

Тема: ОСОБЕННОСТИ АМЕРИКАНСКОГО МОЛОДЕЖНОГО
СТУДЕНЧЕСКОГО СЛЕНГА

Subject matter: Peculiarities of American Youth Student Slang.

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ABSTRACT

Slang is an area of lexis in a permanent state of flux consisting of vivid and colorful words and phrases that characterize various social and professional groups, especially when these terms are used for in-group communication. Slang provides and reinforces social identity but it is also used in society at large to achieve an air of informality and relaxation. Because of its nature and the multiplicity of its aims, slang is a meeting point for people working in different fields, lexicologists, sociolinguists, psychologists, and even for the lay public. Of all social groups, the young are the most prone to the use and renovation of slang and unconventional language. They exhibit great social dynamism and are receptive to changes in fashion, in clothes, look, style, and also in speech. In our modern and cultivated societies, students constitute one large subgroup within the young which special study, for many a time they develop a special kind of vocabulary.

It is easy to understand that some social groups are more prone than others to creating and using slang. On the whole, Americans are believed to be much fonder than are the British of using informal and unconventional language. If slang is said to grow especially in small and somewhat restrained groups, one could argue that daily life of many a student on an American campus, often enclosed in halls and fraternities, helps them to develop a sense of solidarity and to become involved in a similar style of communal life.

A good number of words and expressions classed as student slang are found to belong to the language of youth and other social groups. Outside the specific technical jargon of students, which is easy to trace and minimal in comparison, and the slang notoriously associated to the physical conditions of their life (housing, college, etc.), the expressive language found in it is very similar in its linguistic devices and motives to the one spoken by their non-student peers, for both groups share the same system of beliefs and are involved in similar communicational practices (drugs, music, fanzines, graffiti, etc.).