

## **Types of Proper Nouns as Slang in Russian Language**

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### **Introduction**

The language of slang is marked as a special language, which is used in an informal way. Slang words sometimes are called as vulgar and abuse, are categorised as non-standard language. We can find slang words as noun, verb, abbreviations and idioms. But as a definition, these are words, which denote a particular social group or generation, associated with common interests, conditions of society and subjects. Slang is sometimes considered as a synonym of the word *jargon*. Their meanings and definitions are quite similar to each other even though there are conflicts among some linguists over the definitions of these two words (slang and jargon). Some consider them (Jargon and Slang) equal or synonymic, based on their functioning in the concerned language. On the other hand, many linguists define them separately.

That's why for a researcher, it becomes necessary to analyse different definitions of slang and jargon in order to understand and identify them. The word "*slang*" is derived from English word as "*sling*" which means in Russian as "метать" или "швырять". The word "*slang*" at the beginning in English language was used in oral form and then in 18<sup>th</sup> century it was used in written forms as in popular literatures. Although everyone knows that slang is widely used, the Soviet regime and Official Soviet linguistics scholarship censored it and through censorship they made every effort to prevent the appearance of slang in literary works and in the pages of newspapers and magazines. The article "*What is slang?: A survey of opinion*" explains – *Slang is the changing vocabulary of conversation; it comes into sudden vogue, has a meaning, usually figurative, which is known by a particular set or class*<sup>1</sup> Slang is considered to be a synonym of its literary equivalent words.

Some popular definitions of slang and jargon by different linguists are as follows:

According to Russian philologist, **O. S. Akhmanova** *slang is «разговорный вариант профессиональной речи (colloquial version of professional speech)» or «элементы речи социальной группы, которые, проникая в литературный язык или вообще в речь людей, не имеющих прямого отношения к данной группе лиц, приобретают в этих*

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<sup>1</sup> Reves, Havilang Ferguson. What is slang?: A survey of opinion. American Speech. Publ. Duke university press. Vol. 1. no.4 (January, 1926). pp. 216-220.

разновидностях языка особую эмоционально-экспрессивную окраску (особую лингвистическую функцию)». <sup>2</sup> (elements of speech of a social group, which reach to literary language or generally in speech of people, who do not keep direct relation to a particular group of people and they acquire in these variations of a language, specially emotional-expressive version (special linguistic function))

According to, **В. А. Хомякова**: “Сленг – это относительно устойчивый для определенного периода, широко употребительный, стилистически маркированный (сниженный) лексический пласт (имена существительные, прилагательные и глаголы, обозначающие бытовые явления, предметы, процессы и признаки)”. <sup>3</sup> (Slang – this is relatively a stable thing for a particular period, widely used, stylistically marked (lower) lexical layer)

“Сленг – слова и выражения, употребляемые лицами определенных профессий или социальных прослоек”. <sup>4</sup> (Slang – are words and expressions, used by person of specific profession or social background).

“Сленг – это лексика, возникающая и употребляющаяся прежде всего в устной речи”. <sup>5</sup> (Slang – this is a kind of lexis, related and is used first of all in spoken speech)

“Многие слова и выражения сленга непонятны или малопонятны для основной массы населения (особенно в период их возникновения и перехода в более широкую сферу употребления)”. <sup>6</sup> (Many words and expressions of slang are non-comprehensive or less comprehensive for the specific group of a generation, (especially in the period of their origin)).

On the other hand, the word ‘*jargon*’ is believed to have been derived from old French language, which means, ‘*chattering*’ or ‘*twittering*’. Jargon is generalised as the social variation of a speech. Jargon uses a professional lexicology and phraseology of common language. “Жаргон (франц. *jargon*) – социальная разновидность речи, характеризующаяся профессиональной (нередко экспрессивно переосмысленной) лексикой и фразеологией общенародного языка”. <sup>7</sup>. (Jargon (French word) – a social variation of speech, characterize professional (always expressively reconsidered ) lexis and phraseology of a national language)

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<sup>2</sup> Ахманова, О. С. Словарь лингвистических терминов. М.: Советская энциклопедия, 1966.

<sup>33</sup> Хомяков В. А. Нестандартная лексика в структуре английского языка национального периода. Автореф. докт. Дис. ...канд. филол. наук. Л., 1980.

<sup>4</sup> Словарь-справочник лингвистических терминов. М.: Советская энциклопедия, 1980.

<sup>5</sup> Н.О. Орлова. Сленг VS жаргон: проблема дефиниции.

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<sup>6</sup> Орлова, Н. О. Сленг vs жаргон: проблема дефиниции. Ярославский педагогический вестник. 2004. № 3 (40).

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The word *jargon* appeared as a new term in comparison to the word slang. Jargon is basically used for the oral form and it is linked to the particular social group of the society. Jargon divides people according to their profession and interests. For example, sports jargon, social jargon, political jargon, economic jargon, professional jargon, computer jargon, internet jargon, technical jargon and so on. Thus, we can notice that both the words (slang and jargon) are quite similar in their definitions. They might be distinguished according to the time- period in which they are used to define a lower lexicology or non-standard language.

In any society, slang or jargons are widely used. Slang words are the informal way of communication and society accepts every new slang and finds it easier to communicate using slang. As It is mentioned that slangs have mainly figurative meanings or symbolic. Some figurative meanings could also be vulgar or humorous. Slangs with their figurative or symbolic meaning can be universal or with same meaning. Slang words are formed to replace a direct meaning in order to create humour or give a new meaning to that particular word. For example, in Russian language, the word «*Арнольд*» as slang is used in order give the meaning of a person who is physically strong, and this word can be used universally. The word “*Головёшка*” which means charcoal is used as a slang in jokes in order to address a black person or an African.

If we analyse Russian dictionaries for slang or jargon, we come across a number of slangs of different types. Every type or category of slang or jargon defines its peculiarity in the society. But, present research concentrates on the proper nouns used in Russian language as slang. Proper nouns can be as names of individuals, names of countries or nationality, names of popular buildings, names of a particular group, like rock group, pop-group, names of rivers, etc. But, in the Russian dictionaries of slang and jargon, proper nouns are characterised in different forms and in different word combinations as slangs or jargons. They are found as names of individuals, names of countries or nationality, names of common nouns in order to symbolize proper nouns related to that, names of animals or birds in order to symbolize an individual, and others. There are some examples of such proper nouns, which needs to be mentioned here for the analysis.

### **Names of Individuals:**

The names of famous personalities are used as slang in Russian language and these names have specific peculiarities according to their physical appearance, special identification or qualities. Some of the names from the dictionaries of slang and jargon are given below.

1. **Гитлер** -а, м., јос. 1. A large bottle of strong wine (lit. a Hitler). ◆ Маленьких бутылок не было, только гитлеров продают. “There were of any small bottles.” They were only selling ‘Hitlers’ 2. Strong drink ◆ Вот это гитлер, сразу пьянеешь! “That stuff is real ‘Hitler’ – you get drunk the minute you touch it”<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Shlyakhov, Vladimir and Adler, Eve. Dictionary of Russian Slang and Colloquial Expressions. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. 2006.

2. **Сусанин** – (army, joke. from Susanin, the hero of Musorgsky’s opera Иван Сусанин who led Polish invaders to their death in a Russian forest) – 1. a guide who doesn’t know the way or whom others suspect of not knowing the way. 2. an air force navigator.<sup>9</sup>
3. **Пушкин**, -а, м., joc. Someone or other; I don’t know who. ♦ И кто испортил ковёр? – Пушкин. “Who made this stain on the carpet? – Pushkin”<sup>10</sup>
4. **Самурай**, -я, м., A Japanese (lit. samurai) ♦ Этот самурай Москвы совсем не знает.
5. **Арнольд** –а, м. *Культурист; сильный мускулистый человек. 25. // шутл. –ирон. Юноша мужчина, занимающийся культуризмом в ущерб интеллекту.*<sup>11</sup>

### Names of Rock Groups

1. **Бон** –а, м. ♦ **Бон жёванный**, шутл. *рок-группа «Bon Jovi»*
2. **Баба** –ы, ж., шутл. *Поп-группа «Абба».*

### Names of Countries or Nationality

1. **Евреин** - а, м., шутл/joke. A Jew (formed from еврей with the nationality-formative-ин). ♦ *Зачем мы взял ещё одного еврейна на работу, у нас и мак их полно.*<sup>12</sup>
2. **Джапан** - а, м., youth. A Japanese person.<sup>13</sup>
3. **Катманду**, нескл., м., ж. или ср. Ирон-бран. Полное...! Иди ты в..! От назв. города в Непале; аллюзия к манда.”<sup>14</sup>
4. **Индус**, -а, м., crim. A prisoner receiving punishment for bad behaviour (lit. an (East) Indian). ♦ Будешь мак себя вести, попадёшь в индусы. “If you act like that, you’ll be put in a punishment cell.”<sup>15</sup>
5. **Джорж** - а, м., шутл. youth, A Georgian (from Eng. “Georgian”). *Ты знаком с тем джоржем?*<sup>16</sup>
6. **Юс**, -а, т. & f., *youtj An American (from U.S.)* ♦ *У нас преподавательница – юс.*<sup>17</sup>
7. **Кацап**, -а, м., rude. A Russian (from the point of view of non-Russians, esp. Ukrainians; with special reference to Russian pronunciation). ♦ На Украину сейчас кацапы почти не ездят. “These days there are hardly any Russkies going to Ukraine” • Шёл хохол, насрал на пол, шёл кацап, зубами – цап! A hostile rhyming phrase used by non-

<sup>9</sup> Shlyakhov, Vladimir and Adler, Eve. Dictionary of Russian Slang and Colloquial Expressions. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. 2006.

<sup>10</sup> ibid

<sup>11</sup> В. С. Елистратов, Толковый словарь русского сленга, Москва АСТ- ПРЕСС. 2007.

<sup>12</sup> Shlyakhov, Vladimir and Adler, Eve. Dictionary of Russian Slang and Colloquial Expressions. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. 2006.

<sup>13</sup> В. С. Елистратов, Толковый словарь русского сленга, Москва АСТ- ПРЕСС. 2007.

<sup>14</sup> ibid

<sup>15</sup> Shlyakhov, Vladimir and Adler, Eve. Dictionary of Russian Slang and Colloquial Expressions. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. 2006.

<sup>16</sup> ibid

<sup>17</sup> ibid

Russians; lit. “A Cossack went and crapped on the floor, along came a Russky and slurped it up”<sup>18</sup>

### Names of the River

1. **Байкал** –а, м. угол., мол. *Слабо заваренный чай*. Тихоныч, не много заварки сыпь, байкал сделай.<sup>19</sup>

### Common Nouns with Their Symbolic Meaning for Individuals

1. **Урюк** – (lit. a dried apricot) – a person from the eastern republic of the former Soviet Union. а Kazakh, Tadjik, Uzbek.<sup>20</sup>
2. **Головёшка**, (lit. charcoal) -и, f., youth, joc. a black person, African.<sup>21</sup>
3. **Гуталин** -а, м., joc. A black person (lit. black shoe polish) ♦Здесь живёт мой знакомый гуталин.<sup>22</sup>

### Names of Buildings

4. **Пентагон**, -а, м. The Russian Defence ministry (lit. Pentagon). ♦ Ты знаешь, где в Москве Пентагон? <sup>23</sup>
5. **Байбл**, неизм., м. и ж. ♦Библиотека.<sup>24</sup>

### Names of Animals with Their Symbolic Meaning for Individuals

1. **Зверь** (lit. a wild animal) –я, м., A person from the Caucasus. ♦ Ты этого зверя знаешь.<sup>25</sup>
2. **Урюк** – (lit. a dried apricot) – a person from the eastern republic of the former Soviet Union. а Kazakh, Tadjik, Uzbek.
3. **Индюк**, (lit. a turkey) -ка, м., neg. An (east) Indian. ♦Индюки нам больше чай не поставляют.<sup>26</sup>
4. **Гиббон** –а, neg. A strong hairy man (lit. a gibbon ape). ♦ Я таких гиббонов не люблю.<sup>27</sup>
5. **Таракан** –а, m. 1. A nickname for Stalin (lit. cockroach) ♦ Таракан народа погубил – жутко! 2. m., neg. A mustached man (e.g. Stalin; lit. a cockroach ) ♦ Ты знаешь этого таракана?<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Shlyakhov, Vladimir and Adler, Eve. Dictionary of Russian Slang and Colloquial Expressions. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. 2006.

<sup>19</sup> Мокиенко, В.М., Никитина, Т. Г. Большой словарь русского жаргона. Санкт-Петербург. 2000. стр. 45.

<sup>20</sup> ibid

<sup>21</sup> ibid

<sup>22</sup> ibid

<sup>23</sup> ibid

<sup>24</sup> ibid

<sup>25</sup> ibid

<sup>26</sup> ibid

<sup>27</sup> ibid

<sup>28</sup> Shlyakhov, Vladimir and Adler, Eve. Dictionary of Russian Slang and Colloquial Expressions. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

## Abbreviations

1. **ГКЧП** abbr., joc. Properly, the state Emergency Committee (Государственный комитет чрезвычайного положения) formed in 1991 to remove Gorbachev from power. Jokingly deciphered as Государственный комитет чрезвычайных придурков.

## Conclusion

Proper nouns are in large number in Russian language. They are found in different types. But we have noticed that proper nouns as slang are found maximum in the form of names of individuals. Proper nouns in slang for individuals can be compared to animals or insects, food, material, etc. For example, the word ‘**Таракан**’ which means cockroach has been used symbolically to refer to Stalin. They can also be used directly as words like, ‘**Юс**’, ‘**Джапан**’ and ‘**Джорж**’. Apart from proper nouns of individuals, there are others, which carry same importance and usage in Russian language.

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