

MODERN SLANG AND POLITICIANS

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Summary. This article deals with modern slang which is a matter of topical interest. Some peculiarities of political slang usage are mentioned. It makes our language more colorful.

Key words: slang, political slang, unconventional language

Slang isn't used by the majority of native speakers, and many people consider it vulgar, though quite a few slang phrases have already come into standard usage. It goes without saying, some new concepts and new words are necessary to convey new understandings [3, c. 53]. Slang is very informal use of words and phrases for more colorful or peculiar style of expression that is shared by the people in the same social subgroup, for example, musicians' slang, students' slang. Here are some examples:

- 1) *«a cool cat» means that a man is very nice and interesting;*
- 2) *«a dummy» is someone who is a bit slow;*
- 3) *«Scriptures» means the Bible;*
- 4) *«awasher» is a washing machine; [1, c.185].*

Slang is designed to make speech more casual and playful. Generally, it diffuses through a group of people, and it may spread out across an entire region. Those who are not in that group may pick up the slang as well, causing the spread of usage. But sometimes the slang may remain isolated. College students, for instance, often develop complex slang terms. As these students leave, they carry these terms to other young people, often making the speech of the younger generation incomprehensible to those outside of it. Frank K. Sechrist wrote penetratingly of the psychology of slang in his *Psychology of Unconventional Language* (1913). According to this work «the emotional tension produced by slang is greater than that of more customary and conventional language, and the mind in time seeks a relief from it» [4, c. 16].

Nowadays politicians use slang as well. It helps them to convey the precise sense of what they want to say. They use such slang phrases:

- 1) *«rooster» is a clamorous and noisy member of parliament;*
- 2) *«the tiger» is a party leader;*
- 3) *«squash ballads» means patriotic songs and poems;*
- 4) *«khaki election» is the election during wars [1, c. 184];*
- 5) *If you talk about a decision being made in a «smoke-filled room», you mean that it is made by a small group of people in a private meeting, rather than in a more democratic or open way.*
- 6) *«The court! Only the court! We are going not to the reshhalovo (ABC hall), but to the court!». «Reshalovo» (ABC hall) means the place where a person may resolve any problem in his/her favor usually paying for that [2, c. 1].*

Generally, slang is not peculiar to deputies, party members etc. because they are official persons. In cases they use slang people make sure that they are identical with authority. On the other hand, politicians use slang words to avoid filthy language.

To fully understand political slang, one should remember that a word's use can change. All segments of society use words informally. Words can change in social level, moving in any direction. Language is dynamic, and at any given time perhaps thousands of words are in the process of changing.

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