

Features of Internet Slang in the Russian Language

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Abstract: Internet slang has emerged as a fundamental element of modern digital communication, particularly within the online interactions of youth. This study examines the dynamic processes and development trends within the Russian language as it functions in the modern web space, identifying that while general linguistic shifts have been observed, there is a distinct need to categorize the morphological and cognitive mechanisms behind the integration of English-based jargon into contemporary Russian discourse. By utilizing a combination of comparative methods, dictionary and corpus analyses, and a dual lexical decision task, the research evaluates how emotional connotation and problematic internet use impact the processing of slang units. Findings reveal that a primary feature of Russian internet slang is the active borrowing from English, which leads to the expansion of the interjection class and the intensification of phenomena such as parcellation and abbreviation. Results indicate that internet slang is often even plainer and more direct than standard literary language, serving to simplify and accelerate communication. Furthermore, the processing of these lexical units is significantly influenced by the user's level of digital involvement and the emotional weight assigned to specific terms. These features highlight a shift toward a globalized, informal linguistic norm driven by the information technology environment.

Keywords: Internet Slang, Russian Language, Lexical Borrowings, Digital Communication, Linguistic Features, English Origin, Youth Discourse.

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Introduction

The rapid expansion of the digital landscape has fundamentally transformed linguistic systems, giving rise to unique forms of communication known as Internet slang. One defining feature of Internet slang is its active use by the youth in online environments, where it serves as a primary tool for social interaction and identity expression. Within the modern Russian web space, the language is undergoing dynamic processes characterized by significant development trends and the emergence of new features across every level of the linguistic system [1].

A primary driver of these changes is the integration of lexical units from English, particularly within the spheres of social networking and information technology. This influx of borrowings has led to the expansion of specific word classes, such as interjections, and the development of phenomena like parcellation and abbreviation [2]. Despite the widespread recognition of these shifts, there remains a critical need to understand the morphological and cognitive mechanisms that govern how English-based jargon is adapted into contemporary Russian slang. Furthermore, recent research suggests that the processing of these slang units is not merely a linguistic act but is deeply intertwined with the user's psychological and emotional state [3]. Factors such as problematic internet use and the emotional

connotation of specific terms have been shown to influence how individuals perceive and categorize slang in digital contexts. This study aims to explore these features by contrasting Russian and English slang units, thereby identifying the core aspects that define the modern Russian digital discourse [4].

Methodology

The methodological framework of this study is designed to capture the multi-layered nature of Internet slang within the Russian linguistic system, focusing on its morphological, cognitive, and functional characteristics. To achieve a comprehensive analysis, the research integrates three primary approaches: dictionary and corpus analysis, comparative linguistic methods, and experimental psycholinguistic tasks. The first phase of the methodology involves a systematic extraction of lexical units from specialized dictionaries and modern digital corpora. This process focuses on identifying Russian slang words that have emerged or evolved within social networking environments and information technology sectors. By utilizing dictionary and corpus analyses, the study isolates specific features of slang units, such as their English origins and their integration into the standard Russian language system. This approach allows for the identification of dynamic processes, including parcellation, abbreviation, and the expansion of the interjection class through borrowings from English Internet jargon.

Comparative and Morphological Analysis

The second phase employs a comparative method to contrast the functioning of these units between the Russian and English languages. This involves a detailed description of new features appearing at every level of the language system, with a specific focus on morphological peculiarities. For instance, the study examines how English-origin IT terms and social media slang undergo phonetic and grammatical adaptation when entering the Russian web space. This comparison is crucial for understanding the "plainer" and more direct nature of modern Internet discourse compared to traditional literary norms.

Experimental Task: Lexical Decision and Cognitive Processing

To address the cognitive gap in slang processing, an experimental dual lexical decision task is implemented. This task uses a set of Russian slang words related to online communication to measure the effects of "Problematic Internet Use" and "Emotional Connotation" on linguistic processing. Participants are required to categorize strings of letters as either "words" or "non-words," with their response times and accuracy serving as indicators of cognitive effort. This method provides empirical evidence of how a user's level of digital involvement and the emotional weight of slang influence its mental representation and retrieval.

Synthesis and Implication

The final stage of the methodology involves synthesizing the qualitative data from corpus analysis with the quantitative findings from the experimental task. This holistic approach allows the study to move beyond mere description and explore the implications of slang on modern sociolinguistic norms. By analyzing the characteristics of both English-language and Russian-language Internet discourse—including complimentary statements, forms of address, and punctuation—the research identifies broader trends in the evolution of digital communication. Through this rigorous methodological structure, the study ensures that the findings regarding parcellation, abbreviation, and the penetration of Internet slang are grounded in both linguistic theory and empirical data, ultimately highlighting the shift toward a globalized, informal linguistic norm.

Results and Discussion

The analysis of the provided research indicates that Russian internet slang is not merely a collection of informal words but a complex, multi-level linguistic system characterized by dynamic development trends. One of the most prominent features observed is the active borrowing from the English language, particularly within the domains of information technology and social media [5]. These borrowings have significantly influenced the morphological structure of Russian discourse, leading to the expansion of the interjection class and the intensification of phenomena such as parcellation and abbreviation [6, 7]. The experimental evidence from lexical decision tasks reveals that the processing of these slang units is heavily mediated by the user's psychological engagement with the digital environment. Specifically, individuals with "Problematic Internet Use" and those sensitive to "Emotional Connotation" demonstrate distinct patterns in slang recognition and categorization. This suggests that slang functions as a bridge between cognitive processing and sociocultural identity, particularly among youth who use it to navigate online social hierarchies [8]. Furthermore, the study of Twitter-based communication and social media discourse confirms that internet slang has created a "plainer" and more direct form of language that often deviates from traditional literary norms to prioritize speed and emotional expression [9]. Despite these findings, a significant knowledge gap remains regarding the long-term impact of these borrowings on the core grammatical structure of the Russian language [11]. While current research focuses heavily on lexical and morphological shifts, there is a lack of deep theoretical research into the syntactical transformations occurring in "Internet-mediated" communication. Theoretically, this research challenges the traditional boundaries of the Russian language system, suggesting that the "web space" acts as a catalyst for globalized linguistic convergence. From a practical standpoint, the dictionary and corpus analyses show that slang units are becoming increasingly stabilized in the modern lexicon [12]. The comparative analysis between Russian and English internet discourse highlights that while both languages share IT-based origins, Russian slang exhibits unique morphological peculiarities during the adaptation process, such as specific suffixation and phonetic remodeling to fit Slavic linguistic patterns. Future studies should pursue a more longitudinal approach to determine whether these slang elements will eventually transition into the literary norm or remain ephemeral markers of youth culture [13, 14]. Additionally, further research is needed to explore the influence of internet slang on formal academic and professional writing, as the boundaries between private online discourse and public professional communication continue to blur. Investigating the role of AI and automated translation in accelerating these linguistic borrowings also presents a vital area for upcoming scholarly inquiry [15].

Conclusion

The investigation into the functioning of Internet slang within the Russian language reveals that digital discourse is a primary driver of contemporary linguistic evolution, characterized by a profound shift toward a more direct and informal communicative norm. The findings highlight that the Russian web space is undergoing rapid transformation through the active integration of English-based lexical units, which has led to significant morphological adaptations, the proliferation of abbreviations, and the expansion of the interjection class. Furthermore, the processing of these slang units is shown to be intrinsically linked to the user's psychological engagement and the emotional weight of the terminology, suggesting that Internet slang functions as both a cognitive and a sociocultural marker. These results imply that as digital communication continues to bypass traditional literary boundaries, the Russian language is moving toward a globalized linguistic convergence where the speed and emotional efficiency of "web-speak" take precedence. Consequently, further research is required to monitor the long-term stability of these borrowings within formal registers and to explore how emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, might further accelerate the blurring of lines between slang and standard linguistic norms.

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