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The notion of Internet slang and its impact on the modern colloquial English language

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Language is an evolving thing. And nowadays we should take into consideration the fact that the language of social media is having an effect on how we use English in our daily life and the way we communicate.

It's difficult to give a standardized definition of Internet slang due to its changeable nature. Internet slang refers to a variety of slang words and phrases used by different people on the Internet. Social media has a profound effect on our language. The words that surround us every day clearly influence our vocabulary.

The aim of this research is to focus on popular words and phrases, which are widely used on the Internet today, and find out where they have come from.

1. **Savage** is used to describe someone who doesn't care about the consequences of their actions and what other people think [1].

e.g. "Did you see J. Lo text Leo DiCaprio live on TV, and then read his answer? Savage".

Savage has meant "brutal" or "aggressive" since the 1500s. Since at least the 1990s, *savage* has also been slang for "excellent" (à la *fierce* or *wicked*). Since the mid-2010s it's been used in its modern meaning.

2. **Lowkey & highkey**. Lowkey is typically used to describe speaker's desires or emotions. It can mean something that is secretly wanted or felt by the speaker. The opposite of lowkey is highkey [1].

e.g. "I highkey want to eat healthy, but lowkey want to eat an entire cake".

First of all, "low-key" is used in photography, where it means "dark, with no light". The other theory is that it arises from the world of music where lower keys sound more restrained. While old low-key is an adjective, new lowkey is an adverb. It shows up in Urban Dictionary from 2009. Adverb lowkey is really common online. However, it still hasn't been documented outside Urban Dictionary and a few sites.

3. **"It's lit"**. According to Urban Dictionary, it means something that's amazing in any sense [1].

e.g. – Did you go to that party last night?

– Yes, that was lit.

The phrase is based on the past tense of the verb “light”. Lit’ as a slang term has been part of English since 1910s [2]. It first meant intoxicated, perhaps because one’s appearance or behavior was perceived as lit when they were under influence.

4. **To be salty** – when you are upset over something little [1].

e.g. “She was salty because she lost the game”.

According to Merriam Webster, by the late 1800s, “salty” referred to various aspects of naval life and culture [3]. Since sailors had a reputation for colorful language, “salty” soon came to refer to crude speech – and, later, to explosive anger. According to the Online Etymology Dictionary, the slang sense of ‘salty’ meaning ‘angry’ or ‘irritated’ was first used in 1938 [2]. The author describes it as having originated in Philadelphia, where it was defined as “looking stupid because of something you did”.

5. **To slay** – to succeed in something; to be on point; to dominate [1].

e.g. – She looks awesome today!

– Yeah, she does. Slay, girl!

Slay is an old word with Germanic roots that’s found in early Old English, but it was generally reserved for killing mythical beasts. *To Slay someone* in the Roaring Twenties meant “to make someone laugh very hard”, commonly expressed as *You slay me!* There’s some evidence that *slay* emerged as slang for “looking attractively fashionable” in the 1800s [2]. But in black, Latin culture in the 1970–80s, *slaying* definitely came to refer to when an outfit, hair, makeup, dance moves, and attitude were all flawless. *Slay* spread in the worlds of gay culture, fashion, and the drag scene. It was heavily featured in 1991 in the influential New York drag documentary *Paris Is Burning*. In 2016 Beyoncé made it popular by featuring it in her song and encouraging ladies to get in formation and Slay.

To sum up, this research has shown that the impact of social media on our speech is undeniable. From the introduction of new words to new meanings for old words, to changes in the way we communicate, social media is making its presence felt. New words are constantly being added. We do see English changing, which is what language does over time. It always has, and it always will. And in order for us to be successful English language learners we should not neglect this aspect and should do our utmost to keep up with the linguistic trends.

Литература

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