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# English and Ukrainian Slang in the Comparative Aspect: Structure, Development, Functional and Stylistic Peculiarities 

The article was written at the Department of Foreign Languages Studies for Natural and Mathematic Specialities, Lesia Ukrainka Volyn National University

У статті досліджено англійський та український сленги у зіставному аспекті: походження, джерела творення, функціонально-стилістичні особливості.

Ключові слова: походження, етимологія, творення, функція, адаптація, семантична деривація, морфологічна будова, закодоване мовлення, неофіційне мовлення, наголошування, еквівалент.

Максимчук Н. Н., Онищенко И. А. Английский и vкраинский сленги в сопоставительном аспекте: структура. тенденции развития, функционально-стилистические особенности. В статье исследуется английский и украинский сленги в сопоставительном аспекте: происхождение, источники образования, функ-ционально-стилистические особенности.

Ключевые слова: происхождение, этимология, образование, функция, адаптация, семантическая деривация, морфологическая структура, закодированная речь, неофициальная речь, подчеркивание, эквивалент.

Maxymchuk N. M., Onvshchenko I. A. English and Ukrainian Slangs in the Comparative Aspect: Structure, Development, Functional and Stylistic Peculiarities. The present article focuses on English and Ukrainian slang in the comparative aspect: origin, creation sources, functional and stylistic peculiarities.

Key words: origin, etymology, creation, function, adaptation, semantic derivation, morphological structure, coded speech, informal speech, emphasis, equivalent.

Description of the problem under consideration and its significance. Slang has been in existence for ass long as language has been in existence. The problem of the tem 'slang' goes back to the times when there was the first attempt to distinguish this stylistic layer. Such an attempt belongs to Francis Strouse. He
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published the first dictionary of the English slang 'Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Language'. Since that time the problem of why slang develops within a language has been hotly debated. Nowadays there are a lot of different theories explaining the concept of slang but one can clearly say that slang belongs to the nonliterary vocabulary and deals with non-standard language. Although the topic is not a new one and much has been said and written about it by a lot of scholars who have studied various slang aspects analysing its history of development, etymology, linguistic formation, stylistic devices in its formation, functioning, many issues of slang still remain unanswered. However slang is a linguistic, although flexible and constantly changing, phenomenon, that's why so many scholars have investigated it. The biggest name among them is Eric Partridge [10], who made a truly profound contribution to the study and understanding of non-standard English. Besides E. Partridge, slang was studied by Ch. Fries, J. Grumpery, T. Thorne, S. Flexner, P. Dickson, H. Wentwarth, Y. Krupnov, I. V. Arnold, I. A. Galperin and many others.

Slang must constantly renew its process of expression, and specifically its vocabulary, so that those not part of the group will remain unable to understand slang. The existence of slang dictionaries, of course, canceis the eiffectiveness of certain words. Numerous slang words pass into informal mainstream speech, and thence sometimes into mainstream formal speech. Slang is here to stay, and its longevity demands attention and' explication.

The article aims to present an overview of modern English and Ukrainian slang, its functioning, spread, usage in the contemporary society, slang formation and to produce an unbiased attitude towards slang both from the linguistic and social points of view.

Exposition of the bulk of material and substantiation of the results obtained in the course of research. According to the linguists, such as I. A. Galperin, I. V. Arnold and others the word stock of any language is divided into three main layers: the literary layer, the neutral layer and the colloquial layer. The aspect of the neutral layer is its universal character. That means it is unregistered in use. It consists of words mostly of native origin. Such words are devoid of any emotive colouring and are used in their denotative meaning. The literary or bookish words belong to a formal style. They are used in descriptive passages of fiction, scientific texts, radio and television announcements, official talks and documents, business correspondence, etc. Bookish words have their own subdivision (archaisms, barbarisms, neologisms, poetic words and terms) but they are not of particular interest of our work. In this paper we will be dealing with the colloquial layer of the vocabulary, which is divided into three groups; common colloquial words, specific and low colloquialisms. Common colloquial words are used by all members of linguistic community on a non-official level. Low colloquialisms are considered to be a derivation from the established norm and they usually refer to an uneducated speech. Specific colloquial words fall into several groups: jargon, professionalisms, dialectal words, vulgarisms, colloquial expressions and slang. In order to give the distinct picture of what slang is and how it differs or what it has in common with other subgroups of the specific colloquial layer let's briefly observe all of them [8,72].

Jargonizms is a group of words, the purpose of which is to keep the secret within a social group $[8,109]$.
Professionalisms are the words used in a definite trade, profession or calling by people connected by common interests both at work and at home $[8,113]$.

Dialectal words are words which are confined to a certain territory and reflect the influence of a certain culture, traditions and customs. A dialect differs from standard language mainly phonetically, partly lexically and grammatically $[9,1-39]$.

Vulgarisms are expletives and swear words, which are of the abusive character like 'damn', 'bloody', 'to hell', 'goddam' [7, 118]. The function of vulgarisms lies in expressing strong emotions, particularly exasperation, malice, anger $[1,118]$.

Colloquial expressions make up one more subgroup of the specific colloquialisms. They are spontaneous and elusive.

And at last we come to slang. Slang occupies a peculiar position among social dialects that has caused much controversy for many years. Very different options have been expressed concerning its nature and the attitude that should be adopted towards it. Despite all the varieties of explanations of this term slang is the major cause of debates even today and a common and generally accepted definition still hasn't been found. The term has so broadened its meaning and is used for denoting such a great number of different notions that it is very difficult today to define what is slang and what is not. The first thing that strikes the scholar is the fact that no European language has signed out a special layer of vocabulary and named it slang, though ail of them distinguisin such groups of words as jargon, cant i , 1 i 3 j .

When the word 'slang' was used for the first time, obviously it was a slang expression and probably it had been existing in oral speech earlier than it became widely known and spread. First the word 'slang' was printed in the 18 century and then it meant 'insult'. Although the history of this term can seem somehow spotted, the origin of it remains not clearly defined and presents one of the riddles of the English lexicography which is reflected in OED 'a word of cant origin, the ultimate source of which is not apparent [2, 234].

Today there are several versions concerning the origin of slang. And, of course, the most reasonable and supported among the linguistic community belongs to Eric Partridge. He connects this word with the Past Participle from the verb 'to sling' ('slang is a language slang about' referring to such modern expressions as 'to sling words' and 'to sling the bat').

Although Partridge's point of view is of great value and respect, another opinion introduced by G. Wild, E. Weekly and V. Sweet also seems to have been correct and quite applicable. According to them the term 'slang' originated from the word 'to sling' (to throw, to fling) in the meaning in which it was used in archaic expression 'to sling one's jaw' (to abuse with words).

One more attempt to explain etymology of this really queer term belongs to F. Grose. He considers that slang, as well as cant, is from one source - a secret language of wondering beggary Gypsies.

And the most recent and principally new one is the theory that explains the origin of the term 'slang' through the French word 'langue' (which means language). But such an explanation didn't receive support from linguists, because such change of the form of the word doesn't occur in the process of transformation of French word into an English one [2].

Slang is a non-standard use of words in a language of a particular social group, and sometimes the creation of new words or importation of words from another language. It is a type of neoiogism. Siang can be described as way of deviating from standard language use, and it is very popular in adolescence. Slang functions in two ways: the creation of new language and new usage by a process of creative informal use and adaptation, and the creation of a secret language, understood only by those within a group to understand it (antilanguage).

The main way of replenishing vocabulary with non-standard words is semantic derivation, which results in the broadening of meaning of a standard language unit by means of creating in it lexico-semantic variants. These derivations are usually formed according to the models of literary standard and they presume the change of a morphological structure of a word. From the point of view of building there are such ways of creating slang words:

1. Affixation - forming words by means of affixes. Among the standard suffixes the most productive are: -er, -ie, -y, -ey [6, 30]: piker - a lazy person, plonker - idiot or dimwit, kisser - the mouth, froggie Frenchman, sieeper - night watchman, fishmonger - lesbian, teeny - teenager, trannie - transistor, footsie foot, aisley - aisle, hooker - hook [5].

The large group form slang words created by means of -ed: amped - intoxicated with amphetamines, aped - alcohol intoxicated, miffed - offended, steamed - angry, snatched - arrested.
2. Word compounding - is a combination of two or more stems to form a new word [5,28]: wasteman stupid person, bigwig - person of consequence, bold-faced - impudent, greenhorn - raw, inexperienced person, highbrow - learned person, intellectual, liveware - human component of computer use, gateway escape from the law, fanny-farm - mental hospital, fireworks - excitement, boneheaded - stupid [5].
3. Shortening - forming a new lexical unit by means of omitting of a certain part of a longer word:
a) aphaeresis - omission of the initial part of a word;
b) suncope - omission of the unstressed middle syllable;
c) apocope - omission of the final part of the word;
d) mixed type - combination of several shortening devices;
e) abbreviation - when the initial letters stay for the word they begin [ $6,31-35$ ]. It is a popular kind of shortening, which often presupposes ironical secrecy: porno - pornography, sis - sister, con - convict, Arb Arbitrageur, sec- second [1], fume - perfume, copter - helicopter, stat - thermostat, stash - moustache, bacty - bacteriology, fess - professor, B.W.O.C. - 'big woman on campus', an important or self-important female college student, B.V.D.S. - men's underwear from Bradley, Voorhies, and Day, the manufactures, B.Y.O. - bring your own (booze or bottle), D. J. - disk jockey, V. I. P. - very important person, C. K. cocaine, S.W.A.K. - 'sealed with a kiss' written with love and care [5].
4. Back slang is a language based off of shortened words; something like a contraction but used to shorten speech in a hasty manner: yob - boy, delo woc - old cow.
5. Contamination is a comparatively new device, which received wide usage in $20^{\text {th }}$. It originates from the system of the term formation and the language of advertising. As a rule, products of contamination are called blends. Usually they are results of playful attitude towards words: Amerasian $=$ American + Asian, slanguist $=$ slang + linguist, copshop $=c o p+$ shop, smog $=$ smoke + fog, chortler $=$ chalk + short.

Besides the mentioned above ways of slang formation slang may also bring figures of speech like metaphor, metonymy, generalization and specialization, elevation and degradation, the use of acronyms, the play of euphemism, borrowings from foreign languages, Cockney, Rhyming [4, 274]: bean, block, nut, upper storey, belfry, coco, attic, biscuit, pimple - head [4, 274]; abdul - nickname for a Turk or a person of a Middie East origin (Abdul is a typical Turkish name); square head - a German [4, 274]; trip - first became specialized to mean a psychedelic experience resulting from the drug LSD. Subsequently it generalized again to mean any experience of any drug; funky - once a very low term for body odour, has undergone elevation among jazz buffs to signify the beat; fanny - once simply a girl's name generated in England into a taboo word of the man genitalia; adam - the drug MDA - methyl diamphetamine. Adam is an acronym from the initials, used by middle class Londoners during the vogue for the drug in the mid 1980s; ALF acronym for Alien Life Form; Yuppie - an acronym for 'young urban professional' with an added ending similar to hippie, yippie.
6. The play of euphemism against taboo. Usually euphemisms are used in sexual or vulgar connotations. The play of euphemism is used to replace the vulgar, taboo words by relatively decent ones: to come - to experience an orgasm [1]; to pull the plug - to commit suicide.
7. Borrowings from foreign languages: frenchie, frenchy (French) - a condom; schiemiel (Yiddish) - a fool; schmeet (Yiddish) - heroine; schmutter (Yiddish) - clothing; schnockered (Yiddish) - drunk; pizzle (Flemish) - penis.
8. Cockney Rhyming Slang uses a conjunction of words whose last word is used to suggest a rhyme. Usually a rhyming slang is abbreviated to the first word. This produces effect that makes a sentence in which it is employed much harder to understand. And when a phrase incorporates two or more elements of a rhyming slang the meaning becomes so obscure that it results into confusion [4, 275]: 'Got to my mickey, found me way up the apples, put on me whistle and the bloody dog went. It was me trouble telling me to fetch the teapots' which means 'Got to my house (Mickey Mouse), found my way up the stairs (apples and pears), put on my suit (whistle and flute) when the phone (dog and bone) rang. It was my wife (trouble and strife) telling me to get the kids (teapot lids)'. Doddle (easy or straightforward) Glenn Hoddle [1]. Here are some more examples of rhyming slang: dog - Cherry Hogg, dole (welfare) - Ear'ole (Ear hole), dole (welfare) - Rock and Roll, dole (welfare) - Sausage Roll, dollar - Oxford Scholar, door - Henry Moore, dope (marijuana) - Bob Hope, draft - George Raft, drink - Tddley Wink, drugs - Persian Rugs, drunk Elephant's Trunk, dump (shit) - Camel's Hump, look - Captain Cook, lot (serving or share) - Hopping Pot, love - Turtle Dove, luck - Donald Duck, mad - Mum and Dad, marriage - Horse and Carriage, married Cash and Carried, matches - Cuts and Scratches. It is necessary to mention that rhyming slang tradition is one of the greatest sources of slang today.
9. The usage of slang very often involves the creation of novel meanings for existing words. In fact, one common process is for a slang word to take an exactly the opposite meaning of the standard definition. This process has given rise to the positive meaning of the word 'bad' such as in the Michael Jackson's song of the same title.

Slang is a type of social act aimed at excluding certain people from the conversation. There is not just one slang, but very many varieties of slang. Different social groups in different times have developed their own slang.

Medical slang is a slang of doctors, nurses, paramedics and other Hospital and Medical staff. One part of medical slang is the use of technical-looking acronyms to describe patients, co-workers, or situations, often facetiously, to other medical professionals: freud squak - psychiatry department; gasser, gas passer, gas man - anaesthetist; slasher - surgeon; short-order chef - morgue worker; knuckledrugger - orthopaedist; flea - internal medicine doctor; stream team - the urology service collectively; pecker Checker - urologist; pediatron - paediatrician; baby catcher - obstetrician; unclear medicine - nuclear medicine; bone Ho - offservice resident working on othopaedic service.

Hip hop music uses a variety of slang terms that have changed as hip hop itself has evolved and changed. Much of its lexicon is drawn from African American Vernacular English. Hip hop slang makes use of alternative pronunciations, mostly drawn from AAVE ordinary words given new meanings, new coinages and portmanteau words; vermacular phrases. As the hip hop culture has expanded worldwide, nonAmericans and even non-English speakers have increasingly borrowed from and contributed to the slang of hip hop, often modifying the meanings of words to their own uses. For example: night - all right, brother black man, devil - racist term for 'white person' often used in rap songs in the late 80 's and 90 's, nigga - a black man with a gold chain on his neck, sister - black woman, tight - good.

Sexual slang is often used by adolescent youths in their rituals of growing up. It is often one way for youths to test the limits of tolerance in their society, both in their own families and in the larger community. Foul language and sexual humour are also used as a form of male bonding in traditionally masculine vocations and sports.

Internet slang is slang which Internet users have coined and promulgated. Such terms typically originated with the purpose of saving keystrokes: many use the same abbreviations in text messages. The terms often appear in lower case, with capitals often reserved for emphasis: the pronoun ' $T$ ', for example, often appears as simply ' i '. With the rise of instant messaging services (ICA, AOZ, MSN among others) the vocabulary has expanded dramatically. Sometimes users of Internet slang make up Internet abbreviations on the spot, therefore many of them can seem confusing, obscure, whimsical, or even nonsensical. This type of on-the-spot abbreviating leads to such things as: OTP (on the phone) or the less common OPTD (outside petting dog). Another feature common to Internet communication involves the truncation and morphing of words to forms that users can type more readily. Examples of this include: addy - address, pic - picture, proggy - computer programme, prolly - probably, sig - signature, anon - anonymous, anw - anyways, anyl - anyone, aslrp - age, sex, location, race, picture; atm - at the moment, atop - at time of posting, kis keep it simple, kit - keep in touch, kitfo - knock in the fuck off, kk - OK [1].

Leet Speak is a language that used to be popular in on line video games.
Polari is an interesting mixture of Italian and Cockney back slang, in other words, common words pronounced as if spelled backwards, for example: 'ecaf' for 'face', which became eek in Polari.

Engrish refers to the poor-quality English that is often found in Asian countries, but can be found in any non-English speaking nation.

Another fertile source of slang words and probably the largest one for today is drug addicts and their surroundings. The problem of drugs is relatively new phenomenon that started to develop in 50 s when the first drugs received overall popularity. Street names for drugs drastically change from place to place and time to time, and no absolute reliance should ever be placed on them: fix - an injection of narcotic, smark heroine, coco-puff - marijuana joint rolied with cocaine, coke - shortened form of cocaine, snowbaiing pertains to the act of taking cocaine, dexed - to be high on Dextromethorphan, DXM - abbreviation for dextromethorphan, candy flipping - combination of Ecstasy and LSD.

It is interesting to note that most of these terms are of American origin. This may be explained by the origin of the drugs, most of which were made in the USA. Such terms are widely spread today and there are numerous synonyms to denote different drugs and addicts' activity and their number is constantly increasing. Here are listed all the names used for heroine: heroine - a bomb, Amelia, black, black girl, bobby brown, brown sugar, cheese, Cotton Brothers, candy, hammer, Harry, Homicide, hop, horse, Lady H., Mexican dirt, Mexican mud, P - dope, pepper, poppy, rain, slam, snow, white, bitch, white girl, white tiger [1].

In Ukraine as well as in any other country there exist various subcultures that are the creators of slang. But the problem emerges from the fact that Ukraine can boast of a very small amount of pure Ukrainian slang. It can be explained by the social, economic and political conditions of the post-Soviet countries. We had the only possibility to copy or borrow something from free and democratic west, rather than create our own.

Ukrainian slang words, especially those used by young people, present a dynamic system in modern linguistics. The main function of it is to meet requirements of a certain social group or to make speech more ironic and specific. These two factors demand constant renewal of slang vocabulary as a lot of such words are transformed and enrich the literary language.

It is a well known fact that the main sources of slang are foreign borrowings which can be divided into two groups:
a) borrowings from the literary language, when a word acquires the slangy colouring: шузи (English shoes);
b) borrowings from foreign slang and jargon and borrowed neologisms: бакс - a dollar, андеграунд a bomb shelter, cellar; a certain trend in modern literature which is oriented on traditional cultural values.

Most Ukrainian siang words have been borrowed from the Russian youth slang. Very many of them come from movies, novels, jargon, criminals, television etc.: Russian «амба» - death, dead lock (Ukr. «амбецц» - crisis, a bad situation; Rus. «баклан» - Inexperienced person (Ukr. «баклан» - one who speaks a lot); Rus. «каин» - a person who buys stolen things (Ukr. «каїн» - the same meaning); Rus. «лох» - a person whom one can easily cheat (Ukr. «лох» - a stupid guy from the country); Rus. «рокло» - thief (Ukr. «рокло» - a clumsy person); Rus. «хавалка» - food (Ukr. «хавчик» - the same meaning). Here are some examples of slang used by drug users: розкумаритися - to smoke marihuana, neнтюх - a computer on the basis of the processor Intel Pentium, погоняло - a nickname in chat, мужик - а soccer fan.

Another group of slang came from literary English changing their meaning and pronunciation: дестрой, дестракшн - disorder, hooliganism (Eng. to destroy, destruction), бірце (Eng. beer), бьозник (Eng. birthday), крейзі (Eng. crazy), смелл (Eng. smeli), хаір (Eng. hair), найтувати (Eng. night), олдовий (Eng. old), піпл (Eng. people), флет (Eng. flat), валум (Eng. volume), бусік (Eng. bus), гарбіджмен (Eng. Garoigemar), драйв (Eng. drive), дрінк (Eng. drink), клок (Eng. clock), манагер (Eng. manager), мен (Eng. man), сейшн (Eng. session), тічерка (Eng. teacher).

There is also a little number of foreign borrowings from Polish: фацет - a boy, фризура - a hair-do, куцан - a boy, честь - Hello, бух - stomach, курдупель - not very tall person, пеньонзи - money.

Slang coming from German: шпіляти - to play, урльоп - holiday, Фрідріхштрассе - to vomit, пункер - punk.

Today there are some attempts to create pure Ukrainian slang by means of inventing either new words or ascribing to the already existing meanings: бачик - TV-set, бийно - dangerous situation, витиграфія photo, базікало - one who speaks a lot, дерти ляха - to laugh, ряха - face, крутити ноги - to run away, лунохід - policeman, мерза - scoundrel, навкемисити - to get smb. angry, порекло - name, сідець - а chair [12].

The next important way of slang creation is with the help of metaphors. The parts of body may illustrate it particularly well. There are, for instance, numerous slang metaphors for the concept «head» казанок, макітра, «fасе» - жувальник, ряха, табло, маклабан, шайба. The idea of being drunk can be represented by such metaphors as: набрався, нализався, назюзюкався (як свиня, як чіп), заклав за комір, під градусом, тепленький, хороший, на автопілоті, бухати, бухня, бухлянка, драп, шмаль, ширка, травичка, наркота, колеса, сидіти на голці, закумарений, гадючник - a bar, колгосп - boring company, стругати - to vomit, времянка - a very expensive private house, брехунець - a radic, дебільніик - a player.

Then comes compounding: сракопад - ice-crusted ground, кайфолом - a person who corrupts the pleasure, лоходром - a place with a lot of stupid people, траходром - a big bed.

Ukrainian slang can also be formed by means of antonomasia. For example: Толік - untrustworthy person, Вася - disrespectful person, Васька - unfortunate person, Васильок - virgin, Ванька - fool, Клава Альбіна - woman who seils home-made vodka, Коля - person with a low social status, Важний Коля person with a car, Достоєвський - boring person, Марія Іванівна - marihuana.

The usage of pun is also a peculiar feature of Ukrainian slang formation. Here are some examples: Бухенвальд - canteen for students, ватра - cigarettes, бєломор, кемел - cigarettes [3, 184-189].

Conclusions and prospects for further research. To summarise the data that have been analyzed so far, it can be said that English slang is a universal term for any word or phrase which though not recognised as a fact of Standard English, has won general recognition as a fresh innovation quite irrespectively of its nature. It is notable for its liveliness, humour, emphasis, novelty and exaggeration. It binds, identifies and thrives in groups with a strong sense of novelty and group activity. Slang is produced by living languages and the moment it stops being produced the language in question is dead.

Ukrainian slang does exist, but it consists mostly of words of Russian, English, Polish, German origin. The process of its development continues, however, it will be formed and used when Ukrainian becomes a dominant language, widely used and spoken.

Although the topic of slang is not new and much has been said and written about it, the question still remains unanswered, it means that there are a lot of prospects for further research.

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B. І. Савчук - викнадач кафедри іноземної філології та методики навчання Переяслав-Хмельницького державного педагогічного університету імені Григорія Сковороди

## Просодичні засоби маркування комунікативної стратегії на пониження в англомовному президентському дискурсі

## Роботу виконано на кафедрі іноземної філології та методики навчання ПХДПУ ім. Григорія Сковороди

Статтю присвячено просодичній організації комунікативної стратегії і тактики у президентському дискурсі. Увагу зосереджено на результатах аудкторського й акустичного аналізіз інтонаціиного варіювання залежно від використовуваної комунікативної тактики та типу адресата.

Ключові слова: просодія, комунікативна стратегія, комунікативна тактика.
Савчук В. И. Просодические средства маркирования коммуникативной стратегии на понижение в англоязычном президентском дискурсе. Статья посвящается просодической организации коммуникативной стратегии и тактик в президентском дискурсе. Внимание сосредотачивается на результатах аудиторского и акустического анализов интонационного варьирования в зависимости от используемых коммуникативных тактик и типа адресата.

Ключевые слова: просодия, коммуникативная стратегия, коммуникативная тактика.
Savchuk V. I. Prosodic Means of Marking the Communicative Strategy of Weakening in English Presidential Discourse. The article is dedicated to the prosodic organization of communicative strategy and tactics in presidential discourse. It mainly represents the results of auditory and acoustic analyses of intonation modifications caused by the use of some specific tactics and the type of addressee.

Key words: prosody, communicative strategy, communicative tactic.
Постановка наукової проблеми та ї значенння. Інститут президентства являє собою найвищий щабель вертикалі влади, а тому їхнє мовлення відшліфоване не лише освітою та професійною діяльністю, а й роками досвіду. Це неодмінно тренує і ораторські навички, i вміння володіти власними емоціями, що, звісно, відображається на здатності контролювати мовлення, бути швидким та

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[^0]:    (1) Савчук B. İ., 2012

