



## Linguocultural Approach to The Study Of Youth Slang

**Talibjanova Aziza Lutfullaevna**

Lecturer  
Department of Applied Sciences 3, Faculty of English 3  
Uzbekistan state world languages university

### ABSTRACT

The article studies the lexical composition of youth slang, systematizes the linguistic characteristics of this subsystem of the language, reveals structural and functional features that reflect the specifics of the worldview of its speakers and are fully manifested in the language of modern journalism, focused on a youth audience.

### Keywords:

Linguistic And Cultural Studies, Linguistic Worldview, Youth Slang, World Perception, Lexical System, Definition Of Terms.

In linguoculturological studies of recent years, the direction associated with the study of the linguistic picture of the world has significantly intensified. The linguistic picture of the world of a carrier of youth slang is characterized by an obvious originality, since it has a set of motivational and pragmatic attitudes inherent only in it.

The study of youth slang in cultural linguistics allows, by analyzing its lexical and semantic component, to recreate the linguistic picture of the world of the carrier of youth slang, in which the conceptual sphere differs - the content component of knowledge about the world of the individual and the value sphere, reflecting the perception of the world, the specifics and the system of norms and values, are presented, preferences and ideals.

The entire lexical system of modern youth slang can be represented in the form of intersecting lexical-semantic fields, which, in turn, are classified according to the significance of their meaning for youth slang, according to their weight in the system of lexical-semantic fields in youth slang, according to their internal structure.

Youth slang is anthropocentric in nature: the slangisms found in the speech of young people directly reflect the attitude of the individual (young

person) to the surrounding reality, express his emotions, desires, relationships with family and friends, assess the actions and deeds of other people and the characteristics of the objects used.

In view of the current anthropological nature of modern linguistics, we see the expediency of referring to youth slang from the point of view of cultural linguistics. The problem of modeling the world by means of language goes back to the concept of a linguistic personality, which expresses "the idea of the specific use of units of the general language system of language by an individual.

It should be noted, however, that despite such a large amount of multilateral research in the field of jargons and youth slang in particular, there are still issues that require further study. Until now, among linguists there is no complete unity in the definition of the terms "social dialect", "argo", "jargon", "slang", "youth slang". An analysis of modern dictionaries and publications in the print media shows that data on lexical content and word formation models require constant refinement, which is due to the very nature of youth slang. In the 2000s, it acquires the status of one of the most significant sources of replenishment of the vocabulary of the language. The youth subculture is not "closed", and, accordingly, slang units, understandable to a wide range of people who are

not part of this subculture, interact with other subsystems of the language, become common and, over time, some of them are included in the literary language. So, the word "turtleneck", which appeared in the early 70s in the youth environment, denoting a tight-fitting sweater, is now no longer perceived as slang and is in common use

Understanding speech behavior "not so much as a part of behavior in general, but as an image of a person, which is composed of the ways he uses language in relation to the real circumstances of his life" (Vinokur 1993: 16), the use of an integrated approach to the study of youth slang will make it possible to recreate the linguistic picture of the modern world carrier of youth slang, to identify new trends in the youth environment.

Youth slang, as a stable set of certain lexical units and the rules for their construction and use in informal communication of representatives of a certain status-age subculture, has a number of word-formation features that distinguish it from the literary language and are manifested in the sphere of verbal communication.

The lexico-semantic composition of youth slang, determined by the extralinguistic features of the linguistic picture of the world of its carriers, can be represented in the system of lexical-semantic fields, which have their own multi-level structure.

An analysis of the patterns and dynamics of the functioning of units of youth slang in the language of the printed media makes it possible to identify and describe the basic set of these units at a certain stage of the functioning of the English verbal communication and their correlation with the normative component of the English literary language.

The linguoculturological approach to the study of youth slang allows us to identify the main trends in the development of not only the language of this subculture itself, but also the model of its interaction with the language system and its influence on the English literary language.

We have identified the following lexical and semantic fields with their subsequent division: 1) an organism (a person as a living being), 2) mind (human intellectual activity), 3) society (a person appears here as a social element), 4) the world of things (objects used by a person in different spheres of life).

Using the law of synonymous attraction allows you to recreate the linguistic picture of the

world of the modern young generation. Proceeding from the fact that the essence of synonymous attraction lies in the fact that the grouping of synonyms into synonymous series is based on the relevance of the denotation at a particular moment in time, we can say that for the modern young generation, the most relevant areas of life are study / work, leisure. The next most important are health, family, marriage, love. And, finally, the least significant are issues related to religion, social life, and country. Modern young people have different views, priorities and preferences (among which, however, material wealth predominates).

Studies have shown that the change in the structure of life priorities and values of modern youth has not led to the denial of universal human values.

The specific language of informal communication of youth, which has recently been increasingly replacing literary norms, in linguistic literature does not have a clear definition, and in the works of modern linguists it is referred to as "youth sociolect", "youth jargon", "youth slang" and even "youth argo ". We consider it unacceptable to identify the concepts of "argo", "jargon" and "slang" (except for those rare cases when these subsystems intersect and the terms denoting them can act as synonyms) due to their initially different reasons for origin. In this work, we have defined argot as "the specific language of the socio-cultural lower classes of society, used in situations of deliberate disregard for the norms of the literary language", jargon as "the specific language of persons united by a common profession or interests", and slang as "the specific composition of the lexical units of the language of certain subcultures in the field of informal communication ". Thus, youth slang appears as "a stable set of certain lexical units and the rules for their construction and use in informal communication of representatives of a certain status-age subculture."

Youth slang is based on the language system as a whole, while possessing a number of features with which it is distinguished from other speech forms.

The formation of youth slang is influenced by the age characteristics of the psyche of young people, their desire for self-affirmation. Youth slang is expressively colored and permeated with evaluativeness. Accordingly, expressive means requires constant updating of the slang vocabulary,

which leads to the emergence of numerous synonyms.

The lexical composition of modern youth slang is replenished at the expense of several sources, among which external and internal language borrowings are distinguished.

Words from thieves' jargon and foreign languages, falling into youth slang, are capable of both changing their semantics and preserving it. The lexical units of the codified literary language are inevitably subject to a change in meaning. The change in the meanings of words entering youth slang occurs through metaphorical, less often metonymic rethinking. Narrowing or expanding the meanings of borrowed words in youth slang is quite rare. Less active replenishment of the slang vocabulary occurs through the updating of obsolete words. In the jargonized speech of young people, outdated lexemes either change their semantics or retain them.

Among foreign language borrowings, the overwhelming majority are Anglicisms, this is especially evident in the vocabulary that came from computer jargon. Borrowing from police jargon and military jargon is very limited.

Social differentiation of youth made it possible to identify differences in the use of youth slang vocabulary of intellectually developed youth, mainly the vocabulary of student jargon and "poorly" educated youth, in whose language there are borrowings from thieves' argo, army jargon, professional jargons and jargons of drug addicts. This factor explains the choice of language media in youth magazines targeted at the younger generation.

In our opinion, insufficient attention has been and is being paid to the issue of sources of replenishment of youth slang. At the same time, this issue can be of great practical importance. It is known that both criminal jargon and drug addicts jargon are sources of youth slang replenishment. It is also known that the number of words from these jargons that have penetrated into youth slang is relatively small, and often in the process of this penetration, they change their meaning. Thus, a dictionary of such concepts with the exact meaning of words in both thieves' and youth slang, and a frequency dictionary, would be an indispensable help for all those working with youth groups: more frequent mention of any words, accurate preservation of old meanings when switching to

youth slang or the appearance in the language of this group of words that have not yet penetrated the language of young people from the criminal argo, are clear signs of direct contacts of this group with the criminal environment (or, accordingly, with the environment of drug addicts).

Youth slang has tremendous potential for renewal. One of the ways to replenish the lexical composition of youth slang is the morphological method.

A significant part of the vocabulary of youth slang is formed as a result of various word-formation processes. Among the reduced elements of speech in the vocabulary of young people, nouns prevail, then parts of speech are distributed as follows: verbs, adjectives, adverbs.

Word formation of youth slang has a number of features. Motivating foundations can be taken from a variety of sources: codified literary language, thieves' jargon, English. Youth slang is also characterized by the presence of specific suffixes.

The sphere of functioning of youth slang is not limited only to the oral communication of its carriers. At the beginning of the 21st century, elements of youth slang were firmly entrenched in the media - periodicals, television programs, radio broadcasting, as well as on the global Internet.

The whole range of features of youth slang is most clearly manifested in the print media. Magazines and newspapers, designed mainly for student youth, satisfy all the requirements for the linguistic content of publications of periodical media in the study of youth slang. The texts of such publications, containing rich research material: the abundance of lexical units of youth slang on various topics and the diversity of the elements presented in terms of their origin, made it possible to describe the features of the functioning of youth slang in the print media, to determine its influence on spoken and written speech. We have identified both completely new word formations and slangisms that are firmly entrenched in the language of modern youth, which are on the verge of transition into a spoken language.

Youth slang in media texts determines the implementation of the following functions: communicative, ideological, expressive, aesthetic, regulatory.

The study of youth slang in cultural linguistics made it possible, by analyzing its lexical

and semantic component, to recreate the linguistic picture of the world of a carrier of youth slang. Youth slang is anthropocentric in nature and directly reflects the attitude of the individual (young person) to the surrounding reality, expresses his emotions, desires, relationships with family and friends, evaluates the actions and deeds of other people and the characteristics of the objects used.

Studies have shown that the change in the structure of life priorities and values of modern youth has not led to the denial of universal human values.

The importance of our linguoculturological analysis of youth slang is seen in the fact that the results obtained in the course of the study can be used to more accurately determine the stratification of modern society and the role of the younger generation in its development.

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