COLLOQUIAL VOCABULARY AS A MEANS OF EXPRESSING EMOTIONS IN ENGLISH SPEECH

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Abstract: This article examines the role of colloquial vocabulary as a means of expressing emotions in English speech. Particular attention is paid to the semantic, pragmatic, and functional characteristics of colloquial units—including informal terms, emotionally charged expressions, interjections, intensifiers, and other lexical devices used to convey emotional states. The study explores how native English speakers employ colloquial vocabulary to express positive and negative emotions, establish interpersonal relationships, and create a specific emotional atmosphere during communication.

Keywords: colloquial vocabulary, English speech, emotional expression, expressiveness, informal communication, emotionally charged vocabulary, lexical semantics, pragmatics, oral communication, language and emotions.

Аннотация: В нашей статье рассматривается роль разговорной лексики как средства выражения эмоций в английской речи. Особое внимание уделяется семантическим, прагматическим и функциональным особенностям разговорных единиц, включая неформальные слова, эмоционально окрашенные выражения, междометия, усилительные конструкции и другие лексические средства передачи эмоционального состояния. Исследуются способы, посредством которых носители английского языка используют разговорную лексику для выражения положительных и отрицательных эмоций, установления межличностных отношений и создания определённой эмоциональной атмосферы в процессе общения.

Ключевые слова: разговорная лексика, английская речь, эмоциональное выражение, экспрессивность, неформальное общение, эмоционально окрашенная лексика, лексическая семантика, прагматика, устная коммуникация, язык и эмоции.

Introduction. Modern English is a dynamic system in which various functional levels and forms of verbal communication constantly interact. Alongside formal and neutral vocabulary, colloquial language holds a special place; it most fully reflects the nuances of everyday communication, the speaker's emotional state, and the nature of interpersonal relationships. In the context of expanding international communication, the study of colloquial linguistic units has gained particular significance, as these units reveal the actual mechanisms by which language functions in a natural communicative environment. Colloquial vocabulary is a vital component of English speech, serving not only a nominative function but also an expressive one. Unlike neutral terms, colloquial units carry an additional emotional or evaluative connotation, allowing the speaker to convey joy, surprise, dissatisfaction, irony, approval, or other emotional states. For instance, expressions such as "awesome," "amazing," "cool," "no way," "that's

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crazy," and "I'm thrilled" do more than convey a specific meaning—they also communicate the speaker's attitude toward a situation or the subject of the conversation.

From the perspective of functional linguistics, language is viewed not merely as a means of transmitting information, but also as a tool for expressing human feelings, evaluations, and social relationships. According to M. Halliday, language performs several interconnected functions, among which the interpersonal function—enabling speakers to express their attitudes toward the world around them and toward other participants in the communicative process—is of particular importance [1]. Colloquial vocabulary serves as one of the most effective means of realizing this function. The issue of emotionality in language is actively explored within the field of emotive linguistics. V. I. Shakhovsky notes that emotions are an integral part of the linguistic worldview, and that emotionally charged linguistic units reflect a person's capacity to express a subjective attitude toward reality through language [2]. According to this approach, emotional semantics is shaped not only by the direct naming of feelings but also through evaluative meanings, stylistic nuances, and contextual factors. Furthermore, colloquial vocabulary plays a crucial role in making English speech sound natural for language learners. A lack of proficiency in using emotionally charged expressions often results in speech that, while grammatically correct, sounds unnatural or overly formal. Consequently, the study of colloquial vocabulary is an essential prerequisite for developing full communicative competence.

Thus, examining colloquial vocabulary as a means of expressing emotion allows us to view the English language not merely as a system of signs and rules, but as a vital instrument of human interaction—one that reflects the feelings, evaluations, and social experiences of its native speakers.

Main part. Colloquial vocabulary occupies an important place in the system of modern English, since it most fully reflects the features of natural human communication. Unlike bookish and official-business vocabulary, colloquial units are characterized by greater freedom of use, emotional richness, and close dependence on the specific communication situation.

From a linguistic point of view, colloquial vocabulary is a collection of words and expressions used predominantly in informal oral communication. This group includes simple colloquial words, abbreviations, emotionally colored expressions, interjections, intensifiers, phrasal verbs, and fixed colloquial constructions.

The main characteristics of colloquial vocabulary are:

• informality — use primarily in everyday situations;
• expressiveness — the ability to convey the speaker's emotional attitude;
• contextual dependence — change of meaning depending on the communication situation;
• dynamism — constant renewal of the vocabulary under the influence of social processes;
• subjectivity — reflection of personal evaluation and the speaker's attitude.

According to G. Leech, the emotional component of meaning is an important part of linguistic semantics, since many words acquire additional meaning through the speaker's attitude to the subject of speech [4]. Thus, colloquial vocabulary acts not only as a means of transmitting information but also as a tool for expressing subjective perception of reality.

The main feature of colloquial vocabulary is its ability to express a person's emotional state. In the process of communication, the speaker strives not only to report certain information but also to convey their attitude to what is happening.

For example, the neutral expression:

• I like this movie — "Мне нравится этот фильм"

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can acquire various emotional shades through the use of colloquial vocabulary:

• I really love this movie! — expression of a strong positive feeling;

• This movie is awesome! — expression of admiration;

• This movie is terrible! — expression of negative evaluation.

Thus, the choice of certain lexical units allows the speaker to enhance the emotional impact of the utterance.

Emotionally colored colloquial vocabulary can express a wide range of feelings:

• joy (amazing, fantastic, awesome);

• surprise (wow, no way, seriously?);

• irritation (annoying, ridiculous, freaking);

• approval (cool, great, brilliant);

• disappointment (disappointing, lame, sucks).

V. I. Shakhovsky notes that the emotionality of language is manifested through special linguistic means that allow a person to encode their experiences and attitude toward objects of the surrounding reality [5].

One of the key features of colloquial vocabulary is the dependence of emotional meaning on context. The same word can express different emotions depending on the situation, intonation, and relationships between interlocutors.

For example, the word "crazy" can have several meanings:

• That's a crazy idea! — negative evaluation (an unreasonable idea);

• That concert was crazy! — positive evaluation (an incredible, impressive concert).

Similarly, the word "sick" in modern colloquial English can mean:

• "ill" in the neutral sense;

• "amazing, excellent" in youth slang.

This shows that the emotional interpretation of colloquial words depends not only on their dictionary meaning but also on the communicative situation.

According to M. McCarthy and R. Carter, the study of colloquial speech requires analysis of real language situations, since the meaning of many colloquial expressions is formed precisely in the process of interaction between speakers [6].

In addition to expressing emotions, colloquial vocabulary performs an important social function. The use of certain expressions allows participants in communication to create an atmosphere of closeness, trust, and informality.

For example:

• Hey, buddy! — demonstration of a friendly attitude;

• That's awesome, man! — expression of emotional support;

• No worries! — creating a positive atmosphere of communication.

Emotionally colored colloquial vocabulary is especially actively used among young people. Young native speakers form their own language models that reflect the common values, interests, and cultural characteristics of the group.

Thus, colloquial vocabulary is not only a means of conveying emotions but also a mechanism of social identification.

Modern digital technologies have significantly changed the ways of expressing emotions in English. Social networks and messengers contribute to the emergence of new forms of emotional communication.

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Modern digital emotional means include:
• abbreviations (OMG — expression of surprise, LOL — expression of laughter);
• internet slang (mood, vibe, iconic);
• memetic expressions;
• intensification of emotionality through repetitions and graphic means.
For example:
• I'm literally obsessed! — intensified expression of admiration;
• This is so good! — expression of a high degree of positive evaluation.

The digital environment accelerates the spread of such expressions and facilitates their transition from limited internet use into everyday colloquial speech.

For learners of English, mastery of colloquial vocabulary is an important condition for the formation of communicative competence. Knowledge of only literary and neutral words often leads to speech becoming formally correct but insufficiently natural.

The study of emotionally colored vocabulary allows one to:
• better understand native speakers;
• perceive films and media content without losing semantic shades;
• participate more effectively in informal conversations;
• correctly express one's own emotions.

Consequently, colloquial vocabulary should be regarded as a necessary element in teaching modern English.

Conclusions and recommendations. The analysis shows that colloquial vocabulary is one of the most important means of expressing emotions in contemporary English, playing a significant role in interpersonal communication. It allows a speaker to convey not only the core content of a message but also their emotional state, subjective assessment, attitude toward the subject of discussion, and intentions within a specific communicative context. By employing emotionally charged words, expressions, interjections, emphatic structures, and conversational phrases, a speaker can make their speech more expressive, natural, and communicatively effective. A key feature of colloquial vocabulary is its close connection to context, the social environment, and the cultural characteristics of native speakers. The same linguistic units can take on different emotional nuances depending on the communicative situation, intonation, and the relationship between the participants. This confirms that emotional meaning is shaped not merely at the level of lexical definition, but also through the process of actual verbal interaction.

Thus, colloquial vocabulary is not a secondary or less significant component of the English language; rather, it is an actively evolving stratum of the linguistic system that reflects the dynamic functioning of speech and the nuances of human perception of reality. Studying it provides a deeper understanding of the mechanisms behind emotional expression, the patterns of linguistic change, and the interconnections between language, culture, and human social experience. For this reason, colloquial vocabulary remains a vital subject of study in modern linguistics and holds great practical value for English language teaching, translation, and the development of intercultural communication skills.

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