

## **YOUTH SLANG IN THE MODERN ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

English youth slang is an integral part of the English language and culture. The slang of young people is the most responsive to all events in life. It picks up and reflects new phenomena and changes itself in the process of their transformation, and thus it has an impact on the use of the spoken version of the language used in everyday life.

The issue of slang is a subject of constant scientific research. Various aspects of it have been studied by such researchers as E. Partridge, G. Mencken, V. Vilyuman, V. Balabin, U. Potiatynnyk. Scientists and researchers who have dealt with the problems of slang have different views on the concept of slang and its meaning in everyday life of people. According to E. Partridge, many American researchers use the word "slang" as a synonym for jargon [3, p. 8].

However, little research has been undertaken to study the problem of youth slang in the modern English language. The aim of our study is to identify the specifics of the modern English language youth slang.

English is one of the most important languages in the world. It is the official language of business, science, medicine, and politics. Moreover, the English language is constantly evolving. Many English words are used every day, and it is extremely difficult to keep track of all the changes in the vocabulary of English-speaking nations. This is especially true for slang units.

Slang is defined as a purely colloquial language that is considered to be below the standard of the language of educated people and consists of both new words and common words used in special meanings. Youth slang, as a rule, unites groups of its speakers through intra-group ties.

On the one hand, D. Greenough and D. Kittridge characterized slang as a vagrant that "wanders in the neighborhood of literary language and is constantly trying to find its way into refined society" [3, p. 10]. On the other hand, slang is considered a sign of life, renewal and progressive development of the language. Social development, technological progress, and new cultural trends contribute to the development of English youth slang, which is a significant layer of spoken language that changes quickly and is constantly renewed.

Unlike common expressions, slang is also actively used in the language of educated people, representatives of a certain age or professional group. The most famous example is youth slang. It helps to stand out from their peers and clearly demonstrate their commitment to a particular subculture. You should pay due attention to slang when learning the language, especially if you plan not only to read classic English literature but also to communicate with your peers face to face using "live" language.

It should be noted that there are different types of youth slang in English. When classifying slang, it is worth paying attention to the opinion of V. G. Viluman. The scientist has come to the conclusion that slang words can be divided into two groups: general slang words and special ones [5, p. 15]. The first group is words used by many people, it is colloquial vocabulary, ambiguous, widespread and in great demand in everyday communication. Cockney slang, for example.

Another group of slangs identified by V. G. Viluman is special slang. This group of slang is focused on a specific topic. It depends on the person's profession or interest. For example, youth slang, student slang, professionalisms and computer slang.

Consider Cockney slang. Cockney rhyming slang in English is a type of slang in which certain words are used instead of other words that they rhyme with. In Cockney rhyming slang "apples and pears" means "stairs". In the modern English-speaking world this is a fairly well-known type of slang. Most often it is the slang of adults, educated people. This form of expression puts the speakers in an awkward position. Cockney rhyming slang is so common in modern "British" English that many people use it in their daily conversation without noticing it. For example:

«Let's have a butchers hook at that magazine» (butcher's hook = look).

«I have not heard a dickey bird about it» (dickey bird = word).

«Use your loaf of bread and think next time» (loaf of bread = head).

«Did you half-inch that car? » (Half-inch = pinch, meaning steal) [4, p. 12].

A particularly popular way of enriching computer slang with grammatical jargon is to form plural nouns by adding the ending -xen: box - boxen, socks - soxen.

There are so called slang expressions "new and bright" that cannot be made up without a good imagination, for example, "a think-machine" (brain), "a sparkler" (diamond), "pickers" (hands).

Various colloquialisms – words and expressions that are unique to alive communication. They are characterized by their ambiguity. For example, chink is a noun with the meaning "cash", "to soapbox" is to rally, "a jolly" is to have a good time, "to learn the ropes" is to know all the ins and outs.

Furthermore, it is necessary to distinguish figurative words and expressions. On the one hand, there are figurative professionalisms "land-shark" – lawyer, "gospel-grinder" – pastor, and, on the other hand, there are commonly used figurative words: "yes-man" – flatterer, "rubber-neck" – gawker. Sometimes abbreviations are considered slang: "pro" – professional, "props" – properties, "biz" – business.

Nowadays even such expressions like "of course", "OK", "to take care", "to get up", "lunch" have been considered slangisms in Britain and America. The word "OK" was most often used in the 1930s, and it quickly entered almost all languages of the world. This expression was derived from the phrase all correct. This word is understood in almost all countries including non-English-speaking countries, but it is avoided in business speech. "Cool" is also one of the most famous slang expressions in English. In dictionaries you can find only one translation of this word "cold" but in everyday communication, "cool" is used in those moments when we mean "Great!"

There are ambiguous views on the term "slang" that lead to different attitudes towards it. However, there is no denying the fact that slang is the most vivid, emotional, and widespread style of speech that responds to any changes in people's lives and helps them express their thoughts and feelings as deeply as possible.

To conclude, in modern English slang is an active part of alive spoken language making up a significant part of its vocabulary as it vividly reflects the diversity of society's interests, the assessment of certain phenomena by native speakers belonging to different social and professional groups. It is one of the sources of replenishing the lexical composition of the language and one of the elements of the society's culture.

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