

The Socio-Pragmatics of Emotional Expression in Digital Slang

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ABSTRACT: Modern digital landscapes have evolved from temporary pandemic-era fixes into permanent infrastructures that fundamentally recalibrate human interaction. This study investigates how Generation Z employs digital slang as a high-efficiency mechanism for affective pragmatics and social gatekeeping. The research utilized a combination of qualitative content analysis and interpretive phenomenological analysis to collect data from high-context ecosystems, including Threads, TikTok, and Discord (2024-2026). The results demonstrate that minimalistic signifiers function as semantic anchors, enabling people to communicate their complex emotional states through shared cultural knowledge while they achieve faster communication and lower digital fatigue. Critically, digital slang functions as a sociolinguistic filter that automatically excludes out-groups through its temporary nature and specific contextual requirements. The research develops a new meaning model enabling real-time intent reconstruction through continuous meaning flows beyond traditional lexical inventories. Ultimately, digital minimalism does not simplify language but re-engineers it to protect subcultural intimacy through linguistic friction.

KEYWORDS: Digital slang, affective pragmatics, Gen Z, social gatekeeping, minimalistic signs, post-pandemic communication.

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Introduction

In the post-pandemic era, digital environments have transitioned from temporary tools into a primary, agentic infrastructure for social interaction (Gu et al., 2026; Leal Filho et al., 2024). This shift has fundamentally altered interpersonal dynamics, forcing Generation Z to recalibrate essential communicative habits like empathy and active listening within increasingly mediated frameworks (Kizbaz, 2024). As physical cues, such as body language and direct tonality, diminished, users were compelled to restructure how they express and negotiate emotions (Abdelmonem & Karawia, 2024). Within this landscape, digital slang has evolved into a high-efficiency mechanism for affective pragmatics, distilling complex emotional states into concise, context-sensitive signifiers (Luu et al., 2025).

Existing literature has long established slang as a socio-linguistic filter that categorizes speakers into in-group or out-group identities (Bailey, 1985; Damirjian, 2025). Previous studies have extensively analyzed the morphological processes of slang, such as acronyms and semantic shifts, viewing them as markers of cultural competency or studied carelessness (Danesi, 2010; Melville, 1912). Furthermore, artifacts like memes and internet slang have been documented as outlets for shared social intensities that challenge traditional models of identity (Rahma & Moetia, 2024; Szablewicz, 2020). However, most of these studies remain descriptive, focusing primarily on lexical inventories (what the words mean) or identity construction (who uses them).

The novelty of this study lies in its shift from static vocabulary analysis to the dynamic negotiation of meaning in hyper-speed environments. While previous research implies a research gap, this study explicitly addresses the lack of focus on how minimalistic signs function as semantic anchors. These signs do not merely simplify language; they optimize affective synchronization by outsourcing meaning to a shared cultural reservoir. Unlike traditional models that view slang as a way to fill linguistic gaps, this research argues that post-pandemic slang represents a move toward a flowing meaning model where intent is collaboratively reconstructed in real-time.

Research aim and research questions

By focusing on the specific platform architectures of Threads, TikTok, and Discord, this paper seeks to decode the strategic use of brevity to recreate intimacy in fractured virtual spaces. To investigate these dynamics, the study addresses the following research questions:

1. How do online users employ digital slang to recreate intimacy and affective pragmatics in fragmented virtual environments?
2. In what ways do minimalistic signs in digital slang facilitate the negotiation of meaning between speakers and listeners?

Theoretical framework

The theory of affective pragmatics (TAP) defines emotional expressions as speech act analogs. These expressions are not just reactions; they are social tools that perform four specific moves, such as expressives (manifesting internal states), imperatives (demanding behavioral changes), declaratives (appraising reality), and commissives (signaling future actions) (Scarantino, 2017). While traditional TAP focuses on bodily displays, this study applies it to digital signifiers. For example, a minimalistic W functions as a declarative, representing a shared appraisal of success, and an expressive, manifesting the speaker's alignment with the group. This framework allows the research to move beyond literal meaning to the action-oriented nature of slang (Fischer & Sauter, 2017).

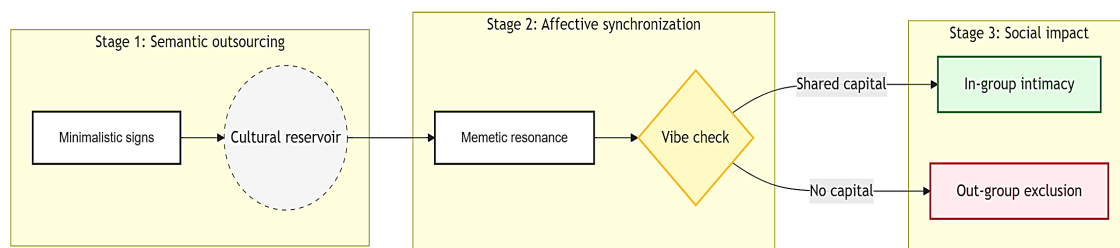
To decode the force behind digital slang, this study employs speech act theory. Communication is not a sequence of linguistic forms, but a series of moves where illocutionary force is reduced to their functional and sequential properties (Moeschler, 2002). Every digital utterance follows a bipartite structure $F(p)$, where the illocutionary force indicating device (F) combines with a propositional act (p) to accomplish a communicative goal (Sadock, 2006). In post-pandemic spaces, Gen Z utilizes slang as a formal device to signal intention, such as using Sus to perform a preparatory act of communal doubt. This theory provides the structural rules to explain how brevity can still carry a complete communicative weight.

Relevance theory provides the cognitive lens to explain how listeners decode extreme brevity. Humans employ a fast and frugal heuristic to identify a speaker's intended meaning by balancing cognitive effects against processing effort (Wilson & Sperber, 2004). Every ostensive stimulus, as an attempt to take up the hearer's attention, conveys a guarantee of its own optimal relevance (Allott, 2013). Within a mutual cognitive environment, Gen Z users use minimalistic signs to trigger a biologically rooted search for relevance (Yus, 2009). This process inferentially enriches underdetermined texts. By minimizing the processing effort for the in-group while maximizing it for the out-group, digital slang effectively automates social exclusion.

The following meaning model, shown in Figure 1, defines digital slang as a social interaction system that evolves instead of being treated as a language decline. In stage 1 (semantic outsourcing), users employ basic symbols to transmit messages that require less mental effort because they tap into shared cultural understanding for quick communication. The process advances to stage 2 (affective synchronization) because the vibe check functions as an essential pragmatic filter, which enables meaning to be reconstructed through memetic resonance instead of direct decoding. The third stage (social impact) demonstrates how linguistic friction produces its effects, which enable users with shared cultural capital to develop in-group bonds while others face social rejection. The model demonstrates digital brevity in three stages because it shows how online spaces after the pandemic use digital brevity as a method to control social access.

Figure 1

The following meaning model



Methodology

Research design

This study uses Qualitative Content Analysis (QCA) together with Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) to examine how digital slang functions in social and pragmatic contexts. The Researcher selected a dual-layered design because it enables them to connect visible linguistic patterns with the hidden emotional meanings that exist beyond those patterns.

The adoption of QCA enables researcher to systematically categorize slang usage across different digital platforms while discovering common patterns that show how particular signifiers function as emotional anchors (Schreier, 2012). However, the QCA method does not meet the requirements because post-pandemic digital communication needs to understand both atmosphere and hidden information. The design uses IPA as a tool to explore how digital users experience their lives through their use of minimalistic shorthand to build their social understanding.

The research needs this combined method because it helps researcher study online conversations, which lack conventional non-verbal communication methods. The study uses an interpretive lens to examine how people establish meaning through their emotional connections and their use of simplified language. The research follows post-positivist tradition (Creswell & Poth, 2016) because digital meaning exists as a changing, co-created reality that emerges within particular cultural groups. The research design enables the researcher to examine digital slang as an evolving social-linguistic instrument because they treat it as more than basic language use.

Data collection and source

The data for this study were systematically harvested from three primary high-context digital ecosystems, such as Threads, Discord, and TikTok. The researcher selected these platforms because they serve as the digital frontier that post-pandemic communication requires for studying modern language evolution (Zappavigna, 2012). These spaces differ from standard social media platforms because they enable users to conduct their discussions through asynchronous threaded conversations, which allows members to demonstrate their membership through specific behaviors.

The researcher used purposive sampling methods to create a dataset with specific social and linguistic features. The researcher selected conversation threads that had more than 50 interactions because they wanted to analyze the specific conversation threads that included the target words W, L, No Cap, Sus, and Era. The selected data preserves both the specific slang usage and the process through which speakers reach shared understanding. The researcher will collect data between 2024 and early 2026 to study how digital-first communication became the main social connection method after the pandemic.

Table 1

Distribution of data sources and linguistic affordances

Platform	Nature of discourse	Primary linguistic affordance	Data volume (N)
Threads	Reflective and dialogic	High-context narrative building, ideal for Era branding	150 threads
Discord	In-group and hyper-local	Private socio-pragmatic filtering, high density of Sus + Ratio	200 interactions
TikTok	Memetic and performative	Rapid affective synchronization, origin of W/L and Ate	300 comments

To maintain temporal relevance, the scraping process utilized a snowballing digital tracking method, identifying a core set of viral slang and following its trajectory across different platform architectures. This multi-platform approach acknowledges that digital slang is not monolithic; its pragmatic function is often dictated by the

affordances of the hardware and the algorithm of the specific site (Gibson, 2014; Hutchby, 2001). The study establishes complete linguistic documentary evidence through the three separate data sources, which it combines. This shows that its results have not been affected by one particular application because they demonstrate a general change in emotional digital communication practices between different age groups.

Data analysis procedure

The analysis followed a multi-staged QCA framework, moving from inductive categorization to deductive pragmatic mapping. This procedure ensures that the findings are grounded in the actual discourse while being interpreted through established socio-pragmatic theories (Mayring, 2014). The process was operationalized through a three-step coding trajectory:

Step 1: Open coding and functional categorization

The initial phase involved a recursive reading of the harvested datasets to identify recurring linguistic units. Through the open coding process, the researcher established two types of digital slang terms and defined their purposes of communication (Strauss & Corbin, 1990). This resulted in four main functional categories which include epistemic/affirmation (no cap), exclusionary/gatekeeping (sus ratio), aesthetic/performance (ate, slay) and existential/branding (era) as their major components.

Step 2: Pragmatic mapping and affective calibration

Following the initial categorization, the data underwent pragmatic mapping. This step aligned the identified slang with speech act theory to determine their illocutionary force, which is what the speaker is doing by saying the word (Searle, 1969). For instance, the use of W was mapped as an act of collective validation. Furthermore, the researcher used an affective scale to assess the emotional intensity of their acts, which they performed to evaluate their capacity to show different types of emotional expression.

Table 6

Analytical framework for pragmatic mapping

Coding stage	Analytical lens	Targeted outcome
Open coding	Inductive labeling	Functional taxonomy
Pragmatic mapping	Speech act theory	Illocutionary force identification
Contextual triangulation	Comparative analysis	Cross-platform variance

Step 3: Contextual triangulation and in-group/out-group dynamics

The final stage employed contextual triangulation to validate the findings across different platform architectures and social hierarchies. The analysis scrutinized how the pragmatic value of a signifier (e.g., sigma) shifts when deployed on Threads (high-context narrative) versus TikTok (hyper-speed memetic resonance). Critically, the main goal of this process required the assessment of how in-group members and out-group tourists established their shared understanding through their linguistic interactions. The process determines which digital meanings exist as temporary digital signs instead of permanent digital signs.

Ethical considerations

The ethical framework of this study is grounded in the principles of digital anonymity and the public domain doctrine. The researcher collected the data from social media platforms which required following the ethical guidelines established by the Association of Internet Researcher because the research used online discussions as a source for research data (Markham & Buchanan, 2012). The researcher recognized that Discord data collection presents an ethical challenge because users there anticipate greater privacy protection than they would in public areas of TikTok.

The study started by establishing an authentication process. All personally identifiable information (PII), which included usernames and profile pictures and specific location tags, was removed during the data extraction process. The researcher examined direct quotes to determine which required paraphrasing because a verbatim quote would enable search engine users to identify a specific private individual (Townsend & Wallace, 2016). The strategy becomes essential because users in public digital spaces experience a sense of private subcultural identity which makes them believe their spoken words will not be collected for research purposes.

The method recognizes that people believe they have privacy rights in their online subcultural communities, although digital environments exist as public spaces. In addition, the data collection process followed both public domain regulations and the particular service requirements established by Threads and Discord and TikTok. Only comments and threads from publicly accessible profiles were included. Data from private groups or invite-only Discord servers were strictly excluded to avoid a breach of contextual integrity (Nissenbaum, 2004).

Results

Digital slang as a sociolinguistic gatekeeping mechanism

Digital slang functions not merely as a lexicon of convenience but as a formidable sociopolitical filter used to police in-group boundaries. Participants demonstrated that membership is not a static state but a continuous performance of authenticity. This signaling is verified through two critical factors: temporal relevance (adopting terms before they are colonized by the mainstream) and contextual precision. Failure to meet these criteria does not just result in a misunderstanding. It triggers a social demotion, effectively indexing the individual as a tourist or a cultural outsider. For instance, a Discord exchange following a gaming session revealed this friction: when an older user attempted to bridge the social gap by typing *"That play was so skibidi, no cap,"* a younger participant replied, *"Who let the boomer cook? The aura is in the negatives."* This interaction illustrates that using the correct marker with the wrong timing or vibe results in immediate social penalty rather than inclusion.

A key mechanism for enforcing these social borders is the use of reactive affirmation markers (e.g., No Cap, Facts, Bet). In a post-pandemic digital landscape saturated with clout-chasing, the strategic use of No Cap functions as an ethical litmus test. The Gen Z users who use these markers demonstrate their complete rejection of artificial social behavior. Data from TikTok comment sections show that when a creator posts an overly polished, clearly sponsored video, the top-liked comments are often a single word like NPC or Ratio. The creators in this situation lose their social status because the weaponized shortness of this content deems their work as unoriginal and automatic. This establishes a moral hierarchy where individuals who master unfiltered truth markers wield greater social influence and symbolic power than those perceived as trying too hard.

Table 1

Strategic signaling as a tool for social stratification

Signaling strategy	Linguistic markers	Critical sociolinguistic function
Epistemic alignmer	No Cap, Facts, Bet	Enforces a social contract of reliability, purges perceived inauthenticity from the inner circle.
Archetypal labeling	NPC, Sigma, Simp	Weaponizes social categorization to punish robotic or predictable behaviors and reward perceived autonomy
Aesthetic validation	Slay, Drip, Ate	Regulates the group's visual economy, establishes who possesses the right to belong.
Digital literacy gatekeeper	Touch Grass, Rati Skibidi	Penalizes cultural stagnation, uses hyper-fast meme cycles to automate the exclusion of normies

In addition, signaling membership requires affective synchronization, the ability to mirror the group's emotional frequency to solidify social alliances. This goes beyond simple communication; it is a phatic performance that signals, *"I belong to this emotional tribe."* Critically, terms like vibe check or calling someone Sus function as regulatory surveillance tools. In one analyzed Discord thread, a member was vibe checked after sharing a controversial take; the community's response, a flood of Sus emojis, effectively silenced the individual without needing a formal argument. When a user fails a vibe check, slang shifts from a welcoming gesture to a weapon of exclusion. This binary dynamic suggests that slang is a weaponized social instrument used to protect the purity of the subculture against those who lack the cultural capital to keep up.

Perhaps the most sophisticated signaling found is the commodification of identity through narrative branding (e.g., Slay era, Villain era). By framing personal experiences as an era, Gen Z users align themselves with a global narrative power structure. This is evident in *"Get ready with me"* videos, where users announce, *"I'm officially entering my IDGAF era"* to justify a change in social behavior. This allows the individual to curate the self as a digital product, signaling that they possess the hyper-reflexivity required to survive in a competitive, attention-based economy.

Table 2

Tactical nuance and the risks of social exclusion

Contextual variable	High fluency in-group usage	Low-fluency out-group error	Consequence of failure
Tone	Irony or satire (Sigma)	Literal interpretation	Loss of status, identified as intellectually out of sync
Timing	Early adoption	Late or mainstream adoption	Social death, the term becomes cringe, and the user is shunned
Platform	Platform-specific (Ratio)	Misplaced usage	Indexing as a boomer, total loss of digital credibility

Ultimately, the specific digital slang that Gen Z members use functions as their digital identity test, which automatically divides people into different social groups. The results show that people now use communication methods that verify their identity instead of transmitting their actual meanings. Belonging is no longer about shared language, but about the flawless execution of social unwritten rules. In the post-pandemic era, where physical

touchpoints have diminished, this exclusionary intimacy has become the primary infrastructure for power-brokering within the generation. As observed in the data, the linguistic friction created by misused slang acts as a self-correcting algorithm for the group. Those who misuse the slang are not merely incorrect. They are socially invisible, effectively purged from the digital tribe through linguistic friction.

Minimalistic signs as high-context semantic anchors

While the previous result outlines how slang acts as a social barrier to enforce group hierarchy, the following section examines the internal cognitive mechanics and linguistic compression that allow this barrier to function so efficiently through minimalistic signs.

The data suggests that Gen Z's reliance on minimalistic signs (e.g., W, L, Fr, Ate, Real) is not an evolutionary laziness but a calculated optimization of linguistic economy. The signs work as semantic anchors that transfer cognitive meaning processing from their textual content to a common cultural knowledge base. For instance, the TikTok comment section about a creator's comeback shows that the letter W attracts thousands of likes from users who comment on the video. The single character functions as a complete replacement for a paragraph that provides moral support and validation through its speed of evaluation. By stripping away syntactic complexity, the speaker triggers a rapid cognitive synchronization, where the listener must bypass literal decoding to achieve an immediate, intuitive understanding of the vibe.

Minimalistic signs facilitate a high-velocity information exchange that is essential in the post-pandemic digital environment. In this context, the deployment of markers like Fr or Sus acts as a linguistic trust contract. This negotiation is not based on factual accuracy but on inter-subjective sincerity. As seen in Discord community chats, when a user shares a personal struggle, the response Real acts as a profound empathetic anchor. It signals that the listener has not only read the message but has relocated themselves into the speaker's emotional state, bypassing the need for performative sympathy. By reducing a complex emotional state to a single signifier, the speaker initiates an immediate calibration of resonance. This linguistic compression is a technical necessity for maintaining a real-time connection in a space defined by infinite scrolling and rapid content turnover.

Table 3

Cognitive mechanics and semantic reduction of minimalistic signs

Minimalistic sign	Semantic reduction	Negotiated context	value	i	Socio-pragmatic function
W / L	Binary polarity	Collective moral or judgment	or succe	:	Optimizes evaluative speed by bypassing descriptive adjectives
Fr / Real	Epistemic focus	Verification of performative intent	no	:	Automates the validation of sincerity in low-tru digital spaces
Sus	Heuristic skepticism	A prompt for doubt	commun	:	Streamlines collective vigilance without requiring explicit evidence
Ate	Aesthetic peak	Recognition of a performance	a perfe	:	Condenses high-level praise into a single, high impact syllable
POV	Relational immersion	Subjective, shared empathy			Outsources situational context, forcing the listener to co-create the narrative.

Furthermore, the minimalism of these signs creates a strategic ambiguity that rewards high-speed cognitive processing. This process transforms language into a dynamic, flowing meaning model. Unlike traditional dictionaries, where meanings are fixed, the value of signs like Skibidi or Rizz is negotiated through memetic resonance. The data shows that the term POV (Point of View) has migrated from its technical cinematographic origin to a general marker of shared empathy. On Threads, a post starting with "POV: it's 3 AM, and you're..." forces the reader to co-author the narrative instantly, using the sign as a bridge between individual and collective experience. Meaning is liquid; it evolves at the speed of an algorithm, requiring the listener to constantly scan an internal database of viral subtexts.

Besides, the process of transitioning to flowing meaning creates a major linguistic shift that results in a generation divide that both conventional translation systems and AI systems cannot overcome because people understand meaning through temporary expressions instead of permanent language. This situation exists because outsiders interpret emoji sequences and single-letter answers as meaningless, while in-group members understand them as complex multi-dimensional communication.

Table 4

Negotiation outcomes and processing efficiency

Dimension negotiation	High-fluency (in-group)	Low-fluency group)	Cognitive and systemic impact
Interpretive labor	Low, meaning is intuitive & rhythmic	High, requires external decoding	Prioritizes cognitive ease for those with shared subcultural data
Semantic precision	Negotiated via vibes and subtext	Literal and misinterpreted	Shifts communication from informative to purely relational
Response velocity	Near-instantaneous	Delayed by clarifying questions	Syncs communication speeds with platform-specific logic and hardware
Communication resilience	High, meaning survives syntactic sparsity	Low breaks down without syntax	Future-proofs subcultural talk against mainstream co-option

In general, minimalistic signs do not simplify digital communication; they re-engineer it for maximum efficiency. By minimizing the form, Gen Z maximizes the requirement for a collaborative reconstruction of intent. This strategy ensures that meaning is no longer just a transfer of information, but a mutual recognition of shared reality. The linguistic friction lies in the unspoken. The requirement for cognitive synchronization, which establishes membership, has already been broken by your need to inquire about the meaning of W in its particular use. The process of linguistic minimalism, which people use to communicate, shows that in a digital world, unspoken communication represents the most effective way to transmit messages, which only those who understand the special meaning of one letter can comprehend.

Discussions and implications

The findings of this study confirm that digital slang in the post-pandemic era has transcended its role as a mere linguistic shortcut. While previous literature by Barseghyan (2013) and Verheijen (2017) emphasized keystroke-saving economy, a more profound shift toward socio-pragmatic weaponization has occurred. Slang is no longer just

about speed; it is about calculated exclusion. Unlike the principle of economy described by Al-Sa'Di and Hamdan (2005), the brevity found in markers does not aim to make communication easier for everyone. Instead, the system creates extra work to interpret its content for people who are not part of its main group. This demonstrates that people use slang to create barriers that prevent them from understanding each other in global communication (Daoudi, 2011) because they want to protect their subcultural identity through secret language.

Furthermore, the model that uses flowing meanings marks a complete shift from the fixed word lists that Danesi (2010) and Melville (1912) studied. Earlier studies viewed slang through morphological processes like acronymization or clipping. However, the signifier (the word) is now secondary to the vibe (the transient context). For instance, the term Sigma or Skibidi does not hold a fixed definition; its value is negotiated through memetic resonance in real-time. This supports Walther's (1992) SIP Theory regarding the adaptation of textual cues, but adds a new layer. In 2026, the sufficient time required for relational bonding has been replaced by near-instantaneous affective synchronization. In a world of digital fatigue (Gregersen et al., 2023), Gen Z has optimized communication not by adding more information, but by outsourcing meaning to a shared cultural reservoir.

In addition, the use of Eras (e.g., Villain era) as a narrative branding tool suggests that identity is now being commodified for the attention economy. While Rahma and Moetia (2024) saw memes as outlets for shared social intensities, these artifacts have become regulatory surveillance tools. A vibe check is not just a social gesture; it is an automated mechanism for social stratification. This moves beyond Bailey's (1985) concept of the shibboleth by showing that modern gatekeeping is not about mastering a stable dialect, but about possessing the hyper-reflexivity to navigate shifting algorithmic logic. Belonging, therefore, is no longer a status but a high-stakes, continuous performance.

This research extends the TAP by demonstrating that minimalistic signs function as high-context Speech Act Analogs. While Scarantino (2017) focused on physical bodily displays, the researcher argues that a single letter can perform complex declarative and expressive moves simultaneously. This suggests that in mediated environments, linguistic compression does not result in semantic loss but in pragmatic intensification. Future linguistic frameworks must move away from word-based decoding toward contextual-inferential models that account for the liquid nature of meaning in algorithmic spaces.

The emergence of linguistic friction as a defense mechanism against mainstream co-option has profound implications for intergenerational communication. Slang development occurs at a pace that exceeds the ability of traditional dictionaries and AI models to monitor its progress. The generational gap now extends beyond vocabulary differences because slang has developed into a new way of thinking which people use to communicate. Specifically, educators and social practitioners need to go beyond slang translation because they require an understanding of slang. Instead, there must be an emphasis on understanding the affective trust contracts that Gen Z uses to verify sincerity in a low-trust post-pandemic digital landscape.

The finding that platform architectures dictate the velocity of shared meaning suggests that digital infrastructure is never neutral. The automation of social exclusion through Ratioing or Vibe checks indicates that online spaces are currently designed for confrontational gatekeeping rather than inclusive dialogue. Developers and moderators should recognize that linguistic bullying often hides behind minimalistic shorthand. Therefore, digital literacy programs must evolve to address socio-pragmatic policing, helping users navigate environments where social invisibility is the ultimate penalty for linguistic non-fluency.

Conclusion

The present digital slang used after the pandemic has developed into a critical social communication system that people need for their everyday social interactions. The digital shibboleth functions as a linguistic marker that establishes social divisions while it maintains the authentic language of specific subcultures. By re-engineering communication through minimalistic markers, users prioritize affective synchronization and inter-subjective sincerity over factual clarity, intentionally increasing the interpretive labor for out-group members. This research is limited by its reliance on public data and the inherent volatility of an English-centric lexicon. In particular, the underlying flowing meaning model remains a persistent mechanism of digital intimacy. Consequently, while specific terms like Skibidi or Rizz may face rapid obsolescence, the strategic use of brevity to gatekeep digital spaces persists. Future inquiries should therefore shift from static definitions to mathematically modeling the decay rate of these signifiers through interdisciplinary, AI-driven sentiment analysis. The existing educational system requires practical literacy programs that teach digital access control ethics. This helps educators and policy-makers reduce social exclusion risks and digital alienation problems that arise in today's divided online spaces.

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