DEFINITION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUTH LANGUAGE

©*Kaykybasheva A., SPIN-код: 7025-0727, Ph.D., Osh State University,*
Osh, Kyrgyzstan, aizada72@bk.ru
©*Kadenova Zh., ORCID: 0000-0002-7006-999X, SPIN-code: 6096-8835, Ph.D., Kyrgyz-Uzbek*
International University named after B. Sydykov, Osh, Kyrgyzstan, kadenova_edu.kg@bk.ru
©*Aydar kyzy A., Osh State University, Osh, Kyrgyzstan*
©*Samidinova F., Osh State University, Osh, Kyrgyzstan, fsamidinova@oshsu.kg*

ОПРЕДЕЛЕНИЕ И ХАРАКТЕРИСТИКИ МОЛОДЕЖНОГО ЯЗЫКА

©*Кайкыбашева А. К., SPIN-код: 7025-0727, канд. филол. наук, Ошский государственный*
университет, г. Ош, Кыргызстан, aizada72@bk.ru
©*Каденова Ж. Т., ORCID: 0000-0002-7006-999X, SPIN-код: 6096-8835, канд. пед. наук,*
Кыргызско-Узбекский международный университет им. Б. Сыдыкова,
г. Ош, Кыргызстан, kadenova_edu.kg@bk.ru
©*Айдар кызы А., Ошский государственный университет, г. Ош, Кыргызстан*
©*Самидинова Ф. А., Ошский государственный университет,*
г. Ош, Кыргызстан, fsamidinova@oshsu.kg

Abstract. Examines the phenomenon of youth language as a sociolinguistic phenomenon. The definition of the youth language is given, its main characteristics are highlighted: lexical mobility, emotionality, expressivity and group identity. Its functions in the youth environment are analyzed, including its role in communication, self-identification and cultural expression. The influence of globalization and digital technologies on the formation of modern youth slang is noted.

Аннотация. Рассматривается феномен молодежного языка как социолингвистического явления. Дается определение молодежного языка, выделяются его основные характеристики: лексическая подвижность, эмоциональность, экспрессивность и групповая идентичность. Анализируются его функции в молодежной среде, в том числе роль в коммуникации, самоидентификации и культурном самовыражении. Отмечается влияние глобализации и цифровых технологий на формирование современного молодежного сленга.

Keywords: youth language, slang, identity, communication, Internet, sociolinguistics.

Ключевые слова: молодежный язык, сленг, идентичность, коммуникация, интернет, социолингвистика.

Language is an integral part of the culture of any society, reflecting its spiritual state, historical development, value orientations and social structure. It is not just a means of communication, but a powerful tool for the formation and maintenance of collective and individual identity. This is especially evident among young people, where language takes on new forms that reflect the dynamics of changes in society, culture, technology, and communication [1].

The language environment is constantly undergoing changes, especially under the influence of youth subcultures and technologies. Youth language is a special form of speech activity that reflects not only the age characteristics of the speakers, but also their desire for self-expression and social affiliation. It is shaped by the influence of mass culture, the Internet, social media, and globalization.

Youth language may be perceived as a violation of literary norms, but in sociolinguistics it is recognized as an independent object of research, since it performs important social functions.

The relevance of youth language research is determined by its active influence on the national language, as well as on the processes of socialization and communication within youth groups. The youth language acts not only as a tool for transmitting information, but also as a means of expressing emotions, values, and social positions, forming a kind of language code that is accessible and understandable only to representatives of a certain age and cultural group. Moreover, it is through youth speech that new linguistic norms are often disseminated and consolidated [2].

The purpose of this work is to consider the youth language as a special linguistic and socio—cultural phenomenon, to identify its main characteristics, functions and conditions of formation. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to solve the following tasks: to define the youth language; to analyze its lexical, semantic and stylistic features; to identify social and cultural functions; to consider the influence of the digital environment on the development of youth speech.

The study of the youth language is important not only for linguistics, but also for pedagogy, cultural studies, psychology and sociology, since it reflects not only linguistic processes, but also trends in the development of the youth subculture, its interests, values and ways of communication in modern society.

Youth language is a type of spoken language that is used primarily by young people in an informal setting. It is characterized by a special lexical composition, stylistic techniques and forms of expression that allow young people to communicate effectively within their social group. The youth language is based on the desire to create its own language system, different from the official and literary language [3].

According to A. A. Elistratova, the youth language is "a set of lexical, phraseological and stylistic means inherent in the oral speech of young people, formed under the influence of social factors, culture and the environment of communication" [2].

Characteristic features of the youth language

Lexical mobility. One of the key features of the youth language is its high variability. Words and expressions that have appeared among young people can quickly become obsolete or transform. Youth vocabulary is constantly updated with neologisms, current memes and slang constructions. This allows you to adapt to a changing social context, as well as stand out among your peers. For example, expressions such as "zashkvar", "trash", "crack", "crash" have been popular over the years — each wave carries a new batch of unique words.

Borrowings. Borrowings, especially Anglicisms, play a special role in youth speech. They enter the language through the Internet, social media, music, and video games. Examples: like (from like), hate (from hate), flex (from flex), challenge (from challenge). These borrowings not only simplify the expression of thoughts, but also give speech a certain fashionable coloring. Borrowed words can acquire new meanings in the youth environment that differ from the original ones [4].

Abbreviations. Abbreviations are used to speed up communication, especially in online correspondence. Abbreviations such as lol (LOL — laughing out loud), IMHO (IMHO — in my humble opinion), brb (BRB — be right back) are often used. Many of these forms become universal and pass into oral speech. This indicates the influence of digital culture on the language as a whole.

Emotionality and expressiveness. The youth language is full of vivid figurative expressions. Sarcasm, irony, and hyperbole are all actively used to convey emotions. Statements like "he's just a cancer of the content" or "he's a complete freak" reflect an emotional perception of reality. Such vocabulary not only conveys emotions, but also forms its own style of communication.

Playful and creative in nature. Young people actively use puns, word-making, and absurd vocabulary. Words are being invented from scratch, and the meanings of old words are changing. Example: "chill" means to rest, "life" is a life situation. The game element makes speech lively, interesting, recognizable, and enhances the sense of belonging to youth culture.

Group identity and membership marker. Language allows young people to form and maintain an identity. The use of characteristic words and expressions signals belonging to a particular social group or subculture. This is especially true for youth groups on the Internet — gamers, animeshnikov, bloggers and others [5].

Functions of the youth language

The functions of the youth language can be summarized as follows:

Communicative – provides communication between young people, makes it lively and emotional.

Identification – allows young people to feel like they belong to a certain group or generation.

Delimitative – helps to separate "friends" from "strangers" (for example, young people from adults).

Emotionally expressive – expresses feelings, mood, attitude to what is happening.

Creative (playful) – stimulates linguistic creativity, the creation of new words, puns.

Protest – expresses disagreement with the norms of society, culture, and the official language.

Economy function – reduces expressions, makes speech faster and more concise.

The youth language performs many functions. First of all, it makes everyday communication easier and faster. In addition, it plays an important role in expressing personality and emotional state. Youth slang often becomes a way of social differentiation: "friends" are understood, "strangers" are not.

The communicative function is realized in the simplification and emotional coloring of statements. The identification function is to create a collective identity. The aesthetic function is expressed in playing with words, and the emotional function is expressed in saturation with expressive means.

The functions of the youth language are multifaceted and reflect important social processes. It not only facilitates communication, but also serves as a means of self-expression, socialization, and even protest. Over time, elements of the youth language may enter the common language or, conversely, disappear from use, which makes it a dynamic and constantly evolving form of communication [6, 7].

Conclusion

The youth language is a complex and multi-layered phenomenon that reflects not only the characteristics of the age group, but also the social processes taking place in society. It is subject to rapid changes, active borrowing and constant updating. Despite criticism from representatives of the older generations, the youth language plays an important role in modern communication culture. Studying it allows us to better understand the worldview of young people, their cultural preferences and ways of self-identification. Sociolinguistic analysis of the youth language opens up prospects for further research in the field of language and society.

The youth language is a unique sociolinguistic phenomenon that reflects the cultural, technological and social transformations of modern society. It arises as a reaction to the needs of the younger generation in self-expression, individualization and the re-creation of their own social identity. Youth speech demonstrates a high level of adaptability, flexibility and creativity, which makes it an integral part of the linguistic worldview of the modern era.

An important feature of the youth language is its ability to constantly update and transform. The vocabulary used by young people reflects the dynamics of time, current trends and interests of the generation. Due to the active use of borrowings, especially from English, youth slang is becoming globalized and international, but at the same time retains national characteristics. This phenomenon highlights the connection of the youth language with global culture and the digital space, in which new communication models are actively being formed.

The communicative function of the youth language is no less significant. It serves as an effective means of establishing contacts and strengthening ties within certain social groups and communities. Slang expressions, neologisms and abbreviations form a special system of signs that is understandable only to members of a certain group, which helps to unite young people and separate them from the general linguistic field. Thus, the youth language serves not only as a communication tool, but also as an important marker of belonging.

Adaptive platforms, analytics tools and virtual assistants enable personalized learning, increase motivation and provide access to quality educational resources.

However, there are a number of challenges associated with the use of AI, including technical limitations, risks of data loss and the need to train all participants in the educational process to use the new technologies [3].

Thus, the youth language is an important element of the modern linguistic space, which deserves close attention from linguists, educators, cultural scientists and sociologists. Its study makes it possible not only to understand the specifics of a young person's linguistic personality, but also to identify current trends in the development of society as a whole. In the context of digitalization, globalization and cultural diversity, the youth language is becoming a mirror of new forms of communication, thinking and perception of the world, occupying a significant place in the language of the future.

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