



LINGUISTIC PROPERTIES OF SLANG

Norova Mavluda Fayzulloyevna

Associate Professor, Doctor of Philosophy in Philology in the Department of English Language of Bukhara State Medical University named after Abu Ali ibn Sino

E-mail: mavluda.norova.90@mail.ru

Annotation:

The article examines the linguistic properties of slang. It highlights the dynamic nature of slang, examining its deviations from standard grammar and syntax rules, unique lexicon, distinctive phonological features, stylistic devices, and socio-pragmatic functions. It emphasizes how slang reflects cultural shifts, fosters social identity and solidarity and serves as a creative and expressive form of communication. The article acknowledges that slang continues to evolve, and its study offers insights into the diverse ways in which language is used to convey meaning and navigate social interactions.

Keywords: onomatopoeia, rhyming slang, word pronunciations, consonant gemination, word-formation, connotations, pragmatics.

In the literature, most linguists dismiss the question of the slang locus in language by assigning it to the lexicon. Jespersen, for instance, argues that “slang is more productive in the lexical than in the grammatical portion of language”. Andersson and Trudgill likewise stress that slang affects above all vocabulary, and Sornig lays emphasis on its “tendency towards the creation of a lexicon of its own”. I have to personally contrast this opinion in the sense that I would rather assign slang’s relevance to each level of the language.

Phonology

At the phonological level, slang plays with sounds and manipulates word pronunciations. The most common way of enlivening slang terms is onomatopoeia or echoism, which accounts for many slang terms, as in the set of synonyms for the verb ‘vomit’ (i.e. barf, bolk, chunder, puke, ralph, spew, throw (up), etc.).

Another way is jocular mispronunciation of words: for instance, the slang affectionate forms of address hinnie/-y, luvvie/-y and marra are respectively mock pronunciations of honey, lovey and marrow, while the pronouns summat (^ somewhat) and nufink sound like and are used in the place of standard something and nothing (cf. analogical formations in COLT: e.g. anyfink ^ anything, everyfink ^ everything).





Assimilation is likewise recurrent in slang, especially in combination with consonant gemination. Examples proliferate in teenagers' conversations: the interjections *innit?* (^ isn't it?) and *wunnit?* (^ wasn't it?), and such contractions as *dunno* (^ I do not/don't know), *gimme* (^ give (it to) me; cf. *lemme* ^ let me), *gonna* (^ going to), *gotta* (^ (have) got to/a) and *wanna* (^ want to/a) are attested in COLT (cf. *doncher* ^ don'tyou).

Furthermore, some sounds seem to be more distinctive of slang than others. For instance, a coarse exclamation of annoyance or disgust', and in copy reduplicatives, such as *boo-boo* /'bu:bu:/ 'a foolish mistake or blunder', *doo-doo* /'du:du:/ and *pooh pooh*/poo poo /,pu:'pu:/. The voiced consonant /z/ is likewise frequent in slang (as in *pizzazz* /pi'zrez/ 'vitality or liveliness'), especially from voiceless /s/ after back-clipping, as in *spaz* /sprez/ (^ spastic /'sprestik/), and combined with suffixation, as in *Aussie* /'ozi/ (^ Australian /os'teilian/), *mossie/mozzie* /'mozi/ (^ mosquito /mo'ski:tau/).

Nevertheless, the most lively phenomenon in the creation of slang terms is Cockney rhyming slang, based on rhyme. Rhyming slang is the process whereby an item is replaced by one or more words that rhyme with it (e.g. *trouble and strife* for 'wife'). It originated in the London tradition of Cockneys, but then extended to other areas and speakers, even if it remains a private language.

Rhyming slang is extremely productive in the coining of nouns, which are normally in the form of two semantically and syntactically-related words (e.g. *dog and bone* for 'telephone', *five- to-two* for 'Jew', *God forbid* for 'kid', *pig's ear* for 'beer', *rock of ages* for 'wages', etc.), or of a single word, either a simple one (e.g. *joanna* for 'piano') or a complex one (e.g. *boat-race* for 'face'). Rhyming slang nouns may also be obtained from fictitious proper names (e.g. *Rosy Lee* for 'tea'), or from the names of famous characters of sport, music, television, cinema, etc. (e.g. *Mutt and Jeff* for 'deaf', from the characters of a popular comic strip).

Morphology

At the morphological level, it is claimed that "the same ordinary word-building processes that give rise to the general vocabulary also shape slang expressions". However, Eble only mentions word-formation processes which are attested in both slang and standard English, namely compounding, affixation, conversion, shortening and blending, and completely disregards the processes which are distinctive of slang. As far as I know, the suffixes *-o* (e.g. *doggo* ^ dog, 'quiet'; *kiddo* ^ kid, 'a child'), *-s* (e.g. *nuts* ^ nut, 'mad'; *bananas* ^ banana, 'crazy'), and *-ers* (e.g. *champers* ^ champagne,



preggers ^ pregnant) do not give rise to any standard English term, nor do the infixes -bloody- (e.g. abso- bloody-lutely).

Besides, formations obtained by back-slang (e.g. yob ^ boy, 'a lout, hooligan') and rhyming slang (e.g. dog's meat 'feet') are not considered established WFRs by morphologists, since they typically obtain English slang words rather than standard ones. In fact, slang morphology exhibits many formation patterns which still have to be explored.

Grammar

Not much attention has been devoted so far to the grammar of slang. Munro argues that "the grammar of U.C.L.A. slang is almost identical to the grammar of standard English", at least in its inflectional morphology. Indeed, as in standard English inflection, slang plural nouns are obtained by the addition of the -s suffix (e.g. bird 'a girl, woman' ^ birds), or of its allomorphic variants (e.g. fairy ^ fairies, yobbo ^ yobbo(e)s), and uncountable nouns do not have any plural form (e.g. stuff 'narcotics'). Similarly, most slang verbs act regularly, with the -ed suffix in the past tense form (e.g. nick 'steal' ^ nick-ed), -s in the third person singular form (e.g. nick-s), and the -ing form (e.g. nick-ing). Lastly, slang adjectives have ordinary comparative and superlative forms (e.g. daisy U.S. 'first-rate, charming', daisi-er, daisi-est).

As far as syntax is concerned, three main features have been regarded as typical of slang: first, an unusual affective use of the definite article the as in I have the mega headache to mean 'I have a mega headache', second, the omission of copular be in present tense sentences such as You crazy instead of You are crazy, and third, the special use of the adjectival word total with the adverbial function of 'completely' as in I'm total hungry. Actually, slang does not depart from the standard language for these syntactic aspects. Firstly, the article the is part of slang idiomatic expressions (e.g. to give a person the hump 'annoy, depress, a person', to kick the bucket 'die', etc.), but similar fixed forms belong to standard English (e.g. to kick/strike the beam 'be greatly outweighed', to hold the stage 'command the attention of a theatre audience', etc.). Secondly, the frequent omission of the copula in slang present-tense predicative sentences is comparable to the omission of be in Black usage and has entered American slang via the increased popularity of rap music. Thirdly, the construction with the adjective total in adverbial position is recurrent in slang, as other adjectives are in informal language and dialects (e.g. real).





Semantics

The semantics of slang has attracted the attention of almost all pertinent studies. In particular, Eble underline the tendency of slang to name things indirectly or figuratively, especially through metaphor (e.g. bird 'an aeroplane', double O U.S. 'an intense look'), metonymy (e.g. tinnie/-y Austral. 'a can of beer'), synecdoche (e.g. wheels 'a car'), euphemism (e.g. family jewels 'the male genitalia'), and irony (e.g. a (little) bit of all right 'something or somebody regarded as highly satisfactory; esp. applied to a pretty woman').

Eble also argues that slang items often diverge from standard usage in predictable ways, especially by such opposite semantic processes as "generalization" and "specialization", or "amelioration" and "pejoration". For instance, the term eppie/-y (^ epileptic fit) is used in slang with the more general sense of 'a fit of temper', whereas grass, which in standard English refers to 'herbage in general', in slang rather assumes the specialized sense of 'marijuana, used as a drug'. Similarly, the adjective wicked, having bad connotations in standard English (i.e. 'bad in moral character, disposition, or conduct'), in slang is used with positive connotations to mean 'excellent, splendid; remarkable' (orig. U.S.), whereas the neutral adverb inside (St. E. 'on the inner side'), in slang acquires the negative sense of 'in prison'. Actually, similar processes of pragmatic adjustment are found in standard English as well. Wilson for instance, identifies the process of "narrowing" (e.g. drink used to mean 'alcoholic drink'), and that of "broadening", which is further subdivided into "approximation" (e.g. square used to mean 'squarish') and "metaphorical extension" (e.g. rose or diamond applied to a person).

However, it is not always possible to identify a logical connection between a word's standard meaning and those added by slang. Indeed, what seems to be particularly relevant from my lexical semantic approach is the organization (if any) of the slang lexical system. That is, I hypothesize that the associative processes which help us identify the meaning of slang words are different from standard ones, and sometimes they are concealed, so as to make words inaccessible to outsiders. I will particularly concentrate on this aspect of slang semantics.

Pragmatics

The pragmatics of slang is marginally hinted at in relevant literature, or is treated indirectly through the various functions that are attributed to the phenomenon, or the effects it produces upon the hearer. These aspects, however, interface with slang sociological properties.





In conclusion, the linguistic properties of slang demonstrate its significance as a vibrant, creative, and socially meaningful linguistic phenomenon. By studying slang, we gain insights into the ever-evolving nature of language and the dynamic ways in which people express their identities and navigate social interactions.

REFERENCES

1. Norova, M. F. (2020). Connotative meanings in phonetic variants of verbal root-stems (As an example of English and Uzbek languages). *Theoretical & Applied Science*, (1), 439-442.
2. Fayzulloyevna, N. M. (2022). Classification of stylistic colouring words in the English language. *Web of Scholars: Multidimensional Research Journal*, 1(6), 370-374.
3. Fayzulloyevna, N. M. (2022). ON THE ISSUE OF NATIONAL COLOR IN THE TRANSLATION OF THE STORY "THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA" BY ERNEST HEMINGWAY. *International Journal Of Literature And Languages*, 2(11), 52-58.
4. Norova, M. F. (2017). Jack London's skill in creating the image of woman (in the example of the stylistic device metaphor). *Наука. Мысль: электронный периодический журнал*, (4), 80-84.
5. Khaydarov, A. A., & Norova, M. F. (2021). Connotative meanings of phonetically modified words in pronunciation. *Scientific reports of Bukhara State University*, 5(56), 45-55.
6. Fayzulloyevna, N. M. (2022). PECULIARITIES OF ALLITERATION IN EMILY DICKINSON'S POETRY. *International Journal Of Literature And Languages*, 2(11), 76-81.
7. Fayzulloyevna, N. M. (2022). THE STYLISTIC CLASSIFICATION OF VOCABULARY. *American Journal Of Social Sciences And Humanity Research*, 2(12), 28-34.
8. Fayzulloyevna, N. M. (2022). PSEUDO-INTERNATIONALISMS IN MEDICAL TRANSLATION. *American Journal Of Social Sciences And Humanity Research*, 2(12), 13-20.
9. Fayzulloyevna, N. M. (2022). EXPRESSIVENESS OF SCIENTIFIC TEXTS. *International Journal of Pedagogics*, 2(11), 105-112.
10. Fayzulloyevna, N. M. (2023). PRAGMATIC VALUES IN PRONUNCIATION OF PHONETICALLY CHANGED WORDS. *International Journal Of Literature And Languages*, 3(02), 63-67.
11. Fayzulloyevna, N. M. (2023). LINGUISTIC STATUS OF PROFESSIONAL JARGONISMS. *International Journal Of Literature And Languages*, 3(03), 17-23.





12. Fayzulloyevna, N. M. (2023). ARCHAISMS IN ENGLISH PROVERBS. *International Journal Of Literature And Languages*, 3(05), 58-64.
13. Fayzulloyevna, N. M., & Rustamovna, B. N. (2023). EXPRESSIVE FUNCTION OF ENGLISH ARGOT IN A LITERARY TEXT. *International Journal Of Literature And Languages*, 3(05), 96-102.
14. Fayzulloyevna, N. M., & Rashidovna, B. Z. (2023). PHONOSTYLISTICS IS THE SCIENCE OF STUDYING THE SOUND COMPOSITION OF LITERARY TEXT. *International Journal Of Literature And Languages*, 3(05), 115-120.
15. Fayzulloyevna, N. M. (2023). CATEGORY OF TENSION IN JD SALINGER'S WORKS. *International Journal Of Literature And Languages*, 3(05), 128-133.
16. Fayzulloyevna, N. M. (2023). DIFFICULTIES IN TRANSLATING ARCHAISMS AND HISTORICISMS. *International Journal Of Literature And Languages*, 3(10), 11-18.
17. Fayzulloyevna, N. M. (2023). STYLISTIC FEATURES OF SOME DIALECTICISMS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE. *International Journal Of Literature And Languages*, 3(11), 1-8.
18. Davlatova M.H. Relation of lexical-semantic structure of verbs in the linguistic essence.// *IEJRD-International Multidisciplinary Journal*, № 5, 2021. – P. 58-62.
19. Davlatova M.H. Semantic implementation of resultative structures.// *JournalNX - A Multidisciplinary Peer Reviewed Journal*, № 6, 2021. – P. 291-294.
20. Davlatova M.H. Different aspects of resultative structures according to their linguistic essence.// *Academicia Globe: Inderscience Research*, 2 (05), 2021. – P. 475-479.
21. Davlatova M.H. Aspectual and lexical-semantic classification of verbs. *JournalNX-A Multidisciplinary Peer Reviewed Journal*, 8(2). 2022. – P. 116-121.
22. Habibova, M. N. (2021). Jorjina Houellning "Queen of the desert" biografik asarida gertruda Bell timsoli tasviri. *Academic research in educational sciences*, 2(2), 770-778.
23. Habibova, M. N. (2021). The theme feminism in the epistolary novels in modern times. *ISJ Theoretical & Applied Science*, 11(103), 1101-1105.
24. Habibova, M. N. (2022). THE HISTORY OF THE RUSSIAN EPISTOLARY NOVEL IN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY. *EURASIAN JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, PHILOSOPHY AND CULTURE*, 2 (3), 135-139.
25. Habibova, M. N. (2022). EVALUATIVE OBSERVATION ON DH LAWRENCE'S EPISTOLARY ACHIEVEMENT. *EURASIAN JOURNAL OF ACADEMIC RESEARCH*, 2 (4), 489-494.



26. Habibova, M. (2022). THEORIES OF INTERTEXTUALITY AND THE BASIC FRAMEWORK OF KRISTEVA'S FORMULATION OF HER THEORY OF INTERTEXTUALITY. Eurasian Journal of Social Sciences, Philosophy and Culture, 2(5), 301-307.
27. Habibova, Manzila Nuriddinovna (2022). A BIOGRAPHY IS A SPECIALIZED FORM OF HISTORY AND BASIC TYPES OF BIOGRAPHIES. Oriental renaissance: Innovative, educational, natural and social sciences, 2 (5), 495-503.
28. Habibova, M. N. (2022). Epistolary Novel as a Scientific Problem. American Journal of Social and Humanitarian Research, 3(10), 211–214. Retrieved from <https://www.grnjournals.us/index.php/ajshr/article/view/1575>
29. Habibova, M. N. (2022). The Epistolary Form and Art in Modernist Literature. American Journal of Social and Humanitarian Research, 3(10), 206–210. Retrieved from <https://www.grnjournals.us/index.php/ajshr/article/view/1574>
30. Habibova, M. . (2022). WRITING THE NOVEL OF LETTERS AND THE ANALYSIS OF LETTER FICTION AND DIARY FICTION. International Bulletin of Applied Science and Technology, 2(11), 260–264. Retrieved from <https://researchcitations.com/index.php/ibast/article/view/317>
31. Habibova, M. . (2022). EPISTOLARY NARRATOLOGY AND CITATIONS FROM AN EPISTOLARY SOURCE: SAMUEL RICHARDSON'S PAMELA AND CLARISSA AND FRANCES BURNEY'S EVELINA. Евразийский журнал академических исследований, 2(12), 1131–1135. извлечено от <https://in-academy.uz/index.php/ejar/article/view/6655>
32. Manzila Nuriddinovna Khabibova. (2022). JOYCE'S DEVELOPMENT AS AN AUTHOR AND HIS EXPERIMENTS WITH THE EPISTOLARY FORM. American Journal Of Philological Sciences, 2(11), 73–81. <https://doi.org/10.37547/ajps/Volume02Issue11-10>
33. Manzila Nuriddinovna Habibova. (2022). LETTER WRITING AS ALLEGORY FOR THE WOMAN WRITER. American Journal Of Philological Sciences, 2(11), 88–92. <https://doi.org/10.37547/ajps/Volume02Issue11-12>
34. Хабибова, М. Н. (2022). ЭПИСТОЛЯРНЫЙ РОМАН КАК НАУЧНАЯ ПРОБЛЕМА. Results of National Scientific Research International Journal, 1(9), 394–402. Retrieved from <https://academicsresearch.com/index.php/rnsr/article/view/1379>
35. Habibova, M. N. . (2023). Origins of the Epistolary Novel and the Principal Epistolary Works. INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE LEARNING AND APPLIED LINGUISTICS, 2(2), 70–74. Retrieved from <https://inter-publishing.com/index.php/IJLLAL/article/view/1159>





36. Khabibova, M. N. . (2023). The Historical Influence of the Epistolary Novel. INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE LEARNING AND APPLIED LINGUISTICS, 2(2), 75–79. Retrieved from <https://interpublishing.com/index.php/IJLLAL/article/view/1161>
37. Habibova, M. (2023). SPECIFIC POSSIBILITIES WRITING TECHNIQUES USED IN EPISTOLARY FORM AND THEIR EFFECTS ON BOTH THE CHARACTERS AND READERS. Eurasian Journal of Academic Research, 3(5),172–177.Retrieved from <https://in-academy.uz/index.php/ejar/article/view/14085>
38. Habibova, M. (2023). EPISTOLARY COMPARISONS AND TRENDS. Евразийский журнал академических исследований, 3(5 Part 4), 330–338. извлечено от <https://in-academy.uz/index.php/ejar/article/view/16170>
39. Habibova, M. (2023). PRAGMATICS AND COGNITION. Current approaches and new research in modern sciences, 2(10), 90-96.
40. Manzila Nuriddinovna Habibova. (2023). THE CONCEPT OF THE WHITE MAN'S SUPERIORITY AND THE PORTRAYAL OF THE ARABIC CHARACTERS IN "THE LAWRENCE OF ARABIA" AND "THE SEVEN PILLARS OF WISDOM". Academia Repository, 4(10), 24–31. Retrieved from <https://academiarepo.org/index.php/1/article/view/96>.

