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Неформальное молодежное общение

Сленг - это язык определенной группы в обществе, как социальной, так и профессиональной, возрастной. К такому типу языков относится неформальное общение среди молодого поколения, то есть молодежный сленг. В молодежном сленге применяются средства общенационального языка.

Во время первой поездки можно обнаружить, что носители языка используют много диалектных слов и разговорных выражений, которые при изучении языка человек не встречал. Владеть немецким языком действительно свободно означает уметь понимать и разнообразные термины, фразеологизмы и правильно их использовать. Это также является самым интересным при изучении языка! Конечно, изучение правил порядка слов, правильного произношения и сложных существительных важно и поможет получить хорошее представление о немецком языке.

Понимание и использование этих выражений поможет также усовершенствовать свои навыки в повседневном языке, не только в процессе обучения. Это также избавит от смущения в разговоре с носителями языка, которые используют нестандартные фразы. Именно поэтому, немецкий язык, услышанный на улицах, - это не тот формальный язык, который содержит бумажная литература.

Определенных слов невозможно найти в словарях. Например, во время неформальной беседы молодого поколения с ровесниками довольно характерно использование слов, которые отсутствуют в языке при официальном общении, но при этом они обозначают обыденные виды деятельности. Именно так строится молодежная специфическая коммуникация. Например, всем известные слова имеют свой аналог для неофициального стиля общения. dackeln (переть) – gehen (идти), labern (баразить) – sprechen (говорить), mampfen (жевать) - essen (есть), die Muske (музон) – die Musik (музыка), naffeln (вкалывать) - arbeiten (работать), peilen (просекать) –verstehen (понимать).

Существуют определенные предпочтения языковых средств, используемых для словообразования. Например, приставка ab- используется чаще всего в глагольном словообразовании, также она имеет в литературном языке значение уменьшения или прекращения действия. Например, abfahren (отъехать), abnehmen (уменьшиться в размере). Однако в молодежном сленге глаголы с данной приставкой чаще употребляются в оценочных высказываниях и в форме Partizip Perfekt, в соответствии с этим, они приобретают образное значение. Например, abgefahren (круто) - abfahren (отъезжать), abgekocht (умный) - abkochen (сварить).

В дополнение к вышесказанному, молодежный сленг имеет высокое количество устойчивых, крылатых выражений. В значительном большинстве событий это глагольные сочетания с переносным значением. Например, einen Schuh machen (делать ноги) - Schuh (ботинок) + machen (делать), Koteletts ans Ohr reden (вешать лапшу на уши - Koteletts (отбивные) + ans Ohr (на уши) + reden (говорить)). Некоторые идиомы не имеют прямых совпадений с русскими и выражаются словами обиходного языка или в соответствии с требованиями литературы. Например, die Ohren bügeln (быть в отключке, спать, если же дословно - утюжить, гладить уши). Некоторые фразеологические высказывания часто отличаются семантической противоположностью используемых компонентов, поэтому необходимо использовать верный, устоявшийся, перевод. К примеру, Back dir eine Eis! (Убирайся!, буквально - Испеки себе мороженое!) или Kauf die Freunde! (Отвали! – прямой перевод - Купи друзей!)

Drachenfutter (корм для дракона) - Обозначает подарки, которые делает провинившийся муж с тем, чтобы вернуть расположение своей жены.

Backpfeifengesicht — раздражающее лицо, по которому необходимо врезать кулаком. Схоже по значению с русской фразой «кирпича просит». Только в одно слово. Применяется в отношении того, кто провоцирует или несимпатичен.

Ohrwurm (ушной червь) - один из наших фаворитов, описывающих феномен, когда в ушах долго и навязчиво звучит какая-то мелодия.

Klugscheißer/-in — тот/ та, кто с удовольствием всё поясняет, уточняет и поправляет, часто прав/-а с точки зрения фактов, но быстро вызывает антипатию окружающих тем, как он/-а это делает и, зачастую, по каким ничтожным поводам. Грубо говоря - умная какашка. Иногда шуточно так называют эрудита.

einen Kater haben: Ein " Kater „ - это кот в своем буквальном значении, но эту формулировку Вы, скорее всего, использовали бы для своего состояния после слишком большого количества выпитых за прошедшую ночь напитков.

При использовании немецких сленговых слов, речь говорящего звучит более естественно. В дополнение к вышесказанному коммуникатор будет чувствовать себя комфортнее в другой языковой среде.

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What are the differences between British and American English?

Where did English come from? The obvious answer is England. However, in the past two thousand years many people came to England and changed the language. Perhaps most of the language comes from the Anglo-Saxons who came to England in the fifth to the seventh centuries.

But what is English now? It is no longer spoken just in England and there are many different kinds of English in different parts of the world. There are two main families of Standard English, the American and the British. American English is spoken in the USA and in Canada. British English is spoken in the West Indies, Britain, Australasia, and Africa. So, what are the differences between American and British English? [3, стр. 42].

Main differences are:

1. Pronunciation;
2. Vocabulary;
3. Grammar;
4. Spelling;

Pronunciation:

Besides American simplification, spelling differences between American English and British English are reflected on the aspect that a single alphabet or more alphabets are changed in a word. Different spelling may cause different connotation. For example, the words “matt” and “matte”, in the UK, “matt” refers to a non-glossy surface, and “matte” to the motion-picture technique. But in America, both of them have the same meaning. The word “ensure” is apt to the virtual guarantee, for example, the government has ensured the safety of the refugees. Whereas the word “insure” is the commercial sense of providing financial compensation in the event of damage to property. Variations in slang and colloquial expressions naturally exist in the two nations, but even everyday words can be different – pants and trousers, elevator and lift, autumn and fall – which can lead to misunderstandings [4, стр. 624].

Vocabulary:

Here are some key vocabulary differences.

American English [6]	British English [7, Index p.271-295]
On weekends	At weekends
Gray	Grey
Vacation	Holiday
Check	Cheque (bank)
Toward	Towards
Cookies	Biscuits
Sincerely yours	Yours sincerely (letter)

Grammar:

One of the most obvious differences between British English and American English is the pronunciation, but there are also variations in grammar, spelling and vocabulary. American English often uses the past simple while British English uses the present perfect (I already did it – I’ve already done it); have got is usually used to talk about possession in British English while have is used in American English; prepositions are often used differently, e.g. Write me soon in American English versus Write to me soon in British English [2].

Spelling:

There are a few major spelling differences between British and American English. This is because British English has generally kept the spelling of words that it has taken from other languages [3, стр. 3]. American, in general, moves toward simplified forms of spelling more rapidly than English, and has got much further along the road [5, chapter VIII].

Examples:

a) Words that end in “-re” in British English, often end in “-er” in American English (AmE. VS BrE.: center – centre, theater – theatre and etc.);

b) While some of the British speakers find it correct to use the ending “-ize” in British English like American speakers do, other British consider it wrong and use the ending “-ise”.

c) (BrE. VS AmE.: Apologise – Apologize, Organise – Organize, Recognise – Recognize);

d) In British English, the preferred ending is -our, while in American English is -or. It is also the most obvious spelling difference between these two English dialects (AmE. VS BrE.: behavior – behaviour, flavor – flavour, neighbor – neighbour, color – colour, glamor – glamour and etc.);

e) In British English, the letter ‘l’ is generally still used double. In American English, on another hand, this is, of course, simplified, so they use the letter ‘l’ once (AmE. VS BrE.: traveling - travelling, jewelry – jewellery, program – programm and etc.).

With regards to spelling, American English often has a single consonant while British English has a double consonant (traveling – travelling) and it uses the spelling -ize, -or and -er whereas British English traditionally prefers -ise, -our and -re (organize – organise, color – colour, center – centre). Variations in slang and colloquial expressions naturally exist in the two nations, but even everyday words can be different – pants and trousers, elevator and lift, autumn and fall – which can lead to misunderstandings [2].

In conclusion, I would like to say that American English and British English originated from the same language. But, nevertheless, there are many differences between American English and British English. In spite of the fact that many American and British people can understand each other, the most important thing to remember is try to be consistent (especially when you are writing English) – decide which type of English you are going to use and stick with it.

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Gestures in Russia and the US: Semantic Differences and Similarities

A gesture is a significant part of nonverbal communication. Using gestures, a person is able to transmit his or her thoughts and feelings without words. However, in different cultures, the same sign can be perceived differently, which can lead to an unpleasant situation.

In nonverbal communication, there are such phenomena as cross-cultural synonymy, homonymy, and paronymy. The term “cross-cultural synonymy” is used when, in different cultures, the same meaning is conveyed by gestures that are different in form. For example, both in Russia and the US, a person agrees with another one nodding the head. However, in Russian culture, the head moves up and down, and the gesture is not accompanied by any sound or any word, while, in American culture, the head moves up and down more energetically, and the gesture is accompanied by sounds like uh-huh [2, c. 142].

Americans and Russians also count in different ways. Americans start with a closed palm and straighten each finger, one by one. Russians, on the contrary, start with an open palm and bend each finger, one by one [4].

As for cross-cultural homonymy, it implies that a gesture has the same form but, in different countries, it has a different meaning. For example, if Russians rotate the index finger near the temple, they want to say that someone has lost his or her mind. However, if Americans use the same gesture, they give a hint: “Think for yourself” [4].

A thumbs-up sign (the thumb is raised while the fingers are curled) is another example of cross-cultural homonymy. The gesture has a positive sense in Russia, meaning “OK”, “I like it” or “cool” in various situations [5]. In the US, it may have another meaning and represent 5 [1, c. 80].

The term “cross-cultural paronymy” is used when gestures are quite similar in form but are perceived differently in different cultures. For instance, the shaka sign is popular in America. Both the thumb and the little finger are extended while the other fingers are curled. The hand may be rotated back and forth for emphasis. The gesture implies a friendly intent, has the meaning “relax”. In Russia, the gesture has nothing in common with that. It is mostly seen as a telephone conversation. In this case, the little finger points down [3].

The ILY sign, which is widespread in the US, means the phrase “I love you”. The letter “I” is the raised little finger, the letter “L” consists of the thumb and the index finger, and the letter “Y” is made up of the little finger and the thumb. However, in Russian culture, if the index finger and the little finger are pointed to a person, the gesture is perceived as a threat [3].

In conclusion, it should be noted that gestures are an important part of communication. A person should pay a lot of attention to his or her movements because, in different cultures, the same sign may make people smile or insult them.

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The phenomenon of sexism in the English and Russian languages

Why should we talk about sexism in the modern 21st century when women have already their rights institutionalized and supported by law? Nowadays, we can assert confidently that women have achieved considerable success in the fight for equality, but the repercussions of discrimination against women may reverberate through a language. It seems interesting and challenging to explore this topic in order to identify whether this stereotyped social phenomena or subordinate status of women in society is reflected and preserved in a language. Thus, it would be relevant to perform a linguistic investigation and comparison of morphological and lexical peculiarities of the English and Russian languages.

Unlike Russian and practically any other European language, English does not have gender inherent in most of its words. But some of those words are gendered any way – as we use different words to describe men and women with the same characteristics, this leads to women and men facing double standards. For instance, an adjective “feisty” is a classic example. It is rare to hear a man described as feisty, so many women hear “feisty” as applying a kind of figurative smallness in them and hence a note of condescension. As another clear illustration, female is often described as bubbly or vivacious, while male is described as charismatic. One more example is women are far more likely than men to be described as gossiping. These linguistic features characterize both languages, although Russian has a grammatical gender, whereas English does not.

Until the 1980s, the nouns used in English to describe some occupations were also gendered, such as a fireman, or a stewardess. In America, the activists fought that largely by neutralizing male and female occupational nouns (e.g. a fireman – a firefighter, a stewardess – a flight attendant). This technique has successfully eliminated the awkward combination nouns used to describe women who took on traditionally male jobs, like a woman-doctor and a woman-lawyer. If we use this method in Russian and the word “woman” is affixed to a male-gendered occupational noun, this will make a woman adopting that male profession sound like an oddity or exception (e.g. женщина-врач). This language feminization is challenging because in the Russian language every noun has a gender, and thence most occupation nouns are male. Gaining popularity in Russia, today new words change the endings of male nouns, rendering them grammatically female. Thus, a lawyer (юрист) becomes «a lawyeress» (юристка), and a professor (профессор) would be rendered as “a professoress” (профессорка). Many of these word combinations sound weird and unnatural in Russian, therefore, it will take long for gender-neutral noun formation to become an officially accepted literary language, so the use of feminines in the Russian language is controversial.

Man and woman as two equal components of any human race are actually may be not equal in the English and Russian lexicon. A well-known example of generic masculine term in English is “man”. Man can also refer to the whole race but this usage makes woman invisible. For example: “Man is a social animal”. “Women” cannot be employed in reference to men, so this feature treats man as the center of the society, an embodiment of criterion and ignores the existence of woman. In contrast to this, in Russian the word “men” (мужчины) cannot be used in general to replace the word “humanity” (человечество) or “people” (люди).

In English, a feminine noun is always derivative of the masculine one formed by adding a feminine suffix such as -ess. According to many scientific researches, the suffix -ess does not only mark the secondary position of feminine words, but also connotes the relationship between female and male reference to word pairs. As an example, we can compare the pair of “governor and governess”. A governor is a ruler of a country, a city and associates with high social status as well as honor and dignity, while a governess is a woman employed to teach young children in their home. Because of gender differentiation, these two words have dramatically different meanings – the masculine which belongs to

a high social class and the feminine one having -ess belongs to a lower social class. In Russian, a pair of nouns “general”(генерал) and “generaless”(генеральша) are really notable. The first noun is masculine, and it means a high rank military officer whereas a female one has nothing to do with the authoritative position, but on the contrary only ironically emphasizes that a woman is married to a general. We can conclude that in both languages the addition of a feminine suffix to masculine human agent nouns usually does more than simply changes the gender reference of a word and often gives the meaning of triviality, of a lower status or dependence to the term.

The Russian classic tales demonstrate stereotypic female characters who do not always have as much ambition and versatile personalities as their modern literary counterparts. For instance, young girls are often represented as modest and compliant homemakers waiting for a rescue by a Prince Charming, and their primary life concern is a profitable marriage. So, these deep-rooted stereotyped traditional roles of a woman have influenced the development of the Russian literature. The American academics have found that the verbs most associated with the pronoun “she” in classic fiction are shivered, wert, murmured, screamed and married. An algorithm used by the scientists who studied classic literature to determine a character`s gender was based only on the English language for descriptions and dialogues. Those predictions were 75% correct for the books written around 1800, but they failed 65% in the books written around 2000. In other words, the vocabulary used to describe women and men is becoming more blurred. So, the gender stereotypes like “feisty” are less common nowadays than they used to be.

Thus, as a specific social phenomenon, sexism is inevitably reflected through the language in both countries, because these languages reflect social attitudes, stereotypes and bias. Studying languages, using new words and expressions every day, we do not just learn a lifeless code to communicate, but we immerse ourselves in the culture of the country and discover countless social phenomena that the language absorbs.

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