



## THE FEATURES OF YOUTH SLANG IN THE MODERN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

**Biloldinova Gulnora Xursandbek qizi**  
UzSWLU Linguistics (English) Master's  
student, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

**Abstract.** This article deals with the analysis of the concept of youth slang in modern English. The importance of the work is that the youth is in constant development. The aim of the article is to consider the peculiarities, the sources that fuel it, the functions of slang, questions about the causes and process of the appearance of a slang word, as well as youth as a social group that is a carrier of the youth slang in modern English.

**Keywords:** youth, slang, social group, slangism, communication, language economy.

**Аннотация.** Данная статья посвящена анализу понятия молодежного сленга в современном английском языке. Важность этой работы заключается в том, что молодежь находится в постоянном развитии. Цель статьи - рассмотреть особенности, источники, которые его подпитывают, функции сленга, вопросы о причинах и процессе появления жаргонного слова, а также молодежь как социальную группу, являющуюся носителем молодежного сленга в современном английском языке.

**Ключевые слова:** молодежь, сленг, социальная группа, сленгизм, коммуникация, языковая экономика.

**Annotatsiya.** Ushbu maqola zamonaviy ingliz tilida yoshlar jargoni tushunchasini tahlil qilishga bag'irlangan. Ushbu ishning ahamiyati shundaki, yoshlar doimiy rivojlanishda. Maqolaning maqsadi xususiyatlarni, uni oziqlantiradigan manbalarni, jargon funktsiyalarini, jargon so'zining paydo bo'lishining sabablari va jarayoni haqidagi savollarni, shuningdek zamonaviy ingliz tilida yoshlar jargon so'zlarining tashuvchisi bo'lgan ijtimoiy guruh sifatida ko'rib chiqishdir.

**Kalit so'zlar:** yoshlar, jargon, ijtimoiy guruh, slangizm, muloqot, lingvistik iqtisod.

**Introduction.** It is known that language, like a mirror, reflects all spheres of human life: be it politics, economics or technological progress. Society is developing, and young people of a separate, more or less closed reference group, for instance, an institution, a neighborhood or the Internet, use slang to hide the meaning of what has been said from the people around them. Young people represent the most dynamic social group in society. Linguists have always been interested in youth language. Youth slang is a "password" for all members of the reference group (Zenina, 2013). The youth today learn other behaviors that are different from the norm, cultural stereotypes, and values linked with various areas of life, including education, morality, employment, human relations, and politics, in the context of frequent cross-cultural interactions. According to Zagrebin (2014), "youth is defined in sociology as a social group that occupies a special role in society." Scholars focus particularly on the social connections that young people make, the socialization process, their social standing, and the uniqueness of their subculture. Also, in our country, the issue of youth has risen to the level of state policy. In particular, Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on State Policy on Youth dated September 14, 2016 №LRU-406, Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on



Establishment of the youth day of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated August 25, 2017 №LRU-437 adopted.

Let's consider the main integrative components of the social portrait of youth, before speaking about youth slang. Today's sociologists take into account youth between the ages of 14 and 30. Age limits vary according to the unique socioeconomic characteristics of a community, its degree of culture, and its living conditions. Physical maturity starts at age 14, which is when the lowest limit is set. A person can also start working at this age (there is a choice between training and work). The top age restriction is set at 30, which is the age at which a person achieves economic independence as well as stability in their professional and personal lives (they start a family and have children).

Age limits are the main criterion, but they are not the only ones, since this group includes heterogeneous subgroups that differ significantly different characteristics of each other: age, education, financial status, etc. In this regard, age restrictions should in combination with other criteria are taken into account. Demographic indicators are not an essential criterion because young people are characterized by an almost equal gender ratio.

The social youth group can be identified by certain social and socio-cultural markers in addition to socio-demographic characteristics. Young people are known for their wide range of activities, dynamism in behavior, high level of mobility, instability, and hazy social position with transitivity, which adds to the group's marginalization.

At the same time, youth is a socio-demographic group that unites young people aged 14 to 30 years and is determined through a set of characteristics, features of social status, socio-psychological properties it is determined by the level of cultural, social, economic development, socialization. Youth is a transitional state from childhood to adulthood, a young person is no longer a child, but not yet an adult. Young people are characterized by contradictory character traits: the desire for individuality and imitation.

Scientists are still studying slang as linguistic phenomenon, while it is developing every day. This phenomenon was studied by E. Partridge, V. Freeman, A. Barrere, V.J. Burke, C. Leland, S.B. Flexner, I.R. Galperin, M.M. Makovsky, V.A. Khomyakov, I.V. Arnold, T.A. Solovyova, etc. Speaking about slang as a separate subsystem of the language, it is necessary to refer to its components. According to R.Z. Ginzburg, the concept of slang is may contain such lexical units as: 1) jargon; 2) various vulgarisms, obscene expressions and forbidden words; 3) colloquial expressions. I.R. Galperin notes that "due to the inclusion of a variety of jargon in slang, Slang differentiation occurs in military, sports, theater, Student jargon appears" (Galperin, 1958, p. 86). I.R. Galperin, thus, identified all possible areas of the lexical composition of the language, the units of which can be attributed to slang. Youth slang is a kind of jargon, so in our work we will stick to this list. All slang units can be divided into groups. There are various classifications of slangisms. Their division into general and special slang is most common. Common slang includes figurative words and expressions with emotional and evaluative coloring, which are generally understandable and often used in colloquial speech, synonyms of literary words and phrases that differ from





them in their novelty and originality (Cit. by: Arnold, 2012, p. 286). Special slang contains narrowly used words and expressions belonging to a particular professional or a group of jargon. According to this definition, youth slang is a kind of general slang.

Youth slang is one of the forms of realization of modern speech. This concept is closely related to the so-called colloquial norm of speech, in connection with which it has been developing and forming together with other layers of speech for centuries on the periphery of the literary norm. In the conversational norm of spoken language, youth slang has unique place. Slang differs from colloquialisms, which are distinguished by their relative stability, historical conditionality, and spontaneity of occurrence, use, and disappearance. Youth-specific language belongs in a separate category and is considered a unique layer of colloquial speech. In this regard, we can list the primary features of slang as word production, instability, and the quick absorption of slang units into literary language. Youth slang is evolving quickly. This is because children develop swiftly, entering the "world of youth" and acquiring youth status before exiting it and entering adulthood. The slang used by young people is constantly evolving along with this process. The language that young people absorb simultaneously contains words from several dialects and languages. Word-making also occupies a large place in the development of youth slang.

Youth slang is characterized by "originality, novelty, brevity, imagery and wit." The language of youth helps to perceive many things with humor, to get an "emotional discharge" (Kosyakova, 2017). So, youth slang is a general slang, often with a large number of people, relatively stable for a certain period of time, with an emotionally expressive coloring. Youth slang is heterogeneous in its genetic composition, since the concept of slang includes words of different origin.

The language of youth is different from the normative English language due to the presence of familiar colored vocabulary in it. Slangisms are used for different purposes, but one of the most important is the expression an emotional attitude that depends on the purpose of the utterance. In this regard, we can talk about the functional diversity of slang.

Currently, linguists have no unanimous opinion on the functions of youth slang. Some call only three functions of youth slang: communicative, nominative and cognitive (Ivanova, 1990, p.133). Others also add to them esoteric (conspiratorial), identification (signaling), expressive functions, as well as the function of language economy. Let's take a closer look at each of them.

Since slang is part of the language and is a means when communicating between people, the communicative function of the youth jargon is emphasized. With the help of slang, a person (speaker) can express his thoughts, transmitting information, and the other (listener) can perceive information, understand thoughts, react to them by changing his behavior or worldview. This function is performed due to the fact that slang language is a system of signs and signs in turn designed to transfer information between people.



The nominative function of the youth jargon is manifested in situations when young people adapt to technological progress and fashion trends, give secondary names to environmental phenomena, which coexist with standard lexemes of the literary language.

Cognitive functions are largely implemented by youth slang. According to G.R. Ivanova, this function is manifested in the fact that many slangisms contain additional information this is not present in standard designations, so they represent additional knowledge about the world around them (Ivanova, 1990, p.132). Professional and age characteristics of the language, affiliation from native speakers to a specific social environment, differences depending on the level The level of education and the degree of culture affect the language. The same a person can possess various norms and variants of pronunciation which exist in the language and use it depending on the communication situation.

The esoteric function, in turn, is associated with an identification function, which is also called a signal function. It is based on group cohesion, intra-group conformity. Slang in this case is understood as a kind of password that allows you to recognize "your own" among others by various signs: vocabulary, gestures, manner of conversation, etc., as well as to establish contacts. In conversation, the speaker, using slangisms, gives a clear idea of his belonging to a social group, social status, age. It is this function that is the most significant for the participants of communication, because at the time of using a particular slang word or expression, not only its translational meaning is important, but also a certain characteristic that unites both communicants. By his speech behavior, an individual expresses his willingness to establish contact with members of his group (Zharkova, 2005). At the same time, it is interesting that junior students include slangisms in their speech twice as often as senior students, considering a common language to be the main sign of belonging to one the group. It is in the first years of student life that young people are especially acutely aware of themselves as individuals, assert themselves and seek support among their peers to contrast themselves with their elders.

Next function is language economy. According to T.E. Zakharchenko, Slang helps to save time and space. This function is implemented use of such language tools as abbreviation, shortening. (Zakharchenko, 2009, p. 133). These tools allow one short word to express a large amount of information.

Finally, the expressive function of youth slang is associated with the expression through slang lexical units of a certain attitude to surrounding phenomena: neutral, positive or dismissive. Thanks to expressiveness, it is possible to determine not only the emotional state of the speaker, but also his attitude to the world around him. Slangisms necessarily contain a connotative component, the emotional coloring is most often ironic, contemptuous, i.e. evaluative. Slangisms denoting various negative, negative phenomena have the most vivid expressive coloring the surrounding reality. Each slangism has synonyms in the literary language, and the lexical unit of youth slang is thus secondary, more expressive than the standard name of the subject. Their expressiveness is associated with imagery, wit, surprise, funny distortion.





Slang, like creative activities, has some artistry, beauty, because the person who uses slang to express their thoughts, it is acting outside the box and reinventing them and with a new, imaginative and funny vocabulary. Expressiveness the non-standard vocabulary of the youth language confirms the artistry Slang. Thanks to this function of youth slang, a native speaker is, a young man who acts as a creator and invents new words or the meaning of already existing words. Very often the cause the use of slang is the desire to reinvent the language for a small group and the student society creates new lexical units that replace literary units. Most often the slang expressions are based on a witty comparison, which was successfully given by someone. The opportunity and desire to show their creative abilities, the spirit of competition, which produces a huge number in the language of youth synonyms for the nomination of a concept. Most of them survive funny expressions. This also explains the rapid variability and the instability of many slangisms.

The emergence and renewal of the youth language, which takes off lexically units from a variety of sources, directly connected with its functionality. Youth slang satisfies many functions that are closely interrelated: communicative, nominative, cognitive, ideological, esoteric (conspiratorial), identifying (signal), expressive function, function language saving. With this variety of functions of youth slang the expressive function is fundamental, since the youth slang - this is a non-standard, expressively colored layer of vocabulary.

Youth slang is a reflection of young people's desire to speak like other teenagers and to differentiate themselves from adults. Unlike any other language, this one is unique to them and aids in their ability to dissociate from the adult world and establish their own, complete with customs and dialect. But common people easily incorporate such terms into their speech. Previously, it was much more difficult to learn about new words of young people, but with the advent of the Internet, various youth groups, words become known to everyone. In films, everyone can also find a lot of slang phrases from the mouths of their favorite characters. For instance, now we analyze some youth slang examples taken from "Step Up 2 The Streets" movie. Since the main characters of this film are teenagers who use slang in their speech, this film was chosen. We are interested in the functions of slang that appear of slang usage in this movie.

### **1.Man**

*Tuck: "Yo, the four-one-oh killed again, man" (Laughing)*

The man has originally meaning (male friends), it used as someone relation with other in a group. It also identifies people of a common age and experience.

### **2. Son**

*Felicia: "That was sick, son" Andie: "Thank you very much I'm a genius"*

The expression "son" refers to a person's closest friend. This expression is used in group conversations to show membership in a specific group by the speaker.

### **3. Gotcha**



*Tuck: "Gotcha!" Andie: "Oh, Jesus. Tuck!"*

Slang deliberately used by the speaker to impress or shock others, Gotcha means (got you) is used by the speaker to shock others.

#### **4. Spot**

*Andie: "Yo, we gonna get some serious YouTube play, son" Felicia: "Come on, let's go. We gotta get to the spot"*

Spot can refer to an apartment, building, or specific location. In the circumstance described above, the speaker is attempting to keep their talk private from those nearby. The group's members should be able to identify what the location means.

#### **5. Out of luck**

*Tuck: "You're out of luck! Now go home leave" Missy: "That's mad wack B"*

Out of luck means that someone is not having a chance for success. It used as speaker expression who dislike of someone from outside his group.

#### **6. Chill out**

*Andie: "I don't even need to explain this. I'm out" Tayler: "Whoa, whoa, whoa come on chill out"*

Slang has a tendency to be colorful in order to make conversation more entertaining when speaking with others. The phrase "chill out" indicates to calm down. The speaker made some words more colorful and improved the scenario in order to catch the listener's attention.

#### **7. Texting**

*Felicia: "Where have you been? I have been texting you all day" Andie: "I know, I am sorry, the school thing is crazy"*

It describes as the vocabulary of some activity in a society which make peculiar slangs to a set of people who are identified by the specialized terms they use among group members.

#### **8. Yeah**

*Tayler: "Maryland School of The Arts" Andie: "Yeah, I know what it is"*

Yeah, means yes, is the expression that often used as everyday conversation. It occurs within the conversation between two people in an informal situation and this term is never used in formal written language.

#### **9. Whatcha gonna do**

*DJ Sand: "She punched on you, whatcha gonna do?"*

Normally teenager uses the term whatcha gonna do only when speaking fast and casually with their friends. For example, whatcha is the short form of (what are you)





and gonna is a short form of (going to). If it said them very fast, without carefully pronouncing of each word's pronunciation. It can be heard whatcha gonna do.

## 10. Whatever

*Tyler: "I'm just trying to look out for you" Andie: "Yeah, whatever"*

Whatever means that the speaker does not care about the topic of the conversation. The speaker tends to soften the seriousness of the conversation.

In conclusion, we can state that the use of slang words contributes to the separation and self-learning of members of this social group from others, uniting them into a kind of separate group. In other words, young people tend to use non-standard verbal expressions. On the other hand, they adopt certain expressive words and phrases from language partners of the same age group in order to fit into society. Young people begin to use words and expressions that deviate from the generally accepted rules of speech in order to look modern and "cool". They use elements of various vocabulary, foreign words.

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