

## STYLISTIC FEATURES OF SLANG TERMS IN PRAGMATIC ASPECTS

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### Abstract

This article explores the stylistic features of slang terms from a pragmatic perspective, examining how slang functions in various communicative contexts to convey nuanced meanings, establish social identities, and reflect cultural dynamics.

**Keywords:** Slang, stylistic features, pragmatics, cross-cultural comparison, discourse, semantic change, clipping.

### Introduction

Language is a dynamic and evolving entity, shaped continuously by social, cultural, and contextual influences. One of the most vibrant and fluid components of language is slang, defined as unconventional words or phrases that convey new meanings or reinterpret existing concepts. Often marked by its flippant, irreverent, and sometimes indecorous nature, slang serves as a vehicle for social commentary, challenging respectability through colorful and metaphorical expressions. Despite its informal character, slang holds significant linguistic value, offering insights into social dynamics, group identity, and communicative strategies. The origin of the term “slang” remains obscure, with its earliest recorded use appearing around 1800, associated with the speech of marginalized and criminal groups in London. Since then, slang has permeated diverse social contexts, adapting to changing cultural landscapes and becoming an integral part of everyday communication. Closely related concepts include *cant* and *jargon*—nonstandard forms of language that

cater to specific groups or professional domains—and *dialect*, which denotes regional or social varieties of language.

This article aims to explore the use of slang as a sociolinguistic phenomenon by comparing slang usage across three distinct languages: Uzbek, English, and Russian. Through a comparative analysis, the study seeks to uncover commonalities and differences in the formation, function, and social implications of slang within these linguistic contexts. By examining the pragmatic aspects and social functions of slang in each language, this research endeavors to enhance our understanding of how informal language practices shape and reflect cultural identity.

## **Literature Review**

### **Etymology of Slang**

Slang is an inalienable part of colloquial English. It is vivid and natural in speech. Everyone from teenagers to scholars use it. All countries and periods of history had slang. It reflects the peculiarities of contemporary daily life in a unique way. All types of semantic change can be illustrated with this part of the vocabulary. [5, p, 27-32]. Slang items usually are not long-lived, but each period of history has its own traits, which are wonderfully characterized by these short-lived expressions. Thus, nowadays slang has become more and more popular. The role that it plays today is greater than it was in certain times in the past. On average 20-30 % of native speaker's speech consists of slang. We may have difficulty while speaking to them. In fact, it might be difficult to understand a person who asks you where dog and bone is. If you do not know anything about rhyming slang, you will not even imagine that you are asked about telephone. It would certainly be an incomplete picture of the language today, which failed to include slang as a present feature and a source from which English will doubtlessly continue to develop in future.

There are usually some difficulties in translating slang. However, while translating we should find equivalents of slang in Uzbek or Russian or we can use explanatory method. So, it is worth studying slang and its etymology. Slang is a very ancient phenomenon, extending back into the history of language almost as far as our records can reach.

The origin of the word slang itself is unknown. Its resemblance in sound and figurative meaning to the noun and verb sling and the occurrence of apparently the same root in Scandinavian expressions referring to language, suggest that the term slang is a development of a Germanic root from which the current English sling is derived. Another conjecture is that slang has been formed by shortening from genitive phrases like beggars' language or rogues' language, in which the genitive suffix of the first noun attaches to the initial syllable of language and then the final syllable is lost [1, p.10]. The term was first used in England in the middle of the eighteenth century, but English literature on slang goes back to the sixteenth century, and includes a glossary in seven large volumes [2, p.145]

### **Stylistic Features of Slang**

The allure and apprehension associated with slang often stem from its sense of novelty. While not every new word qualifies as slang, the essence of slang lies in its ability to convey freshness and innovation. However, an examination of linguistic strategies in slang formation reveals that entirely new linguistic constructs are relatively rare. Instead, slang often emerges from manipulating familiar sound patterns, altering word forms, and defying conventional grammar or discourse norms. This approach allows for the perception of novelty while minimizing the mental effort required to process new linguistic information. One common method of slang creation involves *clipping*, shortening or abbreviating standard lexical forms. For instance, words like "*toats*" (meaning *totally*) and "*rents*" (meaning *parents*) might initially seem puzzling, but they are simple to produce and recall. Over time, some of these abbreviated forms become widely accepted as equivalents to their original versions. Words such as "*exam*" (from *examination*) and "*math*" (from *mathematics*), which were once considered informal or slang, have now become standard elements of the language.

Additionally, catchy phrases, often popularized through mass media, also play a prominent role in slang usage. Expressions like "*that's what she said*" challenge the misconception that slang is merely a collection of abbreviations or a reflection of linguistic laziness. Instead, they highlight the creativity and social resonance inherent in informal language practices.

## **The use of English slang in online communication**

In digital communication, the use of English slang, words utilized by specific groups and professions, can yield both beneficial and detrimental effects. Conversely, English slang can foster creativity and serve as a means of expressing identity for particular social groups. This can facilitate communication, making it more straightforward and immediate, particularly in informal contexts, both in spoken and written forms, as well as on social media platforms. The roles of slang in online communication were examined through three different lenses: cognitive, nominative, and expressive, utilizing a survey approach on social networks. Social media has brought about a new era of cultures and communities that have developed an entirely new set of slang beyond conventional terminology. During the analysis of how English slang features are employed on social networks, several characteristics and traits were uncovered.

### **Cognitive functions.**

The terminology and expressions found in slang can act as a symbolic language, providing a brief and innovative means of sharing and conveying information. It enables young individuals to develop distinct ways of thinking and forge new connections and associations among objects, events, and concepts. On the Internet, modern slang can establish a unique "online culture" or "online group" where individuals utilize particular expressions and abbreviations to communicate and articulate their thoughts and feelings. For instance, memes and digital humor can incorporate specific words and phrases from youth slang to create comedic scenarios and disseminate information within an online community.

### **Nominative function.**

The nominative aspect of youth slang pertains to its ability to present objects and events in a distinctive manner. In the context of Facebook, English slang can help foster a unique atmosphere and linguistic environment specific to its users, allowing them to feel a sense of belonging to this social media group. There are multiple benefits to utilizing English slang on Facebook. Firstly, these shared language features contribute to a cohesive language setting and enhance communication among Facebook members, lowering communication barriers and facilitating interactions between users. By employing common jargon, Facebook

members share experiences and cultivate a sense of identity for the Facebook community. Secondly, incorporating English slang into the Facebook experience can make the social media space more engaging and authentic. This can aid members in immersing themselves within the virtual realm of Facebook, creating an illusion of participation in community discussions and, in a way, expanding their vocabulary.

### **Expressive function.**

The expressive role of English slang is vital for effectively understanding and conveying messages and intricate details of information among individuals in the realm of social media. Using a distinct set of English slang and informal expressions in social media communication allows for a subtle way of sharing or imparting information. This approach enables humor, teasing, and emotional sensitivity to be expressed in ways that may be challenging to communicate through formal channels.

### **Comparison of Slang in English, Uzbek, and Russian**

Slang provides insight into a language's social dynamics and cultural quirks. Both Uzbek and English use slang that reflects their respective historical backgrounds, social contexts, and cultural values when expressing friendship. English Slang: Influenced by numerous cultures and subcultures, English slang has developed over centuries of linguistic interaction. Friendship-related terms frequently originate from social movements, music, and youth culture. For example, terms like "bestie" and "BFF" (Best Friends Forever) have become more common in recent years, especially among younger generations, and represent close, long-lasting friendships. Uzbek Slang: With roots in ancient Turkic languages, Uzbek slang has been influenced by Persian, Arabic, and Russian over the years. In Uzbek culture, the word "do'st," which means "friend," is fundamental and emphasizes the value of intimate bonds. Words like "kushuk," which means "buddy," convey the friendliness and warmth that are essential to Uzbek social life. English Slang Terms for Friendship Expressions:

1. Best Friends Forever, or BFF, denotes a close, enduring friendship.
2. Bestie: A close friend who is frequently used with affection.
3. Squad: A collection of friends; denotes a close-knit community.

4. A devoted friend who will always be there for you, ride or die.

Slang Terms in Uzbekistan:

1. Do'st: A common word for "friend," signifying intimacy and devotion.
2. Kushuk: A colloquial word for "buddy," used in casual speech.
3. Yarim, which literally translates to "half," denotes a close friend or relative.
4. Qadrdon is a term used to describe a close friend.

### **The Role of Slang and Colloquial Language in Russian Communication**

Slang and colloquial expressions represent essential components of spoken Russian, serving not only to express emotions but also to strengthen interpersonal relationships and signify identification with particular social groups or subcultures. Informal language in Russian functions as an intermediary between formal linguistic norms and regional dialects, offering a more flexible, creative, and at times more expressive mode of communication than standard Russian.

The evolution of Russian slang is heavily influenced by socio-historical contexts, political developments, and cultural trends. Notably, the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 led to an influx of Western cultural and technological elements, as well as the introduction of new economic terminology, all of which contributed to the emergence of new slang expressions. Contemporary Russian slang continues to reflect these Western influences while also drawing from the nation's historical experiences and rich cultural traditions. This linguistic shift is exemplified in contemporary conversational exchanges among Russian youth, such as the following:

“Чё, сегодня куда идём?” (“So, where are we going today?”),

“Давай просто поваляемся где-нибудь.” (“Let’s just chill somewhere.”),

“Классно! А потом может сходим в новый бар?”

(“Great! And maybe later we can check out the new bar?”).

These utterances highlight the use of informal vocabulary and relaxed syntax, reflecting how modern slang facilitates casual, socially embedded communication while simultaneously conveying a sense of cultural modernity and shared identity.

### **Results**

The study shows that slang plays a key role in communication, helping people express emotions, identity, and social bonds. It's a flexible tool used across English,

Uzbek, and Russian, with each language reflecting its own social and cultural dynamics. In digital spaces, slang evolves quickly, with social media driving its spread and shaping new trends. Although slang functions similarly in all three languages, it's shaped by unique cultural contexts, whether through youth culture in English, traditional values in Uzbek, or historical shifts in Russian.

## Discussion

Slang is a powerful part of language, offering a way for people to connect and express themselves informally. Across English, Uzbek, and Russian, slang serves as a marker of identity and group belonging. In English, slang is often tied to youth culture and social movements, especially online. Uzbek slang focuses more on warmth and relationships, while Russian slang blends tradition and modern influences, especially after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The rise of digital communication has accelerated slang's spread, making it a vital part of online culture. In these spaces, slang helps people connect and form communities. Ultimately, slang is more than just informal speech; it's a dynamic tool that reflects cultural changes, shapes communication, and adapts to new social contexts.

## Conclusion

Slang plays a crucial role in shaping language and communication, offering a window into societal norms, cultural influences, and social identities. The stylistic features of slang, including its use of creativity, abbreviation, and metaphorical expressions, allow it to convey meaning in dynamic and context-dependent ways. Across English, Uzbek, and Russian, slang serves as a tool for informal communication, with each language reflecting its unique cultural background. In digital spaces, the rapid spread of slang highlights its evolving nature, influencing online discourse and group identity. This comparative analysis underscores the adaptability of slang, making it a significant component of language in both personal and social interactions.

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