

LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF NON-STANDART VOCABULARY IN ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGES

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Abstract: *The article is about the phenomenon of non-standard lexis in English and Russian, its emergence, its role, and its impact on communication. Non-standard lexis, also normally called slang or colloquial, is a living part of language that varies with cultural and social evolution. By exploring the part and development of non-standard words in both languages, this study aims to bring to light the complexities of language variation and determinants of the use of non-standard words.*

Keywords: *Non-standard lexis, English language, Russian language, Slang, Colloquial language, Language variation, Cultural evolution.*

1. Introduction

Non-standard vocabulary includes words, phrases, or expressions that violate the norm of normal use of language. While standard vocabulary meets the standards of grammar, spelling, and syntax, non-standard vocabulary demonstrates the linguistic creativity and liberty of speakers. Non-standard vocabulary consists of slang, colloquialism, jargon, variation of dialects, and even newly created words in subcultures, occupations, or social movements.

In both English and Russian, non-standard words serve various functions like identity construction, social differentiation, as well as cultural expression. This article examines the use of non-standard words in both languages based on their features, social purposes, as well as factors that influence their utilization and evolution.

2. The Nature of Non-Standard Vocabulary

Non-standard words can take various forms in both English and Russian. These are:

Slang: Relates to casual language commonly used by specific social groups or communities. It can be evocative, inventive, and sometimes even deliberately subversive.

Colloquialisms: Casual language that is commonly used in everyday life and is often used in verbal communication but not necessarily accepted in formal written contexts.

Jargon: Professional vocabulary used by specific groups or professions, which may not always be easily understood by the general public.

Dialectal Variants: Language variations employed locally diverging from formal usage of a language.

Neologisms: Newly emerged words originated from recent developments in culture or technology.

Fluidity is exhibited by both Russian and English non-standard lexicon because most words originate from youth culture, the web, and media, which impact the dynamic nature of language in modern times.

3. Non-Standard Vocabulary in English

In English, non-standard words play an important role in creating cultural and social identities. Slang, for example, is often associated with youth culture and subcultures such as hip-hop, punk, or internet cultures. The rapid evolution of English slang is particularly visible on social media sites, where new words and phrases are coined all the time.

Possibly the most salient feature of English non-standard words is its inclusiveness and flexibility. Various words that previously were categorized as slang have gained entry into mainstream usage, downplaying the demarcation line between standard and non-standard language. Words like "cool," "selfie," and "hashtag" have transitioned from colloquial to mainstream, demonstrating the power of non-standard words in determining linguistic norms.

Besides, English non-standard lexis often entails borrowing from other languages. English as a world lingua franca readily borrows words from languages such as French, Spanish, and even Japanese, incorporating them into the vernacular. Such borrowing contributes to the richness and diversity of English non-standard lexis.

Non-Standard Vocabulary in Russian

Non-standard vocabulary in Russian also plays the same function in terms of identity and membership in a group. Russian slang, for example, is generally used in informal speech, often in the framework of youth subcultures, as those pertaining to music, street life, or the internet. Russian non-standard language, however, is also significantly influenced by Russia's political and historical context. Terms coined in the Soviet era, such as "блатной" (criminal subculture), or terms introduced in the post-Soviet era, reflect the socio-political atmosphere and the cultural change experienced following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Russian is also marked by a rich tradition of regional dialects that feed into the non-standard lexis. While in Russia, dialects are often stigmatized as "incorrect" or "substandard" modes of speaking the language, they are a key part of Russian culture. Russian non-standard lexis can also be categorized as "vulgarisms," or extremely colloquial words and phrases used in intimate or confrontational situations.

One of the features of Russian non-standard lexis is that they use a wide range of diminutives and creative word manipulations. Adding the suffixes "-ик" or "-очка," for

instance, can change a standard word into an intimate or informal word. These terms contribute to the richness of Russian colloquial language and convey the emotional undertone of communication.

Social Functions of Non-Standard Vocabulary

Both in Russian and in English, non-standard words play several important social functions. They are:

Identity and Membership in a Group: Non-standard words allow speakers to distinguish themselves from others and signal membership in a particular social group. Both languages employ slang or jargon as a form of in-group solidarity, which acts to unify people who share a similar experience or culture.

Rebellion and Subversion: Non-standard language usually emerges in contexts of rebellion or social resistance. Terms that violate the conventions of standard language can serve as a form of protest or criticism, allowing speakers to make a claim to independence or defy conventions in society.

Expressivity and Creativity: Non-standard words give speakers a tool of creative expression. English and Russian speakers can use metaphor, irony, or wordplay to convey complex emotions and ideas that can't be expressed using standard words.

Social Stratification: The use of non-standard lexemes can be employed as a social class or status marker. For example, the use of some dialectal terms or slang words can denote lower socio-economic status, while the use of standardized or more formal words can denote higher professional or education status.

The Evolution and Transformation of Non-Standard Vocabulary

The emergence of non-standard lexicon is a reflection of social, cultural, and technological development in society. Both in Russian and English, non-standard words evolve through the processes of:

Technological Impact: Electronic communication has accelerated the creation and dissemination of new non-standard vocabulary. In English, terms like "meme," "vlog," and "tweet" have emerged due to the digital age. Russian has also borrowed internet slang, such as "лайк" (like) and "троллить" (to troll).

Cultural Globalization and Cultural Exchange: Global cultural trends have influenced English and Russian as they both employed borrowed words as a component of borrowing terms from other parts of the globe. English as a worldwide language has words of many languages, whereas Russian saw an expansion in "Anglicisms" for day-to-day usage in colloquialism.

Political and Social Change: Political regime changes, like the collapse of the Soviet Union, usually lead to a shift in language. Post-Soviet Russia, since the Soviet period, has seen the emergence of new slang and vocabulary that mirror the changes in political and economic life.

Conclusion

Non-standard vocabulary is an active and fundamental component of English and Russian languages. It symbolizes cultural, social, and technological changes, providing speakers with a versatile method of expression and identity formation. Non-standard vocabulary is classically regarded as informal or even offensive in certain contexts, but it is a key component in the process of language development, as language is a vehicle of creativity, opposition, and cultural communication.

By examining non-standard words in English and Russian, we can better understand the social forces behind language. The continued development of non-standard words will likely continue to challenge the boundaries of standard language, determining how we talk and how we think about linguistic norms in the future.

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