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Mean Girls 2004 vs 2024, a study on the evolution of slang

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*To female friendships
(they save lives)*

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Introduction

Language, much like a living organism is in constant evolution and slang is the nutrient that a language needs to take the step that triggers change.

What is slang? Is it worth learning about? Can anybody use it? How is it possible to know if slang is going to last?

These are only some of the questions that might enter the mind of someone who is new to this topic, and sometimes looking for answers might not be the easiest task. Studies on slang are a recent event because, for many years, scholars were not interested in something that is linguistically defined as below language. Slang is in fact a sub-standard variation of language, and for centuries it has been assumed to be linked only to low-life individuals, when in reality slang is much more than that, and therefore essential in current times.

In this thesis, slang is going to be analyzed in the first chapter for its linguistic properties, looking at it from the point of view of different disciplines, comparing it to other sub-standard varieties, and discovering the methodology through which many of these terms have come to be part of speech.

In the second chapter, the history of slang is under the limelight. From ancient times to the end of the 20th century slang has undergone as many changes as society itself, going through a journey that took it from the streets to the TVs.

In the third chapter, the movie Mean Girls in its versions from 2004 and 2024 is the perfect candidate to study the development of slang in the arc of twenty years. This is going to be achieved by examining the results of a questionnaire that used scenes from the movies to ask about people's opinions on slang.

Lastly, in the fourth chapter, slang is going to be explored in its current relationship with the media, the influence of social platforms, and the phenomenon of trends, as well as in its future going forward.

Chapter 1. Slang

1.1 Definitions

When looking for a singular definition of slang, one might find oneself amid an arduous task because of how multifaceted its meaning can be, based on the different approaches used to study this phenomenon. Mattiello explains how slang can be defined sociologically, stylistically, linguistically, and lexicographically (2008: 31) according to a series of factors explained below.

1.1.1 Sociology

Through the sociological approach, slang has two main purposes, one the opposite of the other: the first one aims “to establish or reinforce social identity or cohesiveness within a group or with a trend or fashion in society at large” (Eble 1996, 11 in Mattiello 2008: 32) meaning that slang is used as a way to socially conform to a specific group to show belongingness by talking through the same characteristic words. At the same time, slang is chosen to separate oneself from society, as is the case for slang used by youths like teenagers or young adults to distance themselves from older or younger generations, or in the case of subclasses in society such as criminals, drug addicts, and gangs to keep their conversations as private as possible (Mattiello, 2008: 32).

1.1.2 Style

Stylistically speaking, slang is considered “below-standard discourse and the neutral stylistic level” (Allen 1998 Stenström et al., 2002 in Mattiello 2008: 33) meaning that it is generally perceived as very informal and conversational. Slang is also juxtaposed with other varieties of non-standard speech such as dialects. Another characteristic of slang that makes it stand out among non-standard varieties is its short longevity, it will either “pass into disuse or have a more standard status” (Mattiello, 2008: 33).

1.1.3 Linguistic

In its early linguistic definitions, slang has been defined by Yust as “the use of ordinary words in extraordinary senses or of extraordinary words in ordinary senses” (ed 1950, in Mattiello 2008: 33), while Jespersen stated that slang “finds amusement in the creation and propagation of new words and in attaching new meanings to old words” (1922: 298 in Mattiello, 2008: 33). Slang is also characterized both morphologically because it does not follow standard word formation rules, and

semantically because it renames qualifies enriches and complexifies everyday objects. (Mattiello, 2008: 34)

1.1.4 Lexicography

Dictionaries have had various definitions for the lemma during different time periods. According to the OED¹ around the 1750s slang was “the special vocabulary used by any set of persons of a low or disreputable character” Webster and McKechnie added the purpose of slang which “was to disguise from outsiders the meaning of what was said” as a specification to this early definition. (Mattiello, 2008: 35) Not too long after the definition of slang broadens to include “the language of other subgroups, not necessarily of low culture, but rather connected by their profession, like lawyers, scientists, historians, essayists and poets (OED)” (Mattiello, 2008: 35). At the beginning of the nineteenth-century slang started to adhere to the current definition of “ colloquial or informal vocabulary which is outside of conventional or standard usage, and which belongs rather to familiar conversation than to written language” (Webster & McKechnie, 1963, OED in Mattiello, 2008).

1.2 Slang vs similar language varieties

It is quite common to confuse slang with other similar language varieties such as dialects, jargon, cant, vernacular, or accent but some peculiarities distinguish slang from its commonly used synonyms. It differs from jargon and cant because they are distinguishable diastatic varieties, meaning that the speakers of specific jargon and cant usually belong to different social classes than those who express themselves through slang. At the same time dialect vernacular and accent contrast diatopically to slang. Although slang may vary from place to place and country to country, location is not fundamental to identifying slang. (Mattiello, 2008:34)

1.2.1 Slang vs Jargon

One effective way to understand the difference between slang and jargon is to consult their definitions in dictionaries.

Slang has been defined as:

very informal language that is usually spoken rather than written, used especially by particular groups of people (Cambridge Dictionary)²

¹ OED is the abbreviation for Oxford English Dictionary

² <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english-italian/slang>

an informal nonstandard vocabulary composed typically of coinages, arbitrarily changed words, and extravagant, forced, or facetious figures of speech (Merriam-Webster Dictionary)³

Slang consists of words, expressions, and meanings that are informal and are used by people who know each other very well or who have the same interests. (Collins English Dictionary)⁴

While jargon has been defined as:

special words and phrases that are used by particular groups of people, especially in their work (Cambridge Dictionary)⁵

the technical terminology or characteristic idiom of a special activity or group (Merriam-Webster Dictionary)⁶

You use jargon to refer to words and expressions that are used in special or technical ways by particular groups of people, often making the language difficult to understand. (Collins English Dictionary)⁷

While the definitions for both terms emphasize the restricted use of this type of language, the primary distinction is that slang is informal, whereas jargon pertains to technical and professional contexts. This indicates that individuals who utilize jargon or slang in their communication typically belong to two distinct social strata that seldom interact with one another. Jargon users are mostly scholars or work in highly technical fields like medicine or engineering, slang on the other hand is most common among young people.

1.2.2 Slang vs Cant

Cant has been regarded as “the first systematic collection of non-standard language to deal with the insider language” (Green, 2016: 32), and as a “language specific to a particular group or profession and regarded with disparagement” (OED) underlining cant’s most specific characteristics, the first being cant’s intention of not being understood by users of standard language and the second its belonging to a particular group. Cant is known as the “secret language of thieves, professional beggars, and other groups operating on the fringes of society” (Mattiello, 2008: 36) used to conceal illicit plans from authorities. Nowadays this meaning is still current though technical, one may refer to cant when speaking about the specific language used by criminals. (Green, 2016: 32) Slang shares the low social class origins of cant, with many slang words deriving from gang speech and a desire

³ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/slang>

⁴ <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/slang>

⁵ <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english-italian/jargon>

⁶ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/jargon>

⁷ <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/jargon>

to be incomprehensible to outsiders, such as in teenage slang. However, it does not simultaneously partake in both these aspects.

1.2.3 Slang vs Dialect and Vernacular

When looking at the definitions of slang, dialect and vernacular one may find numerous similarities.

Dialect: a particular form of a language which is peculiar to a specific region or social group. (OED)

Vernacular: the language or dialect spoken by the ordinary people of a country or region. (OED)

Slang: a type of language consisting of words and phrases that are regarded as very informal, are more common in speech than writing and are typically restricted to a particular context or group of people. (OED)

The main similarities between slang, dialect, and vernacular are their restriction to specific groups of ordinary people and their informality. These forms of language all belong to the same diastratic variety, making it sometimes difficult to distinguish whether a word belongs to slang or one of the other two because “‘slang’ has always been a useful grab-bag, a go-to repository of non-standard terms“ (Green, 2016: 43). An easy way to make this distinction is by checking whether a specific word or phrase has originated and is commonly used in a particular area. If it is, then the word is probably vernacular or dialect. If it is not, then it is likely slang.

A common counterpoint to this statement is that slang within the same language can vary from country to country and region to region. A clear example is the word “pants” in American and British varieties of English. In American English, “pants” means trousers, but in British English, it is a slang word for underwear. Despite these regional differences, slang is not strictly associated with the place it originated and is generally well-understood by ordinary speakers of the language.

1.2.4 Slang vs accent

Slang differs from accent because the two deal with different aspects of word creation. Slang influences word formation while accent word pronunciation. Nevertheless, sometimes slang words can come to life through accents, this has been quite common, particularly in the southern United States also thanks to African American culture. Many examples arise from the world of rap or hip-hop music. Words like *thang* or *shawty* are just the written version of the words *thing* and *shorty* pronounced with this particular accent. The words themselves are not slang but have come into use as such, due to the specific way in which they are spoken.

1.3 Word Formation of Slang

Though probably unconsciously, many slang words have been created through the rules of Word Formation. Word Formation has been loosely defined as “creating new words from existing words” (Ungerer, 2012: 670) and it follows various processes.

1.3.1 Coinage

Coinage deals with the formation of completely new words when there is a lack of an already existing one that conveys the meaning required. (Novianti, 2017: 18). This is usually associated with trade names for commercial products. An example can be the word *glizzy* the name of a gun brand used in rap slang to refer to a gun. (Prastikawati, 2022: 76).

1.3.2 Compounding

Compounding is the technique used in word formation that merges two preexisting morphemes or words to create a new one. (Yule, 2010: 55) This is quite common in slang words, especially among compounded slang words that have been created through curse words. Examples are the terms *bullshit* something that is not true, *shit show* a disastrous situation, or *shit faced* extremely drunk.

1.3.3 Clipping

Clippings are words that are created through clipping are shortened versions of the originals (Yule, 2010: 56). Usually, clipped words are employed in more informal contexts than their longer counterparts, making them ideal for slang. Slang words like *luv* or *comfy* are examples of this technique (Prastikawati, 2022; Novianti, 2017).

1.3.4 Blending

As the name implies, blending engages in the creation of new words by blending together other preexisting terms. (G. Yule, 2010:56) In contrast to compounding, where words are entirely combined, in blending only segments are employed in the word formation. Some examples of this are *fugly*, the blending of *fucking* and *ugly* (Novianti, 2017: 45), or *watcha*, created from what, have, and you. (Yulia andNingsih, 2024: 103).

1.3.5 Acronyms

Acronyms are created through a process in which the initial letters of words are combined to create a new term pronounced as a single word (Novianti, 2017: 21). In slang, this phenomenon has especially increased since the invention of text messages. Some easy-to-recognize examples are *lol*: laughing out loud (Prastikawati, 2022:76) *FYI*: for your information (Novianti, 2017: 49) and *BRB*: be right back (Yulia and Ningsih, 2024: 103).

Chapter 2 The development of slang through history

This chapter explores how slang came to be and how it has been evolving through history.

2.1 Ancient Times

Although many believe that slang is a recent phenomenon, many studies have discovered that slang, the tongue of the people, might be as old as speech itself. In 1859, John Camden Hotten dated slang back to the time of ancient Egypt and Babylon. However, he could never have certain proof because of the lack of written records. Since only an extremely small percentage of the population was able to write, it is no wonder that nobody thought to document slang (Green, 2015: 20). Tangible proof of the existence of slang words emerged for the first time from the period of ancient Rome. Flipping through the pages of Plautus, Catullus, Martial and Cicero numerous vulgar words catch the eye. The Romans used a variety of slang terms to refer to reproductive organs that stand apart from their most technical version of *mentula* or *verpa*. They took inspiration from the animal world (*anguis* a snake), objects of everyday use (*pondus*, a weight), weapons (*sicula*, a dagger), tools and instruments (*vas and falx*, a vase and a sickle) nature (*curculio*, a corn worm), and food (*cuculis*, a cucumber). What it is interesting to notice is that speakers of modern slang still make use of some of these metaphors such as daggers or guns in the same way as the Romans. They also used the euphemism *pudenda* which literally translates to *private parts*, a word still used sometimes in Italian, although ironically nowadays it belongs to a literary register. Unfortunately, stories and poems filled with ancient obscenities are not enough to validate a whole slang language. The probable slang terms, though they might have belonged to the speech of the street, are too few, concentrated, and far apart in comparison to modern slang. (Green, 2015: 22)

2.2 Middle English

As lexicographer Eric Partridge said, the Middle Ages were the “dark ages” for everything concerning slang. During those times, in the Western world, the “omnipresent Christianity” (Green, 2015: 22) was an obstacle to the documentation of slang which, at that time, was associated with the current definition of cant, the language of criminals, and vagabonds. Around the second half of the fourteenth century, we begin to notice written examples of slang in literature, most specifically in the works of Chaucer and Langland who employed terms that can be considered slang in their comedic texts. Most of these examples are still delimited to the realm of offensive words and taboos like *swive* (have sex), *hot* (sexually aroused), *malkin*, *wench*, and *bitch* (derogatory terms for a

woman), *tail* (anus or sometimes vagina), *bow*, or *lance* (penis). Many insults were also documented, such as *buzzard* (a weak foolish person), *bad penny* (an untrustworthy person), *land looper* (a vagabond), *cackler* (a tale-teller), *moocher* (a petty thief), *pilgarlic* (an outcast) and *tickle tail* (a prostitute) (Green, 2015: 24, 25). These cases represent slang perfectly, they are employed by the lower classes of society, although not only by criminals, and they deal with body parts, sexuality, and slurs. Moreover, some of these terms are still recognizable today and many have become part of slang dictionaries in the following centuries. The only detail that desists lexicographers from defining this language as slang is the lack of standard English at the time. The nobility spoke French or even Latin, therefore English was considered the tongue of the people, making it challenging to draw a clear line between slang and the language itself. (Green, 2015: 26).

2.3 Elizabethan era

During the Elizabethan era, documentation of slang highly increased and improved thanks to the prolific work in Shakespeare's plays. In particular, in comedies, the presence of many characters belonging to lower classes is ideal for the employment of slang. (Salmon, 1967:37) The best setting to find slang in is the tavern, this line from the play *Henry IV* explains how to order wine "Here, Pistol, I charge you with a cup of sack" (Shakespeare in Salmon, 1967:45) where *charge* is a strong way to ask for something and *sack* is slang for wine. Wine makes the characters forget their inhibitions and talk more freely, although usually through innuendos, many of which are generally overly sexual. Many slang terms refer to genitalia; some examples are *weapon*, *thing*, *manhood*, *hundred mark*, and *ell* for penis and *pie*, *exion*, *score*, and *house* for vagina (Royal Shakespeare Company). A number of interesting idioms can also be found in the pages of the Bard's plays. "There's a hole made in your best coat" is a way to express adultery and "Then am I a shotten herring" is a way to refer to a dispirited person. (Salmon, 1967:66) Various aspects make Elizabethan slang distinctive compared to previous times. Firstly, the 17th century saw the emergence of Standard English, highlighting the clear distinction with its non-standard versions. Secondly, Slang's documentation in Shakespeare's plays denotes the plausibility of it actually being spoken by the people, including some who attended his performances, as even the lower middle class could afford to occasionally attend his plays. Lastly, around the end of the century, an anonymous lexicographer known as B. E. Gent published a short dictionary called *A New Dictionary of the Canting Crew* in which he collected some of the slang of the time to help foreigners against the dregs of society. (Jones, 2022)

2.4 18th century

Slang dictionaries continued to become more and more popular over time. In his work *Blackguardiana* James Caulfield collected terms used by “Rouges, bawds, pimps whores pickpockets, shop-lifters, mail robbers, coiners, house-breakers, murderers, pirates, gipsies mountebanks ecc..ecc...(1793) with the same purpose of his predecessors “to provide ‘anecdotes, flash terms and cant songs’ all of which was ‘Intended to put society on their guard against Depredators’”(Caulfield, 1793 in Whitey, 2015). Caulfield’s dictionary contains important information on many different subjects from funny nicknames for the help (an *Abigail* was a maid while a common servant was a *fart catcher* for their predisposition to always be behind their masters) to the disdain of medicine(*talk like an apothecary* meant to talk nonsense) and of course, sex or more accurately *riding St George*. (Caulfield, 1793 in Whitey, 2015) What it is interesting to notice, is that this is the first time slang has evolved to be not only the talk of the lower classes but also colloquial language for the wealthy who could afford to hire help, go to the doctor, and find the time to give them nicknames.

2.5 19th century

A few decades later came the Victorian Era, a time when keeping a good respectable front was essential. In Michies and Bernstein’s work *Victorian Vulgarity: Taste in Verbal and Visual Culture* (2009) it is possible to learn more about what was considered vulgar and improper and of course, the way of talking was crucial. If the people in high society during the 18th century were inventors of many slang words, the Victorians cared too deeply about climbing the social ladder to be heard making fun of the help. The avoidance of slang was a deliberate choice “of the upwardly mobile to distinguish themselves from those just beneath them” .Michies,.Bernstein, 2009: 4). Nevertheless, as Stevenson’s novel cleverly explains, respectability and in this case, good speech manners are only a façade and slang was still present and in usage by the lower classes. Lexicographer James Redding Ware in 1909 collected Victorian slang terms in his *Passing English of the Victorian era: a dictionary of heterodox English, slang, and phrase*. In the preface of the book he wrote:

Thousands of words and phrases in existence in 1870 have drifted away, or changed their forms, or been absorbed, while as many have been added or are being added. Passing English’ ripples from countless sources, forming a river of new language which has its tide and its ebb, while its current brings down new ideas and carries away those that have dribbled out of fashion. (J.Ware 1909: v)

His purpose, as he wrote, was to ensure that Victorian-era slang would not be forgotten. He collected terms and idioms both from Great Britain and the United States and created a long list

of slang words and phrases some of which are still used. For example, the entrance *kill with kindness* reads “This phrase is not generally understood; supposed to be literal. Really means to cause shame by overwhelming with satirical attentions a person who has misbehaved himself. It is not forgiveness, but retaliation” (Ware, 1909: 163). The meaning of the saying is still current today. The dictionary includes also many terms that might sound funny to the modern ear, to *cut a finger* meant to “cause a disagreeable odor” (Ware, 1909: 102). *D.V* was a clipping to *divorce, deo volente,* and *doubtful very,* depending on who was asked to. Ware’s collection of slang terms is extraordinary for different reasons. For the first time, a dictionary like his contains the word *slang* instead of *cant*, denoting a departure from slang as the talk of criminals and dregs. Moreover, the aim of *Passing English* diverts from previous books like this creating a dictionary to treasure this expression of language instead of warning against it. Lastly, it contains sources from many different places and social classes emphasizing the colloquial tone of slang common among many kinds of people. A specific type of slang that was common in the 19th century but sometimes overlooked is Western American slang, the lingo of cowboys. Although it may seem like a Hollywood expedient to sell more tickets, Old West slang was common in the 1800s, and some of it is still used today.

3.6 20th Century

The 20th century distinguishes itself from earlier times in regards to slang and its documentation. Every decade boasts specific slang terms and idioms that make it stand out. Moreover, this is the century that saw the rise of mass media which played a crucial role in the spread and popularization of slang. The first sound movies in the 1930s, the television in the 1950s, computers in the 1970s and 1980s, and the internet in the 1990s revolutionized slang language completely because “the adoption of slang is promoted by repeated exposure, and this can only be delivered in everyday conversation or by mass media” (Coleman, 2012: 238).

3.6.1 1910s

Starting from the beginning, slang from the 1910s was highly influenced by World War 1. Indeed, a *dead soldier* is an empty beer bottle because it “gave its all” (Wilkes, 2023) and a *boot* was a recruit, a term that “is thought to come from the leggings that newly recruited sailors used to wear during training” (Palchevska, 2023: 45). Numerous slang words that are still in use today were coined during the 1910s, although some have changed in meaning. Some examples are *goof,* *earful,* and *get on your nerves* that kept their original meaning whilst *bimbo* and *boner* were

employed in a completely different way. A bimbo was a tough guy and a boner was a great mistake (Druga, 2015).

3.6.2 1920s

The 1920s as decade were a turning point in many different aspects, a split from the past. During this period, youth culture was emphasized and strongly influenced the media. Extremely memorable from this period is the subculture of the flappers a group of rebellious and independent young women who did not conform to society's standards (Mckenna, 2024) and whose name itself became a slang word for an immoral girl. Other striking examples are *the bee's knees*, a symbol of 1920s slang meaning something so good it is extraordinary, *big cheese*, a way to refer to someone famous and important, or *applesauce*, *banana oil*, and the still-used *baloney* to talk about nonsense. *Baby* and *doll* were also slang words employed in the Roaring Twenties that still hold their meanings, as well as the terms *attaboy* and *attagirl* and the idiom *to get the heebie-jebies* (to become jittery). On the other hand, a word like *dapper* has since evolved in meaning, what now is a stylish old man, was once just the dad of a flapper girl (U.of Oregon, 2024). It is necessary to mark that these words, while still part of a colloquial register, can no longer be defined as slang because their usage has expanded considerably to the point that they have been included in the standard language. Current slang users might even associate these terms with older generations such as those of their grandparents.

3.6.3 1930s

In the same way as the 1910s and 1920s, in the 1930s some slang words were coined that are still in use today, some which have changed register and others in meaning: a *gold digger* is still a girl that marries for money, a *joe* (coffee in the 1920s) became an average person and both meanings are common nowadays, although they are now standard language, as well as *joint* in its meaning of a low life establishment. However, *joint* is still part of current slang and defines a hand-rolled cigarette containing cannabis. (White, 2024) During the Dirty Thirties more than ever before it is possible to note how the historical events affected language. Many slang terms and phrases are in fact connected to the era of prohibitionism, to alcohol, gangsters, and money. Some examples can be *big butter and egg man* - a rich man who spends his money on women, *giggle juice* – whiskey, *Chicago typewriter/Tommy gun* - Thompson machine gun, *copper* - a police officer (from which the current term cop is derived), or *stool pigeon* - an informer. (White, 2024)

3.6.4 1940s

The 1940s are quite similar in terms of slang to the 1910s for the big influence that wars have had on these decades. Slang in the 1940s was a coping mechanism to take distance from the horrors of war, meaning that many slang terms found their roots in the military or in the overall situation of conflict. The Royal Air Force coined terms like *shaky dos*- moments when danger is avoided by a whisper, *tail-end Charlies*- rear-gunned airplanes, and *prangs*- crashes. Among the civilians, *clippies* for female bus drivers and *Bevin Boys* for conscripted coal miners were generally popular. A military slang term that had a completely different meaning in comparison to its nowadays counterpart was *bomb*. The connotation at the time was undoubtedly negative, but during the decades, it has evolved into becoming a compliment. (OED) Hearing something like “that sugar daddy is sad because his girlfriend didn’t stick around” in 2024 would not surprise anyone, but the same thing can apply to the 1940s. Both *sugar daddy* - a wealthy man who supports a woman, and *stick around* – to stay, come both from the 40s and are still significant today. (White, 2018)

3.6.5 1950s

The 1950s in the United States were an age of consumerism, new trends, and music and slang language mirrored it. During this period, teenagers and teenage culture were under the spotlight so much that the word *teenager* itself gained popularity during this time. *Bobby-soxers* were today's fangirls, their counterpart were greasers - tough guys with too much grease in their hair, they listened to *rock 'n roll*, threw *bashes* – parties, and wore *shades* (White, 2021)(OED). Something different in this decade is the influence of consumerism in society. For maybe the first time ever, slang does not just belong to young people or low-life individuals but it is manipulated for marketing purposes as a way to make products appear cooler or *niftier* as they said back then.

3.6.6 1960s and 70s

The 1960s and 1970s were quite similar in terms of slang. In both decades slang was focused on three main areas, that were music, rebellion against the power, and many different ways to say *cool*. These were the years that saw the *twist* turn into *Beatlemania* and later into *disco*. the dancers in the 1960s would describe cool music as *groovy*, *hip*, or *swinging* whilst in the 70s it became *funky*, *stellar*, and *radical*. Although music was a good distraction, the 60s and 70s were a time of rebellion (White, 2023-24). The young were opposed to wars (both the Cold War and the Vietnam War were raging simultaneously) and at the same time they fought for civil rights

against the patriarchy, racism, capitalism, and homophobia. The enemy was referred to as *The Man* a personification of everything they were against and the way to fight him was to *stick it to the Man* (Quigley, 2024).

3.6.7 1980s

Creating a dictionary of slang terms from the 1980s would not be an arduous task since during the Decade of Decadence more meant more and slang was probably as popular as today also thanks to television and cinema. People in the 1980s could choose from a vast array of slang terms to say everything. There were of course words for *cool*, such as *awesome* (still in use today) or *wicked*, creative phrases to say goodbye, like *bounce*, *jet*, and *dip* when someone had to leave abruptly, they even had slang words for yes, *for example big time, I kid you not, or no doy* (White, 2024). What is significant from a linguistic point of view, also thanks to this great number of samples, is the employment of word formation rules in the creation of slang. There are acronyms like *BFF* – best friends forever, blending in *fantabulous* – fantastic and fabulous, and clippings like *fave* for favorite and *glam* for glamorous.

3.6.8 1990s

The 1990s marked a clear break from the past. Media fruition became easier, especially in the distribution of music and of course, thanks to the internet that became available to common people. The face of music was also subjected to a revolution, the 1990s are famous for their boy and girl bands which were extremely popular among teenagers who would adopt the language of their idols. This decade saw the rise of hip-hop music, a world that is still today a source of many slang terms. The 1990s were also the era of the development of subcultures, people could be grunge, punk, preppy, goth, and skater, and as it is reminded in various movies about teenagers, these groups cared about being unique, and with it came specific slang languages to show belongingness and separation at the same time. Some examples of slang from the 1990s that fully represent this period are *as if!* – used “to strongly disagree with a statement someone made” (Byaruhanga, 2024), *all that* – “something was the greatest, the coolest just the absolute best” (ibid), and *Talk to the hand* – a way to express anger or annoyance when someone was talking (ibid). All of these were used in chick flick movies that made these idioms still sound iconic to this day, so much that although they are not part of current slang, they are still part of pop culture.

Chapter 3 The development of slang in the movies Mean Girls

After looking at the development of slang throughout history up until the 1990s, this chapter is going to be focused on how slang has changed over the course of twenty years, comparing the movies Mean Girls in their version from 2004 and 2024.

3.1 Aim of the research

The purpose of the study is to collect participants' opinions with regard to slang and colloquial language. The study aims to analyze their development and change within the arc of twenty years in the movie Mean Girls in its original version from 2004 and its remake twenty years later in a musical, in both the English version and the dubbed Italian one. This research aims to answer the following questions:

- How quickly does slang change?
- Is the slang from two decades ago still in use?
- Does the movies' perception of slang mirror reality?
- And is slang understood by a broad range of individuals?

3.2 Methodology

In order to gain access to people's perceptions of the development of slang, a questionnaire was submitted to participants. The sample was a group of individuals of different ages and nationalities who personally know the author of the survey. The questionnaire was targeted at both Italian and English speakers (although for most, English is their second language). The participants had to specify their age group and the language, or languages, they were fluent in, in order to proceed to the section that served their needs.

The movie Mean Girls was chosen thanks to its very recent remake, and also because it deals with a teenager, Cady, who has not lived among her peers for her entire life and is now discovering their world, as well as their way of talking.

The questionnaire consists of twelve or six clips from the movies, (depending on the choice of one or both languages) first from 2004 and then from 2024, as well as three questions for each clip that read:

1. Did you clearly understand the words spoken in the scene?
2. Do you think this jargon is current?
3. How likely are you to use this jargon?

The purpose of the first question is to understand whether the actual words in the scene were comprehensible, the second is to apprehend whether the participants thought the words were something they could hear in their everyday life, and the third is to know whether the slang the respondents heard was significant only in relation to the movie or if people would actually use it.

3.3 Discussion and Results.

The questionnaire received forty-six submissions. The following charts show the partition of the statistical sample based on language and age.

Figure 1: Partition of the sample by language

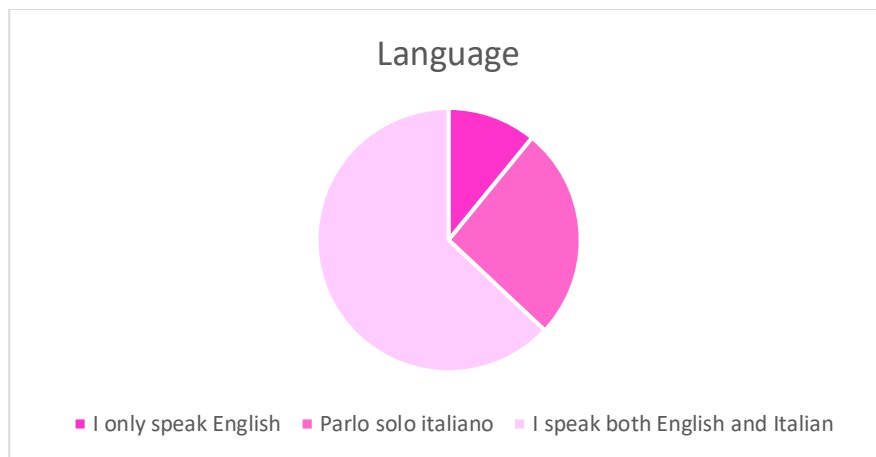


Figure 2: Partition of the bilingual sample by age

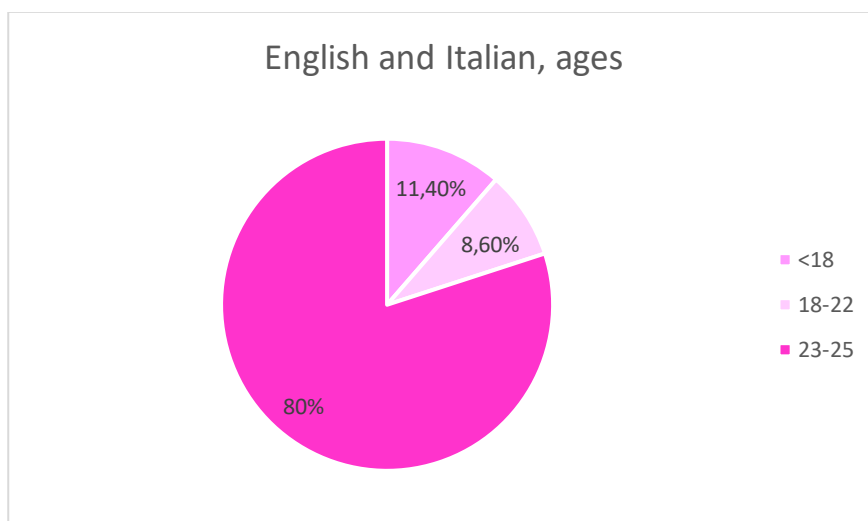


Figure 3: Partition of the English-speaking sample by age

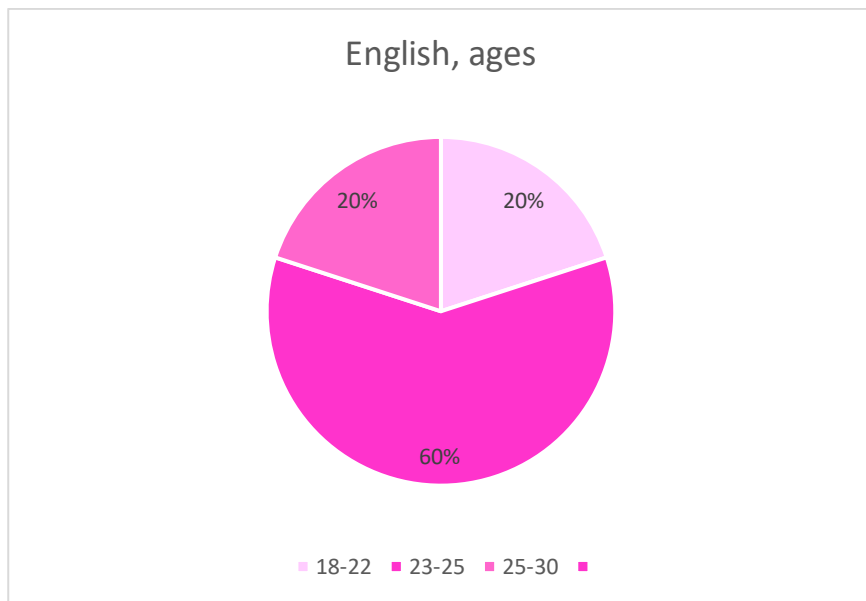
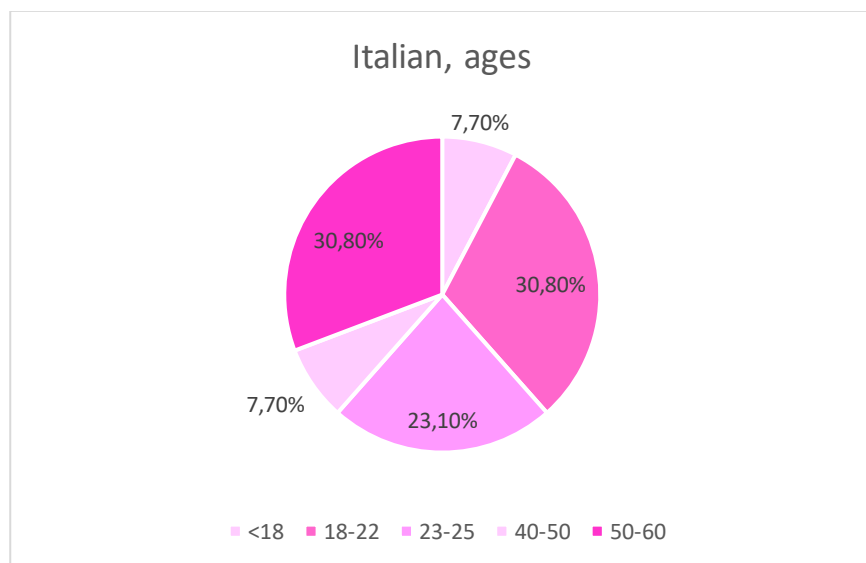


Figure 4: Partition of the Italian-speaking sample by age



As it is possible to see from the data, the statistical sample is imperfect: the speakers are not an equal number for the languages, and the age range is overall subjected to big jumps, creating a lack of respondents between the ages of thirty and fifty but it can still provide useful information.

The discussion on each pair of clips (first from 2004 and then from 2024) will be focused on the development of slang beginning with the original version and following with the dubbed.

3.3.1 *Insults towards Regina*

In the first pair of clips, the characters of Cady, Janice, and Damian are talking about Cady meeting Regina for the first time. The dialogue from 2004 reads:

Janis: Oh, my God! OK, you have to do it, OK? And then you have to tell me all the horrible things that Regina says.
Cady: Regina seems sweet.
Janis: Regina George is not sweet. She's a scum-sucking road whore! She ruined my life!
Damien: She's fabulous, but she's evil.
(Tina Fey, 2004)

The slang in this scene is found in Janis' insult towards Regina in the second line.

100% of the English speakers answered yes to the first question (see above for the questions) as well as 50% of the Italian and English speakers, the words were mostly understood by 41,2% of the same group, and 5,9% did not understand everything. There is also one individual who did not understand the dialogue. Regarding the modernity of the slang three-fourths of the English speakers thought it was up-to-date, yet only around 50% of the bilingual group agreed. All concur that they would not use these words in their everyday life. 20% of the English-speaking group and 33,3% of the bilinguals would not use this slang at all, and in both groups, the probability is never higher than 70%.

The dialogue from 2024 reads:

Cady: They want me to have lunch with them all week.
Janis: [chuckles] That is tits!
Damian: She means "that's great."
Cady: I don't really get why you guys hate them so much. Regina seems kind of cool.
Janis: Regina George is not cool. She's a scum-sucking life ruiner.

(Tina Fey, 2024)

This time not all of the English speakers understood all the words, with 40% only understanding most of them, the results from the bilingual group correspond for the most part with the previous, but in this case, everybody understood at least something. The modernity of the slang used is agreed upon by both groups, which are divided 60-40. There is an improvement in the selection of the probability of using these words with some individuals from both groups who would 100% adopt this language. There are still nay-sayers, 20% for the English and 24.2 percent for the bilingual, and most of the other participants are still in between the 0 and 70% probability with two respondents from the bilingual group who said there is a probability between 70 and 100% that they would talk like the characters.

What is interesting to notice in the development of slang in these clips is that 2024 could be defined as more politically correct, with the insult about Regina's sexual activity being removed in the newer version. The strong dissent that the statistical sample showed about using the 2004 slang,

confirms that society is more careful about the words they choose to employ whilst insulting people, deferring from strong words even when talking about people they do not like. Another change in the movie where the characters belong to Generation Z is that the structure of the sentences in the dialogue is more slang-like, for example even Cady, who in the movie is not accustomed to slang, uses constructions like *kind of*.

Probability of usage among English speakers:

Figure 5: Probability of use among English speakers in 2004

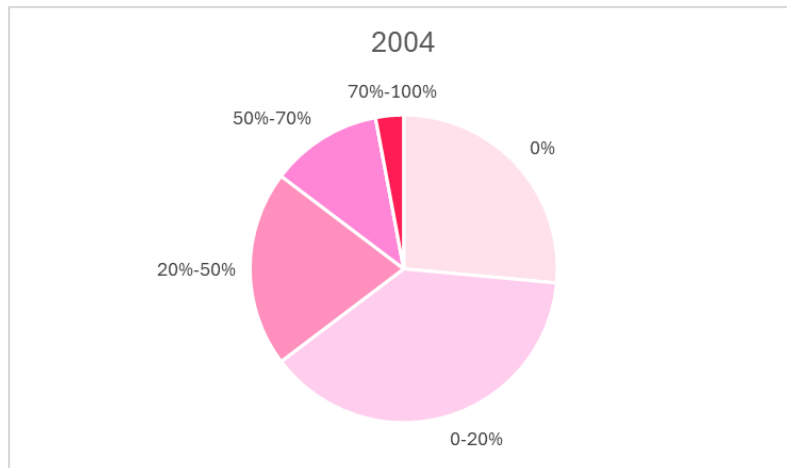
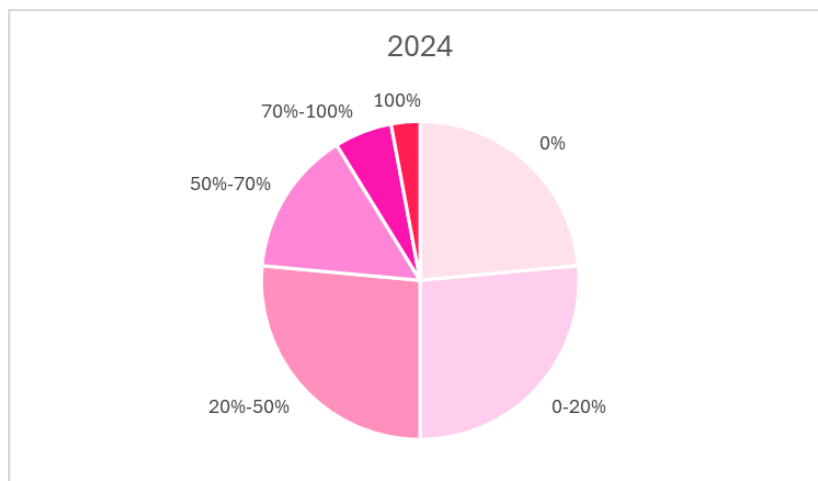


Figure 6: Probability of use among English speaker in 2024



The Italian script from 2004 of the same scene reads:

Janis: Oh mio Dio, adesso lo devi fare, Ok? E poi mi devi raccontare tutte le stronzate che dice regina!

Cady: Regina sembra... gentile.

Janis: Regina George non è gentile, è una puttana, una stronza ciuccia cazzi, mi ha rovinato l'esistenza!

Damian: È divina ma è maligna.

(Tina Fey, 2004)

96.6% of the bilingual group and 91% of the Italian understood 100% of the words in the clip, this is interesting because it means that some of the Italian native speakers found some difficulties in the comprehension of the dialogue denoting perhaps the wrong choice of words by the translator.

Around 42% of the bilingual group and 25% of the Italians believe that words they have heard are not current. In both groups, the statistical sample is divided in how likely they are to employ this language, but nobody would do it with 100% certainty. This is probably because of Janis' particularly offensive insult, even more than in the original English version.

The 2024 Italian version follows the original on the matter of toning down the insults. The script reads:

Cady: Vogliono che pranzi con loro questa settimana.

Janis: HAHA che figata!

Damian: Vuol dire che è fantastico.

Cady: Non capisco perché le odiate tanto. Regina *sembra in gamba*.

Janis: Regina George non è in gamba. È una schifosissima rovina vite.

(Tina Fey, 2024)

In regards to understanding, both groups agree that the dialogue is clear, except for four individuals for whom it is mostly comprehensible. Around 30% of the sample believe that the slang is not current and both groups are similarly divided when it comes to adopting this slang in everyday life, with the majority leaning toward a probability of 30 to 70%. Something peculiar is that with age the probability of using this particular slang grows, denoting that the translator did not choose words that are more popular among newer generations, but a more standard language. Individuals aged fifty to sixty years old all selected 100% or 70-100%, while teenagers younger than eighteen selected 0% marking that the slang chosen is evolving. The expression *essere in gamba* and *che figata* are indeed both well-known among people of all ages.

Probability of use among Italian-speakers by age:

Figure 7: Probability of use among people older than 40

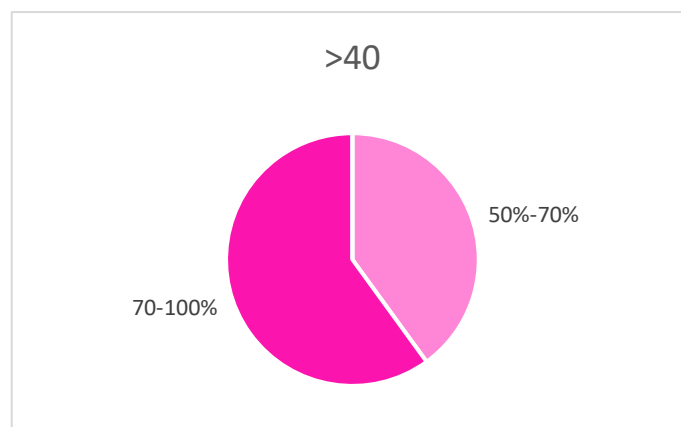
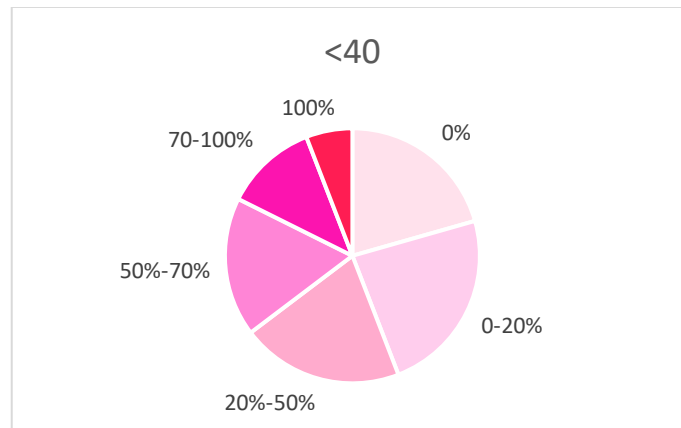


Figure 8: Probability of use among people older than 40



To sum up, the development of the Italian slang is striking. It changes from being extremely rude and a product of its time to very politically correct and more standard. The two translations follow two different roads in their adaptations with the older one magnifying slang, and the newer one minimizing it to the point where it gets a little lost.

3.3.2 Kevin G.

The second example of slang from the movies comes from a scene near the end when Kevin G, a mathlete who likes to rap, has a little celebration after winning. The scripts read:

Kevin G: How do you like me now? You like that? Yeah! Get some! Get some!

Kevin G: Yeah, you like that, Marymount? Get some! Get some! Don't hold me back! Don't hold me back!

(Tina Fey, 2004, 2024)

Looking at the two versions of the movie next to each other it is clear that, in this case, slang has not particularly evolved, and the statistical sample agrees for the most part. In both groups for both versions, only around 60% of the individuals have understood 100% of the words. The reason might be the fact that this specific slang comes from the realm of hip-hop, a world that is not well-known by many. In regards to modernity, the English speakers who believe the slang from 2004 to be current are fewer than the bilinguals (60% vs 77%), and although the changes are minimal the 2024 version is still considered more modern by around 75 to 80% of the sample. In both groups, the probability of adopting this slang is low, with the categories of 0% and 0-20% being the highest. There are some exceptions indeed for both versions there is one individual in each group who would 100% talk like Kevin G. in the clips, probably a big fan of hip-hop.

The dubbed version of the scenes is subjected to a bigger change in terms of slang. The scripts read:

Kevin G.: Che cosa mi dite adesso? Vi piace questo? Siete zero, siete zero!

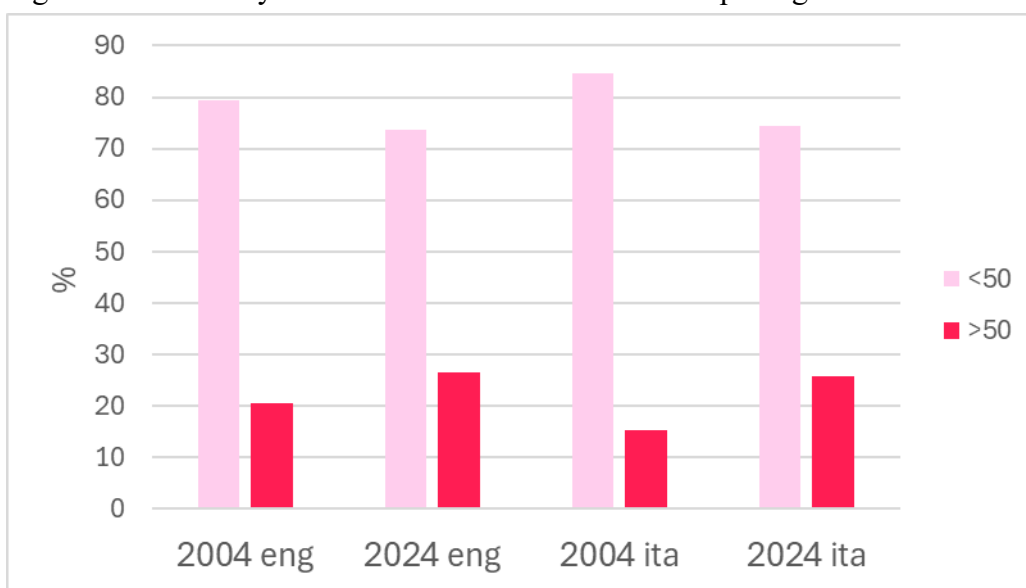
Kevin G.: Sì ne volete ancora Marymount? Fatevi sotto! Fatevi sotto!

(Tina Fey, 2004, 2024)

The language in the 2004 version is well understood by both groups but they agree that in this case, slang has strongly developed. More than 50% of the individuals think that it is not current and the 0% probability of use is the biggest slice of the pie chart for the bilingual and it is the same size as the 0-20% Italian speakers. The 2024-dubbed rendition was better received. 100% of the bilingual group understood the words in the clip as well as around 83% of the Italians. The percentage of respondents who do not think that the slang is current is around 20% for both groups, denoting a job well done for the more recent translator in their choice of words. Another detail that confirms that the slang is current concerns the age of the participants. The category of people older than 40 speaks only Italian and the probability for this group to employ the slang is overall low with only one individual choosing the option 70-100% and the other being all under 50%. The bilingual group made up of younger people has had more varied answers, with more than a few individuals selecting over the 70% probability.

Ultimately it is clear from these clips that Italian slang in the realm of hip-hop has developed more in the last 20 years than the English one. It is possible to suppose that the internet, social media, and other movies and TV shows depicting this world, have helped the audience familiarize themselves with this world making it known to the masses.

Figure 9: Probability of use for the entire statistical sample higher than 50% or lower than 50%



3.3.3 Regina standing up to Jason.

In this clip, the character Jason tries to make advances on Cady through sexual innuendos. Regina intervenes and stands up to him. These clips were only shown to the English and bilingual groups because the Italian adaptation of the movie from 2024 uses only standard language.

The scripts from 2004 and 2024 read:

Jason: Hey. We're doing a lunchtime survey of new students. Can you answer a few questions?

Cady: OK.

Jason: Is your muffin buttered?

Cady: What?

Jason: Would you like us to assign someone to butter your muffin?

Cady: My what?

Regina: Is he bothering you? Jason, why are you such a skeez?

Jason: I'm just being friendly.

Gretchen: You were supposed to call me last night.

Regina: Jason. You do not come to a party at my house with Gretchen and then scam on some poor, innocent girl right in front of us three days later. She's not interested. [to Cady] Do you wanna have sex with him?

Cady: No, thank you.

Regina: Good. So it's settled. [to Jason] So you can go shave your back now. Bye, Jason.

Jason: Bitch.

(Tina Fey, 2004)

Jason: Hey, new girl! You want to see a trick? I can guess any girl's bra size. All you got to do is jump one time.

Gretchen: Ew, Jason!

Karen: Do me.

Regina: Oh, my God, Jason. You do not come to a party at my house with Gretchen and then skeeze on the new girl right in front of me. [to Cady] Do you want to have sex with him?

Cady: Oh, uh... no, thank you.

Regina: Okay, then it's settled. Jason, no one thinks you're funny. Okay? And this thing you're doing where you lower your voice when you talk is making people really sad. Excuse me, anyone who would like Jason Weemsto go back to his normal speaking voice, please raise your hand. Yeah.

Jason: Bitch.

(Tina Fey 2024)

Noticing the changes in this particular scene is quite easy, because not only have the words and phrases changed, but also the dialogue. These specific clips were included because the way in which the characters speak is itself slang. The grammar is not perfect, there are many blendings, and the words chosen, even those that are not slang, are extremely colloquial and sarcastic. Once again the statistical sample has noticed the development of slang. Regarding the 2004 version, in both groups, the probability of use of 0% has the majority and the nos win over the yes when asked if they think the words are current. The strong presence of slang has had a powerful impact

on the bilinguals. Only around 60% of the participants has understood everything and there is even a small percentage who answered *not everything* clarifying that innuendos and slang from 2004 are not known by people who are not native speakers.

As far as the 2024 version is concerned, the questionnaire has produced uneven results between the two groups. The English speakers found the slang 100% comprehensible and 40% more current, although they are still not inclined to adopt it because the probability for 60% of the group is still 0%. On the other hand, the Italian native speakers still found some difficulties in understanding with results similar to the 2004 counterpart, but this time the majority thought that the slang was current and the 0% probability of using those words was selected by only 18.8% of the group. Something else that is interesting to linger on is the word *skeeze* present in both versions. According to Urban Dictionary, the word has the meaning of “Someone who excessively flirts with others, or generally treats others, in a suggestive or greasy manner” (2005), when used as a noun and “aggressively solicit intercourse by way of suggestive speech” (2004) when used as a verb. Both entries in the dictionary are closer to the release date of the first movie, making this word a product of that time that it is not completely in accordance with 2024 slang. The choice was probably a cute nod to the previous version, but it also explains why non-native speakers still found difficulties in understanding.

Figure 10: Probability of use among English speakers in 2004

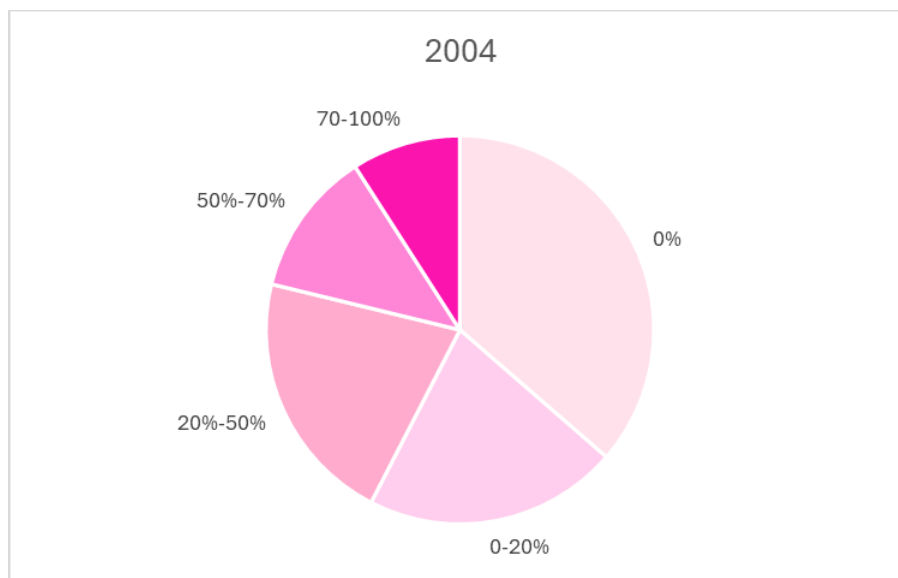
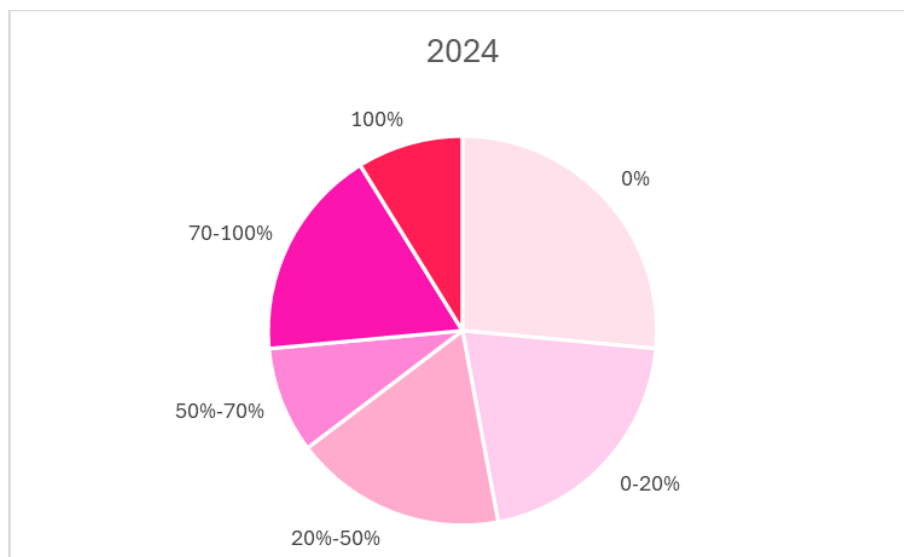


Figure 11: Probability of use among English speakers in 2024



3.3.4 Barbie vs Plastics.

This is the scene when Cady first sees the Plastics, Regina’s friend group. Damian and Janis decide to explain who they are to Cady. These clips were selected only for the Italian speakers because of the big change made by the translator from the original. The scripts read:

Janis: Tutte le barbie fanno lo stesso corso di ginnastica.

Cady: Chi sono le barbie?

Damian: Le regine dei teenager. Se Northshore fosse Cosmopolitan sarebbero sempre in copertina.

Cady: E chi sono quelle a quel tavolo?

Damian: Oh no no no no no, quelle le chiamiamo le Plastics, sono lucide, finte e dure.

(Tina Fey, 2004, 2024)

In the original version, Regina’s group was called *the Plastics* and the name was kept the same in the musical remake of 2024. The Italian translator from 2004 decided on *barbie* as the better way to express what the screenwriter wanted to communicate, yet in 2024 the original term in the original language was selected as the best option, denoting that the movie had become enough part of Italian pop culture that no translation was necessary.

The reaction of the respondents does not produce clear results. In both groups, for the clip from 2004, some people understood most of the words, and a few did not understand everything, although the reason for this, probably lies in the fact that the clip was out of context and the name of the school was not clear enough. At the same time though the scene was not completely understood also in the clip from 2024. Two individuals from each group *mostly understood* the words, this time we can presume that they had difficulties in the choice of the translator. In regards

to modernity, 50% of the Italian group and 60% of the bilingual one thought that the slang from 2004 is still current today. The results stay the same in 2024 for the Italian and English speakers while in the other group, the percentage grows by more or less 15%. There are also mixed outcomes as far as the probability of use in everyday life is concerned. There is no continuity in terms of which probability was selected for both years and in both groups. Some individuals who were likely to use the slang from 2004 would never talk like the newer version and for others, it was exactly the opposite. This occurrence is proof that slang is never fixed, every single person, with their own personality and history, has the power to choose how they want to speak and with which words they like to express themselves, and sometimes trying to study messy humans may generate messy results.

4. Slang in today's and tomorrow's media.

4.1 Slang in movies for teenagers.

The movie *Mean Girls* is a good candidate for learning about the development of slang, as well as a perfect example of what to do when writing a movie targeted toward teenagers. As was explained in the previous chapter, the movie is rich in a type of slang that undergoes a big development, but in most cases, there have not been any shocking results from the questionnaire. In no scenes was the slang completely dismissed or loved, and this is important for the lifespan of the movie.

If the slang used in the 2024 version was considered extremely current, it is likely that within a few years (or even months, if particularly unlucky), it would sound outdated and create the opposite of the desired effect. Nowadays, Generation Z is the main linguistic innovator, and making good use of slang can help reach their audiences, especially when marketing is involved, but only when it is done in the correct way (Brandwatch team, 2023).

4.2 Social Media Trends.

In today's world, slang is strictly connected to the world of social media, and as a consequence, it is subjected to trends. The biggest trends are born on platforms such as Tiktok and Twitter (or X as Elon Musk tried to rebrand it after acquiring it, although the new name never trended) but if one decides to engage in trends for any other reason than fun, then they must be extremely careful. After the boom of social media, *trend* has been defined as: "a topic that is the subject of many posts on a social media site or application within a short period of time" (OED)⁸, and although trends are created in the time of a tap, their downfall can be just as quick. Studies from SMMS (a social media agency) have shown that the lifespan of a Twitter trend can be as short as 11 minutes: "The number of tweets required for a trend can vary widely but it is estimated the average trend has an expected shelf-life of around 11 minutes [...] an algorithm that takes into account the number of tweets with a particular hashtag or keyword, as well as the velocity at which those tweets are being sent and the level of engagement" (SMMS, Booth, 2023). If one wishes to trend on TikTok, they have better luck, as the average new trend stays relevant for around ninety days before it is considered out of style. This means that if a business of any kind wants to jump on trends, it needs to do it as quickly as possible before that specific content is not relevant anymore.

⁸ https://www.oed.com/dictionary/trend_v?tab=factsheet#17773201

4.3 Correlation between slang and trends.

What does this have to do with slang? The answer to this question is everything, especially in a world where social media and language innovation are strictly interlinked. As proof of this, Brandwatch, an agency specializing in marketing and social media, has conducted a study that shows that many slang words that went viral in the last few years are now considered almost embarrassing to use, as many users on social media platforms have pointed out. *Vibe check* or *sus* are clear examples of this. Around the time of the first pandemic (an all-time high in terms of online speech), everybody was including these words in their conversations but today, employing these terms can make one sound like they are trying at all costs to relate to younger generations, but in this way, they only appear old. (Brandwatch team, 2023)

Linguist and self-proclaimed etymology nerd Adam Aleksic has explained the reason behind this occurrence in one of the reels on his Instagram account with one million followers. He uses the extremely popular word *rizz* (short for romantic charisma) as an example, illustrating how nobody is going to use this term two years from now just because we already think of the word as slang. He chooses old slang terms like *selfie* or *cancel* in comparison, as words that are still relevant today because: “anytime a word is too obtrusive it gets tied to a meme people use it ironically and then the meme dies out when it becomes unfunny, like when adults start using it. However, if the word is unobtrusive it slips under the radar, we don't draw attention to it which is why they survive.” He predicts that a current slang word on the right track to survival is *situationship*, precisely because right now it is not strictly tied to slang (Aleksic, 2024).

4.4 Directions for a correct employment of slang in movies and TV shows.

Aleksic’s interpretation of slang’s lifespan corroborates the possibility for the slang in *Mean Girls 2024* not to lose relevance in the arc of just a few years. As previously explained, while still dense with slang, the script does not focus excessively on terms that are extremely popular, preventing the movie from sounding like it is trying too hard to imitate teenagers. Some recent movies and TV shows have instead made this mistake, resulting in a production that did not work well with their intended audiences. Titles like *He’s all that*, *Ginny and Georgia*, or *The Kissing Booth* (all Netflix originals), were bashed by the public for the failed attempt to portray realistic Gen Z teenagers. Of course, direction and acting had a big role in the bad reviews, but a bad script can ruin a whole production. In the era of social media, there is no better place to learn about people’s reactions to something than asking Twitter users. The following are some of their opinion on the aforementioned titles:

“Its the betrayal for me” “its the secrets for me” omg this writing #ginnyandgeorgia
(@Simmy_Ali, 2023)

Honestly...who is writing this show #ginnyandgeorgia
(@thebc12, 2023)

The writing on #ginnyandgeorgia is horrid,2023
(@_Ashley_AP, 2023)

I’m watching #HesAllThat and I’m cringing bc too much bad acting, way too many product placements, old guys playing 17 year olds, cringy dialogue + making all characters super superficial.
(@NotSry2LoveDE, 2021)

#HesAllThat is a vapid, insufferable and just offensively bad alleged teenage rom-com that fails to modernize, let alone reach the bare minimum set by the adequate, but beloved 1999 source material, due to misguided stunt casting, amateurish acting and poor writing. 2/10.
(@suburbia666, 2021)

For once that romance writing is cringe enough to distract me from the fact that it's also bad
(@lavendersbook, 2024)

Me trying to figure out if a writers team of 45yr old men with no perception of teenage girls and romance or a 5th grader with hopes for the future wrote "The Kissing Booth 2"
(@Evanit0, 2020)

Although, the grammatically incorrect tweets of random people may not seem like the biggest threat to production houses, in 2024 the opinion of experts is not as relevant as it was once before. “Some film marketing goes above and beyond to create viral moments that break the box office *and* the internet at large” (The Concierge Club, 2024). However, when movies do not meet audiences’ expectations, they may go viral because the public is destroying them.

What is the best course of action then? Slang has always been in constant change and now more than ever language is as fleeting as a viral video, and words and phrases, just like people, can have their moment of stardom and then plummet to the ground. Therefore adding slang to a script can be risky. The advice of the author of this dissertation is to always do proper research, peruse social media sites (Twitter, TikTok, Instagram, or Reddit are all adequate options), and notice which slang words are just passing through and what is here to stay. A good combination of the right slang and standard language can generate something good that is going to be relatable for the teenagers of today and perhaps for those of tomorrow.

Conclusion

Slang is a complex and ever-changing topic that perfectly mirrors society. Nevertheless, the literature on this subject does not reflect the amount of information needed to have a clear vision of the matter. The purpose of this dissertation was to summarize part of the discourse on the topic, as well as add some new information thanks to a questionnaire created with the aim of collecting people's opinions on the development of slang.

In order to do so, the first approach consisted of observing slang from a linguistic point of view. The definitions of the topic from the worlds of sociology, style, linguistics, and lexicography were all compared looking for similarities and differences. A comparison was made also with similar language varieties to slang, to be precise with jargon, cant, vernacular, dialect, and accent. It was then explained how slang is created thanks to the processes of word formation such as coinage, blending, compounding, acronym, and clipping.

After learning about linguistics, history was the protagonist in the second chapter. The time periods analyzed begin with ancient Rome and end with the 1990s. On a journey of more than twenty centuries, slang has evolved from being only the tongue of obscenities when it was spoken in Latin, to the language of criminals and low-life individuals throughout the Middle Ages, to being included in Shakespeare's plays in the Elizabethan era and employed by the nobility in the 18th century. At the end of Victorian times, slang's reputation changed thanks to the first dictionary made with the sole purpose of documenting it. However, the great revolution came in the 20th century, with all the great inventions that helped the spread of slang like the cinema, TV, and later on the Internet.

The third chapter addressed the results of the questionnaire with the purpose of collecting people's reactions to slang thanks to the teenage movie *Mean Girls* in the original edition and the remake. The study proved that in twenty years slang has evolved sometimes more and others less. It also demonstrated how once a slang word is no longer considered as such, it can go in two different directions: it disappears or it becomes standard language. The results have also provided interesting data on the differences created by age and level of fluency in a second language for the understanding of slang.

The research was focused on the analysis of scenes from the movie's original edition and its remake in 2024. The bilingual speakers who took part in the survey were presented with four scenes in twelve clips, while the people fluent in one language had to answer questions about three scenes in six clips.

From the first scene (that included scenes in both languages and for both years) it was learned that the slang in 2024 is overall more current and more likely to be used. The translation strategies were also taken into consideration because of the great differences between the 2004 Italian edition and the

2024. The second scene triggered a reflection on different types of slang and their popularity thanks to the presence of hip-hop slang in the clips that received negative reactions in terms of use. The third corroborates the results from the first, while the fourth shows how strict the connection between slang and people's personalities is and the influence of pop culture on translation strategies.

The movies analyzed were not just useful for the third chapter, but they served as the perfect introduction for the fourth. The reason for this involved the opinions of the statistical sample on the newer movie. Results showed that the slang was not always found to be particularly modern. This was a blessing in disguise because the fourth chapter dealt with the fleeting life expectancy of slang that can be an obstacle in the creation of an evergreen movie, and it is, therefore, important to choose slang that is not extremely popular if one wishes to avoid being considered outdated in a very short span of time.

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