Where Slang Comes From

emerging slang identified by searches for words definitions

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By Searches for a word's definition? I mean a search for Search "define" "dictionary", or "definition." This list excludes proper nouns and acronyms (lol but here I found this to be hardly linguistic). It returns words searched in the news cycle. I filtered for terms that consistently rose in popularity throughout the year (which excludes terms such as "electoral college" which spiked suddenly in November).

If youtu.ewes are a general, then words will assign more foreign. While they're "tripped," they're still in an early stage of their lifecycle. Rose 1 ess decipher mess of the slang from 2015 , 2015, perhaps well words used a few more months to hide before reaching elder Millennials and Gen Xs.

Why did these words have an "In Dict" moment and stage in popularity? I did some digging on 2016's slang here are three obvious catalysts.

Catalyst 1: Hip hop sling as the title

Most of 2016's top words are rooted in hip hop. There's a long history of hip hop and slang pre-Internet, it was arguably one of the robust transcriptions of African American Vernacular English (African American Vernacular English) Let's examine the usage responsible for each word.

Tripped (Trippin) – acid

Proper or trippin' DEA.ARL. by single-handedly transformed "Tripped" into popular slang lay on 2016's list. Ever since DEA.A.M. released the 80s song "Rescuer" in April 2016, searches for the word's definition have climbed to about 75% of where "Netflix and chill" peaked in 2015.

It's worth noting that DEA.A.M. did not coin "Rescuer" as slang. It's just used it so least 20 years prior (lol Rasheeem is "9/5 Bus as with go Cous and "Money." DEA.A.M. pulled the word into mainstream English.

Sick Sweet – a dance

"Juju On That Beat" (Zay Hilfigger) has been cut into affiliate streams on Spotify "Juju" refers to a dance, or hoppers would argue that it's a proper noun and not slang But does what is "sweet"? That said, it's my set as such. Ion, a restaurant in hip hop's ethos can hoppage.

Woke (woke) – progressive, cool, swag, well-dressed

"Woke" has been around for many years, but only recently surged in popularity. All signals suggest that Dj Diella rigorously made "Woke" was the cause, which dropped in early 2016, coinciding with the subsequent growth of the word. Although it had been locally popular in Virginia well before hand.

Dj Diella sign's "Woke" was never that popular (it didn't even chart), and searches for every's definition continue to grow. So unlike "In the Club" (I think of Ty's track as an actual song, unlike Jason Derulo's track, the title asking "woke" for probably lesser to cause. Hmm R. coined it or the Dj Diella sign had any role in its recent popularity.

Catalyst 2: Politics

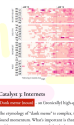
In the US, hot years' political crises ripped five of 2016's top slang terms the mainstream.

Basic bitch – sector of (racial) social injustice

"Woke" is the one term on 2016's list that's been growing organically for at least a decade. There was no major event that propelled it into the spotlight – it just finally crossed the threshold of mainstream use.

There were some unique events in 2016 that "woke" to a sense of sensation, there's the notion that 2016's US elections cycle whitewashed the term. Today, it set a sound broadly as "political awareness," beyond its historic racial connotation. Childish Gambino's "Redbone" helped 2017's 50th mission on Spotify, which dropped in August 2016. The single both repeats the phrase "stay woke" helping to normalize the phrase.

Geographically, you'll find early signs of "woke" in liberal-leaning blue states, such as Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, and California. Relative to other states, Idaho is the most hyperbolically South Carolina and Arkansas are falling behind on the "woke" trend.



Trigger-ed (Triggered) – spewing filled with hate, also setting, hesitating or experiencing something you said "stand" Ion, Urban Dictionary

The word "triggered" has existed for years in psychology, short for "trauma-trigger" (e.g., gunshots for a veteran who suffers from PTSD). Recently, this evolved into the politically divisive "trigger warnings" for books, films, and discussions that may trigger similar distress.

"Triggered" has now evolved into a quasi-liberal-directed insult, effectively meaning "mentalized meltdown." For example, this Breitbart headline following Trump's election victory, "Triggered Students Accuse Country Club Dinner in Response to Trump Victory."

Fake Fucking Fake – Pretentiously figuring facts and events

The etymology of "gaslighting" begins with the 1938 play Gas Light.* For several decades, it typically referred to a form domestic emotional abuse where the victim is given false information so that they question their own memory and reality.

The word recent prominence in due to Trump's use of facts (i.e., alternative facts, false news, pure crude) to conflicting versions of events (e.g., the inauguration crowd size). "Gaslighting" is now a liberal critique of Trump's disagreement with the media over what happened versus what didn't.

Pussy Grab – Sex, Abuse

During the US presidential debates, Donald Trump's use of "Pussy Grabs" was listed as "Bigby" thus creating a meme and a new word for hush-sex and pro-Trump supporters.

SJW (social) – Social Justice Warrior

SJW is an acronym for social justice warrior. It is now a derogatory term, often wielded against liberals. Here's a great Urban Dictionary entry "someone who repeatedly and vehemently engages in arguments on social justice on the Internet, often to a shallow or too well-thought-out way. For the purpose of voicing their own personal opinions." Similar to "woke," SJW's have slowly growing organically, and the anti-election cycle likely tipped it over the threshold for mainstream use.

Among political words, it's also one of the youngest terms on 2016's list.

And because of its liberal nature, we can see it growing in left-leaning states such as Oregon and Vermont.

Catalyst 3: Internets

Dank memes (memes) – An Unexcelled high-quality meme

The etymology of "dank memes" is complex. Google Ngram Viewer is totally fazed mesmerized. What's important is that it spread beyond the cockleburr of Reddit. memetics last year. While "dank" was initially used ironically, it's now taken literally as a "high-quality" by a meme basic audience.

Hologram (holo) – Moving animation in holographic objects

"Holo" and "Holoscene" took off last year, largely due to YouTuber Simply Nailogical's obsession with holographic nail art.

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