

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

On the rights of the manuscript

ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

COGNITIVE ASPECTS OF SLANG

Speciality: 5708.01 – Germanic languages

Field of science: Philology

Applicant: **Leyla Eldar Seyidzade**

Baku – 2023

The work was performed at the Department of Lexicology and Stylistics of the English Language-1 of Azerbaijan University of Languages.

Scientific supervisor: Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professor
Nigar Chingiz Veliyeva

Official opponents: Doctor of Philological Sciences,
Associate Professor
Rena Teymur Safaraliyeva

Doctor of Philosophy on Philology
Khatira Avaz Gojayeva

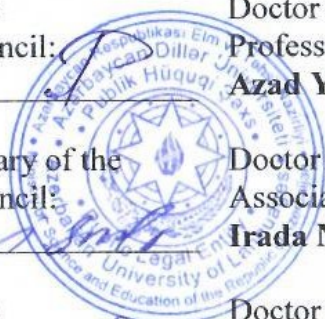
Doctor of Philosophy on Philology
Chinara Zahid Shahbazli

Dissertation council ED 2.12 of Supreme Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan operating at Azerbaijan University of Languages.

Chairman of the
Dissertation council: Doctor of Philological Sciences,
Professor
Azad Yahya Mammadov

Scientific secretary of the
Dissertation council: Doctor of Philosophy on Philology,
Associate Professor
Irada Nadir Sardarova

Chairman of the
scientific seminar: Doctor of Philological Sciences,
Professor
Fakhraddin Yadigar Veysalli



GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WORK

Actuality of the topic and the degree of research. Over the last 20-30 years a lot of research has been conducted and is being conducted in new areas of linguistics – cognitive linguistics, text linguistics, discourse. In addition to research in this field linguists are also interested in the study of written language, the analysis of living language, spoken language, being one of the important areas in terms of the function of language. In some senses, the minimum system of the national language is the first system in terms of phylogenetics and ontology, and is an important issue in terms of its social and individual meaning in terms of its range.

Prominent linguist L.V.Sherba once said that literary language created a little bit; it takes more than created by living beings, the life of language zips, and it develops in the living language of individual groups¹. The fact that language performs a different function is derived from spoken language, which has an elementary and basic form. The study and research of spoken language should be considered extremely important because spoken language is the only real language and all speech can be considered the norm of the form of communication. This approach to the problem allows us to assess the importance of our research.

One of the most common forms of spoken language in English is slang. Slang is a very interesting concept that generally exists in any language. In modern times this layer of the lexical system of the language is very actively expanding. Slang is especially prevalent among young people and new ones are being formed. This is due to the fact that many of the restrictions that have existed so far in public and private life have been removed, and therefore it is actively expressed in language, people are not afraid to express their views as they wish. In some cases, the use of slang is considered to be associated with illiteracy; actually it is not.

Slang, as a rule, differs significantly from the norm of literary language and is the first to react to every event in society, to be able

¹ Sherba, L.V. Language system and speech activity. / L.V.Sherba. – Leningrad: Science, – 1974. – p.30

to assimilate them. Therefore, slangs are becoming more popular among young people.

The multifaceted study of the semantics of the lexical units of the English language, the study of words and slang is one of the current semantic areas. Our research is based on the study of slang both from a cognitive point of view and on their classification, developmental features, and the identification of semantic features. We believe that these are the main factors that determine the relevance of our research.

At different times researchers have approached the subject from different aspects and presented their research. Among them are I.R.Galperin, I.V.Arnold, L.Soudek, E.Partridge, O.Jespersion, G.Lakoff, M.Johnson, R.S.Ginzburg, C.Coleman, S.Roth, S.Ullman, T.M.Belyayeva, V.A.Xomyakov, G.A.Sudzilovskiy, A.I. Smirnitskiy, R.Spears, M.M.Makovskiy expressed their views on this topic.

In Azerbaijani linguistics, slang is rarely studied from a cognitive point of view. The study of cognitive aspects of slang is comprehensively discussed and analyzed in our research paper. However, it should be emphasized that Azerbaijani linguists have extensive and comprehensive studies in the field of cognitive linguistics. Topics such as the theoretical foundations of cognitive linguistics, the main units of cognitive linguistics, the issue of concepts in cognitive linguistics, and cognitive semantics have been extensively researched by Azerbaijani linguists. Among such linguists, the names of well-known scientists such as K.M.Abdullayev, A.M.Gurbanov, M.I.Adilov, F.Y.Veysalli, F.H.Zeynalov, A.A.Abdullayev, A.Y.Mammadov, F.F.Jahangirov, N.Ch.Valiyeva can be mentioned. N.Ch. Valiyeva touched on the topic of slang in her works, but presented the term she used as “vulgar words” and “jargons” instead of “slang”.

The main difference and advantage of our study is to reveal the cognitive aspects of slangs, and this study is considered to be the first work in this field.

The object and subject of the research. The *object* of the research is the cognitive aspects of slang in English.

The *subject* of the research is the systematization and generalization of the cognitive aspects of slang in English.

The goal and objectives of the research. The main purpose of the dissertation is to clarify the origin of the term "slang", its semantic-cognitive aspects, jargon, dialect, differences from colloquial language, connection with cognition, classification. Speaking about the objectives of research we would like to emphasize that in order to achieve this goal, it is important to do the following:

- to reveal the features of slangs from other lexical units;
- systematic study of English slang;
- to determine the functions performed by slangs in English;
- to identify the differences of slang in English from jargon, vulgarism, colloquial language, social dialects and simple language.

Research methods. The research uses descriptive methods, cognitive modeling, as well as semantic-syntactic and contextual analysis of metaphorical slang to analyze the synthesis of factual material, generalization, comparison and observation to reveal the regularity of metaphorical nomination.

The main provisions for defense are:

1. Slang in English is a subsystem of the English language.
2. The English slang system is usually justified by the existence and removal of various prohibitions over a period of time and in a situation.
3. The ban on English slang and its removal differs from the literary language of English both quantitatively and qualitatively.
4. At the same time with the norm of literary language, English slang has its own norm.
5. It is impossible to agree with the idea that existing slangs are often created by means of metaphors.
6. In many cases, some of the words used as slang are apparently identical to words in the English literary language and may be derived from the roots of words in different languages.

Scientific novelty of the research. The scientific novelty of our research can be traced to the origin, formation and development of slangs, as well as their transformation into literary language over

time, to study their cognitive connection, to classify slangs by summarizing these ideas, to study their origin and use them from a social and functional point of view. Another aspect is that in many cases the study of these slangs within the text in the examples of fiction is also very important from a scientific point of view. Slang is used not only in colloquial lexicon, but also in the works of various authors. In our opinion, these can also be considered as scientific novelty of research.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research.

Theoretical provisions of research can serve as a theoretical source for the study of words belonging to other groups in the language, especially in the study of other groups of words (vulgarisms, social dialects, etc.) in the study of slang.

In terms of practical significance, the research material can be useful in compiling special slang dictionaries, dictionaries of slang words of social groups (individual), as well as in the preparation of materials for specialized master's students.

Approbation and application. The main provisions of the dissertation are reflected in the articles and theses published in the scientific journals of various universities of the Republic as well as in collections published abroad.

Name of the organization where the dissertation is performed. The work was performed at Department of Lexicology and Stylistics of the English Language-1 of the Azerbaijan University of Languages.

The total volume of the dissertation with a sign including a separate volume of the structural units of the dissertation. The dissertation consists of an introduction, 3 chapters, a conclusion and a list of references. The introductory part of the dissertation is 4 pages, 6863 characters, Chapter I – 47 pages, 87440 characters, Chapter II – 32 pages, 56480 characters, Chapter III – 38 pages, 68087 characters, Conclusion part 2 pages, 2556 characters. The total volume of the dissertation is 221426 characters, excluding the list of references used.

BASIC CONTENTS OF THE WORK

The **introductory** part of the dissertation presents the relevance and degree of development of the topic, the object and subject of research, goals and objectives, research methods, the main provisions of the defense, scientific novelty, theoretical and practical significance, approbation and structure of the work.

The Chapter I is called “**Modern Linguistics and Slang**” and consists of three sub-chapters. The first half of the first chapter is devoted to the “*Concept and the origin of the term “slang”*”. It should be noted that slang is now widely used and understood in the language, and although it has a new meaning, it is generally far from the standard language and polite use in general. As for its origin, it can be considered as an attempt to bring a new expression to the language. Slang can either become obsolete after a certain period of time or enter the standard language.

“Slang is an unofficial word or phrase that is more commonly used in colloquial language. They are used and employed by a certain group of people, such as children, criminal soldiers and so on”².

Speaking about slangs, I.V. Arnold noted that there are different types of slangs in English: school slangs, service slangs, sports slangs, newspaper slangs, etc.³.

The New Webster’s Dictionary and thesaurus of the English language defines the term “slang” as following:

“Slang [origin unknown] – 1) language to a particular group: as a) the special and often secret vocabulary used by a class (as thieves, beggars) and usually felt to be vulgar or inferior argot; b) the jargon used or associated with a particular trade, profession, or field of activity; 2) a non-standard vocabulary composed of words and senses characterized primarily by connotations of extreme informality and usually a currency not limited to a particular region

² Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary / Oxford: Oxford University Press, – 2005. – p.1209

³ Arnold, I.V. The English word / I.V. Arnold. – Moscow: Vyssh.Shola, – 1973. – p.140.

*and composed typically of coinages or arbitrarily changed words, clipped or shortened forms, extravagant, forced or facetious figures of speech, or verbal novelties usually experiencing quick popularity and relatively rapid decline into disuse*⁴.

“The New Oxford Dictionary of English” also explains the notion of “slang”:

*“Slang – a) the special vocabulary used by any set of persons of a low or disreputable character: language of a low and vulgar type; b) the cant or jargon of a certain class or period; c) language of a highly colloquial type considered as below level of standard educated speech, and consisting either of new words or of current words employed in some special sense”*⁵.

From the interpretation of both explanatory dictionaries, it is clear that slang is a non-standard vocabulary. In any case, the question arises that if slang is a unit of language, then why it does not gain the status of a language. M. Webster’s dictionary explains that some slangs become part of the literary language after a while and then it enters the dictionary. It is true that M. Webster’s dictionary states that the origin of slang is unknown, but its origin is explained in the Oxford Concise Dictionary of English Etymology as following: *“Slang (orig. but now differentiated from) cant, jargon XVIII: colloquial language of an undignified kind XIX. In its earliest appearance a cant term variously applied, with general implication of irregular or lawless activity variously specialized, of uncertain origin”*⁶.

At present, slang differs from cant and jargons depending on both its semantics and scope.

O. Jespersen, who has a special place in Western linguistics, wrote about slang: *“Slang is a form of speech in which expressions are different from ordinary spoken language are forcibly introduced into society and owe to the desire of the human personality to go*

⁴ Webster’s Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged / – USA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., – 1992. – p.11

⁵ The New Oxford Dictionary of English / – Oxford: Oxford University Press, – 2001. – p.12

⁶ The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology / – Oxford: Oxford University Press, – 2003. – p.44

*beyond the norm. The main impetus for the creation of slang is a kind of “superiority of mental and emotional perception”, slang is “love of play” of humanity, the human race.”*⁷

Speaking about slang, V.A.Khomyakov noted that there are two types of slangs – *general slangs and special slangs*. He substantiates his conclusions as following: *“Slang is a unit of language that is a key component of ordinary spoken language (and the author calls them the second level norm – S.L.). These include, on the one hand, social variants, i.e. cant and pro-cant forms of speech (rhyming slangs, etc.), professional and corporate jargons, and on the other hand, widespread general social concepts, very different genetic composition and a degree of approximation to the norm of the first level.”*⁸

Based on the above assumptions and opinions about the concept of slang, we have discussed the cognitive semantic aspects of some slangs in English. As mentioned, slang is formed and used in different areas and by different groups of people. In order for any word or expression to have meaning, both motivation and metaphor are important, otherwise we would not be wrong to say that the same thing happens in slang, as no word can be used in a new meaning. It would be useful to give an example here.

In English, the word *fat* is *well supplied: having an overabundance of something* – in addition to the fat/thick, fat/oily, well-stocked meanings in the Azerbaijani language, it also means stupid, incomprehensible meanings. At the same time, depending on the context, the word is used as slang when approached from a cognitive point of view and expresses a kind of negation, i.e. a semantic nuance different from the lexical meaning.

I'm not fat-cat. I'm usually financially embarrassed in fact.

I could settle down in fat city without any trouble.

⁷ Jespersen, O. Mankind, nation and individual from a linguistic point of view / O.Jespersen. – Oslo: Aschehoug, – 1925. – p.151.

⁸ Khomyakov, V.A. Three lectures on slang / V.A. Khomyakov – Vologda: VGPI, – 1974. – p.63.

As can be seen, the word “fat” is combined with the word “city” meaning space as well as comfort when it is used in the context.

A.I.Smirnitsky noted that, on the one hand, the concept of slang is closely related to the emotional-expressive features of the word, on the other hand, due to its origin, slang often includes the vocabulary of a limited, professional, social and any other group. It is a style of speech that is not genetically spoken or offered in a certain social context⁹.

While agreeing with this view, we would like to point out that in all cases, while the situation and context play a role, the intention (intensity) of the speaker must not be overlooked. This is one of the basic conditions in communication, and cognition necessarily requires it, otherwise communication cannot take place and the transmitter does not understand the information at the required level.

Concluding this chapter, we have come to the conclusion that every researcher and lexicographer has different views on the origin of slang. Some of them call slang a low-level vulgar word, others a variety of socio-professional jargon, and another group a non-literary special colloquial language. In our opinion, if the language belongs to the society, there is no society without language, no language without society. The change in society inevitably affects the language of society, and approaching the issue from this point of view, paying close attention to each of the ideas about slang, we would like to emphasize that none of these conclusions is perfect. If at first slang appeared only as the jargon of thieves and robbers, now each profession has its own slang as well as slang that are used in the norm of literary language.

The second subchapter is called “*Cognitive and semantic aspects of slang*”. When discussing the cognitive aspect of slang, some ideas about metaphor and cognition are mentioned in the formation of meaning, and help to clarify the issue.

In order to adequately describe the internal mechanism of speech and what the speaker does, what strategy he uses in speech,

⁹ Smirnitsky, A.I. Lexicology of the English language / A.I. Smirnitsky. – Moscow: MSU, – 1998. – 201 p.

these aspects of the speech production process can be called cognitive in terms of modern sciences, which are also associated with the emerging approach to language; they are the connection between the cognitive approach to language and the emerging approach. Within this approach, the problems of philosophy, logic, psychology, and linguistics, as well as the relationship between language and thought, change direction¹⁰.

Aristotle writes about it: *“Everything that can be obtained by the word belongs to the realm of thought. This includes proof, negation, the inner world, for example, like mercy, anger and the like, the formation of mental states as well as increase and decrease. It is clear that in the interpretation of events, as in the verbal interpretation of thought, if these events are to be portrayed as weak, terrible, great, or ordinary, the means used must be taken from the same sources, with the only difference that the actions of the actor (in our version, the slang used is S.L.) should be clear and vivid, regardless of the game, and what is in the content of the speech should be expressed by the speaker and the speech should find its manifestation as an action that occurs independently. Indeed, if the speaker (conversations) ((by themselves)) made a good (bad) impression, then what would be the duty of the speaker? ” Some of the aspects of verbal expression that need to be followed are the types of expressions that are known, such as supplication, narration, threats and questions, and the work of a person who knows the meaning of such things”¹¹.*

The general meaning of both quotations is that communication does not occur without cognition and background knowledge because cognition is also a joint product of linguistics, which communicates as philosophy (cognition), logic, psychology of differences and their combination. As for the reinterpretation of words, first of all, the researches of the American linguist G.Lakoff are mentioned, and on the basis of these researches, as noted in the

¹⁰ Abdullayev, A.A. Basics of cognitive linguistics / A.A. Abdullayev. – Baku: Sabah, – 2006. – p.16.

¹¹ Aristotle. On the art of poetry / Aristotle. – Baku: Azerneshr, – 1974. – p.91

linguistic literature, metaphor is distinguished from metaphorical expressions.

G.Lakoff writes, *“Metaphors are able to convey our experience in a new sense. However, it can give new meaning to our past; to what is happening in our daily lives, what we know and what we are absolutely sure of, and so on.”*¹²

In this research, G.Lakoff uses the phrase “Love is work” and emphasizes that this group includes 17 metaphors. We do not intend to list these metaphors, but it should be noted that when we look at such metaphors we can understand many different issues in terms of cognitive linguistics and different semantics as a result of metaphor. As we mentioned earlier about the word “fat” because each word has the ability to be used in combination with another word to form a combination or to express something. Let’s compare: *fat-head, fat-city, fat-man, fat-chance, fat-cat* in each compound word the word “fat” is metaphorized to create a new semantics or semantic connotation (expression), but in all cases it is also used as slang, although the lexical meaning is preserved in the deepest layer.

Another aspect is that slang words are not considered appropriate because language belongs to society, and as society develops, social groups in society use slang words in accordance with their level of intelligence, profession, and work activity.

In the third subchapter, we discussed *“The differences of slang from jargons, social dialects, vulgarisms, colloquial speech and primitive (simple) language”* Here, as W.von Humboldt said, *“language always develops with people, and man perceives himself as one word by means of another. However, when it comes to the social nature of language, it is understood as the nature of the national”* to a certain extent we took this idea as the main one.¹³

Although language is connected with the activity of the people and their thinking, it also has its specificity and independence, its stability. The process of speech and language are interrelated, but not

¹² Lakoff, G. *Metaphors we live by* / G.Lakoff, M.Johnson. – Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, – 2003. – p.140.

¹³ W.von Humboldt. *Selected works on linguistics* / W. von Humboldt. – Moscow: Progress, – 1984. – p.27

the same. The form of language is constant, but its formation is different. Language is a form, and nothing else is a form¹⁴.

Language should be seen as a creative process, not a dead product¹⁵.

As part of the national language, it includes colloquial language, dialect, jargon and vernacular. They differ significantly in scope, nature, character and quality. For example, while vernacular dialects are found in all areas of the national language, dialect elements can be found only in the dialect to which it belongs, and so on¹⁶.

A.M.Babayev describes jargons as following: *“Jargon is a means of artificial communication used to hide an idea based on one or more language materials from others. Jargon is developed by a certain group and is understood by them.”*¹⁷

I.R.Galperin describes jargon as follows: *“There are a group of words in the non-literary dictionary of the English language called jargons. Jargons also arise the use of old words in new meanings. The traditional meaning of these words is abstract, but the new meaning is important.”*¹⁸

We would like to note that although what is said about jargon is almost the same; in linguistic literature it is sometimes called argot.

N.Valiyeva characterizes the features of slang as follows: slang words appear in informal conversations of professional or social groups and they are divided into two groups. The first is that the naming of objects and processes on a professional level, for example, *picture show*- is not related to cinema in any way but purely based on the military concept and it is officially called *battle*. Another group

¹⁴ W.von Humboldt. Selected works on linguistics / W. von Humboldt. – Moscow: Progress, – 1984. – p.27

¹⁵ Ibid, – p.69

¹⁶ Gurbanov, A.M. General linguistics: [in 2 volumes] / A. Gurbanov. – Baku: Nurlan, – Vol.2. – 2004. – p.147.

¹⁷ Babayev, A.M. Introduction to linguistics / A.Babayev. – Baku: Mutarjim, – 2017. – p.346.

¹⁸ Galperin, I.R. About the term “slang” // – Moscow: Publishing house of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Questions of linguistics, – 1956. No. 6, – p.112.

denotes non-professional objects, events, phenomena and processes. For example, *big gun* is used as *an important person*¹⁹.

We have mentioned the opinions of some linguists about jargon and slang, and there are also vulgar words or vulgarisms, dialectics and colloquialisms about which linguists and researchers have at different times expressed valuable opinions that we would like to comment on (despite the fact they are not the sphere of our research). However, in order to determine whether slang is different from those groups, it would be more logical to mention the specific features of that group of words and enrich the content of our research.

N.Valiyeva also spoke about vulgar words and I.R.Galperin's jargon of thieves. At the same time, the process of replacing slang in English is continuing, and in this regard, L. Bloomfield wrote about the replacement of "*beat it*", "*he hot footed it home*", "*let her go*"²⁰.

In general, in linguistic literature vulgarism is considered to some extent ethically and aesthetically inferior. In our opinion, this is due to the fact that vulgarisms arose in the deepest layers of language at a time when society was just being formed, and it is no coincidence that at a certain stage of society's development some of them were considered taboo – they are evaluated as prohibited words and expressions. Naturally, vulgarism cannot be equated with cant, slang or dialect; it is an ancient component of the vocabulary of the language (in our version, English).

It should be noted that the semantics of each word, expression, slang, etc. depends directly on the situation in which it operates and only within the context, in space and time. In all cases, except for motivation, there must be coherence without which there is no communication, and naturally transmitted information will not be understood by the addressee.

¹⁹ Valiyeva, N.Ch. Communicative-pragmatic paradigm of English lexicology a linguistic approach / N.Ch.Valiyeva. – Baku: Science and Education, – 2014. – p.59.

²⁰ Blumfield, L. Language (translated from English) / L. Bloomfield. – Baku: Prestige printing house, – 2014. – p.247.

“Drink that drink”, said the hunter. “You need it. Who in hell sent you?”

Here, through cognition and background knowledge, it can be determined that *“who in hell”* used in this context may in any case act as a synonym for some other expression (i.e. colloquialism), but the person using slang deliberately so that not everyone understands some issues to some extent, and we think slang is appropriate in this context.

In general, in the first chapter we have studied the origin of slang, its cognitive and semantic aspects, jargon, dialect, colloquialisms, and in all cases we have seen space, time and situation in the foreground, we also showed in context that those who use these expressions (slang) transmit and receive information, do not have an unambiguous attitude to the issue and we were able to interpret the differences between jargon and vernacular from this point of view.

The second chapter of the dissertation, entitled **“Classification of slang”**, discusses slang and their semantic features, as well as their classification.

The first subchapter of the chapter is devoted to ***“Slang used by young people and their semantic features”***. In modern times, slang is used in every field, especially among young people, military slang, computer slang, student slang, etc. can be shown. Speaking of slang, L.Bloomfield writes, *“There are such differences within the standard language framework that these differences depend on the fate of communication. Different economic classes – let's say very rich and the so-called “middle class” – differ in different degrees and in speech. Differences in education also differ in both cases, according to family traditions and educational opportunities. In the less important type of technical occupation, these differences are emphasized: when we talk about different areas of other arts – trade, engineering, advocacy, psychiatry, science, painting, etc.- something changes. ... This is very difficult and almost attracts our attention:*

among them we are more concerned about the desire of young people to slang.”²¹

At the same time, M.M.Makovskiy claims that slang existed before the formation of literary language and developed independently of the literary language, and secondly, the history of slang is closely linked with the evolution of society, formed on the basis of colloquial norms. Slang is a special, historically less and more widely spoken language variant (mostly in accordance with lexical norms), formed and developed in the context of oral speech, genetically and functionally different from jargon and professional language elements²².

We agree with the above and at the same time note that, in fact, slang differs from jargon and professional vocabulary in that in many cases slang is either synonym for ordinary lexical words, its connection with cognition is strong within the context, that is accepted and understood by most users of the language. Another aspect is that today we can see the reasons and significance of its truly long evolutionary path.

If we talk about the function of slang, then there is “communicativeness”, the relationship between individuals can also include “perception, understanding” and cognitive aspects, and slang vocabulary usually contains “additional information” because in some cases the word that calls the essence of slang can be able to express what is happening around him more precisely or succinctly. It is safe to say that this is a service of communication and motivation of slang with cognition. Therefore, after a certain period of time these slang words can be included in the vocabulary of the language.

In particular, the slang used in the speech of young people is in itself a subsystem, and they are constantly changing because the generation is changing, the attitude to objective reality is changing, the way of life is changing, and so on. For example, much of the

²¹ Blumfield, L. Language (translated from English) / L. Bloomfield. – Baku: Prestige printing house, – 2014. – p.55

²² Makovsky, M.M. Linguistic essence of modern English "slang" / M.M. Makovsky. – Foreign languages at school, – 1962. No. 4, – p.104.

slang of the first half of the twentieth century was lost in the second half. Also, the slang of the youth of the XXI century is very different from the speech of the youth of the XX century, of course, our idea is not to study all of them from the point of view of history. However, when studying slang in the lexicon of young people and students in recent decades (at least at the sentence level) we have considered it important to analyze their connection with cognition, and research was carried in this direction.

For a long time, there were certain restrictions in public and private life. There was an unequivocal opinion in society that the use of slang is the result of illiteracy, and on the other hand, such words – slang – do not correspond to the generally accepted norms of literary language. As for young people, on the contrary, they always react more quickly to the first changes in social life, and therefore slang is very popular among young people.

Speaking about slangs, I.V. Arnold writes that slang words are words that are compared, clarified and defined with standard literary dictionaries. Words of this kind are often ironic and serve to create new, fresh words, create new creative names, and are often found in the discourses of young people. These include the following slang words. For example, we use words *beans*, *brass*, *dibs*, *dough*, *of wads*, *wads* instead of *money* or *attic*, *brain-pan*, *hatpeg*, *nut*, *upper floor*, instead of the word *head* etc.²³

It should be noted, that although these words mean *beans* separately, young people use the word *bean* as a slang synonym for *money*. We must emphasize the role of context and situation, as well as cognition, because in another reference, the word *bean* is used in connection with the word *old bean* means *old friend*.

In fact, it is not so difficult to learn the slang used by young people. To do this, it is possible to be among them regularly and communicate with them, hear the necessary slang and easily understand their meaning. In all cases, it is important for everyone to know grammar well, as well as to know exactly how words are used metaphorically in the language. Mastering slang seems to us to mean

²³ Arnold, I.V. The English word / I.V. Arnold. – Moscow: Vyssh.Shola, – 1986. – p.249.

understanding different styles of speech, as well as being able to use those slangs when and where they are needed. For this, it is important for everyone to include in their speech and lexicon the sayings of famous people, fragments from fiction, successful expressions from feature films. For example,

“Did you see Harry last night?” said the girl at her left, addressing her neighbour. – “No”. – “You ought to have seen the tie he had on. Gee, but he was a mark.

Our emphasis on *“he was a mark”* is slang, because the meaning of this expression is a completely metaphorical sentence, and the context dictates that the semantics are there, in the previous sentence *You ought to have seen the tie he had on. – You saw him in a new tie!* thought created this metaphor, and that slang was formed on its basis. In our opinion, it is not right to connect slang only with education, for example, when you do not want to go to a party, you think that all your relatives, colleagues and friends will be there, so you have to go.

Damn bruh, how let him finesse you like that? – Əbləh, sən necə oldun ki, özünü belə hərəkət etməyə vadar etdin.

The slang *“finesse”* used here refers to a person who achieved something in a deceptive way. This slang is based on the word *“fine”*, where the word took the ending *“esse”* as a diminutive element (i.e. in the eyes of young people) and moved away from its original meaning and expressed a negative meaning. In general, the vast majority of slang in young people's speech is synonymous, but young people either abbreviate words or expressions or use them in a modified form.

The second subchapter deals with *“Military slang”*. World Wars I and II created conditions for the emergence of new military slang. During the two world wars, the military advised conscripts to obey orders and to give up their wishes for the safety of the regiment, battalion, and unit.

Soldiers shorten their surnames, think of new words among themselves, give each other nicknames and give officers new nicknames, as well as give names (slang) to objects and events in military life. However, slang sometimes has a very variable meaning,

and the use of the term is not so important. For example, (belonging to World War I) “*debus*” – unloading from a bus (1915), “*human sources*” – “people” (1915), “*maintenance*” – insignificant attention (1918) and so on.

In general, people living in monogamy who do not differ from each other in any way, strengthen their sense of solidarity by using slang among themselves. For example, soldiers name officers (soldiers) because of the difference between their uniforms and those of officers and senior officials.

At the bottom of the hierarchy, the oppressed group has said goodbye to their individuality around them, and the ideal conditions have been created for the development of slang, and in which case people unite in resistance to forces. In any case, life at the bottom of the hierarchy is seldom harmonious, and military slang helps conscripts to discuss the differences between them, even before the creation of an alternative hierarchy, because each branch of service (branch) is suspicious of others (looks at them with contempt).

Let’s look at the semantic shades of several military slangs: *coffee-cooler* – light job seeker / vagrant (1862-1977 USA), *dog-rubber* – duty officer (1863 USA) and *a boy scout* – inexperienced soldier (1918-1920 USA). These examples suggest that the alternative hierarchy works formally in tandem, and that such terms as, for example, “*old soldier*” – a man who shied away from duty and work, refusing to be assigned to dangerous work (1723) show that sometimes the alternative hierarchy rises, and they can skillfully oppose the government. In contrast (in the United States before 1943), a soldier is called *an eager beaver* who make an impression on his command. Still, during World War I, the word *ace* was used to refer to a pilot who shot down various enemy aircraft (1916), but during World War II, the word *ace* was used sarcastically and describe “incompetent and stupid man”. In the course of research, we can relate such cases to the fact that the meaning of the term (slang) can change depending on the context (of course, we talked about it in the first chapter). including the semantic nuances of military slang can change both in terms of motivation and metaphor, and ultimately in cognition.

Speaking about group slang or corporate slang (jargon), V.A.Khomyakov writes that group and corporate slang (jargon) are inextricably linked, for example, in institutes and schools, in the army, in sports, in music, in tourism and among other group of people is more common²⁴.

According to D.Howard military slang brings people belonging to different groups closer to each other²⁵.

In general, military slang differs from other slangs, so various researchers have talked about their origin and formation. However, the research of Q.A.Sudzilovsky is of special importance among these researchers, and we appreciate his classification and accept his conclusions.

G.A.Sudzilovsky notes that slang is a lexical-semantic word formation due to the formation of morphological (complication, affixation / formation / abbreviation, sound imitation, conversion) phraseological combinations, borrowing from other languages, local dialects and jargon of English²⁶.

This subchapter also discusses other descriptions and groupings of military slangs, as well as the specific slangs of each type of army, and the cognitive aspects of these military slangs are explained in the dissertation based on examples from the works of military authors.

The third chapter is called **“British and American Slang”**. The first half of this chapter discusses the features of the use of British slang.

When we pay attention to the explanation of the word slang in linguistic literature, as well as the place of use of words belonging to this group, whether in the example of fiction or in ordinary speech, we understand that these are words and expressions used in social and regional tones. It cannot be ruled out that in the first place they

²⁴ Khomyakov, V.A. Introduction to the study of slang, the main component of English vernacular / V.A. Khomyakov. – Vologda: VGPI, – 1971. – p.66

²⁵ Howard, D. United States Marine Corps Slang // American Speech, – 1956. Vol. 31. №3, – p. 188.

²⁶ Sudzilovsky, G.A. Slang – what is it? English colloquial military vocabulary. English-Russian dictionary of military slang / G.A.Sudzilovsky. – Moscow: Military Publishing House of the Ministry of Defense, – 1973. – p.43

are intended to conceal the meaning of the conversation because if it is in the lexicon of social groups, then they choose such options only for people in their circles to understand.

The encyclopedic dictionary also states that slang in English is like jargon and belongs to English-speaking countries and is a variant of spoken language, including slang, which is an expressive element of spoken language and does not correspond to the norms of literary spoken language²⁷.

I.V. Arnold points out that there are many slang synonyms in English, such as slang synonyms for *head* is *attic*, *brain-pan*, *hat peg*, *nut*, *upper story*, as well as slang synonyms like *drunk* is *cockeyed*, *high*²⁸.

The research also notes that slangs are divided into general slangs and special slangs according to the area of development.

When it comes to the nature of development, it should be noted that if a person in the United Kingdom is indifferent or disrespectful to another, then he addresses that person as follows and says:

Stop dissing her behind her back. Show some respect!

It seems that in this slang, who owns this or that expression, and if he uses such an expression it makes the semantics a little easier. In the second sentence, “*Show some respect, be merciful!*” it acquires a completely different semantics and conveys a kind of message not only to the other side, but also to the person himself, in order to adapt his character to some kind of society and thus to the level of mutual understanding between the transmitter and receiver of information.

There is a common slang in the UK “*Bob’s your uncle*” which is usually added to the end of a sentence to complete the idea. In fact, this expression is often used during a conversation between one person after another to approve the other’s job.

In English, the phrase “*milk for babies*” means that any work can be done easily, but there is a similar slang.

²⁷ Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary / Oxford: Oxford University Press, – 2005. – p.1235

²⁸ Arnold, I.V. The English word / I.V. Arnold. – Moscow: Vyssh.Shola, – 1986. – p.249.

The arrogant student thinks that it is very easy to take the exam, and when he is asked:

-What do you think of the exam? I thought it was really difficult. -No, it was a piece of cake!

It should be noted that the vast majority of slangs have a different form of language, some of which once existed, archaized or are now used in the language, but a group of people especially young people try to express such words and phrases in their own slang and they do.

The best food is pizza.

In fact, *bestest – the best of the best* is the idea exists. It should also be noted that some English slangs are created by complicating the initial words.

Talking about the cognitive aspect of slang, it is noted that in some cases slang can be metaphorical. In English, the word "*crush*" literally means to crush, squeeze, crush, destroy, and all of these meanings represent be physically destroyed. However, in the meaning used by young people, this word-slang has a different semantic tone. *My heart broke when I found out my crush was seeing another person.*

Apparently, in this context *crush* in the lexicon of young people means to be with a loved one, to step into life together, and it is their slang. From the point of view of cognition, the task can be justified by another aphorism or by change of meaning. "*Any woman will love any man who bothers her enough.*"

The subchapter concludes that although many slangs used in English are applied as slang in the lexicon, in the deepest layers their meanings either coincide or are used metaphorically, and this is directly related to cognition.

The second subchapter deals with "***The connection between slang and cognition***". It is noted that many words in the language undergo semantic changes as a result of changes and development in society.

Just as words take on new meanings, slangs changes, takes on new meanings. All of this applies to cognition in general, as well as to the transfer of meaning in metaphorization in language. We can

clearly see this in the fact that most of the words related to shipping were later used as terms for aviation and aviation. A ship floating on the sea – an aircraft, a seaport – an airport, a desert ship – a cotton harvester, a combine, etc.

Try to show through cognition that the English verb “to get” has different semantic shades.

There was no time to make a getaway, so we had to talk to Mrs. Wilson.

Get away! – “Stop being pest!” I don’t believe you.

Don’t bother me! Get away!

Get away! Nobody is that stupid!

In the above-mentioned sentences, one of the two slangs with the same word structure was written together, the other is separate and thus both slangs have a different semantic load. If the first of them has the semantics of getting rid of the law, the other means to be annoyed, naturally we can distinguish them through the situation and cognition.

Changes in culture, politics and the economy, new technologies, communication via the Internet, in general, all these are aspects that have a serious and strong impact on our cognition, thinking and language.

Tahir Salahov’s new album slayed.

Yeah, he totally killed it.

Apparently, it is not a question of physical destruction, it is possible to understand through cognition that the album is a work of art that amazed people looking at it, as if they were watching a completely different mysterious world. Such an example can always be said about works of art, although these words are like slang, but their connotation is positive, because the context in which they are developed dictates to us that cognition is closely related to context, space and time.

Although slang words are called non-standard, non-normative lexicons in English, since language belongs to society, the influence of social events on language cannot be denied, new slang words also appear which together with their cognitive aspects are used in a certain space, time and context.

The third subchapter deals with “*The connection between American slang and cognition*”. First of all, L. Bloomfield’s views are of special interest here. L. Bloomfield writes that unlike the connotations of foreign books, slang connotations are salty-funny and more freely used: the people who use slang forms are mostly young people, athletes, gamblers, miscreants, criminals. They use these forms with confidence.

Examples are familiar, let’s say so, *guy*, *gink*, *gazebo*, *gazook*, *blake bird* are used for "for men", *rod* and *got* for "pistol", the slang form can also be in the form of a foreign word, for example, *loko* – "crazy", *sobby* – "to understand", *wamoose* – "to disappear" are words from Spanish slang. The value of slang is often determined by humor: a word form used in any slang can take on new meanings over a long period of time²⁹.

It should be noted that slang traditionally occupies a special place in Anglo-American lexicography, and after some time they even enter the dictionaries of literary languages with new semantic nuances (of course, not all). The words in the vocabulary of the language have emotional, expressive, evaluative and stylistic connotations. I.V. Arnold notes that these four components also apply to slang. Slang is a layer of language that is more learned or more descriptive, as well as more controversial. Slang words are usually rude or humorous colloquial words and expressions, and thus try to present their novelty and originality³⁰.

From linguistic literature and observations, it follows that slang words, especially American slang, are distinguished by humor and short lifespan.

*“H.P.D. means Hotel Protective Department, which is the department of a large agency that looks after cheque bounces and people who more out by the back stairs leaving unpaid bills and second-hand suitcases full of bricks.”*³¹

²⁹ Blumfeld, L. Dil (ingilis dilindən tərcümə) / L. Blumfeld. – Bakı: Prestij çap evi, – 2014. – s.145.

³⁰ Arnold, I.V. Stylistics of modern English / I.V. Arnold – Moscow: Flint, – 2016. – p.115

³¹ Chandler, R. Farewell, my lovely (Farewell My Lovely and Stories) / R.Chandler. – Moscow: Raduga Publishers, – 1983. – p.22

The word “*cheque bounces*” used in this context is slang, and the next sentence clarifies that it is a fraud, i.e. to give someone a check without payment. In reality, there is no money, he gives a fake check and leaves the back door without paying. In the emergence of slang semantics, firstly, the word “*cheque*” is combined with “*bounce*”, which leads to cognition, and it is possible to determine the semantics of slang used in the logical meanings of the expressions “*back stairs*” and “*unpaid bill*” in the sentence, so that what the author means is understood by the recipient of the information. At the end of the chapter, it is noted that the understanding of each word, expression or slang depends on both the context and the cognition, as well as the specific space and time.

Studying the cognitive aspects of slang, we can summarize our **Conclusion** as following:

After studying the cognitive aspects of slang, we came to the following conclusions.

1) Language is a mirror of culture. What is happening in the life of the people, the nation, what is happening in the life of the speakers of the language, either standard or non-standard words can be reflected in the system of that language.

2) In English, slang is considered to be an integral part of the lexical system of the English language.

3) English slang is not just a random grouping of lexemes, they are not randomly included in a slang group. The emergence of each slang occurs separately in a certain period of time, in a situation and due to some kind of demand of social groups.

4) Along with and interacting with various social dialects and literary standards, slangs are and are distinguished with some degree of accuracy by the language system. That group of words (slangs), like other layers of the language, changes from time to time with changes in society and the emergence of new concepts (they can change their semantics or processing, function), but mainly its lexical, grammatical and phonetic composition is from the elements of regional dialects of the English language. It doesn't go away at all; on the contrary, it sticks to the root words.

5) English slang consists not only of lexical content, but also phonetic and grammatical aspects.

6) People migrated from one settlement to another at different times and brought their own dialect words to the new place, and thus certain slang was created.

7) A limitation in the language system is enforced by a norm, and this process leads to the elimination of another existing limitation. The mentioned process is considered a dialectical process. Therefore, the norm creates different variability in the language, and slang acts as a type of that variability, that is, a synonym.

8) When slangs need to exist in the language, they enter the system and form a “raw material” and more or less a microsystem.

9) It is difficult to imagine spoken English (standard spoken) without slang.

10) The role of semantic derivations in the formation and processing of slangs is very wide.

11) Slangs are known to have undergone historical development and have been formed from regional dialects.

12) The idea that slangs always “express metaphors” is not true.

13) In many cases, slang words have completely different roots, even though they overlap with words in the English literary language.

14) Slangs have a somewhat complex structure. They are the main component of the colloquial language and show a two-form concept, that is, slangs are general on the one hand, and special on the other, forming a microsystem during speech.

15) There are special slangs in the English language, which are called *kent* and are expressed in a secret code. There are professional jargons in the English language that are considered to be slang.

16) The role of cognition in clarifying the meaning of slang in English is quite wide.

The main provisions of the dissertation are reflected in the following works of the author:

1. English and American military slang of the period of two world wars in English linguistics // – Baku, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Manuscripts named after M.Fuzuli, “Philological issues”, – 2017. №17, – p.208-216.
2. Features of the use of British slang // – Baku, Actual problems of studying the humanities, – 2018. №4, – p.92-95.
3. Internet slang in modern dictionaries // Republican scientific-practical conference “Actual problems of foreign language teaching”. – Baku, – December 6-7, – 2018, – p.153-154.
4. Semantic features of some slangs in English // – Baku, “Language and Literature” International scientific-theoretical journal, – 2018. №4 (108), – p.195-197.
5. Semantics of some slangs used in everyday speech in English with cognition // – Ужгород: “Закарпатські Філологічні студії”, – 2019. Том 1, випуск 7, – с.103-107.
6. The use of English slang in informal communication in cognitive aspects // – Baku, Actual problems of studying the humanities, – 2019. №4, – p.96-101.
7. About learning of slang // – Baku, AUL, “Language and literature”, – 2019. Volume IX, №4, – p.63-69.
8. The cognitive and semantic aspects of slangs // “Science and Education: Problems and Innovations”. Сборник статей III Международной научно-практической конференции, состоявшейся 12 февраля 2020 г. в г.Пенза. – Пенза: МЦНС «Наука и просвещение»: – 12 феврал – 2020, – с.221-223.
9. Difference of slang from jargon, social dialects and vulgarism // "Scientific work" international scientific journal, "Materials of the II International scientific conference on humanities and social sciences". – Baku: – December 18, – 2020, – p.103.
10. Military slangs // “Scientific Work” international scientific journal, “Fundamentals of Humanities and Social Sciences” Materials II Republican scientific conference. – Baku: – December 22, – 2020, – p.21.

11. Features of slang used in the speech of young people in English // “Scientific work” international scientific journal, 1518 High Impact factor. – Baku: – 2021. volume: 15, number: 4, – p.123-125.
12. The relationship of American Slang with cognition // Актуальные научные исследования Сборник статей III Международной научно-практической конференции, состоявшейся 5 декабря 2021 г. в г.Пенза. – Пенза: МЦНС «Наука и просвещение»: – 5 декабр – 2021. – с. 269-271.
13. Differences of Slang from Dialects, Vulgarisms and colloquial Language // Видавничий Дім «Гельветика»: Вчені Записки Таврійського національного університету імені В.Ж.Вернадського, Серія: Філологія. Журналістика, – 2022. Том 33(72), №2, Частина 1, – с.259-264.

The defense will be held on 31 May 2023 at 11⁰⁰ at the meeting of the Dissertation council ED 2.12 of Supreme Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan operating at Azerbaijan University of Languages.

Address: AZ 1014, Baku, Rashid Behbudov Street, 134.

Dissertation is accessible at the Azerbaijan University of Languages Library.

Electronic versions of the abstract is available on the official website of the Azerbaijan University of Languages.

Abstract was sent to the required addresses on 28 April 2023.

A. Cyoll

Signed for print: 28.04.2023.

Paper format: _____

Volume: 39294 characters

Number of hard copies: 20