

SLANG IS A CORE ELEMENT OF YOUTH CULTURE

Ruziyeva G.H.

*Ruziyeva Gulruh Hayrullaevna – Teacher,
DEPARTMENT OF THE THEORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ASPECTS, ENGLISH LANGUAGES FACULTY 3,
UZBEK STATE WORLD LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY, TASHKENT, REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN*

There are different kinds of slang depending on its social orientation. The group studied most persistently is the criminal underworld itself, including the prison population, whose "cant" or "jargon" still provides a respectable number of unrespectable terms. There are special terms of such undercultures as those of hoboes, gypsies, soldiers and sailors, police, drug narcotics addicts, jazz musicians and devotees, athletes and their fans, railroad and other transportation workers, immigrant or ethnic population cutting across these other subcultures. Criminals and police (cops and robbers) still make their identical contribution, and gamblers continue to give us zesty coinages.

Slang is cool in several different ways [1]. First, it is cool in the sense of being "hip" and in style. Using slang artfully is a kind of performance and shows that the speaker is in tune with the time. For example: "I am a cool dude".

Second, slang is good in the sense of being acceptable. Students do not use slang all of the time. Students almost always deny that they use slang intentionally, but they do intentionally use slang in the sense that they assess the circumstances and people involved in the communication and choose to use slang or not to do so.

Typically, slang is used in informal environments and avoided in formal settings (like work or the classroom). This is because the use of slang in such circumstances could result in the speaker being evaluated negatively and the desire to avoid the negative evaluation is high among college slang speakers [2. P. 56].

Slang terms can be efficient shorthand ways to express concepts; slang is used in the sense that it is fun. Slang is creative and often humorous. Slang can be a form of play. Slang may be entertaining and amusing to both the speaker and the listener [3. P. 22].

The most popular term of the moment is "*bomb*". It is found to be extremely popular among current college students. So, "*bomb*" works pretty hard. "Trip" is a chameleon. It means "a very good or very bad experience".

However, it probably made its appearance in college vocabulary in the 1960's. The most common use of "*trip*" these days involves a characterization of something strange or extreme: "That dude's trip". Beyond that "trip" can indicate actual outrage or raging. For example: "He *tripped* when I told him the concert was going to be two hundred dollars".

"*Trip*" can also imply that someone is acting out of character. For example "Dr. Smith is always on time but today he was *tripping* and came to class ten minutes later". For example: "I know I am going to fail the test because I was *tripping* when I was writing the essays". "**Trip**" can be used to indicate disagreement. For example: "Why are you *tripping* about my idea?" It can also imply a common state for college students, being overwhelmed. For example: "I have got four midterms this week so I am *tripping*". "Trip" can refer to the state of excitement and craziness. For example: "I always *trip* out when I see "Star Wars". *Trip*" can be used to describe someone who has the characteristics of being intoxicated (on drugs or alcohol). For example: "Everybody at the party was *tripping*".

The notion of a "*trip*" as a very pleasant experience seems to have faded from college slang. It is also often used by young people. Another term with a rainbow of meanings in college slang is "*dog*". It indicates an unattractive female. Youth used it around the turn of the century to mean careful dressing and the word "*dogs*" was used in order to indicate "feet". Today college students use "dog" in many ways. For example: my *dogs* are barking=my feet are hurting; My boss *dogged* me for being ten minutes late = my boss criticize me sharply.

There are some terms that were popular in the early 90's but are clearly old now. Some slang words do have staying power. Terms that can be found in 1990 are still popular among the college students. According to the journal of the American Medical Association the development of a typical adolescent includes a craving for individuality. The journal's studies show that one-way teens find individuality is in the uniqueness of their speech [4].

So, according to the present data we can conclude that slang words referring to narcotics and police groups of slang are used by everybody, while such slang groups as college students and teenagers are used by the limited part of society. Slang words referring to the underworld are rarely used because they commonly name the things related with criminals.

References

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