

Quantitative Research on Gen Z Slang Terms for a Diverse Group of People

S. Shruthi¹, B.R. Aravind^{2*}, M.L. Mathivysali³

Abstract

The objective of this study is to identify the individuals who used vocabulary associated with Generation Z and to determine who those persons were. Through the use of Google forms, twenty Gen Z slang terms associated were posed to the various participants for testing. The data are collected from the participants by the researcher through the use of Google Forms, and the researcher is the one who is responsible for developing the question that is being asked. In this study, a wide range of subjects were included. The inquiry was carried out utilizing a quantitative methodology, and the findings were presented to the audience. The goal of this study required the participation of forty people who ranged in different age group and came from a variety of different backgrounds. As a result of the data, it is evident that a significant number of individuals do not use language that is associated with the generation of Gen Z while they are having conversations. The slang of Generation Z is made up of a very limited number of terms, the bulk of which are hidden and have not yet been used by the general public for widespread use. It is also proposed that the various generations' slang phrases are not widely known by a large number of people; consequently, in addition, it is recommended that future study might concentrate on the terms that are linked with those generations. Given the limited number of participants, more investigations might be conducted to validate the findings with huge participants.

Keywords: Gen Z, Slang Words, Mobile Usage, Verbal Communication, Learning Awareness

INTRODUCTION

Language plays a crucial role in how people interact by enabling people to communicate and express their thoughts and ideas. It promotes the sharing of information and facilitates social and cultural advancement. When language experiences significant modifications, it demonstrates its intrinsic adaptability and emphasizes its complex connection with societal developments (Jeresano and Careterro, 2022) [1].

Generation Z, often known as Gen Z, is a word that refers to the younger age groups that were born after the year 1996. According to (P Giray L) [2], this generation is considered to be a digital native by others. They were born at a time period that was characterized by a robust economic position and a significant amount of technological advancement. People born between 1997 and 2012 are typically categorized as members of Generation Z, whereas individuals born between 1981 and 1996 are identified as Millennials. Millennials are frequently described as having a strong inclination towards idealism and active involvement in politics, whereas Gen Z is acknowledged for their diverse backgrounds and high level of technological ability. While Millennials presently comprise the biggest segment of the workforce, Gen Z is the youngest group (Dimock, 2019) [3]. The youngest

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individuals belonging to the Gen Z cohort are roughly 9 years of age. The eldest Millennials, around 40 years old, are commonly known as Gen Y, as they bridge the gap between the generations of Gen X and Gen Z. The youngest individuals belonging to the Millennial generation, often around the age of 24, are frequently characterized as being materialistic and holding atheistic beliefs.

Global Language Monitor reports that around 5,400 new words are coined year. However, only about 1,000 of these terms are considered to have limited usage and are thus published. Furthermore, Shvidko E, Evans NW, Hartshorn KJ (2015) [4] asserted that over time, pronunciations undergo evolution, new words are either borrowed or created, and the pace of change varies.

Moreover, the majority of linguistic changes often originate from the younger demographic, specifically young people and teenagers (Lieberman P, 2016) [5]. They start directing their attention towards being part of a self-organized collective of peers, colleagues, and friends, and evolving into the "we" generation. Through their interactions, their language gradually evolves, resulting in a remarkable distinctiveness from prior generations.

For example, Generation Z represents the youngest demographic in the nation. Sladek & Grabinger (2014) [6] define Generation Z as those born between the years 1996 and 2009. Furthermore, they are distinguished by their exceptional racial and ethnic diversity and are projected to achieve the highest level of education in the history of the United States. Gen Zers are primarily characterized by their extensive exposure to and reliance on technology throughout their formative years. The current generation is the first to reach adulthood while growing up with technological advancements, such as smartphones, which are not seen as something novel to be embraced, but rather as a normal and integral part of daily existence (Williams A, 2015) [7].

Vacalares et al (2023) [8] states that Filipino Gen Zers possess a strong awareness of the capabilities of technology, have a keen desire to exchange their expertise, and actively seek increased opportunities for interpersonal engagement. The majority of young Filipino people spend a significant amount of their time engrossed in their cell phones. They are highly skilled at achieving outcomes by utilizing their devices. Various programs such as Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and similar platforms were available for installation on user's mobile phones to facilitate social connection. On top of all of this, there are authors who assert that the fifth generation, which is the generation that is presently attending schools, is the most varied generation in history (Prensky, 2001; Schroer, 2008) [9,10]. As a consequence of the fact that this new generation of students is growing up in a totally different environment than the generations that came before them, their ways of thinking, preferences, expectations, and learning styles have all undergone significant transformations.

Frequently, individuals come across several strange terminologies that are exclusive to their generation. These terms are met on a daily basis, not only in their social media postings, but also in their comments and messages exchanged with their family and friends. The terminology and phrases generated by them are referred to as Gen Z slang. They have developed their own jargon, which is mostly influenced by the media culture they have been exposed to.

Gen Zers are indisputably the initial generation to be born into a world of remarkable technology advancements, where they are immersed in social media, cell phones, and rapid access to information. Technology is widely recognized as a significant factor in altering the way people communicate, interact, and particularly, in the evolution of language.

Furthermore, the prevailing method of communication in the present day is via the utilization of social platforms. Therefore, it has further escalated as a result of community lockdowns, as there is a strong emphasis on practicing physical separation. The establishment of culture and language has increasingly shifted towards digital platforms, facilitated by the growth of social media slang.

Research Objective

The objective of the study is to know and learn more about Gen z words.

- To Study the meaning of the select Gen z words from the varied participants.
- To know which generation uses more Gen z words.

Research Questions

The following research questions have been developed to direct the study.

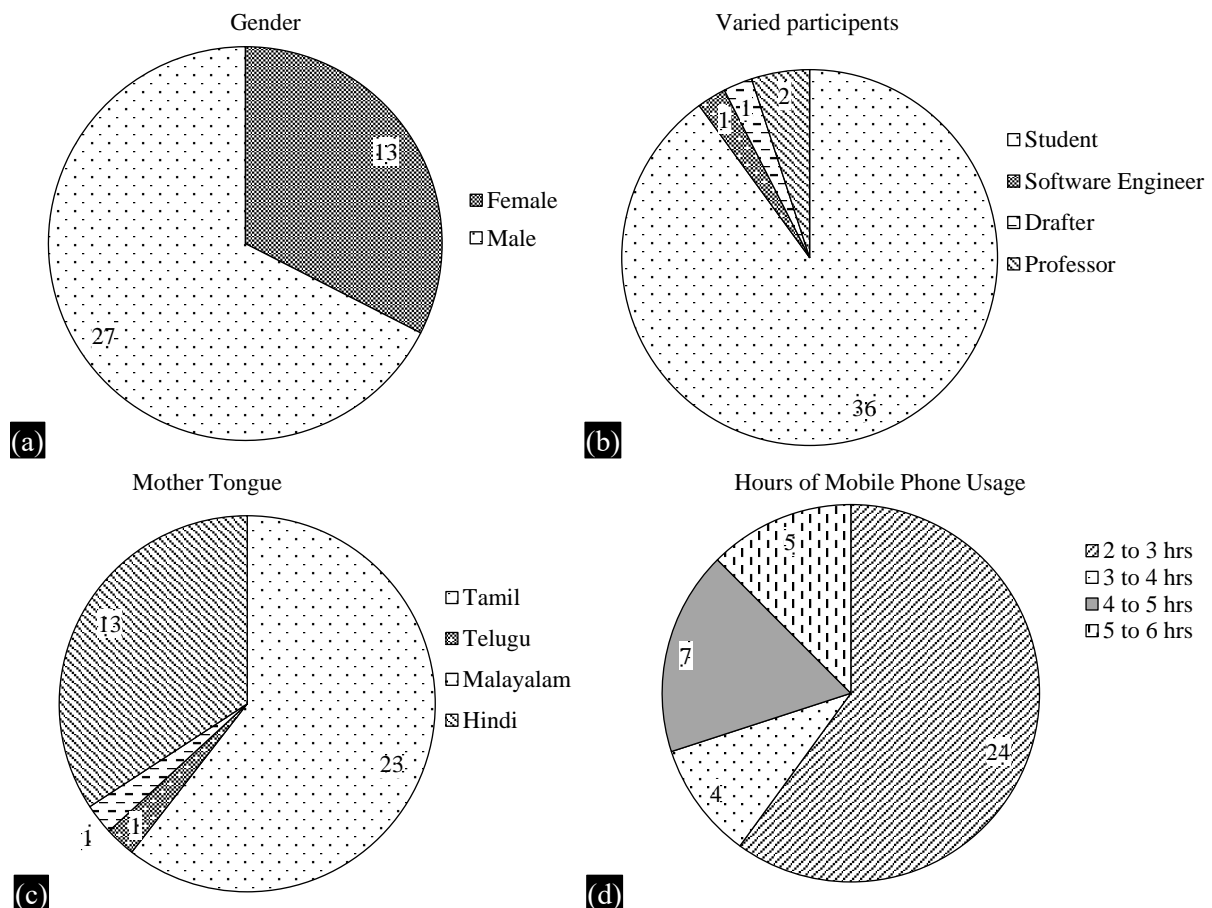
- Do varied participants learn Gen Z words?
- Which generation has used Gen Z words more?

Method

This work has employed a quantitative methodology. Utilizing quantitative methodologies was needed in order to get accurate and quantifiable data by utilizing numerical values. In this study, the quantitative technique was used to establish the necessary percentage that supports the study conclusions.

Sample and Sample Size

The study's participants consisted of 40 diverse responses. The main factors for prioritizing the diverse participants. The participants utilized Gen Z slang terms to assess the prevalence of Gen Z vocabulary in public discourse. The participants were unfamiliar with the Gen Z lexicon throughout the whole operation. The participants spanned across many generations, including the silent generation and Generation Z, with the majority belonging to Generation Z. The study utilized the conventional random sampling procedure. In order to achieve the goal of this study, participants were instructed to choose the definition of the Gen Z terms. The researcher employed a self-generated query for data gathering, which was carefully evaluated to draw a dependable result for the study.



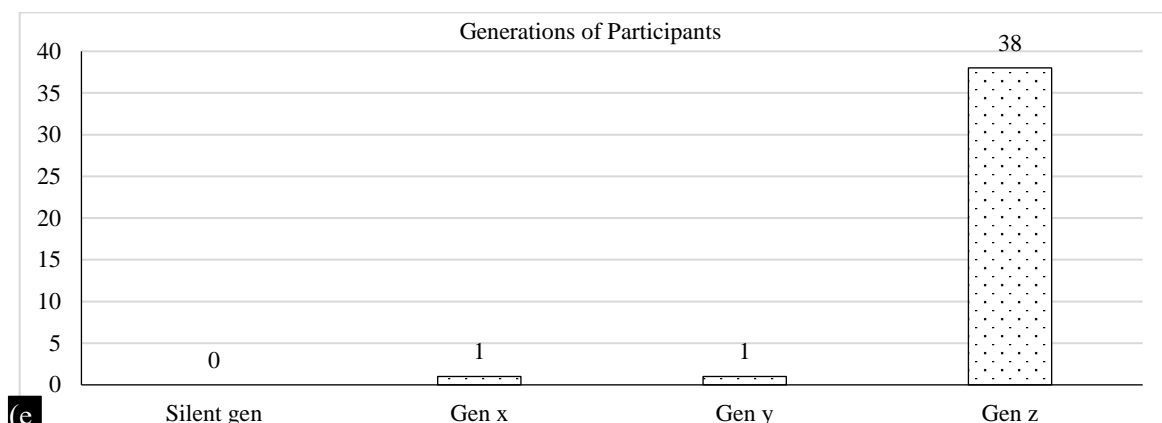


Figure 1. Sample and Sample Size, (a) Gender, (b) Varied Participants, (c) Mother Tongue, (d) Hours of Mobile Phone Usage, (e) Generations of Participants

In Figure 1. The Figure A shows that there was a total of 27 male participants and 13 female individuals that participated. Figure B illustrates that the participants come from a wide variety of professional backgrounds. This research was conducted with the participation of a total of 36 individuals, which included two academics, one software engineer, and one drafter. Participants hail from a variety of geographical locations. The distribution of the participants' mother languages is shown in Figure C. To be more specific, 23 of the participants speak Tamil, 13 understand Hindi, one individual understands Malayalam, and three individuals understand Telugu. A breakdown of the total amount of time spent on mobile devices is presented in Figure D. On a daily basis, a total of twenty-four people use their mobile devices for a period of time typically ranging from two to three hours. per day, there are seven people who use their mobile devices for a period of time that ranges from four to five hours per day. There are five individuals who use their mobile phones for around three to four hours on a daily basis, and there are another five individuals who use their mobile phones for between five and six hours on a daily basis. A reference to the generation of participants may be found in Figure E. One member of Generation X, one member of Generation Y, and 38 members of Generation Z are all represented in this study. There are no participants from the generation known as the silent generation.

Research Procedure

The researcher provided diverse participants with a concise overview of the study's objective, with a particular emphasis on a task designed to familiarize learners in the early stages with Gen Z slang terminology. The researcher evaluated the participants' answers and identified the generation that had a deficiency in their knowledge of Gen Z slang phrases. This study constructed a customized inquiry using Google Forms and requested participants to select the correct interpretation of Gen Z slang terms. A diverse range of individuals responded via Google forms, and the data was analyzed and the outcome was formulated. The study outline is mentioned in Figure 2. As Research design using Schematic diagram.

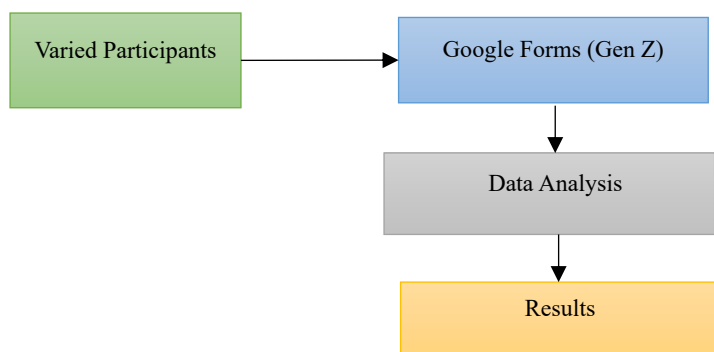


Figure 2. Research Design Using Schematic Diagram

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This research involved people from many disciplines who responded to the questions using Google Forms. Figure 3 shows the results of the questions. Out of the 40 participants, 20 of them, namely the 1st and 22nd individuals from Generation Z, replied correctly. Out of all the participants, only 8 answered the correct answer to the second question. Out of the total participants, 28 individuals provided the right answer to the third question. Seventeen individuals responded correctly for the fourth, fifth, and twentieth word. The 6th, 11th, and 25th words received a total of 16 accurate responses from the participants. Out of the 22 participants, 7 answered the 7th word correctly. Both the 8th and 16th questions received a total of 5 accurate responses. The 9th question had the fewest right responses from the participants for the term "Ghosting." Out of the total of 15 participants, 10 answered the 10th question correctly. Out of the 10 participants, 12th question was answered correctly by 10 of them. A total of 13 participants provided accurate answers for both the 13th and 19th questions. A total of 19 participants provided the right answer to the 14th question. Out of a total of 40 participants, only 9 selected the correct solution for the 14th question. A total of 19 participants provided the right answer to the 14th question. Out of a total of 40 participants, only 9 selected the correct solution for the 14th question. A total of 12 participants had accurate responses for both the 17th and 21st questions. Fourteen individuals provided accurate responses for the 18th and 23rd questions. Out of the 24th Gen Z term, only 11 participants provided accurate answers.

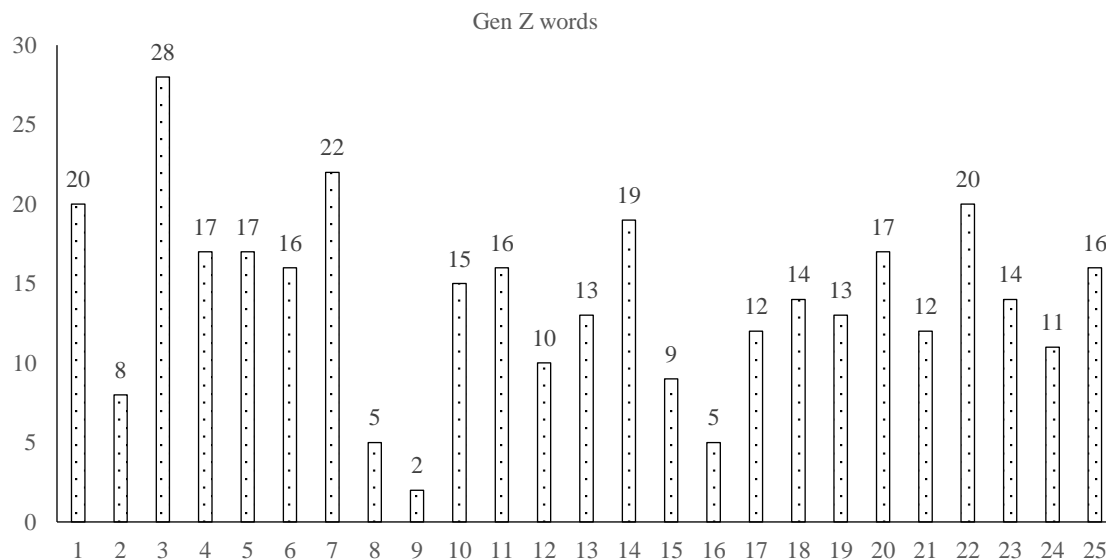


Figure 3. Results of the Questions.

Table 1. One sample Test.

One-Sample Test						
	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Q1	6.245	39	0.000	0.500	0.34	0.66
Q2	5.649	39	0.000	0.450	0.29	0.61
Q3	10.140	39	0.000	0.725	0.58	0.87
Q4	4.583	39	0.000	0.350	0.20	0.50
Q5	5.649	39	0.000	0.450	0.29	0.61
Q6	5.369	39	0.000	0.425	0.26	0.59
Q7	6.904	39	0.000	0.550	0.39	0.71
Q8	2.623	39	0.012	0.150	0.03	0.27

Q9	1.778	39	0.083	0.075	-0.01	0.16
Q10	5.099	39	0.000	0.400	0.24	0.56
Q11	4.837	39	0.000	0.375	0.22	0.53
Q12	3.365	39	0.002	0.225	0.09	0.36
Q13	4.583	39	0.000	0.350	0.20	0.50
Q14	6.245	39	0.000	0.500	0.34	0.66
Q15	3.606	39	0.001	0.250	0.11	0.39
Q16	2.876	39	0.006	0.175	0.05	0.30
Q17	4.583	39	0.000	0.350	0.20	0.50
Q18	4.837	39	0.000	0.375	0.22	0.53
Q19	4.583	39	0.000	0.350	0.20	0.50
Q20	5.369	39	0.000	0.425	0.26	0.59
Q21	4.088	39	0.000	0.300	0.15	0.45
Q22	6.245	39	0.000	0.500	0.34	0.66
Q23	4.837	39	0.000	0.375	0.22	0.53
Q24	3.846	39	0.000	0.275	0.13	0.42
Q25	5.369	39	0.000	0.425	0.26	0.59

In the first table. All twenty-five questions are being analyzed in SPSS in a single sample test, and the study's findings indicate that, with the exception of five questions, every other question has a significant value of 0.000. The significant value for question number 8 is 0.012, and the significant value for question number 9 is 0.083. These questions received the lowest score from the participants when they were asked. The significant value of the questions pertaining to the 12th, 15th, and 16th were respectively 0.002, 0.001, and 0.006. In table 1, you will find the t value for each of the 25 questions. Whereas the t value should be more than 2, the t value in question 9 is less than 2, and the term that more participants failed to comprehend the right meaning of is "Ghosting." This indicates that some people begin to ignore them, stop talking to them, or stop texting them back in the lingo of Generation Z. For the third question, the T value is extremely high for the phrase "Copypasta," which refers to the dissemination of memes, jokes, opinions, and other content; it is an extremely popular platform.

Table 2. Frequency of scores.

Total					
		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative Percent</i>
Valid	4	3	7.5	7.5	7.5
	5	3	7.5	7.5	15.0
	6	8	20.0	20.0	35.0
	7	7	17.5	17.5	52.5
	8	4	10.0	10.0	62.5
	9	4	10.0	10.0	72.5
	10	1	2.5	2.5	75.0
	12	1	2.5	2.5	77.5
	14	1	2.5	2.5	80.0
	15	2	5.0	5.0	85.0
	16	2	5.0	5.0	90.0

	17	1	2.5	2.5	92.5
	18	2	5.0	5.0	97.5
	20	1	2.5	2.5	100.0
	Total	40	100.0	100.0	

Table 2. The provided data displays the frequency table of findings for Gen Z terms. Out of the 40 participants with below average grades, 3 persons obtained 4 marks each. The valid percent, percent, and cumulative percent for these individuals is 7.5. Another group of 3 participants received 5 marks each, with a valid percent and percent of 7.5 and a cumulative percent of 15. Lastly, 8 participants scored 6 marks each. The value of valid percent and percent is 20.5, whereas the cumulative percent is 35. Among the 25 questions, 7 participants answered 7 questions correctly, resulting in a percentage and valid percentage of 17.5%. The cumulative percentage for this group is 52.5%. Another group of 4 participants scored 8 marks, with a valid percentage and percentage of 10%, and a cumulative percentage of 62.5%. Similarly, 4 participants scored 9 marks, with a valid percentage and percentage of 10%, and a cumulative percentage of 72.5%. One participant scored 10 marks, with a percentage and valid percentage of 2.5%, and a cumulative percentage of 75.0%. The first person earned 12 points, with a percent and valid percent of 2.5, and a cumulative percent of 77.5. The second participant obtained 14 marks, with a percent and valid percent of 2.5, and a cumulative percent of 80.0. Two participants scored 15 marks out of 25, resulting in a valid percent and percent of 5.0 and a cumulative percent of 85.5. Another two participants scored 16 marks, with a valid percent and percent of 5.0 and a cumulative percent of 87.5. One participant scored 17 marks, with a valid percent and percent of 2.5 and a cumulative percent of 90. Two participants scored 18 marks, with a valid percent and percent of 5.0 and a cumulative percent of 97.5. Lastly, one participant scored 20 marks, with a valid percent and percent of 2.5 and a cumulative percent of 100.0.

Findings

The study's findings indicate that the majority of participants exhibited a lack of awareness of the provided Gen Z vocabulary, suggesting that they do not use these phrases into their daily conversations. The study demonstrates that individuals belonging to Generation Z possess the ability to accurately comprehend the intended significance of slang terms often used by their generation. The primary research purpose and question is to familiarize participants with the uncommon Gen Z slang phrases used in specific contexts. The second research aim and research question indicate that individuals from Generation Z utilized a greater number of phrases exclusive to their generation.

CONCLUSION

The main objective of this study is to quantitatively analyze the level of knowledge that participants have regarding Gen Z slang words. The data was collected through Google Forms. The findings indicate that the majority of participants are not familiar with the new Gen Z words. The results suggest that educators should incorporate these words into classroom discussions in order for students to start using them in their daily lives. Only then will these new words become part of verbal communication. This study reveals that most participants from various fields are unaware of Gen Z words, with only a few being familiar with them. Future research could focus on exploring vocabulary words from different generations among a random or specific population, allowing for the discovery of slang words unique to each generation.

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