



Exploring Generation Alpha's Slangs through Their Forms and Functions

AN UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

Presented to Widya Kartika University Surabaya in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of Sarjana Sastra

By:

Celine Christina Luhulima

614.21.016

ADVISORS:

Dr. Endar Rachmawaty Linuwih, S.Hum., M.Pd

614/06.87/02.18/149

Yulius Kurniawan, S.Pd, M.Pd

007/07.78/10.07/910

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF LETTERS AND LANGUAGE EDUCATION
WIDYA KARTIKA UNIVERSITY**

SURABAYA

2025

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, the writer would like to express her gratitude and thank God, Jesus Christ. The researcher would like to thank him for his love, grace, and power, which have carried through each day. His presence has guided and helped move forward with courage and hope.

Additionally, the writer would like to thank the others who helped with the making of this thesis and would take this opportunity to say thanks and express the deepest gratitude to:

1. My beloved family, my greatest support system. Pieter Hendrik Toni Luhulima, Yustina Sri Utami, Mario Christian Luhulima, and Gracia Natalia Luhulima, thank you for your constant encouragement and prayers. I love you all more than words can express.
2. My thesis advisors, Dr. Endar Rachmawaty Linuwih, S.Hum., M.Pd., and Yulius Kurniawan, S.Pd, who always shared their knowledge with the author to help in the preparation of the thesis, starting from the initial stage until finally the author could complete the thesis on time.
3. All lecturers of the English Department, Dr. Nopita Trihastutie S.S., M.A., Yohanes Kurniawan Winardi, S.S., M.Pd, Dr. Zulidyana Dwi Rusnalasari Dr. Eka Fadilah, S.S., M.Pd.; M.Pd., M.A.; Stefanus Rudyanto, S.S., M.Hum.; Maria Tirtaningrum, S.S., M.Pd, thank you for your knowledge, spirit, and big heart in teaching.
4. Ishak Ong and Renna Yuliana Vernanda, thank you so much for being my foster parents who always support, encourage, and believe in me. Kairos and Klaire, my biggest support system that keeps me going and always fills my love tank.
5. Saints, thank you so much for all the things you have given me and for making me grow in both physical and spiritual fulfillment.
6. My 911, Damar, Rein, and Yohana. Thank you so much for being my best friends who are always there, especially in my difficult times.

7. Brother and Sister house, thank you for your support and coordination. In every situation, I have learned many things to live well and grow together.
8. All of the people who have been involved in my life, thank you for the experiences that have helped and supported me to keep fighting, especially in difficult times.

Surabaya, 06th August, 2025



Celine Christina Luhulima



ABSTRACT

Luhulima, Celine Christina (2025). Exploring Generation Alpha's Slangs through Their Forms and Functions. Widya Kartika University. Surabaya. Advisor I: Dr. Endar Rachmawaty Linuwih, S.Hum., M.Pd. Advisor II: Yulius Kurniawan, S.Pd., M.Pd.

Language is dynamic and constantly evolving. This triggers language phenomena that are also increasingly unique both in terms of form and function, for example, in slang. This research examines the use of slang by the Alpha Generation, which has not been explored as extensively as previous generations. The analysis of slang use in this study is based directly on existing real-life phenomena. The researcher aims to explore the use of slang by identifying the types and functions of slang used by elementary school students in Surabaya. This research uses a qualitative descriptive method, using the slang theory proposed by Allan and Burridge (2006). The results show that the most dominant type of slang is fresh and creative, which is influenced by digital culture and social media. The most frequently found function is to express impressions, such as admiration or enthusiasm. This research shows that Gen Alpha actively contributes to language change by using slang as a means of self-expression, identity building, and social interaction in the digital age.

Keywords: Slang words, Sociolinguistics, Social factors.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SURAT PERNYATAAN ORISINALITAS	ii
BERITA ACARA PENGESAHAN SIDANG AKHIR	iii
PERSETUJUAN SIDANG AKHIR	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	v
ABSTRACT	viii
CHAPTER I	1
1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY	1
1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM	5
1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY	6
1.4 SIGNIFICANCES OF THE STUDY	6
1.5 SCOPE LIMITATION	6
1.6 DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS	7
1.7 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK	8
CHAPTER II	10
2.1 SOCIOLINGUISTICS	10
2.2 SLANG WORDS	11
2.3 TYPES OF SLANG WORDS	12
1. Fresh and Creative	12
2. Flippant	13
3. Imitative	13
4. Acronym	14
5. Clipping	14
2.4 FUNCTIONS OF SLANG WORDS	15
1. To Address	15
2. To Humiliate	15
3. To Initiate Relax Conversation	15
4. To Form an Intimate Atmosphere	16
5. To Express an Impression	16
6. To Reveal Anger	16
7. To Show Intimacy	17
2.5 PREVIOUS STUDIES	17
CHAPTER III	20

3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN	20
3.2 DATA SOURCE	20
3.3 RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS	22
3.4 DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE	23
3.5 DATA ANALYSIS	24
CHAPTER IV	25
4.1 FINDINGS	25
4.1.1 THE SLANG TYPES CLASSIFICATION	25
4.1.2 THE FUNCTIONS OF SLANG	37
4.2 DISCUSSION	46
CHAPTER V	49
5.1 CONCLUSION	49
5.1 SUGGESTION	51
REFERENCES	52
APPENDICES	55
LEMBAR KONSULTASI DAN BIMBINGAN	



UWIKARTIKA

LIST OF TABLES

Table 3. 1 List of Participant Criteria	21
Table 3. 2 List of questions about Slang Word Use.....	23
Table 4. 1 The Type and Most Commonly Used Gen-Alpha's Slang Words.....	25
Table 4. 2 Fresh and Creative Slang used by Gen-Alpha's	26
Table 4. 3 Flippant Slang used by Gen-Alpha's	30
Table 4. 4 Imitative Slang used by Gen-Alpha's	32
Table 4. 5 Acronym Slang used by Gen-Alpha's	34
Table 4. 6 Clipping Slang used by Gen-Alpha's	35
Table 4. 7 The Function of Gen Alpha's Slang Words	37



LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Class Observation.....	55
Appendix 2 :Data Classification	60
Appendix 3: How often do you use slang in your daily conversations?	64
Appendix 4: Where and what situations do you most often use slang?.....	65
Appendix 5: Where did you first discover slang words?	67
Appendix 6: What influences you to use slang words?	68
Appendix 7: Have you ever come across slang that you didn't understand at first but then started using? What made you start using it?.....	69
Appendix 8: Have you ever changed the way you speak depending on who you're talking to? If yes, in what situations? What was the context like?	71
Appendix 9: How do you express the following slang words? In what context do you use them?.....	73
.....	73
.....	74
.....	76

UWIKKA