



LINGUOCULTURAL FEATURES OF SLANG IN INTERPRETATION OF ETHNICAL STEREOTYPES

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Abstract:

“Slang” term obtained official rights and is utilized not only in Anglo- American lexicographical practice, but also in Russian, French, German, Czech and others. On the scale of the functional and stylistic outlook of the English language, slang is stands right after the standard colloquial, followed by the jargon and vulgarism. Thus, we can observe the relevance of the study of slang as a linguocultural phenomenon in any language.

Keywords: slang, stereotype, intercultural communication, linguoculturology, jargon, vulgarism.

Slang is the main component of English vernacular. V.A. Khomyakov includes general slangisms in the lexicon of the literary language as a common medium of stylistically reduced speech, which conveys emotionally assessed strain. V.A. Khomyakov regards slang as part of the literary language. However, according to A.D. Schweitzer this attempt is unconvincing. Such a conclusion, according to A.D. Schweitzer, contradicts the observation of V.A. Khomyakova about that “ethical and stylistic decline”, which slang lexicon differs from the literary standard.

Common slang, considers A.D. Schweitzer, is one of the components of the public discourse, which is beyond the limits of the literary language. Although, the talked-out speech, recognizes A.D. Schweitser, is not separated from the general slang by rigid and unambiguously defined boundaries. Common American slang is understood by a larger part of the US population, i.e. it enters the public language of everyday use, which is the storehouse, the translator and the symbolic expression of the culture. E. Partridge considered slang to be the quintessence of colloquial speech. In turn, U.M. Skrebnev declared that “a spoken language is in a sense a minimal system of the national language, a phylogenetically and ontogenetically primary system, the most important in terms of the range of social and individual significance”. From here flows the importance and necessity of studying slang as a linguistic and cultural phenomenon of vernacular language.

The term “slang” obtained official rights and is utilized not only in Anglo-





American lexicographical practice, but also in Russian, French, German, Czech and others. Many, better to say, the majority of linguists divide the point of using the term “slang” to denote the corresponding layers of the vocabulary and the phraseology of the natural language. Separate attempts to question the very existence of such a phenomenon as slang and declare its lack of content remain not only in the minority, but in the singular. Among American researchers, an opinion was expressed about the unsuccessful use of the term "slang" to indicate the appropriate vocabulary layer, but the follow-up research work of one of these authors has shown that a more successful term has not yet been found.

On the scale of the functional and stylistic outlook of the English language, slang is stands right after the standard colloquial, followed by the jargon and vulgarism. Noteworthy example, which S.B. Flexner leads in the preface to the dictionary of American slang: standard English: Sir, you speak English well. colloquial: Friend, you talk plain and hit the nail right on the head. (Друг, ты говоришь нормально и попадаешь не в бровь, а в глаз); general slang: Buster, your line is the cat s pajamas. (Парень, твой рассказ ну просто класс) (or: Doll, you come on with the straight jazz, real cool like. Красавец, ты так здорово говоришь, просто круто). As Flexner notes here, American common slang - these are words and expressions that are often used or understood by a fairly large part of the US population [5]. Of course, slang appears and is needed before everyone else in the talk of people, united by one business, work, purpose, i.e. slang appears in linguocultural communities and does not appear there where people work alone, for example, farmers. Slang accompanies the tongue bearer from a very young age for the rest of his life. Back in 1911 Henry Bradley remarked:

"Admittedly, that slang is much more common in the USA and that its vocabulary is much more, than in other English-speaking countries ". Eric Partridge remarked that the speech of educated Americans is different from the speech of the educated English "More hospitable attitude to slang". As already noted, oral English national standard is unthinkable without slang elements as much as slang does not exist without elements of the oral standard. The distribution of Slenghisms, their wide popularity in various layers of society and - from here - their active use in conversational speech is promoted by modern American literature, cinema, mass media: radio, television, newspapers, magazines, theater, etc.

Permeability for non-literary layers of the tongue, in particular, for the slang, has long been one of the characteristic features of the standard American English. It is this that explains the spreading boundaries between the literary English in the USA and the various “substandard” language formations, the presence of a significant number of





transient cases, the status of which is controversial among the lexicographers. Hence the opinion of A.D. Schweitzer about the position intermediate “gray zone” between literary lexicon and slang, where an unambiguous assessment of a unit or another unit is difficult.

In another case, E. Partridge notes that the slang is located below the colloquialism, but above the center; it does not include a dialect. Slang is the quintessence of colloquial speech. "Slang tends to be- "Saxon" rather than "Latin-Greek" = Slang is closer to Saxon roots than to Greek-Latin. The last remark specifically indicates the English slang roots, which is very important: as known, there are counted 25-30 percent of original units in literary English. It is also important that E. Partridge refers to the Kent as one of the components of the American slang, its progenitor; another such inexhaustible source of slang is literary English, from which general slang draws its units, giving them new meanings.

Slang arrived in America on the ship of the “Mayflower” pilgrims. The first in the history of the English dictionary of “vulgar language” of Fr. Groza in England was not published yet. This only happens in 1785. However, non-standard lexicon already existed - although it was never mentioned as such until the 16th-17th centuries, since the literary English had not been formulated yet.

As noted in the linguistic literature, there are at least two types of units in the language nominative structure. "These are units which culturally significant information is embodied in the denotative aspect of meaning (these are words denoting the realities of material culture or spiritual and social culture concepts), and units which culturally significant information is expressed in the connotative aspect of meaning".

The cultural information extraction from the units of the first type is not particularly difficult, since it lies on the surface and all native speakers - members of this linguistic and cultural community - quite easily recognize it.

Cultural information of the second type is "hidden", "camouflaged", it is not so explicitly felt, perceptible by a native speaker, as the units of the first type. The fact is that the connotations of the word are more difficult to define, they cover all the emotional and cognitive associations that the word gives to the intellect, to the mind, except its usual, dictionary meaning. In addition, the connotations of most words are in essence infinite and have no boundaries. This is the evidence of the society cultural integrity. J. L. Littré talks about all these notions in the preface to the Dictionary of American Slang.

These procedures are more complicated for the second type of units, as they include the interpretation of the figurative basis of linguistic entities as their quasi- denotate in the cultural categories. This cultural information is contained in figuratively





motivated units, (reflexed) or unconscious correlation which with the "spiritual equipment of culture" and interpretation in its categories, constitute the content of cultural connotations, the possession of which is a kind of "idiomatic" part of the cultural and linguistic competence. This is what the scientist says about the cultural connotation of phraseological units, but we believe that this provision is true for all linguistic units, including slang.

It is important to quote the opinion of this linguist in connection with the analyzed issues. "From our point of view, the correlation of linguistic meanings with one or another cultural code is the content of cultural and national connotation, which gives cultural significance not only to the meanings of phraseological units or words, but also to the meaning of entire texts. Explication of the cultural-national importance of the idiom is achieved on the basis of the reflexive - unconscious or conscious – correlation of alive meaning this value with the cultural "code" which are known to the speaker"

Newspapers, books, magazines are full of slang, members of the American linguistic and cultural community actively use common slang in the process of communication and information exchange. We constantly face with the flow of slang in periodicals and fiction, become convinced of the need for careful study and attention to this complex phenomenon.

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