

COMPARISON OF ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN YOUTH SLANG IN THE LINGUOCULTURAL ASPECT

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Abstract. The article examines the current state of English slang and its similarity to the Russian youth sociolect. Attention is paid to linguocultural and psychological factors of youth subcodes in English and Russian languages.

Keywords: youth slang; English; linguoculturology; language picture of the world; sociocultural stereotype.

Introduction. For a long time, linguistics has focused on the comprehensive study of book-literary language. Only such socially authoritative speech forms, which reflected the intellectual and culturally significant heritage of the people, were considered linguistically complete and worthy of special study. As linguistic material, those speech works were chosen in which speech was not a means of everyday communication, but an end in itself and a tool of art. Such a puristic approach to the study of language and speech significantly limited the scope of linguistic science. However, already Young Grammarians and some other linguistic movements were beginning to talk about the need to study living, uninhibited speech.

Modern linguistics involves multidimensional approaches to the consideration of scientific problems related to the theory of cognition and categorization of the environment by means of language. As speech is a product of human thinking activity, it, in turn, is a unique and simultaneously universal reflection of the mental organization of the individual, some result of the generalized, transformed in the process of thinking and awareness of the material manifestation of the substrate of thoughts, feelings and emotions.

Recently, Russian linguistics has widely begun to develop the substandard element borrowed from other languages, in particular English, Swedish, German, French, Norwegian, as well as comparative studies of the substandard subsystems of different languages. Linguists pay attention to the socio- and ethnocultural conditionality of the substandard vocabulary and phraseology of different languages. In this context, comparable studies of English and Russian substandard are of interest.

The scientific novelty of this study also lies in the fact that it applies the comparative and comparative method to the analysis of American and Russian slang in the lexico-grammatical aspect in order to identify the national specific characteristics of slang.

The theoretical value of the work lies in the fact that it analyzes the approaches of domestic and foreign researchers to the problem of defining the term "slang", notes the existence of similar social functions in American and Russian society, carries out a detailed analysis of slang components and ways of formation of slangisms and reveals their national specific characteristics.

The practical significance of the work lies in the possibility of using the results of the study in the courses of lexicology and phraseology, contrastive linguistics, lexicography and stylistics, socio- and psycholinguistics, as well as in the development of textbooks and separate special courses on colloquial English and Russian language practice.

Thus, specifically, K.L. Bondarenko's dissertation is devoted to the establishment of common and different in Russian and English slang through descriptions of lexical and semantic fields.

The research was carried out at the Department of Phonetics and Lexicology of the English Language, Moscow State Pedagogical University (Moscow) on the material of specialized lexicographic sources. The linguist notes that, despite the dynamism of slang, its dependence on fashion, linguistic taste, etc., it is likely that the involvement of data from other sources (oral speech, media language) can affect the implementation of some important calculations. Despite the existence of works devoted to the linguistic and cultural specificity of the substandard subsystems of English and Ukrainian, we see it necessary to compare exactly the youth subcodes of the named languages, taking into account the sociocultural and psychological factors of the functioning of language substandard.

The aim of the article is to theoretically justify the socio-cultural and psychological factors of youth slang in different types of linguocultures, to identify lexical and semantic parallels between English and Russian youth slang, to highlight the similarities in linguistic mapping of the environment by substandard means of the languages under study.

Slang, taken as a whole, is ephemeral; it rushes in and out of use much faster than general vocabulary words. This rapid change requires constant updating of lexical units, sometimes replacing them or adding something new to existing slang units. For example, jambox, ghettablaster, or Brixtonsuitcase are used to refer to a portable cassette player. Such changes bring a certain novelty and freshness to much of the slang. Nevertheless, some slang units live on for a very long time. For example, bones, a slang word for a game of dice, was used by Chaucer in the 14th century and is still classified as slang. However, when such words remain in the language for many years, they often lose their slang status: for example, the former slang words jeopardy (gambling) and crestfallen (cockfighting) have even acquired a scientific connotation today.

Obviously, slang reproduces first of all fragments of the naive linguistic picture of the world, the concept and phenomena of the environment, which surround a person, a collective and directly affect their being. The units of youth slang are of particular interest because they represent the value orientations of this or that linguistic and educational system, verbalize the realities of life of young people, who are most sensitive to external influences and cognize the world in a new way. Conceptual lexemes of youth slang, in turn, constitute a clot of collective conscious and unconscious assimilation of the environment, which, entering the signification field of youth, finds its expression in language.

The realities of the spiritual world of vocabulary and phraseology of modern youth slang, verbalizes the realities of the spiritual world of young people, indicates its focus on anthropocentric factors of human existence. Notions expressed by slang units, in one way or another related to the peculiarities of communication in the youth environment, coexistence with other representatives of society and affirmation of a person both in the youth environment, and in society as a whole. We observe excessive lexicalization of such concepts as "human appearance", "body parts", "moral and mental qualities" and others. Verbalization of fragments of the world picture by the youth subcode has its own specifics. So, in particular, assessment in the vocabulary of youth slang is expressed at the level of semiotic opposition good/bad and often varies sharply from one pole to another, for example, the concept "good", "excellent" verbalized by such units as ace, aggro, animal, arctic, awesome, babes, bang up, beat, beaut, belter, bitchin', blinding, boffo, etc. (English slang contains more than 150 units with the term "excellent"). The study of the material shows that such notions as "failure", "predicament" are most fully reflected in slang vocabulary and phraseology: balls up, bodge up, bog, pig's breakfast / arse / ear, which indicates the formation of a young person in society, critical attitude to himself and to the environment. Traditionally, wide synonymic rows form both in English and Ukrainian slangisms denoting unsightly / ugly person. Thus, the dictionary edited by T. Thorne includes 58 units with the term "ugly", for example, cake up, dog double munter, duffer, etc. Since we consider the Russian and Ukrainian language as originating from one common Slavonic dialect, we can refer to L.A. Stavitskaya's dictionary of common Russian words, which counts a number of slangisms with similar meanings, such as crocodile, antigas, terrible, like nuclear war, Galima, finished, marfa. As we can see, psychological and sociocultural factors of youth slang predetermine a similar allocation of environmental fragments in Russian and English [14, 147].

Culturally specific nomenclatures, which have resolving elements, highlight certain aspects in the social experience, or in the frequency of word usage, have much greater potential to enter into general slang. Seeking for the linguistic picture of the world embodied in youth slang, first of all, are zagalomolodizni slangisms, which do

not have full-fledged synonyms in the literary language and express the realities of the material and spiritual worlds relevant to the youth. In turn, weighty linguistic symbols of youth culture have the greatest potential for transition to general slang, an assertion in the linguistic spaces of the entire ethnosociety.

This is also influenced by the conformity of the denoted concept with the norms accepted in society as a whole. In this context, parallels between socio-cultural stereotypes of deviant subcultures are of interest. The English slang term *chav* is used to denote a subculture which includes youth with deviant behavior [6, 85], in the regional variants of English we also find a number of slangisms with synonymous meaning: *spide*, *baz*, *bazz*, *bowler*, *steek*, *scally*, *townie*, *pikey*, *pov*, *schemie* [6, 67]. A similar notion in the Ukrainian youth environment is nominated by slangisms *gopniki*. The general youth attitude to the mentioned stereotypes has a clearly pronounced pejorative coloring.

Self-expression occurs both at the linguistic and extralinguistic level. In particular, aggressive anti-social behavior, a passion for sportswear and the like are considered attributes of the stereotype in British linguistic culture. In turn, extralinguistic attributes of subcultures, as a rule, find their verbal expression in slang words and expressions: for example, *bingo bling* "cheap jewelry, usually massive chains". [6, 44], *cepura* "rough chain".

The issue of psychological motivation of slang in the context of the problem of age distribution of slang lexicon also deserves special attention. Slang can function in the speech of different age groups of the population, but the functioning of substandard elements in the speech of young people is noted by most linguists [3, 52]. Obviously, the issue of youth slang cannot be considered without taking into account the psychological characteristics of its speakers [5, 56; 7, 9]. The reasoning of linguists about the depressive nature of youth slang is correlated with the theory of reactive psychological resistance (its essence is that people behave in a way to protect their own sense of freedom, for example, this is what some psychologists see the passion of young people for alcohol) [3, 53]. Since speech is the result of human thinking activity, its peculiarities are conditioned by general psychological factors inherent in one or another age period. that is, slang used mostly by young people reflects not only the realities of the environment, significant for modern youth, but also becomes a means of linguistic expression of attitude to it, testifies to the universal human binary opposition of their own / alien, which, in turn, acts as a means of categorizing the environment, dividing the space.

The need for self-expression is characteristic primarily of the adolescent period, during which it is formed and continues to develop in youth. Language next to other signs helps young people to recognize "their own" and is a means of obtaining status in their environment, of self-expression. Thus, almost the main function of slang

speech is a kind of self-assertion of the individual in society (which is divided into separate "subtasks": demonstration of belonging to "their own" or vice versa - higher, "cool", "ponty", "blatnye", contrasting themselves with others - "suckers", demonstration of "adulthood" to younger and progressiveness, "advanced" to older; showing awareness of such speech and corresponding subculture; display of control in language game and a sense of humor). Thus, the concept "loser" in British English is conveyed by the word loser; in the substandard subsystems of English it is conveyed by the words damp squib, no hoper, clinker, nebbish, schlemiel, schlimazel, schlimazel, shlimazl, schnook, sad sack, underdog. In Russian youth slang this concept is denoted by words: Vasya, patsanchik, pots, potsyk (and derevyaty), chernyakha, loch, loser [5, 97]. A large number of nominative units of this semantic series is due to the negative attitude to people who are not "successful", it is with the help of slang is carried out expressive evaluative characterization. Thus, the comparison of slang units of the Ukrainian and English languages indicates a similar modeling of those or other fragments of reality by the elements of the substandard. It is important both for theoretical linguistics, linguocultural studies and applied branches of linguistics, in particular translation studies, because most slang units in English may have their analogues in Russian, including Ukrainian.

In conclusion, it is obvious that the question of creating a translated slang dictionary of the explanatory type (say, English-Ukrainian or English-Russian), which not only gave an appropriate adequate translation of a word or expression, but also took into account the specific functioning of a particular lexeme [12, 33]. or phrases in the relevant situation, suggested options for correspondence in the target language, reproduced the semiotic load of any substandard unit in the language as adequately as possible, is still relevant among linguists.

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