

Exploring Morphological Processes in Generation Z Slangs in Netflix Series One of Us is Lying

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Abstract

The current study endeavors to explore the linguistic patterns and Generation Z slangs in the Netflix series “One of Us is Lying” by analyzing how these patterns have contributed to cultural identity and communication norms while intensifying the emotional impact in characters’ dialogues. To achieve the objective, the data for the current study is comprised of selected dialogues from eight episodes through non-probability sampling technique. By employing the categories defined by Jeresano and Carretero's (2022) research framework i.e. Initialism, spelling distortion, euphemism, suffixation, connotation, fancy formation, clipping and compounding, the analysis has demonstrated that Gen Z slangs, as depicted in the series, investigate how inventive morphological processes like initialism and clipping have reflected the adaptive, innovative attitudes of contemporary youth, and spread the acceptance of new slang terms. In addition, cultural reflections and emotional significance of language are also explored through various instances of fancy formation, spelling distortion, compounding, blending and suffixation found in the series. In essence, the study aims to classify these slang terms, analyze their contextual use, and assess the series' role in defining modern youthful language. Moreover, this study has provided a profound significance of Gen Z’s creative use of language, offering insights into the intricate relationship between language, culture, and identity in modern media.

Keywords: Generation Z, Morphology, Slangs, Linguistic Features, Social Media

Introduction

Generation Z, known as post-millennials, belongs to a generation that has never known life without the internet. The term 'Generation Z' is commonly abbreviated as Gen Z whose life is identified as "The art of living in a digital age" (Katz et al., 2022). They are not the same individuals who knew what life was like before the internet. Digital communication platforms and technologies have a significant impact on the language spoken by Generation Z. Generation Z is sometimes defined by their digital nativism. They frequently communicate using slangs, acronyms, and abbreviations, especially while texting and using social media.. They are also renowned for their inventiveness when it comes to language, frequently coining new terms or creatively repurposing old ones.

Following the emerging importance of Gen Z, the present research focuses on examining language patterns that gives insight into Gen Z slangs popular in youth-oriented culture. The study of Generation Z slangs in "One of Us is Lying", a Netflix series delves into the emerging linguistics landscape formed by present youth culture. Examining these language patterns in a well-known

series such as "One of Us is Lying" provides an understanding of how youth-oriented language is portrayed and incorporated into mainstream media, reflecting the changing vocabulary and communication styles of this generation in entertainment narratives. Since the Gen Z language and the series setting are contemporary, the story centers on students whose lives are dominated by digital devices like laptops and texting.

Problem Statement

The linguistic landscape is evolving rapidly, with the rise of Generation Z, who has their own unique set of slangs that they use in their communication. There is observable gap in scholarly works regarding the particular linguistic patterns employed by Generation Z; within the context of "One of Us is Lying" Netflix series. This study aims to address this gap by conducting a linguistic analysis morphologically and seeks to identify and examine the use of Generation Z slangs in the dialogues of the characters in the aforementioned series.

Research Objectives

The objectives of this research are:

- 1- To explore the Generation Z linguistic patterns and slangs in the Netflix series "One of Us is Lying".
- 2- To analyze how Generation Z linguistic patterns contribute to the cultural identity and communication norms.
- 3- To examine the usage of Generation Z slangs to intensify the emotional impact in characters' dialogues within the series.

Research Questions

This research has answered the following research question:

1. What sort of Generation Z linguistic patterns and slangs are used in the Netflix series "One of Us is Lying"?
2. In what ways, do the Generation Z linguistic patterns contribute to the construction of cultural identity and communication norms within the context of the series?
3. How Generation Z slangs are used to enhance the emotional impact in the dialogues of characters within the series?

Significance of the Study

The importance of this study resides in examining the linguistic patterns of slang used by Generation Z within the framework of the Netflix series "One of Us is Lying". Primarily, it clarifies the changing language dynamics within Generation Z, providing a more profound comprehension of their communication patterns and cultural subtleties. The purpose of this study is to look into the unique linguistic patterns and communication techniques used by Generation Z. Through the analysis of these language trends, a greater understanding of cultural shifts and factors impacting language use in modern media is gained, as well as insights into the communication styles of today's young generation.

Delimitation

The present research is delimited to just one season of the Netflix series "One of Us is Lying" comprising eight episodes. Moreover, the analysis of this study is delimited to particular linguistic patterns specifically Gen Z slangs. Furthermore, it's a small-scale study.

Literature Review

This section provides an overview of the previous literature related to Generation Z. Pichler et al. (2021) introduced a framework on uniqueness of Generation Z. It is emphasized that Generation Z, known as Digital Natives, being the first generation having this massive access to the internet all the time, have shaped their interests and personalities accordingly. Due to the fact that the internet has answers to everything, it has made this generation of digital natives self-sufficient and individualistic. They have also become less interactive and most of their time goes to the screens. At the same time, they are more welcome to diversity than the previous generations. They mostly prefer working on an individual basis than working as a team or in a group.

Bilonozhko et al. (2020) conducted a study on the use of successful reading strategies with Generation Z students, which is based on a critical analysis of recent pedagogical and psychological research on "digital learners." The majority of the subjects in today's educational process are members of Generation Z, and their study habits, interests, and values are significantly altering the environments in which teaching and learning take place, which supports the study's relevance. The writers examined the idea of text and task authenticity and argue that it is a highly motivating factor for online learners. It analyzes the distinctive qualities of Generation Z and applies its findings to the selection of efficient reading techniques for online learners. Pedagogical consequences are discussed, and a list of suggestions is provided for choosing efficient reading techniques for language schools.

Maulidiya and Sonmez (2021) acknowledged that people's perceptions of the world are shaped by the social, cultural, and economic contexts of the time periods in which they were born. As they grew up with mobile and online communication tools, those born after 2000 are referred to as Generation Z and are frequently considered Digital Natives. This generation views the world differently from those from previous generations. This study is to investigate the learning objectives of this new student cohort in the English as a foreign language courses. The findings showed that using conventional techniques and strategies to satisfy Gen-Z pupils is no longer feasible. To address the academic and personal demands of Generation Z, technology-savvy teachers and resources are anticipated. The study came to the conclusion that, despite certain points of agreement between teachers and students about language instruction, there is still a generational divide in some areas of language learning, including resources, assignments, testing, and evaluation.

Seemiller and Grace (2017) laid emphasis on educating and engaging this new generation. To explore that how Generation Z is different from the previous generation, a survey was conducted. Results indicated that not just the teaching and educational methods are different but the environment that were provided to millennials is not welcomed by Generation Z. In spite of the fact that millennials and Generation Z do share some common traits, but still their preferences and requirements are different.

Moreover, a study was conducted which examined that Gen Z's vocabulary on social media is expressive, unrestrained, and emancipated. The purpose of this study was to discover Gen Z's interests based on their postings and to construct writing activities that they could be interested in.

Additionally, the writing style of Generation Z on social media was analyzed. Specifically, posts were confined to twitter as it is believed that this is the channel where Gen Z youth becomes loud, proud, uninhibited, and real in language usage. It was observed that Gen Z youngsters used various social media programs for a variety of functions. Some students frequently used Facebook to exchange memes and keep others updated on their errands, accomplishments, and current happenings (Zohail, 2023).

Jeresano and Carretero (2022), in their ground-breaking work, “Digital Cultural and Societal Media Slang of Gen Z Language,” provided a thorough and perceptive literature analysis from their unique point of view, shedding light on the changing linguistic landscape influenced by Gen Z. By exploring the societal and societal ramifications of this linguistic evolution, it provides thorough a grasp of how these language dynamics impact contemporary communication norms and lead to more significant transformations in social dynamics.

Chansit (2021) has examined how young adult literature, among adolescents portrays the problems of peer rejection and revenge. By employing the lens of Lacanian theory on subjectivity and desire in the Karen M. McManus novel “One of Us is Lying”, this study has explored the revenge plot. It is claimed that peer rejection makes a significant contribution in conflicting self-concepts, adolescent characters’ perception of others that how other characters view them and how they see themselves, clash at some point and leads them to seek revenge.

Ondricek (2018) conducted a study on “One of Us is Lying” and discovered that in Mr. Avery’s class, Simon, Broken, Andy, Cooper, and Nate are unfairly assigned to afternoon detention and they share their experiences that will forever alter their lives. Simon experiences an allergic reaction when Mr. Avery steps out of the room. Simon doesn’t make it, and the kids also don’t respond faster. The police claimed that one of them intentionally caused the attack. It’s an exciting and gripping Whodunit mystery, and this novel follows the Bayview Four in the attempt to find out how Simon died that day so that they all had many reasons to be resentful of Simon,

Anjani (2023) explores the depiction of Karen M. McManus’s character Nate Macauley from her book “One of Us Is Lying”. This study gives importance to the character of Nate Macauley in Karen’s novel one of us is lying. In this study, the descriptive qualitative research method is used with an objective approach. According to the results of this research paper, Nate’s character is characterized as having dark hair, a tall, slim build, prominent cheekbones, and widely spaced, darkish-lensed eyes. Nate Macauley’s character is represented as kind, naive, laid-back, cheeky, talkative, trustworthy, and helpful in an emergency. Nate Macauley’s character is represented by the author in a dramatic way by his dialogues and acts which tells that he is a playboy, mischievous, laid-back, stubborn, and alert person who also happens to be a little funny.

Research Gap

Previous scholarly works have analyzed Generation Z by focusing on the factors that have impacted this language and what techniques and methods can be used to teach the people of this Generation Z. Some previous works have examined the series "One of Us Is Lying" from the perspectives of plot, theme, and characterization. However, there has been a lack of attention on the use of Generation Z slangs at the morphological level, specifically in film studies. This study addresses this gap by analyzing the morphological processes to identify Generation Z slang in the Netflix series "One of Us Is Lying"

Research Methodology

The present research has adopted a qualitative exploratory research method to analyze morphological features such as initialism, spelling distortion, fancy formation, euphemism, suffixation, connotation, compounding, and clipping. It has investigated the linguistic patterns and slangs of Generation Z, focusing on how their communication has been influenced by digital culture and technology.

By employing Jeresano and Carretero's (2022) theoretical framework, the study has examined the impact of social media and digital culture on Gen Z language by collecting dialogues from the Netflix series "One of Us is Lying". A purposive non-probability sampling method has been used to select one season comprising of eight episodes, ensuring comprehensive coverage of relevant linguistic content. Data has been collected through systematic content analysis, involving the manual transcription of dialogues to capture spoken language, expressions, and slangs. The analysis has been conducted according to the specified categories, identifying recurring linguistic patterns and highlighting the dynamic nature of Gen Z's communication. Findings are presented in tabular form, offering insights into how this generation has adapted and innovated language in response to their digital environment.

Research Framework

Generation Z are the people who were born in 1997 or after, they are known as people of technology and their motto is to work smarter not harder, and a huge part of their lives is based on smartphones, tablets, internet. Gen Z is another trait being updated on what's going around the globe and their concern is to spread every piece of information they have instead of keeping it to themselves and it is due to this trait any variation made in the language is quickly expanded in their generation and becomes a new trend.

Jeresano and Carretero (2022), in their published work in the International Journal for Research & Technology, have provided a checklist on significant concepts such as Initialism, spelling distortion, euphemism, suffixation, connotation, fancy formation, clipping and compounding by explaining how Generation Z language is impacting because of Social media and the digital culture. The present study has adopted this checklist as its research framework by working on these specific categories to explore Generation Z linguistic patterns and slangs on morphological level.

Initialism

Initialism is a form of language in which a name that consists of two or three words is referred to by their initial alphabets such as BBC stands for British Broadcasting Corporation. The reason for practicing initialism in day-to-day conversation is to make the longer phrases sound shorter or more convenient. According to Jeresano and Cartero (2022), "The use of initialism implies that Gen Zers are more comfortable to shorten the words to convey the message easily and to adapt to fast-paced communication online".

Spelling Distortion

Spelling distortion in Generational Z language is a way to break down spellings to make them sound cool. The breakdown of an original word intentionally to make it a new, distorted form

contains some of the spellings of actual words for example a very commonly used Gen Z word nowadays is “sus” which stands for suspicious. The meaning that “sus” conveys remains the same as suspicious but it’s just the spellings that are moulded. It authenticates Nazman et al. (2020) discover that the "younger generation distorts spellings in terms of its inflections to fit some sounds". It is carried out by this generation to be different than others. Now and then, these new variations of different words are set to be in trend and then comes a time when everyone around starts using that specific word.

Fancy Formation

Fancy formation can refer to adding power and personality to a conversation using stylish or colorful vocabulary. It's like putting a little warmth on your words to make them more interesting and fun. For example: “Bro” can be used to describe your friends or someone in the family. Petrulyte (2008) regarding Generation Z’s communication style, “fancy formation” captures their skill of bringing creativity and digital flair to language. According to this paradigm “fancy formation” refers to their ability to infuse conversation with trendy phrases and viral videos which reflects their cultural influences and digital fluency. The Gen Z generation uses those words and phrases that anyone couldn’t possibly understand as a whole language for interpersonal communication.

Euphemism

A euphemism is a term or phrase that is used to reduce the impact of something unpleasant, hurtful, or harsher than it is actually. It’s a means of replacing a statement that can be construed as being highly direct or harsh with one that is softer or more delicate. According to Gomez (2009), a language expression’s, true meaning, and purpose as a communication value may only be understood in the context of a particular circumstance and the context makes it impossible to categorize it as a euphemism. Euphemisms are frequently used by this generation which is recognized for emphasizing inclusivity, sensitivity, and digital fluency, to navigate sensitive or possibly conflicting topics in casual conversation. Generation Z uses coded language to address difficult themes or interesting euphemisms in memes but they always utilize euphemisms as a tool to promote respect, empathy, and understanding in their online and social networks.

Suffixation

Suffixation is a word formation process that involves the addition of a morpheme, also known as a suffix, to the end of a word's root or base. This process often alters the original word's meaning, function, or grammatical classification, and can even result in the creation of an entirely new term. Suffixation can be used to change the denotation of a word, which refers to its literal meaning, or its connotation, which is the emotional or associative meaning. For example, the addition of the suffix "-ish” to the word “green” creates the word “greenish,” which changes the denotation of the word to mean “somewhat green”. Overall, suffixation is a creative and versatile process that allows for the expansion of the English language vocabulary in a fun and informal way.

Connotation

Connotation is a term that carries a great deal of significance in communication and language. It refers to the emotional, imaginative, and sentimental associations that a word may have, beyond its literal and formal definition. In other words, connotation is the set of feelings and

ideas that are conjured up in the minds of listeners or readers when they encounter a particular word. According to Chandra (2017), connotation can be either positive or negative, and many words have both positive and negative connotations depending on the context in which they are used. For example, the words “stubborn” or “determined” can be seen as admirable traits in some circumstances, while in other contexts, they might be viewed as negative or even downright problematic. The importance of connotation lies in the fact that it is often the emotional associations that a word carries which determine its impact on the listener or reader. Therefore, understanding the connotations of words is a key to effective communication and can help individuals to convey the intended meaning and tone in their messages.

Compounding

Compounding is another morphological process that is the process of creating a new word by combining two different words into a single form to describe something new. Compound, according to (Bauer, 1983) is “When two words are combined to form a new word. Compounds can be written as simple words”. For example, the word “Hairpin” is a compound word that can be written with a hyphen such as “hair-pin” or separate as hairpin. This process of creating new term is closely related to the creation of Gen Z slangs because as a part of their unique linguistics style, this generation frequently invents and employs compound words. Gen Z often creates new terms by combining existing words to convey specific social behaviors or cultural phenomena. This shows the creativity of the present generation that involves the compounding of two different words. Because of the rapid pace of communication on social media sites, the use of compound words is encouraged for impact and brevity.

Clipping

Adopting a morphological approach, clipping is also referred to as truncation (Jamet in Lexis Special: Lexicology and phonology, 2009). This term is sometimes interchangeably also known as splinter (Dank, 2003). In clipping, words are shortened through a reductive process. Therefore, it also shortened the efforts that are involved in writing and speech. Bauer explains clipping as it is the process whereby a lexeme is shortened yet retains the same meaning while still being a member of the same class form (Dank, 2003). The clipping of the word “Telephone” to “phone” is an example of clipping and it can be combined with other words such as earphone.

As Gen Z communicates through digital channels where brevity is cherished, short words make posting and texting more effective and fast. According to Bauer (1983), the stylistic value of the words do not change due to clipping, they usually become less formal but not the part of speech nor the meaning. The word becomes autonomous once it is clipped and can be combined with other word formation process.

Data Analysis and Discussion

Initialism

Initialism, an element of Gen Z language, refers to using of words by their initial alphabets and it often happens when the phrases consist of two or more words. Some instances of initialism can be seen in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Instances of Initialism in the Series

Sr No.	Words	Meaning	Dialogues
1	ESPN	A name of sports program	Announcement: “Coming in to pitch for the Jaguars, ESPN top ten high school pitching prospect Cooper Clay”
2	TMZ	An American celebrity news channel	Nate: “I’m trying to be on ESPN, not TMZ”
3	PTSD	A disorder found in people who have faced trauma	Reporter: “Was it your father’s PTSD”
4	RDR	A video game	Jake: "Cool if I play RDR for a bit?"

From the analysis, it can be seen that initialism is observed in the opening of the very first episode of the series when an announcement for the sports week is going on in Bayview High school which goes as:

“Here we are, the 2021 high school baseball California showcase..... ESPN top ten high school pitching prospect Cooper Clay”

So in the quoted dialogue, “ESPN” is the example of initialism which stands for Entertainment and Sports Programming Network.

As the series continues, the next example of initialism is noted in the fourth episode when the four of the students Addy, Cooper, Bronwyn, and Nate are trying to get rid of this investigation about Simon’s murder and then being suspects, Bronwyn suggested that we should give them another person to investigate so they’ll leave us and Nate replied “I actually agree. I’m trying to be on ESPN, not TMZ”. TMZ is an American celebrity news website abbreviation for Thirty-mile zone.

Then at third episode, another example has been noted is “PTSD” because it was about Mayer's son, the case opened other cases as well such as Nate being a drug dealer and reporters asked him what led him to do this "What led you to sell drugs in the first place? Was it your father's PTSD.....?" PTSD, the initialism that has been used here, stands for Post-traumatic stress disorder.

And at last in the seventh episode, Addy after forgetting everything, went to Jake to make things clear and Jake said “I am so happy you’re here. Cool if I play RDR for a bit?”

“RDR” is the initialism that is found in this dialogue and it is the name of a video game which stands for Red Dead Redemption.

Spelling Distortion

Spelling distortion is the breaking of the actual spellings of the words to make them sound cooler or shorter. Different instances of spelling distortion can be seen in Table 4.2. Nazman et al. (2022) discovered that spelling distortion by Gen Z's is carried out in order to be different.

Table 4.2 Instances of Spelling Distortion in the Series

Sr No.	Words	Meaning	Dialogues
1	Weirdo	Weird, someone with unusual activities	Keely: “a weirdo”
2	Rock'em, sock'em and pal	A phrase in which the words are distorted to make them sound short or cool	Simon: “I’m just not so sure about your rock ‘em, sock ‘em jock pals”
3	Moi	Basically “Me” but in cheerful manner	Kris: “Moi?”
4	Meds	Medicine	Maeve: “Who leads Janae of her meds again”
5	Plea	Short/distorted word for plead	Lawyer: “They offered you a plea deal”
6	Kiddo	Another version of the word Kid in a playful manner	Kevin: “Kiddo”
7	Duo	Used to refer to a pair/couple	Addy: “iconic duo”

As the series is about Gen Z and their unique way of using language so in the very first episode, Keel - a student of the Bayview High school, while talking about Simon Kelleher called him “a weirdo” which is the distortion of the word “weird”.

As the series continues, the second example can be seen when Simon was talking to Cooper and convinced that he knows everything and saying that he should tell his girlfriend about his reality. He says

“It’s cool with me, man..... rock ‘em, sock ‘em jock pals. Most of ‘em have.....”.

In the quoted dialogue from the series, “rock'em”, “sock'em” are distorted for “rock them” and “sock them” while “pal” is used for people and distortion of the word “people”.

Moreover, in the fifth episode, Cooper had a fight with his friend a few days back and now he came to his place to clear the misunderstanding but upon reaching his place, he came to know that his friend is facing some issues with his computer which Cooper managed to set right in minutes and told his friend that it was not a big problem if he had not been dramatic and his friend asked in a shocking expression “Moi?”. Here, “Moi” is distorted for “Me” and his friend asked him in a funny tone that am I the one who was dramatic.

Then another example is observed when Janae was searching for Maeve at a party and she came across Vanessa’s table, she said “Who led discount Billie Eilish off her meds again?” here “Meds” is used for the word medicine.

Moreover, in the seventh episode, when Nate was arrested and his lawyer came to him and told him that he has been offered a deal “They offered you a plea deal”. “Plea” here is distorted for “plead” which is basically an agreement.

Another example of spelling distortion is seen when Cooper and his father are talking about the main reason. His father was telling Cooper not to distract his focus on other stuff and while doing, he referred Cooper as “Kiddo” which is the distorted spelling for the word “kid”.

Lastly in the eighth episode, Addy while telling Jake about the costumes she had in mind for them, she said that they’ll look “iconic duo” in it. “Duo” is distorted for the word “dual” and is also used for couples.

The two features initialism and spelling distortion can also be used at the same time providing the essence of using the short form of a word and breaking another word in the same sentence such as “thx for the tea, BRB”. “Thx” here is the distortion of “thanks” and “BRB” is initiated form of “Be Right Back”.

Connotation

The connotation of a word or phrase refers to the additional meaning or emotional association it carries beyond its literal definition. Different examples of connotation can be seen in Table 4.3. Connotations can be positive, negative, or neutral, and they often contribute to the overall tone or mood of a piece of writing or conversation. .

Table 4.3 Instances of Connotation in the Series

Sr No.	Word	Meaning	Dialogue
1	Tragic	Causing great sadness or suffering	Principal Gupta: "Simon Kelleher tragically passed away..."
2	Grieve	To feel intense sorrow or sadness	Principal Gupta: "Let yourselves grieve."
3	Miserable	Negative connotation indicating unhappiness or suffering	Addy Prentiss: "The atmosphere at school has been miserable....."
4	Traumatic	Negative connotation implying a deeply distressing experience	Nate Macauley: "Witnessing Simon's death was a traumatic event."
5	Innocence	The state of being free from guilt or wrongdoing	Simon Kelleher: "The Bayview Four are innocent."
6	Cheater	A person who acts dishonestly or unfairly to gain an advantage	Cooper Clay: "The one thing that I can't stand is a cheater."

The first example of connotation that has been noticed in the dialogue of Principal Gupta is the word “Tragic.” Principal Gupta has delivered this statement to the students at Bayview High School in a meeting held to address the recent death of Simon Kelleher. This dialogue is intended to convey the seriousness and emotional weight of Simon’s death to the students and the school community.

Second example that has been observed in the dialogue of Principal Gupta is the word “Grieve”. Principal Gupta said this word to the students of Bayview High School following Simon Kelleher’s death. The context of this statement is to encourage the students to openly express their

sorrow and cope with the emotional impact of Simon’s death. Principal Gupta is essentially giving the students permission to deal with their grief and sadness as they navigate the aftermath of Simon’s death and the ongoing investigation.

The word "miserable" is another example of connotation used in the dialogue of Addy Prentiss. Addy used this connotation to express the pervasive sense of sadness and discomfort that has engulfed Bayview High School following Simon Kelleher’s death. The context is that the school environment has been significantly impacted by the tragedy, leading to a general feeling of unhappiness and distress among the students and staff. Addy is reflecting on how Simon’s passing has affected the overall mood and atmosphere at school.

Another instance of connotation is the word “traumatic” and it is observed in the dialogue of Nate Macauley. Nate says this word during a conversation with other characters, expressing the profound emotional and psychological impact that witnessing Simon Kelleher’s death had on him and the other students who were present.

Moreover, the connotation "innocent" is another example in the series and it is employed by Simon Kelleher in his pre-recorded videos. Simon made these videos to reveal secrets about his classmates and to manipulate the narrative surrounding his death. By asserting that the “Bayview Four” (Bronwyn, Addy, Nate, and Cooper) are innocent, Simon is attempting to mislead and create tension, as he uses this statement to further complicate the investigation and to influence how his death and the resulting secrets are perceived. The context is that Simon’s statements are part of his larger plan to stir drama and keep his death the center of attention.

The last instance is the word “cheater” that is the example of connotation and it is spoken by Cooper Clay who is one of the major characters in the series. Cooper Clay said this to his friends during a discussion about the various personal issues and secrets that have come to light following Simon Kelleher’s death. The context of this statement is Cooper’s frustration and moral stance on cheating, reflecting his strong feelings about honesty and fairness. Cooper’s comment underscores his disappointment and disapproval of deceitful behavior, particularly in relation to the unfolding investigation and the characters’ interactions.

Fancy Formation

The term "Fancy Formation" describes the tendency of presenting and arranging content in an attractive and well-coordinated way particularly on social media. Different instances of fancy formation can be seen in the Table 4.4.

Table 4.4 Instances of Fancy Formation in the Series

Sr No.	Word	Meaning	Dialogue
1	Guys	A group of individuals.	Simon: “Guys Take off the board shorts”
2	Assholes	Vulgar act	Simon: “I am going to reveal the truth about all of you miserable assholes just I did last year when I leaked some photo”
3	Babe	Attractive young women	Frat boy: Hey babe, who the fuck are you?
4	Bro	Friend or friend	Lucas “Hey bro have you seen the post about Addy”
5	Wow	Powerful sense of surprise	Addy: “Wow mom”

It can be observed that “Guys” is the term which is commonly used to refer to a group of people. This word has been used in the opening lines of the series “One of Us is Lying” in the dialogue of Simon. This word is used when Simon says to his school friends that guys, pack your swimwear as summers are over like last year.

Secondly, the word "Assholes" means stupid foolish, is used in the Simon`s dialogue when he said to his friends to pack their swim wear because summers are over. He used this word “assholes” because of their vulgar acts.

Furthermore, another example of fancy formation is the word “Babe”. This word is used in the dialogue of Frats boy in the series. Frats boy confronts Amber by asking; hey Babe, who are you? He didn’t not use her name for calling instead he used the word “Babe”.

Another example of fancy formation in the series is the word “Bro”. When character Lucas asks from Jake, Bro, have you seen the post about Addy?. Then, Lucas didn’t call his name directly, instead he used the word “Bro” for Jake.

Moreover, the word “Wow” is another instance of fancy formation that is found in the series. When Addy`s mom advises Addy to spent more time on makeup. Addy becomes happy to listen the advice of her mother. In the response, Addy says to her mother, Wow Mom. She used the word “Wow” to show her happiness and amazement in front of her mother.

Suffixation

Suffixation is a morphological procedure in which a suffix is added to a word's base or root form, creating a new word or changing the original word's form. Different instances of suffixation can be seen in the Table 4.5. This procedure can alter the base word's meaning, categorize it differently, or change grammatical elements like degree, number, or tense.

Table 4.5 Instances of Suffixation in the Series

Sr No.	Words	Meaning	Dialogues
1	Playing	Serving to explain a continuous action	Bronwyn: “It's just playing ping pong with itself.”
2	Confessing	To acknowledge or admit something, usually something one has hidden or is embarrassed of	Vanessa: “Someone is, like, confessing to killing Simon.”
3	Fishing	It suggests using a roundabout method to get the intended outcome or response	Ms Avery: “or are you fishing for me?”
4	Panicked	To characterize an intense, unexpected panic or anxiety attack	Vanessa: “So I panicked”
5	Broke down	To express a severe emotional discharge or an emotional collapse	Vanessa: “I completely broke down.....”
6	Bonding	The act of developing a strong emotional bond or attachment	Student: “Um, please tell me you're not, like, trauma bonding with Nate Macauley.”

The first example is in Bronwyn's remark which includes the suffix "ing" in the word "playing." This phrase "playing ping pong" has become a popular idiom that means to be hesitant or uncertain. It is noticed in the Bronwyn’s dialogue when she tells the post to Nate about Cooper

and she says that she can't sleep because of this post and her brain is just playing ping pong with itself.

Secondly, the verb "confess" has been modified with the suffix "ing" to become the present participle "confessing", suggesting a continuing action. In the context of the series "One of Us Is Lying," that is centered on Simon's strange murder and the secrets of a group of high school kids, the word "confessing" has been very important. It is noticed in the dialogue of Vanessa when someone confesses about Simon's murder on the confession app.

Moreover, the verb "fish" has been suffixed with "-ing" to become the present participle "fishing," which is used metaphorically to indicate a reaction or information. It has been noted in Ms. Avery's dialogue, when Janae asked her about some information related to her and Simon after Simon's death. She also asked to Ms. Avery to give her a chance to say something about it before going to cops but Ms Avery ask her that you are asking me a chance to say something or are you fishing for me to say something.

In the sixth episode, the suffix "ed" has been added to the verb "panic" to make the past tense verb "panicked", indicating a completed action or state. In the series, this word is used when Vanessa's has explained that Ms. Avery had caught her while bunking the class and she panicked at that time so she had to tell Ms. Avery about her abortion.

Similarly, the suffix "e" has been added to the verb "break" to make the past tense verb "broke," indicating a finished action or state, as it is noticed in the dialogue of Vanessa that while she was telling her secret of her abortion, she was completely broke down when Ms Avery caught her so she told her everything

Then adding the suffix "ing" to the verb "bond" has created the present participle "bonding," which suggests an ongoing process or activity. This use of the present participle "bonding" has emphasized how ongoing the process of developing a bond based on common trauma experiences. In "One of Us Is Lying", characters have frequently bonded and built relationships in reaction to similar struggles and events, so it has been noticed in one of the character's dialogue while she was asking Bronwyn about her relationship with Nate as they were facing the trauma of Simon's murder.

Euphemism

A euphemism is a mild or indirect word or expression substituted for one considered to be too harsh, blunt, or unpleasant. Different examples of euphemism can be seen in the Table 4.6. It's often used to soften the impact of sensitive or controversial topics. For example, saying "passed away" instead of "died."

Table 4.6 Instances of Euphemism in the Series

Sr No.	Word	Meaning	Dialogues
1	Hunts	Euphemism for kills	Keely: They say even the bravest wild cat hunts with their head down, stalking its prey.
2	Stalking	Euphemism for pursuing or tracking down	Keely: They say even the bravest wild cat hunts with their head down, stalking its prey.

3	Nightmare	Euphemism for a very difficult or unpleasant situation	Keely: Yeah, I... I get it. Well, uh, the last few weeks have been a total nightmare, guys
4	Murder club	Euphemism for a gathering with a dark or ominous name	Cooper: And they followed you to Murder club?
5	Taking selfies with Jesus	Euphemism for being in a dire or life-threatening situation	Addy - If Nate hadn't finally shown up, I'd be taking selfies with Jesus right now.
6	Drive me nuts	Euphemism for causing extreme frustration or annoyance	Bronwyn: Rojas Okay, okay. I know, but I just... I just have to get this perfect, or it's gonna drive me nuts.
7	Bit of good news	Euphemism for positive development	Vanessa: "A bit of good news though"

The first example in which Keely uses the word "Hunt" to convey the soft impact by expressing the team's systematic and intentional approach to defeating other teams. This word choice keeps the message engaging and inspiring while highlighting their resolve and focused attention. It is a reflection of Keely's fierce and passionate nature, meant to motivate the team and draw attention to their systematic approach to victory.

Keely uses the word "stalking" as a harsh word to characterise the Wildcats' methodical and deliberate approach to the game, showing their accuracy and patience in beating rivals. This word choice, which combines inspiration and determination, is a perfect fit for Keely's fiery and motivated nature.

Another example "Nightmare" is used in the dialogue that how Keely has characterized the team's most recent difficult and demanding period. This word choice acknowledges the difficulties while setting the foundation for a constructive and hopeful change. It is a reflection of Keely's compassionate and positive personality.

Furthermore, the term "Murder Club" which is used as a harsh word in a dialogue that is used by Keely in a humorous or sarcastic manner in reference to a group that is probably investigating murders among other serious activities. While, Nate's remark about needing a new identity indicates that he has realised that his name might be off-putting.

Another example of euphemism "Taking Selfies with Jesus" can be observed in the series, which is a funny method for Addy to convey that she was on the verge of passing away. It is also used as a soft conversation demonstrating her dramatic as well as funny style of self-expression. This demonstrates the gravity of the situation and her appreciation that Nate was able to save her in time.

Moreover, the example "Drive me Nuts" indicates how Bronwyn describes her intense anger and anxiety over her imperfections. It is also used as a harsh word that demonstrates her intense need for perfection in order to feel content or comfortable. The term highlights how much pressure she puts on herself to live up to her high standards.

Lastly, instance of euphemism is observed in the series when Vanessa refers to a good development as a "Bit of Good News" in the midst of potentially difficult situations. Though Bronwyn's circumstances are still challenging overall, she hopes to maintain some optimism by drawing attention to this tiny bit of positive news. This strategy contributes some positivity and a feeling of balance to the conversation and conveys a soft impact in language.

Compounding

Compounding is another element that Gen Z use in their slangs. It is a method of creating a new word by combining two separate words into a different form to describe something new. Many instances of compound words can be seen in the Table 4.7.

Table 4.7 Instances of Compounding in the Series

Sr No.	Words	Meaning	Dialogue
1	Forget	To be unable to remember something	Kevin: “Don’t forget that”
2	Underperform	To perform less than expected	Simon: It's a medical condition where my salivary glands underperform
3	Understand	To grasp the significance and meaning of something	Officer miller: We're just trying to understand the whole picture
5	Mastermind	Someone with outstanding intellect	Vanesa: Okay. Addy, relax. You're clearly not some secret mastermind killer.
6	Freshman	Newcomer of high school and college	Kris: “I'm a freshman in college.”
8	Deadline	A time before something must be done	Isabella: The early action deadline is this Saturday

The first example of compound word that has been observed in the series, is in the dialogue of Kevin. The word “Forget” is a compound word that comprises of two words “For” and “Get”. In this dialogue of episode one, Kevin, who is Cooper’s father, reminding Cooper not to forget to participate in a game event that will be happening next Friday.

Another example of a compound is “Underperformed” which is the combination of two different words, “Under” and “Perform”. This statement shows a situation in which something does not meet expectations or does not perform as well as expected. When Simon says that he suffers from Xerostomia, a disorder in which his salivary glands malfunctioning, he explains why he might not communicate or perform as expected.

The third example of compound word is “Understood” that is made of two words “Under” and “Stand”. In Officer Miller’s dialogue, the term “Understand” emphasizes the investigation goals to fully understand the situation, mirroring the continuous search for the truth in the series “One of Us is Lying”. As the characters struggle with the aftermath of the death of Simon and its secrets, understanding becomes important to solve this mystery.

Moreover, instance of a compounding in the second episode of the series is “Mastermind”, made of two words “Master” and “Mind”. In the context of the series, Addy denies being involved in anything about Simon’s death and her friend, Vanessa, tries to calm her down and reassure her that her peers don’t consider her to be a serious suspect. Vanessa tries to ease Addy’s anxiety and lighten the tense atmosphere by calling Addy “Secret Mastermind Killer”.

Furthermore, the compound word “Freshman” in Kris’ dialogue consists of “Fresh” and “Man”, both are different words but when they combine, they give a new separate meaning. Here, Kris who is Cooper’s friend introduces himself to Cooper. He proclaims that he is indeed eighteen years old and reveals that he is a freshman in college.

In the statement of Isabella, “Deadline” is a compound word. This word consists of two different words such as “Dead” and “Line”. In the context of the series, this word is used when

Isabella is telling Bronwyn that Principal Gupta called her and informed her, that the disciplinary committee has finished her investigation into cheating accusation. She shifts her conversation to Bronwyn’s Yale essay and reminds her that the deadline for the Yale essay is Saturday.

Clipping

It is a process of forming new words by shortening the existing form of word. It is reductive process in which longer words are clipped to form a new word. Character’s dialogue in the series, “One of us is lying” is rich with this element in Gen Z slangs. Different examples of clipping can be seen in the Table 4.8.

Table 4.8 Instances of Clipping in the Series

Sr No.	Word	Meaning	Dialogue
1	Photos	Photograph/ Picture taken with camera	Simon: I am going to reveal the truth..... I leaked some photos that got half the basketball team expelled
2	Prep	Preparation/the act of processing	Cooper: Dad, come on. I know how to prep for a game
3	Phone	Telephone/ A device used for communication	Bronwyn: This... this isn't my phone.
4	Gym	Gymnasium/ Place for physical exercise	Cooper: I was coming out of gym.
5	App	Application/An application for mobile and computer	Maeve: By hacking into the app to stop your secret from dropping.

In the statement of Simon, the word “Photograph” is clipped to “Photo”. Here at the beginning of the series, Simon reveals his intent to expose the truth of certain individuals whom he views negatively. He also mentioned a past event when he leaked photos that led to the expulsion of half of the basketball team.

The word “Prep” is a clipping of “Preparation”. Kevin, who is Cooper father, advised Cooper to take the practice easy to prevent potential injury and overexertion. Cooper responded to his father’s advice asserting that he knows how to prepare for a game.

Moreover, there is another example of clipping “Telephone” is clipped to “Phone”. In the context of the series, Miss Avery points out Bronwyn for bringing her cell phone to her class. Bronwyn explained to Miss Avery that this was not her phone. Her phone was in the locker but despite her explanation Miss Avery still holds her responsible for breaking the rules. She asserts her authority and gives her detention as a form of disciplinary response.

In the dialogue of Officer Miller’s, the word “Cop” is a clipping form of the “Chief of Police”. In the series, this clipping word is used when Kevin asks Cooper that if cops again want to talk to him regarding the death of his friend Simon.

Another instance of clipping that has been observed in the series is in the dialogue of Cooper. The word “Gymnasium” is clipped to “Gym”. In this dialogue of Cooper, he explains to Addy that he was for the physics class because he could not find his cell phone. He explains that when he was leaving the gym, he realized that his cell phone was missing which led him in getting two minutes late for the class.

Furthermore, another instance of the clipping “Application” has been used which is clipped to “App”. In the context of the series, Bronwyn tells her sister Maeve that she knows Maeve has stolen Simon’s laptop. Bronwyn confronts Maeve about posting her friend’s secret on the app and expresses her frustration regarding the consequences of such actions. Maeve defended herself and claimed that, by hacking into the app she was trying to help Bronwyn to prevent her secrets from being exposed.

Discussion and Results

The analysis of morphological processes in Generation Z slangs as seen in the series “One of Us Is Lying” offers numerous avenues for discussion, especially related to linguistic structures, cultural identity, social norms, and the emotional significance of language. Through this investigation, it becomes clear that Generation Z is actively participating in inventive morphological processes like initialism, clipping etc

The Gen Z-affiliated slangs in “One of Us Is Lying” are contextualized with the generation’s ideology, experience of society and cultural sense of self. In fact, these language modifications add to generations’ overall understanding that form their cultural identity. Their slangs are reflected by morphological creativity that illustrates the adaptive, innovative attitude as a whole.

This linguistic innovation elicits emotional reactions (Moi from spelling distortion), providing recognition and validation for the readers and has the power to shift the tone of the conversation. For instance, in a scene when Cooper and his friend were not talking to each other and after a mere interaction, Cooper says to his friend that you tend to be dramatic in every situation and jokingly in response to it, asks Moi? (Refers to “Me?”), which happens to change the whole dynamics of the scene.

The cultural reflection through Generation Z language can be seen in the choice of words being used. The curse words that are very common in America and even the conversation of a teenagers is incomplete without them now a days, will never be bearable in Pakistan such as curse words (assholes). In spite of the fact that these curse words are now considered a style of conversation in America, whereas in Pakistan, they still are cursed words and are prohibited in formal settings. Ultimately, these slangs encapsulate Gen Z’s unique identity and contribute to the ongoing dialogue about language’s role in cultural identity (curse words).

To sum it up, the morphological processes found in Generation Z slangs as used in “One of Us Is Lying” present a colourful picture with ample of linguistic, cultural and emotional essence. It is a testament to how truly creative Gen Z is with language and how their slangs are ingrained in identity that are evocative of their uniqueness.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the analysis of Generation Z language in “One of Us Is Lying” provides a rich picture of the depiction of modern teen talk in literary form. The readings for these languages also show how Karen M. McManus writes the Gen Z language, with context to social media, in new slangs, in DMs. Furthermore, by looking at the dialogues and interactions between the characters, it becomes clear that the series is a snapshot of how this generation of teenagers say what they say, navigate social dynamics, and most confusing of all form their identities. The use of text messaging, hashtags, emojis, and all that internet slangs not only help in making the narrative super legit but also navigate the readers to an interactive familiar surrounding of unique terms and phrases commonly used in it with the characters.

It also highlights how the exploration of Generation Z language reflects the need for linguistic representation in young adult literature. It really underlines to what extent, language changes from generation to generation and how critical it is for working writers to depict the ways people communicate culturally. This not only helps to create more depth of character, but also to ease the way exposition, making it more clear and interesting for younger viewers.

Lastly, the examination of the language of the Gen Zs in “One of Us Is Lying” allows for the further understanding of how teenage communication is growing with each new generation. It highlights the profound impact of social media and digital communication on linguistic evolution, signifying the interplay between linguistic change and technology. By enhancing the understanding of modern linguistic trends and bridging generational gaps, this study has opened the avenues for further examination into ever evolving land scape of language and its role in society.

Recommendations

In the context of Generation Z, this research sheds light on the dynamics of contemporary slangs and its morphological foundations. The research findings also suggest several avenues for future investigation that researchers should explore how Generation Z influences other levels of language. This can involve examining the ways in which slangs affect the structure of sentences (syntax) and what the word means (semantics). Researchers can also examine slangs spread between different countries and cultures so they can further examine the cross culture analysis of Gen Z slangs.

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