

Let's Talk About Lex(icon)

A podcast created by students in the course "Language, Sex and Gender" at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

2023 Episode 3: Hey, Bud, Just Call Me Dude

Have you ever wondered about some of the terms that we use to address each other? In this episode we aim to shed some light on how some of those terms are used in relation to the social groups they are used in. To help understand further we have brought on guest, and friend, Shashank Narayanan for this episode. With our guests' help and experience of being part of the skater community, we explore how the term 'dude' can be found in skater vocabulary. But before that, we discuss how other terms, such as 'bud' are used in some of our other experiences. If you enjoy this topic, be sure to listen to the other episodes in this podcast created by our fellow classmates. And a thank you to the Lyons New Media Center at McMaster for providing the space for us to record.

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Music

Music under Dr Anderson's intro and outro: "[Robot Park](#)" by Podington Bear

Transcript

Catherine Anderson: Hi! I'm Catherine Anderson, and this podcast about Language, Sex and Gender is created by my students at McMaster University. Enough with the preamble. Let's talk about Lexicon!

Rosetta Tanner: Hello, everyone. Welcome back to "Let's Talk about Lexicon." We are your hosts for this episode, Rosetta Tanner.

Katelyn Huh: And Katelyn Huh.

Rosetta: And today we are talking about dudes?

Katelyn: Yeah, dudes, men. Manly things.

Rosetta: Yeah, I mean, we aren't exactly cis men, so we don't really know everything there is to know about this topic.

Katelyn: But, you know what this actually reminds me of is this video by this YouTuber named Danny Gonzalez. Maybe some of you all have heard of him. He's pretty popular in our generation, and I think you know what video I'm talking about.

Rosetta: I do, I do.

Katelyn: And it's this video called, "I Wasted \$1000 on a Tactical Stroller."

Rosetta: Oh, I really remember that one.

Katelyn: And essentially, Danny Gonzalez finds an ad about this tactical stroller aimed for men who want to go out in public with their child but not, you know, look so dainty and, I don't know, weak, which is hilarious to me.

Rosetta: Oh, you wouldn't want to look weak with your baby.

Katelyn: And yeah, so he buys a stroller and it comes with shock absorbers, it comes with camo. I mean, it's a pretty decked-out stroller. And it's \$1000, which is also really pricey.

Rosetta: It's really price-gouging just to get a certain look about it.

Katelyn: But yeah, it just reminded me of, like, so many things that have to be masculinized, whatever that even really means, products that are, actually, essentially gender neutral. An example is, like, you know, when we see skin care products, deodorant, it's always got to be, like, Kraken or, like, Axe Body spray. It's always something ridiculous.

Rosetta: In comparison to things such as shea butter or cucumber or lavender.

Katelyn: Exactly.

Rosetta: Who wouldn't want to smell like lavender?

Katelyn: Yeah, so it's just so funny that the stroller even exists. And I remember, he showed clips of the trailer. And one quote, which I thought was hilarious, is the fact that "it can tackle curbs like a pro linebacker."

Rosetta: It's really aiming for a certain demographic.

Katelyn: And yeah, so like, honestly, it's a great video, I highly recommend it. It's hilarious. And yeah, honestly, Danny Gonzalez made some really good points about the fact that there seems to be this monopoly that the military holds on masculinity, which, I don't know, I think that's pretty problematic because of the military.

Rosetta: I agree on that, yeah.

Katelyn: Especially if it's your child, right? Like, you don't want the military to be associated with your stroller carrying a baby. Like--

Rosetta: At such a young age, the military and a child is not something that really goes hand in hand.

Katelyn: But yeah, so like, the military has a monopoly on masculinity. And I think other things he mentioned were Lego and beer. And one thing he actually said is, like, give me a stroller that's just, like, a transparent keg of beer.

Rosetta: And that really draws to what I know well. With myself, I have three years of experience at the Beer Store. And, well, I certainly know one or two things about beer at this point. And the idea of just comparing something such as a stroller to such a masculine idea or concept in relation to beer is kind of interesting where, for my personal experience, there's been this customer of mine who, on a semi-regular basis, will come in. And part of the Beer Store is you don't just buy beer, but you can bring back empties. And what he would do is bring his empties in his stroller.

So he's not toting around a little infant with him on his daily walks to the Beer Store. Rather, he's got his little empty cans in there and he's returning them. And it's just part of his whole shtick, where that's how he brings his things around rather than just, you know, your typical bag.

Katelyn: Instead of the beer being the stroller, it's the beer is the baby.

Rosetta: Pretty much, yeah. It might as well be his little child.

Katelyn: Yeah, so would you say, like, at the Beer Store, it's mainly dominated by men who come in?

Rosetta: It's interesting, actually, where it is the preconception that we do see a lot of men come in through the doors. Which, it is true, a large majority of, at my particular location, at least, you do get older males coming through the door.

And what's interesting is that I would not say that they are the prime demographic. Rather, they are only part of the prime demographic. So the prime demographic is, how I define it, is elderly and only half of them are male. And the other half, of course, is female. So you do see on a fairly regular basis, and you do-- you get your regulars who come in every day, multiple times a day, even, to get their beers, who are female presenting.

And so it's something that I've kind of become used to where I don't particularly see one gender over the other, but it's just elderly instead. So these are people who, you know, they're retired and this is just them picking up their daily necessity, in a sense.

And then, of course, you have the minority at that point of, you know, the younger, but that's a whole other thing. But it's just really interesting how there is this preconception where majority of beer drinkers are men.

Katelyn: Right. Because that's what I think of. I mean, you think of the bar, a sports bar, a bunch of dudes watching football, crushing beers that probably don't even taste good. I don't know.

Rosetta: Yeah, and that's another thing where, I don't know if we want to get into this, but the idea of drinking manly beers where-- the idea where you have to drink your Canadian, you have to drink your Budweiser, your Busch, your, whatever, Coors Lite, and that that's who you are as a presenting male.

But in fact, there are so many different options and beers that are made more locally that can either taste similarly or even better than these generic brands.

Katelyn: Oh, that's interesting, yeah. Actually, I do have a question. You said that there are-- like, in the older generation, there are men and women that come. But can I ask, like, who have you had a harder time dealing with?

Rosetta: Ooh, that's a good question, actually. I would have to say-- OK, there's different angles that I could really--

Katelyn: Spill.

Rosetta: --take with this, where the first angle that immediately comes to mind, because this is a big problem, where-- so essentially, you will have these men who come in, older men. You know, I'm 20-something, and you have these men who are 60, 70, 80-plus, whatever, and they will throw terms of endearment at you. It'd be like, oh, hey, sweetie, how was your day?

Katelyn: I hate that.

Rosetta: And that's pretty tame, just the sweetie or whatever, sweetheart. Or the ones that really tick off some of us are things like, oh, you're such a good girl.

Katelyn: Ugh, vomit. I'm going to vomit.

Rosetta: It's like, I just gave you your beer. Like, how is this—ugh. It's-- ugh.

Katelyn: That's so demeaning. I don't know why people—and it is mainly older men that feel like that's OK to say.

Rosetta: And I don't go, oh, you're such a good boy. Oh, thank you so much for paying.

Katelyn: Please say that, actually.

Rosetta: You did such a great job.

Katelyn: Dude, that would be so funny.

Rosetta: So just, there's certain endearments for it. I'm sure that some of them, most of them, do not mean anything by it, where it's just something that's ingrained in how they reference or talk to females around them. Especially people who are visibly younger than them. And so for most of them, it's something that I don't hold against them.

But there are definitely some of them where it gets a lot worse, where there's certain things where they will press on you for, oh, you're so beautiful. Oh, look at your eyes. What's your phone number? Do you have a boyfriend? Are you married? So there's certain things where it's, like, you realize that these people are actively using these sorts of cues and such against you. And it's like, this is not appropriate, right?

Katelyn: That's horrible. Yeah, that's horrible.

Rosetta: But one thing that is good about it is that it really toughens you up.

Katelyn: Yeah?

Rosetta: And it makes you more confident about yourself, especially when you have a good crew behind you where you can rely on your managers saying, oh, yeah, this person's banned now. Like, you don't have to deal with them ever again.

So that's, like, kind of, to backtrack back to what your original question is, that's one way. But then in comparison, there's actually one customer who is an older female. And one of my coworkers made me realize this, where this person, they will say certain things like, oh, sweetheart, how are you doing today? You're looking so beautiful, oh. And like, every sentence ends with sweetheart, darling, you know, certain endearments.

And I didn't realize this at first, but my coworker really noticed it, and it really ticked her off, where if it had been a man, she would be annoyed by it. And it does annoy her because she's realized that there is that association. I'm also realizing that I don't appreciate that, even from somebody who is of perceived similar gender to me, where they are referencing me in this endearing way is not appreciated.

Katelyn: Right. It's not professional.

Rosetta: No.

Katelyn: This is a professional workplace environment.

Rosetta: It's like-- yeah, exactly. This is my job. I'm here to just work my job. So yeah, it's comparable in certain extents where there's certain things like that, yeah.

Katelyn: So what do you do to, like, make yourself seem—or make yourself more confident around the customers.

Rosetta: Oh, yeah. So one thing that we do is, kind of, bring ourselves to the same level with the customer. And this can take on various forms where, you know, meeting the eye is always key and speaking clearly and enunciating clearly. Those are just the basics.

But then what you want to do is kind of address them where you're recognizing them as who they are and then bringing them to who you are, like, on the similar level. So one thing that we tend to do is use the word 'bud.' And so say I'm having a customer who is being a little bit aggressive, I could say, hey, bud, listen, what we have is an issue here where you need to kind of tone it down a little bit. You know, we want to get you your beer, you want your beer. And we can just facilitate that, right? So it's really just, kind of, addressing them and being like, hey, bud.

Katelyn: Put yourself on the same level.

Rosetta: Same level, yeah.

Katelyn: Be friendly, but not too friendly.

Rosetta: Yeah, exactly.

Katelyn: Speaking of things like 'bud', like, I've noticed that too, not just with 'bud', but with other terms like 'bruh' and 'dude'. Like, I call people 'dude' all the time. And I think it was just so funny how we use these terms to, in a way, like, distance ourselves from other people? But then I realized it was so funny because, like, 'dude', 'bro', all these terms are inherently gendered, right? They're to-- they're originally representing men, people that identify as men.

But, you know, it seems like, nowadays, everybody uses it. And I thought it would be a really interesting thing to talk about, especially with somebody, not just us, but, like, somebody who identifies as a man. So I thought it would be really interesting to bring in a guest to talk about these terms.

Rosetta: Awesome.

Katelyn: So yeah. We have our guest in here now. Feel free to introduce yourself.

Shashank Narayanan: Hello, everyone. My name is Shashank. I'm a third-year student here at Mac. Well, technically 4th but third-year commerce. And yeah, I'm happy to be here.

Rosetta: Welcome.

Shashank: Thank you.

Katelyn: So what would you say your identity is? I know that's a really vague question, but like, just to get, like, a little feel for who you are.

Shashank: Identity? I don't know. If I'm being completely honest, I think my identity is, like, trying to find out what my identity is. It's a lot of exploration. So yeah, being a lifelong learner and having that attitude definitely helps. I definitely feel like I'm never young enough to try something new, which I feel like everyone should be having, you know? But yeah, I don't know. I'm still trying to figure out that question myself.

Katelyn: That's fair. That's completely fair.

Rosetta: Yeah, I think that's a really good way to, kind of, view yourself.

Shashank: Yeah, nah, I think it's-- like, it's cool not putting, at least the way I see it is, like, not putting yourself in a box where, like-- I don't know. I guess, for me, when I first started seeing myself through a specific lens, I obviously pick up on mannerisms and trends from that trend. But sooner or later, you kind of unintentionally put yourself in that box, and you kind of hold yourself back from doing things because you feel like you shouldn't or you're not allowed to.

So yeah, it was a lot of me just trying to play around with that and almost, like, try my best not to identify myself with one specific thing. Or if I did identify myself with things, understand that that's not the whole of who I am, so yeah.

Katelyn: So would you say you're part of any communities, per se?

Shashank: Hmm, I would say, like, prevalently, I stay up-to-date with skateboarding, skateboard community, or just, like, news and, lack of better words, drama. Like, what's popping in the skate community. Yeah, I guess that's just personal interest, what I grew up with. You know, I'm subscribed to Thrasher, so you get a mag. It's fun reading news about, like, you know, like, skaters from, like, around the world and such.

Something that sticks out to me actually is back in the November issue, I was reading this entry from this dude, a skater from Ukraine. And he used it as a platform to talk about the issues. And it just felt surreal reading this experience from someone who's, like, you know, experiencing, like, an issue in their country. And almost like it's a cry for help in the world, or to the world, and using Thrasher as the magazine as a platform to speak about the issues and, you know, basically say, like, yeah, a lot of my favorite spots to skate are, like, just blown up. There's nowhere to skate.

And it's just, I think it was awesome that, first of all, Thrasher took his entry and gave him that platform. But it's also cool because it's just, like, there's a sense of unity. And Thrasher does a great job with that. It's a great platform for, you know, not only upcoming companies, but just, like, people who, like, have an interest for skateboarding. It's just a great way to be part of that and stay up-to-date with it.

But also, like, watching, like, new skate tapes that drop, staying up-to-date with, like, companies. Yeah, I would say I'm pretty well versed in that. But yeah, I don't know what other-- I guess the NBA too? Like, I don't know if that's a community, but I'm pretty--

Kaetlyn: Sport.

Shashank: Yeah, sporting, I'm pretty up-to-date with that.

Katelyn: Would you say you identify as a cis male?

Shashank: Yeah, yeah.

Katelyn: OK, so, you know, we were talking about, 'dude', 'bro', all these little things. And the way we use them, we use them all the time. I mean—

Rosetta: Yeah.

Shashank: Hell yeah.

Katelyn: --or I use them all the time. I can speak for myself. And, you know, I am not a cis guy. I just call everybody 'dude'. But like, I do want to know, because, you know, I've actually read this paper called "Dude" by this guy named Scott F. Kiesling. And basically what he did was he took a corpus from a frat and recorded who uses--

Shashank: A what?

Katelyn: A corpus.

Shashank: Oh, OK.

Katelyn: OK, so like, just a bunch of data from specifically frat guys and how they use the word 'dude.' So they-- I think this study was around 2008. I believe it was 2008.

Rosetta: I believe so. And they're doing it again.

Katelyn: They are doing it again.

Shashank: Oh, wow.

Katelyn: We'll see what those results are. But at the time in 2008, results were basically, mainly dudes used it with each other. But dudes used it towards girls if they wanted to make sure it was, like, platonic, that they weren't-- that they had girlfriends, so other girls were 'dude' to them. And that, basically, girls used it less among each other. But I think now, like, over a decade later, I think everyone uses it.

Shashank: Right.

Katelyn: But yeah, I just really wanted to talk about how, in your experience being a skater, how 'dude' is used with you guys.

Shashank: Right. Yeah. And I think, like, region also plays a big part on what lingo is used. You know, for me, Mississauga, just, like, around the GTA, 'dude' or 'bro' is used. You know, for a lack of a better term, like, it sounds dumb, but yeah, 'dude' is-- like, it feels gender neutral to me now. Or at least I use it very, like, openly. Doesn't matter who you are. It's just, automatically, I'm just going to say 'dude'.

And maybe that's not correct, but it's just kind of, like, what goes into my head. I'm not trying to-- there's no ulterior, like, motivation on who I say it to. It's almost, like, a term that I use for someone that, like, I'm open to communicating with. You know, if it's someone that I'm not really trying to talk to, I'm not going to be friendly or use that term. But if it's someone that I'm open to speaking to, like, for sure, I'mma call you 'dude,' you know?

But yeah, I guess in the skateboarding community, it's similar. I don't think people really think about it now, more or less. So I'd be interested about seeing that study now, because I feel like most people would agree.

Katelyn: Yeah, same. Yeah. So, like, what does inclusivity look like in your community?

Shashank: Damn, literally everything, really. I mean, like, you do, see certain skaters that are like, what's the word? A little bit insecure in themselves. And because of that, they find people who are trying to join the community a little threatening.

And there's terms to call, like, maybe someone listening to this would know about it, the term 'poser.' It's thrown out here and there. Usually used when someone's trying to imitate the culture, but they're not really in the culture. Or it's just someone who's pretending to skate, but they never actually skated.

And I can understand where that comes from, because a lot of skaters have pride in what they do. And also, like, a lot of skaters, they get flack for doing-- just skating in the streets, you know? Me, personally, I've experienced it too, getting kicked out of places. It's never fun, but I understand where people come from.

Yeah, I feel like there's definitely a group of skaters that feel like skateboarding is close-knit. And I think those are, like, definitely also older generations of skaters, because they did grow up with most of the flack where, like, you know, skateboarding was considered lame as hell back in the 90s, you know? If you were a skater and you were above the age of 20, like, people called you jobless, people made fun of you. A lot of people hold on to that.

As of right now, I feel like, literally, if you're just trying to learn, like, you're a skater. It doesn't really matter. But yeah, I feel like it doesn't really-- it's weird too, because skateboarding, I guess you could say, like, the pro world right now is very dominated by cis males. A lot of companies now are-- I don't know if they are trying to be more inclusive, but we are seeing way more representation in skateboarding.

For example, there's this New York-based company by this dude named Mark, Mark Gonz, it's called Krooked. And yeah, just, like, seeing all their, like, ads, you see, like, a lot more not cis people skateboarding is super sick to see. And I think, like, more or less, like, people don't really care anymore. Because it's just like, in skateboarding, you look at someone on what they could do rather than who they are.

And you'll see at a skate park, like, 50 year-- this sounds weird saying it to the public, but like, you'll see there is no age group. It's just, like, you could be a 12-year-old hanging out with a 38-year-old and you're like a 38-year old with kids at the same age as that dude. But it doesn't matter because it's just like, damn, that was sick, you know?

And then it's just like, I know with me and my local park, like, you know, I'll be talking to some kids that, like, literally you see grow up, and you're, like, damn, like this guy's taller than me now. Like, what happened, you know? But yeah, inclusivity in skate parks, I feel like there is a sense of community that you get in a skate park and you get to know the locals there way better. You guys work on this thing together. So it's awesome.

Katelyn: We're ling heads, so anything language is pretty interesting to us.

Rosetta: Yeah, it's kind of almost part of my identity at this point.

Shashank: Yeah, 100%.

Katelyn: I mean, language is such an important part. And I feel it's really interesting from us from, like, an academic perspective. But other people that just, like, live with these things in their everyday life and they don't really think about it. Like, do you think about every single time you use the word 'dude' or 'bro'?

Shashank: Absolutely not. I mean, like, sometimes I know, like, I'm aware of the concept of like, OK, some people do take it, like, if you call them a 'dude' or 'bro'. I mean, I was guilty of this earlier too, where, like, there was someone I was interested in. And she called me 'bro', and like, my heart completely dropped, you know? But like-- later on, I did talk to her and she, like, I did not think of anything of that. I just called you 'bro', cause it's, like, bro.

I feel like it is, like, a term of endearment when you use it with someone. You want to be relatable. You want to be-- like, using it in a friendly tone. I guess there is, like, a situational or, like, an unconscious awareness of when you use the term. Yeah, it's weird that, like, language could be completely misinterpreted just, like, from one person to the other.

Yeah, I guess, like, vibe also matters too. Like, I could totally be mad sarcastic in the tones that I use, and some people would not get it, you know?

Katelyn: I have a question. Actually, I have-- yeah, I have a question on one word that I feel like faded out, luckily, in my opinion, but the word the 'dudette'.

Rosetta: Oh.

Shashank: Oh, man. Yeah, yeah.

Katelyn: Like, was that used a lot around you?

Shashank: No, absolutely not, no. I mean, like-- see, I've heard people use the term 'dudette', 'dude' and 'dudette'. I'm pretty sure I used it, like, back in grade 4. Yeah, that was more because, uh, I liked saying 'dude'. I watched "Corey in the House". I forgot the character's name.

Katelyn: Shoutout "Corey in the House".

Shashank: Straight up.

Katelyn: Great show.

Shashank: Amazing-- I mean, I don't remember much about it, but great show. There was, like, a surfer dude in it, and he would always say, 'dude, dude, dude', so that's how I started saying it. I know for a fact that's how I hopped on.

'Dude' and 'dudette', I guess, like, in relation with, like, pop culture too, like, it is seen as a word used by very laid back people, and I think that was also something young me was trying to emulate. So I was like, yo, this is a character that, like, I kind of see myself in. He's saying 'dude', so like, I want to start saying it.

Katelyn: No, I definitely feel like-- like what you were saying earlier about the Beer Store, how you use 'bud' to kind of neutralize the situation, like, I think we use it in similar ways of it kind of lessens the professional-ness of whatever situation you're in. You know, 'bro', 'dude', like, all of a sudden, everything's friendly, everything is chill. And you feel more chill because of it too. Like you were saying, you wanted to emulate, kind of, that coolness, I guess.

Shashank: Yeah.

Katelyn: And it works. I think it works.

Shashank: Right. I mean, like, a lot of people I've noticed, sometimes when I use that word, they'll start using it too around me, which, like, I find cool because obviously they're trying to, like, you know, be friendly with me and they understand that's how I communicate. And like, vice versa.

I mean, like, sometimes I'll be speaking a certain acc-- I don't know. Not accent, but like, there's certain people that I know when I talk like this, they don't really get it. So sometimes I'll hold back on saying it too, just so like, I know we're on the same, like, playing field.

Yeah, I don't know. For example, there was this school event, I was talking like a Sauga man, I guess, like, for lack of better words. And all of these guys looked at me like I was insane. I think I said something like, 'when are we gonna dip?' And everyone's like, what does that even mean? Understandably so.

But that's just like, you grow around people saying that, and everyone around me kind of knew that while growing up. So it's just kind of automatically when I say that, I just assume everyone else would know it. But that's not the case, right? And same thing, I've heard people use

different slang and I'm like, 'dude, what does that even mean?' But it sounds cool as hell, and I want to start using it too, so yeah.

Rosetta: So just to be clear, what you're referencing is, just, using slang from the area that you grew up in, right? That's what you mean by Mississauga man.

Shashank: Yes, yes. Yes, yes.

Rosetta: Yeah, just to make it clear. OK.

Shashank: I do not identify as a Sauga man. I just need to put that out there.

Katelyn: Just a disclaimer.

Shashank: Yeah.

Katelyn: But yeah, I feel like 'dude' is slowly becoming replaced now, though, with 'bro'. I don't know if you agree with me.

Rosetta: I do, yeah.

Shashank: You think so?

Katelyn: I still-- I still say, 'dude'. I still hear 'dude'. I feel like it is definitely more natural. I know some people don't like the term. People think it's funny. And it kind of is funny. But 'bro', 'bruh', like, I hear these things way more in circulation now.

Shashank: No.

Rosetta: Yeah, I definitely find myself using 'bro' and even on occasion 'bruh'. I mean, it's a very select, like, usage, but I do find myself using it, for sure.

Shashank: Yeah. No, I actually agree. I think consciously I was aware of this fact too. Because like I said early on, I picked up on the term 'dude', and I would be saying 'dude' a lot. But then I want to say, like, when I hit high school, I just heard everyone saying 'bro'. And I remember me being like, 'dude, this sounds dumb, I'm not saying bro.'

And then, like, next year, I was saying 'bro' as well. Because it was just, like, another term of endearment you throw with people that, like, you like. 'Hey, you're my bro.' Or like, 'what's the bros doing, what's the homies doing,' whatever. Yeah, I feel like it totally is being replaced. And I still feel like it-- 'bro' is kind of on that term where, like, it depends who you use it with. Maybe they would not see it the same way as you do.

But I think, generally speaking, yeah, it's being-- it's, like, mostly gender neutral, where like, when you throw 'bro', it's like, I'm not really thinking about anything. It's just, I see you as someone cool. So like, 'hey, what's good bro?'

Katelyn: It's inclusive, no matter, like, what you identify as.

Shashank Narayanan Right.

Katelyn: You're a bro, you're a dude. And for the most part, I think we've all kind of accepted that fact. But I think it is funny how I think if we started-- I know some people call people, like, 'girl'.

Shashank: Right.

Katelyn: Like, it's mainly between people that identify as a woman. But I feel like I've definitely seen men who don't like being called that, even though everyone kind of accepts the fact that we call each other 'dude'.

Shashank: Yeah, no, I think that's fair. I've been called 'girl' before. I've gotten 'queen' as well.

Katelyn: Queen?

Shashank: Yeah, it was like, 'queen, what are you doing?' Yeah, I'm not really, like, against it either, because I know, like, the person who's saying it is saying it in a certain way. So yeah, obviously they're not saying 'girl' to, like, be like, 'oh, yeah, you know, like, screw you.' Nah, it's not that. It's almost like-- actually, every time I've been called 'girl', it's been, like, because I've done something dumb. They're like, 'girl, what are you doing?'

But I get it, it's the same thing, like, 'bro, what the fuck are you doing'-- or 'what the heck are you doing?' Yeah, but yeah, no, I can see why a lot of guys are-- like, I can understand why certain guys would be against that. Yeah, masculinity is a great thing.

Katelyn: Masculinity is a great thing.

Shashank: Awesome, you know?

Rosetta: And I think it's interesting also how you guys were talking about 'bro' being something that you can use to relate to each other and being more openly used. But then I'm thinking back to what I was discussing earlier where, as our guest, you wouldn't have heard it yet, but I was referencing how in my workplace where I use the word 'bud' when referencing or talking directly to a customer.

And it's, like, as a sense to bring me to the same level as them, you know, same playing field where we're communicating as two evenly balanced people. I find it interesting where I would not use 'bro', actually, to reference them. I find that if I did, they might even be slightly offended where they're like, 'you're not my bro'. I definitely, thinking about it, would feel like they might experience some sort of reaction?

Katelyn: Yeah, it definitely feels like almost, not only like a generational thing, but also, like, a community thing. Like, when we talk about 'bro' and 'dude', I think most people do associate with, like, skaters.

Shashank: Oh, yeah?

Katelyn: Which is-- I don't know if you agree with that or not. But it's kind of one of those things where I think was kind of tied to a certain group but then expanded to the point where, like, I think it's just a general thing.

Shashank: Right.

Katelyn: But like, you're right, like, it's not used as frequently with other people, especially older people, but also like-- like I know-- weird segue, but, you know, gamers. When you're talking online, when you're playing video games, I think because you're only hearing each

other's voices, like, as soon as you hear even just, like, a higher pitched voice, like, you are immediately labeled as, like, girl, female, you know?

Shashank: Oh, yeah?

Katelyn: And they'll treat you differently, you know? So I think that's kind of, like, an opposite way of how, in other communities, the word 'dude' and 'bro' are used as an inclusive way of speaking to one another, which I think is lovely.

Shashank: Yeah. No, I think that was a fair point that you brought up with the generational thing, where it was like, I think older generation would probably, like, interpret the term 'bro' completely different. But yeah, I completely forgot 'bud' was even a thing you could say. Just because, yeah, regionality, once again, like, a lot of people where I'm from just don't say 'bud'.

I can see, like, a lot of older men using that term 'bud', you know, just throwing it out, like, 'thanks, bud', you know? So I could see why you would use that in a way where it's like, OK, we're seeing each other as a person for a person, you know? And I totally see that. With the gamer thing too, I feel like that's just, like, kind of an issue within the community.

Katelyn: Right. Not the most inclusive.

Shashank: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Gaming community got their issues. Every community does. I just--

Katelyn: But that's kind of what it's about, right? Inclusivity. Like how we were talking about how, like, nowadays, I think skating is trying to be more inclusive. Because, really, it's all about, correct me if I'm wrong, just going, kind of, against the status quo, the mainstream.

Shashank: Yeah, I think unintentionally it kind of does. Because we don't see it as going against the status quo. We just kind of see it as us doing our thing. It just happens to be against the status quo.

Like, the fact that people think skateboarding on the streets is, like, going against status quo. Like, we don't see it as that. Or like, we're destroying, like, public property, like, we don't see it as destroying public-- even though it technically could be considered, yeah, like, if you're hitting a grind on a spot, you're waxing up a ledge. You know, like, it's technically considered destruction of property, but we're not doing it to destroy it.

It's a change in mentality. It's hard to, like, explain. But I think, like, you skate a long enough time, you start seeing things through that vision. So like, you know, for a normal person, you see a curb, it's just a curb. In skateboarding, there's, like, an endless possibility of things you can do with that curb or, like, a stair set or a random ledge or even, like, you know, a rock. Whatever you find, like, the world is truly your oyster in skateboarding.

The nature of how, maybe, we just, like, look at things might be going against the status quo. But even, like, I guess because I'm in it, I don't see it as going against the status quo. But maybe if you would ask someone else their perspective on, like, just skateboarding, they could be like, yeah, this is completely, like, you know, counterculture, like, going against it. But I do think for the most part, like, we are, for a lack of better terms. Like, yeah, I could see it.

Rosetta: I did have one question, if you can just define your skater community. Like, what is the skater community? How would you define it?

Shashank: Huh. Very-- the skater community, from what I've seen, is just mad inspiring. I think it's just like, for me, you see kids younger than you doing shit that you're like, yo, I would never want to try that, but now that I saw this guy do it, like, I want to try doing it. And it's just, everyone pushing each other.

Because skateboarding really is an individual sport, where it's like, you are your biggest, like, opponent, if that makes any sense. Most of it is, like, yeah, there is a physical element in it. If you're not jumping from, like, five stairs and above or you're not doing crazy ledges, like, yeah, it is pretty technical, but like I would say it's, like, 70% of it is you telling yourself, like, 'I don't want to do this, I might die if I try it.'

Just, everyone in the skate community is pushing each other to try to, like, beat our own boundaries we set for ourselves. Yeah, I don't know. It's just very, like, in that sense, inclusive. Thankful in my experience that, like, I've never met anyone who's, like, a complete, dick being like, leave the park.

And if there is, like, other skaters would be like, 'yo, that guy's wack as fuck.' Like, 'why is he doing that', you know? So it's just kind of, like, a general consensus where it's like, we're all trying to improve on our own, so let's, like, uplift each other.

So we're all pretty open. We all, like, are interested in learning about, like, if someone landed a new trick, like, you just kind of say it. Like, 'yo, I got this trick down.' And you're like, 'oh, shit, no way, let me see it,' you know?

So it's just pretty chill. You never really feel stressed going to the skate park. No one's really pushing you to do shit you don't feel comfortable with doing. Everyone's encouraging. Like, if they see you trying to do a trick, even, like, people you've never talked to before, like, if they see you trying to do a trick and you finally land it, like, they'll even applaud for you. Because it's just, like, a mutual respect. You understand where the other person was at. And maybe you've been in that position where they're at. You really just see people for how well they progress in, like, skill levels, which is cool.

Katelyn: I would love that in my life.

Shashank: Yeah?

Katelyn: But yeah, thank you so much for coming.

Shashank: Nah, thank you for having me, guys.

Katelyn: Of course, that was Shashank Narayanan, our lovely guest.

Rosetta: And so that was our episode of "Let's Talk about Lexicon". We hope you enjoyed. I was your host, Rosetta.

Katelyn: And Katelyn.

Rosetta: And if you want any further information, you can reference our show notes. Thank you so much, and thank you to our guest.

Katelyn: And thank you again to our guest, Shashank Narayanan, for coming in and talking to us about 'dude'.

Rosetta: Thank you so much for listening, we hope you enjoyed.

Catherine Anderson: You've been listening to Let's Talk about Lexicon. This podcast was created by students at McMaster University where I, Catherine Anderson, am a prof in the Gender & Social Justice program and the Department of Linguistics and Languages. Thanks for listening, and remember that the Lexicon has power, so use it wisely!

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