

**WORD-FORMATION AS ONE OF THE MEANS TO WIDEN
SUBSTANDARD ENGLISH VOCABULARY**

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One of the main ways of creating the vocabulary of slang and social dialects is word-formation, which is fundamentally different from the standard word-formation. Observations show that slang and social dialects more freely use the common ways of word-formation, and also have a number of specific word-building elements.

The analysis of new slang dictionaries conducted by us shows that in the last decades word-formation takes the first place in the production of substandard lexical derivatives. Such derivatives make up 35.2% of the total number of English slangisms and jargonisms. This is due to the rapid growth of complex concepts in various areas of human life [2, p. 27]. Linguistics point out that such popularity of word-formation is connected with analytical way of English word-formation, approach to linguistic economy, and with the semantic capacity of the composites.

The semantic peculiarities of the formation of slengisms are in their idiomatic character, which is expressed in the metaphorical and metonymic motivation of the bases, which form a complex word. At the same time, semantic connections between

components of a complex word are not clearly expressed. What we call relations between the components of a complex word is essentially a reflection of the relations between objects of reality.

In semantic terms, slangisms are structurally motivated, which is expressed in the correlation of the meaning of the complex word with its constituent components. By level of motivation, all slangisms can be divided into structurally-motivated, re-interpreted and idiomatic.

The motivated ones include slangisms with a transparent semantic structure whose values are fully determined by the values of their constituent components. The semantic shifts that accompany the process of word-formation influence the weakening of motivation. Most complex slangisms are complex and in the semantic aspect, that is, they have a certain "semantic supplement" compared with the content of their components.

The semantics of slangisms, values of which are not directly derived from the values of their constituent components, is characterized by complete idiomatic character, which is achieved as a result of re-interpretation of the direct value of the derivative, that is, the sum of components of complex slangism. A general re-interpretation of complex slangism can be done through metaphorical or metonymical values of its components, for example: *ratbag* "чудна людина" (*rat* "нісенітниця" *bag* "мішок"), *silver-tail* "поважна персона" (*silver* "срібло", *tail* "хвіст") [8].

Expressiveness and stylistic reduction of low complex words is achieved, thus, not due to violation of structural norms, but due to the semantic complication of the process of word-formation by metaphorical and metonymic transfer of the meaning of stems. Slangisms, which denote the nicknames of people, the names of animals and objects, refer to expressive vocabulary and have a familiar or ironic character, for example: *hang-dog* "підла людина", *pickpocket* "зłodій-карманник", *stinkpot* "презирлива людина".

Analogy plays a significant role in the formation of complex slangisms, that is, a new unit is created not so much by a certain model, but by the model of a certain

word (words). In the process of analogous word-formation, there is also a peculiar modeling, reflection of the model of the pattern, and its morphological structure. The model of the pattern is only filled with new lexical material by replacing one of the components. Scientists believe that "the reliance on the analogy with the second component of a complex word is typical American feature of spontaneous word formation" [1, p. 104].

It was in the American "substandard" where complex words with a repeated second supporting component became widespread. For example, by analogy with the *bad-mouth nouns, fat-mouth, flannel-mouth, motor-mouth, smart-mouth syndromes* were created [5].

Derivatives with derivative morphemes occupy a special intermediate position in the system of language, forming word-formation series with features that bring them together with complex words, and with suffixal derivatives. Such derivative morphemes will be called "semi-affixes", and derivatives with them will be considered as a special type of expressive derivation, characteristic of the low vocabulary.

Semi-affixes with the first component **-man, -boy, -bug, -hound** form nouns that denote a male figure. Derivatives with **-man, -boy**, as a rule, have a shade of familiarity, whereas the derivatives with **-bug, -hound** have a generally contemptuous-ironic shade.

Semi-affix **-man** in low vocabulary is a peculiar indicator of masculine gender, whereas the first component defines the subject-logical significance of the derivative. For example: *axeman, binman, bagman, hit-man, muscle-man, needle-man* [4, p. 253].

Semi-affix **-boy** is close to **-man** semantically, but stylistically is more neutral. For example: *bum-boy, rent-boy, rod-boy, speed-boy*.

Alongside with the substantive stems **-boy** is added to the stems of the verb (*fly-boy*) and adjectives (*pretty-boy*). Compositions with **-boy** can also expand their semantic structure due to portable value options. For example: *cowboy* "зірвіголова, ватажок банди" - "великий сендвіч з різною начинкою", *homeboy* "друг,

приятель" - "член вуличної банди підлітків" [33, p. 125].

Semi-affix **-bug** gives the derivative words a meaning similar to slang "amateur, supporter, enthusiast." For example: *firebug* "підпалювач", *jitterbug* "панікер", *squanderbug* "марнотрат", *shutterbug*.

Semi-affix **-hound** is synonymic to -bug, that is, also gives the derivatives the meaning of "an amateur, fan or consumer of what is called the first component". For example: *rom-hound* "той, хто любить ром", *woof-hound* "прихильник джазової музики".

Formations with the reference component **-head, -pot, -box**, usually refer to a person or lifeless thing. Derivatives with -head, of course, have a pejorative shade, derivates with -pot acquire a shade of friendly familiarity [5, p. 224].

Semi-affix **-head** exists in slang as a "polyvalent second component" of the units like *banana-head, bone-head, cabbage-head*. Derivatives with -head have a subject-logical meaning, connected with the notion of "fools, idiots" and characterize a person in a negative way. For example: *airhead, bubblehead, dickhead*.

Semi-affix **-pot** gives a humorous-ironic assessment of a person, often has the shade of familiarity, a negative connotation. For example: *cozzpot* "поліцейський", *crackpot* "непрактична людина", *rumpot* "випивоха".

Semi-affix **-box** creates derivatives with the shades of familiarity to indicate "head" as a part of a body, sometimes to indicate the person. Main subject-logical meaning for low derivatives of this group is the meaning "head - brain". For example: *brain-box, dreambox, knowbox*.

Semi-affixes **-house, -shop, -joint** as the first component create derivatives to indicate low quality clubs or a place to eat cheap and quickly. Low derivatives with semi-affixes -house, -shop have contemptuous shade while derivatives with -joint more often have the shade of familiarity: *barrel-house, beer-joint, canhouse, cathouse, clip-joint, crib-joint, crib-house, joyhouse* [6, p. 1496].

The largest number of complex slang adjectives is formed with the second support component, **-happy, -crazy** and have the meaning "obsessed, enthusiastic about what is expressed by the first component." For example: *car-happy*

“зацікавлений автомобілями”, *gin-happy* “пристрасний до випивки”, *demo-happy* “полюбляючий мітинги, демонстрації”. Derivatives with –crazy are characteristic of youth jargons. For example: *movie-crazy* “зацікавлений кінематографом”, *speed-crazy* “такий, що любить швидку їзду”, *booze-crazy* “такий, що любить випити”. Emotions here can have both positive and negative character. Negative emotional connotation is more characteristic of “military jargons”. For example: *bomb-happy*, *flak-happy*, *island-happy*, *sand-happy*, *wire-happy*, *battle-happy* [7, p. 1252].

In conclusion, word-formation of sub-standard vocabulary has some structural and semantic features. Structural features are found in the arsenal of models that are realized when they are formed. Word-formation based on its structural and morphological characteristics is based on the norms of the literary "standard". However, the inventory of models that are implemented under sub-standard word-formation is limited compared to the general "standard".

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