Features of Youth Slang Functioning

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Abstract

New words are included actively in the English-speaking youth slang, which is associated with the expansion of tourist and political ties, economic disasters, which makes impact on the change of the language vocabulary. Today slang is an integral part of any language and reflects the specificity of modern and unique life. The paper highlights the problems of the youth slang use in speech, the analysis of this phenomenon and the probable causes of such vocabulary penetration into the language. The aim of our study is to learn the lexical-semantic features of youth slang and its functioning in a language environment. The analysis method, the component studies and the questioning were used during the study. The questioning helped to identify and to interview the considerable amount of people with a small number of interviewers within a short term. The main methods of the youth slang development, the ways of borrowing from other languages, as well as the frequency of certain words use in everyday speech of young people were studied during the work. The practical significance of the work is conditioned by the findings concerning the study, which may be of interest to a wide range of linguists and educators who are interested in this issue.

Keywords: slang, discourse, jargon, aggression, functional styles, conversational speech.
Introduction

The linguistics of the XX century, according to V. M. Alpatov, formed semantics as a central scientific branch. However it didn't give the full answer to such questions, as language and cogitation, national worldview (the spirit of the people reflected in language) which need to be answered in the XXI century focusing on anthropocentrism and cognitive and culturological approaches to these issues (1:18). (T. Fanuza Harisovna, M. Liliya Rashidovna. The modelling of phraseosemantic groups in the system of the Tatar, Russian and English paroemias (on the examples of proverbs and sayings with "food" component). Journal of Language and Literature 2014; 5(3), 196-202.)

Nowadays slang is an integral part of the English and French languages. In our work, we would like to consider the notion of slang and its role in modern linguistics. It reflects the specificity of unique modern life. The appeal to the slang and phraseological expressions is related to the fact that people can use slang in different situations - in order to express their friendliness and loyalty to an interlocutor and as a joke. Slang may lead to different reactions. Being popular, it may attract a person or repel him on the contrary. But a properly used slang always arouses some interest.

In our time of high speeds language also undergoes a rapid change. Words and expressions are simplified, reduced. There are more acronyms, they save time, it is very convenient and simple. Therefore, slang received such an advantage in our time, and begins to develop progressively. It becomes more advantageous in the conversation because of its accuracy, brevity, contraction and content. Due to scientific and technical progress the use of short clear speech became a necessity in everyday communication within social networks, chat rooms and instant messaging. It is very difficult to put away or ignore any slang expression, if it reflects an idea, a thought, a state at the time of speech fully and accurately [3, 116].

The paradox of slang is that people look at the slang down, with disdain, but they can not do without it.

As for the slang in English, it refers to one of the English language subsystems - or rather, to the non-literary vocabulary. There are no clear boundaries between the literary vocabulary, conversational and colloquial one. In our time, the use of foreign words in our everyday speech becomes increasingly important.

“We are now engaged in multiple-vector communicational war in which language status is not an idle question but a question of vitality of a certain lingual culture” (Karabulatova & Polivara, 2013, p. 832).

Despite the fact that not all of the slang words are possible to use in a competent speech, it is the jewel of the English language due to its liveliness, flexibility and an unexpected wit. In this regard one can not but agree that some slang expressions that are not used in illiterate speech, entered the literary English and gained a foothold there. Who can doubt the word lunch respectability now? Nevertheless, this word began its life in the depths of slang, as well as bus, fun, and many others.

In modern English the teenager speech is characterized by "telegraphic style", which takes root because of mobile phone appearance, using SMS, email, ICQ, and various social
networks. Accordingly, the language of young people begin to have simple structures more frequently, using which you can transmit your own thought more quickly.

Thus, we can conclude that English and French language develop, like any other. And since the modern Russian language is rapidly replenished by the borrowing of Anglicisms, a comprehensive and more detailed study of the problem is necessary.

Materials And Methods

After the consideration and the analysis of the works from different authors devoted to slang, we stopped on the definition of slang given by the following dictionaries: Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary and The New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English in which slang is determined as "the variant of colloquial speech (including expressively painted elements of this speech) which do not coincide with the literary language norm".

The new federal programs on foreign languages note that the "communicative competence" is developed throughout the whole period of a foreign language learning. It is the ability to use and transform the language forms on the basis of a communication situation. This means that the communicative competence can not be achieved without a spoken language knowledge. The study of a spoken vocabulary is aimed mainly at the understanding English and French natives, but not on its use by foreigners: this is where the danger lies.

Speech is not developed according to own laws, has its own rules which do not coincide with the regulatory rules. Against the background of different slangs, youth slang and its most powerful branch - student slang - are the most important ones.

In comparison with "common slang", which merges more with colloquial language, as well as with the familiar French and English speech, the youth slang belongs to the most hermetic social dialects.

Slang units in the speech of English- and French-speaking young people are used mostly to create a humorous effect, to attract the attention by its uniqueness, to facilitate the understanding of the meaning. Referring to the statement of Professor, the Doctor of Philology A.Ş. Yusupova: "They allow you to document the role and place of those or other languages in the lexical space, the relationship of such languages, including their relations with other languages" (A. Sh. Yusupova. Tatar Language Dictionaries of XIX Century as a. Unified Historical and Cultural Phenomenon WASJ 30 (2): 186-190 (2014)).

According to S.V. Flexner's estimations, the author of English slang Dictionary, among six hundred thousand words in English language forty five thousand words are the slang ones. And the vocabulary of an average native speaker, which makes about 10-20 thousand words, has about 2000 of so-called buzzwords.

"No-brainer" had passed from youth slang in everyday speech long ago and is the equivalent of our youth slang phrase "it is a no brainer".

Quite often the following expressions are used: he's a real pro (i.e. professional) - «he is a real professional», "demo" instead of demonstration, "info" instead of information.
Such meaningful words as happy, become very popular suffixes with the meaning "an enthusiast, an amateur" - buck-happy, rock-happy, car-happy, and the like [1, 32].

It is worth noting such a vocabulary layer in the modern youth French as Verlan. It is based on the literary language words, the consonants of which are reversed, and the vowels are often changed on it (Arabe-> beur 'Arab', sup.Ind -> Keum 'guy', mere-> reum 'mother'). Sometimes syllables, not sounds are presented in reverse order (prison -> zonpri 'jail'). The name "Verlan" is the verlan derivation (of the second type) from the French adverbs a l'envers (reverse). Or more recently, «sefran» (francais), i.e. "a reverse jargon" [5].

Its first "traces" can be found at the end of the XVI-th century. In common language people call «Les Bourbons» as «Bonbours». In the XVII-th century «un sans-souci» is called simply as «sans-six sous» (c'est-a-dire: pauvre). Later, in 1760 Louis XV often bears the name «Sequinzouil», which certainly is an example of dite verlan language. During the years 60-70 of the XX-th century, it began to be used in literary works. In 1975 Verlan develops and its fans started to use it hard-rock. They use it in comics, mass media, radio-libres. There are articles, dictionaries and other books on the subject "youth language" since 1980. This language also appeared in movies. And when the film de Balasko «Les Keufs» (1987) appears, many do not know that this word is the Verlan variant of the word flic (a cop). (Flic- > fli-que-> que-fli-> queuf-> keut). Advertising also uses Verlan. In a nutshell, the knowing of the secret Verlan code is a great advantage for young people, i.e. it is not used by parents (or it is used very little) [4].

Spoken French has its own characteristics in the field of phonetics, and also in grammar and vocabulary. One of the grammatical features of spoken French is the segmentation of a sentence. A huge spread in modern speech (in a dialogue, and also in a monologue) is obtained by so-called separated phrases. Most often, such structures include two parts, one of which acts as a complete one in terms of semantics and grammar form, and the other one is the segment which is often the part of an unextended sentence member.

Theoretically it is an inverted word, but there are own rules in practice, which know only the people who use this language.

One of the rules - apocope - is the syncopation of a final sound, letter, syllable, the loss of one or more letters in the end of a word.

There is also apheresis - the loss of several letters at the beginning of a word. «Trom» is Verlan from metro. (Metro-> trome-> trom). It should be noted that verbs are not conjugated at Verlan use. The Verlan phenomenon has a sociolinguistic aspect, of course: this is a language trend in a particular environment, more specifically, among young people, like the trend in clothing, the desire to emphasize their belonging to an age group, a clan. Examples:

relou- lourd (heavy) rermo- mort (deceased) chemo-moch (ugly). An interesting example is bac-queueba (back-> kba -> + eu -> que-ba)

It is not difficult to hear slang in Paris: there are different kinds of slang in the language of the French youth besides Verlan. If you are interested in this and want to hear it in Paris, go to Montmartre. And if you can't get to Montmartre, you can just talk with students who come to us according to a school exchange program.
It is obvious that the reliability of the facts and findings obtained by a researcher depends on the manner by which the latter came to the given facts and conclusions, i.e. on the method he used. In everyday life, we also describe facts, assess their credibility, derive hypothetical laws or deny the findings of others. However, these everyday methods of new knowledge obtaining in science are subject to a much more careful development.

During the organization of an educational prevention the survey of students and their parents performs a number of important functions. Firstly, using the a survey one may determine the relevance of prevention as such for a specific group of children and parents. Secondly, the obtained data allow revealing the preferred trends of prevention.

The survey popularity is conditioned by the simplicity (often fake one) of his conduct, the efficiency and economy. This kind of a survey allows to interview a large number of people in a short period of time.

**Results**

The methodological basis of our research is the principle of consistency, manifested in the consideration of all forms of language as a whole; the principle of historicism, providing for the development of slang in terms of its origin, historical development and current functioning.

Taking into account the tasks the surveys were developed, during the processing of which the following linguistic methods were used: comparison, generalization, classification of the analyzed material, interpretation, derivation analysis, contributing to understanding of slang word structure formation, the method of quantitative calculations and continuous sampling, the ranked valuation method.

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In order to identify the reasons of slang word use, we conducted the survey among first-year students of Kazan (Volga) Federal University.

During the processing of the first survey results it was found that the following answers became the dominant positions within the response to the first question: "Because the people around me say so", "I did not think about it", "Because I'm used to talk like that".

Most students use slang words during the conversation with their peers. This result allows us to make sure again that slang is used by the people of a certain age group.

Communicating with parents, many students do not use slang words and expressions, that is, more than half of students use slang only in a conversation with friends.
Slangisms have mainly a positive and a neutral connotation, which may indicate the increase of communication trends, the striving of parents to make contact with their children.

The study results on the identification of slang word use reasons allow to make the following conclusions by pupils:

1. The use of slang words in the student speech is conditioned by the fact that his peers use slang language. This indicates that slang is used in a particular age group.

2. Slang words are used because these words may express thoughts shortly and quickly.

3. In order to establish the communication between parents and children parents use slang words in their speech with a positive and a neutral coloring.

Concerning the issue of subject-conceptual areas for slang word use by students the survey was conducted where respondents were offered to distribute the slang words most frequently used in their speech.

The results of this issue study determined the following:

• The bulk of the slang words used in student speech, is associated with society and learning, i.e. it represents the dictionary of common words.

• The used words are colored by a positive emotional and a neutral connotation.

• It should be noted that there is no aggressive vocabulary among used slang words.

In order to study the results of slang word composition analysis used by students the survey was proposed, in which respondents were asked to explain and write down the meaning and the origin of twenty slang words.

The study results are the following ones:

• None of the respondents could answer the question of the word origin and development. This result allows us to conclude that students do not think about the slang word formation and origin which they use.

• The meaning of the same slang word is interpreted in different ways, hence one may conclude the following: slang words do not have a specific definition, they are characterized by the blurring of lexical meaning.

Analyzing the slang words used by students according to their composition, one may conclude the following:

• The first place is occupied by the words formed by the most standard suffixes and prefixes. For example, the majority of adjectives derived from British roots, are formed by suffix adding (хитовый, прайсовый, брендовый, прикольный).

• The words of foreign origin.

Thus, the analysis of the available material concerning the study of slang as the layer of student speech led to the following conclusions:
1. The use of slang words in the speech of students is conditioned by the fact that their peers speak a slang language, these words express thoughts easier and faster.

2. The slang words used in a particular age group.

3. Slang words do not have a specific lexical meaning. Our research shows that they are characterized by a certain vagueness of a definition. One may isolate slang conditionally as a layer, as a closed subsystem.

4. The slang words used in speech are formed using standard affixes, borrowings from English, abbreviations and metaphors.

In order to obtain a more objective understanding of Russian and French slang interaction, we conducted a survey among their peers and colleagues. There are some interesting data which we would like to discuss in detail. Pupils were given the following main reasons of word origins as the foreign-language borrowings and polysemy development. In the process of slangism origin study, it was found that the data are slightly different from the published data, which indicates that the main reasons for the slang expression development are foreign-language borrowings, affixation and the use of metaphors. Various vocabulary is used in modern youth slang: foreign words, professionalisms, vulgarisms, reductions, metaphors.

One may create the whole dictionary of so-called buzz words and expressions currently popular among French youth. Here are some examples: piger-comprendre (understand), leboucan-lebruit (noise), lepote-le copain (buddy), leb-bop, leportable, lemobile-le téléphonedepoche (mobile phone), lebahut-lelycée (lyceum), lameuf-lafemme (a woman), letrac-lapeur (fear), bosser-travailler (to work), lefric, lamaille, lesballes-l'argent (money), letoubib-lemédecin (a doctor), jem'enfiche-çam'estégale (I don't care), jesuisfauché-jen'aipasd'argent (I have no money), jesuiscrevé-jespasdifficultés (experience difficulties), yenamarre-j'ai had enough), labagnole, lacaisse-lavoiture (a car), lesclerces-lescigarettes, j'ai peur (I'm afraid), j'ai pasfaim (I'm hungry), dab, daron-père (a father), dabesse, daronne, doche-mère (a mother).

The main reasons of word development in modern French language are English borrowings, the truncation of words and the use of synonyms. Besides, respondents indicated the use of letter abbreviations, the use of old French words in the opposite meaning and use of words describing some professions and nationalities with a hint of disdain as one of the main sources of youth slang. Classification reveals two possible ways of translation. The first method involves using the translation of a word using neutral words existing in Russian language. At that they obtain a new meaning with a reduced stylistic coloring. Thus, the meaning of a word changes slightly, acquiring the meaning specific for slang. It is the phonetic mimicry. This method is based on the coincidence of semantically dissimilar common words and French professional terms. This phenomenon also includes the cases of onomatopoeia, without any similarities with the words from the standard vocabulary (jamper-jumper).

As you can see, the study of other country youth slang may be the cause of communication simplification. During the study of slangisms it is important to consider the scope of communication, in which it is used. You can draw the following conclusions:
1. At present, the intensive process of the living spoken language transformation takes place in many countries, the essential element of which is the emergence of a new youth slang.

2. The derivation process of Russian language is strongly influenced by such factors as the change of the social system, the existence of subcultures, as well as the borrowings from other languages. The French colloquial slang is characterized by the permutation of syllables (verlan style), the truncation of words borrowed from English.

3. The universal word formation processes are the simplification of speech, the borrowing from other languages, the appearance of a special "network language".

4. The results of student survey showed that they actively use the youth slang, knowing the origin of a native language words. The reason of this is the most often use of metaphor in the allocation of English language words, and as for the French language, the words are simplified here without the changes of the basic meaning.

5. Students distinguish positive and negative slang values in the formation of modern language.

6. Pupils were shown the need for foreign language learning, paying attention to slang.

Conclusions

We came to the conclusion that slang was firmly fixed in our speech, regardless of our desire. What is it: a tribute to fashion or a prevailing pattern of speech? We believe that slang is an integral, periodically changing part of speech, which will be in our vocabulary forever.

In most cases the youth slang is presented by English borrowings, although it is necessary to get rid of slang words in English language according to the statements of many linguists. Phonetic associations, the transfer cases are less common. And they happen due to the violent fantasies of the young people. The attraction of foreign words into a language should always be treated carefully, especially, when this process is so fast.

Naturally, the language level fell sharply with the appearance of slang. Slang penetrates into all areas of work, and even in literature.

We do not think that slang is something harmful. Slang has been, is and will be in our vocabulary. It is evident from our report text. We believe that it is wrong to judge about the need for slang by a language.

Slang is an integral part of our lives. If we take into account the importance of care about language, it is possible to improve a situation with the culture of speech. The following measures are necessary to do this:

1) to clarify the need for a mother tongue respect to the persons whose performances fall into the center of public attention;

2) to clarify the heads of mass media the need for high-quality editorial work concerning the style of published texts;

3) to organize counseling service for English and French languages;
4) to promote classical literature;

5) to provide libraries with new dictionaries and textbooks concerning English and French languages and the culture of speech;

6) to prepare and publish a new version of the official set of rules concerning spelling and punctuation.

Summary

But, unfortunately, slang does not remain constant. At the change of one fashionable phenomenon by another one, the old words are forgotten, they are replaced by others. This process takes place very rapidly. If a word can exist in any other slang for decades, an incredible number of words appeared and became history in the youth slang only during the past decade of rapid world progress.

Acknowledgements

The work is performed according to the Russian Government Program of Competitive Growth of Kazan Federal University.
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