

## Key Features of Vulgarisms and their Place in the English Vocabulary

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### Annotation

*The article gives data about the main aspects of vulgar words and their role in English. Both advantages and disadvantages of vulgarism are presented and the importance of vulgarisms is discussed.*

### I. INTRODUCTION

Vulgarisms in English are words or expressions that are considered crude, offensive, or inappropriate in polite society. They can be slang terms, curse words, or derogatory language used to insult or demean others. The use of vulgar language can be seen as a sign of disrespect, and it can be hurtful to those who hear it. It is important to be mindful of the language we use and to choose words that are respectful and appropriate in any given situation. While some people may use vulgar language as a way to express themselves or to fit in with a particular group, it is important to remember that words have power and can have a lasting impact on those around us.

The definition of vulgarity (a more complex name for profanity) is not entirely clear-cut in English. The English word vulgarism probably comes from the Latin *vulgus*, "common people," especially in a lowly sense. The dictionary meaning of the term defines vulgarism as a synonym for cursing or obscenity, but from a linguistic point of view, the scope of the term refers to the use of any non-standard language, it is not necessarily a term of abuse. Several researchers working on this topic have proposed the umbrella term "taboo words" for offensive and profane words. Under this term we can include cursing, cursing, obscenity, rudeness, insults, etc. For comparison, we use this taboo language group in the English lexicon. According to the Dictionary of the Slovak Language (1968) and the Dictionary of Foreign Words (2005), the definition of vulgarism is socially unacceptable, vulgar or rude words or narrows down to phrases. Vulgarisms usually occupy the marginal parts of the vocabulary and are used only in personal expressions in a colloquial manner. With their negative, insulting attitude to the defined component of objective reality, they approach the elements of bad language and usually arise from a social taboo.

## **II. METHODS**

Depending on the type of vulgarisms in question, we can identify a sign of forced influence that is inappropriate in formal situations. Unlike slang, slang and argot words, vulgarisms have a wide regional and temporary usage - they are not specific to a specific stratum of language users and have a lifespan of at least several decades. Semantically, they are associated with certain specific cultural values, and because of this semantic association, they are part of the forbidden language. Explanatory dictionaries are accepted by the British and American public as normative publications for correct communication in formal or private and colloquial domains. In the most recent versions of these dictionaries, standard lexical devices include the above-mentioned inappropriate stylistic devices, which we can also describe as vulgarisms. For example, the Oxford English Dictionary now (from the 2014 update) also includes terms like *cunty* and *cuntish*. Several linguists believe that the term "taboo" is derived from the Polynesian language Tongan. Users of this language, according to Gu (2002, p. 264), refrain from touching sacred objects not only physically but also verbally. Taboo refers to this phenomenon of inviolability. In the Routledge Dictionary of Language and Linguistics (2000), the word *taboo* is a term imposed for religious, political or sexual reasons, usually replaced by a euphemism, e.g. *bathroom* for *rest room* or *toilet*.

Vulgarism in English is a topic that has long been debated, discussed, and analyzed by linguists, scholars, and everyday people alike. It is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that encompasses a wide range of linguistic features, including slang terms, curse words, and derogatory language. One of the defining features of vulgarism in English is its diversity and variability. Vulgar language can take many different forms, ranging from mild slang terms to highly offensive and derogatory insults. Some common examples of vulgar language include swear words, slurs, and sexual or scatological references. These words and expressions are often considered taboo or inappropriate in polite society, and their use can be seen as a sign of disrespect or lack of decorum.

Another key feature of vulgarism in English is its historical and cultural context. Many vulgar words and expressions have their roots in specific historical periods or cultural traditions. For example, some swear words have their origins in medieval times, when they were used to express strong emotions or to insult others. Similarly, some slang terms have their roots in African American Vernacular English (AAVE) or other regional dialects, reflecting the unique cultural experiences and perspectives of different communities. The social and cultural significance of vulgarism in English is also an important aspect of this phenomenon. Vulgar language is often used as a way to express identity or to signal membership in a particular group or subculture. For example, teenagers may use slang terms to signal their membership in a particular peer group, while members of certain professions or industries may use jargon or technical terms to signal their expertise or knowledge. Similarly, some groups may use vulgar language as a way to challenge social norms or to express dissent or rebellion. Despite its cultural significance, vulgarism in English can also have negative consequences for communication and social interactions. The use of vulgar language can be hurtful or offensive to others, and it can create barriers to effective communication and understanding. In some cases, the use of vulgar language may even be considered a form of harassment or discrimination, particularly when it is directed at individuals based on their race, gender, or other personal characteristics.

## **III. RESULTS**

Translating English vulgarisms to other languages is that the cultural and historical context may not be easily translatable. Many vulgar words and expressions have their roots in specific cultural traditions or historical periods, which may not have direct equivalents in other languages. Additionally, the social and cultural significance of vulgar language may vary across different cultures, making it difficult to accurately convey the intended meaning of a particular word or expression. Another challenge in translating English vulgarisms is that the level of offensiveness may differ across cultures. What may be considered a mild insult in one culture may be highly offensive in another. This can lead to misunderstandings or even cause offense to the target audience.

Translators may also face difficulties in finding appropriate equivalents for certain vulgar words or expressions. Some vulgarisms may not have direct translations, requiring translators to use creative approaches to convey the intended meaning.

#### **IV. DISCUSSION**

Vulgarism is a type of colloquial terminology that is characterized by its informal and often offensive nature. It is commonly used in everyday speech to express strong emotions, such as anger, frustration, or humor. Vulgarisms can include swear words, insults, sexual references, and other taboo language. Due to their informal and often offensive nature, vulgarisms are typically not appropriate for formal or professional settings. However, they are an important part of many cultures and can be used to convey a sense of authenticity or to establish a connection with others. As a type of colloquial terminology, vulgarisms are often specific to certain regions or social groups. They may also evolve over time, with new words and expressions emerging as old ones become outdated or less popular.

#### **V. CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, vulgarism in English is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that encompasses a wide range of linguistic features, cultural traditions, and social dynamics. While it can serve important social and cultural functions, such as expressing identity or challenging social norms, it can also have negative consequences for communication and social interactions. As such, it is important for individuals to be mindful of the language they use and to choose words that are respectful and appropriate in any given situation. By doing so, we can create a more inclusive and respectful society that values communication and understanding.

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