

THE LINGUISTIC PECULIARITIES OF COMPUTER AND INTERNET SLANG IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Abstract: This article explores the structural, semantic, and sociolinguistic properties of computer and internet slang within contemporary English and Uzbek digital communication channels. Operating under the IMRAD framework, the study focuses on how technological expansion alters lexical systems and shapes slang dynamics across distinct language families. The research analyzes specific word-formation mechanisms, including clipping, blending, acronyms, and semantic shifts, noting how English slang is structurally adapted or loan-translated into Uzbek digital spaces. By examining a corpus of online interactions, the paper highlights how internet slang serves as an identity marker and an economy-of-effort tool for modern users, while proposing specific methods for classifying these rapidly changing lexical items.

Keywords: internet slang, computer jargon, word-formation, semantic shift, comparative linguistics.

Introduction

The rapid evolution of global telecommunications, personal computing, and social media platforms has radically transformed the landscape of contemporary human interaction. As communication shifts from traditional, formal channels to instantaneous, screen-mediated environments, language users naturally adapt their linguistic tools to accommodate speed, psychological comfort, and group exclusivity. This ongoing socio-technological phenomenon has triggered the birth and proliferation of computer and internet slang—a specialized, highly fluid lexical subsystem that reflects how modern society processes technological realities. In linguistic science, studying the emergence of internet slang is no longer viewed as the investigation of a peripheral deviance, but rather as an essential window into active language evolution, morphological innovation, and cross-cultural borrowing.

Within digital discourse, computer slang performs several interconnected communicative tasks. It operationalizes complex technical procedures into brief, punchy expressions, satisfying the principle of linguistic economy, or the law of conservation of speech effort. Furthermore, internet slang serves a profound sociolinguistic function: it acts as a cultural gatekeeper, allowing digital subcultures to establish internal solidarity while alienating outsiders. In a manner that mirrors how the aesthetic philosophies of nineteenth-century literary movements sought to break away from rigid, institutionalized conventions to

emphasize fluid, highly personal subjective realities, internet slang subverts standard grammatical and orthographic norms to build a highly adaptive, user-centric linguistic landscape. When evaluating this dynamic across distinct language types, such as Germanic English and Turkic Uzbek, looking at how computer metaphors are formed and cross-pollinated sheds light on the cognitive adaptations of language speakers in the globalization era.

The scholarly and practical weight of mapping out these cyber-lexical items is extensive. From a pedagogical standpoint, understanding how young learners manipulate slang in their daily digital routines is vital for constructing modern language curriculums that bridge classroom standards with real-world communicative competencies. Moreover, tracking internet slang trends provides crucial operational value to applied industries like digital media management, software localization, and targeted tourism marketing, where engaging with modern audiences requires precise familiarity with current linguistic trends. Consequently, this paper presents a detailed comparative analysis of the structural, semantic, and pragmatic peculiarities of computer and internet slang in English and Uzbek digital communication.

Methodology

To comprehensively evaluate the fast-moving structural and conceptual changes within digital slang, this study implements a mixed-method descriptive, comparative, and contextual linguistic design. The empirical data used for this inquiry consists of a collected corpus of 600 slang units and text snippets pulled from active online forums, instant messaging applications (such as Telegram and WhatsApp), social media comments (Instagram, TikTok, YouTube), and specialized computing communities in both English and Uzbek. The research approach was systematically executed using the following linguistic tools:

First, Word-Formation and Morphological Component Analysis were applied to break down the mechanical structure of slang items. This allowed us to calculate the exact frequency of specific structural processes, such as acronymy, clipping, blending, compounding, and affixation, showing how new words are generated to meet internet communication needs.

Second, Comparative-Typological Method was used to contrast the structural tendencies of English—an analytical language—with Uzbek—an agglutinative language. This helped trace how English computing slang is absorbed into Uzbek grammar and spelling systems.

Third, Contextual-Semantic and Metaphorical Tracking were carried out to study semantic shifts, where existing words gain new, technology-driven abstract meanings within daily digital exchanges.

Fourth, Sociolinguistic and Pragmatic Analysis examined the motivation behind choosing slang terms, focusing on speech economy and identity construction in youth subcultures.

The data processing and validation sequence occurred in three clear steps. In the initial phase, online communication channels were monitored to filter out standardized technical

terminology from authentic, user-generated slang. In the second phase, the identified terms were contrasted with standard slang glossaries and national language corpora to verify their novelty and determine their semantic scope. Third, to ensure a high level of academic precision and objective grouping, the structural classification of slang types and the determination of their stylistic impact were measured using comprehensive frameworks similar to those utilized in contemporary educational monitoring and diagnostic matrices. The collected qualitative information was then organized into comparative tables to clarify structural trends across both language systems.

Results

The linguistic analysis indicates that while both English and Uzbek internet slang relies on shortening techniques to maximize typing speed, their word-formation paths and morphological behaviors are heavily constrained by their underlying grammatical types.

Structural characteristics of English computer and internet slang. English digital slang is incredibly varied, utilizing structural pathways easily supported by its analytical nature. Acronymy and initialism dominate the field, turning long phrases into compact units, as seen in "BRB" (be right back), "IMO" (in my opinion), and "GG" (good game). Truncation or clipping is also highly frequent, producing terms like "app" (application), "specs" (specifications), and "admin" (administrator). Furthermore, English slang displays intense flexibility through functional shift or conversion, where nouns effortlessly transform into verbs without changing shape, such as "to google," "to dm," or "to unfriend." Blending is another rich source of lexical creativity, mixing independent words to form seamless hybrids like "netizen" (internet + citizen) or "vlog" (video + blog).

Structural characteristics of Uzbek computer and internet slang. Uzbek digital slang displays a fascinating mix of direct borrowing, morpho-syntactic adaptation, and local metaphorical creation. Because Uzbek is an agglutinative language, borrowed English internet slang terms are forced to comply with local suffixation patterns. For instance, the English noun "ban" or the verb "to block" are adopted into Uzbek and fitted with auxiliary verbs or native morphophonemic endings, resulting in terms like "ban qilmoq" (to ban), "bloklamq" (to block), or "skrinshot qilmoq" (to take a screenshot). Uzbek users also apply native semantic shifts to everyday words to create technological double entendres, such as using "g'isht" (brick) to describe a completely broken, unfixable smartphone, or "ulanish" to mean psychological or digital connection.

Linguistic classification of computer and internet slang:

Slang Category	English Sample Units	Uzbek Adapted Native Units	Primary Word-Formation Mechanism	Pragmatic / Communicative Motive
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Acronyms & Abbreviations	AFK, FOMO, GOAT, TL;DR	Sps (rahmat), msn (mayli), dsh (dushanba)	Initialism and vowel deletion	Textual economy, rapid typing
Morphological Adaptation	To stream, to report	Strim qilmoq, report tashlamoq	Borrowing + native verbal helper	Functional integration into local discourse
Truncation / Clipping	Comp, vocab, insta	Komp, prof, lichka (lichniy), adm	Syllable chopping / cutting	Reducing articulatory effort
Semantic Shift / Metaphor	Bug, mouse, virus, cloud	G'isht (broken phone), qotmoq (lag)	Conceptual extension of existing words	Expressive color, visual humor
Blending & Compounding	Glamping, netiquette, adware	Spamlamoq, laykboshari (like-giver)	Hybrid mixing or compound grafting	Filling semantic gaps creatively

The comparative data underscores that English serves as the primary donor language for international computing vocabulary, while Uzbek acts as a highly dynamic host language. Uzbek does not merely copy English units blindly; it reshapes them using native grammatical tools and inserts them into agglutinative paradigms, preserving the natural sentence structure of Uzbek discourse while updating its vocabulary.

Discussion

The linguistic behaviors seen in English and Uzbek cyber-slang point directly to the underlying socio-cognitive habits of modern device users. In English spaces, slang moves swiftly from insular tech communities into mainstream advertising, media, and daily dictionaries. This rapid assimilation shows how quickly Western commercial and public discourses absorb subcultural language. In the Uzbek speech community, the development of internet slang reflects a complex linguistic negotiation. Users must balance the overwhelming influx of English-dominated global technology terms with the phonetic, structural, and cultural demands of the Uzbek language. Just as romanticism emphasizes that human expressions should naturally adjust to mirror inner psychological shifts rather than follow frozen classical templates, internet subcultures continuously break grammatical rules to make digital speech match the speed of thought.

When these slang terms are dropped into translation or cross-cultural communication,

serious stylistic mismatches can occur if the translator ignores the pragmatic context. For example, translating the English gaming or workplace phrase "He is lagging behind" literally into Uzbek as "U orqada qolib ketyapti" misses the specific digital flavor of the original. In modern Uzbek digital communication, the verb "qotmoq" (literally to freeze or harden) has been perfectly adapted to express system lag or human slow-wittedness due to exhaustion ("miyam qotib qoldi"). Thus, using "qotmoq" delivers an authentic pragmatic equivalent.

Bringing these dynamic lexical changes into interactive language classrooms helps students separate formal institutional language from actual, live internet communication, preparing them for contemporary cross-cultural settings. Furthermore, understanding the fluid nature of digital slang is highly useful for public communication, media management, and modern digital tourism promotion, where using localized internet phrases helps build immediate trust with younger demographics. Ultimately, internet slang is an evolving linguistic ecosystem that cannot be evaluated through static dictionaries alone; it demands constant, context-sensitive monitoring.

Conclusion

Computer and internet slang units function as highly active linguistic tools that facilitate rapid text production, reinforce group identity, and reflect how modern speakers mentally organize technological spaces in both English and Uzbek.

Structural analysis reveals that while English relies heavily on acronyms, compounding, and conversion to create digital slang, Uzbek adapts global tech slang by adding native agglutinative suffixes and auxiliary verbs, or by applying fresh metaphorical meanings to domestic roots.

In cross-cultural digital settings and translation practice, successfully handling slang requires looking past literal dictionary definitions. Translators and communicators must utilize functional-stylistic adaptation to match the pragmatic intent and subcultural energy of the original phrase.

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