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## MODERN YOUTH SLANG AND THE USE OF SLANG DICTIONARIES

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**Abstract.** This article discusses the problem of the special kind of language, so called youth slang, gives different approaches in modern linguistics to this phenomenon, gives the definitions of the terms such as «slang», «jargon», «sociolect» and the use of different modern slang dictionaries nowadays by young people nowadays. The presented article points out that language is constantly renewing and evolving with the speech of young people, teenagers and students, who want to have a «secret» language and communicate with their peers in a secret language that adults do not understand. In most cases, slang is borrowed from the English language, making it difficult for the «older generation» to understand. It should be noted that this kind of language is constantly in flux, with more and more new slangisms being used with the development of global technology and Internet sites. The article presents the results of a questionnaire survey conducted among students and staff of the regional newspaper «Aktobe Vestnik» on the topic of research and probability of using some slang words and slang dictionaries in speech. Examples of youth slang in English, Russian and Kazakh are also given in the article.

**Key words:** the youth slang, jargon, vocabulary, electronic, Internet, paper dictionaries, the use

Nowadays slang and among its variety especially the youth slang, is an integral part of the Russian, English and Kazakh languages, the term slang is applied to a number of different phenomena. «The youth slang literally means the speech of young people. The term has the correct idea that slang is created by the young generation, which strives for novelty in all areas of activity by opposing the older generation. This tendency is also reflected in the field of communication, when words appear in the language of youth that deliberately violate the norm of language. It is believed that the term «youth slang» includes all lexical units used by the young generation and which stand in opposition to the literary language on the basis of «it-foreign». However, this term only refers to the general phenomenon, while the slang lexicon with its own characteristics develops in each youth group. The youth language is heterogeneous and includes many slang subsystems [1, p.5].

The term «Slang» is increasingly attracting the attention of modern philology. Nowadays, there is a large number of slang definitions that often contradict each other. The fact remains indisputable that slang is the most mobile layer of vocabulary, which is an accurate reflection of the linguistic image of the world of representatives of a particular culture. Thus slang, in the sense of O. Espersen (1925), is a form of speech «which owes its origin to man's desire to depart from the usual

language imposed on us by society». Slang is the result of the «desire to have fun of the the humanity» [2, p. 151].

The terms that denote youth language are certainly one of the current issues of modern linguistics. It is worth noting that French terms such as Jargon, Argo and the term Slang, borrowed from English lexicology, are actively used in youth society. Jargonism, «Argotism» and «Slang» very often appear as synonyms not only in scientific articles, but also in dictionaries dedicated to this sociolect.

For the first time, the term «social dialect» was introduced into the scientific life of R. I. Avanesov. He viewed National Russian as a binary system whose components were social-functional language variants that included different types of Jargon. «Social dialects» are primarily understood as argo, professional languages and various special (sometimes secret) languages (e.g. school language, hunter language, sentence language, etc.) [3, p. 20]. S. Stojkov divides social dialects into two groups: professional dialects and jargon, highlighting in them the secret-related languages (slang), group dialects (slang) and class-specific jargon (the language of the nobility, the upper class) [4, p. 80]. Sh. Balley calls «jargonism» - a special dictionary that most often occurs in a closed environment that is isolated from the outside world and excluded from society [5, p. 278].

According to L. I. Skvortsova, «Jargon is a Jargon-colored vocabulary which arises and exists due to the focus on the intimate, confidential, a reduced style of speech in the social-linguistic community of a particular group of carriers « [6, p. 48].

The term «Slang» in translation from English means: Language as a socially or professionally isolated group in contrast to the literary language; Varieties of colloquial language (including expressively colored elements of this speech) that do not conform to the Norm of literary language.

Slang is the latest concept among modern youth language designations. In the 19th century, terms borrowed from the French sociological school – «Jargon» and «Argo» - appeared in the Russian language. L.I. Skvortsov identifies the sources through which the formation of «youth slang» takes place: professional language, as well as dialectic, to borrow from other languages, from other jargons. The described period of L. Skvortsov defined as the period of «linguistic evolution from Jargon to Slang» [6, p. 49]. But despite all attempts, the term slang will remain untouched in domestic sociolinguistics.

The term slang only gained great popularity in the late 1980s and early 1990s is due to the rising popularity of the English language among young people (most are Hippies or schoolchildren) in Russia and after in Kazakhstan, who are increasingly using British in their everyday language, thus trying to simulate foreign language style of behavior.

Despite the growing interest of society, and especially the young people, in such a category of vocabulary as slang and the seemingly large presence of slang dictionaries in printed and electronic form, they represent a minority in the market for special dictionaries. One of the first slang dictionaries created by major publishers appeared in Britain, which has a stable historical tradition and holds a leading position in the modern world of dictionaries. Dictionaries of Slang, published in the UK, can be divided into two groups: dictionaries, where sometimes fixed obscenities, and sometimes cursing - the dictionary of the underworld, the ABC of dirty English language and the usual Slang dictionaries. The slang dictionaries of the second group, the largest volume is the Cassell slang Dictionary, 2004, which contains more than 70,000 lexical units. The Slengisms of this dictionary come from the electronic body of language (mainly spoken) and are described in sufficient detail. The vocabulary includes: Definition of the word, chronological (first use of the word), functional, stylistic Notation and an example illustrating the use of slang in the language. It is obvious that such a microstructure of obscenities is able to meet the needs of a wide range of users. In another dictionary published in the UK «the Slang Thesaurus», 1988, with a thematic organization of the material, slangisms are classified by topics to ensure the maximum usability of the dictionary [7]. In addition to interpreting the meaning of the word, the microstructure of the Thesaurus also includes a synonym series, an etymological designation and examples of the use of a capital word.

In the USA, among the prestigious publishers that produce high-quality lexicographic products, one can name: Merriam-Webster (the American company, publisher of reference books and lexical dictionaries), Random House Dictionaries of the publishing house «National learning Company» (NLK) are characterized by good quality and popularity in the market of dictionaries, one of them is the dictionary of American slang and colloquial expressions, NLK, 2002.

In his brief review of lexicographical publications on Slang J. Coleman notes that slang dictionaries make no distinction between Slang and spoken vocabulary in American dictionaries, while American slang dictionaries tend to exclude slang of American origin, distorting the true picture of the use of slang of British origin. Joule Coleman also notes the trend of currently published American and British slang dictionaries-they most often describe slang that is not used by the entire nation, but by individual subgroups of people (slang of addicts, homosexuals, criminals, etc.). Among the most popular in the dictionary market authors of American Slang he names Richard Spears, who since 1981 has published various versions of his slang dictionary, slang and Euphemism, 1981, which differ by the volume and volume of Slang and spoken vocabulary and are not the most modern Slang. As a good dictionary with a wide coverage of the modern and historical slang of the entire English-speaking world, J. Coleman highlights «Chambers Slang Dictionary of Jonathan Green», 2008 and the same author's dictionary «Greens Slang Dictionary of historic principles», 2010 [8].

The pros and cons of online slang dictionaries are described in an article by J. Coleman. Due to the rapid variability and fragility of Slang, Online slang dictionaries are exactly the source that can provide the most up-to-date information about the slang units that interest users, which is the main advantage of these dictionaries. Among the disadvantages of dictionaries: confusion and unreliability of the material, consisting of a mixture of neologisms, insulting words and personal notes. Amateur-authors are to be noted [8].

The publication of electronic lexicographic products became relevant due to the ongoing intensive development of new information technologies, and every reputable publisher now considers it necessary to provide users with an electronic version of their dictionaries. Many publishers specialized in the field of reference literature move completely to the electronic form of issuing dictionaries, that is, dictionaries that do not have a prototype on paper appear. The advantages of electronic dictionaries over printed ones are obvious: they are able to store and process large amounts of information, accompanied by sound and Video, they are easier to update, more convenient to transport and store, faster to get the necessary information out of them (a CD can accommodate the entire British, and it will be much more convenient to use them). However, there are proponents of print media who believe that «the disappearance of paper books through the exchange of format by electronic or other means is not predicted, although the dominance of Multimedia reference works is very likely. No matter how technology evolves, the issue of the security and availability of publications on traditional media remains current and eternal, unless we want to exclude book culture from the history of human development. Good book published, including the background, is still the best gift, a rare source of joy, a tool, to see the world and the effective means of personal and professional development» [9, p. 41]. - The paper dictionary still has its advantages. It is very cheap. It is faster to handle than an electronic dictionary for a single search, it allows the user to compare two input units or pages simultaneously. It does not depend on the computer system or the availability of energy ... Paper dictionaries are a real treat for those who want to hold books in their hands, breathe in the smell of paper and printing ink and have excellent editions. Electronic dictionaries have no appearance, cover, thickness, weight, skin, like the Bible, they have no reliability: anyone can create an electronic record and change it immediately, besides, no one will notice it. [10, p. 75].

The authors of modern lexicographical works try to rationally combine the elements of the printed and potential electronic dictionary. The emergence of complex, practically universal electronic dictionaries in recent years can lead to a complete departure from specialized paper dictionaries. However, this did not happen-now more and more industry dictionaries and books are being published for certain professions. An example of this is the company ABBYY, which originally published its Lingvo dictionary electronically and then published more than 50 books in the form of

books, including Universal and industry dictionaries. The traditions of lexicography are combined with modern technologies. The development and development of new categories of information allows not only not to abandon the printed dictionaries in favor of the computer manuals, which get fashionably and quickly any help on the CDs and on the Internet, but, on the contrary, to strive for the acquisition and regular use of the printed lexicographic production, which remains current and necessary in the age of computers and the internet.

It should be noted that the survey was conducted among 30 students who study English as a major subject and therefore know about English slang, as well as 30 employees of the newspaper «Aktyubinsky Vestnik» who are less proficient in English but have an idea of what slang is and the term «slang», which has been firmly accepted in many languages, including Russian and Kazakh. The results of the sociological survey were necessary to determine the appropriateness of compiling the bilingual English-Russian and Russian-English dictionaries mediaslang. In our sociological survey, we did not limit ourselves to the answers of media workers and students, but also examined electronic media such as television, radio, and video-films, although informants in their answers also referred to newspapers and magazines, the Internet.

The lexicographical competence of the students of the Faculty of English Philology is positive, and 94% of them are aware of the existence of slang dictionaries, and the answers of the journalists of the «Aktyubinskiy Vestnik» differed somewhat from the answers of the students due to their age and status, and 67% of them knew of the existence of slang words. Informants also were asked to rate a particular group of English jargonism that has been used most frequently in the media over the past decade. The analysis of English Slang by informants who learn English and do not study it as a major subject largely coincided and showed: jargonisms that reflect the most current realities of life in the last decade: *mostly borrowings from English* - *хайн (хайнуться), мем, лол, мэйнстрим, юзать, кашерить, дрейфтовать, хардворкать, изи, лайкать, свайпать, фолловить*, etc. took the first place in terms of popularity in electronic media.

The answers to the question «Which of the slangs do you use yourself in your speech» show that informants are actively using the most commonly used slang in the media, even those they consider unacceptable in many types of communication (note that students of the Faculty of English Philology use English Slang much more actively than the staff of the «Aktyubinskiy Vestnik», for whom many English Slang are simply unknown). Informants also have consumed examples in the colloquial language slangisms that are not included in the questionnaire, being not separated into different languages, and by using them simply as slangisms, for example: *кульно (cool), ОК, сорри (sorry), юзер (user), гоу (go), по фану (fun), триггерить (trigger), черкнуть, ору, мем, лол*

(*laughing out loud*), *коры*, *зачекиниться (check in)*, *мэйнстрим (mainstream)*, *факануть (fuck up)*, *лагать (lag)*, *чиллить (chill)*, *жазира-жиза (жизненно)* etc.

Thus, the results of a sociological survey (questionnaire) gave us the answer to the question of the need for lexicography of special vocabulary, namely, slang vocabulary of the media, which occupies a significant place in the language of the media and affects the culture of people's speech, that is, the need to create bilingual English -Russian and Russian-English dictionaries of slang media.

We can say that slang is international phenomenon, as it is spread in almost all languages. From the examples above we see that English slangs are the most popular and widespread, because of the Internet, the influence of media, economic and social ways of connection between different countries. And in Kazakh language we have a plenty of slangs borrowed from English, and of course there are a lot of specific slangs, such as *baifriend/baifrend* (from Kazakh «bai» which means «rich person» and English «friend» ) – friend with whom girls are in relations because of money, *missolation* (from Kazakh «myi» – «mind, head» and English isolation) - rest from information noise, *infocygan* – person who sells information to get money, *baleger* – blackmailing blogger for money, *broblema* (from words «brother» and «problem» ) – a friend who is in touch when has problems, *zoomdas* (from words «Zoom» and «friend» ) – a person or a friend from Zoom conference, *balewood* (from Kazakh «bale» – trouble, as Hollywood) – an endless multi-part series, Examples are taken from [janasozdik.kz](http://janasozdik.kz).

Interestingly enough for us was that fact, that popular American company **Merriam-Webster** well-known as the publisher of dictionaries, conducts an annual survey and research called a «Word of the Year» a word that is most copied and reviewed by readers. It shows what the majority of people, not just teens, look for and use in their speech. The most popular words among teens in 2015 were the following expressions: the slang expressions «*on point*, *on fleek* (fleekin' or fleeking); *obvi* (obvious or obviously), *basic* (typical or ordinary), *Bye Felicia*, *TBH (to be honest) slay (killed it, or badass)*, *Zero Chill*». Most of them are taken from films, popular songs, Internet videos and we can see that there is connection between slang and real life. So if you do something well and perfect it can be said for you on point or on fleek, and if you wear typical uniform for your work, they say «you're looking basic as schoolgirls» And you should know when someone wants to get rid of you he/she can say «Bye Felicia» as just in the movie 'Friday» If you are interested in the meaning of other slangs look up in the dictionary. From all these examples we it is obvious that not all slangs are bad, as some linguists in Kazakhstan and Russia think that slangs damage speech and language. In our view, this is the dictates of the times, a kind of , so called, fashion in language

In conclusion, we can say, that in any language, teenagers always seem to have their own separate vocabulary. We can find many more new slang words on the Internet, in movies, in music, on

social media and of course in the dictionaries. Currently, the role of dictionaries in the spiritual life of society is growing significantly, and the dialogue «man - dictionary» is an important form of communicative and cognitive activity.

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## ҚАЗІРГІ ЖАСТАР СЛЕНГІ ЖӘНЕ СЛЕНГ СӨЗДІКТЕРІН ҚОЛДАНУ

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**Аңдатпа.** Мақалада тілдің ерекше түрі, жастар сленгі деп аталатын мәселе қарастырылады, қазіргі лингвистикада бұл құбылысқа әртүрлі көзқарастар беріледі, «сленг», немесе «жаргон», кейбір тіл мамандарының айтуы бойынша «социолект» сияқты терминдердің анықтамалары, сондай-ақ жастардың қазіргі заманғы жаргон сөздіктерін қолдануы берілген. Ұсынылған мақалада тілдің үнемі жаңарып тұруы туралы, жастардың жасөспірімдердің және студенттердің сөйлеуімен бірге дамиды, олар «құпия» тілге ие болғысы келеді және құрдастарымен ересектер түсінбейтін құпия тілде сөйлесуге қалайтыны туралы айтылады. Көптеген жағдайларда сленгтер ағылшын тілінен алынған, сондықтан «аға буын» адамдар үшін оларды түсіну қиынға соғады. Ерекше бір айтарлық жағдай, тілдің бұл бөлігі үнемі қозғалыста болатындығы туралы, себебі жаһандық технологиялар мен Интернет-сайттар үнемі даму үстінде болғандықтан жаңа сленгизмдер қарым қатынаста пайда болады. Берілген мақалада студенттер мен облыстық «Актюбинский вестник» газетінің қызметкерлері арасында сленгтер мен сөздіктерді зерттеу және қолдану тақырыбында жүргізілген сауалнаманың нәтижелері және кейбір сленгтер мен сленгтердің сөздіктерін сөйлеуде қолдану ықтималдығы келтірілген. келтірілген. Сондай-ақ, үш тілде: ағылшын, орыс және қазақ тілдеріндегі жастар сленгтерінің мысалдары келтірілген.

**Түйін сөздер:** жастар сленгі, жаргон, сөздік, электронды, Интернет, қағаз түріндегі сөздіктер, қолдану



## СОВРЕМЕННЫЙ МОЛОДЕЖНЫЙ СЛЕНГ И ИСПОЛЬЗОВАНИЕ СЛОВАРЕЙ СЛЕНГА

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**Аннотация.** В статье рассматривается проблема особого вида языка, так называемого молодежного сленга, даются различные подходы в современной лингвистике к этому явлению, даются определения таких терминов, как «сленг», «жаргон», «социолект», а также использование молодежью в наше время различных современных сленговых словарей. В представленной статье указывается, что язык постоянно обновляется, развивается вместе с речью молодых людей, подростков и студентов, которые хотят иметь «тайный» язык и общаться со своими сверстниками на тайном языке, который взрослые не понимают. В большинстве случаев сленги заимствованы из английского языка, поэтому люди «старшего поколения» затрудняются понять их. Необходимо отметить, что этот пласт языка постоянно находится в движении, все новые и новые сленгизмы применяются с развитием глобальных технологий и Интернет сайтов. В статье представлены результаты анкетного опроса, проведенного среди студентов и сотрудников областной газеты «Актыбинский вестник» по теме исследования и вероятность использования в речи некоторых сленгов и словарей сленга. Также в статье приводятся примеры молодежных сленгов на английском, русском и казахском языках.

**Ключевые слова:** молодежный сленг, жаргон, лексика, электронные, Интернет словари, бумажные словари сленгов, использование.