

STRUCTURAL AND NOMINATIVE FEATURES OF YOUTH SLANG (BASED ON THE GERMAN LANGUAGE MATERIALS)

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INTRODUCTION

The relevance of the study is caused by the growing influence of youth slang on the development of standard German language. Besides, the researched linguistic phenomenon is one the most rapidly changing and evolving language subsystems. Young people's vocabulary reflects global processes in modern society.

Youth slang is a component of the German language and occupies an important place in its overall system. Evidence of this is the intensification of using slangisms at the level of nation-wide communication. Another example of importance of the given vocabulary is its proliferation through mass media that are regarded as a mirror of today's language evolution. At the same time, in the process of long-term development, youth slang has acquired the features of a separate system with specific characteristics at different language levels, primarily at the lexical-semantic level. Variability of combination of these features in particular communicative situations shows the variability of youth slang itself providing the opportunity for its intra-system differentiation and classification. The given language subsystem is characterized by its formal extraordinariness and a high value of pragmatic use.

Youth vocabulary reflects worldview, everyday life, way of thinking, value system, and contacts of a particular social and age group. Conceptual system of these representatives of German-speaking community differs significantly from conceptual system of adults. Through language, young people look for ways to express their uniqueness. At the same time, they use verbal means for demonstrating separation from the society and its rules which seem them confusing and hostile. The above-mentioned factors often play a determining role in the formation of slangisms. It is clearly seen on the example of word-building, especially of its two basic models – compounding and affixation, which belong to the most

productive ways of forming new lexical units in German language¹. This relates to both standard German and other language subsystems, in particular youth vocabulary.

Nowadays, the results of research on youth slang in German studies are represented by a wide range of scientific papers by Ukrainian and foreign linguists. These publications deal with issues such as determining place of youth slang in the system of the German language, its structure, key features of formation, development, and functions. Considerable attention is paid to the study of socially and regionally determined peculiarities of the given linguistic phenomenon, its interconnection with vocabulary of standard German, as well as functioning of slangisms in different types of mass media. A number of studies in the field of comparative description and compiling specialized dictionaries have been carried out.

However, a lot of important issues, in particular, internal heterogeneity of youth slang as well as comprehensive description of word-building processes in its vocabulary, have not been solved.

The purposes of the study are:

- to single out the types of German youth slang and compare them based on their distinguishing features;
- to identify lexical and semantic characteristics of different types of young people's vocabulary and determine their place in the researched language subsystem;
- to establish key features of compounding in German youth slang;
- to provide quantitative and qualitative description of slangisms formed by means of affixation.

In the given research, extralingual factors of functioning and development of the analyzed linguistic phenomenon, as well as subcultural implication are taken into consideration.

The material used for our study is a sample from specialized dictionaries of German youth slang.

1. German youth slang as a heterogeneous linguistic phenomenon

Analysis of recent research and publications has shown that many philologists of German language are pointing to heterogeneity of youth slang, which is determined by heterogeneity of the social and age group “youth”.

¹ Степанова М.Д. Словообразование современного немецкого языка / под ред. Т.В. Строевой. 2-е изд., испр. М. : КомКнига, 2007. С. 32.

Different types of youth slang is a reflection of heterogeneity of the language community, diversity of social, cultural, historical and political conditions for existence and development of society, as well as increasing requirements and needs of using language for communication needs in general².

According to P. Shlobinski, there can be no universal young people's vocabulary, because young people themselves are not a homogeneous social and age group³. At the level of microgroups, there are as many youth slang versions as there are particular groups of their users. Furthermore, it has been shown that already at the level of primary groups of young people (such as class of pupils or students) there are various competing language forms⁴. That may be regarded as an evidence of purely individual nature of realization of the researched linguistic phenomenon, which is determined by a communicative situation.

At the same time, in modern German studies, the term "German youth slang" is often mentioned to denote the specific vocabulary used by the total number of German-speaking young people regardless their social, educational, regional or cultural affiliation⁵.

Taking into account internal heterogeneity of youth, representatives of this part of society can be divided into three group types: peer groups, subcultural groups and the common social and age group of young people⁶.

Peer groups are groups of young people of about the same age. They play the most important role during the period of transition from childhood, which is usually strongly regulated by family traditions, to individual lifestyle and adulthood. The awareness of being member of a group arises on the basis of common interests in a particular sport, musical

² Kramorenko G.I. Zum Problem der Heterogenität der Jugendsprache und ihrer lexikalisch-semantischen Charakteristik. *Das Wort. Germanistisches Jahrbuch*. Moskau : DAAD, 1995. S. 55.

³ Schlobinski P., Kohl G., Ludewigt J. *Jugendsprache. Fiktion und Wirklichkeit*. Opladen : Westdeutscher Verlag, 1993. S. 27.

⁴ Chun M. *Jugendsprache in den Medien. Eine Jugendsprachliche Analyse von Jugendromanen, Hip-Hop-Texten und Kinofilmen* [1. Aufl.]. Saarbrücken : VDM Verlag Dr. Müller, 2007. S. 75.

⁵ Androutsopoulos J.K. *Deutsche Jugendsprache. Untersuchungen zu ihren Strukturen und Funktionen*. Frankfurt am Main, New York : Peter Lang, 1998. S.462.

⁶ Reinke M. *Jugend, Sprache und Medien. Am Beispiel von Rundfunksendungen für Jugendliche*. Hannover, 2000. S. 2.

style or fashion, and causes dissociation from non-members of the group⁷. The need for intra-group identity is often expressed in language by means of using specific words and expressions.

One of the main characteristics of youth subcultures is the unity of their representatives in relation to cultural values and lifestyle. As a rule, these common features are formed as a result of the influence of mass media⁸. Most subcultures preferred by German-speaking young people are of American origin. Their popularizing mainly through social networks contributes to growing importance of youth and youth subcultures at the supraregional level. An important factor is young people's ability to adapt to the latest technologies. Social media create a specific sort of community with possibility of virtual, indirect contacts, which facilitates an increase in the number of participants in subculturally determined communication processes.

The common social and age group of young people integrates the representatives of all peer groups and subcultures to form a global community of German-speaking youth⁹.

Thus, according to this classification of youth, three types of youth slang can be singled out:

- peer group slang – vocabulary typical for members of a specific group of young people;
- subcultural slang – vocabulary of young people belonging to a particular subculture;
- common slang – vocabulary of representatives of the social and age group “youth” regardless their educational, regional or cultural affiliation.

To describe each of these three types of youth slang, we use a set of lexical and semantic criteria, that reveal distinguishing features of the researched language subsystem.

German youth slang is a heterogeneous language subsystem. Despite of its heterogeneity, the given linguistic phenomenon has some common basic principles and structures¹⁰. Common youth slang is an abstract

⁷ Nowotnick M. Jugend, Sprache und Medien. Untersuchungen zu Rundfunksendungen für Jugendliche. Berlin, NewYork : de Gruyter, 1989. S. 24.

⁸ Chun M. Jugendsprache in den Medien. Eine Jugendsprachliche Analyse von Jugendromanen, Hip-Hop-Texten und Kinofilmen [1. Aufl.]. Saarbrücken : VDM Verlag Dr. Müller, 2007. S. 90.

⁹ Bruder-Bezzel A., Bruder-Bezzel K.-J. Jugend. Psychologie einer Kultur. München, 1984. S. 20.

¹⁰ Nowotnick M. Jugend, Sprache und Medien. Untersuchungen zu Rundfunksendungen für Jugendliche. Berlin, NewYork : de Gruyter, 1989. S. 75.

linguistic phenomenon formed as a result of compiling particular forms of young people's communication. It shows distinctive verbal characteristics of representatives of the social and age group "youth" in general (in particular, as an alternative to colloquial and literary styles of German language).

Universality of common slang in terms of its vocabulary goes hand in hand with dynamic changes in its composition. New words and expressions arise at the level of communication of particular peer groups. They become soon a part of their everyday life and are actively used throughout German-speaking milieu. After several years, these lexical and phraseological units lose their popularity, but remain recorded in specialized dictionaries¹¹. Changes in slang vocabulary are determined by changes of generations of its active creators and users.

According to K.V. Kulakova, the analysis of new slangisms can help to single out topics and events, which have received the most attention by young people during a particular year¹².

Since 2008, the "youth word of the year" (German: "Jugendwort des Jahres") has been selected annually¹³. In 2008 it was *Gammelfleischparty*–*Party für Menschen über 30 Jahren*; in 2015 – *Smombie* (*von "Smartphone" und "Zombie"*) – *Menschen, die durch den ständigen Blick auf ihr Smartphone so stark abgelenkt seien, dass sie ihre Umgebung kaum noch wahrnehmen würden*; in 2021 the most popular word was *cringe* – *Situation oder Handlung einer Person, für die man sich fremdschämt*.

Vocabulary of subcultural slang is relatively less changeable due to the fact that its main function is to denote concepts of a particular subcultural style. Each of these subcultural styles is characterized by its own history, values, activities, hierarchy of interrelations, symbols determining affiliation to it. Sustainability of subcultural concepts determines sustainability of words and expressions used to name them (*AFK* – *Ausdruck von Computerspielern / Internetnutzern (Chat) für deren*

¹¹ Левицька Л.Я., Микитка І.С. Німецький молодіжний сленг та його лексико-семантичні особливості. *Вісник Харківського національного університету імені В.Н. Каразіна. Філологія*. Харків, 2013. № 1052. Вип. 74. С. 95.

¹² Кулакова К.В. Молодежний сленг как отражение современной действительности. *Вестник Балтийского федерального университета им. И. Канта. Филология, педагогика, психология*. Калининград, 2019. № 4. С. 25.

¹³ Jugendwort des Jahres (Deutschland). URL : [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jugendwort_des_Jahres_\(Deutschland\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jugendwort_des_Jahres_(Deutschland)) (дата звернення: 18.08.2022).

Abwesenheit; Favicon – ein kleines Mini-Logo, das in der Adresszeile des Browsers ikonisiert für eine Webseite steht).

Compared to common and subcultural types of slang, vocabulary of peer groups is the most dynamic language subsystem in terms of forming new lexical and phraseological units. On the other hand, inherent young people's language creativity is most fully realized exactly at the level of intragroup communication (*Rentnerporsche – Gehhilfe, meist in Form eines Rollators oder Rollstuhls; Bananenbieger – Person, die eine einfache Aufgabe nicht lösen kann oder überflüssig viel Aufwand dazu betreibt).*

A significant share of slangisms is restricted by certain thematic groups that are of particular interest to young people and are an important part of their everyday life¹⁴ (*verhaften – Bier trinken; Zungentango – heftiger Zungenkuss).*

At the same time, subcultural slang vocabulary includes more words and expressions with professional semantics reflecting activities of the given subculture, which can play different roles in the lives of its members (*Violent Dancing – eine besonder Art des "Slamdances" auf Hardcore-Konzerten; uprocken – Tanzen mit kompletten Körpereinsatz, so dass man alles um sich herum vergisst).* Thus, lexical units of three types of youth slang have different potential to achieve a higher level of use, namely colloquial and literary styles of German language.

All three types of youth slang interact with each other, as well as with vocabulary of other subsystems of German language. From this point of view, vocabulary of common youth slang is much more open system, because it interacts with subcultural and peer group slangs, on the one hand, and colloquial and literary styles of German, on the other hand. Its words and expressions refer to common concepts that form the environment for young people's activities, and are understood at the level of nation-wide communication (*natschig – wenn man sich nichts Vernünftiges anstellen mag und sich mit der Situation trotzdem nicht zufrieden gibt; Schokoliker – Person, die süchtig nach Schokolade ist).*

Defining the meaning of peer group and subcultural vocabulary requires additional knowledge, which is the result of understanding features of a particular peer group or subcultural style (*Frag – Töten eines Gegners in EGO Shootern; Kuduro – Tanzstil, der sich aus dem Breakdance entwickelt hat).*

¹⁴ Henne H. Jugend und ihre Sprache: Darstellung, Materialien, Kritik. Berlin; New York : de Gruyter, 1986. S. 212.

Words and expressions of common and subcultural types of slang are often recorded in specialized lexicographic sources – dictionaries of common slang (such as “Langenscheidt 100 Prozent Jugendsprache”¹⁵, “PONS 15 Jahre Wörterbuch der Jugendsprache – Sammelband”¹⁶, “PONS Wörterbuch der Jugendsprache”¹⁷) (*hazen, schmoggen, barzen – eine Zigarette rauchen; Spacko, Spast – dumme Person*) and subcultural slang (such as “Duden – Das neu Wörterbuch der Szenesprachen”¹⁸) (*rushen – eine besonders in Strategiespielen vorkommende Taktik; Serverfarm – eine Gruppe von gleichartigen, vernetzten Servern, die zu einem logischen System verbunden sind und optimiert die internen Prozesse durch Verteilung der Auslastung*).

Lexicographic recording of peer group vocabulary is less practiced because of a small number of members of a particular peer group and a high level of instability of their vocabulary.

As previously mentioned, common youth slang is an abstract linguistic phenomenon, which represents the peculiarities of communication of the studied social and age group. In contrast to this type, peer group and subcultural slangs are real patterns of young people’s communication (*Schleppschrott – schlechter Laptop; Chieffchecker – jemand, der alles versteht, kann, schafft, bekommt*). Distinction in their vocabulary depends on plurality of peer groups, as well as diversity of subcultural styles. New words and expression arise to name new concepts¹⁹.

Rapidly increasing use of loanwords (first of all Anglo-Americanisms) belongs to lexical and semantic features of modern German youth slang in general. These lexical units attract mainly with their unusual morphologic structure (*tight (Hip-Hop-Ausdruck) – cool, talentiert; Keylogger – Hard-oder Software, die dazu verwendet wird, die Eingaben des Benutzers an einem Computer mitzuprotokollieren und dadurch zu überwachen oder zu rekonstruieren*).

Subcultural slang is characterized by a larger share of loanwords. On the one hand, this can be explained by the global role of English language in international communication. On the other hand, most subcultural styles

¹⁵ Langenscheidt 100 Prozent Jugendsprache 2018 (Deutsch – Englisch). München : Langenscheidt, 2017. 160 S.

¹⁶ PONS 15 Jahre Wörterbuch der Jugendsprache – Sammelband : Das Original – unzensuriert [1. Aufl.]. Stuttgart : PONS, 2016. 288 S.

¹⁷ PONS Wörterbuch der Jugendsprache 2017. Stuttgart : PONS, 2016. 144 S.

¹⁸ Duden – Das neu Wörterbuch der Szenesprachen. Duden, 2009. 208 S.

¹⁹ Androutsopoulos J.K. Mode, Medien und Musik: Jugendliche als Sprachexperten. *Der Deutschunterricht*. 1997. № 6. S. 13.

are of American origin (*Moshpit – Teil des Publikums, der bei Musikkonzerten direkt vor der Bühne steht und tanzt; Blogroll – Liste der Blog-Empfehlungen, die ein Blogger für seine Leser zwecks besserer Vernetzung abgibt*).

Vocabulary of common and peer group slangs is characterized by a larger share of national, in particular, regional words and expressions. Historical development of German language plays an important role in this process. A lot of slangisms derive from territorial dialects (*Zichte – Berlinerisch für “Zigarette”; Moler – sächsisch für “Bonbons”*).

To sum up, all types of German youth vocabulary reflect evolutionary trends of society in general, demonstrating communicative and creative potential of representatives of the given social and age group.

Slangisms enrich vocabulary of colloquial and literary styles of German language and can be further recorded in standard and specialized lexicographic sources.

2. Main features of compounding in the studied vocabulary

According to a number of Germanists, such as J.K. Androutsopoulos²⁰, M. Chun²¹, A. Last²², P. Schlobinski²³, S.S. Chorna²⁴, the analyzed linguistic phenomenon has its own features of compounding. On the one hand, youth vocabulary is a part of the complex system of German language. That is why it includes commonly used word-building models. On the other hand, this language subsystem is a means of communication of a particular social and age group. Consequently, nominative processes reflect peculiarities of personality development taking into consideration the impact of subcultural environment.

In modern German studies, there are several classifications of compounds. Using morphological criterion means that syntactic category

²⁰ Androutsopoulos J.K. *Deutsche Jugendsprache. Untersuchungen zu ihren Strukturen und Funktionen*. Frankfurt am Main, New York : Peter Lang, 1998. 684 S.

²¹ Chun M. *Jugendsprache in den Medien. Eine Jugendsprachliche Analyse von Jugendromanen, Hip-Hop-Texten und Kinofilmen* [1. Aufl.]. Saarbrücken : VDM Verlag Dr. Müller, 2007. 352 S.

²² Last A. *Heiße Dosen und Schlammziegen – Ist das Jugendsprache?* *Osnabrücker Beiträge zur Sprachtheorie*. 1989. № 41. S. 35–68.

²³ Schlobinski P., Heinz H.-Ch. *Jugendliche und «ihre» Sprache: Sprachregister, Jugendkulturen und Wertesysteme; empirische Studien*. Opladen : Westdeutscher Verlag, 1998. 236 S.

²⁴ Чорна С.С. *Особливості молодіжного сленгу в німецькій мові. Педагогіка формування творчої особистості у вищій і загальноосвітній школах*. 2017. Вип. 53. С. 372–379.

and grammatical characteristics of the compound word are determined by its last component. These lexical units have different morphologic structure in accordance with a particular word-building model²⁵. The semantic-syntactical classification analyzes compounds in terms of their structure taking into account semantic relations between the components. This type of classification is often preferred by Ukrainian Germanists.

The results of the research have shown that most of the analyzed compounds consist of two roots. This morphologic structure is mainly typical for slangisms belonging to syntactic category of nouns (*Suppenkoma – Zustand der Mitarbeiter nach dem Besuch der Betriebskantine, wenn sie sich im Meeting wieder zusammen finden; Killerspiel – verbreitete, negative Bezeichnung für gewalthaltige Spiel*).

However, there are a number of lexical units that are formed by compounding three roots. These words belong to different thematic groups. They can be both synonyms of commonly used vocabulary (*Hopfenblütentee – Synonym für Bier*) and refer to modern social, cultural, and technical phenomena (*Vorratsdatenspeicherung – die Verpflichtung der Anbieter von Telekommunikationsdiensten zur Registrierung von elektronischen Kommunikationsvorgängen, ohne dass ein Anfangsverdacht oder konkrete Hinweise auf Gefahren bestehen*).

There are a small number of word-building models specific to forming youth vocabulary. From our point of view, the main reason for this is that the above-mentioned language subsystem has secondary nature to standard German.

For compounding processes in German youth slang the following word-building models are productive:

- n + n (*Menschenkino – Beobachten der Passanten und des Treibens in der näheren Umgebung, während man selbst im Straßencafé o.ä. sitzt*);
- v + n (*Kuschelwetter – Wetter, dass sich durch spezielle Temperatur- und Niederschlagseigenschaft dazu eignet, mit anderen Menschen engen Körperkontakt einzugehen*);
- adj + n (*Fernbeziehung – wenn Liebende in unterschiedlichen Städten (oder sogar Ländern) leben*);
- adj + v (*vollwamsen – jemanden verprügeln*);
- adv + v (*wegklemmen – weglaufen*);
- n + adj (*hammerhart – sehr gut, wunderbar*).

²⁵ Искоз А.М., Ленкова А.Ф. Лексикология немецкого языка. 3-е изд., испр. и допол. Л. : Просвещение, 1970. С. 39.

Formation of compound slangisms that consist of three roots is characterized by frequent use of the following word-building models:

- n + n + n (*Parkbanphilosoph – Obdachloser*);
- adj + v + n (*Schnellscheißerhose – Hose mit tief sitzendem Bund*);
- n + n + adj (*Lebensmittelschwanger – dick*).

In youth slang, compounding is often accompanied by metaphorization processes. In our opinion, it is determined by creativity and sense of humor inherent to representatives of the studied social and age group²⁶. In this way youth vocabulary is opposed to colloquial and literary styles of German language. On the other hand, these lexical units are used as an efficient means of self-identification (*Laufhaus – Bordell, in dem Prostituierte ein Zimmer angemietet haben und bei geöffneter Tür auf Freier warten; Eisenhölle – Fitnesscenter mit Schwerpunkt auf Bodybuilding, d.h. reine Muskelaufbaugeräte wie Hanteln und Gewichte dominieren die Ausstattung. Treffpunkt für Bodybuilder und Muskelfanatiker, größtensteils Männer*).

Most compounds with metaphorized roots include an evaluation component in their semantic structure. These slangisms usually have clearly seen positive or negative connotation (*Spassbremse – eine Person, die entgegen einer Gruppendynamik handelt und sich in der jeweiligen Situation gegen das Vorhaben der Gruppe entscheidet und so den Spass verdirbt*).

As a rule, the second root is metaphorized. It makes the head of the compound determining its semantic category (*Achselhamster – Achselbehaarung; Futternarkose – Zustand, wenn man nach einer ausgiebigen (Fastfood) Mahlzeit sehr träge wird*).

However, there are also semantic transformations of the first root. These lexical units reflect features of young speakers' worldview and values demonstrating their attitude to various styles and other traditional issues (*Haremshose – Damen-Stoffhose, die sich durch ihre 3/4-Länge und einen tiefhängenden Schritt auszeichnet, der an einen Rock erinnert; Hausfrauenrock – schulzige, poppige Rockmusik*). The given examples show the role of compounding in creating new words out of old ones²⁷.

²⁶ Левицька Л.Я., Микитка І.С. Німецький молодіжний сленг та його лексико-семантичні особливості. *Вісник Харківського національного університету імені В.Н. Каразіна. Філологія*. Харків, 2013. № 1052. Вип. 74. С. 97.

²⁷ Ó Séaghdha D. Learning compound noun semantics. *Technical Report*. Cambridge : University of Cambridge, 2008. № 735. URL : <https://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/techreports/UCAM-CL-TR-735.pdf>.

It can be stated that a significant number of analyzed compounds include word-building morphemes, in particular suffixes. A productive suffix is *-er*. In youth vocabulary, it is used to form slangisms that refer to both things (*Klapprechner – Laptop oder Notebook*) and people (*Hautständer – ein sehr dünner Mensch ohne Muskeln*).

A number of words are formed of roots that have suffixes *-tion* (*Auktionskultur – Kaufen und Verkaufen von Dingen im Internet*) and *-ung* (*Anreizregulierung – Methode, um Betreibern von Energieversorgungsnetzen Anreize für eine effiziente Leistungserbringung zu setzen*). It should be mentioned that these word-building morphemes are productive for creating vocabulary of colloquial and literary styles. This is yet another proof that youth slang is a part of a complex system of modern German.

Using diminutive suffix *-chen* is both frequent and productive (*Datenzäpfchen – Synonym für USB-Speicher-Stick*). These lexical units express irony and subjective evaluation referring to things that are of particular importance for young people (*Pärchenterror – die Omnipräsenz glücklicher Paare, die besonders im Frühling hervorkommen und die Parks, Cafes und Ikeas dieser Welt knutschend, kuschelnd und händchenhaltend für sich vereinnahmen*).

A productive modifier for compounding nouns in youth vocabulary is *Voll-* (*Vollposten – Mensch, bevorzugt männlich, der über beschränkte intellektuelle Fähigkeiten verfügt, den also bezüglich der Intelligenz nichts von einem aufragenden Stück Holz unterscheidet*). By means of this component, young speakers emphasize their subjective attitude which is often exaggerated (*Vollspaten – extrem hinterweltlerische/idiotische Menschen; lässt sich in etwa mit dem Wort “Vollidiot” gleichsetzen*).

The results of the analysis of lexicographic sources have shown the existence of root morphemes that are especially productive in word-building processes providing a basis for creating a number of compounds. Their popularity mainly derives from young people's interest in certain social phenomena (*“Abwrack”*: *Abwrackprämie – Umweltprämie, die das Bundeskabinett am 27.01.2009 als Richtlinie zur Förderung des Absatzes von Personenkraftwagen beschlossen hat; Abwrackfieber – exzessive Ausnutzung der Abwrackprämie und ihre Ausweitung auf andere Bereiche als die Autoindustrie*).

Some of these roots are stylistically invectives. We consider their use in compounding process is caused by young people's need for identifying themselves among other representatives of German-speaking community.

Fress- is one of such productive roots (*Fressnarkose – setzt kurz nach einer sehr üppigen Mahlzeit ein und versetzt die betreffende Person in einen komatösen Zustand; Freßstarre – äußert sich in Form von massiver physischer und geistiger Trägheit*).

Semantic relations between roots of compounds are determined by specific features of the studied language subsystem. The main role in this case is played by extralingual conditionality of youth vocabulary focused on relevant thematic groups.

As a result of our research, we have singled out most frequent types of semantic relations between the head and the modifier of the compound:

- objective (*Augenkrebs – wenn man grelle Farben, Kostüme, etc sieht, die einem unerträglich erscheinen*);
- characteristic (*Brötchenfleisch – das innere eines Brötchens, also den Teig, ohne Rand, der sich oft beim aufschneiden herauslöst*);
- activity (*Jobnomade – Berufstätige, die von Job zu Job hüpfen*);
- purpose (*Studienkredit – Darlehen zur Finanzierung des Studiums*).

We see the main reason for dominance of the above-mentioned semantic relations in the influence of subcultural surroundings and activities that determine development of German youth communication in general.

A significant share of the analyzed slangisms is represented by loanwords borrowed from American English which is regarded as one of the main sources to enrich German youth vocabulary²⁸ (*Kiddyboard – kleines Rollbrett, das man am Kinderwagen festschrauben kann*).

In German youth slang, loanwords are often characterized by semantic transformation, in particular by metaphorization (*Screenager – Jugendliche, die einen Großteil ihrer Zeit vor dem Bildschirm verbringen*).

Compounds recorded in the analyzed lexicographic sources have different structure in terms of combining German and English stems (*Castingopfer – Menschen, die in Casting-Shows mitmachen und sich mit einer schlechten Leistung blamieren*). We have singled out the following types of their *modifier – head* combination:

- English modifier + German head (*Singlebörse – Partnersuche durch das Internet*);

²⁸ Чорна С.С. Особливості молодіжного сленгу в німецькій мові. *Педагогіка формування творчої особистості у вищій і загальноосвітній школах*. 2017. Вип. 53. С. 374.

– German modifier + English head (*Weizenspoiler* – *dicker Bierbauch*);

– both modifier and head are English (*Armchairshopping* – *im Sessel sitzend über das Fernsehen einkaufen*).

The use of these slangisms is determined by subcultural influence. Belonging to a certain subcultural style is a very important part of young people's life. Therefore, they prefer the use of borrowed vocabulary to name people, things and activities (*Freehoster* – *kostenloser Anbieter von Webspacer*).

3. Productivity of affixation at forming slangisms

At this stage of our research, peculiarities of word-building processes of German youth slang on the example of suffixation and prefixation have been found out. The given issue has been studied by a number of scientists for a long period of time. In particular, J.K. Androtsopoulos has analyzed different types of word-building morphemes, as well as functions of word-building in German youth slang²⁹. N.V. Shamova and L.N. Ponomarenko have studied word-building types of modern German vocabulary and provided a description of their systemic paradigmatic relations³⁰. Scientific novelty of our research is that connection between using of certain word-building morphemes and extralingual determinants of their productivity has been established.

It has been found out that suffixation is a productive way of formation of new lexical units of German youth slang. Being considered as an indicator of lexical generalization³¹, the given type of word-building morphemes is used by young speakers to emphasize subjective judgement and assessment.

In the formation of the analyzed vocabulary, the most productive are suffixes, which are used to name people (both young and adult ones). In our opinion, this can be explained by a large number of words that belong to this semantic group. For its part, the given factor is determined by the need to show attitude to communication partners and other members of society as well. Therefore, the above-mentioned lexical units have clearly

²⁹ Androtsopoulos J.K. *Deutsche Jugendsprache. Untersuchungen zu ihren Strukturen und Funktionen*. Frankfurt am Main, New York : Peter Lang, 1998. 684 S. 79–219.

³⁰ Шамова Н.В., Пономаренко Л.Н. Немецкий молодежный язык: словообразовательные типы суффиксальных существительных и их семантические связи. *Научный диалог*. 2020. № 5. С. 177–185.

³¹ Степанова М.Д. *Словообразование современного немецкого языка / под ред. Т.В. Строевой*. 2-е изд., испр. М. : КомКнига, 2007. С. 74.

seen positive or negative connotation. Thus, young people's verbal self-identification is realized by means of pointing to subjectively highlighted features of the referred person.

Given that youth slang is a subsystem of the modern German language, there are similarities to its word-building processes. Like in standard German, the suffixes *-er* and *-el* are the most productive in the formation of nouns denoting male people. They are added to the roots of nouns and verbs (*Bringer – alles, was gut oder im Trend ist; Muckel – schweigsame, verschlossene Person*). In the analyzed material, the suffix *-er* is also recorded in its variant *-iker* (*Problemiker – Person, die ständig mit sich bringt*).

The use of the productive suffixes *-loge* and *-us* is characterized by semantic changes of root morphemes, in particular by metaphorization (*Promillologe – Gewohnheitstrinker, Säufer, Verkehrspolizist*).

At the same time, German youth vocabulary includes words formed by means of suffixes, which are not typical for morphologic structure of lexical units of standard German³². These are the formants *-i* and *-o* (*-iko*). In terms of semantics, they can be regarded as an alternative to the suffix *-er*. Connotation of the given slangisms shows ironic attitude and helps to emphasize positive or negative features of the referred person (*Draufsi – Person, die gerne an der frischen Luft ist; Drinni – Stubenhocker; Anarcho – Anarchist*).

The above-mentioned suffixes can be added to:

– root morphemes of lexical units of colloquial and literary German without changing their basic semantics (*Schrulli – schrullige Person, schwieriger Mensch; Karriero – jugendlicher Karriere-Vorzeigetyp*);

– metaphorized root morphemes of lexical units of colloquial and literary German (*Raffi – Person, die schnell begreift, was Sache ist; Schmacko – attraktiver Junge*);

– root morphemes which are part of subcultural vocabulary (*Grufti – einer, der in der Gruft liegt, (altmodische) Person jenseitsdes 30. Lebensjahres, Okkultist, Satansanbeter; Gollo – Idiot*).

In our opinion, popularity of these suffixes in the studied language subsystem can be determined by the following extralingual factors:

– desire for self-expression among representatives of other social or age groups;

– protest against word-building rules of standard German;

³² Словарь словообразовательных элементов немецкого языка / А.Н. Зуев, И.Д. Молчанова, Р.З. Мурашов и др.; под рук. М.Д. Степановой. 2-е изд., стереотип. М. : Русский язык, 2000. 536 с.

- try to attract attention of communication partners;
- search for expression of subjective attitude to the environment.

In youth slang, a lot of feminine nouns are created by means of suffixation. In this case, the following word-building morphemes are the most productive:

-e (*Schlunze – schlampig gekleidete Frau; Depresse – niedergeschlagene weibliche Person*);

-ei (*Tummerei – Alkohol- oder Drogenrausch; Bräuterei – Anmache, Mädchenjagd*);

-ette (*Hässlette – unattraktive Person; Mantalette – naives Mädchen*).

The formation of neuter nouns is characterized by the use of the suffix *-chen*. This word-building morpheme is also typical for suffixation processes in standard German. Therefore, the features of youth vocabulary as a language subsystem are shown. In the analyzed material, the given formant points to ironic attitude to the referred subject (*Klärchen – Schnaps; Tittchen – korpulenter Junge*).

Suffixation of verbs is characterized by the use of the morpheme *-eln*. These slangisms mainly have the meaning of action or state. The most productive word-building model is *n + -eln* (*bürsteln – Sex haben; mupfeln – essen*). The word-building model *adj + -eln* is less productive (*dümmeln – dumm daherreden, sich unqualifiziert äußern*).

Two productive suffixes *-ieren* and *-ern*, which are used to form verbs, show a connection of affixation processes in youth slang to word-building of standard German. These suffixes are usually added to metaphorized roots (*diagnostikalisieren – unbeherrscht Alkohol trinken; brettern – sich schnell fortbewegen*).

The most productive and frequent suffix of adjectives is *-mäßig*. These lexical units mostly express exaggerated assessment of people, things, actions etc. The given suffix can be added to root morphemes with various semantics and connotation (*granatenmäßig – sehr gut, hervorragend; weltmäßig – toll, super*).

The suffix *-ig* is used to point to similarity, emphasizing a certain component in the semantic structure of the word. The word-building meaning often has negative connotation (*assig – widerlich, abscheulich; prollig – angeberisch*).

The suffixes *-lich*, *-haft*, and *-ös* are used to form adjectives with the meaning of positive or negative description on the basis of metaphorization. On the one hand, they demonstrate young people's language creativity, on the other hand, they have a significant pragmatic

effect (*schlapplich – schwächlich, langweilig, fade, schlecht; didihaft – dumm; tubbitös – niedlich*).

The function of prefixation is realized through changing the lexical meaning of the word without changing its syntactic category³³. That creates preconditions for the use of the given model to form new lexical units of German youth slang.

Young speaker's propensity to exaggerate in evaluating people and things is clearly seen in the use of the prefix *Super-* for the formation of nouns. This affix has the meaning of the highest degree of quality (*Superbirne – Person mit hoher Denktelligenz, Person mit wenig Denktelligenz; Super-Biene – gut aussehendes Mädchen*).

Overestimation is considered to be a usual practice of young people's communication. That is why, the prefix *Mini-* in the meaning of small size, is less productive in youth slang (*Minipanzer – hässliches Mädchen, fettes Mädchen*).

In the studied vocabulary, prefixation is most productive for formation of verbs. This process is characterized by the use of word-building morphemes, which are typical for modern German language in general.

Having analyzed lexicographic sources, we have singled out the most productive prefixes of verbs:

– *be-* (*behumsen – jemanden auf den Arm nehmen, betrügen; bekeimen – jemanden zulabern, vollquatschen; ansprechen*);

– *ver-* (*verdackeln – etwas verpassen, etwas vergessen; verbimsen, verhinkeln – verprügeln*);

– *zer-* (*zereiern – lauthals lachen; sich ärgern*);

– *ent-* (*entschleunigen – etwas langsamer angehen*);

– *er-* (*ergeiern – sich etwas ergattern, sich etwas (mehr oder weniger legal) beschaffen, betteln*).

In these examples, the "youth" specificity of the formed lexical units is expressed by the root, which is often metaphorized (*bekoffern – jemanden anpumpen; verdröseln – sich hängen lassen, faulenzen*).

The use of prefixes in the formation of adjectives is often aimed to satisfy the young people's need for exaggeration. In this vocabulary, the dominant role is played by two intensifying formants *hyper-* and *super-*, which are popular with the representatives of German-speaking community in general (*hypermatt – sehr matt; superschick – sehr schick*).

³³ Степанова М.Д. Словообразование современного немецкого языка / под ред. Т.В. Строевой. 2-е изд., испр. М. : КомКнига, 2007. С. 73.

However, we consider it necessary to add specific “youth” prefixes, which are also used to change the semantics of adjectives in terms of exaggeration. These formants are not specified as traditional prefixes of adjectives. They are borrowed from other languages and became popular because of their frequent use in mass media and social networks. As a rule, semantic changes of root morphemes are not typical for these words. The given prefixes just emphasize a particular feature or evaluation, making the message more subjective:

- mega– (*megahart* – *sehr hart*; *megastark* – *sehr stark*);
- giga– (*gigageil* – *sehr geil*; *gigadumm* – *sehr dumm*);
- meta– (*metahart* – *sehr hart*; *metatoll* – *sehr toll*);
- turbo– (*turbogeil* – *sehr geil*; *turbostark* – *sehr stark*);
- ultra– (*ultrakrass* – *sehr krass*; *ultrastark* – *sehr stark*).

Young people also show their creativity by changing word-building meanings of prefixes. For example, the prefix *inter*– is used in German youth slang in the meaning of intensification. As a rule, this process is accompanied by semantic changes of the root morpheme. Therefore, young people’s creativity is reflected in combining semantic transformation of the root and word-building morpheme (*intergalaktisch* – *sehr gut, toll*; *intergeil* – *hervorragend*).

Thus, in German youth slang, affixes are used in a limited number of their potentially possible word-building meanings. There is a focus on one or more popular meanings. This choice is determined by social and age peculiarities, worldview, values, activities, which form the core of young people’s life.

CONCLUSIONS

German youth slang is a heterogeneous linguistic phenomenon, which can be divided into several types. As a means of communication, it is used as peer group and subcultural slangs.

On the other hand, common features of lifestyle and values of German-speaking young people make possible the existence of supraregional and supragroup slang, which is the result of compiling particular slangs, but not their sum. Common youth slang is typical for nation-wide young people’s communication. It is characterized by common features of its use by native speakers at all language levels, primarily at the lexical-semantic level. Words and expressions, which belong to the common German youth vocabulary, are recorded in specific lexicographic sources. This type of slang forms the core for other types of slangs.

Given the social and age conditionality of nominative processes in German youth vocabulary, it could be stated that compounding is determined by the wish of young speakers to subjectively evaluate their surroundings by clarifying specific features of things and people (*Fleischmütze – Glatzkopf*).

A significant part of analyzed slangisms have more complex morphologic structure in comparison with corresponding lexical units of standard German. This is determined by pragmatic efficiency of the given compounds. In this way young people attract attention of communicative partners. Communicative value of the use of these lexical units is also achieved by the fact that they express the above-mentioned subjective evaluation. This helps to make the message more explicit and personal (*Schamhaarschädel – kurzer, lockiger, hässlicher Haarschnitt*).

In German youth slang, the tendency to exaggeration is reflected in the productivity of the prefixes *super-*, *hyper-* and *meta-*. The need for specification and subjective assessment is realized through the use of the suffix *-er*. The suffix *-chen* is preferred to emphasize ironic attitude in the process of denotation. Lack of clear ideas about the characteristics of the environment is expressed in the possibility of comparison by means of the suffix *-mäßig*.

During the study, we have singled out a number of suffixes and prefixes that are not typical for word-building processes of standard German. Their productivity in the analyzed material can be regarded as a result of complex impact of social and age factors that determine key features of youth vocabulary, in particular the need for self-identification, creativity, protest, extraordinariness, exaggeration, and subjective evaluation. Some of these formants are borrowed from other languages and combined with German root morphemes.

SUMMARY

Youth slang is one of the most dynamic and changeable subsystems of modern German. Its heterogeneity is caused by heterogeneity of the social and age group “youth”. The author divides the studied language subsystem into three types: common, subcultural and peer group slangs. A number of lexical and semantic criteria were used to compare the above-mentioned means of young people’s verbal communication. All these types of youth slang are interconnected with each other and other subsystems of German language affecting their development.

Most analyzed compounds consist of two roots. However, there are lexical units formed by compounding three roots. In the process of forming compound slangisms a limited number of word-building models are used. It is caused by subsystematic nature of the analyzed language subcode. Metaphorization is a characteristic feature in the process of compounding. It is regarded as a convenient means to express creativity and originality. Metaphorized words have positive or negative connotation and are used for verbal self-identification.

In the formation of slangisms, a high degree of productivity is shown by suffixes used to name people. These lexical units have clearly seen positive or negative connotation. At the same time, the studied language phenomenon includes words formed by means of suffixes, which are not typical for morphologic structure of lexical units of standard German. Popularity of these word-building morphemes can be determined by the desire for self-expression among representatives of other social and age groups. Prefixation is most productive for formation of verbs. The use of prefixes in the formation of nouns and adjectives is often aimed to satisfy young people's need for exaggeration.

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