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ENGLISH AND BELORUSSIAN YOUTH SLANG

Slang is said to be an “informal language”, maybe because it’s consistently changing its form and is limited to a certain location or time. Some people love it; some people hate it for its being exclusive.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines slang as “very informal words and expressions that are more common in spoken language, especially used by a particular group of people, for example, children, criminals, soldiers, etc: teen slang, computer slang, army slang, journalistic slang”.

People use slang to be picturesque, arresting, striking and, above all, different from others, to avoid the tedium of “common” words, to demonstrate one's spiritual independence and daring, to sound “modern” and “up-to-date”.

A modern Belorussian uses numerous “borrowings” from English; America’s influence is very strong too. This influence is the result of the vanished borders and boundaries, including the internal ones. The popular English «borrowings» include: *a model, a printer, a computer, a broker, a dealer, a joker*, and even a sales manager. Many «borrowings» turned into Belorussian slang: *гёрла (girl), дрынк (a drink, beverage)*, etc.

Slang is expressive and metaphorical. It is used mainly in the spoken language. Here is an excellent example of Belorussian slang: “*у них крыша съехала*”, which means that they have gone crazy. Once this phrase started to “fade” in its vivid “colour”, people came up with new variants: “*крыша едет*”, “*крыша улетела*”.

We will try to clear up the main difference of the youth slang from other ones:

- These words serve for the communication of people of the same age.
- The youth slang is concentrated in the world of young people.
- Thanks to the knowledge of such “specific” language they consider themselves members of the so-called community.

For example, American school students use the following word expressions:

Dave can sometimes act like an airhead! (a stupid person). I really had a ball in Dave’s class (a fun time). I’m really beat because I was playing the computer all night (tired).

Belorussian students use: *Мне в лом этим заниматься (I’m too lazy). Он совсем крезанутый (crazy). Мой компьютер глючит (an error).*

We can find some specific peculiarities of Belorussian and English slang.

- Many English and Belorussian slang words and expressions can be abbreviated: *IRL* – in real life; *Пож, ПЖСТА* – пожалуйста; *LOL* – laugh

out loud; *ЯП* – жаргонизм, который расшифровывается как “*ясен пень*”, “*ясен перец*”. В другом варианте – “*я плакал*”, то есть смеялся до слёз.

- Clipping, removing syllables from words is a common means of creating new words like teach (teacher) “*bro*”(brother); “*физра*”, “*чел*”.
- Belorussian slang has a huge number of English borrowings: *рандом* (random), *пати* (party), *батл*(battle), *ноу-хау* (know-how), *лузер* (loser).
- Belorussian has adopted many words from the Internet: *юзер* (user), *флешка* (flash drive), *баг* (bug), *логин* (login), *спам* (spam), *хакер* (hacker).
- Belorussian students add Belorussian endings to English words: “*хелпануть*”, “*хилить*”.

The results of various scientific studies were the following: 29% learn slang words from their friends. The Internet, the mass media make 31%, hobbies – 15%, many words come from English – 21 % and the rest come from criminal jargon.

Young people widely use slang in their speech. This phenomenon is very interesting from the linguistic point of view, because it is like a laboratory of the language formation.

LITERATURE

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