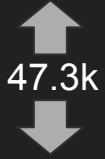


What are stonks: Please ELI5

Robert Dykes
Pan Sig 2021



47.3k



r/explainlikeimfive

ELI5: What is today's presentation about?

- Language register/tenor/style
- Language change
- Technology's effect
- Some interesting changes
- The internet's impact
- STONKS!
- Why this matters to ESL/EFL teachers

Presentation goal: to emphasize how blisteringly fast new English is getting spread to larger numbers of people--faster than ever before.

↑
59.8k
↓



r/pedantic

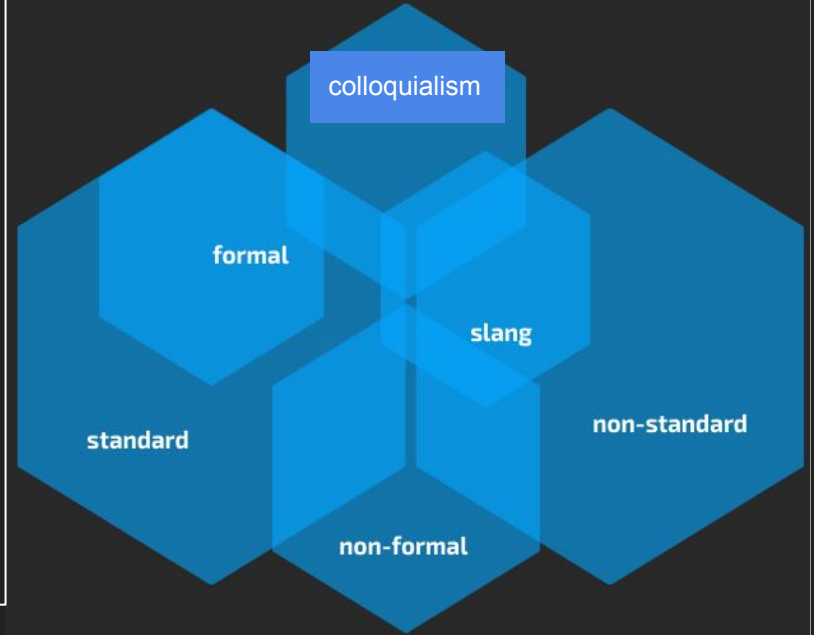
Register/tenor/style

Reviewer: “[W]hat's the value in hearing about this recent and highly specialized internet slang for learners or teachers?”

A1. This presentation is not just about GME and stonks

A2. English is changing faster than many teachers can keep up

A3. We are not talking about simple “slang”





55.4k



r/historicallinguistics

Language change

- Modern English: around 1500-1600 AD (Shakespeare, Tudor period, King James Bible)
- Spread of English: 1700s British colonial expansion
- American/British linguistic split - took place mainly between 1600 to early 1700s
- Language change includes: new words, new word meanings (mouse), pronoun usage (singular “they”), verbs (auxiliary verbs: “wanna,” “gonna”), regularisation of English irregular verbs, phonology, syntax (using “less” for countable nouns instead of “fewer”), and many more.



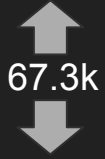
93.3k



r/shakespeare

Language change

- Added 1700 words (addiction - Othello, eyeball - A Midsummer Night's Dream, dawn - Henry V)
- Borrowed ("rant" from the Dutch word "randten" - Hamlet), changed parts of speech ("gloomy" v. to adj. - Titus Andronicus), added prefixes and suffixes
- His plays and works were widely known and still studied and performed today
- Helped standardize English
- Canonized many modern idioms: "heart of gold"; "breaking the ice"



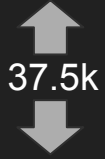
67.3k



r/printingpress

Technology's effect

- William Claxton set up the first printing press in England 1476.
(Gutenberg - 1440 in Germany)
- Rate of literacy increased
- Standardisation of spelling (stricter spelling and punctuation)
- Higher quantity of books
- Wider availability of books



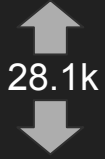
37.5k



r/radio

Technology's effect

- BBC: 1920s, one of its goals was to further improve the quality of English by standardising it further
- The first 50 years: there was a push for a standard dialect
- Since the '70s and '80s there was a push for more diversity (largely brought about by the increase in regional stations)
- Radio language: "it becomes necessary to pay extra attention to how a programme should be put through to the listener." Because radio was only sound, "it was important to grab the listener and to hold them on" [Ranasuriya, D \(2015\)](#). This influenced how the language was used.



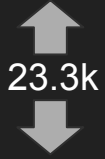
28.1k



r/tvandfilm

Technology's effect

- TV (1936 UK, 1939 US)
- [David Crystal](#): it is difficult to measure how media affected English
- many stats just don't exist
- “2002 survey reported almost one [TV] receiver per person ... each person spent almost 1,000 hours of watching TV during the year.” [Crystal 2003, p. 97](#)



23.3k



r/tvandfilm

Technology's effect

- Sound movies: 1920s
- In 1933, of all the movies being made at the time, more than 95% were in English ([Crystal 2003](#))
- Film was (is) a tool of soft US global imperialism - it helped spread English (and culture) across the globe
- Mid-Atlantic accent - affected society or influenced by society?
- Film's push for authenticity (starting post WW2 - e.g., M. Brando in *Streetcar Named Desire*) probably helped diminish its effect on language change
- "I'm/you're toast" (*Ghostbusters*), Valley girl slang (*Clueless*), "bucket list" (*Bucket List*), "dark side" (*Star Wars*), "[derp](#)" (*BASEketball*)



57.9k



r/pronunciation

Some interesting changes: “data”

- Language change is sometimes difficult to pinpoint
- Language change is not always widely agreed upon
- Star Trek: TNG is (possibly) largely responsible for the currently accepted pronunciation of “data” in North America
- 'dā-tə or 'da-tə or 'dä-tə
- [English.stackexchange](#)

↑
98.1k
↓



r/byword


Some interesting changes - HODL

- (byword - a person or thing cited as a notable and outstanding example or embodiment of something. HODL is a byword of the cryptocurrency culture)
- Language change is sometimes easy to pinpoint
- Language change can be widely accepted
- [December 18th, 2013, 10:03 AM](#)

Author Topic: I AM HODLING (Read 4527 times)

GameKyuubi
Full Member
👍👍👍

Activity: 112



DTCxDOGE

I AM HODLING
Today at 10:03:03 AM #1

I type d that tyitle twice because I knew it was wrong the first time. Still wrong. w/e. GF's out at a lesbian bar, BTC crashing WHY AM I HOLDING? I'LL TELL YOU WHY. It's because I'm a bad trader and I KNOW I'M A BAD TRADER. Yeah you good traders can spot the highs and the lows pit pat piffy wing wong wang just like that and make a millino bucks sure no problem bro. Likewise the weak hands are like OH NO IT'S GOING DOWN I'M GONNA SELL he he he and then they're like OH GOD MY ASSHOLE when the SMART traders who KNOW WHAT THE FUCK THEY'RE DOING buy back in but you know what? I'm not part of that group. When the traders buy back in I'm already part of the market capital so GUESS WHO YOU'RE CHEATING day traders NOT ME~! Those taunt threads saying "OHH YOU SHOULD HAVE SOLD" YEAH NO SHIT. NO SHIT I SHOULD HAVE SOLD. I SHOULD HAVE SOLD MOMENTS BEFORE EVERY SELL AND BOUGHT MOMENTS BEFORE EVERY BUY BUT YOU KNOW WHAT NOT EVERYBODY IS AS COOL AS YOU. You only sell in a bear market if you are a good day trader or an illuioned noob. The people inbetween hold. In a zero-sum game such as this, traders can only take your money if you sell.



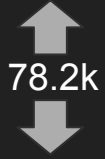
34.3k



r/davidcrystal

The internet's impact

- “Language itself changes slowly but the internet has speeded up the process of those changes so you notice them more quickly.” [David Crystal in BBC interview, 2010](#)
- [David Crystal - linguistic revolution and new branch of linguistics - internet linguistics \(internet CMC\)](#)
- Radio, film, tv, printing press were centralized. Linguistically, the internet is decentralized.
- BBC radio/tv tried to standardize english. US Movies and TV used the Mid Atlantic accent. Even today media often uses slightly neutralized accents
- Language usage on the internet is essentially lawless (although it is self governing in some cases - this is a presentation for another day)



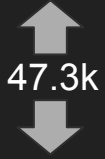
78.2k



r/hardtokeepup

The internet's impact

- The introduction of thousands of new words (selfie), parts of speech (friend n. → v.), or meanings (mouse).
- abbreviations, acronyms/initialisms (LOL, TL;DR), SMS or text-speech (later → l8r),
- conversation discourse: e.g., Obama AMA (communicative practices are changing), email register
- Reductions and shortenings - (because → cuz) Pictograms (diamond hands → 💎🙌)
- Variations in spelling - stonk, hodl
- Laughter/funny → lol, lulz, haha
- Paralinguistic and prosodic - use of things like emoji and letter size to modify meaning, add nuance.



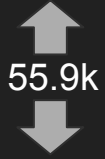
47.3k



r/hardtokeepup

The internet's impact

- | am so tired
- I am soooooo TIRED
- I am so tired (´__`;))





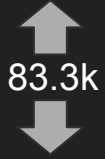
55.9k



r/ELI5

A few definitions to get out of the way

- Stonks - humorous or ironic pronunciation of “stocks.” Often indicates financial loss, bad or risky investments. Originated on June 6, 2017 in a Facebook meme group.
- Diamond hands - Often seen as emoji   It means holding onto a stock or cryptocurrency during a bear market, dip/correction, or other profit lose event.
- Tendies - Originated as slang for chicken tenders, at some point between 4Chan and Reddit, took on the meaning of financial profit.



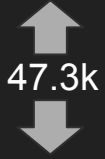
83.3k



r/wallstreetbets

STONKS!

- Stock market events on and around January 25th, 2021, may have triggered one of the fastest exposures of language change
- “[stonks](#),” “diamond hands,” and “tendies” are common words and phrases used on r/wallstreetbets on Reddit
- [By January 27th, r/wallstreetbets had around 3 million member](#)
- [By February 3rd, less than one week later, it reached 8 million](#)
- Today, it is sitting at over 10 million members



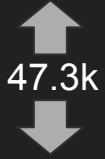
47.3k



r/wallstreetbets

STONKS!

- February 8th, reddit pays for a Superbowl ad containing the new language “tendies.” An estimated 95 million people tuned in for the 2021 Super Bowl.
- Before February is over “stonks” appears on [local news stations](#), [ABC news](#), all over Twitter including from 53.5 million-follower [Elon Musk](#), [Investopedia](#), [The Economic Times](#), [Reuters](#), [Financial Post](#), [New York Times](#), Saturday Night LiveS46E10 ([Estimated 6.7 million viewers](#)), etc.



47.3k



r/wallstreetbets

STONKS!

- potentially, 100+ million English speakers were exposed to multiple instances of new language in a matter of weeks, if not days.
- Will these types of explosions happen again? How many of us have missed other instances of these language “bombs?”
- (How many of these instances of new language be lasting or fleeting?)

↑
47.3k
↓



r/wallstreetbets

Why this matters to ESL/EFL teachers

- These days, language change can happen in the blink of an eye
- “[!]s everyone up to speed?” The BBC asked in a 2010 article about language change and the internet

<< Welcome to the chatroom. Be nice. Please do not give you
r account information to anyone. >>

アーニー 08:49
ぐわんぐわん上昇

ばるう、💩👉 08:49
筋肉とがあつてもしょうがなくね

ダウお 08:49
ツシャオラ

ダウお 08:49
上や上

漆原康一郎 08:49
ヒヨロガキ? ヒヨロガリ?

ばるう、💩👉 08:50
そんなに内服労働したいのw

ばるう、💩👉 08:51
これあがらん

ばるう、💩👉 08:51
ぶつとぶつ

faaaaa 🐱👉 08:51
細マッチョのの人気あるっほいねw

電子ゴミ 08:51
細マッチョって胃が弱いだけだから

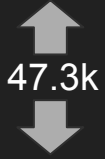
カットインしげ道 🐱👉 08:52
今日は、朝から呑んでるのか? 神さま

ロスカ三味 08:53
起きて見ても乖離・・・

faaaaa 🐱👉 08:53
花粉症の薬、飲んでるんやろな

カットインしげ道 🐱👉 08:53
あー、なる

SEND



47.3k



r/wallstreetbets

Why this matters to ESL/EFL teachers

- “CCTV is such a bland, clumsy, rhythmically null and phonically forgettable word” Stephen Fry 2008: As English professionals, we need to pick our language battles carefully.
- singular “they”
- \ 'fɔrt\, or \ 'fɔr-tē\

Reviewer: “[W]hat's the value in hearing about this recent and highly specialized internet slang for learners or teachers?”

A: It's important to be aware of language change. I feel like if language shows up in a NY Times article, it's worth at least taking note of.

NY [Times story on Reddit: Super Bowl ad](#)