



SLANG AN INDEPENDENT PHENOMENON IN THE SYSTEM OF SOCIAL DIALECTS

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ABSTRACT

In the article the description of slang as one of social dialects is given, various social dialects are considered from the point of view of their similarities and differences from slang, the concepts of slang and jargon are differentiated.

KEY WORDS AND PHRASES: *social dialect; slang; jargon; argot; cant; colloquialisms; vulgarisms.*

INTRODUCTION

The concept of slang causes a lot of controversy among linguists. Famed slang scholar Eric Partridge believes that many scholars use the word "slang" as a synonym for jargon, argo, or kenta. The author of the slang dictionary R. Spears notes that the term "slang" was originally used to denote the British criminal jargon and was synonymous with the word "kant". Over the years, the meaning of the concept of "slang" has expanded, and it includes various types of non-literary vocabulary, such as jargon, vernacular, dialects and vulgar words [Orlova]. Attempts have been repeatedly made and are still being made to distinguish between these terms. As noted by IR Galperin, the term "kent" is used to designate the conventional language of individual professional and social groups. Some lexicologists suggest keeping the term "jargon" to denote specific professional and technical concepts.

MAIN PART

It is very difficult to draw a clear line between these layers of vocabulary, because, as I.R. Halperin points out, "the difference between professionalism and jargon, between vernacular and dialectic is generally difficult to account for" [The Great English-Russian Dictionary, p. fifteen]. From the point of view of use in speech, jargon and professional slang are characterized by a much narrower sphere of use than for general slang and dialectisms. Jargon and professionalism, as a rule, are understandable only to certain narrow groups of the population. Both of these groups can be attributed to little-known slang, which is often referred to as argo. General slang is a completely different matter. I.R.

Galperin refers slang, professionalism, jargon, vulgarism and dialectism to non-literary colloquial vocabulary. Consider the concept of slang in relation to all other classes.

JARGON AND SLENG

For English-speaking linguistics, the distinction between the concepts of "jargon" and "slang" is characteristic. In English linguistics, it is customary to use the term "slang" to denote an uncodified language, ie. territorial dialects, vernacular, jargon. Researcher IV Pellikh notes that in modern interpretations of the term "slang" can be divided into two subgroups: the special speech of subgroups or subcultures of society and the vocabulary of widespread use for informal communication [Pellich, p. 2]. In domestic linguistics, many researchers (L.I. Antrushina, I.V. Arnold, S.A. Kuznetsova) do not differentiate jargon and slang as two different phenomena in language, interpreting them as speech of a socially and professionally determined group, as well as an element of speech that does not coincide with the norm of the literary language [Antrushina, p. 55-65; Kuznetsova, s. 3]. Thus, slang is opposed to the literary norm [Arnold, p. 162-163]. IR Galperin, on the contrary, distinguishes between these concepts and notes that jargon can become slang, passing from a certain circle to the common one [Galperin, p. 104-116]. Jargon is a semi-open lexico-phraseological subsystem used by a particular social group in order to isolate itself from the rest of the linguistic community. Jargon is, as a rule, emotionally evaluative expressive formations, among which negative lowering nominations prevail, therefore the term itself is usually perceived as a sign of negative



evaluative coloring. A distinctive feature of slang is its secondary education in comparison with jargon, since it draws its material primarily from social-group and social-professional jargons. But in addition to jargon, slang includes individual vernaculars, vulgar words. However, with such borrowing, a metaphorical rethinking and expansion of the meaning of the borrowed units occurs. Slang words are characterized by increased expression, language play, fashionable neology. There is no clear line between jargon and slang for a number of reasons. Firstly, because slang draws its speech material, first of all, from social-group and social-professional jargons. Secondly, slang is also characterized by some social limitations, but much broader, it covers large groups of people, not limited to one social or professional group.

ARGO AND SLANG

Argo is a special language of a certain limited professional or social group, consisting of arbitrarily selected modified elements of one or several natural languages [Linguistic Encyclopedic Dictionary], it is a closed lexical subsystem of special nominations serving narrow social group interests, most often professional. Argotisms are usually devoid of bright evaluative coloring, which distinguishes them from slang, although they can also be expressive nominations. Often, argotisms are used to hide the subject of communication, so sometimes the content of argotism can be understandable to the uninitiated. Jargon and slangism almost always have a semantic parallel in the literary language, while argotism may not have one. Another difference is that slang does not contain rational nominations - terminoids known only to a narrow circle of dialect speakers.

SLANG AND KANT

If we follow the opinion of IR Galperin and define Kant as a conventional language of some social and professional groups [Galperin, p. 95], Kant and argo act as synonyms. However, Kant as a linguistic term in most cases is found in the combination thieves' cant, which undoubtedly affected the semantics of the word, and many researchers define it precisely as thieves' jargon or the language of declassed elements. Compared to professional argotic systems, the "thieves' language" has a broader and less definite character and covers the most diverse aspects of everyday life and social life, from a peculiar point of view of people outside of civil society and the law. Therefore, the vocabulary of the thieves' argo is much more extensive than in other social-group sublanguages. Unlike argot, jargon and kanta, slang does not have a distinct social group orientation; it is used by representatives of different professions, different

social and educational status and different ages. For example, unlike to game (to lie, slang) known to a large number of English speakers and widely used by the educated population, a beef (a complaint or disagreement within the organization, kanta, the language of the mafia), a convict (zebra, circus argo), to troll (to utter a posting designed to attract predictable responses or flames, the jargon of Internet blog users) is used by representatives of certain social groups, while to troll is understandable to wider layers of society, but is used only in relation to Internet use, a convict and a beef in the indicated meanings in general may not be understood by the uninitiated.

SLANG AND COLLOQUIALISMS

According to S. Flexner, the difference between slang and colloquialisms should be seen in the frequency of use of the corresponding units and in the degree of their comprehensibility. The second difference is the scope of use. Colloquialisms have a wider scope than special slang, but they are much more difficult to distinguish from general slang. There is also a difference in the emotional coloring of slang and colloquialisms. Slang is characterized by a more intense emotional connotation [Wentworth and Flexner, p. viii]. Common between slang and colloquialisms is the informal situation of their use. As an example, we can compare the use of two synonyms for the word "TV" - custard & jelly (slang) and telly (colloquialism).

SLANG AND PROFESSIONALISM

Professionalisms are words and expressions characteristic of the speech of representatives of a particular profession or field of activity, usually acting as vernacular, emotionally colored equivalents of terms [Linguistic Encyclopedic Dictionary]. Professionalisms, in contrast to their commonly used equivalents, serve to differentiate related concepts used in a certain type of human activity. Thanks to this, professional vocabulary is indispensable for concise and accurate expression of thoughts in special texts intended for a trained reader. However, the informative value of narrow professional names is lost if a layman encounters them. Professionalisms are notable for their emotional expressiveness, but they quickly become outdated. Professionalisms can penetrate the general literary language in the event of a loss of their stylistic marking. Professionalism is a narrower concept than slang, it is used to name objects or concepts that belong to a certain field of activity and are often unknown to people who are not associated with this activity, for example, Irish mail means a bag of potatoes in the speech of English sailors.



SLANG AND VULGARISMS

Vulgarisms are “rude words, usually not used by educated people in society, a special lexicon used by people of lower social status” [Dictionary of linguistic terms, p. 301]. OV Ignatova classifies vulgarisms as slang, considering them to be a kind of slang. She writes that slang can be divided into two groups:

- Slang words and expressions widely used in colloquial speech.

- Vulgarisms, or swear words [Ignatov].

L. Bloomfield proposed to distinguish between obscene and obscene forms among vulgarisms. Inappropriate language forms are only pronounced under certain limited circumstances: a speaker who violates these restrictions will be ashamed or punished. Obscene forms most often belong to certain spheres of meaning, and often in parallel with them there are forms with the same direct meaning, but without a shade of obscenity (whore and prostitute). Obscene are those forms that are associated with biological needs and procreation. A strict taboo is imposed on them in the language [Bloomfield, p. 161]. Thus, both slang and vulgarisms often have analogs in literary speech, and the difference between vulgarisms and slang is that slang can be used by people of different strata of the population, including educated people, slang units can be found not only in oral communication, but also in fiction and in the media, while the use of vulgarisms is limited by social norms.

From all of the above, it follows that slang is an open subsystem of non-normative lexico-phraseological units of the colloquial language, it serves to express heightened expression and a special, as a rule, negative evaluative coloration. Slang is a suprasocial "general" jargon, or interjargon, in the words of BA Serebrennikov [Serebrennikov, p. 494], ie a set of popular, but substandard words and expressions, replenished, inter alia, at the expense of other social dialects, which is a supra-dialectal integral phenomenon.

CONCLUSION

Slang is a broader lexical system than jargon, argot, kent, professionalisms and vulgarisms; it is used by wider layers of the population, not limited by the framework of one social or professional group. The delimitation of slang from other social dialects is difficult due to the constant replenishment of the composition of slang units from other colloquial lexical subsystems.

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