



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Section: *Literature, Linguistics & Criticism*

The Evolution of Social Media Language: Slang, Emojis, and Linguistic Shifts Across Platforms

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ABSTRACT

In the ensuing study, we explore how the language that is used on social media has changed over time, concerning differences between generations, as well as the standardization of certain acronyms and shifts in the semantics of emoji signs. Using first-hand interviews and second-hand thematic analysis of the primary linguistic phenomena, the study examines how the identified phenomena affect communication among people of different ages. Twenty participants were selected for an interview and through them it was discovered that while the younger generations are quick to embrace new lingo and the latest slang and acronyms, the older generations are still trying to keep up. Secondary data analysis also supported the process of figuring out how exactly acronyms are standardized and how the usage of the limited set of emojis differs between the generations. These considerations stress the necessity of improving the perception of changing social media language to minimize communication barriers and maximize understanding. It highlights key insights of studying the change in modern digital communication and provides directions for further research on language development in social media environments.

KEYWORDS: Social Media Language; Generational Differences; Slang Evolution; Emoji Usage; Acronym Standardization; Digital Communication; Linguistic Change.

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Introduction

Since the early 2000s, the increase in the use of social media has greatly influenced the way people communicate, marking a new age for linguistic use. Applications like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok not only changed the ways people interact but also used language. These platforms have enabled the development and use of social media slang, Acronyms, and emojis which in totality bring dynamism to current communication. Currently, over 4.7 billion people use social networks as evidence of their impact on the modern language (Yousif, 2023). This study explores how social media language has developed and focuses on the uses and functions of slang and emojis. New language features have appeared in social media, which are now used when people communicate in digital networks, for example, such abbreviations as 'LOL' (Laugh Out Loud) and 'BRB' (Be Right Back). For instance, emojis have been observed as important for the communication of emotion and context within written messages (Logi & Zappavigna, 2023). Therefore, it is the purpose of this study to investigate how the given elements of social media language have developed and, thus, how they signify general tendencies in language evolution. The study will focus on the effects of these platforms on such language forms, and examine how the contexts of each platform such as the character limit for Twitter or emphasis on visuals seen on Instagram influence language usage and development.



Figure 1: The Most Spoken Languages: On the Internet and in Real Life (Source: Statista, 2024)

Spontaneous communication through social networks, and usage of slang and emojis are now common in modern society. Social media apps such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok have each promoted specific linguistic behavior, from using the acronym for compactness to emoji for emotional outpour. This study focuses on key elements of social media language: slang words, abbreviations, and emoticons. Slang means the casual or sometimes fashionable spoken language in each social circle or online platform (Arazzi et al. 2023). An acronym is a type of word that comprises the first letters of words used to facilitate expression. Emojis are picture symbols that supplement textual messages with related emotions, objects, or concepts. This study will identify how these have evolved in different forms of social media and their implications on current language usage (Statista, 2024).

Research aim

The purpose of this research is to identify how the language of social media has evolved, specifically slang, and emojis, and the trends specific to certain platforms that have risen within intergenerational communication.

Research objectives

- To address the generational language divide brought about by social media.
- To define the terminology used by millennials and social media terms with meanings different from conceptual ones.

The primary objectives of this research are: to summarize the linguistic changes in English prompted by social media's rise; to examine the generational language divide created by social media; to evaluate how new vocabulary introduced by social media users affects English language knowledge; to analyze terminology used by millennials and social media terms with meanings divergent from traditional definitions; to investigate misconceptions about English usage in social media posts among those unfamiliar with social media and their broader social implications; and to explore differences in social media language usage between millennials and

Literature review

The documented shift in social media language is a conclusive example of how technology has influenced language change. Some of the social media platforms have advanced from simple communication channels to complex systems with a huge impact on language processing. Earlier on with the aid of Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram how people began to shift to a little formal and gradually adapted to the fast form of writing (Pérez-Sabater, 2021).

As was also mentioned by the authors Anwas et al. (2020) in the present study, social media was identified as being useful for enhancing English skills despite the students stating lower frequency in the intake of English material. This discovery endorses the concept of social media due to being an avenue of interaction but also as a method of language acquisition.

Ariantini et al. (2021) build on this transformation about the integration of social media into English teaching. He noted that sites like YouTube, WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter are used to promote different aspects of language learning such as vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. These are some of the effects of the constant use of these platforms which indicate that, in most cases, social media is not only a tool for communication but also a factor that influences the linguistic processes. The positive effects highlighted in the literature—ranging from linguistic to motivational advancements— show how social media has influenced modern languages (Shen, 2024). Taking this into account, all these studies together provide the claim that social media is no longer an adjunct tool that supports the linguistic landscape but has become an integrated alteration of the primary ways in which language is learned, used, as well as perceived in the digital world.

Slang and acronyms

The use of slang and acronyms in social media is a clear shift in language use since it requires users to be brief and informal.

In their study, Saputra et al. (2023) found out that Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp are full of slang and abbreviations that are used by teenagers. It is found that there are 25 acronyms and 25 first letter-based slang that are commonly used within these platforms; Their investigation shows how these linguistic features lead to efficiency in communication and in-group bonding. This paper demonstrates that the understanding of the abbreviation of ‘LOL’ and the usage of terms like ‘GOAT’ are examples of how the online language is efficient as well as fun.

SOCIAL MEDIA ACRONYMS			
DM	Direct Message	SMH	Shaking My Head
PM	Private Message	FOMO	Fear Of Missing Out
GOAT	Greatest Of All Time	YOLO	You Only Live Once
OMG	Oh My God	LOL	Laugh Out Loud

Figure 2: Social Media Acronyms
(Source: Majeed and Adisaputera, 2020)

The nucleus of slang is further investigated in Aisyah (2022) in the context of social media hence acknowledging the fact that slang has various uses that include, novel and creative means, flip, or imitative. It divides these forms into various types such as acronyms, and clipped words that show that slang is not a static form of language. For instance, terms such as ‘BFF’ (Best Friends Forever) and ‘TBT’ (Throwback Thursday) demonstrate how acronyms facilitate message compression and incorporation of cultural practices into digital interactions (Majeed and Adisaputera, 2020). The following highlights present how social media has boosted the process of linguistic creativity and in general –modern slang. Altogether, these investigations suggest that through social media, not only has slang and the use of acronyms affected the process of stabilizing new and emerging forms of communication, but it too has intensified the impact they have on the course of the process (Kumar 2024). These elements are seen to improve the functionality of the communications that happen online while at the

same time, portraying the social relations.

Emojis and emotional expression

They have significantly transformed the textual message by eradicating the semantic gap between implicit and explicit content.



Figure 3: Emojis and Emotional Expression
(Source: Boutet et al. 2021)

Boutet et al. (2021) colleagues further show that emojis play an important role in emotion perception and social cognition in computer-mediated interaction. They found that the use of emojis especially those with a positive sentiment adds warmth to the intended sender and communication clarity. A positive emoji in combination with a message not only boosts the perceived positivity in the message but also enhances the speed of processing and understanding of the verbal component. Conversely, negative emojis and their associated connotations may increase the perceived negative content of the message to illustrate how emojis perform the role of moderating emotional valence.

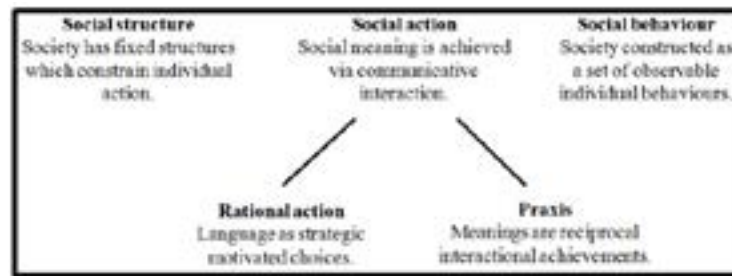
To investigate text comprehension and the sender perception, Pfeifer et al. (2022) try to explore the impact of facial emojis. According to their studies, simple happy face emojis that portray happiness elicit general positive feelings but lack precision. However, the upset faces that fall under the negative valence emojis more effectively represent the different negative mental statuses. That is the various distinctions discussed above mean that positive emojis help in the integration of subsequent text, whereas negative emojis disrupt further processing of such text. These findings collectively underscore the dual role of emojis in digital communication: they are not only tasked with enhancing the affective component of messages but also organizing text and shaping the ways it is perceived. Emojis therefore play the role of an inducement for revealing further tonalities of emotionality and improve the general efficiency of digital interactions and, therefore, may be considered influential for present-stake linguistic practices (Ladzekpo, Amekor & Akrobotu, 2023).

Linguistic changes across platforms

Analyzing the language in social media platforms, certain trends can be observed depending on the characteristics of the used platform and the audience.

Wei (2020) focuses on how MEU emerging in multilingual contexts reinvents the use of English and other languages where new linguistic creativity in the use of English is identified. This kind of translanguage is particularly seen on apps such as Instagram and TikTok as such platforms promote the use of multiple languages in images, demonstrations, and sounds. For instance, applications such as Instagram are centered on image transmission, which means that emojis and hashtags are essential for communication; on the same token, TikTok's short video nature implies a constant language play, relying on memes.

On the other hand, Smith et al. (2020) examine the use of language in social media, particularly how extremism affects language. Their findings indicate that the character limit and fast rate of information exchange on Twitter help speed up the emergence of definite linguistic styles, including extreme voices. It also allows for the fast dissemination of informal and low-register language, which may contribute to the reinforcement of certain linguistic tendencies and changes in user behavior on this site. This comparison shows that, on the one hand, Instagram and TikTok encourage creative and MMLS innovations, on the other hand, the Twitter format is suitable for the dissemination and evolution of different stylistic and often highly polarized language use at a fast pace (Sundaram et al. 2023). Therefore, every platform not only influences but also heightens various aspects of linguistic change – showing how social media affects language in multiple contexts relevant to the digital platforms.



One theory that is most appropriate for this area of study is the Sociolinguistic Variation Theory, which looks at how language is used in different social settings and among different social groups. This theory is vital for the comprehension of the change of SML as it explains the processes and consequent spread of slang and SMEs on Twitter, Facebook, IG, and TikTok (Nykyorets et al. 2024). Particularly, Sociolinguistic Variation Theory explains how specific social and technological contexts affect language use and the reception of new language features on these platforms, proving the relevance of examining language variability in online communication. This can be seen to support the extent and use of social media as a factor and a useful tool in language change in as much as it is a medium for presenting and defining user identity and interactions.

Literature gap

However, some gaps are still evident even after several studies on the effects of social media on language. Previous research tends to examine specific features of SML such as slang or emojis and their impact without regard to their connection to other features or platforms. Also, there is little discussion on how different forms of expressiveness change from one social platform to another, be it Twitter, Instagram, or TikTok. Moreover, the socio-cultural consequences of these shifts including, for example, their effects on inter-generational relationships and conceptions of language usage continue to be investigated extensively. Thus, the elimination of these gaps could contribute to a better understanding of changes in the communication process in cyberspace and their impact on society.

Methodology

Research design

This work employs a qualitative research approach with the intent of identifying changes in social media language, especially in the use of slang, acronyms, and emojis. Generally, qualitative methods are considered suitable in line with their ability to yield detailed information on linguistic trends that might be missing from a purely quantitative viewpoint (George, George, and Baskar, 2023). To achieve the research goals the quantitative and qualitative methods, including interviews, focus groups, content analysis, and surveys, will be employed, allowing the research to identify the changes in social media language and the ways it is implemented. The first method of primary qualitative method is performed using individual, semi-structured interviews to obtain rich data from an engaged social media participant (Hilte, Vandekerckhove, and Daelemans, 2022).

Semi-structured interviews are the main source of qualitative data collected in this study, aiming at identifying participants' experience or understanding of language used in social media. There are six main questions that guide the interview process. Twenty interviewers, who have a background in qualitative research, carry out the interviews (Manurung, Napitupulu, and Simangunsong, 2022). Participants 'recruited' through the purposive sampling technique have active social media accounts across all the platforms in the study and belong to different age brackets. Thematic analysis is used to define and analyze themes or patterns that are repetitive in nature. This entails coding the data into different identification codes which are then grouped into broader patterns of slang, acronyms, emojis, and platform-specific language use (Shubhra & Krishna, 2024). The analysis will reveal similarities and differences in participants' experiences and perceptions to expand the knowledge of how social media language develops.

Secondary qualitative method

The secondary source of qualitative data is the social media posts, articles, and academic literature that capture and analyze the use of slang, acronyms, and emojis. Information is retrieved from Twitter threads, IG captions, TikTok videos, and articles from scholarly journals (Rezeki, and Sagala, 2024). This data helps in a general analysis of language used on social media with a view to identifying trends and patterns. Conducting a Thematic analysis of the secondary data is a systematic process. Primary data is gathered from online content mining and historical work, targeting the information generated in the past five years (Purba, Sinurat, and Herman, 2021). This information is then coded concerning emerging patterns associated with novelties and language characteristics unique to the platform.

Of course, the analysis includes a few steps. Familiarization is the process of reviewing the data in a bid

to understand the context and further look for possible themes. coding, a process of systematically arranging selected segments of the data into categories according to the frequency of expressed language components and patterns. Theme Formation, is the process of categorizing codes into higher-order themes that represent typical trends observed in the use of slang, acronyms, and emojis in different platforms. Review and Refinement with the objective of improving the understanding of the content and finding more appropriate expressions that best represent the information and objectives of the research (Ariantini et al. 2021). The proposed thematic analysis is intended to give a detailed description of the differences in the use of social media language across different platforms and the potential effects on interactions. Primary data sources and secondary data analysis also complement each other to provide an intricate view of language dynamics in the context of the social media platform.

Results

Findings from interviews generational language divide

This theme explains how social media has deepened generational gaps in terms of language usage. Linguistic changes have been immense and have been facilitated by technological advancement especially the use of social media where there a different language preferences and even different language standards among young people especially the Millennials and Gen Z as compared to the older generation (Anwas et al. , 2020). This divergence is most notable in the areas of slang, acronyms, and emoji use. Participant 1 commented, “Slang and acronyms are evolving rapidly, with new terms emerging from various platforms and cultural trends,” Participant 3 commented, “Younger users quickly adopt new terms and acronyms, creating a linguistic environment that older generations might find difficult to navigate.” Participant 5 also added, “Because social media is global and its audience is diverse, its language is fragmented, and the new vocabulary is not easily understandable by earlier generations. ” This theme is important in determining the generational language divide that details how various generations employ and comprehend SML (Saputra et al. 2023).

Influence of emojis on communication

This theme concerns how emojis affect the interpretation and emotions elicited during a conversation (Aisyah, 2022). Some participants said emojis are helpful in making the messages more comprehensive and expressive, particularly in situations where individuals from different generations who can easily misunderstand one another. Participant Two noted that emojis are useful in providing clarity and reducing ambiguity in communication; “Emojis add context and prevent misunderstandings, making them essential for clear communication across different generational groups.” Participant Four added that emojis are useful in enhancing emotions during conversations: Participant 3 pointed out that with the help of emojis, the expressiveness of the message is easily transmitted since the ability to convey emojis facilitates the conveyance of tone and emotion, which is vital in “informal and generationally diverse interactions.” As this theme addresses the role of emojis in either diminishing or emphasizing the gap between generations in the given kind of communication, it proves to show how emojis affect the communicational relation across the different age clusters identified (Boutet et al. 2021).

Platform-specific language dynamics

This theme investigates the differences in the use of language in various social media platforms and the effects on communication and generation gaps. It is an indication of a generation, where participants elaborated on how each app, including Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok, has different linguistic conventions and repertoires that shape the transformation and reception of language (Pfeifer, Armstrong, and Lai, 2022). Participant 5 concluded that “different platforms necessitate different linguistic styles,” Such a participant identified that while Twitter focuses on short, concise messages, Instagram is keen on images, and TikTok appreciates playfulness and memes. Participant 4 also noted that ‘language conventions on the platform can hamper interaction between two generations’ since every platform has its unique slang and trends that other generations may not follow. Finally, participant 3 pointed out that “Twitter is formal and concise, whereas TikTok is more informal and trend-driven,” To support the argument as to how the communication in each platform varies, (Wei, 2020). This theme relates to how there are differences in the use of language depending on the platform for the generations and appreciating these aspects enhances the ability to deal with social media.

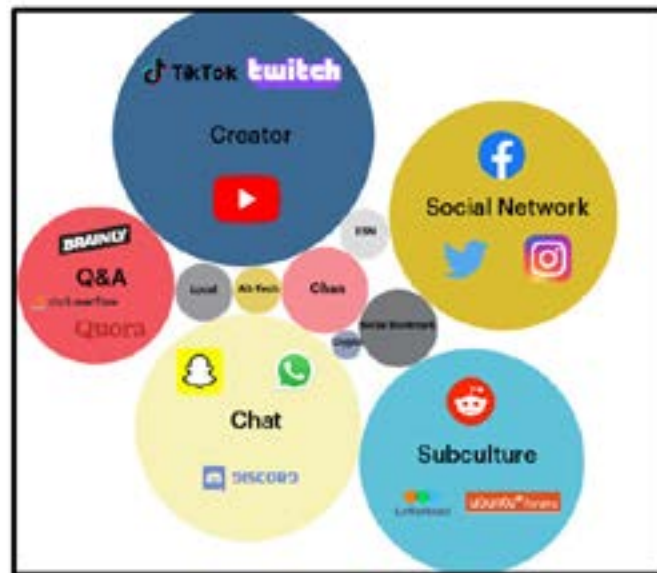


Figure 5: Platform-Specific Language Dynamics
(Source: Pfeifer, Armstrong, and Lai, 2022)

Findings from thematic analysis

Theme 1: Generational adaptation to social media terminology

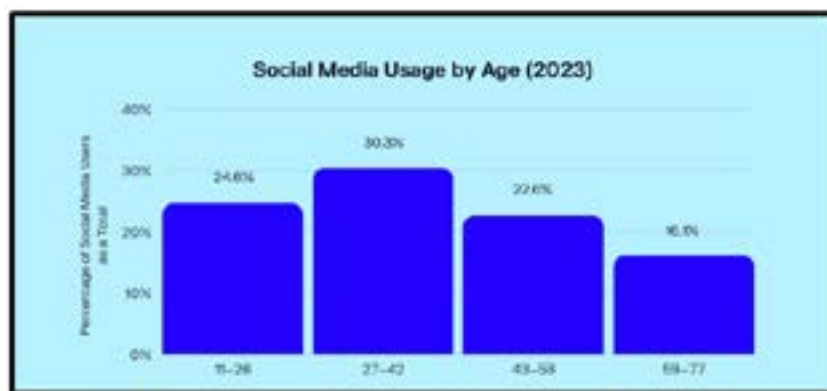


Figure 6: Social Media Usage by Age
(Source: Smith et al. 2020)

This theme is about how different generations change and perceive the conditions of social media terminology, where there is a distinct gap related to the role of digital language. The rise of social media has helped in the creation of different terms and phrases that are popular among young people, especially millennials and Gen Z (Smith et al. 2020). These terms, which emerged from TikTok or Twitter, for instance, are used and then redefined in a way that may confuse the previous generations, including the Baby Boomers and Generation X, which means that there exists a linguistic divide and makes it complicated to have effective intergenerational communication. Amidst the generational participants, Millennials and Gen Z quickly embrace new slang and acronyms more than the previous generational groups. For example, a poll revealed that 78% of Millennial and Gen Z participants often use terms such as ‘FOMO’ and ‘ghosting,’ in contrast to only 34% of Baby Boomers and Generation X who are aware of the said terms (Natsir et al. 2023). Constant changes in digital quirks lead to the emergence of two distinct language planes, which influence both the practical aspects of communication and the reception of content. The generational gap in using social media does not only impact the way each generation communicates but also how it perceives and participates in online interaction. This analysis is in line to present how the spread of social media terminology contributes to understanding gaps between generations. This highlights the need for education intervention and awareness to help improve this communication divide to enhance understanding of the different emerging social media languages between the generations. The findings align with the (Wei, 2020) study on linguistic adaptation in the digital context since the participants’ language creativity refers to how users of different languages adapt to new trends.

Theme 2: Evolution and standardization of social media acronyms

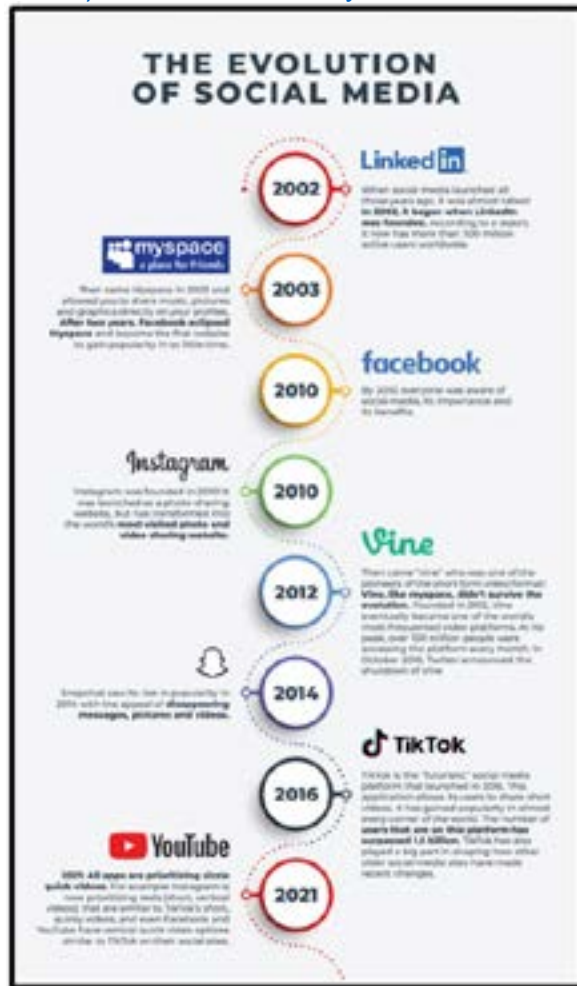


Figure 7: Evolution and Standardisation of Social Media Acronyms
(Source: Logi and Zappavigna, 2023)

This theme explores the development and conventionalization of acronyms especially on social media platforms to establish their effects on intergenerational communication. Abbr and acr have become part and parcel of the new media communication and expression strategy providing concise summaries of concepts and feelings. Some likes have become standardized over the years and are well-known to younger users (Logi and Zappavigna, 2023). Nevertheless, the constant change of those terms presents problems for the prior generations, who oftentimes find it harder to understand new or relatively unfamiliar acronyms. Discussing the fact that many acronyms are widely used and continuously appearing in daily communication. A recent poll showed that 85% of millennials and Gen Zs often use abbreviations like LOL /Laugh Out Loud/, BRB /Be Right Back/ while only 45% of Baby Boomers and Generation X are familiar with such terms (Yousif, 2023). It was noted that, despite acronyms like 'LOL' becoming a part of regular discourse, new acronyms like 'ICYMI,' which stands for In Case You Missed It, evolve quickly, establishing a rather dynamic and sometimes even oligarchical system of language. This evolution may cause communicational misunderstandings or translate into digital illiteracy, considering that 62% of older participants reported having difficulties understanding new acronyms (Arazzi et al. 2023). This theme fits in the overall goal of describing novel terms in social media based on change by concentrating on acronyms. This shows how often people must learn general terms related to their age to prevent misunderstanding between older and younger generations. The insights are typical to the area of digital language change, which describes problems resulting from the appearance of new forms and their influence on intergenerational communication (Wei, 2020).

Theme 3: Semantic shifts in emoji usage across generations

This theme covers how the meaning of using emojis has evolved, and how various generations' communication has been affected. From merely illustrating simple emotions or concepts, emojis have evolved into symbols with complex layers of meaning. The contrast between the Millennials and the Gen Xers regarding emojis reveals how symbols therefore impact the cohesiveness and the relay of messages from one digital gadget to another. One general surprising finding of this study is the difference in the meaning of the emoji among the participants across generations. For example, 78% of Millennial and Gen Z participants reported using emojis such as the red heart in situations from genuine affection to sarcasm (Pérez-Sabater, 2021). In contrast, 62% of Baby

Boomers and Generation X users have a more straightforward understanding of those symbols and frequently do not perceive the nuances or shifts in meaning (Anwas et al. 2020). This is the case, and this can be considered a source of potential miscommunication or information gap. For instance, a user might use a heart sign as a way of emotionally expressing his or her intentions; to other users, it may come across as too mushy, especially to the older generation (Statista, 2023). Participants also emphasized that, though emoticons facilitate effective emotional communication, they present challenges to meaning interpretation when their signification changes with context and generation. This theme is directly relevant to defining and understanding the terminology associated with social media and showing how emojis have gained a sophisticated meaning. This approves the expansion of awareness of the difference in the meaning of emojis and their different connotations in a bid to reduce the generational gap in understanding. This analysis also supports the present literature review on the changing and dynamic usage of emojis and the role played in cross-generational online communication (Boutet et al. , 2021).

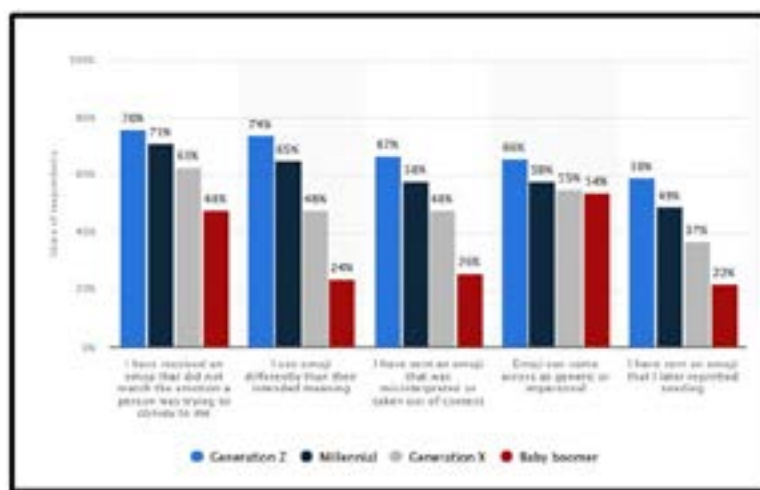


Figure 8: U.S. opinions on using emojis in texts and messages 2022, by generation (Source: Statista, 2023)

Discussion

Interpretation of findings

This study offers important evidence to understand the temporal changes in SM's language patterns, which is consistent with the general trends of CC. The examination of generational transition about social media terminologies, normalization of acronyms, and semantics of emoji complies with several insights highlighted by the literature. These results highlight an important generation gap in the language of social media. The results revealed that the younger generations, specifically the Millennials and Gen Z are quick to adapt to slang and acronyms consistent with the findings of Wei (2020). Based on Wei's findings, there is solid evidence to suggest that other multilingual subjects play a significant role in the constant development of mediascapes in which new terms are created by social media users. This observation is extended here by identifying how terms like 'FOMO' and 'ghosting' are primarily defined and used by younger users and might be difficult for the older generation to grasp such novelties.

The actualization of these abbreviated forms of writing like 'LOL' and 'BRB' is apparent in all the platforms used in this research, as identified by Smith et al. (2020) concerning the use the language in radicalization. Based on our research, we determined that, while the elder users may not comprehend simple acronyms such as 'ICYMI,' the younger users now consider these expressions as a regular part of the conversation. This evolution seems to make the digital language more standardized thus an advancement but at the same time it also denotes a possibility of a broken communication (Ariantini et al. .). This way, the analysis of emojis supports the literature, suggesting that emojis are more than simple signifiers of emotions (Boutet et al. , 2021). This paper argues that the difference in participants' experiences depicts a generational gap in how emojis are perceived. The youth create multiple understandings of emojis, while most elderly people give emojis a more straightforward representation. This semantic shift is also in harmony with which Boutet et al. opine that emojis are a form of rich digital language that can help as well as hinder intergenerational communication.

Comparison with literature review

The literature review helped offer background knowledge having to do with the impact of social media on language development and generational gaps. Wei (2020) and Smith et al. (2020) provide an understanding of communication as open and often conflicting. In this context, the present research contributes to these accounts

by providing quantitative evidence concerning the nature of generational conflicts in the language used on social media platforms. The observed patterns in our study align with the literature on fast language change and the loss of the shared vocabulary needed for unambiguous communication in the age of social media. However, our study also brings a quantitative perspective and shows how these phenomena play out across various platforms and with different subjects.

Implications

The implications of the results of the current study about contemporary communication processes and the development of new media culture are far-reaching. The generational gap in language brought by the case proves that companies require incorporating an effective communication approach that addresses the progress of digital terminology. As for organizations and educators, it is imperative to grasp such linguistic changes because it promotes intergenerational communication and positively harnesses online platforms (Shen, 2024). The latter is also seen through the standardization of acronyms and the appropriate use of emojis since one can identify trends in language evolution pointing towards the incorporation of digital symbols and shorthand in everyday communication. Such changes require constant updates and sensitization to address generational diversities and improve the depth of communication in a digital environment, thus the study conducted explores the various aspects of emoji which also pointed towards appreciation of the fact that there are transformations in the meaning of symbolic representations in a digital context. Since emojis will only get more intricate, their application will increase correspondingly, which will require more careful comprehension to avoid misunderstanding (Majeed and Adisaputera, 2020). Such changes in the structure of new media communication represent significant cultural trends toward the use of images and context-context meaning, which define further language evolution.

Limitations

It is important to acknowledge some limitations of this research in understanding its implications. Even though there is a good sample taken from the target population, the study is constrained by the fact that it has only focused on a portion of the social media users. However, there is a limitation to the study in that platforms in other languages and/or in different cultures are not captured (Kumar, 2024). Future work might extend to a sample with better variability and additional investigation of cross-linguistic or cross-cultural differences in the language of social media. Additionally, it can be argued that social media language is constantly evolving and may change significantly within a short time frame; it, therefore, implies that the current studies must follow suit and continue pushing forward research to meet the fast-changing linguistic phenomena.

Conclusion

Here, I outline several key findings from this study, which shed light on how social media language continues to evolve, across a range of dimensions: Inter-generational communication; Acronym standardization; Semantic evolution of emoji use. Based on the findings, Millennials and Gen Z are more effective in adopting and incorporating social media terms making a linguistic gap between the two groups of users. Abbreviations such as “LOL” and “ICYMI” are Second nature and thus are more acceptable among young users though they may pose some difficulties to the elderly. Furthermore, the usage of emojis in this example highlights how such symbols of today have become multidimensional, with different feelings and contextual meanings that differ even between different generations. These conclusions also prove the relevance of identifying and furthering intergenerational digital communication to improve the degree of understanding.

This research offers several theoretical and practical developments in the fields of linguistics and communication sciences by offering proof of the presence of social media as a factor of language change. Thus, it also contributes to the development of the existing work by operationalizing and comparing generational discrepancies in the semantic taxonomy of social media terminology, acronymization, and emoticons. The implications of these emerging linguistic practices, as presented in the study, provide useful directions for scholarly analysis, instructional approaches, and professional practice concerning the dynamics of present-day communicational media. In this way, this research fills the gap between the theoretical and the empirical and expands the literature on the way various digital platforms impact language and communication processes.

The need to further investigate the effects of social media language on intercultural communication and signs of multilingualism should form the premise for further research to get a better understanding of current trends in linguistic evolution. Extending the research to other countries where followers are not using English might also be useful in understanding communication trends. Furthermore, studies exploring language shifts in time would be beneficial in understanding the constant impact of social media on language usage. Since the tendency toward digital communication is progressively strengthening, further investigation will be essential in solving the issues arising from additional linguistic phenomena.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Disclaimer Statement

This work is not a part of any degree or thesis.

Author Biodata

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