

SPECIFIC FEATURES OF TRANSLATING YOUTH SLANG FROM ENGLISH INTO UZBEK

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Abstract: This article examines the peculiarities and challenges of translating youth slang from English into Uzbek. Given that slang is a dynamic and culture-specific linguistic phenomenon, its translation requires a deep understanding of both source and target languages, as well as the sociocultural contexts. The paper analyzes various examples of contemporary English youth slang such as 'lit', 'ghost', 'salty', 'flex', and 'cringe', and explores the strategies used to find appropriate Uzbek equivalents. The study also discusses the limitations of literal translation and the necessity of employing descriptive and adaptive methods in rendering slang meaning accurately.

Keywords: youth slang, translation, English, Uzbek, linguistic equivalence, adaptation, cultural context, informal language

Language is constantly evolving, especially in informal registers such as slang, which often reflects the attitudes, values, and lifestyles of the younger generation. Translating youth slang poses a unique challenge for linguists and translators, as it involves not only linguistic but also cultural and social adaptation. This article seeks to highlight key issues and approaches in translating youth slang from English into Uzbek.

Youth slang is often characterized by its creativity, brevity, and rapid change. Terms like 'yeet', 'no cap', and 'drip' can emerge and fade in popularity quickly. These expressions are rooted in the experiences and environments of young people and are often tied to music, internet culture, and social media. As such, understanding the context in which these terms are used is crucial for accurate translation. Youth slang is a vibrant and rapidly evolving part of any language. In English, especially in youth subcultures (e.g., hip-hop, internet culture, Gen Z communities), slang is rich in metaphor, abbreviation, humor, irony, and sometimes profanity. Translating such expressions into Uzbek presents unique challenges due to cultural, social, and linguistic differences.

One of the main challenges in translating youth slang is the lack of direct equivalents in the target language. For instance, the English slang word 'lit' used to describe something exciting or excellent, might be translated into Uzbek as 'zo'r', 'ajoyib', or 'qiziqarli', but none of these fully capture the cultural nuance and tone. Moreover, slang often carries emotional and contextual weight that is difficult to replicate in another language.

Several translation strategies can be applied to youth slang:

- Descriptive translation: explaining the meaning rather than finding an exact match.
 - Functional equivalence: finding a phrase in the target language that serves a similar function.
 - Borrowing or transliteration: using the original term with slight adaptation.
 - Cultural substitution: replacing the slang with a culturally appropriate term.
- Each strategy has its advantages and drawbacks, and the choice depends on context, audience, and purpose.

a) Functional equivalence

Conveying the function or effect rather than literal meaning.

- *He's such a simp!* → *U o'zini juda pastga uradi!*

b) Descriptive translation

Explaining the slang meaning in more formal or neutral Uzbek.

- *FOMO (fear of missing out)* → *Hech narsani o'tkazib yuborishdan qo'rqish*

c) Borrowing and adaptation

Sometimes, borrowing the term and adapting its spelling or usage into Uzbek is effective, especially with tech slang (e.g., *bloger*, *streamer*).

d) Omission or generalization

If a slang term is untranslatable or inappropriate, the translator may choose to omit it or generalize the meaning.

English Slang	Literal Meaning	Possible Uzbek Translation
Lit	Exciting, fun	Zo‘r, qiziqarli
Ghost (someone)	Cut off contact	Bevosita aloqani uzmoq
Flex	Show off	Maqtanmoq, ko‘z-ko‘z qilmoq
BFF	Best friend forever	Eng yaqin do‘st
Clap back	Retort strongly	Qattiq javob bermoq

Translating youth slang from English into Uzbek is a complex task that requires more than just linguistic knowledge. It demands an understanding of cultural references, social dynamics, and the rapidly changing nature of youth language. Effective translation of slang can enhance the accessibility and relatability of texts for young audiences while preserving the original flavor and tone. Further research and a growing corpus of translated slang terms may help refine best practices in this field.

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