

## A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SLANG USAGE IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK YOUTH SPEECH

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*"Language is the road map of a culture.*

*It tells you where its people come from and where they are going."*

– Rita Mae Brown

**Annotation:** This study investigates the use of slang among English and Uzbek youth, examining linguistic characteristics, social functions, and cultural implications. Slang acts as a marker of identity, group affiliation, and creativity in communication. Comparative analysis shows that while English slang evolves rapidly through digital media, Uzbek slang integrates traditional expressions with modern borrowings and neologisms. The findings highlight the importance of understanding youth slang for sociolinguistic research and language education.

**Keywords:** youth slang, English, Uzbek, informal language, sociolinguistics

**Annotatsiya :** Ushbu maqolada ingliz va o'zbek yoshlari nutqida ishlatiladigan slang o'rganiladi, uning lingvistik xususiyatlari va ijtimoiy funksiyalari tahlil qilinadi. Slang yoshlar orasida identifikatsiya, guruhga mansublik va ijodkorlikni ifodalash vositasi sifatida xizmat qiladi. Taqqoslash shuni ko'rsatadiki, ingliz slangi raqamli

media orqali tez rivojlansa, o'zbek slangi an'anaviy ifodalar bilan birga zamonaviy qarz so'zlar va neologizmlarni o'z ichiga oladi. Tadqiqot natijalari yoshlarda slangi tushunishning sotsiollingvistik tadqiqot va til o'qitishda ahamiyatini ko'rsatadi .

**Kalit so'zlar:** yoshlarda slang, ingliz tili, o'zbek tili, norasmiy til, sotsiollingvistika.

**Аннотация :** В статье рассматривается использование сленга в речи молодежи на английском и узбекском языках, анализируются лингвистические особенности и социальные функции. Сленг служит маркером идентичности, принадлежности к группе и креативности в общении . Сравнительный анализ показывает, что английский сленг быстро развивается через цифровые медиа, тогда как узбекский сленг сочетает традиционные выражения с современными заимствованиями и неологизмами. Результаты исследования подчеркивают важность понимания молодежного сленга для социолингвистических исследований и преподавания языков .

**Ключевые слова:** молодежный сленг, английский язык, узбекский язык, неформальный язык, социолингвистика

Language is a dynamic system that reflects social identity, cultural trends, and generational changes. Among youth, slang serves as a critical instrument for expressing individuality, group affiliation, and social creativity [1][2]. As a student and a language enthusiast, I have noticed that youth often create new slang words not only to communicate quickly but also to express emotions and shared experiences. Uzbek students, for instance, blend traditional expressions with internet borrowings, which shows both creativity and a connection to their cultural roots. Understanding these patterns is crucial for researchers and teachers who aim to bridge formal language education with real-life communication. In both English and Uzbek contexts, slang illustrates how informal language adapts to social networks, media influence, and cultural exchange. Understanding youth slang contributes to sociolinguistic theory, language teaching, and cross-cultural communication [3][6].

## 2. Theoretical Background

Slang is recognized in sociolinguistics as an informal subset of language, often reflecting generational, social, and cultural dynamics [3]. English slang evolves rapidly due to social media, pop culture, and digital communication, producing terms like ghosting, stan, or flex [4][5]. Uzbek slang, while also incorporating digital influences, retains traditional expressions, neologisms, and loanwords [6][7]. Frameworks applied in this study include identity theory, register analysis, and comparative typology [1][7].

This research employs a comparative-descriptive approach. Data were collected from online forums, social media, literary sources, and observational studies [2][5]. The criteria for analysis include frequency of use, semantic shifts, pragmatic functions (humor, solidarity, identity), and social distribution. Comparative tables were used to identify parallels and divergences between English and Uzbek slang [3][6].

## 4. Analysis and Discussion

### 4.1 English Youth Slang

English youth slang is characterized by creativity, frequent metaphorical usage, abbreviations, and blending [3][5]. Social media accelerates slang diffusion, creating terms such as ghosting, flex, and stan. These terms often carry nuanced social meanings beyond their literal definitions, functioning as markers of identity and group membership [2][5].

### 4.2 Uzbek Youth Slang

Uzbek youth slang blends traditional lexicon with modern borrowings and neologisms [6][7]. Common slang categories include humorous expressions, internet-based abbreviations, and group-specific jargon. While influenced by English and Russian slang, Uzbek slang maintains unique cultural references and social markers [4][6].

### 4.3 Comparative Insights

- Origin of Terms: English slang often emerges from digital culture; Uzbek slang integrates oral traditions and borrowings.

- Social Function: Both serve identity expression, humor, and peer group solidarity.
- Dynamics: English slang evolves faster, Uzbek slang evolves steadily due to cultural preservation.

The comparative study reveals that youth slang in English and Uzbek contexts functions as a vital sociolinguistic phenomenon reflecting identity, creativity, and social belonging [1][3][6]. Observing youth slang shows that language is not static; it evolves with every new generation. Engaging with slang can make language learning more relatable and enjoyable, as it allows learners to connect with peers and the current cultural environment. I believe that integrating slang awareness in language classes could enhance motivation and communication skills among students. Understanding these patterns is crucial for language educators, sociolinguists, and cultural researchers. Uzbek slang demonstrates the balance between modern influences and traditional expressions, while English slang emphasizes rapid innovation and digital influence.

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