



THE INTERACTION OF YOUTH JARGON, CRIMINAL ARGOT, AND ANGLICISMS

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Abstract: *The interaction of youth jargon, criminal argot, and English borrowings (anglicisms) in modern Russian represents a complex sociolinguistic process that reflects social and cultural transformations in society. This article analyzes the mechanisms of interaction between these linguistic systems, including lexical borrowings, semantic changes, and elements of language play. Special attention is given to the role of media, the Internet, and popular culture in popularizing new words in youth speech. The findings show that the incorporation of criminal argot and English borrowings into youth jargon is accompanied by semantic neutralization and adaptation to new communicative contexts. Nevertheless, the stigmatization of certain words persists in formal discourse.*

Keywords: *youth jargon, criminal argot, anglicisms, sociolinguistics, urban language, lexical borrowings, semantic changes, cultural influence*

Introduction

Issues of slang and jargon have been widely studied in and Russian linguistics. In particular, scholars such as V.M. Mokienko, T.G. Nikitina, A.D. Shmelev, L.P. Krysin, and E.A. Zemskaya have conducted in-depth research on argot, jargon, and their sociocultural features in Russian. Among Uzbek linguists, the works of R.F. Burnashev and colleagues (2020–2022) are notable for their studies on linguistic corpora, innovations, and the role of youth jargon in digital communication.

These studies show that youth jargon and criminal argot intersect within urban speech, creating new lexical-semantic systems.

Relevance of the Research:

1. The penetration of criminal argot into mass culture. Terms once limited to the criminal sphere are now spreading through cinema, music, and social media.
2. The widespread use of English words. Terminology related to technology, fashion, and social networks forms a separate layer in youth vocabulary.
3. The dynamics of urban speech. Multicultural environments accelerate linguistic change.
4. Language culture and education issues. The mixture of jargon raises the need to develop literacy and language culture among youth.

Problem Statement:

Although the incorporation of criminal argot and English words into youth speech is extensive, their impact on language culture has not been sufficiently studied. The research seeks to answer:

How do borrowings change word meanings?

Why do young people quickly adopt these elements?

Which social mechanisms drive this process?

Hypothesis:

The interaction of youth jargon, English borrowings, and criminal argot serves several common functions:

creating group identity,

intensifying emotional expression,

demonstrating creativity through language.

However, once they enter everyday speech, these words lose their initial negative or narrow meanings and acquire new semantic dimensions.

Aim and Objectives:

Aim: To study the mechanisms of interaction between youth jargon, English borrowings, and criminal argot in modern Russian.

Objectives:

1. To analyze lexical and semantic borrowings.

2. To identify sociocultural factors influencing the popularization of criminal and English lexicon.

3. To examine the role of media and the Internet.

4. To assess their impact on speech culture.

Scientific Novelty:

The article analyzes youth jargon, criminal argot, and English borrowings as a complex sociolinguistic system. For the first time, their interaction is considered in the context of digital communication, globalization, and cultural transformation.

Methodology:

sociolinguistic analysis,
etymological analysis,
lexical-semantic analysis,
interviews with young people,
statistical and quantitative analysis.

Theoretical Foundations:

Youth jargon and criminal argot represent the most dynamic layers of the language system. They play a significant role in shaping personal identity and ensuring differentiation within society.

Mechanisms of Interaction:

Lexical borrowing: adoption of criminal and English words.

Semantic changes: expansion or neutralization of meanings.

Language play: use of metaphor, irony, and the creation of new forms.

Factors of Popularization:

Media and the Internet: rapidly disseminate new words.

Popular culture: promotes them in music and films.

Urban environment: accelerates the acceptance of linguistic innovations.

Impact on Speech Culture:

Enriches vocabulary.

Expands the boundaries of literary norms.

Some words remain stigmatized in formal speech.

Examples of Interaction and Semantic Transformation:

From criminal argot:

малява (“message, letter” — originally prison slang, now used online for “written message”).

хавать (“to eat” — once slang, now common in colloquial speech).

стрела (“meeting, negotiation” — once used among criminals, now in youth speech means “to talk, to meet”).

From youth jargon:

хайп (from English hype — “buzz, popularity”).

зашквар (“shame, awkward situation”).

краш (from English crush — “person one likes”).

токсик (from English toxic — “negative, harmful person”).

Semantic transformations:

бабки — originally “money” in criminal jargon, now widespread colloquialism.

пахан — from “criminal group leader” to “respected authority figure.”

чёткий — originally “clear, precise,” now used as “cool, high-quality.”

Conclusion: The interaction of youth jargon, criminal argot, and English borrowings is a complex and dynamic process reflecting sociocultural transformations. On the one hand, these elements renew the language and enhance its expressiveness; on the other hand, they challenge the stability of literary norms. Therefore, shaping language culture among youth and promoting conscious use of lexical resources remains a vital task.

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