

## **A SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF SLANG EXPRESSIONS IN ROBLOX VOICE CHAT INTERACTIONS ON TIKTOK**

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### **Abstract**

Language in online gaming has developed rapidly, especially through voice chat interactions where players use slang to express meaning efficiently and build social connection. This study aims to analyze the semantic meaning and changes of slang expressions used in Roblox voice chat interactions. The data were collected from a TikTok video uploaded by the account “NormalDifficulty,” which features simulated voice chat communication in Roblox gameplay. A qualitative descriptive method was employed, focusing on identifying selected slang expressions and analyzing their original and contextual meanings. The findings show that several common words such as “bro,” “twin,” “G,” “fake,” and “coolin” have undergone semantic change, including generalization, narrowing, and metaphorical extension. These expressions function not only to convey meaning but also to establish solidarity and informal identity among players. The study concludes that slang in Roblox voice chat reflects dynamic semantic processes and plays a significant role in shaping communication patterns in online gaming environments.

Keywords: Semantic Analysis, Slang Expressions, Semantic Change, Roblox voice chat

### **INTRODUCTION**

Language plays a crucial role in human interaction, particularly in digital environments where communication occurs rapidly and informally. In recent years, online gaming has become one of the most dynamic spaces for linguistic innovation. Players communicate through various modes, including text and voice chat, which encourage the development of new expressions and the transformation of existing words. In platforms such as Roblox, voice chat interactions allow users to engage in real-time communication, leading to the emergence

of slang expressions that carry meanings different from their original definitions. These changes reflect how language adapts to social needs and technological contexts.

The study of meaning in language is closely related to semantics, which examines how words and expressions convey meaning in different contexts. In online gaming environments, semantic change is particularly visible in the use of slang. Words such as “bro,” “twin,” and “coolin” are no longer limited to their literal meanings but are used to express familiarity, identity, and emotional states. This indicates that meaning is not fixed but evolves depending on the context of use. Voice chat interactions, in particular, provide rich data for semantic analysis because they reflect spontaneous and natural communication among players.

Previous studies have shown that digital communication platforms contribute significantly to language change, especially in the formation of slang and informal expressions. Social media platforms, including TikTok, have also played an important role in spreading and popularizing these expressions. Content creators often recreate or simulate real interactions, such as gaming voice chats, which can be used as linguistic data. However, while many studies focus on written communication in social media, fewer studies examine spoken interactions in gaming contexts, particularly those represented in short-form video content.

This study aims to analyze the semantic meaning of slang expressions used in Roblox voice chat interactions. Specifically, it investigates how selected words shift from their original meanings to new contextual meanings within gaming communication. The data are taken from a TikTok video uploaded by the account “NormalDifficulty,” which presents voice chat interaction in a Roblox setting. By focusing on this data, the study seeks to identify types of semantic change and to explain how these changes function within the interaction.

The significance of this study lies in its contribution to understanding how language evolves in digital and interactive environments. By examining slang expressions in gaming voice chat, this research highlights the relationship between language, context, and social interaction. It also provides insight into how players construct meaning and identity through language. Therefore, this study is expected to enrich semantic studies, particularly in the context of online gaming communication, and to offer a relevant perspective on contemporary language use.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

### **Research Design**

This study employs a qualitative descriptive research design to analyze the semantic meaning of slang expressions used in online gaming communication. This approach is appropriate because the study focuses on interpreting meanings and identifying types of semantic change based on contextual use rather than numerical measurement.

### **Data Source**

The data source of this study is a video uploaded on TikTok by the account “NormalDifficulty,” which presents simulated voice chat interaction in Roblox gameplay. The data consist of spoken utterances containing slang expressions used by participants in the interaction.

### **Data Collection**

The data were collected through several steps. First, the video was observed repeatedly to understand the context of the interaction. Second, the spoken utterances were transcribed into written form. Third, slang expressions that potentially show semantic change were identified and selected as the main data for analysis.

### **Data Analysis**

The data analysis was conducted by comparing the original meanings of the selected words with their contextual meanings in the interaction. The analysis then categorized the types of semantic change, including generalization, narrowing, and metaphorical extension. In addition, the communicative functions of the expressions were examined to understand how they contribute to interaction, such as expressing solidarity and informal identity.

### **Ethical Consideration**

The data used in this study are publicly available and do not involve private or sensitive information. The data are used solely for academic purposes.

## **FINDING AND DISCUSSIONS**

The findings of this study are presented in three sections covering different concepts, namely (1) types of semantic change, (2) contextual meaning of slang expressions, and (3) communicative functions of slang in interaction. The data were taken from voice chat interaction in Roblox as presented in a video from TikTok. The analysis focuses on selected expressions identified in the transcription, including “fake,” “bro,” “G,” “twin,” and “coolin’.”

Each expression is examined in relation to its original meaning and its contextual use within the interaction.

### **1. Types of Semantic Change in Slang Expressions**

The analysis reveals that slang expressions in the data undergo several types of semantic change, particularly generalization, narrowing, and metaphorical extension. These processes demonstrate how meaning is reshaped through usage in specific communicative environments such as online gaming.

The word “bro” originally refers to a male sibling within a family relationship. However, in the data, it is frequently used as a casual form of address among speakers who are not related. For example, in the utterance “What are you talking, bro?”, the term functions as a marker of informality and familiarity rather than kinship. This shift reflects a process of generalization, in which the meaning of the word expands beyond its original scope. The use of “bro” in this way is common in digital communication and indicates how social relationships in online environments are constructed through language.

In contrast, the word “fake” demonstrates narrowing. Its original meaning refers broadly to something that is not genuine or authentic. However, in the expression “It’s fake as hell,” the term is used specifically to refer to an accessory (a chain) that is considered not original or of low authenticity. This indicates that the meaning has become more restricted within the context of material evaluation. The narrowing of meaning is influenced by the situational context, where authenticity of items becomes a relevant topic of interaction.

Metaphorical extension is also clearly observed in several expressions. The term “twin” traditionally refers to a person who shares the same birth with another individual. In the data, however, it is used in the expression “You’re welcome, twin,” where it functions as a term of closeness or similarity. The meaning is extended metaphorically to represent social bonding rather than biological relation. Similarly, the expression “coolin’” originates from the verb “cool,” which relates to temperature. In the utterance “Gramps, you coolin’, bro?”, it is used to ask whether someone is in a relaxed or stable condition. This reflects a metaphorical shift from physical state to emotional or situational state.

Another interesting example is the expression “G.” While originally representing a letter of the alphabet, in this context it functions as slang meaning “friend,” “trusted person,” or “respected individual.” This shift cannot be explained purely by literal meaning but rather

by social usage and cultural development. It represents a broader semantic shift influenced by community norms and identity.

These findings indicate that semantic change in online gaming communication is not random but follows identifiable patterns. Words are adapted to meet communicative needs, and their meanings evolve in ways that reflect both efficiency and social interaction.

## **2. Contextual Meaning of Slang Expressions**

The study also shows that meaning in online gaming interaction is highly dependent on context. The same lexical item may carry significantly different meanings depending on how and where it is used. In voice chat communication, meaning is constructed dynamically through interaction, tone, and situational cues.

For instance, the expression “bro” does not simply function as a neutral address term but also signals a casual and informal relationship between speakers. Its repeated use in the interaction indicates that participants adopt a conversational style that reduces social distance. Similarly, “twin” is used to strengthen interpersonal connection, suggesting that the speakers align themselves as socially similar or mutually supportive.

The contextual meaning of “G” is particularly dependent on interactional tone. In the utterance “Thanks, G,” the expression conveys appreciation while simultaneously reinforcing camaraderie. Without context, the meaning of “G” would be unclear; however, within the interaction, it is easily interpreted as a positive social label. This highlights the importance of shared understanding within a speech community.

The expression “coolin’” further demonstrates how context shapes meaning. Rather than referring to temperature, it is used to check on someone’s well-being, especially in a humorous or exaggerated situation involving the “grandpa” character in the interaction. This usage shows how semantic meaning can shift based on situational context and speaker intention.

Additionally, the expression “fake” carries evaluative meaning that goes beyond its literal definition. In the interaction, it implies judgment and criticism, contributing to a slightly confrontational tone at the beginning of the conversation. However, this tension is later reduced through humor and informal expressions, indicating that meaning is also influenced by the progression of interaction.

Overall, these examples demonstrate that contextual meaning is central to understanding language use in online gaming. Words cannot be interpreted in isolation; instead, their meanings emerge from interaction, shared knowledge, and communicative intent.

### **3. Communicative Functions of Slang in Interaction**

In addition to semantic change, slang expressions serve several important communicative functions in online gaming interaction. These functions include establishing social relationships, expressing attitudes and emotions, and facilitating efficient communication.

One of the primary functions of slang is to create and maintain solidarity among participants. Expressions such as “bro,” “twin,” and “G” act as markers of group identity and belonging. Even though the speakers may not know each other personally, the use of these terms creates a sense of familiarity and inclusion. This is particularly important in online gaming environments, where interactions are often brief but socially meaningful.

Another function of slang is the expression of attitude and evaluation. The use of “fake” in the interaction reflects judgment toward another participant’s item, indicating skepticism or criticism. At the same time, expressions like “coolin’” convey concern or reassurance, showing that slang can also express empathy and emotional engagement. These functions highlight the role of language in managing interpersonal dynamics.

Slang also contributes to humor and entertainment. The interaction analyzed in this study includes exaggerated scenarios and playful language, which are enhanced by the use of informal expressions. This aligns with the nature of content shared on platforms like TikTok, where entertainment value is a key element. The use of slang supports this by making the interaction more relatable and engaging for the audience.

Furthermore, slang expressions increase communicative efficiency. In fast-paced interactions such as voice chat, speakers tend to use short and familiar terms to convey meaning quickly. Words like “bro” and “G” allow speakers to express complex social meanings with minimal linguistic effort. This reflects the adaptive nature of language in environments that require rapid response and continuous interaction.

### **4. Patterns of Meaning Shift in Gaming Slang**

In addition to identifying individual types of semantic change, the data also reveal consistent patterns in how meanings shift within gaming slang. These patterns show that

semantic change is not random but follows certain tendencies influenced by the nature of online interaction.

One noticeable pattern is the shift from **literal meaning to relational meaning**. Words such as “bro” and “twin” originally refer to biological relationships but are used in the interaction to indicate social closeness. This suggests that in gaming communication, language is frequently adapted to express interpersonal relationships rather than literal definitions. The repeated use of these terms indicates that relational meaning has become more dominant than original meaning in this context.

Another pattern is the shift from **concrete meaning to abstract meaning**. For example, the word “coolin” originates from a physical concept related to temperature but is used to describe a psychological or emotional state, such as being calm or fine. This type of shift reflects a common semantic process where physical experiences are extended to represent abstract conditions.

A further pattern can be seen in the shift from **neutral meaning to evaluative meaning**. The word “fake”, for instance, does not only describe the authenticity of an object but also carries a negative judgment. In the expression “It’s fake as hell,” the word functions as a strong evaluation rather than a simple description. This indicates that semantic change in gaming slang often involves the addition of emotional or attitudinal meaning.

In addition, the data show a pattern of **semantic simplification and efficiency**. Short expressions such as “G” are used to convey complex meanings like respect or friendship. This reflects the tendency of language users in fast-paced environments to adopt concise forms while maintaining meaningful communication. The simplification does not reduce meaning but instead makes it more efficient and context-dependent.

These patterns demonstrate that semantic change in online gaming is influenced by communicative needs, such as expressing relationships, emotions, and efficiency. The findings suggest that meaning in gaming slang evolves systematically, shaped by the interactive and dynamic nature of digital communication.

## CONCLUSION

This study examines the semantic meaning and changes of slang expressions used in voice chat interaction in Roblox, as represented in content from TikTok. The findings show that commonly used expressions such as “bro,” “twin,” “G,” “fake,” and “coolin” have

undergone various types of semantic change, including generalization, narrowing, and metaphorical extension. These changes demonstrate that the meanings of words are not fixed but evolve depending on context and usage.

The analysis also reveals that the contextual meaning of slang expressions plays a crucial role in understanding communication in online gaming. Words that originally carry literal meanings are adapted to fit specific interactional contexts, resulting in new meanings that reflect social relationships and situational needs. In addition, the study identifies consistent patterns of meaning shift, such as the movement from literal to relational meaning, from concrete to abstract meaning, and from neutral to evaluative meaning. These patterns indicate that semantic change in gaming language follows systematic tendencies rather than occurring randomly.

Furthermore, the findings suggest that slang expressions contribute significantly to communication efficiency and clarity in fast-paced interactions. Players rely on short and familiar expressions to convey complex meanings quickly, which supports effective communication in real-time environments. This highlights the adaptability of language in digital contexts, particularly in interactive platforms where speed and clarity are essential.

In conclusion, this study demonstrates that slang expressions in Roblox voice chat interaction reflect dynamic semantic processes influenced by context, interaction, and communicative needs. The study contributes to the understanding of how meaning evolves in online gaming environments and emphasizes the importance of semantics in analyzing contemporary language use. Future research is recommended to explore a wider range of data sources and to compare semantic changes across different gaming platforms in order to provide a more comprehensive understanding of language development in digital communication.

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