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THE ORIGIN OF MODERN ENGLISH SLANG

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Slang is a group of special words or new meanings of already known words, used in certain groups of people (professional, social, age, etc.). In English lexicography, the term “slang” began widely used in the beginning of the XIX century. Etymology of this word is very controversial. English-speaking culture affected the research of slang.

George Lyman Kittredge and James Bradstreet Greenough, English theorists of literature, described slang as a language-tramp that all the time hangs around standard language and tries to work the way out to the polite society.

The term slang blends with such words as dialecticism, vulgarism, vernacular language and conversational speech. Unlike vernacular language, slang is actively used by educated people, for example, representatives of age or professional groups. Often it shows the membership of certain group of people.

Slang of young people, like any other, is a lexicon on the basis of phonetics and grammar of the national language which features as spoken and sometimes rude and familiar coloring. The most advanced semantic fields are “human”, “appearance”, “clothes”, “shelter” and “leisure”. Most of the elements represent various reductions, borrowings from other languages or phonetic associations.

Typical distinguishing feature of youth slang is its fast variability, explained by the change of generation. In recent years, radical changes in the category of youth slang occurred mainly in its lexical composition, almost unchanged remained grammar and ways of building up new vocabulary. The main and most productive ways of building up new vocabulary are as follows:

- borrowings;
- metaphorization (meaning transfer);
- abbreviation (reduced words);
- affixation (prefixes and suffixes);
- phraseology;
- metathesis (rearrangement of letters or syllables in a word).

There are some methods of nomination in the modern youth slang: morphological, lexical-semantic, morphological-syntactic, lexical-syntactic ways of word-formation and borrowing. The difference between slang and literary formation is specific weight of a particular method, although, as some scientists noted, it is impossible to differentiate clearly between productive and non-productive ways of word formation: non-productive types are potentially productive, it is not excluded the occurrence of new formations related to non-productive types. The productivity of the slang method is a quantitative characteristic: method is productive if it formed hundreds or thousands of words. The most frequent ways of formation in the youth slang are affixation, metaphorization and borrowings.

New world and new way of life in the world require new language and communication tools or transformation of old ones. Slang, generated by internet users, is becoming the common lexicon. Due to internet changes the role of the text in society. On the internet people try to make true their desire for creative expression. Due to the Internet hypertext has become a new way of thinking in the language reflection. Changing the consciousness of the person on the Internet, forming a new network living and thinking significantly affect the language situation. Probably, we are witnessing the formation of a new style of Internet communication, which is not only a particular feature of the Internet community but also seriously affects the verbal behavior of society as a whole.

When visiting English-speaking chats to make contacts and develop knowledge of English, one can hardly understand something because it is not the language studied at school. Internet slang is firmly rooted in our vocabulary and the problem of modern society is to keep up with the time. It is impossible to say how its use will affect our lives but one thing is clear that slang will exist and grow.

References

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**СПЕЦИФИКА ПЕРЕВОДА СОВЕТСКИХ РЕАЛИЙ НА
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