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THE ENGLISH INTERNET SLANG: LEXICAL AND GRAMMATICAL ASPECTS

The article deals with the study of lexical and grammatical features of the English slang. The authors note that slang is a special type of speech activity that arises in a certain social community and is characterized by the use of non-traditional words, expressions and constructions. The article finds that Internet slang is often formed by shortening words, using abbreviations, symbols, as well as using language games, imitations and hints. Special attention is paid to the grammatical features of the formation of Internet slang, such as the use of incorrect word forms, changing the order of words in a sentence, creating new grammatical constructions, and other phenomena. The authors emphasize that Internet slang is an integral part of communication in social networks, it is used to express emotions, indicate certain group affiliations and create a specific language environment; ways of forming Internet slang include a variety of lexical, grammatical and stylistic techniques that vary depending on the context and purpose of use; grammatical features of the formation of Internet slang are manifested in the use of incorrect forms of words, changes in grammatical constructions and deviations from the standard language norm; methods of lexical and grammatical analysis are effective for the study of Internet slang, as they allow to find out the lexical-semantic features of words and their grammatical context.

The article examines the semantics of these words, analyzes possible polysemantics, defines their synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms. Attention is also paid to the semantic and emotional loading of these words, which makes it possible to understand their use and contextual meaning. With the help of grammatical analysis, the morphological characteristics of words were determined, their ways of word formation were clarified, and their possible syntactic role in the sentence was analyzed. This analysis helps to understand the peculiarities of the construction of words in Internet slang and their interaction with other linguistic units.

Key words: *communication, morphological characteristics, grammatical and lexical features, slang, abbreviations and acronyms.*

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АНГЛІЙСЬКИЙ ІНТЕРНЕТ-СЛЕНГ: ЛЕКСИЧНИЙ ТА ГРАМАТИЧНИЙ АСПЕКТИ

Стаття присвячена дослідженню лексичних та граматичних особливостей англійського сленгу. Зазначено, що сленг являє собою особливий вид мовленнєвої діяльності, який виникає в певній соціальній спільноті та характеризується використанням нетрадиційних слів, виразів та конструкцій. З'ясовано, що інтернет-сленг часто формується шляхом скорочення слів, використання абревіатур, символів, а також за допомогою мовних ігор, імітацій та натяків. Особлива увагу приділена граматичним особливостям утворення інтернет-сленгу, таким як використання неправильних форм слів, зміна порядку слів у реченні, створення нових граматичних конструкцій та інші явища. Підкреслено, що інтернет-сленг є невід'ємною частиною комунікації у соціальних мережах, він використовується для вираження емоцій, позначення певних групових приналежностей та створення специфічного мовного середовища; шляхи утворення інтернет-сленгу включають в себе різноманітні лексичні, граматичні та стилістичні прийоми, які варіюються залежно від контексту та мети використання; граматичні особливості утворення інтернет-сленгу проявляються у використанні неправильних форм слів, зміні граматичних конструкцій та відхиленні від стандартної мовної норми; методи лексичного та граматичного аналізу є ефективними для дослідження інтернет-сленгу, оскільки дозволяють з'ясувати лексико-семантичні особливості слів та їхній граматичний контекст.

У статті досліджено семантику цих слів, проаналізовано можливу полісемантику, визначено їх синоніми, антоніми та омоніми. Також звернено увагу на смислове та емоційне навантаження цих слів, що дає змогу зрозуміти їх вживання та контекстуальне значення. За допомогою граматичного аналізу визначено морфологічні характеристики слів, з'ясовано їх способи словотворення та проаналізовано можливу синтаксичну роль у реченні. Цей аналіз допоміг зрозуміти особливості побудови слів в інтернет-сленгу та їхню взаємодію з іншими мовними одиницями.

***Ключові слова:** комунікація, морфологічні характеристики, граматичні та лексичні особливості, сленг, скорочення та абревіатури.*

Problem statement. Communication between people is the most important process of information transfer. It is divided into formal and informal. Informal conversation is the most familiar and used by people. But due to the fact that our communication is built under different circumstances and in different circles of people, this very communication can differ and constantly change. One of the most interesting manifestations of informal vocabulary is slang. This article aims to expand our knowledge about Internet slang in social networks and to understand the impact of this phenomenon on communication in the online environment.

Literature review. Modern linguistics is experiencing difficulties in defining the concept of slang due to the

lack of a generally accepted definition of this linguistic phenomenon, but, nevertheless, there are various definitions of slang in the scientific literature. For example, we can see the following interpretation of the concept of slang: Slang is a style of speech that occupies a place opposite to too formal, official language. It occupies borderline positions on the scale of possible means of language communication and covers various forms of language, with the help of which people identify themselves with certain social groups, starting with youth, businessmen, hackers and ending with criminals, alcoholics or drug addicts (Batsevych, 2014: 83).

Other researchers provide identifying criteria for slang, such as "its presence will appreciably detract

from the dignity of official or serious speech or writing” and “slang is used in place of a well-known conventional synonym” (Balabin, 2002: 58; Bezditko, 2020: 78).

Slang is also defined as the direct opposite of the generally accepted and standard language and considers it from the point of view of deviant and rebellious nature (Bozhko, 2016: 112). Most definitions of the term show a tendency towards a sociological view of the phenomenon. Followers of this method define slang as a social means of group identification and cohesion. Within the sociological approach, slang is attributed to two opposites, in order to hold together their own and eliminate extraneous asides (Romanova, 2013: 298). Obviously, the use of the same slang vocabulary helps to gain recognition in a group and maintain group solidarity. Slang in a sociological approach serves such social purposes as being on the same level of speech with one’s audience, promoting social communication, and encouraging friendliness or intimacy.

Another approach to defining slang is the stylistic approach. In this approach, it is defined as the level of use and it is “not perceived as good, formal usage by the majority” (Makovskiy, 2000: 79). That is, slang is opposed to official language: it is below standard discourse and a neutral stylistic level, and is typical of informal, relaxed language. In addition, slang is also contrasted with other non-standard varieties: it is neither dialectal nor official, nor can it be attributed to the concepts of cant, slang or jargon (Selivanova, 2011). Slang changes rapidly; therefore, it can be seen as a short-lived vocabulary that will either become obsolete or become accepted in ordinary language over time.

The article aims is a study of lexical and grammatical peculiarities of the English slang.

Discussion. Learning vocabulary and grammar are fundamental aspects of learning any language. Analysis of the lexical and grammatical structure of words plays an important role in understanding and using language, contributing to the development of reading, writing, conversational interaction and speaking competence in general.

Lexical and grammatical analysis are of particular importance for the study of slang, since slang is a special variant of language that often differs from the standard language norm. The study of lexical and grammatical features of slang helps to reveal its unique features and to understand its functioning in the communicative environment. First, the lexical analysis of slang allows us to identify its specific words, phrases, or expressions that are used in the relevant social group or subculture. These can be

new terms or slang expressions that acquire a special meaning in the context of slang. Lexical analysis of slang allows us to study these words and their features, such as metaphorical or metonymic use, change of lexical meaning, etc.

Secondly, the grammatical analysis of slang reveals specific grammatical devices and constructions that are used to form the syntactic structure of a slang expression. Slang can have its own rules of grammatical organization, such as shortening words, using incomplete sentences, specific violations of syntactic norms, etc. Grammatical analysis of slang helps to understand which grammatical devices and deviations are used in the speech of Internet communities or teenagers who actively use slang. Thus, lexical and grammatical analysis are necessary for understanding and analyzing slang. The study of lexical and grammatical features of slang allows us to reveal its socio-cultural context, communicative goals and functions.

Vocabulary and grammar, being relatively independent subsystems in language as a symbolic, communicative system, are considered in isolation from each other. In this regard, it is customary to distinguish and contrast lexical and grammatical meaning, which, in fact, is presented in traditional (structural-semantic) grammar.

The purpose of lexical analysis is to show, firstly, how the word is related to the concept it denotes, secondly, how the word is related to other words in the language system, and thirdly, how the word is related to the human speaker who uses it. Accordingly, it seems to us that three main stages of a full lexical analysis should be distinguished:

- 1) description of its semantic structure; (interpretation of a single word, highlighting the meaning of polysemanticity, establishing the presence of homonyms);
- 2) description of the paradigmatic relations of the analyzed word (synonymy, antonymy, paronymy, inclusion of the word in the thematic, hypero-hyponymic paradigm, lexicosemantic group, etc.);
- 3) sociolinguistic characteristics, i.e. determination of the semantic loading of a word, determined by its functioning in the speech of speakers of the Ukrainian and/or English languages, reflection in the word of the history of the development of the linguistic and cultural community.

At the first and second stages, the leading role is assigned to work with a dictionary, and not just one. An explanatory dictionary will help to determine the semantic structure of the analyzed word, that is, to establish whether it is single-meaning or polysemous. In our opinion, at the initial stage, it

is important to choose single-meaning words for lexical analysis, since the presence of a word with several meanings will complicate the plan of further analysis. After all, behind one sound envelope (form) several meaningful layers are revealed at once, therefore, the analysis of each lexical-semantic variant should be carried out and separate micro-systems (synonymous, antonymous, homonymous and other types of paradigms) to which this word belongs should be considered.

The purpose of grammatical analysis is to study the structure and functions of a word in a speech context. This analysis aims to understand how a word functions in a sentence, how it relates to other word combinations, and how it affects semantics and syntax. For a complete grammatical analysis, the following stages can be distinguished.

1. Analysis of formal features of the word.

In this stage, grammatical categories and morphological characteristics of the word are studied. Its part of speech, gender, number, case, tense, manner, imperative form and other morphological features that affect its grammatical function are determined.

2. Analysis of the syntactic role of the word.

At this stage, the syntactic function of a word in a sentence is studied. Its role as a subject, predicate, adjunct, definition, circumstance, conjunction and other syntactic functions is determined.

3. Analysis of relationships with other words.

The interaction of a word with other words in a sentence and their influence on the grammatical structure is studied. The dependence of the word on other word combinations, the formation of complex words, the use of prefixes and suffixes, the combination with other parts of the language, the use of conjunctions and other syntactic means are analyzed.

4. Definition of ways of word formation.

This stage examines which specific methods are used to form new words. Such word-forming processes as affixation, composition, conversion, reduction, metaphorical transfer of meaning and others are studied. Each method has its own characteristics and affects the semantics and morphology of the word. Examples of words formed by different ways of word formation are analyzed in order to reveal regularities and features of their structure and meaning. Determining the ways of word formation helps to better understand the process of word formation in the language and their variety.

5. Grammatical correctness of word usage.

The correctness of the grammatical use of the word in the context of the sentence is checked. It is analyzed whether the use of the word corresponds to the grammatical rules of the language, whether the

sequence of tenses, ways of expression, numerical forms and other grammatical norms are not violated.

6. Sociolinguistic analysis.

The social context of word use and its influence on communication is studied. It is analyzed how the word is used in a specific language community, whether it has a slang, dialect or slang shade. The cultural context, the history of the use of the word and its specificity in certain groups of speakers are taken into account.

By applying this plan of grammatical analysis, a word can be explored in detail from a grammatical perspective, revealing its role in the syntactic structure of a sentence, relationships with other words, semantics, and sociolinguistic context. Such an analysis will help to understand the functioning of the word in speech and reveal its linguistic specificity.

Internet slang of the English language is more diverse due to the phonetic equivalents of words in the form of numbers and letters.

Phonetic equivalents in English Internet slang are popular tools for effective and quick communication in the online environment. They are used to shorten words or expressions while maintaining a sound similarity to the original words. Here are some examples of such phonetic equivalents: “2” can mean both “too” and “to”. It depends on the context in which it is used, “4” is usually used as a substitute for the word “for”, “2moro” means “tomorrow”, “4u” means “for you”, “gr8” is short for “great”, “2nite” represents “tonight”, “da” is used instead of “the” (article), “u” is short for “you”, “10x” represents “thanks”, “y” means “why”.

Besides these examples, there are many other phonetic equivalents, such as “@” for “at”, “w8” for “wait”, “U2” for “you too”, “l8” for “late”, “l8r” for “later”, “cya” for “see ya”, “b4” for “before” and “nel” for “anyone” (anyone).

These phonetic equivalents help to save time and space when writing, allowing you to express thoughts and ideas more quickly online. They are an important part of Internet slang and demonstrate the continuous development of language in the digital age. This way of communicating with phonetic equivalents appeared in English slang due to the peculiarities of this language. The English language has a large number of sound similarities between words, which opens up opportunities to replace words with their phonetic equivalents in the form of abbreviations and numbers. Thus, this phenomenon demonstrates one of the lexical-grammatical features of the English language. Internet slang of the Ukrainian language, when we analyzed the Internet dictionary, had no available equivalents.

Let's analyze several examples of slang.

– **AFK**

Lexical word analysis

1. Detection of semantics and possible polysemantics:

Semantics: "AFK" stands for "Away From Keyboard".

Polysemantics: In this case, "AFK" has one main meaning, which indicates the temporary absence of the user at the computer or the remote status.

2. Analysis of synonyms, antonyms, homonyms:

Synonyms: "Away From Keyboard" can be replaced by "BRB" (Be Right Back).

Antonyms: There is no direct antonym for "AFK" as it indicates absence.

3. Definition of the semantic and emotional load of a word:

Meaningful load: "AFK" conveys information about a person's temporary absence and unavailability for communication.

Emotional load: Usually "AFK" does not carry a specific emotional color, since it is used to communicate the fact of absence.

4. Etymological analysis:

"AFK" comes from the English language and has become popular in the Internet community. It comes from the phrase "Away From Keyboard", which was shortened to the abbreviation "AFK" for convenience and time-saving when chatting online and playing online games.

Grammatical analysis of the word

1. Definition of the morphological characteristics of the word:

"AFK" is an invariable abbreviation and has no morphological components.

2. Definition of ways of word formation:

"AFK" is an abbreviation of the phrase "Away From Keyboard".

3. Analysis of a possible syntactic role in a sentence:

"AFK" is used as an independent word or phrase to indicate that there is no person at the computer. In syntactic constructions, it can be used in different contexts, for example: "I'll be AFK for a while" (I'll be AFK for a while).

– **ASAP**

Lexical word analysis

1. Detection of semantics and possible polysemantics:

Semantics: "ASAP" means "As Soon As Possible".

Polysemantics: In this case, "ASAP" has one basic meaning, which indicates the need to do something quickly and immediately.

2. Analysis of synonyms, antonyms, homonyms:

Synonyms: "ASAP" can be replaced by "immediately", "urgently".

Antonyms: There is no direct antonym for "ASAP" because it expresses the need for action as soon as possible.

3. Definition of the semantic and emotional load of a word:

Semantic load: "ASAP" conveys information about the need to do something quickly and immediately, without undue delay.

Emotional load: Usually "ASAP" does not carry a specific emotional color, as it is used to express the importance and urgency of the task.

4. Etymological analysis: "ASAP" is an abbreviation that comes from the English language. It consists of the initial letters of the words "As Soon As Possible" (as soon as possible). Using this abbreviated form allows you to save time and simplify communication in the online environment.

Grammatical analysis of the word

1. Definition of the morphological characteristics of the word: "ASAP" is an invariant abbreviation that does not undergo morphological changes such as numerical and genitive endings.

2. Definition of ways of word formation: "ASAP" is a shortened form, an acronym formed by dropping part of the initial letters of the words "As Soon As Possible".

3. Analysis of a possible syntactic role in a sentence:

"ASAP" can be used as an independent expression or as part of a more complex sentence. For example: "Please send me the report ASAP" (Please send me the report as soon as possible). In syntactic constructions, "ASAP" can act as an adverb, denoting speed and immediacy of action.

– **BINGE-WATCH**

Lexical word analysis

1. Detection of semantics and possible polysemantics:

Semantics: "Binge-watch" is a phrasal verb in English internet slang and means binge-watching or watching a large amount of content such as TV shows, movies, videos, etc., usually in a short period of time.

Polysemantics: "Binge-watch" can sometimes be used in contexts that require careful understanding. For example, it can also indicate watching a lot of video content continuously, but not necessarily excessively.

2. Analysis of synonyms, antonyms, homonyms:

Synonyms: Other phrases or expressions with a similar meaning may be used in the context of "binge-

watch”, such as “marathon watching”, “streaming spree”.

Antonyms: In the context of “binge-watch” there is no direct antonym, as it is a specific expression that conveys the excessive act of watching.

3. Definition of the semantic and emotional load of a word:

Semantic load: “Binge-watch” conveys the idea of intensive and prolonged viewing of a large amount of content in a short period of time. It can evoke associations with recreation, entertainment and immersion in the world of virtual reality.

Emotional load: The use of “binge-watch” is often accompanied by positive emotions such as delight, pleasure and enjoyment, but can also have a neutral emotional color, depending on the context and individual perception.

4. Etymological analysis:

“Binge-watch” consists of two components: “binge” and “watch”.

“Binge” means excessive or uncontrolled consumption of something, usually food or drink, in large quantities. In the context of “binge-watch”, it is used to describe the excessive viewing of large amounts of video or content.

“Watch” means to watch or review something, usually a movie, show, series, or video. In the context of “binge-watch”, it refers to the process of actively watching a large amount of content.

Grammatical analysis of the word)

1. Definition of the morphological characteristics of the word:

“Binge-watch” is a phrasal verb. Parts of speech: verb.

2. Definition of ways of word formation:

“Binge-watch” is a combination of two words, “binge” and “watch”.

3. Analysis of a possible syntactic role in a sentence:

“Binge-watch” can be used as an independent expression or as part of more complex sentences. For example: “I’m going to binge-watch my favorite TV series this weekend.” (I’m going to have a marathon of my favorite TV series this weekend.).

– FACEPALM

Lexical word analysis

1. Detection of semantics and possible polysemantics:

Semantics: “Facepalm” refers to the facial expression when a person makes a palm-to-face gesture, usually of disgust or frustration. Polysemantics: In this case, “Facepalm” has one primary meaning, which expresses disgust or frustration.

2. Analysis of synonyms, antonyms, homonyms:

Synonyms: The expression “Facepalm” is specific and has no exact synonyms. Also, the word “cringe” can be used, which has a similar emotional component. Antonyms: There is no direct antonym for “Facepalm” as it expresses disgust or disappointment.

3. Definition of the semantic and emotional load of a word: Semantic load: “Facepalm” conveys information about facial expressions that express disgust, frustration, helplessness, or displeasure about something that happened or was said.

4. Etymological analysis:

“Facepalm” is a compound word that comes from the English language. It consists of the words “face” and “palm”. The combination of these words indicates a gesture in which a person places the palm of his hand on his face, which is a typical reaction to disgust or frustration.

Grammatical analysis of the word

1. Definition of the morphological characteristics of the word: “Facepalm” is one word. Parts of speech: Noun.

2. Definition of ways of word formation: “Facepalm” consists of the words “face” and “palm”, which are combined to form a new word.

3. Analysis of a possible syntactic role in a sentence: “Facepalm” can be used as an independent expression or as part of a more complex sentence.

Conclusions. During the conducted lexical-grammatical analysis, it became obvious that English is a very important, unique and influential language in the context of Internet slang. It is often used to shorten words and speed up their writing and pronunciation by using abbreviations and clipping.

During the work, we focused on the search for semantic, etymological and morphological meanings of Internet slang. This analysis gave us the opportunity to get a broader idea of the essence and features of this phenomenon.

The practical value of the article is manifested in the creation of the algorithm for the lexical-grammatical analysis of Internet slang words. This algorithm allows us to analyze systematically and classify words using Internet slang from different languages. We carefully studied the structure and features of these words, taking into account their grammatical changes and formation mechanisms. Such an algorithm can be used in further research and analysis of Internet slang, making it a practically useful tool for linguists, communication specialists, and cultural researchers.

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