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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**SOCIOLINGUISTIC FEATURES OF SLANG WORDS
IN ENGLISH**

Speciality: 5708.01 – Germanic languages

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GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WORK

Actuality of the theme and the degree of research. As it is known, the norms of speech of different layers of society condition determine the development of one or another layer of the lexicon of the language and, as a result, pave the way for the enrichment of the language. In this process, the role of slangs, which are not related to the literary language, used for stylistic purposes-to create a new effect in speech, to bring expressiveness, liveliness, high imagery, laconicity to the language, is constantly expanding and occupies an important place in the stylistic lexicon of the English language.

The slang, which appeared in the English language under the influence of social factors in the late XX and early XXI centuries, was first regarded as elements of vulgar spoken language, which was not normal for communication.

By combining these definitions, reflecting the linguistic essence of slang from one point of view or another, it is appropriate to determine the following accurate and concise definition of that linguistic unit: Slang is a word or combination of words that exists outside the literary language, reflects a certain social environment and has an emotional and partly rude tone.

The mutual connection of the mentioned linguistic essence of slang with the function of this language unit is determined in the following way in the research of S.D.Sizov. 1. Communicative function; 2. Cognitive function; 3. Nominative function; 4. Expressive function; 5. Worldview function; 6. Language saving function; 7. Creative function¹.

Each of these functions includes separate linguistic and extralinguistic factors arising from the essence of slang: The communicative function means that the speaker conveys his ideas and points of view through slang in accordance with the social environment and that the transmitted information is properly perceived by the interlocutor belonging to the same social

¹ Sizov, S.D. Concept and functions of slang // Young scientist, – 2016. № 5 (8), – p. 32-34

environment, the cognitive function means that the slang carries additional information about the surrounding world, the nominative function means the new nomination (naming) concept expresses, the expressiveness function means expressiveness, witty, unexpectedness, the feature of expression aimed at entertainment.

The worldview function arises in relation to the age and professionalism characteristics of the speaking persons, their cultural and educational level.

The language saving function allows the speaker to save time and space, to express a thought quickly, accurately and intelligibly.

The creative function of slang entails the emergence of new, unexpected word forms, word combinations and meanings, generating heightened emotion and expressiveness.

These functions of slang were touched upon in detail in the researches of G.R.Ivanova², A.F.Artemova³, G.V.Antrushina⁴, T.E.Zakharchenko⁵.

Belonging to the English spoken language, creating a special effect in the communication process, expressing the idea expressively, vividly, figuratively, due to these features, wide penetration from the speech of social groups into the national spoken language has been the object of research of many prominent linguists, forming the **relevance** of slang. M.Adams, J.C.Hotten, A.Mattiello, V.G.Vilyuman, M.A.Krotovskaya and other linguists addressed this language problem and studied various aspects of the

² Ivanova, G.R. The functions of slang in the speech activity of American students // – Moscow: MSLU, Cognitive and communicative aspects of English vocabulary: Sankt Petersburg. Sci. C. – 1990. – p. 127-134

³ Artemova, A.F. On the question of emotionality of slang / Problems of synchronous and diachronic description of Germanic languages. / A.F.Artemova. – Pyatigorsk, – 1979. – p. 10-18.

⁴ Antrushina, G.V. Lexicology of the English language: textbook. / G.V.Antrushina, O.V. Afanasyeva, N.N. Morozova – Moscow: Drofa, – 2001. – 288 p.

⁵ Zakharchenko, T.E. English and American slang: textbook. / T.E. Zakharchenko. – M.: AST publishing, – 2009. – 133 p.

slang⁶.

Since the slang is a widely used lexical unit in every field, its role in communication is constantly expanding, it passes from one language to another, surpasses the boundaries of the spoken language, and takes its place in the language of newspapers and magazines, all mass media. Modern English films, English music and literature serve as a source in the development of not only the general lexicon of the English language, but also the slang lexicon.

The fact that slang now covers all areas of culture, not just everyday communication, to use language concisely and expressively in various situations and in international relations, expanding the possibilities of appropriate translation of artistic, journalistic, political texts, at the same time, having extralinguistic aspects that reflect the socio-cultural criteria, mental and cultural world of the society and other factors increase the relevance of the study of slang.

The object and subject of the research. The object of the research is the slangs in English and their sociolinguistic features, and the subject is the summarization and systematization of the results derived from the analysis of these features.

Aims and objectives of the research work. The main goal of the study work is to determine the sources of the slang lexicon, its connotative, stylistic-emotional features, and the mechanism of its semantic transformation. In order to achieve this goal, the following tasks are planned in the dissertation:

⁶ Adams, M. Slang: The People's Poetry. / M.Adams. – Oxford: Oxford University Press, – 2009. – 256 p.; Hotten, J.C. A Dictionary of Modern Slang, Cant and Vulgar Words, Used at the Present Day in the Streets of London / J.C.Hotten. – Whitefish, Montana: Kessinger Publishing, LLC, – 2008. – 300 p.; Mattiello, A. An Introduction to English Slang. / A.Mattiello. – Milano: Polimetrica, International Scientific Publisher, – 2008. – 324 p.; Vilyuman, V.G. On the ways of forming slang words in modern English // – Moscow: Questions of linguistics, – 1960. №6, – p.137-140; Krotovskaya, M.A. Slang as part of spoken English // Materials of the interuniversity scientific-practical conference of the Faculty of Foreign Languages of the Academy of the FSB “Modern theories and methods of teaching foreign languages at the university”. – M., – 2013, – p.58-67.

- to shed light on the theoretical views on the role of the concept of slang in English studies, the socio-cultural factors that determine the emergence of slang;
- to determine the place of English slang in the colloquial lexicon and classify it from a semantic point of view;
- identify commonalities and differences between English slang and other figurative expressions;
- to determine sociolinguistic features of slang;
- to clarify the linguocultural feature of slang;
- to shed light on the issue of slang variability;
- to clarify the issue of linguistic equivalence and semantic transformation of slang.

The research methods. Theoretical analysis, comparative analysis, descriptive methods were used in the research work.

The main provisions for defense:

- Slang ensures high emotionality, liveliness, brevity in the language, and at certain points the idea remains hidden;
- Slang is used by individual social groups, so it cannot be understood by everyone;
- Slang can be divided into variants according to a certain degree of expressiveness and emotion;
- Slang can have connotative, stylistic equivalents in other languages due to its connection with general or specific concepts.

Scientific novelty of the research is characterized by filling a certain gap in the field of studying slang in modern English. The ideas put forward in the dissertation on the sociolinguistic and linguoculturological roots, semantic variability, semantic transformation of English slang are the main scientific innovations of the research.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research. The theoretical importance of the work is that the study and its results can contribute to a deeper study and description of the nature of slang and its functioning in modern English. The theoretical provisions of the study can serve as a source for the study of general theoretical issues of slang, its sociolinguistic aspect.

The fact that slang is quite expressive, lively, compact means of expression can be regarded as a motivating factor in teaching the

lexicon of the English language. The basis for this motivation is also the fact that slang lexicon is currently used not only in everyday communication, but also expands all areas of culture, the possibilities of expedient translation of artistic, journalistic and political texts. The practical importance of the work is that its results can be used in theoretical and practical exercises in lexicology, as well as in practical lessons in analysis and conversation practice (primarily on social issues).

Approbation and application. The dissertation was presented at the scientific seminars of the Department of Linguoculturology of the Azerbaijan University of Languages, local and international scientific conferences held in Azerbaijan. The main content and results of the dissertation were reflected in the author's articles published in various publications in Azerbaijan and foreign countries and abstracts presented to conferences were published.

Name of the organization where the dissertation is performed. The work was performed at the Department of Linguoculturology of Azerbaijan University of Languages.

The total volume of the dissertation with a sign including a separate volume of the structural units of the dissertation. Dissertation work consists of an introduction, 3 chapters, conclusion and a list of references. The Introduction part of the dissertation is 4 pages, 7142 characters, Chapter I 33 pages, 58548 characters, Chapter II 51 pages, 77589 characters, Chapter III 37 pages, 64252 characters, Conclusion part is 2 pages, 2309 characters. The total volume of the dissertation is 209 840 characters, excluding the list of references.

BASIC CONTENTS OF THE RESEARCH

In the **Introduction** part of the dissertation, the relevance of the topic is justified, the degree of its development, the object and subject of the study, its goals and objectives, methods, the main provisions defended, its scientific innovation, theoretical and practical importance are determined, its approval and application,

and the institution and structure where it is carried out are given information.

Chapter I of the thesis called **“The concept of slang and its expression methods”** consists of three paragraphs. The first paragraph is called **“The concept of slang”**. Slang, known in western linguistics as an unusual linguistic phenomenon, is a linguistic phenomenon that belongs to the English spoken language, characterized by the fact that it has a certain emotion and expressiveness in speech, and the speaker expresses his opinion in accordance with the social environment. Researchers of slang determine that this language unit carries additional and cognitive characteristic information⁷, about the surrounding world, that the expressiveness expressed by it is based on figurativeness, resourcefulness, unpredictability and distortion aimed at entertaining⁸, that it aims to save time and space, and that it is an unexpected form of words⁹, a colorful word or expression characterizing social groups¹⁰.

Without having extensive information from a social and linguistic point of view, one cannot understand the meaning of slang in different contexts, since slang arises within a social group that has a strong sense of novelty.

Since the slang used by a group of individuals among themselves in everyday life belongs exclusively to that group, its meaning becomes incomprehensible to representatives of another group. Slang is an informal alternative version of the words existing in the literary language, used in association with various factors.

⁷ Ivanova, G.R. The functions of slang in the speech activity of American students // – Moscow: MSLU, Cognitive and communicative aspects of English vocabulary: Sb. scient. ser., – 1990. – p. 133

⁸ Artemova, A.F. To the question of the emotionality of slang / Problems of synchronous and diachronic description of the Germanic languages. / A.F. Artemova. – Pyatigorsk, – 1979. – p. 10-18.

⁹ Zakharchenko, T.E. English and American slang: textbook. allowance for students. / T.E. Zakharchenko. – M.: AST publishing, – 2009. – p. 98-99

¹⁰ Antrushina, G.V. Lexicology of the English language: textbook. manual for students / G.B. Antrushina, O.V. Afanaseva, N.N. Morozova – Moscow: Drofa, – 2001. – p. 201

These factors include the shape, function, sound of the object expressed by the slang, and so on. For example, the use of the words *tube*, *goggle box*, *magic box* instead of *television*, *buzz* (“buzzing”), *horn* (“trumpet”) instead of *telephone* is based on the mentioned principles.

E.Partridge, one of the prominent researchers of slang, considers slang to be variable, unsystematized, mixed and random lexemes that reflect the way of thinking of people belonging to certain social or professional groups¹¹.

Slangs are words used for the following stylistic purposes:

- to create the effect of novelty, unusualness;
- to differ from accepted patterns of literary language;
- to show the speaker's mood;
- to add concreteness, liveliness, expressiveness, conciseness, beauty to the idea;
- to stay away from the cliché.

To achieve these stylistic goals, stylistic means such as metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, euphemism are used: *bean* – “head”, *choppers* – “teeth”, *hams* – “legs”, *kisser* – “face”, *horn* – “nose”, *dog* – “a failed date with a girl”, “difficult exam” etc.

English linguist E.L.Ginzburg divides slang into colorful groups of meanings and forms a broad idea about the semantic features of this language unit: belonging to thieves' slang: *cheese* – “good stuff”, *to fig* – “to take quick blows”, *to hog* – “greedily appropriating someone's thing”, belonging to profession: *dead hopper* – “bad dancer”, *sleeper* – “lecture”, belonging to informal communication: *chink* – “cash”, *a jolly* – “pleasant occupation”, originated in fiction: *cyrano* – “long-nosed”, *scrooge* – “nervous”, “stingy”, *gospel-grinder* – “a protestant priest”, generated by the conversion method: *to jolly* – “cheering up”, appeared by abbreviation: *pro* – “professional”, *biz* – “business” etc.

The general conclusion reached by researchers who have different approaches to the semantic essence of slang and its composition in attributing different figurative expressions is that

¹¹ Partridge, E. *Slang to-Day and yesterday* / E.Partridge. – London: Routledge, 1950. – 476 p.

slang is a figurative, emotional expression that is far from the norms of the literary language and belongs to the English spoken language.

In the second paragraph of the first chapter, called *“The place of slang among other figurative expressions”*, general and special slangs, metaphors, dialectisms, jargons, vulgarisms, slang and idioms, which are sometimes confused with slang in linguistics, but have different semantic and stylistic features, are clarified.

One group of linguists divides slang into two groups: general and specific. Specific slangs are defined as linguistic units that belong to a social group and are used only in the speech of members of this group, while general slangs are defined as linguistic units that do not belong to a social group¹².

For example, *bootlegger* is related to trade and means a broker selling prohibited goods and liquor, *dump* means “prison” in the speech of prisoners, *bump off* means “to kill” in the criminal world, and are slangs for special social groups.

General slang is a lexical layer that exists outside the framework of the English literary language, it is characterized by its universal understanding, extensive use in spoken language, imagery, emotional tone, and its synonymous relationship with literary words and phrases: *nut* “head”, literally “hazel”, *bean* “head”, literally “bean”.

In linguistics, the following boundary is drawn between slang and other figurative expressions:

The difference between slang and metaphor is that slang is used by different social groups, it is more fun, lively, incomprehensible to outsiders¹³, while metaphor is outside the lexicon of any social group, it has a more general character and is understood by more individuals. For example, *hit the nail on the*

¹² Arnold, I.V. Lexicology of modern English: textbook. / I.V. Arnold. – Moscow: FLINTA-Nauka, – 2012. – p. 153-156; Khomyakov, V.A. Three Lectures on Slang: A Study Guide / V.A. Khomyakov. – Vologda: Vologda Pedagogical Institute, – 1970. – p. 48

¹³ Partridge, E. Slang: Today and Yesterday / E.Partridge. – New York: Routledge (Taylor and Francis group) – 2015. – p. 6-7

head means “to say the word on the spot” as a metaphorical expression¹⁴.

What distinguishes slang from dialectism is that the scope of the first ones is not geographically limited and has a social character, while the second ones is related to the way of life and everyday life of this or that region.

Example given, *homey*, *homie* (“comfortable as one's own home”) are dialectalisms for newly settled migrants in New Zealand, bog-trotter in Irish English for people living in bogs¹⁵.

The sign that distinguishes slangs from vulgarisms is that the use of the first ones is perceived as units of speech with a certain mood, uttered in a consciously different way from the natural and normal speech of the speaker, more interesting and causing laughter, and vulgarism is considered as the normal speech style of the common population living in certain regions of people with¹⁶. Vulgarisms are expressions that suddenly come out of the mouth during a conversation, and slangs are deliberately chosen and used according to the topic.

Like slangs, the scope of usage of argonisms is observed within the group, but compared to slangs, second ones are used by more limited, somewhat hidden social groups of society. Slangs are used by different social groups of all strata of society, and argonisms are used by people of the “underground” world. Argo is used by members of groups who are oppressed, incarcerated, or generally marginalized from society and whose activities are under surveillance¹⁷. The term “slang” is sometimes called “thieves’ slang” because it is related to thieves, swindlers, pickpockets, gangsters. People belonging to this group use the slang terms such as *the old bill*, *copper* for the authorities, the police, and *scarper*, *to do a*

¹⁴ Viney, B. *The History of the English Language* / B.Viney. Oxford: Oxford University Press, – 2008. – p.15

¹⁵ Ayto, J. *The Oxford Dictionary of Slang* / J.Ayto. – New York: Oxford University Press, – 1998. – p. 4

¹⁶ Jespersen, O. *Language: Its nature, development and origin* / O.Jespersen. – New York: Ghose Press, – 2015. – p. 298

¹⁷ Partridge, E. *A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* / E.Partridge, P.Beale. – New York: Routledge, – 1984. – p. 196

runner, to be on the lam in the sense of evading the law, disappearing¹⁸.

The sign that distinguishes slangs from idioms is that the first ones, unlike idioms, are not understood by the majority outside the group, since they are used within a certain group. Idioms are widely used and at first glance have two meanings: lexical meaning and figurative meaning. Idioms lose their lexical meaning and acquire a metaphorical meaning. For example, the expression *tie the knot* is used as an ordinary phrase in the sense of “tying a knot”, and as an idiom – “getting married” and is understood by the general population.

According to most linguists, *jargons*, which are essentially closer to slang, are figurative expressions created by individual professional groups, and slangs are figurative expressions created by members of social groups with different cultural levels. Slangs are distinguished from jargons by having a relatively rough, humorous, dynamic, funny level.

The third paragraph, called “***Structural features of slang***”, deals with synthetic, analytical, abbreviation, reading of words from back to beginning, and other methods of slang.

In English, in the synthetic method, *smiley* (“sign”, “symbol”), *hacker* (“programmer”), *pally* (the cherished form of the word “friend”), *firee* (“person fired”), *folee* (“victim of a lie”), *lampy* (“smart”), *gutsy* (“fearless”), etc. slangs arise.

Some slangs are used in the form of sentences and are used to express greeting, agreement, dissatisfaction. For example, *Long time no see* means “we haven't seen each other for a long time”. Among the complex slangs that occupy a large place in the English language, slangs with adjective – noun composition (*rotten – rat* “lost confidence”), noun-noun composition (*couchpotato* “who spends a lot of time in front of the TV”), verb-noun composition (*cut the mustard* “meet expectations”), prepositional-noun composition (*from hell to breakfast* “as a whole”) are widespread.

¹⁸ Partridge, E. A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English / E.Partridge, P.Beale. – New York: Routledge, – 1984. –1400 p.

Cases of violation of phonetic, grammatical and lexical norms in the formation of slangs are widely observed.

- Violation of the phonetic norm is observed in the fall of a sound or syllable at the beginning, middle and end of a word ('round=*around*,' *bout*), in words ending in the suffix-ing (*hangin'*, *sayin'*, *spendin'*) and in other cases;

- Violation of the grammatical norm occurs in the use of two negations in the sentence (*Don't nobody try to fancy pants*), in the use of improper prepositions (*This happens to other people*), in the violation of the word order in the formation of the general question (*Got you an extra blanket?*) and in other cases;

- Cases of violation of the lexical norm are observed in many points. For example, the development of a *damn*-type expression in slang (*goddamn* "damn the devil"), the development of the expression and *all in* an artistic and official-business style (*They are nice and all*), the use of complex epithets "Sleep-with-the sheep-and-no -fire-order", "to be drop - dead gorgeous" and etc. cases are considered violations of the lexical norm.

In the first chapter, it is concluded that slangs belonging to the English spoken language are linguistic units that express a new effect expressiveness, figurativeness, laconicity in the language, used by individual social groups, in many cases included in nationwide use and having different structural features.

Chapter II of the dissertation, called "***Socio-thematic classification of English slangs***", consists of five paragraphs.

In the first paragraph, which is called "***Slangs related to lifestyle and household***", the reflection of the customs and traditions of the English people from the past to the present in the form of figurative expressions in the lexicon of the language is investigated. For example, the love of British people for tea led to the emergence of the English phrases *5 o'clock tea*, *high tea*. However, despite the use of the word "tea" in these expressions, the meaning of "meal eaten in the afternoon or evening" is reflected. As a slang expression, *5 o'clock* was related to people who came together at that time to have a good time together. *Builders' tea* traditionally refers to the

dark colored tea with added milk that workers drink during their breaks.

The slang *vidiot*, derived from the words *video* and *idiot* (“silly”), has emerged to describe young people who play video games excessively.

In the second paragraph, called **“Slang about the characteristic features of a person”**, many positive and negative characteristic features of people – intelligence, stupidity, love, friendship, understanding, greed, cunning, anger, pleasantness, beauty, ugliness and other concepts are expressed.

English slang, reflecting a person's inability to control their psychological state or emotions, is expressed through different lexical units: *ass* – “stupid”, “boor”, *boob* – “fool”, *bucket-head* – “silly”, *crasy-cat* – “crazy”, *dizzy* – “foolish”, *jay* – “inexperienced”, etc.:

*“Don't be a dumb bunny.”*¹⁹

*“Don't be a jackass – come down of the roof.”*²⁰

Slangs expressing the concepts of love and friendship are observed in many simple and complex English slangs: *sugar* “beloved”, *sweet potato* “cute”:

*“Look at that little dog; isn't it a sweetie.”*²¹

*“Annie always called Arnold her sweetie pie.”*²²

In the English language, there are many synonymous slangs that express the concepts of “making love”, “falling in love”, “marrying”: *hit it off* “liking someone at first sight”, *puppy love* – “teenage love”, *to fall head over heels* – “to fall madly in love”, *to hook up* – “to meet someone secretly”:

*“I didn't believe John and Mary's love at all, because I thought it was just puppy love.”*²³

¹⁹ Spears, R. NTC's Dictionary of American Slang and Colloquial Expressions / R.A.Spears. – New York: McGraw-Hill, – 2000. – p.124

²⁰ Longman, A.W. Dictionary of Language and Culture. Longman / A.W.Longman. – England: Longman. – 1978. – p.700

²¹ There again, – p. 1366

²² Makkai, A.A Dictionary of American Idioms. Fourth edition / A.Makkai, M.T.Boatner, J.Gates. – Chikago: Barron's educational series, –2001. – p.344

²³ Makkai, A.A Dictionary of American Idioms. Fourth edition / A.Makkai, M.T.Boatner, J.Gates. – Chikago: Barron's educational series, – 2001. – p.285

There are also many slangs that express the concepts of “friend” and “friendship”: *dawg* “close friend”, *chum* “bosom friend”, *bestie* – abbreviation of “best friend”, *homegirl* “close girlfriend”, *BFF* – acronym for “best friend forever”, *homeboy* “close boyfriend” etc.:

“You, homeboy! Come here!”²⁴

Concepts denoting the ability to understand, comprehension, and judge find their expression in a group of synonymous slangs: *feature* “to understand”, *slow on the draw* “poor understanding”, *tumble* “to understand” etc.:

It was a long time before she tumbled (what I meant).

In English, the fact that a person is stingy and thrifty is expressed through a group of slang: *mingy* “stingy”, *penny-picher* “thrifty”, “stingy”, *piker* “stingy”, “greedy”, *squazer* “who does not give money to anyone”, “stingy”, *sticky-fingered* “stingy”:

Sodon't be so mingy.

Slangs expressing pleasant feelings and satisfaction are especially widely observed: *bully*, *goody*, *sanytary*, *strictly*, *stunning*, *terrific* “very nice”, “perfect”, *tawny*, *tip-top* “very nice”, *vow* “great success” etc.:

“Bully for you, Alvin! the class cried out as one man.”; “They had all the goodies – new cars, a big house, holidays abroad-that a higher income brings.”

The third paragraph, entitled “***Slangs related to profession, activity and occupation***”, is represented by a large number of colorful slangs.

Occupational slang covers a wide range of groups, from teachers and doctors to athletes: *cheerleader* – “dancer girl”, *grunt* – “private soldier”, *schoolie* – “teacher”, *loony doctor* – “doctor-psychiatrist”, *mouthpiece* – “lawyer”, *pill-bag*, *white coat* – “doctor”, *alley cat*, *business girl*, *fansy lady*, *hooker*, *joy sister*, *loose lady*, *puta* – “whore”.

The slangs used in the speech of sailors are used in everyday speech in different ways: *full cargo abroad* (literally “deck load”)

²⁴ Longman, A.W. Dictionary of Language and Culture. Longman / A.W.Longman. – England: Longman. – 1978. – p.636

“drunk person”, *to go a'lasking* (literally “sailing ships onward”) “to behave freely”.

Seagull – “frozen chick”, *poor John* – “salted fish”, *soft Tommy* – “bread” and others are figurative expressions widely used in the speech of sailors.

A group of slangs expresses the concepts of “villain”, “criminal”, “crime” in the speech of students, soldiers, football players: *bump off* – “to kill”, *iron out* – “to kill with a firearm”, *liquidate*, *lay someone out* “to kill a person”, *scrag* – “to kill by hanging”, *wipe out* – to destroy.

*“Hoodlums in a speeding car bumped him off with Tommy guns.”*²⁵

*“Who wiped out his uncle?”*²⁶

One group of slangs for police officers is used among people, and another group is used only by police officers: *bull* – “police officer”, *fink*, *John* – “police”, *John law* – “police department”, *milk wagon* – “a police car that takes prisoners to prison”, *rumble* – complaint to the police, *savage* – “new police worker”.

*“Canadian bulls never bothered me for a minute.”*²⁷

Most of the slangs denoting important personalities are complex in structure: *big cheese*, *top dog* – “leader”, “head”, *big fish* – “important personality”, *buddy seat* – “authorized person”, *rate* – “very respectful”, *big shot* – “important person”:

*“Bill had been a big shot in high school”; “His brother wanted to be big cheese around.”*²⁸

A group of slang related to people's activities includes trade and commercial areas: *bootlegger* – “prohibited works”, *boomer* – “temporary work”, *boom stick* – “a temporary worker on a railway”,

²⁵ Makkai, A.A Dictionary of American Idioms. Fourth edition / A.Makkai, M.T.Boatner, J.Gates. – Chikago: Barron's educational series, – 2001. – p.47

²⁶ Spears, R. NTC's Dictionary of American Slang and Colloquial Expressions / R.A.Spears. – New York: McGraw-Hill, – 2000. – p.470

²⁷ Ayscough, S. The Dramatic Works of William Shakspeare, Vol. 2: With Explanatory Notes; To Which Is Added, a Copious Index to the Remarkable Passages and Words/ Ayscough S. – London: Forgotten Books, – 2018. – p.27

²⁸ Makkai, A.A Dictionary of American Idioms. Fourth edition / A.Makkai, M.T.Boatner, J.Gates. – Chikago: Barron's educational series, – 2001. – p.31-32

button up – “to complete the task successfully”, *clock watcher* – “lazy worker”, *pumpkin roller* – “farmer”, *dirty neck* – “farmer etc.

“*The landlord was something of a sport and at first really felt sorry for our pumpkin roller.*”²⁹

In the process of filming, there are many slangs that are used by directors, cameramen and actors and are familiar only to themselves:

Abby singer slang refers to the shot before the last shot of the day and is derived from the name of the assistant director;

Back in is slang for returning to work after a break;

The place noun *Hollywood* is converted into a verb, indicating the need to remove something that prevents the camera from moving during filming: *Hollywood it*.

In the fourth paragraph, called “**Culinary slangs**”, the names of drinks and foods and the verbs associated with them are used in a slang function with high emotional connotations: *broken arm* – “uneaten portion of meal”, *scouse* – “poor quality and cheap food”, *shoot* – “to put food on the table”, *rabbit food* – “greens”, *put on* – “to eat as much as you want”, *read one’s plate* – “eat with a break”, *dine and dash* – “to eat at a restaurant”, “to go without paying the bill” etc.

Names denoting a part of culinary equipment become metaphorical and express non-culinary concepts. For example, the lexicon of tableware is used in English both in its nominative sense and in its figurative sense, and it expresses the physical or spiritual qualities of a person, etc.³⁰: *sieve* - a doctor who admits every patient he sees in the hospital; *fork* – figuratively “fingers of the hand” etc.

The fifth paragraph, entitled “**Music, Dance, Party and Ceremonial Slang**”, presents a large number of slangs used especially by young people, which cover an important part of the English way of life: *boy band* – an all-boys group; *to bust*, *to flow* – to rap; *boogie*, *boogy*, *bust a groove* – to dance; *pago* – to jump and

²⁹ Sleeper, J. Turn the rascals out: The life and times of Orange County's fighting / J.Sleeper. – Trubaco Canyon, CA: California Classics, – 1973. – p.94

³⁰ Akhundova, G.I. Household lexicon in Azerbaijani and English languages / G.I.Akhundova. – Baku: Afpoliqraf, – 2017. – p.36

dance; *ABC party* – a party where everything is worn except clothes, *rager* – a party attended by a large number of high school students, where alcohol was consumed, resulting in chaos, etc.

As it can be seen, the brevity, liveliness, and high expressiveness of the concepts related to all areas of English culture, the characteristic features of the people who carry this culture, their professions, activities and occupations, and their everyday life, obtained by passing through the filter of emotional relationships, have led to the emergence of slang figurative expressions and these figurative expressions have taken an important place in the stylistic lexicon of the English language.

Chapter III of the dissertation, called “*Linguo-cultural aspect of the English slang*”, consists of three paragraphs.

The first paragraph, called “*Socio-cultural roots of the slang*”, examines the semantic-stylistic features of figurative expressions, including the slang lexicon, created in the language under the influence of the English social and cultural lifestyle.

Since it exists in undivided unity with language and culture, the issue of understanding English figurative expressions, including slangs, is considered one of the most pressing problems of linguistics. This relevance is due to the fact that the difficulty that arises both in the process of communication with English speakers and in the interpretation of English texts is in some cases associated with figurative expressions of an English culturological nature.

The methods of overcoming difficulties arising in the interpretation of culturally characteristic figurative expressions, as well as specific denotative lexicon in another language, occupy an important place in the researches of a number of prominent Western linguists. The inseparable unity of language and national culture is widely touched upon in the researches of prominent linguist V.Humboldt. The researcher writes that there is an inseparable connection between language and lifestyle and a number of other extralinguistic factors³¹.

³¹ Humboldt, W. On Language: the diversity of human language – structure and its influence on the mental development of mankind. Second edition / W.Humboldt. – Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, – 2000. – p.115

The inseparable unity of language and society, the connection between language and people's way of life forms the central line of ethnolinguist E.Sapir's research. Recognizing language as an integral part of society's life and outlook, the researcher concludes that language is a guide to social reality, a source that reflects the cultural past of the people who speak it and helps to learn it. As noted by E.Sapir, language is the guide of the socio-cultural reality of the people, determines the development of human thinking related to social life, language is not just a means of communication, but a social phenomenon³².

A common aspect of the approaches to the essence of slang is the attribution of this language unit to the social dialect. Researcher A.D.Schweitzer expresses the fact that each social dialect belongs to a certain language collective in the following way: "Social dialect or sociolect is a set of language features belonging to one or another social group and is closely related to the influence of profession, class and age factors"³³.

Sociolects differ in that they are peculiar names and phrases, expressed by grammatical means inherent in the general language. As noted by slang researcher E.Partridge, the use of slang has a stylistic purpose and creates imagery, but unlike other figurative expressions, slang is an unstable and unsystematic linguistic phenomenon used in everyday speech. Slang is a product of human creativity and is related to the mood and conscious activity of individuals belonging to different social groups³⁴.

In other versions of the English language, a lot of figurative expressions have appeared, reflecting the social, historical, cultural realities of the respective country. A large number of figurative expressions, including slangs, have appeared in connection with the peculiar way of life of the peoples of the United States of America, Canada, Australia and other English-speaking countries.

³² Sapir, E. Selected writings of Sapir in language, culture and personality / E.Sapir. – Berkeley and Los Angeles: Univ. of California press, – 1963. – p. 612

³³ Schweitzer, A.D. Modern sociolinguistics: Theory, problems, methods. / A.D.Schweitzer. – Moscow: Book house "Librokom" – 2012. – p. 110-112

³⁴ Partridge, E. Slang: Today and Yesterday / E.Partridge. – New York: Routledge (Taylor and Francis group) – 2015. – p.267

The fact that the language is a unique system of signs, reflecting what is happening in social and cultural life, is clearly reflected in the fact that different cultures overlap in terms of all their signs, and in the presence of many denotative and connotative expressions in different languages. In this regard, the study of a foreign language should be taken in inseparable unity with the way of life and traditions of the people who speak it³⁵.

According to the point of view of J.J.Gumperz and S.C.Levinson, who confirmed that language and the material and spiritual life of the people are inseparable, culture influences people's thoughts through language, and the misunderstandings we face in other languages arise because each language is based on cultures and psychologies unfamiliar to representatives of other nations³⁶.

Studying the socio-cultural background lexicon of each nation makes it possible to revive information about the names of objects and concepts related to that background in different languages. V.S.Vinogradov, one of the outstanding researchers of linguistic and cultural ties, calls the socio-cultural information characteristic of each ethnic group the background information³⁷.

The linguistic layer associated with the culturological and social background is perceived by all mentioned researchers as a layer at the intersection of language and culture, showing that this layer reflects the entire spiritual world, from national traditions, national worldview to folklore, religious views, beliefs.

G.P.Lakoff and M.L.Johnson studied the inseparable unity of the language with the national culture and the national outlook at the same time within the framework of figurative expressions and noted

³⁵ Nvaige, S.Ch. New slang in the English language of the 20th century: in comparison with literary English: / diss. candidate of philological sciences / - Dushanbe, 2007. – p.87

³⁶ Gumpers, J.J. Rethinking linguistic relativity / J.J.Gumpers, S.C.Levinson. – Cambridge: Cambridge university, – 1960. – p. 1

³⁷ Vinogradov, V.S. Lexical issues of translation of artistic prose./ V.S. Vinogradov. – Moscow: Publishing House of Moscow University, – 1978. – p.124

that objective reality is expressed by different metaphorical means in the lexicon of different languages³⁸.

The correspondence of this idea to reality can be seen in the fact that in different languages the same concept is expressed in different figurative expressions in different languages. For example, the British express the idea of the head of the family to feed his family well and provide the necessary food with the phrases “to bring home pork”, and Azerbaijanis express the idea of “to bring home bread”. This clearly proves that conveying the same connotation in a different way is directly related to the difference in the lifestyle of each nation.

It follows from this that in the appearance of figurative expressions in the lexical composition of each language, the customs, worldview and other cultural signs specific to the national reality and lifestyle of the people to which that language belongs play a basic role. In the creation of English slangs, the cultural signs belonging to English-speaking societies played a basic role. There are many examples that reflect this reality. For example, Americans express the concept of “pretending to be sick” based on the characteristic feature of an animal called an *opossum*, this is related to the animal's characteristic of pretending to be sick when attacked.

Or, in American English, the concept of agility of flight attendants in serving airplane passengers is associated with a monkey whose figurative expression is distinguished by its agility: *air-monkey* “stewardess”.

These linguistic facts show that the emergence of figurative expressions in different languages is purely cultural in nature and is closely related to the outlook, psychology and other factors of the people who speak this or that language.

The role of extralinguistic factors in the lexical development of each language is touched upon in G.V.Herk's research³⁹.

³⁸ Lakoff, G. *Metaphors we live by* / G.Lakoff, M.Johnson. – Chicago: University of Chicago, – 1980. – p. 3-5

³⁹ Herk, G.V. *What is Sociolinguistics?* / G.V.Herk. – Oxford: Wiley Blackwell, – 2013. – p. 188-192

Under the influence of a foreign background, in the lexicon of different languages, we find the expression of the same concept by different lexical means even in variants of the English language. In the lexicon of each of these variants, it can be seen that figurative expressions, including slangs, which reflect the unique lifestyle, material and moral qualities of the social groups of the United States of America, Britain, Australia and other English-speaking countries convey the same concept through different lexical means.

Apparently, English slang originates from the unique lifestyle and culture, mentality and way of thinking, worldview of English-speaking peoples, and the concept of slang is a purely cultural phenomenon.

In the second paragraph called “*Variability of slang*”, the issue of expression of the same or similar stylistic-emotional meaning in different structures is touched upon. Like other figurative expressions, slang is expressed through different language units according to its lexical composition. For example, *to bury the hatched* and *to bury the tomahawk* slangs meaning “to stop the war”, “to put the sword in the scabbard”.

The variability of English slang mainly manifests itself in two ways: a) lexical variability, b) lexical-stylistic variability.

a) Lexical variability is characterized by the expression of the same concept with different words and groups of words:

Props – kudos. Both of the slangs encountered are used in the sense of “respect” and there is no semantic difference between them:

“*I know Sarah will fail the test, but you have get to give her props for trying.*”⁴⁰;

“*Kudos for organizing such a party. It's so amazing.*”⁴¹

A group of synonymous slangs consists of completely different words: *Law key – guilty pleasure* “not to admit”, “refrain from admitting”.

⁴⁰ skyeng.ru/articles/55-slov-anglijskogo-slenga (55 most common English slang words)

⁴¹ There again

Another group of synonymous slangs consists of the first component of the same, and the second component of different nouns: *a piece of cake* – *a piece of piss* “very easy”, “quite easy”

A group of synonymous slang consists of different nouns and the same adverb: *game is up* – *jig is up* “development of the plan”.

A group of synonymous slangs consists of the first component of the same noun, and the second of a different noun: *Jesus boots* – *Jesus shoes* “sandals worn by hippies” etc.

b) Lexical-stylistic variation includes slangs with different emotionality, expressiveness, and different stylistic load. For example, *as mad as one can be*, *as mad as a wet hen*, *as mad as a hornet* slangs express different degrees of emotionality and expressiveness of the concept of “getting angry” (“going crazy”, “getting mad”).

An experienced translator avoids “neutral” translation by using figurative expressions that reflect the emotionality and connotative meaning of the original in the native language in the transformation of figurative expressions in English, and in this way they try to preserve the stylistic character of the original.⁴²

The lexical-stylistic variability of slang occupies a wide place in the English language. For example, the synonym of the English verb *to be (get) angry* *to be shirty* means less emotionality, while the variant *to blow a fuse* means higher emotionality.

Babe-bomb-shell

These synonymous slangs, which are compared, express different degrees of emotionality of the concept of “beautiful woman/girl”. *Babe* refers to an attractive woman with relatively little emotionality, while *bomb-shell* refers to an extremely attractive woman with a high degree of emotionality.

The mentioned low or high degree of emotionality of synonymous slangs should be taken into account in their adequate transformation into another language.

⁴² Nvaige, S.Ch. New slang in the English language of the 20th century: in comparison with literary English: / candidate of philological sciences, dissertation./ – Dushanbe, 2007. – p. 17

In the third paragraph of chapter III of the dissertation called “*Semantic transformation of English slang*”, the issue of transformation of slang, which is widely encountered in the communication process or in the interpretation of the original text, is investigated. Like other figurative expressions, the discovery of the semantic-stylistic equivalent of English slang in the native language is relevant from the point of view of intercultural communication. In the semantics of slang, universal, cross-cultural background knowledge specific to a specific culture plays the role of a resource. For instance, the *blue chip* slang used in the sense of “expensive investment” is related to a concept characteristic of the English financial system: *We only deal with blue chip companies*. “We only deal with companies with expensive investment”

Here, *blue-chip* (literally “blue glass shard”) is related to the English financial and industrial life, and its meaning is an emotional variant of the concept of “expensive investment” in English. However, in the absence of such an emotional variant in another language, that concept can be transformed descriptively into another language.

But another group of slang is found in other languages with an emotional variant. This is due to the fact that, unlike slangs belonging to economic, scientific and other specific areas, some slangs mean a concept of a general nature for the way of life of all peoples. For example, English *alley cat* is slang for “slippery-footed woman” and it is possible to use the phrase “slippery-footed” to emotionally transform alley cat slang into our native language.

Or, since the slang *arm and leg* (“excessively expensive”), which arose in the English socio-cultural environment, expresses a universal concept (“expensive”), this slang in our native language is “to be at the price of fire”, “to set the price on fire” (“to be exorbitantly expensive”) can be transformed through expressions. As noted by the researcher I. Levin, the task of the translator is not to create the elements and structure of the original, but to understand its function and apply the elements and structures of the other language

so that, if possible, it becomes a functional substitute for the material of the translated language⁴³.

Originating from English cultural-social realities, there are more slangs that express universal concepts and have functional equivalents in other languages, and this does not fully correspond to the theoretical views in linguistics that figurative expressions do not have semantic equivalents in other languages.

This point of view can be applied only to figurative expressions, including slangs, that express specific economic, scientific, sports and etc. realities, not figurative expressions that express universal concepts.

The results obtained in the dissertation work are summarized as follows:

- Slang is a figurative expression of spoken language, a language unit used to create an emotional, lively effect in speech;

- Slangs appear in the speech of individual social groups in origin, becoming understandable mainly to members of those groups, and in many cases they are used to ensure the secrecy of opinion between members of the group. Slang also serves to create a high mood among the members of the group, cause laughter, concisely, succinctly and jokingly expression of thoughts;

- Slangs are divided into two main groups, special and general. Special slangs are used only among the members of this or that social group, and general slangs are used outside the framework of the group, in the national colloquial language;

- Slangs are created by simple, derivative, compounding, semantic change, and shortening methods, and sometimes they appear in the form of a sentence;

- Slangs express all aspects of the English way of life, social structure, culture, unique characteristics of people, mutual relations of members of social groups, concepts related to profession, occupation, activity, music, dance, cooking and ceremonies in a figurative and emotional way;

⁴³ Levyi, I. The state of theoretical thought in the field of translation. // – Moscow. Translation skill, – 1970. №10, – p. 415.

– Being a linguistic language phenomenon, slangs reflect all extra-linguistic realities like a mirror, like other figurative expressions, slangs are based on cultural and sociological background, it is impossible to create slangs outside of that background;

– A wide group of slangs serves for the emotional, expressive expression of the way of thinking, mentality, ethnic characteristics of people belonging to British society;

– Slangs have lexical or stylistic-emotional variations: synonymous slangs that differ in lexical, structural terms; synonymous slangs that have both lexical, structural and different stylistic-emotional degrees;

– The wide representation of slangs in the field of intercultural communication determines the relevance of the issue of their transformation into another language;

– In the process of communication, the transformation of English slangs into another language is possible through two main methods – descriptive or revealing and using its equivalent in another language, which has the same emotionality, vitality, dynamics, in order to preserve the connotation, stylistic and emotional function of the original;

– The wide representation of slang, which is a type of figurative expressions, in the English language increases the importance of acquiring practical habits about the specific linguistic features of this language unit in the process of modern globalization.

The main content and scientific provisions of the dissertation are reflected in the author's following scientific articles and the materials of her reports at the scientific conference:

1. Etymology of the concept of slang in English and ways of their formation // “Contemporary problems of applied linguistics” III International scientific conference. – Baku: – December 25-26. – 2018, – p. 94-95;
2. Sociolinguistic features of slang used by sailors // XIV International scientific and technical conference “Problems of Water Transport” dedicated to the 96th anniversary of the birth of

- national leader Heydar Aliyev. – Baku: – May 2 – 2019, – p.220-223;
3. Ways of forming slang in English // XXIII Republican scientific conference of doctoral students and young researchers. – Baku: – December 3-4 – 2019, – p. 177-179;
 4. Lexical-semantic groups of slang used by young people in English // – Baku: Elm & tahsil, ANAS, Institute of Manuscripts named after M.Fuzuli, Philological issues, – 2020. № 2, – p.128-134;
 5. The role of internet slangs in modern linguistics // – Baku: Scientific works of Baku Girls' University, – 2020. № 1 (41), – p.15-23;
 6. Level of study of slang used in English // – Nakhchivan: Scientific works of Nakhchivan University, – 2020. № 3 (18), – p. 128-135;
 7. The impact of new technologies on the vocabulary of the English language in the context of globalization // “Innovative trends, realities and modern challenges in ensuring regional development” republican scientific conference. – Mingachevir: – December 11-12 – 2020, – p. 501-503;
 8. Functional characteristics and classification of English slang // Scholarly notes of the Tauriyya National University named after V.I.Vernadsky Series: Philology. Journalism – 2021. Volume 32 (71), № 4, Part 1. – p.125-128;
 9. Slangs about the characteristic features of a person according to thematic classification // – Baku: Baku Slavic University, Current problems of studying humanities, –2021. № 4, – p. 93-99;
 10. Thematic groups of American military slang // XVI International scientific conference “Tolerant values in the modern world” dedicated to the 115th anniversary of Mammadhuseyn Shahriyar. – USA, East Lansing. Michigan: – July 26 – 2021, – p. 119-123;
 11. Thematic groups of slang used by sailors in English // XXIV Republican scientific conference of doctoral students and young researchers.– Baku: – November 23-24 – 2021, – p. 321-323;
 12. Sociolinguistic features of slang used on the film set // I International scientific conference on sustainable development

- strategy: global trends, national practices and new goals. – Mingachevir: – December 10-11 – 2021, – p. 296-297;
13. Sociolinguistic characteristics of slang used in American fiction // – Baku: Elm & təhsil, ANAS, M Institute of Manuscripts named after M.Fuzuli, Philological issues, – 2022. № 1, – p. 68-75;
 14. The problem of translating slang in English // – Nakhchivan: Scientific works of Nakhchivan University, – 2022. № 1(25), – p.162-168;
 15. Exploring the concept of slang in a globalized society // – Baku: Scientific news of Azerbaijan University of Languages, – 2022. № 3, – p.42-44;
 16. The importance of teaching slang in upper secondary schools // XXV Republican scientific conference of doctoral students and young researchers. – Baku: – November 23-24 – 2022, – p. 113-116.
 17. The importance of studying slangs used in the field of medicine in English // “Modern aspects of modernization of science: status, problems, development trends” XXXVII International Scientific and Practical Conference. – Czech Republic, Brno: – November 7, – 2023, – p.96-99.

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