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SOCIOLINGUISTIC INTERPRETATION OF YOUTH JARGON

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Abstract: Youth jargon represents a dynamic layer of language that reflects the worldview, values, and social identity of younger generations. From a sociolinguistic perspective, such jargon emerges as a form of group solidarity, a marker of in-group belonging, and at the same time, a boundary that separates young people from older generations. The study of youth jargon reveals not only linguistic innovation but also broader cultural and social transformations, including the impact of digital communication, globalization, and popular culture. This research emphasizes the role of youth jargon as both a linguistic phenomenon and a sociocultural indicator that highlights processes of identity construction, social stratification, and language change in modern society.

Keywords: youth jargon, sociolinguistics, language change, social identity, group solidarity, digital communication, slang

INTRODUCTION

Language is not a static entity; it constantly evolves, adapting to new social, cultural, and technological realities. Among the most dynamic indicators of this evolution is youth jargon, which serves as a linguistic laboratory where innovation, creativity, and identity formation take place. From a sociolinguistic perspective, youth jargon is not simply a collection of slang words but a complex communicative system that reflects the worldview, aspirations, and cultural affiliations of the younger generation. The study of youth jargon is particularly important because it functions as both a mirror of social change and a mechanism of identity construction. By analyzing how young people create, adopt, and spread jargon, scholars can better understand the dynamics of group solidarity, social differentiation, and intergenerational communication. For young people, using jargon is not merely a linguistic choice but also a symbolic act: it establishes belonging within peer groups, signals resistance to traditional norms, and distinguishes youth culture from mainstream or institutionalized forms of language. Another crucial factor in the rise of youth jargon is the role of digital communication. The spread of social media platforms such as TikTok, Instagram, and Telegram has accelerated the invention and circulation of slang, often transforming local expressions into viral global phenomena. This has led to a process of linguistic hybridization, where English borrowings are combined with local lexical and grammatical structures. For instance, Uzbek and Russian youth frequently blend English terms like *like*, *follow*, or *challenge* with native expressions, creating a hybrid jargon that is both globally recognizable and culturally specific.

Moreover, youth jargon reflects broader globalization processes. It serves as a cultural meeting point between global trends and local traditions, illustrating how young people negotiate their place in an interconnected world. While some critics view jargon as a threat to linguistic purity, sociolinguistic research highlights its constructive role in enriching vocabulary, expanding expressive possibilities, and demonstrating the adaptability of language to new contexts. Therefore, the sociolinguistic interpretation of youth jargon goes beyond the description of slang words; it involves an exploration of

how language is used as a tool of identity, resistance, and innovation. It underscores the importance of viewing youth speech not as linguistic decline but as evidence of social creativity and cultural transformation. This perspective allows for a more nuanced understanding of how language functions in shaping individual and collective identities in the modern world

CONCLUSION

Youth jargon is not merely a peripheral or marginal aspect of language use but a central component of contemporary sociolinguistic dynamics. Its emergence and continuous transformation highlight how language serves as both a mirror and a tool of social change. By analyzing youth jargon, scholars can observe real-time processes of linguistic innovation, borrowing, hybridization, and semantic shift. These processes are not only linguistic in nature but also cultural, revealing how young people position themselves within society, negotiate their identities, and respond to global and local influences. One of the key findings of sociolinguistic research on youth jargon is its dual role: on the one hand, it functions as a unifying force within peer groups, fostering solidarity and mutual understanding; on the other hand, it creates boundaries that distinguish younger generations from older ones. This duality demonstrates the complex interplay between inclusion and exclusion, identity and differentiation, tradition and innovation. Another important aspect is the influence of technology and globalization. The rapid expansion of digital platforms has accelerated the circulation of slang, often blending local cultural elements with global linguistic trends. As a result, youth jargon becomes a hybrid phenomenon that embodies the tension between the preservation of national identity and the adoption of international cultural practices. In Uzbekistan, for instance, young people often mix Uzbek and Russian expressions with English loanwords, producing a unique multilingual slang that reflects both their cultural heritage and their global connectedness. Furthermore, the stigmatization of youth jargon as a “corruption” of language overlooks its actual contribution to linguistic enrichment and diversity. Rather than undermining standard language, youth jargon stimulates creativity, introduces new forms of expression, and challenges rigid linguistic boundaries. It is a natural and inevitable part of language development, and its study offers valuable insights into the future trajectory of language evolution.

In conclusion, youth jargon should be recognized as an integral element of linguistic and cultural identity in the 21st century. It provides a window into the aspirations, struggles, and creativity of younger generations. As societies continue to evolve under the influence of globalization and digitalization, youth jargon will remain an essential marker of social transformation, cultural innovation, and identity construction. Future research must therefore continue to explore youth jargon not as linguistic deviation, but as a dynamic and meaningful component of human communication.

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