

A Research on the Usage and Deviation to Gay Lingo of Different Professionals Belonging to the LGBTQ++ in NCR

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Abstract: The Gay Lingo is a language spoken by the LGBTQ++ communities. It is a way of languaging their desires and an expression of their colorful lives. It is somehow a result of discrimination and the experience of exclusion. The gay lingo has become an exclusive language to empower their existence in society. It is formed from a carnival of sources, bricolage (Strauss, 2008). Through this research the semantics of the language is revealed conveying a totally different meaning. The usage of the usual language observed by Filipino professionals who specifically work in National Capital Region Areas as compared to the usage of gay lingo during normal conversation and even in professional conversations. The gay lingo in this study is being described by its usage structure and deviations of its linguist's pattern. The humor and creativity are its highlights. Its influence to more and more linguists not only to the LGBTQ++ communities but it has evolved to be known and spoken by all genders is timeless.

Keywords: LGBTQ+, lingo, deviation, usage

1. Introduction

Gay Lingo, also known as LGBTQ+ slang or queer slang, is a unique set of vocabulary and expressions used by the gay and queer communities. Among the type of community, they foster the sense of exclusivity and identity upon speaking the same language. Their language has been formed by borrowing words including wordplay, empowering identities, creation of new words and sense of humor. Like any other languages, gay lingo has developed over time since it has a number of functions and uses. For example, Halliday (1973) suggests some functions of language in general in oral conversation that language serves to express social and personal relations (interpersonal), to represent an experience, to impart factual information, to control the behavior of others (regulatory), to get involved in fantasies, and to show one one's identity (personal). (a) To highlight the TREND in this field study, the usage of gay lingo develops as days goes by and experiences and social issues continue to come and touch their lives. In every event happening in their lives it always contributes to how they use and speak the language. (b) Pinpointing the ISSUES underlying the trends are the following: Social events such as beauty pageantry, celebrity or social personalities and events in the lives of influencers on social media. Issues underlying to their events and experiences are factors on the usage and deviation in speaking the language. (c) The overall OBJECTIVE of this study is to understand the usage of gay lingo by professional people and when they deviate in such language. Professional people were referred to as LGBTQ + people who are working as professionals and are regular employees or holding top positions in their careers. (d) The possible CONTRIBUTION of this research study in improving theory, practice and policy is recognizing the significance of the LGBTQ+ community's contribution in the society. The usage and their deviation to the gay lingo creates a shared language and cultural identity allowing people to connect, support and understand one another. The language has promoted acceptance and contributed to the evolution of language.

Statement of the Problem

This research fieldwork study intended to determine how gay lingo was used by professionals and its frequency of usage. It also studied when the deviation happens from the regular usage of language to shifting (if there was) to gay language. The statement of the problem sought responses coming from professionals who the researchers identify as working professionals either as an employee or people belonging to LGBTQ+ personalities holding top positions in their chosen careers.

This study aimed to give an answer to the following questions:

1. How do they use the gay lingo in their field?
2. How do they switch from usual language to gay lingo?
3. What relation does gay lingo have with the usual language people use?

2. Methodology

This chapter includes the research design that is used in this study. It also includes the participants, research instrument, data gathering procedure and analysis of data.

2.1 Research Design

The investigation utilized the qualitative type of research. This type of research design explores and provides deeper insights into real-world problems. Instead of collecting numerical data points or intervening or introducing treatments just like in quantitative research, qualitative research helps generate hypotheses as well as further investigate and understand quantitative data. Qualitative research gathers participants' experiences, perceptions, and behavior (Tenny et. al, 2022)

2.2 Participants

The researcher did a purposive sampling technique. In order to be qualified, the participants should be: 1) a professional for almost 5 years; 2) able to speak the gay language; and 3) currently residing in nearby towns in the National Capital Region. There will be a total of five (5) respondents coming from different professional fields, ranging from a licensed professional teacher, an artist from a show business industry, comedian, and an employee from Business Process Outsourcing. These participants were selected by the researchers subjectively (Alchemer, 2021). The five (5) respondents for this study will be consulted and subjected to an interview which was self-curated by the researchers that will shed light on the topic.

2.3 Instrument

The instrument used in this study is an interview. To be specific, there are two types of interview to use, the structured interview and unstructured interview. In a structured interview there will be predetermined questions to be asked from the respondents. On the other hand, an unstructured interview is more of a free-flowing interview where follow up questions would be asked from the respondents after the predetermined question.

2.4 Data Collection and Analysis

The researchers will secure a permit from La Consolacion University to conduct research outside the school. Then, a consent for the respondents will also be secured in order to protect their identity and the personal information they will be sharing.

The request will then be presented to the concerned respondents and request their support for this study. The interview will be conducted at the most convenient time for the respondents. During the interview, the researcher will also do an audio recording to further transcribe the needed data for this study. After the interview, the data will be analyzed and interpreted.

3. Results and Discussions

The purposive sampling technique showed various responses from the informants in answering a self-curated questionnaire from the researchers. The researchers are being subjective, in which they rely solely on their personal notions in selecting the informants concerning to certain working professionals belonging to the LGBTQ+ community who often speak gay lingo in their fields (Alchemer, 2021; Sargeant, 2012)

1. Usage of Gay Language

The researchers did an interview with the respondents. The interview revealed that most professionals (circling around from teachers to call center agents) use the gay lingo on an everyday basis depending upon who they talk to. It was highly evident from the results gathered that the call center agent from Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) was the most who used the language and it was solely through influence. They find it interesting to use the language in the workplace for professional teachers among their colleagues to alleviate stress and pressure from the workload that they have. The responses revealed that even though they use the gay language every day, they still have a consideration and reservation in speaking, especially if the person they talk to also speaks the same language or have an idea in understanding the language.

1.1 Considerations in Speaking the Gay Language

The informants revealed that most of them speak the language with consideration. Given the fact that they speak it every day, there is still an urge to analyze the person that they talk to if they also speak the same language. It vividly showed that professionalism among professionals is seen and practiced.

Yes. I even respond to clients with gay lingo, but I have to make sure that they speak the language also. If I feel that they are not that formal, I sometimes inject a few (simple) gay lingo / words into the conversation. - artist from show business industry Informally, because sometimes you crack jokes, sometimes you ice the class because it's too boring or serious. - Licensed Professional Teacher

1.2 Reservations in Speaking the Gay Language

The responses gathered from the participants revealed that some of the professionals had reservations speaking the gay language. The study revealed that in speaking the language, professionals were afraid that they might not be understood by whom they are speaking combined with pressure of the work nature that they have.

Yes, of course, there are times when others don't understand what I'm saying when I use gay lingo. I also choose the person and the situation carefully when using it. - Licensed Professional Teacher

It was totally different from a call center agent's point of view with regards to having reservations in speaking the gay language.

I think there are no reservations, especially nowadays that most people know and even use a few gay terms in their everyday conversations. - BPO employee (call center agent)

2. Deviation from Normal Language to Gay Language

In this study, it revealed that most of the professionals switch from the normal language to gay lingo in a natural manner. Since we are in the 21st century world, the language is dynamic and they tend to incorporate the names of some artists like Sharon Cuneta in the song Bituing Walang Ningning wherein in the lyrics it states that "Balutinmoako...". In this manner, it unlocked the idea why they use Sharon whenever they see someone bring home food from a certain event or restaurant. Given this response, it was revealed that through creativity and injecting it in the usual word made them switch from normal language to Gay Lingo.

2.1 Commonly Used Gay Lingo Words

Given the results gathered from the respondents, it revealed that the LGBTQ+ community created and formed different words that have a relation to their daily conversations and activities. These are the phrases or words that are commonly spoken by the respondents:

- TJ naakez or Tom Jones naakez- I'm hungry.
- Naloegkaba?- Did you sleep?
- Wiz lamianlapyuk.- The food is not delicious.
- Magi naSpluk - Do not say it.
- Katuk - Face
- Imbyernaakosayonchit- I am angry with you
- Sharon - taking home a food
- keru - can; good
- borlogs - sleep
- bongga- great, love it!
- kineso - this word doesn't have a specific meaning, there are other words that you just inject in a sentence that most people seem to understand.

With this manner, it is highly evident that professionals try to mix the normal language to gay language by inserting it to the natural discourse.

2.2 Preparations and Motivations in Speaking the Gay Language

The interview revealed that some of the professionals don't have any preparation at all in speaking the language. Most of them stated that it comes naturally.

It actually came out naturally, whenever I hear some interesting words to use in my usual vocabulary, I try injecting them when the conversation calls for it. - an artist from a show business industry

No preparations needed, sometimes we are using both the normal language and gay lingo. Sometimes we switch languages if needed depending on the person we are talking to. - Licensed Professional Teacher

In light with this, the researcher unlocked the idea of what prompted them or motivation in speaking the language. This study revealed that most of them usually speak the gay language to make the conversation confidential and exclusively understood only through peers.

It sounded more fun and interesting. - Licensed Professional Teacher

I am using Gay Lingo if there are confidential messages that I am going to say so that others can't understand it. - call center agent

Perhaps, it has become a habit to use those kinds of words because the people I often talk to also use gay lingo. - comedian

I speak gay lingo whenever I want a secret conversation or a confidential matter. - teacher

Conclusion

Gay lingo may differ from other languages, the switching of the language came out to them naturally without any preparations, whether they are talking to the LGBTQ+ community or not. It also showed that gay lingo can be used in various ways such as, cracking jokes, having confidential messages, entertainment, and serves as another way of communication. Moreover, the utilization of linguistics revealed its creativity and authenticity in a way that it can develop and form words into another language. The respondents expressly showed from their responses that gay lingo is a language that may be different from the usual because of its exclusivity and creativity but strongly proves that language keeps people as one. There may be variations in meaning and interpretations but allows communities to communicate with one another.

Recommendations

The following are the recommendations of the researchers to supplementary improve and develop the research on the usage and deviation to gay lingo, specifically, of different professionals belonging to the LGBTQ+:

- further study of usage of words and its deviation
- seek to expedite the switching of the usual language to gay lingo
- improve the knowledge and perception of the different terms used by LGBTQ+ in any working professionals
- further research development on gay lingo for other researchers.

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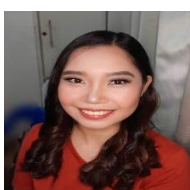
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