

LINGUISTIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES OF SLANG

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Abstract: *This article deals with the study of the features of the youth slang using in modern English language. The aim of the article is to analyse the usage of slang expressions among young generation. The definition of slang begins to attract attention of modern philology. Now there is rather large number of the definitions of slang which are quite often contradicting each other. The authors claim, that the Russian slang has a huge number of English borrowings. This article is devoted to the analysis of a concept of a youth slang of the modern English. Relevance of our research is that the youth slang is in continuous development. Modern slang in English, being an integral part of language, represents one of the most urgent and contradictory problems of the modern lexicology. This research promotes a solution of the problem of determination, an entity and the main distinctive features of the studied phenomenon. Key words: Social group, Youth slang, Linguistic features, English language*

INTRODUCTION

Slang is kind of speech variety. Speech variety, or language variety, refers to any distinguishable form of speech used by a speaker or a group of speakers. Linguistic features of a speech variety can be found at the lexical, the phonological, the morphological, or the syntactical level of the language [1]. The last several decades rates of development of certain spheres of public life have repeatedly accelerated in comparison with the previous periods. These processes have caused certain changes in a lexicon of the certain countries as language is inseparable from culture. All events which cover society influence live development of informal conversation, receive a response in languages of the world and add new phrases and expressions to the modern vocabulary. In each sector of society for colloquial communication between participants the insignificant number of the expressions which are attributes of this contingent of people - the lexicon, a slang is used at least. It arises in one group of people, but at the same time extends within all class of society.

The study of word origins enjoyed considerable popularity in the past, and etymologies, a traditional component of a dictionary entry, were often hotly debated, even though 'the amateurs who, as late as 1900, filled the pages of popular journals with their conjectures on word origins, had no idea that they should have used their time reading rather than writing' [2]. New borrowing words appeared by the development of world

trade, the international tourism, cultural connections. The youth is an integral part of any society, irrespective of his intrinsic characteristics. It represents the social and demographic group united on certain signs: to age, the social status and social and psychological properties, and the youth culture is among the particularly complex phenomena. The youth culture is one of consequences of process of socialization in general and cultural in particular. Its social and psychological sources are in aspiration of youth in general and its certain representatives to consciousness, self-affirmation, self-expression and self-realization. These natural aspirations not always get necessary support. The main aspiration of youth subculture practically always is fixing of the most important for them of world outlook concepts of a bright expressional form, perhaps, unclear for the most people in society. Use of slang in the speech of teenagers gives it beauty and emotionality, according to young people. Teenagers use also an English-speaking slang which sometimes is clear only to youth for expression of the thoughts.

METHODS

Slang is one of the most interesting and at the same time difficult phenomena of language. Many researchers usually carry a slang to social dialects. The dialect in this context is the territorial, temporary or social kind of language. In the English lexicography the term “slang” was widely adopted approximately at the beginning of the last century. The etymology of the word “slang” also is disputable. Slang – the complex, difficult and inevitable language phenomenon. Its emergence is always caused by historical, social and cultural tendencies of life of this or that language community. Slang is the diction that results from the favorite game among the young and lively of playing with words and renaming things and actions; some invent new words, or mutilate or misapply the old, for the pleasure of novelty, and others catch up such words for the pleasure of being in the fashion. These similes are so novel and vivid that they can't be made without good imagination, while think-machine (brain), sparkler (diamond), pickers (hands), canned music (musical disk) are more vivid and expressive. Sometimes slang words are invented by a few people for the pleasure of novelty and imitated by others who like to be in fashion. Many of the slang words coined during the Second World War have passed out of use along with the events that called them into life [3]. The slang is interesting not only from the point of view of the linguistic theory, but also from a translation theory position. The slang of young people in Russia covers almost all spheres of life. The slang is concentrated on the person -spheres of his life, the relations with other people. The contribution of slang in enriching language; a short of real representation of the dynamism of language and symbol of human freedom in creating language was an interesting phenomena to be analyzed [4]. The slang expression means coming to democratic atmosphere in language since the meaning embodied is not absolute. It depends upon who uses it, in which group the users belong to, and in what situation slang word occur. The question emerged is how the user of slang employ slang in their daily communication. Their choice of certain slang replacing the standard may have a certain purposes [5]. The Internet, its opportunities,

quickly developing computer technologies always attracted young people. Today, the English slang plays a major role in daily communication among the teenagers [6]. The slang has been shaped and reshaped by different culture and the emergence of technology which become a phenomenon of the language development [7].

RESULTS

In our research we speak about use of the English youth slang among the Russian youth, feature of the transfer of English to the Russian slang, its factors, development of slang in Russia. In system of modern Russian and English languages the slang takes very important place. The conducted research has shown that the slang isn't the literary language, it is characterized by familiar coloring. The slang is divided into two groups: common and well known slang. The slang of the Russian youth has a big variety of shades and many words are unclear for population. It is possible to note such characteristic of a slang as common knowledge and wide common use. There is no accurate and one definition of a slang now. In most cases the process of adaptation is a long one and gradual. Some elements remain not to be fully adapted. For there may be some differences in pronunciation, they may not be declined. If a borrowed word is adapted by grammatical system of a language (nouns take case and number forms, the signs of grammatical gender appear) then it extends the opportunity of new derivatives formation. This way inanimate nouns with subject and material lexical meanings may form different adjectives with Russian suffixes -н(ый), -ов(ый): футбол-футбольный, хит-хитовый; some nouns form relative adjectives with suffix: -ск(ий): президент — президентский, Уэльс-уэльский; nouns which denote different branches of science, art, social trends etc may form adjectives with suffixes: -ическ(ий): туризм — туристический. [10]. Using questioning among youth we came to the decision that they use slang every day for designation of specialties, for the name of subjects, in the interpersonal relations, in the sphere of life and leisure. The slang plays very important role in youth life, their life is already inconceivable today without slang which not only helps young people to communicate among themselves, but also facilitates process of assimilation of new foreign lexicon, expanding a lexicon. We used the questionnaire in order to reveal features of the use of anglicisms in the speech of students of Kazan Federal University, which results have served as material for this research has been conducted. The questionnaire consisted of the following questions: 1. Do you use words of a youth slang at communication with peers? 2. Why do you use slang? 3. What words of a youth slang do you use in the daily speech? 4. What television programmes do you watch? 5. Give examples of a youth slang from English. In total 30 students of the second course have participated in questionnaire. We have got the following results: All interviewed pupils have noted that they consider a youth slang an integral part of communication among peers. Such words allow them to maintain the relations with companions, to communicate, learn new. Studying level of the use of a youth slang in the speech it is revealed: for students the slang is only word-play. It gives easy comic characteristic to the speech. TV and broadcasts, publications of newspapers and

magazines are also the results of speech influence. 80% of the interviewed participants have answered in the affirmative on the question “Do you use words of a youth slang at communication with peers?” for simplification of communication with peers using slang expressions from — for frequent viewing of various television youth programs. Frequent viewings of various television youth programs, participation in various sporting events, the Internet games are the reason of frequent use of a youth slang among the peers.

DISCUSSION

Thus, the reasons of increase in a share of slang in the speech of the modern teenager belong:

1. Social factors;
2. The importance of the language for communication

with peers; 3. Influence of media (reading newspapers and youth magazines, viewing of telecasts), Internet resources. Out of doubts the youth slang comes under considerable influence of English. Specific features of the use of borrowing in the speech of teenagers which have been revealed during the research, unfortunately, generally have negative character. Often students consider equivalents of the Russian words that give negative characteristic of our native speech become more fashionable and bright. And all this in spite of the fact that Russian is one of the most expressive languages in the world. Anyway, we won't be able to stop process of borrowing and distribution of foreign words until we begin to create something unique.

CONCLUSION

At the moment influence of English on Russian, and first of all on a youth slang, has very wide circulation. The set of the words connected with various spheres of interests, an occupation, the field of policy and economy has come from English to us. As it has become clear, often borrowings concern to various groups of formation. The data obtained during the research confirm the assumption of wide use of anglicisms. The youth slang in most cases represents the English borrowings or phonetic associations. Always it is necessary to show consideration for attraction of foreign words and furthermore when this process has such high speed.

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