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КАК ЯЗЫК ПОМОГАЕТ ПОНЯТЬ ПРОБЛЕМЫ МОЛОДЕЖИ (НА ПРИМЕРЕ РОМАНА ДЖ. СЭЛИНДЖЭРА «НАД ПРОПАСТЬЮ ВО РЖИ»)

В психологической литературе подростковый возраст определяется как кризисный, трудный, переходный. Его кризисность – в резком взрослении, в скачке из детства в иную возрастную фазу, в новое знание. Подросток сталкивается с неведомыми ему ранее противоречиями во взаимоотношениях между людьми, в которых он теряется и перед которыми беззащитен. Он хрупок и силен одновременно, уязвим и опасен, он равнодушен и добру, и злу. Чувствуя себя другим (новым и взрослым), подросток требует, чтобы и взрослые признавали это. Чем старше подросток, тем болезненнее его борьба с взрослыми за свою свободу. Он сам хочет определять свой образ жизни, интересы, формы досуга. Все эти изменения оказывают непосредственное влияние на речь подростка, ведь не зря даже существует такой термин, как «молодежный сленг». Так как же язык может помочь разобраться во внутреннем мире тинэйджера?

The main character of the novel is Holden Caulfield, whose language demonstrates the distinctive features of the speech style, peculiar to the young generation of the 1950s.

The examples of Holden's slang usage throughout the novel.

Qualifiers.

Holden's slang is consistent and very enlightening. For example, his use of qualifiers such as "if you want to know the truth," "I know what I'm talking about," or "I'm not kidding" serve to emphasize how unsure Holden is of what he's saying. E.g. "The first thing you'll probably want to know is where I was born and what my lousy childhood was like, ... but I don't feel like going into it, if you want to know the truth,"- says the teenager in the very beginning.

And expressions like "I'm crazy", "I am a madman" are used to stress Holden's sanity against the background of world's madness. "I swear to God I was crazy. I admit it". As for an adjective "old"- it mostly expresses Holden's sympathy – "old Phoebe", "old Jane", "old Jesus". To the effect that the teenager is an educated one points the richness of his vocabulary with fashionable psychoanalytical and sociological terms as "exhibitionist", "bourgeois" and "impressionistic".

Cursing and swearing.

Holden's regular use of curse words to describe his view of any given situation leaves the impression his vocabulary is limited. For example, Holden says "That guy Morrow was about as sensitive as a goddam toilet seat" (Salinger, 1951). The best reference Holden could think of was "toilet seat," a simple item readily grasped by even young children. To give this comparison more emphasis, Holden, as usual, tosses in a curse word. Holden's regular use of swearing demonstrates not only the depth of his emotion, but signals the reader the fact that he is caught in the stage where childhood and approaching maturity collide.

When Holden is enraged and caught up in the current situation, "sunuvabitch" and "bastard" find their way into his vocabulary quite frequently. "The more expensive the school is- the more bastards it has – I'm not kidding". However, when he simply addresses the readers as the narrator, Holden rarely slips into this extreme form of swearing.

The word "hell" is a staple of Holden's vocabulary, and he uses it often with both positive and negative connotations. In one instance, he tells us he had a "helluva time," when he and Phoebe sneaked away and had a good time shopping for shoes downtown. Other statements include "pretty as hell," "playful as hell," or "hot as hell." The expressions "damn it" and "goddamn" sometimes

repeat more than 5 times on one page. Holden uses it while talking about his school, cinema or future career. "Anybody except Ackley would have taken the goddamn hint. Not him though. Damn!" And his emotional aversion of phoniness (English equivalent for Russian word "липа") is always followed by "I hate it" expression. However there are certain expressions which Holden himself hates and avoids in his speech;

 Parenthesis and so-called "accompanying words".

Holden has a habit of ending his descriptions with tag phrases such as "and all" or "or anything." "Boy, I scared hell out of poor old Phoebe. I thought I was going to choke to death or something". Not only does Holden speak like this at the beginning of the novel, but throughout the book, making this patterns a part of his character. So these tags served to make boy's speech authentic and individual. Salinger intentionally used such speech patterns to help individualize Holden, yet to also make him a believable teenager of the early 1950's. Besides it shows his laziness to further explain the issue he is explaining to the reader. Besides Holden is constantly repeating phrases "It really is" or "I really do", as if he's trying to convince us of the truth of his own words, while in the world around there is just hypocrisy and pretence. "I don't much like to see old guys in their pajamas or bathrobes anyway- I really don't". So his fear of being infected with the fake makes Holden to "record" his own honesty all over the place. Therefore, non-grammatical and profane language is appropriate throughout the novel. It helps to understand Holden's main problems, which are typical for all adolescents: diffidence, infantilism, fear of the novelty. During this time period (1950-s), teenagers first started to rebel against authority figures and express themselves more freely. Holden's language reflects upon these newfound values in that he curses and rarely uses proper English. The language, non-grammatical and obscene, is appropriate for the time and the theme of the novel, not to mention the main character. J.D. Salinger managed to capture the energy of this period of life and to show teenage perspective of the story. The loss of the language would eventually turn the book into a mundane piece of literature that would not be half as interesting to read as it is currently, even though it is somewhat controversial.