

## FRENCH YOUTH SLANG AS ONE OF THE CONCEPTS OF MODERN CULTURE

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### ABSTRACT

The article is concerned with the study of emerging trends in modern French, namely youth slang, which progressively penetrates the language. After analyzing the speech of modern French youth, the authors set the goal to show the structural and functional specificity of the French youth slang, the influence of different aspects of the development of society on it, as well as the ways of forming youth slang. The elucidation of the concept and types of slang of French youth, as well as the identification of the most productive ways of forming youth slang – metaphorization, borrowing, affixation, abbreviation, use of synonyms, are within the scope of this study. The main methods of material selection were linguistic method of continuous sampling, conceptual analysis of lexicographic sources, structural-semantic and comparative analysis. The paper used an integrated approach to the analysis of youth slang, which allowed for considering in more detail how the perception of reality is expressed through the language of modern youth, as well as identifying new trends in the youth environment. Using the linguistic and cultural approach to studying lexical composition of youth slang, the authors focus on the fact that language is an indicator of changes that occur in the modern world, that knowledge of French youth slang helps to facilitate communication, but despite the benefits of this style of language – expressiveness and conciseness – it cannot replace standard literate speech. In recent years, the very nature of this phenomenon has attracted the researchers of youth slang. The problem statement is determined by the fact that youth slang is an interesting sociocultural phenomenon and at current too little emphasis is put on the issue of sources of its replenishment. The study lies within the prospects of areal linguistics. The formation of the French youth slang is influenced by extralinguistic factors (history of the country, its culture), features of linguistic behavior and the environment in which slangisms emerge. Obsolete French words with opposite meanings, words characterizing some professions and nationalities with a connotation of neglect and irony are often used.

**Keywords:** slang, youth style, language, lexicon, vocabulary, dictionary, speech norm, method of word formation, specificity of language behavior, spoken language, means of language.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

All over the world, the last decade is characterized by the rapid development of all spheres of activity of man, which, of course, affects the language and mentality. Language is a very lively phenomenon, constantly changing. The era, priorities are changing, and the vocabulary is changing. Language and culture are inextricably linked, they reflect the worldview of the people, its mentality (Zamaletdinov, 3011). The complex interweaving and interdependence of language and culture predetermine the universal and at the same time specific character of perception of the reality (Gabdrakhmanova et al., 2017). There is an intensive process of changing the spoken register of the language and the emergence of a new youth slang.

The purpose of this study is to identify the structural and functional specifics of the slang of French youth, the ways of its formation, the influence of different aspects of the development of society on it. Slang is a variable phenomenon that depends on various changes in the life of society – both political and social. The political situation changes, the disturbances occur in society, and all this engender new slang words and expressions that subsequently disappear, change, even sometimes leaving no trace. Therefore, this linguistic style is being added to with new words all the time, but they are not fixed in dictionaries. The most common processes for the formation of new words are: borrowings from other languages, simplification of speech, the emergence of a special, so-called “net language”. Slangisms intensively flood youth speech and are, as it were, an island separating them from the world of the older generation, contribute to personal expression and allow you to feel more free (Zharkova, 2015). Youth slang attracts with its expressiveness, metaphor, condensation, semantic humor, word game.

## 2. METHODS

The main methods used in the paper are: observation, generalization, comparison, structural-semantic analysis. The work used an integrated approach to the study of youth slang, which allowed for detailed consideration of the language worldview of the modern speaker of youth slang, as well as identification of new tendencies in the environment of young people. Using the linguocultural approach to studying the lexical composition of youth slang, the authors have revealed the structural and functional specificity of slang of French youth, its influence on different aspects of the development of society.

The word slang is an English word and means a variant of colloquial speech of a socially or professionally isolated group of people, which sharply departs from the literary norm of the language, i.e., contrary to orthoepy (Elistratov, 2010). The influence of society on the language of people has been studied since the 17th century, and linguists testify that the environment in which man lives affects his speech (Ageeva et al., 2015). Some scholars sometimes categorize jargons as slangs without distinguishing them as an independent group and define slangisms as a special vocabulary that is used by groups of people with common interests to communicate. Slang words fill the language of the press, especially when it comes to the life of young people, about their hobbies, idols (Zapesotsky & Fain, 1990). Youth slang can be considered as a special kind of national language that is spoken by people aged about 14 to 28 years, communicating with their peers.

### 3.RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In modern French, youth vocabulary is the most open, its vocabulary is constantly increasing owing to various borrowings and the expansion of the meanings of words, as well as very active processes of word-formation. Words of youth slang are not the main lexical units. This is the secondary name of certain concepts with an emotionally expressive coloring that conveys the mood of the speaker, his attitude to a particular phenomenon, and often these words are very picturesque – from humorous and ironic to rude and vulgar. In French, however, as in other languages, youth slang sometimes emerges as a protest of young people against lexical clichés and as a desire to stand out, direct attention to themselves, position themselves, contrast their world with the world of adults, and express a critical evaluation of facts of life, which is so inherent in youthful maximalism. This is a kind of encrypted language that is understandable only to representatives of a certain group of people, which differs from the generally accepted speech norm in many linguistic formats. Foreign words, abridgements, vulgarisms, abbreviations are used. Here are some examples of words and phrases that are often used by French youth today: *dab*, *daron* – *père* (father), *dabesse*, *daronne*, *doche* – *mère* (mother), *le toubib* – *le médecin* (doctor), *le pote* – *le copain* (friend), *bossier* – *travailler* (to work), *piger* – *comprendre* (to understand), *je m'en fiche* – *ça m'est égale* (it's all the same to me), *je suis fauché* – *je n'ai pas d'argent* (I have no money), *je suis crevé* – *je suis fatigué* (I am tired) (Goyudailler, 2000). Youth slang has already taken its place in the French language. Movies, television programs, the press for youth, computer games contribute to its spread.

### 4.SUMMARY

It should be noted that in France one is more loyal to the use of slangisms than in Russia. It is impossible to deny the fact that “mangled” words bastardize the literary language, interfere with the learning of literacy, which affects the level of education of young people, and this fact has to be faced constantly. However, this phenomenon reflects the realities of our life, and it has the right to exist.

French youth slang, unlike Russian one, has a less derogatory connotation, and therefore French youth are freer and more likely to use this language style. For example, the word *prof*, when one is speaking of the teacher, sounds everywhere, even in a conversation with the very teacher. In French, there are various ways of forming slang. These are metaphorization, borrowing, especially from the English language, affixation, abbreviation, the use of synonyms.

French slang is very diverse. Its formation is influenced by extralinguistic factors, such as the history of the country and its culture, in addition, the specificity of linguistic behavior, and the environment in which slangisms emerge – school, lyceum, university etc. (Abdullina et al., 2017). Obsolete French words are often used in the opposite meaning. The words describing some professions and nationalities are used with a touch of neglect and irony. There are various ways of forming slangism in the French youth language. Among them are the following:

1. Pig Latin. This way of forming words that has come into fashion recently. It is based on the words of literary language, but the consonants are in reverse order, and the vowels often change to *eu*, for example, *mère* – *reum*. Sometimes, syllables are rearranged in the opposite direction: *métro* (metro) – *tromé*, *calibre* (caliber) – *brélica*,

laisser tomber (drop) – laisser béton, chien (dog) – yench, lourd (hard) – relou, bizarre (strangely) – zarbi, noir (black) – renoi, salut! (hello!) – luss!, laisser tomber (drop) – laisse béton (Andreini, 1985). The name of this way of forming words comes from the French adverb *l'envers*, which means “vice-versa”. Pig Latin attracts young people with a play of words, liveliness of language, sense of humor. This process of word-formation has been increasingly frequent in everyday speech, losing at that its “encrypted character”. Of course, it causes difficulties in understanding the spoken language, especially among people for whom French is not their native language.

2. Reduplication. This phenomenon is a doubling of the initial or final syllable. For example, argent (money) – gengen, contrôleur (controller) – leurleur, enfant (child) – fanfan.

3. Patauet. This process is related to syntax, i.e., changing the structure of French phrase. It came to the French language from European Arabs, who, not being well aware of the rules of French grammar, distorted the word order in the sentence: *ça va pas, la tête?* (Does your head not ache? Is your head fine?)

4. Syncope. In order to be less understood, French youth often use deliberate omission of finite or initial syllables from within the words in colloquial speech: géo (geography) – géographie, hosto (hospital) – hôpital, d'acc (all right, agreed) – d'accord, blème (problem) – problème, zic (music) – musique, prof (teacher) – professeur, vail (work) – travail.

5. Borrowing. Words are borrowed from other languages: bled – small town (from Arabic), timal – guy (from Creole), gorette – girl (from Berber). But most of the words penetrate into French from English: boom – a student holiday, driver – a taxi driver, toons – cartoon films.

6. Argot. Either dialects: moutard (mustard) – toddler, baby (Norman dialect); or vocabulary of individual social groups are considered here: prof (teacher) – professeur, fac (faculty) – faculté. In this group, phraseological images are often found: ivre (drunk) – plein comme une barrique (replenished barrel), as well as metaphors: capter (catch) – comprendre (understand) (Colin et al., 2014).

If one pays attention to orthography, i.e., how slangisms are spelled, it should be noted that strict spelling rules do not exist here. And this is not surprising. The fact is that in written language this vocabulary is used extremely rarely. A huge number of examples shows that young people often write words the way they are heard, paying attention to neither diacritical marks, nor punctuation marks.

One of the ways of slang formation is synonyms of the same popular nomination. Here are some examples:

- s'amuser (amuse oneself) – faire la bombe; être en bombe; faire une bordée; faire une virée.

- la bourse (scholarship) – pouchon; bouchon; pochon; hane.

- l'étudiant qui travaille ferme (a student who preserves in his studies) – bosseur; boulot; bûcheur; rat de biblio; intello.

- celui qui étudie mal (one who does badly at school) – pas aidé; buse; coquebin.

Thus, speaking about the main sources of the formation of slang language, it should be mentioned: 1. foreign borrowing (mainly from the English language); 2. affixation (a way of word formation by means of affixes, that is, adding affixes to the root or the stem of a word); 3. use of metaphors (use of a word in a figurative meaning); 4. polysemy (the presence of several meanings of one and the same word); 5. antonomasia (replacement of a common name with a proper name and vice versa); 6. syncope of

roots; 7. addition of roots; 8. univerbization (the linguistic formation of one word from a phrase with the preservation of meaning, the introduction of a monosyllabic neologism instead of a two-word one); 9. replacement of paronyms (cognate words of one part of speech, similar in sound, but having different lexical meanings); 10. pig Latin (rearrangement of sounds and syllables); 11. insertion of sounds or syllables; 12. change of the syntactic structure of a phrase.

The importance of studying slang in the learning process indicates that slang ignorance significantly complicates communication between young people from different countries.

## 5.CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, it should be noted that:

- This style of speech is an interesting sociocultural phenomenon that reflects the new worldview of society, its mentality, and is also an indicator of all the changes taking place in the modern world.

- there is no doubt that knowledge of the French youth slang helps to facilitate communication, improves mutual understanding, brings interlocutors closer, helps to join in the linguistic environment, and to better understand the mentality of the interlocutors.

- slang, mangling words, cannot replace standard literate speech.

- it is impossible to imagine a modern young man who does not use slangism in communication with friends and colleagues.

- the main advantages of this style of language – expressiveness and conciseness – add liveliness and interest to the spoken language.

Slang is one of the ways of personal expression. The use of the vocabulary of the French youth slang helps to facilitate communication, improve mutual understanding, better present the features of the national world view, understand the mentality of French youth (Saliyeva et al., 2015).

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