CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUTH SLANG REFERRING TO VARIES TYPES OF SOCIAL MEDIA

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Abstract: This article explores the characteristics of youth slang that is commonly used on various types of social media platforms. Through a comprehensive literature review and analysis of online data, the article identifies the unique features of youth slang, including its use of abbreviations, acronyms, and emoticons, as well as its incorporation of elements of popular culture and technology. The article also examines the role of social media in the evolution of youth slang and its impact on communication among young people. Overall, the article provides valuable insights into the linguistic practices of young people on social media and highlights the importance of understanding and studying youth slang in the context of digital communication.

Keywords: youth slang, social media, characteristics, language, communication, technology, internet, generation, lexicon, grammar, vocabulary, linguistics, online platforms, discourse, language evolution, slang words, linguistic creativity, online identity, linguistic features.

Slang is a fascinating aspect of language that evolves over time and varies across different social groups. It refers to informal and nonstandard vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation used by people in specific contexts or communities. Youth slang is one of the most dynamic forms of slang as it reflects the evolving attitudes, values, and cultures of young people. Social media has become an important platform for young people to express themselves, communicate, and interact with each other. Social media has also influenced the way young people use language, including slang. This article explores the characteristics of youth slang referring to various types of social media. Youth slang refers to informal language used by young people, often to express their identity, emotions, and attitudes towards social norms. Slang words are usually creative, playful, and subversive, as they often challenge conventional language rules and values. Youth slang is also characterized by its dynamic nature, as it evolves rapidly and varies across different social groups, regions, and contexts. It is often used to create a sense of belonging and identity among young people who share similar values, experiences, and cultures. Slang words often have multiple meanings, and their usage
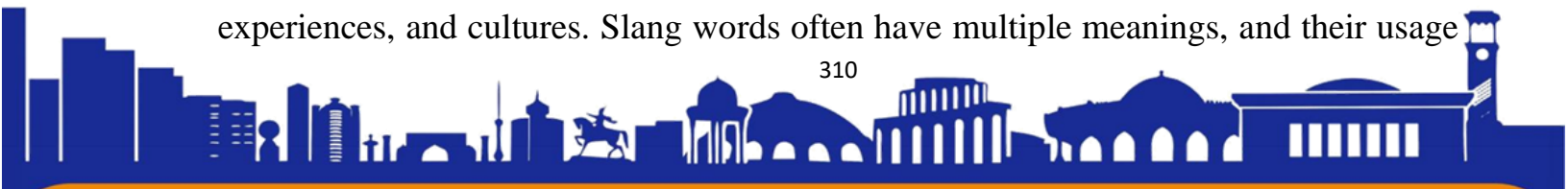
can change over time. For example, the word "lit" originally referred to the state of being drunk but has now evolved to mean "exciting" or "amazing."

Types of social media. Social media refers to online platforms that allow users to create, share, and exchange information, ideas, and content. There are various types of social media, including:

Social networking sites, such as Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn, which allow users to create profiles, connect with other users, and share information and content. Instant messaging and chat apps, such as WhatsApp, Snapchat, and Instagram, which allow users to send messages, photos, and videos to other users. Blogging and microblogging platforms, such as Tumblr, Medium, and Twitter, which allow users to publish their thoughts, ideas, and content. Video-sharing platforms, such as YouTube and TikTok, which allow users to create and share videos. Each type of social media has its unique features and characteristics, which influence the way young people use language and slang.

Characteristics of Youth Slang on social media. The following are the characteristics of youth slang referring to various types of social media:

Linguistic Creativity. One of the most striking features of youth slang is its linguistic creativity. Young people use slang words to express themselves in unique and creative ways, often incorporating elements of humor, irony, and sarcasm. On social media, young people have access to a wide range of linguistic resources, including emojis, hashtags, and memes, which they use to create new slang words and expressions. For example, the hashtag #bae, which stands for "before anyone else," has become a popular slang word among young people.

Language Evolution. Youth slang on social media is a reflection of the evolving attitudes, values, and cultures of young people. As social media continues to influence the way young people communicate and interact, the language they use is also evolving. New slang words and expressions emerge on social media, often in response to new trends, events, and cultural phenomena. For example, the slang word "yeet," which means to throw or move forcefully, emerged on social media in 2014 and has since become a popular term among young people.

Online Identity. Social media provides young people with an opportunity to create and express their online identity. Slang words and expressions are often used to reinforce this online identity and create a sense of belonging among young people who
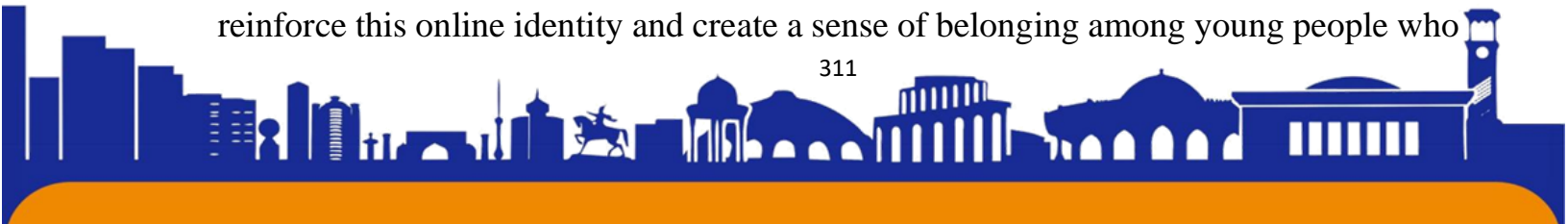
share similar values, interests, and cultures. Slang words can also be used to signal one's social status on social media, as certain slang words may be associated with specific social groups or subcultures. For example, the use of slang words such as "lit" and "turnt" may be associated with the party culture, while the use of slang words such as "woke" and "cancel" may be associated with social justice activism.

Linguistic Features. Youth slang on social media is characterized by certain linguistic features that distinguish it from standard language. These features include:

Abbreviations and acronyms: Young people often use abbreviations and acronyms to shorten words and phrases, such as "lol" for "laugh out loud" and "tbh" for "to be honest." Nonstandard spelling and punctuation: Slang words may be spelled or punctuated in nonstandard ways, such as "cuz" for "because" and "af" for "as f***." Borrowing from other languages: young people may borrow words or expressions from other languages, such as "bae" from African American English and "on fleek" from African American Vernacular English. Coining new words: Young people may coin new words and expressions by combining existing words or by creating entirely new words, such as "fam" for "family" and "clout" for "influence."

Discourse and Communication. Youth slang on social media is often used in specific discourse and communication contexts. For example, certain slang words and expressions may be used in casual conversations with friends, while others may be used in more formal contexts, such as job interviews. Slang words and expressions may also be used to convey certain emotions or attitudes, such as humor, sarcasm, or irony. For example, the use of the phrase "lowkey" may indicate that the speaker is downplaying or understating something.

Conclusion. Youth slang on social media is a dynamic and creative form of language that reflects the evolving attitudes, values, and cultures of young people. Slang words and expressions are used to create a sense of identity, reinforce social status, and communicate emotions and attitudes. Social media provides young people with a unique platform to express themselves and communicate with others using a wide range of linguistic resources, including emojis, hashtags, and memes. As social media continues to influence the way young people communicate and interact, the language they use is also evolving. It is important to note that not all slang words and expressions are appropriate or acceptable in all contexts. While slang can be a fun and creative way to communicate with friends, it is important to use appropriate language
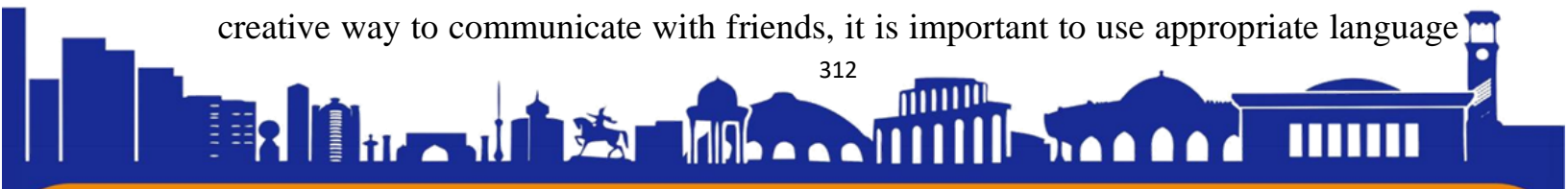
in more formal or professional contexts. Overall, the characteristics of youth slang on social media reflect the ever-changing nature of language and the ways in which young people use language to express themselves and connect with others. Twitter, with its character limit and fast-paced nature, has given rise to the use of abbreviations and acronyms that allow users to communicate quickly and efficiently. Instagram, with its emphasis on visual content, has led to the development of slang related to aesthetics and appearance. Meanwhile, TikTok's short-form video format has created a new type of slang that is heavily influenced by popular memes and trends. Despite their differences, all types of social media slang share some common characteristics. They are often created and used by young people as a way to express their identity, connect with others, and establish their social status. They can also serve as a way to establish group membership and exclude outsiders. However, it is important to note that the use of slang can also have negative consequences, such as perpetuating stereotypes and excluding individuals who are not part of the in-group. It is important for young people to be aware of the potential impact of their language choices and to use slang in a responsible and inclusive manner. Overall, the study of youth slang in relation to social media provides valuable insights into the language and communication practices of young people today. As social media continues to shape our communication landscape, it is likely that youth slang will continue to evolve and adapt to new platforms and contexts. Understanding these changes and their implications can help us to better understand and engage with young people in today's digital world.

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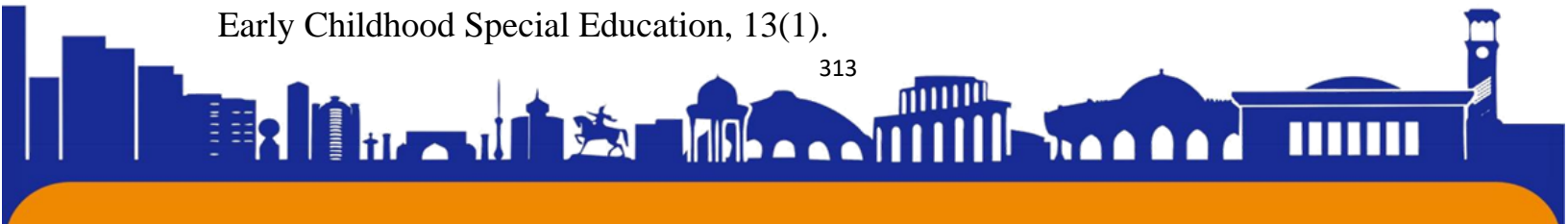
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