

THE DEVELOPMENT OF SLANG IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Language is dynamic and at any given time hundreds and perhaps thousands of words and expressions are in the process of changing from one level to another in the process of becoming more acceptable or less acceptable more popular or less popular.

Slang is a conscious offence against some conventional standard of propriety. A mere vulgarism is not slang, except when it is purposely adopted, and acquires an artificial currency, among some classes of people to whom it is not native. The other distinctive feature of slang is that it is neither part of the ordinary language, nor an attempt to supply its deficiencies. The slang word is a deliberate substitute for a word of the vernacular, just as the characters of a cipher are substitutes for the letters of the alphabet, or as a nickname is a substitute for a personal name [1].

Slang is the use of informal words and expressions that are not considered standard in the speaker's language or dialect, but are considered more acceptable when used socially. Slang is a very informal use of words and phrases for more colorful or peculiar style of expression that is shared by the people in the same social subgroup, for example, computer slang, sports slang, military slang, musicians' slang, students' slang, underworld slang, etc. Slang is not used by the majority of native speakers and many people consider it vulgar, though quite a few slang phrases have already come into standard usage.

Special slang is the language that speakers use to show their belonging to a group and establish solidarity or intimacy with the other group members. It is often used by speakers to create their own identity, including aspects such as social status and geographical belonging, or even age, education, occupation, lifestyle, and special interests. It is largely used by people of a common age and experience to strengthen the bonds within their own peer group, keeping the older generation at a distance. It is also

used by people sharing the same occupation to increase efficiency in communication; or by those sharing the same living conditions to hide secret information from people in authority. It is finally used by people sharing an attitude or a life style to reinforce their group cohesiveness, keeping insiders together and outsiders out.

Examples of slangy:

gym (n.) – short for **gymnasium**, 1871, U.S. student slang.

za (n.) – U.S. student slang shortening of **pizza**, attested from 1968.

bubba (n.) – Southern U.S. slang, 1860s, a corruption of **brother**.

frat (n.) – student slang shortening of **fraternity**, by 1888.

fem (n.) – slang for "woman" by 1936, from **female**.

coconut (n.) – 1610s, from **coco** + **nut**. Meaning "the head" is slang from 1834.

prep (v.) – slang shortening of **prepare**, 1908. Related: Prepped; prepping.

sked (n.) – short for **schedule**, student slang from 1929.

uncool (adj.) – 1953, in hipster slang, from **un-** "not" + slang sense of **cool** (adj.).

all-fired (adj.) – 1837, U.S. slang euphemism for **hell-fired**.

cred (n.) – slang shortening of **credibility**, by 1992.

sawbones (n.) – surgeon, 1837, slang, from verbal phrase; see **saw** (v.) + **bone** (n.).

four-eyes (n.) – person who wears glasses, slang, 1874; see **four** + **eye** (n.)

egg-beater (n.) – also eggbeater, 1828, from **egg** (n.) + **beater**. Slang sense of "helicopter" is from 1937 from notion of whirling rotation [1].

It should be mentioned that slang constitutes one third of spoken English vocabulary. Slangisms appear in the language, spread widely, exist for some time and then disappear, ceding the room to new ones together with new trends and ideas. In this way, slang fills a necessary niche in all languages. It can serve as a bridge or a barrier, either helping both old and new words that have been used as "insiders" terms by a specific group of people to enter the language of the general public or, on the other hand, preventing them from doing so.

Slang is different from jargon, which is the technical vocabulary of a particular profession. Jargon, like many examples of slang, may be used to exclude non-group members from the conversation, but in general has the function of allowing its users to talk precisely about the technical issues in a given field.

Jargon is:

1. The language, especially the vocabulary, peculiar to a particular trade, profession, or group: medical jargon.

2. Unintelligible or meaningless talk or writing; gibberish.

3. Any talk or writing that one does not understand.

4. Language that is characterized by uncommon or pretentious vocabulary and convoluted syntax and is often vague in meaning [2, p. 28].

Today, tabloid newspapers in the UK such as the Sun, the Star and the Sport regularly use jargon in headlines and articles ("Turkey shoot", "Bloody Sunday", "Bird Breakfast", "Nice as a nonne hen") while the quality press use jargon sparingly – usually for special effect – but the assumption remains that readers have a working knowledge of common jargon terms.

Examples of jargon:

educationese (n.) – "the jargon of school administrators," 1966, from **education** + **-ese**.

authoritarianism (n.) – 1883; see **authoritarian** + **-ism**. Early use mostly in communist jargon.

essentialism (n.) – 1939, in educational jargon (opposed to progressivism), from **essential** + **-ism**.

Related: Essentialist.

mort (n.1) – "girl, woman" (especially one of loose morals), 1560s, canting jargon, of unknown origin.

flow (n.) – mid-15c., "action of flowing," from **flow** (v.). Meaning "amount that flows" is from 1807. Sense of any strong, progressive movement comparable to the flow of a river is from 1640s. Flow chart attested from 1920 (flow-sheet in same sense from 1912). To go with the flow is by 1977, apparently originally in skiing jargon.

table (v.) – mid-15c., enter into a list, form into a list or catalogue, also provide with food, from **table** (n.). In parliamentary sense, 1718, originally "to lay on the (speaker's) table for discussion; but in U.S. political jargon it has chiefly the sense of "to postpone indefinitely" (1866) via notion of "lay aside for future consideration".

tune-up (n.) – ”adjustments made to an automobile to improve its working,“ 1911, from verbal phrase tune up bring to a state of effectiveness, 1718, in reference to musical instruments, from tune (v.) + up (adv.). Attested from 1901 in reference to engines. Meaning ”event that serves as practice for a later one“ is from 1934, U.S. sports jargon [1].

Having heard slang for the first time one can say that it is “wrong” speech full of mistakes. But it is not true. There are no grammatical, syntactical and phonetic rules of slang. It often contradicts all laws and rules of the English language.

Thus, slang, as a rule, is not used in formal speech. Often literary language or dialect do not let us express our views briefly and emotionally. The charm of slang lies in a bit rough vocabulary that makes our speech more expressive.

References

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2. A.Dumas. Slang: The People’s Poetry / A. Dumas. – Oxford University Press, Incorporated, 2011. – 238 с.