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**ABSTRACT**

of the Dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**SEMANTICAL FEATURES OF MODERN BRITISH SLANG  
AND THEIR WAYS OF EXPRESSION IN AZERBAIJANI  
LANGUAGE**

Speciality: 5708.01 – German languages

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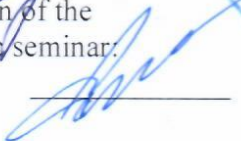
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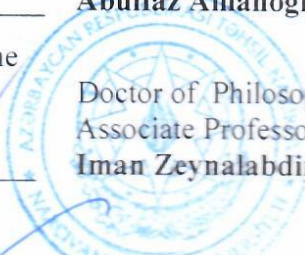


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## GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESEARCH

### **Actuality of the topic and the degree of research.**

Clarification of all aspects of the social differentiation of language is one of the urgent problems of modern linguistics. An in-depth study of this problem is especially important in terms of clearly showing the direction of language development and its causes, revealing the relationship between people's living conditions and language options.

Slang is a type of informal layer used by certain social groups and professions (teachers, students, military, youth, gamblers, prisoners, etc.) as well as people living in different geographical areas. Slang acts as a kind of code. The use of this type of informal layer creates a sense of belonging among group members and effectively excludes outsiders. People outside the group are reluctant to use such words in general contexts because they do not understand or misinterpret them. Slang terms are often short-lived, and most never become general words. However, some switch to standard English at certain times. In this case, these words and expressions lose their affiliation with a certain social group and become common words.

It is a bit difficult to talk about the history of slang, as they are mostly in oral speech. Slang mainly refers to a certain social group, for other groups they are not very important, or it is advisable to keep the meaning of such words hidden from society. For this reason, although the history of the use of slang in the United Kingdom dates back to the sixteenth century, their study began in the nineteenth century, expanded in the twentieth century, and continues in the twenty-first century.

British slang needs to be studied in terms of studying the specifics of linguistic, cultural and social groups. Opinions on the classification, analysis, lexical and semantic features of slang in linguistic researches are different. British slang has not only become the subject of research by English researchers, but also a large-scale study of slang in world linguistics. "Oxford Dictionary of Slang" by English lexicographer John Ayto, James Partridge's "Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English". Jonathan Green's "The vulgar

tongue: Green's history of slang", American researcher Connie Eble's "Slang and Sociability", Richard Spears's "Slang and Euphemism", Italian researcher Elisa Mattiello's "Introduction to English Slang" and other researchers have extensively explored the British slang, its features, areas of development and types. The relevance of this study is primarily due to the importance of slang as an important type of informal layer in the English lexicon. In modern linguistics, a comprehensive theoretical and practical study of slang is important that is not widely studied. The problem of slang is studied in periods of historical development, the types of meanings, semantic features and thematic classification are studied on the basis of dictionaries, fiction and press materials. In theoretical linguistics, British slang is studied and ways of expression in the Azerbaijani language are determined. The above-mentioned issues have not been the subject of extensive research in linguistics so far.

**The object and the subject of the research.** The object of the dissertation is modern British slang. The subject of the dissertation is lexical-semantic features and the ways of expression of slang in the Azerbaijani language.

**The goals and objectives of the study.** The main goal of the research is to identify the semantic features of modern British slang, to classify thematically and to study their ways of expression in the Azerbaijani language. For this purpose, examples from English literature, dictionaries and articles in periodicals were selected. For this purpose, the following objectives are envisaged:

1. To study the modern British slang by periods;
2. To explain the role of modern British slang in modern linguistic;
3. To identify the role of the informal layer in the stylistic differentiation of English vocabulary;
4. To describe the stylistic differentiation of English vocabulary;
5. To identify the place of slang lexicon in English dictionary;
6. To identify the type category of slang, taking into account innovations and changes;

7. To identify the forms of expression of modern British slang lexicon in the Azerbaijan language;

8. Identify the components of figurative language that play an important role in enriching the slang lexicon;

9. Clarify the thematic grouping of modern British slang;

**The research methods.** The dissertation is written on the general scientific methods, descriptive, linguistic analysis and historical-comparative research methods. At the same time, using the sociological diagnostic method, the nature of the slang lexicon formed in the language on the basis of social problems such as discrimination between linguistically different social groups is identified.

**The main provisions for defense are:**

1. Slang, which is an important part of the social differentiation of language, has a limited scope. Slang reflects the practical activities of any group of people and occurs between different social groups that are interconnected.

2. Unlike other variations of language, slang is more common in oral speech and is less common in the literature.

3. Slang refers mainly to the social group to which it belongs, and for other social groups, either the meaning they express is irrelevant, or it is more important to be hidden in the society.

4. English has been constantly enriched in the course of its historical development, new words borrowed, this process has enriched the slang lexicon, and some expressions have lost their slang character and become common words and some common words have become slang used by different social groups.

5. Slang in English has a fairly wide and colorful content. Diversity in content allows them to be analyzed and systematized by semantic-thematic, grammatical-semantic, structural and other parameters.

6. Slang is constantly changing and evolving. Although slangs were used in a narrow sense in the early days, in the following centuries slangs began to be used in daily communication by all social groups. This is explained by the richness of the categories of slang.

**The scientific novelty of the research.** For the first time in Azerbaijan English studies, British slang words are widely studied. The research topic is approached from the point of view of lexical-semantic linguistics. In the dissertation, the history of slang, its functional-semantic aspects are analyzed for the first time. Linguistic factors influencing its development are noted.

The research summarizes the approaches of linguists from different countries and opinions on modern British slang and forms scientific conclusions. The study also clearly showed the differences between slang, argo and jargon in modern linguistics, the definition of the categories of slang, various literary materials and selected examples were evaluated from a linguistic point of view. The above-mentioned issues are considered as the main scientific novelty of the research.

**Theoretical and practical significance of the research.** For the first time in Azerbaijan English studies, modern British slang is studied extensively and in detail. For the first time in linguistics, this type of informal layer is the subject of a study, and slang, its types of meaning are distinguished, historical development, their features are studied and thematic classification is given. The research can contribute to the scientific and theoretical development of the slang phenomenon in English, as well as expand and enrich modern ideas. The theoretical significance of the work is measured by revealing the universal and specific features of the slang involved in the study, identifying their functionally distinctive features. In addition, the research materials and results can be useful in the future study of English linguistically, in the teaching of lexicology courses and in the preparation of textbooks, given the serious importance of translation and lexicography.

**Approbation and application.** The dissertation theme was approved by the Scientific Council of the Nakhchivan State University (27.02.2018, Pr. 06) and also approved by the Literature Problems Council at the Republic Scientific Research Coordination Council (May 16, 2018, protocol No. 05). During the study period, minimum exams in French language and specialty subject were given. 9 articles

have been published in Azerbaijan and abroad, and have been published at international and national scientific conferences. Published articles and conference materials fully cover the chapters and paragraphs of the dissertation.

**Name of the organization where the dissertation work is performed.** The dissertation work was done at the "English language and translation" chair of Nakhchivan State University.

**The total volume of the dissertation with a sign, indicating the volume of the structural units of the dissertation separately.** "Introduction" – 5 pages, 9.643 characters; Chapter I – 32 pages, 65.119 characters; Chapter II – pages 80.125 characters; Chapter III – 29 pages 57.616 characters; "Result" – 3 pages, 4.648 characters. Total volume – 127 pages, 217.151 characters.

## THE BASIC CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

In the "**Introduction**" part of the dissertation, information were given about the relevance of the topic, the object and subject, the goals and objectives, the scientific novelty of the research, its methodological basis, theoretical and practical significance, the approbation of the dissertation and name of the organization where the dissertation is carried out.

The first chapter is entitled "**British Slang: Formation, Research History and Modern Problems**" and consists of three paragraphs. Paragraph "**1.1. Slangs: the essence, history of formation and scientific view of slangs**" analyzes the origin of slang in English, the history of slang in linguistics, the place of British slang in the English lexicon with reference to linguists and researchers from different countries.

The analysis emphasizes that there are different versions of the origin of the term slang. The most prominent is the idea that slang comes from the word "slanguage" (social language), which means "social language", acting as an English variant of colloquial language

used carelessly with social and regional variants<sup>1</sup>. When studying slang, it is necessary to study the differences between slang, argo and jargon, which are types of informal layer. Slang, argo and jargon are words used not only by linguists, but also by various social groups in daily life. The daily use of these words sometimes leads to their use one after the other. Some language users can sometimes confuse these concepts. But there are differences between these language phenomenas. In order to better understand and use them more precisely, it is necessary to clearly explain each of these phenomenas.

Argo (French for argot) used by beggars and thieves in medieval France. In a broader sense, it is any set of specific dictionaries or expressions used by a particular group or class that are not widely understood by society as a whole<sup>2</sup>.

Jargon is a language unit characterized by the widespread use of precision and abbreviations in terminology. Borrowing words, combinations, special prefixes and metaphors are very common in jargon lexicon. Jargon is used by people in a particular profession (programmer, linguist, or teacher) and is deliberately formed to indicate that people are knowledgeable in the field. The most important difference between slang and jargon can be identified in the processing of official documents and correspondence. Also, while slang is used by a language user to hide the meaning of what they are saying from other social groups, jargon is used by a person to indicate that they belong to a certain group.

The history of slang goes back to the Middle Ages. The origin of slang has been the subject of much debate. Some researchers consider all words that are new to the language and not in the dictionary to be slang. Other researchers claim that slang covers a variety of language variations, from hidden social dialects to professional terminology. For example, in the “Oxford Pocket dictionary”, slang is defined as

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<sup>1</sup> Bussmann, H. Routledge Dictionary of Language and Linguistics / H. Bussmann. – London: Routledge, –1998. – p. 230.

<sup>2</sup> Bussmann, H. Routledge Dictionary of Language and Linguistics / H. Bussmann. – London: Routledge, –1998. – p. 85.



informal words and expressions that are not accepted as standard language variations and are used by a particular social group<sup>3</sup>.

From the approaches of various linguists and lexicographers, it can be concluded that slangs differ from the vernacular in terms of vocabulary, and that these words are shaped differently. In the process, they usually take a new (more metaphorical) meaning, or the words are borrowed from other languages. The phonetic, morphological and syntactic features of such words do not differ much from those of the common language.

Paragraph “**1.2. The study of British slang in the period up to the twentieth century**” discusses the history of the study of slang. The history of the use of slang in the United Kingdom, known to the written literature, dates back to the 15th century. Although the history of slang in written texts dates back to the 15th century, the study of slang began in the 19th century, expanded in the 20th century, and continued in the 21st century.

At the end of the 17th century and the beginning of the 18th century, new steps were taken to bring words to the masses that did not meet language standards. Thus, in 1699, an anonymous lexicographer known as B.E. Gent published the first comprehensive dictionary of English "Beyond the Standard". This dictionary was originally written to understand the pickpockets they would encounter when they were forced to enter the suburbs of London's aristocracy. “A New Dictionary of Terms, ancient and modern of the Canhing crew By B.E.Gent” is the first publication dedicated exclusively to slang expressions and words. At the same time, this dictionary is the first publication to show the similarities and integration between vulgar words and slang. B.E.Gent has listed more than 4,000 words and phrases. Some of the key expressions in this dictionary are as follows: *Addle-plot*—the main meaning of which means spoiling any work, activity. *Fiddler's pay-per-view* for a drink instead of money, *suill-*

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<sup>3</sup> Ayto, J. Oxford Dictionary of Modern Slang / J. Ayto, J. Simpson. – Oxfordshire: Oxford University Press, – 2010, – p.160.

*belly-drunk*<sup>4</sup>. All these examples show that in the 16th and 17th centuries, slang, a type of informal layer, was more common among beggars, pickpockets, and criminals, but was also used among a number of other social groups.

From different opinions and considerations, it can be concluded that the history of the use of slang dates back to the XV century, or slang began to be used from the XV century. It should be noted that slang vocabulary was used in English and society in later historical periods. At the same time, slang is widely used today in the 21st century. In the 15th century, slang did not make sense to society as a whole. It was used only by the military and merchants. In the 16th century, slang was used only by certain groups of society (criminals, thieves, beggars, etc.). Slang expressions such as *Patricos*–to walk, *Priggers*–thieves, *doxies*–prostitute can be used as an example of slang created in this period. In the 17th century, slang had a figurative meaning and was used more to describe immoral and evil deeds. *Clap*–clink, *crimp*–card game, *buzzard*–avam, *antiquated rogue*–old thief and others entered the lexicon during this period. In the 18th century, slang began to be used mainly in comedy. And so it entered the lexicon of written literature and art. *Melt*–to spend, *tip*–to lend, *Whiter-Go-Ye*–as wife (lady), dates back to this period. In the 19th century, slang rapidly expanded, and it used in daily conversation by many social groups. The typical slangs for this period are *bus*–public transport, *burra*–a good man, *black-box*–a lawyer and others.

Paragraph “**1.3. Modern British slang in the XX-XXI centuries, research and its place in modern scientific thinking**” analyzes the place of slang in English in modern times, its development, the geography of research. In the past, written publications were the main means of appealing to the masses, but in the 20th century, technological devices that attracted the attention of the masses, such as telephones and television, entered people's lives. Thus, spoken language became as important as written language. In this century, writers began to take advantage of the possibilities of oral

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<sup>4</sup> Gent, B.E. The First English Dictionary of Slang, 1699 / B.E. Gent. – Oxford: Bodleian Library, – 2015. – s.11; s. 134.

speech in their works. In the twentieth century, there was no negative opinion in the written literature against the use of non-standard English. The reason for this was the further democratization of society and the disappearance of the idea that people belong to a certain class, and thus the equal treatment of everyone. The twentieth century was a century in which world wars, technological transformation, and globalization flourished, and each of these concepts led to the introduction of new words into the English lexicon.

Slang is one of the most important types of language, the main function of which is to create a secret connection between different social groups and to ensure the confidentiality of their speech.

Sometimes slang used by a certain group loses its confidentiality over time and becomes a common word understood by the whole society. Slang is one of the most interesting and important elements of the richness of society and language. By looking at slang, one can learn a lot about a nation's way of life, well-being and culture. Slang also affects the functionality of the language, highlighting its creativity, boundaries, flexibility, and the changes it is subjected to. This layer of language can confuse, make people laugh and sometimes make fun of them. It is a part of everyday life and an integral part of language. However, research has shown that it is used more often by teenagers. Teens use slang freely between their groups without being understood by outsiders.

Our research suggests that slang was not widely explored or studied in the early days, but slang was extensively studied, especially in the 19th, early 20th, and early 21st centuries. In addition to English-speaking countries, there are also countries in different parts of the world. In the twentieth century, slang is used not only by thieves and gamblers, but by all social groups, and has become an integral part of oral language. *Tanked*—drink, *cheero*—slim, *birdcage*—person, *knackered*—tired, *gormless*—rude and other slangs entered the lexicon in this period. In the 21st century, slang has expanded its reach by keeping pace with innovations in the internet, social media and technology. *Cap*—lie, *Retweet*—agree, *Fr*—expressions such as truth have taken their place in the oral speech as slang typical of this period.

Along with the widespread use of this type of informal layer in the XX-XXI centuries, research is underway to study this layer. Looking at the research, it is clear that in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, British slang attracted the attention of researchers not only from the United Kingdom, but also from different countries, from Asia to Europe, from America to Australia. As a result, slangs are directly related to the dynamics of language development and can change and improve the scope of development, as well as the characteristics of development in society under the influence of social relations.

Chapter II is entitled "**The role of the informal layer in the stylistic differentiation of the English vocabulary.**" This chapter consists of two paragraphs. Paragraph "**2.1. The concept of formal and informal layer in the stylistic differentiation of English lexicon**" differentiates lexicon in the context of formal and informal layer. A common feature of the concepts included in the literary layer is that they are inclined to the written language and have the characteristics of a formal style. Literary words are mainly used in writing and sometimes in the speeches. When old words are overused and lose their effectiveness, they are replaced by new, vibrant words. From all this, it can be concluded that the inclusion of new words and expressions in the vocabulary of the language, the acquisition of new meanings of words, and so on. Linguistic phenomena engraved and strengthened the historical traces of the English people in the dictionary. Concepts and words included in the literary layer did not hinder the originality and independence of the language, but rather contributed to its development and enrichment.

**Poetisms:** Poetic words or poetisms are lexical units used in the language of works of art, and these words have a more luxurious stylistic tone. Poetics have more lyrical features than stylistic lexical shades.

**Archaisms:** Words that are not used in modern speech because they have obsolete or appropriate synonyms. Archaisms can also be words that are often not synonymous. Because the concepts expressed

by these words have no meaning in modern life, and thus become archaic and out of circulation.

**Terms:** Words related to this layer include not only scientific terms, but also terms that have emerged in various fields of any technique or art. Terms are words and phrases that express more scientific concepts than other layers.

**Barbarism and foreign words:** Words of foreign origin that are not completely assimilated into English. These words are considered derived words and belong to the literary language. Distinguishing barbarisms and foreign words is very important in terms of stylistics.

**Neologisms:** The vocabulary of a language is constantly changing, and this feature is one of the indicators of the uniqueness of each language. One of the important reasons for these changes is the emergence of new concepts in science and technology, changes in social and cultural life.

Slang, which is an important part of the informal layer, is widely studied in the research. Other components of the informal layer are defined as follows:

**Jargon:** A type of informal layer used by special groups to facilitate communication. Kana evaluates jargon as a special type or technical word, noting that it is related to standard language. For example, the word prep is an abbreviation of the word "preparation" and has taken its place in the jargon lexicon. Brown and Attardo regard jargon as some specific term referring to the activities of a profession<sup>5</sup>. As a result, jargon is a language with unique characteristics created to express the feelings of a group.

**Vulgar words:** The origin of this word is the Latin word "vulgus" and is an insulting word. While the lexical meaning of vulgar words and vulgarisms is synonymous with cursing or obscenity, researchers have also found that linguistically these words are not just insults as a non-standard language. For this reason, research linguists use the term *taboo* words too.

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<sup>5</sup> Kana, A. Word formation processes of the jargon used by barista in coffee corner malang. – Malang: Journal Ilmiah Mahasiswa FIB, – 2013. № 01(10). – p. 80.

The paragraph “**2.2. Slang lexicon in the English vocabulary and the forms of expressions in the Azerbaijan language**” focuses on slang lexicon in English and clarifies the category of types of modern British slang. Language users always intend to bring any changes and innovations to it, and as a result, certain changes and innovations occur in the language. Thus, on the basis of these influences, it becomes necessary to introduce new concepts into the language. One of these concepts is slang. Today, thousands of people often use slang in their daily communication. In the past, slang was approached as a degrading, insulting language variation, but today people use slang to differentiate themselves, to prove that they are part of any social group. This relationship between slang and language suggests that slang will continue to exist as long as language exists. As a language develops, so does its slang lexicon, and conversely, if a language declines, then the informal layer, which is an integral part of it, and the slang, which is a type of it, will also decline. Researcher Holmes says that people can use language variations depending on the social situation in which they find themselves. The influence of social factors such as age, gender and social status on the use of slang is undeniable.

Slang, covering a history of six centuries, occupies a special place among the types of the informal layer of language due to its scope. Slang is used by many social groups, which leads to the richness of its types. Approaching this context, linguistic research divides slang into a number of different categories. Thus, Partridge divides slang into eleven main categories. However, when we look at Partridge’s category, we see that some types are not reflected in this division<sup>6</sup>. Taking into account the innovations and changes in science and technology in the XXI century, as well as culture and social life, slang can be divided into the following types:

**Cockney slang.** The cockney slang, which ranks first in the table, was first created by people living in the south of England.

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<sup>6</sup> Partridge, E. Slang today and yesterday / E. Partridge. – London: Routledge; Subsequent edition, – 2017. – s. 8.

Initially, this type of slang was used only by the British working class. Over time, these slangs gained popularity and expanded their use through film, music, and literature. Many of the expressions in this slang are used in common colloquial language. Examples of slangs such as *Adam and Eve-believe*, *baked bean-queen*, *dog and bone-telephone*, *jam - jar-car*.

**Pub slang.** Which we present in the second place in the ranking, are an indicator of the integration, interaction and development of language and social life. When you sit in any pub, you hear a lot of strange expressions while talking there. As slang was widely used in the United Kingdom, its influence spread to pub culture. We can cite slangs such as ordering drinks in a row, *bender-heavy alcohol*, *publician-bar owner*.

**Master, professional slang** is similar and even identical to public slang. The main characteristic of this type of slang is the loading of new meanings by reusing the words used among themselves, rather than the real names of objects and concepts. J. Partridge's *A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* provides an example of working slang and includes a number of phrases. *Jumping Jinny* slang was first used in the 1920s. This slang has even been used in *The London Evening News* and means "mechanical mark"<sup>7</sup>.

**Art slang.** Although it is mainly used to ensure the confidentiality of conversations between artists, as art spreads to society as a whole, terms or expressions used to ensure confidentiality, such as slang, become public over time and are known to almost all social groups. Thus, expressions included in the lexicon, such as art slang, are easily accepted by people. *Spot jocking* - the display of works next to the works of a famous artist to attract attention, *childstyle*-low quality work and other slangs concern to this type.

**Advertising slang.** The terminology and lexicon of this field change according to the requirements of the time, as advertising aims

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<sup>7</sup> Partridge, E. *A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* 8th edition / E. Partridge. – London: Routledge. – 2002. – p. 129.

to direct people to a certain idea about something, to focus on a product, service, idea and activity of an organization, to inform about it in this context. *Ankeny*-the commercial and cultural center of the universe, *silver pheasant*-a beautiful woman known in society, *mercantile*-trade defining adjectives are sample of this type.

**Theater slang.** Theater is a performing art. Theatrical works are the delivery of events to the audience. Theater is an integral part of art, and therefore, slang in the field of theater has also found its place in the slang of art. *Agony piler*- actor playing sensational roles, *back-row hopper*- spectator who goes to bars with actors and drinks to them, *blue fire*- to amaze the audience and other slangs belong to this category.

**School and pupil slang.** The Oxford Dictionary defines British secondary schools as an advanced form of earlier grammar schools or a more modern form based on similar principles. The number of slang expressions is few in small schools, and fictional slangs predominate in medium-sized schools. In older schools, older slang words are used and the lexicon is extensive. Examples of this type of slangs *banco*-homework, *callover*-attendance, *chambers*-break, *div*- lesson, *quarter-term* can be shown .

**University slang.** Students are creative, intelligent, full of innovative ideas. This leads to the wide scope and richness of content of this type of slang. When we look at the lexicon of modern students, we see the importance of factors such as university, campus life, technological innovations of the time. *Shell*- newcomer, *the pink roll*-list of students and faculty, *south park*-good and evil and other slangs are widely used in this type.

**Medical slang.** As well as infecting all spheres of society, the existence of slang is also reflected in the field of medicine. Doctors or nurses, as well as hospital staff, have developed a slang vocabulary to protect the confidentiality of conversations from patients and their relatives. Since the main goal is to identify both patients and difficult situations, some ironic expressions are selected, effective abbreviations are added, as well as medical slang lexicon is formed by adding new meanings to existing terminology. Examples of such slang



are *frequent flyer*- person who comes to the hospital often for no reason, *yellow submarine*-obese people, *NPS*-agitated parent, and *noctor*- a nurse who behaves like a doctor.

**Soldier or military slang.** These are colloquial terms of military origin specific to military personnel. These slangs combine military concepts and terms. The British army, like the armies of most countries in the world, had a lexicon that was often incomprehensible to civilians. *Anymouse*-lock box, *band aid*-the period of Vietnam war, *big voice*- a person who announces aloud, *chest candy*- ribbons and medals on the uniform and other expressions are more common in the military slang lexicon.

**Teenager slang.** Teenage slang is a group of complex abbreviations and code words, is used freely among adolescents and peers, providing misunderstanding and confidentiality by parents. By creating this type of slang, young people have the opportunity to build a stronger connection with each other and to know and express that they face any danger. *Extra*-to be unnecessarily dramatic and silly, *snatched*-to have a fashionable appearance, *to be wig*-amazed. Teenage slang allows them to communicate with each other in a fun and interesting way. They are instilled with a sense of independence and individuality.

**Internet slang.** In today's world, the internet, which has become one of the basic necessities of life has changed our lives as much as electricity, printing, and telephone. It has become not only a means of communication, but also a part of people's lives. *Yanny*-weak internet, *windoze*-microsoft, *internet savv*- a person who is able to use it purposefully, etc. Technology is evolving, whether we like it or not. Of course, this development also infects to the internet.

**Social media slang.** When looking at the scope of slang used mainly on social media, it is especially noteworthy that social network and media slangs depend on the current trends. Thus, an expression that is in the structure of a social media, expressing a specific aspect, slanging over time, suddenly disappears from the language as soon as the social media is closed or the social network becomes obsolete, and becomes obsolete as a slang. *AMA*-ask me something, *troll*-people

who enjoy starting disagreements and making people angry, *TBT*-re-sharing a picture of the past and other slang are included in this type of lexicon. In this sense, we can say that the Internet and social media slang are more dependent on virtual life.

**Slang for drugs and narcotics.** The expressions we present under this title are major in the slang lexicon. The main reason for this is that drug addicts need more confidential statements. They are more aware of the need to protect and maintain their privacy from their parents, police officers and other members of society. For this reason, these slangs are constantly changed and updated. Examples of slang are *black mollies*-amphetamines, *candy*-cocaine, *red devils*-heroin.

**Prisoner and prison slang.** People in this social group, like other groups in society, and even more than many of them, need more privacy, so the use of slang has become more convenient for them. The following are some of the most commonly used examples of this secret language, which are sometimes created to prevent prisoners from being understood by prison staff. *Books*-money, *drama*-fighting or attack, *education*-where prisoners can attend classes are some samples for this type of slang.

**Casino slang.** This type of slang, which is widespread among modern British slang, has attracted interest in gambling in Europe, as well as in the United Kingdom, and has resulted in the formation of a casino and casino culture over the centuries. Also, over time, the process of creating and expanding casino slang in this language continued. Slangs such as *Carpet Joints*-5 star luxury casino standards, *dirty money*-lost money collected by sellers, *drop*-the amount of money lost by casinos or players are sample for this type.

Chapter III is entitled "**British Slang: semantics, thematic classification and meaning in our language**" and consists of two paragraphs. Paragraph "**3.1. Semantic features of slang in modern English**" emphasizes that numerous studies to determine the nature of slang and attempts to define its boundaries lead to a focus on pragmatics. Slang is the connection of a speech rich in expressions to the context, a source of information about the identity of the speaker, a

means of promoting group solidarity, a sign of informality of speech. Therefore, Eble describes slang as *"the words and expressions used by speakers within a group or in society in general to create a trend and social identity, as well as to strengthen ties"*<sup>8</sup>. Spears list of 10 features of slang includes many of the features listed above. For example, *"slang is not appropriate for formal speech, and slang expressions are a symbol of lack of commitment to social traditions"*<sup>9</sup>.

In contrast to the distinctive and diagnostic role of slang in relation to various pragmatic features, slang words and expressions often have features such as sarcasm, curiosity, and information. Coleman notes *"Many slang words are in the slang lexicon as synonyms for words used in standard English"*. Eble argued that *"slang provides an alternative vocabulary for references that generally exist in the language"*<sup>10</sup>. The semantic equivalence of slang terms and standard language alternatives serves to focus on the pragmatic functions of it. According to Coleman *"Using slang, we can express the same idea in different ways, and instead of standard English synonyms, we use slang terms to convey information about ourselves, our relationships and interests"*<sup>11</sup>. From this perspective, the social meaning separated from the semantic meaning is the basis of the slang. However, this approach semantically makes it difficult to explain many slang expressions that are not equivalent in standard language. The semantic diversity of slang terms is an important part of their pragmatic activity. From this point of view, by paying more attention to semantics, we can distinguish the semantic features from their pragmatic features. In this context, there is a need for individual interpretation of semantic and pragmatic features in language

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<sup>8</sup> Eble, C. Slang and sociability: In-group language among college students / C. Eble. – Chapel Hill/London: University of North Carolina Press, – 2012. – p. 11.

<sup>9</sup> Spears, R.A. Slang and Euphemism / R.A Spears. – Middle Village, NY: Jonathan David Publishers, –1981. – p.viii.

<sup>10</sup> Eble, C. Slang and sociability: In-group language among college students / C. Eble. – Chapel Hill/London: University of North Carolina Press, – 2012. – p.109.

<sup>11</sup> Coleman, J. The life of slang / J.Coleman.– Oxford: Oxford University Press, – 2012. – p. 180.

variations. The influence of semantics on the enrichment of slang lexicon is significantly greater. This area creates a certain framework for the formation of new meanings of words. The word *destruction* is used to describe a situation such as being intoxicated and under the influence of drugs. *Battered-beaten, blitzed-broken, bombed out-bombed, hammered-beaten, mashed-crushed, slaughtered-cut, smashed-crushed, stoned-stoned, trashed-thrown* is used to describe intoxication, and often shows the physical and mental effects of alcohol or drug abuse.

Paragraph “**3.2 Thematic division of British slangs and their meanings in the Azerbaijan language**” contains slang expressions in various dictionaries, periodicals, press and internet materials. The vocabulary of each language is so large and so diverse that any translator, native speaker can not fully understand these words and their meaning. Often the context in which the text and the word are used motivates the translator to refer to the dictionary. Dictionaries are a great help to the translator in understanding the text. Therefore, lexicography is closely related to translation. *"The purpose of lexicography is to develop a theoretical basis for compiling a dictionary and compile a dictionary based on it"*.

In this paragraph of the research, slangs were searched from various dictionaries, periodicals, works of art and other similar sources, grouped thematically and identified their meanings and ways of expression in the Azerbaijani language. The analysis and research of lexical-semantic features of slangs belonging to different social groups, covering different areas, show that the dynamics of society, the development of civilization, the rapid introduction of new technologies into our lives directly or indirectly into the slang lexicon of English. Under the influence of these and other factors, slang can be divided into the following thematic groups.

**1. Slang expressions used in connection with human body parts.** Here we have provided explanations in Azerbaijani with examples of slang related to the head, face, teeth, mouth, ears, nose, fingers, hands, arms, chest, abdomen and other body parts. The word *virtualing office* is derived from boxing terminology and is used as a

slang variant of the word belly: “*Spring put in a heavy claim on his opponent's victualling office.*”

**2. Slang related to physical appearance.** This includes words in the standard language to express flaws in people's physical appearance, as well as words that express new meanings by approaching metaphor, irony, exaggeration, and parables, which are components of figurative language. *Roly-poly* is derived from the word slang roll, which began to be used in the 1820s, and means fat: “*She is a little roly-poly woman, with a meek, round, fair-complexioned face.*”

**3. Slangs related to ethnic groups and nationality.** These slangs include expressions that originated in different English-speaking countries at different times and became part of the British slang lexicon over time. The slangs *yankee*, *yankey*, *yank*, *sammy*, *prune picker*, *snow-bird* used for Americans, *Pommie*, *pommie*, *pom* these slangs were used in 1912 mainly by Australians and New Zealanders for British migrants.

**4. Slangs associated with animal names, indicating the names of food of animal origin or essential necessities used in the diary of animal origin.** *Oont*, *unt* are slangs used to express the word camel, which is part of the lexicon of the 1860s and were of Australian origin: “*Hell! what a lot of calculation had to go into piloting a couple of smelly oonts!*”

**5. Slang used for food and beverages.** These are expressions that have entered the slang lexicon, a type of informal layer of food and beverage names, from different social groups at different times. Words with different lexical meanings in the standard language, such as *toke*, *needle and thread*, *door-step*, *slinger*, *punk*, *dodger*, are included in the slang lexicon as slangs related to bread.

**6. Slangs used to express the names of clothes and accessories.** These slangs are expressions that cover different clothing names and accessories used. This includes slang expressions related to clothing items such as skirts, pants, dresses, shirts, coats, watches, bracelets, necklaces, belts by various social groups. Expressions such as *duds*, *togs*, *rig*, *sunday best*, *cits*, *drag*, *clobbercivvies*, *rig-up*, *glad rags*, *threads* are examples of slang used in connection with clothes.

**7. Slangs used for money.** Slangs in this thematic group are in abundance. This proves that money is not boring to talk about. However, it should be noted that synonymy is also predominant in this area. These are mainly words used for US and UK currencies. *Gelt, brass, dust, ready, rhino, shiner, dosh, dinero, soap, dingbats, sugar, scale, shekels, iron, dibs, rag, boodle, oof, jack, tin, hoot, rivets, bootle, dough, splosh, benjamins, bacon, bank, franklin* slang expressions such as are an example of this.

**8. Art, entertainment and media slangs.** We collected slang in eight thematic groups and analyzed them and gave their equivalents in Azerbaijani. The analysis, research of semantic features of slangs belonging to different social groups, covering different areas, let us to say that the dynamics of social development, the development of civilization, the rapid introduction of new technologies into our lives affect directly or indirectly into the slang lexicon of English.

In conclusion, slang lexicon is one of the main means of enriching the language, as well as a bearer of ethnic and national thinking, life and mental values of the people.

The results of the research are summarized as follows in the **Conclusion** of the dissertation:

The functional features, origin, scope, specific features of terms such as slang, argo and jargon researched and determined that slangs are fundamentally different from argo and jargon words in both English and English-speaking peoples.

From the approaches of various linguists and lexicographers, it can be concluded that slangs differ from the vernacular in terms of vocabulary and they have a completely new (more metaphorical) meaning, or these words are taken from other languages. The phonetic, morphological and syntactic features of such words do not differ much from those of the common language.

British slang can be considered as a type of informal layer that originated in the United Kingdom and is used by various social groups. Slang is more common in oral language and is less common in the written literature.

The history of the development of British slang dates back to the 15th century and continues in the 21st century. For this reason, the British slang is divided into seven main periods. These periods are XV, XVI, XVII, XVIII, XIX, XX, XXI centuries, and in each period slang was selected with certain characteristics according to the development and scope.

There are three main functions of using slang. The first is social function that users use to prove and emphasize that belongs to any social groups. The second is psychological function, slang is often used to express emotional feelings due to psychological needs. The third is physical function, people use slang to show their positive side in everyday conversations.

Slangs mainly refer to the social group to which they belong and can be understood as their internal language, they are either irrelevant to the public, or it is more important that the meaning of such words is hidden from society.

According to their origin, slangs cover different areas, as well as different social groups of society. The use of slang by different social groups has led to a richness of meaning. In this regard, slangs are divided into following types: Cockney rhythmic slang, Pub slang, master, professional slang, art slang, advertising slang, theater slang, school slang, university slang, medical slang, military slang, teen slang, internet slang, social media slang, drug slang, prison slang, casino slang.

A common feature of the concepts included in the literary layer is that they are inclined to the written language and have the characteristics of a formal style. Literary words are mainly used in writing and formal speeches. The inclusion of new words and expressions in the vocabulary of the language, the acquisition of new meanings of words and other factors engraved and strengthened the historical traces of the English people in the dictionary. Concepts and words included in the literary layer did not hinder the originality and independence of the language, but rather contributed to its development and enrichment.

British slang as a specific field of lexicon in the language is a means of expression of national-ethnic memory, way of life of the people. The study found that slang was used in English as well as in other English speaking countries like American, Australian and Canadian but English slang cannot be equated with slang used in other variations of English.

As a result of expanding the scope of slang, it can be included in the active vocabulary of the English language and be certified. Therefore, slang can be one of the main means of enriching the language. These expressions, which are widely used in oral language, give a noticeable stylistic effect when used in written language and add a characteristic feature to that speech.

Slang become passive as a result of social relations, and can leave the vocabulary of the language. Some slangs lose their function and become archaic after a certain period of time. The others are used in a limited way, such as field lexicon, and although it is perceived by certain people as understood by professionals, it is understood by a wide range of developments under the influence of certain processes in society over time.

The fact that slang belonging to many areas is not reflected in the category of species is explained by the lack of slang expressions related to those areas, and therefore these expressions are reflected in the thematic classification of slang. This type of informal layer can be thematically classified as food, human body parts, physical appearance, animal names, ethnic group and nationalities, clothing and accessory names, entertainment world and media.

The content of the research is reflected in the following articles of the author:

1. Müasir Britaniya slenqinin öyrənilməsi tarixi // “Naxçıvan” Universiteti Elmi əsərlər, – Naxçıvan: – 2018. – № 4, (11), – s. 105–109.

2. İngilis dili slenq leksikonunda məktəb, universitet və yeniyetmə slenqləri // “Naxçıvan” Universiteti Elmi əsərlər, – Naxçıvan: – 2019. – № 4, (15), – s. 118-124.



3. Müasir dövr ingilis dili tarixinə müxtəsər baxış // Gəncə Dövlət Universitetinin Elmi xəbərləri, – Gəncə: – 2020. № 2, – s. 264-267.

4. XX əsr Britaniya slenqi: yaranması və təşəkkülü // Naxçıvan mədəniyyətlərinin qovuşduğu məkan. Beynəlxalq elmi konfransın materialları. – Naxçıvan: – 2020, – s. 331-335.

5. Qədim və orta dövr ingilis dili tarixinə müxtəsər baxış // “Naxçıvan” Universiteti Elmi əsərlər, – Naxçıvan: – 2021. – № 1, (20), – s. 166-170.

6. İngilis dili normaları - ədəbi və qeyri-ədəbi dil kontekstində // Gəncə Dövlət Universitetinin Elmi xəbərləri, – Gəncə: – 2021. № 1, – s. 286-290.

7. Müasir Britaniya slenq leksikonu və Azərbaycan dilində ifadə formaları // VIII Uluslararası türk dünyası araşdırmaları sempozyumu. – Niğde: – 2021, – s. 311-320.

8. Britaniya slenq leksikonunda sosial media slenqləri// V Beynəlxalq Asya müasir elmlər konqresi. – Naxçıvan: – 2021, – s. 274

9. Stylistic differentiation of English lexicon in the context of literary layer (poetics, terms, archaisms, foreignisms, neologisms) // Актуальні питання гуманітарних наук: міжвузівський збірник наукових праць молодих вчених Дрогобицького державного педагогічного університету імені Івана Франка: . – Дрогобич: - 2021. № 39 – s. 140-144.

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