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Military slang: Origin, structure and semantics

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Abstract


The humankind has been facing different wars and military conflicts during its existence and development. In the current globalized world, the role of the military is very essential and obvious. Furthermore, military slang in English is of utmost significance due to the leading role of the military from various English-speaking countries. The aim of the following research is to identify and analyze military slangy words and phrases in English; to create the military slang phrases and words corpus; to make their semantic and structural characteristics analyses; and to explain their practical usage context. The methods applied in this research include linguistic analysis, which was utilized in the selection of military slang words and phrases applied in modern English; the word-building analysis, which helped in determining semantics and structural features of military words and phrases utilized in the English language; and linguo-cultural and socio-cultural analyses that allowed giving explanations of the UK and US military traditions, cultures, and vocabulary specific features. The specific characteristics of military slang are dynamism, exaggerated


Анотація


Протягом усього свого існування та розвитку людство стикалося з різними війнами та військовими конфліктами. У сучасному глобалізованому світі роль військових є дуже важливою та очевидною. Крім того, військовий сленг в англійській мові є надзвичайно важливим через провідну роль військових з різних англійських країн. Метою даного дослідження є виявлення та аналіз військових сленгових слів та словосполучень в англійській мові; створення корпусу військових сленгових словосполучень та слів; аналіз їх семантичних та структурних характеристик; а також, пояснення контексту їх практичного використання. У дослідженні використано такі методи, як лінгвістичний аналіз, за допомогою якого було відібрано слова та словосполучення військового сленгу, що вживаються у сучасній англійській мові; словотвірний аналіз, який допоміг визначити семантику та структурні особливості військових слів та словосполучень, що вживаються в англійській мові; лінгвокультурологічний та соціокультурний аналізи, які дозволили пояснити особливості військових традицій, культури та

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expression, broad usage by the military, and general familiarity. The military slang vocabulary units have the same formation ways typical of general English vocabulary, including meanings transfer (metaphor), abbreviation and acronyms, blending, affixation, conversion, shortening, and compounding.

Keywords: slang, military slang, word-building, metaphor, compounding, origin.

Introduction

Due to numerous wars, armed conflicts and interventions that have been taking place in different parts of the world, the role of the military has become more and more evident and significant. Among the recent wars and conflicts are the Russian-Ukrainian war, Iranian-Israeli proxy conflicts, Armenia-Azerbaijani conflicts and others (Ero & Atwood, 2023). It is worth emphasizing that the United States of America in cooperation with the United Kingdom and other English-speaking countries has actively been participating in solving the above-mentioned issues. Thus, various security hyper-threats and the ways aimed at finding effective solutions to avoid world instability have attracted plenty of attention to the military field (Boulton, 2022, 92-93). Furthermore, for the researchers working in the linguistics and translation field, the English language, military terms, and military slang in particular are of intense interest. Numerous military acronyms, abbreviations, as well as slangy words and phrases are widely used by the military in different settings, military-related reports, speeches, and mass media news. Therefore, military slang in the English language should thoroughly be studied considering the current state of affairs occurring in the world.

The **aim of the research** is to create the corpus of military slang words and phrases; identify and classify them in the English language; to analyze their structural and semantic features; and to explain the context of their application.

We collected **the corpus of the research** from the following sources: *Military Slang Dictionary* (n.d.); *Military.com* (n.d.); *War Slang: American Fighting Word and Phrases since the Civil War* (2004) by Dickson, *DOD. Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms* (2021); *Tommy French: How British First World War Soldiers Turned French into Slang* (2021) by Waker; *Soldiers'*

лексики Великої Британії та США. Специфічними рисами військового сленгу є динамічність, перебільшена експресія, широке використання військовими та загальновідомість. Лексичні одиниці військового сленгу мають ті ж самі способи творення, що й загальноживана англійська лексика, зокрема перенесення значення (метафора), аббревіація та акроніми, блендінг, афіксація, конверсія, скорочення та словоскладання.

Ключові слова: сленг, військовий сленг, словотворення, метафора, словоскладання, походження.

Songs and Slang of the Great War (2014) by Pegler.

Theoretical Framework and Literature Review

Slang is defined as a non-linguistic and non-standard additional lexical system that presents expressive and valuational, usually stylistically marked names of the generally accepted and known concepts (Jones, 2018, 233; Sun, Zemel, & Xu, 2021, 462; Pedlar, Thomson, & Castro, 2019). It belongs to a specific social subculture within the national language (Uwen & Mehnsa, 2022, 91-92). In the majority of cases, scholars use different adjectives with the term *slang*, which narrows down its meaning and clearly shows its field of application, e.g. *military slang* (including *radar slang*, *Air Forces slang*, *English Army slang*, *American Army slang*, *war slang*), *teenage slang*, *business slang*, *SMS slang*, *computer slang*, *prison slang*, *sex slang*, etc. (Shevchuk & Klymenko, 2011; Jones, 2018; Fajardo, 2019). Slang is not considered to be the form of language existence as it does not have its specific phonetic and grammatical levels and is based on each national language peculiarities (Hanaqtah, 2019). Many researchers indicate that various mass media means, as well as mobile platforms and applications assist in wide-spreading and using slang, in our case, military one (Yusuf, Fata, & Aini, 2022, 167).

In this research we regard military slang as an essential part of slang used in the English language, which is applied by the US and UK military to denote various military concepts. However, it is of great significance to take into account that there are many obvious differences in the military terms' usage by representatives of the US, UK and other English-speaking states (Dickson, 2004; Waker, 2021).

Military slang comprises almost all military life areas. All the weapon types, equipment, property types, military ranks and professions, military events and actions, armed forces types, food and drinks, uniforms, interpersonal and professional relationships, and many other aspects do have their specific names in informal and formal languages. The following tendency occurs due to the necessity to have simple, original and specific names for various concepts and objects in the professional and private life of the military professionals.

Methodology

The methods used in this research are as indicated below:

- Linguistic analysis was applied to select military slang words and phrases used in the modern English language;
- Socio-cultural and linguo-cultural analyses assisted in explaining the US and UK military cultures, traditions, vocabulary peculiar features, and others;
- Word-building analysis was utilized to determine structural and semantic features of military slang words and phrases used in the modern English language;
- Etymological analysis was used to explain the origin and reconstruct the inherent images that are the basis of the nominal units.

Discussion and Results

Semantic Word-building Processes Applied to Form Military Slang Words and Phrases

Metaphor. Metaphors based on the associations with realities and processes or with the objects of everyday domestic sphere reflect both positive and negative evaluative modality, as they are mainly means of expressing emotive shades of meaning. The most numerous are the metaphors of clothes and shoes. The lexeme *boot* entered the military slang with the meaning of *a Navy or Marine recruit*. The term is thought to come from the leggings that newly recruited sailors used to wear during training, which were called *boots*. (Since colonial days, Americans have been using the word *boot* to mean footwear reaching to the knee). The nomination has expanded its semantics to general naming someone lacking in experience. The derived word combinations also belong to the bottom of the connotative semantic differential *scale*: *boot shark* (a female who preys on new recruits); *boot Lt.* (A brand-new officer who is terrible at just about everything,

especially land nav, and is oblivious to how boot they are); *salty boot* (a boot who has a non-combat deployment). The lexeme acquires a neutral meaning to give a certain characteristic to the footwear: *Mickey Mouse boots* (cold weather boots) (Military Slang Dictionary, n.d.).

Other very commonly used slang words are a *sock* and a *shoe*. For example, the expression *fresh socks* has two meanings, the second of which arises from the first and metaphorizes the change of socks as a complete change of events on the battlefield:

“Putting new socks on after a long day in the field. A complete game changer” (Military Slang Dictionary, n.d.).

The expression *gum shoe* is used to refer to a military naval rank – Cryptologic, technician rated sailor (Military Slang Dictionary, n.d.).

The dominant lexeme, by adding a certain meaningful word, forms a compound that gives a certain characteristic of the footwear: *shower shoes* (flip flops or sandals worn in the shower to avoid any number of nasty things you might pick up in the communal showers), *crooked shoes* (footwear cut for right and left feet. Such shoes were provided to Union soldiers, many of whom, prior to enlisting, had only worn two shoes cut identically (Military Slang Dictionary, n.d.).

The word *crusher* (hats worn by pilots during World War II) is formed by association with the way hats were worn. The hat's wide top brim would need to be crushed down to allow for headsets to be worn. A parachute is metaphorically referred to as an *overcoat* (Urban Dictionary, n.d.). On the basis of sound similarity, a nominal unit *cammies* is formed that is used to name camouflage utility uniform and what are referred to as *The Battle Dress Uniform* (BDU) or a *camouflaged combat uniform* in the Army and Air Force (Dickson, 2004, 303).

The word combination *slick sleeve* is used to designate an airman basic. According to the Urban Dictionary (n.d.), it is used in the Army since the introduction of the ACU uniform, when a soldier has not yet been deployed overseas and lacks the combat patch on their right shoulder sleeve.

Concluding the analysis of the clothing metaphor, it is evident that the vast majority of the slang words used are emotive in nature. The detailed structure of the correlative domain, its closeness and comprehensibility to a person

create favorable conditions for high productivity and pragmatic potential of this type of artifactual metaphors.

Anthropomorphic metaphor. In linguistics, anthropomorphic metaphor plays a key role in the process of the surrounding reality mental structuring. A person has fixed his or her physical image, internal states, emotions and intelligence, attitude to a certain object. Almost every word mirrors a person. Human thinking and consciousness are inherently anthropocentric and capable of cognizing the outside world in close association with personal experience. Thus, anthropomorphic metaphor turns out to be one of the most productive types of metaphor in the military slang. As a result, the anthropomorphic metaphor is based on the comparisons of phenomena and processes of the military world and realities with anatomical, physiological and psychological qualities of a person, which is reflected in the basis of the metaphorical model MILITARY REALITY IS A HUMAN ORGANIZATION. For example: *bone* (a B-1 bomber); *fangs* (a Marine Corps term for one's teeth); *strawfoot* (a rural or backwoods soldier (as if he still had straw on his shoes)); *doughfoot* (an infantryman) (Military Slang Dictionary, n.d.; Dickson, 2004; Pegler, 2014; Waker, 2021). According to *The New York Times* of December 10, 1944, the term *doughfoot* alludes to the disagreeable, even miserable, conditions endured by the infantryman because of mud (Dickson, 2004). *Slicksleeve* refers to a private, the lowest Army rank, which is normally held only by new recruits while at Basic Combat Training (BCT). However, the rank occasionally is assigned to soldiers after a disciplinary action has been taken (Dickson, 2004, 330).

Allusive phenomenon metaphor. A special group of anthroponymic slang words or phrases are allusive phenomenon metaphors. Scholars interpret the term *allusive phenomenon* as the broadest in meaning, since allusive phenomena as a notion cannot be designated by any single linguistic category – a word or phrase, sentence, phraseology, cliché, metaphor, etc (Torczynska, Shymanska, Gontsa, & Dudenko, 2021). However, there is no unanimity in its interpretation. Military slang often uses expressions based on the latter. Without knowledge of certain historical figures, folk heroes or legend characters, it is hardly possible to understand the meaning of a certain word or expression. An allusive name is an individual name associated with either a well-known text or an allusive situation. It is a kind of a complex sign, when used in communication, it appeals not

to the actual denotation (in other terminology – referent), but to a set of the given allusive name differential attributes. In the military slang it may consist of one or more elements, thus denoting a single concept. For instance, *Jawa* is a term for an Army Soldier who is stationed in a desert area, named after the desert-dwelling aliens of *Star Wars* (Military, n.d.).

Joe is an army term for a soldier shortened from G.I. Joe (Military, n.d.). *G.I. Joe* is one of the numerous American media franchises and a line of the best-known action figures owned and produced by the toy company Hasbro. The initial product offering represented four of the branches of the U.S. armed forces with the Action Soldier (U.S. Army), Action Sailor (U.S. Navy), Action Pilot (U.S. Air Force), Action Marine (U.S. Marine Corps) and later on, the Action Nurse. The name is derived from the usage of *G.I. Joe* for the generic U.S. soldier, itself derived from the more general term *G.I.* The development of G.I. Joe led to the coining of the term *action figure*. G.I. Joe's appeal to children has made it an American icon among toys (Logos-World, n.d.).

The nominal unit *Sad Sack* derived from the comic book series hero name the “The Sad Sack” by American artist George Baker about the adventures of an unlucky soldier; *Andrew Jackson* “military police”, where *Andrew Jackson* is a hero of US folk legends, a skilled marksman who always hits the target, and the emblem of the military police is crossed pistols; *Billy Brown* “a soldier”, *William* is the most popular name among the British, so is the surname *Brown*. According to the same model, the following slang units are formed: *Jerry* (a German); *Jock* (a Scotsman); *Davie Jones* (a sailor or pilot who is in the water without a life jacket (Military Slang Dictionary, n.d.; Military, n.d.; Dickson, 2004; Pegler, 2014; DOD, 2021; Waker, 2021). According to Dickson (2004), *Davie Jones* is the spirit of the sea or the sailor's devil. There is the possibility that the name originated, as a corruption of *Devil Jonah*, or possibly *Duffy Jonah*, where *duffy* being a British West Indian word for the devil), *Fanny Adams* (zero visibility, a lie), *Naked Fanny* (Nakon Phanom air base), in Thailand (Military Slang Dictionary, n.d.; Dickson, 2004; Pegler, 2014; DOD, 2021; Waker, 2021).

Military personnel often use the real people and fictional heroes' names, for instance, *Jack Johnson* (a heavy artillery, large-caliber projectile). The notion derived from the famous boxer's name of the first African-American

world champion Jack Johnson (Dickson, 2004, 72). The two following names entered the military slang from cartoons: *Donald Duck* (a floating tank; a floating car); a special duplex drive (DD), which is installed on such vehicles, hence the name *Donald Duck* appeared, and *Mickey Mouse* (an educational film shown to soldiers) (Dickson, 2004). In this case, the name emerged due to the similarity to Mickey Mouse cartoons shown to children (Dickson, 2004, 188).

Gun Bunny is an ironic name for an artilleryman (similar to *Bugs Bunny*, a cartoon character known for his stupidity and ridiculous actions) (Dickson, 2004, 274).

Ali Baba is referred to an enemy soldier (Military Slang Dictionary, n.d.). The following combination became popular after the Gulf War against Iraq.

Nominal unit *Jesus Slippers* (military-issued shower footwear) is associated with Christian beliefs (Military, n.d.).

Some allusive names in military slang are often formed by means of alliteration, including *Bouncing Betty* (a mine that bounces after being stepped on to cause greater damage to the enemy); *Tommy* or *Tommy Atkins* (a name for the British common soldiers); *Joe Jump* (a parachutist); *Peeping Tom* (surveillance equipment), and others (Military Slang Dictionary, n.d.; Dickson, 2004; Pegler, 2014; DOD, 2021; Waker, 2021). Furthermore, the expression *Peeping Tom* is also based on the meaning “a curious prying fellow” (Etymonline, n.d.).

Sobbing Sister is used to name “a mine fired from a mortar”. It is worth noting that the term *sob sister* dates to 1907, when the women reporters who were covering the trial of Harry K. Thaw for murder were condemned (Proquest, n.d.).

Metaphor of nature. Wildlife occupies a significant place in the worldview of military personnel, and ideas related to it are reflected in numerous slang nominal units. Zoomorphic metaphor correlates birds and animals with the military realities: *a bird* – slang word for a helicopter (Dickson, 2004, 236, 338) and *a hawk* – a term for cold weather (Dickson, 2004, 311). The metaphor is connected with African beliefs where *Hawk* or *Hawkins* is an African-American vernacular term for a cold, biting wind.

Mustang is the term referring to any officer who was promoted from the enlisted ranks (can be

used respectfully or pejoratively,) *a snake eater* (a Special Forces soldier; also known as a tree eater); *a whale* (a tanker in the gulf), *zebra* (an N.C.O. in the higher grades (E-6 to E-9) and others (Dickson, 2004). The term *zebra* alludes to the number of insignia stripes on the sleeves.

Trench monkey is a term given to underpaid, and over qualified archaeological field technicians who work in Cultural Resource Management (Urban Dictionary, n.d.);

Slang word *to fang* is a verb used to describe a person being rebuked, called out, or otherwise disparaged. The word has a negative connotation and originates from the Old English *fang* (prey, spoils) (Etymonline, n.d.).

Grape is a plant metaphor with two meanings: one for the Air Force, where it refers to an easy assignment, and can be used as a compliment when a service member makes something look easy and the other is for the Navy, where it is utilized to characterize an individual who refuels aircraft (Military, n.d.).

Another common metaphorical group are action metaphors that are mainly nouns used in military slang to specify the way of action, for example, *cannibalize* (to take workable parts of one item and use them in another); *dust-off* (to organize a medical evacuation by helicopter); *expectant* (a casualty that is expected to pass away); *crank* (a navy term for a sailor pulling temporary duty in the galley) etc. (Military Slang Dictionary, n.d.; Dickson, 2004; Pegler, 2014; DOD, 2021; Waker, 2021). Jamieson's Scottish dictionary (1825) underlines a secondary sense of the word “hard, difficult” as in *crank word* (a word hard to be understood); *crank job* (a work attended with difficulty, or requiring ingenuity in the execution) (Etymonline, n.d.). *Gofasters* is a term for sneakers used in the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps (Military, n.d.); *kinetic* is a slang adjective meaning violent; *klicks* – kilometers, where a *kick* means a blow or thrust with the foot; *swoop* – marine term for a weekend trip off base (Military, n.d.). The etymology of the word *swoop* dates to the 1560s “to move or walk in a stately manner”, meaning “pounce upon with a sweeping movement” first recorded in the 1630s (Etymonline, n.d.). *Zoomie* is a term used by non-flying servicemembers for anyone who operates a flying vehicle. *Zoomie* is the act of an animal running around, sometimes in circles, in a very energetic way (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

The word *creepers* has several meanings: (1) lice, (2) the feet, (3) soft-soled shoes, symbols

usually included (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.; Etymonline, n. d.; Dickson, 2004, 145).

The term *comics* is used to describe maps presented by military intelligence. The term is fairly derogatory in nature as a slight against the accuracy of the maps. It also refers to the brightly colored layouts (Military, n.d.).

The semantics of the main as opposed to the secondary is embodied in the gastronomic nomination *gedunk* that is referred to snack foods, such as candy and chips, as well as the place they are sold. The following term is usually associated with the Navy, and may be utilized in the phrase *gedunk sailor* as a pejorative remark for inexperienced sailors (Military, n.d.).

A metaphor for natural phenomena is the nomen *smoke* that is used with the meaning “to punish a service member with excessive physical work due to a minor infraction” (Military, n.d.).

Structural Word-building Processes Used to Form Military Slang Words

Compounding is one of the word-building processes when one or more affixed or structurally simple words are combined to form new ones, for example, *bulkhead* (the interior divider of a ship); *sea daddy* (a senior sailor who mentors junior ones); *wingnut* (a member of the US Air Force); *glamour hat* (a helmet); *waterwalker* or *waterdog* (marines whose duty is to purify water); *Tony Hawk* (a nickname for soldiers who are excellent at avoiding any kind of work); *soup sandwich* (a situation when a person gets into a mess); *tag chaser* (a girl chasing soldiers to marry them); *slave suit* (a military uniform); *pickle suit* (a green flight suit that looks like a pickle); *pizza box* (the lowest marksman badge for a Marine shooting rifle or pistol); *hurricane party* (a party held in the barracks during the hurricane when the military base is locked down); *jungle juice* (a mix of different types of alcoholic drinks that makes people fully intoxicated at the party); *tail-end Charlie* (the last aircraft in the formation); *picture show* (a big battle); *alphabet job* (an easy task); *rest camp* (a cemetery) and many others (Military Slang Dictionary, n.d.; Military, n.d.; DOD, 2021; Pegler, 2014; Waker, 2021).

The word *firewatch ribbon* is used to name the medal of the National Defense Service. It is awarded to all military members during the wartime events (Military Slang Dictionary, n.d.). In this word *firewatch* is referred to the guard

duty that all military members do while they are at bootcamps (Etymonline, n.d.).

A *small ticket* is used in reference to a dishonorable discharge from the US Navy, whereas a *big ticket* is used when an honorable discharge is awarded (Dickson, 2004, 42).

A *bird* or *chicken colonel* is a military rank designated by a silver eagle on each colonel's shoulder. When a colonel has such a rank, he or she is regarded as a full colonel (Dickson, 2004, 140).

Fruit salad, *salad bar*, or *chest candy* refers to colorful and bright chest decorations. Usually, soldiers have a great number of battle stars and service ribbons worn on the uniform jacket left side (Dickson, 2004, 160; Military Slang Dictionary, n.d.).

Affixation, including suffixation, prefixation, or both, is frequently utilized to form military slang words in the English language. For instance, the suffix *-ie*, which has a derogatory meaning, is widely used to create military slang words: *digie* (digital camouflage worn by marines and soldiers); *swabbie* or *squidie* (*squidee*) (affectionate terms utilized by other service branches members in order to describe members of the US Navy); *brownie* (a Navy term applied to name paper towels or any paper of the brown color); *woobie* (known as a poncho liner, which is one of the military equipment pieces, such as pillow, sleeping bag, blanket, etc.); *uniform groupie* (a person following people wearing a specific uniform); *man jammies* (the robes worn by the men from the Middle East, which are similar to pajamas); *doolie* (a freshman at the USAF Academy); *dixie* (a cooking pot used in the field kitchen); *hickie* (anything whose name people cannot remember); *bunkie* (a person who shares a shelter or a bunk) (Military Slang Dictionary, n.d.; Military, n.d.; Dickson, 2004; Pegler, 2014; DOD, 2021; Waker, 2021).

The slang word *wook* or *wookie* is applied to name a female marine in the US Army Forces. There are two reasons why females are referred to in such a way. The slang word *wook* stands for the acronym *Women Outside of Kitchen*. The second reason is that according to grooming standards, women are allowed to have long hair, which is very similar to a specific hero from *The Star Wars Series*, *wookies* (Military Slang Dictionary, n.d.).

The word *crunchie* is used to name the infantry when they are on the ground. The following

nickname originates from the crunch noises the infantry produces when vehicles run over them (Dickson, 2004, 268).

The suffix *-er (-or)* is considered the most productive suffix in English (Etymonline, n.d.). This suffix has several meanings in the English language – 1) *the doer of the action* – *eagle keeper* (F-15 maintainer crew chief); *goopher* (a highly competent and experienced airman); *gravel or mud cruncher* (an infantryman); *pill roller* (a hospital corp); *side-kicker* (a sleeping companion); *top cutter* or *top kicker* (a first or top sergeant); *woobler* (an infantryman); *youngster* (a first or second lieutenant); *apron chaser* or *jumper* (a seducer); *arm-dropper* (an artillery man who gives a signal to start firing the gun by dropping his or her raised hand); *chuck spoiler* (a cook); *evader* (a person who is isolated in unfriendly or hostile territory who manages to elude capture); *snake eater* (members of US Army Special Forces); *base operating support-integrator*, also known as *BOS-I*, (the joint task force commander assigned to synchronize all functions and actions for a contingency base) (Military Slang Dictionary, n.d.; Military, n.d.; Dickson, 2004; Pegler, 2014; DOD, 2021; Waker, 2021).

2) *the object* utilized to perform some actions – *cum-dumpster* (a mouth); *digger* (knife, forma and spoon); *donut launcher* (a device fitting on the end of the M16 rifle that fires donut-shaped rubber bullets used to control riots); *sicker* (a sick report from the doctor); *go-fasters* (tennis shoes); *goat locker* (a room for Chief Petty Officers); *goldbricker* (a shrinker); *pinger* (an anti-submarine helicopter); *scablifter* (medical branch rating) etc. ((Military Slang Dictionary, n.d.; Military, n.d.; Dickson, 2004; Pegler, 2014; DOD, 2021; Waker, 2021).

Abbreviations and **acronyms**, which are considered ones of the types of shortening, are widely used in the military field. The vivid abbreviations and acronyms examples used by the US and UK military are as follows: *CW* (chemical warfare); *F3EAD* (find, fix, finish, exploit, analyze, and disseminate); *KFS* (Knife, fork, and spoon); *RAM* (random antiterrorist measure); *GOBI* (General Officer Bright Idea); *NEST* (nuclear emergency support team); *PRISM* (planning tool for resource, integration, synchronization and management); *BOHICA* (Bend Over Here It Comes Again); *QRF* (Quick Reaction Force); *FOUO* (for official use only); *CHU* (Combined Housing Unit); *COP* (Common Operation Picture); *RHIP* (Rank Has Its Privileges); *BOLO* (Be on the Lookout); *NLT*

(No Later Than); *SMIT* (Senior Marine in Training); *WTI* (Worse than Iraq); *LALO* (Low Altitude Low Opening); *LRA* (Lowest Ranking Airman); *ND* (Negligent Discharge); *PNN* (Privates News Network); *TNT* (Tactical Nap Time) etc. (Military Slang Dictionary, n.d.; Military, n.d.; Dickson, 2004; Pegler, 2014; DOD, 2021; Waker, 2021).

The abbreviation *BGB* (Big Grey Boat) refers to large battleships or carriers that are usually grey in color (Military Slang Dictionary, n.d.).

The acronym *CAR* (Combat Action Ribbon) is earned by soldiers during the combat (Military Slang Dictionary, n.d.).

The acronym *M.A.R.I.N.E.* stands for Muscles Are Required, Intelligence Non-Essential. It is used to name a member of the US Marine Corps (Military Slang Dictionary, n.d.).

The other acronym *GUPPY* (Greater Underwater Propulsive Power) refers to the class of the streamlined submarines of the US Army (Military Slang Dictionary, n.d.). Thus, it is obvious that acronyms and abbreviations are frequently used to form military slang words and phrases in the English language.

Blending is a type of word-building where the terminal or initial segments of the words are joined to form a new word, for example, *comint* (communications + intelligence); *rescap* (rescue combat air patrol); *polmil* (political + military); *comnet* (communications + network); *pvtmed* (preventive + medicine); *conus* (continental United States); *polad* (policy advisor); *orbat* (order of battle); *coop* (continuity of operation); *optar* (operation target); *resprod* (responsible + production); *netwarcom* (naval network warfare command); *navspecwarcom* (naval special warfare command); *infltrep* (inflight + report); *geoint* (geo-spatial + intelligence); *exord* (executive + order) and others ((Military Slang Dictionary, n.d.; Military, n.d.; Dickson, 2004; Pegler, 2014; DOD, 2021; Waker, 2021).

Femarines, also known as *leather nectarines* or *jungle Juliets*, comprises words female and marines. It is worth noting that the Marines insist that any gender or sex discrimination should be avoided. Thus, the term *Marines* is to be applied in reference to females (Dickson, 2004, 155).

The word *alloreq* (allocation + request) names a daily message that is aimed at providing the total air effort estimate, as well as identifying any joint and excess force general support sorties and

unfilled air requirements for any pre-planned missions (DOD, 2021).

A *phibron* (amphibious + squadron) refers to an administrative and tactical organization comprising amphibious warfare ships applied to transport military equipment and soldiers for amphibious operations. In its turn *phibop* (amphibious + operation) is an operation that is launched from the sea by military forces to conduct force operations within the littorals (DOD, 2021).

A *casevac* (casualty + evacuation) is used to name different unregulated casualty movements that may comprise movements between or to medical treatment facilities (DOD, 2021).

Colpro (collective + protection) is the protection given to the individuals that allows relaxation of biological, chemical, nuclear and radiological protection (DOD, 2021).

Shortening belongs to one of the word-building processes when initial, final or sometimes both elements of the word are omitted or deleted on purpose, for instance, *cad-idiot* (an idiot cadet); *Civ Div* (civilian division or being a 100% civilian); *K-pot/helmet* (Kevlar pot/helmet); *Septar* (Seabourne-powered target utilized for training); *civi*, *civy* or *civvy* (civillian); *helo* (a helicopter); *unsat* (unsatisfactory used to describe facilities or people that are not up to par); *sigint* (signal intelligence); *night op* (a night operation); *ammo* (ammunition); *chute* (parachute) and others (Military Slang Dictionary, n.d.; Military, n.d.; Dickson, 2004; Pegler, 2014; DOD, 2021; Waker, 2021).

The word *bro-vet* (a veteran who always lets other people know that he or she is a veteran and expects that he or she must be honored for his or her military service) derives from *brother-veteran* (Military Slang Dictionary, n.d.).

Commo (communication) is referred to different types of communication equipment or the communication officers on the US battleships. In the above-mentioned cases, the final elements of the words are omitted (Military Slang Dictionary, n.d.).

G-suit or *anti-g-suit* originates from nouns gravity or anti-gravity and suit. The Air Corps have been using such suits so that pilots do not lose their consciousness while on duty (Dickson, 2004, 170).

Thus, it is evident that such types of word-building as affixation, abbreviations / acronyms, blending, and compounding are turned out to be productive in creating slang words and phrases in the English language.

Conversion is a type of word-building (also known as zero derivation) when the word belonging to one part of speech can become the other part of speech, for instance, *to ditty-bopper* (used to describe soldiers who march out of synch with a cadence); *to spearhead* (to lead other people); *to goldbrick* (to evade duties); *to pancake* (to land flat); *to pink* (to strike with a bullet); *to police* (to clean up); *to soldier* or *to officer* (to serve); *to solo* (to fight alone); *to strip* (to reduce in rank); *to taxi* (to drive a plane along the ground without rising in the air or to acquire the need speed to take off); *to washout* (to fail); *to bomb* (to study quickly and persistently); *to brief* (to instruct in regard to the up-coming operations); *to depot* (to supply); *to dust off* (to evacuate); *to hat up* (to change one's location); *to ruck up* (to get through a very challenging or difficult situation) and others (Military Slang Dictionary, n.d.; Military, n.d.; Dickson, 2004; Pegler, 2014; DOD, 2021; Waker, 2021). As evident from the corpus of the research, the majority of words have become the verbs and are used to name different actions and processes performed by the military. In some case, we observe the change in the meaning of the military slang words.

Conclusions

Slang is one of the most interesting and, at the same time, complex language phenomena. Among linguists there is still no unified point of view on both etymology and understanding of the term's essence and its place in the lexicon system.

The distinctive features of slang in general and military slang, in particular, are exaggerated expression, dynamism, general familiarity and broad usage within the military society. Interpreting military slang will always be challenging. Due to the fact that it is dynamically developing and being updated, any dictionary and reference books devoted to the problems of military slang will inevitably "lag behind" reality. Therefore, in order to provide an adequate interpretation of specific military words and phrases, the linguists will definitely need a rather profound knowledge of military routine, army regulations and traditions, the structure of military units, their tactics, weapons and military equipment used and so on.

The knowledge of the slang expressions applied by army personnel is also of great importance, as the use of such language units can significantly improve the military reality image presented to general auditory.

The military slang vocabulary units have the same formation ways that are characteristic of general vocabulary (transfer of meanings (metaphor), blending, shortening, conversion, affixation, abbreviation and acronyms, compounding, etc.).

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