

## THEORETICAL INTERPRETATION OF AMERICAN COLLOQUIALISTICS IN LEXICOGRAPHICAL SOURCES

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**Annotation:** The article highlights the issues of theoretical experience in the study of American slangisms and colloquialisms, taking into account lexical-semantic, derivational features in English-language dictionaries.

**Keywords:** slangisms, colloquialisms, electronic dictionaries, word formation, metaphorical transfer, American slang

In modern linguistics the analysis of American colloquial studies is of great importance in connection with the spread of this variant of the English language not only in the United States, but also abroad. Research on this issue is being carried out in various directions. Historical features become an integral component for analysis due to the close connection of the current state of colloquial speech with all previous stages in the development of American slang. A detailed study in terms of the formation of the colloquial lexical level is carried out by L.M. Borisov in his dissertation “Исторические корни современной неформальной лексики американского варианта английского языка” (“Historical roots of modern informal lexis of American variant of the English language”). Lyudmila Mikhailovna analyzes both the general theoretical prerequisites for studying the historical influence of American slang on the evolutionary processes of the conversational layer (in the first chapter “The History of the Formation of Modern American English” [1, 312]) and investigates structural and semantic transformations using various microfields (for instance, money, cinema, sports, computer lexis), taking into account the national stereotypes of the English-speaking population, the functional aspect. Particular attention is paid to the specifics of expressiveness and the actualization of the study of linguistic games in the study of American slang.

An analysis of slangisms in terms of the pragmatic characteristics of individual periodicals is carried out in the work of A.V. Guslyakova “Особенности современного американского сленга: на материале прессы США за последнее десятилетие” (“Features of modern American slang: on the material of the US press over the past decade”) [2, 170]. Alla Viktorovna analyzes the external and internal features of slangisms and their place in modern media linguistics. Rapid changes in the functioning of American slang in the context of newspapers are considered by the author on the examples of groups of slangisms that describe anthropocentric and other characteristics (professional qualities, recreation and interests, sports, financial status, appearance of a person, his behavior, character, emotional range, gender parameters, the influence of the area, gastronomic (gluttonymic) vocabulary, relationships between individuals as members of social groups, role-playing communication). Another work from the perspective of the representation of the language in the mass media context is the study of K.E. Mozhukhin “Сленг в речи студентов американских университетов: На примере анализа газеты “The Koala”, Калифорнийский университет в Сан-Диего” (“Slang in the speech of students of American universities: On the example of the analysis of the newspaper “The Koala”, University of California at San Diego”) [5, 194].

Not only the lexico-semantic side of American slang is subject to great changes, but also the functional side, as well as various levels (phonetic-phonological, word-formation, morphological-syntactic, etc.). So, Yu.K. Voloshin in his study “Общий американский сленг: Состав, деривация и функция” (“General American Slang: Composition, Derivation and Function”) [3, 341] explores various ways of forming slangisms in modern English.

Speaking about the theoretical studies of American slang, one cannot fail to mention the close relationship of language with culture, society, i.e. how some extralinguistic factors influence on the formation of an implicit indicator in slangisms. Knowledge of coded information by extracting data from etymological dictionaries, works on cultural studies contribute to the disclosure of the hidden

meaning of individual slangisms and contribute to the further prediction of semantic shifts in American English. This issue is dealt with by such researchers as: V.P. Korovushkin, G.N. Chirshev [4, 68-73], O.V. Fomenko [7, 291], etc.

At present, there has been a large influx of lexicographic sources focused on the substantive and colloquial layer of the language. This trend in the formation of a database of printed and electronic dictionaries, reflecting the current state of colloquialisms, slangisms, argotisms, dialectisms, indicates a new position of the spoken language in society. Dictionaries with such coverage of data are heterogeneous, differ in terms of presentation of definitions, have distinctive characteristics in terms of style, choice of illustrative material and a special selection of dictionary labels.

Let us examine in more detail the contribution of lexicographers to the formation of an idea of the real language picture of the English language from the perspective of colloquialistics.

Some English slang dictionaries have an unusual style of presentation. Dictionary definitions are written in colloquial language with the presence of reduced vocabulary. The reason for such a presentation is the audience for which the lexicographic source is compiled. Thus, young people become the main user of dictionaries containing slang terms. The authors sometimes use an informal style in the design of dictionary interpretations in order to attract attention. For example, the commented dictionary of N. Moskovtsev and S. Shevchenko “Вашу мать сэр! Иллюстрированный путеводитель по американскому сленгу” (“Your mother, sir! The Illustrated Guide to American Slang”) uses the effect of a conversation with the user of the dictionary by addressing the reader in the text of the dictionary definitions. The authors use rhetorical questions, advice, explanations and try to express indignation and attitude. Thus, the effect of an impartial presentation of information is lost; one feels the constant presence of the authors during the entire presentation, and sometimes even a subjective view.

In addition, the dictionary contains illustrations presented in the form of pictures, photos with inscriptions, fragments from announcements, documents,

advertisements, etc. This information not only reinforces the dictionary with real factual material, but also contributes to the easy memorization of individual slang terms. For example, the dictionary provides two photographs to compare a portable toilet (*Andy Gump* [6, 139]) and a conventional toilet.

It becomes obvious that this type of dictionary refers to the American variant of the English language from the name of the dictionary. Compiling dictionaries with a choice of one of the variants of the English language (cp.: American, British, New Zealand, Australian, Canadian, Indian English) has a number of advantages. The user of the dictionary can get acquainted with the vocabulary of a particular variant, learn some information on cultural specifics, etc. Dictionary interpretations contain some etymological data. Compare: *ain't* is the colloquial equivalent of the expression *are not*. It is one of the clearest examples of “New Yorkisms” [6, 136], which came to American English from Yiddish.

The dictionary also specifies the scope of borrowed vocabulary and the degree of its presentation. So, Spanish borrowings in this dictionary are given in a small amount. However, borrowed vocabulary from Yiddish is revealed more fully. It is explained by the authors of the dictionary as the desire to decode meanings of the most difficult examples. Such result may be maintained with the help of the connection of the hidden semantics with etymological data. Thus, the reason for the low percentage of borrowings from Spanish is specified as additional information in the dictionary entry *amigo* (with a meaning “friend” [6, 138]). The authors of the dictionary stipulate that there are a huge number of Spanish borrowings in American slang, but their meaning is quite clear in context and without translation. Another example of borrowing is the word from the Russian language – *apparatchik* with a meaning “bureaucrat, assistant in the political apparatus” [6, 140].

The dictionary presents information on word formation by giving motivated / derivative and motivating words, i.e. word-building pairs. Compare: *amp* is an *amplifier* as well as a drug (from *ampoule*) [6, 138].

The dictionary contains a solid database of words and expressions with a hidden meaning of linguocultural realities, self-names of nations, etc. Ср.: *banana* is the self-name of the Chinese who were born in America or grew up in some state. This example demonstrates the metaphorical transfer of some color characteristics of a fruit to a description of a person. The outer shell of a banana (peel) is yellow, often associated with the racial origin of the Chinese. The internal component of the fruit has a white color. Thus, the hidden context is revealed “outside” one (according to external characteristics), and “inside” [6, 148] (according to consciousness, worldview, position) another.

Thus, lexicographic sources reflecting the colloquial system of the English language are becoming popular among various groups of people due to the active filling of everyday communication with colloquialisms, slangisms, and dialectisms. The creation of new projects of online dictionaries makes it possible to record a new influx of spoken words in a short time, most clearly and fully reflect examples from direct communication, literary texts and journalistic publications with the involvement of linguistic games, various kinds of entertaining material on lexical, grammatical, etymological, derivational, cultural features.

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