

SPECIAL COLLOQUIAL VOCABULARY AND ITS USAGE IN
“A CLOCKWORK ORANGE” BY ANTHONY BURGESS

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Annotation: The following article reveals several colloquial limited words in English language and their functions through literary work “A Clockwork Orange” written by Anthony Burgess and its aid to create expressiveness and uniqueness of a main character of the novel.

Key words: slang, vulgarism, colloquial, neutral, stylistic devices.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqola bir nechta funktsional chegaralangan so‘zlarning ingliz tilida qo‘llanilishi va ularning xususiyatlarini Anthony Burgessning “A Clockwork Orange” asari misolida ochib beradi. Qolaversa funktsional chegaralangan so‘zlarning asardagi bo‘yoqdorlik va takrorlanmas obraz yaratishdagi ko‘magi ta’kidlanadi.

Kalit so‘zlar: jargon, vulgarizm, so‘zlashuv, neytral, stilistik vositalar.

Аннотация: В данной статье раскрывается несколько видов разговорно-ограниченных слов в английском языке и их функции через изучения литературного произведения Энтони Берджесса «Заводной апельсин» с помощью которого можно создать выразительность и уникальность в речи главного персонажа романа.

Ключевые слова: сленг, вульгаризм, разговорный, нейтральный, стилистические приемы.

In stylistic it is essential to stress several vocabulary layers, such as neutral words, poetic words and special colloquial words which consist the main word stock of the language. They are interconnected and interplay yet interdependent. The literary and the colloquial layer contain a number of subgroups, all of which have a certain property, characteristic of the layer called an aspect¹.

Neutral words that applied in every day consumption both formal and informal way have polysemantic meaning and comprise main proportion in English vocabulary. In addition to this, neutral words can be used in any style of speech without causing a special stylistic affect applying both written and colloquial speech. Unlike all other group of words, the neutral words have no special stylistic colouring². For example:

Colloquial words	Neutral words	Literary words
kid	child	infant
daddy	father	parent
chap	fellow	associate

From these examples, one can notice some synonymic connection among these words but they have slight difference and cannot be easily replaced from one another.

¹ Fayzulloyevna, N. M. (2022). THE STYLISTIC CLASSIFICATION OF VOCABULARY. *American Journal Of Social Sciences And Humanity Research*, 2(12), 28-34.

² Galperin I.R. *Stylistics*. – Moscow. Higher School. – 1997. p. 70-119.

Poetic words which have colourful meaning can be applied in poetry and they are considered as monosemantic. They are insignificant in number and mostly archaic words which rarely used to produce an elevated effect of speech. The main function of poetic words is to create poetic atmosphere as a means of time and space in literary period³. For example: Billow (wave), swain (lover), yeomon (peasant); lovesome (lovely), direful (terrible); list (listen), throw (believe); oft (often). Some poetic words often build by compounding. For example: young-eyed, rosy-fingered.

Special colloquial words are word groups that can be used only limited area, social groups, professions and they are classified as following: slangs, jargonism, dialectical words, vulgar words.

Slang is a language peculiar to particular group as a special and often secret vocabulary used by a class (thieves, beggars) and usually felt to be vulgar or inferior. The term slang is so broad that it includes many versions: cockney, public-house, commercial, military, parliamentary, journalistic and so on. For example: dame (teacher), ball up (make a mess), dust (drug), culture-vulture (sightseeing).

The other type of special colloquial word considered as **a jargon** – occupation specific language used by people in a given profession to communicate with each other, as an example, in medicine the followings are used:

- Abrasion – cut or scrape that typically isn't serious.
- Abscess – a tender fluid filled pocket that forms in tissue, usually due to infection.
- Acute – signifies a condition that begins abruptly and is sometimes severe but the duration is short⁴.

One should not mix jargons with **dialectal words** or phrases that is used only in some areas or locality. For example: lass (Scottish) – beloved girl, lad – young man, daft – silly mind, fash – trouble, cutty – naughty.

Vulgar words or swear words considered non-standard English, they are unethical words rude and offensive in nature. For example: bastard – child born to unwed parents; son of bitch – male child born to unwed family.

Above mentioned word groups such as slangs, jargons and dialects has been used by several poets and writers according to the following reasons:

- To distinguish the character's unique way of speaking;
- Illustrate their place of origin, cultural background or social class;
- Recreate casual communication through colloquial dialogue, add authenticity.

It is possible to analyse it through literary work “A Clockwork Orange” which was written by Anthony Burgess. The plot of this novel about juvenile delinquency and unethical, violent behaviour of the group of teenagers who offend the crime not for money but for fun. Alex who is the main protagonist, described as sociopath who robs, rapes, and assaults innocent people for his own amusement. His ego is fragile particularly when he feels threatened. As being polyglot, Anthony Burgess spoke a number of Western languages, as well as Malay, Chinese, Russian, Hebrew and Japanese. Burgess knew that using the slang of his time would only make his protagonist's speech outdated in years to come. Moreover, in order to create unique, specific and violent character the author applied slangs, rhyming slangs, compound words and archaism. In the words of his own characters, Alex spoke “a type of Slav, mixed with bits of old rhyming slang and a bit of gypsy talk

³Fayzulloyevna, N. M. (2022). PECULIARITIES OF ALLITERATION IN EMILY DICKINSON'S POETRY. *International Journal Of Literature And Languages*, 2(11), 76-81.

⁴Fayzulloyevna, N. M. (2022). PSEUDO-INTERNATIONALISMS IN MEDICAL TRANSLATION. *American Journal Of Social Sciences And Humanity Research*, 2(12), 13-20.

too”⁵. As an example, the word “Nadsat” is taken from Russian language, the suffix which added to numbers from 1 to 9, to make eleven to nineteen. It is the rough equivalent of “teen” in English and possibly the best name for a teen speak.

Furthermore, one can also notice some vulgar words in the following short extract from the first page of “A Clockwork Orange”:

“Our pockets were full of **deng**, so there was no real need from the point of view of **crasting** any more pretty polly to **tolchok** some old **Veck** in an alley and **viddy** him swim in his blood while we counted the takings and divided by four, nor to do the ultra violent on some shivering **starry** grey-haired **ptitsa** in a shop and go sketching off with the till’s guts”⁶.

In the example above there are seven Nadsat vocabulary which express followings: **veck** – man, human, **viddy** – see, watch, **deng** – money, **crasting** – to steal, **tolchok** – push or hit, **starry** – old, **ptitsa** – a bird (in this case means woman).

In conclusion, although special colloquial word groups are monosemantic and consist minor part of English language, they assist to create a vivid image in literary works. Moreover, Anthony Burgess skillfully applied slangs and dialects in his work “A Clockwork Orange” where readers simply scratch out the real image of heroes. In addition, using functionally limited words add realistic feature, uniqueness to any literary works.

⁵ Vincent, B & Clarke, J 2017, 'The language of A Clockwork Orange: A corpus stylistic approach to Nadsat' Language and Literature, vol 26, no. 3, p. 247-264.

⁶ Anthony Burgess. A Clockwork Orange. – London Press. 1962. p. 84-88.