

## Language Change and Cultural Transformation: The Impact of TikTok on Language Use Among Generation Z

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### Abstract

This article explores the phenomenon of language change and cultural transformation triggered by the consumption and production of content on TikTok. Using a qualitative approach based on content analysis and in-depth interviews, this study identifies distinctive language patterns, such as the mixing of Indonesian and English codes, the adoption of new vocabulary from global trends, and changes in word meanings. The results show that the use of TikTok drives language shifts, where local languages tend to be marginalized in online interactions, while informal and expressive language styles become increasingly dominant. Additionally, cultural transformation is evident in the growing influence of global popular culture, which shapes the identity, entertainment preferences, and lifestyle of Generation Z in Indonesia. However, creative adaptations are also observed, where local cultural elements are packaged in global formats to attract a broader audience. These findings provide insights into the role of social media in shaping language and cultural dynamics, while also opening opportunities to utilize it as a medium for preserving local identity in the digital age.

**Keywords:** Tiktok, Generation Z, Language Change, Cultural Transformation, Social Media, Cultural Identity

### INTRODUCTION

TikTok is a social media platform that was first launched in 2016 in China under the name Douyin. It then gained global popularity in 2017 under the name TikTok. The emergence of this app marked the beginning of a new era in online communication, which had a major impact on social interaction, especially among Generation Z (1995-2010). There are several specific reasons why TikTok has become the most popular social media platform among Generation Z. TikTok was first launched globally in 2017,

at a time when information and communication technology had already advanced rapidly worldwide since Apple introduced the iPhone in 2007 (Proske et al., n.d.). At the same time, Generation Z had entered their teenage years, enabling them to use TikTok for socialising online. With its short video content format lasting 15–60 seconds, TikTok has become a popular social media platform among Generation Z, offering a fresh approach to online interaction. This is supported by data on TikTok users in Indonesia in 2021, where the majority of users are aged between 13 and 24 years old.

In its development, TikTok has not only served as an entertainment platform but also as a means of communication and identity formation for Generation Z. With its short-form video content that does not require much time to understand, combined with high screen time, TikTok will undoubtedly influence the language patterns and popular culture embraced by Generation Z. This study explores how TikTok can influence changes in language style and cultural preferences among Generation Z in Indonesia. The objective of this research is to identify patterns of code-mixing in certain vocabulary adopted by Generation Z. This study is expected to open opportunities for the use of social media as a tool for language preservation for future generations.

## **LITERARY REVIEWS**

Previous studies have shown that social media has the greatest influence on changes in language style and pop culture among teenagers. Trends in communication patterns among Indonesian youth are driven by advances in information and communication technology (Hutasoit et al., 2024). These communication patterns include the use of slang, acronyms, preferences for social media platforms, language changes in online socialisation, and cultural shifts in language use among the youth.

Another study mentioned that Twitter/X users, who are predominantly students, prefer to use non-standard Indonesian. This non-standard language includes spelling mistakes, simplification of words, and mixing of Indonesian and foreign languages. The reasons they prefer to use non-standard language include promoting freedom of expression, avoiding awkwardness and formality, and conveying messages efficiently. This is undoubtedly linked to the characteristics of Twitter/X as a platform that enables users to send messages globally (Aprilianti et al., 2024).

In the context of cultural transformation, language changes that occur within cultural circles are also influenced by cultural penetration. This phenomenon is based on the inseparable relationship between language and culture (Nibras, n.d.). This is demonstrated by the use of a mixture of Korean and Indonesian by teenagers as a result of Korean pop culture spreading to Indonesia. Teenagers have become more interested in learning Korean, even to the point of using some Korean vocabulary in their daily communication.

In the context of Indonesia as a country with a Muslim majority, the influence of Arabic in digital communication also needs to be taken into consideration. Research shows that despite concerns about the deterioration of Arabic due to social media, digital platforms have actually opened up new opportunities for the adaptation and evolution of Arabic in a modern context (Al-Jarf, 2021). In Indonesia, this phenomenon is evident in how Arabic vocabulary has undergone a transformation in meaning and function in the digital communication of Muslim Gen Z on social media. Words like ‘barakallahu,’ which were originally used in a religious context, are now also used as a general expression of appreciation on platforms like TikTok and Instagram.

A study of social media corpora in Arabic dialects reveals that Muslim Gen Z exhibit unique patterns in integrating Arabic vocabulary into their digital communication (Alshutayri & Atwell, n.d.). They not only use Arabic words in religious contexts, but also adapt them as part of their generational identity. This phenomenon reflects what is known in Arabic linguistics as ‘at-taṭawwur al-lughawi’ (التطور اللغوي) or language evolution, where language is not static but dynamic, evolving alongside the development of its user community.

In this study, the main focus is on the role of TikTok as a video-centric and audio-driven social media platform that influences changes in language syntax and phonology, as well as its role as the main medium for the formation of Gen Z subcultures and identities.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach within a sociolinguistic framework to analyse TikTok content that showcases the use of language by Generation

Z in Indonesia. Sociolinguistics itself is a field of study that investigates how language and society interact with one another. In this context, language is seen not only as a tool for communication but also as a social product that reflects and shapes social reality, including the identity of its users (Arifianti, 2023).

Primary data consists of 20–30 popular TikTok videos selected using keywords such as #bahasagaul, #slang, and #genz. Secondary data consists of literature on slang, cultural transformation theory, and previous research on social media and language. Data collection was conducted through digital observation and semi-structured interviews. Data analysis followed Miles and Huberman's interactive model, which includes data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing, with a focus on classifying language forms (code-mixing, new vocabulary, language style) and representations of popular culture (Qomaruddin & Sa'diyah, 2024). Data validation was conducted through triangulation of sources and methods, namely by comparing content analysis results with interviews, as well as verification through peer discussion. This approach enables a deep understanding of how TikTok functions as a medium for language and cultural transformation among Indonesian Gen Z in the era of digital globalisation (Anista, 2023).

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Mix Indonesia-English Code**

Some examples of code mixing appearing in TikTok content:

Account owner: @quezelyhere

"Hallo, kakak. Permisi, boleh spill skincare-nya?..."

Account owner: @hypeabisid

"Rame banget, bikin fomo nih."

"Please, jangan salty ya! Ramen yang enak di sini dimana ya?"

This phenomenon confirms the linguistic flexibility of Gen Z, where English is not merely borrowed for communicative purposes, but also as a symbol of modern lifestyle and connection to global discourse. Code-mixing has become the hybrid identity of Gen Z, where they remain rooted in Indonesian language, but at the same time show their closeness to global culture.

### Integration of Arabic Vocabulary in Gen Z's Digital Communication

In addition to mixing Indonesian and English, this study also found an interesting phenomenon in the use of Arabic vocabulary by Indonesian Muslim Gen Zers on TikTok. Unlike previous generations, who tended to use Arabic vocabulary in formal religious contexts, Gen Zers show creative adaptation in integrating Arabic into their digital communication.

Some examples of Arabic vocabulary usage found:

Account owner: @dailyhijabstyle "Subhanallah, tutorial hijab ini aesthetic banget!"

Account owner: @masjidstyle "Masya Allah, outfit ke masjid yang simple tapi stylish gini dong!"

Account owner: @islamicquotes\_ "Barakallahu ya kak, konten edukatifnya bermanfaat banget, keep istiqamah!"

This phenomenon shows what is known in Arabic language studies as 'al-iqtirāḍ al-lughawi' (الاقتراض اللغوي) or linguistic borrowing, where Arabic vocabulary is not only used as a marker of religious identity, but also as part of generational communication style. In the context of classical Arabic sociolinguistic theory developed by Ibn Khaldun in his 'Muqaddimah,' this phenomenon reflects the principle that language always evolves in line with the social dynamics of its users.

### Gen Z's Digital Slang

Table I: Slang that often appears in Gen Z's online interactions on TikTok

Slang	Original Meaning	Meaning on TikTok/Gen Z	Source Link
Spill	Spilling	Revealing secrets/stories.	<a href="https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSA6wQVS8/">https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSA6wQVS8/</a> <a href="https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSAMNjjm1/">https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSAMNjjm1/</a>
Ghosting	-	Disappeared without a trace, suddenly cut off	<a href="https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSA6TVfTD/">https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSA6TVfTD/</a>

		all communication.	
<b>Salty</b>	Salty	Describes someone who shows irritation or annoyance.	<a href="https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSAMNjMDy/">https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSAMNjMDy/</a>
<b>Slay</b>	Killing	Looking amazing, or cool	<a href="https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSAMFRATP/">https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSAMFRATP/</a>
<b>Culture</b>	Culture	Describing something that is currently trending.	<a href="https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSA6TgtPL/">https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSA6TgtPL/</a>
<b>KEPO</b>	Abbreviation for 'Knowing Every Particular Object'.	Describes someone who wants to know everything about a particular thing or object.	<a href="https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSA6wK11r/">https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSA6wK11r/</a>
<b>FOMO</b>	Abbreviation for "Fear Of Missing Out".	Describes someone who is afraid of missing out on news or trends.	<a href="https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSA6Tt89x/">https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSA6Tt89x/</a>
<b>FR</b>	Abbreviation for "For Real".	Seriously, genuinely, confirming reality.	<a href="https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSA6pDEt7/">https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSA6pDEt7/</a>

<b>CMIW</b>	Abbreviation for “Correct Me If I’m Wrong”.	To request a correction.	<a href="https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSA6pGpFS/">https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSA6pGpFS/</a>
<b>OOT</b>	Abbreviation for ‘Out Of Topic’.	Conversations that are not relevant to the context or stray from the topic of discussion.	<a href="https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSA6Tg7n2/">https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSA6Tg7n2/</a>
<b>Bucin</b>	Abbreviation for “Budak Cinta”.	A person who is overly affectionate or loving towards their partner..	<a href="https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSA6TQmQu/">https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSA6TQmQu/</a>
<b>Salfok</b>	Abbreviation for “Salah Fokus”.	Their focus is diverted from one thing to another that catches their attention.	<a href="https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSA6gaCJj/">https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSA6gaCJj/</a>
<b>Baper</b>	Abbreviation for “Bawa Perasaan”.	Easily carried away by feelings or emotions.	<a href="https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSA6T73BL/">https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSA6T73BL/</a>
<b>Gas</b>	the pedal used to increase the speed of a car.	Encouragement, enthusiasm, agreement, or an	<a href="https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSAMRAEFY/">https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSAMRAEFY/</a>

invitation like

‘Let's go!’.

<b>Mager</b>	Abbreviation for “Malas Gerak”.	Too lazy to do anything.	<a href="https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSA6g3pW6/">https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSA6g3pW6/</a>
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Table II: The Adaptation of Arabic Vocabulary in Gen Z Digital Slang.

Arabic vocabulary	Transliteration	Original Meaning	Adaptation in TikTok	Context of Use
ما شاء الله	Masya Allah	What God desires	Expressions of admiration/praise	"Masya Allah, makeup-nya flawless banget!"
بارك الله	Barakallahu	God bless	Appreciation/support	"Barakallahu kak, content creator goals!"
سبحان الله	Subhanallah	Glory be to God	Expressions of admiration/fascination	"Subhanallah, sunset di sini aesthetic parah!"
استغفر الله	Astaghfirullah	I ask God for forgiveness	Expression of surprise/disbelief	"Astaghfirullah, drama TikTok ini plot twist-nya gila!"



إن شاء الله	Insya Allah	If Allah wills	Hope/Plan	"Insya Allah next video bahas tutorial hijab syar'i yang trendy!"
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The slang in these findings serves as a sign of group solidarity as well as a 'social password' to identify who belongs to a particular digital community. The use of slang strengthens the sense of belonging while also reinforcing generational boundaries: who is "trendy" and who is 'outdated'.

### Shifting Meanings

"Spill" → from "to spill liquid" to "to reveal a secret."

"Culture" → literally meaning "culture" to "to describe something that is trending."

"Gas" → from "the pedal used to increase the speed of a car" to "yes / agree."

In the context of Arabic vocabulary, shifts in meaning also occur where words that originally had a sacred dimension in a religious context undergo an expansion of meaning to become common expressions in everyday digital communication. This phenomenon in modern Arabic language studies is referred to as 'tawsi' al-ma'na' (توسيع المعنى) or meaning expansion, which is one of the natural mechanisms in language evolution.

Gen Z demonstrates semantic creativity by changing the meaning of words according to the context of social media. This shift reflects the rapid, fluid, and responsive dynamics of language in response to the development of digital culture. Language becomes a mirror of cultural change, where words are no longer static but move with the flow of digital expression and lifestyle.

### Hybrid Identity in Code Mixing

The code-mixing phenomenon that dominates the findings of this study represents the hybrid identity formed by Generation Z on the TikTok platform as a digital space. The use of English words such as 'spill' or abbreviations of foreign phrases like 'FOMO' (fear of missing out) in Indonesian sentences connects these findings to code-mixing theory as an expression of social identity (Tarihoran et al., 2022). The insertion of foreign

words demonstrates the high level of bilingualism possessed by Gen Z, which aims to address the demands of current global communication, now dominated by English as an international language (Taufiq et al., n.d.).

This phenomenon can be considered cultural negotiation because Gen Z not only inserts foreign words but also places themselves within a broader cultural spectrum (Asdah & Safitri, 2025). With TikTok providing easy access to global content, including Western popular culture and K-Pop, it has sparked and normalised the practice of code-mixing as a daily communication style (Kipchoge, 2024). This phenomenon is no longer seen as a linguistic anomaly but rather as a fluid, flexible, and relevant language style that aligns with their digital reality.

### **Arabic as a Sign of Digital Religious Identity**

Research findings indicate that Indonesian Muslim Gen Zers use Arabic vocabulary not only as a religious marker, but also as a form of cultural branding in the digital space. The use of phrases such as 'Barakallahu fiiki' (بارك الله فيك) in comments on halal makeup tutorial videos, or 'Masya Allah tabarakallah' (ماشاء الله تبارك الله) to appreciate creative content, demonstrates how they adapt Arabic linguistic traditions into a modern context.

This phenomenon is in line with the research conducted by Pabbajah, Said, and Emha (2024) on the religious transformation of Gen Z in the new media era, which shows how digital platforms have become spaces for expressing religious identity in more flexible and personal ways (Pabbajah, 2024). This reflects the concept of 'al-asālah wa al-mu'āṣarah' (الأصالة والمعاصرة) or authenticity and modernity in contemporary Arab thought, where young Muslims strive to maintain their religious identity while remaining relevant to the times. In the context of TikTok, the Arabic language serves as a bridge between traditional values and modern digital expression.

Lengauer's (2018) study on the socialisation of digital Islam in Bandung also supports this finding, showing how social media facilitates the sharing of 'taqwa spirit' through various forms of linguistic expression, including the use of Arabic vocabulary adapted to the modern digital context (Lengauer, 2018).

### Slang as a Social Password

By using sociolinguistic theory, which views language as a social product that reflects the identity of its users, this study shows that slang functions as a ‘social password’ used to mark membership in digital communities. In its use, terms such as slay, ghosting, or bucin used by Generation Z have a dual function that simultaneously creates inclusivity and exclusivity.

On the one hand, slang functions as an inclusive language that unites individuals who ‘understand the trends,’ thereby creating a strong sense of belonging. The use of slang becomes a social shorthand that enables more efficient communication and strengthens bonds within the group (Manurung et al., 2022).

On the other hand, whether intentionally or unintentionally, slang has created boundaries that make it an exclusive language for Generation Z. Those outside the group — for example, Generation X, Millennials, and even Generation Alpha — who do not understand this terminology will feel alienated, or ‘left behind’. Thus, slang not only builds communities but also serves as a tool to reinforce social hierarchies and distinguish generational boundaries within the digital space.

This dynamic highlights how language, in a digital context, plays a central role in determining social status and group membership. To provide a more structured understanding, Table III will classify some of the slang found based on its sociolinguistic function, which underscores the role of language in identity expression and social communication.

Table III: Sociolinguistic Functions of Slang

Slang	Sociolinguistic Function	Description (Context Example)	Relationships with Gen Z Identity
Salty	Emotif	Expressing feelings of annoyance, irritation, or	Showing Gen Z's honesty, expressiveness, and

		envy in an informal manner	willingness to show their feelings.
<b>Spill</b>	Referential / Conative	Explaining or asking others to tell something.	Showing the transparent, direct nature of Gen Z and their love of sharing information.
<b>Bucin</b>	Poetic / Emotive	Describes someone who is deeply in love with their partner.	Showing how Gen Z expresses the dynamics of romance with terms unique to their group.
<b>Gas</b>	Conative	An encouragement or invitation to do something.	Reflecting the spontaneous, quick, and efficient nature of Gen Z in making decisions or taking action.
<b>Mager</b>	Emotive	Expressing feelings of laziness or lack of enthusiasm.	Becoming a marker of identity associated with a relaxed lifestyle, but also efficient and straightforward.
<b>Ghosting</b>	Referential	Describes the act of suddenly ending communication.	Reflecting digital communication norms that do not always require verbal confrontation.
<b>Slay</b>	Emotive / Referential	Expressing admiration for appearance or success.	Demonstrating an orientation towards trends, aesthetics, and positive self-expression.

<b>FOMO</b>	Emotive / Referential	Describes the fear of missing out on trends.	Describes the social and cultural pressure felt by Gen Z to always be up-to-date.
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Table IV: Sociolinguistic Functions of Arabic Vocabulary in Digital Communication

<b>Vocabulary</b>	<b>Sociolinguistic Function</b>	<b>Contextual Information</b>	<b>Relationship with Religious-Digital Identity</b>
<b>Masya Allah</b>	Emotive / Referential	Expressing admiration with spiritual nuances	Showcasing Gen Z Muslims who integrate religious values into digital aesthetic appreciation
<b>Barakallahu</b>	Conative / Emotive	Providing support and prayers in a familiar way	Reflecting how Gen Z expresses their support system with a spiritual foundation
<b>Subhanallah</b>	Emotive	Expressions of fascination that encompass spiritual dimensions	Demonstrating how Gen Z integrates spirituality into their everyday digital experiences
<b>Astaghfirullah</b>	Emotive / Referential	Expressing surprise with moral awareness	Reflecting the moral awareness of Gen Z Muslims in consuming digital content

## Digitalisation of Classical Arabic Literature in Gen Z Content

Another interesting finding is how Indonesian Muslim Gen Zers adapt elements of classical Arabic literature into their TikTok content. Some creators use verses from classical Arabic poetry or hadiths as captions or voice-overs in their videos, but with a modern and relatable context.

For example, the use of a verse from 'Lāmiyyat al-'Arab' by Syāmir ibn 'Abdillāh:

"وَإِذَا لَمْ تَكُنْ إِلَّا الْأَسِنَّةُ مَرْكَبٌ \* فَلَا رَأْيَ لِلْمُضْطَرِّ إِلَّا رُكُوبُهَا" In the context of TikTok, this is adapted as motivation to face modern life challenges with the caption "Kadang hidup memaksa kita ambil jalan yang susah, tapi ya sudah dijalani aja dengan ikhlas 🙏 #motivasi #sabaradalimit"

This phenomenon shows how Gen Z is not merely consuming Arab literary heritage but also transforming it into digestible content for a digital audience. They are doing what contemporary Arab literary criticism refers to as 'qir'ah mu'āṣirah' (قراءة معاصرة) or contemporary reading, where classical texts are given new interpretations relevant to the present context.

The adaptation of classical Arabic literature on TikTok is also evident in the use of Arabic figures of speech and style. For example, the use of 'al-jinās' (الجناس) or wordplay in video captions: "Hidup itu harus sabar, bukan sabun yang busa-busanya hilang begitu aja" Or the use of 'at-tauriyah' (التورية) or subtle sarcasm: "Alhamdulillah, rezeki hari ini manis banget... eh maksudnya makanan takjilnya manis 😊"

## The Impact of Arabic Linguistics on Digital Sentence Structure

This study also found how the syntactic structure of Arabic influences the communication patterns of Indonesian Muslim Gen Z on TikTok. The use of the 'ism + khabar' (اسم + خبر) pattern, or subject + predicate in Arabic, is often adapted in the creation of short but meaningful captions:

'Prayer → the key to peace' 'Patience → the best path'

'Gratitude → the cure for anxiety'

This pattern reflects the influence of Arabic language structure, which tends to be concise and direct to the point, aligning with the characteristics of digital communication that prioritises efficiency.

### The Phenomenon of ‘Arabisation’ of Digital Vocabulary

Another unique finding is the emergence of the phenomenon of ‘Arabisation’ of digital vocabulary, where Gen Z creates Arabic equivalents for popular digital terms:

1. ‘Followers’ → ‘atbā’ (أتباع)
2. ‘Content creator’ → ‘munshi’ al-mahtwā’ (منشئ المحتوى)
3. ‘Viral’ → ‘muntashir’ (منتشر)
4. ‘Hashtag’ → “wisam” (وسام) or ‘ramz’ (رمز)

Although this usage is still limited to certain creators, this phenomenon demonstrates a creative effort to preserve Arabic linguistic identity in a digital space dominated by Western terminology.

### TikTok as a Catalyst for Language Change

TikTok, as a social media platform, has a fundamentally video-centric and audio-driven nature that serves as a primary catalyst for language change. The short video format, lasting 15–60 seconds, demands efficient communication, which in turn drives the use of abbreviations, acronyms, and slang that can convey information quickly and concisely while maintaining strong emotional resonance (Razak et al., 2025).

On the other hand, TikTok also serves as a bridge across linguistic and cultural divides. Viral content, which often uses slang or code-mixing, spreads rapidly across geographical and cultural boundaries (Al Riyami, 2025). This accelerates the adoption of new words and normalises linguistic practices that were previously limited to small subgroups. Thus, the platform not only reflects language change but also actively shapes and directs the evolution of language itself.

In the context of the Arabic language, TikTok has opened opportunities for the revitalisation of Arabic vocabulary that has begun to be forgotten. Gen Z creators like

@belajar.arab and @kamus.harian use short video formats to teach everyday Arabic vocabulary in an engaging and memorable way. They employ the technique of ‘al-tarjamah al-tafā'uliyah’ (الترجمة التفاعلية) or interactive translation, where the audience is encouraged to participate in the learning process through comments and video duets. This aligns with Albantani's (2019) findings on the use of social media as an alternative medium for teaching Arabic in the digital age, which highlights the effectiveness of digital platforms in Arabic language learning for the younger generation (Albantani, 2019).

Mohamed's (2024) research on the potential and limitations of Arab digital humanities also supports these findings, showing that digitalisation does not always threaten the Arabic language but can instead serve as a medium for preservation and innovation in contemporary Arabic language learning (Mohamed, 2024).

Thus, this platform not only reflects language change but also actively shapes and directs the evolution of the language itself, including in terms of the preservation and revitalisation of the Arabic linguistic heritage in Indonesia

## CONCLUSIONS

This study confirms that TikTok is not merely a social media platform; it is a sociolinguistic ecosystem that facilitates and reflects language transformation among Gen Z. The findings show that code-mixing, slang, and shifts in meaning are not random phenomena, but rather manifestations of Gen Z's linguistic adaptation to build hybrid identities, affirm social solidarity, and create within the unique constraints of the digital platform. Gen Z's identity in the digital space is not static, but it is continuously constructed and displayed through strategic and responsive language choices.

A significant contribution of this research is the revelation of the role of the Arabic language in shaping the digital identity of Indonesian Muslim Gen Z. Contrary to the common assumption that digitalisation erodes the use of traditional languages, the findings show that Gen Z is creative in integrating Arabic vocabulary into their digital communication. This reflects the process of ‘al-tajdīd fī al-turāth’ (التجديد في التراث) or renewal within tradition, where Arabic linguistic heritage is not abandoned but



transformed to remain relevant in a modern context.

Language changes resulting from these platforms are not necessarily seen as a threat to the authenticity and standardisation of the Indonesian language. Although Gen Z's digital language tends to be informal and non-standard, this phenomenon can also be viewed as a form of revitalisation and enrichment of the language. Indonesian is not 'dying,' but rather evolving into a more dynamic, creative, and relevant form that aligns with the digital daily lives of its users.

Findings on trilingual practices (Indonesian-English-Arabic) reveal the complexity of Gen Z's linguistic identity, which is capable of negotiating multiple linguistic systems simultaneously. In the context of Indonesia as a country with high linguistic diversity, this phenomenon highlights the potential of digital platforms as a medium for multilingual maintenance and cross-cultural communication.

Rather than being a sign of decline, this change demonstrates the ability of the Indonesian language to adapt to global cultural and technological contact. The challenge is not to 'stop' this change, but to understand it and utilise it as a means of documenting and preserving the language in the future. Understanding these patterns can pave the way for more contextual and adaptive pedagogical approaches that are relevant to the digital communication realities of Generation Z.

From an Arabic linguistic perspective, this research demonstrates that the principle of 'lughah ḥayyah mutatawwirah' (لغة حية متطورة) or 'a living, evolving language' holds true in the digital context. Arabic not only survives in the digital space but also undergoes creative adaptation, enabling it to remain relevant for Indonesia's Muslim digital native generation. This aligns with the findings of the Digital Transformation Research Group (2024), which show that digital transformation can enrich the evolution of Arabic in social media, provided that such adaptation is done while maintaining the essence and fundamental rules of the Arabic language (Arak, 2024).

Findings on the use of Arabic neologisms in social media applications, as mentioned by Thompson, Garcia, and Williams (2022), are also seen in the Indonesian context, where Gen Z creates new terms by combining Arabic and Indonesian vocabulary to express their digital experiences (J. Hamdan, 2021)

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