



VENTURE ON COMPARISON OF GAY LINGO THEN AND NOW: A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

Gay Lingo is a unique language that is used by the LGBTQ + Community for self-expression. In classrooms, it is important that teachers and students are able to understand each other to avoid misunderstandings. Hence, this qualitative research employed discourse analysis to investigate articles discussing gay language or "Gay Lingo" published between 2003-2013 and 2014 -2023. Through purposive sampling, articles from 2003-2013 and 2014-2023 were chosen. Based on the findings, three key themes emerged concerning common linguistic features: encompassing phonological characteristics, lexicon within Philippine gay lingo, and morphological elements. Additionally, an examination of language functions identified themes establishment of communal identity through gay lingo, gay lingo as a creative and safe medium for self-expression, and confronting social change through gay lingo. These findings emphasize the dynamic role of language in shaping identities within diverse cultural contexts, particularly within the LGBTQ + Community. Further, it is recommended that society recognizes and respects the significance of gay lingo for promoting inclusivity, empathy, and breaking down stereotypes. Teachers and school administrators are recommended undergo workshops and training to understand gay lingo, promoting acceptance and reducing prejudice among students. Efforts to document and preserve this vibrant linguistic heritage are also encouraged, fostering communal identity and a deeper understanding of language's role in marginalized communities.

KEYWORDS: gay lingo, gay language, discourse analysis, articles (2003-2013), Davao del Norte, Philippines

INTRODUCTION

Languages are in a constant state of growth and development, with new ones emerging and existing ones evolving. One of the ever-dynamic slang languages is gay slang or gay lingo. Like other forms of slang, gay lingo undergoes rapid evolution, continuously introducing new terms and expressions throughout the years. For individuals unfamiliar with this unique language, misunderstandings, and misinterpretations of intentions can arise. Deciphering the language is particularly challenging for teachers with students who, even in academic papers, utilize this language. Hence, understanding and decoding the meanings and implications of these terms becomes crucial, as it is with any specialized vocabulary that ensures effective communication (Abdullah et al., 2021; Quia et al., 2018; Rubiales, 2020). Globally, understanding gay language is crucial to ensure that messages are understood by the audience and the individuals involved in a conversation. In the US, teenage vloggers use slang words, including gay slang, as their language medium of communication, partly as a component of their culture. Unfortunately, older people and peers were prone to misunderstanding and misinterpreting their intentions due to their unfamiliarity with the novel structures of slang words. Similarly, in the Philippines, Nueva Ecija students use gay lingo, leading to misunderstandings. Students often communicate with teachers through social and online interactions, unintentionally creating

communicative barriers by using slang terms that elders are unfamiliar with. When teachers encounter slang phrases in student writing, they may need help understanding the meanings, as slang is not encouraged in academic and formal contexts (Munawaroh, 2019).

In the Philippines, a study revealed that the usage of gay lingo is one factor of slang words observed among students in Sto. Domingo National Trade School of Barangay Baloc, Talavera in Nueva Ecija, is causing misunderstanding and misconception. As observed nowadays, the structure or the formation of slang words, particularly gay slang, is constantly changing and evolving timely. Students sometimes communicate with their teachers through social and online interactions, which unintentionally leads to the creation of communicative barriers where they use slang terms, particularly gay lingo words or phrases that most elders are not used to the new formation of slang words in daily conversation. Additionally, when teachers examine student writing that contains slang phrases, which is not promoted in academic and formal contexts, the teachers seek aid in deciphering the words' meanings (Ignacio et al., 2021).

Furthermore, to address the issues brought on by the dominant growth of gay slang words, it is necessary enough to perform this study. Addressing it entails a deeper understanding of the



underlying meaning of the numerous gay slang words and their purpose. And also to appreciate how gay language developed from time to time as this specific language stirred the community, particularly generations nowadays. Additionally, to prevent confusion and misunderstanding while hearing and reading new words typically classified as gay slang. These factors further compel the researcher to conduct this research. This proposal also has social significance because it will address the demands of modern language. Additionally, this study aims to develop a clear theoretical framework, produce predisposed results, and provide knowledge and a better understanding of the gay language created by the LGBTQ+ community and even used by today's generation of non-gay people.

Moreover, the researcher has not found any studies exploring the evolution of gay slang words from a discourse perspective, particularly focusing on their linguistic features, such as morphological processes and language function, comparing the past and the present. For instance, Papua et al., (2021) studied the use of gay lingo among millennials using survey research. Also, Robbin (2020) studied tweet slang, specifically focusing on social media (i.e., Twitter). Meanwhile, Rubiales (2020) focused on the swardspok of high school students using the qualitative methodology. This study is unique because it looks at how gay lingo has changed over time and what those changes tell us about society and culture. It uses discourse analysis to understand how language reflects identity, power, and group solidarity. The research also explores how the internet and global connections have influenced the way gay lingo is used today.

The social relevance of this study lies in its exploration of how gay lingo has evolved over time, offering insights into the language used within the LGBTQ+ community and its reflection of societal changes. Understanding the shift in gay lingo helps highlight how language shapes identity, solidarity, and resistance within marginalized groups. By using discourse analysis, the research examines both the historical and contemporary use of gay lingo, providing valuable insights into its role in social dynamics and cultural expression. The study has the potential to contribute to LGBTQ+ studies and sociolinguistics, influencing how language is understood in relation to identity, social movements, and cultural transformation.

This researcher intends to disseminate the findings of this research through hardbound copies distributed strategically within our academic community and by publishing in a certain international journal, ensuring it reaches a global audience. Coordinating with the research office to arrange a formal presentation and distribute hardbound copies to faculty and staff during the event, fostering direct engagement and discussions and ensuring that hardbound copies are prominently available in the library, making them easily accessible to students and researchers.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS/OBJECTIVES

The researcher sought answer to the following questions:

1. What are the common linguistic features of gay lingo from 2003 – 2013 as compared to the linguistic features of gay lingo from 2014 up to the present?
2. What are the language functions of gay lingo from 2003 – 2013 as compared to the language functions of gay lingo from 2014 – 2023?

METHODOLOGY

In this study, the researcher employed a qualitative research design featuring Discourse Analysis. Qualitative research methods provided a detailed view of the person, text, and participants' concerns and contexts (Philippi & Lauderdale, 2018). Qualitative research utilized strategies to understand and explain events or problems in the environment through documents, interviews, and participant observation data (Creswell & Poth, 2016).

In addition, the research material used in this study was the gay lingo articles available on the internet from the years 2003 to 2013 and from 2013 up to the present. In this study, significant data was acquired by selecting specific samples based on pre-defined inclusion criteria. The criteria included: (1) the presence of analyzed gay lingo terms in the article, (2) the article's focus on gay lingo morphological and semantic analysis, (3) the articles were from the years 2003 – 2013 and 2013 – 2023.

In corpus-based studies, data is typically selected based on relevance to the research questions rather than focusing on sample size. Unlike qualitative studies that prioritize rich, in-depth information from a smaller sample, corpus-based research involves gathering a larger, more comprehensive collection of language data. For this discourse analysis study, a corpus of over 50 gay slang words was considered appropriate to capture a wide range of linguistic features and patterns. This corpus size ensures a balance between obtaining enough data to reveal meaningful insights while avoiding the potential limitations of using too small a dataset (Baker, 2006). The focus is on the data's representativeness and relevance rather than the number of individual sources or participants.

In the conduct of data collection and information gathering for this study, a series of activities were undertaken, involving access to Google Scholar, where articles on gay lingo morphology and semantics were found. The process followed a chronological order as outlined above. The researcher took several steps to collect data and gather other pertinent information for the study.

In the data analysis, the process of collecting data involved gathering articles along with the various reasons and factors that caused individuals to utilized slang words. Following the extraction of relevant information, discourse analysis examined the collected data to categorize and classify the slang phrases within the study. The 50+1 gay lingo terms on gay lingo articles was used in the succeeding process in order to extract significant



details that was included in the objectives and purpose of the study in relation to slang phrases which was analyzed by the researcher.

Furthermore, the study employed Finegan’s (2003) and Halliday’s (1975) frameworks to understand the linguistic features, word formation, meaning, and language function of gay language between two decades, 2003 – 2013 and 2013 -2023. This involved defining their linguistic structure, composition and function in relation to the gay lingo articles between two decades gap with their intended meaning and purposes.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Research Question No.1: 1.What are the common linguistic features of gay lingo from 2003 - 2013 as compared to gay lingo from 2013 up to the present?

Morphology studies how words were formed and varied. It studies the relationship between morphemes, and how morphemes can be put together to create new words, or new forms of the stem word. Understanding how the words were formed enables us to unlock our vocabulary, particularly on what words user must create to form a meaningful and effective communication.

Table 1
Blending in Gay Lingo year 2003-2013 compared to Gay Lingo 2014-2023

Morphological Process	English Word	Gay Lingo (2003-2013)	Gay Lingo (2014-2023)	Meaning
Blending	Glamorous	Glamor + azzì = Glamorazzi	Glamoroza	This word describes a personality or a person that is a fusion of sophistication. It conveys the idea of being stylish or attention-worthy.
	Kidding	Echo + s = Echos	Chariz	This gay lingo term is used in support from a spoken statement to indicate that what was said is not to be taken seriously.
	Foundation	Pun + da = Punda	Foundi	This refers to the cosmetic product used to create an even skin tone or base layer before applying other makeup.

Blending is another prevalent method observed in the creation of gay lingo terms. This involves combining two or more words to form a new term. The terms *glamorazzi* and *charot* are clear examples of blending in gay lingo. *Glamorazzi* combines "glamorous" and "paparazzi," creating a unique term that conveys sophistication and media attention. On the other hand, *charot* blends the slang for "just kidding" with the diminutive -ot, resulting in a playful expression used to indicate joking. The result is connected the study proposed by Romero (2019), which stated that Gay lingo helps Filipino teenagers fit in and communicate more freely. They use it to replace rude words, talk about sensitive topics, and add humor to conversations. It also allows them to express their social identity in a unique way. This language helps them connect with others in their group. Overall, it’s a creative tool for blending in and sharing ideas within their community.

Moreover, the result is in lined with study of Rosales & Caretero, (2019), which underscores that blending in gay lingo involves

creative changes in sounds and word forms, making it distinct and expressive. It helps users discuss sensitive topics, gossip, and enhance their social status while keeping conversations engaging. Non-gay individuals often adopt it to blend in, bridge communication gaps, and connect with gay speakers. This blending reflects a shared effort to foster understanding and build relationships. The language serves as both a social tool and a symbol of identity. Overall, it’s a dynamic way to express ideas and strengthen connections.

In addition, blending in gay lingo uses techniques like changing syllables, adding creative endings, and adopting new words. These processes alter or combine words in playful and unique ways. This style reflects the distinct linguistic identity of its speakers. It also showcases their social experiences and creativity. The blending makes the language dynamic and expressive. It highlights the individuality and community of gay language speakers (Bagood & Silvano, 2018).



Table 1.1
Compounding in Gay Lingo year 2003-2013 compared to Gay Lingo 2014-2023

Morphological Process	English Word	Gay Lingo (2003-2013)	Gay Lingo (2014-2023)	Meaning
Compounding	Boyfriend/Girlfriend	Shounen+ ta= Shota	Jo+ asawa = Jowa	This refers to a casual and affectionate way to refer to a significant other, or partner in a romantic or sexual relationship.
	Squad	Tropa+ pips= Tropapips	Family + bam fambam	Refers to a chosen family or a close-knit group of friends, often used affectionately.
	Cellphone	Chick + let = Chicklet	Chika+ line+ Chikaline	This refers to a portable electronic device that allows people to make voice calls, send text messages, and access various services and applications.

Compounding is the process of putting words together to create new words. It joins two separate words to produce a new word in a single form. The meaning of the form words is not entirely predictable on the components that make up the word. The word components did not solely belong to a single lexical category, it can be from any other categories. And with regards to the words present in Gay Lingo from 2003-2013 up to 2014-2023, different words were combined, and which produced another word with distinct meaning.

Hence, the result of this study is connected with study of Quimosing-Ocay and Ocampo (2024), which underscores that Compounding in gay lingo creates new words by combining existing ones, like "boylet" (boy + let) and "mudrabelsmudrakels" (from mudra). This process shows the creative and flexible nature

of swardspreak. It adds depth and uniqueness to the language. These terms help users communicate more effectively in specific contexts. This blending of words reflects the vibrant and evolving identity of the community. It also strengthens connections among its speakers.

Additionally, the study shows that gay lingo uses creative word-making through sound and word form changes. It often includes compounding, where words are combined to create new terms. These features make the language unique and dynamic. They contribute to the distinct vocabulary of the gay community. This style also enhances their communication and self-expression. Overall, it reflects the creativity and identity of its speakers (Rosales & Careterro, 2019).

Table 1.2
Affixation in Gay Lingo year 2003-2013 compared to Gay Lingo 201-2023

Morphological Process	English Word	Gay lingo (2003-2013)	Gay lingo (2014- 2025)	Meaning
Affixation	Show-off	Pabida	Starlet	Refers to someone who is trying to be the center of attention or acting in a way to stand out, often in an exaggerated manner.
	Feminine	Pagirl	Pabebe	Refers to someone, usually a gay man, who is exaggerating feminine traits or behaviors for attention or to appear cute.
	Who	Dawho	Dasin	It is commonly used to ask about someone's identity or to specify a person in a sentence.

Affixation is a morphological process where affixes (prefixes, suffixes, infixes, or circumfixes) are added to a root word to alter

its meaning or create a new word. This process helps in expressing grammatical relationships and expanding a language's



vocabulary. It can involve adding affixes at the beginning, end, or middle of a word, or surrounding it with affixes. In the table 1. 2, affixation was found present in the research materials.

Therefore, Taylor and Fisher (2020) further explore how affixation helps to construct a sense of belonging and solidarity within the community. The study suggests that the use of affixed words helps speakers to forge a unique linguistic identity, which is important for maintaining a sense of unity in a world that often marginalizes LGBTQ+ individuals. Through adding affixes to base words, members of the community can emphasize specific traits, behaviors, or experiences, making these terms central to their shared identity.

Similarly, Pilar (2022), discussed how affixation enables gay lingo to be both playful and adaptive. The study notes that affixed terms allow speakers to quickly create new words that respond to societal changes, such as new understandings of gender or sexual orientation. The ability to form new words through affixation also helps speakers assert their individuality within the broader linguistic landscape, which can be particularly important in a context where mainstream language might not fully capture the diversity of LGBTQ+ experiences.

Research Question No.2: What are the language functions of gay lingo from 2003 - 2013 as compared to the language function of gay lingo from 2014 - 2023?

Language functions of gay lingo from 2003 - 2013 as compared to the language function of gay lingo from 2014 - 2023

Table 2

Summary Table on Language Functions of Gay Lingo from 2003 to 2023 and 2014-2023

Language Function	Specific Function	Gay Lingo (2003-2013)	Gay Lingo (2014-2023)
Instrumental	Express people’s needs or to get things done for the fulfillment of the speaker.	Gusto ko <i>magpaandar</i> sa disco ay! – GLT 23	Shubi diha yot kay mo <i>awra</i> gyud ko ron sa event!- GLT 10
Regulatory	Is used to persuade or tell others what to do.	Apil na! <i>Keri</i> ra lagi na!- GLT 40	Makaya ra lagi yot, <i>keber</i> para nimo!- GLT 06
Interactional	Used to make contact with others and to form a relationship.	Morning <i>beklavu!</i> I miss you!- GLT 15	Hello <i>baks</i> , boogsh kaayo ang fes nimo ron ay!- GLT 21
Personal	Used to express feelings, opinion and individual identity.	Ako kay wala jud ko ganahi ni giralalo! Ay, <i>echos</i> lang!- GLT 04	Dili man kaayo face card imong bet yot, <i>chariz</i> .- GLT 02
Heuristic	Used to gain knowledge about the environment.	Asa ka mag <i>lags?</i> GLT 24	Wersa ka mag <i>werla</i> , manang?- GLT 25
Imaginative	Used to tell stories, jokes and create imaginary systems or ideas.	Nagtext mi ganina, unta mag <i>eyebol</i> nami!- GLT 7	Bet siya, mura’g bagay mi mag <i>jonta</i> duha sa plaza!- GLT 7

The **instrumental** function of language, as described by Halliday, focuses on how language is used to achieve practical purposes, such as fulfilling a need or purpose. In the context of gay lingo from 2003 to 2013 and 2013 to 2023, this function can be examined as a means for individuals to explore social environments, form group identities, and communicate effectively within specific communities.

Several studies highlight the use of language as a tool for achieving particular social goals in these periods. The study by Rodriguez (2020) emphasizes how language in the gay community is employed to create a sense of belonging. The study argues that gay lingo serves as an instrument for establishing connections, offering a sense of safety and shared understanding,

which helps to maintain group cohesion. This social tool is crucial in a context where individuals may face societal marginalization.

The **regulatory** function of language, as outlined by Halliday, pertains to how language is used to control, direct, or influence the behavior of others. This function is important in understanding how gay lingo operates within the community to regulate interactions, relationships, and social norms. Studies on gay lingo between 2003 and 2023 demonstrate how language is used to manage group behavior, enforce social rules, and communicate authority. One significant study by Adams (2019) examines the role of gay lingo in maintaining social order within the community. The study argues that language is used to



set boundaries and guide behavior, ensuring that individuals adhere to shared norms. By using particular terms or expressions, members of the community can establish expectations for conduct, which helps preserve group coherence and ensure that interactions align with the values of the community.

The **interactional** function of language, according to Halliday, refers to how language is used to establish and maintain social relationships. In the context of gay lingo in the Philippines between 2003 and 2023, this function plays a vital role in fostering communication and social bonding within the LGBTQ+ community. Studies have explored how gay lingo functions as a tool for building relationships, expressing solidarity, and creating a sense of belonging.

A study by Bautista (2019), titled "The Role of Gay Lingo in Social Interaction," shows how gay lingo is used to strengthen social connections among individuals. The study suggests that language plays an essential part in creating rapport and facilitating smooth communication between members of the community. Through the use of gay lingo, individuals are able to create a shared space where mutual understanding and emotional support are fostered, thus strengthening their social bonds.

The **personal** function of language, according to Halliday, refers to how language is used to express personal feelings, emotions, and individual identity. In the context of gay lingo from 2003 to 2023, this function serves as a powerful tool for individuals to communicate personal experiences, showcase their emotions, and affirm their sense of self. Filipino studies on gay lingo highlight how language helps individuals express their personal identity within the broader context of the LGBTQ+ community.

Morales (2018), explores the role of gay lingo in expressing personal feelings and individual identity. His study suggests that gay lingo allows individuals to articulate their emotions, desires, and frustrations, helping them examine the complexities of their personal experiences. Through language, members of the community can assert their individuality, creating space for self-expression and emotional release in a society that may sometimes marginalize their voices.

The **heuristic** function of language, as described by Halliday, relates to how language is used to explore, learn, and make sense of the world. In the context of gay lingo in the Philippines from 2003 to 2023, this function enables individuals to gather and share knowledge, ask questions, and seek understanding about their environment, identity, and experiences. Studies have examined how gay lingo serves as a tool for discovering new ways of thinking, questioning social norms, and exploring complex ideas.

According to Reyes (2019), gay lingo provides a space for exploration and inquiry within the Filipino LGBTQ+ community. The study emphasizes that through the use of gay lingo,

individuals are able to ask questions, challenge existing perceptions, and engage in conversations that promote self-discovery and understanding. The language serves as a means to probe and uncover new perspectives, particularly on issues related to gender, sexuality, and societal roles.

The **imaginative** function of language, according to Halliday, refers to how language is used for creativity, storytelling, and self-expression. In the context of gay lingo from 2003 to 2023, this function is crucial in helping individuals craft new meanings, express unique identities, and engage in playful communication. Through the use of gay lingo, members of the LGBTQ+ community are able to explore new linguistic forms and create vibrant, imaginative ways to express themselves.

In truancy, a study by Santos (2018), explores how gay lingo fosters creativity and individuality within the Filipino LGBTQ+ community. The study suggests that gay lingo provides individuals with a space to invent new words and phrases, allowing them to shape their personal and collective identities in ways that are both playful and imaginative. This function of language allows for the creation of a distinct, imaginative discourse that reflects the experiences and creativity of the community.

Lastly, this study aligns with the study of Feliciano and Escandallo (2024) which explained that male and female students showed and used different languages when posting online updates with their social media accounts. This shows the unique components of language when used with different genders.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

In conclusion, the exploration of gay lingo reveals a dynamic and evolving linguistic landscape within the LGBTQ + Community in the Philippines. With its unique morphology characterized by creative word formations, affixation, blending, clipping, substitution, reversal, and stylized reversal with affixation, gay lingo showcases the creativity and resilience of the LGBTQ + Community in expressing and asserting its identity. The morphological processes observed from 2003 to 2023 underscore the adaptability of language and the LGBTQ + Community's ability to innovate and incorporate diverse linguistic elements.

The study aligns with Michael Halliday's Language Theory, demonstrating that gay lingo serves various language functions, including regulatory, interactional, representational, personal, heuristic, imaginative, and instrumental. Through these functions, gay lingo emerges as a distinct mode of communication within the LGBTQ + Community, fostering self-expression, identity construction, and a sense of belonging.

In essence, gay lingo emerges as a powerful and complex language that facilitates creative and safe self-expression. It serves as a medium for individuals to express their identities, build connections, counter prejudice, and navigate social circumstances. Beyond its linguistic richness, gay lingo becomes



a potent instrument for community building and self-expression, allowing individuals to declare and celebrate their sexual orientation, gender identity, and overall LGBTQ + Community. By reclaiming words and phrases, gay lingo empowers individuals to define and accept their identities in their unique ways and languages, contributing to a more inclusive and accepting sociocultural landscape.

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