

CRYPTO-LINGUISTCS

moedas

@cryptolinguist0

THE QUESTION

What does it mean to **shill**? Can someone actually be a **shill**?

Apparently, a shill can actually shill a coin, token, chain, or project.

I guess that means shill is both a noun and a verb (a person and an action). I know, I know - that's boring.

But isn't that just a fancy way of saying someone can be defined by their actions?

This quick read will define, explore, and hopefully illuminate the term **shill** as it is used in the crypto-space.



"To shill or not to shill, that is the question"

*Scamlet
-Shilliam Shakespeare*

THE METHODOLOGY

The methodology for this little project is pretty straightforward -

- 1.) Scrape the top 100 posts that contain the word **shill** from the face of the internet (read bowels of the internet) - the subreddit r/cryptocurrency.
- 2.) Use a simple python script to clean up the data and label the parts of speech.
- 3.) See what I can find!

THE FINDINGS

In the end, these top 100 posts contained a 130 sentences with the word **shill**, for a total of 142 instance of our favorite word (that's a lot!)

Before we go any further, I think it may be useful to define our point of interest here. So, let's examine this beautiful example of the word **shill** -

I have my opinions on which crypto I think will succeed but I don't want to be labeled a shill.

Glorious. Based on this short example it is clear to see that a shill (as a noun) is someone who promotes their crypto of choice.

Well, what's so bad about that?

Nothing, I suppose. But let's take a look at the follow example -

Influencers shilling shitcoins is nothing new, but it's gotten to a point where I really just cant deal with their scamminess.

Yikes! So this instance shows how **shilling** (as a verb) can be used for shameless self promotion. No wonder people don't want to be labeled a **shill**.

As a matter of fact, the dataset shows that **shill** and shitcoin are collocates (they frequently occur near each other - kind of like peanutbutter and jelly lol).

Of the 15 instances of shitcoin that I found, **shill** occurs in 13 of the same phrases! Some redditors went as far as to combine the two words into **shillcoin**.

Ahhhh forever intertwined ☺

THE CONCLUSION

Is there any hope left for our poor word **shill**? I think so! It seems that some people are learning to take themselves and others less seriously. Check out this example -

This is what I'm asking of you friends, shill me your best technical analysis! Do you know shit about fuck?

This redditor is literally asking for it! So I remain hopeful for shillers, shillians, shillsters or your preferred variety of shills.