

NEW ZEALAND COLLOQUIAL ENGLISH (BASED ON THE MATERIAL OF URBAN DICTIONARY ONLINE)

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Abstract:

The etymological analysis focuses on the historical and cultural factors that determine the spread and emergence of colloquialisms and slang in English-speaking countries and beyond. The theoretical aspects of studying spoken English are also addressed, considering socio-corporate and socio-professional differentiation of colloquial vocabulary, as well as the influence of age, subcultural interests, linguistic and extralinguistic factors, and the specifics of studying spoken language in online and print dictionaries.

Key words: colloquial words, lexicographical source, varieties of English, slang, lexis.

Currently, the analysis of various variants of the English language (including New Zealand English) is carried out in terms of such problems as:

- 1) disclosure of new approaches [Бушуй Т.А.2018] and methods in creating online pages of dictionary entries with additional information [Бушуй Т.2020; Бушуй Т.А.2010]
- 2) involving the audience and users of dictionaries in the compilation of dictionary entries [Бушуй Т.А.2015], when conducting corresponding questionnaires [Бушуй Т.А.]2021;
- 3) the problem of analyzing lexicographic sources of a new type with vocabulary [Бушуй Т.А.2014], compiled based on song lyrics, blogs, social networks [Бушуй Т.А.]2022;
- 4) the problem of studying the place of colloquial vocabulary in modern pop culture [Бушуй Т.А.2019; Bushuy T.2022.];
- 5) the problem of systematizing the orthographic features of colloquial units [Bushuy T.2023];
- 6) the problem of studying new trends in the word-formation features of colloquial units taking into account the overlap of several methods of word formation [Фалеева А.В.2023];
- 7) the problem of analyzing the influence of phonetic and phonological features of colloquial units in various variants of the English language [Faleeva A.V.2024];
- 8) the problem of identifying the lexical features of colloquial units (colloquial synonymy, antonymy, polysemy, homonymy, paronyms, neology, colloquial obsolete vocabulary, territorial variants [Фалеева А.В.2021]);
- 9) the problem of semantic features of colloquial units (the connection between etymological features and the formation of various meanings of slang, the hidden semantics of colloquial language as a way of forming a coded language [Фалеева А.В.2022]);
- 10) the problem of analyzing the morphological features of colloquial units [Vadimovna, Faleeva Anastasiya.2025];
- 11) the problem of studying new trends in syntactic features of the formation of colloquial units (small and large syntax, text fragments [Фалеева А.В.]201) and much more.

New Zealand English, or Kiwi English, is a unique variety of the English language, differing from other varieties not only phonetically but also lexically, including a rich and distinctive slang. This slang, reflecting the unique culture, history and geography of New Zealand, is a fascinating object of linguistic research. Its lexical and semantic features allow us to better understand the identity of New Zealanders and their mentality.

New Zealand slang was formed under the influence of many factors:

- 1) The language of the indigenous population, Maori, has had a significant impact on the vocabulary, bringing some words and expressions, as well as influencing the formation of new words through borrowing or calques.
- 2) A significant part of New Zealand slang is inherited from British English, although many words have acquired new meanings or are used in other contexts.
- 3) The geographical proximity to Australia has led to mutual linguistic influence, with some Australian slang words taking hold in New Zealand.
- 4) New Zealand slang has also developed independently, reflecting unique aspects of New Zealand life, such as the relationship with nature, the nature of work and play. When examining scientific research on the

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lexical and semantic characteristics of spoken English, we frequently encounter studies with specific thematic focuses. For instance, research may concentrate on colloquialisms related to family dynamics, environmental issues, military jargon, youth slang, and so on.

Kiwi-English slang has the following features in terms of lexical and semantic characteristics:

- a) A high proportion of idioms and set expressions that are understandable only to native speakers. Cp.: She'll be right – "everything is going to be fine" [Urban Dictionary Online]
- b) Slang is often imbued with humour and self-irony, with the help of which New Zealanders reflect their attitude to life and the world around them.
- c) A tendency to shorten words and use simpler language structures.
- d) Frequent use of diminutive suffixes (-ie, -y), which give words an informal and friendly connotation.
- e) Slang serves to emphasise emotions and create a bright and lively impact. English colloquialisms are known for their expressive power and natural, spontaneous feel, whether used in spoken or written form. Compression, a key characteristic of colloquial vocabulary, is a driving force behind the development of this distinct layer within the English language.

Examples of slang and their meanings: kiwi – the very designation of a New Zealander, jandal – flip-flops, sweet as – excellent, wonderful, chur – thank you, hello (multifunctional word), hard yakka – hard work, hoon – reckless driver, bach – summer house by the sea [Urban Dictionary Online].

In conclusion, the slang of New Zealand English exhibits distinct lexico-semantic characteristics that reflect their unique socio-cultural contexts. While sharing a common linguistic ancestry, these varieties have evolved unique slang terms and semantic shifts, demonstrating both convergent and divergent trends. Although some words overlap with Australian slang, New Zealand slang has a lot of its own identity and is not always understood by speakers of other varieties of English.

New Zealand slang, influenced by Māori language and culture, showcases a blend of indigenous and European influences. This results in unique vocabulary related to the natural environment, social interactions, and a generally understated, pragmatic attitude. Semantic shifts often incorporate themes of community, resilience, and a strong sense of national identity.

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