

WAYS OF WORD FORMATION IN THE YOUTH SLANG OF THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE

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Abstract

This article aims to analyze the ways of formation of neologisms in the youth slang of the Russian language. The study of the peculiarities of the development of slang and its use in language, a linguistic phenomenon, the study of which is of great interest, is relevant. The authors identify the most productive ways of word formation that are currently functioning in Russian youth slang.

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In the language of each nation there are words that are a kind of deviation from the literary norm and serve as a means of informal communication in oral speech. Such lexical units are called slang.

In the modern language, slang can rightfully be considered an independent phenomenon. This fact is explained by its wide distribution in the speech of certain social groups and a fairly high level of recognition. For example, V. S. Matyushenkov notes that slangisms make up "10-20% of the average American's vocabulary" [1, p. 5].

Slang as a part of the vocabulary of a language is not a stable and clearly structured component, its content is constantly changing and replenished with new elements due to changes in the socio-cultural, political, and economic life of society. Nevertheless, slangisms remain an integral part of any language, characterizing its development. Despite the existence in modern science of a large number of works devoted to the development of problems of slang, this topic remains relevant today, primarily due to the constant development of the structure of the language and changes in society.

The study of youth slang and the ways of forming new words in it helps to follow the dynamics of language development and trends in the formation of linguistic consciousness and socio-cultural priorities of today's youth, within the framework of our research – modern Russian youth.

The purpose of this article is to analyze the ways of forming new words in the youth slang of the Russian language. Russian slang units taken from dictionaries of youth slang, examples of their use (obtained through personal observations), as well as the results of a survey (questionnaire) conducted among Russian youth are analyzed.

K. P. Podrabinek defines youth slang as "a social dialect of people aged 13-30 years", which arose as a result of the opposition of youth to "not so much the older generation as the official system." According to the author, slang is found, as a rule, in the circle of "urban students and individual closed reference groups" [2, p. 2]. As part of the study, we study young people in the age group from 14 to 23 years old.

Our analysis of the ways of word formation in the youth slang of the Russian language consisted of of

the two main stages. At the first stage, 300 slang units related to the Russian youth language were selected. These slangisms were taken mainly from paper dictionaries of modern youth slang, as well as from the Internet (online dictionaries, social networks, Internet sites). After that, we started the second stage of practical research, namely, a survey in which representatives of Russian youth from 14 to 23 years old were asked to choose from this list of words those that they are most often used in speech and heard from their peers. In addition, respondents were given the opportunity to add their own words to the list - those that are popular in the language of young people, but are not on the list.

Based on the data obtained during the survey, the list, which initially included 300 lexical units, was reduced to 150 slangisms. Then, on the basis of this list, we analyzed the ways of word formation characterizing the considered slangisms.

In general, in the units of Russian youth slang, we have fixed 8 main ways of forming new words: abbreviation, affixation, borrowing of criminal argotisms, polysemy, metaphors, telescoping, phonetic mimicry, foreign language borrowings. Having determined the number of words formed by each of them, we have established the percentage of word formation methods that currently function in Russian youth slang.

The five most common ways of forming new slangisms include the following:

1. Foreign language borrowings. This method turned out to be the most widely used in the slang of Russian youth and amounted to 31% of the total number. It includes lexical units borrowed from other languages. The largest number of borrowings in Russian youth slang is from English, but there are words from other languages, for example, Japanese (in our opinion, this fact is most likely due to the widespread use of elements of Japanese culture, in particular Japanese anime animations): «go(u)» – from the English «to go», «nyasha» – from Japan. «nyah» ("meow"). From observing the conversation of young people, the following examples can be given: «Gou v stolovku!». «I sobachki, ikoshki – onivsetakie ...nyashi!».

In addition, we found words in youth slang that came to the Russian language from other languages: Hebrew («halyava» – from Hebrew. "halyav" – “milk”), The Gypsy language («tyirit» – from tsyg. "teres" 'take, hold') [3].

Particular attention is drawn to the fact that slangisms borrowed from other languages have a high degree of morphological adaptation. Russian slang not only adapts to its phonetic and graphical system (“sorry” – «sori», “picture” – «pikcha»), but also enters into an active process of word formation according to the word-formation models of the Russian language.: «post» – from the English. “post” («postit», «zapostit», «perepostit» – “publish on the Internet”), «feyk» – from the English “fake” («feykoviy»), «копираст» – from the English “copy, past” («kopipastit», «skopipastit» – ‘copy text from external sources’). Usage examples: «Sori, yasluchayno». «Hvatitpostitkoteek». «Skopipastil s vikipedii».

2. Affixation is a way of forming new words using affixes. Due to the fact that the Russian language belongs to a synthetic type of languages, affixation is a widespread phenomenon in it.

Youth slang was no exception: here affixation turned out to be the second most common way of word formation and accounted for 29% of the total. It should be noted that the most productive affixes in the slang of Russian youth are suffixes **-k** («mamka» – ‘mama’, «muzyichka» – ‘muzyka’, «uchilka» – ‘uchitelnitsa’), **-yuh /-yushk** («dnyuha» / «dnyushka» – ‘den rojdeniya’, «uvajuha» – ‘uvajenie’, «bratuha» – ‘brat’), **-t** («bazarit» – ‘razgovarivat’, «tusovatsya» – ‘razvlekatsya’). In addition, suffixes such as **-os** (this suffix is exclusively a "slang" suffix, «vidos» – ‘video’), **-nya** (a suffix that gives the word a disparaging meaning, «fignya» – ‘an unimportant thing, a trifle’), **-chik** («nejdanchik» – ‘something unexpected’). The following statements from observing the conversation of young people can serve as examples: «Vstretiluchilkunakanikulah». «Votetobyilnejdanchik!». «Takmoybratan so

mnoybazaril v detstve». «Pomogimne, pojaluysta, s etimzadaniem, dlyatebya je etofignya!». «CHtobudemNatashenadnyuhudarit?».

3. Polysemy, a method of word formation based on the ambiguity of a word, is the third most frequent functioning in Russian youth slang and accounts for 19% of the total. For example: «prikol» 1) 'a pile driven into the ground', 2) slang. 'something fun'; «bayan» 1) 'musical instrument', 2) slang. 'an outdated joke'; «jest» 1) 'sheet iron', 2) slang. 'something out of the ordinary'; «sharit» 1) 'scour in search of something', 2) slang. 'to understand something'; «skinut / skidivat» 1) 'throw down', 2) slang. 'send any file over the Internet'; «ugar» 1) 'carbon monoxide', 2) slang. 'something very funny,' etc. [3; 4]. For example, «Ne ponimayu, v chëmprikol?!» «Jest... YA byipomerlaotstraha!» «Nu iugar!» etc.

4. Abbreviation is a method of word formation based on the abbreviation of a word or phrase. The percentage of abbreviation in Russian youth slang was 11%. In the course of the study, we managed to fix three main types of abbreviation: sound, letter and syllabic.

Letter abbreviation is a type of word formation in which a lexical unit is composed of alphabetical names of the initial letters of words forming the original phrase. For example: «MB» – 'mojetbyit' – 'Maybe' («MB nachasikporanshepridyom?»), «NG» – 'Novyy god' – 'New Year' («Kakieplanyina NG?»), «OMG» – from the English 'Oh, my God!' ('O, Bojemoy!'). Moreover, the latter option is usually used only in writing, and not in oral speech.

Sound abbreviation is a type of word formation in which a lexical unit is formed from the initial letters of the elements of the original phrase, which is read not by the names of the letters, but as an ordinary word. For example: «IMHO» – from the English 'Inmyhonestopinion' – «Mojnovyibratlyubuyuz tem, no samayainteresnaya, IMHO, tretya!», «DR» – 'Den rojdeniya' – 'Birthday' («Zavtraidëm k Artyomuna DR»). The examples are taken from observing the conversation of young people.

Syllabic abbreviation is a type of word formation by reducing words to their initial syllables. We have discovered the functioning of the following types of it: apocopa – truncation of the end of a word («ava» – 'avatar', «komp» – 'kompyuter', «prepod» – 'prepodavatel', «magaz» – 'magazin'); – Syncopation – truncating the middle of a word («inet» – 'internet', «ava» – 'avatar'). For example, «YA, pohoje, opozdayu – peredayteprepodu, pojaluysta». «Privet, ava – prosto super!». «Mnenado v magazzavodichkoysbegat». Based on the results of the first part of our survey, we can say that the main purpose of using abbreviations by young people is to save time when communicating: abbreviation helps young people express their thoughts with minimal expenditure of speech resources.

5. Criminal argotisms, borrowings from the language of criminal jargon, form a separate part of the slangisms of the Russian language and form 4% of the number of all ways of word formation. This group of slang vocabulary includes words such as «kanat» – 'be suitable', «kosh» – 'friend', «klyovo» – 'cool'.

Metaphorics, a method of word formation based on a figurative meaning, was also in fifth place (4%): «bazar» – 'conversation, conversation' («Zabazaromsledi!» – 'Kontroliruy to, chtogovorish!'), «kosmos» – 'an approving assessment of something', «v shoke» – 'in great surprise' («YA prosto v shokeotetogo!»).

The remaining 2% were less common, but still found in youth slang, ways of word formation:

- **phonetic mimicry** is a method of word formation based on the coincidence of semantically dissimilar lexical units (1%): «loys» – from the English borrowing – 'like'. Usage example: «KtolyubitKrishtianuRonaldu, staveloysy».
- **telescoping** is a method of word formation, during which several truncated bases merge (1%): «kapets» – 'the unexpected completion of an event' (from the words «kaput» + «konets»).

The above analysis allows us to draw the following conclusion. The most productive ways of word

formation that currently function in Russian youth slang are the following: foreign language borrowings, affixation, polysemy, abbreviation, borrowings of criminal argotisms, metaphors. Such methods of forming new words as phonetic mimicry and telescoping also function in the language of young people, but are less common.

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