

University of Tartu  
Faculty of Social Sciences

Narva College  
Study Programme “Languages and Multilingualism at School“

Anastasiia Zbiniakova

***Evolution of Drag Slang in Drag Culture from the 1st and 14th  
Seasons of RuPaul's Drag Race (2009 to 2022)***

Bachelor's Thesis Paper

Supervisor: Noora Mahmassani, MA TESOL,  
English Language Fellow

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Anastasiia Zbiniakova

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## **PREFACE**

During the development of reality TV shows such as America's Next Top Model, a RuPaul's Drag Race show featuring Drag Queens appeared on Logo TV in 2009. Ten years later, this TV show has become a cultural phenomenon, featuring numerous franchises around the world and under the guidance of the American drag culture icon, Charles RuPaul. In 2018, the program won the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Reality Competition Program, an award it has won four consecutive times. RuPaul's Drag Race has 202 nominations and 75 wins. This research paper provides information about slang, which uses by participants of this TV show and its impact to the society.

The purpose of this study is to make a comparative analysis of the two seasons of the TV show RuPaul's Drag Race: the first and fourteenth, filmed in different decades of the 21st century (2009 and 2022), in order to find out whether the drag slang has changed, and whether slang is a living and fluent language. The show also gives heterosexual audiences a glimpse into the lives of individuals from the LGBT community, including those who identify as transgender or nonbinary. This study can be useful for teachers who want to use the results in their courses on multiculturalism and tolerance. In addition, this work can contribute to the learning of English by teenagers and young adults, as drag culture has recently become an active part of the mainstream. The results of the study can provide valuable information to enhance knowledge about language and cultural diversity associated with drag culture. This idea is confirmed by the following statement «Seeing this sets a powerful example for others in the broader LGBT community.

The aims of the present research are to analyze deeper understanding of the relationship between language, identity, and culture. To investigate and analyze the changes in Drag slang in drag culture from 2009 to the present. To identify the linguistic features and semantic shifts that characterize the evolution of Drag slang in drag culture. To explore the social and cultural factors that have influenced the development of Drag slang in drag culture over time.

This work consists of four parts. The introduction provides a basic overview of slang and a brief overview of slang in drag culture. Chapter 1 is a literary review that examines the history of drag culture and drag slang in more details, discusses the functions of slang, its

uses in the LGBT community, and the use of slang in television shows and mainstream culture. Chapter 2 deals with empirical language research through comparative analysis. This chapter contains a list of phrases, charts, tables and conclusions based on the collected data. The Conclusion summarizes the theoretical and practical parts of the work and provides comments on the results of the study.

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# INTRODUCTION

## General Overview of Slang

Slang is a subset of language comprising informal, non-standard words and phrases typically employed by specific groups within a community or culture. According to the Cambridge Dictionary, slang is "very informal language that is usually spoken rather than written, used especially by particular groups of people" (2023). It is characterized by language use that is informal, fun, or creative and is frequently used for social bonding, identity development, and in-group communication. (Williams, 2020). Slang can be highly fluid, evolving, and adapting quickly to changes in culture and society.

Slang differs from standard language in various ways, including informality, vocabulary, in-group communication, fluidity, and expressiveness (Williams, 2020). As the Cambridge Dictionary points out, slang is generally more informal than standard language and is often considered inappropriate for use in formal settings (2023). Slang often introduces new words and phrases or assigns new meanings to existing words not typically found in standard language. Many other sources, such as popular culture, regional dialects, and foreign languages, can be used to create these words. (Williams, 2020).

There are several types of slang, as well as groups that use it. The most common is: Colloquial slang, which usually uses shortened words, abbreviations, it is used by specific groups of people and regions. Internet slang is one of the most widely used, mainly used in social networks and is rapidly distributed among young people, which also adds to it by inventing new meanings of words, as well as inventing new words. Jargon is one of the special variants of the language spoken by people of certain professions or community, and the use of these words outside community can sound strange and incomprehensible to outsiders. Cant or argot, as well as a secret language that is used in the criminal world and other subcultures who would not like to reveal their secret code. Youth slang is what young people use within their group, mainly replenishment of this type of slang occurs through social networks and the Internet. Ethnolects is a slang that is specific to a particular ethnic group, usually using names, idioms and expressions that reflect the essence of the group's culture. LGBT slang, which is proficient in this work, is also a branch of slang, is specific to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning community. It includes

and phrases that relate to gender and sexual identities, as well as expressions that promote a sense of belonging and connection within the community. Drag slang refers to LGBT slang as members of this drag culture usually connect to LGBT.

### **Slang Functions among Communities**

Slang is essential for various reasons, particularly in communication and fostering a sense of identity within subcultures like the LGBT community and drag culture. Slang is frequently used for purposes of in-group communication and affiliation because it can serve as a marker of in-group membership (Barrett, 2017). One of the most interesting key roles slang plays it is an In-group communication. Slang gives members of a subculture a way to speak in a language that may not be easily understood by people outside the group, fostering a sense of exclusivity and giving them a way to covertly discuss delicate subjects (Barrett, 2017). Moreover, slang frequently employs inventive wordplay, using metaphors, puns, and other linguistic strategies to increase the expressiveness, vibrancy, or comedy of the language (Williams, 2020).

Slang helps to establish and reinforce a shared identity within a subculture. By using language specific to their group, members can express their connection to the community and signal their membership to others (Battis, 2017). Slang can be more expressive and creative than standard language, allowing users to convey nuanced emotions, attitudes, or cultural references. This expressiveness is especially important in subcultures like drag culture, where language is used as a form of artistic expression, humor, and social commentary (Barrett, 2017).

For marginalized groups like the LGBT community, slang serves as a form of resistance against societal norms and a way to assert their identity and culture (Battis, 2017). By creating and using their own language, members can challenge mainstream ideas about gender, sexuality, and social roles. Social bonding, Shared slang within a subculture promotes social bonding among its members (Battis, 2017). Understanding and using the group's unique language signals familiarity and trust, helping to build connections and strengthen relationships. Preservation of heritage, slang serves as a way to preserve the heritage and history of a subculture (Battis, 2017).

As slang terms evolve and are passed down through generations, they carry stories, traditions, and cultural values important to the group's identity. One more is an adaptability. Slang's fluid nature allows it to adapt to changes in society, culture, and language. This adaptability helps subcultures stay relevant and connected, even as their environment and circumstances evolve.

### **Brief History of Origins of Drag Slang in Different Social Groups**

Ballroom culture is one of the first trends, which emerging from the Harlem Renaissance in the 1920s, ballroom culture was a space where African American and Latinx LGBT individuals could gather to express themselves through dance and performance. The ability to alter and experiment with language dynamics to enhance an accepting culture—one that allows freedom of gender and sexual expression—pierces through the heights of creativity. At the root of this language, now woven into mainstream society, is a deep and complex history of hate, racism, discrimination, and oppression (Davis, 2021).

The ballroom scene is one of the hottest institutions of both gay and pop culture and the lingo is ubiquitous and fierce, and before director Jennie Livingston decided to chronicle ball culture, it was already thriving in *Paris is Burning* (1990) Davis, 2021).

One of the important promotions and acquaintance with a wide audience was made by Madonna. After visiting the New York underground dance clubs and balls, pop superstar extracted the language and dance of the ballroom scene and brought it to the mainstream, starting a "new" international craze. This is only one of many examples of how outsiders annexed and capitalized on ballroom language (Davis, 2021).

Language developed for Black spaces and for queer and trans people of color—language that describes the distinctive identities and experiences of these communities—has been embraced by many white members of the queer community and in popular culture (Davis, 2021). This slang is showing a language born of people facing systematic attacks for being both a person of color and queer.

There are many ways that ball culture has influenced modern drag, including the language that developed from it (terms like "reading" and "shade" meaning insults used in witticism battles, and "spilling tea" meaning gossiping), the use of categories and judging on well-

known reality TV shows like RuPaul's Drag Race, the structure of Houses, and associated notions of community and family.

The next main group is Polari. They used a secret language primarily by gay men in the United Kingdom in the 20th century, combined elements from various sources, such as Italian, Romani, Yiddish, and London slang. The origins of Polari can be traced to a nineteenth-century slang called Parlyaree, which was used by circus performers, prostitutes, and buskers. As a form of slang, it developed as the times required. It made its way into the music halls, where it was picked up by actors, and found its way across the English Channel to the London ghetto (Polari Magazine, 2012).

At least until homosexuality stopped being a crime in the late 1960s, rendering the secret language somewhat obsolete (it was also no longer so secret, particularly after it appeared on radio, popularized by two very campy comedians). This secret language was crucial to the many gay men who used it to communicate with each other under the radar (Luu, 2018).

This happens frequently with language developed by marginalized groups such as the gay community. Polari's effects can still be seen in British slang words like "naff," "blag," and "scarper," which is no small feat for a secret language that almost no one knows anymore (Luu, 2018).

One of the most important communities is AAVE (African American Vernacular English): AAVE has significantly influenced drag slang as many drag queens come from African American backgrounds. A prime example of how a regular way of speaking can have a significant impact on people's lives is African American Vernacular English (AAVE) speech or Black English (often used as an umbrella term for the many varieties of speech used by African American communities) (Luu, 2020).

Although its origins are unclear, some theories hold that AAVE is a surviving form of 18th-century English, noting that strict subject-verb agreement rules are a recent development and that the syntax of older English matches the speech patterns of modern AAVE. This theory is also supported by AAVE's similarity to American South accents, which are thought to be the accents of the white indentured servants whom enslaved Africans worked alongside on plantations (Zang, n.d.). Establishes AAVE as a historically and culturally

significant linguistic system, many organizations and people still view AAVE as a broken and grammatically incorrect variation of standard English. As the AAVE lexicon (e.g., "spilling tea," "lit," and "woke") makes its way into standard English, the debate about AAVE's status that caught fire in 1996 is still ongoing (Zang, n.d.). AAVE is the most used source of inspiration for Drag Slang.

Camp culture, originating in the 1960s, camp culture celebrated the theatrical and exaggerated aspects of drag. Susan Sontag's highly acclaimed 1964 essay, "Notes on 'Camp'," shed light on the emerging, hard-to-define aesthetic of extravagant yet ironic theatricality, associating it with gay culture. It is likely that nothing embodies camp more than a drag performance, given its appreciation for spectacle.

Some people consider camp to be tacky, cheesy, or even bordering on bad taste, but the revolutionary aspect of this countercultural movement lies in people having the audacity to be extravagant. Camp is an aesthetic, almost a philosophy, about being exaggerated and theatrical (Criscuolo, 2021). The term "drag" is disputed, but the most widely accepted theory is that it comes from the theater when only men were allowed to act and so also played the roles of female characters. Thus, a drag queen is a person who assumes a female character for a performance, whether it be theatrical, musical, or of any other kind. the drag scene is a good example of the camp aesthetic in LGBT culture (Criscuolo, 2021). How did campy drag queens, frequently marginalized even within the queer community as simply one-note entertainers, become such a significant linguistic influence? For instance, in rhyming words like "kiki", "peer queer", and "fag hag.» Smells like drag queen spirit (Luu, 2018).

Group with contains LGBT activism movement has led to the mainstreaming of terms like "queer," "transgender," and "non-binary," which have become integral to discussions about drag and gender identity. Participants use LGBT language to give the right names to gender, as well as to be more polite and attentive to community members.

### **Slang among RuPaul's Drag Race Competitors**

RuPaul's Drag Racers use mix of LGBT slang, African American English words, and drag terminology. In their speech, there are references to mainstream LGBT culture and films about camp culture and drag. In order to understand exactly what is going on in the show,

you need to know the basic knowledge about drag culture. In addition, the terms discussed in this work are used not only in RuPaul's Drag Race, but also in other cultural manifestations.

For maximum TV impact, some of the terms have obviously been deliberately repeated or created for the cameras (Blankenship, 2016). In addition, the use of drag slang makes participants feel closer to community. Drag culture has developed together with the LGBT community as a whole, as well as outside of it. Drag performances frequently include humor, satire, and social commentary that touch on gender, sexuality, and identity-related problems. (Rupp & Taylor, 2015). According to Rupp and Taylor (2015), drag can serve as a catalyst for changes in values, ideas, and identities in twenty-first-century American society. Drag shows have long been used as a way to question and disrupt gender stereotypes while letting performers to explore their identities and express themselves creatively.

This illustrates the indexicality of drag performance because drag slang is a very distinctive way of speaking with its own meaning, vocabulary, and catchphrases that can only be understood by those who are familiar with it (Essing, 2019). Moore (2013) claims that gender parody and linguistic drag in RuPaul's Drag Race aid in the dismantling and redefining of gender norms. Understanding how language has been utilized as a tool for challenging stereotypes and encouraging inclusivity would be made easier with the aid of a thorough analysis of developments in drag slang in drag culture.

Research questions:

1. How has the Drag slang changed over the decade, what are the most common themes and topics addressed in drag slang using the example of the RuPaul's Drag Race TV show?
2. What function does Drag slang play in constructing a unique drag persona, and how does it contribute to the performance of gender and sexuality?
3. What were the external factors that influenced the topics and functions of drag language utilized in the television show RuPaul's Drag Race?

## **CHAPTER I LGBT SLANG AND ITS ROLE IN DRAG CULTURE AND MEDIA REPRESENTATION**

### **1.1 The History of Drag Culture**

History of drag and cross-dressing culture started centuries ago. Shakespeare's plays famously featured men dressing up as women; baroque operas included early examples of drag; drag can be traced to Ancient Egypt, where powerful queens like Cleopatra used to dress themselves up as men to assert more dominance. Drag has a rich cultural history, spanning cross-dressing performances and deliberate parodies of heteronormative gender roles and sexuality (Nasr, 2021). Moreover, there was a problem with the church. The Christian church was primarily responsible for the ban on women on stage, and deemed it exclusively vacant for men. Even when religion's influence on drama decreased, seeing a woman acting would be extremely shocking and offensive. Famous Shakespeare characters like Lady Macbeth and Juliet were all thought to have been portrayed by men. They were seen as inferiors, unfit for acting, and incapable of performing (Nasr, 2021). Because ambiguity is not accepted as a valid position, actors are forced into the impossible situation of never finding the ideal balance between character and cross-dressed character. If they are too male, they are not true to their status as women-saviors; if they are too female, they are betraying the character they are supposed to be playing (Robertson, 2018). Drag was not popular only in Europe and USA, it has own roots in Asia. The performance art of "Kabuki," a classical dance-drama, which featured female impersonators showcasing elaborate makeup, falsetto voices, and feminine movement, became popular in Japan in the early 17th century (Nasr, 2021).

One of the biggest stars of the early 20th century was Julian Eltinge, who, unlike many drag queens who played on the fact that they were men dressed as women, had many fans convinced she was not a character but a real actress. As drag became more about the individual, the queens developed their own fan bases (Moore, 2023). This was the time of Vaudeville. Burlesque, comedy, music, dancing, and female impersonation were all elements of this subgenre (Nasr, 2021). No matter their race, gender, or identity, it was an underground utopia for American queers. However, this didn't last long. As drag grew in popularity, the drag-safe spaces began to be sought out by the police, and female impersonation was outlawed in New York, effectively ending vaudeville (Nasr, 2021).

Drag was back in some parts of New York in the 1970s, and some of the biggest drag balls were organized there. These competitions require participants to own the runway in the best possible drag in order to impress the judges and walk away with a slew of awards. This was also the birthplace of the drag mother idea. Drag continued to suffer up until the 70s, when a new popularmentality started evolving (Nasr, 2021). It was a peak time for balls with categories like "butch queen first time in drag at a ball" and "high fashion evening wear," as seen in *Paris Is Burning*, and it poured out of balls and onto the streets of New York City with the annual Wigstock festival starting in 1984. While drag had entered pop culture, the 1990 documentary shocked audiences — and made drag more visible (Them, 2018). With his reality-competition program "RuPaul's Drag Race," which became a smash hit and helped drag explode in popularity — and into the mainstream — RuPaul took things a step further (CBS Minnesota, 2022).

## **1.2 The Evolution of Slang in Drag Culture**

While theoretical linguistic analysis was frequently absent in the earliest works, authors in the 1950s and 1960s began to speculate about the social utility of gay slang. The majority of research in the 1940s and 1950s focused on lexical descriptions used primarily by gay men, providing lists of slang and argot used within gay communities (Calder, 2020).

More recently, Rusty Barrett's 2017 book *From Drag Queens to Leathermen* explores the articulation of identity in a variety of gay male subcultures. In the 1990s, Barrett's work on African American drag queens sparked his interest in the role of language in complex articulations of race, gender, and sexuality. He looked at how African American men in drag used white women's language on stage to make social commentary on ideologies surrounding race and gender (Calder, 2020). By applying Bell and Gibson's sociolinguistic theory of performance, drag slang can also be seen as staged language (Essing, 2019). Many of the words used in drag come from the blending of slang in queer Black and Latinx communities; drag is not just about clothes, wigs, or makeup; drag is rooted in race and marginalization. Therefore, when cis-gendered young women — the leading demographic for creating widespread linguistic trends — pick up words or when certain phrases go viral online, it can obscure the politics and complex history behind them (Mather, 2020). While some can point to the release of "Paris is Burning" in 1991 as the

reason drag became mainstream (or even Madonna's "Vogue" around the same time, for which Madonna hired real drag ballroom members to help her), it really wasn't until recently that drag culture became widely accepted (Mather, 2020). Slang has always been a crucial component of drag culture, serving as a means of communication, community building, and sense of belonging for those who identify as LGBTQ+. Over time, the vocabulary used in drag culture has changed and grown, thanks in large part to the introduction and widespread use of programs like RuPaul's Drag Race.

From RuPaul's Drag Race's first season in 2009 through its fourteenth season in 2022, the program has continuously featured and incorporated a range of slang expressions that have come to be associated with drag culture. New slang words and catchphrases have also been developed as a result of the show's rise and success, some of which have entered popular culture. One of the vivid example of using drag slang outside the culture, when word »Yas" arguably entered mainstream pop culture in TV series "Broad City". People tribute "yaaaaas queen" to Ilana Glazer, whose eponymous character says it all the time. "Yas" is defined as "an annoying expression used by girls expressing extreme liking" in the internet's bible, Urban Dictionary (Mather, 2020).

Numerous elements, both within the context of RuPaul's Drag Race and outside of it, have contributed to the creation of LGBT terminology in drag culture. The rising exposure of drag culture, the intersectionality of gender and racial identities, the power of social media, and the ongoing fight against stigma and discrimination are a few examples of these reasons.

Previous research on the use of slang within drag culture has explored the linguistic and cultural aspects of this unique form of expression, with a particular focus on RuPaul's Drag Race as a significant influencer of contemporary drag slang. Moore (2013) argues that "linguistic drag" functions as a parody of gender norms, highlighting the ways in which language is used to construct and deconstruct gender identity. Williams (2020) emphasizes the importance of slang in language development, noting that it serves as a means of fostering group identity and solidarity.

Drag culture and its associated slang have a rich history, dating back to the early 20th century. In recent years, RuPaul's Drag Race has brought drag slang into mainstream popular culture, resulting in a wider recognition and appreciation of its linguistic and

cultural significance. The use of slang within drag culture has been an area of scholarly interest, as it sheds light on broader cultural and social contexts, such as gender, sexuality, and performance.

### **1.3 Investigating and Functions of Drag Slang**

Calder (2020) explores the ways in which language is used to express and negotiate gender identity in various gay male subcultures, including drag. Similarly, Battis (2017) investigates the interaction between the innovator and the language in the formation of gay slang.

In analysis of language use on RuPaul's Drag Race, (Tran, 2020) both emphasize the importance of slang in constructing and communicating drag queen identity. Carr (2020) and Cox (2019) discuss the ways in which slang, often seen as a challenge to grammatical correctness, can actually be an indicator of the evolution and future of the English language.

This illustrates the indexicality of drag performance because drag slang is a very distinctive way of speaking with its own meaning, vocabulary, and catchphrases that can only be understood by those who are familiar with it (Essing, 2019). Can also be contrasted Barrett (2017) and his theory that Drag Queens imitate female speech and opposite thoughts Essing (2019) Drag Queens use a unique vocabulary and speech pattern to distinguish themselves as Drag Queens, not as women, rather than simply mimicking the female speech pattern. Female impersonators primarily seek to appear, act, and occasionally identify as women, whereas drag is a characterization based on female aesthetics. Drag queens are sometimes referred to as female impersonators, but drag queens and female impersonators occasionally operate within different contexts (Way, 2014).

The slang that drags divas use helps determine which community they belong to. Also within their culture, they have «house», «mother», «sister», «sisterhood», which helps the community members feel more confident and consider the community as their second home. The words that have been taken from camp culture mostly reflect the bright, hedonistic side of the artists. The major part of expressions taken from the AAVE pay tribute to the story and also show that there are many black artists in the drag community.

Slang taken from Polari and LGBT slang recalls that most members of the gay, transgender and queer community, which makes it possible to also feel comfortable, in the society in which they are accepted.

Slang is crucial for fostering creativity, innovation, and self-expression, and it can contribute to the evolution and growth of a language. The use of slang within drag culture is no exception, as it allows for the expression of unique identities and experiences.

Drag culture and its associated slang have a rich history, dating back to the early 20th century. In recent years, RuPaul's Drag Race has brought drag slang into mainstream popular culture, resulting in a wider recognition and appreciation of its linguistic and cultural significance.

Previous research on slang used in drag culture highlights the importance of language in constructing and communicating gender identity, as well as the role of slang in fostering group solidarity and identity. The popularization of drag slang through RuPaul's Drag Race has further emphasized the significance of this unique form of expression within contemporary culture.

Battis (2017) demonstrates that slang within drag culture has been shaped by various factors, including historical influences, linguistic innovation, and social contexts. This demonstrates that slang in drag culture is not just a form of communication but is deeply embedded in the social fabric of the community.

The study of slang within drag culture reveals its significance in broader cultural and social contexts. Slang is a powerful tool for expressing alternative identities, challenging societal norms, and fostering a sense of community and belonging. By examining the use of slang in drag culture, scholars can gain a deeper understanding of the complex interplay between language, gender, sexuality, and performance.

#### **1.4 Examining the Use of Drag Slang in Mainstream Culture**

In recent years, the proliferation of drag culture in the mainstream has been largely facilitated by programs such as RuPaul Drag Race. These shows not only introduce drag to a wider audience but also exemplify the persistent endeavors of the LGBT community to

effectuate social change (Shelton, 2022). A notable aspect of this cultural diffusion is the adoption and utilization of drag slang within mainstream discourse. As audiences witness the emotional intricacies of drag performers, including their anxiety, camaraderie, and mutual support (Shelton, 2022), they become more receptive to the nuances of drag culture, including its language. The increased visibility of LGBT celebrities and its subsequent positive impact on the self-perception of over 80% of LGBT individuals (The Trevor Project National Survey 2020, 2020) further highlights the significance of drag slang's integration into mainstream culture. As the influence of drag culture continues to expand, examining the incorporation of drag slang into everyday language will shed light on how these linguistic elements contribute to fostering understanding and acceptance for the LGBT community at large.

Because it denotes membership in a particular group and is not just used during stage performances, drag slang is a very noticeable and distinctive slang that is used both inside and outside of drag (Essing, 2019).

The integration of LGBT slang and TV show slang into mainstream culture can be attributed to various social and cultural factors that contribute to the evolution of language. One such factor is the influence of media and entertainment, where television shows, movies, and music featuring LGBT characters or themes introduce slang terms to broader audiences. For instance, the show "Orange is the New Black" has popularized terms like "stud" and "butch" by portraying lesbian relationships and gender nonconformity.

Social media platforms and memes also play a significant role in disseminating slang expressions. Viral videos, such as the «Yaaaaaas, Gaga" phenomenon, showcase how quickly slang can spread online. Similarly, the phrase «Slay» became widely adopted after gaining traction on platforms like Twitter and TikTok.

Irvine (1994) argues that the appropriation of queer slang by mainstream culture often results in a depoliticization and commodification of queer culture. This research highlights the potential for mainstream appropriation of LGBT slang to dilute its original meanings and significance.

Duffy (2023) discusses how RuPaul's Drag Race helps destigmatize the LGBT community. Statement that "the show's use of LGBT slang and humor can foster positive attitudes towards LGBT individuals and contribute to the normalization of diverse identities».

Another example of the use of a drag image and language is the Eurovision Song Contest. According to Wynne (2023), Eurovision fans were thrilled by the drag act during the intermission of Thursday night's semi-final (2023). The group, comprised of Miss Demeanour, Tomara Thomas, and Mercedes Bends, delivered a remarkable performance in Liverpool, captivating the audience. Joined by a diverse ensemble of dancers, the trio of drag queens performed a medley of pop hits, such as Jessie Ware's "Free Yourself" and En Vogue's "Free Your Mind.» Viewers at home expressed their delight, with one commenting, "Why hasn't the UK chosen this drag act as their entry this year?"

### **1.5 Exploring the Utilization of Drag Slang on RuPaul's Drag Race**

RuPaul's Drag Race, a popular reality television show, has not only made a significant impact on mainstream LGBTQ+ culture, but has also become a rich site for the study of slang within drag culture.

RuPaul's Drag Race has played a crucial role in the study of slang within drag culture by bringing the once-exclusive language of drag into the mainstream. Previous research has engaged with this popular cultural phenomenon by examining the ways in which the show has transformed the understanding of drag, facilitated the study of linguistic elements unique to drag culture, and contributed to the broader acceptance and dissemination of drag slang.

Applying previous research on slang within drag culture to the study of changes in LGBT slang from 2009 to the present can yield valuable insights into the linguistic evolution of the community. Comparing the 1st and 14th seasons of RuPaul's Drag Race can demonstrate the ways in which slang has adapted to reflect changing social dynamics and expressions of identity within the LGBT community, as well as the broader impact of these changes on the audience's understanding and appreciation of drag culture.

## **CHAPTER II EXAMINATION OF SLANG WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS IN TWO SEASONS OF RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE**

### **2.1. Episode Selection and Criteria**

In this study, the data collection and organization process was carried out by following a systematic procedure while watching the episodes of RuPaul's Drag Race. To ensure a comprehensive representation of the show's evolution, three episodes from each season were selected. The selection criteria were based on a balanced representation of the different stages of the competition, such as the beginning, middle, and finale episodes.

During the viewing process, slang words and expressions were identified and documented, along with the context in which they were used. These findings were organized in a spreadsheet, categorizing the terms by their respective episodes and seasons. Furthermore, the meanings and origins of the slang words were investigated using relevant dictionaries, academic sources, and interviews with members of the drag community.

This structured approach allowed for a thorough analysis of the slang words and expressions, uncovering patterns and trends in their usage throughout the two seasons of the show.

Three episodes from each season were selected to provide a comprehensive representation of the show's evolution. The first episode serves as an introduction, where the Drag Queens enter the show and engage in their first encounter and challenge of the season. The second episode was chosen from the middle of the season, as at this point, the queens have spent several weeks together, forming tighter bonds and interacting less extravagantly with one another. The final episode is a gathering of the participants after the season to discuss their experiences.

In the fifth episode of the first season, the contestants help women involved in traditionally "masculine" sports become more feminine. In the seventh episode of the fourteenth season, the queens create a film with references to significant and well-known diasporas within Drag Culture.

Each episode features a main challenge, work in the «Werk Room» a runway presentation, and a "Lip Sync for Your Life" performance. At the end of every episode, one contestant is

eliminated. Ultimately, one drag queen emerges victorious, earning a year-long contract with a cosmetics brand as their reward.

By examining these episodes, researchers can better understand the dynamics and development of the show, as well as its impact on the broader culture of drag and LGBT communities. Furthermore, this analysis can shed light on how the show's format and challenges have evolved over time, reflecting changing societal attitudes and values.

## **2.2. Results**

This part contains several tables presenting the results of the study. Each research question has several parts that reveal the essence of the question and help to explore it fully. Several dictionaries are used to learn about Drag slang is the «RuPaul's Drag Race fan dictionary» in their fandom, which most clearly conveys the essence of the meaning of Drag slang. These dictionaries allow you to look at drag queen slang from different sides and notice semantic patterns.

## 2.2.1 Evolution of Drag Slang: Common Themes and Topics in a Decade of RuPaul's Drag Race

*Table 1. Slang words and expressions in “RuPaul’s DragRace” (Frequency)*

Words / phrases	Season 1			Season 14			Total
	1st Episode	5th Episode	9th Episode	1st Episode	7th Episode	15th Episode	
Girl/Gurl	24	36	22	31	43	38	194
Bitch	3	5	9	39	35	30	121
Queens	1	2	8	21	8	17	57
Honey	7	1	2	16	6	7	39
Work it!	20	10	0	3	0	0	33
Bottom	3	3	4	1	9	7	27
Drag Queen	1	3	7	6	4	5	26
Mama	1	3	1	0	12	4	21
Serve/ Serving	3	5	2	5	5	0	20
Sashay Away	3	3	4	4	1	0	15
Lip-Sync for your Life	2	2	3	1	0	0	8
Snatch Game	0	1	0	1	1	5	8
Werk room	0	0	0	4	2	2	8
Gay	1	0	2	0	4	0	7
Work room	2	3	2	0	0	0	7
Squirrel Friends	0	0	0	1	1	0	2

Looking at table 1 (frequency table) one can conclude that the major part words are not only gaining popularity in use, but some are completely eliminated from speech. The table 2 of definitions is presented below:

**Table 2. Definitions of Slang words/collocations: in “RuPaul’s DragRace”**

Words/phrases	RuPaul’s Drag Race fan dictionary	Theme
Bitch	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. n. A mean, disagreeable, dis-likeable, critical, or nagging woman. A woman who constantly complains or criticizes.</li> <li>2. n. A person of low ranking or status; a person of no authority, who must answer to others. Used as a term of belittlement.</li> <li>3. n. A fierce woman. A friend. Used as a term of endearment among drag queens.</li> <li>4. v. To complain; used to show disapproval of, to dismiss, or to belittle the complaint, or the person complaining.</li> </ol>	Sisterhood
Bottom	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. n. A term referring to a male who prefers to be on the receiving end of gay anal sex. The opposite of a "Top." "This boy is a bottom!" —DWV</li> <li>2. n. A placing or ranking during the shows competition for contestants who have done the worst or placed the lowest during the Main Challenge.</li> </ol>	Sexual Identity
Drag Queen	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. n. Someone who dresses as or impersonates a woman for entertainment and show purposes.</li> </ol>	Sisterhood
Gay	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. adj. Male homosexuality.</li> <li>2. adj. To be happy, joyous, carefree, flamboyant, or bright &amp; showy.</li> </ol>	Sexual Identity
Girl/Gurl	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. n. term of endearment; often used as an exclamatory remark. "Oh, gurl, you've got SHEmail!" —RuPaul</li> </ol>	Sisterhood
Honey	<p><b>Hn.</b> A portmanteau of the terms "Honey" and "Cunt", used as a term of endearmentn who "hustles."</p>	Sisterhood

Lip-Sync for your Life	1. <b>v.</b> A battle between two contestants on RuPaul's Drag Race who have placed in the Bottom 2 and are up for elimination where they must lip-sync to a song in order to impress <u>RuPaul</u> and stay in the competition.	Performance features
Mama	1. <b>n.</b> A term of endearment and respect among drag queens, usually (though not always) to an older or more experienced queen.	Sisterhood
Queens	1. <b>n.</b> People who dress up in clothes of the opposite gender usually. Slang term used for transvestites.	Sisterhood
Sashay Away	1. <b>v.</b> A quote used by RuPaul to eliminate a contestant after losing in a "lip-sync for your life" battle. 2. <b>v.</b> To leave the competition. 3. <b>v.</b> To be eliminated from the competition. 4. A derivative of the ballet term chassé, as performed by Laganja Estranja	Performance features
Serve/Serving	1. <b>v.</b> to present oneself in a certain way.	Performance features
Snatch Game	1. <b>n.</b> A main challenge featured on most seasons of RuPaul's Drag Race, where contestants are challenged to present their best and funniest celebrity impersonations. The name and format of the challenge are a parody of the popular 1960s-1970s celebrity panel game show "The Match Game"; the term "Snatch" is a vulgar reference to a woman's vagina.	Performance features
Squirrel Friends	1. <b>n.</b> a girlfriend who hides her nuts.	Sexual Identity

Werk/ Work room	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. n. A room on RuPaul's Drag Race where contestants perform mini-challenges, and prepare for or work on main challenges and runway presentations. The Werk Room is where contestants put together and create costumes, apply wigs and make-up, and prepare for the day's main challenges and elimination ceremon</li> </ol>	Performance features
Work it!	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. v. A term meaning to "work your body."</li> <li>2. v. To strut, especially on a runway.</li> <li>3. v. To give an outstanding presentation.</li> <li>4. i.e. "You betta werk bitch!" - RuPaul</li> </ol>	Performance features

With the results in the tables above, some interesting patterns can be observed. For example, the word «bitch», which has increased the frequency of its use. Here are some factors that help to justify this phenomenon:

Changing public opinion: Over time, many words and expressions that were once considered taboo or offensive become more acceptable and usable. In the context of drag culture, the word "bitch" can be used in a sarcastic or friendly sense, and its perception can change over time.

For decades, the word Bitch has been moving away from offensive language, thanks to pop culture, especially the music industry. Madonna, Lady Gaga, Rihanna and of course Britney Spears and her phrase «It's Britney, bitch» have become famous not only in drag culture, but also in mainstream. At the moment man-hating stigma is removed and women can call themselves «basic/perfect/rich/boss bitch». As Drag Queens identify their community as sisterhood, and the pop performers are considered their icons, it is understandable that the word is being used on television shows.

Also possible impact on increasing the use of this word — increasing the popularity of TV show: With the rise in popularity of RuPaul's Drag Race, participants may try to use more appealing or appealing words and expressions, to get the attention of the audience and create memorial moments.

Words such as «Girl/Gurl», «Mama», «Queens», «Drag Queen», «Honey» do not lose their popularity throughout the show.

These words are the basis of Drag Language. They are often used to refer to participants in a drag scene and to communicate between them. Thus, their active use throughout the show is natural and expected. Words such as «Mama», «Queens» and «Drag Queen», in addition to their immediate function, can also serve to express respect and solidarity among participants of a drag scene. The use of these words can create a friendly and supportive atmosphere on the show.

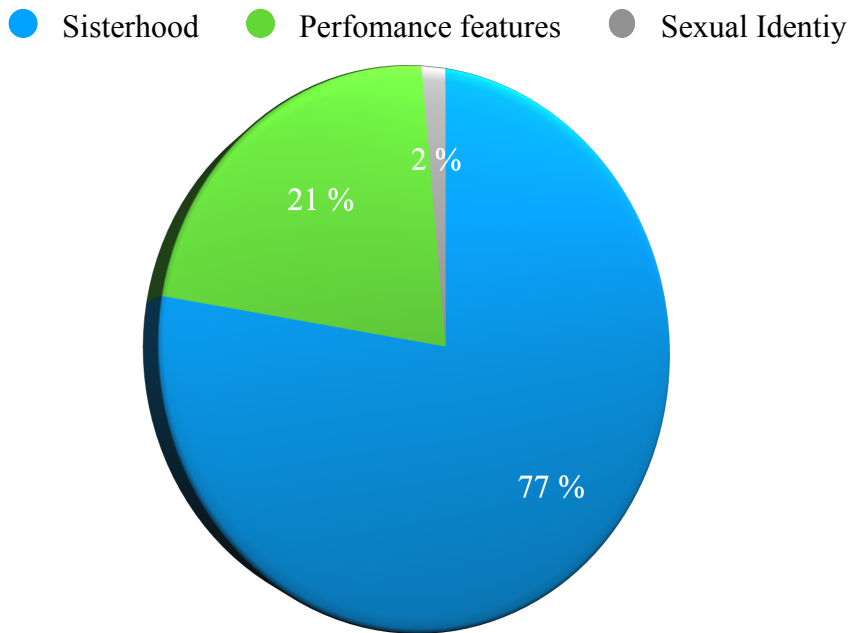
Other expressions are also repeated from episode to episode, but do not reflect the full picture of the language change.

The following is a figure 1 of the frequency of use and common themes. These divisions are based on a value that is understandable from context, as well as using the RuPaul's DragRace fandom dictionary.

**Sisterhood:** Bitch, Drag Queen, Girl/Gurl, Honey, Mama, Queens

**Performance features:** Bottom, Lip-Sync for your Life, Sashay Away, Serve/Serving, Snatch Game, Werk/Work room, Work it

**Sexual Identity:** Gay, Squirrel Friends



**Figure 1.** *Frequency of use and common themes in RuPaul's DragRace*

Considering the results of this table, sisterhood plays a central role in the culture of drag and at the show RuPaul's Drag Race. Participants often support each other and share their experiences, advice and training. This creates an atmosphere of mutual help and friendliness, which is one of the main features of the show. That's why the sorority theme dominates the chart.

The second most popular theme is performance features. The process of creating a drag image and performing on stage is also an important aspect of RuPaul's Drag Race. Participants demonstrate their creativity through costumes, makeup, dancing and acting. These elements represent an important part of the show, but they occupy a smaller share in the chart compared to the theme of sisterhood, because the relationships between the participants are a more essential aspect of their experience in the show.

The last most popular topic is sexual identity. In this sample some inaccuracy. As it was common to call yourself gay in the first season, gender diversity was not popular. The opening phrase of competition: «Gentlemen, start your engines and may the best woman win» from 1st season (2009) till the 13rd season (2021) changed to the phrase «Racers starts your engines and may the best Drag Queen win». This may serve to make it increasingly important to create an inclusive and hospitable space for all actors involved in

drag culture, including transgender people, non-binary and gender performers. Changing the phrase may reflect the desire of show creators to respect and reflect this diversity. In addition, societal attitudes and perceptions about gender and sexual identity are changing. The change in phrase may be the result of these changes, which reflect a broader understanding that drag culture includes not only men who act in a female image, but also the diversity of other gender identities.

Overall, these themes and their dynamics throughout the show illustrate the development of drag culture, commitment to sisterhood and performance, and growing recognition and respect for the diversity of gender and sexual identities.

### **2.2.2 Drag Slang in Constructing Drag Personas and Performing Gender and Sexuality**

Referring to the discussion in the first chapter that drag slang plays an important role in creating drag queen, helping to express your individuality and show your character and personality. Slang is an important tool for blurring the boundaries between traditional gender roles and expression of sexuality.

The table 3 below shows the slang's meaning and role in the development of the drag queen image. The phrases which are not included into 1st part of research. The words and phrases were selected for study based on the following criteria: they were included in the RuPaul's Drag Race fandom dictionary, stood out during the viewing of the episodes as slang, and were specific to the drag community. Additionally, these terms were chosen for their potential impact on understanding the cultural dynamics and unique communication style within the drag community.

**Table 3. Examples and meanings of phrases from RuPaul's Drag Race**

Season/ Episode	Phrase	Meaning according to RuPaul's Drag Race fandom dictionary	Role
1/1	I think I'm gonna dust a couple of 'em.	Dust (Dusted) 1. <i>v.</i> To destroy the competition, look or a challenge. "Girl you dusted the runway»	To show the power and self-confident, character
1/1	Extravaganza	1. H a v i n g h i g h a m o u n t s o f elegance.	To show feminine side
1/1	You can tell that they're... - realness.	Realness 1. <i>n.</i> The act of appearing to be convincing realistic, authentic, or accurate. 2. <i>n.</i> The act of being extremely blunt frank, or honest.	To show realistic transformation
1/1	From top to bottom	1. <i>n.</i> A term referring to a male who prefers to be on the giving end of gay anal sex. The opposite of a "Bottom." 2. <i>n.</i> A placing or ranking during the show's competition for contestants who have done the best or placed the highest during the Main Challenge.	Word-play, to show influence from LGBT community

1/1	She's rough trade over there. you know that i like that kind.	Trade 1. <i>n.</i> A self-identified heterosexual, and/or occasionally bisexual man who will engage in intercourse or some other act of intimacy, or be in company with an out or flamboyant individual in exchange for money or other perks.) 2. <i>n.</i> A term used to refer to drag queens who are considered to be attractive men out of drag	Word-play, to show influence from LGBT community
1/1	Tighten those tucking panties.	Tuck 1. <i>v. n.</i> The act of a drag queen pulling back his genitals to create the illusion of having a woman's vulva. A "tuck" is often held by panty hose, duct tape or tight underwear	To show realistic transformation
1/1	That's the outfit. - my vagina got wet.	Vagina - 1. <i>n.</i> The female genitalia. Something which is often referenced on the show in slang terms.	To show feminine side
1/5	Away from being the butch woman.	Butch 1. <i>n.</i> A masculine-looking drag queen.	To show feminine side
1/5	But at the same time, she always has this diva-ness to her.	Diva 1. <i>n.</i> A famous female singer, either in popular music or Opera. 2. <i>n.</i> A slang term or a self-important, demanding, temperamental, or difficult to please woman.	To show feminine side

1/5	As drag mothers, I asked you to share your charisma, uniqueness,	Drag Mother 1. <b>n.</b> An experienced drag queen who acts as a mentor and guide to a younger, up and coming, less experienced, or apprentice drag queen.	To show feminine side
1/9	With their questions for you. And, honey, my box was stuffed.	Box 1. <b>n.</b> A slang term for a woman's vagina. One of many slang terms for vagina used on the show	To show feminine side
1/9	Welcome, Ongina! - * ladyboy, ladyboy * * ladyboy, ladyboy *	Ladyboy 1. <b>n.</b> A person who was born male but presents very femme. 2. <b>adj.</b> When a male acts in a girly or feminine manner. 3. <b>n.</b> The name of a RuPaul song.	To show influence from L G B T community To show feminine side
1/9	I don't like being called a slut. - is there something wrong with being a slut? - well, I'm not a slut. I'm a lady.	Slut 1. A promiscuous woman. Also known as a "Skank" or "Floozy." 2. A person with many sexual partners. 3. A person who voluntarily performs sexual acts or favors without expecting payment in return. The opposite of a prostitute or whore.	To show feminine side
1/9	Can see how you went behind me, grabbed my tits, grabbed my snatch.	"Vagina" slang terms which have been used on the show: Snatch	To show feminine side
14/1	I give a beat face	(Beating a face) 1. <b>v.</b> To apply the perfect amount of makeup on the face, resulting in a flawless look. The term references the motion of constantly dabbing a makeup sponge or brush against one's face.	To show feminine side

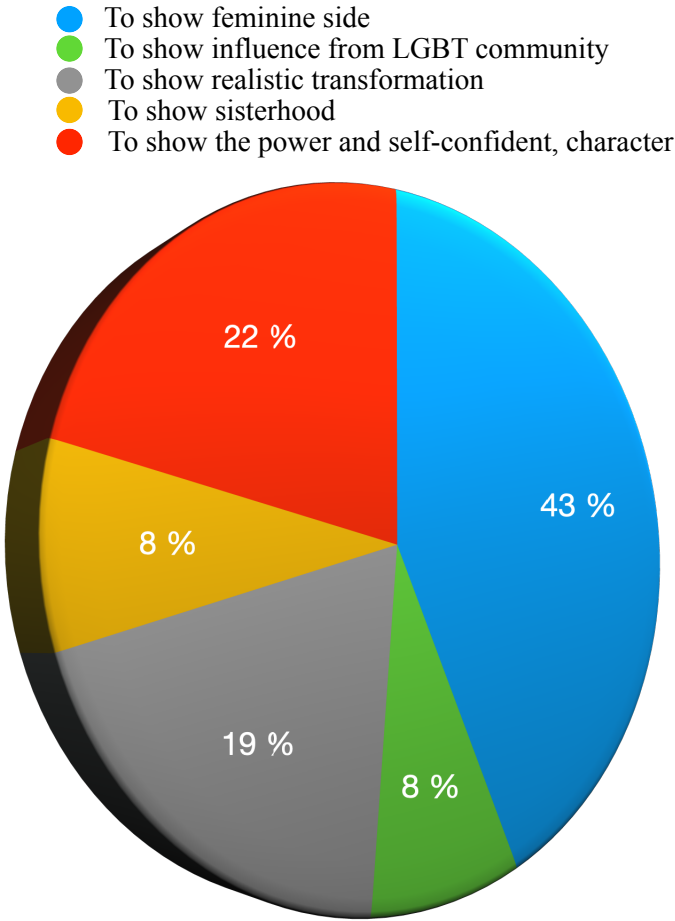
14/1	Are you ready boots?	Boots 1. <b>int.</b> modifier. A verbal exclamation point. <b>e.g.</b> "Ha mug was beat the house down, boots.»	To show the power and self-confident, character
14/1	So I'd say I'm pretty campy.	Campy 1. A type of traditional, over-the-top drag. Campy queens usually don't intend to be a female impersonator, they're traditional, original, & over-the-top.	To show realistic transformation
14/1	My drag mother is pretty well known to the community.	Drag Mother 1. <b>n.</b> An experienced drag queen who acts as a mentor and guide to a younger, up and coming, less experienced, or apprentice drag queen.	To show feminine side
14/1	She is fierce!	Fierce! 1. <b>adj.</b> A term used by drag queens meaning to possess a good, intense, satisfying, powerful, or beautiful quality. 2. <b>adj.</b> To have looks that could "kill", similar to a wild animal.	To show realistic transformation
14/1	I am gooped, gagged, and gandered	Gag 1. Gag - <b>v.</b> To react intensely, usually as a result of shock; also may be used as an exclamation. <b>i.e.</b> "I was gagging on all the eleganza.»	To show the power and self-confident, character
14/1	Kornbread is my good Judy.	Judy 1. A good friend.	To show sisterhood
14/1	I hope you guys are ready to be slayed	Slay 1. <b>n.</b> To be on point, to win, to be outstanding, or to be the best.	To show the power and self-confident, character

14/1	There's a few butterflies in my stomach. No tea	No Tea, No Shade 1. A phrase meaning "No disrespect."	To show the power and self-confident, character
14/1	My name is Kornbread «The Snatch»	Snatch 1. the term "Snatch" is a vulgar reference to a woman's vagina.	To show feminine side
14/7	«I was the booger of the group. All right, next set of girls»	Booger 1. <i>n.</i> A visually unattractive drag queen. A drag queen who looks "busted" or a "hot mess." The term refers to a queen who cannot properly apply or wear makeup, style their hair, sew properly, or who wears unfashionable or ill-fitting clothing. The opposite of a "Heather."	To show realistic transformation
14/7	I am feeling every oats, grains, wheats, thins.	Feeling My Oats 1. To "feel" one's self or to savor, relish, or enjoy the act or experience of looking "fishy."	To show realistic transformation
14/7	Because this week, your pussy is on fire.	Pussy On Fire 1. An expression meaning to work hard and excel. To be awesome or outstanding. To work so hard that your vagina catches on fire.	To show feminine side
14/7	If you wanted the judges' critiques that bad, bitch, they could have read you,	Read 1. <i>v.</i> To wittily and incisively expose a person's flaws ( <i>i.e.</i> "reading them like a book"), often exaggerating or elaborating on them; an advanced format of the insult. The term is a reference to the film <i>Paris is Burning</i> . 2. <i>n.</i> Criticism made to a drag queen.	To show the power and self-confident, character

14/7	Let me tell you something, you shady fucking bitch.	Shady Bitch 1. <i>n.</i> A woman who is critical in a blunt or insulting manner.	To show feminine side
14/7	Super talented, and a label whore.	Whore 1. A prostitute. Specifically, a prostitute who works in an establishment such as a brothel or bordello. 2. A slang term for a promiscuous person.	To show feminine side
14/15	«First up, Jasmine Kennedy's Glamazon Prime look.»	Glamazon 1. <i>n.</i> A slang term for a tall, glamorous and assertively self-confident woman. 2. <i>n.</i> A portmanteau of the terms "Glamorous" and "Amazon"	To show feminine side
14/15	«the library is open, but only for the queens»	Library 1. An activity in which drag queens are invited to read other queens, referring to the fact that you "read" in a "library"	To show sisterhood
14/15	«I thought my pussy was on fire. I fear it was not.»	Pussy On Fire 1. An expression meaning to work hard and excel. To be awesome or outstanding. To work so hard that your vagina catches on fire.	To show realistic transformation and feminine side
14/15	I told her, because no shade,	Shade 1. <i>n.</i> The casting of aspersions. A form of insult. Bluntly pointing out a person's flaws or faults. Derived from the term " <i>Reading</i> "	To show the power and self-confident, character

The table 3 presented terms that are drag slang. Terms were divided into several groups of the most relevant groups.

This table contains a wider selection of slang that is not repeated from series to series. This is the quality of not only basic themes that recur from series to series, but also more clearly separated themes. The figure 2 below shows the processed data.



**Figure 2.** *Main roles to construct Drag Personas in RuPaul's DragRace*

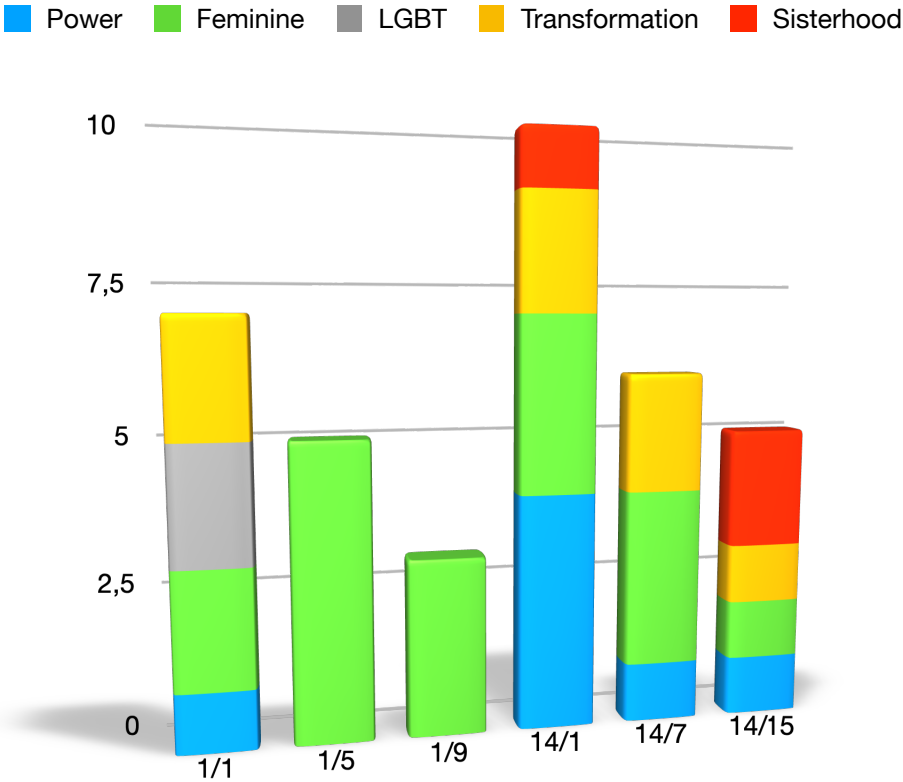
Based on the above research, it can be concluded that it is most important for drag queen to show its feminine side. This aspect got the most percentage. The second most important is the demonstration of strength, confidence and character. The use of slang for this purpose highlights the importance of drag queens emotional resilience on stage and in life. As artists, drag queen is important to meet high standards. Therefore, phrases that refer to a realistic transformation endorse or condemn drag queens images. In addition, there are two important themes: the influence of the LGBT community and the nursing community are also integral parts of drag culture.

Overall, analysis of the use of LGBT slang in the creation of drag characters and the representation of sex and sexuality shows that slang is an important tool for expressing

individuality, gender and sexual aspects, and to create solidarity and mutual support within the drag culture and LGBT community.

### 2.2.3 External Factors Influencing Topics

What were the external factors that influenced the topics and functions of drag language utilized in the television show RuPaul's Drag Race? Based on the above studies, which are summarized in the figure 3 below. Some trends in the development of slang among drag queens can be identified over the decade. This summary of information shows all themes that are repeated from episode to episode, as well as those that are individual and only sound once per episode. This is a collection of information on all the data that were obtained for the study.



**Figure 3.** *Main topics in RuPaul's DragRace*

Based on the data provided, the following external factors may have influenced the themes and functions of drag language in the TV show RuPaul’s Drag Race:

Public opinion and cultural trends: Changes in perceptions of gender, sexuality and diversity can explain differences in emphasis on different topics. For example, a higher value of "Feminine" in early seasons may indicate that drag performers sought to emphasize their femininity in the context of the time.

Change in the dynamics of the show: Over time, the format and content of the show could change, which in turn influenced the topics that the participants discussed or emphasized. For example, in later seasons (14/1), there are themes such as "Power" and "Sisterhood", which may suggest that participants focus more on strength, assertiveness, and support for each other.

Impact of Social Media and Internet Culture: The growth of social media and Internet culture could contribute to the spread of new topics and slang in drag culture. This, in turn, may have influenced the topics discussed and used by participants in the show.

Diversity of participants: Different cultural and geographical backgrounds of participants can also contribute to the themes and functions of drag language. Participants from different countries and cultures can bring their unique traditions and slang, which contributes to the enrichment of drag language and show themes.

## CONCLUSION

The study concludes by emphasizing the importance of slang, especially in drag queen areas. Slang has always been a key aspect of drag culture, serving as a means of communication, bonding, and affiliation for members of the Drag community. The development and expansion of slang in drag culture has evolved over time through shows such as "RuPaul's Drag Race", which played a crucial role in introducing and popularizing this unique language. The language of drag culture is dynamic and able to accept new word generation, without forgetting the classical expressions that have emerged in the last century. In this regard, the frequency of use, focus on themes and sources of inspiration to create drag language are changing. Understanding drag slang and studying this particular speech community is highly relevant today due to the growing influence of drag culture on societal norms, gender perceptions, and identity discourses. As Pals (2022) notes, drag has evolved from early vaudeville performances to modern drag culture, emphasizing self-expression and empowerment for many LGBT members.

Drag queens and kings have long been symbols of resistance against heteronormative expectations, providing a voice that disrupts oppressive ideals within the LGBT community (Rupp, Verta, & Shapiro, 2020). By examining drag slang and the unique communication style within this community, we can gain insight into the ways in which drag has served as an important form of resistance and self-expression.

In today's increasingly diverse and inclusive society, it is vital to understand and appreciate the complexities of different speech communities, such as the drag community. Studying drag slang contributes to a deeper understanding of the cultural dynamics at play within this community, thereby fostering greater empathy, awareness, and support for LGBTQ+ individuals and their unique forms of expression.

Furthermore, the visibility of drag culture and LGBT celebrities has a significant impact on the broader LGBT community. According to the National Survey on LGBT Youth Mental Health (2020), more than 80% of LGBT individuals have stated that seeing LGBT celebrities positively affected how they felt about themselves. By analyzing and understanding drag slang, we can better comprehend the power and influence of drag culture in inspiring and empowering the LGBTQ+ community as a whole.

The purpose of this bachelor's work was to study the concept of slang, to reveal the concept of drag and drag language, to understand why this is the way drag-slang has evolved, and how often it is used in the most popular television show. The practical part of the study was to study and compare slang and the context of its use in the first and last seasons of "RuPaul's Drag Race" to determine whether the slang has changed over the years and, if so, how. The theoretical framework provides data collected from various sources: articles, books, memoirs, bachelor's and master's works. The theoretical part provides information about what is slang, its functions, the history of drag culture, drag slang and its dialects.

The practical part of the work includes the results of the analysis of the first and 14th seasons of "RuPaul's Drag Race", namely slang expressions and words, as well as the frequency of their use, division on topics. Research has shown that many slang expressions persist over time, some disappear and new ones come in place. However, topics related to femininity, sisterhood and LGBT agenda remain unchanged, although the number of references may vary from series to series.

As a result, the goals of the bachelor's work were achieved, and the research questions received their answers. After careful analysis of the two seasons, it can be concluded that the slang expressions have not changed significantly in 10 years, although new expressions have emerged that reflect the same values that were revealed at the beginning of this show. Thus, drag-slang continues to evolve and adapt, while maintaining its historical basis and cultural significance.

This study can be beneficial to educators working with children and adolescents in several ways. Firstly, by understanding drag slang and the cultural context surrounding it, teachers can foster a more inclusive and supportive learning environment for LGBT students. This understanding helps educators create a safe space for open discussions about gender and sexual identity, promoting empathy and reducing bullying or discrimination based on these factors. Educators can use the findings of this study to incorporate LGBT history, culture, and language into their curricula, providing a more diverse and well-rounded education for all students. This inclusion not only raises awareness of the LGBT community but also helps combat stereotypes and misinformation.

For future researchers, this study provides a foundation for further exploration into drag culture, its linguistic features, and its impact on broader society. The methodology and findings can serve as a reference point for similar research on speech communities, language development, and the intersection of language and identity. Moreover, this research can inspire new studies examining the effects of media representation on LGBT individuals' self-perception, mental health, and societal acceptance.

## CONCLUSION IN ESTONIAN

Käesoleva bakalaureusetöö teema on Drag Slangi evolutsioon drag-kultuuris RuPauli drag-race'i 1. ja 14. hooajast (2009-2022).

Uuringu lõpetuseks rõhutatakse slängi tähtsust, eriti drag kuninganna piirkondades. Släng on alati olnud drag kultuuri põhiaspekt, olles Drag kogukonna liikmete suhtlemis-, sidumis- ja kuuluvusvahend. Slängi areng ja laienemine drag kultuuris on aja jooksul arenenud selliste näituste kaudu nagu "RuPaul's Drag Race" millel oli selle unikaalse keele tutvustamisel ja populariseerimisel otsustav roll. Drag kultuuri keel on dünaamiline ja võimeline vastu võtma uut sõnapõlve, unustamata eelmisel sajandil tekkinud klassikalisi väljendeid. Sellega seoses muutub kasutamise sagedus, keskendumine teemadele ja inspiratsiooniallikatele drag keele loomiseks. Drag slängi mõistmine ja selle konkreetse kõnekogukonna uurimine on tänapäeval väga oluline tänu drag kultuuri kasvavale mõjule ühiskondlikele normidele, soolistele arusaamadele ja identiteedi diskursustele. Nagu Pals (2022) märgib, on drag arenenud varajastest vaudeville etendustest tänapäeva drag-kultuurini, rõhutades paljude LGBT liikmete eneseväljendust ja mõjuvõimu.

Lohekingannad ja -kuningad on pikka aega olnud heteronormatiivsete ootuste vastase vastupanu sümbolid, pakkudes häält, mis häirib rõhuvaid ideaale LGBT kogukonnas (Rupp, Verta; Shapiro, 2020). Uurides drag slängi ja ainulaadset suhtlemisstiili selles kogukonnas, saame aimu viisidest, kuidas drag on olnud oluline vastupanu ja eneseväljenduse vorm.

Tänapäeva üha mitmekesisemas ja kaasavas ühiskonnas on oluline mõista ja hinnata erinevate kõnekogukondade, näiteks drag kogukonna keerukust. Drag slängi õppimine aitab kaasa selles kogukonnas toimuva kultuurilise dünaamika sügavamale mõistmisele, edendades seeläbi LGBT üksikisikute ja nende ainulaadsete väljendusvormide suuremat empaatiat, teadlikkust ja toetust.

Lisaks on drag kultuuri ja LGBT kuulsuste nähtavusel oluline mõju laiemale LGBT kogukonnale. LGBT noorte vaimse tervise riikliku uuringu (2020) kohaselt on üle 80% LGBT isikutest märkinud, et LGBT kuulsuste nägemine mõjutas positiivselt seda, kuidas nad end tundsid. Analüüsides ja mõistes drag slängi, saame paremini mõista võimu ja mõju drag kultuuri inspireeriv ja võimestamine LGBT kogukond tervikuna.

Töö praktiline osa hõlmab «RuPaul's Drag Race» esimese ja 14. hooaja analüüsi tulemusi, nimelt slängiväljendeid ja sõnu, samuti nende kasutamise sagedust, teemade jaotust. Uuringud on näidanud, et paljud slängiväljendid püsivad aja jooksul, mõned kaovad ja asemele tulevad uued. Siiski jäävad naiselikkuse, sõsarluse ja LGBT-kavaga seotud teemad samaks, kuigi viidete arv võib seeriati erineda.

Selle tulemusena saavutati bakalaureusetöö eesmärgid ja uurimisküsimused said oma vastused. Pärast kahe hooaja hoolikat analüüsi võib järeldada, et slängiväljendid ei ole 10 aasta jooksul oluliselt muutunud, kuigi on tekkinud uusi väljendeid, mis peegeldavad samu väärtusi, mis ilmnesisid käesoleva saate alguses. Seega drag-slang jätkuvalt areneda ja kohaneda, säilitades samal ajal oma ajaloolise aluse ja kultuurilise tähtsuse.

See uuring võib olla kasulik kasvatajatele, kes töötavad laste ja noorukitega mitmel viisil. Esiteks, mõistes drag slängi ja seda ümbritsevat kultuurilist konteksti, saavad õpetajad edendada LGBT õpilastele kaasavat ja toetavat õpikeskkonda. See arusaam aitab haridustöötajatel luua turvalise ruumi avatud aruteludeks soo ja seksuaalse identiteedi üle, edendades empaatiat ning vähendades neil teguritel põhinevat kiusamist või diskrimineerimist. Haridustöötajad saavad kasutada selle uuringu tulemusi, et lisada LGBT ajalugu, kultuuri ja keelt oma õppekavadesse, pakkudes kõigile õpilastele mitmekesisemat ja mummulisemat haridust. See kaasamine mitte ainult ei suurenda teadlikkust homo-, bi- ja transseksuaalide kogukonnast, vaid aitab võidelda ka stereotüüpide ja väärinfoaga.

Tulevaste teadlaste jaoks annab see uuring aluse drag kultuuri, selle keeleliste omaduste ja selle mõju laiemale ühiskonnale edasiseks uurimiseks. Metoodika ja leiud võivad olla tugipunktiks sarnastele uuringutele kõnekoosluste, keele arengu ning keele ja identiteedi ristumise kohta. Lisaks sellele võivad need uuringud inspireerida uusi uuringuid, mis uurivad meedia esindatuse mõju LGBT üksikisikute eneseteadvusele, vaimsele tervisele ja ühiskondlikule aktsepteerimisele.

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