An analysis: Internet slang usage as code-switching in X (Twitter)

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to identify the types of internet slang used by X users as code-switching and investigate the users' reasons for using them in their tweets. The results of this study are expected to contribute to the readers ' internet slang, such as code-switching, which is often used to communicate through X (Twitter), and to know the reasons users use slang in their tweets on Twitter. The study is qualitative, with the first data collected from Twitter. The respondents of this study are 20 male and female active users of Twitter. The second data was collected using question-naires. The sample was selected by purposive sampling method from different ages. The results suggest that a variety of Internet slang mostly used by X users as code-switching are capitalizations and other symbols, generated emoticons and smileys, intentional misspellings, Letter homophones, also letter repetition. There are some reasons X users use slang as code-switching in their tweets, such as to make it fresher and more personal, to playfulness or waggishness, to ease social interaction, and also to make it secret.

1.   Introduction

The development of science and technology influences people these days, especially in communication. With such development, the use of language to communicate is very diverse in both oral and written forms and in their contexts, too. While from the context, language can be used in formal and informal situations. Since language defines some ideas or concepts that may exist independently, communication is possible. People usually use formal or standard language in formal situations, while people usually use casual or informal language in informal situations.

Languages have become crucial for helping people communicate in their daily lives. According to Evans & Levinson (2009), "Language is characterized by its cultural and historical diversity, with

significant variations observed between cultures and across time." X is a social network micro-blogging in which people of a community share news, and their current activity and interact with other users by answering the question 'What's happening?' (Al-Khalifa, 2008). So, the objective of communication can be met (Lailiyah et al., 2019) through social networks such as X, which is the latest trend at this moment.

The use of internet slang, which is common on X (Twitter) by X's users to communicate with each other at this time, has made the writer interested in examining the type of internet slang that is used often by users and the reason users use it in their speech through X (Twitter). Referring to the description above, this study attempts to identify the type of Internet slang on X (Twitter) that is used by users as code-switching and also investigate the Internet user's reasons for using slang in their speech through X (Twitter). By analyzing the Internet slang that is used on microblogging, especially in X (Twitter), the reader can also understand the variations and development of Internet slang that is used by users in X (Twitter). By observing Internet slang words from different participants, we expect to recognize the reason users use Internet slang in their communication through X (Twitter). In terms of language variation on the Internet, this present study is expected to contribute to the sociolinguistic field.

2.   Method

The method of this study is the qualitative descriptive method. The qualitative methods are considered because the data collection was frequently in the form of a description of the type of Internet slang that Internet users use in their tweets. Data sources consist of primary data, which is obtained from the X's timeline, and secondary data, which is obtained from questionnaires. The respondents of this study from X are 20 active users of Twitter, while from questionnaires the respondents were selected randomly using purposive sampling methods from different ages. The data collection involved several data sources, namely document analysis, and questionnaires.

2.1   Document analysis

The data is collected through document analysis. According to (Arikunto, 2010), documentation is a finding and collecting of the data on things including agendas, books, magazines, newspapers, notes, reports, transcripts, etc. Similar to Arikunto, Documentation could be in the form of text, images, or enormous work from an individual or group of people (Alwasilah, 2002). In this study, by used document analysis because we wanted to be an observer without giving intervention to the users while updating tweets so that it made users feel free to update tweets. This document takes from tweets written by X users (tweet update).

2.2   Questionnaires

A questionnaire is written questions that intend to obtain some pieces of information from the respondents. According to Arikunto (2010), a questionnaire is a written statement that is used to obtain information from respondents in terms of reports about things that they know. Meanwhile,

Sugiyono (2008) mentions, "Questionnaire is a data collection technique is done by giving a set of questions or a written statement to the respondent to answer". This questionnaire which is used in this study is the questionnaire directly covered because the respondents were only marking one answer as considered correct.

3.   Result and Discussion

Language is the most current communication tool in conveying messages, thoughts, feelings, and goals to others and the role of language has become very dominant in various human daily activities (Apriyanto,2020). The basic elements of communication require:

a.   A speaker or sender of information.

The sender who transmits the message and the recipient must also share a common language to understand each other in communication.

b.   A medium

A medium (Internet) is a tool by which the sender delivers the message to the recipient.

c.   A message

The message is divided into two kinds of message: encoded and decoded. An encoded message is a piece of information transmitted by the sender to the recipient. This encoded message appears through X as media communication. A decoded message is a piece of information in which the recipient tries to figure out the meaning of the message that the sender transmits. It is sometimes covered by slang that Internet Users often use in written form.

d.   Feedback

Feedback is the reaction or response from the recipient.

e.   An audience or recipient.

A recipient of a message must be able to identify the sender's intention and then take into the context of a message, resolve any misunderstandings, accurately understand the information, and decide how to act on it.

As a result, the selections of the Internet user in communication are limited by hardware that it wanted to use Internet access to their communication. The idea of the information that is regulated by the pre-shared characters on a console could be sent. The kind of information can be defined by the size and arrangement of the screen. Furthermore, both the sender and receiver are restrained by the internet (software), computer (hardware), and network linking them as a medium to deliver or receive the message. According to Zuckerberg (2014), "Internet is a fundamental tool to communicate with others as through the Internet, we aim to improve communication between people". Social media is a kind of new form of communication from individuals or groups of Internet users who are contributing to a conversation and X is part of social media that people use to communicate. The use of social media has brought significant impacts in utilizing digital technology communication (Kandiawan, 2023)

Social media allow people to connect from around the world without being limited by distance, space, or time (Trimastuti, 2017). X is a form of social media that was previously named Twitter. It allows people to communicate or inform through the platform. X (Twitter) has been implemented as a learning tool in research (Grandjean, 2016). It can be used to mine the data in terms of linguistic field. Also, X is a free online instrument that enables to spread of the content to the internet and interaction with other users (Borau, et. al, 2009). It is an online social media and social networking service referred to historically as tweeting, retweeting, and quote tweeting/retweeting. Also, some young public figures or celebrities code-switching when they speak on their social media (Dewi, 2021). Many people follow friends, influencers, celebrities, and musicians on this site and they feel connected and develop acceptance for the actions and feelings of others by using their X usernames which uses to represent their identity when they are using X. According to (Nguyen, 2021), "X shapes how the users interact and suggest specific goals for those interactions". X has resulted from intercultural discourse because many worldwide people emphasize the individual lives of others and have a wish for connection and knowledge of events through their X timelines.

X timeline is a stream showing all Tweets from those the users have chosen to follow on Twitter. Timelines can also consist of collected messages from users in lists that users search. The example of X has shortened the ties of distance into knowing exactly what someone is doing or thinking without physically communicating face-to-face or interacting with another person. This is the most common way to talk with some back and forth on Twitter. A reply is defined as including the symbol @ before the username of any X user. Tweet describes it as an update. Tweets are widely visible by default, but the users can limit message sending to just their followers. People tweet as individual messages, what is on their mind, post links, or anything else that fits in the character requirements.

Language helps us express and convey the thoughts, feelings, and emotions of two individuals (Budiasa, 2021). The language used in communication has a lot of different varieties. Some kinds of language varieties are used in an informal context, and one of them is slang. The important uniqueness of slang is that it is a regularly exchanged open arrangement, especially Internet slang. Thus, any efforts to define Internet slang, especially Internet slang refer to a variety of slang languages which is used by different communities on the Internet and it is difficult to offer a standardized definition of Internet slang because of the constant changes made to its nature (Yan, 2006). Internet slang offers a network that could support and restrain the different essential abilities to communicate. The Internet is ideal for innovative slang words to surface due to the abundance of the media and the accessibility of material.

In communication, people clarify that slang is used to be inappropriate language or the language of the street that is used immoral but nowadays people do not think that slang is criminal language again. Slang is used in informal situations where people feel comfortable with their friends and almost all in spoken language to express their feelings. Kridalaksana (2013) states, "*Slang is an informal style that is used by young people or certain social class to communicate among the members as an effort to make other people does not understand*". While Pongsapan (2022) mentions, "*Slang is an informal language that is produced and used by people in certain communities*".

The use of abbreviations and interjections has been popularized in this medium due to the limited character space for writing messages on the X (Twitter) platform. Another reason for this

spread is perhaps the accessibility of transmitting the existing mappings between expression and meaning into a similar space of interaction. The concepts of flaming and trolling have also extended outside of the computer, and are used in the same conditions of deliberation. According to (Cho et al., 2015), flaming is an aggressive act of someone who causes an online discord. While, trolling primarily is interactive communications between Internet users, influencing people's views both from objective and emotional standpoints (Paavola, 2016).

Internet slang which is in written form sometimes found as code-switching. People tend to switch and use slang in their social media (Kandiawan, 2023). First, it may consider a restricted language skill in one or both languages that users use to communicate through the Internet. The users shift from one language to another because they have limited vocabulary to express their feelings or their thoughts. Second, it may be used as a secret code in a certain communication. The users change their language in their communication as they want their written tweets only to be understood by certain people. Third, it may be used to make ease of conversation. The users modify their words in their interaction to ease the conversation by adding slang as humor. Also, Code-switching is seen as one of the ways people use their language repertoire (Astuti, 2020).

Internet Slang is a typical form of language that is used by people on the internet to express their feelings and communicate in a faster way. Internet slang consists of several diverse ways of speaking, sub-languages, communications, spelling techniques, and idioms that have obtained most of their meaning on the Internet. In conclusion, slang is a kind of language that is used by a certain group of people to express their feelings to their circle of friends to make other people out of their circle not understand. Mostly, it is used by young people in a non-formal situation. Based on the explanation above, Internet slang diversifies from its spoken complement in casual and playful conversation to written form in online world communities.

Slang has several functions. *First*, slang shows playfulness and waggishness. It is used for fun. According to (Morris, 2014) describes, "*Slang is a playful speech which is used in place of standard terms for added humor effect*". While, (Bahr, 1993) states, "*Slang is used by people to express their sense of humor and light–heartedness of the youth.*"

Second, slang helps for ease of social interaction. Slang serves social functions, setting, and declaring social boundaries (Spolsky, 1998). While (Bahr, 1993) states, "*Slang could break the excessive gravity of the conversation or pomposity of a written piece*".

Third, slang is used as a secret code. Slang could create a secret language that is only understood by people within a group. (Bahr, 1993) states, "*Slang creates a secret code that could be understood only among a specific group*".

Fourth, slang enriches the language. It creates a new language as adaption which is used in the informal situation. (Bahr, 1993) states, "*Slang helps to invent the new word or invest an old word with vividly new sense.*"

Fifth, slang lends an air of solidity. It can add concreteness to speech. Slang permits the user to assert or claim solidarity with the group (Spolsky, 1998). While (Bahr, 1993) states, "*Slang could convert abstraction into concrete and solid*".

Sixth, slang makes conversation different or picturesque. Slang is used sometimes to either positively or wish to avoid insipidity negatively. (Bahr, 1993) states, "*Slang is used by people to be different from others with a dynamic graphic self-expression to avoid monotonously*".

Seventh, slang shows the group membership. It is used to identify people where they belong to group members and exclude others. Slang permits a user to assert or claim solidarity with a group (Spolsky, 1998). (Bahr, 1993) states, "*Slang proves and identifies the person as an outsider of the certain group*".

Eighth, slang can unmistakably arrest even startling. Slang sometimes is used for concealing or as an element of humorous exaggeration. (Bahr, 1993) states, "*Slang could be arresting or forceful to startle someone*".

Ninth, slang makes life seem a little fresher and a little more personal. It is sometimes used as a variation from the boring familiarity of standard words into enjoyment. (Bahr, 1993) states, "*Slang could be an exercise in wit and expresses the strong spirit of pleasure*".

Tenth, slang shows that the person belongs to a social class. It is directed to show the user's social status group connections feelings or attitudes. (Bahr, 1993) states, "*Slang could imply something or give a hint the person belongs*".

Eleventh, slang establishes contact. The user uses slang to make communication easier, more personal, and more intimate. (Bahr, 1993) states, "*Slang promotes the simplicity in social communication to tighten the friendship*".

Twelfth, slang disperses the solemnity of a conversation. It could break out from the established monotonous of everyday life and reduce serious conversation. (Bahr, 1993) states, "*Slang is used on spoken and written more briefly and quickly*".

Thirteenth, slang induces friendliness. It is used almost in speaking among friends and close peers who share emotional expressions or experiences. Slang is used by users to know that they are friends because slang is a kind of relational identity (Spolsky, 1998). While (Bahr, 1993) states, "*Slang is the place on a friendly level with others matters*".

Fourteenth, slang could be softening the tragedy. It could lighten the inevitability of madness or endure ugliness and also a mask from the pity of treachery. (Bahr, 1993) states, "*Slang makes the conversation to be mysterious and understandable only some of the people*".

Meanwhile, Internet slang has main several functions. *First*, it is used to ease communication. *Second*, it could save time for the user to communicate. *Third*, it is often considered to indicate group membership. *Fourth*, it could facilitate and constrain the user's ability to converse differently from the standard language. *Fifth*, it is as plays a part in camaraderie.

Slang is a group speech so it could acquire some degree of secrecy, solidarity, and intimate condition (Spolsky, 1998). There are many characteristics of internet slang. It is almost internet slang used in English, specifically for a group of users to communicate on the internet in written communication as English becomes an international language. It is also made in the form of new words with different meanings (*Bae* refers to *someone who finds so cute*) or old words with new meanings (*Gay* means *cheerful*). Internet slang uses old words that not everybody knows the meaning that changed

into something with a similar intonation but a different meaning (Yan, 2006). Also, Internet slang led to cybernetic communities which were marked by the detailed slang that the user used and led to a more standardized yet assorted virtual culture and communication (Wei, 2010).

Internet slang also brings new rules for communication such as when two new users online exchange direct requests like "a/s/l", which means an age, sex, and location as an introduction between themselves. Although the concrete use of online slang is similar to any other form, many of the distinctive that are mentioned beforehand let this form of slang. It comes because of time constraints or mis-spellings of other words to be adaptable in conversation.

There are many approaches to creating new terms of slang like a change the definitions of the daily used word (*butt in* which means disturb), shortening some syllables to remain merely a syllable (*ILY* which means I Love You), making abbreviations and acronyms (*brb* which means Be Right Back), combining words in one's way (*fuck off* which means go away) and coining new words (*follow and unfollow* which means add or remove someone from the list of people whose you want to know on Twitter.).

The types of Internet slang have several categories.

a. Intentional Mis-spellings

Intentional mis-spellings come from accidental typographical errors that have been found in written communication through the Internet. Intentional mis-spellings may be rooted in space limitation and some of these come from unintentional typographical errors that have been accepted by the Internet community.
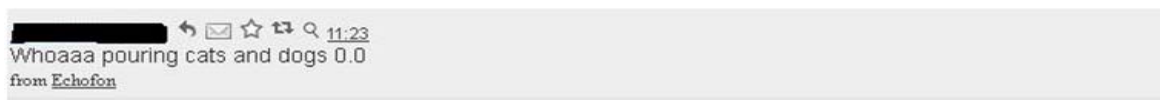
Example: Lmao le bruhhhh just
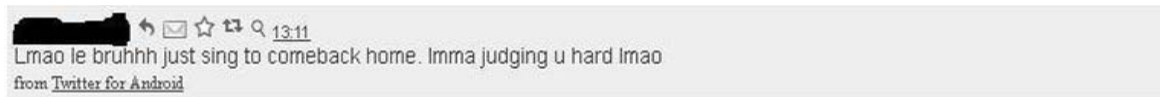
b. Idioms

Idioms are forms or expressions of a given language which is unusual grammatically or cannot be understood from the individual meanings. Idiom which is used on the Internet has expressions whose complete meanings can only be acknowledged and understood by Internet Users.

Example: Whoaaa pouring cats and dogs o.o

c. Phonetic Translation

Phonetic Translation is a way of replacing bits of words with their phonetic correspondent personified into single letters or figures. Phonetic Translation replaces entire words or bits of words by their phonetic which is equivalent to embodied into single letters. Translation is sometimes.

Example: Why I alr cre8 acc for super capricious and yet it say cnt log in?:/
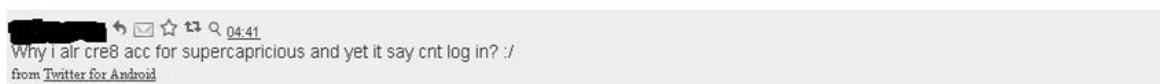
d. Letter Repetition

Letter Repetition is the type of language that consists of the same letter in a word repeated several times for emphasis as a satirical way to replace an exclamation mark or to express great frustration.

Example: THEY CALLED FOR INTERVIEWWWWW~ WOOOOOHOOOOOOO \O/

> ↩ ✉ ☆ ↻ ⚲ 06:51
> THEY CALLED FOR INTERVIEWWWWWWWWWWW~ WOOHOOOOOOOOOOOOO \O/
> from Twitter Web Client, retweeted once

e. Flaming

Flaming refers to inappropriate language or disrespectful interaction between Internet users (Baron, 2003). Flaming is also like a nasty communication which root of any kind of issues such as misinterpretation, dissatisfaction, and insights of injustice.

Example: Buat gw alesan high cost buat eliminate pilkada bullshit gila

> ↩ ✉ ☆ ↻ ⚲ 17:27
> Buat gw alesan high cost buat eliminate pilkada bullshit gila.
> from Twitter for iPad

f. Letter homophones

Letter homophones consist of *Abbreviations* which are a form of a restriction word, for example, "CU" for "see you" and *Shortening* which is a formed letter from the primary components of a word, for example, "LOL" for "laugh out loud.

Example Back to black LOL

> ↩ ✉ ☆ ↻ ⚲ 14:49
> Back to black LOL
> from Twitter for Android

g. Onomatopoeic

Onomatopoeic is a spelling that imitates a sound, for example, "hahahah" to indicate laughter or "huhuhuhuhuhu" to indicate sadness.

Example: Oh hahahahahah he really has a good time there I see

> ↩ ✉ ☆ ↻ ⚲ 55 mins ago
> Oh hahahaha hahahahaha he really had a good time there I see.
> from TweetDeck

h. Direct requests

The direct request is the question words where personal identity may be hidden, for example, "A/S/L?" stands for "age, sex, location?"

Example: Always got call from Hidden Number. Dude who the fuck are you?

> ↩ ☆ ↻ 🗑 ⚲ 13 secs ago
> Always got call from Hidden Number.. dude who the fuck are you?
> from TweetCaster for Android

i. Capitalizations and other symbols

Capitalizations and other symbols are the types that are used to highlight something that has expletive marks. It may be used repetitively and capitalizations can express an emotion of irritation as opposed. The use of bold, underlining and italics indicates a stressful feeling.

Example: AHHHHHHHHHHH
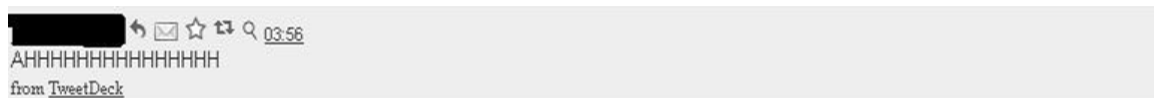
j. Keyboard-generated emoticons and smiley's

Keyboard-generated emoticons and smiley consist of changing a letter by its closest figure's lookalike.

Example: Anw, Lucky I never wear high heels xD

Referring to the description above, Internet slang refers to a language variety that is used by different communities on the Internet. Slang sometimes that is used by Internet communities is found to correlate with code-switching where in their written tweet the user uses English or mixes it with English. Code-switching is a way of acknowledging and mastering the language of the larger society (Christian, 2013). People have several reasons for using slang as code-switching in their communication. First, they have limited skills to express their feeling. Second, to establish themselves as one member of a particular group. Third, intends to clarify, emphasize, or achieve a certain dramatic effect. Last, as humor and enrich the (Hughes, 2006). Internet user has several reasons for using slang as code-switching—first, ease of communication. Second, saves time for the writer. Third, sometimes indicating group membership facilitates and requires the users' abilities to communicate.

There were 929 slang words found from 500 tweets of 20 Users at X Timeline through document analysis in this research. Those slang words were distributed according to types of slang categorized by Baron (2003) into ten types namely, intentional mis-spellings, idioms, phonetic translation, flaming, letter repetition, letter homophones, onomatopoeic, direct requests, capitalizations and other symbols, generated emoticons, and smileys in the following table:

Based on the document analysis, the result type of Internet slang on X that is used mostly by users as code-switching are 242 amount appearances in Capitalizations and other symbols, 183 amount appearances in Generated emoticons and smileys, 104 amounts appearances in Intentional mis-spellings.

From the reasons for users using slang as code-switching in their tweets on X results through Questionnaire, can be seen that respondents mostly use it for playfulness or waggishness and to ease of social interaction in their tweets. As said (Hughes, 2006), "People have several reasons for using

slang as code-switching in their communication. First, they have limited skills to express their feeling. Second, to establish themselves as one of a member of the particular group. Third, intends to clarify, emphasize, or achieve a certain dramatic effect. Last, as humor and enrich the languages".

Table 1: Type of Internet Slang

Type of Internet Slang	Amount	Percentage	Digital Data		Manual Data	
			F	%	F	%
Intentional mis-spellings	104	11.19%	3	5%	18	7,6%
Idioms	21	2.26%	1	2%	13	5,5%
Phonetic translation	72	7.75%	1	2%	8	3,4%
Flaming	25	2.69%	3	5%	7	2,9%
Letter repetition	71	7.64%	8	13%	47	19,7%
Letter homophones	126	13.56%	24	40%	36	15,1%
Onomatopoeic	77	8.29%	8	13%	58	24,4%
Direct requests	8	0.86%	2	3%	8	3,4%
Capitalizations and other symbols	242	26.05%	1	2%	16	6,7%
Generated emoticons and smileys	183	19.70%	9	15%	27	11,3%
Total	**929**	**100%**	**60**	**100%**	**238**	**100%**

Table 2: The reason for using Internet slang

Reason	Digital Data		Manual Data	
	F	%	F	%
For playfulness or waggishness	19	32%	41	16,8%
To ease social interaction.	21	35%	17	7,0%
To be secret.	2	3%	26	10,7%
To enhance the language.	-	-	15	6,1%
To give solidity atmospheres.	1	2%	12	4,9%
To be 'different' or picturesque.	1	2%	13	5,3%
To show the group membership.	1	2%	8	3,3%
To be unmistakably arresting even startling.	1	2%	13	5,3%
To make life seem a little fresher and more personal.	2	3%	36	14,8%
To show that one belongs to a social class.	-	-	8	3,3%
To establish contact.	1	2%	13	5,3%
To disperse the solemnity of a conversation.	2	3%	11	4,5%
To induce either friendliness	5	8%	12	4,9%
To soften the tragedy	4	7%	19	7,8%
Total	**60**	**100%**	**244**	**100%**

4.   Conclusion and Suggestion

The result found that types of Internet slang have 10 categories; they are Intentional mis-spellings, Idioms, Phonetic translation, Flaming, Letter repetition, Letter homophones, Onomatopoeic, Direct requests, Capitalizations, and other symbols, Generated emoticons, and smileys (Baron, 2003). From the document analysis, the result types of Internet slang on X (Twitter) that are used mostly by users as code-switching in general analysis are Capitalizations and other symbols, Generated emoticons and smileys, Intentional mis-spellings, and Letter homophones. The result type of Internet slang on X (Twitter) that is used mostly by users as code-switching in specific analysis are Onomatopoeic, Letter homophones, Letter repetition, Generated emoticons, and smileys. It can be

verified from general analysis to specific analysis that the type of Internet slang on X that is used mostly by users as code-switching is Intentional mis-spellings.

From the reasons for users using slang as code-switching in their tweets on Xresult found 14 categories namely: for playfulness or waggishness, for ease of social interaction, to be secret, to enrich the language, to lend an air of solidity, to be 'different' or picturesque, to show the group member-ship, to be unmistakably arresting even startling, to make life seems little fresher and little more personal, to show that one belongs social class, to establish contact, to disperse the solemnity of a conversation, to induce either friendliness, and to soften the tragedy (Spolsky, 1998). It can be seen that the users wrote internet slang in their tweets to make it seem a little fresher and a little more personal, playfulness or waggishness, and ease of social interaction. Through the research, there are some additional findings about Internet slang in X (Twitter) usage that the users prefer to use Internet slang rather than standard language. From the reason the users prefer to use Internet slang rather than standard language results found 6 categories namely: Because it is fun, because of habit, it makes secret, to deliver the thought, and to follow the trend.

The present study also discovers the reason the users prefer to use Internet slang rather than standard language and language occurrence in the student's tweets. Further study may focus on the use of Internet slang as code-switching. It may be used by different respondents from one place to others place because the use of Internet slang will be different among different users. The writer suggests that the next study examine the Internet Slang that is used in another country and investigate their attitudes towards Internet slang.

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