

Тема: СОЦИОПРАГМАТИЧЕСКИЕ, СЛОВООБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНЫЕ И
СТИЛИСТИЧЕСКИЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ НЕФОРМАЛЬНОЙ ЛЕКСИКИ
АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА
(на примере словосложения)

Subject matter: Socio-pragmatic, Word-building and Stylistic Features of English Informal Lexis (Based on Word-Formation).

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ABSTRACT

This graduation paper focuses on the analysis of colloquial lexical units. This analysis has been carried out both from sociopragmatic and stylistic angles. The paper clearly states that colloquial and slangy usages are viewed not as a deviation from the established literary standard, but as a specific norm in its own right typical of users of colloquial English. However, it would be wrong to assume that only uneducated, poorly educated or people from low social strata are the main users of colloquial English. Nowadays not only educated people, but, at times, high-ranking officials also resort to slangy and colloquial usages for various pragmatic purposes, such as: to be closer to the audience, to surprise an interlocutor by an unexpected turn of speech, to try to single oneself out, to challenge somebody, to take somebody down a peg or two, to crack a joke, to sound hilarious or original, to mollify the bluntness of one's own or somebody else's statement, etc. Such pragmatic purposes at a linguistic level are achieved by using stylistically coloured coinages. Broadly speaking, colloquialisms and slangisms are opposed to neutral and literary words as stylistically marked ones vs. stylistically unmarked ones. Cf. coll. goggle box or idiot box vs. television set. In line with that logic there has been put forward an operating assumption that colloquialisms and slangisms are created not so much for the purpose of naming new objects, as with the aim of foregrounding those features that have been neglected by the standard vocabulary. The stylistic marking manifests itself in incorporating such stylistic expressive means as metaphor, metonymy, personification, hyperbole, meiosis, irony, sarcasm, pun, and, even, euphemism. Thus, generation, formation, and verbal employment of colloquialisms takes place against the backdrop of social, pragmatic, stylistic, onomasiological, and many other linguistic and extralinguistic factors.

It is already a proven fact that expressive colloquial and slangy collocations constitute an impressive bulk of the English vocabulary.

Unlike literary and stylistically neutral lexical units colloquial and slangy formations are by far more expressive, stylistically coloured, dynamic and richer in

imagery.

This graduation paper also looks into one of the main ways of making up colloquial coinages – compounding. Colloquial compounds are noted for high frequency of some of their components (-head, -box, -eater) which lose their primary meanings, turn into suffix-like elements and form derivational paradigms, e.g. dunderhead, cabbage-head, meat-head, muttonhead, acid-head, egghead, juicehead, etc. Along with that the paper draws the difference between endo- and exocentric compounds. Such derivational processes adjacent to compounding as reduplication and blending are also investigated in this paper.

This graduation paper is of both theoretical and practical value in view of the fact that colloquial and slangy word-formation is an on-going process requiring further research and systematization.