

## **FORMS OF SLANG TOKENS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

Slang is a living and dynamic linguistic element that reflects changing social and cultural conditions [8]. Slang consists of informal, off-topic words and expressions that often develop in certain groups such as youth, subcultures and professional communities. This vocabulary adds color, humor, and intimacy to conversations, but its fluidity and informality often challenge traditional language structures [1].

Slang vocabulary are informal words and phrases commonly used in everyday communication, often in certain social groups and usually excluded from formal written speech. The main function of slang is to create a sense of community and identity within a group, often distinguishing its members from others. Slang is constantly changing, with words quickly becoming obsolete and new words able to emerge [3].

The vocabulary of slang takes many forms. The most common of these are:

1. Abbreviations: Shortened forms of words and phrases, such as “OMG” (Oh My God), “LOL” (Laugh out loud), “BRB” (Be right back), “IDK” (I don’t know), “TBH” (To be honest), “BTW “ (By the way), “JK” (Just kidding), “GR8” (Great), “ASAP” (As soon as possible), “TMI” (Too much information ), “YOLO” (You only live once), “FYI” (For your information), “GTG” (Got to go) are frequently used in digital communication, especially in text messages and on social media platforms. They reflect the fast-pace nature of modern life and the desire for efficiency [2].

2. Blends: Words formed by combining parts of two or more words, such as “Brunch” (breakfast + lunch), “Motel” (motor + hotel), “Chillax” (chill + relax), “Guesstimate” (guess + estimate), “Glampping” (glamorous + camping),

found in both spoken and written slang. Blends help to compactly convey new meanings and concepts [4].

3. Coined words: These are entirely new words created to represent new ideas or concepts. For example:

- Cringe – something very uncomfortable or strange (That joke was so cringe!).
- Yeet – to throw something with force or express enthusiasm (He yeeted the ball across the field!).
- Sus – suspicious (That guy is acting sus).
- Flex –to brag or show off something cool (Nice car, big flex!).
- Drip – cool style or clothes (His outfit has serious drip).
- Shook – very surprised or shocked (I’m so shook right now!).
- Snack – a very attractive person (He’s looking like a snack!).
- Goblin mode – a state when you don't want to take care of yourself, but just idle around (I was in full goblin mode all weekend).

These words are constantly changing and updating, especially thanks to social media and memes [5].

4. Borrowings: Slang vocabulary is often borrowed from other languages, reflecting cultural exchange. Examples include “sushi” from Japanese and “fiesta” from Spanish. Such borrowed words often contain cultural nuances that can make direct translation difficult [7].

5. Compound words: These are words formed by combining two words.

For example:

- Hangry (hungry+angry) – someone who is hungry and upset
- Adorkable (adorable + dork) – cutely awkward, attractively awkward
- Bromance (bro + romance) – very close friendship between the boys
- Frankenfood (Frankenstein + food) – strange food
- Jerkface (jerk + face) – unpleasant person
- Techspeak (technology + speak) – a language full of technical terms
- Textpectation (text + expectation) – waiting for a reply to the message

- Unfriend (un + friend) – delete someone from friends in social networks
- Workaholic (work + alcoholic) – a person who works all the time
- Shopaholic (shop + alcoholic) – a person who is excessively fond of shopping

These words are a modern example of how slang compounds reflect a creative fusion of meanings. Such words are often formed by combining two words or adding prefixes/suffixes to create a new meaning [4].

Slang plays several important roles in communication. It allows people to express themselves more freely and creatively and often creates a sense of community. Moreover, because many slang terms originate from marginalized or non-mainstream groups, slang can also act as a form of resistance or subversion. For example, African American English (AAVE) has had a significant influence on modern slang, giving rise to terms such as “woke” and “lit” [1].

In addition, slang has the ability to evoke humor, irony, and surprise. It can turn an everyday situation into something more amusing and familiar, as seen in expressions such as “Netflix and chill” and “throw shade.” However, because slang is informal, its use is often limited to a specific context and audience. Using slang in a professional environment or in a formal setting, such as when writing academic papers, may be perceived as inappropriate [3].

Slang is constantly evolving, new words are born and old ones disappear. Social media accelerates this process, allowing slang terms to spread rapidly in the global community. For example, terms such as “yolo” (you only live once) and “bae” (before everyone else) became widely popular in the early 2010s [8]

The evolution of slang reflects social, technological, and cultural changes. For example, with the development of online gaming, terms such as “noob” (newbie) and “GG” (good game) have emerged, while social movements have created slang terms such as “cancel culture” and “genderfluid”.

Slang vocabulary is an integral part of the English language, providing flexibility and creativity in everyday communication.

While slang reinforces group identity and makes language more appealing, it also creates problems for non-native speakers and in formal contexts. Slang is dynamic and constantly evolving, reflecting the rapid pace of change in modern society. Understanding the different forms and functions of slang is essential to understanding its role in communication and its effective use in both informal and formal language settings [1].

#### REFERENCES

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