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THE USE OF SLANG IN THE UZBEK AND TURKISH LANGUAGES AND ITS IMPACT ON CULTURE AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

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Annotation: *This paper examines the use of slang in the Uzbek and Turkish languages and analyzes its influence on cultural processes and language development. Slang is viewed as a dynamic and expressive layer of vocabulary that reflects social changes, youth culture, and contemporary modes of communication. The study explores the sociolinguistic functions of slang, its role in informal interaction, and its gradual penetration into the standard language through mass media, social networks, and popular culture. By comparing Uzbek and Turkish slang, the research identifies both shared tendencies shaped by globalization and language contact, as well as culture-specific features rooted in national traditions and social norms. The findings suggest that while slang enriches lexical diversity and communicative expressiveness, it also raises concerns regarding language norms and standardization. The paper contributes to contrastive linguistics and linguacultural studies by highlighting the interaction between slang, culture, and language evolution.*

Key words: *slang, Uzbek language, Turkish language, youth speech, sociolinguistics, linguistic culture, language development, globalization.*

Introduction: Slang is derived from the English word "slang" and is considered a term characteristic of Western linguistic traditions. To date, no single precise definition of the term slang has been established. Various dictionaries and sociolinguistic studies note its close relation to the term jargon (group jargon, youth jargon) [1]. The exact time when the word slang first appeared is unknown; however, it was first recorded in written form in England in the eighteenth century, where it carried the meaning of

“insult.” By 1850, this term had begun to be widely used to denote “illicit” or non-standard colloquial vocabulary. At the same time, related synonyms emerged, such as slang-lingo, used by the lower strata of society, and argot, associated with the speech of socially diverse groups [2].

Literature Review: In her research, O. Akhmanova states that the word “sleng” is borrowed from English, where “slang” means jargon, and that it entered linguistics precisely through the English language [3]. M. To‘xtasinova and N. Aliyeva, in turn, present views on slang (“slang”, borrowed from English, referring to jargon and words characteristic of everyday colloquial speech), as well as on general slang, special slang (jargon and argot as specialized vocabulary), and vulgarisms (coarse or rude words) [4].

Slang consists of words and expressions with emotional and expressive coloring that are mainly used in oral communication by representatives of certain professions or social groups within society. It is most frequently found in youth speech. According to its sphere of use, slang can be classified as follows:

general slang — widely known and used by everyone;

specific (special) slang — used within a limited circle and familiar only to particular groups.

Sociolinguistics studies the use of language in society and the degree to which words are employed in communication. Language users approach communication by taking into account speech situations, social status, occupation, age, gender, position, and worldview. There are words in a language that are used only in the speech of people living in a particular region or engaged in a specific profession. Examples of such vocabulary include jargon, argot, and slang. Some researchers consider these terms to be synonymous; however, when their origins and patterns of use are examined, their distinctive features become evident [5].

The phenomenon of slang is one of the speech-related aspects that is regarded as a distinct conceptual unit in modern lexicology and sociolinguistic research. The introduction of this term into scholarly discourse is primarily associated with the study

of the social stratification of oral speech and the growing attention to restricted lexical layers such as argot and jargon. Historical sources note that these layers are characteristic of specific social groups and are functionally limited and semantically differentiated. However, over time, it became evident that within the system of spoken language there exists a form of speech used by various social strata, which deviates from formal norms yet is widely spread in social and communicative contexts. This linguistic layer later came to be referred to in academic literature as “slang.”

Most researchers interpret slang, unlike jargon and argot, as a set of secondary speech forms. According to this view, slang represents modified forms of linguistic units borrowed from other layers of the language in accordance with communicative needs. While some scholars emphasize wordplay as the main characteristic of slang, O. I. Ermakova argues that any expressive unit in speech, in the process of becoming slang, loses its original emotional coloring and acquires a specific meaning. In general, although the concept of *slang* is closely related to spoken or colloquial speech, it differs from them in possessing strong social markers.

Research Methodology: Many slang words and expressions are initially unintelligible to the general public at the early stage of their formation. In most cases, slang is used in a figurative sense. Slang words are referred to as slangisms. They are mainly borrowed from foreign languages, their dialects, and jargons. For example, share and ok are borrowed from English. Today, youth language spreads very rapidly in the process of communication. One of the main reasons for this is the widespread development of information technologies and their deep integration into everyday life.

Analysis and Results: In Turkish, slang is explained through the terms *“sokak ağzı”* (street language) and *“argo”*. These are words and expressions used outside the norms of the standard language, typically in everyday communication, among friends, or within specific groups. In Turkish linguistics and linguistic studies, slang is often associated with street language (*sokak ağzı*). Argot and slang are not identical: argot refers to a form of language understood only within a particular group, whereas slang is widely used in youth speech.

The lexeme *slang* is borrowed from the English word *slang*, and in Turkish linguistics it is often regarded as the English equivalent of the lexeme *argo*. In linguistic literature and academic research in Turkish studies, the term *slang* itself is rarely encountered. Such words are used in friendly, informal conversations and represent a system of special vocabulary widely shared within a group. Slang usually includes expressions and words characteristic of a particular group or generation. Occasionally, slang may include coarse or offensive words; however, unlike jargon, it is not limited to a specific profession or group, but is used widely in general speech. These are informal words primarily used by young people in friendly conversations.

The development of information technologies inevitably influences language as well. Slang is mostly composed of words and expressions borrowed from foreign languages. Today, these terms are spreading widely through social networks. We can observe that young people make active use of them in both spoken and written communication. The expressive, playful, and artificially created form of speech rich in modern neologisms manifests as slang. Young people use slang in communication to distinguish themselves from adults and to demonstrate their membership in a particular group, thereby enriching their vocabulary. Youth language has always been an integral part of youth culture. In particular, when young people limit their communication to fixed patterns of speech, they restrict the possibilities of the literary language. Regular use of such limited forms can lead to the devaluation of the literary language and diminish its role in society. The incorrect use of letters in young people’s written communication is also indirectly influenced by this factor. For example, the letter sh in the alphabet is sometimes replaced with W, which exists in the English alphabet, as in “Waharga keldim.” In addition, it is common to replace many letters with numbers. Slang in both societies has formed as an integral part of youth speech and exerts a significant influence on socio-cultural processes. Although the development of slang in Uzbek and Turkish is based on general global trends, certain differences can be observed due to the historical, cultural, and social particularities of each society. In both languages, English slang and expressions formed on the Internet are rapidly

entering the language. Social networks, popular music streams, bloggers, and TV series accelerate this process.

Uzbek and Turkish youth use slang to express closeness, humor, modernity, and group membership. Slang is becoming a tool for their social identification and is recognized as a feature of contemporary youth language. Slang in both languages also contributes to the emergence of new concepts and expressions. Some of these eventually become part of the literary language. For example, words such as *selfie*, *trend*, and *blogger* are now used even in formal speech.

In both languages, abbreviations, spelling errors, and phonetic writing can have a negative impact on the written culture among young people. Understanding slang related to youth speech can be challenging for older generations. As a result, a linguistic gap emerges between generations in both societies.

There are also differences in the impact of slang on the Uzbek and Turkish languages.

Analysis and Results: In Uzbek slang, the influence of the Russian language is quite noticeable, which is related to historical factors. For example: krutoy, takoy, brat, bezproblem. In Turkish, however, English slang is dominant, and the influence of Russian is almost absent: like – like etmek, follow – followlamak, check – checklemek. In Turkish, slang derived from “street culture” is more widespread. Because urban culture is well-developed in Turkey, street slang is widely used: Keko, ayar bozmak, kafa açma, gaza gelmek. Similar slang exists in Uzbek as well, but its prevalence is lower.

In Turkey, slang spreads very quickly through popular culture. Turkish TV series, music, and YouTube content creators are very active, which allows slang to rapidly enter the general language. In Uzbekistan, because mass media content is not as strong, slang spreads more slowly. Among Turkish youth, mixing English into speech is regarded as a marker of “modernity.”

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