

PSYCHOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF WORDS IN ADOLESCENT SPEECH

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Annotation

this article analyzes the psycholinguistic aspects of lexical units found in adolescent speech. The psychological characteristics of adolescence, processes related to language development, and changes in speech activity are covered on a scientific and theoretical basis. Also, slang, jargon, abbreviations, and emotional-expressive units widely used in adolescent speech are analyzed through examples. The results of the study show that adolescent speech is an important tool for expressing their adaptation to the social environment, personal identification, and psychological state.

Keywords

adolescent speech, psycholinguistics, language and thinking, slang, jargon, speech activity, lexical units, sociolinguistics, communication

Psycholinguistics is a branch of science that studies the relationship between language and thinking, which studies the processes of formation, reception and processing of human speech. The development of speech in adolescence is especially noteworthy, since this period is an important stage in the formation of the human personality.

Adolescent speech has its own characteristics, in which new lexical units, abbreviations, slang and jargon are widely used. This plays an important role in expressing their psychological state, adaptation to the social environment and identity. The purpose of this article is to conduct a psycholinguistic analysis of words found in adolescent speech, to determine the reasons for their emergence and functions.

1. Theoretical foundations of psycholinguistics. Psycholinguistics emerged in the mid-20th century and studies the relationship between language and the psyche. The processes of language acquisition, production, and comprehension play an important role in this field.

1.1 The relationship between language and thinking. The relationship between language and thinking is one of the central problems of psycholinguistics. Different scientists have put forward different approaches to this issue.

Vygotsky's theory. According to Lev Vygotsky, language is the main tool for forming thinking. According to him, a child first learns social speech, then inner speech is formed, and thinking becomes a product of inner speech. This theory is very important in explaining the speech of adolescents, because during adolescence, inner speech intensifies and thought quickly passes into verbal form.

Chomsky's approach. Noam Chomsky sees language as an innate ability. According to his theory of "universal grammar", the human brain has an innate mechanism for learning language, which



is activated by the environment. Everyone can quickly master language even with limited information. The rapid changes in the speech of adolescents and the rapid adoption of new words are associated with this mechanism.

Language and cognitive development. During adolescence, logical and abstract thinking develops. This is reflected in speech as follows: the transition from simple sentences to complex ones, the increase in evaluative words, the use of metaphors and irony. For example:

Child: "This is good"

Adolescent: "This gives me a vibe, but not everything is ideal".

Adolescents carry out these stages more quickly and flexibly, especially in informal speech.

1.2 Processes of speech activity. Speech activity is one of the most complex mental processes of a person, which takes place in several stages. From the point of view of psycholinguistics, the speech process consists of the following main components:

Motivational stage. At this stage, a person has a need to speak. In adolescent speech, this is often associated with an emotional need, the desire for social communication, and the need to express one's opinion. For example:

"I can't help but say this".

"Everyone should know"

2. Psychological characteristics of adolescence. Adolescence (12–18 years old) is a psychologically complex period, characterized by the processes of a person's self-awareness and striving for independence.

2.1 Identification and self-expression. Adolescents form their own speech style to distinguish themselves from others. For example:

"This is so hard" → positive assessment

"Cool" → assessment word that came from Russian

"Top" → came from English

Through these words, a teenager shows his modernity.

2.2 Emotional state and speech. Adolescent speech is often emotional:

"Wow, horror!"

"It went well!"

"I died laughing!"

These units express a psychological state.

3. Lexical characteristics of adolescent speech: slang and jargon. Slang is a set of informal words specific to a particular social group. Examples:



“No problem” – very good

“Chill” – to relax

“Hype” – to become famous

Jargon is professional or group speech:

“Admin” – administrator

“Ban” – to block

3.2 Abbreviations and acronyms. Under the influence of the Internet and social networks, abbreviations are widespread:

“OMG” – wonder

“BTW” – by the way

“IDK” – I don’t know

Uzbek variants:

“Hop” (ok)

“Blm” (I don’t know)

3.3 Mixed language (code-switching). Teenagers often speak several languages in a mix:

“There is a meeting today”

“Did you do your homework?”

This phenomenon is associated with globalization.

4. Psycholinguistic analysis. Motivation for word choice. Teenagers pay attention to the following when choosing words:

Modernity, brevity, emotionality

For example: Instead of “good” → “top”, “super”, “bomb”

4.2 Cognitive processes. Teenagers’ speech reflects rapid thinking. They often prefer short and concise expressions. For example:

Instead of “I got it” → “done”

Instead of “I understand” → “ok”

4.3 Social influence. Teenagers’ speech is shaped by friends, the internet and the media.

For example: New words spread quickly through TikTok or Telegram:

“Trend”, “Vibe”, “Cringe”.

5. Analysis based on examples. Let's consider the following dialogue:



A: Did you go to the movies yesterday?

B: Yes, it was really hard, the actors were great!

A: Which movie?

B: It's still trending, you can't miss it.

Analysis: "hard", "great" → emotional assessment

"trend" → English mastery

speech is short and fast

6. The social significance of adolescent speech. Adolescent speech forms personal identity, shows group affiliation, facilitates communication. However, excessive use of slang can negatively affect literary language, causes problems in formal speech

In conclusion, adolescent speech is a psycholinguistically complex and dynamic system. It reflects the development of language, social influences and psychological factors. Slang, jargon and abbreviations serve as a means of self-expression for adolescents. At the same time, the study of adolescent speech is of great importance for linguistics, psychology and pedagogy. Through this, it is possible to obtain important information about the thinking style and communicative behavior of the younger generation.

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