

Секция 5

ВОПРОСЫ ФОРМИРОВАНИЯ СОВРЕМЕННОЙ ЛИНГВОКУЛЬТУРНОЙ СРЕДЫ

АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

P. Baydalov

П. А. Байдалов

БГУ (Минск)

Научный руководитель Н. П. Теслюк

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CONTEMPORARY LINGUACULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

Тенденции развития современной лингвокультурной среды

Probably one of the most prolific impacts on contemporary language is arguably that of the pandemic. For one, in English the default meaning of words such as *strain* or *face mask* has shifted in perception from an agricultural and skin care one to viral and medical, respectively¹. For another thing, words now have a tendency to be specifically conceptually mapped onto a medical context – like *wave* being associated with «wave of infection», as opposed to «heatwave».

¹ In case you are interested in seeing the references list, please feel free to contact me at pavelbaydalov@gmail.com.

A different phenomenon is that the rise of the digital space following urbanization in the 20th century has led to a poorer command of nature-related vocabulary, with a decline in the use of words denoting natural objects and phenomena, bird, flower, and tree names, entailing an ever-worsening ability of the ordinary people to differentiate between plant and animal genera.

Additionally, some linguists claim that *bro* has become a new personal pronoun in the course of semantic bleaching (losing the gender reference, too, for some speakers). However, this claim is not shared by all linguists, and the lemma, at the time of writing, lacks several characteristics of such deemed necessary in linguistics. First, unlike other personal pronouns, it lacks a reflexive (**broself*)², a possessive (instead, using the genitive), or an inflected objective form like *me* or *him* (*I didn't mean to hurt bro*). And, second, it does not normally take on more than one referent in its immediate domain. Cf., although problematic and yet observed, *He gave him his keys back* and **Bro gave bro's keys back*. Thus, it best stands to reason that it must be a proper noun (similarly to *dad* in *Have you seen Dad?*) from a linguistic standpoint, although it may be maintained as a pronoun in traditional grammar.

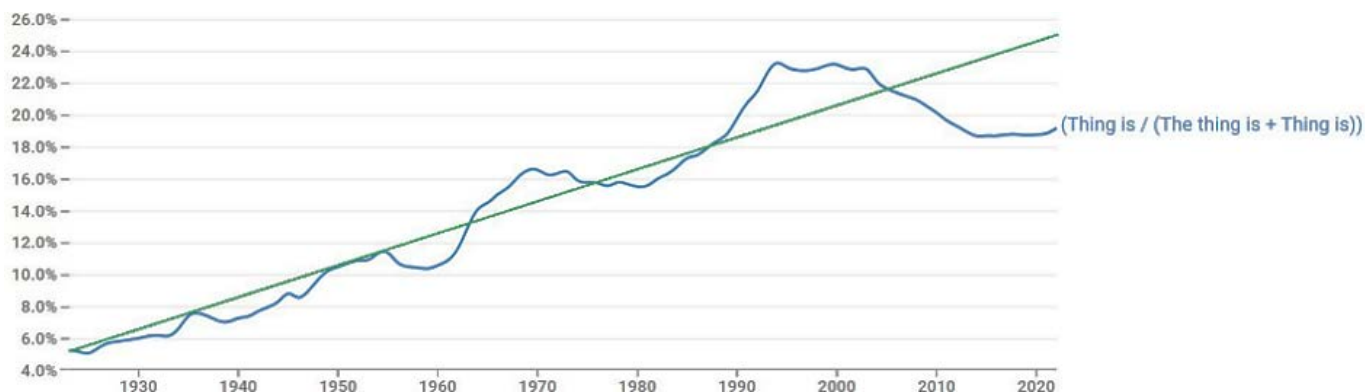
Yet another feature of the contemporary linguistic environment is the partial adoption of traditionally AAVE and Jamaican Patois vocabulary by non-Black speakers and interdialect communication that have been allowed by social media (e.g., *finna* «going to» < *fixing to*, *to ball* «to persevere; to live large» < *to ball* «to play basketball», *cap* «lies; to lie», *blud* «he; also a term of address, Cf. *bro*» < Caribbean Creole *blood* «somebody close to one»). Of special interest is the case of 6–7 («homicide» < *code 10–67* «report of a dead body» in the Philadelphia police) because, unlike others, having undergone an extreme case of semantic bleaching, it has become a word essentially void of meaning (other than acting as a shibboleth for the few who are «in») to many of the schoolchildren who choose to exclaim it. The bleaching was so sheer that reconstructing its supposed meaning had sometimes been carried out erroneously even by the press. It was first coined by rapper Skrilla on «Doot Doot», where one of the lines reads: 6–7, *I just bipped right on the highway* [«Homicide; I just made it straight to the highway and darted out of there»]. The catchy line was then misinterpretedly used in clips featuring the basketball player LaMelo Ball whose height is 6'7", to eventually be enthusiastically yelled out by a kid at a basketball event, which, in its turn, was reacted to (and hence, popularized) by LaMelo Ball himself, from where the phrase spread fast through social platforms.

Also changing is the syntax of the language. This is exemplified by the increasingly common elision of determiners in definite nouns at the beginning of a sentence or clause in inner-circle Englishes, chiefly in colloquial speech and in some written informal genres (it's even more so common in AAVE—see the last example): *The judge had called 3 cases at the same time*. <...> *So, I get down there – Ø judge says* <...>, *It's not malaria: Ø Bloodwork's negative, Ø Door's open, Ø Shooter stay strapped* [«The hitman is always

² Notation used throughout: * not a registered usage in norm-providing inner-circle Englishes outside, perhaps, satire – neither in formal nor informal speech; ? marginal usage; < comes from; ‘ ’ having the meaning of; Ø zero article.

armed»]. This phenomenon, surprisingly, has a very minimal dedicated coverage in the literature, despite its considerable and ever-rising commonness in speech – in part, due to, perhaps, the problematicness of citing and gathering spoken, not written, sources.

That this usage is natural (in an informal style, at any rate), one can see in the dynamic of the zero article share in the phrase [*The*] *thing is*, ..., shown in the figure³.



The dynamic of the zero article share in the phrase [*The*] *thing is*

Lastly, changes have also been happening in morphology under the influence of NAmE, to the point where, according to the linguist Dr. Geoff Lindsey, the use of simple past with present-relevant meaning has now also gotten not unheard of in BrE: *Did something just fall?* or *No, thanks, I already ate*, which reflects the impact of globalization coupled with diffusion along the digital space whereby users are often unable to make a judgment as to the spatial origin of the content presented to them.

D. Baranovsky

Д. В. Барановский

МИ МВД (Могилев)

Научный руководитель Е. Е. Иванов

TYPES OF SLANG: A SOCIOLINGUISTIC ASPECT

Виды сленга: социолингвистический аспект

Alongside the literary, normative language, there exist its non-codified variants, represented by jargon and slang. In everyday communication, slang is used by

³ Please note that the author would opt for the combined (British + American) English corpus to illustrate the dynamic, but, for the unaccounted spike in the constituent American data in 1938 perhaps arising from an OCR error or an inadequately small pool in that year that would groundlessly skew the resultant graph, abstained from doing so. The results are case-sensitive to ensure only the beginning of sentences are taken into account. The blue line depicts each year's moving average for 5 years. Since the elision of the type **[A] thing is* is not normal, especially that *?a thing is* is in itself marginal, one can be sure *Thing is* in the graph above only represents definite article omission in both the numerator and denominator, which is part of the reason the phrase was chosen as the illustration in the first place. The green line roughly illustrates the general trend, showing clear-cut proof for the increase in the incidence of left-edge article elision.