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СТИЛИСТИЧЕСКАЯ ФУНКЦИЯ РАЗГОВОРНОЙ РЕЧИ (на примере СЛЕНГА)

Сленг является важной составной частью английского языка. Одним из ключевых моментов при исследовании этого феномена является разграничение понятий, близких по значению (а именно, жаргон, профессионализмы, вульгаризмы и диалектизмы). В ходе исследования также были выделены группы слов, которые относятся к категории сленга и имеют соответствующую стилистическую помету в словаре. Центральное место отводится стилистической функции сленга (анализ произведен на основе материала художественной литературы).

The definition of the term slang is rather obscure as the concept of the term itself is confused with such concepts as dialecticism, jargon, vulgarism, colloquialism, professionalism and vernacular. What's more, the terms mentioned above are not given strict and accurate definitions either; there are no distinguished boundaries between them. The matter is worsened by the different attitude to these notions in native and foreign sociolinguistics.

Slang is the non-standard use of words or phrases in a language of a particular social group, and sometimes the creation of new words or importation of words from another language. It is a type of neologism. Slang can be described as deviating from standard language use.

Slang terms have certain characteristic features:

- used by most speakers in very and highly informal, substandard communication
- are highly emotive and expressive
- as such lose their originality rather fast
- are replaced by newer formations, unstable, fluctuating, tending to expanded synonymity within certain lexico-semantic groups

Slang is viewed as a type of sociolect aimed at excluding certain people from the conversation. Slang initially functions as encryption, so that the non-initiate cannot understand the conversation, or as a further way to communicate with those who understand it. Slang functions as a way to recognize members of the same group, and to differentiate that group from the society. Slang terms are often particular to a certain subculture, such as musicians, skateboarders, and drug users.

The words with the stylistic label of slang can belong to:

- jargonisms (professional jargonisms) [*to dance* — to be hang up - *быть повешенным; sleeper* — course of lectures - *курс лекций* (из студенческой лексики)]
- colloquialisms [*to have a hunch* - have a presentiment – *предчувствовать*]
- neologisms [*cut-throat* – killer - убийца]
- figurative words and phrases [*shark* - excellent student - *студент-отличник; rabbit heart* – coward - (“*заячье сердце*” *трюс*)]
- words derived by conversion [*altar* (noun) – stylistically neutral; *to altar* (v) – (sl.) to get married - пожениться]
- abbreviations [*lab* (от laboratory) — *учебный кабинет*] [1].

There is also one problem: one and the same word can be marked by different stylistic labels in the dictionaries of different publishing houses.

Slang words can be also characterized by the instability. The existence of slang dictionaries, of course, cancels the effectiveness of certain words. Numerous slang terms pass into informal mainstream speech, and thence sometimes into mainstream formal speech. For example, such words as *kid, fun, queer, terrifying, bluff, fib, humbug, girlfriend, cowboy, movie* etc.

Slang terms can be characterized by their stylistic capacity: they usually denote the notion that can't be given one-word appellation in the literary language. For example: *wallflower* - a girl at a party who has no one to dance with or talk to.

The use of certain slang terms is thought over thoroughly by the authors. It's always used with the certain purpose and functions in several ways.

The basic stylistic functions of slang.

Stylistic functions of slang words are determined by their nature.

1) These words are mostly used to emphasize the vividness or the emotionality of the described thing or phenomenon.

"To edge his way along the crowded paths of life, warning all human sympathy to keep its distance, was what the knowing ones call "nuts" to Scrooge." (Ch. Dickens) [2].

The combination "nuts to (a person)" in the 19th century was a spoken neologism and meant "a source of pleasure for somebody". In modern English this phrase is no more used in this meaning.

2) Slang terms reveal the language characterization of the characters

"Anyway, when he was finished, and everybody was clapping their heads off, old Ernie turned around on his stool and gave this very phony, humble bow" (J. D. Salinger) [3].

3) They depict the mood and the attitude of the characters to the events

"I'm not going to tell you my whole goddam autobiography or anything. I'll just tell you about this madman stuff that happened to me around last Christmas just before I got pretty run-down and had to come out here and take it easy" (J.D.Salinger) [3].

I got pretty run-down = I was seriously ill;

take it easy = to have a rest and receive medical treatment.

4) They produce comic effect.

"The first thing you'll probably want to know is where I was born, and what my lousy childhood was like, and how my parents were occupied and all before they had me, and all that David Copperfield kind of crap, but I don't like going into it."(J.D.Salinger) [3].

"David Copperfield" is a novel written by Ch.Dickens; it can be characterized by detailed description of one's autobiography.

5) They describe certain social background.

Bob is a great guy. He never blows his slack. He hardly ever flies off the handle. He knows how to get away with things. Bob's got it made. This is it for him. He is a cool cat.

We can interpret it in the following way:

Bob is a calm person. He never loses control of himself. He hardly ever becomes very angry. Bob is successful, he reached his life's goal. He is a good guy [4].

Many words and phrases that from their very beginning were regarded as slang ones, nowadays belong to the English literary language. Slang is widely used in fiction and functions in different ways. Slang words emphasize the vividness of the described phenomenon, reveal the language characterization of the characters, depict the mood and the attitudes to certain events, describe certain social background and produce comic effect.

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