

YOUTH SLANG AS AN OBJECT OF COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS

Nematjonova Nafisa Bokhodirovna
Lecturer of the Faculty of Philology

Darina Vitalyevna Akhmirova
Student of the Faculty of Philology

Abstract

The article examines youth slang as an important element of modern speech culture. The influence of Internet communication and popular youth subcultures on the formation of new lexical units is analyzed. Particular attention is paid to slang associated with anime culture and Korean pop music (K-pop). The history of the emergence of slang expressions within these subcultures is considered, examples of words are provided, and the features of their functioning in youth speech are analyzed. The role of Internet communication and fan communities in the spread of slang is also examined. The paper presents a comparative analysis of different types of youth vocabulary and discusses the process by which subcultural slang spreads beyond its original environment of use.

Keywords: Youth slang, speech culture, Internet communication, subculture, anime, K-pop, fandom, borrowings, youth vocabulary.

Introduction

Modern language constantly develops and changes under the influence of social and cultural processes [1]. One of the most noticeable manifestations of linguistic dynamics is youth slang. It represents a special layer of vocabulary actively used in informal communication among teenagers and young people [3].

The relevance of this study is determined by the fact that, in the context of globalization and the development of digital technologies, youth speech is formed under the influence of various cultural sources. The Internet, social networks, and international media phenomena contribute to the active spread of new words and expressions [6].

Popular subcultures play a special role in the formation of youth slang. Among them are anime culture and Korean pop culture (K-pop), which have gained great popularity among teenagers in many countries of the world [4].

The aim of this article is to analyze the features of the formation of youth slang and to conduct a comparative study of vocabulary emerging within Internet communication, anime culture, and K-pop culture.

Youth slang is a set of words and expressions mainly used in informal communication. It is characterized by a high degree of expressiveness and emotionality and often reflects the worldview of a particular social group [2].

One of the characteristic features of youth slang is its dynamic nature. New words appear quite quickly, and some of them may disappear over time or move into a broader layer of colloquial vocabulary [3].

From the perspective of speech culture, youth slang performs several functions. It facilitates communication within a social group, helps express emotions, and contributes to the formation of collective identity [1].

In modern society, an important factor in the formation of youth slang is the influence of mass culture and the Internet. Internet communication has become one of the main sources of the emergence of new words and expressions. Social networks, forums, and video platforms create a space in which new lexical units spread rapidly [6].

Internet slang is characterized by brevity and expressiveness. Many words are abbreviations or borrowings from the English language [4].

Examples of common Internet slang include:

“**LOL**” – an expression of laughter;

“**ROFL**” – a joke or situation that causes strong laughter;

“**meme**” – an image or phrase that spreads widely on the Internet;

“**cringe**” – a feeling of awkwardness or embarrassment;

“**flex**” – to show off;

“**check**” – to verify or look at something.

The Internet plays a key role in spreading such words. Thanks to social networks, new expressions can become popular among young people within a short period of time [6].

Anime culture began to spread actively beyond Japan at the end of the twentieth century. With the development of the Internet and the availability of media

content, the popularity of Japanese animation has increased significantly, leading to the formation of international fan communities [4].

Within these communities, words of Japanese origin began to be used and gradually became part of youth vocabulary.

Common anime slang words include:

otaku – a person strongly interested in anime or manga;

senpai – an older or more experienced person;

kawaii – cute or charming;

nya – an expression of joy or affection;

chan – an affectionate form of address for a girl.

Many of these words are used not only in fan communities but also in broader Internet communication. Anime slang performs the function of cultural identification and allows members of the community to express their belonging to a particular subculture [5].

Korean pop culture began to spread actively around the world at the beginning of the twenty-first century. This phenomenon became known as the Korean Wave, or Hallyu. The popularity of music groups, television series, and entertainment shows led to the formation of large international fan communities [4].

Within these communities, their own vocabulary developed, which is actively used by fans.

Examples of slang words in K-pop culture include:

idol – a performer or member of a music group;

comeback – the release of a new album or song;

fandom – a community of fans;

bias – a favorite member of a group;

maknae – the youngest member of a group.

The slang of K-pop culture is closely connected with fan communities. Fans actively discuss musical releases, concerts, and performances using specialized vocabulary [4].

The Internet and social networks play a key role in the spread of youth slang. Online communities allow people from different countries to communicate with each other and exchange cultural elements [6].

Fan communities play a particularly important role. Fandoms create their own systems of communication that include special words, abbreviations, and expressions. Through social networks and video platforms, such words begin to

be used by a wider audience. Thus, slang gradually spreads beyond the boundaries of the original subculture [6].

For example, words such as “**meme**,” “**cringe**,” or “**fandom**” are now used even by people who are not active members of these Internet communities.

Youth slang is an important part of modern linguistic culture and reflects the characteristics of communication among the younger generation [2]. The conducted analysis shows that the Internet, anime culture, and K-pop culture significantly influence the formation of new slang expressions. Internet platforms and fan communities play a key role in spreading these words. Over time, many slang expressions move beyond subcultures and become part of broader youth vocabulary [3].

The study of youth slang makes it possible to better understand the processes of language development and the characteristics of modern youth culture.

References

1. Elena A. Zemskaya. (2010). *Modern Russian Language*. Moscow: Prosveshchenie.
2. Leonid P. Krysin. (2015). *The Russian Word in the Modern World*. Moscow: Nauka.
3. Valeriy M. Mokienko. (2012). *Russian Slang and Colloquial Speech*. Saint Petersburg: Azbuka.
4. David Crystal. (2019). *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
5. Jonathon Coleman. (2014). *The Life of Slang*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
6. Ivanova, N. V. (2018). *Internet Language and Youth Communication*. Moscow.