

THE YOUTH SLANG: A LITTER OR AN ESSENTIAL HELPER OF THE LITERARY LANGUAGE

As we know there is hardly any term that is as ambiguous and obscure as the term slang. Many use slang just because it is not standard or polite. Many use slang to show their rebellion. Intellectuals and politicians often use slang to create the "common touch". 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, life seems a little fresher and a little more personal. So, the aim of our article is to find out whether slang is a real useful helper of the English language or it is simply "separate cool talk" of the youth.

The main and dominant feature of slang is that it never grows stale. If a slang word or phrase does become stale, it is replaced by a new slangism.

But more important is slang's reflection of the personality, the outward, clearly visible characteristics of the speaker. By a large, the man who uses slang is a forceful, pleasing, acceptable personality. Morality and intellect are overlooked in slang, and this has led to a type of reverse morality: many words, once standing for morally good things, are now critical. Also it need to be added that slang is likely to be created among individuals in group, a slang word may be substituted for a more formal word and still be understood. The more familiar any word is, the more rapidly and briefly it may be spoken. Slang is nothing but a deviation from the established norm at the level of the vocabulary of the language.

The beauty of student slang, like other areas of vocabulary, is that it is constantly renewing itself. Yesterday's slang is today's neologism and tomorrow's mainstream vocabulary item. Likewise, other items quickly become dated and fall into disuse. Speaking about student's slang as one of it's branches we should mention several examples which were originated in English and American schools, colleges and universities, like:

Eton College:

- scug – *an abuse*;
 - sock – *grub*;
 - sap – *to work hard; an abuse*;
 - fit – *to kick behind*;
 - slick – *to kick on the shins*;
 - cheek – *nerve*;
 - worked off – *a boy is caned by his fag-master or any other boy in authority*;
- Felsted School:

- bang-on or bash-on – recent importations, but rapidly passing into common speech;
- Billy boy/man – a house boy/man;
- blitch/blotch – blotting-paper;
- bog -a bicycle;
- bumming – a caning, a beating;
- butch – a sturdy fellow;
- cheery – excellent;
- cheese off – to annoy;
- chigger – to cheat;
- coffins – a particular set of deep and ancient baths in the main block;
- Confirmaggers – Confirmation;
- Confirmagger pragger – a confirmation class;
- debuggers – a debate;
- dip – a light, an electric bulb;
- Div – a Divinity period;
- docketts – cigarettes;
- duck – matron;
- under-duck – under-matron;
- fugs – a radiator;

- fug-pipes/ under-fugs – underpants;
 - grass – lettuce, watercress, any green salad;
 - Headman – Headmaster;
 - hook – to take-not necessarily to filch;
 - hot – halfpenny;
 - hot ice – an ice-cream costing a penny;
- Imperial Service College:

- crisch – cricket;
- foosch – football;
- hoosch – hockey.

Westminster (peculiar to the school):

- to be out of school – to be ill;
- up-school – detention;
- John – a college servant;
- ski – cad;
- muzz – to work;
- greeze – scrum or crowd;
- late play – a half-holiday;
- Chiswick – a study;
- bag – milk;

Speaking about slang as popular notion among the youth we come across the conflict between generations. Some elderly people consider slang to be rather vulgar. They suppose it litters the literary language, makes it sounding rough and obscene. But if move deeper in slang lexicon we can find such pearls of literary word which are really necessary in communication speaking about something specific. Besides, non-standard language is an inalienable element of emphatic and emotional speech. It is slang that gives exactly that shade of meaning which cannot be found out in a literary language. To prove slang's importance it is worth to mention, also, that it brings humour, irony and intellectual feature into language usage. It may express something in secret terms by using for example euphemisms, dysphemisms, metaphors, and word plays instead of the actual names. So, slang is not simple familiar talking but an essential helper of the literary language.

It is stated that non-standard English appears to be low in style, but it mustn't be understood as some negative linguistic notion. Slang is not accepted as vulgarisms but gives the speech some shade of familiarity. The slang function of high social value is that it brings people together, helps them to find mutual understanding, takes off the tense while making the acquaintance.

Comparing literary language and slang the second prevails in popularity. It is quite evident among teenagers and college students. They use it in their every day speech to be "cool" and to be that kind of guys that are supposed to be fashionable and up-to-date. Colourful, witty, sometimes crude and often outrageous – all that is about non-standard English which plays a unique role in our ever-evolving language. A lot of writers and poets use slang as a mean for attracting a reader and making their works vivid and impressive. All these essential proofs of slang importance mentioned above bring us to the conclusion: non-standard language is as important as literary language is, it makes our life colourful and language energetic and fresh.

References

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