Karimbaeva Mavluda Madaminovna (Associate Professor, Tashkent International University of Financial Management and Technologies (TIFT), Tashkent; E-mail: kmm.and.1974@gmail.com)

INTERGENERATIONAL COMMUNICATION AND SOCIOLINGUISTIC BARRIERS IN DIGITAL UZBEKISTAN: THE SEMANTICS OF MISUNDERSTANDING

Annotation. *The article investigates communicative barriers between Generation Z and older generations in Uzbekistan's digital space. Through corpus analysis of 5,000 lexical items and interpretive surveys, the research examines how English-derived youth slang creates social demarcation and intergenerational misunderstanding. Findings indicate that 67% of youth lexical items are incorrectly interpreted by older recipients, with Russian-mediated anglicisms producing additional semantic interference. The research identifies functions of anglicisms as social markers and proposes pedagogical strategies for intergenerational literacy.*

Keywords: *Intergenerational communication, Generation Z, sociolinguistics, anglicisms, digital culture, Uzbekistan, social marking.*

RAQAMLI O'ZBEKISTONDA AVLODLARARO MULOQOT VA SOTSIOLINGVISTIK TO'SIQLAR: TUSHUNMASLIK SEMANTIKASI

Annotatsiya. *Ushbu maqola O'zbekistonning raqamli makonida Z avlodi va katta avlod vakillari o'rtasidagi kommunikativ to'siqlarni tadqiq etadi. 5000 ta leksik birlikdan iborat korpus tahlili hamda interpretativ so'rovlar asosida ingliz tilidan kirib kelgan yoshlar slengi qanday qilib ijtimoiy chegaralanish va avlodlararo tushunmovchilikni yuzaga keltirishi o'rganiladi. Natijalar shuni ko'rsatadiki, yoshlar leksikasining 67 foizi katta yoshdagi respondentlar tomonidan noto'g'ri talqin qilinadi, rus tili vositachiligida kirgan anglisizmlar esa qo'shimcha semantik interferensiyani keltirib chiqaradi. Tadqiqot anglisizmlarning ijtimoiy marker sifatidagi funksiyalarini aniqlaydi hamda avlodlararo til savodxonligini rivojlantirish bo'yicha pedagogik strategiyalarni taklif etadi.*

Kalit so'zlar: *avlodlararo muloqot, Z avlodi, sotsiolingvistika, anglisizmlar, raqamli madaniyat, O'zbekiston, ijtimoiy markerlik.*

МЕЖПОКОЛЕНЧЕСКАЯ КОММУНИКАЦИЯ И СОЦИОЛИНГВИСТИЧЕСКИЕ БАРЬЕРЫ В ЦИФРОВОМ УЗБЕКИСТАНЕ: СЕМАНТИКА НЕПОНИМАНИЯ

Аннотация. *Статья исследует коммуникативные барьеры между поколением Z и старшими поколениями в цифровом пространстве Узбекистана. На основе корпусного анализа 5000 лексических единиц и интерпретативных опросов изучается, каким образом молодежный сленг английского происхождения формирует социальную демаркацию и межпоколенческое непонимание. Результаты показывают, что 67% молодежных лексических единиц неверно интерпретируются старшими респондентами, при этом англицизмы, пришедшие через русский язык, создают дополнительную семантическую интерференцию. Исследование выявляет функции англицизмов как социальных маркеров и предлагает педагогические стратегии для развития межпоколенческой языковой грамотности.*

Ключевые слова: *межпоколенческая коммуникация, поколение Z, социолингвистика, англицизмы, цифровая культура, Узбекистан, социальная маркированность.*

Introduction. The information society's rapid development has generated unprecedented communicative fragmentation along generational lines in Uzbekistan. While youth aged 15–30 construct digital identities through hybrid slang incorporating English lexical material, older generations maintain adherence to literary Uzbek norms. This divergence creates what is termed the "intergenerational communication gap", a phenomenon with significant social and educational implications.

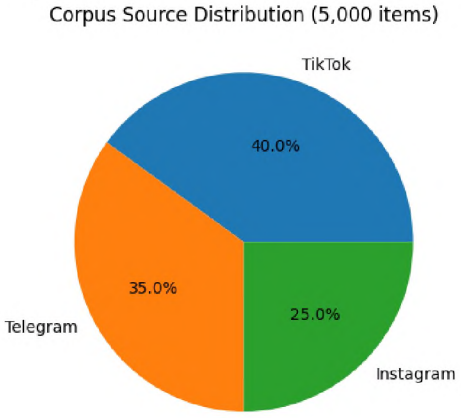
Previous research on Uzbek sociolinguistics focused on standard language development and historical bilingualism [1]. However, the specific dynamics of digital-age generational stratification remain underexplored. The present study addresses the semantic and social dimensions of youth anglicism usage, examining how lexical choices function as identity markers and barriers simultaneously.

The research is grounded in social marking theory [2] and generational sociolinguistics[3], adapted to post-Soviet Central Asian contexts. The analysis investigates how English-derived items signal belonging to globalized digital culture while excluding non-competent interlocutors.

Research questions. What is the rate of intergenerational misunderstanding for youth anglicisms; how do Russian-mediated versus direct anglicisms differ in interpretability; what social functions do anglicisms perform beyond referential communication; and what pedagogical interventions can bridge the generational gap. These questions are interconnected and aim to provide a comprehensive understanding

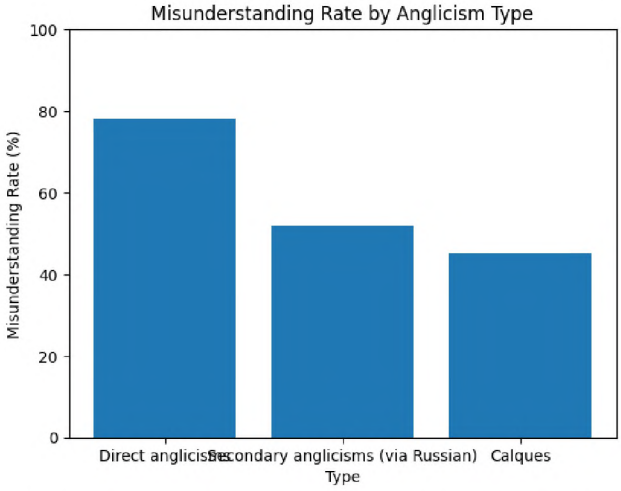
of how language contact phenomena manifest in digital communication. In particular, the study seeks not only to quantify misunderstanding but also to uncover the underlying linguistic, cognitive, and sociocultural mechanisms that shape these discrepancies. Attention is also given to the role of frequency, context, and platform-specific usage in influencing comprehension, as well as to the degree of exposure different age groups have to digital environments where such anglicisms circulate. By addressing these aspects, the research attempts to move beyond surface-level observations and contribute to a deeper theoretical explanation of intergenerational linguistic divergence.

Methods. The study integrates corpus analysis with interpretive survey methodology. Quantitative data establish misunderstanding rates; qualitative data reveal semantic interference patterns and social attitudes. The 5,000-item corpus (TikTok 40%, Telegram 35%, Instagram 25%) provided lexical material for testing. The corpus was systematically categorized according to origin, morphological adaptation, and frequency of occurrence, allowing for more precise comparisons between different types of anglicisms. Survey participants representing different age cohorts were asked to interpret selected lexical items in controlled contexts, enabling the identification of recurring patterns of misinterpretation and partial comprehension. Additionally, the methodology incorporates contextual prompts to assess whether meaning can be inferred through discourse rather than isolated lexical recognition. This combined approach ensures methodological triangulation, increasing the reliability and validity of the findings.



Results

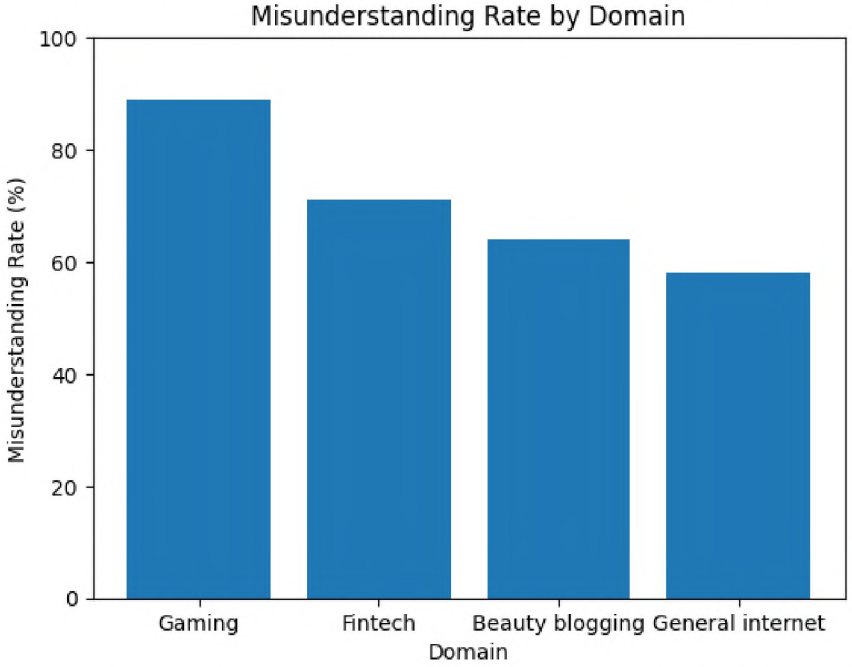
Overall, 67% of youth lexical items were incorrectly interpreted by Group B.Breakdown by borrowing type:



Russian mediation introduces an extra semantic layer: younger speakers follow English digital meanings, while older speakers rely on established Russian interpretations.

Corpus analysis revealed metapragmatic commentary indicating anglicisms function as: *Bu vibe boshqa, tushunasizmi?* (This is a different vibe, you understand?), assumes shared cultural competence. *Boomerlar buni hech qachon tushunmaydi* (Boomers will never understand this), explicit generational

demarcation. Usage of "cringe, random, vibe" indexes participation in transnational internet culture, distinguishing "digital natives" from "digital immigrants." Misunderstanding varied by thematic domain:



Gaming terminology showed highest opacity for older speakers, reflecting domain-specific digital immersion requirements.

Discussion. Russian-mediated anglicisms present a paradox: they are more recognizable to older speakers but more prone to semantic misinterpretation. The "filter" of Russian language contact adds layers of semantic shift invisible to younger speakers who access English directly.

This creates what is termed "interference heritage": older speakers interpret global English through Soviet-era Russian semantic frameworks, while youth interpret the same items through contemporary global English or localized Uzbek internet culture.

Anglicisms function not merely as referential tools but as "social tattoos [4], visible markers of generational identity. The explicit commentary about "boomers" in the corpus indicates conscious deployment of linguistic resources for social boundary maintenance.

This has implications for family and educational dynamics. Youth report strategic code-switching: anglicism-heavy discourse with peers, "purified" Uzbek with elders. This bilingualism-within-a-language represents adaptation to communicative compartmentalization.[5]

The findings extend intergenerational communication research to post-Soviet digital contexts. The "generation gap" here involves not just technological but linguistic globalization, youth participate in transnational English-mediated culture while elders remain anchored in national-literary and Soviet-Russian frameworks.

Conclusion. Uzbekistan's digital space exhibits significant intergenerational communicative stratification. The phenomenon is not linguistic decay but adaptive response to globalization. Effective intervention requires pedagogical approaches respecting both youth digital culture and elder communicative needs, transforming the "gap" into managed functional bilingualism.

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