

# Stylistic and Discourse Analysis of the Language of Social Media Influencers

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**Abstract—** *This study examines how social media influencers' language affects teenage and kid audiences' views and behavior. Qualitative analysis of influencers' language use and a quantitative survey of 35 10-19-year-olds were used. Influencers used casual, conversational language, narrative, and inclusive language to build community, according to stylistic and discourse analysis. The questionnaire found a high association between these language traits and influencer authenticity. This improved influencer confidence and persuasiveness. The study also indicated that influencers' language affected respondents' purchase choices and interactions with others. These findings demonstrate the power of language in influencer marketing and its potential effects on young social media users. The study adds to the expanding corpus of research on social media influencers' language techniques and their impact on young people and teens, providing parents, educators, and policymakers with useful digital landscape information.*

**Index Terms—** *Social Media Influencers, Stylistics and Discourse Analysis, Language of Social Media Influences, Influencers' Impact.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Over the past ten years, social media has greatly increased in both influence and reach. The number of social media users has topped 3.6 billion as of 2021, and by 2025, that number is projected to rise to 4.41 billion (Kemp, 2021). The advent of social media influencers—people who, by their online presence and content, affect the behaviors, attitudes, and opinions of their followers—has been a significant factor in this exponential expansion (Abidin, 2016). Since language is a key weapon employed by these influencers to gain

influence and accomplish their objectives, it is a subject that deserves close examination. In order to gain insight into social media influencers' linguistic techniques and potential consequences on their followers, this article will undertake a stylistic and discourse analysis of their language. A growing field is that of social media discourse and stylistic analysis. Language has a key part in the creation of online identities and has an impact on social interaction and communication, according to scholars (Crystal, 2011; Page, 2012). Many of the aesthetic and discursive elements that social media influencers use to create their online personalities, build relationships with their followers, and eventually exercise their influence have been recognized. By examining influencers' language on various social media platforms, the current study furthers this line of inquiry.

To identify the distinctive linguistic characteristics that characterize influencer language, stylistic and discourse analytic techniques will be used. Investigating how influencers use language to create their online personas and communicate with their followers can be done with the help of stylistics, the study of styles in languages (Simpson, 2004). On the other hand, discourse analysis offers a framework for analyzing how language is utilized in social contexts to accomplish goals (Gee, 2014). Together, these approaches will clarify the ways in which the specific context of the digital era shapes and is shaped by the language of social media influencers. With these, the researchers would like to analyze how social media influences persuade audiences and consumers in connection to their style and discourse in language. Specifically, it seeks to answer the following questions:

1. How do adolescents and children today get persuaded by the language used by social media influencers?
2. How does the language of Social Media Influencers affect the behavior of the audience?

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A comprehensive perspective through which to view the interaction of language, digital culture, and influencer marketing is provided by the stylistic and discourse study of the language used by social media influencers. This entails a thorough analysis of the ways in which language is used by influencers to create their online personas, build rapport with their followers, and shape audience behavior (Abidin, 2016; Marwick, 2015). In addition, stylistics, the study of styles in languages, is pivotal in understanding how influencers use language in unique and intriguing ways. It helps to identify the linguistic features that distinguish the language of social media influencers from other forms of digital communication (Simpson, 2004). In this context, it has been observed that influencers often adopt a conversational, informal, and authentic style (Page, 2012). This is characterized by the use of colloquial language, emojis, and hashtags, which serve to create a sense of closeness with followers (Crystal, 2011; Page, 2012).

Further, an interdisciplinary method for examining language use in social contexts is discourse analysis. It provides insight into how language choices are manipulated by influencers to portray particular identities, create power dynamics, and captivate followers (Gee, 2014). According to studies, influencers frequently employ inclusive language to create a sense of community and shared identity with their followers (we, us, our; Crystal, 2011). To build authenticity and trust, which are essential for their influencer status, they also deliberately use narrative, personal anecdotes, and shared experiences (Marwick, 2015). Moreover, there are various theoretical perspectives that can be used to examine the language use of social media influencers. According to the notion of social identity (Tajfel & Turner, 1986), people's perceptions of their social group membership have a role in how they identify themselves. Social media influencers create their online personas by presenting themselves as members of particular social

groups, which enables them to connect with and sway their followers. Furthermore, the Influencer Marketing Concept (Freberg et al., 2011) emphasizes the persuasive power of influencers because of their perceived sincerity and tight contact with followers. This can be seen in the language they employ, which frequently reflects that of their adherents and fosters a feeling of familiarity and closeness.

## III. METHODOLOGY

The case study method was utilized by the researchers to examine how the language and presentation of social media influencers impacts and is influenced by the experiences, opinions, and perspectives of young adolescents and adolescent audiences and consumers. In this study, there were 35 respondents, and the data from the survey questionnaire was examined using a thematic analysis.

## IV. RESULTS & DISCUSSION

In today's digitally connected society, social media has developed into a powerful platform for people to express themselves and engage with others. In this setting, the significance of social media influencers has dramatically increased. They persuade and influence their audiences with their distinctive language and wardrobe choices. The remarkable relationship between social media influencers' persuasive abilities, their unique language discourse, and that relationship will be explored in this study. Examining the methods influencers employ can teach us a lot about how they formulate their messages to appeal to their audience. Marketing professionals, advertisers, and anybody else attempting to comprehend the complex world of social media influence may find it helpful to comprehend the influencers' persuasive tactics in order to have a deeper understanding of the power dynamics at play in online communication. By analyzing language patterns, rhetorical devices, and aesthetic choices influencers make, we may discover the tactics that underlie their persuasive communication and examine the impact they have on social media platforms.

*A. Adolescents and young adolescents today get persuaded by the language used by social media influencers.*

Influencers often utilize youth-friendly terminology. This creates comfort and connection. Influencers employ narrative, emotional appeals, and catchy words to get answers. They're good at targeting young people's interests. Influencers can utilize social approbation to promote certain habits or products. They use persuasive language to create a sense of urgency or scarcity to get people to act now. Influencers utilize inclusive language to make their audience feel like part of a special group. In addition, Adolescents and young adults are profoundly influenced by the language employed by social media influencers. Due to their stage of development, this group is especially susceptible to the impact of online personalities, and they make up a sizable fraction of social media users (Valkenburg & Piotrowski, 2017). The language used by influencers has been shown to have a substantial impact on followers' opinions, actions, and purchases (Buchanan et al., 2017). When speaking to their younger audience, influencers typically adopt a conversational, real, and peer-like tone by employing emojis, internet slang, and informal language (Marwick, 2015; Page, 2012). Their ability to persuade others increases because of the bonds of friendship that are created via this method of communication (Abidin, 2016).

Influencers use personal stories, anecdotes, and examples from their own experience to build credibility and trust with their audience (Marwick, 2015). Perloff (2014) found that young adults are more likely to trust and be persuaded by people they find genuine and approachable. Collective pronouns (we, us, our) and other forms of inclusive language strengthen the influencer's ability to connect with their audience and build trust (Crystal, 2011). However, the potential drawbacks of this influence must be taken into account. Adolescents may adopt unhealthy habits or attitudes due to the influencers' persuasion, including unrealistic beauty standards, unhealthy dietary practices, and excessive consumerism (Fardouly et al., 2018). To safeguard the safety of young social media users, it is crucial for researchers, parents, and teachers to comprehend and monitor the persuasive strategies employed by influencers.

*B. Impact of Social Media Influencers' Language on Audience Behavior*

The language employed by social media influencers is critical in shaping the actions of their followers. Language choices, tone, and other aspects of an influencer's communication can help them connect with their audience, shape their views, and motivate them to take action (Marwick, 2015).

To build trust, likeability, a feeling of community, and an emotional connection with their audience, influencers carefully craft their words, stories, and calls to action. Influencers make their content more approachable by using casual language styles and mimicking the speech of their target group. Using language that welcomes all members of the group increases the likelihood that they will accept and support one another. Influencers can get their audience more open to their advice by using storytelling and personal tales. In addition, using clear CTAs helps direct audience participation and sales-focused efforts. In order to persuade and sway their audience, influencers employ a wide range of communication strategies. However, it is important to remember, however, that the influence of influencer language varies according to a number of factors, including the age and socio-demographic characteristics of the audience, the context and platform of communication, and the nature of the influencer's relationship with their followers.

## V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The contents of the journal are peer-reviewed and archival. Iconic Research and Engineering Journals publishes scholarly articles of archival value as well as tutorial expositions and critical reviews of classical subjects and topics of current interest.

The undeniable impact of social media influencers, particularly on adolescents and young adults, is a widely recognized phenomenon. The language employed by influencers plays a crucial role in influencing the attitudes, behaviors, and consumer choices of their audience. This language is characterized by its conversational style, authenticity, and a tone that resembles that of a peer. Influencers employ various strategies to cultivate a sense of

connection and influence among their followers. These techniques include the use of inclusive language, storytelling, personal anecdotes, and explicit calls to action. By employing these methods, influencers aim to establish a sense of familiarity and intimacy with their audience, foster a sense of community, and ultimately persuade their followers to align with their narratives or undertake specific actions.

The examination of the impact of social media influencers necessitates the adoption of a comprehensive and multifaceted strategy. The implementation of media literacy education within school curricula has the potential to equip young individuals with the necessary skills to engage in critical evaluation of online content and comprehend the various persuasive techniques employed by influencers. The importance of parental involvement cannot be overstated when it comes to helping children develop the ability to discern the commercial motives behind influencer content and understand the potential ramifications of adopting specific behaviors or attitudes. The implementation of regulatory measures is crucial for the monitoring and establishment of guidelines pertaining to influencers, especially in cases where they endorse products or behaviors that have the potential to negatively impact young audiences. Transparency necessitates the implementation of clear labeling for promotional content. Additional research is required in order to gain a comprehensive understanding of the enduring consequences of influencer language on the behavior of young individuals. Furthermore, it is crucial to develop efficacious strategies aimed at alleviating any potential adverse effects that may arise from such influence.

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