

# Revealing Slang Words Used by Generation Z on Social Media

## “TikTok”

Anastasya Shinta Ramadhani<sup>a,1</sup>, Ambar Pujiyatno<sup>b,2</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Faculty of Cultural Sciences and Communication, Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto, Purwokerto 53182, Indonesia

<sup>b</sup> Faculty of Cultural Sciences and Communication, Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto, Purwokerto 53182, Indonesia

<sup>1</sup> [tasyashintaaaa@gmail.com](mailto:tasyashintaaaa@gmail.com); <sup>2</sup> [ambarpujiyatno1@gmail.com](mailto:ambarpujiyatno1@gmail.com)

\* Corresponding Author



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### ABSTRACT

Language manifests in various forms, with the younger generation being one of the most dynamic users. In particular, Generation Z noticeably shows a stronger tendency to use slang in everyday communication compared to formal language. This study aims to investigate the use of slang words by Generation Z on the widely used social media platform, *TikTok*. Employing a descriptive qualitative method with a sociolinguistic approach, this research adopts the theoretical framework of Allan and Burridge (2006), who categorize slang into five types: *fresh and creative*, *flippant*, *imitative*, *acronym*, and *clipping*. The findings of this study revealed 50 slang word entries used by Generation Z *TikTok* users in 2025. The analysis showed that the slang words fell into five categories: *fresh and creative* (22%), *flippant* (12%), *imitative* (18%), *acronym* (30%), and *clipping* (18%). Among these, acronyms were found to be the most frequently used slang type, with a proportion of 30%. This dominance is attributed to their practicality, brevity, and effectiveness in message delivery, characteristics that align with Generation Z's preference for fast, creative, and easily comprehensible modes of communication.

### KEYWORDS

Language  
Slang  
Sociolinguistic  
Generation Z  
*TikTok*

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### 1. Introduction

As the most important communication tool, Language plays a crucial role in human life as a fundamental means of communication, enabling individuals to interact effectively with one another (Rezeki and Sagala 2019). It serves as a medium through which people express ideas, emotions, thoughts, and information more clearly and efficiently. According to Sulaeman and Dwihudhana (2019) language also acts as a unifying tool within a society, as it is mutually accepted by a community to facilitate communication and promote mutual understanding between individuals or groups. Language exists in two primary forms: spoken and written, both of which are intended to be widely recognized and understood. Furthermore, language is not static—it continuously develops and adapts, shaped by technological advancements, cross-cultural interactions, and evolving social conditions. As a result, language remains a flexible and ever-evolving system of human expression.

Linguistics is a scientific discipline that systematically studies language, encompassing aspects such as its structure, origin, evolution, and the ways in which it is used by humans. Within the field of linguistics, the branch that focuses on the relationship between language and society is known as sociolinguistics (Budiasa 2021). The term "sociolinguistics" is derived from two components: "socio," referring to social aspects or matters related to society, and "linguistics," which pertains to the study of language. In this context, language is not merely viewed as a tool for communication, but also as a medium for interaction and as a significant element in various aspects



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ijelle@univetbantara.ac.id

of human life within a societal framework. Sociolinguistics explores the connection between language and society by examining how individuals use language in daily communication, as well as how cultural, environmental, and normative factors shape linguistic practices. Furthermore, it investigates how language is influenced by social variables such as social class, ethnicity, generational identity, age, and communicative context (Febrianty et al., 2023). Linguistic change occurs as a result of internal innovation and external cultural forces. Internal changes are linguistic in nature and relate to grammatical structures, whereas external changes are influenced by social factors one of which is the emergence of slang through platforms like social media.

Slang is a form of language that employs informal vocabulary and expressions within a non-standard linguistic framework. Typically, slang is used by specific social groups in internal communication contexts, aiming to obscure meaning from outsiders who are not part of the group (Brown, et al., 2020). In interactions characterized by familiarity and emotional closeness, the use of complete grammatical structures, clear articulation, and proper word separation is often deemed unnecessary, as mutual understanding and shared knowledge already exist among participants. Slang is more commonly found in spoken rather than written forms and is generally restricted to informal settings. According to Syaputra, Sari, and Endang (2024), slang is frequently perceived as coarse or impolite language; this, it cannot be translated literally and must be used with careful attention to the context and the interlocutor. Slang is not an officially recognized language in standard dictionaries, it is considered far more effective than Standard English in conveying aspects of race, gender, and ethnicity in everyday conversations. In today's modern era, slang is widely encountered in both daily and internet-based communication. Generally, slang is most often used by teenagers and young adults within contemporary social environments (Nuraini and Pahamzah 2021). The younger generation, especially Generation Z, plays a significant role in the evolution and dissemination of slang across various social media platforms.

Communication through technology has become an inevitable activity, particularly among the younger generation (Sulaeman and Dwihudhana 2019). Generation Z, commonly referred to as Gen Z, represents the first generation to grow up immersed in the internet and digital technologies. This generation was born between the mid-1990s and the early 2010s. Emerging during a time characterized by rapid technological advancements, they have become highly accustomed to using social media as their primary means of communication, which has significantly contributed to the emergence and evolution of slang (Rezeki and Sagala 2019). As internet usage has increased, Gen Z has begun to develop a distinct form of language that is often only understood within their own peer group (Ardi 2019). In their daily lives, Gen Z communicates in various recognized languages, both in face-to-face interactions and online through social media platforms. Their reliance on technology is profound, with the internet being considered a basic necessity in their everyday routines. In this modern era, the use of slang has become increasingly common in daily conversations. Gen Z's unique slang is frequently observed on digital platforms—one of the most notable being TikTok, a space characterized by brief, creative, and expressive communication (Gemintang et al. 2025). Due to TikTok's popularity among Generation Z, the data for this study were collected using this platform. Slang is typically used by Gen Z during informal interactions with their peers, making this linguistic phenomenon a compelling subject of study.

Social media communication is unique because it is informal and expressive. Users often employ slang, abbreviations, and other creative linguistic forms to convey identity and emotion in ways that differ from formal communication. (Wedananta et al. 2023). In recent years, social media has become a very popular platform among people, and one of the dominating platforms is TikTok. TikTok has attracted the attention of millions of users of all ages, including millennials and Generation Z. As a medium for mixing different styles of language and culture (Ayu and Haryanto 2023). Through specific expressions, users convey values, group norms, and their social positioning within the digital space (Putri, 2024). This platform was introduced to the global market in 2017 by the Chinese company ByteDance, and it is known that approximately 66% of its total users are under

the age of 30, which falls into the Generation Z category. TikTok became the most downloaded app on Google Play in October 2018, and by 2019, its user base had reached 1 billion. Since TikTok is specifically designed for a younger demographic, its users require a form of communication that aligns with their generational characteristics in order to remain relevant and effective (Miller 2020).

This study focused on the slang used by Generation Z on TikTok social media in 2025. Slang is a form of informal language variety that evolves dynamically and is frequently used in everyday communication, particularly among Generation Z. This study seeks to identify and examine the types of slang employed by TikTok users. The analysis focuses on the slang used by Generation Z, utilizing the framework proposed by Allan and Burridge (2006), who categorize slang into five main types: *fresh and creative*, *flippant*, *imitative*, *acronym*, and *clipping*. The first category is *fresh and creative*, which is slang created to enrich vocabulary in informal contexts by providing new and creative nuances of expression. Second, *flippant*, which consists of two or more words that do not have a direct relationship with their denotative meaning, reflecting unconventional language use. Third, *imitative*, which is slang that imitates or originates from standard English vocabulary, but in its use undergoes a shift in meaning or creative new formation. Fourth, *acronym*, refers to slang that is created by combining the initial letters of a word or a phrase, which is then pronounced as a new word. Finally, *clipping*, which is a slang formed by shortening part of a longer word, but still maintaining the original meaning. Based on this linguistic phenomenon, the researcher decided to conduct a scientific study with the title: Revealing Slang Word Used by Generation Z on Social Media TikTok.

Several previous studies have examined the use of slang among Generation Z, particularly on social media. (Tasyarasita, 2023) examined the use of slang on TikTok and found characteristics such as abbreviations, shortening, and interjections. (Azhari and Inayatilah, 2022) in their research on the slang language of K-pop fans on the @official\_nct TikTok account identified the form, meaning, and function of slang, and categorized the form into abbreviations, pronunciation puns, and other creative expressions. Meanwhile, (Syaputra, et al., 2024) analyzed the slang language style used by Generation Z on Instagram social media. The results showed that slang is used as a means of identity expression, building familiarity, and creating a relaxed impression in online interactions. Despite making relevant contributions, most of these studies focus more on the form and function of slang without systematically classifying them. In addition, not many studies have specifically applied Allan and Burridge's (2006) theory in analyzing TikTok slang comprehensively. Therefore, this study aims to fill the gap by analyzing 50 slang words used by Generation Z on TikTok in 2025 and classifying them into five main categories. This approach is expected to provide a more structured linguistic overview of language trends on social media today.

## 2. Method

This research was conducted using descriptive qualitative method. This research is the right type of research to examine the types of English slang used by TikTok platform users. Qualitative research is an approach to examine and understand the meaning given by individuals or groups to a human social situation, according to Creswell (2014: 4). Descriptive qualitative research method is used by researchers because this method tries to identify and examine the types of slang produced. The purpose of this research is to describe the slang words used by Generation Z by classifying the types of slang. The subjects in this research are TikTok platform users.

This study employs a sociolinguistic approach, as it focuses on exploring the relationship between language and society, particularly how linguistic variations are shaped by factors such as social groups, age, and the digital environment. The data in this research are sourced from TikTok content posted by users in 2025 who belong to Generation Z. The selection of these users is based on the nature of their content, their linguistic style, and the surrounding digital context. User identification is determined by analyzing specific indicators observable in their TikTok profiles,

including bio descriptions, profile pictures, patterns of interaction in the comment section, and the types of content shared-all of which reflect typical characteristics associated with Generation Z.

Data collection was conducted in several stages: (1) Selecting TikTok content in 2025 that contains English slang, (2) Identifying and observing users who exhibit Gen Z characteristics, (3) Recording and taking screenshots of slang usage, (4) Classifying each slang into its category based on Allan and Burridge's (2006) theory. For the analysis, the researcher applied the classification framework of slang types proposed by Allan and Burridge (2006), which divides slang into five categories: *fresh and creative*, *flippant*, *imitative*, *acronym*, and *clipping*. By utilizing this approach, the study aims to explore how slang is innovatively used and adapted within the dynamic and fast-paced environment of TikTok.

### 3. Results and Discussion

By examining TikTok videos shared by users throughout 2025, the author successfully gathered data on the slang expressions used by Generation Z, specifically from video texts, captions, and the comments section on posts appearing on the For You Page (FYP). The collected data were then analyzed based on the categories of slang types. To classify the types and meanings of English slang found in TikTok content, the researcher adopted the framework proposed by Allan and Burridge (2006), which divides slang into five categories: *fresh and creative*, *flippant*, *imitative*, *acronym*, and *clipping*. The table below presents the classification of 50 slang terms identified in the study. Subsequently, the researcher also categorized which types of slang were most frequently used, following the approach of (Jeresano and Carretero 2022).

**Tabel 1.** Types of slang words, the data, and the meaning

Type of Slang	Data	Meaning
Fresh and Creative	No cap	Truly, honestly; not lying or exaggerating
	Core	A style or aesthetic category
	Slay	To look amazing or perform excellently
	Legit	Real, cool, or trustworthy
	Let him cook	Let someone continue what they're doing because it seems promising
	Flex	To show off, especially wealth or achievements
	Spill the tea	Gossip or interesting personal information
	Red flag	A warning sign of potential problems especially in relationships
	Biggest flex	The most impressive thing someone can show off
	Period	Final affirmation of a statement; it cannot be denied any further
Flippant	Glow up	A transformation into a better appearance or condition
	Pick me	A person (usually female) who seeks validation by putting others down
	Drop it	Relax, calm down
	Chill out	Stop talking about a topic
	Hit the spot	Something that satisfies exactly (food, emotion)
	Get on my case	Nag or criticize someone with someone good luck (especially in performance)
Imitative	Break a leg	

Imitative	Rizz	Charisma
	Lemme	Let me
	Kinda	Kind of
	Gimme	Give me
	Diff	Different
	Gonna	Going to
	Obvi	Obviously
	Dunno	Don't know
	Comfy	Comfortable
Acronym	FOMO	Fear Of Missing Out
	POV	Point Of View
	FR	For Real
	LMAO	Laughing My Ass Off
	CMIW	Correct Me if I'm Wrong
	TBH	To Be Honest
	ATP	At This Point
	OFC	Of Course
	IDC	I Don't Care
	FYP	For You Page
	IDGAF	I Don't Give A Fuck
	WTH	What The Hell
	RN	Right Now
	IRL	In Real Life
	NGL	Not Gonna Life
Clipping	Omgosh	Expression of surprise or emotion
	Cuz	Because
	Till	Until
	Abt	About
	Sissy	Informal term for sister/feminine
	Delulu	Unrealistic or out-of-touch thinking
	Tho	Though (used for contrast)
	Pics	Images or photos
	Yap	Yapping

## 1. Fresh and Creative

According to Allan and Burridge (2006), fresh and creative is a type of slang where the slang words have new vocabulary, witty imagery, informal variations, and maybe modern words that few people know.

### Data 1. No Cap

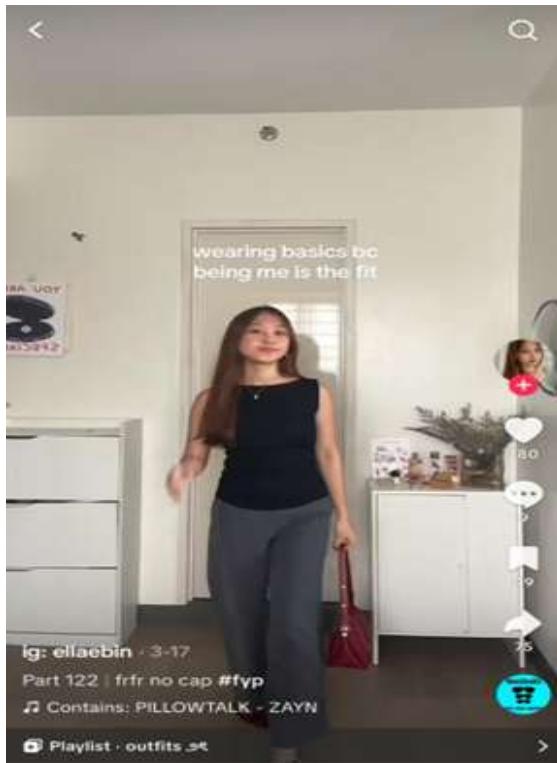


Figure 1. No Cap

Definition: *No cap* is a popular expression meaning “honest” or “no lie”, and is often used by Generation Z to emphasize the authenticity of statements.

On 17 March 2025, the account [@ig:ellaebin](#) shared a video text accompanied by the caption:

**“frfr No Cap”**  
**Text video “wearing basics bc being me is the fit”**

Slang *no cap* in a TikTok upload by user [@ellaebin](#) (2025), this phrase is used in the caption “*frfr no cap*” accompanying the video text “*wearing basics bc being me is the fit*”. In this context, *no cap* serves as an affirmation that the statement about confidence and simple dressing style is sincere and authentic. This usage reflects the value of honesty and self-expression that characterizes Generation Z's communication on social media. According to Allan and Burridge (2006), *no cap* is categorized as fresh and creative slang, as it is a new form of expression that does not exist in formal language and undergoes meaning innovation. The word *cap*, which originally means “lie” in African American Vernacular English, experienced an expansion of meaning when given the denial of no, so that it becomes an affirmative expression to state the truth. This creativity makes *no cap* not only a communication tool, but also a form of representation of identity and social values in digital culture.

Based on the analysis of 11 slang data used by Generation Z on the TikTok platform throughout 2025, it was found that all of these terms can be categorized into the type of *fresh and creative slang* as described by Allan and Burridge (2006). *Fresh and creative* is a type of slang where the slang words have new vocabulary, witty imagery, informal variations, and may even be modern words that few people know. In this context, Generation Z demonstrates creative linguistic abilities by creating and using new forms of expression in their digital communication.

The slang analyzed includes: *no cap, core, slay, legit, let him cook, flex, tea, red flag, biggest flex, periodt*, and *glow up*. Each term exhibits a distinctive feature of linguistic creativity. *No cap* is used to emphasize honesty in statements, *core* represents aesthetics or group identity as in the phrase *girl core*, and *slay* is used to express praise for outstanding performances or achievements. The word *legit* is used to describe something genuinely good, cool, or trustworthy, often in contrast to something fake or exaggerated. Metaphorical phrases such as *let him cook* and *spill the tea* demonstrate the use of clever and symbolic imagery in everyday communication. In addition, *flex* and *biggest flex* show informal variations of standard verbs that have undergone meaning innovation to show pride. *Red flag* and *periodt* are used to express social judgments and strong personal opinions in an expressive and often dramatic manner, while *glow up* reflects an individual's positive transformation conveyed through fresh and modern language.

Overall, the use of the eleven slangs not only functions as a communication tool, but also reflects the socio-cultural dynamics of Gen Z, which is closely related to social media as a space for expression. This linguistic innovation shows that language continues to evolve following the needs of the user community, and it can be concluded that *fresh and creative slang* is an important part of the representation of identity, humor, aspirations, and social values in today's digital culture.

## 2. Flippant

According to Allan and Burridge (2006), flippant is a type of slang where the slang forms usually have two or more words and do not relate to their denotative meaning.

### Data 2. Pick me

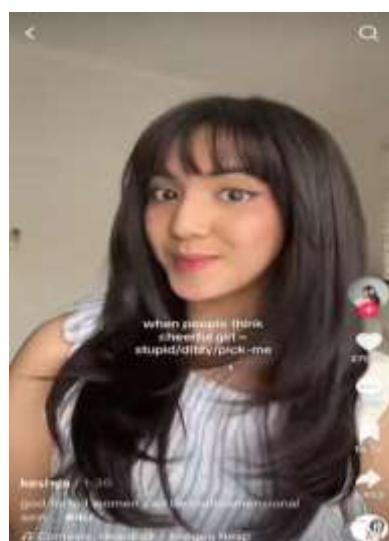


Figure 2. Pick me

Definition: *Pick me* is a slang term used sarcastically to refer to someone who seeks attention or validation, especially from the opposite sex, by putting others down or trying to be different in order to be picked or liked.

A user, **@keshya**, posted a video on **30 January 2025**, accompanied by the video text:

***"When people think cheerful girl = stupid/ditzy/pick me".***

Slang *pick me* in a TikTok upload by user **@keshya** (2025), the phrase *pick me* is used to criticize the stereotype that cheerful women are often considered shallow, stupid (ditzy), or exhibit behaviors associated with being a *pick me*. The term *pick me* in this context does not mean literally *pick me*, but rather as an allusion to someone who is considered to be pretending or behaving in a certain way just to get attention, especially from men. According to Allan and Burridge (2006), flippant slang refers to informal expressions or phrases that consist of two or more words and have no direct relationship to their literal meaning. The use of this slang is usually creative and deviates from standard language structures. *Pick me* falls into this category because it contains complex idiomatic meanings, is used in an ironic or sarcastic way, and reflects social dynamics in digital culture.

Based on the analysis of 6 slang data used by Generation Z on TikTok in 2025, it was found that all the terms belong to the type of flippant slang, as described by Allan and Burridge (2006). According to them, flippant slang is generally a phrase consisting of two or more words, and its meaning cannot be understood from the denotative meaning of each word. These terms are often idiomatic, full of innuendo, and used to convey messages indirectly in informal contexts. The analysis shows that Gen Z utilizes flippant slang forms to express personal experiences, emotions, social criticism, as well as a casual and ironic communication style on social media.

The slang *pick me* is used to satirize individuals, usually women, who seek excessive attention by putting others down, where the phrase *pick me* literally means *pick me*, but in use it carries a much different connotative meaning. The phrase *drop it* also doesn't mean to literally drop something, but is used to tell someone to stop talking about a certain topic or to tell someone to abruptly share content on social media. Meanwhile, *chill out* is used to tell someone to calm down or relax, even though its literal meaning has no direct connection to calmness. The phrase *hit the spot*, which literally means *hit the spot*, is used to describe satisfaction or comfort that is difficult to explain in literal terms. The same goes for *get on my case*, whose meaning does not relate to physical or legal action, but rather conveys annoyance when someone is reprimanded or criticized excessively. The phrase *break a leg*, which means good luck, also exhibits flippant characteristics, as its use contrasts sharply with its literal meaning of *break a leg*.

Gen Z's use of flippant slang shows creativity in creating idiomatic expressions that function to convey messages indirectly, nuanced, and sometimes with a touch of sarcasm or humor. Flippant slang not only shows the flexibility of language, but also becomes part of Gen Z's social identity that expresses emotions, opinions, and social values through a distinctive and unconventional way of speaking. Therefore, flippant slang has become an important element in modern digital discourse, reflecting the informal, ironic and highly contextualized dynamics of communication among today's young social media users.

### 3. Imitative

According to Allan and Burridge (2006), imitative refers to slang terms that imitate or derive from a word in Standard English, and use the term to convey a different meaning or to combine two different words.

#### Data 3. Rizz

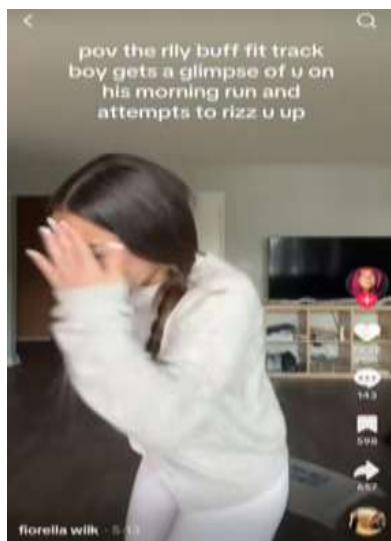


Figure 3. Rizz

Definition: *Rizz* is a form of slang derived from the word *charisma* which means attractiveness or charm. In Generation Z's use of slang, *rizz* refers to one's ability to seduce or attract attention romantically.

On 13 May 2025, the account **@fiorellawilk** uploaded a video text :

***"POV the rlly buff fit track boy gets a glimpse of u on his morning run and attempts to rizz u up."***

In the sentence, the word *rizz* is used as a verb to describe the act of wooing someone. The word *rizz* comes from the word *charisma*, which in English means attractiveness or charm. However, in the development of slang among Generation Z, this word has been simplified and given a new meaning, which is the ability to flirt or attract someone's romantic attention. The use of *rizz* in this context shows that this word no longer functions as a noun as in its original form (*charisma*), but has changed its function to a verb. In addition, its meaning has evolved to become more specific and contextualized, adapting to the way young people communicate on social media. According to Allan and Burridge (2006), *rizz* is classified as imitative slang because it is the result of imitation of a Standard English word (*charisma*) but is used informally with a more specific meaning in the context of digital culture. This transformation shows how Gen Z creates a new form of expression by modifying an old word into a form that is more concise, creative and suitable for today's online communication style.

Based on the analysis of 9 slang data used by Generation Z on TikTok in 2025 categorized as imitative slang were found, namely *rizz*, *lemme*, *kinda*, *gimme*, *diff*, *gonna*, *obvi*, *dunno*, and *comfy*.

According to Allan and Burridge (2006), imitative slang refers to a term that originates from or imitates a word in standard English, but then undergoes a change in form, pronunciation, or meaning function, resulting in a new form that is more informal and distinctive in a particular social context. This type of slang is widely used by Generation Z in social media, especially TikTok, as part of linguistic expression that reflects speed, familiarity and creativity in digital communication.

The slang *rizz*, is a phonetic shortening of the word charisma, and is now used to describe one's ability to seduce. Phonological transformations are also seen in *lemme* (from let me), *gimme* (from give me), *gonna* (from going to), and *dunno* (from I don't know), where formal phrases are simplified to create a faster, more casual style of language. Meanwhile, words like *kinda* (from kind of), *diff* (from different), *obvi* (from obviously), and *comfy* (from comfortable) show Gen Z's tendency to adapt formal vocabulary into shorter and more expressive forms, without losing the original meaning.

The use of imitative slang shows how Gen Z not only adapts formal language into informal forms, but also creates a communication system that is efficient, reflective of group identity, and highly dependent on the digital context. This phenomenon reflects the dynamics of language change in the social media era, where efficiency, style and personal expression are the main aspects of language. Thus, Gen Z's use of imitative slang does not simply follow linguistic trends, but also shows innovation and creativity in shaping new meanings from old forms in English.

#### 4. Acronym

According to Allan and Burridge (2006), acronym are language expressions created by shortening or taking abbreviations of words commonly used in everyday life.

##### Data 4. FOMO



Figure 4. Fomo

Definition: FOMO is an acronym for “*Fear of Missing Out*”, which describes the anxiety of missing out on social activities or important moments. The term is particularly popular among Generation Z as a response to digital social pressure.

On 24 January 2025, @Eli shared a video text, adding the caption :

***“when someone with FOMO suddenly starts isolating themselves and no longer cares about missing out.”***

The slang FOMO in the post above is used in the narrative “when someone with FOMO suddenly starts isolating themselves and no longer cares about missing out.” In this context, FOMO represents an emotional state when someone feels afraid of being left out of social activities, but undergoes a change in attitude to the point where they no longer care. This usage shows how the term has become part of Generation Z's daily expressions that are closely related to digital social phenomena.

According to Allan and Burridge (2006), FOMO falls into the category of acronym slang because it is formed from the initial letters of each word in the phrase *“Fear of Missing Out”*. This acronym illustrates Gen Z's tendency to simplify complex expressions into short forms that are efficient, memorable and familiar in the digital environment. The use of FOMO also reflects the psychosocial dynamics in a social media culture of social pressure and constant engagement.

Based on the analysis of 15 slang data used by Generation Z on TikTok in 2025 category as acronym. FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) which describes the social anxiety of feeling left out of an experience, and POV (Point of View) which is used to convey a personal perspective in a relatable visual form. The use of both shows how Gen Z shapes digital narratives with an intimate and creative approach.

Slang such as FR (For real), LMAO (Laughing my ass off), CMIIW (Correct me if i'm wrong), and TBH (To be honest) show the diverse functions of slang acronyms which include affirmation, humorous expression, and politeness in discussion. These acronyms not only reflect communication efficiency, but also become tools to convey attitudes, emotions, and social values in digital conversations. Furthermore, forms such as ATP (At this point), OFC (Of course), IDC (I don't care), and IDGAF (I don't give a fuck) are used to convey feelings of frustration, assertiveness, or indifference that are often present in the dynamics of social interaction on social media. This usage shows the flexibility of slang acronyms as a form of strong psychological and emotional expression. FYP (for you page), WTH (What the hell), NGL (Not gonna lie), RN (Right now), and IRL (In real life) are used in algorithmic, real-time, and virtual identity contexts. The presence of these terms marks how Gen Z's online communication is deeply rooted in internet culture and digital life.

The dominance of acronym slang in this analysis reflects that Generation Z prefers forms of language that are not only short in form, but also dense in meaning and easily recognizable in the fast-paced digital ecosystem. This supports Allan and Burridge's (2006) assertion that acronym slang developed as a form of linguistic adaptation to modern communication needs that prioritize speed, connectivity, and group identity. Therefore, acronym slang not only functions as a communication tool, but also as a symbol of digital culture that represents the way Generation Z thinks and interacts in the era of social media.

## 5. Clipping

According to Allan and Burridge (2006), Clipping is a type of slang that comes from cutting or shortening part of a longer word. Although shortened, the word retains its original meaning and is used for efficiency in oral and written communication.

### Data 5. Delulu

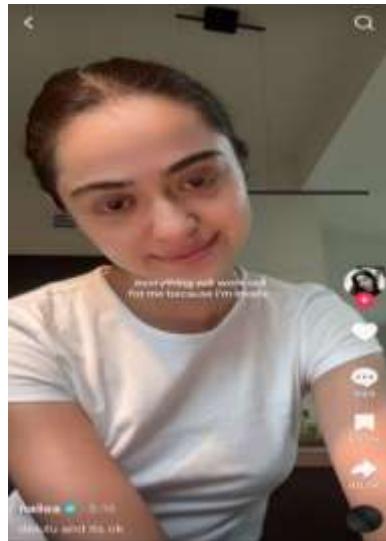


Figure 5. Delulu

Definition: *Delulu* is a clipped slang form of the word “*delusional*” which means having unrealistic beliefs or expectations. The term is used ironically and humorously by Generation Z to express excessive optimism or unreasonable beliefs, especially in the context of relationships or personal life.

On **16 March 2025**, the account **@nailea** uploaded a video text accompanied by the caption:

**“Delulu and its ok”**  
**“Everything will work out for me because I’m insane.”**

*Delulu* comes from the word “*delusional*” which has been shortened but retains its primary meaning in an informal context. On the TikTok platform, user **@nailea** in March 2025 shared a video with the caption: “*Delulu and it’s ok*”, In the post, the slang *delulu* is used to describe an extreme but positive belief that everything will work out, even if it seems logically impossible. This reflects the way Generation Z interprets hope or confidence with a style of expression that is ironic, humorous, and deviates from formal norms. The use of *delulu*, which is short, catchy, and full of meaning, shows that it is a clipping of “*delusional*”, making it suitable to be categorized as clipping slang according to Allan and Burridge (2006). This form is not only linguistically efficient, but also important to create digital identity and group solidarity on social media.

Based on the analysis of 9 slang data categorized as clipping, it was found that Generation Z tends to shorten the form of words or phrases in digital communication to increase efficiency and personal expression. Clipping according to Allan and Burridge (2006) is a form of slang that is formed through cutting some words, but still retains the original meaning, and is widely used in informal oral and written communication.

Some clipping forms such as *omgosh* (shortened from oh my gosh) and *cuz* (from because) are used to convey surprise or reason in a more casual and socially friendly way. Meanwhile, forms like *till* (from until) and *abt* (from about) show how Gen Z simplifies time expressions and emotional statements to be more quickly and directly understood in short texts. Slang such as *sissy* (from sister) is used as a form of expression of affection and closeness in interpersonal relationships. And *delulu* (from delusional) represents a distinctive form of humor and irony in digital culture, often used to describe excessive expectations in a light and relatable tone.

Furthermore, *tho* (from though) often appears at the end of a sentence as an emotional emphasis to the statement being made. This form is flexible and commonly used in everyday communication on social media. Then, *pics* (from pictures) is used to refer to photos in a concise manner, showing efficiency in the mention of visual content. Finally, *yap* (from yapping) is used to refer to a fun, casual chatting activity, reflecting a more positive and familiar change in meaning.

Overall, the clipping forms in this data not only function as a shortened form of a standard word, but also experience an expansion of meaning and a shift in tone that is more emotional, familiar and expressive. This shows that clipping slang has an important role in Gen Z's language dynamics, especially in strengthening affective, interpersonal, and social identity aspects in digital communication. Thus, clipping is not only a form of word cutting, but also a part of linguistic innovation that illustrates the characteristics of the younger generation's language in the era of social media.

Based on the findings, it is evident that each type of slang has distinct linguistic functions and characteristics within the context of Gen Z's digital communication. Acronym represents the highest proportion at 30%, indicating that efficiency and speed are primary priorities in Gen Z's social media communication. This differs from fresh and creative (22%), which reflects linguistic creativity in forming new vocabulary with symbolic or metaphorical meanings that express group identity and popular culture. Clipping and imitative were both found at 18%, yet they differ structurally—clipping involves cutting parts of words (such as *cuz*, *abt*), while imitative mimics informal pronunciations of standard English (such as *lemme*, *gimme*). Meanwhile, flippant was the least used (12%) but is characterized by idiomatic phrases that cannot be interpreted literally, such as *break a leg* and *hit the spot*.

Functionally, acronym and imitative slang types are often used to deliver information quickly and concisely, fitting the short-form communication style common in comments and captions. In contrast, fresh and creative and flippant slangs tend to be used for expressing opinions, social critique, or humor in more symbolic and expressive ways. Clipping, on the other hand, is more flexible in various conversational contexts, often used to convey emotions, intimacy, or narrative. This comparison shows that Gen Z's choice of slang form is not solely based on linguistic aspects, but also influenced by their social, emotional, and digital cultural needs. Thus, the variation in the use of these five types of slang reflects the complexity of language dynamics in the social media era, where creativity, speed, and identity are central to the formation and dissemination of slang.

After classifying the data according to slang type, the researcher identified five categories present in the 50 slang word samples collected: fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, and

clipping (Allan and Burridge, 2006). To illustrate the frequency of each type of slang used in the data set, a visual representation is provided in the diagram below. This diagram not only shows quantitative trends towards the most frequently used slang types, but also reflects Generation Z's linguistic preferences in digital communication on the TikTok platform. The dominance of acronym types indicates that efficiency and speed are top priorities in interacting on social media, while the presence of fresh and creative slangs highlights the innovative and expressive aspects of the language used. Through this visual comparison, readers can understand how social dynamics, popular culture, and technology shape the selection of informal language forms among young users more thoroughly.



**Figure 1. Diagram Type of Slang Word**

Based on the diagram above, it is evident that among the 50 data collected by the researcher, the distribution of slang usage on TikTok social media is as follows: fresh and creative at 22%, flippant at 12%, imitative at 18%, acronym at 30%, and clipping at 18%. The most frequently used type of slang by Generation Z users on TikTok is acronym, which accounts for 30% of the total data.

#### 4. Conclusion

Based on the data analysis above, the data used in this study come from Generation Z TikTok users taken from video text, captions and comments in 2025. This study identified 50 slang words used by Generation Z on TikTok in 2025. These words were then categorized based on Allan and Burridge's (2006) classification, which includes five categories: fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, and clipping. First, fresh and creative is a type of slang where slang words have new vocabulary, witty imagery, informal variations, and can even be modern words that few people know. Second, Flippant is a type of slang where slang forms usually have two or more words and do not relate to their denotative meaning. Third, Imitative refers to slang terms that imitate or derive from a word in Standard English, and use the term to convey a different meaning or to combine two different words. Fourthly, Acronyms are language expressions created by abbreviating or taking abbreviations of words commonly used in everyday life. Lastly, Clipping is a type of slang that comes from cutting or shortening part of a longer word. Although shortened, the word retains its original meaning and is used for efficiency in spoken and written communication. With the results of the analysis being: Fresh and creative by 22%, flippant by 12%, imitative by 18%, acronym by 30% and clipping by 18%. The slang word most often used by Gen Z users on TikTok social media is Acronym

with a percentage of 30%. Acronyms are most often used, because they are considered more practical, concise, and efficient in conveying messages, so they fit the character of Generation Z who tend to look for ways of communicating that are fast, creative, and easy to understand. This study concludes that the use of slang by Generation Z on the TikTok platform in 2025 with the aim of describing slang words used by Gen Z by classifying the types of slang reflects the dynamics of language that develop in digital and socio-cultural contexts. Through Allan and Burridge's (2006) theoretical approach, these findings show that slang is not just a form of informal language, but also reflects identity, group solidarity, and a response to technological developments and popular culture among Generation Z. Overall, Generation Z use of slang on TikTok reflects language dynamics that are heavily influenced by digital culture, linguistic creativity, and the need to express identity and emotions quickly and precisely. Slang is not only a communication tool, but also a medium of self-expression and group solidarity in the social media era.

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