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СЕМАНТИЧЕСКИЕ И ФУНКЦИОНАЛЬНЫЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ АНГЛОЯЗЫЧНОГО МОЛОДЕЖНОГО СЛЕНГА В ИНТЕРНЕТЕ

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Аннотация. Проблема возникновения большого количества сленгизмов и их влияния на литературный язык является одной из центральных тем современных лингвистических исследований. Интерес к анализу единиц англоязычного молодежного сленга обусловлен в первую очередь тем, что молодежная лексика имеет свои особенности, не соотносимые с литературным языком, а также тем, что она оказывает влияние на разговорную речь, а, следовательно, и на общеязыковую норму.

Ключевые слова: молодежный язык, сленг, словообразование, заимствование, английский язык, аббревиатуры.

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PHILOLOGY

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Original article

Semantic and functional peculiarities of English-speaking youth slang on the internet

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Abstract. The problem of the emergence of a large number of slang terms and their influence on the literary language is one of the central topics of modern linguistic research. Interest in the analysis of units of English-language youth slang is primarily due to the fact that youth vocabulary has its own characteristics that are not correlated with the literary language, as well as the fact that it has an impact on colloquial speech, and, consequently, on the general language norm.

Key words: youth language, slang, word formation, borrowing, English, abbreviations.

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Introduction

Slang has long left a large number of unresolved issues, and the definition of its functionality is no exception. Now, as mentioned earlier, linguists have disagreed on the functions of slang. V.A. Khomyakov emphasizes the fact that despite the fact that slang refers to “expressive vernacular” and to the literary language, there is a different degree of approximation of slang to the literary standard. Thus, there are slang units that are “almost standard” and there are those which not [1, p. 29]. Slang differs from the normative, neutral vocabulary by its rather pronounced familiarity. This layer of vocabulary consists of rich, emotionally expressive and stylistically colored speech. Slang units are used quite often, but one of the main purposes is to show a certain emotional attitude.

The language belongs to a society and as the society develops the social groups in the society use slangs depending on their intellects, professions and labor activity. Sometimes, a word

whenever used as a slang can be used as a slang in the speech of a new group after a while or depending on the context, the same concept can be expressed with a different slang and we can understand it with the help of cognition in anyway.

Discussion

Language is a living, systematic organism. Undoubtedly, as a plant grows in a garden, new words are also added to the language, their new meanings are constituted (through metaphorization), sometimes new words, including slangs arise via reductions and as we mentioned before they are understood through cognition, information is transferred and received by receiver at the required level.

We think it would be better if we set some examples about slangs constituted as a result of metaphorization. Therefore, metaphorization is directly linked with cognition and role of context in this situation is undeniable. Because without context no meaning can be given to that word. As for slangs the social group using that slang should take into consideration the intellectual level, status of the social group, place, situation, and purpose of slang, reason for giving meaning to it and other features. Otherwise, the speech act cannot fulfill its function. For instance: *I saw Mary after such a long time yesterday! We had a lovely chin wag together, like the good old times.*

In this context, the expression “*chin wag*” is not attractive at a first glance. However, following “*I saw Mary after such a long time yesterday!*” it means that these people had intimacy before. The words “*talked*” or “*had a talk*” would not have given effect like “*chin wag*”. The cognition says that they did not just talk only, they also told stories of years and therefore, the slang “*had a chin wag*” was used in this sentence. Because the archaic meaning of the word “*chin*” is “*chatter*”. Herein the context insistently requires that semantics and we used it as *chin wag*.

Let’s look at another example: *I was so busy with my family before the exam, that I only had three days to cram in all revision work!*

The “*cram*” in this context is a slang and archaic meaning is “*memorize, learn by heart*”. However, with the help of the context, we understand it through cognition. According to the background knowledge, the person used “*cram*” depending on the situation that “he was busy before the exam” and “should pass the exam” at the end. This slang was used because the semantic component is based on the “*study hastily*”.

It should be noted, that the slangs formed by combination have different semantics. Human body parts also constitute such slangs. That’s the “*head*” is used as a slang after combining with other words. The word “*head*” can be component of a number of slangs below. For instance, “*piss head*” – a person who regularly overindulges in alcoholic drink. This slang is based on the combination of words “*on the piss*”. The word “*acidhead*” means a *habitual user of LSD*”, the “*meat-head*” means stupid person.

Sometimes, you hear that “*who eats too much (or any) meat*” he/she is called as “*meat head-stupid person*”. With the help of cognition, we understand that a person tending to eat meat only thinks about to eat meat and this formed that slang. We have repeatedly emphasized that without motivation and metaphorization no any word or expression can have a meaning and be used as slang.

One more word related to eating is used as slang: *I’m going to get some grab for myself from the local take away. Do you want anything?* The “*grab*” in this sentence has been used in the meaning of lunch. In fact, the meaning of the word “*grab*” is “to take or grasp suddenly”, but the expression of “*from local takeaway*” in the second part of the sentence could change its meaning as a slang. We explain it that the meaning of the word “*takeaway*” is a “*restaurant that cooks and sells food that you takeaway and eat somewhere else*”. For example: *We can get something to eat from Chinese takeaway.*

Many words may acquire a completely different meaning in modern slang terms and also a professional interpreter can’t understand a man’s speech from Colorado, Texas as in each region the language is different. It’s all about everyday slang.

Let's take for example the verb "to get", it has many meanings. For a sample: *It seems to me that I've forgot money. Don't worry I got it.* In this sentence it means "to have".

Do you understand how to drive this boat? – Yes, I got it. Now we can use verb "to get" in a meaning "to understand".

I got the vase in the last second before I dropped it. At the third sentence it means "to catch".

It will be very attentive how we use "to get" with regard to people. For example, "I got Bobby" – this phrase means "I shot Bobby". If we use this phrase to a woman it can be understood as an attempt to harass a woman. As a result, the verb "to get" replaces other verbs. For instance, "I've loved you since I got you". It's another slang meaning of word "get". Although it applies to a person, it translates as "I've loved you since I found (met) you". At the second sentence the verb "to get" has a positive meaning in contrast with the first sentence.

Also, the verb "to get" can use in such slang phrases: "get a load of something" – "see, look, understand something". For instance: *Are you getting load of what he saying?* It means "Do you understand what he saying?".

For example, the expression "get a life" means "to do business, not to interfere". For instance: *Just get a life and do not come here.* Here it means "Go to do business" instead of "coming here".

Changing in culture, politics and economics, new technologies, communication in the Internet – all of these aspects influence to our cognition, mind and language.

As mentioned earlier, the features of regional slang can be observed in the communication of Americans and British. Sometimes even native speakers – the British and Americans – do not quite understand each other. It's connected with it that the same objects, things and phenomena they used to call quite differently from childhood. Now we look at modern examples of everyday slang of the British and Americans.

"Taking the Mickey" means *mock someone, tease*. For instance: *I wouldn't like to meet Jack because he's taking the Mickey out of me.*

First of all, this phrase has nothing to do with Mickey Mouse. However, this character can be a good association, as he is also associated with ridicule. In the list of British English slang phrases, the phrase "taking the Mickey" is rhymed cockney slang. This type of slang originated in Ireland and then spread to Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Initially, the phrase sounded like "to take the Mickey Bliss", and many were wondering who the mysterious man named Mickey Bliss was. The identity of this person has not yet been established.

Another example of British slang is phrases "Bob's Your Uncle". It means *With Ease! At ease*. The phrase can be used to emphasize how something can be quickly completed or achieved. For example: *Mike, you should read this book and, Bob's your uncle, you'll have all necessary details.*

There are several versions of the origin of the phrase, but the most probable one concerns the problem of patronage in British politics. In 1886, Prime Minister Robert Cecil appointed his direct nephew to the crucial position. This led to a huge scandal and this expression appeared.

We must mention that among the main functions of slang, scientists distinguish the following:

Communicative function. It is not surprising that this particular function tops this list, since slang is, first of all, a means of communication. It is understandable for certain groups of society, representatives of these groups have the opportunity to express their thoughts and emotions in appropriate expressions and, in turn, understand similar statements of others and react to them. Slang language is a system of signs that are used to convey information from one person to another. It is an important link in the implementation of the communicative function.

Cognitive function. It is widely implemented among young people. T.V. Kuklina notes in her work that this function is realized due to the fact that, unlike standard names, slangs carry additional information that provides additional knowledge about the world around person [2, p. 64].

Nominative function. In general terms, slang is a secondary lexical system, within which the phenomena, feelings and emotions present in life have their own names that coexist with the standards of the literary language. However, in addition to this, the nominative function is one of the characteristics of the language, since there are slangs that have no analogues in the national liter-

ary speech. This is to a certain extent related to fashion, trends in social networks and the development of technological progress. Together with the nominative one can also distinguish a *creative function*, since slang can help to express phenomena that do not exist in the literary language, which do not have an equivalent.

Expressive function. This is one of the main characteristics of slang, since it allows not only to communicate between people, but with its help a person can express his/her attitude to a certain phenomenon. It can be neutral, positive or negative, but most often there is a manifestation of dismissiveness and even superiority.

Often, slangs are ironic and evaluative. That is, all types of connotations are present in the slang language. Slang units and expressions have synonyms in literary language to express emotions or demonstrate their attitude to a certain phenomenon, but they are more expressive.

As noted earlier, slang expressive function is especially clearly reflected in the negative connotation, to denote negative phenomena. Considering the expressive function, it is necessary to add *an evaluative function* to this classification. Despite the fact that these are different concepts, but nevertheless, they relate to each other, since the evaluative function is with the help of slang to express an attitude to a certain event or phenomenon [3, p. 41].

Ideological function. The implementation of the ideological function is determined by a relatively closed manifestation of functioning in comparison with the literary language. By using slangs members of a particular social group can express affability and friendship or hostility and anger towards strangers.

Identification (signal) function. No matter how strange it may sound, slang is a kind of certain code (litmus test) that allows you to recognize “your” social group (manner of communication, facial expressions, etc.). It helps to establish and maintain new contacts, find new necessary people. During a speech, the speaker talks by himself, about the objects and phenomena that surround him. This speech can reflect the age of the speaker, his social status, territorial origin (it is possible to use dialects that differ from the literary language in lexical, phonetic or grammatical features).

Time-saving function. Slang, according to B.D. Kairbekova, also helps to save time. The implementation of this function occurs due to the fact that slangs are usually shorter than their counterparts in standard literary language. These include various abbreviations, acronyms, as well as abbreviated inscriptions that are used for writing [3, p. 64].

Manipulative function. Sometimes slang terms can affect the way of thinking of the interlocutor. It happens that slang expressions can be quite harsh, which can intimidate the interlocutor and, thus, manipulate him.

T.V. Kuklina pays special attention to youth slang, since she believes that this is a special kind of sociolect. The main reason why young people use slang to communicate with each other is fashion. In slang terms, they demonstrate their modernity. That is, slang serves not only as a means of transmitting information, but with its help you can express your opinion, thoughts, emphasize your personality, originality. In addition, by showing that the speaker is using slang, he or she can attract attention to her-, himself, join to a new team and achieve an adequate attitude towards her-, himself [2].

Almost always young people claim that in such situations they use slang subconsciously and not intentionally, however, nevertheless, they do it on purpose in the sense that young people choose words and expressions, focusing on the interlocutor and the situation. Nevertheless, using slang in oral speech, people may not be aware of this, in this case we are talking about the fact that the construction of phrases, the choice of expressions depends on the subconscious structures of the language. Although, not everywhere and not in every situation young people speak a slang language. Most often, it can be heard in communication between close acquaintances or in a circle of friends, since such expressions emotionally bring people together and help to express their attitude to the event or phenomenon under discussion.

Conclusions

Thus, slang performs a wide variety of functions that are closely related to each other. Among the listed functions, the most important are expressive and communicative, since slang is a method

of communication that has been formed over many years, the lexical units of which are emotionally colored and demonstrate the speaker's attitude to the objects or phenomena, often with negative connotations. Slang is mainly used by young people, and it is not the same everywhere. Often, representatives of two social groups cannot understand each other's slang language.

The process of emergence of new meanings in old words is a continuous process that takes place in each language constantly, because otherwise the language will not be able to perform its main communicative function and cease to be an adequate means of human communication. It should also be remembered that with the suppression of any semes in the semantic structure of the word and the emergence of a new seme, cognitive processes go hand in hand with increasing emotional load of the slang word, which in general slang often significantly exceeds the denotative component of lexical meaning. This is quite natural due to the nature of non-standard vocabulary.

It should also be noted that all age groups of native speakers use slang in their daily activities, young people and students – to a greater extent than the older generation, busy with their careers, where the standard language is one of the conditions for promotion. But when it comes to communication in everyday life, there are no restrictions or any obstacles to the use of slang. In addition, it should be borne in mind that, along with general slang, speakers use special slang units in their daily activities and communication, namely, youth slang, along with general slang.

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