

## ENGLISH YOUTH'S SLANG EXPRESSING THE FEELING OF LIKING AND ITS RUSSIAN EQUIVALENTS

Сленг английской молодежи, выражающий чувство симпатии, и его эквиваленты в  
русском языке

Англис тилинде сүйлөгөн жаштардын сленгиндеги жактыруу сезимин чагылдырган сөз  
айкаштарынын орус тилиндеги эквиваленттери

*The article is devoted to English youth's slang that is used for expressing the feeling of liking. The author provides a general description of slang words and expressions as lexical units, and considers their integrity into the language of modern society. The purpose of this article is to analyze the importance of learning and teaching slang to those who learn English as a foreign language to facilitate communication and integration into the English youth environment. The article gives an analysis of English youth's slang, and lists its dictionary equivalents in Russian language.*

**Keywords:** informal style; colloquial speech; slang; lexical unit; the feeling of liking; modern generation; communication; youth environment; dictionary equivalent; term; integration; Standard English.

*В статье рассматривается сленг английской молодежи, используемый для выражения чувства симпатии. Автор дает обобщенную характеристику сленговых слов и выражений как лексических единиц и рассматривает их интеграцию в язык современного общества. Цель данной статьи заключается в анализе важности изучения и преподавания сленга лицам, изучающим английский язык как иностранный для облегчения коммуникации и интеграции в молодежную среду. В статье дается анализ примеров сленга английской молодежи, приводятся его словарные эквиваленты в русском языке.*

**Ключевые слова:** неофициальный стиль; разговорная речь; сленг; лексическая единица; чувство симпатии; современное поколение; коммуникация; молодежная среда; словарный эквивалент; термин; интеграция; нормативный английский язык.

*Бул макалада жаштар вздврунун жактыруу сезимдерин билдируу учун колдонгон сленг свздр жана тушунуктвр каралат. Автор взунун жалтыланган мунвздрмвсундв шарттуу свздрду жана лексикалык бирдикти билдирген свздрдун азыркы коомдогу всун внуюусун карайт. Бул макаланын максаты англис тилинин сленгдерин чет тили катары уйрвнуунун жана окутуунун маанилуулугун анализдвв, анткени сленг жаштар арасындагы баарлашууну женилдетип, коомубуздуи всун внуюусунв шарт тузвт. Макалада англис тилинде сүйлөгөн жаштардын кээ бир сленгдери мисал катары берилип, аларга карата анализдер жургузулвт жана ал свздрдун врусча эквиваленттери сунушталат.*

**Урунттуу свздр:** вфициалдуу эмес стиль; вез эки кеп; сленг; лексикалык бирдик; жактыруу сезимдери; азыркы жаштар; баарлашуу; жаштардын чвйрвсу; свздрдун эквиваленти; термин; интеграция; адабий англис тили.

The integration of Kyrgyzstan into the community world, the intense growth of international, political and cultural relations causes new approach to the deep development of science education, i.e. the foreign language study and teaching. We do not live behind the "iron curtain" any more. There is a great importance to understand up-to-date English. English is the chief language of international business, tourism and academic conferences. It is the main language of popular music, advertising, home computers and video games. Most of the scientific, technological and academic information in the world is expressed in English. International communication expands very fast. Thus, it is very important for English learners to understand foreigners and be

understood by them. In this case the English language comes to be one but very serious problem for those who decided to learn it. A word comes to be a very powerful means of communication but also can be a cause of great misunderstanding/confusion if it is not clearly perceived by one of the speakers. The topic of slang is very actual in terms of sociolinguistics and language interaction development, in racial relations and ethnic cultures. Through understanding linguistic aspects of slang we can observe peculiarities of language development and culture of people, discover interesting layer of the English language. Some scholars divide the English language into two different languages: the Standard English language and slang. This fact proves that slang comes to be a

very numerous part of the English language. It should be mentioned that slang as a lexical unit people thus differentiating the latter from other groups. On the other hand slang can transfer from one group to another one and even be used by the whole society if it characterizes those things which are demanded by this society. It takes an intermediate place between a literary language and the so-called lower lexical units used by criminals and illiterate people.

There are many reasons why people use slang words in the speech or writing. Let us list some of them:

- Just for the fun;
- To be different, to be novel;

Galperin states the following: "There is hardly any other term that is as ambiguous and obscure as the term slang. Slang seems to mean everything that is below the standard of usage of present-day English" [1]. Therefore it is rather interesting to consider slang and its role in our everyday life. Our contemporary society is influenced by so many factors including innovations in different spheres that it has become quite normal to come across slang words and expressions in newspapers, advertisements, TV and radio programs, politicians' speech etc. Slang has become the language of the whole society and especially of young generation. Every year, hundreds of new words and phrases that come from internet are added to the dictionary and slang is not an exception. Some of them are slang abbreviations, like: • FOMO- Fear Of Missing Out;

- YOLO - You Only Live Once;
- LOL-Laugh Out Loud and many others. Now

let us consider the definitions of slang taken from two different sources. The first one is "Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English" defines slang as follows:

- a very informal words and expressions that are more common in spoken language and are not thought suitable for formal situations. Slang is sometimes restricted to one particular group of people, e.g. soldiers or children:

army/prison/teenage slang

- b. a slang word/expression/term" [2]

The second source is taken from the book written by Eric Partridge who defines slang as follows:

"Slang is much rather a spoken than a literary language. It originates, nearly always, in speech. To coin a term on a written page is almost inevitably to brand it as a neologism which will either be accepted or become a nonce-word, but, except in the rarest instances that term will not be slang" [3].

As it is seen from these definitions slang can

is a very unique phenomenon. On the one hand it can be peculiar for a particular group of

- To escape from clichés, or to be brief and concise;

- To enrich the language;

• To amuse the public; or merely to be on a colloquial level with either one's audience or one's subject matter.

• To show that one belongs to a certain school or profession, artistic or intellectual set, or social class; in brief, to be 'in the swim' or to establish contact;

• To be secret - not understood by those around one. (Children, students, lovers, members of political secret societies, and criminals).

be presented as a special vocabulary of this or that community and this is the first thing that may confuse English learners. In informal style of speech one can meet rather frequent occurrence of slang, which may be a single word, a group of words or a sentence. Slang is highly informal and is often used in colloquial speech. It is a part of a language that is usually outside of conventional or standard usage and that may consist of both newly coined words and phrases and of new or extended meanings attached to established terms. Thus we can say that the life of slang is a study of linguistic creation as when a slang word or expression is introduced into the language, it can become Standard English if it is adopted by enough people and put into general use.

Slang is an up-to-date topic to investigate; its actuality is determined by growing interest in the subject, in the learning of the English language, understanding the main processes during the translation and the great desire to study foreign slang words and expressions. H. Wentworth and S. Flexner in their "Dictionary of American Slang" write: "sometimes slang is used to escape the dull familiarity of standard words, to suggest an escape from the established routine of everyday life. When slang is used, our life seems a little fresher and a little more personal also, as at all levels of speech; slang is sometimes used for the pure joy of making sounds, or even for a need to attract attention by making noise. The sheer newness and informality of certain slang words produce pleasure. But more important than this expression of a more or less hidden aesthetic motive on the part of the speaker is the slang's reflection of the personality, the outward, clearly visible characteristics of the speaker" [4]. Galperin states that: "this quotation from a well-known scientific study of slang clearly shows that what is labeled slang is either all kinds of nonce-formations – so frequently appearing in lively everyday speech and just as quickly disappearing from the language, or jocular words and word combi-

nations that are formed by using the various means of word-building existing in the language and also by distorting the form or sense of existing words" [1].

Thus we can conclude that our young generation create and use slang words and expressions not only to decode their speech but also to make it more interesting, fresh and unique. This is one of the ways the youth can express their thoughts and feelings. Moreover we have to mention that ignorance of slang may cause a great miscommunication between English learners and native speakers. It should be marked that the age factor also influences the use of slang. Young generation, especially the teenagers and college students, are the main consumers and makers of slang words and expressions. The teenagers and college students can be called the fashion makers. They are

radical in every aspect of their life and the language they use is not an exception. They are not afraid of making mistakes, but ready to explore the unknown things. They are full of curiosity, pursuit and are mad with new things. They are ready to challenge traditional conventions and customs. They tend to make good use of the slang terms created by the musicians, pop singers. For instance, the words crazy originally means mad, strange, silly, but the musicians of the pop used this word to mean a completely different meaning beautiful, excellent, or exciting.

In the article the author has listed the most interesting, vivid and up-to-date slang words and expressions related to liking. Let us start our research with the basic slang that everyone is familiar with. As we know the most frequently used word regarding love emotions is the word *baby*. But, nowadays majority of teenagers use slang word "*bae*". It is shorter version of baby, it is used to describe someone you think would be a good significant other. In other words "*bae*" is a pet name for your beloved person. It can be translated into Russian as "*киска, котенок, пусик, пусичка, малыш, малышка*". Now let us consider the next example "*143*".

This slang term is often used by a man or woman to show what he/she feels so strongly about the partner that cannot even muster up the words to explain her/his feelings. "*143*" is an extremely short, weird, seemingly not heartfelt way of saying "I love you" (the digits represent the number of letters in each word. The "*143*" slang term is typically used in SMS text messaging, but also in emails and on social media sites. The singer Musiq Soulchild brought attention to the use of "*143*" in his song by the same name. The lyrics explain that love is complicated enough and that simplifying it with

a numerical phrase is an appropriate way to convey pure emotions. We live in such a weird society that cannot even type or say "*I love you*", so they have to substitute these sacrament words with numeric digits. Unfortunately, we could not find the exact equivalent to this slang because in Russian language people just say these three words out as they are without using any coding. However as the equivalent for this code we can use such expressions as: "*я обожаю тебя*", "*я тапцусь от тебя*".

It is often difficult to differentiate slang from colloquialisms and even more standard language, because slang generally becomes accepted into the standard lexicon over time. Such as with slang expression "*Wifey/Hubby material*". To our mind, this slang expression is rather self-explanatory. If the woman has the qualities you would look for in a spouse, she is "*Wifey material*". If the man has the qualities you are looking to lock up long term, he is "*Hubby material*". Generally speaking, these terms are for person's abilities rather than physical appearance. Sure, one probably has to be relatively attractive to be considered for "*Wifey/Hubby material*", financial stability, intelligence, and whatever else one might be looking for in a lifelong period. We would translate it into Russian as "*Мужчина/женщина моей мечты*".

The next slang phrase that attracted our attention is "*Cuffing Season*". So, it turns out there is not much scientific evidence behind "*Cuffing Season*", but we find it hard to argue against it because it is based on our own experiences. During the spring and summer, people want to go out and have flings with random people or take extravagant vacations with their friends. Then late fall rolls around and two things happen: Sierra Coffee starts rolling out the red cups, and people start getting into relationships. "*Cuffing Season*" is that period of time between Halloween and Valentine's Day when everyone seems to be in a relationship, particularly if you're single. Maybe it is because the cold makes people want to cuddle on the couch, or maybe it is the holiday spirit that brings romance around. The Russian equivalent does not exist, so we offer literal translation "*период желанных наручников*". By the way, it sounds a little bit scary, but we hasten to inform you that for lovers it is definitely the most pleasant time.

Slang word, which is often used by English people, is "*Slow Fade*". It also may have related meaning to "*to take English leave*". For a long time, we thought this one had something to do with

"catching a fade" (getting beat up), so we were a little confused when people told us about the guys/ladies they were "*slow fading*". As it turns out, a "*slow fade*" is just when someone gradually ceases communicating with a person who was interested in him/her. It is not exactly cutting someone off, it is more of a gentle letdown where those text message responses drift further and further apart. We generally do not have a problem with telling someone to take a hike when

cute, delicious. People are always in the mood to hang out with them, just like people are always in the mood to have cupcakes. To stay home with your significant other instead of going out. *We can suggest the following equivalents: чумовой, клевый, крутой, душечка.*

• *Manicorn* -the elusive perfect man. He may not exist, but it is much more romantic to believe that he does. Into Russian it can be translated as-*идеал.*

• *Pop the question* -asking someone to marry you – просить руки, звать за муж.

• *Have a crush on* -to have strong feelings for someone; usually secretly – торчать, тащиться от кого-нибудь.

• *Hook up* - to get together with somebody; to start dating – закрутить, замутить роман

• *Hit it off* -having a great time together with somebody – залипать, зависать

• *Tie the knot* -get married – окольцевать

• *Old flame* -an ex-boyfriend/girlfriend – старая

Before drawing the conclusion let us once again remind you that with the advent of the Internet and other means of mass media and communication such as radio, television, and telephones, slang has made a quantum leap in terms of its variety and richness in recent years. New technology have introduced their fair share of new words and phrases into our lexicon over the last century. Therefore, as slang marches on, it continues to trample over hierarchies and linguistic prejudices. Eventually, it may come to be regarded as a linguistic style. However, some words may remain underground and beyond the reach of many speakers. New words will appear, morph, and disappear. Many will spread and continue to enrich the English language. The crossover may become more acceptable and even faster thanks to the influence and complicity of the Internet and the media. "In most of the dictionaries *sl.* (slang) is used as convenient stylistic notation for a word or a phrase that cannot be specified more exactly. The obscure etymology of the term itself affects its use as a stylistic notation. Whenever the notation appears in a dictionary it may serve as an indication that the unit presented is non-literary, but not pinpointed. That is the reason why the various dictionaries disagree in the use of this term when applied as a stylistic notation" [1]. Thus, summarizing the

we are no longer interested in them, but this seems like it would be suited for all of those passive types out there. We would translate it as "*незаметно пропасть*".

• *A cupcake* is a person who is from outward appearance you would assume to be tough, but on the inside he/she is soft. And that can be very sweet, perfect size, just the right amount of everything and also

любовь, бывший парень/девушка

• *Taking the dive* -getting married – женить-

• ся/выйти замуж

• All the slang examples that we have listed above

• are frequently used by the youth and in some cases

• by the elder generation as well. The thing we should

• always bear in mind is that slang words and expression

• can be used only in informal situations as slang

• belongs to spoken language of young generation or a

• particular group of people. English learners should

• use slang carefully and in an appropriate situation.

written above we can say that slang and its shock value may diminish and might even run the risk of becoming 'neutered'; however, its march is ceaseless and its definition is no less elusive than that of poetry. There were dozens of researchers who dedicated their time for investigation of slang and they had spent tons of time to come up with the materials that are available in the dictionaries, stylistic books and other specific literature. Slang is nothing but a deviation from the established norm at the level of the vocabulary of the language. V.V. Vinogradov writes that one of the tasks set before the branch of linguistic science that is now called stylistics, is a thorough study of all changes in vocabulary, set phrases, grammatical constrictions, their functions, an evaluation of any breaking away from the established norm, and classifications of mistakes and failures in word coinage. [5] It is a fact that slang can serve as an alternative register, replacing standard terms with more vivid, vigorous and emotive forms. Some people use slang to impress the others. Teenagers use slang words to seem cool, novel and not to be understood by adults. Sometimes due to the usage of slang words we can determine the social status of the speaker. The majority uses slang words just to enrich the language, to make their speech more colorful. We suppose that the given article can

be useful and informative for English learners as here we have tried to gather the most interesting and up-to-date information about

slang itself and especially slang words and expressions related to love.

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