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## UNDERSTANDING “VERLAN” IN THE FRENCH LANGUAGE

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### Abstract

Verlan (verlan français) is an unusual and creative form of French slang, characterized by the replacement of letters or syllables of sounds and words, word cutting, inversion, and the creation of new terms with changed meanings. This “reverse” spelling, formed by changing the syllables or sounds of a word, allows speakers to communicate with a touch of irony, wit, and originality. Verlan is widely used in French urban culture, especially among young people, immigrants, and subcultures such as hip-hop and rap. In this article, we will examine in detail the history, rules, and methods of use of French verlan with examples.

**Keywords:** Verlan, letter, syllable, words and sentences, reverse pronunciation, word cutting, inversion, slang, Parisian culture.

### Introduction

Verlan began to be used by the people from the 16th century, but the use of verlan developed especially from World War II onwards (it was used to encrypt anti-German messages). Originally used as a mysterious language among the folk circles, workers, and artisans of Paris and the surrounding area, it quickly spread to all segments of the population due to its use, especially in film and music. The term “verlan” itself is an inverse spelling of the word “l'envers,” which translates as “reverse” or “behind.”

Literature review and methodology. This type of jargon originally emerged as a secret language—a way of communicating conversations between rogue gangs, criminals, and young people in a way that was incomprehensible to police and adults. Over time, verlane spread widely in different strata of French society and became an integral part of Parisian street culture.

There are a few ways to create a word on Verlan :

- “Chien” by inversion : iench
- “femme” by cutting words: meuf
- Suffikslash orqali “Naked”: oiled.

There are a few rules that determine which letters or syllables are interchangeable in the French verlane:

- Letter inversion: Verlan is based on the inverse change of letters or syllables within a word. For example, the word “femme” (woman) becomes “meuf,” and “arabe” (Arabic) becomes “beur.” This is how it is done :

I'm → → four → of a shell = i'm a four-year-old. The woman-of-the-woman.

Arab → a ra beu → beu ra a → beura = beur. Arabe-beurga aylanadi.

Flic → fli keu → keu fli → keufli = keuf. So it turns out to be a flic-keuf.

### Découpage d'un mot

chien



Sometimes, Verlan, i.e., words that have undergone transformation, can be reversed and read backwards . For example:

Arab → beur → reub

Flick → keuf → feuk

• For ease of pronunciation, some final vowels can be deleted or changed when forming a word. However, some letters, such as "h" or "y," may remain in place within the verlane.

Verlan is usually pronounced with altered intonation, which makes them distinctive and easily recognizable to native speakers.

• Verlan tilida fe'llar tuslanmaydi. Misol: I caught yesterday. Every night he catches a new girl (woman).

Examples of verlanage:

<b>reum</b> = mother (ONA)	<b>Féca</b> = café (kofe)
<b>reup</b> = father (ota)	<b>tromé</b> = metro (metro)
<b>relou</b> = lourd (and'ir)	<b>ripou</b> = puri (surgeon)
<b>Tattoo</b> = Bizarre (Weird, Weird)	<b>keuf</b> = flic (militantia)
<b>teuf</b> = party (bayram)	<b>ziva</b> = Vas-y (go, begin)
<b>oven</b> = oven (aqldan ozgan)	<b>sakom</b> = Comme ça (bunday)
<b>keum</b> = mec (yigit)	<b>chelaoim</b> = Lâche-moi (Leave Me Alone)
<b>reuf</b> = brother (aka)	<b>c'est cheum</b> = c'est moche (bu xunuk)
<b>reuss</b> = sister (opa, singil)	<b>To leave concrete</b> = to let go (qo'ymoq)
<b>sac</b> = keus (sumka)	<b>c'est zarbi</b> = c'est bizarre (bu g'alati)
<b>also</b> = chaud (issiq)	<b>céfran</b> = French (fransuz)
<b>euf</b> = feu (olov)	<b>to iep</b> = on foot (piyoda)

#### Verlan's use in sentences:

*He's really **stupid**, this guy!*

*Are we going **to IEP** (on foot) or by **tromé** (metro)?*

*I admit, the new teacher is really **weird** .*

*Michel has been **super venerable** (angry) since yesterday.*

*Christian is organizing a **party** next Saturday for his birthday.*

*Turn down the volume of the **zikmu** (music)!*



## Discussion

### The socio-cultural role of the French verlane

Among French youth and street culture, French verlanes have great socio-cultural significance. It is used in songs, movies and everyday conversations. This jargon helps create a common language and cultural identity among young people. Verlan can also serve as a vehicle for self-expression and self-determination. This gives the youth an opportunity to stand out from the crowd and prove their identity.

Verlan has also caused a lot of controversy for some linguists and lexicographers. Because, scholars have also pointed out that the introduction of verlan into French could impoverish, inferiorize or become an incomprehensible language. However, the complexity and diversity of the Verlan language, as well as its many schemes of construction, prove how rich and profoundly French remains a language that is shaped and updated across dialects and periods. Also, its syllables, wordplay, wide range of constructions, and penetration into the French language remain above all else. The fact that some verlan words have made their way into dictionaries such as *ouf*, *tattoo*, and even *meuf* is evidence of this.

Conclusion. In summary, many verlan forms today are widely expressive vocabulary. They can be heard in everyday speech, in movies, in songs, read in newspapers and books. Verlan's words often convey social commentary, humor, or inner language, and can be playful, provocative, or mysterious in nature. Verlan influenced French popular culture, media, and literature, shaping linguistic creativity and self-expression. The pronunciation and accent of Verlan may vary depending on the dialect. However, it is better to use them with caution, since there are many of them that can sound very coarse and ugly.

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