EXPERIENCE OF THE INVESTIGATION OF ENGLISH COLLOQUIAL SYSTEM

Anastasiya Faleyeva

teacher, departments theory and practice of English, SamSI of Foreign Languages,
faleyevanastya@mail.ru

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Abstract:

Introduction. The term and the definition of the boundaries of colloquialism confuses scientists and generates different opinions. Some scientists define colloquialism in a narrower sense, referring it to a stylistically reduced vocabulary, which is the opposite of the literary norm. Thus, colloquialisms include mostly substandard vocabulary, which is used mainly in limited speech by individual representatives of the population. Another group of specialists understand the term colloquialism on a wider scale, dividing it into several groups depending on the proximity or remoteness to the literary norm.

Research methods. Currently, the study of colloquial speech is becoming one of the most important problems of modern linguistics. The study of colloquial speech at various linguistic levels is becoming increasingly important for a number of reasons. It becomes possible to collect and analyze material on the problems of colloquial words and expressions through the use of such methods of analysis as descriptive, systemic and structural, nominative-derivational, comparative-typological, statistical.

Results and discussions. It is important to timely identify the features of the formation of colloquialisms and analyze new trends in terms of the lexical and semantic nature of colloquialisms in modern electronic and printed lexicographic sources, scientific works of foreign authors.

Analysis and collection of data on colloquialisms is necessary for the timely study of their impact on the established linguistic standards. At the moment, a large number of the population use a more reduced lexis and thereby displace already established norms in phonetics, morphology, syntax, vocabulary from everyday life. This is evidenced by the numerous changes in dictionaries, their annual addition, as well as the creation of the latest dictionaries, which include colloquial words, constructions and phraseological units that are of interest in view of new evolutionary changes in the language.
Conclusion. At present, the determination of the research potential of English colloquialisms is necessary for the further systematization of knowledge and experience, analysis and forecasting of the future of the informal language.

Keywords: colloquialisms, informal language, slang, low colloquialisms, evaluative component

Introduction. The knowledge of English colloquial speech is a key to specifics of English language and culture. Informal words and expressions were under investigation during many years. Various dictionaries give different definitions, but the meanings of the term are the same or very close to each other. For example, colloquialism is “a colloquial expression”[7], “an informal word or expression that is more suitable for use in speech than in writing”[3], “a word or phrase that is used in conversation but not in formal speech or writing”[8], “is a colloquial word or phrase,” “1. a word or phrase appropriate to conversation and other informal situations 2. the use of colloquial words and phrases”, “1. colloquial quality, style, or usage 2. a colloquial word or expression 3. loosely a localism, or regionalism”[5], “the vernacular”, “a special use of a common word in a certain geographical region or a word/phrase particular to a region”, “slang, a word or term that only a few people use, or that's not in common language”, “an informal expression that is more often used in casual conversation than in formal speech or writing. A slang term used in the current culture. Since the culture evolves so will the slang terms/colloquialisms relevant to that era”[15], “a colloquial expression; characteristic of spoken or written communication that seeks to imitate informal speech”[14].

Currently, linguists strive: 1) to consider the features of the formation of colloquialisms by distortions, mergers, and stylistic features of individual nicknames, acronyms used in the spoken language. 2) to conduct a thorough analysis of words and expressions related to the colloquial style on the material of printed and electronic dictionaries. 3) to analyze the semantics of colloquial neologisms. 4) to establish temporal indicators of the use of individual colloquialisms within the status of the word of the year, word of the week 5) to establish phonetic-phonological, lexical-semantic, lexical-phraseological, derivational, morphological-syntactic, lexical-stylistic features of the language, taking into account the emotional and expressive characteristics of colloquialisms. 6) to consider the colloquialisms of individual subcultures. 7) to analyze the vocabulary of different age groups in order to identify trends in the formation of colloquial speech and its impact on the active vocabulary of the modern English language. 8) to reveal the material of various English-language dictionaries in order to clarify the use of colloquialisms in certain spheres of human life. 9) to consider the features of colloquialisms of the English language, not only the British, but also the American variant, and also identify the
positive and negative aspects of the systematic presentation of colloquial words and expressions in dictionaries of this type.

Materials and methods. Analysis of the experience of foreign researchers provides an opportunity to consider the hidden meaning of colloquialisms, distributed over various topics and directions, based on such methods of analysis as: descriptive, systemic and structural, nominative-derivational, comparative-typological, statistical. Consideration of the semantic features will allow us to assess the status and the place of colloquialisms in the formation of the English language. The investigation of lexicographic sources in scientific research of foreign authors will allow linguists to constantly systematize and analyze the vast lexical-semantic, derivational, morphological-syntactic material that has recently entered the dictionary sources.

Results. Nowadays many scientific works are connected with different levels and sublevels of colloquial speech: phonetics, derivation, lexis, morphology, syntax, etc.


R.V. Ryumin characterizes substandard lexicography as “a special area of linguistics that studies the principles of compiling dictionaries of vocabulary and phraseology that are outside the literary standard: colloquialisms, jargonisms, argotisms, slangisms, vulgarisms” in his work “Э.Х. Партридж и субстандартная англоязычная лексикография” (“E.H. Partridge and substandard English lexicography”). The author analysis the contribution of Partridge E. in the theory of slang and unconventional English [11].

G.V. Ryabichkina has prepared a systematic analysis of P. Egan's works about boxing cant, slang and colloquialisms, sports jargon and colloquialisms, common slang, low colloquialisms in her work “Английский сленг и кэнт первой четверти XIX века (на примере анализа произведений П. Игана)” (“English slang and cant of the first quarter of the XIX century (based on the analysis of P. Egan's works”)”). The author has made the investigation and compared dictionary entries in P. Egan’s

The article of E.V. Saley “Особенности разговорной лексики американского варианта английского языка” (“The peculiarities of colloquial lexis of American variant of the English language”) shows the usage of numerals in new meaning in everyday speech, some extra linguistic reasons of formation of colloquial language and analyzes abbreviations, shortenings, etc. [12].

M.A. Chernova characterizes the importance of researching the axiological potential of English colloquialisms in her article “Оценочные коллоквиализмы как средство объективации ценностной картины мира (на материале английских коллоквиальных существительных)” (“Valuable colloquialisms as a means of objectification of the value picture of the world (based on English colloquial nouns”)”. The author focuses special attention on stylistically marked vocabulary with emotional and evaluative characteristics in her research. Based on the collected materials, the author concludes that the prevailing number of English colloquialisms contains an evaluative component in their semantics. Evaluation as the main component of the semantic structure of a word is revealed in a particular dictionary entry. The author by means of a continuous selection reveals the evaluative potential of English colloquial nouns with the help of dictionary entries and dictionary definitions from such lexicographic sources as: Cambridge Dictionary of American English (CDAE), Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (LDCE), Random House Webster's Unabridged Dictionary (RHWUD) [4].

The article by T.N. Razuvaeva “Слэнгизмь в американском варианте современного английского языка: особенности образования и функционирования” (“Slangisms in American Modern English: Features of Formation and Functioning”) touches upon the problems of the formation of American slang. Tatyana Nikolaevna points out the experience of S. Flexner, R. Spears, A.D. Schweitzer, E. Partridge regarding the originality of extra linguistic and linguistic factors in her work. Thus, Flexner (the American linguist in the field of slang studies) touches upon the problem of gender in the formation of the vocabulary of this subsystem of the language. Flexner argues that the speech of males influences on the replenishment of substandard words with new meanings and the creation of completely new words due to the broader spectrum of professional employment and the interests of men. Despite the rapid growth of slang in the American version of the English language, Spears noted significant obstacles in the perception of American slang for a number of reasons, such as: lack of an adequate level of education,
features of the spoken language, the influence of the language of young people, etc. Schweitzer's position is based on the contrast between friend and foe. So, the younger generation, not perceiving the interests of the older generation, reflects this in linguistic means. T.N. Razuvaeva analyzes metaphorization, abbreviation, rhymed substitutions as the main productive means of formation. Razuvaeva describes the purpose of using abbreviations and shortenings in the formation of American slang. The first goal is to try to hide the crude context that is present in the full decoding of abbreviated or truncated words. The following goals are related to the use of language savings (YAP stands for the wealthy young generation of America with a good education “Young American Professional”) and the enhancement of the jocular tone of the speech (desk DJ - person working in an office). Thus, within the framework of the article, Razuvaeva was able to briefly analyze the current state of derivation of American slang, taking into account not only linguistic, but also extra linguistic reasons [9].

E.A. Kozlova's highlights the problem of studying synonymous relations in substandard vocabulary in her article “Место субстандартного синонима в структуре синонимического ряда” (“The place of a substandard synonym in the structure of a synonymous series”). At the beginning of the article Kozlova seeks to give clear boundaries for the interpretation of terms such as “synonymous row” and “synonymous bundle”. When presenting the interpretation of the terms, the author focuses on the irrationality of using the term “synonymous row”, since the term refers to a complex of components that are in sequence one after another. The term “synonymous bundle” like a cluster is based on some kind of starting point from which a set of elements emanate. Thus, the replacement of one term with another becomes possible due to the non-linear nature of the synonymous series. However, E.A. Kozlova notes the possibility of preserving the term in the case of isolating a hierarchical and crossed synonymous series as a microsystem. The author of the article notes that words with a neutral coloration, substandard lexemes and colloquialisms with expressive coloration are distinguished in the composition of synonymous series. E.A. Kozlova considers two models of the arrangement of words with a neutral and substandard coloration in a synonymous row. Thus, in the first model generic synonyms take the dominant position, and species synonyms act as the periphery. In the second model the center is made up of synonyms with a neutral coloration, then reduced synonyms recede into the background, and synonyms with a bright emotional coloration express the stylistic characteristics of individual words. The author in his scientific article examines the degree of decline in the synonymous rows of substandard vocabulary. E.A. Kozlova characterizes 9 stages, depending on the decrease in the literacy of words: the first stage includes sublime words, mainly poetry, etc.; the second - approving, having a positive assessment; the third -
playfully ironic, creates a comic, ironic effect; the fourth - disapproving, characterizes a negative connotation, followed by steps that are more and more distant from the literary norm - these are words with a dismissive, contemptuous, rude, euphemistic and qualifying connotation. Then the author gives a detailed analysis of some English examples and their synonymous series [6].

Some new printed and electronic dictionaries, which included significant material on colloquialisms, cannot be ignored. Unique material on colloquialisms of the English language was collected by S.V. Semivolkova. Semivolkova’s dictionary “Современный англо-русский словарь живого английского языка: 40000 слов, 60000 высказываний, 35000 ситуативных пояснений” (“Modern English-Russian dictionary of living English: 40,000 words, 60,000 sayings, 35,000 situational explanations”). The value of the dictionary lies in the fact that its compiler draws material directly from living in an English-speaking environment. The fact is that S.V. Semivolkova lives in England and observes the colloquial speech of the British people in various situations and different places: theater, cafes, schools, in transport. The dictionary also includes the replicas of actors from television series and films. Of particular interest to the reader and user of the dictionary is the lively reduced vocabulary, which is not recorded in ordinary English-Russian dictionaries [13].

Currently, the most complete dictionary of mass culture in the English language is the electronic version of the Urban Dictionary. The peculiarity of the dictionary is that materials on dictionary entries are edited with the participation of users and are systematically evaluated by them. The slogan of this lexicographic source: “Urban Dictionary is a dictionary written by you” characterizes the specifics of compiling a dictionary focused on words and expressions that are not in the vocabulary of standard types of dictionaries [15]. Consideration of examples selected from the Urban Dictionary in this study made it possible to identify the current stage in the development of colloquialisms, to characterize the lexical and stylistic features of fashionable words and expressions used in colloquial speech.

One of the first works in the field of the features of colloquial speech is the monograph by T.M. Belyaeva and V.A. Khomyakov “Нестандартная лексика английского языка” (“Non-standard lexis of the English language”). This scholarly work was one of the first to introduce a systematic special study in the field of non-standard vocabulary in both British and American English. The authors deeply and comprehensively consider various aspects of non-standard speech during the process compared with the literary language in order to identify the specifics of the English lexical vernacular. The authors of the monograph leave beyond the bounds of research the extra-literary vernacular of those social strata of society, where errors are revealed at the level of phonetics, vocabulary and grammar, as well as features of areal variants. It should be noted that Belyaeva and Khomyakov within the
framework of a scientific work, consisting of four chapters, were able to reveal the multidimensionality of the studied problem [1].

In the first chapter the authors attempt to establish emotional and expressive parameters that characterize English spoken language. Particular attention in the light of the stylistic affiliation of the vernacular is occupied by the analysis of such labels as: “colloquial-rude”, “abusive”, “rude”, “dismissive”. Words related to these labels show their stylistic peculiarities in negative situations. Non-standard vocabulary with shades of “polite”, “affectionate” finds its application in colloquial speech with a positive assessment, designed to soften, strengthen the positive meaning of a word or statement. In addition, vernacular can be ironic, reinforcing, emotionally reinforcing and other shades depending on the context. The authors propose a new stage in research in the field of classification of non-standard English vocabulary. So, Khomyakov and Belyaeva are developing new ways of grouping non-standard vocabulary depending, firstly on the “lexical layers of expressive vernacular”, and secondly on the “linguistic microsystem of social and professional vernacular” [1]. The undoubted importance of this classification is that the authors relied on the specifics of the English language, trying not to disregard such layers of non-standard vocabulary as: dialect, jargon, vulgarism, as well as microsystems: professional jargons, social dialects, territorial dialects, etc. Special attention is paid to the analysis of the expressive assessment of “low” colloquialisms and slang; the communicative status of vulgarisms and the reflection of the comic effect of non-standard vocabulary from the perspective of fiction.

The second chapter of the monograph “Socially-determined non-standard vocabulary” contains the results of research in the field of studying the originality of the lexical-semantic and etymological characteristics of argo and jargon. The authors distinguish “colloquial inter jargon as a foundation for collecting words and expressions related to jargon and argotism”, as a foundation for collecting words and expressions related to jargon and argotazim [1]. T.M. Belyaeva and V.A. Khomyakov cite observations and special studies in terms of the communicative status of argo in the English-speaking subculture. In paragraph 2 “Genesis and the communicative status of the argo” Belyaeva and Khomyakov give the main reasons for the creation of this layer of language. Thus, various strata of society far from the dominant social group strove for self-expression and created opposition at the level of linguistic means of expression. In addition, these subcultures tried to hide information by differentiating the substandard vocabulary from the common language. In addition to all of the above mentioned, the substandard vocabulary served as a tool for saving linguistic means and gave speech an emotional coloring. The authors trace the formation of the status of argotisms on the example of fiction texts starting from the 16th century as a starting point when examples of cant become more popular. In
paragraph 3 of the second chapter, the scientific research of different authors, regarding the spoken language, is given. The increased attention to the problem of cant and the periodization of their use in fiction is primarily associated with the development of a study of cant in order to identify the influence of substandard vocabulary on various genres of English literature. The increased attention to the problem of cantisms and the periodization of their use in fiction is primarily associated with the development of a study of cant in order to identify the influence of substandard lexis on various genres of English literature. The authors investigate the place of cant in the work of Shakespeare (“pickaxes” - fingers; “silly cheat” - pickpocketing), B. Johnson, W. Thackeray and W. Middleton in their comedy “The Roaring Circle, or Moll Cutpurse”, R. Head “The English Rogue”, R. Brome “A Jovial Crew, or Merry Beggars”. Section 4 reveals the problems of using and the place of professional jargon in colloquial speech by using the example of military jargon (oppo - senior officer), aviation jargon (jet plane - a reactive plane), theatrical jargon (acting lady - an incapable actress), cinematic jargons (sheik - romantic beloved), etc. Among corporate jargons a special place is given to youth jargons such as: school, teenage, student, as well as beatniks and hippies in paragraph 5 of the second chapter. Special attention is paid to jargons expressing speech protest against injustice in the public order. As the authors note, the lexical stock of these youth trends is scarce in order to serve as a substitute for generally accepted language standards. From this we can conclude that the lexis of a certain subculture is often not intended to completely replace the lexical composition of the literary norm, but only serves to enhance the brightness and expressiveness, individuality of the language of a particular group of people united by social, professional and other communities and interests. The monograph raises questions of insufficient study of lexis, which leads to a number of inaccuracies. Thus, the name “jive” is one of the most widespread jargons in the United States before the beatnik jargon, still remains with an undisclosed etymology. Some researchers associate its etymology with the meaning of a special style of jazz music, others - “as meaningless chatter”. Paragraph 6 of the second chapter reveals the subject-logical meaning of jargon in the text, errors in translating jargon of the English language into Russian. Many scientists also strive to trace the etymological features of the vocabulary of the spoken language using an example from monolingual and thematic dictionaries, which allows us to compare the use of meanings, the place of use of colloquialisms, or to establish errors that are most characteristic when using colloquial words and expressions [1].

The third chapter “Semasiological characteristics of non-standard vocabulary” examines the place of the uncodified norm of non-standard vocabulary in the system of the national language, the phenomenon of synonymous attraction as semantic
redundancy in vernacular, the classification of vernacular vocabulary according to systemic semantic links with codified vocabulary (into analogs and universities).

The main ways of forming of non-standard English vocabulary are revealed in the fourth chapter “Word-building processes in a non-standard lexical system”. For example: affixation (for example, baddie – “villain” in the cinema industry - suffixation method), word composition (for example, wet-nose - simpleton), contamination (for example, scrowsy - absurd, formed as an ingot word (screwy and lousy)), abbreviation (for example, cig - from cigarette), reverse formation (for example, butler from buttle - simpleton), reduplication (for example, docteh-schmateh - doctor), words - shape-shifters/spunerisms (for example, dlog -gold), rhymed substitution (for example, penny locket = pocket) [1].

M.V. Bondarenko and Yu.R. Fakhrutdinova reveal an anthropocentric orientation in the formation of a distinctive characteristic of phraseological units at the present stage of development in the article “Основные пути развития фразеологизмов в североамериканском континууме современного английского языка” (“The main ways of development of phraseological units in the North American continuum of the modern English language”). The social side of language and the linguistic continuum influence the replenishment of substandard elements specific to North American phraseology. The intensive development of the language in certain social groups leads to the penetration of jargon and professionalism into phraseological units. The authors point to the problem of differentiating the spoken language and the literary one. Thus, double labels in dictionaries indicate the ambiguity of opinions among lexicographers. M.V. Bondarenko and Yu.R. Fakhrutdinova note that a person as a social being can simultaneously be a member of several subcultures at once. As a result, the words and expressions of a particular subculture can substitute for each other, depending on the situation, and also interpenetrate into spoken language. The analysis of the expansion of this kind of vocabulary is difficult to predict for several reasons. First, colloquial words and expressions can gradually become part of the literary language. Secondly, these substandard units may lose their emotional and expressive value after some time and go out of active use. Like T.N. Razuvaeva the authors also notice that the use of slang in addition to the desire of individual cultures to express themselves, serves as a means of protest against certain social foundations. The authors investigate the duration of the use of certain slangisms in the language. It becomes obvious that much of the modern linguistic heritage can drown in the abyss of new trends and lifestyles. However, some slang words that have a strong emotional load and reject the quality requirements of time, may remain in colloquial speech. So, the emoticon (emoji), which in 2015 became the word of the year in the Oxford Dictionary (and is not the word itself, but its graphic designation in the meaning of “faces with tears
because of joy”) is still in active use in instant messaging. Bondarenko and Fakhrutdinova consider phraseological units as “substantive binomials” denoting family ties with the elements “brother”, “dad” and phraseological units with the meaning of close relations between the male and female sex “boyfriend”, “friend”, etc. in the article. Phraseological units with a man component often refer to places where man's time is most often quoted (man castle - bar); objects, things of use among boys: man car - to designate “Ford Mandso” (cars of the Ford company) [2].

Discussions. After analyzing the articles and other scientific works of the authors, we see a thorough research in the field of non-standard vocabulary. These studies show the increased role of learning to a new level of colloquial words and expressions of British and American English.

Colloquial speech annually replenishes its linguistic fund due to new words and expressions in various spheres of human activity. This is due to signify changes in the amount of information, discoveries in the field of innovative technologies, changes in the foundations, traditions and customs of people in connection with the processes of globalization and integration of international communities.

In addition, external factors such as changes in economic, political and social life also affect the language. The speech of representatives of different age groups, professions and cultures gives rise to another powerful reason for the study of colloquialism. Since the creation of new words and the rethinking of the meanings of existing expressions in colloquial speech leads to a partial and sometimes completely false interpretation of colloquialisms, a lack of understanding of the context, etc.

Conclusion. We can make conclusions in the course of collecting information on the study of colloquial words and expressions:

Most of the works are designed to identify new trends in the replenishment of the lexical layer of colloquial speech in the English language, taking into account the nature of the presentation of colloquialisms in dictionary entries.

Linguists analyze the system of colloquialisms in printed and electronic dictionaries and compare the advantages and disadvantages in the presentation of meanings, grammatical and stylistic marks, the presence and absence of colloquial words and expressions.

The authors seek to study the hidden meaning of colloquial words and expressions by thematic focus in modern lexicographic sources.

Scientific researchers are trying to consider the potential of using and preserving the emotional-amplifying assessment of colloquialisms in an active vocabulary, taking into account the analysis of the occurrence of colloquial words in the composition of various lexicographic sources.
LINGUISTICS

Linguists investigate the role of individual subcultures in supplementing the vocabulary of the language with new colloquialisms or colloquialisms that acquire new meanings in various spheres of human life.

Scientists strive to demonstrate the innovative processes occurring in the derivational plan in colloquialisms and their features in a dictionary entry.

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