

THE IMPACT OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ON THE FORMATION OF COMPUTER SLANG

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The article covers such linguistic phenomena as jargon, argo, slang and computer slang. Their differentiation is made. The main ways of computer slang formation are specified.

The lexical composition of any language is incredibly rich and diverse, it reflects cultural values, social phenomena and relationships in society, helps to establish cross-cultural connections. Language is a phenomenon that is in the process of constant development, enrichment and improvement. However, simultaneously with the development of language, the development of society takes place. The result of this interaction is the continuous updating of the vocabulary. Other significant factors are globalization, internationalization, the development of mass media and information, the level of education of the population and armed conflicts.

If any insignificant changes occur in the indicators of at least one of the factors, the result is "fluctuations" in the language. These very fluctuations trigger and create favorable conditions for the emergence of social dialects: slang, jargon, argo. In many languages, they have several distinctive features, properties, that are characterized by originality, sometimes specificity and interpreted ambiguously. The border between this dialectical triad is often controversial and arbitrary.

That is why the problem of terminology of these social dialects is not accidentally in the field of research. A deep and detailed study of slang is impossible without understanding the relevant terms.

According to V. Istomin argo is "the language of a socially closed group of people, characterized by the specificity of the vocabulary used, the peculiarity of its use, but not having its own phonetic and grammatical system" [3].

Another linguistic phenomenon is jargon. We consider that jargon is a lexical layer that has characteristic features which distinguish it from argo in a certain way, but in some way combine it with slang. M.M. Makovsky, whose opinion we support, writes that this is "a dialect consisting of more or less arbitrarily selected, mutable and combined elements of one or more natural languages and used (usually in oral communication) by a separate social group for the purpose of linguistic isolation" [5]. From the above mentioned we see that the common thing for jargon and argo is the intention to make the language incomprehensible to others, the uninitiated, otherwise, there are no points of contact. Moreover, jargon, unlike argo, is highly expressive and is considered a semi-open system.

Among the most common characteristic features of jargon and slang are the presence of a semantic parallel in the literary language and numerous borrowings. But this does not mean that slang and jargon are synonyms. Jargon is, rather, a subsystem, an integral part and in some way the basis for slang.

There exist a lot of opinions on such phenomenon as slang. Almost every linguist all over the world has his definition of slang. A. Lipatov, for example, considers that "pure" slang does not exist: it is always "polluted" by jargon and argotism, to say nothing of professionalism and even vernacular. At the same time, argotisms do not immediately come into slang: before they get there, they stay within the jargon, "being purified of the crude argot semantics" [4].

For O. Akhmanova, slang is "an element of the colloquial version of one or another professional or social group, which, penetrating into the literary language or even the speech of people who are not directly related to this group of people, acquires a special emotionally expressive colour in these varieties of language" [1].

An ambiguous opinion regarding slang was formed by I. Halperin. He believed that slang should not be taken into the language, especially into the literary language. This term "in English lexicography combines words and phraseological units that are completely heterogeneous in terms of their stylistic characteristics and spheres of usage" [2]. So, in his opinion, "various dictionaries give the following categories of words and phrases, marked as "slang": words related to thieves' jargon, various professionalisms, colloquial words, neologisms, figurative words and expressions, contextual meanings of words, words formed as a result of conversion, also abbreviations" [2].

O. Jespersen was the first to give the definition of the term slang among foreign researchers. He connected the theoretical and linguistic understanding of this term with the psychological tendency in linguistics: «Slang, a form of speech which originates from a desire to break away from the commonplaces of the language imposed on us by the community. It is an outcome of mankind's love of play: it is the playful production of something new, where, properly speaking, nothing new was required" [8].

We share T. Solovieva's idea, who defines slang as "the most mobile layer of colloquial speech in the Russian language. The layer includes words and expressions, either borrowed from other languages, or created using word-formation models that exist in the Russian language and are used in more specific meanings due to their acquisition emotional coloring" [7].

Recently, such a linguistic phenomenon as "computer slang" has become quite popular in the language. However, the thing owes its appearance to a broader concept – "slang". Therefore, first, "computer slang" is a variety, one of the elements, components of the "slang" itself. That is why it is impossible to give an unambiguous, clear and appropriate definition of "computer slang".

There are a lot of approaches to the definition and interpretation of the concept of "slang" that have existed in foreign, Soviet, and domestic linguistics. Hence, the same pluralism arises in the approach to the definition of "computer slang." Since the core of this phrase is the second element, most researchers interpret the full (expanded) concept based on it.

The definition of "slang" by T. Solovieva was taken as the basic one and applied to a computer discourse. That is, by computer slang we mean a mobile lexical layer of spoken English, which includes words and expressions borrowed from various lexical groups or created according to certain word-formation models available in English and used in specific meanings by programmers and other computer specialists.

According to M. Semenova [6], the main reasons for creating computer slang can be divided into two groups. The first group includes extralinguistic reasons. Among them there are:

1. The presence of more or less close connections between the two linguistic cultures in politics, economics, culture, the exchange of experience and innovations in these spheres, which instantly affects the level of vocabulary;

2. Psychological, ethical and other factors leading to the use of foreign vocabulary.

The linguistic reasons are:

1. Elimination of polysemy;
2. The formation of structurally similar words or the presence of a series with a common structural component;

3. The tendency to the correspondence of the undifferentiation of the designated concept with the indifference of the designator.

Ways and methods of slang formation are remarkably diverse. Basically, they come down to adapting the English word to our reality and make it suitable for constant use. The main ways and methods of forming computer slang are:

1. **Calque or adoption.** Direct adoption reproduces the graphic or sound form of a foreign language word by means of a recipient language. The reproduction of the graphic form of the word is called transliteration, and the reproduction in the recipient language of the sound form of the original word is called practical transcription. Calque can be structural (derivational) when each element of the structure of the adopted word or expression is translated (for example, *memory capacity* – объем памяти, *copy/paste* – копипаст). It can also be semantical, that means a word has a new meaning in the adopting language under the impact of the source language.

2. **Phonetic adaptation.** When adopting happens, the word undergoes phonetic and spelling adaptation. There is a replacement of English sounds with Russian. Within the method sound sequences of the receiving language are used. The word necessarily changes its graphic appearance – the spelling changes from Latin to Cyrillic like that *domain* – домен, *cool hacker* – кулхацкер, *local* – локалка.

Anglicisms, being part of the Russian language, start to follow its morphological laws. Most of these words adopt the Russian grammatical categories of case (*bug* – баг, бара, бару, багом и т.д.), gender (*Java* – жаба – ж.р.; *case* – кейс – м.р.) and number (*application* – аппликуха – ед.ч., аппликухи – мн.ч.; *cookies* – куки – мн.ч.)

3. **Assimilation.** Many studies have been conducted, but this criterion has not yet been identified. However, most researchers agree that the degree of assimilation can be estimated in a synchronous section. In this case, the following factors will be considered critical:

1. formal assimilation of the sound and morphological system of a target language;
2. combinatorial activity of a word, its compatibility with other words of a target language;
3. latitude and intensity of use;
4. the appearance of derivatives of a given adopting basis, the subordination of adopting to the word-forming laws of a target language;

5. the occurrence of a word in the lexical-semantic system of a source language, synonymic differentiation from original words, the elimination of semantic ambiguity;

6. use for interpretation the meaning of another word.

E.g.: *to approve* – апрувить, *bug* – баг, *to google* – гуглить.

In conclusion it should be mentioned that the 21st century is the century of IT technologies, that provide us with different sorts of products. Specialists that work in the very particular sphere use special languages in order to communicate with each other. One prominent among "special languages" is computer slang. It is a real language because it contains various sorts of words, expressions, idioms that have different origin. Most of the semantic elements have come from the English language. That proves that English is the main source of enriching computer slang. And that is why we can say it produces the greatest impact on the formation of computer slang.

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