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Lexicological Features of Youth Slang in English and German Linguacultures

At the present stage of the development of language, it is necessary to note the increased interest in the study of special forms of language. Besides, it is becoming more and more important to research the use of youth slang. Slang is "a type of language consisting of words and phrases that are regarded as very informal, are more common in speech than writing, and are typically restricted to a particular context or group of people" [2].

There are some lexicological features of youth slang in English and German linguacultures:

1) the use of affixation as a productive way of morphological word formation: the difference is that for English youth slang, suffixation is typical (e.g. twinkie – attractive person), while German youth slang peculiar to prefixation (e.g. rumhängen – miss);

2) the borrowing of graphics and sounds of words from the literary language; however, in youth slang words undergo semantic changes, the most common of which in this sociolect are amelioration (e.g. viehisch – excellent, cool; evil – delicious), metaphorical transfer (e.g. drooly – attractive, appetizing, an adjective formed on behalf of the noun "drool");

3) the borrowing of units from other languages: in German youth slang, the source is English (e.g. Oldies – parents; empty – extremely unattractive; der Bestseller – a young man who is popular with women), in English youth slang – the language of American youth (e.g. zod – unpleasant man; scuzzy – dirty, greasy; geek – unattractive person; tacky – in poor taste);

4) the use of the method of shortening words in English youth slang, which is not a characteristic feature of the slang of the German youth (e.g. rents or rentals from parents);

5) the conversion is popular in German youth slang, unlike English (e.g. sahn – excellent, cool; faulen – bored; fetzt – amazing, great) [1].

Youth slang is a system with a certain structure and is characterized by internal laws. The functioning of youth slang is far from arbitrary and is regulated by the norm. It has no written codification and lives in the minds of its bearers. Youth slang arouses the interest of linguists; at the same time, there are opponents who advocate a ban on slang in the youth speech. However, the knowledge of how to use youth slang contributes to the dialogue of cultures and intercultural communication.

Литература

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