

PRAGMATIC PECULIARITIES OF ENGLISH SLANG IN ONLINE COMMUNICATION

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Abstract

This article explores the use of slang in online environment from a pragmatic perspective. It analyzes the contexts and functions of slang expressions in online communication focusing on their social, linguistic and pragmatic peculiarities. This analysis provides a better understanding of the role of slang in the Internet communication, the social media space and its impact on the formation and maintenance of online communities. In the article will be discussed the roles and functions of English slang such as establishing social bonds, creating group identity, expressing emotional connotation. Modern slang in English, being integral part of language, represents one of the most urgent and contradictory problems of the modern lexicology. The paper provides examples of English slang terms mostly used by youth in online communication, particularly in social medias.

Keywords: Slang, online communication, abbreviations, acronyms, linguistic and pragmatic features

Introduction

In today's information society, the use of English slang in Internet communication is becoming an increasingly common phenomenon. Slang, as a special form of language, reflects the specific culture and social interactions associated with a certain area of activity. According to Ginzburg slang, words which are often regarded as a violation of the norms of Standard English. The Oxford English Dictionary defines slang as "language of a highly colloquial style, considered as below the level of standard educated speech, and consisting either of new words or of current words employed in some special sense". This scientific article examines the pragmatic aspects of the use of English slang in online communication on the examples of social media communication especially among the youth.

Literature review

It is vital to emphasize the importance of studies the specifics of the lingo pragmatic potential of English substandard language based on English slang. Various aspects of this phenomenon are highlighted in the works of Sh.Safarov, O.Muminov, S.A. KHamzaev, D.U.Ashurova, M.R. Galiyeva, Erving Goffman, Deborah Tannen, Herb Clark etc. By its structure slang traditionally is divided into general and special. In the English language special slang is tidied not as general one and most linguists enlist to its structure argot, cant, rhyming slang, group jargons and professional patois (H.Antrushyina, I.Halperin, H. Mencken).

We also intended using some well-known dictionaries. Dictionaries of slang contain elements from areas of substandard speech such as vulgarisms, jargonisms, taboo words, curse words, colloquialisms, etc. The most well-known dictionaries of the type are Dictionary of



Slang and Unconventional English by E. Partridge, Dictionary of the Underworld: British and American, The American Thesaurus of Slang by L. V. Berry & M. Den Bork, The Dictionary of American Slang by H. Wentworth and S. B. Flexner (R.S.Ginzburg, 1979).

According to the research of S.A.Kamzaev the process of the emergence of lexical units especially slang is directly related to their pragmatic function. Pragmatics considers mainly those linguistic means, their properties and patterns of language that are used in society by a group of individuals or individuals to influence the addressee's consciousness and, as a consequence, his behavior. That is, pragmatics studies the process of applying lexical units in speech, and what the speaker means.

According to the research Izmaylova the reasons of increase in a share of slang in the speech of modern teenagers belong to social factors, the importance of the language for communication with peers, the influence of media (reading youth magazines, programs), Internet resources (Linguistic and Social features of Slang, 2017).

In the course of gathering materials for this research work, we came across several other researchers. "Semantic and functional peculiarities of English-speaking youth slang on the Internet" Gailomazova E.S. (2023) and "Pragmatic aspects of using English slang in Internet communication" Printsipalova A.K. (2023). Both of these works reveal pragmatic analysis of modern English slang which is common especially among teenagers and university attendants.

Methods

In online communication, the use of English slang, that is, words used by people of a certain category and profession, can have both positive and negative effects. On the other hand, English slang can increase creativity and serve to express a mark of identity for certain social groups. This can make communication easy and immediate, especially in informal settings, verbal and written communication, and social media platforms.

The functions of slang used in online communication were analyzed in three different ways, cognitive, nominative, and expressive, using a survey method in social networks.

Social media has ushered in a new era of cultures and groups that have created a whole new kind of slang beyond common terms.

In the process of analyzing the methods of using English slang features in social networks, the following features, and features were identified.

Cognitive functions.

The expressions and the words that are used in slang can serve as a form of symbolic language that offers a concise and creative way to express and convey information. It allows young people to form unique ways of thinking and create new associations and relationships between objects, phenomena, and ideas.

On the Internet, mod slang can be used to create a special "online culture" or "online group" in which people use unique expressions and abbreviations to communicate and express their thoughts and emotions. For example, memes and online jokes can use definite words and phrases from youth slang to create funny situations and share information within an online community.

Nominative function.

The nominative function of youth slang is related to its characteristic of presenting objects and events in a unique way. In the context of Facebook, English slang can be used to create a unique



atmosphere and lexical atmosphere that is specific to the Facebook community and users and helps Facebook members feel part of this social media group.

There are several advantages to using English slang on Facebook. First, these common language features help create a unified language environment and strengthen communication between Facebook members, reduce communication barriers, and improve communication between users. When Facebook members use common jargon, they share a common experience and create the identity of the Facebook community.

Second, using English slang in the Facebook world can make the social media environment more interesting and realistic. This can help members better immerse themselves in the virtual world of Facebook by creating the illusion of participating in a Facebook community discussion group and, in a sense, increase their vocabulary.

Expressive function

The expressive function of English slang is very important for the thorough comprehension and transmission of messages and details of information between people in the world of social media. Communicating in the world of social media using a different set of English slang and informal words makes it possible to create a gentler form of imparting or sharing information. It allows humor teasing and sensibility to express and explain the appearance and expression that are difficult to impart in formal communication.

The expressive function of English slang is connected with the ability to express feelings moods or attitudes towards something in the context of Facebook. Social network English slang can be used to expand the emotional entity of communication for example in social media. The English word “no cap” is used to emphasize that a person is not pretentious or lying. It is a way of expressing honesty or truth and is often used to punctuate a statement or story for example, “I’m telling your hands down! That’s the best pizza I’ve ever tasted.” This phrase is popular in social networks and online communication and many users add it to their posts and messages. It was even used as a hashtag further cementing its place in modern English. “No Cap” has become a buzzword on different social media platforms like Twitter and TikTok. It is often used to express honesty or to call out someone who is lying. For example, if someone tweets something unbelievable another user might reply “no shap” which is hard to believe.

Results/Discussions

In our research, we speak about the use of English slang among Internet users, and its pragmatic peculiarities. New words including slang appear via the limiting of words and they are understood through comprehension and understanding, information is conveyed by the speaker and perceived by the receiver. As for slang the social group using that slang should keep in mind the intellectual level, the status of the social group, place, situation, and purpose of slang, and the reason for giving No matter where the origin of the words was, for now it seems as though these words and phrases will improve into 2023. For example, IYKYK -this one is a pure and simple acronym. Iykyk- if you know you know. And phrase it’s giving, you can throw this one into the conversation to describe the vibe something is giving you. *Is a dress you are trying on a little too long and formal? Maybe it’s giving prom.* If there was something that happened well, you can also use “it’s giving” as a single compliment. In fact, at this point “slay” is practically vintage or old slang. But she is having a hard time and this time not only



as a verb, but also as an adjective. “She slayed that”- she killed it. That’s so slay – that’s amazing, cool, great. This one also works as just a separate or different compliment: “slay”.

The different Social media platforms like Twitter, Instagram and Facebook have allowed for the sharing and creation of new slang terms. It’s the reason why the term “lit” became very important and entered the general public minds. “Lit” has been a slang term meaning “intoxicated” for over a century. More recently, it has acquired the meaning “exciting”, as well as broader meaning along the lines of “excellent”. “Flamer” -one who “flames”- to rant on about some relatively uninteresting subject or with a patently ridiculous attitude or with hostility towards particular person or group of people. “Flame” is used as a verb “Don’t flame me for this”, a flame is a single flaming message. Also, likely to relate to the term lamer.

There are a lot of online slangs that take the form of “acronyms”. These acronyms usually represent normal words and phrases, but they can still be some of the hardest terms to understand if you are not sure which words the letters represent. For example, BRB – be right back. This simply is what it says you are informing someone that you need to take a break but will be back soon. PAW parents are watching. Probably more popular among teenagers. “PAW” serves as a warning that parents are around.

In the Table 1, the acronyms are listed by the 10th grade students. Results shows that 95% or most of the students are familiar with the abbreviated internet slangs. The acronyms and abbreviations with the highest percentages are: LOL (Laugh out loud), OMG (Oh my God), ASAP (as soon as possible), ur (your), TBH (to be honest), R (are). It is found that abbreviations and acronyms help students to reduce space and time in writing with their peers and teachers and avoid the repetition of words and phrases that are long and difficult to read.

Table 1

Abbreviation and acronyms	Meaning	Frequency	Percentage %
LOL	Laugh out loud	45	100
OMG	Oh my God	45	100
ASAP	As soon as possible	42	93
Ur	Your	45	100
TBH	To be honest	35	85
R	Are	40	90
OVERALL PERCENTAGE			92

Studies revealed that the majority of new language use was in the form of linguistic and paralinguistic shortcuts especially when we use instant messaging. Therefore, emotional words and acronyms are one of the examples of pragmatic devices that help users to explain such context. Acronyms and abbreviations are common and it is very easy to remember in all countries and languages around the world, as it helps students to identify linguistic contexts by just using the first letters of the given words and understand concepts that can relate to their daily lives.



Conclusion

Slang performs a wide variety of functions that are closely related to each other. Among the listed functions, the most important are expressive and cognitive, since slang is a method of communication.

Based on the findings of the study, it is concluded that most students use Facebook. Instagram and Telegram most of the time and spend about three to six hours of the Internet, using more than one social networking site. With the high percentages shown in each of abbreviation, acronym and phrases. Most students perceived that they understand the proper usage of Internet slangs and that these are informal words that are only used with friends in social media and should not be used in formal writing like essays and research papers.

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