

Theoretical Experience and Representation of English Colloquial Lexis in Dictionary Interpretation (Based on the Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English)

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Annotation: The article examines the lexical and semantic features of English colloquial words and expressions based on dictionary entries. Particular attention is paid to the implicit semantics of informal vocabulary when decoding the colloquial context.

Keywords: slang, colloquialisms, obscure semantics, borrowings, lexicographic sources, online translators.

At present, the problem of English colloquialisms is studied from the perspective of the following issues:

- 1) The problems of compiling neolexicographic sources, taking into account the peculiarities of the new experience in modeling an electronic dictionary definition with the inclusion of diverse information [1, p. 7]. Thus, in modern online dictionaries, the database of examples is compiled on the basis of new text sources (social networks, Internet blogs of popular bloggers) [12, p. 70]. The neological boom in dictionary sources, actively replenishing the English vocabulary throughout the 21st century [13, p. 88], reflects neological processes integrating culture and social changes [25, p. 29];
- 2) The problem of considering new types of dictionaries in the context of the latest scientific concepts of foreign lexicographers [24, p. 28], studying the experience of previous researchers [2, p. 10]. The compilation of crowdsourcing dictionaries is based on the work of users and editors in collecting colloquialisms from modern pop culture [4, p. 9]. The informal style of definitions, free form of interpretations and originality of illustrative examples make it possible to increase interest in colloquial speech and improve dictionary pages taking into account the level presentation;
- 3) The problem of studying colloquial vocabulary in the context of modern trends in linguistics (Internet linguistics – studying the functioning of colloquialisms in the Internet space; linguistic conceptology – extracting concepts from words in everyday language and comparing them with neutral and other vocabulary; communicative linguistics – features of speech activity [3, p. 12]; metalinguistics; political linguistics; linguogenderology; linguacultural studies; legal linguistics; ethnolinguistics [14, p. 19], features of the penetration of borrowed vocabulary into the English language under the prism of cognitive linguistics and pragmalinguistics [15, p. 23]. The study of colloquialisms from the perspective of gender linguistics allows us to note the features of the presence of “masculine” and “feminine” in the construction of colloquial speech [22, p. 27];
- 4) The problem of the level interpretation of English colloquialisms is studied based on new trends in the language system, taking into account extralinguistic factors [11, p. 44] when studying the theoretical experience of “neolexicography” [21, p. 337] and its practical application. The lexical-semantic level is studied in the context of onym groups [6, p. 192], the functioning of colloquial vocabulary in the flow of speech over short or long periods (for example, how the pandemic period affected colloquial language [18, p. 59]). The study of derivational processes in the context of such issues as: shortenings [8, p. 540], telescoping [9, p. 22];

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5) The problem of studying the grammatical features of English colloquialisms. Here the problems of constructing various conversational structures with their characteristic repetitions [19, p. 202], omission of component composition [20, p. 28], changes occurring in the morphological categories of nouns, adjectives [10, p. 15], numerals, verbs and pronouns [23, p. 55] are considered;

6) study of colloquial set units [16, p. 7] and various variations in the composition of idioms in dictionary entries [17, p. 24];

7) reflection of the thematic distribution [7, p. 128] of colloquialisms by groups: sports, medicine, education, gastronomic vocabulary, clothing, toponyms;

8) The problem of the emotional factor in the study of colloquial language. In colloquial speech, emotiveness prevails [5, p. 72] as the main way to convey “connotationally colored” dialogue lines between participants in a speech act.

“The Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English” is structured in such a way that the entries are both concise and informative. The words in the dictionary are presented in alphabetical order. At the beginning of the entry is the key word with spelling variants in two variants of the English language, namely British and American. Spelling variants are contained in the words:

a) in the presence of an abbreviation. Cp.: *about it*, as well as *'bout it* (Model: *about it* → *'bout it*) in the meaning “for someone’s benefit” [26, p. 1];

b) when a letter is dropped or added. Cp.: *habdabs/abdabs* – “anxious state; panic, stressful state” [26, p. 1], etc.

“The Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English” provides information on the influence of phonetic features on the formation of new colloquialisms and slangisms.

Thus, *ABCing/ABC-ya* in American English is used as a replacement for the phrase *I’ll be seeing you* [26, p. 1]. *ABCing* like *I’ll be seeing you* is used at the end of a conversation to say goodbye to the interlocutor. The formation of the slang expression is based on the similarity of the sound of the full phrase with the combination of the pronunciation of the initial letters of the abbreviation – *ABC*.

The lexicographical source “The Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English” presents euphemistic formations together with the presence of variants formed from them. Many euphemisms continue to exist in conversations, in the case of the presence of a colloquial variant with obscured semantics, as well as a special structure designed to hide an offensive interpretation.

Thus, the expression *get A into G* [26, p. 1] has become a common replacement for the euphemistic expression *get your arse in gear* from New Zealand English.

“The Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English” lifts the veil on etymological information from various sources. English slang is enriched by words from popular songs.

Thus, *abba-dabba* in the meaning of “chatter” [26, p. 1], entered the English colloquial language from the title of the song “The Aba-Daba Honeymoon”. In the song itself, the direct meaning of *abba-dabba* – “monkey chatter” was transformed into colloquial speech in relation to empty talk among people.

Special attention is paid to the introduction of slang words and expressions into the speech of various age groups. Thus, *abfab* with the meaning of “absolutely fabulous” [26, p. 1] came into widespread use from the speech of Australian teenagers. Over time, slangism spread to the territory of Great Britain.

If a colloquialism absorbs the main meaning from the word that served as its basis, then it becomes natural to consolidate the original negative or positive connotation.

For example, *abortion* in its original meaning means “premature termination of pregnancy” (the meaning is associated with the negative context of unwanted pregnancy and carries a negative connotation) and, accordingly, the newly formed colloquial semantics consolidates the negative



elements, predicts a negative subtext – “an unfortunate set of circumstances; terrifying person, object or phenomenon” [26, p. 1].

At present, English is becoming one of the main languages, supplementing other languages. However, the composition of the English language is filled with borrowed vocabulary:

- a) from German: *nish*; *nishte*; *nishta* meaning “nothing”, derived from the German negation *nichts* [26, p. 459];
- b) from French: *allez-oop!* meaning “when pushing; lifting children” from a combination of the French *allez* with “up” [26, p. 9];
- c) from Japanese: *anime* – “Japanese animation art” [26, p. 13]; from Japanese: *cha*; *char*; *chah* from Mandarin *ch’a* meaning “tea” [26, p. 127], etc.

In the dictionary, the vocabulary is differentiated into the following thematic groups:

- 1) police slang: *Aladdin’s cave* – “objects where the dishonest means of a thief who is successful in his field are guarded or hidden” [26, p. 7]. The origin of the slang is based on fairy tales about a fictional character – Aladdin;
- 2) radio slang: *ace* meaning “very important CB user” [26, p. 2];
- 3) restaurant slang: *Adam and Eve on a raft* meaning “recipe for a dish: two eggs on toast” [26, p. 4], etc.

In the dictionary, the vocabulary is differentiated into different mixed groups depending on several factors (for example, the territorial factor + age). For example, youth street slang: *after tears* in the meaning of “a post-funeral celebration” [26, p. 5];

In the dictionary, the vocabulary is differentiated by the territorial factor:

- 1) Glasgow rhyming slang: *Abraham Lincoln* (and also the variant *Abie Lincoln*) in the meaning of “contemptible” [26, p. 1].
- 2) New York police slang: *Achnard* in the meaning of “a taxi driver” [26, p. 1]. Used as a modified form of the proper name Ahmed – connection with migration processes due to work, etc.

Thus, the analysis of theoretical experience in terms of constructing dictionary entries of lexicographic sources with colloquial, substandard vocabulary and the system of presenting colloquial words and expressions using the example of the dictionary “The Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English” allowed us to identify the following conclusions:

1. The theoretical and practical foundation of English colloquialisms has recently acquired a solid material base of lexicographic sources of various types, including traditional sources and modern types of dictionary publications (thematic, explanatory, crowdsourced dictionaries, etc.). This trend indicates a change in the idea of the place and role of spoken language in modern linguistics and the educational process.
2. The entries in “The Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English” have a clear structure, are free from clutter in the definitions, have a solid base of examples from authoritative sources, and are filled with additional information necessary for understanding the hidden characteristics of colloquial vocabulary.
3. A dictionary entry may contain a) several variants of spelling of a colloquialism, slangism, in the case of the presence of dialectological spelling, variants of the English language; b) be accompanied by grammatical, stylistic and other lexicographic notes, which facilitates the process of understanding the processes of stylistic elevation (the transition of slangism into colloquialism); c) reflect additional information on etymology, cultural studies, history, geography, grammatical structures, linguistic and regional terms, information on intercultural communication.



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