

CHANGES IN COLLOQUIAL ENGLISH SEEN THROUGH COMICS

Изучение изменений в разговорном английском через комиксы

Comics are the important part of pop culture that everyone has touched at least once. But beyond entertainment function, comics can also be a marker of the changes of in a language, especially in its lexis. But how exactly can we see the development of language? The purpose of this research is to show how one can use comics for studying the changes in spoken English and also for teaching it.

The history of comics begins in the 19th century and for three centuries people have been actively reading and writing them and the biggest part of them was written in English. For those who are not native English speakers, comics are the opportunity to understand English speakers, to grasp their humor and unusual expressions. There are student's books which have comics, but they are often used for children's education. Their bright pictures attract and the stories allow you to plunge into a new world. A good example is the textbook "English Made easy" from Crichton J. and Koster P. In the first pages of the book, we can see how the main characters talk about their names and family and the last pages show us some more difficult speech situations, for example how to order something or ask a talk with a police officer when you park your car in a wrong way.

In addition to school education, we will also touch upon something more professional from a linguistic point of view. Let's investigate the evolution of words, jokes and speech in general. One of the most popular examples of humorous comics is "Garfield" by Jim Davis. This book can show you some good jokes but also it can show the progress of English itself. The comics started in 1978 when there weren't any digital gadgets and there were no using any modern words like "streaming" or "to text" in the meaning "to have an online chat with someone".

Another example is DC comics which have one of the most recognizable character – Batman. The first comics about him was published in 1940 and we can see a lot of complete sentences and phrases, but in the comics published in 2010 there are a lot of slang words and contracted forms like "gotcha".

Furthermore, it is necessary to say that vocabulary and metaphors haven't become much more interesting and deeper in meaning. From DC comics we know the villain Joker, whose quotes are often become iconic. Previously, the speech of the heroes was catchier than now. There are fewer interesting words and expressions. To prove my words, I will give several examples from the Joker's lines. The first will be from "The Killing joke" (1988), the most popular phrases in this comics were: "A

candle flickered into life, symbol of hope for millions. A single tiny candle, shining in the ugly dark. I laughed and blew it out.” And another one: “All it takes is one bad day to reduce the sanest man alive to lunacy.” You can feel how deep his words are, what successful comparisons and personifications he uses and this is a vital part of lexical stylistics and linguistics in general. The second example is “Last Laugh#6” (2001), the speech became poor and the most popular phrase is: “I hit Jason harder than that. His name was Jason, right?” and there weren’t any good locution which can be as rich as from “The killing joke”.

In conclusion, we can say that comics are a clear example of the changes of the English language, traced over three centuries, and therefore comics are of great importance for linguists and ordinary people who want to touch the English language and culture.

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THE SPECIFICS OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE HUMOR IN “THE SIMPSONS” CARTOON SERIES

Особенности англоязычного юмора в мультипликационном сериале «Симпсоны»

The aim of this article is to show from the linguistics point of view that the humor in the Simpsons series possess an ordinary (everyday) character while at the same time expressing absurdity of life, using play on words, puns, and double-meaning as methods of expression.

The Simpsons series is an American animated series within the genre of situational comedy, having been ceaselessly released since 1989, depicting the life of the Simpsons family.

The humor used in the series is sometimes difficult to understand; usually it conveys negative and uncomfortable meaning.

1. For instance, in the first episode of the second season, the character Bart Simpson being unprepared for a school test asked the bus driver to prompt a road accident, the driver replied he couldn’t but mentioned the luck as the possibility.

<Bart: –I got a test I'm not ready for. Can you crash the bus or something?

Driver: –Sorry, I can't do it on purpose. But maybe you'll get lucky>

The negativity and absurdness of the joke lies in the notion that an adult totally ignored the child’s “joke” on suicide.