The Meming of Life: An Etymological Analysis of Current Slang Terms
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The Meming of Life
An Etymological Analysis of Current Slang Terms

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1. Introduction

The invention of the Internet and its subsequent digital communication practices can be argued to be a major turning point in the study of slang. Although slang has existed for centuries, it is relatively difficult to study since most of it was only used in informal spoken language.[1] Written language, which is easier to preserve through time and thus to study, has always been far more formal.[2] The age of the Internet has accelerated the creation and spread of slang, which can now be documented more easily than before since the written format of informal language is currently normalized because of the existence of social media and other forms of digital communication.[3]

Recent studies on the topic of this new form of slang, such as the texts that will be discussed in the literature review, are mostly focused on the sociolinguistic aspects of the phenomenon, linking the creation and spread of it to demographics (Eisenstein et al., 2014) or behavioral traits (Bryden et al., 2018). Therefore while much research on the semantics of digital slang (McCulloch, 2019) and its sociolinguistic features (Yi Zhang, Wei Ren, 2022) exists, little research, if any at all, has been done that studies such digital slang as a mode of translation.

Younger generations such as Gen Z rely heavily on digital communication in their daily lives; far more than previous generations. The need to understand, through translation, the current trends of digital slang — often referred to as 'Gen Z slang' as will become apparent in the introduction of this thesis's case study — can therefore be argued to be a great asset in understanding the communication practices — and thereby perhaps even the thoughts and motivations — of these younger generations. Not only that, but this perspective on slang can also help us understand the evolution of language in general, and the factors that make certain words and terms — in the case of this thesis neologisms and other slang terms — survive through time compared to those that fade away.

This thesis will therefore tackle these issues of potential miscommunication between different social groups because of their use of slang by attempting to answer the following questions: where do these Gen Z slang terms come from, and can an analysis of their origins help explain how likely they are to be understood by someone who speaks regular American English? How might this understanding of the slang terms affect whether or not they might survive time and eventually be accepted into the regular American English lexicon, and thereby be used by the general public in the future? What kind of method can be used to analyze slang terms to try and figure out their intelligibility and survival rate?

To do so a slang translation of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* — the American title of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* — by J.K. Rowling will be analyzed, and the etymological origins of the slang terms found within that case study will be researched to try to discover which slang terms are most likely to become part of the regular American English vocabulary, which will be done by using the FUDGE scale as described by Allan Metcalf, a method that will be explained in the literature review, which I speculate will not only help me predict the future of slang terms, but also their intelligibility. I hypothesize that the slang terms that more closely resemble regularly used — or general American — English words, and thereby can be argued to be more semantically transparent and intelligible, are more likely to be understood and thus survive.

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[1] Bullard, Winona. "History of Slang." *The University of North Carolina at Pembroke*, 2014, pp. 1-5.
[2] McCulloch, Gretchen. *Because Internet: Understanding the New Rules of Language*. Riverhead Books, 2019, pp. 1-7.
[3] Ibid., pp. 14-15.

1.1 Defining Terms

As a frequently recurring term in this thesis paper, 'slang' must receive a definition to make its intended meaning clear. According to Connie C. Eble, slang is a changeable set of colloquial words, terms and phrases that are used to reinforce or establish one's social identity or one's position within a social group, or one's relation to certain fashions or trends in society as a whole.[4] Additionally, it would also cause such groups, fashions and trends to become more cohesive. The use of the words 'trends' and 'fashions' imply an ephemeral nature, which will be discussed further in the literature review, and also a sense of newness.

A term that is therefore often associated with slang is 'neologism'. Jeffrey K. Aronson defines neologisms as "(…) words or phrases that are new to the language."[5] The reason that these two terms cannot be used interchangeably is that not all slang terms are neologisms: many slang terms are derived from already existing words, sometimes without changing the appearance of the word at all, but only the meaning or even just the context in which it is used, as will be shown in this thesis. For the purpose of clarity, this thesis will distinguish between the two terms by using the term neologism only to refer to entirely newly minted words.

As Eble stated, the use of certain slang terms determines — or at least shows — one's social identity. In the case of this thesis's case study, as will be explained in chapter 1.3, the particular social identity that is shown here — according to the authors of the case study — is Gen Z: the slang used in the translation is supposedly used by people who consider themselves part of the Gen Z generation.

But what exactly is meant by Gen Z? According to Shaun Pichler et al. Gen Z are individuals born between 1995 and 2012.[6] They define Gen Z'ers as having grown up with technologies that developed at an unprecedented rate, giving them skills from a young age that previous generations simply could not have. This definition shows that individuals belonging to Gen Z are relatively young, the oldest being 28 years. It also shows that Gen Z'ers must be relatively adept at handling technology, which is where another important term comes in.

As discussed in the introduction, digital communication has become a vital aspect of modern life, which rings especially true for the younger generations — such as Gen Z — who grew up with such technologies. In this digital communication, a phenomenon has arisen that begets its own definition due to its relative newness, namely the 'meme'. Limor Shifman defines this term as: "(...) digital content units with common characteristics, created with awareness of each other, and circulated, imitated, and transformed via the Internet by many users."[7] This new aspect of digital communication has become so integrated with the use of Gen Z slang, that it is almost impossible to separate the two, which is why this definition is important for understanding the workings of Gen Z slang.

1.2 Literature Review

To further expand upon the definition of slang, author Karl Sornig presents four defining characteristics of slang, which will be helpful for understanding why slang develops the way it does,

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[4] Eble, Connie C. "Slang and Sociability : In-Group Language Among College Students." Chapel Hill : University of North Carolina Press, 1996, p.11.

[5] Aronson, Jeffrey K. "When I use a word…Medical slang: neologisms." *BMJ Publishing Group LTD BMJ (Online)*, 2023, Vol.382, p. 1578.

[6] Pichler, S. ; Kohli, C. ; Granitz, N. "DITTO for Gen Z: A framework for leveraging the uniqueness of the new generation." *Business Horizons*, vol. 64, no. 5, September–October 2021, pp. 599-610.

[7] Shifman, Limor. *Memes in Digital Culture*. Cambridge, Massachusetts : MIT Press, 2014.

and which will be used in this thesis as important features that can help determine whether or not a term is truly slang.[8] First, Sornig mentions the characteristic of secrecy, explaining that most slang, if not all, is trying to subvert or undermine the established norms of their subsequent language and culture, and that slang is very hard to understand if one is not part of the group that a specific brand of slang belongs to.[9] Second, Sornig mentions the characteristic of playfulness or humor.[10] According to him, there is an inherent sense of humor that resides within slang terms that originates from their creation: people do not create such terms because they have to, they do it because it's fun. The third characteristic Sornig mentions is strangeness.[11] This feeling of strangeness is usually derived from foreign words that are made part of the slang, words that are not so easily recognized by the users of the regular language, and therefore enhance the previously mentioned characteristic of secrecy. It can also come from neologisms, which are then more closely linked to the humorous characteristic of slang: after all, making up new words can be a very fun exercise. The fourth characteristic that Sornig mentions is ephemerality.[12] Through time, languages change and evolve, but for slang this process moves much faster. Most slang terms are therefore ephemeral and incredibly susceptible to change, a fact that Sornig reasons comes from its experimental nature. This characteristic is especially interesting for Gen Z slang, since the fast paced nature of the Internet, the medium it is most often used in, ensures that the slang terms change even more quickly than they might in the analogue world.

       Gretchen McCulloch's book from 2019 called *Because Internet: Understanding the New Rules of Language* builds off of texts like Sornig's that already explained the foundations of slang — which shows that the research topics in more recent years are becoming more specialized — and introduces a new topic of study, namely the use of digital slang, and the newly invented rules for digital social communication, which are reflected in the terms — and their development — that are found in this thesis's case study.[13] McCulloch investigates how people have tried to bridge the gap between writing and talking, how to properly convey emotions without the other person being able to see your face, and how such endeavors have changed the rules of (online) communication.

1.2.1 Changing Dialects and the Importance of People

In an even more specialized text on digital communication and the social factors that come into play with it, Eisenstein et al. collected messages from the social media platform Twitter with geographical tags from all over the continental United States and analyzed the words used in these online conversations in order to figure out what influences the change of online language.[14] They conclude that while geographical distance does influence the words that are used most frequently in the different areas, demographics have much more influence over this change in language, especially factors such as race.[15] Therefore the social groups one is around most, either digitally or in real life, influence someone's word use, proving that the existence of Gen Z slang is entirely possible. Actual physical distance can be a factor in this — the people you meet in real life the most are probably physically close — but through the use of the Internet and social media one can be connected to like-minded people from entirely different physical areas and also share a close connection. Therefore

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[8] Sornig, Karl. *Lexical Innovation: A Study of Slang, Colloquialisms and Casual Speech.* Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company Lexical Innovation, 1981.
[9] Ibid., pp. 1-4.
[10] Ibid., p. 6.
[11] Ibid., pp. 5-7.
[12] Ibid., pp. 19-21.
[13] McCulloch, Gretchen. *Because Internet: Understanding the New Rules of Language*. Riverhead Books, 2019.
[14] Eisenstein, J. ; O'Connor, B. ; Smith, N.A. ; Xing, E.P. "Diffusion of Lexical Change in Social Media." *PLoS One*, vol. 9, no 11, 2014, pp. 1-21.
[15] Ibid., pp. 13-14.

physical distance might be possible to bridge through such digital communication, but social distances less so, making it very likely for Gen Z slang to need to be translated for people of other social groups.

  To illustrate the point of the previous text, a study by John Bryden et al. Can be used to show how language and specific word use is shared and copied via individuals, and how this affects the language and its evolution.[16] The authors analyzed Twitter messages and tracked how language changes between people or groups during the conversations they have. They come to the conclusion that the more two people talk to each other, the more their language changes to match each other, which then lasts even outside their own conversations into those had with others.[17] Therefore this text supports Eisenstein et al.'s conclusion that the social groups one is around the most, whether digitally or not, have a distinctly recognizable influence upon someone's language habits. This conclusion thereby indicates that the creators of the slang translation of the case study probably all participate in the same social spheres and thus share many language habits, making it possible for them to be considered part of the Gen Z social group, as the authors themselves state.

  Translation might be seen as the practice of trying to bridge such gaps between social groups, and inciting better communication between them. Translating texts such as the case study of this thesis may lead to a better understanding between generations — since the slang of the case study is said to be specific to Gen Z — and an analysis of such language that includes explanations on the reasoning behind the developments, evolution and creation of the slang perhaps even more so.

  Edwin Puertas et al. created a study for the same goal. It aims to determine how language variations create and separate different social groups or communities, and how the relevance of specific vocabularies to different digital — and also social — groups could lead to a better understanding of their dynamics and social foundations, which could then in turn lead to better communication policies and — if necessary — better intervention strategies.[18] This research is done by looking at different universities in Colombia and their Twitter accounts, and consequently at the social groups belonging to their digital spheres, and analyzing the semantic spaces and sociolinguistic features that these groups might share — or how such features might be entirely different for the different groups.[19] It studies the same phenomenon as the previous texts, namely socially determined languages, but from the opposite perspective: not how different social groups create different language variations, but how different language variations create different social groups, thereby providing a contrasting perspective in comparison to the previous texts.

  Yi Zhang and Wei Ren take a different approach than the previous text, claiming that linguistic innovation is inextricably entwined with social contact and that specialized language such as slang does not only divide people, but can also bring people together.[20] Their paper focuses primarily on how groups change their language to better communicate with each other on the Chinese social media platform Bilibili. The linguistic innovations, all the creative changes that the authors found and recorded — such as the borrowing of culture specific words — come from the need to properly communicate with others, to be able to maintain social contacts that otherwise might have been impossible due to some form of language barrier. However, it must be said that there is a limit to this,

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[16] Bryden, J. ; Wright, S.P. ; Jansen, V.A.A. "How humans transmit language: horizontal transmission matches word frequencies among peers on Twitter." *J R Soc Interface*, vol. 15, no. 139, 2018, pp. 1-14.
[17] Ibid.
[18] Puertas, E. ; Moreno-Sandoval, L.G. ; Redondo, J. ; Alvarado-Valencia, J.A. ; Pomares-Quimbaya, A. "Detection of Sociolinguistic Features in Digital Social Networks for the Detection of Communities." *Cognitive computation*, vol.13, no. 2, 2021, p.518-537. New York: Springer US.
[19] Ibid., p. 525.
[20] Zhang, Yi ; Ren, Wei. "From hǎo to hǒu – stylising online communication with Chinese dialects." *International journal of multilingualism*, vol.ahead-of-print (ahead-of-print), 2022, pp.1-20.

since there would still be certain social groups who need translation to understand slang, because slang does have an element of secrecy, as has been discussed previously by Sornig.

So while digital dialects might bring certain groups closer together in shared language, it also does the opposite: pushing other groups further away. This is, in the case of this thesis, perhaps mostly connected to age; in a study conducted by H. Andrew Swartz et al., the authors state that through their research they have found that gender, age and personality all influence the language use of an individual.[21] Furthermore, their study showed that younger people use slang, abbreviations, emoticons and what they call "Internet language" more than other older age groups.[22] It might therefore not be odd to assume that the participants of the case study are between the ages of 11 and 28, the previously stated approximate age limits for Generation Z. And if we follow this line of reasoning even further, people for other generations — or social groups — who exceed these age limits might be the ones who need a translation of such slang.

1.2.2 Translanguaging

The authors Yi Zhang and Wei Ren further discuss the exchange of culture specific words and terms in another text on digital communication, in which they show that certain cultural terms, specifically the American hip-hop term 'skrrr', can be recontextualised when it is used in a different language and culture, thereby changing its meaning and function, which is something that is done often in the Gen Z slang of this thesis.[23]

Another relevant term that they describe is translanguaging, the switching between different languages when communicating, which is important for understanding how the borrowing of words and terms becomes integrated in the use of slang, and how the slang terms in the case study are merged together with the original text to create a translation. They explain that the term translanguaging was first introduced as a teaching method for children so they could alternate between languages in class during secondary school in Wales.[24] The difference between code-switching and translanguaging, according to Suresh Canagarajah, is that with translanguaging the languages are not seen as separate, but rather an integrated system through which the multilingual speakers move back and forth.[25] Ofelia García and Li Wei suggest that code-switching is more inflexible than translanguaging, because it implies that languages are separate and that other semiotic resources, like emoticons, emojis or even visual memes, are not included in the communication process.[26] In slang, borrowed words — and other varieties of slang words like neologisms — therefore are not seen as separate entities that are added into regular language, but rather as part of the language that is the specific slang dialect. Because of this, the translanguaging perspective will be used as a lens through which the slang terms of this thesis will be studied, just like Zhang and Ren suggested more researchers should do in multilingual research.

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[21] Schwartz, H A. ; Eichstaedt, J.C. ; Kern, M.L. ; Dziurzynski, L. ; Ramones, S.M. ; Agrawal, M. ; Shah, A. ; Kosinski, M. ; Stillwell, D. ; Seligman, M.E. ; Ungar, L.H. "Personality, gender, and age in the language of social media: the open-vocabulary approach." *PloS one*, vol. 8, no. 9, 2013, pp. 1-29.
[22] Ibid., p. 14.
[23] Zhang, Yi ; Ren, Wei. "'This is so skrrrrr' – creative translanguaging by Chinese micro-blogging users." *International journal of multilingualism*, vol. 19, no. 3, 2022, pp. 289-304.
[24] Williams, C. "Arfarniad o Ddulliau Dysgu ac Addysgu yng Nghyd-destun Addysg Uwchradd Ddwyieithog" ["An evaluation of teaching and learning methods in the context of bilingual secondary education"]. Unpublished Doctoral Thesis, University of Wales, Bangor, 1994.
Williams, C. "Secondary education: Teaching in the bilingual situation." C. Williams, G. Lewis, & C. Baker (Eds.), *The language Policy: Taking stock*, 1996, pp. 39–78.
[25] Canagarajah, S. "Translanguaging in the classroom: Emerging issues for research and pedagogy." *Applied Linguistics Review*, vol. 2, no. 1, 2011, pp. 1–28.
[26] Garcia, O., & Li, W. *Translanguaging: Language, bilingualism and education*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

1.2.3 The FUDGE Scale

While the previous texts all concerned themselves with the strangeness of slang, whether it be what makes it different from regular language or how social groups influence the use of it, the following text and subsequent methodology investigates how and when such slang terms are no longer strange, but become regularly used language. In his book *Predicting New Words: The Secrets of Their Success*, Allan Metcalf describes his FUDGE scale; a method he created to try to predict whether or not slang terms — or neologisms in general — might eventually be accepted into the regular American English vernacular, which will be used in this thesis to analyze and predict the future of the Gen Z slang that is used in the case study.[27] Additionally, it will help shed some light on the question of whether the intelligibility of the slang terms — or their transparency — is an important part of their chance to become regular words.

Metcalf thus offers a way of predicting which slang words are most likely to be 'successful', by which he means how likely they are to survive time and continue to be used, eventually becoming part of the regular English lexicon. The scale to measure such success Metcalf proposes, focuses on key factors that will enable one to make an accurate prediction on a word's survival rate. However, Metcalf acknowledges that there will never be a purely objective and accurate way to determine the future of a word. Because of this and the undeniable connection between language and humans, Metcalf chooses to lean into the human aspects of language use, and to rely mostly on human judgment for this scale instead of trying to circumvent it.[28]

To create his scale, Metcalf states that he was influenced by Dr. Virginia Apgar, the creator of the Apgar scale. The Apgar scale is a test used on newborn children right after birth to help determine whether or not a child needs help in staying alive. It relies on the observation of five signs, and each sign gets rated with zero, one or two points. If an infant scores six or lower, they need help, and seven or higher usually means they are fine.[29] Metcalf noted that for measuring the success rate of words, there are also five factors that are needed to determine this, and that like Dr. Apgar's scale, a rating of zero, one or two is needed to create an accurate prediction. The five factors as stated by Metcalf are as follows: Frequency of use, Unobtrusiveness, Diversity of users and situations, Generation of other forms and meanings, and Endurance of the concept. These five factors spell out a word, FUDGE, which grants the scale its name. To understand how the scale works, each factor should be explained a bit further.

1.2.3.1 Frequency of Use

The most simple way to explain this factor is popularity. A word needs to be popular to achieve the highest score it can in this factor. Metcalf explains that what lifts a word from obscurity is attention.[30] The more it is used, the more people will be aware of its existence, and perhaps remember it for a longer time. When a word, phrase or term is coined it has a frequency of zero, and will remain so if only one person uses it. Only when a word is used by more people you can count or know, it will be lifted to a level one. Still, it will remain at this level if only a select group of people use it, which is why many slang terms remain on this level. If a word then rises up to a level two, it will probably be more familiar. Many terms that have to do with computers and the Internet — like the verb 'scrolling' — are examples of this, rising in familiarity and frequency since the 1990s. Once a word or term has

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[27] Metcalf, Allan. *Predicting new words: The Secrets of their Success*. Houghton Mifflin, 2002.
[28] Ibid., p. 149.
[29] Ibid., pp. 150-151.
[30] Ibid., pp. 152-155.

become a level two, it can always still fall back to a level one if the other factors do not achieve such high levels, but Metcalf states that it is unlikely for a word to fall back to a level zero for Frequency once it has been at a level two, since it would be too firmly imbedded in memory because of its previous popularity. But it's important to note that frequency and popularity are not everything, and that the other factors also play a large part in whether a word will survive or not.

1.2.3.2 Unobtrusiveness

The second FUDGE factor Metcalf mentions is primarily concerned with not being noticed.[31] According to Metcalf, in order for a word to become successful, it needs to not stand out too much. Our minds have the subconscious urge to reject anything too unfamiliar, therefore a word needs to blend in with the rest of our already accumulated vocabulary. The more familiar a new word seems, the easier it would be accepted. This might present a slight problem for slang terms, since one of the main characteristics of slang according to Karl Sornig is exactly a sense of strangeness.[32] This factor might also provide some valuable input for my hypothesis on semantic transparency and intelligibility: if a word seems more familiar, more clear and transparent in its meaning, it might be easier to understand, and thus more intelligible. Whether or not this proves to be the case will become clear through the analysis.

      Metcalf presents a few examples of words that remained at an Unobtrusiveness level zero because they were too conspicuous, too noticeable. Two examples are foreign words that never rose beyond a level zero because they stood out as extremely foreign sounding, namely 'sputnik' or 'Infobahn'.[33]

      Metcalf then continues by explaining how a term could rise to a level one of Unobtrusiveness: these are words that are noticeable but not outrageously so.[34] The examples Metcalf provides are 'acronym', 'smog', 'agnostic' and 'blurb'. An example of a level two of Unobtrusiveness is the word 'server' as a less gender specific alternative to 'waiter' or 'waitress'. According to Metcalf, a competing word for this position was 'waitron', but that word never succeeded because its ending, -on, is rarely ever used in words that refer to humans, and thus sounded too unnatural to ever become a level two. The ending of 'server', -er, sounded more natural and familiar, which is why it could obtain an Unobtrusiveness level two.

1.2.3.3 Diversity of Users and Situations

Metcalf states in this third factor that for a word to succeed, it does not only need to be used by a lot of people: it needs to be used by a lot of different people in a lot of different situations. If a word is not used by a variety of people in a variety of situations, it will never rise above a level zero for Diversity. This again might present a problem for slang terms, since one of Karl Sornig's main characteristics for slang is secrecy.[35] If a term is known by everyone, it might not be able to be an actual slang term anymore.

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[31] Ibid., pp. 155-157.
[32] Sornig, Karl. *Lexical Innovation: A study of slang, colloquialisms and casual speech.* Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company Lexical Innovation, 1981, pp. 5-7.
[33] Metcalf, Allan. *Predicting new words: The Secrets of their Success*. Houghton Mifflin, 2002, p. 156.
[34] Ibid., p. 157.
[35] Sornig, Karl. *Lexical Innovation: A Study of Slang, Colloquialisms and Casual Speech.* Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company Lexical Innovation, 1981, pp. 1-4.

Metcalf even specifically addresses slang terms in his discussion on the Diversity factor.[36] He states that as long as a slang term is only used by a specific group, it could never rise above a level zero. However, Metcalf continues, since brands and marketers are always looking at ways to promote their products using 'hip' language, slang terms are then often relatively quickly elevated to a level one of Diversity. Once such terms then become used in general conversations, a part of the regular English vernacular, they rise to a level two. An example of one such word is 'guy' which became a normal word to use in the twentieth century. Gretchen McCulloch also describes this phenomenon in her previously mentioned book, and states that when a word gets picked up by mainstream culture, it loses its appeal to the "hip insiders" and is no longer used as slang.[37]

So when words are used only by a select specialized group in certain circumstances, they remain at a level zero of Diversity, Metcalf summarizes.[38] Level one words will be used by more people in more mainstream media, but they will often be accompanied by some explanation since many people will not know exactly what it means. Only when a word needs no further introduction and can be used completely naturally, it becomes a level two.

1.2.3.4 Generation of Other Forms and Meanings

According to Metcalf, when a new word generates different forms and meanings, it has the best chance of becoming successful.[39] An example of a successful word with a level two of Generation that Metcalf provides is 'cam', which refers to a video camera. This word developed into many different forms such as 'minicam', 'webcam', 'traffic cam' and 'nannycam'. At the higher levels of the Generation factor, nouns are born from verbs and vice versa, a fact that seems to be aggravating to language purists who resist change, notes Metcalf.[40] Metcalf also states that the lowest level of the Generation factor is linked to the Diversity factor, since terms that are only used in a very specific context by a single group of people are not likely to generate new and different forms.

1.2.3.5 Endurance of the Concept

The fifth factor that Metcalf describes is the Endurance factor of a word.[41] This refers not to the durability of the word itself, but of what it stands for. Metcalf describes the connection between a word and what it stands for as a symbiotic relationship: if one is healthy, then so is the other. However, there are cases in which a word survives by taking on a different meaning, by referring to something new when the original meaning faded away. An example of one such word is 'typewriter'. The original meaning, namely the object that the word represented, became obsolete after the typewriter was replaced by computers at the end of the twentieth century. In spite of this, the word 'typewriter' generated the verb 'to type' which has survived and will probably continue to do so for a long time, giving it an Endurance level two. Many words that stay on a level one are historical words that are not entirely forgotten, but do not get used often either. Words that refer to events, trends or obsessions that fade almost as quickly as they are created are the ones that remain at level zero, and are dubbed by Metcalf as "firefly words" meaning they barely leave a mark.[42] The words that are most

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[36] Metcalf, Allan. *Predicting new words: The Secrets of their Success*. Houghton Mifflin, 2002, pp. 158-159.
[37] McCulloch, Gretchen. *Because Internet: Understanding the New Rules of Language*. Riverhead Books, 2019, p. 18.
[38] Metcalf, Allan. *Predicting new words: The Secrets of their Success*. Houghton Mifflin, 2002, p. 159.
[39] Ibid.
[40] Ibid., p. 161.
[41] Ibid., pp. 162-164.
[42] Ibid., p. 163.

likely to be successful for this factor are words that stand for abstract qualities that will never disappear, with one of the most famous examples for this being the word 'OK'.

1.3 Introducing the Case Study

These FUDGE factors will then be applied to a select list of slang terms, which have been gathered from the following case study.

In 2021, Reddit user *butternutsquash* posted a picture of a supposed Gen Z version of the first page of the famous book *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* by J.K. Rowling, with the description: "Accidentally bought the gen Z/ how do you do fellow kids dialect version of Philosopher's Stone and I'm dead 💀 ."[43] The post quickly became viral with many people commenting both positive and negative responses. When it became clear that many commenters where trying to find this alleged Gen Z version of the book, either because they thought it was amazing or because they wanted to debunk what they thought was a lie, the Redditor stated: "This was not meant to be serious I was inspired by the other dialect parodies and also Spotify Wrapped's tiktok/ Gen Z pandering."[44]

Inspired by this Reddit post, an open source project was anonymously created on November 28th in 2021 by a user named *typoes* on the site GitHub, a website that is originally meant as a place for software engineers to share and store their source codes.[45] Anyone with a GitHub account can then, if the creator approved it, alter the code, making it possible for many people to contribute and share their knowledge. However, as is proven by the existence of this case study, one can also post something other than source code on the platform, such as, in this instance, an entire book. The anonymous creator named the project *Harry Potter: The Gen Z Edition*, and stated in the description of the project that it is indeed inspired by the Reddit post, and that anyone with a GitHub account can make changes to the project.[46] Thus far there have been 47 separate contributors, whose usernames can be found in Appendix E, and the project has already spanned several chapters.[47] The project is ongoing, and can therefore be changed at any moment in time, but for this thesis only the first chapter of the book will be analyzed, which can be found in Appendix A. The version that will be used in this thesis paper is from the 13th of December in 2022, and has been saved and dated without any changes that could have been made to the online version on another date.

1.3.1 The Appeal of the Underdog

But why would a text like this even exist? Why use slang terms so extensively in a text that might be perfectly fine without them?

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[43] @butternutsquash. "Accidentally bought the gen Z/ how do you do fellow kids dialect version of Philosopher's Stone and I'm dead 💀." *Reddit*, 2022, https://www.reddit.com/r/harrypotter/comments/r87mvh/accidentally_bought_the_gen_z_how_do_you_do/. Accessed 14th of April 2023.
[44] Ibid.
[45] "What Is GitHub? A Beginner's Introduction to GitHub." *Kinsta*, 2022, https://kinsta.com/knowledgebase/what-is-github/. Accessed 14th of April 2023.
[46] @typoes. "Harry-potter-gen-z." *GitHub*, 2021, https://github.com/typoes/harry-potter-gen-z. Accessed 14th of April 2023.
[47] View list of contributors in Appendix E.

Taryn Hakala addresses these questions, and argues that it is possible for a dialect translation to make the text even greater than it already was.[48] The author quotes George Milner, the president of the Manchester Literary Club in 1874, who stated in that same year that the dialect from Lancashire is more suitable for poetry than the Standard English of that time, and that "the dialect can compel an improvement."[49] Although Milner was talking about poetry in relation to dialect, the use of slang terms can also provide a valuable addition of humor, which can be seen in the case study of this thesis, since the Reddit post that started it all was created first and foremost as a practical joke.

Another point that Hakala aims to show through this article is that many nonstandard varieties of English, so dialects and sociolects, continue to be stigmatized, while its speakers often face discrimination. Even texts like this paper's case study, which is made purely for fun and seems to have no nefarious purpose whatsoever, can exhibit problematic behavior. Because what people might not realize, is that many slang terms come from marginalized groups, in this specific case for instance African Americans and Hispanics. Such groups often have roots in different countries, which means that languages get mixed and words transformed for the ease of speaking, naturally creating both dialects and sociolects with their subsequent slang terms.[50] In the previously mentioned book by Gretchen McCulloch, McCulloch describes a parallel trend among young people in several places around the world in which distinctive language use from economically and racially marginalized groups gets picked up by the white middle-class youth from the same areas.[51] They do not change their own language use entirely, just enough to create a sense of autonomy from their parents, teachers or other authority figures in their lives, and yet still stay in their middle-class comfort zone. This appeal that they feel to what they consider the underdogs of society and their languages can be explained by the sense of rebellion that Karl Sorning described in his aforementioned text as a part of the secretive essential characteristic of slang, since slang terms do not only challenge linguistic conventions, but social conventions as well.[52] The further away from the ruling, mainstream social groups they are, the better. When those slang terms have become popular, they often undergo a process of becoming more mainstream, and get used by companies, brands and other kinds of authorities in attempts to be seen as 'hip' and 'young,' because slang has become almost equivalent to young people. The fact that young people often use slang, as mentioned before in an attempt to rebel against authority figures, a trait that is seen far more often in for instance teenagers than people over 30, and the fact that younger generations use social media a lot, has lead to the misleading assumption that many slang terms were created by any and all young people on social media.[53]

McCulloch addresses this issue of cultural appropriation, and warns the reader to be less callous in referring to slang terms as "social media words" just because they are used by people on social media, for it risks ignoring the terms' true origins and thus making a rich cultural history become invisible.[54] McCulloch mentions that there has even been a term that has been circulating the Internet for exactly this kind of appropriation: columbising, which means the claiming of a discovery

[48] Hakala, Taryn. "Dialect." *Victorian literature and culture*, vol. 46, no. 3-4, 2019, pp. 649-652. New York, USA: Cambridge University Press.
[49] Milner, George. "The Dialect of Lancashire Considered as a Vehicle for Poetry," *Papers of the Manchester Literary Club*, vol. 1, 1875, pp. 24–26. Manchester: John Heywood.
[50] Roberge, Paul T. "56 Pidgins, creoles, and the creation of language." *The Oxford Handbook of Language Evolution*, 2012, pp. 537-544.
[51] McCulloch, Gretchen. *Because Internet: Understanding the New Rules of Language.* Riverhead Books, 2019, p. 18.
[52] Sornig, Karl. *Lexical Innovation: A Study of Slang, Colloquialisms and Casual Speech.* Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company Lexical Innovation, 1981, pp. 1-4.
[53] Kapadia, S. ; Miller, J. "Parent–Adolescent Relationships in the Context of Interpersonal Disagreements: View from a Collectivist Culture." *Psychology and Developing Societies*, vol. 17, no 1, 2005, pp. 33–50.
[54] McCulloch, Gretchen. *Because Internet: Understanding the New Rules of Language.* Riverhead Books, 2019, p. 18.

which was already well established or known in another community, specifically by white people, and it refers to Columbus getting credit for discovering a continent on which millions of people already lived.[55]

       This is not to say that certain slang terms can only be used by certain groups of people, because that would defeat the entire purpose of language, which is communication. However, it is pertinent to this thesis paper to properly investigate and subsequently give credit to the correct origins of certain terms, since a large part of this paper will be etymological research. Therefore labeling the slang terms in this case study as 'Gen Z' might not be entirely appropriate, but it will still be referred to as such only because it is the title that was provided by the creator of the case study.

       What must also be admitted is that this thesis is written from a very westcentric position, and that saying that this is the one and only form of Internet dialect is misleading and untrue. Even though the Internet makes it possible for many different cultures, their languages and their slang to mix, this does not mean that other cultures do not have their unique forms of Internet slang as well, which was already clearly shown in the previously mentioned texts by Yi Zhang and Wei Ren and their discussions on Chinese dialects and their digital slang developments.

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[55] Ibid.

2. Method

Unfortunately, because of time and word constraints, not all the slang terms that can be found in the first chapter of the case study can be analyzed. A selection must therefore be made. To avoid subjective choices and too much personal interference, a semantic field was chosen from which the slang terms will be collected and analyzed. Since the whole case study is written from a third person's perspective of an omniscient narrator, the introductory segments — parts of the story that introduce the characters and circumstances — have been chosen as the fragments from which the slang term list has been composed. All in all, fifty-four slang terms were found in those segments, which have been listed in Appendix B.

That list of slang terms will then, for the purpose of this thesis paper, represent a fraction of the online or digital slang terms vocabulary that is currently being used by Gen Z, at least in the Continental United States and perhaps beyond by other English speakers.

2.1 Research Method

To define these terms in the etymological research section, a source that will be used often is the Urban Dictionary. This is an online dictionary that was founded in 1999 by Aaron Peckman as a parody of more formal websites like Dictionary.com or Vocabulary.com — which is ironic, since Dictionary.com will also be a helpful source for slang definitions in this thesis — and it provides definitions for slang words or terms and other cultural phenomena.[56] It is open source, meaning that anyone with an account could add to it, just like other popular websites like Wikipedia. The terms can thus have multiple different definitions and usage examples, which might present a problem, but in such a case the definition that is mentioned most often will be chosen to represent the term. Sources like this have therefore often been seen as unreliable and untrustworthy, but because the very nature of slang is based on people making up new words or meanings, such a source is fitting for this particular subject. However it must be noted that the majority of users, who add to the definitions, are young men, and that a common criticism of the site has been the immature and sometimes racist and sexist nature of the definitions.[57] It can therefore not be used as the only source of information for the etymological research of a slang term.

Another source that will be utilized often is Dictionary.com, an online dictionary founded in 1995 by Brian Kariger and Daniel Fierro as part of Lexico Publishing. According to their website, it is maintained, updated and edited by "a team of experienced lexicographers" and uses sources like *Random House Unabridged Dictionary*, *American Heritage Dictionary* and *Harper Collins English Dictionary*.[58] It might therefore be a more trustworthy source of information on the history of slang terms.

Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary will also be used when possible, its title often shortened to Merriam-Webster's, as well as any other online source that merits a mention.

To try and predict which slang terms from the case study are most likely to become part of the regular American English vernacular, the FUDGE factors as discussed in chapter 1 will be applied to each term and given a rating of zero, one or two.[59] These ratings will then be added up, and the slang terms with the highest grade will have, according to Metcalf's theory, the most chance of success. However, how will the ratings be decided? It is not as easy as simply looking if a word has been accepted into a dictionary, since Metcalf even specifically mentions that this would not guarantee a

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[56] Ro, Christine. "How Linguists Are Using Urban Dictionary." *JSTOR Daily,* 2019.
[57] Ibid.
[58] "About." Dictionary.com, 2023, https://www.dictionary.com/e/about/. Accessed 23rd of May 2023.
[59] Metcalf, Allan. *Predicting new words: The Secrets of their Success*. Houghton Mifflin, 2002.

word's success.[60] Every factor should then have a technique in place to measure what rating a word can receive. The techniques that will be used in this thesis paper might be different from those that Metcalf or other researchers would use, since Metcalf only provides examples of words and their scores with short explanations and not detailed accounts of how he came to those conclusions, so whether or not the same techniques are used is unclear. It must be admitted that the abilities of this thesis research might be less than those with more time and resources at their disposal. Therefore the following techniques have been crafted to fit the scope of this particular paper better.

2.1.1 Rating Techniques

To measure the level of the Frequency factor, dictionaries will be used, despite Metcalf's warnings that dictionaries are not everything. If a slang term appears in both the Urban Dictionary, a dictionary primarily for slang terms, and Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary, it might be assumed that it is used enough to have attracted a certain level of attention and popularity to be recorded in such works, making the term a level two Frequency factor. If it appears in only one of the two dictionaries, it is then a level one, and if it appears in neither then it is a level zero.

The Unobtrusiveness factor is a more difficult one to rate. Some of the pointers that Metcalf provides in his text are these: if a word is more foreign sounding, or too clever or has mid-word capitalization, it is more noticeable, and therefore will receive a low grade.[61] The more familiar and seemingly like words that already exist the new words are, the more likely they are to succeed. Such words will therefore receive a higher grade. The measuring of the Unobtrusiveness factor will try to follow these guidelines, but it will be an admittedly subjective process.

The Diversity factor will be measured by looking at the circumstances in which a word is used. To do this, the Internet will be scoured to find whether or not the slang term is used in different situations. If it is only ever used in social media conversations, then it will remain a level zero. If it is used by brands for marketing purposes then it will rise to a level one. Level two can only be attained if it is used in more mundane publications such as newspapers, and even then it must appear in those without an accompanying explanation.

The Generation factor should be relatively easy to measure: when a slang term has generated other forms, this is most likely to be recorded in for instance the Urban Dictionary or other online sources. Whether a slang term is a level one or two will be decided by how many and diverse forms there have been created and used.

And finally the Endurance factor. Since a large aspect of this factor is time, the way this will be measured will be similar to the technique Metcalf used in his own predictions.[62] To try to predict a term's endurance, the phenomenon that it represents will be analyzed. If it is something that will exist for a long time to come, it is more durable, and therefore gets a higher level. If it is less certain to endure, it might get a level one, and if it probably will not, then it will get a level zero. Again, this factor is one that will be more subjective, since it will literally try to predict the future. However, since that is the whole nature of this endeavor, it will have to do.

A score or grade of four or less means that a term is most likely to fail and eventually fade away into obscurity. When a term has a grade of five to seven, it might be able to keep being used, and when its score is eight, nine or ten it is likely to be a success. Metcalf especially emphasizes the Unobtrusiveness factor that a term needs to succeed, explaining that even if it scores high on all the

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[60] Ibid., pp. 165-166.
[61] Ibid., pp. 149-184.
[62] Ibid., pp. 170-184.

other factors, if its Unobtrusiveness factor level is zero, it will probably never succeed. It is therefore essential that a term does not call attention to itself.

It must also be mentioned, as Metcalf does, that it would take at least forty years before a word can become part of the permanent vocabulary. Therefore any predictions made in this paper are just that: predictions. Perhaps in forty years time these predictions will prove to be true, and the 'winning' slang terms will no longer need to be translated into regular English. However, absolute truth will not be the aim of this paper, but rather an in-depth analysis of slang terms, of both their roots and their future.

3. Analysis

The portion of the slang terms found in the case study that will be analyzed in this chapter are the ones that appear in the introductory segments of sentences 1 to 12, 133 to 137, 148 to 149 and 251 to 254 (see Appendix A). All the selected terms will then be given a short summary of its etymology. Because there are many slang terms to discuss, an organized list has been provided in Appendix B in which they are numbered and ordered by their appearance in the text, with the list of slang terms that will discussed in this chapter being: number 1 to 43, number 169 to 174, number 186 to 188 and number 291 to 292 (see Appendix B). It is important to note that the original version of the first chapter of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* — Appendix D — and the first chapter of the fan-translation — Appendix A — might not have the same number of sentences, since much has been altered in the fan translation. The selected slang terms from the case study will then be divided into categories, since some terms might have the same origins and explanation, and it would be nonsensical to repeat it. Slang terms that are used multiple times will appear multiple times in the list in Appendix B, but will only be discussed once in this chapter. However, all this would mean that they are no longer ordered in the original order of appearance of the list in Appendix B.

3.1 Etymological Research

The following etymological research of the slang terms will aid in the rating of the FUDGE factors. When a slang term was created and by which groups it was used after that will for instance help with the factors Frequency of use and Diversity of users. Tracking the evolution of a slang term will provide valuable insight for the Generation of other forms factor, and even the Unobtrusiveness factor — after all, how a word is linked to others and how the form evolves influences whether or not it is obtrusive. And lastly, seeing how long a term has been used and what its exact meaning is — and where that meaning came from — might help in determining the Endurance factor, since that particular factor is relatively subjective and relies heavily on the endurance of the concept and meaning behind the term.

3.1.1 Abbreviations

Abbreviations like the ones mentioned below can all be explained in roughly the same manner: to save time and energy, instead of typing a whole word or multiple words, it is much easier for people to use these abbreviations instead. In her aforementioned book Gretchen McCulloch addresses the use of abbreviations, that many see as laziness, and shows how they have gotten new connotations connected to them, which enables them to be used to portray certain emotions and tones of voice that were previously impossible to achieve in the written format.[63]

Sus (6.)

The slang definition of 'sus' as recorded in the Urban Dictionary is "giving the impression that something is questionable or dishonest."[64] Merriam-Webster's definition adds that it is simply an abbreviation of the word 'suspicious' and all its other forms, giving it a level two in Unobtrusiveness since it is an already familiar word. Because the word shows up in both dictionaries, it receives a level

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[63] McCulloch, Gretchen. *Because Internet: Understanding the New Rules of Language*. Riverhead Books, 2019. Pp. 20-52.

[64] @XxRealNameHiddenxX. "Sus." *Urban Dictionary*, 2020, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=sus. Accessed 21st of April 2023.

two in Frequency. Both dictionary entries state that the term got increasingly popular in recent years because it became a catchphrase in the popular online game *Among Us* from 2018.[65] Merriam-Webster's provides a more in depth explanation and evidence of the use of 'sus' which goes back much further than 2018, stating that 'sus' is in close relation to 'suss' which is usually paired with 'out', as in 'to suss out whether or not they are a good person', a word that is based on 'suspect' and has been in use since the 1960s.[66] Green's Dictionary of Slang and Partridge's Concise Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English go even further back in time with entries from 1955, 1930s, 1925 and 1920, all meaning approximately the same thing: suspicious, suspected, suspicion.[67] Although the concept of the terms thereby seems to be able to endure the test of time, it is still too similar to the original version of the word, which is why the term only has an Endurance level one instead of two. There are different forms of the term, like the previously mentioned 'suss out', but those are not slang terms, meaning that no other form of the slang term has been generated, giving the term a level zero in the Generation factor.

Hella (13.)

An entry in the Urban Dictionary defines the term 'hella' as an intensifier with a similar function as words like 'very' or 'really'.[68] Other entries on this site state that the term originates from Northern California, or more specifically San Francisco or the Bay Area, where the farmers who settled there were said to be very patient and slow people who used long expressions, as for instance using the phrase 'hell of a' instead of 'very'.[69] When people from the larger cities copied this phrase, they shortened it to 'hella' to save time. Dictionary.com states that the first use of 'hella' that was recorded was in 1980-1985, giving it an Endurance level one because of the apparently enduring concept, but since the longer version of the term — 'hell of a' — is also still used, it cannot achieve a level two.[70] Merriam-Webster's also recorded this slang term, giving it a Frequency level two, clarifying the two variants: 'hella' as an adverb, meaning 'very' or 'extremely', and 'hella' as an adjective, meaning 'a lot of', its adjective form only being used since 1991, meaning that it generated a new form and therefore receives a level one of the Generation factor.[71]

Sis (25.)

Merriam-Webster's defines the slang term 'sis' as an abbreviation of the noun 'sister', clarifying that it is usually used to directly address someone, and that its first known use was recorded in 1596, making it an enduring concept, which is why it gets a level one in Endurance, but the full length

[65] @XxRealNameHiddenxX. "Sus." *Urban Dictionary*, 2020, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=sus. Accessed 21st of April 2023.
[66] "What Does Sus Mean?" Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary, 2022, https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/what-does-sus-mean. Accessed 21st of April 2023.
[67] "Sus." *Green's Dictionary of Slang*, Jonathan Green, 2023, https://greensdictofslang.com/search/basic?q=Sus. Accessed 21st of April 2023.
Partridge, E. *A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English*. Partridge, 1937.
[68] @TeknoTurd. "Hella." *Urban Dictionary*, 2004, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=hella. Accessed 1st of May 2023.
[69] @BayAreagurl. "Hella." *Urban Dictionary*, 2009, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=hella. Accessed 1st of May 2023.
[70] "Hella." *Dictionary.com*, 2023, https://www.dictionary.com/browse/hella. Accessed on 1st of May 2023.
[71] "Hella." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/hella. Accessed 1st of May 2023.

version is similar enough that it cannot receive a level two.[72] However, this similarity between the slang term and the original word does cause the term to achieve a level two in Unobtrusiveness. An entry in the Urban Dictionary defines the term as a phrase that is used by close female friends to refer to one another when they share a special bond.[73] Since the term is mentioned in both dictionaries, it receives a level two in Frequency. Dictionary.com states that the term, as it is used today, originates from 1825 as a part of Americanism, and that it can be compared to the Dutch abbreviation 'zus' from 'zuster'.[74]

Two other examples of abbreviations from the text of the case study are the instances where the names of some of the characters got shortened, namely **Mrs. D (26.)** — Mrs. Dursley — and **Lil (30.)** — Lily — possibly to portray this new digital zeitgeist of speed and informality.

3.1.1.1 SMS Language

The pinnacle of the aforementioned need to abbreviate words and terms can be seen in the phenomenon of SMS language that appeared around the 1990s throughout the 2000s with the increased use of cellphones and Internet messaging forums. Entire phrases got compressed into just a few letters to save time and characters while typing. The following terms are examples of this, and mostly originate from around this time period.

U (4.)

The precise point in time in which 'u' was first used to signify the word 'you' is unknown. There are speculations, but most of those are hard to verify. For instance, on the website Quora, an online knowledge market in which people can ask questions and other people will be able to answer, an individual with the username Miles Dolphin provides a personal anecdote in which they tell a story about their grandfather who used to read English Christmas cracker mottoes and who once encountered, during the 1950s, the wordplay "YYUR,YYUB, URYY4me" (Too wise you are, Too wise you be, You are too wise for me).[75] This shows that the term as shorthand has been used for quite a while, giving it a level two in Endurance since it is also very practical in digital communication. However, because only the Urban Dictionary shows an entry for this abbreviation, it only gets a level one for Frequency

The following slang terms, namely **Tbh (5.)**, **Irl (28.)**, **Bb (39.)**, **Fr (40.)**, and **2 (41.)**, all follow roughly the same path for their etymology: they are all coined around the 1990s to 2000s as shorthand versions or acronyms of regular words or phrases for ease of typing. **Tbh** and **Irl** are the only terms to receive a level two in Frequency because they are mentioned in both the Urban Dictionary and Merriam-Webster's. The others only appear in the Urban Dictionary, giving them only a level one. Since they all have a certain practical value, the Endurance factor is a level one, but because of the rise in voice to text technologies, such shorthand might possibly fade away soon, making it impossible

[72] "Sis." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/sis. Accessed 10th of May 2023.

[73] @kidoblack. "Sis." *Urban Dictionary*, 2018, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Sis. Accessed 10th of May 2023.

[74] "Sis." *Dictionary.com*, 2023, https://www.dictionary.com/browse/sis. Accessed 10th of May 2023.

[75] Dolphin, M. "When did 'U" instead of 'you' start to be used?" *Quora*, 2016, https://www.quora.com/When-did-U-instead-of-you-start-to-be-used#:~:text=The%20earliest%20use%20of%20%22U,when%20these%20became%20more%20popular. Accessed 10th of May 2023.

for them to receive a level two. Because the terms are so new, they barely have any history that can be found, thus more etymological research would be impossible.

3.1.1.2 Acronyms

Although this category might seem incredibly similar to the SMS Language category, they are in fact different. Acronyms are technically abbreviations of already existing words, but they often become entirely new words. In other words, a term like 'tbh' should not be read phonetically as 'tee-bee-aitch' but rather as the words that they represent, namely 'to be honest' instead. An acronym should be read exactly as it is, and may thereby be considered a neologism, even though the words it consists of might have already been known.

Both the acronyms **Milf (24.)** and **BDE (Big Dick Energy) (291.)** receive very low scores on the FUDGE scale, with **Milf** only rating a three and **BDE** even lower with a one. **Milf** gets a level two for Frequency since it is mentioned in both the Urban Dictionary and in Merriam-Webster's and a level one for Unobtrusiveness for its resemblance of a real word because of its balanced vowels and consonants, since **Milf** is an acronym from 1992 that became a noun, meaning 'Mother I'd Like to Fuck', or more specifically a sexually attractive older woman, particularly one who has children, according to Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary.[76] **BDE** only received a level one for Frequency because it was mentioned in the Urban Dictionary, but nothing else, which is mostly due to its vulgar nature. Both the terms are only ever used as slang, and therefore score zero on the other factors.

3.1.2 Deliberate Misspellings

The practice of deliberate misspellings is often used to cause a satirical effect. In her book *Because Internet* Gretchen McCulloch discusses this phenomenon, and states that because of the current state of technologies, with grammar and spelling checks and autocorrect imbedded into nearly any platform for digital communication, any deviation from the standard, from the norm, is done on purpose with a specific effect in mind.[77] What this effect may be can vary between how it is applied, with for instance unnecessarily capitalized letters — or the opposite: purposefully using lowercase letters — being able to imply sarcasm or irony.

Protec (169.)

According to an entry in the Urban Dictionary, the slang term 'protec' or 'protecc' refers to the act of defending something or someone.[78] Since there is no entry in Merriam-Webster's, it only receives a level one in Frequency. This term is therefore a misspelling of the word 'protect' which holds the same meaning, causing it to get a level zero in Endurance, since it is unlikely that this slang version of the word will now be used instead. This resemblance does give it a high Unobtrusiveness factor, because the already known word is nearly identical. On the site KnowYourMeme, a site dedicated to recording and explaining Internet jokes and slang, this term is shown to originate from a popular

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[76] "MILF." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/MILF. Accessed 10th of May 2023.
[77] McCulloch, Gretchen. *Because Internet: Understanding the New Rules of Language*. Riverhead Books, 2019, pp. 36-53.
[78] @YoloMcSweegle. "He protecc." *Urban Dictionary*, 2017, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=protecc. Accessed 18th of May 2023.

meme with the phrase "He Protec but He Also Attac" which is a deliberate misspelling of the expression "He protects but he also attacks" from 2016.[79]

The following two terms received very low ratings, partly because not many mentions of them could be found, causing the etymological research to be cut short. **Mans (31.)** scored only a single point, in the Frequency factor since it was mentioned in the Urban Dictionary as a term that can be used to refer to another person, which is why it is usually coupled with either a demonstrative pronoun or a possessive pronoun, as is shown in the example of the entry in the Urban Dictionary: "this mans Kate Mirkin really rocking her Gucci belt again today, huh."[80] The term **Blu (172.)** scored even lower with a zero, since it is not even a full slang term, just a slightly differently spelled version of the word 'blue' to give a satirical effect to a defining property of a character in the story.

Be wearing (186.)

This term is another example of a word that is deliberately misspelled to achieve a slang effect. One might think such a phenomenon is very new, but it has actually been around for a very long time. It is called 'enallage' after the Greek 'enallagḗ' or interchange, and it refers to the use of one grammatical form in place of another, often if not always making the sentence grammatically incorrect.[81] This technique can be done for numerous reasons, for instance to emphasize certain parts of a sentence, to achieve a parallel structure, to create a sense of poetry, or, in this case, to enhance the humorous aspects of a text. An example of this technique that is very similar to this particular slang term can be seen in 1932 when professional fighter and manager Joe Jacobs yelled "We was robbed!" after one of his fighters lost.[82]

It is possible that the choice of using enallage in this slang term was made to try and imitate African American Vernacular English, or AAVE, something that has been discussed earlier in the sub-chapter The Appeal of the Underdog, since such marginalized sub-cultures often hold an appeal to the middle class and are seen as 'cool' and 'hip', which could mean that large numbers of people use this term, giving it a level one in Diversity. However, it could of course be possible that this part of the fan-translation was written by a native speaker of AAVE, because the contributors are relatively anonymous, and it is impossible to see who wrote exactly what. The grammatical incorrectness of the term does give it the lower ratings of level one in both the Unobtrusiveness and the Endurance factor, since it can be seen as jarring. This specific term 'be wearing' can be linked to research by Joan G. Fickett, in which Fickett explains that a form like 'be wearing' can be used in AAVE to refer to unspecified points in time, combining punctuation and imperfect aspects, so either something that has happened at a point in time or something that is happening across points in time, or both.[83] Research by Charles E. DeBose also states that auxiliary verbs like 'be' can be seen as markers for habitual and curative aspects, meaning that 'be wearing' can imply that the subject wears such clothing all the time.[84] Because the auxiliary verb of 'be' can be paired with many other verbs, does give it a rating of level one in the Generation factor, since many other forms could be generated with it.

[79] @Don, @Y F. "He Protec but He Also Attac." *KnowYourMeme*, 2017, https://knowyourmeme.com/memes/he-protec-but-he-also-attac. Accessed 18th of May 2023.
[80] @Carson McMuffins. "This mans." *Urban Dictionary*, 2019, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=this%20mans. Accessed 13th of May 2023.
[81] "Enallage." *Dictionary.com*, 2023, https://www.dictionary.com/browse/enallage. Accessed 21st of May 2023.
[82] "Sport: We Wuz Robbed." *Time.com*, 1940, https://content.time.com/time/subscriber/article/0,33009,763952,00.html. Accessed 21st of May 2023.
[83] Fickett, Joan G. "Tense and Aspect in Black English." *Journal of English Linguistics*, Vol 6 Iss 1, 1972, p. 17.
[84] DeBose, Charles E. "The Systematic Marking of Tense, Modality, and Aspect in African American Language." *The Oxford Handbook of African American Language*, 06th of August 2015, pp. 371-386.

Lewk (187.)

Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary defines the slang term 'lewk' as a fashion sense or look that is unique and distinctively connected to the wearer, and one that would therefore be noticed and remembered by others.[85] This dictionary also states that the term is an alteration of the already existing word 'look', and that the first known use of this new version of the word can be found in 2009. Because it sounds the same as the original word, it receives a level one in Unobtrusiveness, but not a level two because its spelling is still unfamiliar enough. It was popularized by fashion stylist Brad Goreski during *The Rachel Zoe Project*, a TV show, and his insistent use of the term in his Twitter posts, but was never picked up by many people, giving it a level zero for Diversity.[86]

3.1.3 Censorship

This category shows an aspect of slang, namely the use of language that might be taboo in regular society, and how Internet users have found ways to bypass the censorship from social media platforms and their algorithms to still mention and discuss such taboo conversation topics.

Unalived (1.)

Perhaps the meaning of this word is abundantly clear, but according to the Urban Dictionary, to 'unalive' someone means to kill someone, and the obviousness of this word is why it received a level one in Unobtrusiveness despite its slightly jarring switch from adjective to verb.[87] Users of social media started to use this term on social media platforms in order to try and avoid words such as 'killing', 'death' or 'suicide' since many social media platforms have implemented rules that will delete, censor or demonetize content that uses such 'taboo' terms, giving it a level two for Endurance, seeing as social media and their subsequent rules are probably here to stay.[88] The term does not appear in Merriam-Webster's which is why it only has a level one in Frequency.

3.1.4 Meme Language

The following slang terms all have one thing in common: their — new or perhaps simply repurposed — origins and popularity come from social media and the Internet in general. Most of these terms were born from Internet posts that quickly spread and became immensely popular, more commonly referred to as memes as described earlier by Limor Shifman. Some might have existed already in different contexts, but got a different meaning on social media, after which they became popular enough to be used by many different people. In some cases this means that the term might also belong to another category, but was placed in this category because of the large role the Internet played in its new meaning and use.

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[85] "Lewk." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/lewk. Accessed 21st of May 2023.

[86] Brad Goreski (@mrebradgoreski). "Today's lewk: blazer Thom browne, pants and shirt black fleece, bowtie esprit, bag Cambridge satchel http://instagr.am/p/MuRQg/." Twitter, 11 September 2011, 12.08, https://twitter.com/mrbradgoreski/status/112648587539783680. Accessed 21st of May 2023.

[87] @NotMyRealNameIsMyName. "Unalived." *Urban Dictionary*, 2015, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=unalive. Accessed 20th of April 2023.

[88] "Unalived." *Dictionary.com*, 2022, https://www.dictionary.com/e/slang/unalive/#:~:text=Unalive%20is%20a%20slang%20term,explicitly%20mentions%20killing%20or%20suicide. Accessed 20th of April 2023.

All fax no printer (7.)

According to the entries in the Urban Dictionary, 'all fax no printer' is a play on words meaning that "something is so true that it is a 100% facts and nothing else."[89] The wordplay depends on the auditory similarity of the words 'facts' and 'fax' and the semantic connection between fax machines and printers. Because fax machines have already become obsolete, the phrase has little chance of enduring since younger generations might already not know what such a machine is, causing the phrase to have a level zero in Endurance. The site KnowYourMeme states that although it is unknown who truly coined the phrase, an early example of its use can be traced back to 2014 when the artists Omarion and Chris Brown created a track called "Post Be" which featured the lyrics: "and that's facts, no printer (no printer)."[90] However, the phrase became popular after a video was uploaded on the social media platform TikTok by @briaAllanaa in 2021 saying, among other things, "No cap. Fax, no printer. Copy, no translate."[91] The phrase is only mentioned in the Urban Dictionary, which is why it only has a level one in Frequency.

Adulting (8.)

The verb 'adulting' means, according to an entry in the Urban Dictionary, "to carry out one or more of the duties and responsibilities expected of fully developed individuals."[92] This term is also recorded in Merriam-Webster's, giving it a level two in Frequency.[93] Dictionary.com explains that the term is mostly used by Millennials — also referred to as Generation Y — the demographic generation that consists of people born between 1980 and 1999, which is why it cannot achieve a level two in Endurance — since it is so tied to a single generation — and only has a level one.[94] Dictionary.com also states that the use of this slang term can be traced back to 2008, when it first started to get used on social media. The word adult, the origin of this slang term, comes from the Latin word 'adolescere' which means to grow to maturity, and the slang term's similarity to the original word is why it achieved a level two in Unobtrusiveness.[95]

An absolute unit (10.)

The Urban Dictionary defines this slang term as a person or object with an exceptionally large mass which commands or even compels respect due to its sheer size.[96] Because the term is only found in

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[89] @AfricanSteam. "All fax. No printer." *Urban Dictionary*, 2019, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=All%20fax.%20No%20printer. Accessed 22nd of April 2023.

[90] @Phillip Hamilton, @callmeshirley. "Fax, No Printer." *Know Your Meme*, 2021, https://knowyourmeme.com/memes/fax-no-printer. Accessed 22nd of April.

[91] @briaAllanaa. "SEND IT YOU WONT😜❤️." *TikTok*, uploaded by @briaAllanaa, 04th of April 2021, https://www.tiktok.com/@briaAllanaa/video/6947070002877025542. Accessed 22nd of April 2023.

[92] @starcraft420. "Adulting." *Urban Dictionary*, 2016, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Adulting. Accessed 22nd of April 2023.

[93] "Adult." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/adult. Accessed 22nd of June 2023.

[94] Lissitsa, S. ; Kol, O. "Generation X vs. Generation Y — A decade of online shopping." *Journal of Retailing and Consumer Services* Vol. 31, 2016, pp. 304-312.

[95] "Adolescere." *Latin-is-simple.com*, 2023, https://www.latin-is-simple.com/en/vocabulary/verb/668/. Accessed 22nd of April 2023.

[96] @Yobbbh. "Absolute Unit." *Urban Dictionary*, 2018, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Absolute%20Unit. Accessed 23rd of April 2023.

this dictionary, it gets a level one in Frequency. According to an article in *The Cut* by Emilia Petrarca, the term started in 2017 in a Tweet by user @mrreptoid who wrote: "In awe at the size of this lad. Absolute Unit" as a caption of a picture of British hotelier David Morgan-Hewitt standing next to the Queen of England.[97] Petrarca connects the success of this joke and the subsequent popularity of the slang term to the paradoxical nature of the statement: 'lad' is usually used to refer to someone small and young, while 'absolute unit' refers to an enormous person. The concept behind the phrase, namely to describe something that is incredibly large, does have a relatively high chance of enduring, since exceptionally large objects will always exist, thus giving it a level two in Endurance.

A Karen (11.)

According to Dictionary.com, the slang term 'Karen' started out as a reference to entitled, obnoxious, annoyed and often racist middle aged white women who try to use their privilege to get their way or to dictate other people's behavior.[98] Because the term could not be found in Merriam-Webster's and only in the Urban Dictionary, it shall receive a level one in Frequency. The exact origins of the term are not very clear, with multiple options existing, but it started to become popular in the 2010s. The earliest possible origin is the 1990 film Goodfellas, or in 2005 when stand-up comedian Dane Cook performed a bit called "The Friend Nobody Likes" in which the friend in question was named Karen.[99] The popularization of the term as an insult however has been widely credited to the African American community of Twitter, when it joined the trend of using a generic first name to refer to a certain kind of person.[100] Because the name is so popular at the moment and thus familiar, the term receives a level two in Unobtrusiveness, but since the popularity of names changes through time, it therefore cannot get a higher level than one for the Endurance factor. From then on, the term became an insult which only grew in popularity through the social media platforms Reddit, Twitter and most recently TikTok, becoming closely associated with the insult 'boomer', since both address rude and discriminatory behavior by people of older generations.[101]

Incel (14.)

According to Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary, the official definition of 'incel' is a person, usually a man, who regards themselves as being involuntarily celibate, and who then blames everyone else for this fact but themselves.[102] These 'incels' then often display extreme resentment and even rage towards, most often, women for denying them sex. This term, as it is used now, has an unfortunately dark past, though it started out as a positive term. According to Dictionary.com, the term was created in 1997 by a woman known as Allana when she started an online community for singles with limited experience in areas such as romantic relationships and sex.[103] She wanted to create a safe space for sharing tips and experiences without any negative labels connected to it like 'virgin' or 'lonely', so

[97] Petrarca, E. "Why Is 'Absolute Unit' a Menswear Meme?" *The Cut*, 2018, https://www.thecut.com/2018/02/absolute-unit-meme.html.
@mrreptoid. "in awe at the size of this lad. absolute unit." *Twitter*, 13th of December 2017, https://t.co/tbetPbQ1ew.
[98] "Karen." *Dictionary.com*, 2020, https://www.dictionary.com/e/slang/karen/. Accessed 23rd of April 2023.
[99] Cook, Dane. "The Friend Nobody Likes." *YouTube*, uploaded by Moobjwabath, 2009, https://youtu.be/J_kg0W3AeIU. Accessed 23rd of April 2023.
[100] "Karen." *Dictionary.com*, 2020, https://www.dictionary.com/e/slang/karen/. Accessed 23rd of April 2023.
[101] Ibid.
[102] "Incel." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/incel. Accessed 1st of May 2023.
[103] "Incel." *Dictionary.com*, 2018, https://www.dictionary.com/e/slang/incel/. Accessed on 1st of May 2023.

she invented a new term: 'involuntary celibacy' or 'INVCEL' which referred to people who were not having intimate relationships, but not for lack of trying, making it a highly specific term that will probably not be used much in daily conversations, causing it to have a level zero in the Diversity factor. Her term then got shortened to 'incel' for ease of pronunciation, which gives it a level two in Unobtrusiveness, since it is an acronym that very naturally became used as a word. Soon after she launched her site, the male members began to outnumber the women, and after a few years she gave leadership over the site to someone else. In the following years multiple acts of terror were then committed in the name of this community, causing many deaths, and in 2013, the 'incel' community had launched a subreddit which garnered over 40.000 members, on which women were called evil and other slurs, even going as far as threatening physical and sexual violence against them, causing Reddit to ban the group in 2017. Because of this, the term went from something positive and inclusive to a moniker for a group of violently misogynistic men who committed several acts of terror, which is why the term is now mostly used as a slur towards men.[104] Unfortunately, such people are likely to continue to exist, since they have for centuries, giving this term a level two in Endurance.

Main character (15.)

A very recent slang term which according to Dictionary.com refers to thinking that one is the main character in one's life, and subsequently pretending that their life is a movie.[105] This trend can be attributed to two TikTok users, which is why it only has a level one in Endurance since social media trends tend to fade fast. In May of 2020 user @lexapro_lesbian posted a video about being the 'main character' in their neighborhood, and later that summer user @ashlaward posted a video encouraging people to think of themselves as the 'main character' of their life.[106] Although the original message was meant to be serious and positive, to stimulate better mental health by romanticizing the mundane, the term 'main character' has now also come to mean something negative. According to the Urban Dictionary the term has been used for instance in the term 'Main Character Syndrome' which refers to people who are incredibly self centered.[107] The way the phrase is used in this particular instance, namely "(…) a son named Dudley who they thought was the main character." refers to this negative definition.[108] Because the term can only be found in the Urban Dictionary, it shall receive a level one for Frequency.

Vibe check (18.)

According to the Urban Dictionary, a 'vibe check' is usually a spontaneous and random positive experience, unless the person's 'vibe' is found wanting, in which case the experience quickly turns negative.[109] Merriam-Webster's defines the noun 'vibe' as a "distinctive feeling of quality capable of being sensed." As a verb the term is defined as "to be in harmony."[110] Checking one's vibe therefore

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[104] Ibid.
[105] "Main character." *Dictionary.com*, 2020, https://www.dictionary.com/e/pop-culture/main-character/. Accessed on 2nd of May 2023.
[106] Ward, A. "Take a second and listen." *TikTok*, uploaded by @ashlaward, 26th of May 2020, https://www.tiktok.com/@ashlaward/video/6831269918864870661?lang=en. Accessed on 2nd of May 2023.
[107] @CrazyandIknowit. "Main Character Syndrome." *Urban Dictionary*, 2021, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Main%20character. Accessed on 2nd of May 2023.
[108] @typoes. "Harry Potter: Gen Z Edition." *GitHub*, 28th of November 2021-present, https://github.com/typoes/harry-potter-gen-z. Accessed on 3rd of May 2023.
[109] @scarez_was_here. "Vibe Check." *Urban Dictionary*, 2019, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Vibe%20Check. Accessed 3rd of May 2023.
[110] "Vibe." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/vibe. Accessed 3rd of May 2023.

refers to checking whether or not someone radiates a positive feeling, which is often done by being in harmony with the surroundings that person is in. If someone then has a bad 'vibe' this person will be removed or punished, which carries with it the promise of physical violence, as is made clear in the Urban Dictionary entries on 'vibe checking'.[111] Although Merriam-Webster's does have a definition for 'vibe', the term 'vibe check' cannot be found there, which is why the term only has a level one in Frequency. The aforementioned threats should not be taken seriously, since most of such exchanges are humorous and take place in the digital realm, causing the term to have a level zero in Endurance, since the term is not connected to something that ever actually happens. The term was first recorded in the Urban Dictionary in 2011 by user @rastabonez, after which it became widely used on the Internet.[112]

Called Out (19.)

The Cambridge Dictionary defines the phrase 'calling (something) out' as a way to critique someone and asking them to explain their behavior and actions.[113] The Urban Dictionary has entries that define the phrase with a similar meaning, namely to hold someone accountable for their words and/or actions.[114] Since the term is recorded in both the Urban Dictionary and Merriam-Webster's it receives a level two in Frequency, and because it consists of already existing words it also gets a level two in Unobtrusiveness. The phrase as it is used now, namely to point out someone's bad behavior, first started in the 1980s but grew in popularity on social media platforms as a way to expose a person's wrongdoing, and is now considered common enough that it is used in publications without further explanation attached to the term, giving it a level two in Diversity.[115] However, alternatives to this term have already been invented according to Ashley Austrew, terms like 'calling in' as suggested by author and activist Ngọc Loan Trần in 2013 and endorsed by American politician Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez in a Tweet in 2019, which provides a kinder and more patient alternative that focuses

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[111] @The cookie king. "Vibe Check." *Urban Dictionary*, 2019, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Vibe%20Check. Accessed 3rd of May 2023.

[112] @rastabonez. "Vibe check." *Urban Dictionary*, 2011, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Vibe%20Check&page=3. Accessed 3rd of May 2023.

[113] "Call out." *Cambridge Dictionary*, 2023, https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/call-out#. Accessed 4th of May 2023.

[114] @Foghorn7870. "Call out." *Urban Dictionary*, 2015, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=call%20out. Accessed 4th of May 2023.

[115] Ibid.

on teacher people to be better instead of just shaming them for their mistakes.[116] Because of this, the term cannot achieve a high level in Endurance.

Cancelled (20.)

According to Merriam-Webster's the word 'cancelling' or 'canceling' has received a new meaning in recent times, namely to stop supporting public figures as a response to their behavior, acts or opinions, which would have been seen as unacceptable to the people who are doing the 'cancelling'.[117] In its original meaning, 'to cancel' something means that it goes away, which is very close to its slang meaning, giving it a level two for Unobtrusiveness because of this similarity. Merriam-Webster's states that the phrase 'cancelling' has been made popular by African American users of Twitter as a result of the discussions that were prompted by movements that demand greater accountability from influential public figures, like for instance the #MeToo movement, and the term is now common enough that it merits no further explanation in publications, giving it a level two in Diversity.[118] Since there are also entries in the Urban Dictionary that state that 'cancelling' means to reject an individual, this term receives a level two in Frequency.[119] In an article in *The New York Times*, writer Jonah Engel Bromwich links the new use of this word to the recent possibility of subscribing to a person and their content on social media platforms and the subsequent possibility of 'un-subscribing' or 'canceling' your subscription.[120] Merriam-Webster's also mentions that 'cancelling' is paradoxical in nature, since the act aims to deny someone the attention that they crave, being a public figure, while it actually brings this person into focus, which is one of the reasons why the term itself has been 'cancelled' by many and thus receives only a level one in Endurance.[121]

Girlbossing (21.)

[116] Austrew, Ashley. "Is There A Difference Between "Calling In" And "Calling Out"?" *Dictionary.com*, 2019, https://www.dictionary.com/e/calling-in-vs-calling-out/. Accessed on 4th of May 2023.
Loan Trần, Ngọc. "Calling IN: A Less Disposable Way of Holding Each Other Accountable." *Black Girl Dangerous Blog*, December 18th 2013, https://www.bgdblog.org/2013/12/calling-less-disposable-way-holding-accountable/. Accessed 26th of May 2023.
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (@AOC). "It's not my position to tell people how to feel, or that their hurt is invalid. But incidents like these do beg the question: where are the resolutions against homophobic statements? For anti-blackness? For xenophobia? For a member saying he'll "send Obama home to Kenya?
In this administration + all others, we should actively check antisemitism, anti-blackness, homophobia, racism, and all other forms of bigotry.
And the most productive end goal when we see it is to educate and heal.
It's the difference btwn "calling in" before "calling out."" *Twitter*, March 5th 2019, 14.41, https://twitter.com/AOC/status/1102927183134277633?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1102927183134277633%7Ctwgr%5E7ae1791663feb3373fedbcd0a68b8b113dc7ea89%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dictionary.com%2Fe%2Fcalling-in-vs-calling-out%2F. Accessed 26th of May 2023.
[117] "What It Means To Get 'Canceled'." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, 2021, https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/cancel-culture-words-were-watching#:~:text=Uproxx%2C%2018%20Jan.-,2019,giving%20support%20to%20that%20person. Accessed on 5th of May 2023.
[118] Ibid.
[119] @Flossy333. "Cancelled." Urban Dictionary, 2018, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Cancelled. Accessed 5th of May 2023.
[120] Bromwich, J. E. "Everyone Is Canceled." *The New York Times*, 2018, https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/28/style/is-it-canceled.html. Accessed on 5th of May 2023.
[121] "What It Means To Get 'Canceled'." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, 2021, https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/cancel-culture-words-were-watching#:~:text=Uproxx%2C%2018%20Jan.-,2019,giving%20support%20to%20that%20person. Accessed on 5th of May 2023.

The Urban Dictionary, which is the only dictionary the term appears in, causing it to have a level one in Frequency, defines the term 'girlbossing' as making something or someone seem like a feminist idol or inspiration for profit despite the numerous flaws that are present.[122] As can be seen, the term has definite negative connotations. However, it did not start out that way. According to Collins Dictionary, the term has the original meaning of an independent, self-made woman who acts as her own boss and runs her own business.[123] In an article by Erica Worthen in *The Women's Network* the author states that the term was coined by Sophia Amoruso in the early 2010s when she started an online fast fashion retail shop on the site eBay under the name NastyGal, and was lauded for it, making the term positive at first.[124] Worthen explains how the term became a slur through the generational differences in values of Millennials and Gen Z, showing that Millennials applaud giving all of yourself to work and ambition so you can succeed, while Gen Z sees the term as an expression of blind ambition and uncaringness towards others in one's search for success. This complete change in meaning depending on the generation of people who use it shows that the term is too susceptible to change and therefore has an Endurance level zero. The phrase 'girlbossed too close to the sun', which is how the slang term is used in this instance in the case study, refers to the Greek myth of Icarus from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* who was given wax wings by his father and was warned not to fly too close to the sun or they would melt, but who was too tempted and flew too high anyway, causing his wings to melt and him to die.[125] The phrase therefore refers to biting off more than one can chew; taking on more work than one can handle.[126] With such terms as 'girlboss' that refer primarily to women — although the mocking variety that is used at the moment can refer to people of any gender or non-gender — one must be careful, since sexism is always close at hand. Historically, women who show ambition have always been judged harshly, and therefore have had to face much criticism.[127] A positive term for such a woman thus has little chance of staying positive.

Clout (22.)

According to Dictionary.com, the slang term 'clout' means to have power and influence.[128] The term first appeared in the 1860s meaning 'to have political influence' causing people to listen to you and for you to be able to change things, which shows that the term is very durable, since it has been used for so long, giving it a level two in Endurance. This meaning was derived from the meaning the word had before, namely 'power', 'force' or 'blow', which was used as early as 1350 according to Green's Dictionary of Slang, and because the slang word is identical to the original and thus very familiar, it

[122] @CrazyandIknowit. "Girlboss." *Urban Dictionary*, 2021, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Girlbossing. Accessed 5th of May 2023.
[123] @huberttired."Girlboss." Collins Dictionary, 2022, https://www.collinsdictionary.com/submission/25160/girlboss. Accessed 8th of May 2023.
[124] Worthen, Erica. "The Rise and Fall of the "Girlboss"." *The Women's Network*, 2022, https://www.thewomens.network/blog/the-rise-and-fall-of-the-girlboss#:~:text=of%20the%20"Girlboss"-,January%206%2C%202022,acting%20as%20their%20own%20boss. Accessed 8th of May 2023.
[125] Ovid, *Metamorphoses*. 8 CE.
[126] Worthen, Erica. "The Rise and Fall of the "Girlboss"." *The Women's Network*, 2022, https://www.thewomens.network/blog/the-rise-and-fall-of-the-girlboss#:~:text=of%20the%20"Girlboss"-,January%206%2C%202022,acting%20as%20their%20own%20boss. Accessed 8th of May 2023.
[127] Wright, A. "Bound to Succeed: The Role of Ambition Among Twenty-First-Century Women." *The Virginia Quarterly Review*, vol. 93, no. 2, 2017, pp. 189-191, https://web-s-ebscohost-com.ezproxy.leidenuniv.nl/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=0&sid=56e9e20f-c3a0-418d-acec-53e1d655c808%40redis.
[128] "Clout." *Dictionary.com*, 2019, https://www.dictionary.com/e/slang/clout/#:~:text=To%20have%20clout%20is%20to,seen%20as%20popular%20and%20cool. Accessed 09th of May 2023.

can achieve a level two in Unobtrusiveness.[129] In the 2000s the term rose in popularity through social media, specifically through the app *Klout* which measured a person's social media influence by counting one's followers and likes, giving them a *Klout* score, which made the term well-known enough that it was used in publications without explanation, giving it a level two in Diversity.[130] If this *Klout* score was high it meant people were paying attention to you and that you therefore had a certain amount of social power, as is stated in the Urban Dictionary as well as Merriam-Webster's, which is why it has a level two in Frequency.[131]

Ghosting (27.)

An entry in the Urban Dictionary states that the term 'ghosting' is a verb that refers to a person cutting off all forms of communication with another person, most often a friend or romantic partner, without any warning or notice.[132] The similarity to the already existing word 'ghost' and the normal affix -ing causes this word to achieve a level two in Unobtrusiveness. An article on Dictionary.com by Jane Solomon states that a possible origin for this new meaning might be found in 1990s hip-hop in the term 'get ghost' meaning to leave immediately and to disappear. An example from 1990 is a song called "Do Me Right" by artist Guy, or from 1991 in a song "Alwayz Into Somethin" by N.W.A.[133] Solomon also states that the newfound popularity and spread of the term can probably be linked to the increased use of dating apps and other forms of purely online communication, through which it is far easier to 'fade away like a ghost' and stop all communication once one is no longer interested in another person, giving it a level one in Endurance because this phenomenon will probably not disappear anytime soon.[134] The term got accepted into mainstream media around 2013, which corresponds with the newfound popularity of the online dating app Tinder, and by 2014 and 2015 major publications like *The New York Times* and *The Independent* were also writing about it, giving it a level one in Diversity, since the term did still need an accompanying explanation.[135] Because the term appears in both the Urban Dictionary and in Merriam-Webster's it gets a level two in Frequency as well.

A crotch goblin (37.)

Not much is known about this term, though it is recorded in the Urban Dictionary as a synonym for a child.[136] This term has not been added to any other official kind of dictionary, although it has an entry in Wiktionary with the same definition as the one from the Urban Dictionary, which is why it only has

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[129] "Clout n.2." *Green's Dictionary of Slang*, Jonathan Green, 2023, https://greensdictofslang.com/entry/v3cqiwq. Accessed 09th of May 2023.
[130] "Clout." *Dictionary.com*, 2019, https://www.dictionary.com/e/slang/clout/#:~:text=To%20have%20clout%20is%20to,seen%20as%20popular%20and%20cool. Accessed 09th of May 2023.
[131] @CLOUTGANGG. "Clout." *Urban Dictionary*, 2017, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=clout. Accessed 09th of May 2023.
[132] @SunnyDoll. "Ghosting." *Urban Dictionary*, 2016, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Ghosting. Accessed on 12th of May 2023.
[133] "Ghost." *The Right Rhymes*, 2023, https://www.therightrhymes.com/ghost/. Accessed 12th of May 2023.
[134] Solomon, Jane. "What Is Ghosting?" *Dictionary.com*, 2016, https://www.dictionary.com/e/ghosting/. Accessed 12th of may 2023.
[135] Ibid.
[136] @Juke Joint Jezebel. "Crotch goblin." *Urban Dictionary*, 2005, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=crotch%20goblin. Accessed 16th of May 2023.

a level one in Frequency.[137] This lack of information is also the reason why it scored low in all other factors. It is a derogatory term, used as an insult to imply that the child in question is out of control and often also seen as unhygienic, and the perhaps abrasive nature of the word causes it to be more obtrusive, so it only has a level one in Unobtrusiveness despite being composed of well-known words. The origins of the term are unclear, though it seems to be relatively new since there is no real record of it existing before 2005 when it started to get used on social media.

Yote (42.)

According to an entry in the Urban Dictionary, the term 'yote' is the past tense form of 'yeet'.[138] Even though this term is relatively new, it has already garnered a lot of attention, according to Merriam-Webster's, and since the term is recorded in both the aforementioned dictionaries, it achieved a level two in Frequency. This dictionary defines 'yeet' as a slang term that broadly means 'to throw something', specifically at high velocity with little to no care about what happens after the object is thrown, giving the impression of 'good riddance' along with the action.[139] The term is also used as an interjection to express excitement and agreement, often for something that is being done, or more specifically being thrown. Since the term is so closely connected to a physical act, it scores a level one in the Endurance factor, but because multiple kinds of exclamations such as this exist it cannot achieve a level two. The first recorded use of the term was of this second version, according to Merriam-Webster's, in a Tweet from 2008 by user @MzJetson saying: "WITH MY MOON BEAMING IN THE DISTANCE! YEET! YEET!"[140] Because of this relative newness, the term is still too foreign and unfamiliar to get higher than a level one in Unobtrusiveness. According to the site Wiktionary, the term, as an exclamation that is used while throwing something, has been used as far back as 1998 by British presenter Jeremy Clarkson and in 1999 in a *King of the Hill* episode called "To Kill a Ladybird" and it has since been used in multiple publications, giving it a Diversity level two.[141] This shows that the exact origin of the term is still unknown, with sources like Merriam-Webster's vaguely speculating if the term might have come from the Middle English term 'ye'.[142] Though the term did not become popular until quite recently, it has already generated some forms with it being an interjection and a verb, with many forms of conjugation like 'yote' or 'yought' or 'yeeting', making it a level one in Generation.[143]

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[137] "Crotch goblin." *Wiktionary*, 2022, https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/crotch_goblin#:~:text=Noun,synonym%20▲%20Synonym%3A%20crotch%20spawn. Accessed 16th of May 2023.

[138] @Ace the simp. "Yote." *Urban Dictionary*, 2023, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Yote. Accessed 17th of May 2023.

[139] "What does 'yeet' mean?" *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, 2022, https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/yeet-meaning-and-history#:~:text=Yeet%20is%20a%20slang%20word,worried%20that%20it%20might%20break.). Accessed 17th of May 2023.

[140] MzJetson.com (@MzJetson). "WITH MY MOON BEAMING IN THE DISTANCE! YEET! YEET!" *Twitter*, 16th of February 2008, https://twitter.com/MzJetson. Accessed 17th of May 2023.

[141] "Yeet." *Wiktionary*, 2023, https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/yeet. Accessed 17th of May 2023.
Jeremy Clarkson. "CLARKSON SAYS THE WORLD'S FIRST "YEET" IN 1998?!" *YouTube*, uploaded by Zeitgeist of the 20th century, 2019, https://youtu.be/wsQH4uHimWM. Accessed 17th of May 2023.
Dailymotion. "King of the Hill S4 — 09 — To Kills a Ladybird — video Dailymotion." *Dailymotion*, uploaded by Dailymotion, 2018, https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6pt1f4. Accessed 17th of May 2023.

[142] "What does 'yeet' mean?" *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, 2022, https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/yeet-meaning-and-history#:~:text=Yeet%20is%20a%20slang%20word,worried%20that%20it%20might%20break.). Accessed 17th of May 2023.

[143] Ke, Calvin. "Yeet: definition, conjugation, and usage." *CalvinKe*, 2019, https://calvinke.com/random/yeet/. Accessed 17th of May 2023.

On fleek (188.)

The slang term 'on fleek' is defined by Merriam-Webster's as a synonym for 'excellent', meaning that something is done exactly, perfectly right.[144] According to this dictionary, the origin of this slang term is a video from 2014 posted on *Vine* by Kayla Lewis, who used the username @Peaches Monroee, in which she mentions that her eyebrows are 'on fleek' and thus look very good.[145] However, the Urban Dictionary does have entries on the term 'fleek' from earlier dates, though such entries, from 2003 and 2009 respectively, do provide slightly different definitions, such as 'smooth, nice, sweet' and 'awesome', which are similar, but not entirely the same.[146] Because the term is recorded in both the aforementioned publications, it gets a level two in Frequency. The fast rise in popularity of the term can also be credited by the number of celebrities who used the term quickly after the *Vine* went viral, like Ariana Grande and Kim Kardashian, showing that it is used by many, but only in the context of slang, which is why it only has a level one in Diversity.

3.1.5 Cultural Transfer or Appropriation

All the terms listed below originate from African American or Black culture, after which they became popular and were then used by many who are not part of this marginalized subculture. The reason behind their popularity was discussed earlier in chapter 1.3.1, where it was also stated how important it is to acknowledge the history behind such words, and that they cannot simply be referred to as 'Internet language' for the risk of erasing the rich and sometimes painful history behind the terms.

Flexing (2.)

According to the Urban Dictionary, 'to flex' means to show off one's belongings in a non-humble way.[147] The phrase was also mentioned in Merriam-Webster's, causing the term to achieve a level two in Frequency. This dictionary's entry explains that it means showing off for one's audience, relating it to social media and its noun form, which is most often used in the phrase "weird flex but OK" that the dictionary notes was made popular in 2018 by YouTube comedian Sarah Schauer as a sarcastic response to people showing off odd or embarrassing things.[148] However, to stop the etymological research here, as is done in Merriam-Webster's, would be harmful since it would negate the true origin of the term. Originating from the literal definition of "flexing one's muscles" the term has been used for a long time, and since the slang meaning is so close to this original literal meaning, as well as the form, the term gets a level two for Unobtrusiveness, because it therefore seems very familiar.[149] The slang version of this term, namely 'flex' or 'flexing' has been used in the African American community since the 1990s, most notably by the rapper Ice Cube in his song "It Was A Good Day"

[144] "On fleek." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/on%20fleek. Accessed 21st of May 2023.

[145] Lewis, Kayla (@Peaches Monroee). "Eyebrows on fleek-original." *YouTube*, uploaded by isabella, 2014, https://youtu.be/Hch2Bup3oII. Accessed 21st of May 2023.

[146] @Dan Blue. "Fleek." *Urban Dictionary*, 2003, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Fleek&page=12. Accessed 21st of May 2023.
@Alycyn. "Fleek." *Urban Dictionary*, 2009, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Fleek&page=12. Accessed 21st of May 2023.

[147] @xD-anomaly-Dx. "Flex." *Urban Dictionary*, 2017, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Flex. Accessed 20th of April 2023.

[148] "Just what's so weird about that 'flex'?" *Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary*, 2020, https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/what-does-weird-flex-but-ok-mean-slang-definition-stunt. Accessed 20th of April 2023.

[149]Ibid.

from 1992, and has thus generated a few new forms giving it a level two for Generation.[150] It is now so well known that it is used in regular publications without explanation, causing it to have a level two for Diversity.

Basic (3.)

This term was described in the Urban Dictionary as something that is mainstream, popular and trending or as someone devoid of any characteristics that might make someone interesting.[151] Since the term cannot be found in Merriam-Webster's, it only gets a level one for Frequency. Coined in the 1970s according to Green's Dictionary of Slang, the slang term 'basic' came from its original meaning of 'plain or simple' and garnered a rather negative connotation.[152] Because the slang meaning of the term is so similar to this original meaning, and therefore seems familiar, it gets a level two in Unobtrusiveness. Over time, the word 'basic' continued to become more and more popular, with the term 'basic bitch' getting more attention in the 2000s.[153] Indeed, the term seems to be used more often to refer to women, especially young white women, to imply that they are unlikeable, predictable and ordinary, which is why it only gets a level one in Endurance, since slurs are more likely to get boycotted.[154]

Dummy thiccc (w/ three Cs) (9.)

This term is an expression based on the slang term 'thicc', meaning that someone is exceptionally voluptuous, according to the website KnowYourMeme.[155] It is therefore used as a synonym for 'extra thicc', and the amount of 'c's at the end of 'thicc' — although there need to be at least two to spell the word — indicates how much volume the person or object has that is being referred to. Since the term 'dummy thiccc' can only be found in the Urban Dictionary, it has a level one for Frequency. According to Dictionary.com, the term 'thicc' originates from the word 'thick' which was used in African American culture in the 1990s to refer to curvaceous and otherwise attractive women.[156] In the 2000s the word spread to online communication and there got altered to be spelled 'thicc' instead of the original, and this alternative and odd spelling is why it has a level zero for Unobtrusiveness. It got so popular that it became mainstream around 2015, boosted by the existence of celebrities like Kim Kardashian and the body-positivity culture that also rose in popularity around that time.[157] However, it can also be taken as a negative comment, since some people might see it as fat-shaming or oversexualisation, and its suggestive nature causes it to have only a level one for Endurance.

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[150] "Flex." *Dictionary.com*, 2023, https://www.dictionary.com/browse/flex#:~:text=The%20term%20flex%20has%20been,as%20I%20ran%20the%20intersection. Accessed 20th of April 2023.

[151] @itsmeeeeeyo. "Basic." *Urban Dictionary*, 2015, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Basic. Accessed 20th of April 2023.

[152] "Basic." *Green's Dictionary of Slang*, 2023, https://greensdictofslang.com/entry/ohmzr5q. Accessed 20th of April 2023.

[153] "Basic." *Dictionary.com*, 2018, https://www.dictionary.com/e/slang/basic/#:~:text=What%20does%20basic%20mean%3F,lots%20of%20selfies%2C%20for%20instance. Accessed 20th of April 2023.

[154] Ibid.

[155] @Don, @Adam. "Dummy thicc." *Know Your Meme*, 2019-2021, https://knowyourmeme.com/memes/dummy-thicc. Accessed 22nd of April 2023.

[156] "Thicc." *Dictionary.com*, 2018, https://www.dictionary.com/e/slang/thicc/#:~:text=What%20does%20thicc%20mean%3F,big%20butt%20and%20 curvy%20 waist. Accessed 22nd of April 2023.

[157] Ibid.

Zero chill (12.)

The slang term 'zero chill' is defined by the Urban Dictionary as the loss of the ability to stay calm.[158] It therefore implies a state of agitation, whether it be permanent, as in a part of someone's character, or momentary, as a result of something that happened. According to the official definition of 'chill' in Merriam-Webster's, the word 'chill' is always associated with cold.[159] Since anger and annoyance are often associated with warmth or heat — look at the term 'hothead' for instance — the lack of cold, or 'chill', would imply the emergence of anger.[160] Because the full term is only mentioned in the Urban Dictionary, it gets a level one in Frequency. The modern usage and definition of the term 'chill' started around the 1970s in African American culture, when the term 'to chill out' was used in a song called "Rapper's Delight" by Sugarhill Gang in 1979 and later in the song "Zulu Nation Throwdown" by Afrika Bambaataa in 1980, and even though the term has a strong connection to a physical sensation, meaning its more durable, since its only been used as a slang word thus far it only has an Endurance level of one.[161]

Lowkey (16.)

An entry in the Urban Dictionary from 2016 defines 'lowkey' by both its official definition from Merriam-Webster's and its slightly different slang meaning. This entry states that according to Merriam-Webster's, the term 'low-key' means quiet and relaxed, not very forceful, emotional or noticeable, more restrained and of low intensity.[162] The slang variant of the term has approximately the same definition, and it is used as an adverb which typically describes the user's emotions and desires, though it is used without the hyphen, so not 'low-key' but 'lowkey' instead. It can also indicate something that is secretly wanted or desired by the user, the addition of this term to such a statement making it easier to say. Since the term has entries in both those dictionaries, it gets a level two for Frequency. Dictionary.com provides a possible origin for the term, stating that it started in music, referring to a deeper, lower or more muted register, therefore meaning 'of a low pitch' in the early 19th century.[163] In the 1890s the term 'low-key' would then refer metaphorically to something restrained, modest or quiet, which then evolved over a century to mean casual or easygoing in the 1990s. In the 2000s the term became the adverb that is now used in slang, and since it is composed of words that already existed, it receives a level two in Unobtrusiveness and also a level two in Endurance, since the concept has proven to be resilient. It became even more popular in the 2010s through hip-hop music, with musicians like Chance the Rapper using it in their songs, such as his 2012 song "U Got Me F****d Up."[164] Dictionary.com also explains that the term can be used as both

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[158] @MaríaJosé. "Zero chill." *Urban Dictionary*, 2017, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Zero%20chill. Accessed 1st of May 2023.
[159] "Chill." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/chill. Accessed 1st of May 2023.
[160] "Hothead." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/hothead. Accessed 1st of May. 2023.
[161] Saxen, Jaya. "Need a Chill Pill? Here's a Recipe from the 19th Century." *Atlas Obscura*, January 4th 2016, https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/need-a-chill-pill-heres-a-recipe-from-the-19th-century. Accessed 1st of May 2023.
[162] @tinkertayler. "Lowkey." *Urban Dictionary*, 2016, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Lowkey. Accessed on 3rd of May 2023.
[163] "Low key." *Dictionary.com*, 2020, https://www.dictionary.com/e/slang/low-key/. Accessed on 3rd of May 2023.
[164] Ibid.

an adjective and an adverb, which is why it gets a level one in Generation, since it does have two different forms.

Tea (17.)

The slang term 'tea' can most simply be defined as a synonym for gossip, as is done in the Urban Dictionary.[165] Because the slang version of this term cannot be found in Merriam-Webster's, it only receives a level one in Frequency. Dictionary.com connects the origin of this term to black drag culture, specifically the drag performer The Lady Chablis who was quoted in the non-fiction novel by John Berendt called *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* from 1994.[166] Another phenomenon that the term might have been influenced by are tea parties, a custom in the southern states of the United States where mostly women gather together to gossip while enjoying a cup of tea, which is why the term gets a level two in Unobtrusiveness: it is tied to a very familiar custom and pre-existing word.[167] This is also why it has a level two in Endurance, because such habits are very old and not likely to stop anytime soon. The slang term is often used in the phrase 'spilling the tea' but it has generated many such sayings, giving it a level one in Generation. It is mostly associated with black gay slang because it rose in popularity in part due to *RuPaul's Drag Race* that started in 2009, though it is now also widely used by other people as slang, but still only as slang, which is why it only has a Diversity level one.[168]

Fam (23.)

An entry in the Urban Dictionary defines the term 'fam' as an abbreviation of the word family, which is why it receives a level two in Unobtrusiveness due to its similarities to this pre-existing word, and mentions that it refers to people who are incredibly close, emotionally speaking, to the user, like family.[169] Dictionary.com provides a very similar definition, explaining that the way the term is used now in slang originates from African American slang as a way to refer to one's people, so usually not one's biological family and relatives but rather intimate friends that one trusts, and it has been used since at least the early 2000s.[170] Merriam-Webster's mentions that the first known use of 'fam' in the sense of 'people' was in 1990, and because this concept is likely to endure, the term gets a level two in Endurance.[171] Since the term is mentioned in both the Urban Dictionary and Merriam-Webster's, it receives a level two in Frequency.

No cap (29.)

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[165] @missmiaonfire. "Tea." *Urban Dictionary*, 2018, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=tea. Accessed 3rd of May 2023.
[166] Berendt, John. *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. Random House, 1994.
[167] "Tea." *Dictionary.com*, 2019, https://www.dictionary.com/e/slang/tea/. Accessed on 3rd of May 2023.
[168] Ibid.
[169] @tha professor. "Fam." *Urban Dictionary*, 2003, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=fam. Accessed 10th of May 2023.
[170] "Fam." *Dictionary.com*, 2019, https://www.dictionary.com/e/slang/fam/. Accessed 10th of May 2023.
[171] "Fam." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/fam. Accessed 10th of May 2023.

According to Dictionary.com, the slang term 'no cap' means 'no lie' and is used to indicate that someone is telling the truth and/or not exaggerating about what is being said.[172] The term only appears in the Urban Dictionary, so it gets a level one for Frequency.[173] The present use of this term is copied from black slang, originally from the UK, where the term 'to cap' is used as a synonym for bragging, exaggerating or lying.[174] But the origin of the term goes a little further back, according to Green's Dictionary of Slang, to the 1940s, when the term 'to cap' was used as slang for 'to surpass'. It was derived from the word 'cap' itself that referred to the top or upper limit of things, which is why the slang term gets a level two in Unobtrusiveness due to its similarity to the pre-existing word.[175] As the term is used now it is most closely related to the hip-hop scene in Atlanta, USA, since it was popularized by rappers from Atlanta called Young Thug and Future, after which the use of the term increased on social media platforms.[176]

Peeped (34.)

According to an entry in the Urban Dictionary, the slang term 'peeped' means to look at something or someone.[177] Merriam-Webster's offers a very similar definition, with the regular use of the word being 'to look at something or someone slyly or cautiously' and the slang definition being 'having a look at something', which are very similar and therefore cause the slang term to get a level two in Unobtrusiveness.[178] According to this dictionary, the first use of this word can be found in the fifteenth century when it meant 'to peer through a crack or a crevice.' Since the term is mentioned in both these dictionaries, it receives a level two in Frequency. Another entry in the Urban Dictionary states that the current slang use of the word 'peeped' became popularized by rappers Nicki Minaj and Drake in 2015.[179]

Boss (170.)

Dictionary.com defines the slang term 'boss' as a synonym for excellent, and explains that this term has been used as far back as the 1880s, and since the word already existed with a different meaning

[172] "No cap." *Dictionary.com*, 2019, https://www.dictionary.com/e/slang/no-cap/#:~:text=What%20does%20no%20cap%20mean,about%20something%20hard%20to%20believe. Accessed on 13th of May 2023.
[173] @Leelee. "No cap." *Urban Dictionary*, 2018, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=No%20cap. Accessed 13th of May 2023.
[174] Ibid.
[175] "Cap n.3." *Green's Dictionary of Slang*, 2023, https://greensdictofslang.com/entry/lpnjaia. Accessed on 13th of May 2023.
[176] "No cap." *Dictionary.com*, 2019, https://www.dictionary.com/e/slang/no-cap/#:~:text=What%20does%20no%20cap%20mean,about%20something%20hard%20to%20believe. Accessed 13th of May 2023.
Future & Young Thug. "No Cap." *YouTube*, uploaded by Young Thug, 2017, https://youtu.be/uTls33S9xbY. Accessed 13th of May 2023.
[177] @§Anonymous§. "Peeped." *Urban Dictionary*, 2021, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Peeped. Accessed 16th of May 2023.
[178] "Peep." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/peep. Accessed 16th of May 2023.
[179] @Flawless_babee. "Peeped." *Urban Dictionary*, 2018, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Peeped. Accessed 16th of May 2023.
Nicki Minaj ft. Drake, Lil Wayne, Chris Brown. "Only." *YouTube*, uploaded by Nicki Minaj, 2015, https://youtu.be/zXtsGAkyeIo. Accessed 16th of May 2023. (Line on minute 2:39).

attached to it, it gets a level two in Unobtrusiveness because it is so familiar.[180] The dictionary shows that the term 'boss' as a superlative became more used since the 1960s, and attributes its current success to hip-hop, with one of the earliest examples being rapper Ice Cube's song "Really Doe".[181] In 2001 rapper Slim Thug worked together with rapper E. S. G. on a collaboration called "I'm the Boss" which was later parodied by comedy music group *The Lonely Island* in 2009, causing the popularity of the term to spike and it to appear on Twitter as the humorous hashtag #likeaboss.[182] In agreement with the previously stated definitions, an entry in the Urban Dictionary states that the word 'boss' refers to something or someone being incredibly awesome or great.[183] Since the term is mentioned in both the Urban Dictionary and Merriam-Webster's the term receives a level two in Frequency.

Slaying (171.)

The slang term 'slaying', according to an entry in the Urban Dictionary, means that someone or something has succeeded in doing something amazing, and the similarity of this term to the pre-existing, albeit very different, word causes it to have a level two in Unobtrusiveness.[184] However, since this original meaning of the word is so very different, the slang variant has little chance of surviving, especially since it is so tied to fashion, a phenomenon that is notorious for its changeable nature, giving it a level zero for Endurance. The term is also mentioned in Merriam-Webster's, giving the term a level two in Frequency.[185] Dictionary.com states that it originates from the African American, Latinx and queer Ballroom scene — or Ballroom culture — an underground LGBTQIA+ subculture which features pageants for drag queens.[186] The term 'slay' was used to call one's performance and everything that entailed, so clothes, make-up, hair, and choreography, flawless and stunning. It then spread to other aspects of queer culture, and in 2009 the popular show *RuPaul's Drag Race* made the term even more popular, although Beyoncé made the term so popular it became mainstream in 2016.[187] The term has since been 'adopted' — or some would say 'appropriated' — and is featured across many different types of media and advertisements, giving it a level two in Diversity.

This ya boi (174.)

This slang phrase technically is composed of a few separate slang terms and trends. The first part, where only 'this' is used instead of 'this is' as would be grammatically correct, is possibly done to imitate AAVE. The omission of the copula 'be', in this case the form 'is', has been observed by

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[180] "Like a boss." *Dictionary.com*, 2023, https://www.dictionary.com/e/slang/like-a-boss/#:~:text=Boss%20has%20long%20meant%2C%20and,reaching%20back%20to%20the%201880s. Accessed 18th of May 2023.
[181] Ice Cube. "Ice Cube — Really Doe." *YouTube*, uploaded by Ice Cube / Cubevision, 2009, https://youtu.be/3ARlUrUReYg. Accessed 18th of May 2023.
[182] E.S.G., Slim Thug. "ESG & Slim Thug: I'm the Boss." *YouTube*, uploaded by BluntsvilleTxRadio, 2012, https://youtu.be/inf-vquFw1w. Accessed 18th of May 2023.
The Lonely Island. "Like A Boss (ft. Seth Rogen) — Uncensored Version — YouTube." *YouTube*, uploaded by thelonelyisland, 2009, https://youtu.be/NisCkxU544c. Accessed 18th of May 2023.
[183] @John. "Boss." *Urban Dictionary*, 2002, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=boss. Accessed 18th of May 2023.
[184] @tsant. "Slay." *Urban Dictionary*, 2013, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=slay. Accessed 18th of May 2023.
[185] "Slay." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/slay . Accessed 18th of May 2023.
[186] "Slay." *Dictionary.com*, 2018, https://www.dictionary.com/e/slang/slay/. Accessed 18th of May 2023.
[187] Beyoncé. "Beyoncé — Formation (Official Video)." *YouTube*, uploaded by Beyoncé, 2016, https://youtu.be/WDZJPJV__bQ. Accessed 18th of May 2023.

linguist William Labov to be a staple in AAVE, although some consider it a regionalism of the Southern states of America.[188]

The second part, 'ya' is easily explained as a shortened version of the word 'you' which was first recorded to be used in the early 1820s as a phonetic spelling of the word 'you' used in continuous rapid speech, according to Dictionary.com.[189] An entry in the Urban Dictionary agrees with this definition, stating that this abbreviated spelling of 'you' is used in both writing and speech.[190]

The third part, the slang term 'boi' is a misspelled or alternatively spelled version of the regular word 'boy', according to Dictionary.com.[191] Because these misspellings are easy to understand, the term receives a level one in Unobtrusiveness, but they are too noticeable for a level two. In the early 1990s the term was used by rapper Antwan André Patton as part of his stage name 'Big Boi', and later in the end of the 1990s the term started to refer to a more sensitive form of masculinity in the skateboarding scene.[192] There the term became used by women who identified as gay or queer, paving the way for qenderqueer and transgender people who presented as masculine to use the term as well in the 2000s, after which it got adopted by others in the LGBTQIA+ community, especially gay men. Starting from 2014, the term rose to popularity in Internet communities when a FunnyJunk user edited a news feature that later in 2016 inspired a famous meme on a Facebook page, and since the term is based on a meme, which is naturally ephemeral, it has a level zero in Endurance.[193] Even though the meme was loved by many, there are some who consider this meme and the newfound popularity of this term an appropriation of African American and queer culture.[194]

3.1.6 Over-explication

It may be observed in this case study that over-explication, or overly descriptive terms, are used to invoke a sense of humor and ridiculousness. One of the most extreme examples in the case study is slang term number 59 from sentence 19, which uses the phrase "on that one edge of the street that you feel like you could accidentally hit the elbow of your car on" to indicate the corner of a street (see Appendix A for full sentence and B for term). Though there were not many of these instances in the selected segments of the case study, the text as a whole does contain multiple, making it a pattern and worthy of a mention in this analysis.

A gross being (43.)

'A gross being' is not a specific slang term per se, but an example of the trend that was described above that is used to create a humorous — and often insulting — effect. This is also the reason it will not get rated for the FUDGE factors along with the other slang terms: no information is known on this term, and etymological research is therefore impossible, which means it would get a rating of zero for all factors.

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[188] Labov, William. *Language in the Inner City: Studies in the Black English Vernacular*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 1972.

[189] "Ya." *Dictionary.com*, 2023, https://www.dictionary.com/browse/ya. Accessed 20th of May 2023.

[190] @fjorab. "Ya." *Urban Dictionary*, 2003, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=ya. Accessed 20th of May 2023.

[191] "Boi." *Dictionary.com*, 2018, https://www.dictionary.com/e/slang/boi/. Accessed 20th of May 2023.

[192] Ibid.

[193] @tehbestever. "Dat Boi." *FunnyJunk*, July 2014, https://funnyjunk.com. Accessed 20th of May 2023. Fresh Memes About the Mojave Desert and Other Delectable Cuisines. "Here come dat boi!!!!!! / o shit waddup!" *Facebook*, April 3rd 2016, https://www.facebook.com/1800MemeCuisine/photos/pb.1023770657685865.-2207520000.1462843490./1063072477089016/?type=3&theater. Accessed 20th of May 2023.

[194] "Boi." *Dictionary.com*, 2018, https://www.dictionary.com/e/slang/boi/. Accessed 20th of May 2023.

3.1.7 Derived from Physical Sensations and Phenomena

This category deals with slang terms that are closely linked to physical attributes, sensations and phenomena, and that do not have a much deeper history than being a description of some physical act or feeling.

Straight up (32.)

The slang term 'straight up' is often used for emphasis, according to an entry in the Urban Dictionary, to convey that something is done honestly, exactly, or definitely, without making a mistake.[195] According to Merriam-Webster's the term 'straight up' comes from the way 'straight' was used to indicate that news or information came directly from a trustworthy source, and that one could assume that it was therefore true.[196] The addition of 'up' to the phrase might be related to how the phrase is used in relation to liquor, namely when a drink is served without being mixed with ice, so undiluted.[197] Since the term appears in both the Urban Dictionary and Merriam-Webster's, it receives a level two of Frequency. Green's Dictionary of Slang shows the term in this variety, 'straight up', has been used since 1860, specifically in a book called *The Season-ticket* by Thomas Chandler Haliburton, showing that it has high chances of enduring, giving in a level two for Endurance.[198]

Cringe (33.)

Merriam-Webster's defines 'cringe' as an adjective meaning embarrassing, used to indicate that something or someone is awkward.[199] It refers to the physical act of 'cringing', when one contracts one's muscles involuntarily, and since it is so tied to the original version of the word it is already well-known, causing it to have a level two for Unobtrusiveness. The Urban Dictionary therefore defines the term 'cringe' as a feeling of physical discomfort that is prompted without something physically happening to your body, usually by second-hand embarrassment.[200] Because the term appears in both the aforementioned dictionaries, it receives a level two for Frequency. Its current popularity came from the rise of 'cringe comedy' in the 2000s, with shows like *The Office* amassing enormous fame, and it is now mentioned in mainstream publications without any explanation, giving it a level two in Diversity.

Yikes (35.)

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[195] @Tarboy9. "Straight up." *Urban Dictionary*, 2015, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Straight%20up. Accessed 14th of May 2023.

[196] "Straight." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/straight. Accessed 14th of May 2023.

[197] "Straight-up." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/straight-up. Accessed 14th of May 2023.

[198] "Straight up adjec. 2." *Green's Dictionary of Slang*, 2023, https://greensdictofslang.com/entry/dqx3hpi. Accessed 14th of May 2023.
Haliburton, Thomas Chandler. *The Season-ticket*, 1860.

[199] "Cringe." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/cringe. Accessed 14th of May 2023.

[200] @Big_lad. "Cringe." *Urban Dictionary*, 2021, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Cringe. Accessed 14th of May 2023.

The slang term 'yikes' has been recorded in Merriam-Webster's to be used as an expression of fear and/or astonishment.[201] According to this dictionary, the term has been used since 1941, and is probably an alteration of the word 'yoicks' which was used as a cry of encouragement for hunting dogs since 1774, but because of the strangeness of the term it can only receive a level one for Unobtrusiveness.[202] The Urban Dictionary shows an entry from 2003, the earliest entry on this term in the Urban Dictionary, where 'yikes' was defined as a term used to show shock, alarm or extreme surprise.[203] There is even an entry in the Urban Dictionary on the phrase which is used in the case study, namely 'big yikes', which is stated to mean when something bad happens unexpectedly.[204] Since the term is mentioned in both the aforementioned dictionaries, it gets a level two in Frequency.

Honker (173.)

According to Merriam-Webster's the slang term 'honker' is used to refer to a very big nose.[205] Originally the term 'honker' simply refers to 'one who honks' which would mostly be geese, since the sound they make is called a 'honk', and the suffix '-er' is used to form nouns that designate persons or things from some special characteristic, circumstance, labor or place of origin.[206] If this was the meaning of the slang term, it could have achieved a level two in Unobtrusiveness. However, since the slang term has a different meaning, it loses a level in Unobtrusiveness, causing it to have only a level one. Since the term referred to geese, another word that became closely associated with it is 'beak', which can, visually, be compared to a very large nose, because both protrude from a face, making this word association a possible origin for the slang variant of the term. However, according to an entry in the Urban Dictionary, the term 'honker' that is used to describe a large nose is derived from the fake noses that clowns wear that make a honking sound when squeezed for comedic purposes.[207] A definitive origin of the slang variant of the term is not recorded, but since the term was mentioned in both the aforementioned dictionaries, it gets a level two in Frequency.

Fluffy factor (292.)

Although there is no official definition for this term, and the term therefore receives a level zero in Frequency, it seems to be composed of two separate aspects: 'fluffy' and 'factor'. Merriam-Webster's defines the word 'fluffy' as being light and soft or covered in fluff.[208] The word 'factor' is then defined by the Cambridge Dictionary as a fact that influences the result of something, so when those two words are put together they might come to mean that the amount of fluffiness, or softness, that someone has contributes to how they are perceived by others, or in other words: the factor of

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[201] "Yikes." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/yikes. Accessed 16th of May 2023.

[202] "Yoicks." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/yoicks. Accessed 16th of May 2023.

[203] @Kim (Matt's Girlfriend). "Yikes." *Urban Dictionary*, 2003, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=yikes. Accessed 16th of May 2023.

[204] @Callumthebestjames. "Big Yikes." *Urban Dictionary*, 2018, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=yikes&page=12. Accessed 16th of May 2023.

[205] "Honker." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/honker. Accessed 20th of May 2023.

[206] "Honker." *Collins Dictionary*, 2023, https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/honker. Accessed 20th of May 2023.

[207] @AnonymouslyManlyMan. "Honker." *Urban Dictionary*, 2011, https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=honkers&page=2. Accessed 20th of May 2023.

[208] "Fluffy." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/fluffy. Accessed 22nd of May 2023.

fluffiness one has influences one's appearance and vice versa.[209] The fact that this phrase is used in the context: "his fluffy factor was a "Oh hell no"" gives the impression that the subject in question could not in any way be considered soft or fluffy, and was in fact terrifying to look at. However, this is all just conjecture based on the context of the phrase and previous knowledge on the character that is being described. Since the actual phrase cannot be found on the Internet and it therefore achieved a level zero for all other factors because of this lack of information, and thus can be considered a product of the creativity of the anonymous contributors.

3.2 Comparison

In the process of marking all the slang terms in the case study, something that stood out was that many of the sentences had been changed. When comparing the two versions of the first chapter, it may be noted that instead of only inserting certain slang words or terms and keeping the rest of the sentence the same as the original, the fan-translation alters entire sentences to fit the slang terms better, and to have the rest of the text compliment them. Looking at this, a comparison may be made to the theory of translanguaging from chapter 1, in which the combining of two languages is not seen as abrupt changes or binary switches as with code-switching, but rather a smooth, integrated system that combines the two languages in a more fluid way.[210] The fact that the case study integrates the slang terms by changing the sentences and even the structure of the text instead of just dropping the terms into the original sentences, implies that translanguaging is more suited to a translation such as this than the more old fashioned theory of code-switching, since it shows that such terms cannot exist in a vacuum, and should not be studied in complete isolation. For example, in the case study, sentences 28 and 31 have been added purely to fit the slang terms that are mentioned in those sentences. In other words, those sentences do not exist in the original, and they have been added to create a more flowing, and slang filled, whole.

3.3 FUDGE Ratings

All of the aforementioned slang terms have been rated, and the full detailed accounts of the ratings can be found in Appendix C, but only the ones with the highest rating will be fully discussed in this chapter, since they are the most likely to succeed. Only one of the fifty-four terms got a rating of ten points, only two got a rating of nine points and only three a rating of eight. Although there were nine with a rating of seven and five with a rating of six, those shall not be discussed in detail here, since they have less chance of succeeding. This small number of high ranking terms implies a lack of semantic transparency and understandability in the slang terms, which is why one can argue that there is indeed a need for a translation of such extensive slang use. Metcalf's FUDGE scale can therefore illustrate the intelligibility of such slang terms, directly linking the ability to understand them to the need for translation.

The slang term 'cringe' has been found the most likely to succeed and become part of the regular American English vernacular, according to the FUDGE scale. The term achieved a level two on all five of the criteria of the FUDGE scale, which might be mostly credited to the fact that the slang meaning of the term is only a little bit different from the original meaning, making it very semantically transparent and intelligible, and to the fact that the term has connections to an actual

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[209] "Factor." *Cambridge Dictionary*, 2023, https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/factor. Accessed 22nd of May 2023.
[210] Canagarajah, S. "Translanguaging in the classroom: Emerging issues for research and pedagogy." *Applied Linguistics Review*, vol. 2, no. 1, 2011, pp. 1–28.
Garcia, O., & Li, W. *Translanguaging: Language, bilingualism and education*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

physical act, something that is not likely to fade away any time soon. The slang term 'cringe' is mostly related to second-hand embarrassment, either from one's own past or from the actions of other people around us, while its original meaning refers to the physical action of cringing, which can be caused by emotional stimulus — which is where the slang term comes from — or physical ones. These two definitions fit together well, and are very harmonious, which is why the slang term is very likely to just become part of the official or formal definition as well.[211]

The slang terms 'flexing' and 'called out' both received a rating of nine. The success of the term 'flexing' follows a very similar path as the term 'cringe': it is very closely related to a physical act, namely the act of flexing one's muscles, meaning that it probably would endure the test of time, and showing off or boasting can be easily linked to this official, physical definition, again making it very understandable and transparent. However, the category where this term lost a point was the Generation of new forms: the term does have a noun variant and a verb variant with some conjugations, but no adjective form. It could therefore not achieve a level two in this criteria, and not get a full ten points. As a personal opinion, this slang term does have a high likelihood to succeed and become part of the regular American English vocabulary, since it does follow most of the same lines as 'cringe', therefore making the same reasonings for its success apply here as well.

The term 'called out' also received a score of nine, but was thwarted by the Endurance factor. In the etymological research it became clear that other alternatives for the term had already been suggested, and the fact that such alternatives already exist even though the term itself is still relatively young proves that it might not be able to endure for a long time, thus giving it only a rating of one instead of two for Endurance. However, the concept of the term is here to stay, since it is important to hold people and larger institutions accountable for their words and actions. Besides, as a personal opinion, both the terms 'calling in' and 'calling out' should be able to exist side by side, since 'calling in', should be used in situations that require a slightly more emphatic touch, while 'calling out' should be used for more heinous situations that need a more aggressive tone of voice to achieve justice.

A semantically similar term to 'called out', namely 'cancelled', achieved a score of eight along with the terms 'clout' and 'straight up'. The term 'cancelled' lost points on both the Generation and Endurance factors, since it did not generate any forms besides a verb and a noun, and because recently, the act of 'cancelling' has been 'cancelled' by many, as it is often seen as too absolute, lacking nuance.[212] The fact that the slang term closely resembles the original meaning of the word, although that was used in different contexts with a slightly different meaning, does give it a leg up by making it more intelligible and transparent, thus keeping it in the running for a successful word.

The term 'clout' lost out on the Generation of other forms category where it lost two points because it is only ever used as a noun, and has therefore not generated any new forms. However, since the meaning of the slang variant is so similar to the original definition and thus semantically transparent, it still might have a chance to be merged with this original form and become a regular word in the American English vernacular.

The last slang term 'straight up' lost two points in the same way as 'clout' did, in the Generation of new forms factor. This slang term is also only used in this one form, as an adjective. Its connection to a physical act, namely to stand up straight or to walk in a straight line, or even in the context of liquor, is what gives this term the most chance of success, since such phenomena are easy to understand and not prone to fade away in time.

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[211] "Cringe." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/cringe. Accessed 26th of May 2023.
[212] Rakshit, Devrupa. "Cancel Culture Is Canceled. Meet Accountability Culture." *The Swaddle*, April 11th 2023, https://theswaddle.com/cancel-culture-is-canceled-meet-accountability-culture/. Accessed 26th of May 2023.

4. Conclusion

The six slang terms that are found to be the most likely to succeed and be accepted in the regular American English vernacular, are all terms that are very similar to their formal or official counterparts, both in appearance and in meaning.

My hypothesis that the slang terms that are more semantically transparent and intelligible are more likely to be understood, has thus proven to be correct: all six of the most likely to be successful terms are very similar to the words from which they originate which are already part of the American English lexicon. Only their meanings have been altered in the slang use, which is why it might be easier to accept those new meanings and have them merge in with the original definitions as well.

Metcalf stated that out of the five factors, the Unobtrusiveness factor is the most important.[213] The results of the analysis show that all six of the most successful terms have achieved the highest level for the Unobtrusiveness factor, which can be linked to intelligibility as well, thus proving that Metcalf's statement could very well be correct. Another factor that Metcalf states as more important than the others is the Endurance factor.[214] Both the terms 'called out' and 'cancelled' lost out on this category, and have, because of this, a lower chance of success despite their high score.

In conclusion, can this analysis of the slang terms and their origins explain how likely they are to be understood by someone who speaks regular American English? Would a text as this case study need to be translated for a speaker of regular American English to understand? As of now, a fan-translation into slang such as the case study still needs to be translated for speakers of regular American English. Too many of the terms only ever appeared in slang dictionaries such as the Urban Dictionary, and even the terms that seemed similar to the original, regular words that are accepted in the American English vernacular actually hold different meanings in slang use. The more semantically transparent and intelligible terms were proven to indeed have an advantage and thereby have a higher chance of being understood — and perhaps even to be accepted into the regular American English lexicon — but even those are still classified as slang and not regular American English terms. Therefore, for now at least, research such as this thesis might help people who are not as well-versed in the fast paced, ever-changing wordscape of current slang understand the humor and cleverness of such crowdsourced translation projects and all the meaning behind the slang.

4.1 Concluding Remarks

Even though there always is a risk of subjective opinions blending into the analysis with such research, some of the outcomes of the analysis and FUDGE ratings generated genuine surprise: many terms that I would've thought would be more viable turned out to only have very low ratings after the analysis was completed, like 'adulting' — only a score of seven — 'lowkey' — only six — and 'yote' — also seven. They still have a chance at success, since they are not completely in the low numbers, but they still achieved lower scores than I would have thought.

When comparing the FUDGE rating examples that Metcalf provides in his book and the ones in this thesis, it has to be noted that he is stricter in judging the new words than the terms in this thesis have been judged. Perhaps this is because he does not really elaborate on his judging techniques, and the rules and techniques that were stated in chapter 2 in this thesis were simply less constricting than his, but once the techniques in this thesis had been stipulated, they had to be followed to the end, even if they were not the same as Metcalf's personal rules. It is therefore important to acknowledge that the

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[213] Metcalf, Allan. Predicting New Words: The Secrets of Their Success. Houghton Mifflin, 2002, p. 167.
[214] Ibid. p. 184.

success of these six slang terms are still purely predictions, and that even though there is theory to support the reasoning behind these predictions, they are not at all certain.

Further research on this topic might also provide some insight to help explain the motivations of this Gen Z generation, and possibly even shed some light on the societal issues that they face and how they deal with them. While this thesis mainly focused on the linguistic and translational aspects of slang terms, the social aspects could perhaps also be a viable topic of study for future research.

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But incidents like these do beg the question: where are the resolutions against homophobic statements? For anti-blackness? For xenophobia? For a member saying he'll "send Obama home to Kenya?

In this administration + all others, we should actively check antisemitism, anti-blackness, homophobia, racism, and all other forms of bigotry.

And the most productive end goal when we see it is to educate and heal.

It's the difference btwn "calling in" before "calling out."" *Twitter*, March 5th 2019, 14.41, https://twitter.com/AOC/status/1102927183134277633?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweete mbed%7Ctwterm%5E1102927183134277633%7Ctwgr%5E7ae1791663feb3373fedbcd0a68b8b113dc 7ea89%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dictionary.com%2Fe%2Fcalling-in-vs-ca lling-out%2F. Accessed 26th of May 2023.

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Appendices

Appendix A

Harry Potter: The Gen Z Edition

— CHAPTER ONE —

(1.) THE BOY WHO WASN'T UNALIVED

(2.) Mr. and Mrs. Dursley, of number four, Privet Drive, liked flexing that they were very basic, thank u. (3.) Tbh they were the last people you'd think would be sus, because they were all fax no printer.

(4.) Mr. Dursley was adulting at a firm called Grunnings, which made drills.

(5.) He was a dummy thiccc (w/ three Cs) man with hardly any neck, although he had an absolute unit of a mustache. (6.) Mrs. Dursley was a total Karen with zero chill and had hella neck, which came in very useful when she was stalking her neighbors and not minding her own.

(7.) The Dursleys had a future incel of a son named Dudley who they thought was the main character. (8.) The Dursleys were mostly thriving, but they also had lowkey tea which didn't pass the vibe check

and their greatest fear was to get called out and cancelled. (8.) They were girlbossing too close to the sun and didn't think their clout could bounce back if their fam, the Potters, were revealed. (9.) Milf Lily Potter was Mrs. Dursley's sis, but Mrs. D had gone ghost; irl (no cap) Mrs. D fronted she didn't have a sis, because Lil and her deadbeat mans were straight up cringe. (10.) If the neighbors ever peeped the Potters, it'd be a big yikes. (11.) Lowkey the Dursleys knew the Potters had their own crotch goblin, too, but they'd never peeped. (12.) This bb was fr a solid reason 2 keep the in-laws yote; they didn't want Dudley mixing with a gross being like that.

(13.) When Mr. and Mrs. Dursley woke up on the dull, gray (fight me) Tuesday our lore opens, the cloudy overlay didn't vibe like strange and mysterious things would be happening all over the country. (14.) Mr. Dursley hummed as he picked out his most boring tie for work, and Mrs. Dursley spilled the tea as she was tryna put a screaming Dudley into his heckin high chair.

(15.) None of them noticed a chonky, tawny owl flutter past the window.

(16.) At half past eight, the chonklord that is Mr. Dursley picked up his briefcase, pecked Mrs. Dursley on the cheek, and tried to kiss Dudley goodbye but missed, because Dudley was losing it and yeeted his cereal at the walls. (17.) "Little Lad" chortled Mr. Dursley as he left the house. (18.) He got into his whip and backed out into the driveway of their basic asf house.

(19.) It was on that one edge of the street that you feel like you could accidentally hit the elbow of your car on that he noticed something sus –a cat popping off and reading a map. (20.) For a sec, Mr. Dursley didn't realize what he'd seen–then he jerked his head around to look again. (21.) There was a chonking tabby cat standing on the corner of Privet Drive, but there wasn't a map in sight. (22.) What could he have been thinking of? (23.) He must have accidentally picked up one of Mrs. Dursley's edibles that morning. (24.) Mr. Dursley blinked and stared at the chonking cat. (25.) It stared back. (26.) As Mr. Dursley drove around the corner and up the road, he watched the chonkers in his mirror. (27.) It was now reading the sign that said Privet Drive–no, *looking* at the sign; cats couldn't read maps or signs. (28.) Periodt. (29.) Mr. Dursley gave himself a little shake and put the chonkers out of his thinking-organ. (30.) As he drove toward the town he had no thonks, head empty, except for some drills he had to sell. (31.) *Let's get this L O A F*, he thought.

(32.) But on the edge of town, drills were yeeted out of his mind by something else. (33.) As he sat in the morning traffic jam starterpack, he couldn't help noticing that there seemed to be a lot of not-very-shady-at-all people about. (34.) People in cloaks. (35.) No cap. (36.) Mr. Dursley couldn't bear people who dressed in cheugy clothes — the getups you saw on young people! (37.) He supposed this was some stupid new fashion. (38.) He drummed his fingers on the steering wheel and his eyes fell on a huddle of these weirdos standing quite close by. (39.) They were whispering excitedly together. (40.) Mr. Dursley was enraged to see that a couple of them weren't young at all; why, that man had to be a boomer, and wearing an emerald-green cloak! (41.) The audacity of him! (42.) But then it struck Mr. Dursley that this was probably some silly stunt (a tiktok probs) — these people were obviously collecting for something… yes, that would be it. (43.) The traffic moved on and a few minutes later, Mr. Dursley arrived in the Grunnings parking lot, his mind back on drills. (44.) Mr. Dursley always sat with his back to the window in his office on the ninth floor. (45.) If he hadn't, he might have found it harder to concentrate on drills that morning. (46.) He didn't see the owls popping off in broad daylight, though people down in the street did; they pointed and gazed deceased as owl after owl sped overhead. (47.) Most of them had never seen an owl even at nighttime. (48.) Mr. Dursley, however, had a perfectly normal, owl-free morning. (49.) He had no chill and yelled at five

different people. (50.) He made several important telephone calls and shouted a bit more. (51.) He was in a very good mood until lunchtime, when he thought he'd stretch his legs and walk across the road to buy himself a bun from the bakery. (52.) He'd forgotten all about the people in cloaks until he passed a group of them next to the Starbucks. (53.) He took a beeg look at them with unhappy as he passed. (54.) He didn't know why, but they seemed kinda sus. (55.) This bunch were whispering excitedly, too, and he couldn't see a single GoFundMe donation tin. (56.) It was on his way back past them, clutching a large doughnut in a bag, that he caught a few words of what they were saying. (57.) "The Potters, that's right, that's what I heard —"

(58.)" — bet, their boi, Harry —"

(59.) Mr Dursley felt like he'd been ratioed irl. (60.) He looked back at the whisperers and wondered if he should @ them, but thought better of it. (61.) Even a girlboss has his weak moments… and anyway, there were plenty of people called Potter with moots called Harry. (62.) There was no point in worrying his discord kitten- her sister was on both their DNI lists.

(63.) During that day, emo thoughts kept dabbing across Mr Dursley's mind. (64.) He later left the building and nearly sister slammed into someone just outside his door.

(65.) "Naurrr," he grunted, as the man nearly fell. (66.) However, he didn't seem triggered at all- instead, the funky little dude pressed the slay button. (67.) "So true, bestie! (68.) Even Muggles like u should slayy today, when The Sussiest Of Bakas has been canceled at last!"

(69.) And then the old man hugged Mr Dursley (real) and headed off.

(70.) Mr Dursley couldn't even find it in him to yeah fortnite 10k we're about to go down babey. (71.) He hurried to his car and The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift—ed straight home.

(72.) As he pulled into the driveway the first thing he sister saw was the same chonk cat he'd seen in the morning, sitting on the wall.

(73.) "POV: You're on my DNI list," Mr Dursley spat at the cat as he walked inside.

(74.) His bae's day was swag asf. (75.) Dudley had learned to say "Naur" ("Just like his bestie!" cooed Mrs Dursley). (76.) When his fav oomf finally went afk, Mr Dursley went to the living room to watch sum news: "Last thing: birders everywhere are fighting for their lives right now. (77.) Them hooters hunt at night and avoid sunlight like nerds, but for some reason they've been invading our skies since sunrise. (78.) The science isn't science-ing." (79.) The newscaster smirked. (80.) "Weird af, bro. (81.) Now, Jim McGuffin, what that weather do, boyyyy? (82.) Anymore owl showers tonight?"

(83.) "Say less, Ted," said the weatherman, "Tbh, idk, but the birbs aren't the only weird today. (84.) Viewers as far apart as Kent, Yorkshire, and Dundee have been tweeting that instead of the rain I promised yesterday, the sky is having shooting stars! (85.) Maybe they're celebrating Bonfire Night early. (86.) It will actually rain tonight though, but it's about to be raining hands if mfs don't stop calling about these damn birds."

(87.) Mr. Dursley 404 error-ed in his armchair. (88.) Shooting stars? (89.) Owls waking up and choosing violence? (90.) Sus boomers dressed in renfaire outfits? (91.) And spilling tea bout the Potters…

(92.) Mrs. Dursley came into the living room carrying two cups of tea. (93.) It was no good. (94.) He'd have to say something to her. (95.) He cleared his throat nervously. (96.) "Er – Petunia, dear – you haven't heard from your sis of late, maybe?"

(97.) As he had expected, bc Mrs. Dursley looked like she ate a lemon. (98.) After all, they ghosted her sis.

(99.) "No," she said sharply. (100.) "Why?"

(101.) "Cringey crap on the news," Mr. Dursley mumbled. (102.) "Owls… shooting stars… and there were a lot of edgelords in town today…"

(103.) "And?" snapped Mrs. Dursley.

(104.) "Well, I just thought… maybe… it was something to do with … you know… *her* crew."

(105.) Mrs. Dursley sipped her tea through pursed lips. (106.) Mr. Dursley wondered whether he dared tell her that he'd heard the name "Potter." (107.) He decided he didn't dare. (108.) Instead he said, as casually as he could, "Their crotch goblin – he'd be about Dudley's age now, wouldn't he?"

(109.) "Bet," huffed Mrs. Dursley.

(110.) "What's his name again? (111.) Howard, isn't it?"

(112.) "Harry. (113.) Nasty, cringe name, if you ask me."

(114.) "Oh, yeah," Mr. Dursley's feels felt punched. (115.) "Legit."

(116.) He decided to stfu as they finna upstairs to catch some z's. (117.) While Mrs. Dursley took off her face, Mr. Dursley lurked in the bedroom window overlooking the front garden. (118.) The floof was still there. (119.) It was staring down Privet Drive as though it were waiting for something.

(120.) Was he imagining things? (121.) Could all this have anything to do with the Potters? (122.) If it did… if it got out that they were related to a pair of – they would totes be cancelled.

(123.) The Dursleys got into bed. (124.) Mrs. Dursley crashed but Mr. Dursley couldn't shake the intrusive thoughts. (125.) Finally he comforted himself that if the Potters *were* involved, there was no reason for them to invade the Dursley's space. (126.) The Potters knew very well that he and his bae thought they were cringe and wanted nothing to do with their shenanigans… (127.) He couldn't see how they could get all up in his business. (128.) They were probs safe and outta the way.

(129.) Hahahaha, nope.

(130.) Mr. Dursley was drifting off uneasily, but the floof outside was on high alert. (131.) Like a fuzzy statue with penetrating eyes, it stared unblinking at the far corner of Privet Drive. (132.) It showed superb chill as the world happened around it.

(133.) An ancient man appeared on the corner the cat had been protec on Privet Drive. (134.) He was tall, thin, and very old with a boss beard long enough to tuck into his belt. (135.) He was slaying in his long robes, a purple cloak that swept the ground, and high-heeled, buckled boots. (136.) His blu eyes were light, bright, and sparkling behind half-moon spectacles and his honker was long and crooked as though he had been punched in the face before. (137.) This ya boi, Albus Dumbledore.

(138.) Albus Dumbledore was super chill about the fact that he wasn't wanted on this street. (139.) He was busy doing a self body cavity search until he felt the gaze of the catto. (140.) He chuckled and muttered, "I should have known."

(141.) He found his query, a silver cigarette lighter, flicked it open and clicked it. (142.) RIP the nearest street lamp. (143.) Ya boi got click happy and plunged the street into darkness. (144.) Now the nosy Nancy neighbors could see nothing on the block. (145.) The old man waltzed down the street to chill with the cat.

(146.) "Sup, Prof McGonagall?"

(147.) He turned to smile at the tabby who was now a human with the air of a CEO serious business woman. (148.) She be wearing square glasses exactly the shape of the markings on the cat. (149.) Her lewk was on fleek with an emerald green cloak and black hair in a tight bun.

(150.) "How did you know it was me?" she asked.

(151.) "Prof, cat's don't look like they planking."

(152.) "Brick walls aren't comfy."

(153.) "Y u no party? (154.) There are like a dozen dank bangers I passed getting here."

(155.) Prof McGonagall sniffed angrily.

(156.) "Oh yes, everyone's celebrating all right. (157.) High-key Muggles noticed. (158.) It was on their idiot box. (159.) Flocks of birbs… shooting stars… Muggles have eyes. (160.) Shooting stars down in Kent – bet that was Dedalus Diggle. (161.) Smooth brain."

(162.) "You can't blame them," Dumbledore cooed. (163.) "This bull has been like 2020 for eleven years."

(164.) "Bet," said Prof McG irritably. (165.) "But that's no reason to lose our chill. (166.) People be like herp derp, strutting like peacocks in broad daylight, not even dressed in Muggle swag, sipping tea."

(167.) She threw a sharp, sideways glance at Dumbledore here, as though hoping he was going to tell her something, but he didn't so she went on. (168.) "A fine thing it would be if, on the very day You-Know-Who kicked rocks, the Muggles found out about us all. (169.) Did we really take a W?"

(170.) "Bet," said Dumbledore. (171.) "We have so much to be thankful for. (172.) Wanna lemon drop?"

(173.) "WTF?"

(174.) "A lemon drop. (175.) Muggle candy that is dank."

(176.) "Nope," Prof McG initiated ice queen mode. (177.) "Even if You-Know-Who has stepped off-"

(178.) "Girl, names are a thing. (179.) That trash is called Voldemort." (180.) Prof McG flinched but homeboi was unsticking lemon drops and gave no fucks. (181.) "Chillax, it's just a name."

(182.) "Bet," Prof McG was exasperated but eyeing Dumbldore like a snacc. (183.) "But you're the only one who could make Voldemort salty."

(184.) "Flattery will get you everywhere. (185.) Voldemort did have moves, though." (186.) Dumbledore said calmly.

(187.) "Fr you do, too, but you don't flex."

(188.) "You make me blush."

(189.) Prof McG shot Dumbledore a sharp look and said, "The birbs are nothing next to this tea they be sipping. (190.) Legit what they say has me shook."

(191.) Prof McG had obvi got to the tea she was most hyped to spill, the real reason she had been vibing on a cold, hard wall all day, for neither as a floof nor as a woman had she looked as high-key invested as she did now. (192.) It was obvi that whatever "everyone" was saying, she wasn't gonna buy it until Dumbledore told her there was no cap. (193.) Homeboi, however, was choosing another lemon drop and didn't answer.

(194.) "What they're *saying*," she pressed on, " is that last night Voldemort spawned in Godric's Hollow. (195.) He went to find the Potters. (196.) And that he unalived Lily and James Potter!"

(197.) Dumbledore sadded. (198.) Prof McG gasped.

(199.) "Lily and James… (200.) What the heck… (201.) I can't even… (202.) Oh, Albus…"

(203.) Dumbledore reached out and patted her on the shoulder. (204.) "I'm shook, too."

(205.) Professor McGonagall's voice was shook as she went on. (206.) "That's not all. (207.) They are saying he tried to unalive their son, Harry Potter, but he took an L and his power broke – and that's why he's gone."

(208.) Dumbledore nodded glumly.

(209.) "Legit?" faltered Professor McGonagall. (210.) "After all he's done, he failed to unalive a babin and shm how did Harry survive?"

(211.) "We can only guess," said Dumbledore. (212.) "We may never know."

(213.) Prof McG wiped her eyes and got out her hand sanitizer. (214.) Dumbledore gave a great sniff as he took a bussin' watch from his pocket and checked it. (215.) It was a very sus watch. (216.) It had twelve hands but no numbers; instead, little planets were moving around the edge. (217.) It must have made sense to Dumbledore, though, because he put it back in his pocket and said, "Hagrid's late. (218.) I bet he's the one who told you I'd be here, btw?"

(219.) "Bet," said Prof McG. (220.) "And I don't suppose you're going to tell me *why* you're here of all places?"

(221.) "I've come to bring Harry to his aunt and uncle. (222.) They're the only fam he has left now."

(223.) "You don't mean – you *can't* mean these Karens?!" cried Prof McG, jumping to her feet and pointing at number four. (224.) "Dumbledore – you can't. (225.) I have been watching them all day. (226.) These basic fools aren't in the Same WhatsApp group! (227.) And their spawn – I saw him kicking his mother all the way up the street screaming for sweets. (228.) Harry Potter come and live here?!"

(229.) "It's the best place for him," said Dumbledore firmly. (230.) "His aunt and uncle will be able to explain everything to him when he's older. (231.) I've written them a letter."

(232.) "A *letter*?" repeated Prof McG faintly, sitting down on the wall. (233.) "Fr, Dumbledore, you think you can explain all this in a letter? (234.) These people will never understand him! (235.) He'll be famous – legendary – I wouldn't be shook if today was known as Harry Potter Day in the future – there will be books written about Harry – every child in our world will know his name!"

(236.) "Bet," said Dumbledore, looking super serious through his specs. (237.) "It would be enough to go to anyone's head. (238.) An influencer before he can walk and talk! (239.) Famous for something he won't even remember! (240.) Can't you see how much better off he'll be, growing up away from all that until he's ready to take it?"

(241.) Prof McG made fish faces like she was going to say something but thought better. (242.) She composed herself then said, "Bet, ikr. But how is the boy getting here, Dumbledore?" (243.) She eyed his cloak suddenly as though she thought he was transporting the babin.

(244.) "Hagrid's bringing him."

(245.) "You think it big brain to trust Hagrid with something as important as this?"

(246.) "I would trust Hagrid with my life," said Dumbledore.

(247.) "His heart is G.O.A.T.," said Prof McG grudgingly, "but you can't pretend he's not an airhead. (248.) He does tend to - what was that?"

(249.) A *vroom vroom* sound broke the silence around them. (250.) It grew steadily louder as they looked up and down the street for some sign of a headlight; it swelled to a roar as they both looked up at the sky - a huge motorcycle fell out of the air and landed on the road in front of them.

(251.) If the motorcycle was huge, it was nothing compared to the beast of a man straddling it. (252.) He was almost twice as tall as a normal man and had some major BDE (big dick energy). (253.) His fluffy factor was a "Oh hell no" and so wild - long tangles of bushy black hair and beard hid most of his face, he had hands the size of hubcaps, and his feet in their leather boots were like baby dolphins. (254.) In his vast, muscular arms he was holding a bundle of blankets.

(255.) "Hagrid," said Dumbledore, sounding relieved. (256.) "Finally. (257.) Where'd you get the ride?"

(258.) "Borrowed it, Professor Dumbledore, sir," said the giant, gently disembarking from the bike. (259.) "Young Sirius Black lent it to me. (260.) I've got him, sir."

(261.) "Any issues?"

(262.) "Nope - house was almost destroyed, but I got him out all right before the Muggles started swarmin' around. (263.) He took a napper as we was flyin' over Bristol."

(264.) Dumbledore and Prof McG bent forward over the bundle of blankets. (265.) Inside, just visible, was the babin, sleepin. (266.) Under a tuft of jet-black hair over his forehead they could see a sus af cut, shaped like a bolt of lightning.

(267.) "Is that where-?" whispered Prof McG.

(268.) "Bet," said Dumbledore. (269.) "He'll have that scar forever."

(270.) "Cantcha fix it, Dumbledore?"

(271.) "Yeah, but no. (272.) Scars come in handy. (273.) I have one on my knee that is totes a map of the London Underground. (274.) Well - gimme, Hagrid - let's get this over with."

(275.) Dumbledore took Harry in his arms and turned toward the Dursley's house.

(276.) "Could I - could I say bye to him, sir?" asked Hagrid. (277.) He bent his great, shaggy head over Harry and gave him what must have been a very scratchy, whiskery kiss. (278.) Then, suddenly, Hagrid let out a noise like a wounded pupper.

(279.) "STFU" hissed Prof McG, "you'll wake the normies!"

(280.) "S-s-s-sowwy," sobbed Hagrid, taking out a large spotted handkerchief and burying his face in it. (281.) "But I c-c-can't stand it - Lily an' James unalived - an' an' poor lil' Harry off ter live with Muggles -"

(282.) "Yeah, no, yeah, tragic, but control yourself, Hagrid, or we'll be found," Prof McG whispered, patting Hagrid gently on the arm as Dumbledore stepped over the low garden wall and walked to the front door. (283.) He laid Harry gently on the doorstep, took a letter out of his cloak, tucked it inside Harry's blankets, and then came back to the other two. (284.) For a full minute the three of them stood and looked at the little bundle; Hagrid's shoulders shook, Prof McG blinked furiously, and the twinkling light that usually shone from Dumbledore's eyes seemed to have gone out.

(285.) "Whelp," said Dumbledore, finally, "that's that. (286.) Time to dip. (287.) We may as well go party hearty."

(288.) "Yeah," said Hagrid in a very muffled voice, "Finna give Sirius back his ride. (289.) G'night, Prof McG - Professor Dumbledore, sir."

(290.) Wiping his streaming eyes on his jacket sleeve, Hagrid swung himself onto the motorcycle and kicked the engine into life; with a roar it rose into the air and off into the night.

(291.) "See ya soon, G," said Dumbledore, nodding to her. (292.) Prof McG blew her nose in reply.

(293.) Dumbledore walked off into the night. (294.) On the corner he stopped and took out the silver Put-Outer. (295.) He clicked it once, and twelve balls of light sped back to their street lamps so that Privet Drive glowed suddenly orange and he could make out a tabby cat slinking around the corner at the other end of the street. (296.) He could just see the bundle of blankets on the step of number four.

(297.) "Gl, Harry," he murmured. (298.) He spun on his heel, swished his cloak, and vanished into the night.

(299.) A breeze ruffled the neat hedges of Privet Drive, super basic even under the stars, the very last place you would expect astonishing things to happen. (300.) Harry Potter cuddled up inside his blankies, sleepin soundly. (301.) One smol hand closed on the letter beside him and he slept on, not knowing he was special, not knowing he was famous, not knowing he would be woken in a few hours' time by Mrs. Dursley's scream as she opened the front door to put out the milk bottles, nor that he would spend the next few weeks being prodded and pinched by his cousin Dudley… (302.) He couldn't know that at this very moment, peeps meeting in secret all over the county gettin lit and saying in hushed voices: "To Harry Potter - the boy who wasn't unalived."

Copied on: 13th of December 2022

Appendix B

List of Slang Terms

1. Unalived
2. flexing
3. basic
4. u
5. Tbh
6. sus
7. all fax no printer
8. adulting
9. dummy thiccc (w/ three Cs)
10. an absolute unit
11. a Karen
12. zero chill
13. hella
14. incel

15. the main character
16. lowkey
17. tea
18. the vibe check
19. called out
20. cancelled
21. girlbossing too close to the sun
22. clout
23. fam
24. Milf
25. sis
26. Mrs. D
27. gone ghost
28. irl
29. no cap
30. Lil
31. mans
32. straight up
33. cringe
34. peeped
35. a big yikes
36. Lowkey
37. crotch goblin
38. Peeped
39. bb
40. fr
41. 2
42. yote
43. a gross being
44. fight me
45. lore
46. vibe
47. spilled the tea
48. tryna
49. heckin
50. chonky
51. the chonklord
52. losing it
53. yeeted
54. Little Lad
55. his whip
56. basic
57. asf
58. on that one edge of the street that you feel like you could accidentally hit the elbow of your car on
59. sus
60. popping off
61. For a sec

62. chonking
63. edibles
64. chonking
65. the chonkers
66. Periodt.
67. the chonkers
68. his thinking-organ.
69. no thonks, head empty,
70. Let's get this L O A F
71. yeeted
72. the morning traffic jam starterpack
73. a lot of not-very-shady-at-all people
74. No cap
75. cheugy
76. a boomer
77. a tiktok
78. probs
79. popping off
80. gazed deceased
81. no chill
82. a beeg look at them with unhappy
83. kinda
84. sus
85. bet
86. boi
87. he'd been ratioed
88. irl
89. @ them
90. a girlboss
91. moots
92. his discord kitten
93. DNI lists
94. emo
95. dabbing
96. sister slammed
97. Naurrr
98. the funky little dude
99. the slay button
100. bestie
101. u
102. slayy
103. The Sussiest Of Bakas
104. canceled
105. real
106. to yeah fortnite 10k we're about to go down babey
107. The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift—ed
108. sister saw
109. chonk

110. POV:
111. His bae's
112. swag
113. asf
114. Naur
115. bestie!
116. fav
117. his oomf
118. afk
119. sum
120. birders
121. Them hooters
122. nerds
123. The science isn't science-ing
124. af
125. bro
126. what that weather do, boyyyy?
127. Say less
128. Tbh
129. idk
130. birbs
131. tweeting
132. raining hands
133. mfs
134. 404 error-ed
135. waking up and choosing violence
136. Sus
137. boomers
138. renfaire outfits
139. spilling tea
140. bout
141. sis
142. bc
143. ghosted
144. sis
145. Cringey crap
146. edgelords
147. her crew
148. crotch goblin
149. Bet
150. cringe
151. his feels
152. Legit
153. stfu
154. finna
155. to catch some z's
156. took off her face
157. The floof

158. totes
159. cancelled
160. crashed
161. his bae
162. cringe
163. get all up in his business
164. probs
165. outta the way
166. Hahahaha, nope
167. the floof
168. chill
169. protec
170. boss
171. slaying
172. blu
173. his honker
174. This ya boi
175. chill
176. a self body cavity search
177. catto
178. RIP
179. Ya boi
180. got click happy
181. the nosy Nancy neighbors
182. chill
183. Sup
184. Prof McGonagall
185. the air of a CEO serious business woman
186. She be wearing
187. Her lewk
188. on fleek
189. Prof
190. they planking
191. comfy
192. Y u no party
193. dank
194. bangers
195. Prof
196. High-key
197. idiot box
198. birbs
199. Smooth brain
200. This bull
201. like 2020 for eleven years
202. Bet
203. to lose our chill
204. be like
205. herp derp

206. swag
207. sipping tea
208. kicked rocks
209. take a W
210. Bet
211. Wanna
212. WTF
213. dank
214. Nope
215. Prof McG
216. initiated ice queen mode
217. has stepped off
218. Girl
219. That trash
220. Prof McG
221. homeboi
222. gave no fucks
223. Chillax
224. Bet
225. Prof McG
226. eyeing Dumbldore like a snacc
227. salty
228. have moves
229. Fr
230. flex
231. Prof McG
232. birbs
233. this tea they be sipping
234. Legit
235. has me shook
236. Prof McG
237. obvi
238. the tea
239. hyped
240. to spill
241. vibing
242. floof
243. high-key
244. obvi
245. wasn't gonna buy it
246. no cap
247. Homeboi
248. spawned
249. unalived
250. sadded
251. Prof McG
252. What the heck
253. I can't even

254. I'm shook
255. was shook
256. unalive
257. took an L
258. Legit
259. unalive
260. babin
261. shm
262. Prof McG
263. her hand sanitizer
264. gave a great sniff
265. bussin'
266. sus
267. btw
268. Bet
269. Prof McG
270. fam
271. Karens
272. Prof McG
273. basic
274. aren't in the Same WhatsApp group
275. spawn
276. Prof McG
277. Fr
278. wouldn't be shook
279. Bet
280. specs
281. An influencer
282. Prof McG
283. made fish faces
284. Bet
285. ikr
286. the babin
287. You think it big brain
288. G.O.A.T.
289. Prof McG
290. an airhead
291. BDE (big dick energy).
292. fluffy factor was a "Oh hell no"
293. nope
294. took a napper
295. Prof McG
296. the babin
297. sleepin
298. sus
299. af
300. Prof McG
301. Bet

302.　　Cantcha
303.　　Yeah, but no.
304.　　totes
305.　　gimme
306.　　pupper
307.　　STFU
308.　　Prof McG
309.　　normies
310.　　S-s-s-sowwy
311.　　unalived
312.　　Yeah, no, yeah, tragic,
313.　　Prof McG
314.　　Prof McG
315.　　Whelp
316.　　Time to dip
317.　　go party hearty
318.　　See ya soon, G
319.　　Prof McG
320.　　Gl
321.　　super basic
322.　　blankies
323.　　sleepin
324.　　smol
325.　　peeps
326.　　gettin lit
327.　　unalived

Appendix C

Terms with FUDGE Ratings

Slang words rated through the FUDGE scale

A small disclaimer must be made: only the 53 selected slang terms have been given a rating through the use of the FUDGE scale as invented by Alan Metcalf. From this list not all were analyzed as well, since number 36 - 'lowkey' - and 38 - 'peeped' - were repetitions of earlier slang terms, namely 16 and 34, and were thus already analyzed. Number 26 - 'Mrs. D', abbreviation of the name 'Mrs. Dursley' - number 30 - 'Lil', abbreviation of the name 'Lily' - and number 172 - 'blu', abbreviation of the word 'blue' - were also skipped, since they are not entirely slang terms, but simply examples of a recurring slang trend in this case study of abbreviating words to create a satirical effect. Number 43 - 'a gross being' - was skipped for the same reason, because it was also not exactly a slang term but more of an example of a recurring trend: the over-explication and exaggeration of subjects for a satirical effect.

(1.) Unalived	**Frequency**: level 1 Appears in the Urban Dictionary only, although the literal (non-slang) meaning also appears in Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 1 Exists of already existing words in the English lexicon, but the change of an adjective to a verb feels a bit unnatural to pronounce. **Diversity**: level 0 The term is only ever used on social media by a certain group of people. **Generation**: level 1 Some different forms have been created, such as 'unalive' and 'unalived', but not many. Barely above a level 0. **Endurance**: level 2 The concept of social media and digital communication is definitely here to stay, which means that the algorithms that dictate such spaces will stay as well. Censorship is only getting worse, with the US trying to implement laws that will allow even further censorship on social media platforms. Rating: 5 out of 10
(2.) Flexing	**Frequency**: level 2 The term can be found in both the Urban Dictionary as Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 2 The term already existed with a different meaning, though the new meaning can be seen as related, or at least as a rather natural change from the original. **Diversity**: level 2 The word is shown in both marketing and newspaper articles, both without further

	explanation on the meaning of the term.[215] **Generation**: level 1 Both noun and verb forms, like ' a flex', 'flexing', 'flexed', but not adjective and adverbs. However, almost a level 2. **Endurance**: level 2 Bragging will always be a part of human nature, and since 'flexing' comes from 'flexing one's muscles' which is a physical act that even animals do to impress others, it is not likely to fade away. Rating: 9 out of 10
(3.) Basic	**Frequency**: level 1 Can only be found in the Urban Dictionary, not in Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 2 Already existing word, and the new meaning is even incredibly similar to the old, namely ordinary, mainstream, compared to the older meaning of plain and simple. **Diversity**: level 1 The term does appear in publications, but often with a description or definition attached to the use of the term. [216] **Generation**: level 0 There have been no generations of new forms for this term. It is only ever used in the same way, namely as an adjective or adverb. **Endurance**: level 1 While the base of the term 'basic' is strong and will probably endure, the slang version might not, since it has strong negative connotations and is not truly used as a neutral descriptor, but

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[215] St. Felix, Doreen. "How Pusha T's "The Story of Adidon" Visciously Undercuts Drake's Celebrity." *The New Yorker*, June 1st 2018, https://www.newyorker.com/culture/cultural-comment/how-pusha-ts-the-story-of-adidon-viciously-undercuts-drakes-celebrity. Accessed 24th of May 2023.
Kirkland, Justin. "An Egg Has Poached the Most Liked Instagram Post Title from Kylie Jenner." *Esquire.com*, January 14th 2019, https://www.esquire.com/news-politics/a25889815/egg-instagram-kylie-jenner/. Accessed 24th of May 2023.
[216] Alter, Charlotte. "How Conformity Became a Crime." *Time.com*, April 30th 2014, https://time.com/77305/how-conformity-became-a-crime/. Accessed 24th of May 2023.
Ryan, Erin Gloria. "The United States of Basic Bitches: A Map and Field Guide." *Jezebel*, June 30th 2014, https://jezebel.com/the-united-states-of-basic-bitches-1575949216. Accessed 24th of May 2023.

	more as a slur or an insult. Rating: 5 out of 10
(4.) U	**Frequency**: level 1 This abbreviation for the word 'you' is mentioned in the Urban Dictionary but not in Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 1 Single letter words are certainly not common, but amount the personal pronouns it would fit in the best, since a word like 'I' is also counted among those. Not entirely unobtrusive, since it is still not common, but reasonably acceptable in the context in which it is used. **Diversity**: level 0 This term is only ever used in informal communication, mostly digital, and never in any other more formal types of written communication. **Generation**: level 0 There are no other forms of this word. **Endurance**: level 2 As long as there is written digital communication, this shorthand for the word 'you' would probably still exist, since it is very practical and saves much time and character space. Rating: 4 out of 10
(5.) Tbh	**Frequency**: level 2 Appears in both the Urban Dictionary and Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 0 Acronyms are often very obtrusive, since they are often capitalized mid-sentence, or, in this case, a collection of consonants without any vowels, which is not normal for words and may create some cognitive dissonance when reading. **Diversity**: level 0 This term is only regularly used in informal digital communication, and not in other more formal publications. **Generation**: level 0 There are no other forms of 'tbh'.

	Endurance: level 1 Although the term is a very practical shorthand, with the rise of voice to text technology, such acronyms would probably be fully written down. The character limit that many social media platforms and digital communication sites had is also often being expanded, for instance in Twitter's case. Rating: 3 out of 10
(6.) Sus	**Frequency**: level 2 The slang term 'sus' appears in both the Urban Dictionary and Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 2 As an abbreviation of an already existing word, it gives a familiar feeling, since most people are familiar with the word 'suspicious', and thus 'sus' might seem natural as well. **Diversity**: level 2 The term appears in multiple publications without accompanying explanations.[217] **Generation**: level 0 There are no other forms of this word. **Endurance**: level 1 The concept behind this word probably will be able to endure, which gives the term at least a level 1, however the full, unabbreviated version of the word, namely 'suspicious' could also be the version that survives, so it cannot achieve a full level 2. Rating: 7 out of 10
(7.). All fax no printer	**Frequency**: level 1 This term only has an entry in the Urban Dictionary, not Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 0 Phrases might have a higher chance of being obtrusive than a single word because they need to be fitted within a sentence, and more words equal more space that needs to be opened up in

[217] Findlay, Shannen. "Prison time, park monopoly and prostate cancer: What you need to know before you watch Tiger King 2." *MamaMia.com*, November 17th 2021, https://www.mamamia.com.au/tiger-king-2/. Accessed 24th of May 2023.
Roberts, Amy. "Flight or fight." *ParkRecord.com*, November 2nd 2021, https://www.parkrecord.com/opinion/columns/amy-roberts-flight-or-fight/. Accessed 24th of May 2023.

	the sentence, thus more disruption. **Diversity**: level 0 The term is not used outside of slang. **Generation**: level 1 The word 'fax' is also used apart from this phrase as a synonym for the word 'facts'. **Endurance**: level 0 Fax machines are already not being used anymore, in fact, they have not been used for a while already. The newest generations will not remember them at all, therefore the term has little to no chance of surviving. Rating: 2 out of 10
(8.) Adulting	**Frequency**: level 2 The term appears in both the Urban Dictionary and Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 2 Since the word 'adult' already existed, and that the new version simply got turned into a verb instead of a noun, with the slang meaning undergoing the same process, the term is very familiar, and is not very obtrusive. **Diversity**: level 1 The term is used in some publications, but always with an accompanying explanation.[218] **Generation**: level 1 The slang term does have some conjunctions as a verb, but not any other forms, unless we count the original word from which the slang term is derived. **Endurance**: level 1 The fear of growing up and not knowing exactly what to do might be a regular part of life, therefore giving the term a greater chance to endure. However, the term has become closely linked to Millenials and Gen Z, which implies that there is definitely an expiration date attached to the term. Rating: 7 out of 10

[218] Williams Brown, Kelly. *Adulting: How to Become a Grown-Up in 468 Esy(ish) Steps*. Grand Central Publishing, 2013.
Steinmetz, Katy. "This Is What 'Adulting' Means." *Time.com*, June 8th 2016, https://time.com/4361866/adulting-definition-meaning/. Accessed 24th of May 2023.

(9.) Dummy thiccc (w/ three Cs)	**Frequency**: level 1 The term only appears in the Urban Dictionary, not Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 0 The term does not blend in, especially because it is spelled with three Cs, which is unusual, and because the meaning of 'dummy' is not easily linked with a similar word people might already know. **Diversity**: level 0 The term is only used on social media with informal slang connotations. **Generation**: level 0 There are no generations of new forms for this term. **Endurance**: level 1 Perhaps voluptuous women will always exist, and it is very probable that there will always be men who feel the need to mention such aspects, since they have existed for all of known history. However, whether or not this term will be used to address such physical attributes is not certain, because many such terms exist. Rating: 2 out of 10
(10.) An absolute unit	**Frequency**: level 1 The term is only mentioned in the Urban Dictionary, not Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 1 Not one of the words used in this phrase is newly invented, making them all familiar and easy to adopt into regular vernacular. However, as was mentioned in the previous discussion of 'All fax, no printer', phrases do have an inherent obtrusiveness when they need to be used in a sentence, so the term cannot rise to a level 2. **Diversity**: level 1 Does appear in some publications, but only with elaborate explanations attached to its use.[219] **Generation**: level 0 There are no other forms of this term.

[219] Petrarca, Emilia. "Why Is 'Absolute Unit' a Menswear Meme?" *The Cut*, February 8th 2018, https://www.thecut.com/2018/02/absolute-unit-meme.html. Accessed 24th of May 2023.

	Endurance: level 2 There will always be exceptionally large objects compared to other relatively smaller objects. Rating: 5 out of 10
(11.) A Karen	**Frequency**: level 1 This term only appears in the Urban Dictionary, not in Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 2 Because 'Karen' is a fairly regular name, at least in English, it will not stand out too much, and the addition of the article 'a' makes it clear that the term does not just refer to a person named 'Karen' but that 'a Karen' also mean something other than the name. **Diversity**: level 1 The term does appear in publications, but always with an accompanying explanation.[220] **Generation**: level 0 There is no other form for this term, it is only ever a noun. **Endurance**: level 0 The popularity of names changes through time, which means that a time could come in which no one is named Karen anymore, and the name itself becomes extinct and unknown. This is only more likely to happen since the name has become a slur. Who will now name their child Karen, when it is an insult? Very low chance of survival. Rating: 4 out of 10
(12.) Zero chill	**Frequency**: level 1 Only the Urban Dictionary has an entry on this term, Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary does not. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 1 The use of a number like 'zero' might disrupt the familiarity of the term a bit. If it was 'no chill' perhaps the term would feel more natural. 'Chill' however is already an accepted word in

[220] Nagesh, Ashitha. "What exactly is a 'Karen' and where did the meme come from?" *BBC News*, July 31st 2020, https://www.bbc.com/news/world-53588201. Accessed 25th of May 2023.
Hunt, Elle. "What does it mean to be a 'Karen'? Karens explain." *The Guardian*, May 13th 2020, https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2020/may/13/karen-meme-what-does-it-mean. Accessed 25th of May 2023.

	the English lexicon, so it should have no trouble being used. **Diversity**: level 0 This term is only ever used in slang, not in more formal publications. **Generation**: level 0 There have been no other forms generated for this term. **Endurance**: level 1 The term 'chill' in itself does have a relatively high chance to endure, since its primary definition, namely something cool or of low temperature, has a very physical connection to its slang meaning, namely to be 'cool' and calm. Therefore it does achieve a level 1, but the addition of 'zero' makes it sound a bit less grammatically correct and therefore more like a slang term, which makes it more difficult for the term to be accepted into the regular vernacular, since it might make the term sound more rough and unsophisticated. Rating: 3 out of 10
(13.) Hella	**Frequency**: level 2 Recorded in both the Urban Dictionary and Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 1 The term is very similar to the already accepted semi-curse word 'hell', which makes it possible to be accepted. However, the addition of the letter 'a' at the end of the well-known word 'hell' makes the word sound more foreign and unfamiliar, making it more obtrusive. So only level 1. **Diversity**: level 1 The word is used in advertisements and even shows up in publications, but only with explanations on the definition attached.[221] **Generation**: level 1 There is only one other form of this term, namely an adjective. **Endurance**: level 1 The term has admittedly grown in popularity,

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[221] Eghan, Adizah. "The Origins of 'Hella'." *KQED*, November 17th 2016, https://www.kqed.org/news/10649552/the-origins-of-hella. Accessed 25th of May 2023.

	since it was first only used in and around the Bay Area, but is now known and used in many if not all places in America. However, since the term 'hell of a' is also still used, this term has not replaced the longer version of itself yet, and therefore might never do so. Rating: 6 out of 10
(14.) Incel	**Frequency**: level 2 Appears in both the Urban Dictionary and Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 2 The original version of this term 'INVCEL' would not have risen above a level 0, since the abundance of consonants in the acronym would make for a difficult pronunciation. However, since the term has changed to 'Incel' the amount of consonants versus vowels is far more balanced, and because 'in' is a known and familiar prefix, the term itself seems - perhaps falsely - familiar as well. **Diversity**: level 1 The term is used in multiple publications, but it still requires explanation when it is mentioned.[222] **Generation**: level 0 There are no other forms of this term. It is only used to refer to a very specific phenomenon. **Endurance**: level 2 Because this phenomenon will not cease to exist in the following years or decades, the term has a high level of endurance. However, since it does refer to a very specific phenomenon, it is not very likely to become part of someone's daily vernacular. Rating: 7 out of 10
(15.) The main character	**Frequency**: level 1 The term is only mentioned in the Urban Dictionary, not Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 1

[222] Griffin, Jonathan. "Incels: Inside a dark world of online hate." *BBC News*, August 13th 2021, https://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-trending-44053828. Accessed 25th of May 2023.
Willingham, A. J. "What does the term 'Incel' mean?" *CNN*, March 16th 2023, https://edition.cnn.com/2023/03/16/us/incel-involuntary-celibate-explained-cec/index.html. Accessed 25th of May 2023.

	None of the words in this term are unfamiliar or foreign sounding, which makes it blend in. However, it is a relatively long phrase to put into a sentence since it is composed out of multiple words, which makes it stand out a bit. Therefore it cannot rise to a full level 2. **Diversity**: level 0 It is only ever used as slang. **Generation**: level 0 There are no other forms of this term. **Endurance**: level 1 The self-centeredness that this term refers to is something that might not go away anytime soon, but there also is no definitive proof that it might be staying. Rating: 3 out of 10
(16.) Lowkey	**Frequency**: level 2 The term is mentioned in both the Urban Dictionary and Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 2 Composed out of words that already existed, with a strong physical connotation connected to it - the lower pitches of sound - makes the term more familiar and natural, and therefore less obtrusive. **Diversity**: level 0 The term is only ever used as a slang term. **Generation**: level 1 Since the term has generated another slang term which means the opposite, namely 'highkey'. **Endurance**: level 2 The need to keep things restrained, moderate, secret or subtle is probably not going away in the coming years. Rating: 7 out of 10
(17.) Tea	**Frequency**: level 1 The term is only mentioned in the Urban Dictionary, not Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 2 The term is derived from an already existing

	word, so it is very familiar and unobtrusive. **Diversity**: level 1 The term is used in titles and puns, so almost as a form of advertisement, but not in more formal publications.[223] **Generation**: level 1 The term does not have many forms per se, but it is used in many different phrases like: 'spill the tea', 'that's the tea', 'that tea is piping hot', and 'the tea has been spilled.' **Endurance**: level 2 Gossip is not something that will suddenly blink out of existence, and part of the nature of gossip is a form of secrecy, which means that it might need a sort of code word instead of saying gossip, which is why 'tea' is such a good alternative, since it also has its regular literal meaning and could mean both. Rating: 7 out of 10
(18.) The vibe check	**Frequency**: level 1 The term is only recorded in the Urban Dictionary, not Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 1 The term consists of already existing words, but the word 'vibe' is very noticeably informal, making it stand out. **Diversity**: level 0 The term is only ever used as a slang term. **Generation**: level 1 This term is both a noun and a verb, meaning that it did generate some new forms. **Endurance**: level 0 This phenomenon refers to - mostly - violently keeping another person in check after one has found the other's actions and/or emotions wanting. Such an action rarely if ever happens in real life, and is used more as a figure of speech in digital conversations. It therefore does not really refer to real life occurrences, and is

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[223] Farvardin, Farja. "Realitea." *RTL Boulevard*, March 29th 2023, https://www.rtlboulevard.nl/reality/bundel/5371779/realitea. Accessed 25th of May 2023.
Spill the Tea Magazine. *Spilltheteamag.com*, https://www.spilltheteamag.com. Accessed 25th of May 2023.

	not very durable. Rating: 3 out of 10
(19.) Called out	**Frequency**: level 2 Appears in both the Urban Dictionary and Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 2 The term consists of already existing words in the English lexicon and also refers to a physical act that is easy to relate to, therefore making it very familiar. **Diversity**: level 2 The term is used in publications without further explanation.[224] **Generation**: level 2 The term has multiple forms as a verb - 'calling out', 'called out' - and also a noun form - 'a callout'. **Endurance**: level 1 While holding people and institutions responsible for their - bad - behavior, actions and words is hopefully here to stay, already there have been other versions of this term been emerging, like 'calling in' which is a gentler form of 'calling out' with more suggestions for better behavior and support for doing better in the future. So not a full level 2, since it is already partially replaced with another term, granted a very similar one. Rating: 9 out of 10
(20.) Cancelled	**Frequency**: level 2 The term appears in both the Urban Dictionary and Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 2 The term is very similar to 'canceled' - and sometimes used interchangeably - which was an already existing and regular term, and the meanings of both terms are also incredibly similar.

[224] Chitrakorn, Kati. "Are beauty influencer brands falling out of fashion?" *Vogue Business*, January 12th 2023, https://www.voguebusiness.com/beauty/morphe-item-beauty-addison-rae-selfless-hyram-beauty-influencer-brands. Accessed 25th of May 2023.
Coggan, Devan & Greenblatt, Leah. "The best and worst moments of the 2023 Oscars." *Entertainment Weekly*, March 13th 2023, https://ew.com/awards/oscars/best-and-worst-moments-oscars-2023/. Accessed 25th of May 2023.

	Diversity: level 2 The term is used without introduction in publications.[225] **Generation**: level 1 The term has generated some new forms, but not many: 'canceled' and 'cancel culture', so both a verb and a noun. **Endurance**: level 1 While this term might have seemed successful a few years ago, the term is already on the outs, with 'canceling' being 'canceled.' It was seen by many as too aggressive and absolute, with no room for nuance or context, which is why it is already used far less as a few years ago. Rating: 8 out of 10
(21.) Girlbossing	**Frequency**: level 1 The term can only be found in the Urban Dictionary and not Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 1 Because both the words 'girl' and 'boss' are well-known words in the English lexicon, this term receives a level 1. However, since 'bossing' is not an already accepted verb and the addition of 'girl' does nothing to clarify the meaning of the word, it cannot if-Ulysses be seen as familiar, thus cannot receive a level 2. **Diversity**: level 1 The term is mentioned in publications, but only in the context of slang, so always with an explanation attached.[226] **Generation**: level 1 The term has generated both a verb and a noun form, namely 'girlbossing', 'girlbossed' and

[225] Mahdawi, Arwa. "New York magazine's 'Canceled at 17' isn't just an article - it's ammunition." *The Guardian*, June 23rd 2022, https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/jun/23/new-york-magazine-article-canceled-at-17. Accessed 25th of May 2023.
Mishan, Ligaya. "The Long and Tortured History of Cancel Culture." *New York Times*, December 3rd 2020, https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/03/t-magazine/cancel-culture-history.html. Accessed 25th of May 2023.
[226] Waldeck, Sabine. "The Toxicity of Girlbossing." *The Berkeley Beacon*, January 26th 2022, https://berkeleybeacon.com/the-toxicity-of-girlbossing/. Accessed 25th of May 2023.
Worden, Erica. "The Rise and Fall of the 'Girllboss'." *The Women's Network*, January 6th 2022, https://www.thewomens.network/blog/the-rise-and-fall-of-the-girlboss. Accessed 25th of May 2023.

	'girlboss.' **Endurance**: level 0 Since the term is mostly used as an insult now, it no longer has as much endurance. Rating: 4 out of 10
(22.) Clout	**Frequency**: level 2 The term appears in both the Urban Dictionary and Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 2 Since the term originates from an already existing word, though the meaning changed, it would be more familiar. **Diversity**: level 2 The term is used in publications without explanations accompanying the use.[227] **Generation**: level 0 There are no other forms of this term. **Endurance**: level 2 Since the meaning of the formal version and the informal version of this term are practically the same, with only some very small deviations, the ability to hold power and influence will not disappear any time soon, and therefore this term has high endurance. Rating: 8 out of 10
(23.) Fam	**Frequency**: level 2 The term appears in both the Urban Dictionary and Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 2 Since the term is visually simply an abbreviation of the word 'family' it seems very familiar and unobtrusive. **Diversity**: level 0 The term is only ever used as a slang term. **Generation**: level 0

[227] Glaze, Virginia. "RiceGum hits back at claims of 'clout chasing' after releasing apology video." *Dexterto.com*, January 12th 2019, https://www.dexerto.com/entertainment/ricegum-hits-back-at-claims-of-clout-chasing-after-releasing-apology-video-281332/. Accessed 25th of May 2023.
Machado Silva, Heslley. "Will Creationism Continue to Flurish in Brazil?" *Scientific American*, May 12th 2023, https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/will-creationism-continue-to-flourish-in-brazil/. Accessed 25th of May 2023.

	There are no other forms of this slang term. **Endurance**: level 2 As long as people have families, which is pretty likely to continue, and as slang as abbreviations continue to be used, likewise, this term has a high endurance. Rating: 6 out of 10
(24.) Milf	**Frequency**: level 2 The term appears in both the Urban Dictionary and Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 1 For an acronym, the balance between consonants and vowels is relatively good, making it not very strange and obtrusive. However, it does not resemble any word already in the English lexicon, which makes it unfamiliar and therefore unable to achieve a level 2. **Diversity**: level 0 The term is only ever used as a slang word. **Generation**: level 0 There are no other forms of this term. **Endurance**: level 0 Because the word is relatively vulgar, it has less chance to endure and be accepted into the regular English vernacular. Rating: 3 out of 10
(25.) Sis	Frequency: level 2 The term appears in both the Urban Dictionary and Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. Unobtrusiveness: level 2 The term is simply an abbreviation of the already existing word 'sister' which means that it will be easier to accept into the English vernacular since it is very familiar. Diversity: level 2 The term is used in publications without further

	explanation.[228] Generation: level 0 There are no other forms of this term. Endurance: level 1 Familial and friendly ties between biological sisters and very close female friends might always be linked with each other. The term 'sis' being used to refer to people other than biological sisters is therefore pretty likely. Rating: 7 out of 10
(27.) Ghosting	**Frequency**: level 2 The term appears in both the Urban Dictionary and Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 2 The term is composed out of an already existing and accepted word, namely 'ghost', and the '-ing' form which makes it a verb, also a familiar way of making a word a verb. All in all, a seemingly familiar term. **Diversity**: level 1 The term is used in publications, but is usually accompanied by an explanation.[229] **Generation**: level 1 There are many conjunctions of the verb that were generated, but no other forms. **Endurance**: level 1 Due to the use of digital communication, 'ghosting' someone has become a relatively normal occurrence, since it is possible to only talk to someone in an online format. Digital communication will not cease to exist any time

[228] Gomez, Jasmine ; Aloian, Addison & Tandon, Neha. "74 Best Gift Ideas For Your Sister In 2023, From Unique Gifts To Luxurious Ones." *Women's Health Magazine*, May 11th 2023, https://www.womenshealthmag.com/life/a19944763/gifts-for-your-sister/. Accessed 25th of May 2023.
Miranda, Carolina A. "Datebook: Art about play, colorful yarn paintings, shows of abstraction and boogeymen." *Los Angeles Times*, August 11th 2016, https://www.latimes.com/entertainment/arts/miranda/la-et-cam-datebook-lamag-fowler-museum-20160810-snap-story.html. Accessed 25th of May 2023.
[229] Tait, Amelia. "What psychology is revealing about 'ghosting' and the pain it causes." *New Scientist*, April 20th 2022, https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg25433833-600-what-psychology-is-revealing-about-ghosting-and-the-pain-it-causes/. Accessed 25th of May 2023.
Bonos, Lisa. "Ghosting is normal now. That's completely bonkers." *The Washington Post*, February 13th 2020, https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/2020/02/13/ghosting-is-normal-now-thats-completely-bonkers/. Accessed 25th of May 2023.

	soon, and 'ghosting' probably will not either. However, already similar terms have been invented as well, like 'zombieing' for instance, proving that the term might not be incredibly stable. Rating: 7 out of 10
(28.) Irl	**Frequency**: level 2 The term appears in both the Urban Dictionary and Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 0 The abbreviation is a jarring collection of letters that could not spell out a word, therefore it is very obtrusive. **Diversity**: level 1 The term is used in publications sometimes without further explanation, but sometimes also with a short definition attached.[230] **Generation**: level 0 There are no other forms of this term. **Endurance**: level 2 As long as digital communication persists, it will form a contrast with 'analogue' or in real life communication, which is why a term like 'irl' will probably endure. Rating: 5 out of 10
(29.) No cap	**Frequency**: level 1 This term can only be found in the Urban Dictionary, not Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 2 Both words are already parts of the English lexicon, and therefore very familiar and unobtrusive. **Diversity**: level 0 This term is only used as slang. **Generation**: level 1 Besides the noun version of this term, there is

[230] Löwenstein-Jensen, Fiona. "It's Fine to Never Meet IRL." *Wired*, February 23rd 2023, https://www.wired.com/story/cyberintimacy-covid-health/. Accessed 25th of May 2023.
Low, Samantha. "Why IRL streaming in Japan is 'not for the faint of heart'." The Japanese Times, May 4th 2023, https://www.japantimes.co.jp/life/2023/05/04/digital/livestreaming-japan-cdawgva-shibuya-kaho/. Accessed 25th of May 2023.

	also the verb, namely 'capping', a synonym for 'lying' that is used in slang. **Endurance**: level 0 Since 'lie' is already a very short word, this slang term probably has no real chance of replacing it, even though the concept of lying will probably exist for a very long time. Rating: 4 out of 10
(31.) Mans	**Frequency**: level 1 This term can only be found in the Urban Dictionary, not Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 0 The word 'man' is a very well-known word for obvious reasons, but the grammatical incorrectness of this term, even though that is on purpose, is very jarring, and thus has a very obtrusive effect. **Diversity**: level 0 This term is only used as slang. **Generation**: level 0 There are no other forms of this term. **Endurance**: level 0 Since this term is a way of referring to a person, it might seem like it would endure, but because there are already many other ways of doing so without the obtrusive effect as described above, this term will not likely stay one of them. Rating: 1 out of 10
(32.) Straight up	**Frequency**: level 2 The term appears in both the Urban Dictionary and Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 2 The words of this term are already part of the English lexicon, and they also have a strong physical connotation that people can relate to, making the term seem both familiar and natural. **Diversity**: level 2 The term is used in titles and puns in publications and brand names without further

	explanation.[231]
	Generation: level 0 There are no other forms of this term.
	Endurance: level 2 The term does have a strong connection with a physical sensation and phenomenon, which does give it a stronger level of endurance. It also has a strong connection to other sayings like: 'give it to me straight' or 'going straight.' Rating: 8 out of 10
(33.) Cringe	**Frequency**: level 2 The term appears in both the Urban Dictionary and Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 2 The word from which this slang term originates is the same, which means that it is already accepted in the regular English lexicon. The slang meaning is also connected to the original meaning, which is a physical sensation, meaning that the term is both familiar and natural, earning it a level 2. **Diversity**: level 2 The term is used in publications without further explanation on the definition.[232] **Generation**: level 2 This term has generated multiple forms, with 'a cringe' existing alongside 'cringing', 'cringed' and 'cringy.' **Endurance**: level 2 Since the slang term is derived from the original word that refers to a physical act that is caused by an emotional state, the term is not likely to fade away. Rating: 10 out of 10

[231] *Straight-Up News*. *Facebook*, August 12th 2020, https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/news-site/Straight-Up-News-105954907887685/. Accessed 25th of May 2023.
"Straight Up Health: Managing mental and physical wellbeing during 3rd wave of COVID-19." *Global News*, April 5th 2021, https://globalnews.ca/tag/straight-up-health/. Accessed 25th of May 2023.
[232] Williams, Alex. "That's so Cringe! Why is everyone suddenly so embarrassed for everyone else?" *The New York Times*, April 11th 2021, https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/11/style/cringe-explainer.html. Accessed 25th of May 2023.
Jones, Daisy. "Please, No More Embracing Your Cringe." *British Vogue*, January 24th 2023, https://www.vogue.co.uk/arts-and-lifestyle/article/embrace-cringe. Accessed 25th of May 2023.

(34.) Peeped	**Frequency**: level 2 The term appears in both the Urban Dictionary and Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 2 The word 'peep' is already a part of the English lexicon; it just holds a different meaning than this slang variant. Nonetheless, this means that the slang term 'peeped' does seem familiar, which makes it unobtrusive. **Diversity**: level 0 This term is only ever used as a slang term. **Generation**: level 1 There are multiple conjunctions for this verb that were generated like 'peep', 'peeped' and 'peeping.' **Endurance**: level 1 Because the term does have a strong physical connotation, it might be able to persevere. Rating: 6 out of 10
(35.) Yikes	**Frequency**: level 2 The term appears in both the Urban Dictionary and Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 1 Although the word itself might seem unfamiliar and foreign, the fact that it is supposed to be an expression of fear or shock permits a certain sense of strangeness. So the fact that it is an interjection makes the jarring effect more purposeful, and therefore its obtrusive nature is somewhat allowed. **Diversity**: level 2 The term is used in publications without further explanations on the defintion.[233] However, it should be noted that these publications are not very formal, and the use of this interjection to express emotion in a text does give an unprofessional and more informal appearance.

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[233] Murtaugh, Taysha. "This Is the Paint Color You Should Use If You Want Your Home to Sell." *Country Living*, June 1st 2017, https://www.countryliving.com/home-design/color/a43350/best-paint-colors-for-selling-house/. Accessed 25th of May 2023.
Brodsky, Samantha. "Tattoo Artist Proposes to His Girlfriend in the Riskiest Way Ever." *Good Housekeeping*, July 5th 2017, https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/relationships/news/a44975/tattoo-artist-proposes-girlfriend-riskiest/. Accessed 25th of May 2023.

	Generation: level 0 There are no other forms of this term. **Endurance**: level 1 Phonetically, this term does provide a good expression of fear or shock. Unfortunately, many other such interjections exist, so it is not very clear whether this one would survive time. Rating: 6 out of 10
(37.) Crotch goblin	**Frequency**: level 1 This term can only be found in the Urban Dictionary, not Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 1 Although both words are part of the English lexicon, one of this might be considered a vulgar term - 'crotch' - and therefore stands out, while the other refers to a folk tale, a fantasy creature, which is also fairly obtrusive. Thus this term could never achieve a level 2. **Diversity**: level 0 This term is only ever used as a slang term. **Generation**: level 0 This term has no other forms. **Endurance**: level 0 There are many offensive terms that can be used to refer to a child, and this one is not even that well used during the height of its popularity. Therefore the term has no high level of endurance. Rating: 2 out of 10
(39.) Bb	**Frequency**: level 1 This term can only be found in the Urban Dictionary, not Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 0 The two consonants together without any vowels do not create a comfortable word. It is therefore jarring, and cannot achieve a higher level of unobtrusiveness. **Diversity**: level 0 The term is only ever used as slang and shorthand in digital communications.

	Generation: level 0 This term has no other forms. **Endurance**: level 1 As long as digital communication require shorthand for faster messages, a term such as this will persevere. However, because of the rise of voice to text technology, such shorthand might not be used as often anymore in the future. Therefore it cannot become a level 2. Rating: 2 out of 10
(40.) Fr	**Frequency**: level 1 This term can only be found in the Urban Dictionary, not Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 0 The two consonants together without any vowels do not create a comfortable word. It is therefore jarring, and cannot achieve a higher level of unobtrusiveness. **Diversity**: level 0 The term is only ever used as slang and shorthand in digital communications **Generation**: level 0 There are no other forms of this term. **Endurance**: level 1 As long as digital communication require shorthand for faster messages, a term such as this will persevere. However, because of the rise of voice to text technology, such shorthand might not be used as often anymore in the future. Therefore it cannot become a level 2. Rating: 2 out of 10
(41.) 2	**Frequency**: level 0 This term can be found in neither the Urban Dictionary or Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 0 Using a number in the middle of a sentence without it referring to anything is very jarring and unnatural. **Diversity**: level 0 The term is only ever used as slang and shorthand in digital communications

	Generation: level 1 This term is used in multiple ways to supplement 'to' ot 'too', such as '2nite' or '2day'. **Endurance**: level 1 As long as digital communication require shorthand for faster messages, a term such as this will persevere. However, because of the rise of voice to text technology, such shorthand might not be used as often anymore in the future. Therefore it cannot become a level 2. Besides, such a term could only ever be used in written communication. Rating: 2 out of 10
(42.) Yote	**Frequency**: level 2 This term can be found in both the Urban Dictionary and Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 1 Since the word is an entirely newly invented term, it cannot achieve a level 2 due to its foreignness. However, this version and its other forms do follow the grammatical rules of English, making it sound natural. **Diversity**: level 2 The term is used in publications without any further explanation about its definition.[234] However, such publications are not very formal, and the term is used to create a humorous effect. **Generation**: level 1 The term 'yeet' has generated many conjunctions like 'yeeting', 'yote' and 'yeets'. **Endurance**: level 1 The term has a strong connection with the physical act of throwing something, and using it as an exclamation, which is why it does have a strong base. Unfortunately it cannot be a level 2, since more such exclamations exist and this term does not have a monopoly on the

[234] Morin, Natalie. "Space & The City: Kim Cattrall Is Going To The Moon." *Refinery29*, June 17th 2021, https://www.refinery29.com/en-us/2021/06/10532684/kim-cattrall-going-to-space-nasa-troll. Accessed 25th of May 2023.
Welsh, Caitlin. "The Ideal Solution To Twitter Trolls: Twitter teases the ability to edit other people's Tweets." *Mashable*, June 15th 2021, https://mashable.com/tech/4916/het-ideale-antwoord-op-twitter-trollen-twitter-teaset-de-mogelijkheid-om-tweets-van-andere-mensen-te. Accessed 25th of May 2023.

	phenomenon. Rating: 7 out of 10
(169.) Protec	**Frequency**: level 1 The term can only be found in the Urban Dictionary, not Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 2 Since the word is almost exactly the same as the original version from which it is derived, namely 'protect', in both spelling and meaning, it is very familiar, and is not obtrusive. **Diversity**: level 0 The term is only ever used as a slang term. **Generation**: level 0 The term has no other forms, although it does have an alternative spelling: 'protecc' instead of 'protec.' **Endurance**: level 0 Since the original version is just as good, if not better at portraying the exact same thing, just without the humor, this term does not have a high chance of persevering. Rating: 3 out of 10
(170.) Boss	**Frequency**: level 2 The term appears in both the Urban Dictionary and Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 2 The term is spelled exactly the same as the noun version which has already be accepted into the English lexicon, making this new adjective form familiar and unobtrusive. **Diversity**: level 0 The term is only used as a slang term. **Generation**: level 0 There are no other forms of this specific version of the term. **Endurance**: level 0 Words that describe whether and object or person is 'excellent' or 'cool' are plenty, and there is no real indication why a term like 'boss' would replace such already well-known terms.

	Rating: 4 out of 10
(171.) Slaying	**Frequency**: level 2 The term appears in both the Urban Dictionary and Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 2 The word is both based on an already existing word - 'slaying' also exists with a different meaning connected to it - and its conjunctions follow the rules of the English language. It is therefore familiar and natural, and can receive a level 2. **Diversity**: level 2 The term is used in publications without further explanation needed on its definition.[235] However, it must be noted that these publications are not very formal. **Generation**: level 1 The verb has generated multiple conjunctions like 'slay', 'slaying', 'slayed.' **Endurance**: level 0 As the term is based on fashion and has no contextual connection to the original word and its original meaning, no connections to physical phenomena to support it, and also the fact that the term has had other slang meanings in the past makes it very unlikely that the term will endure with its current slang meaning. Rating: 7 out of 10
(173.) Honker	**Frequency**: level 2 The term appears in both the Urban Dictionary and Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 1 The term does seem familiar enough to fit in with the English lexicon, and if the more traditional meaning of the term would be followed, namely 'one who honks', then this term could achieve a level 2, since the suffix

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[235] Sun, Rebecca. "'Blackish' Star Yara Shahidi on Michelle Obama's #BlackGirlMagic: "She Slays It All"." *The Hollywood Reporter*, December 12th 2016, https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/lifestyle/lifestyle-news/blackish-star-yara-shahidi-michelle-obamas-blackgirlmagic-she-slays-all-955041/. Accessed 25th of May 2023.
Kearney, Quinn. "Ariana Grande Is Barely Recognizable On Her First Grammys Red Carpet: Everybody has to start somewhere, right?" *MTV.com*, February 7th 2015, https://www.mtv.com/news/qfzeox/ariana-grande-2011-grammys-red-carpet. Accessed 25th of May 2023.

	'-er' can imply a person who does a specific thing, like how a player is someone who plays a game - play + er. However, since the term refers to a large nose, the term loses a level of unobtrusiveness specifically because of this then wrongful association. **Diversity**: level 2 The term is used in publications without further explanation on the definition.[236] However, please note that the publications are not very formal. **Generation**: level 0 There are no other forms of this term besides its noun form. **Endurance**: level 1 Since the term has a strong connection to a physical phenomenon, namely the similarity between bird beaks and big noses, or the honking sound of a clown's nose, the term does have a reasonable chance of endurance. However, this will only last as long as either geese or clowns exist, or at least as long as either of those continue to portray the 'honking' characteristics that connect this term to them. Rating: 6 out of 10
(174.) This ya boi	**Frequency**: level 1 (though 'ya' meaning 'you' is a level 2) The full term can only be found in the Urban Dictionary, not Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. (The term 'boi' cannot be found in Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary) **Unobtrusiveness**: level 1 Because both the spelling and the grammar rules of English were broken in this term, it can never achieve a level 2. But since the words are still recognizable enough, with 'boi' and 'boy' being very similar, 'ya' being a phonetic spelling used in casual conversations, and the 'is' that is missing from the grammatically incorrect structure can be forgiven since 'this' already contains 'is' phonetically, the term still receives a level 1.

[236] Rivenburg, Roy. "Fabio Survives Goose Encounter, but Take a Gander at His Honker." *Los Angeles Times*, April 9th 1999, https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1999-apr-09-cl-25542-story.html. Accessed 26th of May 2023.
Seitz, Dan. "Master odor removal with a little help from science." *Popular Science*, March 10th 2021, https://www.popsci.com/remove-any-odor/. Accessed 26th of May 2023.

	Diversity: level 0 The term is only ever used as a slang term. **Generation**: level 0 There are no other forms of this term. **Endurance**: level 0 Since the term is based on a meme, and memes being notoriously ephemeral, this term cannot get a high level in endurance. Rating: 2 out of 10
(186.) Be wearing	**Frequency**: level 0 The term is not mentioned in the Urban Dictionary or in Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 1 Both words are already part of the English lexicon, and the grammatical incorrectness of the structure is not jarring enough to give it a level 0, but it is for this reason that it can also not get a level 2. **Diversity**: level 1 This sort of sentence structure is used by African American demographics, so large numbers of people, since it is part of AAVE, as has been recorded by linguists.[237] **Generation**: level 1 The word 'be' can be paired with many other verbs in the same kind of structure, but there are not any other forms of this kind of term. **Endurance**: level 1 Since it is part of AAVE, and has been for a while, this term will probably survive in that vernacular. However, if it will survive in the general American English vernacular is less sure, since it is technically grammatically incorrect, and therefore might seem less sophisticated, something that people might want to avoid. Rating: 4 out of 10
(187.) Lewk	**Frequency**: level 2 The term appears in both the Urban Dictionary

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[237] Labov, William. *Language in the Inner City: Studies in the Black English Vernacular*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 1972.

	and Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 1 Phonetically the term is similar enough to the original word which it is based off, namely 'look', which is why it is granted a level 1. The strange spelling however makes it unfamiliar enough that it can never achieve a level 2. **Diversity**: level 0 The term is only used by specific groups of people in specific circumstances. **Generation**: level 0 The term has not generated any new forms. **Endurance**: level 0 Since the term is only used by specific people in specific circumstances, it does not really have a real chance of enduring. Rating: 3 out of 10
(188.) On fleek	**Frequency**: level 2 The term appears in both the Urban Dictionary and Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 1 The words seem to correspond with regular words of the English lexicon: 'on' is already an existing word, but 'fleek' is unfamiliar, and therefore hinders the term from achieving a level 2. **Diversity**: level 1 The term is mentioned in publications, but only in the context of internet posts.[238] **Generation**: level 0 There are no other forms of this term. **Endurance**: level 0 There is already a shorter alternative to describing something as perfect, and that's 'perfect', which is why a term such as this, being longer and more unfamiliar, will probably

[238] Gajjar, Saloni. "Asian Twitter, Black Twitter joke about Harris' disapproving auntie vibe." *NBC News*, October 8th 2020, https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/asian-twitter-black-twitter-joke-about-harris-disapproving-auntie-vibe-n1242583. Accessed 26th of May 2023.
Baldwin, Kristen. "Here's the *real* story behind the fake reality show *Influencer Lagoon*." *Entertainment Weekly*, March 16th 2022, https://ew.com/tv/behind-fake-reality-show-influencer-lagoon-topher-grace-interview/. Accessed 26th of May 2023.

	not endure. Rating: 4 out of 10
(291.) BDE (Big Dick Energy)	**Frequency**: level 1 The term only appears in the Urban Dictionary, not Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 0 This acronym would insert mid-sentence capitalization, which would disturb the flow of the sentence. Not only that, but the placement of two consonants that usually do not go together, so not like 'th' or 'ch', is also very jarring. The whole term is therefore very obtrusive. **Diversity**: level 0 The term is only used in slang, and when it is mentioned in an article it needs extra explanation, and it is only ever mentioned as a slang term.[239] **Generation**: level 0 There are no others forms of this term. **Endurance**: level 0 As a term that is purely used for slang, and a rather vulgar one at that, and that references a phenomenon that is very newly invented and also very much slang based, it does not have a high chance of enduring. Rating: 1 out of 10
(292.) Fluffy Factor	**Frequency**: level 0 The term is not mentioned in the Urban Dictionary or in Merriam-Webster's English Dictionary. **Unobtrusiveness**: level 2 Both words that this term consists of are already part of the English lexicon, and therefore are very familiar. **Diversity**: level 0 This term is not even well used in slang: perhaps just the concoction of one of the contributors to the case study.

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[239] Capon, Laura. "Ariana Grande referenced Pete Davidson's "BDE" in her 'thank u, next' video." *Cosmopolitan*, December 2nd 2018, https://www.cosmopolitan.com/uk/entertainment/a25370191/ariana-grande-pete-davidson-big-dick-energy-thank-u-next-video/. Accessed 26th of May 2023.

	Generation: level 0 This term has generated no other forms. **Endurance**: level 0 Since the term is not even recorded in the Urban Dictionary, it is not even known by a few, and a term must be known to survive. However, both fluffiness and factors are concepts that most users of English would understand, so perhaps it does not need to be recorded in a dictionary to be understood. It still does not represent a known concept though, and therefore probably will not endure. Rating: 2 out of 10

Appendix D

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling, 1999.

— CHAPTER ONE —

(1.) The Boy Who Lived

(1.) Mr. and Mrs. Dursley, of number four, Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much. (2.) They were the last people you'd expect to be involved in anything strange or mysterious, because they just didn't hold with such nonsense.
(3.) Mr. Dursley was the director of a firm called Grunnings, which made drills. (4.) He was a big, beefy man with hardly any neck, although he did have a very large mustache. (5.) Mrs. Dursley was thin and blonde and had nearly twice the usual amount of neck, which came in very useful as she spent so much of her time craning over garden fences, spying on the neighbors. (6.) The Dursleys had a small son called Dudley and in their opinion there was no finer boy anywhere.
(7.) The Dursleys had everything they wanted, but they also had a secret, and their greatest fear was that somebody would discover it. (8.) They didn't think they could bear it if anyone found out about the Potters. (9.) Mrs. Potter was Mrs. Dursley's sister, but they hadn't met for several years; in fact, Mrs. Dursley pretended she didn't have a sister, because her sister and her good-for-nothing husband were as unDursleyish as it was possible to be. (10.) The Dursleys shuddered to think what the neighbors would say if the Potters arrived in the street. (11.) The Dursleys knew that the Potters had a small son, too, but they had never even seen him. (12.) This boy was another good reason for keeping the Potters away; they didn't want Dudley mixing with a child like that.
(13.) When Mr. and Mrs. Dursley woke up on the dull, gray Tuesday our story starts, there was nothing about the cloudy sky outside to suggest that strange and mysterious things would soon be happening all over the country. (14.) Mr. Dursley hummed as he picked out his most boring tie for work and Mrs. Dursley gossiped away happily as she wrestled a screaming Dudley into his high chair. (15.) None of them noticed a large tawny owl flutter past the window.
(16.) At half past eight, Mr. Dursley picked up his briefcase, pecked Mrs. Dursley on the cheek and tried to kiss Dudley goodbye but missed, because Dudley was now having a tantrum and throwing his cereal at the walls. (17.) "Little tyke," chortled Mr. Dursley as he left the house. (18.) He got into his car and backed out of number four's drive.
(19.) It was on the corner of the street that he noticed the first sign of something peculiar – a cat reading a map. (20.) For a second, Mr. Dursley didn't realize what he had seen – then he jerked his head around to look again. (21.) There was a tabby cat standing on the corner of Privet Drive, but there wasn't a map in sight. (22.) What could he have been thinking of? (23.) It must have been a trick of the light. (24.) Mr. Dursley blinked and stared at the cat. (25.) It stared back. (26.) As Mr. Dursley drove around the corner and up the road, he watched the cat in his mirror. (27.) It was now reading the sign that said Privet Drive – no, *looking* at the sign; cats couldn't read maps *or* signs. (28.) Mr. Dursley gave himself a little shake and put the cat out of his mind. (29.) As he drove toward town he thought of nothing except a large order of drills he was hoping to get that day.
(30.) But on the edge of town, drills were driven out of his mind by something else. (31.) As he sat in the usual morning traffic jam, he couldn't help noticing that there seemed to be a lot of strangely dressed people about. (32.) People in cloaks. (33.) Mr. Dursley couldn't bear people who dressed in funny clothes – the get-ups you saw on young people! (34.) He supposed this was some stupid new fashion. (35.) He drummed his fingers on the steering wheel and his eyes fell on a huddle of these weirdos standing quite close by. (36.) They were whispering excitedly together. (37.) Mr. Dursley was enraged to see that a couple of them weren't young at all; why, that man had to be older than he was,

and wearing an emerald-green cloak! (38.) The nerve of him! (39.) But then it struck Mr. Dursley that this was probably some silly stunt – these people were obviously collecting for something … yes, that would be it. (40.) The traffic moved on, and a few minutes later, Mr. Dursley arrived in the Grunnings parking lot, his mind back on drills.

(41.) Mr. Dursley always sat with his back to the window in his office on the ninth floor. (42.) If he hadn't, he might have found it harder to concentrate on drills that morning. (43.) *He* didn't see the owls swooping past in broad daylight, though people down in the street did; they pointed and gazed open-mouthed as owl after owl sped overhead. (44.) Most of them had never seen an owl even at night-time. (45.) Mr. Dursley, however, had a perfectly normal, owl-free morning. (46.) He yelled at five different people. (47.) He made several important telephone calls and shouted a bit more. (48.) He was in a very good mood until lunchtime, when he thought he'd stretch his legs and walk across the road to buy himself a bun from the bakery.

(49.) He'd forgotten all about the people in cloaks until he passed a group of them next to the baker's. (50.) He eyed them angrily as he passed. (51.) He didn't know why, but they made him uneasy. (52.) This bunch were whispering excitedly, too, and he couldn't see a single collecting tin. (53.) It was on his way back past them, clutching a large doughnut in a bag, that he caught a few words of what they were saying.

(54.) "The Potters, that's right, that's what I heard –"

(55.) "– yes, their son, Harry –"

(56.) Mr. Dursley stopped dead. (57.) Fear flooded him. (58.) He looked back at the whisperers as if he wanted to say something to them, but thought better of it.

(59.) He dashed back across the road, hurried up to his office, snapped at his secretary not to disturb him, seized his telephone and had almost finished dialling his home number when he changed his mind. (60.) He put the receiver back down and stroked his mustache, thinking … no, he was being stupid. (61.) Potter wasn't such an unusual name. (62.) He was sure there were lots of people called Potter who had a son called Harry. (63.) Come to think of it, he wasn't even sure his nephew *was* called Harry. (64.) He'd never even seen the boy. (65.) It might have been Harvey. (66.) Or Harold. (67.) There was no point in worrying Mrs. Dursley; she always got so upset at any mention of her sister. (68.) He didn't blame her – if *he'd* had a sister like that … but all the same, those people in cloaks …

(69.) He found it a lot harder to concentrate on drills that afternoon, and when he left the building at five o'clock, he was still so worried that he walked straight into someone just outside the door.

(70.) "Sorry," he grunted, as the tiny old man stumbled and almost fell. (71.) It was a few seconds before Mr. Dursley realized that the man was wearing a violet cloak. (72.) He didn't seem at all upset at being almost knocked to the ground. (73.) On the contrary, his face split into a wide smile and he said in a squeaky voice that made passersby stare, "Don't be sorry, my dear sir, for nothing could upset me today! (74.) Rejoice, for You-Know-Who has gone at last! (75.) Even Muggles like yourself should be celebrating, this happy, happy day!"

(76.) And the old man hugged Mr. Dursley around the middle and walked off.

(78.) Mr. Dursley stood rooted to the spot. (79.) He had been hugged by a complete stranger. (80.) He also thought he had been called a Muggle, whatever that was. (81.) He was rattled. (82.) He hurried to his car and set off for home, hoping he was imagining things, which he had never hoped before, because he didn't approve of imagination.

(83.) As he pulled into the driveway of number four, the first thing he saw – and it didn't improve his mood – was the tabby cat he'd spotted that morning. (84.) It was now sitting on his garden wall. (85.) He was sure it was the same one; it had the same markings around its eyes.

(86.) "Shoo!" said Mr. Dursley loudly.

(87.) The cat didn't move. (88.) It just gave him a stern look. (89.) Was this normal cat behavior? (90.) Mr. Dursley wondered. (91.) Trying to pull himself together, he let himself into the house. (92.) He was still determined not to mention anything to his wife.

(93.) Mrs. Dursley had had a nice, normal day. (94.) She told him over dinner all about Mrs. Next Door's problems with her daughter and how Dudley had learnt a new word ("Won't!"). (95.) Mr. Dursley tried to act normally. (96.) When Dudley had been put to bed, he went into the living-room in time to catch the last report on the evening news:

(97.) "And finally, bird-watchers everywhere have reported that the nation's owls have been behaving very unusually today. (98.) Although owls normally hunt at night and are hardly ever seen in daylight, there have been hundreds of sightings of these birds flying in every direction since sunrise. (99.) Experts are unable to explain why the owls have suddenly changed their sleeping pattern." (100.) The newscaster allowed himself a grin. (101.) "Most mysterious. (102.) And now, over to Jim McGuffin with the weather. (103.) Going to be any more showers of owls tonight, Jim?"

(104.) "Well, Ted," said the weatherman, "I don't know about that, but it's not only the owls that have been acting oddly today. (105.) Viewers as far apart as Kent, Yorkshire and Dundee have been phoning in to tell me that instead of the rain I promised yesterday, they've had a downpour of shooting stars! (106.) Perhaps people have been celebrating Bonfire Night early – it's not until next week, folks! (107.) But I can promise a wet night tonight."

(108.) Mr. Dursley sat frozen in his armchair. (109.) Shooting stars all over Britain? (110.) Owls flying by daylight? (111.) Mysterious people in cloaks all over the place? (112.) And a whisper, a whisper about the Potters …

(113.) Mrs. Dursley came into the living-room carrying two cups of tea. (114.) It was no good. (115.) He'd have to say something to her. (116.) He cleared his throat nervously. (117.) "Er – Petunia, dear – you haven't heard from your sister lately, have you?'

(118.) As he had expected, Mrs. Dursley looked shocked and angry. (119.) After all, they normally pretended she didn't have a sister.

(120.) "No," she said sharply. (121.) "Why?"

(122.) "Funny stuff on the news," Mr. Dursley mumbled. (123.) "Owls … shooting stars … and there were a lot of funny-looking people in town today …"

(124.) "*So*?" snapped Mrs. Dursley.

(125.) "Well, I just thought … maybe … it was something to do with … you know … *her* crowd."

(126.) Mrs. Dursley sipped her tea through pursed lips. (127.) Mr. Dursley wondered whether he dared tell her he'd heard the name "Potter". (128.) He decided he didn't dare. (129.) Instead he said, as casually as he could, "Their son – he'd be about Dudley's age now, wouldn't he?"

(130.) "I suppose so," said Mrs. Dursley stiffly.

(131.) "What's his name again? (132.) Howard, isn't it?"

(133.) "Harry. (134.) Nasty, common name, if you ask me."

(135.) "Oh, yes," said Mr. Dursley, his heart sinking horribly. (136.) "Yes, I quite agree."

(137.) He didn't say another word on the subject as they went upstairs to bed. (138.) While Mrs. Dursley was in the bathroom, Mr. Dursley crept to the bedroom window and peered down into the front garden. (139.) The cat was still there. It was staring down Privet Drive as though it were waiting for something.

(140.) Was he imagining things? (141.) Could all this have anything to do with the Potters? (142.) If it did … if it got out that they were related to a pair of – well, he didn't think he could bear it.

(143.) The Dursleys got into bed. (144.) Mrs. Dursley fell asleep quickly but Mr. Dursley lay awake, turning it all over in his mind. (145.) His last, comforting thought before he fell asleep was that even if the Potters *were* involved, there was no reason for them to come near him and Mrs. Dursley. (146.) The Potters knew very well what he and Petunia thought about them and their kind … (147.) He

couldn't see how he and Petunia could get mixed up in anything that might be going on — he yawned and turned over — it couldn't affect *them* …

(148.) How very wrong he was.

(149.) Mr. Dursley might have been drifting into an uneasy sleep, but the cat on the wall outside was showing no sign of sleepiness. (150.) It was sitting as still as a statue, its eyes fixed unblinkingly on the far corner of Privet Drive. (151.) It didn't so much as quiver when a car door slammed in the next street, nor when two owls swooped overhead. (152.) In fact, it was nearly midnight before the cat moved at all.

(153.) A man appeared on the corner the cat had been watching, appeared so suddenly and silently you'd have thought he'd just popped out of the ground. (154.) The cat's tail twitched and its eyes narrowed.

(155.) Nothing like this man had ever been seen on Privet Drive. (156.) He was tall, thin and very old, judging by the silver of his hair and beard, which were both long enough to tuck into his belt. (157.) He was wearing long robes, a purple cloak which swept the ground and high-heeled, buckled boots. (158.) His blue eyes were light, bright and sparkling behind half-moon spectacles and his nose was very long and crooked, as though it had been broken at least twice. (159.) This man's name was Albus Dumbledore.

(160.) Albus Dumbledore didn't seem to realize that he had just arrived in a street where everything from his name to his boots was unwelcome. (161.) He was busy rummaging in his cloak, looking for something. (162.) But he did seem to realise he was being watched, because he looked up suddenly at the cat, which was still staring at him from the other end of the street. (163.) For some reason, the sight of the cat seemed to amuse him. (164.) He chuckled and muttered, "I should have known."

(165.) He had found what he was looking for in his inside pocket. (166.) It seemed to be a silver cigarette lighter. (167.) He flicked it open, held it up in the air, and clicked it. (168.) The nearest street lamp went out with a little pop. (169.) He clicked it again – the next lamp flickered into darkness. (170.) Twelve times he clicked the Put-Outer, until the only lights left in the whole street were two tiny pinpricks in the distance, which were the eyes of the cat watching him. (171.) If anyone looked out of their window now, even beady-eyed Mrs Dursley, they wouldn't be able to see anything that was happening down on the pavement. (172.) Dumbledore slipped the Put-Outer back inside his cloak and set off down the street towards number four, where he sat down on the wall next to the cat. (173.) He didn't look at it, but after a moment he spoke to it.

(174.) "Fancy seeing you here, Professor McGonagall."

(175.) He turned to smile at the tabby, but it had gone. (176.) Instead he was smiling at a rather severe-looking woman who was wearing square glasses exactly the shape of the markings the cat had had around its eyes. (177.) She, too, was wearing a cloak, an emerald one. (178.) Her black hair was drawn into a tight bun. (179.) She looked distinctly ruffled.

(180.) "How did you know it was me?" she asked.

(181.) "My dear Professor, I've never seen a cat sit so stiffly."

(182.) "You'd be stiff if you'd been sitting on a brick wall all day," said Professor McGonagall.

(183.) "All day? (184.) When you could have been celebrating? (185.) I must have passed a dozen feasts and parties on my way here."

(186.) Professor McGonagall sniffed angrily.

(187.) "Oh yes, everyone's celebrating, all right," she said impatiently. (188.) "You'd think they'd be a bit more careful, but no – even the Muggles have noticed something's going on. (189.) It was on their news." (190.) She jerked her head back at the Dursleys' dark living-room window. (191.) "I heard it. (192.) Flocks of owls … shooting stars … (193.) Well, they're not completely stupid. (194.) They were bound to notice something. (195.) Shooting stars down in Kent – I'll bet that was Dedalus Diggle. (196.) He never had much sense."

(197.) "You can't blame them," said Dumbledore gently. (198.) "We've had precious little to celebrate for eleven years."

(199.) "I know that," said Professor McGonagall irritably. (200.) "But that's no reason to lose our heads. (201.) People are being downright careless, out on the streets in broad daylight, not even dressed in Muggle clothes, swapping rumors."

(202.) She threw a sharp, sideways glance at Dumbledore here, as though hoping he was going to tell her something, but he didn't, so she went on. (203.) "A fine thing it would be if, on the very day You-Know-Who seems to have disappeared at last, the Muggles found out about us all. (204.) I suppose he really *has* gone, Dumbledore?"

(205.) "It certainly seems so," said Dumbledore. (206.) "We have much to be thankful for. (207.) Would you care for a lemon drop?"

(208.) "A *what*?"

(209.) "A lemon drop. (210.) They're a kind of Muggle sweet I'm rather fond of."

(211.) "No, thank you," said Professor McGonagall coldly, as though she didn't think this was the moment for lemon drops. (212.) "As I say, even if You-Know-Who *has* gone –"

(213.) "My dear Professor, surely a sensible person like yourself can call him by his name? (214.) All this "You-Know-Who" nonsense – for eleven years I have been trying to persuade people to call him by his proper name: *Voldemort*." (215.) Professor McGonagall flinched, but Dumbledore, who was unsticking two lemon drops, seemed not to notice. (216.) "It all gets so confusing if we keep saying 'You-Know-Who'. (217.) I have never seen any reason to be frightened of saying Voldemort's name."

(218.) "I know you haven't," said Professor McGonagall, sounding half-exasperated, half-admiring. (219.) "But you're different. (220.) Everyone knows you're the only one You-Know – oh, all right, *Voldemort*, was frightened of."

(221.) "You flatter me," said Dumbledore calmly. (222.) "Voldemort had powers I will never have."

(223.) "Only because you're too – well – *noble* to use them."

(224.) "It's lucky it's dark. (225.) I haven't blushed so much since Madam Pomfrey told me she liked my new earmuffs."

(226.) Professor McGonagall shot a sharp look at Dumbledore and said, "The owls are nothing next to the *rumors* that are flying around. (227.) You know what everyone's saying? (228.) About why he's disappeared? (229.) About what finally stopped him?"

(230.) It seemed that Professor McGonagall had reached the point she was most anxious to discuss, the real reason she had been waiting on a cold, hard wall all day, for neither as a cat nor as a woman had she fixed Dumbledore with such a piercing stare as she did now. (231.) It was plain that whatever "everyone" was saying, she was not going to believe it until Dumbledore told her it was true. (232.) Dumbledore, however, was choosing another lemon drop and did not answer.

(233.) "What they're *saying*," she pressed on, "is that last night Voldemort turned up in Godric's Hollow. (234.) He went to find the Potters. (235.) The rumor is that Lily and James Potter are – are – that they're – *dead*."

(236.) Dumbledore bowed his head. (237.) Professor McGonagall gasped.

(238.) "Lily and James … (239.) I can't believe it … (240.) I didn't want to believe it … (241.) Oh, Albus …"

(242.) Dumbledore reached out and patted her on the shoulder. (243.) "I know … I know …" he said heavily.

(244.) Professor McGonagall's voice trembled as she went on. (245.) "That's not all. (246.) They're saying he tried to kill the Potters' son, Harry. (247.) But – he couldn't. (248.) He couldn't kill that little boy. (249.) No one knows why, or how, but they're saying that when he couldn't kill Harry Potter, Voldemort's power somehow broke – and that's why he's gone."

(250.) Dumbledore nodded glumly.

(251.) "It's – it's *true*?" faltered Professor McGonagall. (252.) "After all he's done … all the people he's killed … he couldn't kill a little boy? (253.) It's just astounding … of all the things to stop him … but how in the name of heaven did Harry survive?"

(254.) "We can only guess," said Dumbledore. (255.) "We may never know."

(256.) Professor McGonagall pulled out a lace handkerchief and dabbed at her eyes beneath her spectacles. (257.) Dumbledore gave a great sniff as he took a golden watch from his pocket and examined it. (258.) It was a very odd watch. (259.) It had twelve hands but no numbers; instead, little planets were moving around the edge. (260.) It must have made sense to Dumbledore, though, because he put it back in his pocket and said, "Hagrid's late. I suppose it was he who told you I'd be here, by the way?"

(261.) "Yes," said Professor McGonagall. (262.) "And I don't suppose you're going to tell me *why* you're here, of all places?"

(263.) "I've come to bring Harry to his aunt and uncle. (264.) They're the only family he has left now."

(265.) "You don't mean – you *can't* mean the people who live *here*?" cried Professor McGonagall, jumping to her feet and pointing at number four. (266.) "Dumbledore – you can't. (267.) I've been watching them all day. (268.) You couldn't find two people who are less like us. (269.) And they've got this son – I saw him kicking his mother all the way up the street, screaming for sweets. (270.) Harry Potter come and live here!"

(271.) "It's the best place for him," said Dumbledore firmly. (272.) "His aunt and uncle will be able to explain everything to him when he's older. (273.) I've written them a letter."

(274.) "A letter?" repeated Professor McGonagall faintly, sitting back down on the wall. (275.) "Really, Dumbledore, you think you can explain all this in a letter? (276.) These people will never understand him! (277.) He'll be famous – a legend – I wouldn't be surprised if today was known as Harry Potter Day in future – there will be books written about Harry – every child in our world will know his name!"

(278.) "Exactly," said Dumbledore, looking very seriously over the top of his half-moon glasses. (279.) "It would be enough to turn any boy's head. (280.) Famous before he can walk and talk! (281.) Famous for something he won't even remember! (282.) Can't you see how much better off he'll be, growing up away from all that until he's ready to take it?" (283.) Professor McGonagall opened her mouth, changed her mind, swallowed, and then said, "Yes – yes, you're right, of course. (284.) But how is the boy getting here, Dumbledore?" (285.) She eyed his cloak suddenly as though she thought he might be hiding Harry underneath it.

(286.) "Hagrid's bringing him."

(287.) "You think it – *wise* – to trust Hagrid with something as important as this?"

(288.) "I would trust Hagrid with my life," said Dumbledore.

(289.) "I'm not saying his heart isn't in the right place," said Professor McGonagall grudgingly, "but you can't pretend he's not careless. (290.) He does tend to – what was that?"

(291.) A low rumbling sound had broken the silence around them. (292.) It grew steadily louder as they looked up and down the street for some sign of a headlight; it swelled to a roar as they both looked up at the sky – and a huge motorcycle fell out of the air and landed on the road in front of them.

(293.) If the motorcycle was huge, it was nothing to the man sitting astride it. (294.) He was almost twice as tall as a normal man and at least five times as wide. (295.) He looked simply too big to be allowed, and so *wild* – long tangles of bushy black hair and beard hid most of his face, he had hands the size of trash can lids and his feet in their leather boots were like baby dolphins. (296.) In his vast, muscular arms he was holding a bundle of blankets.

(297.) "Hagrid," said Dumbledore, sounding relieved. (298.) "At last. (299.) And where did you get that motorcycle?"

(300.) "Borrowed it, Professor Dumbledore, sir," said the giant, climbing carefully off the motorcycle as he spoke. (301.) "Young Sirius Black lent it to me. (302.) I've got him, sir."

(303.) "No problems, were there?"

(304.) "No, sir – house was almost destroyed, but I got him out all right before the Muggles started swarmin' around. (305.) He fell asleep as we was flyin' over Bristol."

(306.) Dumbledore and Professor McGonagall bent forward over the bundle of blankets. (307.) Inside, just visible, was a baby boy, fast asleep. (308.) Under a tuft of jet-black hair over his forehead they could see a curiously shaped cut, like a bolt of lightning.

(309.) "Is that where –?" whispered Professor McGonagall.

(310.) "Yes," said Dumbledore. (311.) "He'll have that scar forever."

(312.) "Couldn't you do something about it, Dumbledore?"

(313.) "Even if I could, I wouldn't. (314.) Scars can come in handy. (315.) I have one myself above my left knee that is a perfect map of the London Underground. (316.) Well – give him here, Hagrid – we'd better get this over with."

(317.) Dumbledore took Harry in his arms and turned towards the Dursleys' house.

(318.) "Could I – could I say goodbye to him, sir?" asked Hagrid.

(319.) He bent his great, shaggy head over Harry and gave him what must have been a very scratchy, whiskery kiss. (320.) Then, suddenly, Hagrid let out a howl like a wounded dog.

(321.) "Shhh!" hissed Professor McGonagall. (322.) "You'll wake the Muggles!"

(323.) "S-s-sorry," sobbed Hagrid, taking out a large, spotted handkerchief and burying his face in it. (324.) "But I c-c-can't stand it – Lily an' James dead – an' poor little Harry off ter live with Muggles –"

(325.) "Yes, yes, it's all very sad, but get a grip on yourself, Hagrid, or we'll be found," Professor McGonagall whispered, patting Hagrid gingerly on the arm as Dumbledore stepped over the low garden wall and walked to the front door. (326.) He laid Harry gently on the doorstep, took a letter out of his cloak, tucked it inside Harry's blankets, and then came back to the other two. (327.) For a full minute the three of them stood and looked at the little bundle; Hagrid's shoulders shook, Professor McGonagall blinked furiously, and the twinkling light that usually shone from Dumbledore's eyes seemed to have gone out.

(328.) "Well," said Dumbledore finally, "that's that. (329.) We've no business staying here. (330.) We may as well go and join the celebrations."

(331.) "Yeah," said Hagrid in a very muffled voice. (332.) "I'd best get this bike away. (333.) G'night, Professor McGonagall - Professor Dumbledore, sir."

(334.) Wiping his streaming eyes on his jacket sleeve, Hagrid swung himself on to the motorcycle and kicked the engine into life; with a roar it rose into the air and off into the night.

(335.) "I shall see you soon, I expect, Professor McGonagall," said Dumbledore, nodding to her.

(336.) Professor McGonagall blew her nose in reply.

(337.) Dumbledore turned and walked back down the street. (338.) On the corner he stopped and took out the silver Put-Outer. (339.) He clicked it once and twelve balls of light sped back to their street lamps so that Privet Drive glowed suddenly orange and he could make out a tabby cat slinking around the corner at the other end of the street. (340.) He could just see the bundle of blankets on the step of number four.

(341.) "Good luck, Harry," he murmured. (342.) He turned on his heel and with a swish of his cloak, he was gone.

(343.) A breeze ruffled the neat hedges of Privet Drive, which lay silent and tidy under the inky sky, the very last place you would expect astonishing things to happen. (344.) Harry Potter rolled over

inside his blankets without waking up. (345.) One small hand closed on the letter beside him and he slept on, not knowing he was special, not knowing he was famous, not knowing he would be woken in a few hours' time by Mrs Dursley's scream as she opened the front door to put out the milk bottles, nor that he would spend the next few weeks being prodded and pinched by his cousin Dudley … (346.) He couldn't know that at this very moment, people meeting in secret all over the country were holding up their glasses and saying in hushed voices: "To Harry Potter – the boy who lived!"

Appendix E

List of contributors

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17. rcshelley
18. Menoimagination
19. marshrts4drm
20. Blitzoandstolas
21. DaCuteRaccoon
22. Garry-is-God
23. siarczan6miedzi2
24. helenamwu
25. GenZpotato
26. arjunsatarkar
27. Dhwajain
28. Gitt55
29. karansangha
30. asfarasiknow
31. rthrJules
32. dietileter
33. Fudgalicious
34. 369PercentEthan
35. skalnik
36. rissivee
37. jo1gi
38. enigmainaskirt
39. AzzHasAss
40. localcryptidlu
41. Glitchblox
42. Raven-puff
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