

ON MODERN STUDENTS' SLANG (JARGON)

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INTRODUCTION

Lexical stock of Ukrainian as very other language contains a great number of words and expressions used in a particular expression or by a particular group of people, which are difficult for other people to understand – often used to show disapproval. Literary language has been ignoring them for a long time owing to the extralinguistic reasons. However, the existence of multiform dialectisms and slangisms testifies that language is a dynamic system, which constantly lives and develops.

Analyzing modern tendencies of language development we cannot but single out changes, occurring in its lexical stock, especially in stylistics of oral and written speech. They are the so-called “jargons”, “slangs”, “argots” and “cants”. The term “slang” entered Ukrainian from English as a jargon word or expression characteristic of the people of certain professions or social layers. “Argo” has come from French (argo – jargon) – the language of one narrow social or professional group that is not quite understandable for others. “Cants” are formal special words used by a particular group of people, especially in order to keep things secret. Of late the term “slang” is more actively used than all above mentioned ones. It may be explained by the fact that nowadays English dominated among other languages and slang is used by almost all the people of the globe.

Students' slang according to its structure is a combination of several slangs: youth, university and exclusively professional slang of the students' speciality.

The history of studying slang lexis is connected with the works by V. Borzhkovskiy¹, V. Hnatiuk², Yo. Dzendzelivskiy³. A more extensive

¹ Боржковский В. Лирники. *Киевская старина*. 1889. Т. XI. С. 653 – 708.

² Гнатюк В. Лірники. Лірницькі пісні, молитви, слова, звістки і т. п. про лірників повіту Бучацького. *Етнографічний збірник*. 1896. Вип. 2. С. 1 – 76.

³ Дзензелівський Й. Арго волинських лірників. *Українське і слов'янське мовознавство: зб. праць*. Українознавча бібліотека НТШ. Львів, 1996. Ч. 6. С. 310 – 349.

interest in the indicated sociolinguistic theme was shown by foreign Ukrainist Oleksa Horbach⁴.

In 2006 «A Dictionary of Modern Ukrainian Slang» was published (compiler – T. Kondratyuk)⁵, which encloses more than 5 thousand words and word combinations, derived from a living language element that is widely used by the representatives of different age, professional and social layers. Besides, at compiling the dictionary the lexical material from the compositions of the well-known Ukrainian writers: Yu. Pokalchuk, S. Zhadan, L. Deresh, Yu. Andrukhovych, O. Zabuzhko, etc.

Scholarly searches of the Ukrainian linguists were focused on elucidating the following aspects of the phenomenon under investigation: the problems of lexicographical elaboration of jargonisms (V. Ivanov, V. Borzhovskyi, V. Shchepotyev, S. Pyrkalo, L. Stavytska, etc.); theoretical argumentation of the essence of social languages (V. Petrov, K. Shyrotskyi, Yu. Shevelyov, L. Stavytska etc.); the specificity of special language levels and means of unit formation (Yo. Dzendzelivskyi, O. Horbach, R. Smalstotskyi, etc.); interaction of the jargon and literary aspects (L. Stavytska)⁶.

The study of students' slang is closely connected with modern youth subculture, which is mainly defined by the specificity of the educational institution, leisure, behavior, the peculiarity of fashion and tasted, popular trends in music, etc. The most extensively used sphere of using students' slang is, first of all, university campus as well as leisure places (cafes, bars, disco clubs, etc.).

Slang is a social, frequently used but little studied lexical unit of a language. Nowadays the use of slang is available nearly in all spheres of social life. This fact stipulated the relevance of this study.

⁴ Горбач О. Арго українських школярів та студентів // НЗУВУ. Мюнхен, 1966. С. 3 – 55; Горбач О. Лексика наших картярів і шахістів. *Термінографічна серія «Словосвіт»: Бібліографія вчених-термінологів України*. 2004. № 7. С. 25 – 58; Горбач О. Арго в Україні. Львів: Інститут мовознавства ім. І. Крип'якевича НАН України, 2006. 688 с. (Серія “Діалектологічна скриня”); Бартоліні М. О. Горбач. Українське арго. Львів: Інститут ім. І. Крип'якевича НАН України, 2006. 636 с.

⁵ Кондратюк Т. Словник сучасного українського сленгу. Харків, 2005. 352 с.

⁶ Ставицька Л. Про взаємодію жаргону і сленгу. *Українська мова та література*. 2000. №15. С. 19 – 21; Ставицька Л. Проблеми вивчення жаргонної лексики: соціолінгвістичний аспект. *Українська мова*. 2001. №1. С. 55 – 68; Ставицька Л. Короткий словник жаргонної лексики української мови. К.: Критика, 2003. 333 с.; Ставицька Л. Арго, жаргон, сленг. К.: Критика, 2005. 464 с.

The purpose of the paper is to expound the results of studying the place and significance of slang in the life of young people, define its origin and lexical peculiarities.

For achieving the purpose the following tasks have been set for us: to study theoretical sources of the given theme; to analyze principal peculiarities of slang in the context of Modern Ukrainian; consider basic features and regularities of forming youth slang in Modern Ukrainian; to investigate the degree of popularity among the representatives of the present-day generation on the basis of survey by questionnaire. The object of the study is the system of slang units in Ukrainian. The subject-matter of the investigation is the youth slang in the students' surroundings.

1. The Structure Of Students' Slang

1.1. Basic sources of students' slang

One of the consequences of social transformations in Ukraine in the 20th – 21th centuries was the change of correlation between standard and non-standard in the language. Not only in oral speech, but also in mass media, in fiction a peculiar explosion of slang, low colloquial and even unquotable lexis. The endeavours of linguists to comprehend and study such phenomena are natural. A new social paradigm of language functioning is mirrored in the consciousness of youth as the most mobile layer of society. Therefore the studies, the object of which is youth slang, acquire topicality.

Youth slang is a dynamic as regards its nature subsystem which varies and replenishes depending on certain ethnolanguage and cultural peculiarities of the region. As O. Ponomariv points out “a great number of jargonisms arise in youth groups, in particular students' ones...”.⁷

A layer of slang youth lexis are largely new formations (neologisms), which are formed and changed together with the changes in the society. According to the evidence of L. Stavytska “the contemporary youth slang is allegedly a mediator between an interjargon and language practice which is colloquial, referring to the life of people at large, which has used and will always use the ability of Ukrainian to produce stylistically decreased, ironical, grotesque lexical means that is peculiar for the present-day conditions of democratization of communicative styles and are revealed with adequate jargon and slang nominations”.

⁷ Пономарів О. Д. Стилiстика сучасної української мови. Тернопіль: Навчальна книга, 2000. С. 100.

Lexemes are formed under the influence of the most multiform factor among which the following are singled out: criminal jargon, interjargon, one's own interpretation some terms among the representatives of youth, especial medical, etc.

A great number of lexemes of youth slang double prevailing units in the interjargon without any transformations: *шари, моргали, баньки* – ‘eyes’; *лимон* – ‘a million of money banknotes’; *стріляти* – ‘to ask’; *поїхати* – ‘to go mad’; *бичок, чинарик* – ‘a cigarette-end’; *кабак* – ‘restaurant’; *хахаль* – ‘a boyfriend’, ‘a fiace’; *кішка* – ‘a whore’; *миша* – ‘a pickpocket’; *криса* – ‘a person who steals among his friends’; *малахольний* – abnormal; *чорнило* – ‘red port-vine’; *біоміцин* – ‘white strong wine’; *замокрушити* – ‘to kill’; *зося і дося* – ‘higher brands of wine “Golden Autumn” and “Gifts of Autumn”’.

The origin of some words of youth slang is rather easy to understand. Thus, for example, it is not difficult to explain the meaning of such words as *зубр* – ‘a person who dedicated too much time to studies’. This word has been evidently originated from the Ukrainian *зубрити* – ‘learn by heart’. We come across a similar situation in Ukrainian word *парохід* – ‘one who attends lectures’ and *парогуль* – ‘one who misses classes’. These words consist of two stems – ‘пара’ and ‘ходити’ (in the first case) and ‘гуляти’ (in the second one); *гуртак* – ‘a hostel’ and others.

The origin of the Ukrainian word *кентавр* – ‘adulator’ is also interesting. Similar words are widespread enough and take stand because of having vividly expressed ironical colouring and this attracts youth as to have a good sense of humour is “fashionably”, in a top-class way, “in a hippy way”. Properly speaking the sense of humour helps a teenager to single out from the society and emphasize one's personal virtues.

1.2. The Structure of Students' Slang

It is possible to classify slang according to different signs. E. g., according to stylistic signs slang (jargon) words, as it was pointed out above, may be divided, that is neutral and callous (unquotable lexis).

An important factor in the formation of slang lexemes is the community of interests among the persons that form a variety of this unquotable creation. According to this sign lexical units of youth slang may be divided into those that are used among people, dealing with computers.

In this sphere of activities the words of English origin are most frequently used. This is caused, first of all, by the fact, that English is the language of computer technology. In the process of work with computer equipment some words passed into Ukrainian colloquial lexis. Thus in this

sphere one may hear the words: upraid (improvement), modernization of a computer), long loaves (keys), user (one that uses), etc.

People, who are interested in automobiles, have their own new slang formations. The most widespread lexemes of this group are the names of multiform automobile details and other equipment: *бублик* – ‘thick ring-shaped roll’; *баранка* – ‘steering wheel’; *тачка* – ‘automobile’; *скат* – ‘a pair of wheels’, etc.

Among the teenagers that are fond of music the following words are often used: *вертушка* – ‘CD player’; *саундтрек* – ‘melody that accompanies videofilm’; *сінгл* – ‘CD with a minor quantity of songs than in an album’; *солянка* – ‘miscellaneous concert’.

Book lovers, newspaper sellers, sportsmen and others have their own slang. Meanwhile, in every of the above named group one may single out subgroups. E.g., a sport slang is subdivided into a slang of football players, hockey players, swimmers, etc.⁸

Thus, one may draw a conclusion, that practically every group of people, united with common interests, has its own particular type of speech, realized in new slang formations that are inherent only this or that group. It testifies that youth slang is not an integral system. It includes both general youth slang that characterizes speech of a certain generation and special youth slangs.

Youth slang is not equal as regards communication. Each of such surroundings has its distinctions and slang reflects the reality of life in this environment. E.g., the following lexical units occur among students: *друшляти* – ‘to miss classes’; *гуртак, братська могила* – ‘a hostel; *Степанида, Баба Степа, стипендія* – ‘scholarship’, etc. In slang speech there are words, that reflect students’ everyday phenomena and problems, e.g.: *хвіст* – ‘debt’; *шпора, шпаргалка* – ‘a crib’; *плавати* – ‘to have a vague idea about the material for learning’; *іти на шпорах* – ‘to crib’; *врубитися* – ‘to understand’; *засипатися* – ‘to fail in an examination’⁹.

Derivational bases for the units of youth slang form lexis of different lexis subsystem: literary, dialect, abusive, belonging to another language, jargon, etc. Nowadays, the scholars distinguish six types of units, functioning in modern slang: 1) formed of words of literary language as a result of polysemy; 2) formed of lexical units from literary language by

⁸ Явір В. Жаргонізований дискурс: духовний занепад чи норма? *Література. Фольклор. Проблеми поетики: зб. наук. праць*. Вип. 1. К.: Акцент, 2005. С. 64.

⁹ Мартос С. А. Молодіжний сленг: комунікативний аспект. *Науковий вісник Херсонського державного університету. Серія «Лінгвістика»: зб. наук. праць*. Вип. II. Херсон: Видавництво ХДУ, 2005. С. 38.

means of affixes, by cutting off the derivational basis, by means of composition and abbreviation as well as word contamination; 3) taken from the lexical stock of nonliterary forms of one's native tongue; (popular language, dialect, abusive); 4) borrowed from other languages and used with different degrees of mastering; 5) formed from slang words and those, who received a new categorical meaning (part of speech or lexico-grammatical); 6) formed from slang words and those who have acquired a new modified meaning, for the most part – word formation variants. The way of cutting off the basis in youth slang is correlative with the 2nd, 5th, and 6th type of slang units.

Cutting of the derivational basis of a word is a productive way of forming youth slang. It is possible that the convenience of pronunciation economy of language means and meaning storage capacity are the causes of popularity of this way. The regularity of economizing language efforts – a universal rule of oral speech, which is intensified in slang usage, a cut off word form saves time and enables (sometimes to the detriment of lucidity) rendering more information. Collected in the town of Kherson abbreviated slang lexemes are exclusively nouns as the nouns in youth sublanguage occupy central place. Other parts of speech occupy a rather modest place that is inherent not only Ukrainian youth slang¹⁰.

An investigator of English and Russian V. Khomyakov¹¹ considers popular language to be a special superdialectal form of colloquial speech and notes its mixed structure, which, in his opinion, is more complicated than lexico-semantic system of the literary language. The scholar divides non-standard in two basic types – stylistically reduced and socially determined. Moreover, the latter, in his opinion, has a narrower usage than stylistically reduced. Within, stylistically reduced or expressive popular language V. Khomyakov singles out the following constituent element: “low” colloquialisms, slangisms, vulgarisms, and within the limits of social-professional popular language – jargonisms and argotisms. Modern problems of functioning of the youth slang are analysed by E. Berehovska¹², L. Karpets¹³, O. Molchanova¹⁴, V. Obukhova¹⁵, O. Taranenko¹⁶, O. Tuluzakova¹⁷, V. Yavir¹⁸, etc.

¹⁰ Гриценко Т. Б. Культура мовлення як компонент комунікації студентів. *Науковий вісник Національного аграрного університету*. НАУ. К., 2003. Вип. 65. С. 127.

¹¹ Хомяков В. А. Введение в изучение слэнга – основного компонента английского просторечия. М.: Либроком, 2009. 106 с.

¹² Береговская Э.М. Молодежный сленг: Формирование и функционирование. *Вопросы языкознания*. 1996. № 3. С. 32 – 41.

Thus, as we see, slang is a widespread phenomenon which may be classified according to certain signs.

2. Place of Students' Slang in Lexical Structure of Modern Ukrainian

2.1. The Peculiarities of Students' Slang

Slang are words that are often considered as breaking the norms of standard language. They are very expressive ironic words that serve for designating objects spoken in everyday speech¹⁹. Slang is not a harmful language formation, which vulgarized oral speech, but an organical and to some degree a necessary part of this system. It develops and changes very quickly. This formation may easily emerge and disappear. All these changes occur for simplifying oral speech and its understanding. Slang is very lively and dynamic formation. It is used in different spheres of social life, helping to keep language striking and colourful.

But sometimes it happens that students use such words-parasites: *мина* – ‘of the type’; *короче* – ‘in short’; *знаєш* – ‘you know’; *мол* – ‘as if,’ etc. It testifies, first of all, that some students are short of words for sentence formation. Therefore enforced pauses among words are often filled with “parasites”.

However unfortunately a student is often not aware that this threateningly influences the culture of his or her native tongue, impoverishes it, deprives the opportunity to use in full its rich language stock. In particular, if a student talks (‘базарити’ in his understanding) with his follow-students, using for example, slang phrases, using, instance,

¹³ Карпець Л.А. Український спортивний жаргон: структурно-семантичний аспект: автореф. дис. на здобуття наук. ступеня канд. філол. наук.: спец. 10.02.01 – українська мова. Харків: Нац. ун-т ім. Каразіна, 2001. 17 с.

¹⁴ Молчанова О. Роль та місце арго у сучасній французькій мові [Електронний ресурс]. *Науковий вісник України*. Режим доступу: <http://visnyk.com.ua/stattya/1593-rol-ta-mistse-argo-u-suchasnijfrantsuzskij-movi.html>.

¹⁵ Обухова В. Специфіка молодіжного жаргону: комунікативний аспект. *Гуманітарні науки: Науково-практичний журнал*. 2007. №1. С. 141 – 144.

¹⁶ Тараненко О. Колоквіалізація, субстантизація та вульгаризація як характерні явища стилістики сучасної української мови (з кінця 1980-х рр.). *Мовознавство*. 2002. № 4 – 5. С. 34 – 39.

¹⁷ Тулузакова О. Актуалізація жаргонної лексики західноукраїнського мовно-літературного варіанта. *Наукові праці. Філологія*. 2010. С. 97 – 101.

¹⁸ Явір В. Жаргонізований дискурс: духовний занепад чи норма? *Література. Фольклор. Проблеми поетики: зб. наук. праць*. Вип. 1. К.: Акцент, 2005. С. 62 – 68.

¹⁹ Гриценко Т. Б. Культура мовлення як компонент комунікації студентів . *Науковий вісник Національного аграрного університету*. НАУ. К., 2003. Вип. 65. С. 132.

slang the following *сьогодні в універсі буде кльово* – ‘it was grand at university today’; *ми всі чухнули з пари* – ‘we have all missed the lecture’, then it testified that his or her culture is low-graded.

The metaphorical expressive lexis of students’ slang from the point of view of usual needs of communication seems to be excessively developed. It draws it together with poetic speech. The thought about similarity of poetic speech and slang was expressed by a Danish linguist Otto Jespersen²⁰. Generalizing, we shall use youth slang as students’ one.

Humour and somewhat coarse emotion dominate in youth slang. It reflects a peculiar for the youth surroundings position “to be otherwise and more ridiculous, than in a usual language”, thus focused on verbal play, amusement.

Nearly every person, being a member of some social groups, speaks several sociolects. He or she belongs to some groups for a long time (they remain in one professional group in the course of the whole adult life), in others, for example, in groups of fellow-students (music-lovers or members of sport club) they appear for a short time, only for a certain period of life. This is explained by the fact that professional dialects (fishing, hunting, seaman’s and others) belong to stable, cultivable traditions of profession. Those language variants that are formed in immediate contacts, for example, sociolects of youth groups – the same students’ slang are noted for changeability and fluctuation. Only the mechanism of wordformation is of long duration, the words themselves arise and fall into oblivion at once with the change of group personnel²¹.

Metaphoric nominations occupy prominent place in youth speech that reveal figurative possibilities of the internal form concerning the initial idea: *кайф* – ‘satisfaction’, ‘kicks’, ‘turn on’ ‘buzz’; *кайфовий* – ‘cool’, ‘far out’, ‘mind-blowing’; *кайфувати* – ‘to get stoned or smashed’; *баши* – ‘money’; *башляти* – ‘to pay’; *башльовий* – ‘paid’; *небашльовий* – ‘inexpensive’, etc.

One of the interesting peculiarities of youth slang is the change of lexeme meaning of literary language that adds ironic colouring to speech. E.g., the word *базар* in literary speech is ‘trade out of doors’ but in youth speech it has quite a different meaning, namely – *speech*; the verbs: *заплювати* – ‘to spit all over’; *навантажувати* – ‘to load’;

²⁰ Мартинюк А. П. Регулятивна функція гендерно-маркованих одиниць мови: автореф. дис. доктора філол. наук: 10.02.04. Київ, 2006. С. 132.

²¹ Мартос С. А. Структура молодіжного сленгу під кутом зору мови міста. *Науковий вісник Херсонського державного університету. Серія «Лінгвістика»*: зб. наук. праць. Вип. III. Херсон: Видавництво ХДУ, 2006. С. 174.

закінчуватися – ‘to be over’; *стріляти* – ‘to shoot’; *висіти* – ‘to hang’; *найїжджати* – ‘to come together in members’; *доганяти* – ‘to catch’; *солянка* – ‘fish (or meat) and cabbage’; have quite a different meaning in literary and slang speeches. However, the units of youth slang also change their meaning in some groups.

One more of the modes that are applied in youth speech is the change of words by their semantic synonyms, that is those having not quite appropriate sense shade. For example, instead of a word combination *іди сюди* – ‘come here’ youth representatives say: *мандруй сюди* – ‘travel here’, ‘migrate here’, ‘step her’, etc.²²

A great number of parenthetic words are inherent in youth speech, that render emotions of a storyteller: *бляха-муха* – ‘tin-fly’; *блин* – ‘pancake’; *йо-ма-йо* – ‘a great number (deal) of something’. The meaning of these words is understandable only in oral speech and meaning is expressed only by means of intonation.

The suffixed of decreased emotional marking are actively used, e.g., – *kha* in the words *depresukha, klasukha*; –*yuk* in *sidyuk*; –*lo* in *failo, havalo, khlebalo*. Petty and caressing suffixes also occur in the words, e. g., *telic* – ‘a TV-set’, *velic* – ‘a bicycle’, *khomyachoc* – ‘a computer mouse’, *tazic* – ‘a computer’.

As it was said above, a characteristic feature for slang (especially computer) is the law of language economy in hypertrophic form, e.g., *mag* – ‘a tape of recorder, a shop’; *comp* – ‘computer’; *deze* – ‘assignment’; *fno* – ‘piano’; *fizra* – ‘physical training’ (the latter are the consequence of the direct reading of the following abbreviations): *d/z, f-no, fiz-ra*)²³.

2.2. Functions of Students’ Slang

Students use slang expressions to look like being contemporary. Firstly, at intercourse students use slang not only for rendering information, but also for the expression of their own conception of the world, ideals, for emphasizing of one’s own personality and the fact that they keep step with time.

Secondly, slang is one of the forms of joining the ranks of a students’ group and a means to be adequately perceived in it. Students do not use slang all the time, they use it more often in the situations, when they expect

²² Пономарів О. Д. Стилїстика сучасної української мови. Тернопіль: Навчальна книга, 2000. 248 с.

²³ Борисенко Н. Д. Гендерний аналіз у лінгвістиці. Житомир: Поліграфічний центр ЖДПУ, 2000. С. 102 – 103.

mutual understanding. Almost always students object to the fact that they use slang on purpose, the accentuate that the use of slang occurs subconsciously.

For all that slang is used on purpose in the sense that the students pick up words and expressions according to their interlocutors and situations or decide not to use slang at all. As slang is used in oral speech by people, who in most cases may not be aware that this is slang, then the choice of phrases depends on subconscious language structures. When slang is used by writers it is more careful and better picked out for a greater effect formation. However writers are seldom slang creators.

Young people use slang in special surroundings. The greatest number of slang phrases one may hear in the intercourse of a group of friends, fellow-students, intimate acquaintances as these phrases emotionally draw them together and directly as well as accessibly express attitude towards events, phenomena, which are under discussion.

Thirdly, in some understanding may be a peculiar play for accurate, even ironic description of events and impressions.

Thus, slang provides intimacy. It often executes an important social function, which consists in exclusion or inclusion of a person in close surroundings, the use of the language which functions in a certain group of people and professionals. Slang is a lexical innovation in a certain cultural context. Certain groups of people use slang because «they are short of political power». This is simply a safe and effective way of protest against something established, language rules inclusive.

It should be mentioned, that in youth slang the same regularities occur as in a normative language, in particular, lexemes enter synonymical, antonymical and omonymical relations. Thus, a literary word *boy* has the following correspondencies: *pokemon*, *cadre*, *nail*, *a small panel*, *patsyk* (from *a small boy*); *shlyotsyk*, *khilyak* (physically weak), *macho* (sexual), *laryk* (an excellent student), *vasyok* (a stranger) and even *losharyk* (in spectacles).

Besides, if a boy has some marked positive or negative quality, he or she may be called *molotok* (good, clever); *balkon*, *tormoz* or *pluh* (a slowcoach); *duatel* (stupid); *Leopold* (well-wishing); *moo-mao* (a silent person).

As we see, in youth slang a language regularity of economy of lexical means works well: one word comprises the contents of the whole sentence, characterizing a person. Analyzing the function of slang L. Stavytska stressed, that they «structurize» appropriate language word models and

apply visual mechanisms of this world perception by a certain community²⁴

As the youth life is traditionally connected with technology, the following observation is interesting: among verbs, which in slang are called relations among people there are a great number of «technical» in traditional use. E. g., *зарулити* – ‘to come somewhere’, *наїхати* – ‘to cry at anybody’, *грузитися* – ‘to be in bad mood’, *морозитися* – ‘to be indiffereant’, *зависати* – ‘to be somewhere for a long time’. The last example is evidently connected with professional slang of specialists, dealing with computers. An interesting example is *шифруватися* – ‘to hide oneself’.

If in the previous case an interlocutor subconsciously «mechanizes his or her actions, then in the next group of words that call parts of a human body, we observe similar but somewhat other phenomenon. Youth deliberately gets these names coarse and decreased, taking them from the world of technology or animal life: a tall girl – *драбина, шпала*; a face – *табло, шайба, дупло, торець, пачка*; hands – *клевні, обрубки, граблі*; legs – *ласти, копита, поршні*; eyes – *фари*; stomach – *яма*; nose – *шнобель, рубильник, хобот*»²⁵.

This approach is partially manifested in other lexico-semantic groups of slangs. Feeling a need in language code, which was unintelligible for out outsiders, young people take notions from childhood impressions, from (animal) cartoon films («Leopold» is a kind person, «Чеба» is shortened from «Чебурашка» – ‘a person with long ears’, *покемон* – ‘a young person’, *бурьонка* – ‘an excellent student’).

Specific enough is a group slangs having English origin. They may be subdivided into several subgroups. The first subgroup consists of the words that coincide both in pronunciation and meaning with English ones, graphically are transliterated with Ukrainian letters: *денс* – ‘a dance’, *смайл* – ‘a smile’, *френд* – ‘a friend’, *парті* – ‘an evening party’, *кеш* – money; *дарлінг* – ‘someone you love very much’.

Another group consists of English words, which in a Ukrainian youth slang have a somewhat other meaning than in English, e.g., *сеши* – a holiday, feast (in English sitting, session); *саунд* – loud music (in English a sound); *цент* – hryvnya (in English 1/100 of a dollar).

²⁴ Ставицька Л. Арго, жаргон, сленг. К.: Критика, 2005. С. 11 – 12.

²⁵ Мартос С. А. Молодіжний сленг: комунікативний аспект. *Науковий вісник Херсонського державного університету. Серія «Лінгвістика»: зб. наук. праць*. Вип. II. Херсон: Видавництво ХДУ, 2005. С. 201.

Finally, the third group consists of English words with slang affixes, inherent in Slavonic languages: *ніпли* – ‘people’, *гїорли* – ‘girls’, *суперовий* – ‘outstanding’, *бестовий* – ‘the best’, *аська* – ‘programme for intercourse through Internet’, *сидюк* – CD-Rom and even *моня* – ‘monitor’.

On English adjective *bad* give rise to the slang *набедити* – ‘to do something bad’ (it should be noted, that this neologism is sustained with the availability of the Russian *беда* and Ukrainian *біда*²⁶

In current spheres of communication there is a tendency to economy language means. This is facilitated by the abbreviation of the word base.

Abbreviation has three variants: apocope (cutting off the final part of a base), syncope (cutting off the middle of the word) and apheresis (dropping off the initial part of a word).

Observations demonstrate that apocope is the most widespread phenomenon. The object of this type of cutting off are words of both literary language and slang words. Among literary words nouns and adjectives are most frequently abbreviated: *дек* – ‘dean’, *рек* – ‘rector’, *нар* – ‘drug addict user’, *кенгуру* – ‘rectangular bag with a big cover’, *дич* – ‘a girl (woman) for affording sexual needs’ (from *дичина*), *унікал* – ‘an original, strange person (unique)’, *комп* – ‘a person with a high level of intellect’ (competent), *мізер* – ‘little’ (scanty).

Syncope as a variety of abbreviation in youth slang occurs less frequently than apocope. Cutting off the middle of the derivative word is a rare way of wordformation in an encoded literary language. In our card index we have not found lexemes, which would not be fixed in slang dictionaries. We may give a unique example of combination of a syncope with a suffixal way of wordformation *мафонтольчик* (in dictionaries *тарфон*): *магнітофон* – *мафон* + an artificial suffix *-тольчик*.

Thus, the specificity of youth slang is in the fact that all the time it is replenished with new «fresh» words reflecting changes in our life. It is a peculiar «proving ground» for neologism probation.

The paradox here is that as soon as word-slang becomes generally known (as it has happened to the word *тусовка*, for instance), youth soon loses interest to it and changes it with another one. So, youth slang executes the function of a peculiar filter for neologisms.

²⁶ Пономарів О. Д. Стилістика сучасної української мови. Тернопіль: Навчальна книга, 2000. С. 194 – 195.

2.3. The Short Vocabulary of Students' Slang

1. *Абітура* (Abitura) – university entrants, entering persons. Compare [СЖЛ]: feminine gender, collective; student.
2. *Академік* (Academic) – a student, having academic indebtedness. Compare [СЖЛ]: masculine gender; the same as Authority.
3. *Академка* (Academka) – an academic leave. Compare [СЖЛ]: does not fix a meaning.
4. *Акваріум* (Aquarium) – a reading hall. Compare [СЖЛ]: 1. a cell of preliminary confinement, which is peeped out from outside; 2. Youth. A police car with a box; 3. Army. An orderly-room in the army unit with a big glass.
5. *Аскет* (Ascet) – a person, who constantly works and does not amuse him or herself. Compare [СЖЛ]: does not fix the meaning.
6. *Бабло* (Bablo) – money. Compare [СЖЛ]: neuter gender, money.
7. *Базарити* (Bazaryty) – to speak about something or somebody. Compare [СЖЛ]: Youth. To speak about something or somebody. 2. *Criminal* to cry, to shout, to quarrel.
8. *Безбашений* (Bezbashenyi) – uncontrollable, unforeseen. Compare [СЖЛ]: does not fix any meaning.
9. *Блін* (Blin) – a word that substitutes indecent bad language at the expression of vexation, disappointment. Compare [СЖЛ]: a word that substitutes indecent bad language at the expression of vexation, exasperation, surprise, etc.
10. *Бойове хрещення* (Boyove khreshchennya) – winter session of the 1-st year of studies. Compare [СЖЛ]: does not fix the meaning.
11. *Бомба* (Bomba) – a special kind of a crib. Compare [СЖЛ]: students' and school term. A crib on a big list of paper with a full answer on a question.
12. *Ботан* (Botan) – a learner by heart. Compare [СЖЛ]: youth term. A clever person.
13. *Випендрюватися* (Vypendryuvatysya) – to behave in a strange way with the aim of attracting attention to oneself. Compare [СЖЛ]: To bring somebody to the state of shock, drugs and strong emotion.
14. *Вікно* (Vikno) – a pair for which no classes are planned. Compare [СЖЛ]: Student, school lecture's term. A long interval in classes, when a certain lecture or lesson is either abolished or not envisaged by the timetable.
15. *Воєнка* (Voyenka) – military training. Compare [СЖЛ]: does not fix any meaning.

16. *Всеношна* (Vsenoshna) – a night before an examination, when a student does not sleep and tries to fill in gaps in his or her knowledge, to make up for lost time. Compare [СЖЛ]: does not fix any meaning.

17. *Галімії* (Halimyi) – bad, of low quality, with bad character, etc. Compare [СЖЛ]: 1. Criminal. Full, absolute; which is manifested in a higher degree. 2. Youth. Contemptuously stupid.

18. *Генделик* (Hendelyk) – a dining hall. Compare [СЖЛ]: A small cafe, where alcohol drinks and snacks are sold.

19. *Глючити* (Hluchyty) – to have some problems; to work with failures; not to believe in one's eyes. Compare [СЖЛ]: About light hallucinations under the influence of drugs, disease or tiredness.

20. *Гоцанка* (Hotsanka) – discotheque, dances. Compare [СЖЛ]: does not fix the meaning.

21. *Екватор* (Equator) – session in the third year. Compare [СЖЛ]: the middle of University study.

22. *Жива шпора* (Zhyva shpora) – a student, who helps his or her friend to pass an exam. Compare [СЖЛ]: does not fix the meaning.

CONCLUSIONS

The paper deals with the study of such a language phenomenon as slang. The lexical stock of the contemporary Ukrainian language comprises a great number of slang creations that correspond to certain social and professional groups of people. Slang is a rather widespread phenomenon, it is a means of intercourse in the most versatile layers of population.

The studies of the non-normative lexis, in particular, slangisms have been conducted by home linguists for a long time. However, so far there is no clear-cut thought as regards the notion and classification of slang. In the course of the investigation the position and basic peculiarities of use slang of contemporary Ukrainian have been revealed.

Having analyzed theoretical and practical material a conclusion is drawn that slang is a vivid and expressive layer of non-literary lexis, which is opposite to standard language.

Youth slang is a discrete layer of a national language, which reflects to a certain degree the level of culture, education and development of society.

Youth rather often uses slang expressions to look up-to-date. Firstly, in communication students use slang not only for rendering information, but also for the expression of one's own world outlook, ideals, for accentuating personal wishes and fact they keep step with time.

Secondly, slang is one of the ways of entering a community, a means to be adequately perceived in that group of people, with which one communicates. Young people use slang in certain surroundings. The

greatest number of slang phrases may be heard while holding a conversation among the members of some group of friends, fellow-students, close acquaintances as these phrases emotionally draw them together and directly, accessibly and briefly express treatment of the events and phenomena under discussion.

Thirdly, slang in a certain understanding may be a peculiar play for an accurate and even an ironical description of events and impressions.

Thus, slang provides drawing together. It often executes an important social function, which consists in exclusion and inclusion of a person into close surroundings, the use of that language, which functions in a certain group of people of the same profession.

SUMMARY

The article focuses on the study of slang in students' speech. In the course of slang the investigation the position and basic peculiarities of students' slang in contemporary Ukrainian have been revealed and described.

Having analyzed the collected material, the author concludes, that slang is a vivid and expressive layer of a nonliterary lexis, which is opposite to the standard language. Students' slang is a discrete layer of a national language, which reflects the level of culture, education and development of society. Firstly, at holding conversation students use slang not only for rendering information, but also for the expression of one's own world outlook, ideas, for accentuating one's own personality and the fact that they keep step with time. Secondly, slang is one of the ways of joining a group of young people and a means to be adequately perceived by them. The author concludes that students prefer using slang in their own surroundings. The investigation has demonstrated that the majority of slang phrases may be heard during communication within a certain group of friends, fellow-students, close acquaintances as these phrases emotionally draw them together, accessibly and briefly express treatment of the events and phenomena under discussion. Thirdly, slang in a certain understanding may be a peculiar play for an accurate and even ironical description of the events and impressions.

Thus, slang provides closeness in communication. It often executes an important social function, which consists in exclusion or inclusion of a person into close surroundings, the use of the speech, inherent in a certain group of people, representing any profession.

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