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LINGUISTIC NORMATIVITY "FROM BELOW" IN VIRTUAL COMMUNITIES OF
PRACTICE (LGBTQ+ FORUMS)

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4
I. THEORETICAL INVESTIGATION OF COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE, COMPUTER-MEDIATED COMMUNICATION, NORMATIVITY, AND IDENTITY	7
1.1 Computer-mediated communication	7
1.2 The Concept of Communities of Practice	9
1.3 Linguistic normativity	13
1.4 Gendered and sexuality-related language norms.	15
1.5 Covert prestige	18
II. DATA AND METHODS.....	20
2.1 Data collection.	20
2.2 Methods of data analysis.	20
2.3 Ethical considerations and possible limitations of the thesis	22
III. EMPIRICAL RESEARCH.....	23
3.1 Analysis of r/lgbt Reddit subreddit.....	23
3.1.1 The analysis of visual elements that were found in r/lgbt subreddit	23
3.1.2 The analysis of linguistic repertoire found in r/lgbt	25
3.1.3 The linguistic analysis of chat logs/threads found in r/lgbt.....	27
3.2. Analysis of r/gay Reddit forum.....	29
3.2.1 The analysis of linguistic repertoire found in r/gay	30
3.2.2 The linguistic analysis of chat logs/threads found in r/gay.....	31
3.3. Analysis of r/bisexual Reddit forum.....	33
3.3.1 The analysis of visual elements that were found in r/bisexual subreddit.....	33
3.3.2 Linguistic repertoire of r/bisexual.....	33
3.4. Analysis of r/actuallesbians Reddit forum.....	36
3.4.1. The analysis of linguistic repertoire found in r/actuallesbians	36
3.4.2 The linguistic analysis of chat logs/threads found in r/actuallesbians.....	39
3.5. Analysis of r/ traaaannnnnnns Reddit forum.....	40
3.5.1 The analysis of linguistic repertoire found in r/traaaannnnnnns.....	40
3.5.2 The linguistic analysis of chat logs/threads found in r/traaaannnnnnns	42
3.6. Analysis of r/nonbinary Reddit forum.....	44
3.6.1 The analysis of linguistic repertoire found in r/nonbinary	44

3.6.2 The linguistic analysis of chat logs/threads found in r/nonbinary	47
3.7. The comparative analysis of the LGBTQ+ related virtual communities of practice.	49
CONCLUSIONS.....	52
REFERENCES	55
SUMMARY	59
SANTRAUKA.....	60
SOURCES	61
APPENDIX	63

INTRODUCTION

In the age of the internet, language can evolve more rapidly than ever. The internet provides a space for people of different cultures, religions, and countries to unite in one space, and share their thoughts, ideas, and interests. According to the W3techs website, the English language is the language of the internet (58% of existing websites are in English). Thus, the English language could be called the lingua franca of the internet, and due to the number of people who interact online in English daily, the language norms are changing.

One of the virtual spaces where language norm deviations and changes can be noticed is forums. Chat forums are one of the best platforms that provide a space for people to create virtual communities based on their interests, hobbies, or, in the case of this thesis, identity. Scholars like Rafaeli (1988) have studied the concept of Computer-Mediated Communication (CMC). It is a type of human interaction that takes place on virtual platforms via texting, sending emails, interacting on social media etc. through electronic devices. CMC provides an opportunity for groups of people to interact without them physically being in the same place. CMC provides anonymity and people using this method of communication reveal more sensitive, personal information than interacting face to face. It provides a safe space for individuals to express themselves. Due to the fact, that people cannot use their appearance (apart from virtual avatars), gestures and facial expressions, language becomes the best and the only way for self-expression.

Reddit is one of the largest and most popular forum websites that exist on the world wide web. It provides its users with the ability to create topic-specific forums, where users can create threads of conversations and engage with one another. The website is the 9th most visited website in the US according to Semrush. Most of the users of this website are from English-speaking countries (42-49% from the US, 7.9% the UK, and 8.2% from Canada). Reddit forums, usually referred to as subreddits, are online communities where people can talk with others who share their interests about a specific subject. Particularly concerning common interests or identities, these forums have developed into a crucial platform for people to create a group identity. These forums provide a safe space for individuals to express themselves, find friends, and form long-lasting bonds. In the long run, these virtual communities, similar to real-life communities, begin to express themselves in a particular way. They create their own words, expressions, metaphors, grammar, or spelling that an outsider that just stumbled upon such a virtual community would struggle to understand or interact

with the community, i.e., they create their norms and rules for the language. The use of gay slang on Reddit can be seen as a form of resistance against dominant cultural norms and linguistic standards that have historically silenced and erased LGBTQ+ voices. For this paper the language of some of the most popular LGBTQ+ related chat subreddits will be analysed: *r/lgbt*, *r/gay*, *r/bisexual*, *r/actuallesbians*, *r/traaaaannnnnnns*, *r/NonBinary*.

Community of practice is a term coined by Etienne Wenger. As he puts it, a community of practice is: "a community with a joint enterprise, shared repertoire and mutual engagement" (Wenger, 1998, p. 73). To put it in other words, a community of practice is a social group of people who are united by common interests and passion and who engage with each other based on their particular interests thus forming a community. Eckert & McConnell-Connell-Ginet (1992) highlight that gender identity is greatly influenced by the language used in different communities of practice. The same argument could be related to the identities of queer people. LGBTQ+ individuals have a strong online presence and often express themselves on chat forums incorporating numerous linguistic features that differentiate them from other groups of individuals. The informal forums are where people feel free to express themselves and can become a part of the group separating themselves from other communities. This separation is often achieved by language use, unlike communities of practice in real life, virtual communities are limited physically, and people cannot express themselves by clothing, accessories, or makeup, thus their language use is crucial for forming exclusive groups of practice. Language and identity are always tied together: "Language is involved, in different ways, ties and desire. Obvious examples are the labels such as heterosexual, gay, lesbian or bisexual" (Motschenbacher & Stegu, 2013, p. 525).

In the past decades, gender studies have become an important area in sociolinguistics. Visibility, understanding, and debate of sexual orientation and gender identity have gained significant popularity in linguistic research. Scholars have researched LGBTQ+ slang and the link between language, identity, and communities, however, chat forum communities (Reddit in particular) have not been studied enough. It can be hypothesized that LGBTQ+ communities on Reddit have their unique language with neologisms, slang expressions, and metaphors, that are unlikely to appear in other communities of practice.

The subject of the thesis is linguistic normativity "from below" in LGBTQ+ virtual community *Reddit* forums (*r/lgbt*, *r/gay*, *r/bisexual*, *r/actuallesbians*, *r/traaaaannnnnnns*, *r/nonbinary*).

The aim is to find out how and through which means normativity "from below" is being constructed in virtual LGBTQ+ *Reddit* chat forums. In order to accomplish the aim, the following **objectives** have been formulated:

1. to review the scientific literature on virtual communities of practice, and linguistic normativity;
2. to categorize and quantitatively explore group-specific language found inside each forum and between the analysed six forums;
3. to define the linguistic norm of LGBTQ+ virtual communities by analysing the linguistic diversity of the forums.

The paper is divided into three main parts. The first section is dedicated to the review of the scientific literature. The second part is the description of the data and methods that were applied for the research, and the analysis of the collected data is presented in the third part.

I. THEORETICAL INVESTIGATION OF COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE, COMPUTER-MEDIATED COMMUNICATION, NORMATIVITY, AND IDENTITY

1.1 Computer-mediated communication

The internet has drastically changed the way people communicate and interact with each other. With instant messages, emails that can be sent in a blink of an eye, and social media posts, hardly anyone can imagine what it was like before the internet connected us all in these forms of instant communication. Such ways of interacting virtually are called computer-mediated communication. Computer-mediated communication (CMC) focuses on the role of interactivity between parties through mediated channels of communication (Rafaeli, 1988). These channels of communication can be anything from an instant message, a retweet, a log-on or a blog. "Social media, such as personal blogs, offers a new location for interpersonal interactions that allows for asynchronous connection outside the confines of time and physical location." (Rodriguez, 2016, p. 125). The scholar highlights the fact that CMC transcends time and space, and people can read interactions on social media and reply to posts from the past, from any part of the world where access to the website is available. Unlike face-to-face communication, records or archives of interactions between individuals are stored in databases and can be found after many years have passed. All in all, technology has provided new forms of fast, anonymous, interaction between individuals, and created new possibilities for virtual community formation.

The more individuals interact with each other in an online community, the more they feel a connection with the other participants, this gives a person a sense of belonging, being a part of the group (James, 2010). In addition to this, social media, including chat forums, provide users with the ability to rate posts and other public interactions between members of virtual communities. On websites like *Reddit*, this is done by "upvoting the post". These options promote more popular users, their posts are boosted by the algorithm, and the other members of the community are more likely to interact with the members that get the most engagement (Boyd, 2018). Even on group chats on platforms like *WhatsApp* or *Messenger*, some options allow members of the chat community to react to short messages and participate in the community without sending a message. Thus, it is not necessary to write messages or comments online to be a part of the virtual community, sometimes voting, liking, or reacting to a message in a non-verbal manner can be considered an act of participation.

David Crystal (2001) was one of the first scholars who differentiated between two types of CMC or as he called it "netspeak". One is synchronous: instant messages, and chats, and the other is asynchronous: mailing lists, and discussion forums). Several main features are specific to CMC according to Crystal, such as extended use of acronyms, a great variety of images, emoticons to express emotion, a mixture between spoken and written language varieties, and non-standard punctuation (Crystal, 2001). However, as Georgakopoulou (2008) highlights, CMC is not homogenous, as internet users are socially, racially, and culturally diverse, the language that they express themselves through CMC is heterogenous: "As a consequence, the search for 'typical' features of 'netspeak' is replaced by 'contextual and particularistic analyses that shed light on how different contextual parameters shape and are evoked in the discourse of various types of CMC'" (Georgakopoulou, 2008, p. 421). In other words, researchers, rather than analysing CMC patterns in general should focus more on CMC features of distinct groups of individuals from communities online as every community and although CMC features are not heterogenous, some linguistic features that can be analysed productively.

CMC, community, and identity are always interlinked. Androutsopoulos (2006) distinguishes unique features that can define a virtual community as a group of people who communicate regularly concerning their common interests, goals, and identity. These virtual communities also form social hierarchies and shared language norms. They share a distinctly unique vocabulary, sense of humour, and punctuation. Linguist Herring (2004) separates six aspects that make up a virtual community of practice: (a) active, regular participation; (b) the presence of roles, and group activities (c) shared norms and values (d) the ability to identify with the group and separate it from other groups (e) solidarity and support (p.346). It can be stated that through CMC users create social bonds and engage in group activities online.

Another interesting point to consider is that CMC could be seen as a tool to form a multitude of social groups. Androutsopoulos (2006) points out that individuals through the help of CMC create speech communities (people who share the same language or dialect and often speak with one another, these communities can be of different sizes, for instance: all English speakers belong to the same speech community, as they share the same language. An example of a smaller speech community would be speakers of American English in New York City), imagined communities (socially constructed communities which are joined by the people who imagine and identify themselves to be a part of an imagined artificial community. An example of such a virtual community could be a group of people who love video games and who create their own slang and

communicate virtually), and communities of practice (people interact with each other on a basis of shared activities and interests) (p. 422-423). One of the most unique features of CMC that are not possible in face-to-face communication is “masking”. Individuals use different avatars, and personas and appropriate a variety of manufactured identities that can have nothing in common with their real-life personalities (Trukle, 1995). This feature allows people to remain anonymous while interacting with their online communities, individuals can have as many virtual alter egos as they please. The scholar argues that most often users use masking to change their gender in online communities.

Without a doubt, CMC is a comfortable and easy tool for human interaction and the formation of communities, however, there are some disadvantages of this medium that should be considered. Chin (2015) notes that CMC restricts the typical symbol systems that are a great part of typical face-to-face communication. Non-verbal social cues that cannot be replicated (like the tone of voice). The inability to convey voice tone and facial expressions might make it more difficult for people who engage in CMC to identify and convey sarcasm and humour, this issue might lead to miscommunication. Another drawback of CMC is anonymity. Since individuals who engage with one another online are not required to use their real names or pictures, they can choose and select what information they want to convey to the virtual community (Liang & Walther, 2015, p. 506). To conclude, CMC lacks some features that are an important part of human communication: non-verbal cues and the intimacy of knowing the individual you are interacting with, although they can partially be compensated by visual expressions like emojis.

1.2 The Concept of Communities of Practice

People have a natural drive to form social groups. Throughout our lives we belong to different groups e.g., people who have families, belong to friend groups, go to school, at work people have colleagues and so forth. Communities can be formed on the basis of hobbies, common interests, identity, family ties and many other things that bring people together. These communities traditionally were formed face-to-face, but with the advent of CMC, virtual communities have become a widespread phenomenon. Communities are particularly interesting for sociolinguistic research as in these group settings language variations emerge (Gumperz, 2009). Groups create their language norms that can be studied. Scholars Britain & Matsumoto (2005) point out, that three main types of communities are important for linguistic investigations, some of these categories have already been mentioned in Chapter 1.1: speech communities, social networks, and

communities of practice. It is important to discuss the similarities and differences between these three concepts.

The concept of speech community is the oldest of the three. The concept has been extensively studied by Labov (1989) and he defined it as a community that is united by participation in shared linguistic norms. These norms are governed by the members themselves. According to the scholar, SCs have a mutual understanding of the language of their community. Speech communities also are dependent on various factors like social class, gender, and ethnicity. Social boundaries, such as those based on geography, ethnicity, or employment, help to identify speech communities. These restrictions may have an impact on how people communicate and engage with one another. An example of such community would be African American Vernacular English. These communities have their own distinct speech community, which is distinguished by distinct grammatical structures, pronunciation patterns, and vocabulary. The concept of speech communities has been criticized as they are defined more by geographic criteria, rather than a linguistic one (Herk, 2012).

Social networks (SNs) have also been extensively studied by linguists. SNs differ from speech communities as their participants have to be familiar with each other in real life. Social networks are composed of groups of friends, co-workers, or members of the same neighbourhood (Brian & Monomoto, 2005). SNs have been studied by sociolinguists J. Milroy and L. Milroy (1980) who have observed that Social Networks help to maintain a variety of dialects in Northern Ireland. The Milroys have pointed out that by close and constant interaction in SNs norms of behaviour and language are enforced and maintained. Scholars argue that social networks have the strongest norms of language and behaviour as people who belong to them want to conform and are bound by strong ties of familiarity. An example of a social network could be close or extended family members.

Communities of practice (CofPs) were arguably best defined by the scholars Eckert and McConnell-Ginet (1999) as “groups whose joint engagement in some activity or enterprise is sufficiently intensive to give rise over time to repertoires of shared practices.” (p. 185). Communities of practice differ from speech communities and social networks, as members of communities of practice do not necessarily have to be acquainted with each other to participate in their shared enterprise. An example of such a community could be a group of linguists who are working on a common project, discuss challenges related to their common project by utilizing

specialized vocabulary Being a member of a CoP is always a conscious choice while belonging to an SN or SC can be coincidental.

Communities of practice are especially important for linguistic research as in specialized areas, they provide a rich context for examining how language is used in social interactions. CoPs frequently create their own unique jargon and specialized language, which can be examined to comprehend how members interact and create knowledge within the group (Eckert & McConnell-Connell-Ginet, 1992). Additionally, CoPs frequently have standards for language use that may be distinct from those of the broader community. For instance, a group of medical experts might have specialized terms for treatments or ailments that are unfamiliar to the general population. Understanding how these communities build knowledge and negotiate their own identity and position within their profession or domain can be gained by examining the language used in CoPs.

People can belong to many different communities of practice simultaneously and these said communities help them build a sense of group and individual identity. Communities of practice are strongly linked to the identity of the participants. "Building an identity consists of negotiating the meanings of our experience of membership in social communities." (Wenger, 1999, p. 145). According to Wenger, there are several ways in which people form an identity through shared communities of practice:

1. People define themselves by participating in the community;
2. People define themselves by belonging or being an outsider to a community;
3. People define themselves as a unit of several communities at the same time.

Wenger has also pointed out that people who belong to communities of practice tend to develop certain expectations on how to interact with each other and how to collaborate. Other scholars that delved into communities of practice are Eckert & McConnell-Connell-Ginet, (1992). While Wenger looked at communities of practice from a learning perspective, Eckert & McConnell-Connell-Ginet studied how communities of practice from linguistic and identity perspectives. They pointed out that people who participate in communities use a specific language to interact, but apart from that they also use symbols like clothes, jewellery, gestures among other things, to construct their identity and to blend into their community. Linguists argue that language cannot be separated from identity and, in her examples, gender in particular "Language is never encountered without other symbol systems, and gender is always joined with real people's complex forms of participation in

the communities to which they belong." (Eckert & McConnell-Connell-Ginet, 1992, p. 4). The scholars also added that identity-language connection manifests itself differently depending on the community of practice that the individual is participating in (as one individual often has numerous communities that they belong to). Eckert and McConnell-Ginet also emphasize the notion that language and social privilege are strongly interconnected: "The standard or prestige variants are associated with the speech of those who have economic and political power, the social elite; at the same time, standard speech is associated with women and "prissiness," and the vernacular is heard as tough and "macho"." (Eckert & McConnell-Connell-Ginet, 1992, p. 5) It can be said that people who are viewed as inferior in the society, who have less power and are marginalized, their language tends to deviate from the standard language variant, however in this quote, the theorists point out that overgeneralized statements about particular groups of people are most of the time inaccurate and this limitation should be taken into the account of scholars who try to make claims about groups of people. To avoid this fallacy the scholars suggest discussing gender differences without stripping individuals of their other aspects of identity. The best way to do that is to analyse the link between identity and language through communities of practice: "Gender is produced in differential membership in communities of practice. People's access and exposure to the need for, and interest in, different communities of practice are related to such things as their class, age, ethnicity as well as sex." (Eckert & McConnell-Connell-Ginet, 1992, p. 8) Thus, if we aim to discuss identity and language related to identity it is more productive to do so by selecting communities of practice rather than a large, stereotypical unit of identity without taking into account the intersecting factors that make such research too generalized.

This research will be focused on virtual communities of practice (VCoPs). These are communities of practice that are created and maintained on internet sites. These communities use CMC to connect and develop a sense of belonging. VCoPs differ from face-to-face communities as the participants cannot use physical cues while interacting, body language, intonation, and stress are omitted and that might cause difficulties for the members to form long-lasting connections (Kimble, 2011, p. 7). Despite these drawbacks, users find different ways to compensate for this lack of physical, and non-verbal expression. Members use customisable avatars, gifs, and emojis to convey emotions that cannot be expressed in text form. Some researchers who have studied the use of emojis have found that the meanings and interpretations of these images are influenced by the background of the user, emoji use also depends on the gender, age and social class of the person

(Bai, Dan, Mu, & Yang, 2019). If these factors are relevant to the emoji use, it can be implied, that VCoPs could also have their distinct uses for these emoticons.

1.3 Linguistic normativity

According to *definitions.net* linguistic norm is "a historically determined set of commonly used language assets, as well as rules for their selection and use, which have been recognized by society as the most appropriate in a particular historical period. These are the collective rules for implementing the language system." These language norms are essential to a language and ensure that speakers of the same language can understand each other, it also preserves language traditions, but at the same time is susceptible to changes.

Normativity, like language, is an inherently social phenomenon. One of the primary functions of language is communication and there are expected language norms in any type of linguistic activity. As Silk (2017, p. 206) highlights: ". In communication we shape our identities as thinkers and feelers in a social world; we coordinate on how to act, what to feel, and whom to be". To put it in other words, language and personal identity are inseparable. Naturally, language constantly evolves along with society, new language norms emerge, language is related to identity and individuality, and language norms change and evolve (Lamm, 2014). There are two main different ways that people see these changes, some people are more conservative and are opposed to new language norms, while others accept the various norm changes that are a natural part of the language (Roberts, 2021).

Prescriptive grammar is the preferred use of language from spelling to semantics. It is the most normalised, neutral, standard variant of the language. Descriptive grammar contrasts this notion as it is the exact opposite. Descriptive grammar is a term that describes the actual use of the language of individuals with all possible deviations. "Linguists are concerned with describing what people do with language (description) while people who want to say that a certain use is incorrect are setting down rules for proper language use (prescription), quite apart from what people do." (Mooney & Evans, 2015, p. 35). According to scholars, linguists are not the only people who make assumptions and judgements about language use. So-called language purists are the people who are opposed to any changes in language. This is connected to a fear that if people do not follow strict language rules, the language breaks, and declines. Prescriptive grammar or the most standard variant of language is often associated with higher social class, prestige, and economic status. This

research will be focused on descriptive grammar as standard language variants do not dominate the language of chat forum users.

Different groups of people might use non-standard variants of the language, but that does not mean that their language does not have norms or rules. Non-standard dialects like African American Vernacular English (AAVE) have a logical structure, and regular grammar rules, despite all that, it is still viewed as non-normative and inferior. "On absolutely no scientific basis, linguistically consistent grammatical features like double negatives, along with other marked grammatical differences to standard American English, have stigmatized the speakers of Black English as linguistically backwards, uneducated, or unintelligent." (Luu, 2020). Some communities of practice, that are based on identity, are marginalised in society. Social hierarchies and structures of power are also reflected in the language. Language norms are set by usually upper-class, educated people, who belong to academic communities. To adapt to society, people of varying backgrounds have to adapt to more standard variants of the language to fit into society.

As Leppänen, Møller et al. (2015) point out, normativity is enforced by judging, rating, and assessing the language use of other people. As mentioned before, normativity can be imposed by institutions "from above" but in the case of VCoPs norms are imposed by the members themselves or in other words, they are "imposed from below" (Varis & Wang, 2011). According to Varis & Wang (2011), there are two main types of imposing language norms in virtual communities. One is *a priori*, these are norms that are monitored and policed by the moderators of the website and *emergent*, these are language norms that are the most susceptible to changes as they are co-created by the members of the online spaces themselves. Spears, Lea, Corneliussen, Postmes, & Haar, (2002) conducted research that analyzed group norms in computer-mediated communication. Several groups of students who communicated via email for their classes were selected, and their communication patterns were analyzed. It was found that people who belong to virtual communities develop their communication norms, and they begin to identify with the virtual group they belong to, even though they are not familiar with the participants in real life.

Linguistic normativity in virtual communities of practice is governed "from below". An interesting case of such norms was explored by linguist Leppänen (2017). The scholar analysed a dog blogging site called *Dogster* where the participants pretended to be their pet dogs who wrote diaries. It was noticed that despite differing locations, languages, and cultural contexts the participants of this dog blogging site shared similar ways of communicating with each other. They modified their language

for dog impersonations with the help of narrating stories from the dog's perspective, creating new terms and so on. This might be an extreme example of the way people create their authentic identity online and practice, govern and create linguistic norms there, but every online community of practice has a set of features and norms that are exclusive to them and are set by the participants themselves. These types of linguistic normativity can be set in any type of community that is based on mutual interests or identity, for example, gender identity of sexuality.

1.4 Gendered and sexuality-related language norms.

According to European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights – FRA (2009), heteronormativity is the idea that heterosexuality is the superior sexuality, and it is assumed that heterosexuality is the 'natural', ideal sexual orientation and everyone is a heterosexual until proven otherwise. This heteronormativity also affects language. King (2017) suggests, that “heteronormative violence inherent in the structure of the English language, the erasure of asexuals and bisexuals, and the violence of misgendering transgender people.” (p. 17). In the paper the scholar examines how the English language is binary when it comes to pronouns, there are no pronouns to describe people who do not conform to the gender binary. There are many such cases of heteronormative language that limit or erase language that is not considered heteronormative. For that reason, gay people have their ways of creating new in-group language norms that help them express themselves.

The unique language use among LGBTQ+ individuals has been a popular topic of sociolinguists in recent decades. The term "Lavender linguistics" has been coined by the linguist William Leap in the 1990s, events like the annual "The Lavender Languages and Linguistics conference", journals like “The Journal of Language and Sexuality” and a plethora of articles show, that queer linguistics is an important area of study. This is also reflected in the media, as LGBTQ+ topics are controversial subjects and are used in politics as it is a divisive subjects. In the recent decade, a special emphasis has been placed on so-called inclusive language (Burcea, 2022). In the areas of medicine, education and especially on social media, the discourse of language that does not discriminate against people of non-standard gender expressions has been brought up and the new inclusive term began to spring up rapidly. Trans-inclusive terms like 'birthing people' instead of mothers, ‘menstruators, ‘people with vaginas’ sparked a lot of backlash in the media (Tuohy, 2022). Feminist activists often critique these inclusive terms and accuse people who promote the inclusive language of sexism and misogyny, recently, actress Panti Bliss tweeted “They don’t call us ‘women’ anymore; they call us ‘birthing people’ or ‘menstruators, and even ‘people with vaginas’!

Don't let them erase you!"(Kirkpatrick, 2022). Terminology related to LGBTQ+ individuals can become a source of hate and discrimination. Trans people in the 1990s and 2000s were the subject of numerous research papers that were focused on language and social norms (e.g., Besnier 2003, Hall 2004, among others). Trans people in particular were so interesting to the researchers as they broke the boundaries of traditional gender norms and linguistic norms as well.

Language norms related to gender expression have always been a controversial subject. Second wave feminism movement advocated for gender-neutral language "Linguists like Lakoff (1973) and McConnell-Ginet (1978) called attention to the low social value accorded to women's linguistic practices, many of which are – at least ideologically – associated with uncertainty or lack of confidence." (Zimman 2017, p. 87). Other linguists focused on gendered profession names (fireman, policeman, chairman...) because of these discussions and efforts to use more gender-inclusive terms, the language norm has changed and nowadays gender-neutral variants of professions have become the standard. Nowadays, the emphasis has been placed on gendered identities, especially on trans people. These advocations for changing language norms have been called feminist language reform by scholars, like Ehrlich and King (1992).

Language users have to collaborate and accept these inclusive terms. It is important to mention, that LGBTQ+ individuals are a minority group and as Zimman points out, at first gender-inclusive terms seem unnatural and it might take some time until it becomes the norm, so naturally, language reforms take some time (p. 96). As Ehrlich and King (1992) state, such language changes will always bring political controversy. Even though sexism, homophobia, and transphobia cannot be eliminated by linguistic changes alone, identifying heteronormative language patterns is a vital step in queer acceptance.

It is also important to mention, that not all the terminology related to LGBTQ+ individuals is formal/health related. Since LGBTQ+ is an umbrella term encompassing a plethora of different identities and gender discussions, it is hard to define what can be considered LGBTQ+ language and what is not. In addition, LGBTQ+ individuals often disagree with each other on what terms to use. LGBTQ+ individuals, especially gay men have been known to use a lot of slang expressions. These expressions are sometimes called Camp Talk. Camp talk is a term that represents the whole range of homosexual male language terms, this term applies to multiple gay communities of practice. Individuals who identify themselves as LGBTQ+ learn queer language expressions and slang by participating in communities of practice related to their sexual identity (Luu, 2018). It is

also important to mention that queer language is strongly related to African American Vernacular English (AAVE) and other minority language variants. For example, phrases like *Miss Thang*, *No tea*, *No shade*, *girlfriend* are popular among white drag queens, while black gay men incorporate linguistic terms from white women's vocabulary (exclamations like *Oh my*) (Harvey 1998). So, it can be said, that queer language is intersectional, as homosexual individuals belong to multiple communities of practice at the same time, they borrow and appropriate the linguistic attributes from the other marginalized groups. This blending of different slang might appear artificial and stereotypical, but it has a function: "Camp talk enlists these stereotypical differences to index a distinct sexual identity." (Harvey, p. 296). To put it briefly, LGBTQ+ individuals use camp talk as a statement of their identity, it helps them to form communal bonds and distinguish themselves and reject heteronormative language standards. It has been pointed out by scholar Babuscio (1993) that ironic and stereotypical way in which gay men express themselves is ironic and stereotypical for a logical reason: "Camp, by focusing on the outward appearances of role, implies that roles, and, in particular, sex roles, are superficial – a matter of style" (Babuscio, 1993, p. 24). The language used by people in the LGBTQ+ community is unique, ironic, and stereotypical, it breaks heteronormative standards, and gender norms and helps people who belong to the community to express their identity.

It is also important to mention that the LGBTQ+ language is not homogenous. As mentioned before, people belong to different linguistic communities of practice at the same time, so it is not surprising, that the vocabulary of a middle-class homosexual white male will differ from the lexicon used by a teenage non-binary person. Stanley (1964) conducted a study of homosexual terms. She compiled a survey and distributed it to LGBTQ+ individuals from different backgrounds. She asked the participants to define 26 homosexual slang terms and the results showed, those survey participants did not share the same knowledge of slang terms. Participants from urban areas gave different answers than the dwellings of rural towns. The gender of the respondents was different between genders too. She also emphasized that more mainstream terms, that were known and used by heterosexual people like "dyke", "butch" etc. were "not as effective as a sign of group solidarity as the slang of other subcultures" (Stanley, 1964, p. 50).

According to Bishop (2018) there are several ways in which LGBTQ+ linguistic norms emerge online. These include reclaiming slurs, using playful language, using in-group terminology, and the use of non-binary pronouns.

1. Members of the LGBTQ+ community may use reclaimed slurs to counteract their negative connotations and foster a feeling of strength and community. For instance, terms like "queer" and "dyke" that were once used negatively are now accepted as positive descriptors by some members of the LGBTQ+ group.
2. LGBTQ+ people frequently use language that is playful. For example, in the context of drag queen culture, the word "drag" can be imaginatively combined with other terms (such as "dragtastic" or "draglicious") to produce neologisms that capture the community's playful nature.
3. The use of slang phrases like "yass queen," "werk," "shade," and "spill the tea," convey support, encouragement, criticism, and, depending on the context, gossip in LGBTQ+ discourse.
4. LGBTQ+ communities also use *Mirroring* – they repeat the words that are used by other members of the community to empathise with them and create bonds.
5. Non-binary gender pronouns are used by some LGBTQ+ people to communicate their gender identity and subvert binary gender norms. Examples of such pronouns include "they/them" and "xe/xem." They may also use different gender markers, such as "Mx." in place of "Mr." or "Ms.," to challenge heteronormative expectations.

These types of linguistic norms are often used and reproduced in online chat forums. They help the members to find solidarity and build a sense of group identity (Bishop, 2018, pp. 295-315).

The most interesting part of the LGBTQ+ community is the language of fringe subcultures. Nowadays, we can observe fringe LGBTQ+ community groups and their virtual interactions. Their in-group language can be analysed, and patterns can be distinguished. Since a multitude of LGBTQ+ forums are free and easy to access, it is a perfect ground to investigate these informal language variants, their features and deviations from the norm. Niche communities like non-binary lesbians would be hard to find, as these individuals make up only a small part of the general society. CMC provides them with an option to form a community of practice and it helps them with identification with the group and an individual. As these groups interact new linguistic features and normativity emerge.

1.5 Covert prestige

Covert prestige is a term coined by William Labov. It refers to a phenomenon where the nonstandard variant of the language becomes preferred over the standard variant and thus becomes considered more prestigious in a specific community of practice. In his linguistic research, Labov (1966) pointed out that:

This word [the vernacular] is commonly used to mean low, uneducated or low-prestige speech, but I have tried to stabilize it as a technical term to signify the language first acquired by the language learner controlled perfectly and used primarily among intimate friends and family members. Thus, every speaker has a vernacular, some quite close to the network standard, some quite remote from it. (1966 p. 86)

According to the linguist vernacular variants of language are not inferior to standard variants and every speaker of the language has a vernacular. Even though in society in general vernacular variants are seen as inferior, in some communities of practice it becomes beneficial to learn and adapt the vernacular style of language to blend in and become a part of a group. Coupland (2009) gives examples of how vernacular variants have advantages in certain social situations like dating. He argues that vernacular variants are seen as more dynamic and socially appealing, while standard variants of language are associated with intelligence and prestige, but in social situations, they might appear less likeable, attractive, or appealing. Similar tendencies of nonstandard language preferences can be observed in LGBTQ+ communities of practice. Through the use of gay slang, for instance, members assert themselves as a part of a community, they identify, and label themselves and it creates a sense of shared solidarity.

All in all, it can be said that LGBTQ+ individuals form virtual communities of practice through CMC. The basis of these communities is queer identity and through virtual interaction they create their own normativity “from below”, it is important to take into account that these communities are not homogenous and the different linguistic norms can emerge depending on a specific community. This normativity is maintained through constant interaction. The most characteristic features observed by researchers of this linguistic norm could be slang terms, abbreviations, playful language, reclaimed offensive slurs. Due to covert prestige, some of these terms could be borrowed from other (in most cases marginalised) communities, like the black community. Some general features of CMC including but not limited to emojis, gifs, images, non-standard punctuation may also be found in these VCoPs.

II. DATA AND METHODS

This chapter focuses on the data collection and the research methods that were applied for the linguistic investigation of LGBTQ+ virtual communities of practice. The first sub-chapter is dedicated to the description of the data collection of linguistic features of *Reddit* LGBTQ+ related virtual forums. The second sub-chapter deals with the research methodology. The last sub-chapter illustrates the ethical considerations and possible limitations of the thesis.

2.1 Data collection.

All the data for this research was collected from *Reddit* forums. Six most popular LGBTQ+ forums were chosen for the research: r/lgbt: Reddit's home for the LGBTQ+ community (976 thousand members), r/gay (328 thousand members), r/bisexual (510 thousand members), r/actuallesbians (440 thousand members), r/traaaaaaannnnnnnnns (361 thousand members), r/nonbinary (192 thousand members). The aforementioned forums all belong to the same LGBTQ+ umbrella term, but they differ in content, member count and discussion topics. Data for this study was collected between September 2022 and April 2023. The data collection process encompassed a period of approximately seven months, allowing for a comprehensive analysis of the research topic. The dataset comprises a range of examples, including both recent information and chat threads/logs from two years ago. Due to the fact that these forums are interactive, in the data collection process two types of chats were taken into account. Some examples were of chat logs that contained unique linguistic elements while the other examples were extracted from chat threads. Chat logs are posts from one user without replies or comments from other users, while chat threads are posts where the users interacted with each other. 50 examples of chat threads and chat logs containing non-standard sexuality/queer identity-related language cases were extracted (a screenshots were made) from each subreddit. Since some users of the community at times used more than one unique linguistic element in one chat thread/log, the amount of concrete examples slightly differed in each community. 370 cases of linguistic elements were found across all six chosen subreddits: 3 linguistic features were found in r/lgbt, 55 in r/gay, 50 in r/bisexual, 60 in r/actuallesbians, 61 in r/traaaaaaaanss, and 71 in r/nonbinary.

2.2 Methods of data analysis.

A mixed method between qualitative and quantitative approaches was chosen to analyse the linguistic phenomena unique to LGBTQ+ virtual communities of practice to illustrate the diversity of linguistic repertoires in the forums. ‘from below’. A quantitative method was used to illustrate the diversity of linguistic repertoires in the forums. The qualitative method was used to distinguish the different types of linguistic features unique to LGBTQ+ forums, to find the linguistic similarities and differences in six five *Reddit* communities, to explain the link between the language and identity in the selected virtual communities of practice, and to define what features make up the linguistic norm ‘below’ of these virtual communities. The analysis was carried out by selecting the chat threads/logs that contained either several linguistic deviations or were especially characteristic to the selected forums.

For relevancy, the most popular chat threads were chosen. After selecting the threads, LGBTQ+ terminology, expressions, slang, and grammar oddities, visual expressions (gifs, emojis) were found and extracted from the user interactions. To check the meanings of the expressions, the websites *Urban Dictionary*, *Oxford Dictionary*, *Quora* were used among others. After some rough initial analysis, all the linguistic elements were divided into seven categories that stemmed from the collected data:

1. words to describe the outsiders of the community;
2. words that are related to sexuality or gender expression;
3. irregular spelling;
4. euphemisms;
5. words and expressions to describe gender and sexual oppression;
6. words and phrases that describe solidarity with the community of practice;
7. miscellaneous (the elements that did not fit into the following categories).

The quantitative analysis of the variety of the linguistic features related to each virtual community of practice was carried out, and it was highlighted which category of repertoire of linguistic features was the most dominant in each subreddit and in all the six communities put together. Firstly, the linguistic norm of each different subreddit was distinguished and later the linguistic norm that applies to all six selected forums was determined.

In some forums users expressed their identity using so-called *flairs* (usually flag symbols that were linked to their identity) these *flairs* were collected, described and their meaning explained, and the frequency of them was counted as these symbols were the norm that emerged in some of the

communities as a form of identity expression. Later the quantitative analysis of the of the linguistic features related to each virtual community of practice was compared and it was found out which category of linguistic features was the most prominent. Firstly, the linguistic norm of each different subreddit was distinguished and later the linguistic norm that applies to all six selected forums was determined.

2.3 Ethical considerations and possible limitations of the thesis

This study follows the ethical requirements for research that involves human subjects (Bhandari, 2022). Because the Reddit data is public and anonymized, no identifiable information will be included in the analysis. Furthermore, in order to maintain confidentiality and avoid any potential harm, there was no interaction between the researcher and the individuals in the subreddit communities.

It is important to acknowledge the fact that it is difficult to find the exact meanings of some of the slang terms used by the members of these virtual communities, so some of the results might lack accuracy. Another limitation worth considering is the possibility that some posts/threads/chat logs might be archived or deleted and become inaccessible in the future.

III. EMPIRICAL RESEARCH

This section of the paper is dedicated to the interpretation of the data retrieved from the six LGBTQ+ subreddits. The analysis is divided into seven main parts. Six parts deal with the quantitative and qualitative analysis of each separate forum (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6) and the last chapter (3.7) deals with the analysis of all six forums together. These chapters have sub-chapters that separate quantitative and qualitative analyses, subreddits that have visual expressions that are relevant for the linguistic analysis have additional chapters.

3.1 Analysis of r/lgbt Reddit subreddit

The analysis is focused on the 50 chat threads/logs that were extracted from the r/lgbt. This subchapter is divided into three parts, the first part is focused on the meanings of *flairs* that were found next to the usernames of the forum members and their frequency, the second part is dedicated to the quantitative analysis of the linguistic repertoire that was collected in the forum and in the third part the qualitative linguistic analysis.

3.1.1 The analysis of visual elements that were found in r/lgbt subreddit

r/lgbt subreddit users use short descriptions of themselves (that are related to their gender identity or sexuality). This description is often used with a visual symbol. This symbol most commonly is a flag representing their sexuality, or a symbol related to a particular gender expression. These visual cues are called *flairs*. Different subreddits have their own *flairs*, users can select between *flairs* that were created and uploaded by the moderators of the subreddit or they can create and submit their self-made *flairs* that later can be approved or disapproved by the moderators of the subreddits.

In this subreddit a trend was noticed that the symbols are often expressions of multiple identities. For example, multiple flags are added or blended to note that the identity of the forum user is a combination of several gender expressions or sexualities.

Explanation of the found flags and the identities they represent (Pride Flags, (n.d.)).



1. The most common visual cue of identity was the Bisexual flag. This flag is a rectangular flag with a magenta stripe on top, blue stripe at the bottom and a lavender in the middle. Bisexuality is an attraction to more than one sex or gender.



2. Another common flag that was found was the pansexual flag. This has three colours: pink, yellow, and blue. Pansexuality is defined as an attraction towards people in spite of their gender identity or expression.



3. Transgender (trans) gender identity is represented by 5 stripes, two blue stripes at the top and the bottom, two light pink stripes as a white stripe in the middle. The term transgender is used to define a person who does not identify with the gender that they were assigned at birth.



4. Demisexual flag has three horizontal stripes of white, purple, and grey with a black triangle on the left pointing inward toward the centre. Demisexuality is a term used to describe individuals who form sexual feelings and attraction to a person based not on their physical appearance, but on the emotional attraction.



5. Non-binary identity is represented by a four-colour flag of yellow, white, purple, and black. Non-binary people are a group of individuals who do not ascribe themselves to gender binary (male or female).



6. The rainbow flag is a 6-colour symbol that is a universal symbol for LGBTQ+ people. It is an inclusive flag of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet.



7. Gay flag consists of 7 colours: three shades of green, white stripe in the middle and 3 stripes of blue shades. This flag represents sexual attraction between two men.



8. Aromantic flag is a five coloured symbol of two shades of green, white stripe in the middle and grey and black stripe at the bottom. This used as a symbol of people who do not feel any romantic feelings towards other people.



9. Asexual flag is made of 4 stripes: black, grey, white, and purple. Asexuality is a sexual orientation of a person who does not have any sexual feelings or desires and is not attracted to anyone.



10. Agender flag has black, grey, white stripes and a yellow stripe in the middle. This flag represents people who describe themselves as having no gender at all.



11. Lesbian flag has three orange stripes at the top, a white stripe in the middle and three pink shades at the bottom. This symbol is a representation of women who are attracted to the same sex.



12. Butch flag is made up of even stripes three stripes in various colours of blue, a white centre stripe, and three stripes in various shades of purple. It represents a lesbian woman who has physical traits that are traditionally masculine.

13. The lambda symbol in the gay community indicates change and movement. The implication of this symbol is that the individual does not yet fully know their identity and is going through an identity shift.

Out of the 50 collected chat thread/log examples, 21 contained a flag that indicated the sexuality and gender of the user (**Figure 1**). Out of the 21 flags, 12 flags were combined of two gender and sexual identities. An assumption could be made that forum users who add flags *flairs* as a form of identification tend to identify with several gender/sexual identities. Three flags containing three distinct sexualities and gender expressions were found, in 16 cases only one flag to represent sexuality or gender was chosen. The most common identity expressed with an image of a single flag was bisexual (5 cases in total). Due to the fact, that these flairs were used extensively in this forum, it can be said this form of visual identity expression was the norm for this subreddit.

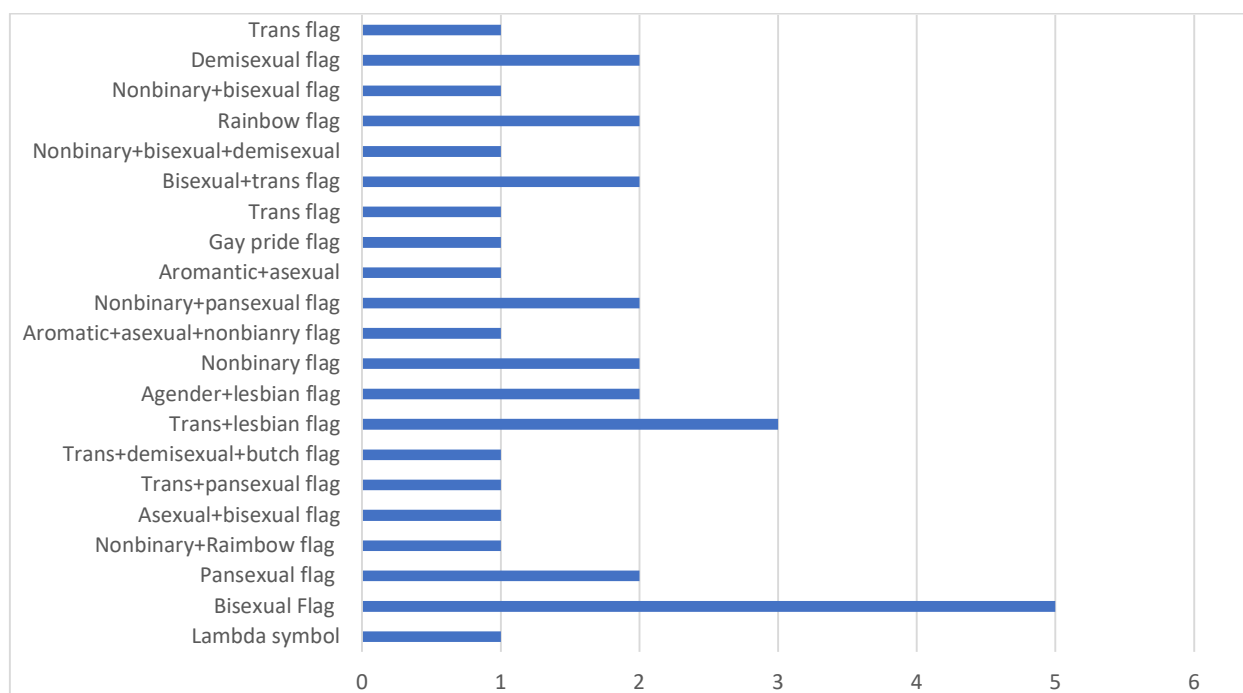


Figure 1: The frequency of the identity related flairs

3.1.2 The analysis of linguistic repertoire found in r/lgbt

In the analysis of the 50 collected chat threads from the subreddit, a total of 73 examples of LGBTQ+ specific language features were identified. These examples were classified into different categories that were discussed in Chapter 2.2, providing insights into the linguistic patterns and themes prevalent within the conversations. A comprehensive presentation of all these examples

can be found in **Table 1**. The categorization of these examples allows for a deeper understanding of the specific language used within the subreddit and sheds light on the key topics and discussions that took place.

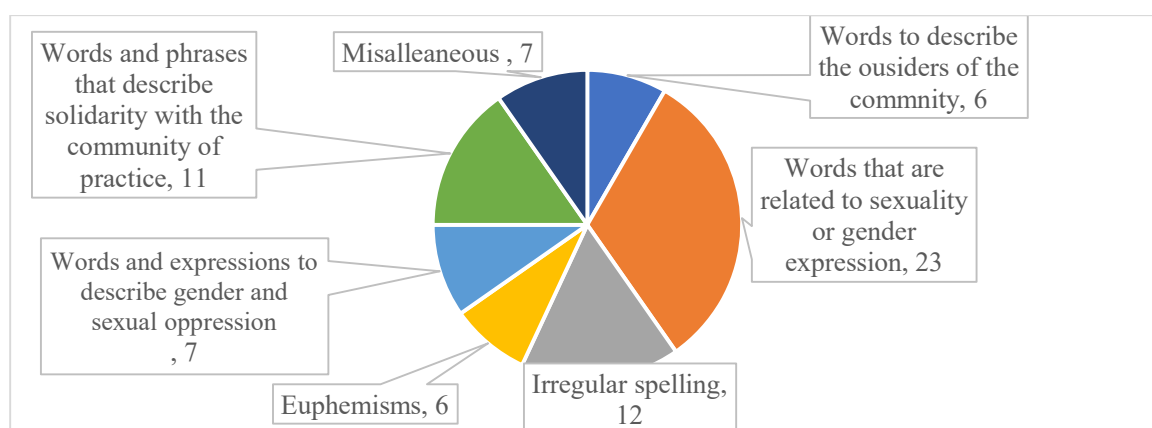
Table 1: Linguistic repertoire of r/lgbt

Words to describe the outsiders of the community	Words that are related to sexuality or gender expression	Irregular spelling	Euphemisms	Words and expressions to describe gender and sexual oppression	Words and phrases that describe solidarity with the community of practice	Miscellaneous
Straights Allies Feminazies Bigots Straight cis Chistofashie	Queers Cis/Het AMAB - assigned male at birth Pan, Bi Queers, LGBTQ Gender neutral Queerness Asexual Cis bi woman Wlw Sapphic MTF FTM Straight cis Mtf Ftm Nb Top Femboi Catgirl Femboys Backwards straight	Dood Folx Hwat Uwu ???? bUt DiDn'T mEaN tHaT Common Contra W Oooooooh they were roommates Mawage that bwessed awangenent Shaw fowwww youww Mah hawh they were roommates Thank you v much, haha	Gal pal Roommates OMG they were roommates Business partners Bestest of friends Oooooooh they were roommates	Shove them deeper into the closet Internalized homophobia Triggering religious trauma Ciswahsed Closeted Gender dysphoria Transphobic	Gender affirming Sister Common Contra W Based Galaxy brain Identify as Based Very based Chad Fam Bicon	Idk Omg Skydaddy Hozier song reference “giving big time ick” Fanfics Masculine urge to

It can be observed in **Figure 2** that the most prominent category of linguistic expressions found in the r/lgbt virtual community of practice were words that are related to sexuality and gender expression. Out of the 72 collected linguistic examples this category contains 32 unique linguistic

elements. The second category that is considerably more diverse is of the words and expressions containing irregular spelling. This category has 12 unique examples and is representative of the linguistic norm of the r/lgbt forum. Two categories that contain the least examples and are not as diverse were of words that describe the outsiders of the community and euphemisms (6). Not all the linguistic elements that were extracted from the chat threads are uniquely LGBTQ+ related. Some of the words and phrases, especially contractions are used in CMC in general in informal contexts. Contractions like OMG, IDK, slang words like BASED, CHAD and FAM are often used in informal communication even outside this specific chat forum.

Figure 2: Variety of linguistic elements in r/lgbt



3.1.3 The linguistic analysis of chat logs/threads found in r/lgbt

To get further insight of through which means the linguistic norm of this virtual community of practice is established and maintained qualitative analysis of a chat log was analysed. One of the most characteristic chat logs and one chat thread were selected and analysed to see how users of r/lgbt forum construct their linguistic norm. These examples contain several features of linguistic phenomena that are unique to the forum.

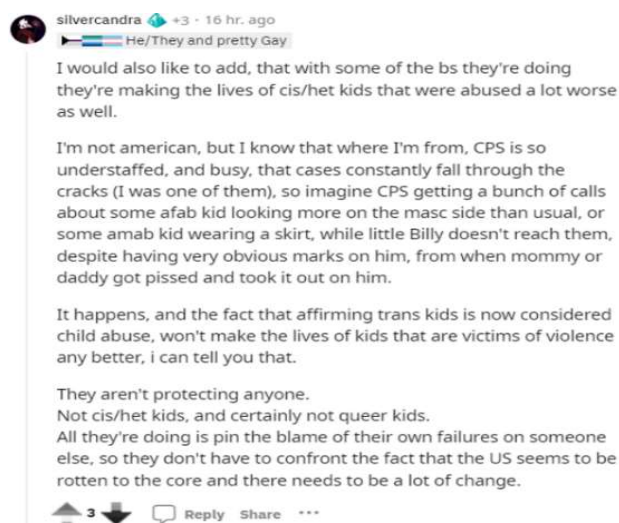


Figure 3: Chat log from r/lgbt

Figure 3 presents a chat log from the user *silvercandra*. The identity of the forum member is indicated by the *flair*. The *flair* contains three flag symbols and preferred gender pronouns. As with most of r/lgbt users, this user's identity is a multitude of different gender expressions and sexualities. According to the flags, this user identifies as a demisexual, gay and transgender person who uses He/They pronouns. According to LGBTQ+ Resource Center (n.d), if a person uses multiple sets of pronouns, they are okay with both being used to refer to a person, but the first pronoun of the set is usually the one that the person identifies with more. Along with the flags and the pronouns, this user adopts terminology that is related to the LGBTQ+ community and is related to sexuality and gender expression. In this example the words: *cis/het*, *amab*, *affirming*, *trans*, *queer*, *masc* are used. Cambridge dictionary (Cishet, 2023) indicated that *cishet* is an informal adjective that is a blend of two words: *cisgender* and *heterosexual*. So, a *cishet* person is a person who identifies with the gender that they were assigned at birth and who is sexually attracted to the same sex. This person uses an unusual spelling of the word with a slash. Another sexuality related abbreviation *amab* is used. According to Merriam Webster (AMAB, 2023), the term is used to describe people who were assigned male at birth. The term, in standard English should be capitalised but the user chose to spell it in lowercase. The phrase *trans affirming* was used in the chat log, according to Health & Gender Affirmation In Nsw (2023), gender affirmation is a term that encompasses the possibilities and acceptance for people to live as the gender they associate

with. So, *affirming trans kids* in the context of the post means supporting transgender identity of a person. Another sexuality related abbreviation used is *trans*. According to Cambridge dictionary (Trans, 2023), it is an informal clipping of the word transgender. Queer is also used in the post and according to the definition provided in the dictionary (Queer, 2023), it is an adjective that can be used to describe non-standard sexuality and (or) gender identity. This term can have some negative connotations and be offensive, the dictionary suggests that this term should be used only by a person to describe themselves and not others. The last LGBTQ+ related term that appeared in the post was *masc*. Dictionary (Masc, 2023) indicates that it is an abbreviated adjective for masculine.

From **Figure 3** it can be seen that linguistic norm in r/lgbt is set by using sexuality-related terminology and abbreviations, using visual tools (flairs) to help to express the identity of the person who participates in the forum. Most of the chat logs, including this one, had non-standard punctuation and capitalization.



Figure 4: Chat thread from r/lgbt

Another example of a chat thread (**Figure 4**) was taken from the subreddit to illustrate how the members adopt linguistic norms by interacting. The users *Deldazmb* and *Man_Who_Says_Qwerty* imitate or ‘mirror’ each other. They repeat the same word *roommates* (the use of this word is prominent in many LGBTQ+ circles and it is a euphemism used to describe secret lesbian relationships). It is a good example of how new inside jokes are formed in communities of practice and later become replicated by the users of the forums.

3.2. Analysis of r/gay Reddit forum

This chapter examines the linguistic elements that were collected from the r/gay subreddit chat logs. This subreddit is a forum for discussions that are related to gay community. The chapter is

divided into two parts: the first part is the analysis of the linguistic repertoire found in the forum and the second part deals with qualitative analysis of two chosen chat logs.

3.2.1 The analysis of linguistic repertoire found in r/gay

Linguistic elements that were collected from the r/gay subreddit chat logs are presented in **Table 2**. Out of the 50 collected chat thread examples, 57 linguistic elements were extracted and categorized using the same seven categories that were chosen for classification in chapter 2.2. Unlike in the r/lgbt subreddit, in this community of practice flairs were not used next to the username to identify the gender (or) sexuality of the user. In this forum, some of the miscellaneous examples also contained linguistic elements that are not LGBTQ+ specific and can be found in any informal virtual community, such as OMG and BOMB.

Table 2: Linguistic repertoire of r/gay

Words to describe the outsiders of the community	Words that are related to sexuality or gender expression	Irregular spelling	Euphemisms	Words and expressions to describe gender and sexual oppression	Words and phrases that describe solidarity with the community of practice	Miscellaneous
straightdom cishet	studs Openly gay flamboyant bottom twinks femme bear twink top switch furry Bottoming fag	lewk momma Whermst Werkkkkk CUNT-y gawd skinty >w> Congrazzles fuzzies FTFY yaoi	glizzy slurpin bromances homie-sexual roommates		Queen Come througghhh Yasssssss Stan Yass queen giving me neon realness Boots the house down mama tongue pop Gagging unclocable slay YASS GET IT deffo summer inspo underwear- isle- awakening- gay awakening budussy	OMG Giving thigh, leg and breast down Sir this is a Wendy's Heart stopper reference phalloplasty /j BOMB

It was observed that no examples were found for the category of words and expressions to describe gender and sexual oppression. The variety of categories is presented in **Figure 5**. The most diverse category of linguistic elements within the dataset was the use of words and phrases that describe solidarity with the community of practice. With 16 examples, this suggests that participants actively expressed support, empathy, or a sense of unity and belonging to the specific community being discussed in the chat threads/logs. The diversity of this category highlights the importance of creating a supportive and inclusive environment within the community, fostering a sense of togetherness and shared experiences. The second largest quantity of linguistic examples was for words that contained unique, irregular spelling (12). The richness of these linguistic elements indicates that participants occasionally employed unconventional spelling methods, such as intentional misspellings, slang, or text message abbreviations. The use of such language suggests informality, familiarity, and reflects the influence of CMC where linguistic shortcuts are commonly used. The category of words that describe the outsiders of the community was not as prominent and only contained 2 examples of linguistic elements.

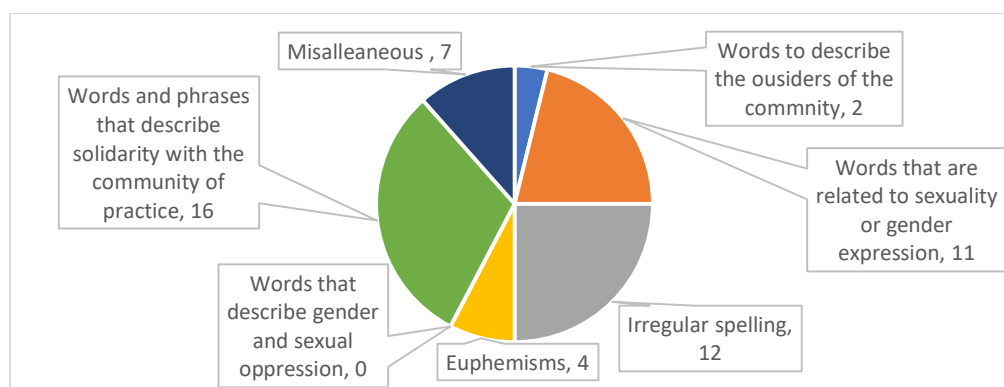


Figure 5: Variety of linguistic elements in r/gay

3.2.2 The linguistic analysis of chat logs/threads found in r/gay

For the qualitative analysis, some of the examples that contained linguistic features used to express solidarity with the community of practice were selected for further linguistic analysis.



Figure 6: Chat log from r/gay

This example from the user *phatbish* was selected as it contained several linguistic features that are unique to r/gay forum (**Figure 6**). The user combined several compliments into one chat thread to compliment another member of the community: *boots the house down, mama, gawd, and tongue pop* with a heart and flame emojis. According to Urban dictionary (Boots The House Down, 2023) the expression *Boots The House Down* is used by the LGBT community to compliment the outfit or a look of a person. The word *mama* is not used literally in the sentence, and it could have a similar meaning to a *diva* or *queen* to compliment an appearance of another gay person. *Gawd* is a slang term for god according to Collins dictionary (Gawd definition and meaning, 2023). The word is often used in LGBTQ+ community circles, especially by drag performers. *Tongue pop* is used in italics to imply the action and a sound of a tongue click. According to Wikipedia (2023), this gesture was popularized by drag queens to emphasize a phrase and express excitement or approval.



Figure 7: Chat log from r/gay

Another chat log (**Figure 7**) that contains language that is unique to the forum was selected to show how r/gay subreddit users interact with each other and construct their linguistic norm. The member *boyman2254* expressed their admiration of another forum user employing yet another multi-layered phrase that is worth analysing: *yass queen giving me neon realness*. To start the analysis the word *yass* is an alternative spelling of the word *yes*. According to Butler (2018), *yas queen* is a term that is used to express admiration and enthusiasm. It is a gay slang term that became popular around 1980s. *Yas* can be spelled in numerous ways and the more s's or a's a person adds to the message, the more enthusiastic they are. The second expression is *giving me neon realness*. *Giving* or *alternatively* serving *realness* is a phrase that is used to compliment authenticity of a person or a persona if a person is acting. In this specific comment the user is complimenting the colourful outfit of another member of this community of practice and is saying that neon colours suit their appearance.

These two chat logs demonstrate how linguistic normativity is constructed in r/gay VCoP using irregular spelling and phrases that express solidarity with the community of practice.

3.3. Analysis of r/bisexual Reddit forum

This chapter is dedicated to the analysis of the linguistic elements found in the r/bisexual forum. The forum is used by members to discuss topic related to bisexuality. 50 threads of conversations containing unique linguistic peculiarities were selected and 50 examples of unique language were extracted (**Table 3**). Later the examples were categorised according to the previously selected seven categories. The chap

3.3.1 The analysis of visual elements that were found in r/bisexual subreddit

In this subreddit, as in the r/lgbt community *flairs* are used to signal their sexual orientation or gender expression. 22 chat logs contained flag *flairs*. 19 of the flags were bisexual flags, the other three were combined flags of multiple identities (one pansexual + transgender flag combination and two flags of bisexual + transgender). Thus, it can be stated that flags help to set the normativity of the community.

3.3.2 Linguistic repertoire of r/bisexual

In total 50 examples of LGBTQ+ specific language features were found in in the selected chat threads/logs. The linguistic examples were classified into different categories (Chapter 2.2). These examples can be seen in Table 3.

Table 3: Linguistic repertoire of r/bisexual

Words to describe the outsiders of the community	Words that are related to sexuality or gender expression	Irregular spelling	Euphemisms	Words and expressions to describe oppression gender...	Words and phrases that describe solidarity with the community of practice	Miscellaneous
Allies MAGAts	bisexual Trans Cis	g/f EPIC ERECTION	Bros Bro-ing	Panphobia	Valid	CMV o7
Redneck-ville	Binary Poly Bi	I BeT yOu LoVe		Hetero-normative	Valid Gagged	AFP LIT come out Bone riff
Non-trans	Bi/pan LGBT	SaMe LoVe		Dysphoria	validated	gaydar bisexuality to
Fake bi	Queer Gaylors GayTM Gaylorism Straight-passing Cis-man Drag queens			Biphobia		Taoism pipeline Taylor's version chronically online headcanons labels Blahaj BIPOC
				Queerbaiting		
				Biphobia		
				Bi erasure		
				TERFS		

Out of the extracted examples, the most diverse categories were of words that are related to gender expression and sexuality and miscellaneous elements. As seen in **Figure 8**, both categories contained 14 examples and were rather rich in their linguistic diversity. The miscellaneous elements indicate that the participants engaged in conversations covering a broad range of topics beyond gender and sexuality, such as cultural references, pop culture, personal anecdotes, or general conversation fillers. The linguistic diversity within this category reflects the varied interests and conversational dynamics observed in the collected data. The second largest category was of words that were used to describe gender and sexual oppression (8). The relatively smaller size of this category suggests that while conversations may touch upon issues of oppression, they were not the dominant focus or theme in the collected chat threads/logs. Words and phrases with irregular spelling and euphemisms were the least diverse. Irregular spelling was detected in 3 instances while only 2 different euphemisms appeared in the collected chat threads/logs.

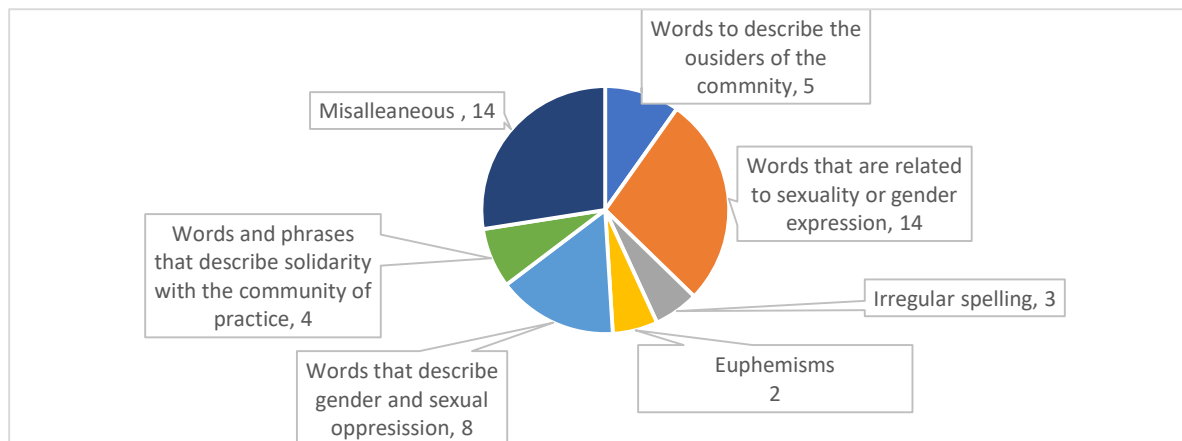


Figure 8: Variety of linguistic elements in r/bisexual

3.3.2 The linguistic analysis of chat logs/threads found in r/bisexual

For the qualitative analysis, some of the most unique examples that contained linguistic features that were prominent in this forum were selected for further linguistic analysis.



Figure 9: Chat log from r/bisexual

The chat entry (**Figure 9**) from the user *dpb83* was selected for the analysis to illustrate the linguistic norm that is prevalent in r/bisexual virtual community. The user identifies as bisexual as seen from the flag *flair* below the username. The member uses several words that are specific to LGBTQ+ community, this terminology for the most part is related to sexuality and gender expression. These words are *trans*, *poly*, *bi*, *bisexuality*, *hetero-normative*, *gender dysphoria*, *MAGAts*. The term *trans* was already explained in the previous chapter (3.1.3). The word *poly* is an informal abbreviation for polyamorous (person who has several sexual or romantic relationships with multiple people simultaneously) as indicated in Cambridge dictionary (Poly, 2023). *Bi* is yet another informal abbreviation for a sexual identity (bisexuality) for people who experience romantic and sexual attraction for same and opposite gender (Bi, 2023). The compound *hetero-*

normative is an adjective that describes an implication that only heterosexual relationships are normal and proper. This word was found in all of the previous forums and is commonly used to express negative attitudes and sexual oppression of queer people (Heteronormative, 2023). *Gender dysphoria* is also used to express oppression but unlike *heteronormative* (word that describes external oppression) this word indicates internal oppression. The word is used to describe a state of mind when individual feels a strong sense of anxiety and hates their own body, because it does not match their gender identity (Gender Dysphoria, 2023). From the context, a guess can be made that the abbreviation *MAGAs* refers to people who are republicans, support Donald Trump and are opposed to LGBTQ+ identities.



Figure 10: Chat thread from r/bisexual

Another example (**Figure 10**) was taken to once again show how members of the subreddit imitate each other and set a new language norms by reproducing a linguistic expression in the chat thread (figure 13). Users *ahoydem*, *TheAnxiousDeveloper*, *beans_lel*, and *JG1779865* copy an expression *O7* that expresses a salute. (O7, 2021)

3.4. Analysis of r/actuallesbians Reddit forum

This chapter is dedicated to the analysis of the linguistic elements found in the r/actuallesbians forum. This forum is dedicated to lesbian community. The chapter is divided into two subchapters. The first one is dedicated to the analysis of linguistic repertoire and the second one deals with the qualitative analysis of chat log/thread examples.

3.4.1. The analysis of linguistic repertoire found in r/actuallesbians

50 chat logs/threads were extracted from the forum and 52 unique language elements were found (**Table 4**). Similarly, as in some of the previous forums, some users expressed their identity using flag *flairs*, however, when compared to the r/lgbt forum, only the minority of the users chose this type of identification (only 5 flags were detected in 50 conversation threads). As in the other forums, r/actuallesbians members use many abbreviations and slang words that are typical for any type of informal CMC communication and that are not identity related. Terms like low-key, GF, POC, OG, are commonly used in other virtual communities of practice (**Table 4**). One unique linguistic feature that was observed in this community of practice, was the use *tone indicators*. According to [texline.com](https://www.texline.com) these are symbols that are used to convey the tone of the message while using CMC. Tone indicators help to compensate the lack of non-verbal expressions that help people to understand humour, sarcasm and avoid miscommunication online. As Paavola (2022) highlights, these symbols started gaining popularity on social media websites like Twitter and TikTok sometime around 2020 and later spread to other social media platforms. These indicators are also inclusive, as people who are neurodivergent may have struggles understanding tones of the messages. The users in r/actuallesbians employed tone indicators more frequently than members of other forums.

Table 4: Linguistic repertoire of r/actuallesbians

Words to describe the outsiders of the community	Words that are related to sexuality or gender expression	Irregular spelling	Euphemisms	Words and expressions to describe gender and sexual oppression	Words and phrases that describe solidarity with the community of practice	Miscellaneous
atmo-cis-phare str8	Transbian Butch Hersband Masc/nb husband lesbian enby Queers lipstic lesbian he/they sapphic moonies she/they sapphics they fruity genderfluid straight passing nonbinary twin switch subby fags	stg GF sus	gal Sappho and her friend classmates gal pals close friends besties roommates colleagues palsiest gals gal -pal'd on-the nose luxbian	homophobia dysphoria comphet Compulsive heteroexulality	allyship yass one of us	low-key POC /s og /s /j Diana, Scorn of the Moon Leona, the Radiant Dawn urn the frogs gay soy just a phase gay panic come out /jk Hrt scissor

All the linguistic elements that were found in chat threads were classified following the same model of characterisation (**Figure 11**). Out of all the categories, the largest number of linguistic elements fell into the category of words that were related to sexuality and gender expression (20). 16 of the linguistic elements were classified as miscellaneous. The common usage of euphemisms (12) is mostly related to ironically describing how lesbian relationships are viewed by heteronormative society (lesbian relationships are for the most part seen as not serious, temporary, and hidden, thus, in subreddits that engage in discourse of sexual relationships between two women euphemisms are used as an inside joke. Lesbians are called *besties*, *roommates*, *business partners*, among other terms). Additionally, three examples were discovered for each of the following categories: irregular

spelling, words describing gender and sexual oppression, and terms referring to individuals considered outsiders within the community. The identification of irregular spelling examples suggests that participants occasionally used words with deviations from standard spelling conventions. Although these words may not conform to traditional spelling norms, they were commonly used and understood within the context of the chat threads, highlighting the informality and adaptability of language in digital conversations.

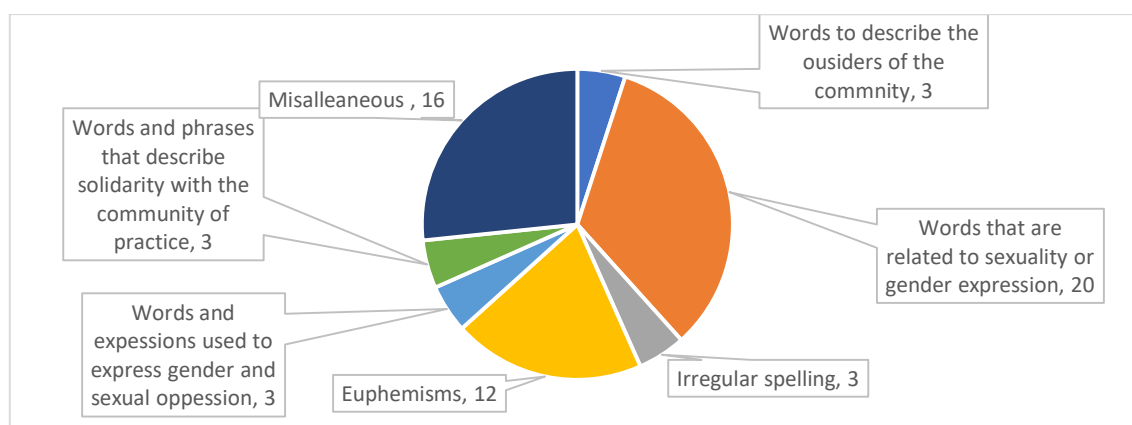


Figure 11: Variety of linguistic elements in r/actuallesbians

3.4.2 The linguistic analysis of chat logs/threads found in r/actuallesbians

For the qualitative analysis, some of the most unique examples that contained linguistic features that were prominent in this forum were selected for further linguistic analysis.



Figure 12: Chat log from r/actuallesbians

The user *panicbutt* used two euphemisms for lesbian relationships that are constantly repeated and perpetuated in the forum (**Figure 12**). *Gal pals* is an ironic term used by lesbians to describe secret lesbian lovers (Gal pal, 2023). It can be noticed that the user uses playful language which is quite common in the subreddit in general. In this case the user choses to use reduplication of the word gal in the sentence. The phrase *hand hearts* is yet another instance of playful and supportive language. It could be a description of a hand gesture of making a heart shape with one's hands to signal affection. Other terms that are traditionally used to describe relationships between two

women are used as ironic euphemisms for lesbian relationships. These were, for instance: *roommates*, *besties*, *colleagues* among others.

Overall, the linguistic features utilized in the quote represent how language is used in lesbian culture to convey and affirm relationships, intimacy, and emotional connections. The use of fun and warm language emphasizes the value of female relationships while challenging conventional assumptions of heterosexual romance and gender norms.



Figure 13: Chat log from r/actuallesbians

The user *Sayasing*'s post (**Figure 13**) also contained a few examples of the forum specific language. *Tbf* and *sus*. *Tbf* is an acronym used in informal chat communication that means to be fair (TBF, 2023). And the expression *sus* in this context is used to speculate that a person is LGBTQ+. It is a contraction of the word suspicious (Sus, n.d.).

3.5. Analysis of r/ traaaannnnnnns Reddit forum

This chapter is focused on the r/traaaannnnnnns subreddit analysis. This subreddit is dedicated to discussions based on the transgender identity and experiences. The chapter is divided into two parts. The first part (3.5.1) is dedicated to the analysis of the linguistic variety of the forum and the second part (3.5.2) is the qualitative analysis of two examples taken from the subreddit.

3.5.1 The analysis of linguistic repertoire found in r/traaaannnnnnns

50 chat logs were extracted from the form and from these 50 logs, 61 informal linguistic expressions were found and divided into seven categories (**Table 5**). The use of *flairs* to signal identity was also noticed among the users. 9 forum members used flags to express their sexuality and (or) gender expression. Many flag flairs were of multiple identities (6) and the rest used a singular transgender flag as a form of identification. Another form of identification that was noticed in the forum next to the usernames of the participants were flairs that indicated the preferred gender pronouns and sexuality. 25 users used *flairs* to label themselves. Not all these flairs were pronoun

related. Some of them indicated the date of the start of their transition or hormone replacement therapy (HRT).

Table 5: Linguistic repertoire of r/traaaannnnnns

Words to describe the outsiders of the community	Words that are related to sexuality or gender expression	Irregular spelling	Euphemisms	Words and expressions to describe gender and sexual oppression	Words and phrases that describe solidarity with the community of practice	Miscellaneous
cishet TERF cishet TERFS radfems feminism appropriating ractionary transphobes Reactionary Transphobia FARTs Sharts TERF biological essentialists feminism appropriating reactionary transphobes	AFAB transmasc self-identify female-led voidpunk trans/bi he/they transfemme passing femme AFAB FTM androgen unisex transfemme FtM MtF womanface transpasc maleness genderfluid femboys Traps	SJW	helicopter	queer-coded Gigachad validated stan king chadclife Based transition goals	dysphoria dysphoric internalized transphobia misgendering deadname PREACH	come out hc own the libs estrogen FFS /s HRT bottom surgery Yuuri wip feminize goalposts

Among the selected categories for analysis, one category stood out as the most prominent: words related to sexuality and gender expression, with a total of 23 examples. As depicted in **Figure 14**, this category exhibited the richest variety of linguistic elements. The abundance of examples suggests that participants engaged in discussions that extensively covered various aspects of sexuality and gender expression, indicating a diverse and nuanced exploration of these topics within the collected data. Another significant category was of words to describe the outsiders of the community (12 cases). On the other hand, words and phrases that describe solidarity with the community of practice exhibited a lower degree of divergence, with only 6 different linguistic elements falling into this category. This suggests that while participants expressed support and

unity within the community, the specific language used to convey these sentiments may have been relatively limited or focused on a few common expressions. 10 miscellaneous examples were extracted. The fewest examples were found of irregular spelling and euphemism categories (1).

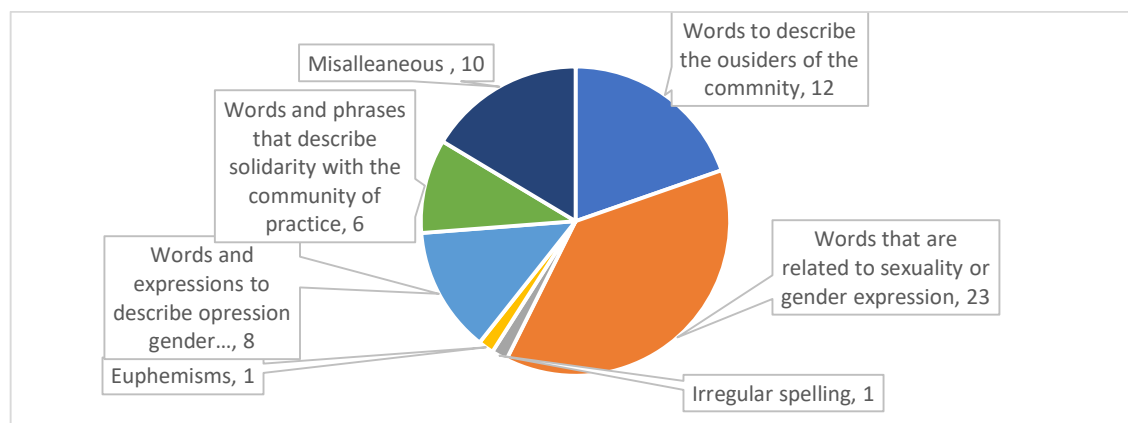


Figure 14: Variety of linguistic elements in r/traaaannnnnns

3.5.2 The linguistic analysis of chat logs/threads found in r/traaaannnnnns

For the qualitative analysis, some of the most unique examples that contained linguistic features that were prominent in this forum were selected for further linguistic analysis.



Figure 15: Chat log from r/traaaannnnnns

The user *UnchainedMundane* (**Figure 15**) used a flair to indicate that she is an aromantic, asexual transgender person who started hormone replacement therapy on November 15th, 2020. In the description the identity is expressed through a blend of two acronyms Aro/Ace, she also indicated her preferred pronouns (she/her). The forum member used several expressions that are associated with gender and sexual oppression and words that describe the outsiders of the community of practice: *TERFs*, *misgendering*, *cis*. She also uses the word *us*, to show that she identifies with the

community of practice. Merriam Webster dictionary indicates that this is an abbreviation for Trans-Exclusionary Radical Feminist (TERF, 2023). This is used as an offensive term to insult women who are opposed to people who are transgender. *Misgendering* is yet another term that is used to describe oppression and opposition towards transgender people. Merriam Webster defines misgendering as incorrectly identifying a person's gender by using incorrect label or pronoun (Misgender, 2023). According to Brito (2018), people often use misgendering as a form of harassment and mockery of transgender identity. This act of abuse can have a negative impact on the person's self-esteem and psychological well-being. The word *cis* has already been explained (see chapter 3.1.3). The user *UnchainedMundane* employs terminology that differentiates the in and outgroup of transgender identity. The quote includes the concept of *goalposts*, which likely refers to the shifting criteria that are used to exclude trans persons from certain spaces or definitions. This language represents trans people's experiences of exclusion and discrimination based on shifting and arbitrary criteria, as well as how language is used to explain these exclusions.

Finally, the user employs hypothetical language to emphasize how the exclusion of trans people is based on arbitrary and shifting criteria rather than scientific evidence. This language represents the experiences of trans individuals who frequently encounter discrimination and exclusion as a result of outdated and unscientific views about gender and identity, as well as how language can be used to challenge these beliefs and push for more tolerance and acceptance.

Overall, the linguistic elements in the quote represent how language is utilized within the r/traaaannnnss virtual community to build and reinforce identity, community boundaries, and power dynamics.

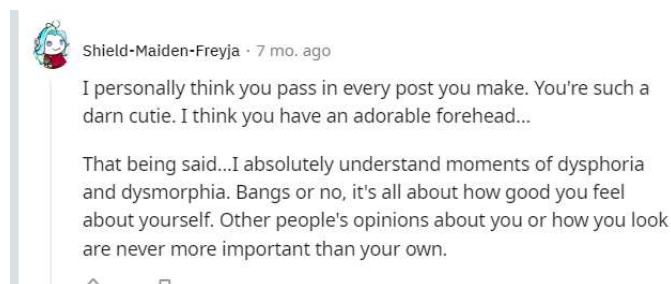


Figure 16: Chat log from r/traaaannnnss

The user *Shield-Maiden-Freyja* also used quite a few expressions that are relevant to the analysis of the language norm that is prevalent in r/traaaannnnss subreddit (**Figure 16**). In this example the user employs several linguistic features that are characteristic of this subreddit. The first term

the person uses is *pass* which refers to a transgender individual's ability to be regarded as their real gender by others. Within the transgender community, this term is commonly used to describe the difficulties and expectations associated with gender presentation and passing as one's true gender. The comment *you're such a darn cutie* is a type of positive affirmation that transgender people use to support and uplift one another. Compliments like this can be a great way of creating confidence and self-esteem for transgender people, who frequently experience major hurdles in gaining a sense of self-affirmation and acceptance.

The phrase *moments of dysphoria and dysmorphia* refers to transgender people's feelings of discomfort or suffering as a result of a mismatch between their gender identification and their physical appearance.

Overall, the linguistic aspects in the chat log illustrate how language is utilized in this subreddit to show support, affirmation, and understanding. Positive words and affirming statements help to dispel negative preconceptions and foster self-acceptance and self-love among transgender people and help them to build a sense of belonging to the community of practice.

3.6. Analysis of r/nonbinary Reddit forum

The last forum that was selected for the analysis was r/nonbinary. This forum is dedicated to discussions of nonbinary identity and topic related to it.

3.6.1 The analysis of linguistic repertoire found in r/nonbinary

In the forum, like in all the previous forums, a total of 50 chat logs were selected for the analysis. Within these conversation threads, a total of 72 unique linguistic elements were identified, as presented in **Table 6**. It is worth noting that unlike the previous forums, there were no flag flairs indicating the sexuality or gender expression of the users in this community. However, some users in the forum utilized gender pronouns below their username as a means of self-identification. These gender pronouns provide insights into how individuals prefer to be addressed in terms of their gender identity. This practice indicates a level of inclusivity and respect for diverse gender expressions within the forum. Similarly, akin to the r/traaaannns subreddit, some users in this forum indicated the start date of their transition in their *flair*. This information reveals that these individuals are going through or have undergone a gender transition process. By including their transition start date in their *flair*, they share a significant aspect of their personal journey with other

forum members. This practice can foster a supportive and understanding environment within the community, where individuals may seek guidance, share experiences, or offer support to the community members.

Table 6: The analysis of linguistic repertoire found in r/nonbinary

Words to describe the outsiders of the community	Words that are related to sexuality or gender expression	Irregular spelling	Euphemisms	Words and expressions to describe gender and sexual oppression	Words and phrases that describe solidarity with the community of practice	Miscellaneous
TERF cishet truscms	transmasc non-binary androgyny nonbinary agender enbies nons nonbinary queer LGBT+ queer assigned at birth duralumninmind amab ajacent nb androgyny masx-leaning amab afab qeer-centric non binary gender non confirming/neutral NB enby they/them they/he she/her amab she/they/he misgender it/they/he/xe demigirl paragirl girlflux demiagender Bipoc boi enbies theybie enby xe/xer kitty/kittyself it/itself xenogernders nounself dino/dinoself dreamgender Nonbinary pansexual	v v flat shook grrrl lewks	aerodynamic	transphobic dysmorphia	gender euphoria gender envy transition goal gender- gifted gender- talented gender- deficient	in da closet Gonzo internal canon neopronons mirrorpronouns HRT xenopronouns

Within the collected linguistic elements, a significant majority, comprising 47 examples, were words related to sexuality and gender expression, as presented in **Figure 17**. This indicates that the conversations within the dataset extensively covered a wide range of topics and discussions related to sexuality and gender identity. The abundance of examples within this category suggests a rich exploration and nuanced understanding of these themes within the chat threads. The second most diverse category consisted of words used to express solidarity with the community of practice, with a total of 6 linguistic elements. This category highlights the participants' inclination to demonstrate support, empathy, and unity within the community. The presence of these linguistic elements indicates a sense of togetherness and shared experiences among the participants. Conversely, the category of euphemisms had the fewest linguistic elements, with only 1 example identified.

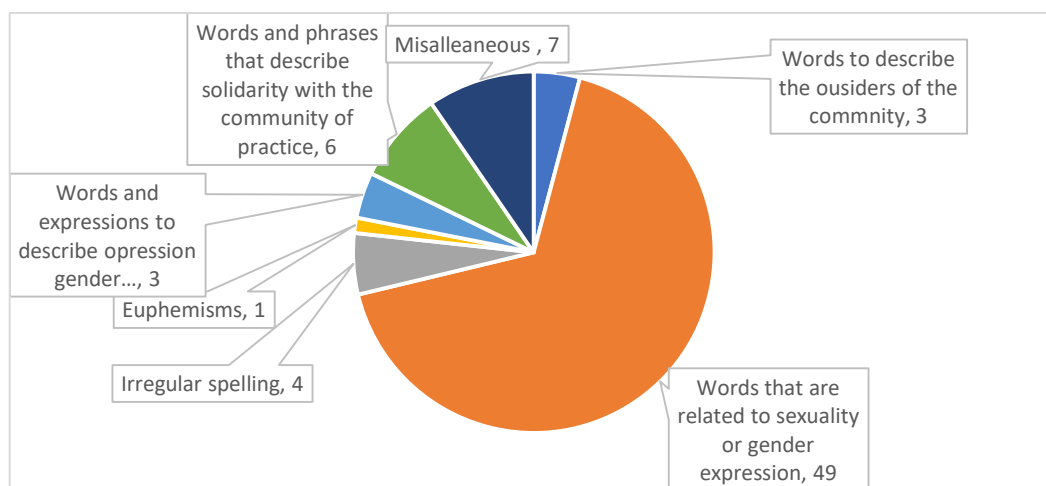


Figure 17: Variety of linguistic elements in r/nonbinary

3.6.2 The linguistic analysis of chat logs/threads found in r/nonbinary

For the qualitative analysis, an example that contained linguistic features that were prominent in this forum was selected for further linguistic analysis.

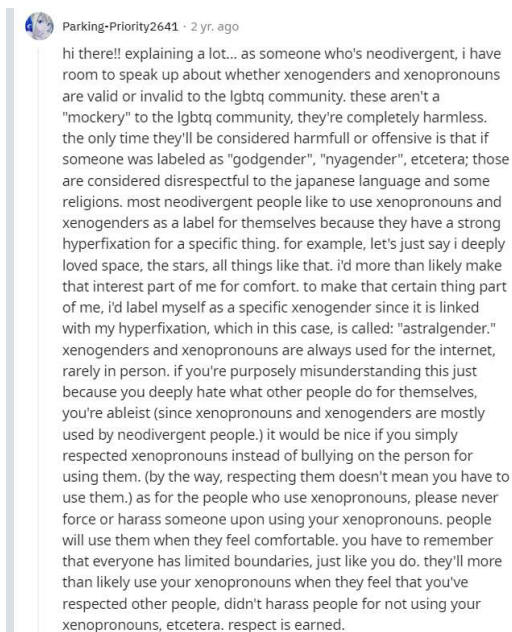


Figure 18: Chat log from r/nonbinary

An exemplary chat entry by the user *Parking-Prioty2641* was chosen for further analysis of the forum-specific jargon (**Figure 18**). The chat thread contains a multitude of expressions that were gender identity related: *xenogenders*, *xenopronouns*, *godgender*, *astralgender*. *Xenogender* is a gender identity that is beyond human understanding of gender, it is considered a non-binary gender identity term (Xenogender, 2023). The prefix "xeno" implies "foreign" or "abnormal," so an assumption can be made that this gender identification is distinct and outside of cultural norms. This term is used to broaden the LGBTQ+ community's knowledge and acceptance of gender variation. A *xenopronoun* is a non-traditional pronoun used to express a non-binary or non-human gender identification. This word is used to acknowledge and respect the LGBTQ+ community's different gender identities and manifestations (Xenopronouns, n.d.). *Astralgender* is a form of xenogender or gender identity that does not fit into the usual male/female dichotomy. It is a gender identity that is connected to or inspired by the universe or space. *Astralgender* people may have a strong connection to celestial bodies like stars, planets, galaxies, and the universe (Astralgender, 2022). *Godgender* is yet another type of *xenogender* that implies a religious link to divinity (Godgender, n.d.). As we can see this member of the forum views these new gender identities with scepticism.

Overall, the linguistic elements used in the quote reflect a growing linguistic diversity in the non-binary forums. The user mentions, that these terms are exaggerated, however, they do spring up in the discourse of the forums.

3.7. The comparative analysis of the LGBTQ+ related virtual communities of practice.

This chapter is dedicated to the discussion of similarities and differences found in the 6 chosen LGBTQ+-related *Reddit* forums. In this chapter, the category containing the highest variety of features of each forum is discussed, and the differences between the quantity of the examples that were classified into seven categories are presented.

To begin with, it can be observed that all six subreddits share some characteristics, for instance, it was noticed that in every forum users expressed themselves using CMC-related language. Examples included: IDK, OMG, and TBH among others. In two of the forums that were analysed (r/lgbt and r/bisexual), members expressed their identity with the help of visual flag *flairs*. This tool was used as an aid for users to express their identity and solidarity.

The most numerous categories of the forums' linguistic repertoires are explored both in each forum and in all of them together (**Figure 19**). The most diverse category in all six forums was of words that were related to sexuality and gender expression (140 cases of linguistic elements out of 370). Another prominent category was of words that were used to describe solidarity with the community of practice (46 cases). Even though some categories were not as diverse while looking at all the forums combined, interesting tendencies were noticed and described further in separate forums.

Despite the fact that the category of euphemisms was not as diverse in all the forums combined, this category was significantly more divergent in r/actuallesbians forum: 12 examples out of 26 were detected and extracted from this community. This observation could potentially reflect broader societal attitudes towards lesbian relationships. In many societies, lesbian relationships have historically been marginalized, misunderstood, or even invalidated. Heteronormative norms prevalent in society often prioritize and reinforce the idea of heterosexual relationships as the norm. As a result, lesbian relationships may be viewed as less serious, temporary, or not as legitimate by some segments of society. The forum users reflect this by using euphemistic expressions to describe their relationships (sometimes it is expressed ironically).

r/gay subreddit had the most diverse linguistic repertoire that was used to express solidarity with the members of the community (16 out of 48). This data could imply that members of the r/gay

community build bonds through compliments and flattering. The linguistic expressions of solidarity can serve as a means to strengthen the community bond, creating a supportive and inclusive environment.

r/traaaaaaannnnnnnnns had the most diverse set of words to describe the outsiders of the community (12 out of 31). This can also be seen as a reflection of the current societal position of transgender people. In many Western societies, significant progress has been made in normalizing and accepting gay, lesbian, and bisexual identities. These identities have gained more visibility, understanding, and legal recognition over time. However, transgender identity continues to face more challenges and is often subject to higher levels of discrimination, prejudice, and societal division. Transgender individuals often face unique struggles, including marginalization, lack of understanding, and even hostility in certain contexts. As a result, the language used within this subreddit may reflect the experiences and perspectives of transgender individuals who encounter diverse and, at times, offensive language when interacting with society.

r/nonbinary had the most varied vocabulary to describe sexuality and gender identity (49 out of 140). The varied vocabulary used within the r/nonbinary subreddit to describe sexuality and gender identity reflects the nuanced and multifaceted nature of nonbinary experiences. Nonbinary individuals may identify with a diverse range of terms, labels, and expressions to articulate their unique gender identities and sexual orientations. The number of these terms is ever-growing as new non-binary identities are emerging.

r/lgbt and r/bisexual forum users used visual cues to signal their identity. As these forums are more general compared to the others, the users employed visual cues to help other members understand their background and identity.

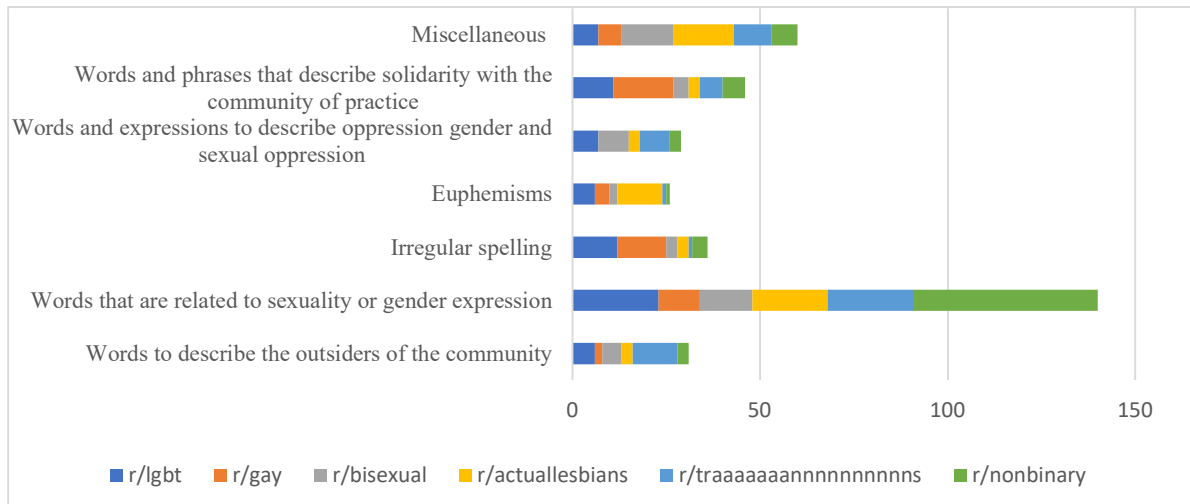


Figure 19: Category distribution across LGBTQ+ forums

Overall, these results imply that the categories of linguistic repertoires vary greatly in the number of diverse forms they contain. The r/nonbinary community had the most language components linked to sexuality and gender expression, whereas the r/gay community had the most elements showing solidarity with their own community. The r/actuallesbians community was characterized by the usage of euphemisms, while r/traaaaaaannnnnnnnns had a comparatively high number of linguistic elements used to define outsiders of the community. The unique feature that was expressed in both the r/lgbt and r/bisexual subreddit was visual flag flairs next to the usernames of the members of the community. It can be inferred that the aforementioned features constitute the linguistic norm ‘from below’ as these communities create their own unique language to build a sense of community.

CONCLUSIONS

The aim of the study was to find out how and through which means normativity "from below" is being constructed in virtual LGBTQ+-related *Reddit* chat forums. The following conclusions have been drawn in accordance with the objectives presented in the introduction of the present paper:

1. After reviewing the scientific literature on virtual communities of practice and linguistic normativity, it was found out that virtual communities of practice form on the internet through the help of computer-mediated communication; the basis of these communities are shared interests and shared identity. One of the ways that LGBTQ+ people engage in communities of practice is through joining and participating in *Reddit* virtual communities. Through constant engagement, members of communities of practice begin to set and reciprocate their linguistic norms that help the members build a stronger sense of community, group identity, and belonging.
2. 370 Linguistic elements from 6 LGBTQ+ related *Reddit* forums were collected and divided into 7 categories that were established after reviewing the collected data:
 1. words to describe the outsiders of the community;
 2. words that are related to sexuality or gender expression;
 3. irregular spelling;
 4. euphemisms;
 5. words and expressions to describe gender and sexual oppression;
 6. words and phrases that describe solidarity with the community of practice;
 7. miscellaneous.

Based on the analysis, it was observed that in all LGBTQ+-related forums, the category of *words that are related to sexuality or gender expression* exhibited the most diverse linguistic repertoire, with 140 examples. This reflects the central focus and importance of gender and sexuality discussions within LGBTQ+-related virtual communities. The second most diverse category was *miscellaneous*, comprising 60 examples. This indicates that a significant portion of miscellaneous examples contained pop-culture references and language features related to general CMC communication, which is common in all online communities, including LGBTQ+-related forums. The category of *words used to express solidarity* with the community of practice ranked third in linguistic diversity, with 46 examples. This suggests that community members actively

employ language to express support, unity, and a shared sense of identity. Conversely, the category of *euphemisms* exhibited the least linguistic diversity, with only 26 examples. It is worth noting that even though some categories were not as diverse while looking at all the forums combined, they were significant in some individual subreddits. For instance, even though the category of *euphemisms* was not as diverse in all the forums combined, this category was significantly more divergent in r/actuallesbians forum 12 examples out of 26 were detected in this community. r/traaaaaaannnnnnnnns had the most diverse set of *words to describe the outsiders of the community* (12 out of 31), and r/nonbinary had the most varied vocabulary to *describe sexuality and gender identity* (49 out of 140). r/lgbt and r/bisexual forum users used visual cues to express their identities.

3. By analysing the linguistic diversity of the forums, it can be stated that in the most popular Reddit communities that are LGBTQ+ related, non-standard linguistic norms are set by using terms that fall into two types: terms that are CMC specific and terms that are related to sexuality and identity. Sexuality-related terms serve as a means of self-identification and expression, allowing individuals to communicate and connect with others who share similar experiences or perspectives. By utilizing this specialized vocabulary, these communities create a space where individuals can discuss and explore their own identities in a supportive and understanding environment. CMC expressions are also a part of the linguistic norm ‘from below’ in these virtual communities of practice. Irregular spelling, compounding, abbreviations, and acronyms are commonly used and accepted forms of communication. These linguistic features are a natural result of the online context, where brevity, efficiency, and familiarity are prioritized. Overall, the linguistic diversity observed in these communities draws special attention to the importance of language in shaping and defining LGBTQ+ identities and experiences. The use of specialized terminology, combined with CMC expressions, contributes to the formation of a distinct linguistic norm within each community of practice and within the broader LGBTQ+-related context.

The research conducted in these LGBTQ+-related Reddit communities was approached from a linguistic and anthropological perspective. Combining linguistic and anthropological perspectives allowed for a holistic analysis of the data collected from these Reddit forums. It

provided a nuanced understanding of how language is used as a means of self-expression, solidarity, and negotiation of identity within the LGBTQ+ community. It also sheds light on how societal norms and attitudes influence the linguistic practices and experiences of community members. While this research focused on Reddit forums, further research could explore LGBTQ+ virtual communities on other platforms such as Twitter, Tumblr, or Instagram and offer valuable insights into the similarities and differences in linguistic normativity across different online spaces.

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SUMMARY

The aim of the research was to investigate how normativity "from below" is constructed in virtual LGBTQ+-related Reddit chat forums. The study had three objectives: to review the scientific literature on virtual communities of practice and linguistic normativity, to categorize and quantitatively explore group-specific language within and between six analysed forums, and to define the linguistic norm of LGBTQ+ virtual communities by analysing the linguistic diversity of the forums.

The research was carried out on LGBTQ+-related virtual communities of practice on the social media platform *Reddit*. The linguistic normativity "from below" was explored in all 6 the most popular LGBTQ+ related forums combined and in 6 individual communities: r/lgbt, r/gay, r/actuallesbians, r/bisexual, r/traaaaaaannnnnnnnns, and r/nonbinary. Unique linguistic expressions in chat threads/logs were found in the forums. A total of 370 linguistic units were extracted and classified into 7 different categories that were established after the data collection (words to describe the outsiders of the community, words that are related to sexuality or gender expression, irregular spelling, euphemisms, words and expressions to describe gender and sexual oppression, words and phrases that describe solidarity with the community of practice, and miscellaneous).

The collected data revealed significant findings about linguistic diversity and normativity within the analysed forums. The category of words related to sexuality and gender expression was the most linguistically divergent, as the topic of identity was the focus of the discussions held in the forums. Other categories, such as words describing outsiders of the community, the ones expressing solidarity with the community, chat threads/logs containing irregular spelling, euphemisms, and words related to gender and sexual oppression, provided insights into the linguistic practices and experiences of community members. Even though the following categories were not as diverse among all the LGBTQ+ related communities, they stood out in individual subreddits. It was revealed that each community develops its own linguistic norms and preferences. The use of common computer-mediated communication expressions, such as irregular spelling, compounding, abbreviations, and acronyms, was also part of the linguistic norm "from below" in virtual communities. These linguistic features reflected the online context and the need for efficient communication within the forums.

SANTRAUKA

Darbo tikslas buvo ištirti koku būdu formuojasi lingvistinė norma „iš apačios“ virtualiose LGBTQ+ bendruomenėse. Tyrimo tikslui pasiekti buvo iškelti trys uždaviniai: apžvelgti mokslinę literatūrą apie virtualias bendruomenes ir kalbos normatyvumą, šešiose bendruomenėse rastus išskirtinės kalbos pavyzdžius suskirstyti į kategorijas, juos palyginti tarpusavyje, o tada, išanalizavus kalbinę įvairovę forumuose, apibrėžti lingvistinę normą „iš apačios“, kuri vyrauja LGBTQ+ internetinėse bendruomenėse.

Lingvistinei normai „iš apačios“ ištirti, buvo pasirinktos 6 populiariausios socialinio tinklo *Reddit* bendruomenės, kurių nariai diskutuoja LGBTQ+ identiteto temomis: r/lgbt, r/gay, r/actuallesbians, r/bisexual, r/traaaaaaannnnnnnnns ir r/nonbinary. Iš forumų narių susirašinėjimų buvo išrinkti jiems būdingi kalbos bruožai. Iš viso buvo surinkta 370 pavyzdžių, vėliau jie buvo suskirstyti į septynias kategorijas, kurios buvo išskirtos tyrimo eigoje: žodžiai ir išsireiškimai, susiję su seksualine orientacija bei lytine tapatybe, žodžiai, naudojami apibūdinti asmenis, nepriklausančius LGBTQ+ bendruomenei, eufemizmai, netaisyklingos rašybos pavyzdžiai, frazės apibūdinančios diskriminaciją dėl seksualinės orientacijos ir lytinės tapatybės, išsireiškimai rodantys paramą LGBTQ+ bendruomenės nariams ir įvairūs.

Duomenų analizė atskleidė kalbos įvairovės ir lingvistinės normos „iš apačios“ ypatybes tyrinėtose bendruomenėse. Kategoriją, kuri ypatingai išsiskyrė kalbos įvairovėje, sudaro žodžiai ir išsireiškimai, susiję su seksualine orientacija bei lytine tapatybe. Ši kategorija yra itin išreikšta, nes LGBTQ+ identitetas yra visų analizuotų bendruomenių pagrindinė diskusijų tema. Nors kitos kategorijos, tokios kaip eufemizmai, netaisyklingos rašybos žodžiai, frazės išreiškiančios paramą LGBTQ+ bendruomenei, frazės apibūdinančios diskriminaciją dėl seksualinės orientacijos ir lytinės tapatybės, nėra tokios įvairios kalbiniu požiūriu visuose LGBTQ+ forumuose bendrai, jų įvairovė išryškėja atskiruose subredituose (angl. *subreddits*). Matyti, kad kiekviena bendruomenė konstruoja savo atskiras kalbines normas. Iš netaisyklingos rašybos bei kitų įvairių pavyzdžių galima spręsti, jog lingvistinė norma taip pat yra kuriama vartojant formas būdingas kompiuteriniam bendravimui (angl. *computer-mediated communication*) apskritai. Tarp šių pavyzdžių aptikta daug netaisyklingos rašybos, santrumpų, akronimų. Jie sudaro didelę visų LGBTQ+ virtualių bendruomenių lingvistinės normos „iš apačios“ dalį.

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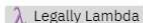
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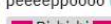
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APPENDIX

r/lgbt

 MountainBean3479 · 21 hr. ago

A friend of mine was her campaign manager ! Woman's a true ally in every sense of the word.
 2.3k   Reply  Share ...

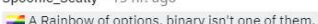
 peeeppoooo · 18 hr. ago

Is this what they mean when they say "werk"
 208   Reply  Share ...

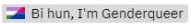
 seasuighim · +1 · 17 hr. ago

"Standing" in this case is more of a parliamentary term.

For example, In seeking recognition by the senate president to debate "[T]he[y] shall rise and address the Presiding Officer, and shall not proceed until [t]he[y] [are] recognized." To be recognized they cannot be sitting at their desk.

Take Senator Duckworth, They would just do what they would normally do to ask for recognition and then just not stop talking. I have tried to look for Duckworth in debate quickly but cannot find clips. But can confirm Duckworth does not have to physically stand to seek recognition on the senate floor.
 37   Reply  Share ...

 Spoonie_Scully · 15 hr. ago

Ah thank you v much for explaining! In that case, yes I agree haha
 3   Reply  Share ...

 dat_fishe_boi · +1 · 17 hr. ago

Idk, my problem was that Democrats neither enacted filibuster reform nor actually made use of the filibuster themselves to protect minorities - if more Democrats start acting like this utter hero, then I honestly wouldn't be against keeping it in roughly the same state.

 GenderEnjoyer666 · 16 hr. ago

And if your kids are closeted queers you've just shoved them deeper into the closet

 silvercandra  +3 · 16 hr. ago

 He/They and pretty Gay

I would also like to add, that with some of the bs they're doing they're making the lives of cis/het kids that were abused a lot worse as well.

I'm not american, but I know that where I'm from, CPS is so understaffed, and busy, that cases constantly fall through the cracks (I was one of them), so imagine CPS getting a bunch of calls about some afab kid looking more on the masc side than usual, or some amab kid wearing a skirt, while little Billy doesn't reach them, despite having very obvious marks on him, from when mommy or daddy got pissed and took it out on him.

It happens, and the fact that affirming trans kids is now considered child abuse, won't make the lives of kids that are victims of violence any better, i can tell you that.

They aren't protecting anyone.
Not cis/het kids, and certainly not queer kids.
All they're doing is pin the blame of their own failures on someone else, so they don't have to confront the fact that the US seems to be rotten to the core and there needs to be a lot of change.

 3   Reply  Share ...

 margaerytas · 4 mo. ago

 Bi, shy and ready to cry

As a cis bi woman this is super relatable, because for the longest time, I thought my attraction to women was me being jealous of their looks / wanting to look like them. So funny how "wanting to be (with)" is something I hear from every type of person in the wlw umbrella

 13   Reply  Share ...

 Deus0123  +2 · 10 hr. ago

 Lesbian Trans-It Together

I'm going to write my bachelor's thesis on protecting kids, but unlike those narrow minded simpletons, I will actually be doing research to figure out how to make a classroom or school the most welcoming for the biggest part of thw student body as possible.

Either that or on the importance of gender affirming language in schools.

Actually... I'll need to write both a bachelor's and a master's thesis now that I think about it...

 1   Reply  Share ...

 Relyish · 11 hr. ago

yeah no really dislike this comparison (no i'm not religious and no i don't have internalized homophobia) people aren't worth worshipping for what gender they happen to be attracted to ffs. sexuality doesn't define your personality and queer people have very diverse experiences.

Relyish · 4 hr. ago

really shocked this post got so many upvotes "we are the gods you seek" how vain can you get omg

8 Reply Share ...

Hamokk +3 · 2 hr. ago

Pan-cakes for Dinner!

I get you sister. I've had a encounters irl and online when I am starting to vibe with a gay guy. Then at some point ask me like "How gay are you?". When I've answered Pan (or Bi) they go "You are not gay!".

Queers suffer from human flaws too but the gatekeeping inside LGBTQ can be sometimes as damaging as the bigots who hunt us.

I send hugs and kisses! ❤️

Vote Reply Share ...

Evolving_Spirit123 +1 · 3 hr. ago

Plus saying gender is a costume is extremely transphobic

Vote Reply Share ...

SwagFeather · 5 hr. ago

Pushing an Agender

I'm sorry but I really hate the term folx. It's a pointless term because "folk" is already gender neutral. I mean, feel free to use it if it tickles your fancy, but it doesn't even *sound* any different from the supposedly "gendered" term. That'd be like if we started saying "Dood" to be more gender neutral.

36 Reply Share ...

ConfusedAsHecc · 8 hr. ago

Computers are binary, I'm not.

people somehow thought folx was more inclusive than folks lol, its now a thing Idk why

27 Reply Share ...

M4j3stic_C4pyb4r4 +2 · 3 hr. ago

she/they

It's stupid. Someone took a gender neutral word, "folks," and put an X into it to make it more inclusive. I'm all for more inclusive language, but our efforts are better spent in other places.

Vote Reply Share ...

Violet_Faerie · 13 hr. ago

I'm glad this is empowering for folks but for me personally it's triggering religious trauma. 🙄

63 ↑ ↓ Reply Share ...

Sugarfreak2 · 4 hr. ago

AroAce-spectacular Enby!

If nothing else, please don't call gender a costume. There are transgender people, such as myself, genuinely struggling because of gender dysphoria and rampant transphobia. Calling gender a costume implies we could just "change out" of it if we so chose. I think it could have been left at "queerness is my religion" without going into strange detail about how this hypothetical queer religion operates. (Also; folx? "Folks" is already gender neutral and autocorrect doesn't try to screw me over when I type it)

Love the line about chosen family, though.

15 ↑ ↓ Reply Share ...

BucketFullOfRats · 5 hr. ago

Non Binary Pan-cakes

Hwat? 🐼



via GIPHY

11 ↑ ↓ Reply Share ...

Icbzoey · 7 hr. ago

Can we not play into [christofashie](#) propaganda pls? We aren't about replacing the uwu skydaddy book. We are just trying to exist.

19 ↑ ↓ Reply Share ...

 bigbutchbudgie · 8 hr. ago
 Non Binary Pan-cakes
Which Hozier song is this?
▲ 7 ▼ Reply Share ...

 zombieman · 5 hr. ago
 sneaky lil trans ankle biter gender
Take me to snurch
▲ 11 ▼ Reply Share ...

 cattoo444 · 2 hr. ago
 AroAce in space
"we are the gods you seek" is giving me the ick.. big time..
▲ Vote ▼ Reply Share ...

 TheBlackLanternn · 4 hr. ago
 Folx 🐼
▲ 3 ▼ Reply Share ...

 propped-up_problem 🍷 +2 · 4 mo. ago
 Trans/Sapphic (she/her)
What... what is he trying to... *what????*
▲ 2.3k ▼ Reply Share ...

 BWWFC · 4 mo. ago
believe he is saying that young children must be exposed to hyper sexualized food service or their natural liberalness will manifest? must be in the bible somewhere.
▲ 1.2k ▼ Reply Share ...

 MoonChainer · 4 mo. ago
 Lesbian Trans-it Together
Sadly it likely means "If more young boys were exposed to the *"truth"* that women are sex objects then they wouldn't be tricked by "Demonrats and feminazis" into being liberals.
This is how these people think and it's scary.
▲ ... ▼



bacon_girl42 · 4 mo. ago

Bi-kes on Trans-it

we want hooters but with femboys



729



Reply

Share



_dysthymia · 4 mo. ago

Putting the Bi in non-BInary

We need "asexual hooters" where all of the staff is dressed in a garlic bread costume but otherwise it's a normal restaurant



24



Reply

Share



CorneliusJack · 4 mo. ago

Femboi in catgirl costume



9



Reply

Share



6 more replies



CM_Bison · 4 mo. ago

Can't wait to hear, "bUt hE DiDn'T mEaN tHaT!"



8



Reply

Share



TheGhostCarp · 4 mo. ago

Putting the Bi in non-BInary

Common Contra W



8



Reply

Share



RandomWeirdo · 4 mo. ago

Isn't this an extreme self own on so many levels it's embarrassing?

Take the headline readability for now and just remember that it



STODY · 4 mo. ago

Bi-bi-bi

Are the straights™ okay?



3



Reply

Share



Delfaszmb · 9 mo. ago

Demisexual

I know I'll get flamed... but I have to.

What a cute couple of besties!



980



Share





MrMastodon · 9 mo. ago

Bi-bi-bi

I now pronounce you Gal and Pal.

186 Share ...



Man_Who_Says_Qwerty · 9 mo. ago

Oooooooh, they were roommates.....

5 Share ...



queerqueen098 · 9 mo. ago

queer gal, she/her

"I now pronounce you married" I think. but I've never been to lesbian wedding either. I read a couple of fanfics with sapphic weddings haha

13 Share ...



Delfazmib · 9 mo. ago

Demisexual

OMG THEY WERE ROOMMATES!

207 Share ...



FRESH_TWAAAATS · 9 mo. ago

or maybe business partners!

▲ ▼



axe1970 · 9 mo. ago

Bi-bi-bi

Mawage, that bwessed awangment, that dweam wifin a dweam.

congratulations 🥳

174 Share ...



ChloroformSmoothie · 9 mo. ago

wuv, twue wuv....

24 Share ...



Menarra · 9 mo. ago

traaaaaaaaans

Shaw fowwow youw...fowevawh...

18 Share ...



[deleted] · 9 mo. ago

The masculine urge to be extremely jealous

18 ↑ ↓ Share ...

2 more replies



DontDoomScroll 🍷 · 8 mo. ago

Was in an MTF x FTM relationship and we bumped into hate preachers.

Apparently our relationship was straight in the wrong way lmao.

1.5k ↑ ↓ Share ...



AlmightyKitty · 8 mo. ago

am 🏳️ (demi)girl ayyyyy

"Yeah but backwards straight wrong god angry big nono"

/s

111 ↑ ↓ Share ...



Particular-Constant · 8 mo. ago

My wife and I started out as a straight cis couple, then she transitioned (mtf) and we were in a lesbian relationship, and now I'm in the process of transitioning (ftm/nb) so we can be straight again:) we literally just switched genders lmao

75 ↑ ↓ Share ...



NesuneNyx · 8 mo. ago

Cassie, enby fae disaster (She/Fae)

Absolutely based, the most galaxybrain straight marriage ever conceived.

9 ↑ ↓ Share ...



drinks_rootbeer · 8 mo. ago

🏳️ Progress marches forward

Easy, just "identify" as a white Christian male. Checkmate
~~atheists~~ ~~liberals~~ conservatives

25 ↑ ↓ Share ...



No_Nothing6455 · 9 mo. ago

Very based.

↑ 4 ↓ Reply Share ...



LixionWasTaken · 9 mo. ago

Chad

↑ 1 ↓ Reply Share ...



Avery_Lillius · 11 mo. ago

Sorry you had to through that trauma fam <3

↑ 487 ↓ Share ...



r/lgbt · Posted by u/Call-Me-Freyja · Lesbian Trans-it Together · 7 months ago

21.5k

2



The bestest of friends, gal pals of the highest order.
No one's ever loved me like that 🌈

Meme



Gay_Lord2020 · 7 mo. ago

More Like Emily TongueInDaughter

↑ 1.0k ↓ Share ...



WitchDoctor_Earth · 7 mo. ago

This is actually the first post of these kinds that sounds gay to me. Rest is very much friendmaterial.



StrongLikeKorra · 7 mo. ago

Because "it can't be gay if it's between women" \ (.'.'.) /

↑ 2 ↓ Share ...



Different_Custard_80 · 7 mo. ago

Trans-parently Awesome

Oh mah gawh they were roommates

↑ 84 ↓ Share ...



TheDeltaLambda · 7 mo. ago



Alexander Hamilton: Underrated bicon



7

Share ...



DapperSpecification · 7 mo. ago

This letter implies that Emily Dickinson was a top.



5

Share ...



Plusran · 7 mo. ago

And historians whitewashed that shit.

(Is ciswashed a word?)



12

Share ...

r/gay



Mormonfreemon · 3 yr. ago

I need to steal this lewk 🍷🍷🍷



8



Reply Share ...



lilpossum · 3 yr. ago

Bitch you DID that. I love that color on you. What a beautiful tribute. Strong momma!



6



Reply Share ...



NemoDnD · 3 yr. ago

You should do something or at least a photoshoot with this in October, it would be BOMB for Breast Cancer awareness ♥ Keep on slaying queen



14



Reply Share ...



brendaddy · 3 yr. ago

Wheremst did you get this iconic look



5



Reply Share ...



darkace_1245 · 2 yr. ago

Omg I'm dying

↑ 7 ↓ Reply Share ...



[deleted] · 2 yr. ago

omg werkkkkk

↑ 6 ↓ Reply Share ...



sofritas-chucucho · 2 yr. ago

Giving thigh, leg, and breast down!

↑ 9 ↓ Reply Share ...



asdfasdfsdfghjkjx · 2 yr. ago

High key CUNT-y

↑ 5 ↓ Reply Share ...



FrozeninTime26 · 4 yr. ago

Come throughhh avatar!

↑ 17 ↓ Reply Share ...



xillini99 · 5 yr. ago

Yassssss, ma'am!

↑ 1 ↓ Reply Share ...



paintedbyshame · 5 yr. ago

We stan a queen 🍷

↑ 14 ↓ Reply Share ...



boyman2254 · 4 yr. ago

Yass queen giving me neon realness

↑ 11 ↓ Reply Share ...



phatbish OP · 2 yr. ago

Boots the house down mama yes gawd *tongue pop* ❤️🔥

↑ 11 ↓ Reply Share ...



AlwaysSunnyDragRace · 2 yr. ago

When I saw Trinity coming to the stage, after recovering from gagging I was like "how to you pack that on your suitcases without damaging it?"

↑ 15 ↓ Reply Share ...



temporallysara · 2 yr. ago

So skinty!

↑ 3 ↓ Reply Share ...



staunch_character · 2 yr. ago

That wig line is unlockable too. I watched this on AppleTV on my big screen & paused it to really look. Stunning!!

↑ 3 ↓ Reply Share ...



MaximSouls · 10 mo. ago

The ending to Brokeback Mountain we needed but never got.

↑ 161 ↓ Share ...



Dependent-Plant-1125 · 10 mo. ago

Sir this is a Wendy's

↑ 78 ↓ Share ...



ForStuffAndGiggles · 10 mo. ago

Me to, but that doesn't mean I don't wanna try it >w>

↑ 11 ↓ Share ...



everything-narrative · 10 mo. ago

What if we kissed on the mechanical bull. JK. Unless..? 🤔👉👈

↑ 9 ↓ Share ...



Sparrow_Of_Wessex · 9 mo. ago

Gotta try a little glizzy slurpin before u knock it

↑ 15 ↓ Share ...



CoBy_CoBy_ · 9 mo. ago

Nah im good with my bromances

↑ 3 ↓ Share ...



Hopeemmanuel · 9 mo. ago

Gay

Hahahahaha OK, let me relax my 🍷

↑ 1 ↓ Share ...



hitchtrailblazer · 10 mo. ago

Gay

catching fish doesn't make you straight, posting a pic of yourself holding it by the tail does, however /j

↑ 10 ↓ Share ...



ufo0l · 5 mo. ago

Only hot cause of all these studs down there

↑ 2 ↓ Reply Share ...



TheAzurOne · 5 mo. ago

Y'all look amazing slay

↑ 7 ↓ Reply Share ...



RepeatReal6568 · 5 mo. ago

Congrazzles I'm currently toasting to your happiness and health

↑ 3 ↓ Reply Share ...



Impossible-Demand741 · 5 mo. ago

I'm reporting this cute shit for giving me the fuzzies. Get ready to get banned!

↑ 4 ↓ Reply Share ...



hihi2713_la · 10 mo. ago

POV heart stopper: 🍷

↑ 262 ↓ Share ...



bolverkrr · 6 mo. ago

BRO DUDE CONGRATS MATE!! WISH ALL THE BEST >:)

↑ 11 ↓ Reply Share ...



MahmudAbdulla · 6 mo. ago

🇳🇵🇲🇪 Congratulations 🇲🇪 Best wishes for a fulfilling and love-filled future together! 🇳🇵🇲🇪

↑ 6 ↓ Reply Share ...



Administrative_War69 · 6 mo. ago

Omg I'm envious, jk congrats!!! 🇳🇵🇲🇪🇲🇪🇲🇪🇲🇪🇲🇪

↑ 6 ↓ Reply Share ...



Calllmebugg · 6 mo. ago

YASS GET IT CONGRATULATIONS

↑ 4 ↓ Reply Share ...



Donutpanda23 · 1 yr. ago

I have this in my school. I've got friends who know nearly every openly gay person on campus (especially considering 2 of my friends are the other 2 GSA leaders) and it's insane how much connection they have to other campuses through that.

↑ 12 ↓ Share ...



watermelonmermaids · 1 yr. ago

Gay

I wasn't alive during the times but I wish I had been around during the 60s-80s when guys being flamboyant was accepted if not the norm

↑ 21 ↓ Share ...



Expensive_Monitor903 · 1 yr. ago

Those outfits are such a vibe - deffo summer inspo

↑ 9 ↓ Share ...



ParaUniverseExplorer **OP** · 6 mo. ago

I was an underwear-isle-awakening-gay. That smile too, woof.

↑ 9 ↓ Share ...



Helios-Soul · 6 mo. ago

The Sears catalogue was the awakening for me.

↑ 3 ↓ Share ...



eatonDix · 11 mo. ago

WHY CANT STRAIGHT BOYS JUST LEND THE HOMIES A HAND
DICK

FTFY

↑ 59 ↓ Share ...



Ok-Appearance9299 · 10 mo. ago

It's not gay. It's homie-sexual

↑ 1 ↓ Share ...



Lil_Bro_Josh · 11 mo. ago

Literally Heart Stopper

↑ 77 ↓ Share ...



Lil_Bro_Josh · 11 mo. ago

Yeah. But this is before he knew he was gay when the golden retriever was "straight"

↑ 28 ↓ Share ...



TheStockyScholar · 11 mo. ago

Most gay guys are bottom don't @ me that's why the demand spills
into straightdom don't even

↑ 0 ↓ Share ...



Ezythorn_Fox · 3 mo. ago

And in this picture we see two roommates.

↑ 98 ↓ Reply Share ...



Heretostay59 · 3 mo. ago

They were roommates



[r/MenLovingMenMedia](#)

↑ 7 ↓ Reply Share ...



AnonMagick · 3 mo. ago

Someone edit the text to "2 vers twink looking for top" lol.

↑ 42 ↓ Reply Share ...



subtlebulk · 3 mo. ago

One of my favorite memories was going to a "Femme Bear & Twink Top" pageant at a gay bar, but there were no entries for Twink Top so they gave that prize to the second place Femme Bear.. lol

↑ 2 ↓ Reply Share ...



krissimp0005 · 11 mo. ago

Hahah that's funny *owns a switch* wait a minute- *turns out to be bisexual* WAIT A F***ING MINUTE

↑ 38 ↓ Share ...



cheekibreeki_kid · 11 mo. ago

Bi

a switch owns a switch

↑ 8 ↓ Share ...



[deleted] · 10 mo. ago

Is that a cum dumpster?

↑ 68 ↓ Share ...



[deleted] · 10 mo. ago

As furry trash I want to know how you got a photo of my house?

↑ 3 ↓ Share ...



journeyofwind · 11 mo. ago

So you're not allowed to talk about a kid's parents ('cause the parents are sexual)? You're not allowed to show an educational movie just because it might contain a romantic relationship anywhere?

It's just bullshit legislation to further minoritize us - because we all damn know it won't apply to cishet stuff.

↑ 0 ↓ Share ...

gen



delicategayflower · 10 mo. ago

I have the opposite problem. I'm too nice, even to people who are bad to me. Someone could spit in my face and say "move it fag!" And I'd apologize profusely and say it was my fault. Lololol

↑ 1 ↓ Share ***



WotkaViking69 · 6 mo. ago

Nah thats just how real homie say goodnight 🍷🍷🍷🍷

↑ 41 ↓ Reply Share ***



CouchCatGaming · 6 mo. ago

"This guy sent me yaoi art does he like me?" :|

↑ 30 ↓ Reply Share ***

r/bisexual



ThereIsOnlyStardust **MOD** 🟢 · 11 mo. ago · [Stickied comment](#) · edited 11 mo. ago 🛠️

Save the Bees

Please remember that pan people are our allies and friends and the actions of a few divisive people does not reflect on the whole, just as it does not for the bisexual community. Please report any panphobia you see, it's against subreddit rules and will result in a ban.

Edit: For everyone who feels the need to comment "but I'm not attracted to trans people," no one asked you. It's not relevant. Stop bringing it up.

↑ Vote ↓ Share ***



risaellen · 11 mo. ago 🤔

I love my pan buddies, but their flag do be lookin' like a pack of printer ink.

↑ 77 ↓ Share ***



kaisasking · 11 mo. ago

Bisexual 🏳️‍🌈

Misinformation. Many people see trans as a seperate gender, and bi as exclusively attracted to cis women and cis men. I've seen many people say "But doesnt liking trans people make you pan?" Or "I thought I was bisexual but then noticed that I'm attracted to trans people too so I'm pan."

↑ 713 ↓ Share ***



onlypositivity · 11 mo. ago

Pansexual has no set meaning, and means whatever anyone wants it to mean, CMV.

↑ 331 ↓ Share ***



Kiro0613 · 11 mo. ago

What's CMV? All I can find is "cytomegalovirus"

↑ 11 ↓ Share ...



saintofhate · 11 mo. ago

I've had people argue with me that bi means two, so my go to is "yes the two genders of binary and non" because that is very gender. Binary covers cis and trans and non covers those outside the binary.

↑ 30 ↓ Share ...



dpb83 · 20 days ago

Bisexual 🏳️🌈

My trans poly bi ass:



Edit:

I used to be able to "hide" my bisexuality by being in hetero-normative relationships.

But then I stopped ignoring my gender dysphoria just in time for the MAGAts to call for my extermination.

↑ 2 ↓ Reply Share ...



GetEquipped · 21 days ago

Only here for the Lemon Squares

Paraphrasing from on a Guilty Gear post about Goldlewis and Bridget

"Respect people's pronouns before I change yours to Was/Were."

↑ 65 ↓ Reply Share ...



uneedamultipass · 21 days ago

o7

↑ 59 ↓ Reply Share ...



ahoyden · 21 days ago

o7

↑ 17 ↓ Reply Share ...



TheAnxiousDeveloper · 21 days ago

Bisexual 🏳️🌈

o7

↑ 19 ↓ Reply Share ...



beans_lel · 21 days ago

o7

↑ 9 ↓ Reply Share ...



JG1779865 · 21 days ago

Bisexual 🏳️🌈

o7

↑ 3 ↓ Reply Share ...



bsOnlyhere · 21 days ago

Legends I wish I could hug these people.

If they make me illegal, I'll gladly identify as AFP for the remainder of my survival.

↑ 46 ↓ Reply Share ...



bsOnlyhere · 21 days ago

As someone who lives in redneck-ville and has a lot of fear surrounding it: thank you 🥰 there are still good people!

↑ 3 ↓ Reply Share ...



rachiechu · 21 days ago

I mean, i love that you know so many nice trans people, but niceness is kind of irrelevant I think. There are bad actors in every group. The point is that trans people deserve the same rights as cis people - rights to safety, to medical care, to being seen as a valid fucking human being. Regardless of being nice. My sister is trans too! ❤️

↑ 6 ↓ Reply Share ...



kommunistical · 17 days ago

Most non-trans people I know are also nice people though. So what does this mean?

↑ 1 ↓ Reply Share ...



[deleted] · 21 days ago

It's LIT 🥰❤️🥰❤️🥰❤️

↑ 10 ↓ Reply Share ...



klusky225 · 21 days ago

Transgender/Bisexual

You probably do, they're just stealth <3

7 ↑ ↓ Reply Share ...



Sad_Regular_3365 · 21 days ago

Bi/pan and non binary as well as transgender. Not ashamed of any part of it.

7 ↑ ↓ Reply Share ...



NZNoldor · 4 mo. ago

"You just have a gay face".

Classic bros.

548 ↑ ↓ Reply Share ...



Socratov · 4 mo. ago

Bisexually charged incarnation of Chaos

Ah, the twin insult/reassurance wombocombo.

Also, love Mordecai asking whether he can share with his fiancé and if a +1 would be appropriate. Top lvl bro-ing right there.

289 ↑ ↓ Reply Share ...



Not-a-Russian · 4 mo. ago

I love how you choose to describe this. Not "my face in front of his crotch" but from INSANE BONER

1.1k ↑ ↓ Reply Share ...



Excellent-List-1837 · 4 mo. ago

Bisexual

It happens with brothers. I've walked in on mine getting his smash on at least twice. He's walked into my room shortly after my then g/f went home after sex, sniffed up, raised his eyebrows and given an approving nod before leaving in silence.

Weird times

^ _ _



CertifiedBlackGuy · 4 mo. ago

Actually 3 Golden Retrievers in a trenchcoat



But also, nice (͡° ͜ʖ ͡°)

Glad your family was chill. From one twin to another, I can confirm that you ain't hiding shit 🐼🐼🐼🐼

31 ↑ ↓ Reply Share ...



skybluegill · 4 mo. ago

millennials be like "You are loved and supported and you are valid" 🐼🐼🐼

↑ 113 ↓ Reply Share ...



AtLeqstOneTypo · 4 mo. ago

The GenX response is still Whatever. My kids came out and I said OK. Had to go back and say I know that was hard and what I meant was I could never love you less but my GenX is Cool/Whatever.

↑ 6 ↓ Reply Share ...



EggoStack · 4 mo. ago 🙄

Genderqueer/Bisexual 🏳️‍🌈

His RADICAL EPIC ERECTION 🔥🔪👉

↑ 259 ↓ Reply Share ...



FancyBrassCrab · 4 mo. ago

Bisexual 🏳️‍🌈

Bad to the Bone riff

↑ 76 ↓ Reply Share ...



crazydamer780 · 4 mo. ago



BINARY9 · 4 mo. ago

Genderqueer/Bisexual 🏳️‍🌈

i mean...

He is cute 🍷🍷🍷

could be his gaydar...

just sayin

↑ 33 ↓ Reply Share ...



skybluegill · 4 mo. ago

millennials be like "You are loved and supported and you are valid" 🐼🐼🐼

↑ 117 ↓ Reply Share ...



r/bisexual · Posted by u/6ftofcuriosity 8 months ago 📁🔒👤

she gagged me NGL

HUMOR



STODY · 8 mo. ago

Bisexual 🏳️‍🌈

Biphobia everywhere. Even more celebrities

↑ 948 ↓ Share ...



IstgUsernamesSuck · 8 mo. ago · edited 8 mo. ago

Sounds about as impressive as when every straight person collectively would not shut the fuck up about "i BeT yOu LoVe SaMe LoVe," as if a shitty rapper talking about how he thought he was gay once means he totally understands the gay experience.

↑ 323 ↓ Share ...



MaximumEffort433 · 8 mo. ago

Bisexual

Love the energy of the comment. No longer caring due to frustration is my entire life 🤔

The bisexuality to Taoism pipeline is **real!**

↑ 246 ↓ Share ...



flutergay · 8 mo. ago

LGBT+ 🏳️‍🌈

Haven't you heard? LGBT now stands for "Lady Gaga Beyoncé Taylor"

↑ 60 ↓ Share ...



mediocretes · 8 mo. ago

Ambisextrous 🏳️‍🌈

Ah yes, the Liberace Guns n roses Beyoncé (Taylor's version) community.

↑ 53 ↓ Share ...



Geozach22 · 5 mo. ago

Bisexual 🏳️‍🌈

I mean it's important to not forget that this is really just the flip side of us advocating that queer roles be given to queer people.

↑ 120 ↓ Share ...



tipthebaby · 5 mo. ago 🤔

I don't get how was he "queerbaiting" by playing a role that is explicitly queer. I thought queerbaiting was when a character is written to seem like they might be attracted to someone of the same sex, but then it turns out they aren't. his character is actually queer, regardless of the actor's sexuality.

↑ 220 ↓ Share ...



Devil-Hunter-Jax · 5 mo. ago 🤔

Enby/Demisexual

Chronically online queer people need to learn what the fuck queerbaiting actually is because this is vile.

↑ 3.3k ↓ Share ...

 twoshotsofoosquai · 5 mo. ago 
Bisexual 

This, it's actually so disgusting. And this happens *frequently*. Real people living their lives cannot queerbait. They do not exist to be representation, they do not owe us the truth about their sexuality or their feelings, they do not owe us anything. And people coming up with "headcanons" about real life people's sexualities as if they're fictional is beyond creepy and invasive.

I was just made aware of "gaylors" and they're really next level with this shit.

 899  Share ...

 sophdog101 · 5 mo. ago
Bisexual 

Yeah, I mean who doesn't like making their favorite media into an LGBT+ allegory lmao. I think people are over the top with trying to put labels on others, especially when they make up wild stories about the lives of strangers. I just like to listen to songs and then tell my friends that they are Officially Gay™ because I said so 🤪

 51  Share ...

 Iknewyouwerebi · 5 mo. ago · edited 5 mo. ago
Bisexual    

I was curious so I looked it up.

[Gaylor](#) [Urban Dictionary]
| a taylor swift fan who believes taylor swift is gay

Gaylorism
| the school of thought that believes taylor swift is gay.

 Pavlovs_Stepson · 5 mo. ago · edited 5 mo. ago

| hetlors who are of the school of thought that taylor swift is straight

Why is this the funniest sentence I've read today. "They are of the school of thought that people who identify as heterosexual are heterosexual"

| THEY are the intrusive ones, constantly making EVERYTHING taylor does about sex with her boyfriend.

 EmilyU1F984 · 5 mo. ago

In my experience it's mostly so called ,allies' that think they know better than us, what we want.

Not actually terminally online queers they'll just post the thousands Blåhaj meme...

 11  Share ...

 realitycollapsed · 5 mo. ago 
Bisexual 

Biphobia is so rampant. And parts of queer community are guilty too for making us feel lesser than if we choose to date someone of the opposite sex. It's exhausting.

 517  Share ...



Lost_in_the_Library · 5 mo. ago

Bisexual 🏳️🌈

Ugh, yes! Like the people who invalidate Bi people in straight-passing relationships, like suddenly you're not part of the community if you have a partner of the opposite sex 🙄

👍 171 🗨️ Share ...



diracpointless · 5 mo. ago

Off topic but your comment reminded me, I said something off-hand to a co-worker about being in a straight-passing relationship and he responded "your relationship may be straight-passing, but we've all seen you sit in a chair!"

I felt very seen and validated (ಥ_ಥ) 🙄

👍 85 🗨️ Share ...



PrincessGary · 5 mo. ago

Militant queer bullies

These people are the worst, and the LOUDEST. I'm an old enby bi creature and I'm always told i'm not bi because I'm dating a cis man.

👍 20 🗨️ Share ...



pinkgris · 5 mo. ago

Bisexual 🏳️🌈

And his rumored girlfriend, Maia Reficco, is a bisexual woman who many of his fans have harassed about being a 'fake bi' bc she dates men.

👍 85 🗨️ Share ...



meduza7 · 10 mo. ago

Bisexual 🏳️🌈

Bi erasure once again.. Even in a tweet about upcoming pride Month lol

👍 106 🗨️ Share ...



Glowingrose · 10 mo. ago

Demisexual/Bisexual

Fuck bi people I guess. And gay men being active participants in their history and culture. And aroace people. And the countless BIPOC members of our community who have to fight extra hard to be heard and recognized. But go off ig tony

👍 90 🗨️ Share ...



Glowingrose · 10 mo. ago

Demisexual/Bisexual

You're right! So basically pride is for lesbians, drag queens, and trans women (though I bet there's loads of caveats in there. Is it just me or are a decent amount of lesbians TERFS?)

👍 9 🗨️ Share ...



Hornyheadmates · 10 mo. ago

Transbian (I'd put something witty but girls on my mind)

god I love that post so fucking much

↑ 53 ↓ Share ...



NotCis_TM · 10 mo. ago

Maybe one of the girls is butch or only one works outside of the house or one of them just prefers the title of husband.

↑ 36 ↓ Share ...



Crescenthia1984 · 10 mo. ago

My girlfriend calls me her 'hersband' occasionally, usually when I've like put together a bookshelf or something very low key handy.

↑ 40 ↓ Share ...



Amberatlast · 10 mo. ago

Trans-Bi

And I could totally see a more masc/nb lesbian adopting "husband lesbian" label half jokingly, and a guy with little other context assuming that's general terminology.

↑ 129 ↓ Share ...



sewer-possum · 9 mo. ago

Holy Christ I was on a discord server with this enby who was ranting that their classmate, a middle eastern immigrant who had been in America for like a month and had no prerequisite knowledge of English was having difficulty with their pronouns. It wasn't even a 'oh I know it's not his fault' sort of rant but absolute vitriol that was backed up by the rest of the server. It's no fucking wonder why queer POC have to form their own communities to feel represented when white queers can act that fucking entitled.

↑ 5 ↓ Share ...



Noli420 · 10 mo. ago

I picture a butch lesbian with a femme lipstick lesbian

↑ 30 ↓ Share ...



ClandestineCornfield · 10 mo. ago

Be Gay, Do Crime

Or maybe just one of them is butch and he considers them the "husband lesbian," or a mixture of multiple of those

↑ 52 ↓ Share ...



SpatialThoughts · 10 mo. ago

Are you new? Everyone knows the words someone uses are more important than the meaning they are trying to convey. /s

↑ 49 ↓ Share ...



TrickBoom414 · 10 mo. ago

We love confusing allyship

↑ 151 ↓ Share ...



wordshakers · 10 mo. ago

Lesbian

I also want to say that lesbians who prefer to go by masculine terms exist too! My partner is a he/they lesbian and when we marry someday they'll be my lesbian husband.

↑ 59 ↓ Share ...



vulvcn · 5 mo. ago

Like a "sister wives only" situation? Tell us when and where.

↑ 3 ↓ Reply Share ...



prettypreculiar88 · 5 mo. ago

Sounds like a sapphic moonie ceremony 🤪

↑ 2 ↓ Reply Share ...



Frigg OP · 5 mo. ago

Believe in yourself sister! I honestly think my gal is waaaaay outta my league but she thinks I'm the most beautiful woman on earth 🌈 there's someone out there who thinks the same of you

↑ 249 ↓ Reply Share ...



collegethrowaway2938 · 5 mo. ago

visiting transhet guy

My mom is Puerto Rican and she is a proud nb (she/they pronouns) and always taught me to be pro lgbt

↑ 118 ↓ Reply Share ...



causeofyourEuphoria · 5 mo. ago

a win for the sapphics y'all

↑ 34 ↓ Reply Share ...



ibWickedSmaht · 5 mo. ago



Yass!

↑ 7 ↓ Reply Share ...



No_Mode2367 · 10 mo. ago

Uhhhhhh I just uuhhhhh,,, imfe ahhdn okay. umm
hiç 🤔

(That was close, almost came across awkward)

↑ 13 ↓ Share ...



RavenclawLunatic · 10 mo. ago

Lesbian 🏳️‍🌈

The og tweet is just sad. Internalized homophobia must suck

↑ 1.7k ↓ Share ...



HufflepuffIronically · 10 mo. ago

that top girl is almost quoting contrapoints new video

↑ 107 ↓ Share ...



sunnynina · 6 mo. ago

Bi

I mean, how can you not be? 🧐👍👍

↑ 188 ↓ Share ...



ScalyDestiny · 6 mo. ago

A lepidodopterisbian? My head went to troides brookania, but
your pick goes better with this picture somehow.

↑ 2 ↓ Share ...



ima_lesbean · 10 mo. ago

Lesbian

Especially when 💎 they 💎

↑ 23 ↓ Share ...



Ankyri · 9 mo. ago

She/her | Comrade/comrade

Maybe they're just being mutually friendly? /s

↑ 19 ↓ Share ...

 superbitterthrowaway · 9 mo. ago
Obligatory [r/SapphoAndHerFriend](#)
↑ 32 ↓ Share ...

 Tasty_Stuff3049 · 9 mo. ago
"and they were classmates!" "Oh my gosh they were classmates"
↑ 147 ↓ Share ...

 owarumoth · 9 mo. ago
dont you just love women?
Nah just gal pals ofc /j
↑ 111 ↓ Share ...

 spacegirl1111111111 OP · 9 mo. ago
I didn't go to the same school as them sadly ಥ_ಥ
↑ 124 ↓ Share ...

 SansCitizen · 9 mo. ago
Transbian
Right? I got "most likely to become a serial killer" because I wore a trench coat 90% of the time. A teacher came up with that, and my classmates printed it. not like I knew it then, but I wore a trench coat *because of body dysphoria*.
Highschool was a stupid place.
↑ 73 ↓ Share ...

 dashi_dash · 9 mo. ago
🎵 close friends, besties, roommates, colleagues 🎵
↑ 7 ↓ Share ...

 panicbutt · 9 mo. ago
The low-key heart hands just proves they are the palsiest gals who ever gal-pal'd
↑ 9 ↓ Share ...

 SoCutebutDumb · 2 mo. ago
Lesbian
Grandmas in 2028: ah I remember my first "roommate"
↑ 637 ↓ Reply Share ...



Celairiel16 · 2 mo. ago

My grandpa is sadly losing his memory. I was visiting today and we were having grapefruit for breakfast and he said "you must be a fruit lady." I said "yes grandpa, I'm very fruity."

That's the closest I plan on coming to actually telling him...

↑ 135 ↓ Reply Share ...



TayluxSwift · 11 mo. ago

Diana, Scorn of the Moon

(If you now you know)

↑ 156 ↓ Share ...



Camazotz09 · 11 mo. ago

Transbian

And her other half: Leona, the Radiant Dawn

↑ 71 ↓ Share ...



patangpatang · 11 mo. ago

bambi af

Named after the literal Roman goddess of the moon. They do get pretty on-the-nose sometimes.

↑ 25 ↓ Share ...



TayluxSwift · 11 mo. ago

Getting recognized in other subs...

Yes I'm one of the 10 ~~lesbians~~ luxbians there

↑ 2 ↓ Share ...



[deleted] · 11 mo. ago

how else are we gonna turn the frogs gay..

↑ 55 ↓ Share ...



[deleted] · 11 mo. ago

kermit and his rainbows i stg

↑ 6 ↓ Share ...



ASHKVLT · 11 mo. ago

Transbian

It's not the best plan we've had, but putting soy into everything is working

↑ 2 ↓ Share ...



[deleted] · 11 mo. ago

the moon, huh? yeah, right. it's probably just a phase

↑ 120 ↓ Share ...



YourLoyalSlut · 11 mo. ago

Transbian

Seems genderfluid to me

↑ 164 ↓ Share ...



ASHKVLT · 11 mo. ago

Transbian

It's not the atmo-cis-phere

↑ 47 ↓ Share ...



LezzieBennet · 7 mo. ago

Lesbian

Or got fooled by comphet into never even recognizing their same-sex attraction.

↑ 351 ↓ Share ...



IlliniJen · 7 mo. ago

Bi

My MUCH OLDER brother (hey ladies! genxers, it me up) is a boomer and gay and that he made it through the AIDS crisis without issue is amazing to me. I remember going to see Philadelphia when it came out and just WEEPING afterwards because I was so scared that could be my big bro. My (str8) friends didn't understand my reaction at the time.

The change in attitudes has been remarkable over the years...and yet it's still scary out there. I came out super late in life but have always understood, via my brother, the importance of found family and the lgbt community.

↑ 66 ↓ Share ...



kinderrock · 1 yr. ago

gaybraham lincoln

I usually smile but I'm never sure if it comes of us "aw what a sweet ally" or "ONE OF US" (or "uh who is that do you know her")

↑ 63 ↓ Share ...



Neoeng · 1 yr. ago · edited 1 yr. ago

Transbian

Eyebrow raise thing as in... the Rock eyebrow raise thing?

↑ 6 ↓ Share ...



Sorcerer_Supreme13 · 1 yr. ago

Ace

Exactly! I'm so scared about that too. I hate being so "straight passing"

↑ 6 ↓ Share ...



saltlampsand · 6 mo. ago

Yassssss

↑ 56 ↓ Reply Share ...



International_Ad6028 · 6 mo. ago

Transbian

Velma:"hey look it's my nonbinary twin, Thelma"

↑ 7 ↓ Reply Share ...



TamakoIsHere · 6 mo. ago

I feel like she's a top who doesn't know she's a switch until she meets this person

↑ 108 ↓ Reply Share ...



throwawaypizzamage · 6 mo. ago

Really? Always got subby vibes from her.

↑ 37 ↓ Reply Share ...



Mr_Glove_EXE · 6 mo. ago

Malori: Nice gay panic

↑ 11 ↓ Reply Share ...



Gretchenmeows · 8 mo. ago

This is my Wife and I too. She came out as Trans and I very quickly realised I was a victim of Compulsory female heterosexuality and was actually gay AF. Now we are just 2 hot girls causing chaos.

↑ 65 ↓ Reply Share ...



swanfirefly · 8 mo. ago

I mean she could have used gay lasers to turn you trans to keep you /jk

↑ 65 ↓ Share ...



[deleted] · 8 mo. ago

Not my wife but I say my gf made me more gay. Pre HRT while I was bi but I found men more visually appealing and I kinda just dated women cause I thought I was supposed to but with HRT my preference has shifted far towards women. I credit my gf with just being amazing too though.

↑ 21 ↓ Share ...



Sayasing · 2 mo. ago

Tbf some kids toys ARE a little sus 🤔 like you ever get hit or trip on one? Like some of those should not make one hurt like that

↑ 10 ↓ Reply Share ...



LilaLamora OP · 11 mo. ago

You can scissor at eye level too

↑ 18 ↓ Share ...



r/actuallesbians · Posted by u/MassachusettsToMaine 9 years ago

The day my dad taught me how to tie a tie.

I came out as a lesbian accidentally when I was 19. My mom made a joke about me spending so much time with my "best friend" Wendy and I just blurted it out in the middle of the campsite. My family, surprisingly, seemed to take it in stride. Later, I was to learn that this was the "Let's Hope It's Just A Phase/But She's Too Pretty To Be Gay!" denial period.

The next summer I spent driving the hour out to Worcester (MA) and alternated going to the 18+ gay club and coffeehouse open mic nights with my ragtag group of fags, hags and babydykes. Slowly, over the course of the first few weeks of the summer, I started to ditch my skirts and dresses in favor of cargo shorts and graphic tees. Then, one night in the middle of July, my father comes home from work

r/traaaanmmnnns



shaunnotthesheep · 16 days ago

I hate to be that guy but does this apply to trans guys? AFAB people wearing "men's" clothing has been pretty much completely normalized.

On a more personal note, I'm a trans masc Californian going to Florida in October. I'm good right?

↑ 14 ↓ Reply Share ...



prismatic_valkyrie · 5 mo. ago · edited 5 mo. ago

The first HP book in particular reads so much like an unintentional queer-coded wish fulfillment story. Harry is abused and shunned by his family for things about himself that he doesn't understand but that are intrinsic to who he is. He's rescued from them by friendly elders who teach him things about himself that make his life finally start to make sense. After being rescued, he gets to go to a school where for the first time he meets peers who are like him, and who celebrate and revel in the things that in his old life made him a shunned outcast.



doIstayordoItrans · 5 mo. ago

He also literally lives in the closet and doesn't like coming out of it because it means bad things. JK Rowling has said that she herself might have been persuaded to transition if she had been born later. Hmmm...

↑ 255 ↓ Reply Share ...



DPVaughan · 5 mo. ago

Ally

Yeah. I don't like pointing this out because it feels wrong to say it about someone who doesn't self-identify, but I think Rowling has some unresolved issues with gender that have never been sorted out (and likely will never).



DPVaughan · 5 mo. ago

Ally

True, but knowing the history (and current situation) of traditional publishing, I don't blame any woman who wants to publish to use a male or unclear name (women are less likely to be published traditionally and a lot of male readers avoid female authors). It's why the indie and self publishing scene is so female-led.

↑ 9 ↓ Reply Share ...



Alternative-Bed5942 · 5 mo. ago

He has achieved Gigachad status in my book.

↑ 173 ↓ Reply Share ...



Lesbian_Samurai · 5 mo. ago

she/xe

Yes, she is also voidpunk. Thanks fam, I forgot to mention that. Just one more thing the two of us have in common, in addition to the same first name and being on the autism spectrum.

↑ 23 ↓ Reply Share ...



Obalivion · 5 mo. ago

I actually had a dream a few months ago that she was trans and I was coming out to her and she was super accepting and validated the hell out of me

↑ 13 ↓ Reply Share ...



Rachel-the-Greatchel · 5 mo. ago

she/her

my hc was trans/bi harry, lesbian hermione, pan/enby luna, pan ginny, he/they neville, deamus; gays Everywhere 🍷 ron is the token cishet of the friend group

↑ 21 ↓ Reply Share ...



prismatic_valkyrie · 5 mo. ago

she/they

Ron is a transfemme egg too timid to come out until Hermione eventually helps her transition after they graduate.

↑ 22 ↓ Reply Share ...



Artistic_Skill1117 · 5 mo. ago

she/they

We stan this king!

↑ 19 ↓ Reply Share ...



SpaceBlood_IV · 5 mo. ago

Daniel Chadcliffe

↑ 17 ↓ Reply Share ...



rinkima · 5 mo. ago

To be fair, JK was a little more light at the start of her TERF saga. I can see how people who are older and friends with her wouldn't really understand what exactly she was and is doing.

↑ 6 ↓ Reply Share ...



sharpgel · 5 mo. ago

based radcliffe

↑ 14 ↓ Reply Share ...



NightmareVX · 2 yr. ago



Wow... okay I'm gonna need a tutorial on looking this cis, sis. That's enough passing for three of us.

↑ 228 ↓ Share ...



FetchMeMyLongsword · 2 yr. ago

Trans girl <3

You're literally wearing femme clothes, what the...

It's not important. You are rocking that look!

↑ 59 ↓ Share ...



SuchComplaint · 2 yr. ago



If this isn't transition goals idk what is ☆0☆

↑ 30 ↓ Share ...



Parking_Pineapple440 · 2 yr. ago

You've stolen my heart 🧐🧐

↑ 13 ↓ Share ...



Shield-Maiden-Freyja · 7 mo. ago

I personally think you pass in every post you make. You're such a darn cutie. I think you have an adorable forehead...

That being said...I absolutely understand moments of dysphoria and dysmorphia. Bangs or no, it's all about how good you feel about yourself. Other people's opinions about you or how you look are never more important than your own.

^ ...

Fox_Hawk · 2 mo. ago

Either that, or the waitress thinks you're AFAB and FTM and your dad is *very supportive*.

↑ 110 ↓ Reply Share ...

TransWitch93 · 2 mo. ago

(She/Her) HRT 08/22/22

What's funny is skating is all skill based. Fuck'n TERFS.

↑ 1.9k ↓ Share ...

techlos · 2 mo. ago

psst check out my sounds <https://soundcloud.com/death-of-sound>

ah yes, the clear advantage that androgen blockers give when it comes to building strength.

me, salty about not being able to bench as much as a cis woman half my size? no not at all, it doesn't annoy me one bit

iwanna_fuck_amputees · 2 yr. ago

had a dude give a presentation about feminism and the part he was assigned was trans rights. he put a picture of a helicopter, no joke. whole presentation was about how we don't deserve shit. everybody got mad so it all shook out but holy fuck. he was so nervous i thought he was gonna puke.

↑ 1.6k ↓ Share ...

LevelOutlandishness1 · 2 yr. ago

just a bi guy lurkin

Have all your alt right buddies on discord say that you're totally gonna own those libs, man!

↑ 113 ↓ Share ...

Aralith1 · 2 yr. ago

Funnily enough, Thunderf00t is a large part of the reason I got OUT of the YouTube skeptic community when it was undergoing its major shift to the right. He just got boring. After the like twelfth video in a row he'd done on feminism and Anita Sarkeesian, I just kind of didn't feel like much was going on in that community anymore. I'm actually pretty lucky that I walked away from it when I did. Gamergate happened only a few months after that, and I shudder to think what kind of anti-SJW rabbit hole I might have gotten sucked into if I was still invested in that community when all that was going down.

↑ 18 ↓ Share ...

 Joan_of_ack · 2 yr. ago
She/Her
(◡‿‿‿)
↑ 10 ↓ Share ...

 DinnerForBreakfast · 2 yr. ago
I support giving tanks a shot! Plain neutral ones are androgynous/unisex. Solid blues, reds, greys, etc. Men and women wear them all the time wear I live. If that's what's making you uncomfortable, maybe start there to boost your confidence.
↑ 6 ↓ Share ...

 Tapaleurre · 2 yr. ago
Aurore|Trans girl
I'm a transfem and I get asked if I might be pregnant ALL THE TIME, makes me dysphoric because obviously I can't
↑ 123 ↓ Share ...

 LexiTheCactusGirl · 2 yr. ago
I went from only wanting to transition if I could become a cis woman to wanting to look like a cis woman to overcoming my internalized transphobia enough to realize that it doesn't matter if I look cis or not
↑ 84 ↓ Share ...

 Motorasma14120 · 2 yr. ago
Natalie (she/they) hrt 7-23-22 | remember the hearth
laughs in estrogen and FFS
↑ 4 ↓ Share ...

 LadonDelphi · 2 yr. ago
Comic book supervillain
People are really like
"Nooo, don't transition MtF, you'll make an ugly woman!"
"Nooo, don't transition FtM, you're such a pretty woman!"
As if the reason gender exists is for straight men to differentiate people they're attracted to and people they aren't.
↑ 102 ↓ Share ...



 StillUltra · 2 mo. ago
lesbiab
kinda funny how radfems are perfectly fine with replicating misogynistic stereotypes just to get mad a trans people.
↑ 1.0k ↓ Reply Share ...

TavisNamara · 2 mo. ago · edited 2 mo. ago

Tavis (Tav)/Octavia (Tavi) he/she/they

That's their secret- they're not feminists. They're feminism-appropriating reactionary transphobes.

Edit: forgot to change radical to reactionary.

↑ 743 ↓ Reply Share ...

Sky_is_shy · 2 mo. ago

I think since they're women advocating for misogyny, they're Self-Hating Advocates of Reactionary Transphobia.

↑ 309 ↓ Reply Share ...

LadyAmaraB · 2 mo. ago

FARTs and SHARTs, the lot of them

↑ 232 ↓ Reply Share ...

[5 more replies](#)

Toxic_Audri · 2 mo. ago

TERF is what they used to call themselves. It started to pick up a negative connotation and they quickly abandoned the term, a lot of them will now claim it's a slur, despite the history behind the term being coined.

This is why I like using FART, because just like with any fart, you shouldn't trust it.

↑ 8 ↓ Reply Share ...

TreeWyrn · 2 mo. ago

Its not just feminism they appropriate. In order to demonize trans people, they appropriate and misuse all sorts of activist causes. They have even compared being trans to minstrel shows. If you don't believe me, search twitter for the term "womanface" and watch all the terfs pop up on your screen. Its transphobic, misogynist, and racist all in one go!

↑ 16 ↓ Reply Share ...

V0ct0r · 2 mo. ago

Victoria <3, trans hetero >3

I'd love for this to get more discussion in the near future. that some women, instead of fighting for gender equality, believe themselves to hold the right to women supremacy.

↑ 3 ↓ Reply Share ...



DragonOfTartarus · 2 mo. ago

Skye - She/Her - HRT 15/3/2017

How would you even check that, anyway? Mandatory MRI scanning outside public toilets? Exploratory surgery before being allowed to play sports?

↑ 114 ↓ Reply Share ...



UnchainedMundane · 2 mo. ago

AroAce, she/her (HRT 2020-11-15)

i mean the game TERFs are playing is obvious: pick an arbitrary line separating most men from most women but engineered to cause maximum misgendering to trans people even if it does the same for cis people

also it's very informed by current science! in the sense that as soon as our medical procedures catch up to allow trans women to grow their own ovaries for example, they'll immediately move the goalposts again so as to exclude us again

↑ 98 ↓ Reply Share ...



Batata-Sofi · 2 mo. ago

Trans girl

Radfems on their way to invent an egg detector and go around the streets checking women's genitalia.

↑ 11 ↓ Reply Share ...



defaultusername-17 · 2 mo. ago

because terfs are just biological essentialists rebranding themselves because they lost the argument back in the 60's.

↑ 9 ↓ Reply Share ...



fbcs11 · 2 mo. ago

As we all know, women after menopause are no longer women. They become women't /s

↑ 3 ↓ Reply Share ...

[2 more replies](#)



dalr3th1n · 2 mo. ago

Feminism Appropriating Reactionary Transphobe.

↑ 46 ↓ Reply Share ...



Lynnrael · 1 yr. ago

None

I feel this as well. I feel like a jerk for having a hard time understanding the feeling and i don't want to ever dismiss or ignore transmascs, but it's just so hard for me to grasp. Though i think it's also because I haven't been able to transition yet so i still have a lot of dysphoria with the "maleness" of my body. I can't wait till i can start hrt

94 Share ...



SalaciousStrudel · 1 yr. ago

MTF | 28 years old | Lived three more years due to transitioning

It's also painful to have your voice utterly ruined every time you shower and get really bad dysphoria that leads instantly to acid reflux. And if I don't get bottom surgery, that's just going to keep happening forever! There's literally only one thing that's going to fix it.

101 Share ...



-_just-Someone_- · 1 yr. ago

Yuuri, fem/catboy, wip

I, as transmasc, can say I kind of understand but not understand transfems at the same time. Like, I know you wanna transition because you're a girl, and that's perfectly fair, but at the same time I struggle to imagine why you'd want to be a girl, if that make sense?

80 Share ...



Saikotsu · 1 yr. ago

Adyson (Ady) He/She/They

I, as a genderfluid person, understand the appeal of both male and female and have come to enjoy flowing between the two. While my body is male, my soul is not, but some days I feel happy in my body. Other days I can't stand it.

It all boils down to, we aren't happy with our current bodies and want to become the person we know we are on the inside. The specifics, "male"/"female" are incidental.

21 Share ...



HeadLiceOnYourToes · 1 yr. ago

Non-binary

If it's not for you though there are some HRT options that can feminize without breast growth I think.

oh... really?? I uh. oof. this is making me think things.

37 Share ...



St_Lexi · 2 yr. ago

Femboys are still valid, unfortunately fetishised, and yeah, open to a change of identity but still.

121 Share ...



-Jordyn- · 2 yr. ago

ftm

Mines literally just my deadname :/

↑ 11 ↓ Share ...



Pdonkey · 2 yr. ago

he/she | 18

fucking **PREACH**

↑ 10 ↓ Share ...



totallycys · 2 yr. ago

3 years HRT and objectively still totallycys

It's a term that referred to a feminine looking person who had a penis (very often a trans woman), that got popularized on 4chan, bled into the anime community with the admiral ackbar meme and the sudden influx of feminine male characters in anime with no change in meaning, and now somehow the anime community has repeated the claim that "it only refers to cis people, those other people are misusing it" so many times that even trans people are somehow buying the idea that **4chan** in **the early 2000s** was woke enough to have made sure the word they popularized was only used on people who wouldn't be offended, so it's not a slur.

4chan. The place known for being as offensive as possible on purpose. The place known for occasionally getting together and harassing trans people as a group. That place. That place made the distinction and the word they popularized was definitely never used on trans people. That is the narrative people are pushing.

It's an insanely bad take but we've watched it play out in real time, and I guess when you repeat a claim often enough then people assume you know what you're talking about and are willing to repeat it. Even in this very thread people are legitimately arguing that 4chan popularized the word but it was never used as a slur until other people started using it wrong.

A message board that's known **specifically** for attracting the worst of trolls and the edgiest of takes, a message board that's

- 

BigGayDinosaurs · 2 yr. ago

genderfae demigirl! pronouns: basically anything but he/him

i said "i'm trans ama", someone replied "asian trap?" i said "nah i like dubstep"

 3
 
 Share ...
- 

jddbeyondthesky · 2 yr. ago

what even is gender?

Because the slur "trap" comes from conservative men claiming we tricked them into sex and then murdering us, claiming we entrapped them into homosexual engagement, using that as the legal defense, and getting reduced or no sentence as a result. Fuck "traps"

 3
 
 Share ...

r/NonBinary

- 

rivercass · 2 yr. ago

Custom

I used to adore Bowie until I learned he r*ped a teenager and a woman. Now I can't feel euphoria looking at him anymore 🙄

 13
 
 Reply Share ...
- 

Costati · 2 yr. ago

Transmasc - Demiflux - He/Him

As a transmasc non-binary person you may have nailed my aesthetic. It's "I'm gonna punch you in the face if you piss me off...but also....I am tired and might think of a long term murder scheme while lounging fabulously on a couch instead"

 7
 
 Reply Share ...
- 

soup gaze · 2 yr. ago

i don't agree with this - it just enforces gender and aesthetic stereotypes, most obviously androgyny != nonbinary. a lot of enbies are transitioning towards an androgynous ideal, myself *somewhat* included, but being nonbinary is definitely not an aesthetic choice, and thus shouldn't be represented as such. i don't mean to be overly harsh or critical - but these kinds of posts do upset me a little.

 11
 
 Reply Share ...
- 

trumpetrabbit · 2 yr. ago

How dare you bring up gender envy!

 2
 
 Reply Share ...
- 

Curticorn · 2 yr. ago

Looking like you do is my transition goal.

 381
 
 Reply Share ...



ManualPathosChecks · 2 yr. ago

Well, that turned out not to be the stoner/doom/sludge metal or punk rock that I was expecting but I'm digging it. Cheers!

♂ 19 ♀ Reply Share ...



HarmonyLiliana · 2 yr. ago

Custom

WHOOSH. Aerodynamic.

♂ 11 ♀ Reply Share ...



emptymonstercans · 2 yr. ago

i love their style!! and it looks v v flat <33

♂ 4 ♀ Reply Share ...



SheWolf04 · 2 yr. ago

TERF:something transphobic

Me: *aggressive beeping until they go away*

♂ 533 ♀ Reply Share ...



gengarcuddles · 2 yr. ago

trans femby

screams in agender

♂ 147 ♀ Reply Share ...



Wobblybones · 2 yr. ago

I bet you will get a million comments confirming this, but for younger enbies / nons like me it's always appreciated to see nonbinary people that are not just..... Twenty somethings with a sort of punkish looking style and I say that not to diss on under thirties with a punkish looking style because I AM ONE.

It's just always nice to see that, no matter what cishet people say, this is not a "Stupid thing young folks get into because they want to be special and read it on the internet" but a legitimate identity that people experience and actually LIVE with.

It's a very "We are here, we are queer, we are not gonna change just because you want us to change and we are gonna grow to be 200 years old and be happy and content with ourselves for ourselves but also just to spite you" feeling.

...I would also like to say that you give of very gorgeous and positive vibes, couldn't fit that into my little soapbox speech up there but I could not quite fit it into it so it gets its own paragraph.:P

♂ 527 ♀ Reply Share ...



ImpendingHoundoom · 2 yr. ago

I'm so completely shook, every time I see older LGBT+ people I'm just so fucking grateful. Thank you so much for sharing this and just idk, existing ? it's crazy but completely true how just literally seeing older queer people being alive and happy is a huge deal to younger generations of queer people. you're the best.

♂ 11 ♀ Reply Share ...



i_like_kirb · 2 yr. ago

14 Gendont

i cant tell what gender you were assigned at birth #goals

♂ 5 ♀ Reply Share ...



Maleficent103 · 3 yr. ago

Hello. I am in da closet too. I have a cozy blanket if you'd like to share. I also have Netflix, Hulu, and Disney plus on my phone. I also put one foot outside the closet to grab some candy. Let's get through this together :3

♂ 6 ♀ Reply Share ...



Maleficent103 · 3 yr. ago

I had my friendo (who is out of the closet) grab us more blankets. We can make a blanket fort!

♂ 2 ♀ Reply Share ...



Storyspren · 3 yr. ago

Constantly filling a **duraluminmind** while on zoom like

♂ 5 ♀ Reply Share ...



Kelsee17 · 3 yr. ago



interiot · 3 yr. ago

nonbinary/transfem, attracted to women and androgynous folks

I am gender-gifted, gender-talented.

♂ 11 ♀ Reply Share ...



teremala · 3 yr. ago

I am gender-deficient, lol.

♂ 9 ♀ Reply Share ...





Ik_oClock · 2 yr. ago

Demigirlboss

yeah half of what i want is dresses that fit an amab body

the other half is people not looking at me weirdly for wearing whatever i want thanks



40



Reply

Share



AprilStorms · 2 yr. ago

traaaaaans (they/he)

This is one reason I want to bring back types of clothes that aren't seen so often. I really like shawls, which aren't popular enough here to be *super* heavily gendered. Also, it's -30F here right now and they're warm.

Ditto capes. I want to be able to wear a cape or a hooded cloak out in public.

In the meantime, I'm just going to be the man (adjacent nb) in tights I want to see in the world.



33



Reply

Share



youto2 · 2 yr. ago

Having a Hispanic Attack | They/Them | Primarily NBLM BI

And I think it has to be said also how society's perception of neutral and androgyny is also really slightly masc-leaning, like outfits made to be gender neutral almost always hide curves and other similar body features. So like I as an amab person currently not on hormones would just like, look like a normal ass dude if I wore things marketed as "androgynous" and that really freaking frustrates me



19



Reply

Share



moisanom · 2 yr. ago

This is the same for me but on the opposite spectrum actually. Since it's so common for **afab** people to wear "masculine" clothes I look like a regular "woman" even when wearing only traditional mens clothes. The other reason as well is that I have long hair so yeah 🤔. I think society is so obsessed with their idea of the gender binary that if you aren't perceived as in your face to be disrupting those rules then they won't acknowledge it at all. Or at least not notice



10



Reply

Share





muertint · 2 yr. ago

This is a great assessment. There are some queer-centric lines I've seen in the past few years that actually do more 'non-binary' styles but they are often small run and sold at high fashion prices, making them inaccessible to many people, myself included.

That's why I just shop both genders at thrift and vintage stores and make my own fashion out of it.

👍 🤔 🗨



PossiblyEmma · 2 yr. ago

Gonzo is definitely non binary in my internal canon

👍 109 🗨 Reply Share ...



AndrogynousRain · 2 yr. ago

What companies THINK gender non conforming/neutral is and what it actually looks like are vastly different things.

Most NB people I know (myself included) usually fall into some variation of one of these: Tolkien elf, cyberpunk street rat, 18th century airship captain, goth void walker mage, neon fireworks display (visible from orbit), androgynous seelie court fae, probably band member you can't quite place, or twelve layered cryptid of indeterminate gender. If you're out... people SEE you lol.

Whereas most companies are like 'here's a gray hoodie and some sweatpants cut like a shower curtain.' They're idiots.

👍 36 🗨 Reply Share ...



hyperbolichamber · 2 yr. ago

I've seconded the motion to enter tallbikes into enby cannon
Now all that's left is to vote. I also want one but I'm lazy and don't know how to weld.

👍 40 🗨 Reply Share ...



Eris0Adonis · 2 yr. ago

Telling people your pronouns is completely professional! I work at a mid sized start up. First day I was asked if I felt comfortable giving my pronouns!! I was so honored to be asked!! They/them is officially in my signature!

👍 301 🗨 Reply Share ...

 [deleted] · 2 yr. ago

for me its

DevSenko

they/he

 2   Reply Share ...



QuietPersonality · 2 yr. ago

Mx. Krysie - 32 enby - HRT 4/17/18 - GAS 9/17/19

I was told to remove them from my signature in my last job as they said it was unprofessional and not allowed in the standard email signature.

They also were willing to use she/her for me (I'm amab) but when I asked them to use they/them I was ignored.

Finally, it came to a point where they said my pronoun pins were unprofessional (since I was required to be in a photo at least once a week, great for dysphoria/dysmorphia).

It's nice not working for them anymore.

 3   Reply Share ...



rottencowboy · 2 yr. ago

Def not unprofessional!!! I personally go by she/they/he, but I worked with a trans girl who had an enamel pin that said she/her (we didn't have name tags btw) and it helped her not get misgendered as much. Of course there are always assholes 😞 thankfully where we worked though our coworkers stood up for each other (we've banned someone before lol).

 8   Reply Share ...



APileOfLooseDogs · 2 yr. ago

they/them | gender-semi-solid enby

You're absolutely right—I work for big company, and they have an official template for corporate employees to put their pronouns in their email signature. Can't get much more professional than that! Someday I'll be brave enough to add mine, too :) Thank you for paving the way for us all!

 2   Reply Share ...



TinaMonday · 8 mo. ago

I've had a complicated history with it/its pronouns. I am currently she/it pronouns, but I spent years in a runaround of those pronouns felt right to me but also were the ones cis people used to my face to dehumanize me, including my own dad. I took nearly a decade to accept that part of me.

If it/its pronouns feel like they fit, use them

 258   Reply Share ...

 AcidicPuma · 8 mo. ago · edited 8 mo. ago

I'm void punk, it/it's is fuckin dope. Love em. I don't use em cause while I want to be a blob of space plasma with eyes, I am unfortunately human & need to be treated as such for safety. Maybe if I lived in a different place or time. But for others I fully support being brave enough to use them

 58   Reply  Share ...

 Best-Isopod9939 · 8 mo. ago

I use it/they/he/xe. Also your sense of style is so good

 14   Reply  Share ...

 midnight_nap · 8 mo. ago

[aroflux](#) [gay](#) [trans](#) [paraman](#) [he/him](#)

a few labels that came to my mind are [agender](#), [demigirl](#), [paragirl](#), [girlflux](#) or [demiagender](#)? tho those are just my thoughts and you decide what labels (if any) you use! also pronouns dont equal gender, you can use whatever pronouns with whatever gender identity! also you absolutely dont need dysphoria to be trans!!

hope i could maybe help a little :3

 7   Reply  Share ...

 scrawledfilefish · 8 mo. ago · edited 8 mo. ago

Eh...as a BIPOC person in America, I'm not comfortable with it. For centuries, "it" was used against non-white people as a way to dehumanize us and justify our oppression (EDIT: And it still is, honestly). "Oh, that's not a person, that's a monster, because of the color of it's skin. We're right to continue to treat it as such."

Just writing that out makes my heart hurt.

And I'm probably gonna get flack for this, but almost all the people I've met who have said that their pronouns are it/its are white people. And I'm not comfortable calling them those pronouns because...because to me, it's basically a racial slur. So if someone, particularly a white person, asked me to call them "it," that feels about as, well, *horrifying* as if a white person asked me to call them the n-word, or any other racial slur.

 35   Reply  Share ...

   r/NonBinary · Posted by u/Direct_Psychology_70 2 years ago

2.4k Partner used my pronouns, did my hair and now I'm the Boi my Mum warned me not to be (They/Them)

[reddit.com/galler...](#) 

 [deleted] · 2 yr. ago

What about enbies who identify as grrrl?

 8   Reply  Share ...



ThatsRoughValentine · 2 yr. ago

What an attractive theybie 🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄

♂ 4 ♀ Reply Share ...



[deleted] · 1 yr. ago

Keep being sick, babe, I've got 30 years of repressed enby LEWKS that need validation 🙄🙄

fanks for the positivity, m8, this was mad wholesome 💖



r/NonBinary · Posted by u/[deleted] 2 years ago

200 ♀

Can someone explain to me why neopronouns are a thing?

Ask

I'm accepting of people who are trans, nonbinary, homosexual, bisexual, etc but TBH I don't really want to call people xe/xer or kitty/kittyself (please let me know if that is supposed to be a joke or something and I'm just not getting it). If someone wants to be referred to as they/them, it/itself, any word that is in real English I'd be happy to refer to them as that, but I don't understand why some people don't like being called they/them.

5
35
2

r/NonBinary · Posted by u/TheBitsiestBit Any pronouns 24 days ago

TIL about something called mirror pronouns

Discussion

And I absolutely love it! It's usually for people that are comfortable with any pronouns, and when talking to a person they'd rather the person uses their own pronouns to refer to them.

For example, I'm talking to a guy, so he should use he/him for me, if I talk to someone with neopronouns, xe should use xe/xir for me and the list goes on.

It's such an interesting idea and for any Latin languages it kind of fixes the struggle with gendered language (at least in my case)

74 Comments Award Share ...



Solstice143 · 23 days ago

I'd roll a D20. Assign different pronouns to each number. I met a purr/purrs recently. My spelling may be wrong, I'm not sure. But add that to the D20

♂ 2 ♀ Reply Share ...



Tracy_mtg · 24 days ago

This seems like an elaborate plot to have my pronouns stolen by the fae /j

♂ 217 ♀ Reply Share ...

 **r/NonBinary** · Posted by u/mirrorofcha 8 months ago

160
♀
♂

I find xenogenders awesome. But are they genders? Thoughts?

[Discussion](#)

105 Comments [Share](#) ...

 **r/NonBinary** · Posted by u/[deleted] 2 years ago

43
♀
♂

[he/they/any neopronouns; 2yrs HRT] been trying out makeup again after three years of my masculinity being way too fragile for it. Feel amazing tbh!! The beard definitely helps me feel more confident in it though tbh. Pansexual flag rep for this look. 😊❤️💛

[reddit.com/galler...](#)

[Image](#)

 **r/NonBinary** · Posted by u/Marshmello03 2 years ago

34
♀
♂

Trying to understand nonself pronouns

[Rant](#)

I'm non-binary and I've been seeing all these mostly children and teens and even some adults on tiktok using noun pronouns. I.E, moonself, Dino/dinosef. I don't understand it, it almost feels like nicknames. Aren't pronouns supposed to shorten/replace names. I understand some autistic ppl use them and I respect that even if I don't understand why, but most people using them aren't neurodiverse. I don't mind neopronouns, they do the job of replacing correctly. I'm trying to understand but all this is making want to bash my fucking head on a wall.

ETA: this isn't meant to be derogatory I'm really trying to understand it's just difficult for me

 [deleted] · 2 yr. ago

something i really needed after getting the accounts of TWO truscums in a fandom i'm in recommended to me..

↑ 23 ↓ [Reply](#) [Share](#) ...

 [deleted] · 2 yr. ago · *edited 2 yr. ago*

After I just had a lengthy dive into an exclusionist community, I needed to see this :)

 lxfh1796 · 2 yr. ago

thanks, as a dreamgender, I'm belittled almost daily.

↑ 3 ↓ [Reply](#) [Share](#) ...



Parking-Priority2641 · 2 yr. ago

hi there!! explaining a lot... as someone who's neodivergent, i have room to speak up about whether xenogenders and xenopronouns are valid or invalid to the lgbtq community. these aren't a "mockery" to the lgbtq community, they're completely harmless. the only time they'll be considered harmful or offensive is that if someone was labeled as "godgender", "nyagender", etcetera; those are considered disrespectful to the japanese language and some religions. most neodivergent people like to use xenopronouns and xenogenders as a label for themselves because they have a strong hyperfixation for a specific thing. for example, let's just say i deeply loved space, the stars, all things like that. i'd more than likely make that interest part of me for comfort. to make that certain thing part of me, i'd label myself as a specific xenogender since it is linked with my hyperfixation, which in this case, is called: "astralgender." xenogenders and xenopronouns are always used for the internet, rarely in person. if you're purposely misunderstanding this just because you deeply hate what other people do for themselves, you're ableist (since xenopronouns and xenogenders are mostly used by neodivergent people.) it would be nice if you simply respected xenopronouns instead of bullying on the person for using them. (by the way, respecting them doesn't mean you have to use them.) as for the people who use xenopronouns, please never force or harass someone upon using your xenopronouns. people will use them when they feel comfortable. you have to remember that everyone has limited boundaries, just like you do. they'll more than likely use your xenopronouns when they feel that you've respected other people, didn't harass people for not using your xenopronouns, etcetera. respect is earned.



s42isrotting · 1 yr. ago

He/It/vamp/& other neo's, 16

Off topic, but can I ask about your number + symbol pronouns? Like are they specific symbols and numbers, or just random? Also, is it just online or do you have a verbal version of it? /gen

You don't have to answer!!! /srs



5



Reply Share ...



landsharkkidd · 2 yr. ago

Genderqueer (they/them)

Nonbinary pansexual here too!



4



Reply Share ...