

SLANG AND JARGONISMS IN MODERN ENGLISH

Kanikey Ashanova

Namangan State Pedagogical Institute, Uzbekistan

E-mail: qanikeyashanova@gmail.com

Muhammadjonov Oybek Sobirjon o'g'li

Ilmiy rahbar: E-mail: muhammadjonovoybek727@gmail.com

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20524357>

ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the development trends of slang and jargonisms in modern English. The research examines the influence of social media and subcultures on the lexical layer, highlighting their pragmatic functions in contemporary communication.

Key words: slang, jargonisms, neologisms, sociolinguistics, communication, lexicography, internet language.

ANNOTATSIYA

Ushbu maqola zamonaviy ingliz tilidagi sleng va jargonlarning rivojlanish tendensiyalarini tahlil qiladi. Tadqiqot ijtimoiy tarmoqlar va submadaniyatlarning leksik qatlamga ta'sirini o'rganib, ularning muloqotdagi pragmatik funksiyalarini yoritib beradi.

Kalit so'zlar: sleng, jargon, neologizm, ijtimoiy lingvistika, muloqot, leksikografiya, internet tili.

АННОТАЦИЯ

В данной статье анализируются тенденции развития сленга и жаргонизмов в современном английском языке. Исследование изучает влияние социальных сетей и субкультур на лексический пласт, освещая их прагматические функции в коммуникации.

Ключевые слова: сленг, жаргонизмы, неологизмы, социолингвистика, коммуникация, лексикография, интернет-язык.

INTRODUCTION

The linguistic landscape of the 21st century is undergoing a rapid transformation, driven primarily by the digital revolution and the globalization of culture. In this context, slang and jargonisms are no longer peripheral phenomena but have moved to the center of linguistic evolution. Slang, defined as highly informal language that is typically restricted to a particular context or group of people, serves as a powerful tool for social identity and group cohesion [1, P. 12]. Jargon, on the other hand, functions as a specialized terminology used by professional or interest-based groups to ensure precise and efficient communication within their niche [3, P. 45].

The relevance of this study lies in the fact that the boundaries between formal and informal discourse are becoming increasingly blurred. What was considered "street talk" a decade ago is now frequently found in mainstream media and digital journalism. This article aims to categorize modern slang types, analyze the mechanisms of their formation, and evaluate the specific impact of professional jargon on General English (GE). Understanding these dynamics is essential for translators, educators, and linguists who must keep pace with the "living" version of the English language.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

The theoretical framework for this study is based on the works of prominent sociolinguists such as Eric Partridge and David Crystal, who emphasized that slang is a "reflex of the spirit of the

age" [2, P. 88]. Previous researchers have often categorized slang based on its emotional coloring, but modern scholarship focuses more on its functional utility in digital spaces. Methodology utilized in this research includes the Descriptive Method, employed to classify new lexical units, and the Comparative Analysis Method, used to track the semantic shifts in words as they move from specialized jargon into common slang. Furthermore, a corpus-based approach was used to analyze the frequency of specific "Gen-Z" terms across social media platforms like TikTok and Twitter (X) during the 2024-2025 period.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

The research indicates that the primary source of modern slang has shifted from geographical dialects to digital subcultures. In the past, slang was often rooted in localized urban environments (e.g., Cockney Rhyming Slang), whereas today it is "platform-dependent." For instance, terminology originating in the gaming community (jargon) frequently transitions into everyday slang.

Table 1: Evolution of Semantic Meaning in Modern Slang

Term	Original Jargon Source	Current Slang Meaning	Usage Frequency (Relative)
Glitch	Computing/Electronics	A sudden, temporary malfunction or mistake	High
Cap	Historical (Gambling)	To lie or exaggerate (used as "no cap")	Very High
Ghosting	Telecommunications	Suddenly cutting off contact with someone	Moderate
Algorithm	Mathematics/IT	The perceived force controlling social feeds	Increasing

Moreover, the study found that professional jargonisms are increasingly leaking into the vernacular of non-professionals, a process known as "terminological migration" [4, P. 102]. Corporate jargon (e.g., "bandwidth," "circling back," "deep dive") is now commonly used in interpersonal relationships to describe emotional or mental capacity.

Table 2: Comparison of Slang Functions by Demographic Groups

Function	Gen Z / Alpha (10-25)	Professionals (25-50)	Purpose
Identity	High (Slang used for "vibe")	Low	Establishing belonging
Efficiency	Moderate (Acronyms)	High (Jargon/Industry talk)	Saving time in communication
Secrecy	High (Coded language)	Low	Excluding outsiders

The results show that while slang is often perceived as a "degradation" of language by purists, it actually demonstrates a high level of linguistic creativity and cognitive flexibility among users [5, P. 15].

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, slang and jargonisms represent the most dynamic and volatile layers of the Modern English lexicon. This study has demonstrated that these linguistic phenomena serve three primary roles: social identification, economy of expression, and emotional emphasis. We observed that the lifecycle of a slang word has shortened significantly; due to the viral nature of the internet, a term can reach global saturation and become "cringe" (outdated) within months.

Slang is no longer just "poor English"; it is a sophisticated system of social signaling. Jargon, meanwhile, provides the structural precision needed in an increasingly complex technical world. For linguists, the challenge remains to document these changes in real-time. Future research should focus on the "Aestheticization" of jargon, where technical terms are used not for their meaning, but for the status or "aesthetic" they project in digital personas. Ultimately, the fluidity of modern English proves its vitality as a global lingua franca that adapts to the needs of its speakers.

Adabiyotlar, References, Литературы:

1. Crystal, D. — The Stories of English — New York: Overlook Press, 2004. — B. 12-25.
2. Partridge, E. — Slang: Today and Yesterday — London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1970. — B. 88.
3. Thorne, T. — Dictionary of Contemporary Slang — London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2014. — B. 45-50.
4. Yule, G. — The Study of Language — Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020. — B. 102.
5. Smith, J. — Socio-Linguistic Dynamics of Gen Z — Oxford: University Press, 2023. — B. 15-18.