

**THE IMAGE OF THE US POLICE  
ON THE MATERIAL OF AMERICAN GANGSTA RAP**

**АНАЛИЗ ИМИДЖА ПОЛИЦИИ США  
НА МАТЕРИАЛЕ ТЕКСТОВ АМЕРИКАНСКОГО ГАНГСТА РЭПА**

The purpose of my report was to analyze public opinion in the United States about law enforcement agencies based on the lyrics of the American gangsta rap. The material of the study was the lyrics of famous rap artists in the USA (*2pac, 50 cent, Ice Cube, Geto boys, M.O.P., Dead prez*). Gangsta rap has its style and is aimed at youth problems: crime, drug addiction, police brutality. This topic is relevant since over the years pressure has increased in the field of illegal earnings, which is one of the main sources of income in the ghetto. Consequently, discontent from the gangsta rappers is increasing, they began to call themselves the revolutionary army, which will erect a victorious salute (*Dead Prez — I Have a Dream Too*). All cases of mentioning law enforcement agencies in these songs were classified and analyzed. Two types represent the identified nominations: primary and secondary nominations.

Secondary nomination — the use in the act of nomination of the phonetic appearance of an existing unit as a name for a new designator. In acts of secondary nomination, associations are established by similarity or adjacency between some properties of elements of an extra-linguistic series displayed in an existing meaning of a name and properties of a new designator, called by rethinking this value, for example, “policeman — pigs”. By the nature of the indication by name on reality, 2 types of secondary nomination are distinguished — autonomous and non-autonomous, or indirect. The autonomous nomination is based on one name. The non-autonomous nomination is the use of the combinatorial technique of the language in the process of forming a new language unit [1].

The object of my research was some well-known tracks of such gangsta rappers like Ice Cube (2 secondary and 3 primary nominations), The Getto Boys (3 secondary and 1 primary nominations), M.O.P. (5 secondary and 3 primary nominations), Heems (8 secondary and 4 primary nominations), 2pac (8 secondary and 3 primary nomina-

tions), Dead Prez (9 secondary and 3 primary nominations), 50 Cent “Get Rich or Die Tryin” (13 secondary and 4 primary). There are secondary nominations with neutral connotation in the analyzed material. However, in the context, it serves to reflect a negative attitude towards the police. For example: “*The only good cop is a dead cop, police brutality, must come to a STOP*” (Dead Prez). There are cases of using complex metaphors, for example: “*...your punk-ass ghetto bird*” (Ice Cube). Abbreviations are also used as secondary nominations: “*D’s come we dump the diesel and battery acid*” (50 Cent “Get Rich or Die Tryin”). An example of a primary nomination is the line from the 2pac song “Open Fire”: “*It’s gonna take an army full of crooked ass cops to come and get me*”.

As a result, I found 48 cases of using a secondary nomination and 21 primary ones. The vast majority of the analyzed nominations are secondary nominations. Cases of using the primary nomination are extremely rare. In 70 % of cases, this is a one-word nomination, and in the remaining 30 %, it is verbose. The most common nominations: cops, pigs, hoes, blue suits, chota, po-po, la ley, jura, feds, jakes. There are also mentions of a case involving Rodney King (2pac — “Soulja’s Story”), which was beaten by police and provoked riots in Los Angeles (He received 6 punches, 55 punches with a baton and two shots from a Taser stun gun).

Thus, the US police appear in the texts of rap artists as a corrupt, ruthless, racially intolerant structure. These factors are the causative agents of such a stubborn confrontation. Gangsta rappers portray the police as thugs who are only interested in pressuring Afro-Americans. That is the reason for various negative stereotypes about the US police.

### Reference

1. Лингвистический энциклопедический словарь [Электронный ресурс] / гл. ред. В. Н. Ярцева. — М. : Сов. энцикл., 1990.