirely new meanings. For instance, "social network" was first documented in the Oxford English Dictionary in 1973, referring to the physical act of networking in a social setting. In the 1990s, the term began to be used to describe virtual interaction, eventually becoming an official definition in 1998. Why are numerous new words and phrases rapidly emerging on the internet? How does slang propagate across different cities and countries? Lastly, what processes lead to a slang word being included in the dictionary? By delving into these inquiries, a comprehensive understanding can be attained. The internet is not the sole technological development that has reshaped our language. Radio, television, and telephones have also introduced a plethora of new expressions and terms into our vocabulary over the past century. For instance, the phrase TTFN (Ta Ta For Now) originated from the "It's That Man Again" radio series in the 1940s. Similarly, the word "doh," popularized by Homer Simpson on *The Simpsons*, was officially recognized in the Oxford English Dictionary, where it signifies "used to comment on a foolish or stupid action, especially one's own." Additionally, "Give me the 4-1-1," a slang term for requesting information that references the number for local directory assistance, became prevalent. However, as our online presence continues to grow, traditional forms of media like radio and TV are receiving less attention, and smartphones have blurred the boundaries between phones and the internet. At present, the internet is likely the most significant influence on our everyday conversational language. Consider the rapid turnover of internet trends. The swift pace of change in the online realm has led to the adoption of new words at an unprecedented rate. While language evolution typically progresses slowly, the internet has accelerated this process, rendering linguistic shifts more noticeable. One can envision how much longer it



historically took for new words to disseminate through word-of-mouth compared to the near-instantaneous transmission facilitated by the internet today. The dissemination of slang has long been a subject of interest for linguists and anthropologists. The mechanics behind the distribution of new words have proven challenging to measure accurately—until the emergence of public social media platforms. Thanks to social media, words are now traversing the globe within weeks and months, contrasting with the previous norm of it taking several years, as highlighted by Julie Coleman, author of *The Life of Slang*. Coleman suggests, "It's not necessarily that language is changing more quickly, but technologies have developed and they allow the transmission of slang terms to pass from one group to another much more quickly."

The key to a new word's success lies in its enduring usage. For a word to be included in the dictionary, it must be actively used and consistently maintained by the general population. According to McPherson, a word needs to demonstrate at least five years of continual use to be considered for inclusion. Consequently, regardless of personal opinions, when terms like "LOL" become pervasive, widely understood, and endure for over five years, they become eligible for inclusion in prominent dictionaries. Notably, numerous internet slang words, such as "wurfing" (the act of surfing the internet while at work), do not secure a place in the dictionary. However, it would be inaccurate to label these words as rejected, as they, along with many others, could potentially be reconsidered if their usage expands. The dictionary is a dynamic entity, and there is always a possibility that a previously overlooked word will eventually enter mainstream vocabulary. This is where even the term "slang" itself becomes somewhat ambiguous. There will certainly be changes in language that we don't like simply because many of us don't like change we should be less quick to impose our likes and dislikes about words on other people. Some argue that language change isn't worrisome, it's fun and fascinating. So, no matter whether you think internet slang vitalizes or destroys language, there's no denying how revealing it is of the culture that invents and uses it and the ease with which we adapt our language to new technologies and concepts.

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