

IS ENGLISH CHANGING?

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There has been an unprecedented spread of English throughout the world. According to the statistics [1] the number of native English speakers has been estimated to 508 million, while a bold estimation of speakers of English as second language is 2 billion. In such circumstances, the development of English rather depends on how this language is used by non-native English speakers. The forms it takes in this context are often different and more basic than native English, and it could be that a new language will be developed for this purpose, with reduced vocabulary and simplified spelling and grammar.

As English is currently the most common language on the Internet, it has been influenced a lot by internet communication. Let us look at some examples. The word "texting" used to be called "text messaging", but now it's just "texting", for example, "I'll text you later". People use the shorter form text to express their thoughts. "Google" is now a verb, but once upon a time, it was just the humble name of a search engine. Some people, instead of just saying "by the way," use its acronym "btw".

The modal verb 'shall', which we learnt in elementary school, is on the way out. It has always been in competition with verb 'will' and all in all 'will' has won. The verb 'must' sounds authoritarian, and people prefer to express their obligation in another ways: 'John, you must do your homework now!' sounds too aggressive. Instead, people will say: 'You might want to do your homework to be free earlier.'

Progressive tenses are always used for ongoing situations, for example,

'I'm doing the essay at the moment'. But now we can use progressive for stative verb, such as 'love'. 'I'm loving it!' – all known phrase of McDonald's.

Some people may say that our language is being polluted, while others may say it's just a reflection of modern times. I would like to say that changes in English language are natural and correct process.

References:

- 1.D. Crystal. Two thousand million? // English Today – 2008. - 24(1), pp. 3–6.
- 2.Is English changing? [electronic resource]: 13 of September: - access

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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).