

Polina Bondarenko

Kyiv National University of Technologies and Design (Kyiv)

Scientific supervisor – associate professor, PhD Nataliia Gudkova

THE SPECIFICITY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE COMPETENCE IN THE TOURIST CONTEXT: IRISH SLANG

Today, the thesis that English is the most widespread and most geographically diverse language in the whole world does not need proof. Each locality has its own pronunciation features, its own grammatical and lexical differences from the standard norm of British English. The study of dialects of the English language is an urgent problem of modern linguistics, since the English language, functioning in a certain territory, acquires features that are unusual for it initially, and, thus, has serious differences from the main standard that must be known and taken into account.

Ireland is a bilingual country. The population speaks two languages – English and Irish. For this reason, on the territory of Ireland there is a coexistence and mutual influence of languages in a situation of bilingualism, which inevitably entails the appearance of changes in each of them at all levels of the language system, including at the lexical level.

The exotic Irish dialect is one of the features of Ireland that attracts both tourists and researchers of English dialects (Бубнов, 2019; Hickey, 2011; Sontag, 2013). Some features of the Irish dialect can make it difficult to understand the native speaker's speech and complicate communication not only with foreigners who speak the basics of classical English, but also with residents of neighboring Northern Ireland.

However, Ireland remains an attractive country for tourists. In 2015, Dublin was ranked the second friendliest city in the world by travel magazine Conde Nast Traveler. Americans recognized Dublin as the best city in Europe in terms of living

comfort, and the Lonely Planet guide ranked it third among the best cities in the world. Studying the etymology of lexical units of Irish slang becomes one of the effective ways to study the Irish dialect of English, as it provides material for understanding the national culture of the speaker and the history of his country.

Here is the list of the most widely used slang words and phrases which you will come across while visiting Ireland.

Craic. This word actually has two meanings. It might be used to characterize something fun or in the context of greeting saying “What’s the craic?” meaning “What’s the news?”. Since *craic* is so important to the everyday life of the Irish, *minus craic* is used to mean that something wasn’t just no fun, but negative fun.

Grand is mostly used to describe something as good. It is also used as a response to a question “Are you OK?” to avoid the discussion. In general, this is a hard one to explain because the meaning of “grand” Irish slang varies substantially. The true *grand* meaning in Ireland is okay, fine, or adequate. Depending on the tone of voice and situation of usage, the *grand* meaning in Irish could be anything from very good to absolutely dreadful.

Sure look has a meaning of “It is what it is” or it is used in the situations you can’t change because of something being out of your control.

Messages is a term that took its origin from the Irish history, meaning *groceries* because people used to receive letters from post where there were also selling groceries.

Gimme a shot stands for classical give it a shot. This phrase is used as a request to try something, to give something a try or attempt, especially if it is uncertain or risky.

Will I, yea / I will, yea?! is used as a response for the given task when a person is not going to complete it.

The following words and expressions are also worth mentioning: *sound* is used in a meaning of “good” or as a way to say “thank you”; *beour* means “pretty”

or “beautiful” woman; *bleedin* is used to highlight the expressiveness of individual’s emotions; *take the piss* means “to make fun”; *Yer man/woman* refers to a specific person you can’t recall the name of.

This is only a small part of rich Irish speech which demonstrates the uniqueness of Irish slang showing off the difference between English language people learn at schools and Universities and the actual way it is used by native speakers in Ireland. In observation to this, there is no wonder people travelling to Ireland might have some struggles communicating with Irish people.

In conclusion, English stands as the most widespread and geographically diverse language globally, with unique dialects emerging in different localities, such as the distinctive Irish dialect. Ireland's bilingualism, where English and Irish coexist, results in mutual linguistic influence, manifesting in unique lexical shifts and expressions, like the renowned Irish slang words. Despite the linguistic challenges posed by the Irish dialect, Ireland remains a popular tourist destination, and delving into its slang offers valuable insights into the nation's culture and history.

REFERENCES

1. Бубнов, Д. В. (2019). Просодичні особливості мовлення ірландців у ситуації двомовності. Записки з романо-германської філології. 42(1), 12-20.
2. Чим Ірландія приваблює студентів і туристів зі всього світу. (б. д.). DEC education. <https://dec-edu.com/articles/chem-irlandiya-privlekaet-studentov-i-turistov-so-vsego-mira>
3. Hickey, R. (2011). *The Dialects of Irish: Study of a Changing Landscape*. Walter de Gruyter.
4. *Irish Slang Words and Phrases: A Local’s Guide 2024*. (б. д.). Tandem – Speak Any Language. <https://www.tandem.net/blog/irish-slang-words-phrases>
5. Sontag, I. (2013). *Irish English: The Influence of Irish on the English Spoken in Ireland*. GRIN Verlag.