



AMERICAN SLANGS THAT ARE USED IN DAILY COMMUNICATION. THE BRITISH AND THE AMERICAN SLANGS THAT ARE USED IN THEIR DAILY COMMUNICATION.

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Abstract

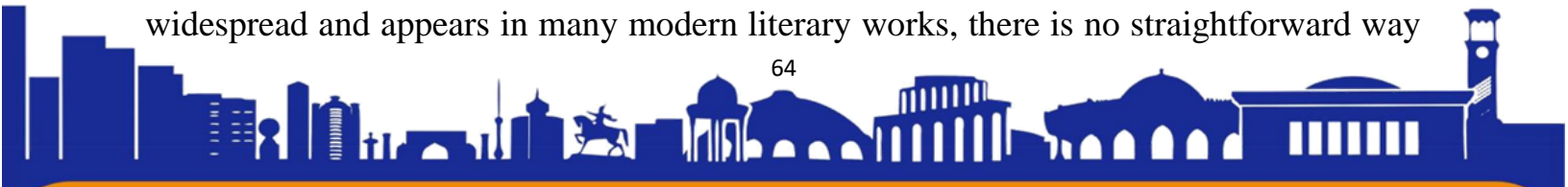
Slangs are one of the most key points of effective interaction in any language, particularly in the English language. Although the usage of slangs in communication is more complicated than we expected, learning its meaning is vital for us. Slangs often cannot be translated with their literal meaning as idioms, phrasal verbs, jargons. Because they are used by local people in a country as a dialect which creates some issues for non-native speakers. However, we cannot consider slang as a dialect, because there is difference between them. When it comes to the main topic, slang, it refers to the phrase or word that is used in highly informal colloquial speech by a specific area, such as in the UK or the USA. So, this article is written to provide you with the essential slangs, their types, their differences between jargon, dialect and idioms, however, this article provide the essential slangs that are used in the USA and the UK in daily interaction.

Key words

Slang, jargon, idioms, dialect, colloquial slang, internet slang, acronym slang, pop culture slang, American and British slangs.

Introduction

A language like English is constantly and considerably changing, both in spoken and written forms. When people use language in their communication, they reshape it day by day, introducing new meanings and expressions. The word “slang” represents the fluid nature of language, making it difficult to define clearly. Even though slang is now widespread and appears in many modern literary works, there is no straightforward way





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to identify it. According to Lighter and Dumas, people can recognize slang, but no one can provide a precise definition for it. No other word is as vague and challenging to define as “slang”. Today, slang remains a debated topic with ongoing discussions about its meaning, classification and role in language.

Most linguists and lexicographers admit that the origin of the word slang is “uncertain” or “unknown”. But, the first occurrence of the word slang is dated 1756 in the OED, Oxford English dictionary, according to which ultimate source is “not apparent”. Consequently, word “slang” appeared in English language earlier than in the languages of Scandinavian countries. Eric Partridge, in *Slang and Yesterday*, states that since the 1850s, the term “slang” has been recognized as an informal and nonstandard form of speech. John Ayto, in the introduction to the *Oxford Dictionary of Modern Slang*, explains that in the mid-18th century, “slang” originally referred to a specific type of vocabulary used by people of low social status or questionable reputation. In earlier times, it was known as thieves’ jargon or secret language.

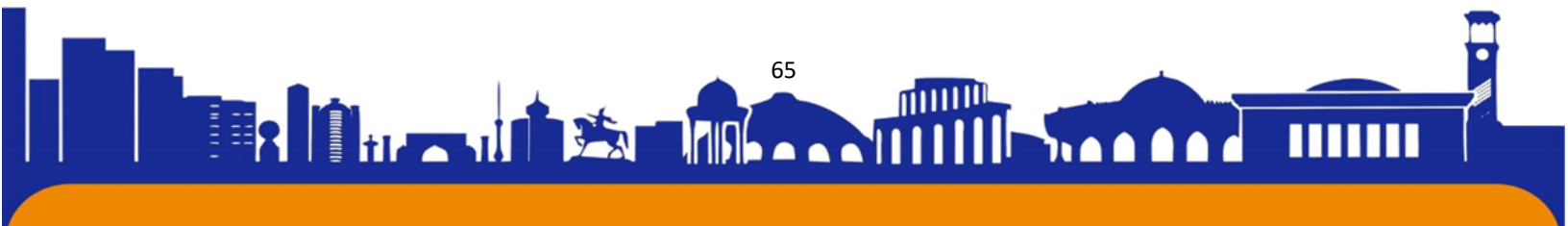
In modern times, slang is no longer linked to criminal activity. Instead, it develops from various cultural influences and technological advancements, leading to a wide range of slang forms, from street slang to African, American slang. Slang emerges within specific subcultures. The expressions used in slang often reflect the beliefs and values of a particular group, helping to create a sense of belonging. Slang can also indicate a speaker’s identity and background. Before a phrase is considered slang, it must be commonly used and accepted by members of the group.

To cut it short, slangs are the type of words or phrases that are sometimes utilized in everyday colloquial speech by a specific culture which makes the language difficult to understand for non-native speakers. The word slang emerged in the USA whereas its equivalent is jargon. The terms “slang” and “jargon” are sometimes treated as synonymous, but there is a difference between them. Jargon is a French word that represents the variety of

language belongs to a specific profession or activity. For example:

Habeas corpus- a legal principle ensuring a person’s right to appear in court. It is a jargon, due to relevance to legal career.

GOAT- greatest of all time, it is used more for football players in order to express they’re greatest, and there is no literal meaning as a type of animal, therefore it is called slang.





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Slang can sometimes be mistaken for dialectical words or even argots. While dialectical words are used over a wider geographical area, slang is more localized and spoken by fewer people. Specific types of slang exist, such as prison slang, military slang, and workplace slang which are understood only within their respective groups. Argots, on the other hand, are even more exclusive, often used by smaller groups like criminal gangs, making them less widely understood. Because of these differences, we can compare language use to a three-story pyramid: dialectical words form the base, slang occupies the middle, and argots are at the top, as they are used by the smallest number of people. For example:

Bloke – is means in Britain “man”, which is called slang

Shank – represents ,prison argot, a homemade knife

Y’ all – means, in southern U.S dialect as “you all”

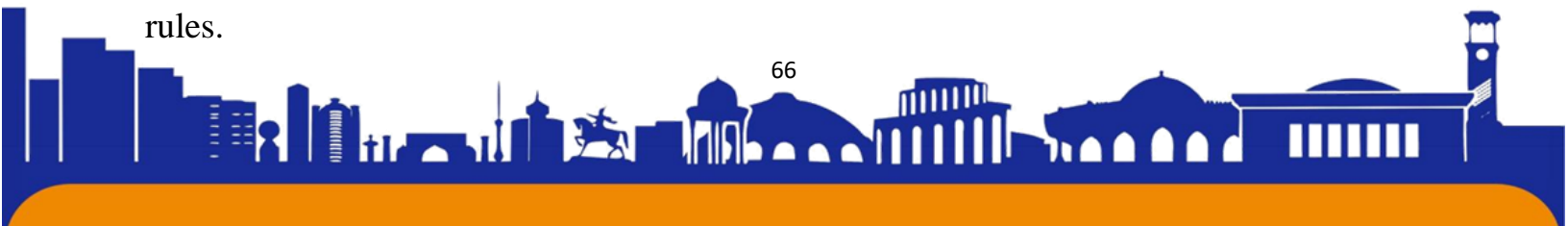
Slang terms with figurative meanings are common in everyday speech. These slangs are often mistaken for idioms because they share similarities. While slang words can sometimes be just a single word, idioms typically consist of at least two words and carry abstract meanings. The main distinction between them is that idioms are made up of words, phrases or expressions whose meanings are not literal. Unlike slang, idioms are widely recognized and understood by most people.

For example, “couch potato” is an idiom that is commonly known and used. It refers to a lazy person, particularly a boy, who spends the entire day watching TV. Owing to its widespread recognition, this phrase is not considered slang.

On the other hand, “throw shade” is an example of slang with an abstract meaning. It refers to insulting or showing contempt for someone, making it seem similar to an idiom at first glance. For instance,

“This isn’t the first time that the actress has thrown shade at her ex-husband”

At any rate, from a linguistic perspective, slang is seen as using common words in unusual ways or employing unusual words in ordinary contexts. This view highlights the innovative and fresh nature of slang. Jespersen (1922) describes slang as finding enjoyment in inventing and spreading new words while giving existing words new meanings. Similarly, Somig (1981) defines slang as a type of experimental language. Mattiello (2008) points out that slang differs from standard language in both its structure and meaning. In terms of morphology, it does not follow conventional word-formation rules.





Methods

Slang can be categorized based on different factors such as usage, region, and subcultures. These informal expressions often evolve quickly, influenced by culture, trends, and social interactions.

1. Based on Usage

a) Colloquial slang

Colloquial slang includes casual, everyday words and phrases used in informal speech. These terms make communication more relaxed and natural but are not considered appropriate in formal settings.

- *Gonna- going to
- *Wanna- want to
- *Y'all- you all
- *Dunno- don't know
- *Cuz- because

b) Internet slang

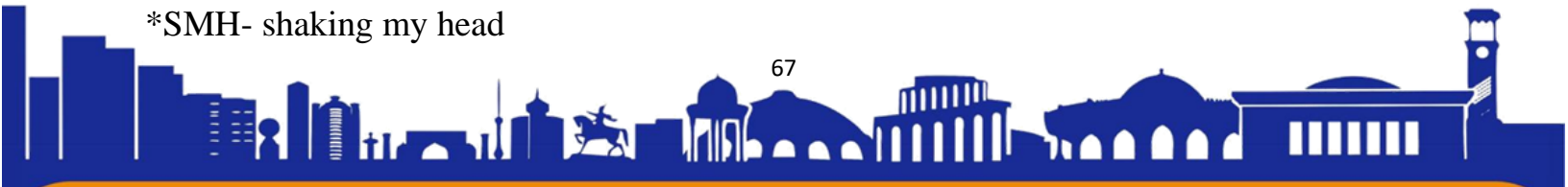
Internet slang consist of abbreviations, and unique expressions that emerge in digital communication, such as social media, messaging apps and online forums.

- *LOL- laugh out loud
- *BRB- be right back
- *TBH- to be honest
- *DM- direct message
- *FOMO- fear of missing out

c) Acronym slang

Acronyms are widely used in spoken and written language to simplify long phrases into shorter, more recognizable forms. Many of these derived from pop culture and social media.

- *GOAT- greatest of all time
- *YOLO- you only live once
- *IDK- I don't know
- *SMH- shaking my head





*TMI- too much information

d) Pop culture slang

this type of slang emerges from movies, TV shows, music, and viral trends. It often reflects popular expressions or references from entertainment.

*Lit-exciting, fun

*Vibe- atmosphere, feeling

*Stan- super fan(originated from Eminem's song "Stan")

*Binge-watch- watching multiple episodes of a show in one sitting.

*Throw shade- to insult someone subtly

2. Based on region

a) American slang

American slang is diverse and constantly evolving, influenced by pop culture, sports and everyday speech. They are widely used in casual American English, especially among younger generations.

*Dope- cool, awesome

*Bucks- dollars

*Ballin'- living extravagantly

*Hyped- excited

b) British slang

British slang is distinct and often different from American English expressions. It has a rich history and is commonly used in everyday conversations in the UK, and also found in movies, TV shows.

*Cheers- thanks

*Mate- friend

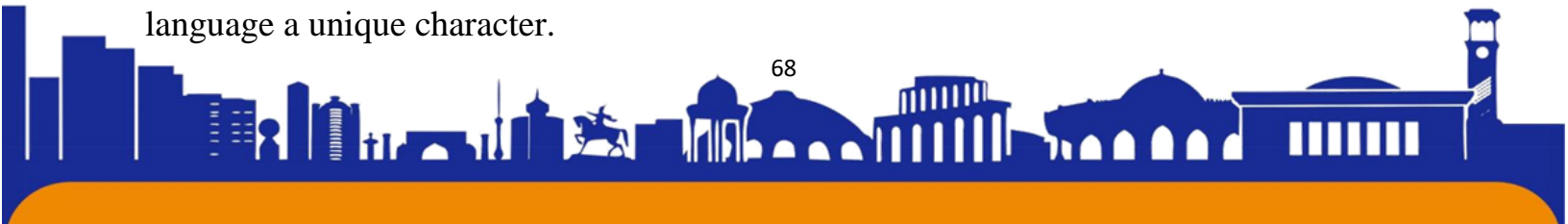
*Chuffed- very pleased

*Gobsmacked- shocked

*Bloke- man

c) Australian slang

Australian slang is known for its playful and abbreviated words. It often reflects the country's laid-back culture. They are frequently used in Australian English, giving the language a unique character.





- *Arvo- afternoon
- *Barbie- barbecue
- *Mozzie- mosquito
- *Straya- Australia
- *Fair dinkum- genuine, true

3. Based on subcultures

a) Gaming slang

Gamers use unique slang to communicate quickly during gameplay. Its usage is popular in online gaming communities like Fortnite, Call of duty, and League of legends

- *GG- good game
- *Noob- inexperienced player
- *Respawn- reappear after dying in a game
- *OP- overpowered
- *Lag- delay in game performance

c) hip-hop slang

Hip-hop culture has contributed significantly to slang, especially in urban communities. They are found in rap lyrics, urban communities and pop culture.

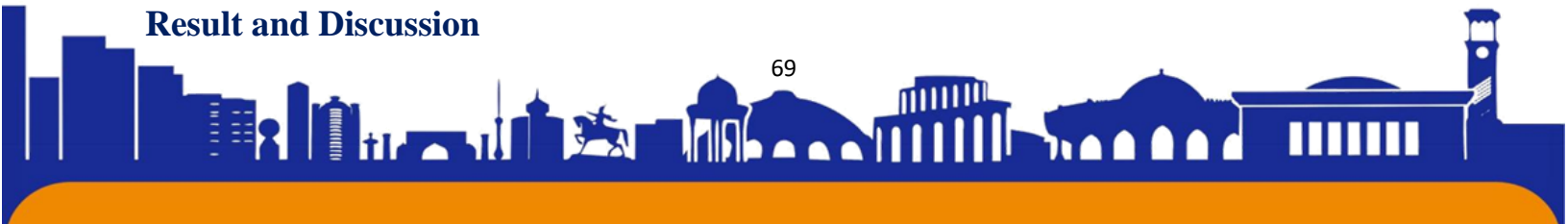
- *Flex- show off
- *Clout- influence, fame
- * Banger-a great song
- *Squad- group of friends

d) Sports slang

Sports slang is used by athletes, commentators, and fans to describe gameplay and performances. They are frequently used in sports commentary, fan discussions and everyday metaphors.

- *Hat trick- scoring three goals in one game
- *Slam dunk- an easy win
- *Clutch- performing well under pressure
- *Home run- a great success(from baseball)

Result and Discussion



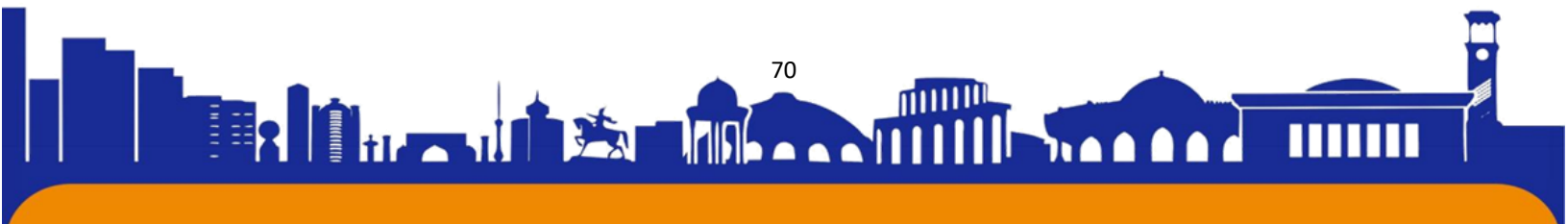


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According to slangs regions, they are divided into three groups: American slang, British slang, and Australian slang. Among them we will explore two types, American and British ones. Below the slang terms will be reviewed with sample sentences:

British Slang Words

SLANG	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
Bite your arm off	To eagerly accept an offer or opportunity, often because it is desirable	If you offer him well-paid job, he'll bite your arm off
Bob's your uncle	Everything is sorted It's as simple as that	Take a left, then a right, and Bob's your uncle- you're at the station
Butcher's hook	Have a look	Give us a butcher's at that newspaper.
Dishy	Physically attractive	New actor in the movie is so dishy.
Don't cry over spilt milk	There's no use being upset about smth, because it had already happened	I know you lost your wallet, but don't cry over spilt milk- let's focus on cancelling cards
Donkey's years	A long time	I haven't seen you for donkey's years
Full of beans	Someone is very energetic and vivacious	The kids were full of beans after eating all that candy

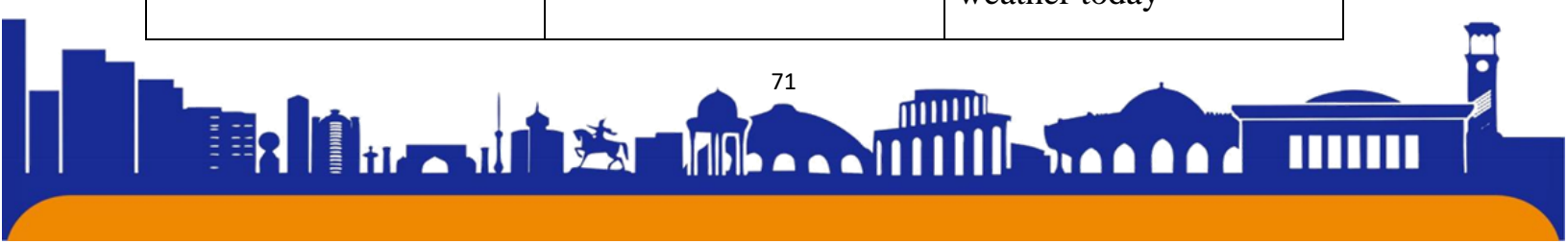




Gobby	Someone who talks a lot and has a lot of opinions and not necessarily in a good way	That guy at the pub was so gobby, arguing with everyone about football
I'm easy	You're flexible and don't mind	-What do you want to eat? -I'm easy, you choose
Earful	Someone who is being told off	They got an earful for being so loud last night

American Slang Words

Blown away	to be extremely surprised or shocked	I was blown away by the singer's performance
Break the ice	Make a beginning. Initiate a conversation	He told a funny joke to break the ice at the beginning of the meeting
Cool it	Calm down	Hey, cool it! There's no need to argue.
Hit the sack	To go to sleep	I'm exhausted, I think I'll hit the sack early
In a nutshell	Very brief or concise	He explained the movie plot in a nutshell.
Pull one's leg	To tease someone To joke with someone	Don't worry, I was just pulling your leg when I said I saw a ghost
Under the weather	Sick, not well	I'm feeling a bit under the weather today



On the house	Free, no cost	The waiter brought us an extra dessert on the house.
Pig out	To eat excessively	We pigged out pizza and ice cream last night

Conclusion

Slang is an ever-evolving aspect of language that adds color, personality, and cultural identity to communication. It reflects the creativity and adaptability of speakers, shaping how different social groups, regions, and generations express themselves. From everyday colloquial expressions to internet slang, acronyms, and pop culture influences, slang serves as a powerful tool for informal and relatable interactions.

Regional slang, such as British, American, or Australian variations, highlights cultural differences, while group-specific slang, like teen or workplace jargon, fosters a sense of belonging. Though slang can sometimes be informal or short-lived, it plays a crucial role in keeping language dynamic and engaging.

Understanding slang enhances language fluency, helping individuals connect more naturally in conversations. However, its usage should be context-appropriate to avoid misunderstandings. In conclusion, slang is more than just trendy words—it is a reflection of society, constantly evolving with time and technology, enriching everyday communication with creativity and authenticity.

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