

## STUDENT SLANG IN MODERN TECHNOLOGY

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*Articolul oferă informație generală despre argou, definiția argoului propusă de diferiți lingviști și cercetători din domeniul dat, originea argoului, principalele caracteristici și metodele de traducere a acestuia. De asemenea, s-au elucidat dificultățile întâlnite în procesul de traducere, analiza prin exemple a dificultăților lexicale, gramaticale și stilistice. Atât englezesc, cât și cel românesc, argoul elevilor este cel responsabil de inovațiile și variațiile unei limbi, iar acest limbaj argotic se poate chiar încadra cu timpul și în limbajul de zi cu zi.*

As regards to student slang, definition of the term will have to be given in detail. It may be said that student slang is non-literary style of communication among students characterized by several specific features mentioned above. Comparison of various slangs shows that student slang is remarkable for particular features resulting from specificity of student surrounding. Hubáček notices the variability of student surrounding which corresponds to variability of slang itself. Slang is usually restricted to concrete place, time or even to particular school and studying branch. Therefore, it is not noted for long persistency but it covers some invariable expressions passing through time, as well. Another specific feature of student slang, its users or originators, refers to students creativeness, originality, freshness, informality, nonstandard way of expressing full of emotions. Users of student slang are mainly young people with not so many social inhibitions depreciating

formalism and groaning for new immediate knowledge. Thus, student slang is seen as one of the most important tools of students' realization.

Others examples of students' speech are using weak forms: What'm I going t'do now? Ah'm over here. Consonant gemination: innit? (isn't it?), wunnit (wasn't it?), dunno (I do not), lemme (let me). Colloquial words: dough (money), cool (great), come up for air (take a break). Idioms: The first game ever played (to have sex), Have a mind like a steel trap (to learn easily). Using positive adjectives for expressing negative qualities: He is phenomenal idiot. Using negative adjectives such as terrible, horrific, and tremendous in order to exaggerate or overact [1, p.43]. Slang is often associated with dirty language related to various taboo topics, e.g. sex and names of male and female genitalia: cock, dick, cunt fanny, sexual intercourse: fuck, screw, shag. The vulgar word fuck in slang is often used for emphasize its meaning: fucking crap. Vulgarity and obscenity are typical features of slang. In consequence of using wide range of pejorative expressions, student slang might be overviewed critically mostly from members of elderly generation.

### ***Web Slang***

Slang is for most part attributed to speech of young generation which is closely associated with modern trends in the way of its life, thinking, clothing, acting as well as speaking. Slang is considered as a one of the most important tools of students' realisation, thus it contributes to all forms of their communication and it is highly represented in a written informal form of various web chats, discussions, e-mails or text messaging. Just as values of young people change rapidly and their way of living goes faster, their communication is adapted, as well. There is no doubt that slang expressions are those of no long persistency in the field of speaking but innovative, fresh and rapidly growing as a reflection of user's way of living. Slang is represented in virtual communication enormously. Slang words are expressed by many acronyms, lingos or symbols, called emoticons [3], used to display one's emotions and feelings. Those symbols may vary according to user's geographical or culture factors, e.g. Asian style, European style, South-American style, etc. The more acronyms and symbols are used the quicker communication is. Nevertheless, frequent use of such a communication form affects every day speech acts so much, thus the boundary between standard and non-standard language seems to be ambiguous [2, p.34].

Web communication has become a part of students' everyday life. Its role is to communicate rapidly, briefly, usually with a lot of slang words and no grammar rules. Therefore, it demands to be skilled and educated in various acronyms and symbols which help to make communication easier and quicker. Typical examples of web communications are writing e-mails or messages containing series of letters expressing the meaning in abbreviated forms.

The list of e-mails and SMS acronyms: *b4* – *Before*; *BAK* – *Back at the Keyboard*; *BBS* – *Be Back Soon*; *bf* – *Boyfriend*; *BTW* – *By The Way*; *DIKU* – *Do I Know You?*; *F2F* – *Face To Face*; *FAQ* – *Frequently Asked Question*; *fu* – *f\*\*\* you* [3, p.11].

Like abbreviations, replaced letters frequently occur in web slang words and we speak about letter-saving quality. It usually happens within letters producing the same sound, e.g.: *rox* (rocks), *thanx* (thanks), *X-mas* (Christmas); single letter might replace whole words as *b* (be), *c* (see) *r* (are), *y* (you); -ing form is in most cases replaced by shorten -in such as in words *comin*, *eatin*, *havin*, etc.

To see the difference an emoticon can make, look at those two statements:

***Hey buddy, you look like a real geek! Hey buddy, you look like a real geek!:-)***

As it was mentioned above, web slang words are accompanied by various emoticons (smileys or smiley faces) to convey user's intonation and emotional statement to avoid possible misinterpretation.

### ***SMS Slang***

Concerning student slang, specific attention must be drawn to texting short messages via mobile phones. Writing SMS (the abbreviation refers to short message service) centres on student slang realisation in a form of short messages sent via mobile. David Crystal sees texting as “just another variety of language, which has arisen as a result of a particular technology. It takes its place alongside the other mediums of electronic communication which have resulted from the internet revolution.” As the abbreviation of SMS prompts, the more needs to be written the shorter language has to be used. Thus, the user usually treats as much letter-saving quality as possible. Acronyms occur even in a shorter way than in e-mails. Like replaced letters and acronyms, using numbers, instead of some letters, is also frequently used while writing text messages [4, p. 47].

Examples of SMS slang: *4Y* (*for you*), *U2* (*you too*), *Gr8* (*great*), *Gt2gthr* (*get together*), *NE1* (*anyone*), *rUf2t?* (*Are you free to talk?*), *Il b l8 cuz cRs bin im£ed.* (*I'll be late because my car has been impounded.*), *fanC gOn clubn 2nite?* (*Fancy going clubbing tonight?*), *hve I told U l8tly that I luv u?* (*Have I told you lately that I love you?*)<sup>15</sup> etc. [3, p.92].

Messages are linguistically and stylistically obvious and transparent for the users of such a communication so that the process is made quicker and clear. To successfully achieve this, it is necessary to be aware of all acronyms, symbols and abbreviations.

Besides specific vocabulary student slang is characterized by some features produced in sound realization such as intonation, rhythm, stress underlined by purposely lax way of speaking, inaccurate or omitted pronun-

ciation of some sounds or even group of sounds. The words are usually produced in a shortened, easier and more relax way.

***References:***

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