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## **YOUTH SLANG AS THE LANGUAGE OF MODERN TEEN COMMUNICATION**

**Introduction.** Slang, in other words, jargon is a series of words and expressions that originated in a separate group of people. Even within one city slang varies from area to district. Slang is a kind of spoken language, which society estimates as an underlined informal and it is characterized by a dynamic replacement of lexical structure. It is also a formation that can easily appear and disappear. In addition, it reflects the cultural and historical background of each era and as a rule is quite clear only to people living in this era.

Our research is devoted to the actual problem – the language of modern youth communication. Teens have been notorious for having a unique vocabulary. Often they cleverly create words or they convert them giving a new meaning. Language, including slang, is symbolic of what is occurring in society, and how youth are responding to their environment.

**Objectives.** The main objectives of this research are:

- to understand what is «slang»;
- to find out where it appeared;
- to identify reasons of its appearance among youth;
- to give examples of key slang phrases that teenagers use in their communication with each other and with the outside world.

**Presenting main material.** Slang is often associated with such concepts close to it as jargon, professionalism, argos, vulgarism, between which it is difficult to establish clear boundaries. Let us turn to the etymology of the word «slang». It comes from the English *slang* – «jargon» and it appeared on the British Isles. But recently

the term «slang» is used more actively than «jargon». Such a phenomenon can be explained by the effect of two factors. Firstly, today, the English language is dominating so the English word analogue is used. Secondly, sometimes broadcasters/linguists use the word «jargon» for denotation of a rough, non-aesthetic language, so the term «slang» is used to denote the social version of the language. In linguistics, slang is often opposed to the norm of literary language. But it is much more interesting to consider it as a linguistic phenomenon whose distribution is determined by various social, age, spatial frameworks. It is believed that Britain – a conservative country with conservative customs. Where did the slang appear then? As mentioned above, even the word «slang» appeared in the British Isles. But there are segments of society that prefer to communicate, stand out from the crowd, and at the same time want to not be understood by «ignorant». Teen slang is the complex group of acronyms, innuendos, and code words is used freely among teenagers and their peers. Youth slang in our day – a kind of password for a certain group of people, the opportunity to know «own people». English slang has its own exclusive color [3]. There is an opinion that much of modern youth slang – and slang in general – originates in the African-American community. Black musicians, particularly many hip-hop artists, have contributed greatly to the evolution of language over time. The LGBTQ movement has also influenced on appearing some popular phrases as well.

«Language is a lot like fashion. Teens coin words and slang partly because using their parent's jargon would be a lot like wearing mom's jeans. They would come across as old-fashioned and out of touch», says Mary Kohn, an associate professor of English at Kansas State University who studies the intersection of language and culture. Sometimes teens use coded language to keep their parents in the dark, to hide communication from adults. In most cases, teens use slang as a way to create their own identity, fit into specific social groups and express independence. [1].

Here is a short list of the latest examples of youth slang and acronyms, which are used, not only in oral speech but while texting in social media: **bruh** – a casual nickname for «bro». **Fam** – their closest friends. **GOAT** – acronym for «Greatest of

all time»! **TBH** – acronym for «To be honest». **It's lit** – short for «It's cool or awesome»! **I'm weak** – short for «That was funny»! **Hundo P** – short for 100% sure or certain. **Gucci** – something is good or cool. **FOMO** – «fear of missing out». **Squad** – term for their friend group. **Boots** – this is a way to say «very» or «a lot». It's added after the verb or adjective. **Woke** – highly aware of social issues. **Savage** the cool way to say «cool». **Bae** – short for «baby». It's used as a term of endearment for a significant other such as a girlfriend or boyfriend. As an acronym, it stands for «Before Anyone Else». **Curve** – to reject someone romantically. **Low-Key** – a warning that what they're saying isn't something they want everyone to know. **Salty** – to be bitter about something or someone. **Skurt** – to go away or leave. **Throw shade** – to give someone a nasty look or say something unpleasant about them. **Straight fire** – something is hot or trendy. **Sip tea** – to mind your own business. **Ship** – short for «relationship». **Ghost** – to ignore someone on purpose. **Thirsty** – being desperate for something. **Down in the DM** – short for plans in their social media or texts for an oncoming sexual hook-up. **Smash** – to have casual sex. **Netflix 'n Chill** – to meet under the pretense of watching Netflix/TV together when actually planning to meet for «making out» or sex. **NIFOC** – acronym for «Naked in front of their computer». **CU46** – acronym for «See you for sex». **9** – short for «A parent is watching!» **GNOC** – acronym for «Get naked on camera»! **420** – Marijuana [2].

While many expressions are innocent and even hilarious some should catch our eye as parents. They are not necessary wrong, but they show that your teen may be involved in activities that require more maturity and advice from you as their parent. Many warning expressions involve dating or interest in new relationships. Some of these terms also reveal that your teen is experiencing some type of emotional turmoil or stress within their friendships or lifestyle. While you may not necessarily need to intervene, it is always wise to at least be aware of what your teen is experiencing.

**Conclusions.** Looking at the modern youth, we can say that in the era of new technologies, gadgets and the emergence of social networks, slang is developing and

not always in favor. Teen slang allows youth to communicate in a fun, interesting way among themselves. It gives them a sense of independence and individuality. This type of communication is often second nature and many teens do not even notice the differences in their conversations. According to the researches, the more we learn the language of communication among teenagers, the more chances we have to understand and help them. By learning more what they are actually saying we allow ourselves to not only build a stronger bond with them, but also know if they are in potential danger.

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