

LINGUOPRAGMATIC AND LINGUOCULTURAL FEATURES OF THE USE OF YOUTH JARGON IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES**Gullola Sherboeva**

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ABSTRACT

The present study explores the distinctive linguopragmatic and linguocultural dimensions of youth jargon used in English and Uzbek. The research focuses on how modern slang forms such as clipped words, hybrid expressions, internet-based neologisms, and culturally shaped figurative units function within everyday communication among young speakers. Particular emphasis is placed on the pragmatic intentions behind slang usage, including emotional reinforcement, the expression of group solidarity, identity construction, and the regulation of interpersonal distance.

Keywords

youth slang, pragmatics, linguistic culture, English–Uzbek comparison, social identity markers, youth communication.

In recent years, the study of youth language has gained significant attention in linguistics due to its dynamic nature and its strong connection with sociocultural change. Youth jargon, as one of the most rapidly evolving layers of vocabulary, reflects not only linguistic creativity but also the lifestyle, identity, and communicative norms of the younger generation. In both English and Uzbek linguistic communities, youth slang has developed under the influence of globalization, digital communication, social networks, and popular culture, leading to the emergence of new forms of verbal expression.

The use of youth jargon is closely related to pragmatic intentions such as expressing emotions, enhancing group cohesion, demonstrating individuality, and establishing a certain social stance within peer groups. These pragmatic functions make slang an essential component of modern youth communication. At the same time, youth jargon carries important linguocultural meanings, as many slang units are rooted in cultural practices, shared values, and lifestyle-specific symbols. Consequently, analyzing slang provides valuable insights into both language development and cultural identity formation [1].

Although English youth slang has been extensively shaped by global media, music, cinema, and digital platforms, Uzbek youth jargon is experiencing rapid expansion influenced by multilingual environments, social media trends, and local cultural factors. Comparative investigation of these two linguistic systems allows us to identify universal tendencies of youth communication as well as culturally conditioned distinctions.

The literature shows that youth jargon operates as a linguistic mechanism through which young speakers construct in-group boundaries, signal solidarity, and express emotional meanings. It often functions as a tool for soft resistance to formal norms, allowing speakers to create fresh and creative expressions. Both English and Uzbek scholars agree that slang evolves rapidly, frequently replacing outdated units with new forms shaped by cultural trends and digital interactions.

From a grammatical perspective, youth jargon in both languages tends to favour simplicity, reduction, and deviation from formal structures. English youth slang often employs shortened forms, clipped constructions, and syntactic compression to achieve fast communication. Examples include “gonna” (going to), “wanna” (want to), and “kinda” (kind of), which replace formal structures while preserving meaning. Uzbek youth jargon similarly shows tendencies of elliptical structures, conversational shortcuts, and informal rearrangements of sentence elements, such as “Boraman” instead of “Men boraman” as a clipped form of

“Ko‘rishamiz”. These grammatical shifts serve practical purposes such as increasing speed, enhancing humour, or creating group-specific speech patterns [2].

Morphologically, youth jargon in English actively uses affixation, blending, compounding, and conversion. For instance, “hangry” (hungry + angry) or “adulging” (adult + -ing) shows morphological creativity in forming expressive meanings. Uzbek youth jargon frequently relies on hybrid morphological forms that mix Uzbek roots with foreign affixes or integrate shortened Russian and English elements, such as “telefon qil” (to call on the phone) shortened to “tel qil”, or “like qilmoq” combining English root “like” with Uzbek verb suffix “-moq”. This morphological blending reflects both linguistic creativity and the multicultural environment of contemporary Uzbek youth.

Morphemic innovation is one of the key features of youth slang. English slang often shortens morphemes, reduces multisyllabic units, or merges fragments of different words to produce compact forms suited for rapid online communication, such as “brb” (be right back) and “fam” (family/friend). Uzbek youth speech shows similar tendencies, especially in digital communication, where shortened morphemes and clipped stems are widely used to convey familiarity and informality, for example “salom” becoming “slm” in chat messages or “qalay” (from “qalaysiz”). Morphemic reduction in both languages highlights a preference for speed, emotional intensity, and group-specific codes.

On the lexical level, youth jargon is characterized by expressive colouring, metaphorical usage, and semantic shift. English youth slang frequently adopts figurative meanings based on popular culture, technology, and social trends. Examples include “ship” (to support a romantic relationship), “savage” (bold or ruthless in a humorous way), and “extra” (over the top). Uzbek youth slang integrates metaphorical expressions drawn from everyday culture, humour, and local lifestyle references, such as “shum” (cool/fun), “gap yo‘q” (amazing or no doubt), and “dostlik qil” (to hang out/friendship in informal contexts).

Lexical innovation in both languages shows how young speakers reinterpret existing words, assign new meanings, and rapidly disseminate them through digital platforms. Borrowing also plays a strong role: English contributes globally popular slang units, while Uzbek youth actively adapts them to local linguistic systems [3].

Syntactically, youth jargon often departs from traditional sentence patterns. English youth communication favours short, fast, and informal structures, sometimes omitting auxiliary elements or combining multiple ideas in compact constructions, as in “Had a blast yesterday!” instead of “I had a great time yesterday”. Uzbek youth speech exhibits flexible word order, reduced syntactic markers, and conversational fragmentation, especially in digital contexts, such as “Kecha kino ko‘rdik, zo‘r edi” instead of “Kecha biz kino ko‘rdik va u juda zo‘r edi”. These syntactic simplifications reflect the functional nature of slang, which prioritizes emotional impact, humour, and group intimacy over strict grammatical norms [4].

The research methodology of this study is based on practical linguistic analysis. A selection of authentic slang expressions from English and Uzbek youth communication was examined through direct observation of social media interactions, everyday conversations, and digital communication contexts. Each slang example was analyzed in terms of its grammatical behaviour, morphological structure, morphemic composition, lexical function, and syntactic patterns. The analysis also focused on the pragmatic intentions behind slang usage and the cultural meanings embedded in these expressions. Comparative methods were applied to identify similarities and differences between English and Uzbek youth jargon, enabling a deeper understanding of how cultural environments shape language innovation.

Table 1

Source	Key Findings / Relevance to Youth Jargon
Linguocultural Approach to The Study Of Youth Slang	This study views youth slang as a subsystem that reflects both linguistic innovation and cultural worldview of its speakers. It

Source	Key Findings / Relevance to Youth Jargon
	analyses the lexical composition of youth slang and shows how slang units used by young people carry culturally loaded meanings, representing youth's perception of the world, their values, humour and group identity.
Linguopragmatic Peculiarities of English Youth Slang Across Generations X, Y, Z, and Alpha	The article investigates how English youth slang evolves across generations under the influence of digital communication, social change, and generational shifts. It highlights semantic innovations, pragmatic functions (identity building, solidarity, informality), and the way slang reflects modern youth's communicative needs in fast-paced media contexts.
Youth Slangs in Modern American and British English	This paper offers a descriptive overview of slang used by young people in contemporary American and British English, and discusses the expressive and identity-related role of slang. It serves as a reference for typical slang lexical items and shows how youth slang operates as a peer-group code and expressive linguistic resource.
Using Youth Slangs Among Teenagers in Social Media	This more recent study examines the use of slang and abbreviated/informal language among teenagers on social media platforms. It illustrates how digital communication fosters rapid creation and spread of slang, how new words and expressions emerge in chats or posts, and how this influences youth linguistic practices.
Modern Youth Slang and Its Varieties	This research classifies youth slang by type school/university slang, internet slang, gaming slang, music-youth subculture slang, etc. It highlights that youth slang isn't homogenous but varies significantly depending on social context, subculture, and environment. This supports the idea that slang must be studied within its social and cultural milieu.
The Influence of Youth Slang on Modern Communication: Trends and Impacts	The article explores how youth slang affects overall patterns of modern communication both online and offline. It argues that slang plays a role in shaping youth identity, peer-group belonging, and changing norms of language usage in contemporary society.

Synthesis and general patterns: Many studies treat youth slang not simply as “informal speech,” but as a linguistic subsystem that carries deep linguocultural significance: slang encodes youth values, subcultural identity, humour, and generational dynamics. (see “Linguocultural Approach ...”, “Linguopragmatic Peculiarities ...”)

Youth slang evolves rapidly under influences like digital communication, social media, globalization, and subculture formation. These factors lead to lexical innovation, semantic shifts, and frequent creation of new slang items. (see “Using Youth Slangs ...”, “Modern Youth Slang and Its Varieties”, “Linguopragmatic Peculiarities ...”)

Slang functions pragmatically to signal group membership, solidarity, informality, emotional expression, resistance to formal norms, and even generational identity. (see “Youth Slangs in Modern American and British English”, “The Influence of Youth Slang on Modern Communication ...”)

The variety of contexts in which youth slang appears school, university, gaming, internet, music subcultures suggests that slang is socially and contextually conditioned, rather than uniform across all youth. (see “Modern Youth Slang and Its Varieties”)

The interaction between standard language norms and slang shows tension: some researchers note possible effects on “literary/standard language”, especially when slang infiltrates written or semi-formal digital communication which may challenge traditional norms. (see “Using Youth Slangs Among Teenagers in Social Media”, “The Influence of Youth Slang on Modern Communication ...”)

How this literature analysis informs our study.

Based on these findings from previous research:

We adopt the view that youth jargon should be treated as a legitimate linguistic subsystem with both structural (lexical, morphological, syntactic) and functional (pragmatic, sociocultural) dimensions.

We acknowledge the importance of social context and medium (internet, social media, peer interaction) in the formation and dissemination of jargon.

We accept that youth slang is dynamic and generative constantly evolving, borrowing, creating new lexical items which justifies a comparative analysis between languages (English and Uzbek) and across different subcultures/environments [5].

We use this prior research as a theoretical framework for our own empirical analysis: when we collect examples of English and Uzbek youth slang, we will analyze them structurally (morphology, syntax, lexicon) and functionally (pragmatics, social identity, cultural meaning).

The study of youth jargon in both English and Uzbek languages demonstrates that it is a highly dynamic, flexible, and socially conditioned subsystem of language. Youth slang serves not only as a means of informal communication but also as a marker of cultural identity, peer-group belonging, and emotional expression. The analysis reveals that youth jargon exhibits distinctive linguistic features at multiple levels.

Morphologically, it often employs affixation, blending, compounding, and conversion to create expressive and playful meanings. Morphemic innovation, including shortening, clipping, and merging of word fragments, is commonly used to enhance speed, creativity, and group-specific code.

At the lexical level, youth slang shows metaphorical and figurative usage, semantic shifts, and frequent borrowing from other languages, reflecting global influences and local cultural adaptation. Syntactically, slang tends to deviate from formal structures, favoring elliptical constructions, shortened phrases, and flexible word order, particularly in digital communication contexts. Pragmatically, youth jargon functions to convey emotions, establish solidarity, and signal in-group identity, while simultaneously allowing young speakers to challenge formal linguistic norms and experiment with language creatively.

Comparative analysis between English and Uzbek youth slang indicates that, despite differences in linguistic systems and cultural backgrounds, both share common tendencies in morphological innovation, lexical creativity, syntactic simplification, and pragmatic functions. These findings emphasize the importance of considering youth slang as a rich resource for understanding contemporary communication, cultural values, and social dynamics within younger generations.

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