

**FROM GOKIL TO SLAY TO SIGMA: AN INTRODUCTION TO A CROSS GENERATIONAL COMMUNICATION IN INDONESIA****Arinal Haqqo¹, Ifan Iskandar², Endry Boeriswati³**Universitas Negeri Jakarta^{1,2,3}Email: a.haqqo@gmail.com¹, ifaniskandar@unj.ac.id², endry.boeriswati@unj.ac.id³**ABSTRACT**

The unstoppable linguistic evolution in current digital world is spreading to the cross generational communication through slang words, especially between millennials and the generation following: gen Z and Alpha. This article delves into the transition in Indonesian slang. Using qualitative method with a sociolinguistic approach, the researcher analyses the emergence of the new slang words and how the social media platform takes definitive role in this evolution. With the comparative framework, this study plays as linguistic bridge for Indonesian millennials to understand the gap with their successor generations, both in person communication or in digital discourse.

Article identifies three main points: The shift in the origin of slang vocabulary from local etymology to English based vocabulary and global culture; The influence of the interaction in social media, and; The absurdity in typical lexicon of Gen Z and Alpha. The result explains that the slang vocabularies among generations have their own identity and it determines the stability of the language usage. The local based vocabulary tends to more long-lasting and easier to understand because its formed based on linguistic aspects, whereas gen Z and Alpha slang evolve faster because of digital algorithm. Moreover, the lexicon absurdity tends to lead to an understanding loss among the process.

Keywords: *indonesian slang; gen z; gen alpha; millennials; sociolinguistics***INTRODUCTION**

Not only it is arbitrary, language also evolves over time. To address the gap of language used in daily communication, people across generations need to be alerted and up to date with the continuously emerging new vocabulary. New words don't always appear in the official comprehensive dictionary or formal discourse. The truth is that communication occurs in real life as well as in the virtual world. It is formed in non-formal context and produces what people call as slang words. According to The New Hacker's Dictionary (1991), slang defines as an informal language from mainstream English or non-technical subcultures (bikers, rock fans, surfer, etc). Slang is typically used to delineate a level of language more informal than the standard, ... Slang may be as geographically contained as dialect or as widespread as standard English, but its defining feature is its restriction to social subgroups, whether defined by age, shared interest, or social circle (Coleman, 2004-2010). The emerge of new words happen so fast that is challenging for the linguists to formalize the new listed words in dictionaries instantly before it spreads and can be used in daily conversation. Algeo (1987) explained that new word is not recorded in general dictionaries. According to him, newness (of the words) encompassed: The form of the word itself is novel, a shape that has not before been seen or heard [...], or the novel use of an existing form. Besides the difference of

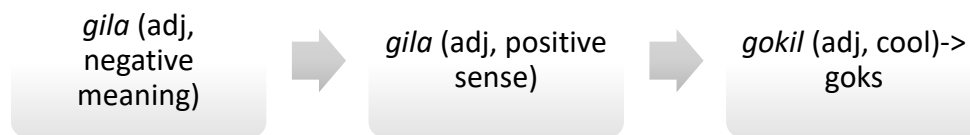
the form of new words, sociolinguistic aspects such as the context of everyday day usage and the difference of the speakers and interlocutors in age and generation matters.

According to the Indonesian Central Statistics Agency (BPS), Indonesian population in 2020 is dominated by more than 27% gen Z, followed by millennials with 25.87%, 21.88% gen X and the emergence of generation Alpha. It indicates that Indonesia benefits from its demographic bonus, with nearly of 70% population is in the productive age range. Eventually because 70% of business and education actors are dominated by the mixture of cross generations, it becomes a communication challenge. Focusing on how to fill the communication gap, researcher takes millennials, gen Z and gen Alpha readers to know each of slang words formed and current used by each generation in daily life, let it be in general, professional or relationship terms.

Millennials in Indonesia now are parents, teachers, and even bosses for the gen Z and Alpha. Millennials are not only confronted with communication way with their successors, but also the rapid of social media trends that effecting the way of generations talk. In specific, researcher will examine how the new slang words are formed, which role does social media have in this take and does the evolution of new slang words related to its sustainability in communication use. To understand the correlation between each aspect, we need to understand that each generations have their own characteristics and how society define them. For the reference, the generational labels used in this study is referring to the Strauss-Howe generational theory (1991). The Millennials or gen Y were born between 1981 to 1996. Askinasi in Today.com (2025) writes that this generation is known for encountered significant economic hardship, the COVID-19 pandemic, and first generation adapting with the rapid advancement of technological development. The Gen Z, born between 1997 to 2012 is considered the first generation to have largely grown up using New Media, such as internet, social media and modern technology. Through the life with social media gen Z in general is more aware of social justice and political issues. The last generation observed in this topic is gen Alpha, born in 2013 to 2024. This generation have been born in the world that is fully integrated with social media and global connection.

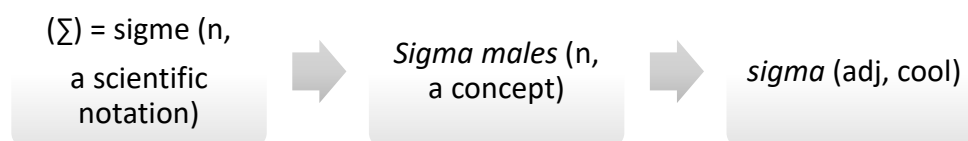
1. Slang origin

The slang words & the communication gap are in fact not a new thing for the millennials. Millennials were also the new users in terms of the communication with previous generations, gen X, baby boomers and more. The linguistics phenomenon is repeating. Indonesian slang is evolving with more vary words. It occurs because of technology intervention, such as social media and gadgets. One slang word we will use as an example is *gokil*. Indonesian Millennials use the word *gokil* in various contexts to express something that is cool. The word itself is not an acronym but an expression that emerge as a wordplay or pun from Indonesian word *gila*. Initially, *gila* has negative connotation but is often used to describe something unusual in positive sense. Therefore, in the process of daily communication it has been naturally agreed by the society to become *gokil*. It then became one of slang word among millennials speakers. In the following use, *gokil* is used in shorter term *goks*, both verbally or for chat use.



The forming of *gokil* and the understanding in society to use it then evolves by the emerging of new speakers, which is gen Z. To describe something cool, the gen Z people don't use word *gokil* anymore. Instead, they are using term *slay*. *Slay* defines something cool and is an English word means to excel at something, impress others or look stylish and confident. Originated in social media phrase, *slay it!* Expressing a compliment to someone who did something cool. One of context to use it in bahasa Indonesia, "Gaya berpakaianya *slay* banget" means her dressing style is really *slay*. The term *slay* reached mainstream status in 2016 because it's in the song lyric by Beyonce "cause I *slay*, I *slay*" and it has gained significant popularity and mainstream usage on social media among gen Z, including in Indonesia. Then, the *slay* word is no longer common among gen Alpha because of the latest term, namely *Sigma*. Among the internet conversation and memes, gen Alpha use term *sigma* to describe someone who is cool, dominant, independent, popular (yet introverted).

The word *sigma* used in slang language is different from the forming of word *gokil*. Whereas *gokil* is fully transforming from linguistic aspect, *sigma* was going through sociolinguistic process, covering linguistic and social factor. *Sigma* was initially known as letter/ an ancient Greek symbol and used for the context of physics/ mathematic with the notation (Σ), then evolved into the slang vocabulary from the concept of "Sigma males", describing men who are successful and popular while being rebellious. This concept is introduced by Vox Day (Theodore Robert Beale, 2010). The term *sigma* is developing in online communities (Reddit, twitter, Instagram, Tiktok) while the influencers/content creators started to use this term to show admiration or compliment to other people.



Though the slang vocabulary is still considered controversial or doesn't always appear in lexikon or dictionaries, however the reality and in daily use, in this case in Indonesia, word such as *sigma* can be found and used to replace the older word, *slay* and *gokil* that is no longer relevant in cross-generational communication and starting to disappear. From word *gokil* to *slay* then shifting to *sigma*, the authors will bring the discussion of the evolution of slang language used in Indonesia, which is mostly found in everyday communication context in real world as well as on social media among generations. It is hoped not only to help Indonesian millennials understand the communication between gen Z and Alpha, but to be relevant in various field that involve

cross generational interaction. Labov promoted that every variable must be considered to understand patterns of variation, in this case the variable is the slang origin that is presumably correlates with generations and social media influence.

2. Social Media influence

Mansyur (2017) argued that the evolving of social media is part of Bahasa Indonesia's development. In addition, the most popular platform in millennials era were Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. The Bahasa Indonesia referred to Mansyur's context is the variations of language according to but not limited to its usage, the discussed topic and relationship between its speakers. Language varieties include written, spoken, formal, casual and social varieties. In such circumstances, the slang language is included in the study of Indonesian language varieties.

Sociolinguistics frames slang as more than lexical aspect. It involves a social identity & interaction, variation and emerge of social media. Darwin & Evizariza (2024) nodded that language plays important role in the formation of individual and group identities, especially in the era of information of communication technology. Social media specifically allows its users to express themselves and interact with others. This situation leads to a phenomenon of language variation in digital world, to be more exact the creativity in forming new slang words. According to Statista Consumer Insights (2025), the most active user in social medias (Tiktok and Instagram) is gen Z (ages 16-24), followed by millennials. Furthermore, it is natural that more slang emerges and used are now based on Gen Z's identity and preference. A different perspective was expressed by Nakamura (2026) saying that the current slang words are not entirely new, instead a significant portion of what is labelled as Gen Z slang originates in African American Vernacular English (AAVE). The process of it to reach the interaction in social media is by the cycle: Word forming (linguistic innovation) in marginalised communities, then picked by social media creators and spread by algorithms, used by social media users with two conditions, same word form with exactly same meaning or with variation of word form as well as different meaning. This creates then a new cycle, through social media, slang emerges, circulating and indexes group identity.

Eckert's community of practice explains about the situation where a group of people engage in a shared activity, developing common ways of speaking, values and identities, which concludes the nature of slang distribution, without exception including in Indonesia. Slang in Indonesia went through three emerging phases according to Theda, namely Bahasa Prokem, unfolded through the street gangster (preman jalanan) conversation, as well as introduced by fiction books. Then it changed through the communication of gay language that circulated in hair saloon where transgender (*banci*) worked. The third phase, and is still on going, is the spreading of slang through internet that is well known as Bahasa alay in early 2000s.

3. Forming of Slang words

In her study, Rosalina (2020) revealed types of slangs of forming: 1) The funny mispronounce (woles, bege) 2) Shorter word (acc, nder), and 3) Interjection, a new word forming that cannot be given any suffix (gabut, kentang). Indonesian slang is commonly used in neighbourhood or spoken among family member at home. Slang functions not only as internal joke, but it evolves as branding or identity of specific group to make them different from others, to make them exclusive, to catch interest, to shorten conversation not to mention to enrich language.



Lihawa (2021) explained that the word formation of gen z slang is flexible, temporary and it changing depends on user. Lihawa focused on the formation process of gen Z slang which has eight types, that is fanciful formation, compounding, blending, clipping, conversion, suffixation, multiple process, reduplicative (from Lieber, 2009). Referring to Callahan's gen Z dictionary, the words found in internet is richer in term of the process how it is formed and the way it produces the meaning. Therefore, this study is discussed the mixture of Mattiello (2008) and Yule's (2010)'s forming process of *slang* are to learn more about the variation, as follows:

- 1) Clipping or shortening is type of forming where there's syllables dropping to make the new word shorter. For example a new slang "sus" a shorten of suspicious;
- 2) Blending, combining two words to make a new word/term, as an illustration the word *bucin* (being madly in love) comes from budak+cinta (acting like a slave to love);
- 3) Acronyms & initials: taking the first letters of words to make new word/term, like OMG= oh my god;
- 4) Suffixation, adding suffix to the existing word and creating a new informal term, e.g. *bestie* from best friend or *selfie* from self-portrait.
- 5) Compounding: combining two or more words to create a new word with a unique meaning, like *gatekeep* (refusing to share where you bought something to keep it exclusive), a combination of gate (v) and keep (v);
- 6) Reduplicative, repeating an exact or slightly different word, for example *chit-chat* (casual conversation) or *super-duper* (extremely awesome);
- 7) Coinage is creating a completely new word with no previous roots in existing words. Including in this forming type: *stan* (an overly-obsessed fan), Goat (from an acronym);
- 8) Functional shift/ conversion is a swift of a noun to be a verb, e.g. Google, initially it's a noun word (company's name). It then shifted into word "I will google the address". Another case is in word *ghost* (n)-> he decided to ghost her after the second date. It shifted to a verb meaning to suddenly cut off communication;
- 9) Semantic shift occurs when a word's meaning changes or shifts from its original literal definition into something new, namely *sick* (*physically/mentally ill, not healthy*)-> Your performance was *sick!* (awesome/cool);
- 10) Back formation, a process when a word or term (usually noun) is reduced to form a word of another type (usually verb), like burgle (v), initially the word was burglar (noun);
- 11) Variation is used as an intentional misspelling to create new word to help to emphasis something. For example *prolly* originates from probably or *bussin'* instead of bussing, and *periodt* from word period;
- 12) Borrowing is taking over slang words from other languages, like *slay*;
- 13) Multiple process, when one word went through more than one linguistic process to convert to a new word. As illustration in word *delulu*, means delusional or unrealistic. The root word is delusional and it clipped into delulu (delu+lu) by adding reduplication.

METHOD

This research uses a qualitative sociolinguistic approach, by combining a descriptive corpus analysis with semi-structured online interviews. To get a valid data, the researcher first collecting the slang words found in Callahan's gen Z dictionary, Z dictionary Terms-Vocabulary English-English by Manalu, et.al and from posts or comments columns of Indonesian users in across social media platforms (Instagram, Tiktok, X/Twitter). The slang words then will be analysed by the linguistic form and the meaning in usage context. To complete the corpus, it will validate the hypothesis by conducting online interview for the Millennials, gen Z and gen Alpha through purposive sampling.

Based on *Bahasa gaul Indonesia*, Callahan's Gen Z dictionary and Z dictionary Terms-Vocabulary English-English by Manalu, et.al, this study uses words in the questionnaire that represent *slang* from three different generations (millennials, gen Z and gen Alpha) with random sampling. The words are divided into two terms, general/professional terms and relationship/friendship terms.

Table 1. Slang Words Across Social Media Platforms.

Terms	Millennials	Gen Z	Gen Alpha
General/ Professional (Work/ School)	gokil/goks	slay	Sigma
	charismatic		Rizz
	Gabut (gaji buta)		
	YOLO (you only live once)		
	FOMO (fear of missing out)		
	Mager (males Gerak)		
	Pansos (panjat sosial)		
	Mantul (mantap betul)		
	Modus (modal dusta)		
	Kepo (knowing every particular object)		
	Pamer	flexing	FR
	Cool		Fire
		GOAT	
		cringe	
		basic	
		vibing	
		Lit	
		vibe	
	mood		
	low-key		
	high-key		
	stan		



	shipping		
			skibidi
			ohio
			bet
			ate
			bussin'
			aura
	lie		cap
	real		no cap
		Tea	
			yapping
			drip
	Stylish		
	TBL (takut banget loh)		
	Lembur	side hustle	
	adulthood		
	woles		
	buzz		
	Jayus		
	Nder		
	Alig		
	Cmiiw		
	Santuy/sans		
	Gan		
	ACC		
	OOT		
Relationship (Love/Friend-ship)	Babe/Baby/boo	Bae	
	Salting (salah tingkah)		
	ghosting	ghosting	
	Cegil (cewek gila)		
	bestie		
			benching
	Halu	delusional	delulu
	HTS		DTR
	butterfly		catch feel
	Bucin (buta cinta)		
	match		freak matching
		ILY	
	suspicious		sus
		Ick	
	Jones (jomblo ngenes)		

The researcher conducts an open interview through a mixed questionnaire to gather data to prove the hypothesis. Using the simple random sampling method, the informants are 30 participants from cross generations (millennials, gen Z, gen Alpha) who have interactions and have familiarity in social media (X/twitter, Instagram or Tiktok). This interview aims to get insight from those who are exposed or aware to the new words used by the new generations, or slang words especially communicated among Indonesian users. This interview is an indicator to understand the slang words used in social media usage and whether people understand the definition of each word and using it regularly. In addition, this interview will show how the understanding gap becomes hinder in communication and effecting daily life. Seeing the result, this study is hoped to give information to people in form of words table with the current language and meaning.

The Questionnaire consists of 5 questions' sections: Demographics, Slang Origin, Social Media Influence, Lexicon Absurdity, and Stability & Evolution. The sections are given with multiple choice & short answer questions as follows:

Table 2. Questions list

Section	Indicators	Questions	Answer Options
Demography	Collecting basic demographic information to help categorize participants according to their generational group and communication habits	1. Which generational label did you belong to? 2. Are you active on social media? 3. In your daily life, do you communicate with people cross generations? 4. If yes, in which situations are you mostly engaged in cross generational communication?	a. Millennials (born in 1981-1996) b. Generation Z (born in 1997-2012) c. Generation Alpha (born in 2013-2024) a. yes b. no c. objectively a. yes b. no <i>short answer</i>
Slang Origin	Exploring the origin of slang words you use or encounter. The aim is to understand whether slang is more often derived from local Indonesian expressions or influenced by English	1. From the following list, which slang words do you most often use/ see/hear in daily communication or on social media?	Multiple answers from Slang Words Across Social Media Platforms.



and global culture (social media). Your responses will help reveal how generational differences shape preferences for local versus international slang and how these choices affect communication.

2. Do you know the origin of these slang words (from local Indonesian language or from English word/global culture)? (you may write down your answer for each origin of word)

3. Do you think local slang easier to understand than English/global slang?

4. Have you experienced difficulty understanding slang because of its origin (local vs English/global)?

5. In your opinion is it important to catch on slang trends?

1. Which social media platform do you use most frequently?

answer for each origin of word

- a. yes
- b. no
- c. depends on
- d. other answer
- a. always
- b. sometimes
- c. never

- a. Tiktok
- b. Instagram
- c. X/ Twitter

Social
Media
Influence

This section examines the role of social media platforms in introducing and spreading slang. Since digital interaction is a major factor in language evolution, your answers will provide insight into which platforms are most influential, how slang is adopted in online contexts, and

	whether online usage differs from face-to-face communication.	2. Which platforms introduces most new slang word to you? (Please explain why) <i>short answer</i> 3. Do you usually adopt slang after seeing/hear it on social media? <i>a. yes</i> <i>b. no. only knowing it</i> <i>c. sometimes</i> 4. Give example of new slang words you that you learn <i>short answer</i> 5. Do you use slang word in online or face to face communication? <i>a. online</i> <i>b. face to face</i> <i>c. both</i> 6. Have you noticed how slang spreading quickly across platforms? (for example, you see it on Instagram one day and suddenly it appears everywhere). If yes, please describe more <i>short answer</i>
Lexicon Absurdity	Investigate the phenomenon of "lexicon absurdity," where slang words appear confusing, nonsensical, or difficult to interpret. The purpose is to understand how such slang affects communication, whether it strengthens group identity, or instead creates misunderstandings across generations.	1. Have you ever encountered slang words that seemed absurd or nonsensical to you? <i>short answer</i> 2. If yes, please provide example <i>short answer</i>



		words that is absurd according to you.	
		3. How do you usually respond when you do not understand a slang word?	a. ignore it b. ask someone c. search online d. other answer
		4. Do you think “absurd” slang strengthens group identity among its users, or does it weaken communication across generations? (Please explain briefly)	<i>short answer</i>
		5. Have you ever experienced miscommunication in daily life because of slang that felt absurd or unclear?	a. yes b. no c. sometimes/ not sure
		6. In your opinion, what makes a slang word feel absurd or difficult to understand?	a. unusual spelling/abbreviation b. foreign language c. rapid trend d. lack of clear meaning no specific context
Stability & Evolution	Exploring the stability and lifespan of slang words across generations. The aim is to identify which slang terms are perceived as lasting or fading quickly, and how each generation views the evolution of slang over time. Your responses will help reveal whether certain slang expressions become part of everyday language or remain temporary trends, and how these	1. Which slang words do you think will last longer, and which will fade quickly?	<i>multiple answer</i>

perceptions differ
across Millennials,
Generation Z, and
Generation Alpha.

2. Do you think slang
from your generation
is more stable than
slang from others?

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

This study reflects that people from cross generations is now active in social media. Out of 30 participants, all of them are actively social media users. In addition, more than 93% of participants are engaged with a cross generational interaction through various in-person communication, such as at workplace/ event, at school among friends or conversation with family (at home or video call). The questionnaire was conducted on 12-14 May 2026 with 15 gen Z responders (50%), followed by 13 millennials (43.3%) and 2 gen Alphas (6.7%).

The following chart shows the result of the slang origin – questions related. The questionnaire divided slang vocabulary in two terms, professional/general term and relationship/friendship term to know which words are most common to use or to know for millennials, gen Z or gen Alpha.

Chart 1. Results

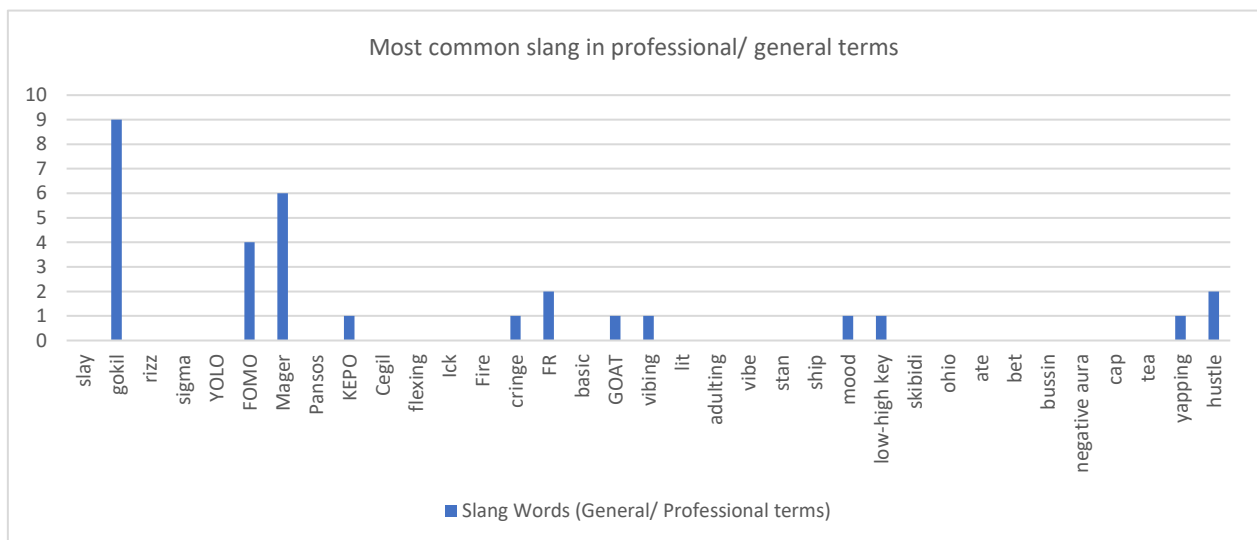
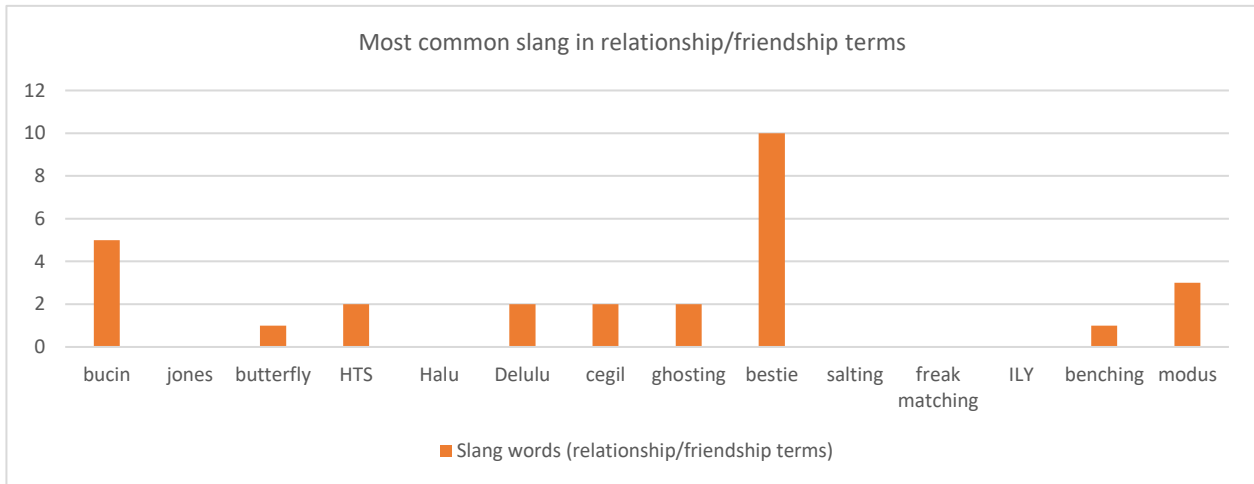


Chart 2. Results


According to chart one, it can be seen that word *gokil* are most common one followed respectively by *mager*, *FOMO*, *FR*, *hustle*, *KEPO*, *GOAT*, *vibing*, *mood*, *low-hi key* and *yapping*. Looking at the chart two the term for relationship/friendship, word *bestie* is most common among the responders, with *bucin*, *modus*, *HTS*, *delulu*, *jones*, *cegil*, *ghosting*, *benching* and *butterfly* come after. Despite of being commonly used and known, the speakers shared their awareness of the forming process of those words. Only 10% of them are not familiar with it. The word *gokil*, *HTS*, *salting*, *cegil*, *sans*, *santuy*, *bucin*, *mager*, *ytta* are originated from Indonesian word in type of a pun, compounding, abbreviation, or acronyms. Other words such as *KEPO*, *bestie*, *sixseven*, *FR*, *yapping*, *rizz*, *sus*, *delulu*, *sigma*, *cap*, *aura framing*, *YOLO* and *FOMO* are both originated from English vocabulary (abbreviations, acronym) and from the global culture (media social culture). More than 85% responders in fact is not specifically finding a local origin slang easier to understand rather than English or social media-based slang. Only 10% of speakers find Indonesian slang is easier to understand while the 3% of responders object the idea. In terms of using in in daily interaction, majority of responders still sometimes find difficulty to understand the meaning of the words based on their origin.

To be able to communicate with other people from different generations, it is proven that people consider following the trend of the slang words are necessary, only 3 out of 30 responders think they don't need to catch on trends anytime. Speaking about the role of social media in introducing new slang words, the responders are referring to the three social media platforms, namely Instagram, Tiktok and X/ Twitter with Tiktok is as the main source of the new slang spreading tools. According to the data, people can see new words from the comment column and from the videos and more than 50% of social media users adopting the latest trend into their daily communication, both virtual and face to face interactions. Furthermore, the questionnaire shows that through various social media interactions, such as algorithm, share, tag/mention etc, people easily notice that these new words are spreading quickly once it appears in one platform.

On section Lexicon and absurdity, this study investigates the phenomenon of lexicon absurdity that is found on slang words, specifically in latest trend. More than 96%

of responders have encountered slang words that seems absurd in the way of its lexical form and its unpredicted meaning: *sigma*, *skibidi*, *anjay*, *ohio*, *sixseven*, *bet*, *iwir*, *ngabrut* and more. The absurdity in new slang words can be considered as strength or weakness point of the words itself. People find it strength because the new generations identity is presented in this, while it also has downside especially from millennials perspective that finds it's too absurd to even understand and using it. The unusual spelling with no specific context and clear definition are the main issues found by the other generations in understanding in. Furthermore, the rapid of trend change makes it harder to keep up with one context.

Discussion

Based on the stated result from the questionnaire, it can be seen that many variables are related to the emerge, spreading and using of slang words among Indonesia's cross generations communication.

Social media user's demography and Slang origin

The result shows that 50% of active social media users are gen Z and these users are not only aware of the latest slang word trends, but also using it on their digital communication and face to face interactions, with different generations. This study found that more people have tendency to get to know *slang* trend and using it for daily conversation. The main reason is to understand the words and to make communication with cross generations easier. While understanding it functions as a communication bridge, some respondents have more reasons why they must keep up with the *slang* trends. Besides fearing of missing out (FOMO), it is also part of wok demands (for teacher teaching gen Z), keeping up with their kids live (gen Alpha), and simply wanting to look cool (in front of the younger generations). Furthermore, times are constantly evolving and it's natural that people always want to relate with their surroundings, virtually or face to face. However, there are also objections to this *slang* update, arguing that ultimately the main language used in daily life is the formal/informal Bahasa Indonesia, not *slang*.

Social media influence

This study focuses on three mainstream social media, X/Twitter, Tiktok and Instagram where 40% of respondents are frequently using Instagram, followed by Tiktok and X with each 30%. However, *slang* trends are in fact mostly started and circulating in TikTok. As one of most popular social media platform in the world (Septiani, 2024), Tiktok users are come from cross generations and they are viral and unique users. People get to know the latest trend in Tiktok from the videos posted as well as from the comment column on it. After knowing about the new slang words from social media, 60% respondents are sometimes applying it on their conversations. While less than 20% don't take new words in communication process. In addition to words sampling use as data in this questionnaire, the result gives more slang word/term and is documented as finding of this study, as follows:

Tabel 3. List of Indonesia's cross generational slangs

Vocabulary/ Terms/ Saying	Definition
Gokil/ goks	something cool; from word "gila"



HTS	acronym from hubungan tanpa status; refer to a romantic relationship without status/ commitment
bestie	bestfriend
salting	acronym from salah tingkah; awkward (in a romantic relationship), embarrassed
cegil	acronym from cewek gila (crazy girl);
sixseven 67	so so
FR	for real
yapping	talking nonstop (often about trivial topics)
mager	malas gerak
rizz	ability to attract someone
sus	suspicious; shady
delulu	short for delusional; unrealistic but confident belief
KEPO	knowing every particular object; describe someone who is overly curious
YTTA	yang tau tau aja; only those who know will understand, indicates inside jokes, hidden meaning
cap	lie; a lie
YOLO	You only live once
bucin	budak cinta
sigma	sigma male; an independent, self-assured man, someone who is cool
skibidi	cool, bad, just absurd meme
anjay, anjir	from word anjing/ dog. An exclamation to express surprise or excitement; or used as curse word
ohio	weird, awkward, cringeworthy, or bad
nolep	no life, describing someone antisocial
bot	Origin from robot, someone who acts/behaves like robot, mindless, predictable, unskilled
bet	agreement “okay/for sure”
TBL	Takut banget lo
SWAG	refers to stylish confidence, coolness
ate	compliment for doing something well “you ate!”
OD	stands for overdose, means overdoing it, too much (behaviour, effort)
ngabrut	ngakak brutal; hanging out and laughed hard, reckless lifestyle
modus	modal dusta
benching	keeping someone interested romantically without commitment; HTS
santuy	from Santai; chill, relaxed
demure	traditionally means modest/polite; now defined as cutesy, mindful, elegant (style/personality)
salty	bitter, upset, annoyed
NPC	Non player character; someone boring/predictable
ick	feeling disgust towards someone
mid	describe something mediocre, average or underwhelming

smh	stands for shaking my head; represents the gesture of shaking one's head, responding to something frustrating/ disapproval
cooked	exhausted, overwhelmed
looksmaxxing	Trying to maximize physical attractiveness
Aura farming	Boosting vibe or charisma
gamon	Gagal move on, unable to move on from ex/ previous relationship
Larp	Live action role play, pretending to be something you're not
FOMO	Fearing of missing out
SYBAU	Sok sibuk, pretending to be busy
body tea	gossip about someone's appearance
baddie	confident, stylish attractive woman
narsis	From narcissistic personal disorder; overly care to themselves, too arrogant, confident, egoist
clingy	Overly dependent in relationship
sabi	From word bisa, capable
baper	Bawa perasaan, overly sensitive/ emotional
caper	Cari perhatian, attention seeker
ngab	A friendly term for "bro", a reverse from "bang"
GG	Good game; excellent
skena	Scene kids, subculture crowd (eg music, art)
YGY	Ya guys ya, affirmation for agreement
OOT	Outfit of the day
pick me	Attention seeker, desperate for attention
cepu	Spy, informer
ghosting	A sudden cutting off communication (in dating)
sokab	Sok akrab, pretending/feeling to be close/friendly with someone
JOMO	Joy of missing out, antonym of FOMO, people who enjoys skipping events/social obligation
Negative aura	Someone or something giving off bad vibes, being uncool
butterfly	Describe personal growth, free spiritedness, romantic excitement
Low key	Not obvious
Hi key	Very obvious
hustle	Working hard, ambition, effort someone puts into achieving something
mood	I relate to this, exactly how I feel, response to something matches your current feeling
Vibing, vibe	Feeling good, relaxed in sync with someone/something
wir	Online greeting for Warga Indonesia Raya, Indonesian people.
oomf	One of my followers/ one of my friends
no cap	I am serious/ no lie/ for real
valid	of high quality
tea	gossip; spill the tea
slay	do really well
periodt	facts
facts	agree with what you said; confirming question



Slang words are spreading fast across platforms. Although *slang* is mostly started on Tiktok, the spreading moves quickly across platforms. Social media users realize that once a word becomes viral on Tiktok, it will be talked in various content/feature in different platforms and reach in person communication. It is caused by social media features such as tag/mention/share fyp/f4. For example, the word *demure* that is appear among gen Alpha in Tiktok conversation. Other than its features, the algorithm plays role in making one trend viral. The process is fast from the first time one word is invented, then became viral, people started to browse the definition on internet. The browsing leads to algorithm tracking, so in no time it will be recommended at appear everywhere. Another case is reappearing of old slang, namely *anjay* (or *anjir* origin: *anjing*), a *millennial slang* that is currently is viral because it's used by gen Z in social media. Coleman (2004-2010) explained that *slang* is often ephemeral, but many slang terms are surprisingly resilient, even though each individual user's contact with them may be temporary.

Lexicon absurdity and Its stability

Slang that is exist on millennials era are often identified with linguistics aspect in the forming process. In word *anjay*-> *anjing* there are shifting in the suffix and change from *anjing* (n) to *anjay* (adv/adj), form of a swear word in Indonesia that is using animal metaphore. Compared to current words, in English word *demure*, the dictionary translation is something polite and modest. Among gen Z, the use of this word is defining as "very mindful, very cutesy", refer to the elegant lifestyle/ appearance. There's no change in word form, but the meaning different in gen Z context. Another example of absurdity is the word *skibidi*. *Skibidi* is an internet meme, *Skibidi toilet*, no definitive meaning. But gen Z and gen Alpha frequently using this word to say bad, cool or even with no meaning. Another nonsensical word is *sixseven* (6-7). This term went viral in 2025. Initially it is a term in rap song *Doot Doot* by *Skrilla* that is often used on Tiktok video and Instagram reels, then is associated with basketball player (height 6'7 inch) through one viral video of so called 6-7 kid mentioned the phrase *sixseven* with his hand moving. The evolving from song lyric into a widespread internet trend, this repetitive phase in sport related content with hand gesture, all contributed to its popularity (Yahoo!life, 2025). Based on the background, *sixseven* has no clear meaning but it's used to express such a "*I don't know, so so, or that's so, or B-aja*". The phenomenon of absurd word can bring two different perspectives. One side, it is too absurd to be documented as linguistic feature so it won't be eternal. People can loss its original meaning in the process and choose to not use it. On other side, this absurdity reflects one generation's identity. The new generations have their own rule, freedom and creativity based on their tools (social media) compared to millennials.

The emerge of new slang words identifies that they take part in society although it won't last longer, they still can bring new word, new trend. In contrast with what millennials faced, slang words from their generation tends to exist longer and stable. Until recently, those slang words are still found in communication and to explain the meaning to other generation is much more logic.

CONCLUSION

In sociolinguistic study, slang functions as certain group identity through the way they communicate. In the era of digital world, social media that has been used by cross generational users can be seen as a platform to promote their identity, their existing and their exclusivity. Besides that, there is real interactions that has to be done among millennials, gen z and even gen Alpha both in in person communication or virtual conversation. In this circumstance, the identity from each slang words meet and must be identified to fill the communication gap.

This study gives a perspective that the emerge, spread and the use of slang words in Indonesia are related with sociolinguistics study scope such as identity of generation, social media influence and linguistic stability in the evolving of slang. Domination of Gen Z in social media interaction supports the spreading and creativity of new slang. The evolving of slang also being seen in its function, other than internal humour among generation, it also becomes a way or a communication bridge for cross generation, started from social media interactions. The phenomenon of FOMO and workplace or society demand shaped it as new linguistic behaviour for slang study. Though it's being argued whether the absurdity and nonsensical words and meaning from the new slang is the weakness of new slang, result of this study sees it as a strong identity created by the creative gen Z and gen Alpha. The millennials find that the forming of slang word during their era is logical based on linguistic process, it's proven to last longer because the definitive meaning it has. In contradiction, gen Z and gen Alpha considers the absurdity as uniqueness of their generation and become identity. The fact that each word can have different meaning or even lost in translation and will not be used for a long time, is not a minus point for them as long as they always can produce new way to communicate.

The perspectives of each generation about slang are understood as sociolinguistic phenomenon. Social media plays significant role as a medium and bridge to help each of them exposed of new words and figure out the context of using it, as well as using it in daily life's interaction. It's not an obligation for each individual to understand every meaning of the words, as well as using it. This study highlights its role as both a bridge and a boundary in cross-generational communication to understand the tie between language and society in digital era.

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