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THE SEMANTIC CHARACTERISTIC OF SLANG AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Summary. The article considers the role of slang as a social and linguistic phenomenon. The author considers the peculiarities of slang use, their morphological characteristics. The vocabulary of natural language is in constant motion, in dynamics, and it is constantly replenished with new lexical and phraseological units. The same thing happens at the non-standard level of modern English. The main method of replenishing the vocabulary of the language with non-standard vocabulary is semantic derivation, which results in the expansion of the semantic volume of words, the literary standard due to the appearance in it of a colloquial lexical-semantic variant. We are talking about metaphorical and metonymic transfer of meaning, narrowing and expanding the meanings of words, generalization and concretization, deterioration and improvement of meaning. Thus, the vocabulary of English slang is a dynamic system, it is constantly replenished with new slangisms and new meanings, both literary words and units of slang. In modern English, slang is an important component of colloquial language and represents a significant part of its vocabulary. English slang is one of the subsystems of the English language, which is realized in a certain language group. Slang is recognized as the antithesis of literary language and is identified in part with jargon, professionalism and colloquial language. The main way in which the vocabulary of English slang is replenished is metaphorical and metonymic transfer of meaning, narrowing and expanding the meanings of words, generalization, concretization, deterioration and improvement of meaning.

English slang is an integrative component, an integral component of the English language, which is an unconditional and integral part of the culture of the English linguistic and cultural community.

Among with other social dialects and with the literary standard, interacting closely with them, slang has always acted and acts as a certain clearly visible language system. Like other parts of speech, it is constantly evolving, replenished with new words and new meanings of words. The basic basis of its lexical, grammatical and phonetic structure, dating back to the elements of English territorial dialects, remains unchanged

Key words: slang, language phenomenon, metaphorization, linguistics, stylistic characteristics.

Formulation of the problem. Slang is a social variety of language used by a limited number of people and differs in its special structure (phonetics, grammar, token structure and semantics) from the language standard. A language standard is an exemplary, normalized language, the norms of which are

perceived as “correct” and universally binding, and which is opposed to dialects and colloquialisms.

Slang is used to make the language of a social group incomprehensible to the uninitiated. Slang is characterized not only by the distortion of existing words of the language, but also by numerous borrowings, the appearance of which is often modified in such a way that they do not differ from other tokens of a particular language.

Note that the slang is realized in a particular language group. In the sociolinguistic literature, the language group is considered as part of sociolinguistic analysis, in connection with which the borrowed terms “linguistic community” and “language community” are often used. In this regard, AD Schweizer formulates important definitions: “linguistic team – a set of socially interacting individuals who show a certain unity in linguistic features, and the language team – a community that differs from others not by the presence of certain linguistic units, and their use in language” [5, p. 71].

The relevance of the study is not in doubt, because slang is one of the most commonly used phenomena of language among young people and other categories of society.

Thus, language in all its manifestations and varieties (including slang) appears as a purely social phenomenon: it would be wrong to assume that the main factors governing the existence and development of language are only “intralinguistic”, or that language represents a certain “self-regulating system”, and social factors are only “peripheral influences”. Man and his language are inseparable from each other. This determines the purpose of our study, which is a detailed analysis of the phenomenon of slang as a social and linguistic phenomenon.

Under the concept of “slang” often summed up a variety of lexical and stylistic phenomena. Note a few different concepts of English slang.

Analysis of research and publications. Research of foreign linguists is devoted to the study of slang. Let's name only a few names of scientists, to varying degrees associated with the study of slang: A.S. Because, G. Bradley, O. Espersen, J. Greenock and K.I. Kittridge, G.L. Menken, J. Murray, W. Labow, L. Soudek, M. Lehnert, J. Leiter, and others.

Presenting main material. The most characteristic theoretical and linguistic understanding of slang, which has its roots in the psychological direction of linguistics, is highlighted in the following position of O. Espersen: “slang is a form of language that owes its origin to the human desire to deviate from ordinary language imposed by society”. The main impulse in slang, it is

a “sense of mental superiority”. Slang is the result of the inherent humanity “desire to play” (love of play) [5, p. 81].

Most English lexicologists to one degree or another share the point of view of O. Espersen on slang. Espersen’s position is also common, which boils down to the fact that slang by its nature requires continuous renewal [4, p. 24].

A significant contribution to the study of the phenomenon of slang was made by Eric Partridge (1894–1979), who throughout his life collected a huge amount of factual material and published many works, including dictionaries. E. Partridge and his followers (for example, J. Greenock and KI Kittridge) consider slang as a conscious, deliberate use of elements of literary vocabulary in colloquial language for stylistic purposes: to create the effect of novelty, unusualness, differences from recognized patterns, to convey a certain mood of the speaker, to give the expression specificity, liveliness, expressiveness, visibility, accuracy, brevity, imagery, as well as to avoid clichés. This is achieved through the use of such stylistic means as metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, litota, euphemism. E. Partridge also notes that slang is used by a person in a cheerful mood, young in age or state of mind, for fun [3 p. 45].

“The main motive for the use of slang, researchers call the expression of a sense of emotional community among members of social groups or subcultures, their commitment to certain values and attitudes” [3, p. 61].

Some authors view slang as a vulgar, thieving language that should be avoided and doomed to rapid extinction; others, on the contrary, consider slang a sign of life, renewal and progressive development of language. Thus, FJ Wilstek wrote: “Pedantism in language – is nonsense ..., slang is often an expression of the concentrated life force of language” [1 p. 81].

Thus, analyzing the above statements, we can point the lack of a common point of view of lexicographers on the problem of determining the essence of slang. This is due to the fact that the term “slang” in English lexicography combines words and phrases that are completely different in terms of their stylistic characteristics and areas of use. Thus, in various dictionaries marked with slang, the following categories of words and phrases are given, for example:

1. Words used in thieves’ jargon, for example: to chant (from the French Chanter) meaning “to praise a horse when selling”; cheese meaning “good thing”; the words father and fence are both meaning “shoplifter”.

2. Various professionalisms, for example: plunger (from the verb to plunge to rush forward), cavalryman (from military vocabulary); length (literally length) forty-two lines of drama (from theatrical vocabulary); a noser (from nose), blow on the nose (from boxing vocabulary); to be plowed (from plow), to fail the exam (from student vocabulary) and others. As a result of the inclusion of different professionalisms, slang begins to differentiate. Different types of slang appear in English and American lexicography: military slang, sports slang, theatrical slang, student slang, parliamentary slang, and even religious slang. This indicates the heterogeneity of slang and the fact that any representative of the English linguistic and cultural society uses in his speech units of different functional and stylistic levels.

From the above review of the concepts of different scholars on the nature and content of the phenomenon of slang, we concluded that there is no consensus on the view of this issue among researchers, but the norm is that slang can not be attributed to the system of literary language.

Metaphorization is based on the continuous change of human concepts. The choice of those features on the basis of which

classes of objects which are not directly connected with each other are established constantly changes. Heterogeneous objects are combined on a new basis, are included on the basis of this feature in the class, which allows you to use the name of one of them to denote another. Metaphorization does not decrease, but expands with the development of language.

Metaphorical reinterpretation of the word reveals new aspects of the already known word. AA Potebnya in this regard said that “metaphor is the discovery of something new in the known and serious truth” [4, p. 320]. This is find to see if you look at such literary words, which as a result of metaphorical transfer have added to the ranks of slang, for example: the phrase eye-wash transfer in slang, used to mean «Frenchman», canary means a criminal who betrayed his accomplices.

The large number of metaphors in slang is quite justified, because oral speech is usually emotional and expressive. In parallel with metaphorization in slang, metonymy is active. Adjacent meanings also play an important role in the development of word meanings and the addition of new units to slang. Thus the same word can name a part and the whole, a subject and its maintenance, a subject and a place of its finding or manufacturing, action and its result, the tool and result of its application, etc. For example, the unit of literary language derby – men’s hat in metonymic transfer in slang means “head”, chill “cool”, in slang means “kill”, duds – «rag» in metonymic transfer is meaning in slang “clothe” and so on.

The development of new meanings in existing words is one of the sources of replenishment of the vocabulary of the language. In connection with the deepening of human cognitive activity, the accumulation of knowledge about the environment and cultural and social changes, there is a change and development of the semantic structure of the word. This is probably because the concept underlying the lexical meaning of the word is characterized by blurred boundaries: it has a clear core, which ensures the stability of the lexical meaning of the word and mutual understanding, but at the same time it has a vague periphery. Due to this “blur”, the lexical meaning of the word can be “stretched”, ie increase in coverage, which allows you to use words to denote objects that do not have a special designation [4, p. 58].

For example, the word general slang heat has gradually expanded its meaning. Initially, it meant “state of intoxication from alcohol consumption”, then acquired the meaning of “state of arousal”, then “strong physical attractiveness”, then came the meaning of “condemnation”, hence the meaning of “ridicule, insult”. The next step in the dynamics of development of this vocabulary unit was the meaning of “law enforcement agencies”.

An example of a specialization in slang is a unit such as the chair meaning electric chair. The word blues is an example of generalizing the meaning of a word. Previously, in the standard language there was a phrase blue devils, which had the following meanings: 1) despair, 2) white fever. Then on the basis of this phrase there was a unit of the blues – meaning “melancholy”.

The generalization of the lexical meaning of a word, or the expansion of volume or generalization, occurs in slang much more often than specialization, and the word acquires more than one meaning (though not always).

In the process of changing its meaning, the word can change for the better or for the worse. Usually, in slang there is a tendency to deterioration, degradation of meaning. Examples of deteriorating meaning in slang are lady’s room units: first it meant “ladies’ room”, now – “women’s toilet (in a public place)” and queer – “fake money”, and now – “homosexual”. And such units as pad and egghead ennobled their meanings: egghead meant “bald man”,

then acquired the meaning of “thinking person, intellectual”, and pad meant “opium smokers”, now – “room, apartment”.

Conclusions. The process of emergence of new meanings in old words is a continuous process that takes place in language constantly, does not stop for any, the shortest time, because otherwise the language will not be able to perform its main communicative function and cease to be an adequate means of human communication. It should also be remembered that with the suppression of any seven in the semantic structure of the word and the emergence of a new seven, cognitive processes go hand in hand with increasing emotional load of the slang word, which in general slang often significantly exceeds the denotative component of lexical meaning. This is quite natural due to the nature of non-standard vocabulary. It should also be noted that all age groups of native speakers use slang in their daily activities, young people and students – to a greater extent than the older generation, busy with their careers, where the standard language is one of the conditions for promotion. But when it comes to communication in everyday life, there are no restrictions or any obstacles to the use of slang. In addition, it should be borne in mind that, along with general slang, native speakers use special slang units in their daily activities and communication, namely, narrowly professional, along with general slang.

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Радзівська О. В., Шарніна Є. О. Семантична характеристика сленгу як невід’ємного компоненту англійської мови та культури

Анотація. У статті розглядається питання ролі сленгу як соціального та мовного явища. Автором розглядаються

особливості вживання сленгів, їх морфологічні характеристики. Словниковий склад природної мови знаходиться в постійному русі, в динаміці, і він постійно поповнюється новими лексико-фразеологічними одиницями. Те ж саме відбувається і на нестандартному рівні сучасної англійської мови. Основним прийомом поповнення словникового складу мови нестандартної лексикою є семантична деривація, в результаті якої відбувається розширення смислового обсягу слів, літературного стандарту за рахунок появи в ньому простомовного лексико-семантичного варіанта. Йдеться про метафоричне і метонімічне перенесення значення, звуження і розширення значень слів, генералізацію і конкретизацію, погіршення і поліпшення значення. Отже, лексика англійського сленгу – це динамічна система, вона постійно поповнюється новими сленгізмами і новими значеннями, як літературних слів, так і власне одиниць сленгу. У сучасній англійській мові сленг є важливою складовою частиною розмовної мови і представляє значну частину його словникового складу. Англійський сленг – це одна з підсистем англійської мови, що реалізується в певному мовному колективі. Сленг визнається антиподом літературної мови і ототожнюється частково з жаргоном, професіоналізмами і розмовною мовою. Основний шлях, згідно з яким відбувається поповнення лексики англійського сленгу, є метафоричне і метонімічне перенесення значення, звуження і розширення значень слів, генералізація, конкретизація, погіршення і поліпшення значення.

Англійський сленг – інтеграційна складова частина, невід’ємний компонент англійської мови, що є безумовною і невід’ємною частиною культури англійської лінгвокультурної спільноти.

Існуючи поруч з іншими соціальними діалектами і з літературним стандартом, тісно взаємодіючи з ними, сленг завжди виступав і виступає як певна чітко помітна мовна система. Як і інші ланки мови, він постійно розвивається, поповнюється новими словами і новими значеннями слів. Основний базис його лексичного, граматичного і фонетичного складу, що сходить до елементів англійських територіальних діалектів, залишається незмінним

Ключові слова: сленг, феномен мови, метафоризація, лінгвістика, стилістична характеристика.