



LEXICAL CREATIVITY AND WORD FORMATION IN UZBEK AND AMERICAN SLANG

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ABSTRACT

This article explores lexical creativity and word formation processes in Uzbek and American slang. It analyzes how social, cultural, and technological factors influence the creation of new slang expressions in both linguistic communities. Using a comparative approach, the study identifies similarities and differences in morphological processes such as borrowing, blending, clipping, and semantic shift. The findings demonstrate that while both Uzbek and American slang rely heavily on innovation and identity expression, the mechanisms and sources of lexical creativity differ due to historical and sociolinguistic contexts.

Keywords: Slangs, communication, semantic shift, social slangs, youth communication, social media, technological platforms.

INTRODUCTION

Language is a dynamic system that constantly evolves to reflect social change. One of the most vivid manifestations of this evolution is slang, which plays a crucial role in informal communication, especially among youth. Slang is characterized by its creativity, expressiveness, and rapid change.

In both Uzbek and American contexts, slang serves as a tool for identity construction and group belonging. However, the processes through which slang words are formed differ due to linguistic structure and cultural influences. This study aims to examine lexical creativity and word formation in Uzbek and American slang, highlighting key patterns and differences.

METHODS

This research employed a qualitative comparative approach aimed at analyzing lexical creativity and word formation processes in Uzbek and American slang. The data were collected from multiple authentic sources, including social media platforms such as Telegram, Instagram, and TikTok, online slang dictionaries, and samples of informal spoken language. The collected data were carefully selected to ensure relevance to contemporary slang usage in both linguistic communities.

The analysis focused on identifying and categorizing key word formation processes, including borrowing, blending, clipping, acronyms and abbreviations, and semantic shift. Each example from Uzbek and American slang was examined in its contextual usage and then systematically compared to determine similarities and differences in lexical creativity. This approach allowed for a detailed understanding of

how social, cultural, and technological factors influence slang formation in both languages.

RESULTS

The analysis revealed that borrowing is one of the most dominant processes in both Uzbek and American slang. In Uzbek slang, a significant number of borrowed words originate from Russian and English, such as *"prikol"*, which refers to a funny situation, and *"like bosmoq"*, meaning to like a post on social media. In American slang, borrowing is also common, with influences primarily from Spanish and African American Vernacular English, as seen in expressions like *"amigo"* and *"hasta la vista"*.

The study also found that blending is widely used in American slang, where new words are created by combining parts of existing words, such as *"brunch"* (breakfast + lunch) and *"hangry"* (hungry + angry). In contrast, Uzbek slang shows fewer blending examples; however, due to globalization, emerging forms such as *"instablogger"* (Instagram + blogger) indicate a growing trend.

Clipping is another productive process in both languages. In American slang, words like *"bro"* (brother) and *"info"* (information) are commonly used, while in Uzbek slang, examples include *"univer"* (university) and *"tel"* (telephone), which are widely recognized in informal communication.

Acronyms and abbreviations are particularly prevalent in American slang, where forms such as *"LOL"* (laugh out loud) and *"OMG"* (oh my God) are frequently used. In Uzbek online communication, similar forms like *"OK"* and *"BTW"* are increasingly adopted, especially among younger users in digital environments.

Finally, semantic shift plays an important role in both linguistic contexts. In American slang, the word *"cool"* has developed the meaning of "good" or "excellent," while in Uzbek slang, the expression *"gap yo'q"* is used to convey approval or excellence. These findings demonstrate that although both slang systems rely on creativity and innovation, the sources and mechanisms of lexical development differ due to distinct cultural and sociolinguistic environments.

DISCUSSION

The findings reveal that lexical creativity in both Uzbek and American slang reflects cultural identity and technological influence. American slang demonstrates a higher degree of morphological innovation, particularly in blending and acronym formation. This is largely due to the global dominance of English and its role in digital communication. Uzbek slang, on the other hand, shows strong influence from borrowing, especially from Russian and English. This reflects Uzbekistan's historical and socio-political background. However, with the rise of social media, Uzbek youth are increasingly adopting global slang formation patterns. Another important difference is structural: English allows more flexible word formation, while Uzbek tends to adapt borrowed forms rather than create entirely new structures.

CONCLUSION

Lexical creativity in slang is a universal linguistic phenomenon driven by social interaction and cultural change. Both Uzbek and American slang utilize similar word formation processes, but their frequency and nature differ. American slang is more innovative in form, while Uzbek slang relies more on borrowing and adaptation. The

increasing influence of globalization suggests that these differences may gradually diminish, leading to more hybrid forms of slang in the future.

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