

“Nigger” as a socio-linguistic phenomenon of the USA

The word *nigger* played a very important role in the formation of a racist mentality in the United States of America. It underwent a transition from a simple adjective referring to the skin colour of a person to a stigma defining the person's position at the very bottom of the social pyramid.

Today *nigger* is the embodiment of America's racist past and its usage contravenes the very idea of political correctness.

Key words: nigger, racism, mentality, linguistic phenomenon, social paradigm, political correctness.