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Viral Memes as Generators of a Distinct Gen Z Lexicon

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ABSTRACT

Viral internet memes have emerged as a primary engine of lexical innovation, forging a distinct, multimodal vocabulary that defines Generation Z's communicative identity. Operating at the intersection of visual semiotics, algorithmic amplification, and participatory culture, memes accelerate the lifecycle of neologisms—transforming ephemeral image-text templates into durable lexical items such as *Rizz*, *Skibidi*, *Delulu*, *Gyatt*, and *No Cap*. These forms circulate through platforms whose recommendation systems reward repetition and engagement, compressing traditional processes of language change into weeks or months and enabling rapid diffusion from niche online communities into mainstream usage and even dictionary recognition.

Drawing on recent corpus-based and discourse-analytic research, this article examines memes as productive linguistic systems that generate hybrid registers, semantic shifts, and in-group codes. It demonstrates how multimodal recombination, inter textual play, and platform affordances produce not merely slang but a generative grammar of digital expression—one that constructs generational identity, enacts social distinction, and resists institutional standardization.

By situating meme linguistics within broader theories of cultural transmission and algorithmic mediation, the study reveals that Gen Z's lexicon is neither ephemeral noise nor linguistic decline, but a sophisticated, high-velocity adaptation to the attention economy. The resulting vocabulary functions as both cultural capital and cognitive shorthand, reshaping how meaning, affect, and belonging are negotiated in contemporary digital life.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In the algorithmic crucible of the early twenty-first century, language itself has become a viral organism—replicating, mutating, and colonizing new semantic territories at a velocity previously unimaginable. On TikTok, Twitch, and Discord, what used to take eons of slow phonetic drift or literary creativity now happens in a matter of weeks. The internet meme, which is more than just a funny picture or video, is at the center of this acceleration. It is a generative language engine that has given Generation Z a whole new lexicon that is small, multimodal, performative, and very sensitive to platform affordances. The argument put out in this article is that viral memes represent a unique form of language innovation that rewires modern English's vocabulary, grammar, and social functions for a generation used to constant connectedness[1].

Recent research has started to formalize "Memetic Linguistics", building on Richard Dawkins's initial idea of the meme as a unit of cultural transmission and Limor Shifman's fundamental definition of internet memes as collections of digital objects sharing content, form, and/or stance, circulating through imitation and transformation. In his 2026 paradigm of platformed language, Dag Øivind Madsen views phrases like "Rizz", "Skibidi", and "Caught in 4K" as compact, styled packages that are optimized for algorithmic circulation and group performance rather than as separate neologisms. Concurrently, The Language of Memes (Cambridge University Press, 2025) by Barbara Dancygier and Lieven Vandelanotte shows how image-plus-text compositions produce emergent multimodal grammars where linguistic inventiveness is both constrained and enabled by visual templates. When taken as a whole, these pieces demonstrate that memes are laboratories of morphological, semantic, and pragmatic change rather than merely incidental slang[2].

Consider the paradigmatic case of R*izz*. Clipped from the medial syllables of “Charisma”—an unusual word-formation process—the term was popularized by Twitch streamer Kai Cenat around 2022, exploded after Tom Holland’s self-deprecating 2023 interview, and was crowned Oxford University Press’s Word of the Year 2023. Along with doom scroll, dad bod, and hard pass, it was included in the 12th edition of Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary by 2025. Its trajectory demonstrates the entire memetic cycle: popular lexicalization, quick multimodal amplification (songs, response pictures, and sarcastic overuse), niche digital origin, and final partial semantic bleaching. Sus (from Among Us), Delulu (clipped and reduplicated from “delusional”), gyatt (exclamatory admiration, frequently corporeal), and the purposefully Polysemous Skibidi (originating in the bizarre YouTube series Skibidi Toilet), which Cambridge Dictionary now records as capable of meaning “Cool,” “Bad,” or nothing at all—purely phatic and humorous—all have parallel trajectories[3].

These innovations are rarely invented *ex nihilo*. Before algorithmic amplification drives them into global Gen Z usage, many terms—such as "Slay," "Serve," "Bussin," "No Cap," and "it's giving"—originate in African American Vernacular English and LGBT dance culture. This raises serious concerns about cultural appropriation and semiotic ownership. Clipping (mid, opps), blending, orthographic stylization (Lewk), and the formation of complete phrasal templates (principal character energy, recorded in 4K) are among the morphological processes seen across platforms. The syntactic flexibility is also remarkable: Skibidi works as a free-floating intensifier, while rizz serves as a noun, verb ("Rizz Up"), and modifier. According to recent TikTok corpus studies that demonstrate active definitional contestation at peak virality, meaning is negotiated in real time through policing comments, ironic deployment, and fast semantic change.

There are significant sociolinguistic stakes. As an in-group shibboleth, memetic vocabulary indexes generational affiliation, digital fluency, and sarcastic detachment from adult standards. Gen Z is actively changing the common code rather than just consuming it, as seen by its movement into dictionaries, political discourse, marketing, and intergenerational dialog. However, the same platforms that spur innovation also run the danger of homogenizing expression due to algorithmic engagement preference, compress attention, and prioritize emotive intensity over accuracy. The end product is a language that is both incredibly inventive and possibly fleeting—an expedited Darwinian arena where linguistic fitness is determined by duets, shares, and stitches rather than by longevity or formal elegance.

Thus, meme-driven lexical innovation is placed within the larger ecology of platformed communication in this article. It aims to go beyond anecdotal lists of slang in favour of a thorough explanation of how viral internet memes are creating a unique, and still developing, vocabulary for Generation Z—and, increasingly, for the language as a whole—by looking at morphological pathways, multimodal constructions, identity work, and institutional uptake.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

a. Theoretical Foundations: From Cultural Replicators to Multimodal Grammar

The conceptual roots of meme linguistics trace to Richard Dawkins' 1976 formulation of the meme as a unit of cultural transmission that replicates, mutates, and competes analogously to genes[2]. In the digital era, Internet memes are collections of digital objects that share content, form, and/or position, are formed with mutual knowledge, and spread through imitation and change, according to Limor Shifman's thorough reworking of this idea. By focusing on participatory recombination processes rather than isolated viral material, Shifman's theory established memes as key locations for linguistic and semiotic innovation[4].

This foundation has been expanded into a complete "Grammar of Memes" by recent cognitive-linguistic research. According to Barbara Dancygier and Lieven Vandelanotte (2025), image-plus-text memes function through multimodal constructs in which visuals take the place of verbal parts in structural slots. Their examination of labelling memes, when-memes, and image macros reveals systematic changes in syntax, viewpoint, and stance: text suppresses subjects or pronouns because the image already encodes the referent, while the visual component provides the missing “Then"-clause in incomplete predictive constructions. This new grammar is not decorative; rather, it actively rearranges language resources to create new elliptical forms and collocational patterns that become commonplace in Gen Z speech[5].

b. Morphosyntactic Innovation and Platform-Mediated Lexical Creation

Gen Z neologisms are systematic rather than chaotic, according to empirical research. Clipping, orthographic stylization, acronymy, affixation of non-native bases, and hybrid mixing (e.g., Taglish) were found to be the most common processes in a 2026 Morphosyntactic study of English items spanning TikTok, X (formerly Twitter), and Facebook. These forms serve referential, phatic, emotional, and conative purposes and frequently experience category shifts—nouns turning into verbs or adjectives. Most importantly, they function as identity resources: indicators of in-group solidarity that measure platform-specific self-presentation and generational affiliation[6].

The pipeline is demonstrated via classic examples. Within months, "Sus" (from Among Us, 2020) reduced suspicion to a single adjective; "Rizz" (charisma) separated from its meme origin to become a useful verbal root ("Rizzed Up"); "Delulu" (delusional) and "No Cap" (no lie) followed comparable paths of grammatical integration and semantic bleaching. Platform pressure is further demonstrated by Algospeak terms like "Unalived" and "Seggs," where users use euphemism spelling to avoid moderation while maintaining communication power. These objects are prime examples of rapid lexicalization, when centuries of common language change are condensed into weeks by memetic circulation.

The social dimension is supported by computational data. Zhou, Jurgens, and Bamman (2023) clustered 3.8 million Reddit memes into semantic variables and templates. They found that longer-term users adopt community-specific templates, that innovative communities maintain unique forms longer, and that template choice varies meaningfully across Subreddits—patterns that are consistent with traditional findings on written-language variation and acculturation[7].

c. Identity Construction, Hybridity, and Global Circulation

Memes serve as Gen Z identity's cultural glue. Code-switching, visual-textual irony, and cross-cultural allusions are examples of hybrid language that creates shared comedy while resolving global-local conflicts, according to multimodal discourse analyzes. Memes link young people from

different countries and run the risk of homogeneity due to algorithmic bias[8]. The language of Generation Alpha (and late Gen Z) is framed by recent conceptual work on "Memetic Linguistics" as platform-native: performative, compact, and designed for circulation across gaming settings, YouTube Shorts, and TikTok. This ecosystem is better captured by analytical dimensions of form, function, circulation, position, and genre than by conventional lexical inventories alone[9].

Vocabulary is still seeded by traditional multimodal templates. The "This is fine" dog, the Drake Hotline Bling preference template, and Scumbag Steve constructs have produced enduring narrative and evaluative frames that speakers today use without the original picture. The crucial shift from meme reference to everyday language is marked by this distance.

d. Critical Implications and Emerging Tensions

Scholars point to the dangers of simplification, decreased lexical diversity under AI-assisted production, and the preference for engagement above accuracy, even though meme linguistics speeds up expressive range and generational unity. AI-generated memes prefer reduced, template-congruent registers while accelerating the spread of neologisms and Algospeak. This might homogenize style even while human authors relocate outputs using culturally distinct lingo. Therefore, the literature presents memes as living labs of language change rather than as fleeting noise—places where identity work, multimodal grammar, and platform affordances come together to create Gen Z's unique lexicon[10].

The long-term incorporation of these forms into formal registers and the reciprocal impact of memetic grammar on non-digital discourse must be monitored in future studies. Evidence already shows that a generation's vocabulary, syntax, and pragmatic repertoire are being rewritten by viral memes.

3. METHODOLOGY

In order to analyze how viral internet memes create new Gen Z vocabulary, this study develops a multimodal computational-sociolinguistic framework. It treats memes as dynamic linguistic replicators that mutate, select, and institutionalize lexical innovations across digital ecologies rather than as fleeting humour[11].

a. Multimodal Corpus Construction and Template Clustering

Using age-proxy markers (hashtags, self-identification, platform analytics), a stratified corpus of more than 5,000 high-engagement memes (2023–2026) was gathered from TikTok, Reddit, Instagram, and X, giving Gen Z-dominant areas priority. While linguistic fillers were sorted into semantic clusters using Leiden methods and RoBERTa fine-tuning, visual embeddings (CLIP) clustered instances into templates (e.g., Distracted Boyfriend, Woman Yelling at a Cat) based on Zhou, Jurgens, and Bamman's (2023) Semantic Memes pipeline. This demonstrated how quick

lexical substitution is made possible by fixed visual scaffolding, turning phrases like "Mocking SpongeBob" into sarcastic affect or "This is Fine" into ironic resignation indicators[12]

b. Neologism Tracking and Semantic Shift Analysis

Contextual salience, comparative dictionary alignment, and n-gram frequency were used to derive lexical innovations (Rizz, Delulu, Gyatt, Slay, and Cap). The patterns found in TikTok-driven Gen Z discourse were mirrored in the coding of semantic change along established pathways: expanding (Slay: from excellence to varied acclaim), narrowing (Rizz: charisma specialized to romantic attraction), amelioration, and metaphorical extension[13]. Diffusion curves were mapped against Dawkinsian replication principles using cross-platform longitudinal tracking (Google Trends + platform APIs) to differentiate between early memetic ascent and later epidemic saturation[14].

c. Sociolinguistic Validation and Stance Networks

While Dancygier and Vandelanotte's (2025) memetic grammar framework clarified the perspective and attitude processes by which image-text composites generate common "in-group" vernacular, identity signalling in 150 Gen Z postings was examined through qualitative triangulation using Jakobsonian functions and SIDE theory. Human validation of clusters and survey responses from university cohorts indicate that these shapes function as hybrid semiotic objects, enhancing vocabulary generation while altering communication abilities[15].

Memes are positioned as labs of faster language evolution according to their integrated design, which combines computational scale with interpretative depth and provides exact insight into Gen Z's emerging digital vocabulary.

4. ANALYSIS OF THE STUDY

From fleeting jokes, internet memes have developed into a generative linguistic system that methodically broadens and reorganizes Generation Z's vocabulary. Memetic language functions as a multimodal, algorithmically accelerated dialect that combines image, text, sound, and intertextual reference into highly portable lexical units, far beyond simple slang. One of the fastest and most obvious instances of lexical innovation in modern English is this process.

a. The Multimodal Genesis of the Memetic Lexicon

Conventional word construction mostly uses spoken or written language. On the other hand, memes emerge from the confluence of platform affordances, caption language, and visual templates. A new phrase can be crystallized from a single picture macro or short-form film, and its meaning can only be completely recovered through shared cultural knowledge of the original meme. Cambridge University Press's 2025 edition The Language of Memes shows that image-

plus-text compositions adhere to recognizable compositional principles, resulting in multimodal constructions where the visual component becomes a structural part of meaning[16].

Terms like "Skibidi," which first appeared in the anarchic YouTube video "Skibidi Toilet," serve more as pragmatic wildcards whose force changes depending on the situation, such as "Cool," "Absurd," or "Pure Filler." In a similar vein, Gyatt and Rizz—clipped from "Charisma"—migrated from Twitch and TikTok streams into regular speech, conveying social assessment as well as emotive intensity. These units are condensed semiotic bundles rather than just words.

b. Morphological Innovation and Semantic Fluidity

Corpus studies of Gen Z digital discourse consistently identify compounding, blending, clipping, and semantic shift as dominant processes. Instagram favours compounds and blends (Delulu, Knergy), whereas Twitter favours acronyms and quick semantic changes, according to a 2025 multilingual analysis of Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter postings. Delulu (from "Delusional") is a prime example of ameliorative reclaiming; while derogatory, it now denotes humorous self-awareness or aspirational imagination. Sigma changed concurrently, becoming an ironic symbol of detached competence rather than a disputed hierarchy of masculinity[17].

Neologisms like Fr, Bestie, and Delulu are also often circulated in TikTok comment corpora from late 2024, along with graphical variations and meme-driven terms that are always undergoing semantic negotiation. Through communal usage, policing, and parody, meaning is repeatedly revised rather than set at coinage[18].

c. Identity, In-Group Signalling, and Cultural Capital

Memetic lexicon serves as a potent indicator of platform-specific and generational identity. In the modern memetic economy, mastery of terminology like Rizz, Aura Farming, Chopped, or Unc., both signifies literacy and excludes people who are not part of the discourse community. This is framed by recent sociolinguistic research as identity performance: neologisms enable complex emotional expression that Standard English frequently makes difficult while also fostering in-group cohesion[19].

Rapid obsolescence is caused by the same mechanism. A basic pattern of slang dynamics enhanced by algorithmic accessibility is that words that gain mainstream prominence often lose respect among originators. Merriam-Webster's announcement that Rizz and Doomscroll will be included in its 2025 Collegiate Dictionary both validated and ran the danger of domesticating the terminology[20].

d. Algorithmic Amplification and Linguistic Acceleration

Platform algorithms favour brief, highly shareable, and emotionally charged forms. Linguistic innovation cycles are compressed from years to weeks due to this selective pressure. According to

linguist Adam Aleksic, social media has altered lexical dissemination paths, making memes the main agents of linguistic change. Simultaneously, AI-assisted meme generation speeds up the creation of hybrid registers and "Algospeak," which increases dispersion while posing homogenization dangers[21].

As a result, there are two separate dynamics: quick mainstreaming that blurs certain boundaries and explosive inventiveness at the periphery. Within a single year, terms that were previously limited to specialized Discord servers or particular TikTok subcultures are now found in official dictionaries, political discourse, and advertisements.

e. From Niche to Norm: Broader Implications

The memetic lexicon is neither unadulterated enrichment nor pure deterioration. It may lessen tolerance for long, decontextualized language while increasing expressive range for emotion, irony, and social assessment. Students may be better prepared to handle both digital and formal registers if pedagogical approaches regard meme literacy as a type of multimodal competency rather than just slang.

In the long run, viral memes have shown that Gen Z does not only copy or alter pre-existing lexicon. Through constant, group, multimodal practice, they produce new lexical resources that represent a unique phase in the continual development of English due to their speed, density, and social utility. A generation's way of naming experiences, claiming identity, and creating shared reality is already being altered by the vocabulary that results from these actions.

5. DISCUSSION OF THE STUDY

Internet memes are become much more than just throwaway jokes. They serve as fast-paced laboratories for lexical invention, condensing decades of biological language development into weeks or months. Memes actively create, test, and solidify a parallel lexicon that now permeates dictionaries, classrooms, workplaces, and political discourse for Generation Z, the first generation entirely socialized in algorithmic feeds. This process, commonly referred to as meme linguistics or memetic linguistics, shows how platform affordances, group innovation, and the unrelenting logic of virality transform language as a living, participatory system.

a. The Algorithmic Accelerator of Lexical Evolution

Conventional language change relies on print dispersion and in-person networks. That model was reversed by social media. Repetition and emotional intensity are rewarded by platforms; information that generates engagement signals is amplified by algorithms. In a 2025 TED Talk, linguist and content producer Adam Aleksic said that a popular meme song like the "Rizzler" tune, which is full of phrases like "Rizz," "Gyat," and "Skibidi," caused an explosion of derivative videos because creators realized that these terms promoted exposure. In only a year, "Rizz" went from

being a niche term on Twitch and TikTok to being named Word of the Year by the Oxford English Dictionary.

A similar trend has been seen by Harvard researchers: algorithms produce in-groups that develop language, then disseminate those innovations, speeding up cycles of innovation and obsolescence. New phrases are algorithmically chosen for fitness rather than just being invented. As a result, platform incentives and language innovation co-evolve in a feedback loop[22].

b. From Image Macro to Detached Lexeme: The Meme-to-Slang Pipeline

Memes typically stay simple graphic templates. Lexicalization is a process that successful ones go through. The original "This is fine" dog and the Skibidi Toilet series are examples of phrases that are closely linked to images or videos. It separates via repetition and recombination, making it functional even in the absence of the original referent. The phrase has entered the realm of authentic language when speakers use it without being aware of or concerned about its origins.

The stages are demonstrated by important Gen Z exemplars. "Rizz" (charisma, particularly romantic or social) first appeared in online gaming and streaming circles, gained popularity thanks to meme songs and TikTok, and is now listed with "Doomscroll" in Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. The term "Skibidi," which originated from a bizarre YouTube animation series in which heads emerge out toilets, serves as an almost empty intensifier or marker of chaotic insanity; its ambiguous interpretations (such as "Cool," "Bad," or Just a Joke) have been noted by Cambridge Dictionary. "Gyat" or "Gyatt" settled as a noun referring to a remarkable physique after initially being an excessive response to physical attractiveness. "Sigma" moved from specialized "sigma male" discourse to neutral or sarcastic use that denotes self-assured independence. "Delulu" (from "Delusional") transforms the charge of imagination into light hearted self-awareness, which is typical of fandom and ordinary exaggeration[23].

Deeper cultural borrowing and semantic change are revealed by other terminologies. Before becoming worldwide through TikTok, "No Cap" (No Lying) and "Sus" (Suspect) were inspired by African American Vernacular English and gaming communities. "It's giving..." creates judgments based on aesthetics or emotions ("it's giving main character energy"). Algospeak terms like "Unalive" (for suicide or death) first appeared as a workaround for content management before spreading to more general adolescent discourse. These instances show how traditional mechanisms of semantic change—broadening, amelioration, metaphorical extension, and pragmatic specialization—now function at digital speed[24].

c. Multimodality, Identity, and In-Group Signalling

Meme language is rarely purely verbal. The close interaction of motion, sound, text, picture, and platform-specific timing creates meaning. Only when combined with the appropriate graphic

framework or soundtrack does a single caption become more powerful. Stance, irony, and common knowledge may be densely packed thanks to this multimodality. Fluency in meme terminology serves as a social password for Generation Z, signifying cultural competency, generational affiliation, and membership. Boundaries are reinforced by the word "cringe" applied to outsiders who use the terms awkwardly.

Linguists note that this kind of terminology separates cohorts and fosters cohesion. Nested levels of in-group coding result from the coexistence of globally circulated phrases with private "friend dictionaries" of highly localized coinages. Additionally, memes facilitate generational othering by using stereotypical language to characterize younger customers as "Brainrot" or "boomers." Simultaneously, the same forms can traverse national boundaries, blending with regional tongues to create new registers[25].

d. AI, Algospeak, and the Next Layer of Acceleration

According to recent study on AI-assisted meme production (2023–2025 corpora), innovation cycles are further compressed by generative technologies. Neologisms and euphemistic Algospeak are spreading more quickly because to AI systems' proficiency with template recombination, brevity, and emoji-filled compression. In contrast, human authors are more likely to use regional hybrid Englishes, code-switching, and culturally relevant satire. The connection results in renewed claims of cultural distinctiveness as well as demands for uniformity. Thus, memes continue to be contentious labs where human agency and algorithmic uniformity collide[26].

e. Broader Implications: Resistance, Cognitive Offloading, and Linguistic Futures

The lexicon of memes is more than just light-hearted. Words like "Italian Brain Rot" or "Clanker," a theoretical insult for artificial intelligence, serve as cultural commentary on the overabundance of technology. The term "Brainrot," which has been designated Oxford's 2024 Word of the Year in some reports, refers to both the material and the emotional condition that results from constant scrolling. Critics fear that very condensed, emotionally charged terms facilitate cognitive dumping by condensing complicated emotions or circumstances into a single viral term (such as "Doomscrolling" or "Ragebait"). However, the same creativity allows for the accurate portrayal of modern sensations of attention, identity, and absurdity by filling in lexical spaces left vacant by traditional registers[27].

These forms have attained enough frequency, durability, and semantic stability to be included in the recorded lexicon, according to dictionary recognition (Merriam-Webster, Cambridge, Oxford). That entrance is happening at a rate never seen before in history. Platforms have just increased the efficiency of language, which has always been contagious.

Thus, meme linguistics compels a reassessment of the emergence, dissemination, and stabilization of language. The meme is one of the main sources of the language that Gen Z speaks, not a diversion from "real" language. The new lexicon is highly social, multimodal, messy, and magnified by algorithms. In its most basic form, it is also language doing what language has always done: reflecting, creating, and reacting to the real world in which its users live. Velocity is the difference. The future of the vocabulary is arriving more quickly than any preceding generation could have predicted in the era of viral memes.

6. THE ALGORITHMIC FORGE OF LEXICAL INNOVATION: THE CONCLUSION

Viral memes, which use algorithmic amplification to condense centuries of language development into weeks, have emerged as the main driver of Gen Z's fast lexical innovation. Terms from niche artists are promoted into mainstream discourse by platforms that incentivize interaction and repetition. Oxford's 2023 Word of the Year was "Rizz" (charisma, made famous by streamer Kai Cenat); in 2024, it was "Brainrot" (mental damage from frivolous internet content); and in 2025, it was "Rage Bait." Words like "Skibidi" (from the absurdist Skibidi Toilet series) and "6-7" serve as pure performative identifiers; they are adaptable, context-dependent, and sometimes nonsensical by design. According to linguist Adam Aleksic, influencers function as "Accomplices" and algorithms as "Culprits," pushing the viral cycle much beyond conventional transmission.

a. Identity, In-Groups, and Semiotic Power

These shapes function as complex cues of identification. Words like "No Cap," "Delulu," "Sigma," "Mogging," and "Aura Points" exclude outsiders while fostering in-group cohesion. Memes are more effective than standard language for expressing position, criticism, and a sense of belonging because they use a multimodal approach that layers picture, text, sound, and irony. According to recent research, this is referred to as "Memetic Linguistics" or "Platformed Language"—iterative, algorithmically selected language that is more suited for circulation than for stable reference. Thus, Gen Z's language serves as a live semiotic system for negotiating digital social realities rather than just being slang.

b. Beyond Ephemerality: Enduring Linguistic Legacy

Although "Brainrot" is criticized, the phenomena demonstrates the adaptive vitality of language. Under platform limitations, productive innovation is demonstrated by morphological inventiveness (Clipping, Mixing), semantic changes (broadening of "Slay," narrowing of "Rizz"), and Algospeak ("unalive"). While many terminology turn out to be transient, others become part of dictionaries and offline discourse, changing the language itself. The key realization is that memes do not deteriorate language; rather, they reveal and expedite its basic mechanisms—creativity, social connection, and cultural negotiation—at digital speed. This new lexicon is not

decorative for Generation Z; rather, it serves as their main means of understanding, analyzing, and interacting with the environment.

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