

***Ilona Palaguta***  
English teacher  
Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University  
(Uman, Ukraine)

## **THE ROLE OF THE YOUTH SLANG IN LEARNING ENGLISH**

The modern world does not stand still and also with it language develops dynamically. All events that take place in society are reflected in language, supplementing speakers' vocabulary with new expressions and phrases.

Today, language is considered as the most powerful tool establishing relations between people in different spheres of society. Language is as the main mean of communication, provides information about speaker's carrier, culture, country, history and reflects all changes in society. In this sense, the language of young people reflects people high living standards in society. A youth language is a complex multicomponent structure, which lives its own life. A characteristic feature of the youth language is the using of stylistically neutral and reduced vocabulary, large number of abbreviations which are aimed at saving language means maintaining the maximum - emotional load.

In the world of linguistics, the youth language is often associated with a term «slang». Slang, being the part of the language reproduces linguistic features of the society that uses it. In modern linguistics there are different approaches to the interpretation of the term «slang». According to one version, English «slang» comes from «sling» («throw»). According to another version, «slang» refers to «slanguage». It should be noted that the initial letter *s* is added to the noun language in the result of the disappearance of the word *thieves*; that is, initially it was about «thieves' language» [3].

It is not known exactly when the word «slang» first appeared in the oral speech of England. In a written form, it was first registered in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Then it had a meaning «image». In 1850 the term «slang» took on a broader meaning, it meant «illegal», simple, speech vocabulary.

Then, the concept of «slang» is combined with such concepts as «dialectism», «jargon», «vulgarism», «spoken language», «vernacular». Most of words and various phrases which were originally included in the modern language as slang is now firmly entrenched in the literary language [2].

From all mentioned above, we can make a conclusion, that when learning a language, we have to pay much attention to slang, especially if we plan not only to read classical English literature, but also communicate with peers face to face, using «living» language for communication.

It should be noted that in English there are different types of the youth slang:

1. « Cockney rhyming slang».

In the modern English-speaking world, it is a well-known type of slang. Most often, it is the slang of educated adults. Such form of opinions' expression puts the interlocutors in an awkward position. However, among young people it is a common and most expressive form of communication. «Cockney rhyming slang» is so common in modern « British » English, that many people, without even noticing it, every day use it in their conversation.

2. «Everyday slang».

English language is very original and significant. In English, depending on the context, one word may have a number absolutely not similar in content values. Such significance has found its reflection in the youth slang [4].

3. « Mobile slang ».

American teens, combined with modern information technologies, created a completely new language. It is based on functions of an intelligent input of SMS messages in mobile phones. When typing a message, teenagers choose the first variant of the word, proposed by the intelligent replacement system. So if we read an SMS message in which the word *book* does not fit in content, we do not worry about what is wrong with this word. Maybe the teenager meant the word *cool*.

The youth slang is a certain lexicon based on phonetics and English grammar. Its main difference is conversational, informal, often rude speech with a certain emotional color. The youth slang is most common in sections such as «Person and

appearance», «Fashionable clothes », «House, life», «Leisure». Bigger part of the slang is all sorts of abbreviations and their derivatives. The characteristic feature of the youth slang is its mobility, which is explained with the generations' changing [1].

In order to master the youth slang, we have constantly communicate in an environment where English is spoken, where we will have the opportunity to hear the expressions we need, to express our own thoughts. It is enough to hear slang expressions by ourselves, to repeat at home, to see the translation in the slang dictionary and we will succeed.

Summarizing mentioned above, we can conclude that the English slang for a person who speaks Ukrainian is a good way to demonstrate the level of a foreign language. However it must be applied correctly, not in a rigid form and also to emphasize grammar. It is necessary to learn language, and then the slang as its complement. Best for the slang's learning is to use a variety of modern youth dictionaries and friendly companies.

#### **LITERATURE:**

1. Волошин Ю. Общий американский сленг: состав, деривация и функция (аспект). К., 2000. 5 с.
2. Молодежный сленг в современном английском языке. URL: <http://englishfull.ru/znat/angliysky-sleng.htm>.
3. Marchand H. The Categories and Types of Present-Day English Word Formation. Wiesbaden, 2008. 370 p.
4. Richard A. Slang and Euphemism. N.Y.: New American Library, 2000. 427 p.