Slang in Bridget Jones's Diary

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Odjel za anglistiku

Preddiplomski sveučilišni studij engleskog jezika i književnosti (dvopredmetni)

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Zadar, 2017.

Izjava o akademskoj čestitosti

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Zadar, 28. rujna 2017.

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1. Introduction

Nowadays slang is considered to be everything outside the standard language which is officially accepted. For a long time, it was associated with the working class and even criminals, but nowadays is seen as a form of regular communications. Moreover, slang is very common in literature and there are many works of literature written in slang. One of the examples is undoubtedly Bridget Jones's Diary, the book from late 1990s portraying a single young woman who is desperately trying to find a husband.

2. Slang in general

2.1. Etymology of slang

The etymology of the word slang is very difficult to define. There are certain myths mostly related to the increase of criminal in France and England. According to believes, criminal beggars established their own code in order to provide secret communication among their group members. These codes were both social and linguistic. In France it was *Le Grand Coesre* while in England it was *Cock Lord.* Quotations of slang remain restricted in the 18th lexicography. British Publisher and slang collector John Canden Hotten in his *Slang Dictionary* from 1859 stated that slang is not an English word, but the Gypsy term from their secret language. Consequently, there are in total three different theories concerning slang origin: Romani, Scandinavian and varieties on SE (Standard English) *language*, *lingo* or French *langue.*

Firstly, the Romani theory is based upon assertion of Isaac Taylor of a village named Flash' in the district of Derbyshire where were located gypsy squatters with the name 'Flash men' and they had jargon 'Flash talk', but in the end it was not possible to find a link for Roman origin of slang. Secondly, according to the Oxford Philologist Walter Skeat and his etymological *Dictionary of the English Language* (appeared between 1879 and 1882) with examples taken from Hensleigh and Wedgnood (the pioneers of Oxford English Dictionary) slang was

undeniably related to Scandinavian languages. For instance, there are some Scandinavian words such as “sleng” which means “an invention”, then “slangjenamn” with the meaning of “nickname” or “slenger” which means “to gossip” etc. More recently, slang lexicographer Eric Patridge modified the Norwegian thesis in his own etymological dictionary explaining that slang is in fact a dialect past participle of the verb “slang” which originates in Old and Middle English connected to Old Norse “slung” or “thrown” language. The third theory “language, lingo and langue” demonstrates that slang is a secret language which is from the point of official language almost always seen in negative connotations. Finally, there is no clear evidence provided by those theories concerning the etymology of the word slang. The first theory which links slang to Romani is declined because of the lack of evidences, while also the second one cannot be completely relevant since the word slang in Scandinavian languages has completely different connotations than the word has now (in these languages it means *throw* or *fling*). Slang’s initial meaning was “vagrant jargon” and then it shifted to “vulgar speech” mostly due to the fact that slang was used outside social respectability and as such must be categorized as being external to the linguistic equivalent. Since slang is considered to be a marginal speech of marginal individuals, it makes it very complicated to define it because it provokes various ambiguities, particularly during its beginnings.

2.2. The Definitions of Slang

Although there is a certain standard language, people seem to have an alternative one. Starting from the very beginnings of human history, we can with no doubt claim that Greeks and Romans had some sort of slang. But, all of that can be easily regarded as relative since there are no firm evidences about spoken, street Latin because slang in those periods were exclusively visual, which means that for example, Latin literature provided images for certain terms. As a word, slang emerges from printed language in the mid-18th century. The OED (1933) defined the term as “The special vocabulary used by any set of persons of a low or

disputable character; language of a low or vulgar type, language of highly colloquial type, considered as below the level of standard educated speech, and consisting either of new words or of current words employed in some special sense."

The first record of the word could be found in Act I of William Toldervy's play *The History of the Two Orphans* dating from 1756 ("Thomas Throw had been upon the town, knew the slang well...and understood every word in the scoundrel dictionary.") However, here is not clear what was meant by the term 'slang'. The term could be either a reference to the speech of the mentioned character Thomas Throw or even criminal way of conducting himself. There is a basis that slang had criminal users and then the term received a broader acknowledgment as "vulgar". At the beginning of the 21st century, slang was automatically associated with the labour classes. The term "low", which was used with reference to the language or its speakers has been abandoned. Therefore, Bethan K. Dumas and Jonathan Lighter wrote an essay "Is Slang a word for Linguists?" in 1978 while Lighter himself stated in his synthesis in the *Cambridge History of the English Language* that slang is all about synonyms and that is often associated with youth.(Green, 12) All in all, slang is a register- But there is still a question what is being qualified as slang and what does not. Both linguists and lexicographers attempted to deal with the issue. Everything started with Eric Patridge in 1933 with his overview *Slang To-day and Yesterday* since he provided seventeen criteria which define word slang. Furthermore, Julie Coleman with her *The Story of Slang* (2012) lately reduced the qualifications to eleven. Lastly Jonathan Lighter and Bethany Dumas considered that everything could be defined in just four qualifications. Although academic theory claims that slang is exclusively chosen by its speakers, in reality they do not have a choice. Some users who regard a certain slang as a fashionable accessory may use it consciously, but most of the people are not actually cognizant of its presence in their everyday speech. For most of them slang is standard and the problem basically arises when slang users change their environment.

2.3. Cant

As it was already stated, the 1st collection of so-called non-standard language, is the jargon of criminals known as cant. The name originates from the Latin *cantare* which means to sing since it referred to the tons of priests who conducted the holy mass. The same sounds were associated with the voices of criminals.

2.4. Rhyming Slang

On the other hand, rhyming slang is a contemporary invention. Hotten states that language is essentially created by street specimen in order to confuse police. Some other theories connect rhyming slang to thieves. This theory was strongly supported by Peter Wright and his work *Cockney Dialect and Slang* from 1981 where he adds bricklayer's slang claiming that a large input was from the Irish navvies who were imported to England to build railways and canals. The principle of rhyming slang is rather simple. As Green in his *Slang: a Very Short Introduction* states "one takes a word one wishes to describe, and in its place provides a brief phrase, usually of two but often of three words, of which the last word rhymes with the word for which it is a synonym." (2016, 18) This is still very popular and initially terms created were based on regular words such as apples and pears, and afterwards it embraced popular proper names, usually from entertaining and celebrity world. Rhyming slang was extremely popular in England but even further like in Scotland, the USA and Australia. The first rhyming slang example in the USA could be found in *National Police Gazette* from 1859. It was mostly developed in large cities such as Chicago and New York where the most prominent users were American criminals.

2.5. Occupational slang: jargon

As cant, jargon was originally referred to the twittering of birds and nowadays is mostly restricted to terminology of institutions like governments or large corporations. Both cant and jargon can be excluded from its proper context in order to descrete slang generally. If slang is

occupational and indicates job or certain position it can be defined as jargon. But, even this provokes certain ambiguities. For example, the way of communicating among drug dealers could be regarded either as slang or jargon, but eventually, everything is up to the individual dictionary-marker.

2.6. Is slang a language?

The general thinking of slang is that it is a sort of language since it is considered to be unconventional form of communication. Furthermore, it contains a lot of different lexical subsets such as jargon, technicalities, regionalisms and at certain extents it can be even stronger than a standard conventional English despite the fact that standard English is used for press, news broadcasting, etc. Comparing it to standard language, slang may be considered as worse and underestimated, basically because of its origins closely related to crime. But, from the linguistic point of view, it cannot be said precisely whether slang is a language or not. First of all, the language requires certain rules related to pronunciation, grammar and word order. If only one of these components is missing, the form cannot be regarded as a language. According to Sir James Murray, slang is part of a common centre so he equalizes slang with jargon, dialect, technical terms etc. Initially, everything can be described into the terms introduced by the linguist Ferdinard de Saussere who distinguished *langue,* or language as it is, and *parole* which refers to our speech and way of communicating. Speaking of the concepts of English from Murray's point of view, slang is undoubtedly part of the parole. Some scholars tried to find a convenient and universal grammar for slang, but eventually they all reached the same conclusion: there is no slang grammar. But, slang can be seen as a form of "counter-language" which means that in its main domain there is in fact subversion. As a result, slang may seem as full of neologisms, i.e. new words and expressions, but actually that is just recycling of terms that are previously established in standard use. Slang offers a new combinations and senses of all these words. Furthermore, there is also a phenomenon of code-

switching, or adopting one's speech patterns in a certain surroundings like in home, school or with friends. Code-switching exists exclusively in so-called "slang world". In other words, such phenomenon as code-switching would not be possible without a presence of slang. Finally, it is important to differentiate slang from local use. Inevitably, everything that is unusual is often regarded as slang although by this, local terms are misinterpreted. This could be provided by the example of Australian lexicologist Sidney Baker who in his *The Australian Language* enlisted many terms which reappear in slang dictionaries.

2.7. Themes and Development of Slang

Although slang's thematic range is not broad, it is very rich in synonyms and there can be seen even some influences of classical languages; Greek and Latin. Some linguists even mention the term of so-called "over-lexicalization" which means too many words for the same term. Naturally, psychology is related to the existence of slang. In slang, there is no belief systems, no faith and religion, no politics or parties. According to Freudians, it is sort of linguistic ID. As opposed to Standard English which includes imposed established rules and luxurious indulgence, slang is rather easy, innate and neutral. When talking about an area where slang developed, between rural and urban, slang is undeniably urban. On the contrary, dialects were used when referring to countryside meaning that standard was not spoken neither in the city nor in the countryside. Slang is definitely part of the city. The history of slang is in fact, the history of urbanization of modern world and society. As Green simply says: "no city, no slang" (2016, 36). Naturally, slang is most apparent in the large cities worldwide where slang started to develop in the late 19th century with the growth of major cities. This is mainly restricted to New York and its criminal underground. The most prominent type was certainly African-American slang. Slang has always been subjected under negative judgments as "sub-standard", "low", "vulgar", and "unauthorized". As a consequence, slang is often described as "the vulgar tongue".

2.8. A slang taxonomy

Comparing a lexicography of standard English to its slang terms, there are fewer slang terms than standard ones, but there is much more repetition since slang is basically composed of synonyms. Therefore, for example, the OED specifies 382 terms for *drunk* and almost half (188) are regarded as slang. Here are expressions such as *destroyed, drunk as a rat, drunk as a lord, under the table or wasted.*

2.9. The Slang Vocabulary

As it was the case with Standard English, the size of the slang lexis expanded, but slang did not necessarily move outside its self-imposed boundaries. Also, post-colonial discoveries of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa were important for the expansion of slang. But, roughly speaking slang remains the language of young generations who are easily and directly influenced by the latest trends and hits. As one of the most recent examples is new terminology related to the latest technological devices such as mobile phones. Those are mainly abbreviations and acronyms useful in faster and more effective messaging. As a report commissioned by the mobile phone producers Samsung noted in May 2015 the original batch of Internet slangisms - typically abbreviations such as BTW, OMG, FYI, LOL, BRB - are being replaced by terms generated by social media. In the meantime, the emoji, ideograms and smileys used in online communication also provide the basic form of correspondence. Certainly, everything that could be described as slang was not possible to record in written forms, but generally speaking slang is everything external from the standard, polite and educated forms. It was largely used by working classes in large cities, for instance London, and therefore it is not surprising that not all was recorded.

The beginnings of slang lexicography was in 16th century with Robert Copland's *Hye Waye to the Spital House* which presents England's initial contribution to a Europe - wide production

of "beggar-books" offering job descriptions, vocabularies and translations of contemporary criminal beggars. But the display of their jargon soon passed from beggar literature to more creative use, while the person who could be seen as a pioneer of transporting slang beyond the purely criminal population is William Shakespeare whose plays are full of motives presenting villainy, beggary and malfeasance. Going even further, the tradition of canting glossaries soon expanded into full-scale dictionaries and by the 19th century the borrowings had become more sophisticated. For example, *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens is filled with criminal themes, albeit the main character speaks purely standard. The shift of slang in dictionaries from its cant connotations to its urban forms as we know it today started with the first dictionary of slang *A New Dictionary of the Canting Crew* published in 1698. Even though the dictionary in its name contains the word "cant" in fact it contains numerous non-criminal expressions. Also some people regard *Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue* by Francis Grose as a sort of slang equivalent to Samuel Johnson and the first dictionary of slang ever. Lately 18th century was defined by Jonathan Swift who was more inclined to standard forms (e.g. he writes in 1730 *Polite Conversations*), but now slang is definitely not a part of just underground. In fact, it became a crucial component in British conversations. Leading role in slang's fictional success was with journalist Pierce Egan and his *Life in London* from 1821, better known as Tom and Jerry where "London language" played an important role. More precisely, Egan offers contemporary variation rather than slang.

During the 19th century slang increasingly grew basically because of the growing appearance of slang from sources beyond the UK). Since slang becomes more evident, raises a question why that happened. It could be due to the simple exposure of burst of new coinages. Furthermore, in Australia, there was always some sort of tendency to use more non-standard than standard form. As a result, it may be argued that these terms are then Australianisms instead of slang, but it is a long-lasting tradition which remained popular among Australians.

Although Australia played an important role in slang exposure, America did even greater part. At first, American slang was not so developed. It started its growth after the Independence and from that period there were several different groups of people who used it on a regular basis. The first would be the Yankees and authors such as Charles F. Browne or Seba Smith. They were very useful and interesting to lexicographers since in their satirical expressions they all use collocations and slang terms. Normally, not all dialects were native since the USA is considered to be "the melting pot" gathering numerous refugees from all the continents. Even Marx Brothers started as a dialect act with different nations. The first American slang dictionary was produced in 1859 with the name the *Vocabulum*. It was police dictionary containing chiefly expressions related to police and crime. Also, the development of devices for massive printing like rotary press caused the flourishing of literary mass market. Since rotary press novels were destined to masses they were all written in slang which was easily comprehend by masses of readers. Finally, crucial role in slang development played newspapers and publishing in general. However, this does not include official press like London's *Times* or *New York Times.* Slang was oriented to some "lower", less conventional press. Therefore, the first newspapers which appeared in England were named *Mercurius* inspired by the French form of the same title. Tradition of slang in English press continued with topics related to sport. All in all, newspapers and magazines were initial source not just for slang, but for the language in general. Hence, it is not odd that exactly the newspapers are seen as the cradle for modern dictionaries.

Going towards the 20th century, slang was becoming even more popular. What is more, there were authors who used slang in their literary novelistic expressions.

Additionally, for slang development are also responsible Afro-Americans who developed their special forms of language which resembled to English although it is evident that this is not a standard English language. Their slang developed rapidly in the 19th century. Also,

music like jazz or rap contributed to the emerge of the following type of slang. But, the main reason for the development of this slang was the necessity of the communication among black people themselves as well as between slaves and their masters. In most of the cases, slaves did not understand their masters who were using fluent English which resulted in formation of pidgin and later creole. The language was largely used so it raised certain issues and problems concerning the question whether or not it should be considered as a separate language and taught in schools together with the Standard English, but this is still unsolved. Nonetheless, African-American English (AAE), African-American Vernacular English (AAVE), Black English Vernacular (BEV), Vernacular Black English (VBE) or Ebonics exists, but its speakers have the option of code-switching if necessary. Although it resembles to slang, it must be stated that this is a language of its own. The main reason why is often seen as form of slang is because it is spoken on the streets. But, not all languages that contain slang lexis are slang.

2. 10. **The slang users**

There are two kinds of slang users**.** The first are the users who developed slang as a part of their casual, everyday communication, and others who employed slang for authenticity. The adoption of slang for many is seen as theatrical sort of mask or costume which denotes a chosen personality. It is a characteristic of specific social groups or stratum. As it was stated before, the first slang lexicography listed is from criminals. Naturally, there are subdivisions such as slang of prisoners, trams or drug users. In the prison, for example, each person has its own linguistic specialties based on particular local references such as the name of prison itself, its buildings, prison officers, the dinner menu, the internal logistics like illicit communication or the smuggling of commodities. Regarding tramps and their slang, it was the most specified in George Orwell's *Down and Out in Paris and London (*1933) where he wrote about his experiences among the tramps. Also, by 1931, the lexis justified Godfrey

Irwin's dictionary *American Tramp ad Underworld Slang.* Then, the slang of drug users, which is basically based on the use of the language of recreational drugs and may be categorized even as jargon. The slang has gathered around alcohol and tobacco consummation, so the creation of slang for the other recreational drugs had twin stimuli: The fact of their prohibition and the need for hidden consumption and purchase that followed this criminalization and their stereotypical association with despised or feared minorities which again lay behind the prohibition. The cant expert David Maurer published a number of in-depth studies in *American Speech* such as *Narcotics and Narcotics Addiction.* All of his works are filled with "technical language" that could not be found outside the drug underworld. Furthermore, like all the previous slangs, there are also more specific terms and expressions in the world of military. Thanks to the war, a number of neologisms were created and absorbed into the language. Also, everything was featured in the press and discussed in the journals. As the brutal circumstances grew, they in fact popularized brutal language. Therefore, World War II, for instance, was the most productive for the development of military slang.

But, slang nowadays is definitely mostly related to exclusively one group- the young. In 1903, writing in the *Pedagogical Seminary,* a journal of child psychology, Edward Conradi presented a selection of data on "*Children's Interests in Words, Slang, Stories, etc."* The work issued various aspects of the language used by those under 18, and its centrepiece was a list of in total 850 different slang terms, followed by 295 answers to a poll circulated by high school teachers. They were divided by the gender; "Boys", "Girls" and "Sex Not Specified" and broken down to several categories. One of the category, "Unclassified", showed the terms for boasting and loquacity and hypocrisy. The poll was centred on the users between 13 and 16. Naturally, speaking about youth slang, code-switching between classroom and elsewhere is unavoidable. G. S. Hall noted in 1906 that most of high school and college youth of both

sexes have two distinct styles. One is used in the classroom and regarded as formal, while there is also their informal way of communicating, sort of informal "lingua franca" commonly referred as "slanguage". One of the most prominent examples can be found in the observation of the word *teenager*. The word can be found in 1921, although the modern concept of the teenager as representing that social group is a creation of 1940s.

Not to mention, the use of slang is undoubtedly seen as an indication of the speaker's class. Since slang's origin is exclusively from the street, there is in fact little upper-class slang. That little that was found was recorded in the 1909 dictionary *Passing English of the Victorian Era* by J. Redding Ware. The creators as well as the speakers of slang were from the working class, criminal or not. Of course, slang can easily be related to any aspect of music genres such as jazz or blues.

3. Helen Fielding: Bridget Jones's Diary

Bridget Jones's Diary is a novel written by the British author Helen Fielding in 1996 and it is considered to be one of the best examples of the comedy novel. It is written in the form of diary in which Bridget Jones tells the story of her life in a period of one year. Helen Fielding was born on 19 February 1958 in Yorkshire. She studied English at St. Anne's College at the University of Oxford and later operated as a journalist even in Africa where she wrote her first novel *Cause Celeb*, originally published in 1994, but it became successful after publishing of Bridget Jones's Diary. Bridget was written soon afterwards, when Helen was asked by the British newspaper *The Independent* to write a column about herself. Fielding did not want to write explicitly about herself, so she created fictional character of Bridget, a single woman at the beginning of her thirties who lives in London and works in publishing. The central part of her life is love and preoccupation to find a stable relationship. The diary is full of notes about her weight, daily consummation of calories and the quantity of alcohol and

cigarettes used. Bridget is very popular character since she is easy to sympathize with and to understand her problems. Bridget lives a typical middle-class life. She has typical, ordinary parents who live in a small village, two hours drive from London, while she lives in a flat in South London. They attend typical family social gatherings such as one from the very beginning and the end of the story, Turkey Lunch at her mother's friend Una.

As Fielding stated herself, in order to write this novel, she was inspired by Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice.* Even though there are different time settings, protagonists from both novels are inclined to find an ideal man. Not to mention, Fielding included the name of Mr Darcy as the name of her character as well.

4. Slang in Bridget Jones's' Diary

4.1. The aim of the Research

The research was performed in order to explore a connection between urban contemporary slang with modern literature. The aim was to find representative samples of slang through the diary and provide further analysis using several dictionaries. There is no doubt that the novel Bridget Jones's diary is full of slang terms and expressions. The main protagonist uses colloquial expressions to be very close to the reader. Most of the terms which could be found in the novel are exclusively part of modern British informal daily communication and cannot be used elsewhere (e. g. in formal occasions or formal writings). In the following research, some of the expressions frequently used in novel are separated from others and further explained according to their dictionary meaning.

4.2. Methodology of the Analysis

The research consists of thirty different slang words and expressions that are frequently used in Fielding's novel. From my point of view, these are the most prominent words commonly appearing through the novel in various situations and contexts. The words are used in various narrative techniques, but mostly in dialogues, internal monologues, or basically in different

descriptions and narrations. All of the expressions have been analysed and explained using three different officially acknowledged dictionaries: *A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* by Eric Patridge and Paul Beale, *The Routledge Dictionary of Modern American Slang and Unconventional English* by Tom Dalzell and *Oxford English Dictionary*. The collected data has been classified according to their corresponding word class, i.e. nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs and exclamations. The examples listed are also sorted according different semantic fields. Finally, since the author, or more precisely narrative subject Bridget Jones uses many onomatopoeic words in order to bring closer to the reader even further her states of mind, they are also listed at the end together with some eponyms that were actual in the year of publishing, i.e. 1996.

4.3. Analysis

NOUNS:

1**. Ice-queen,** n.

”Ah, Daniel. Now . . . ' and swept him away, which was fortunate because the phone call was Tom, who said I had to keep up the ***ice-queen*** act and gave me a mantra to repeat when I felt myself weakening. 'Aloof, unavailable ***ice-queen***; Aloof, unavailable ***ice-queen”*** (p. 73)

The Routledge Dictionary: a woman who shows no emotion or passion

Speaking from the semantic point of view, we can conclude that this sort of word such as ice-queen refers to certain look or image that a woman is trying to create. Ice-queen is a metaphor for so-called cold-blooded and distanced people, i.e.women. In this context, the narrative voice is trying to reach that quality in order to become unable for others to reach her.

2 **.Freak**, n.

”Oh God. Not strangely dressed opera ***freak*** with bushy hair” (p. 9)

The Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English:

1. A devotee, an enthusiast, a 'buff': adopted, early 1960s, ex US. P.B.: may be used as a suffix, e.g., in eco (-) freak, one whom others consider to be slightly unbalanced or 'fanatical' on the subject of conservation of the ecology; or phone(-) freak, one who gets his thrill in abusing the telephone system, by, e.g., telephoning his own number by routing the call around the world

Oxford English Dictionary:

1. informal, a person who is obsessed with a particular activity or interest: *a fitness freak*

2. a very unusual and unexpected event

3. a freak of nature; a person, animal or plant with physical abnormality

4. informal, a person regarded as strange because of their unusual appearance or behaviour

The word "freak" has similar semantic categorization as the word "ice-queen" since both of the words refer to somebody's look, image or a way of public presentation.

3. **Fuckwit**, n.

"Fall for any of following: alcoholics, workaholics, commitment phobics, people with girlfriends or wives, misogynists, megalomaniacs, chauvinists, emotional ***fuckwits*** or freeloaders, perverts." (p. 2)

"At which point Sharon started on a long illustrative list of emotional ***fuckwittage*** in progress amongst our friends" (p. 20)

The Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English:

-a general purpose -pejorative; a "nitwit"(B. P., 1977): Aus. Low:since late 1940s. Poss. A blend of fuck all, nothing,+nitwit.

The Routledge Dictionary:

-a fool, Australia, 1974

This word is introduced at the very beginning of a novel and it serves as a sort of light motif

which constantly appear through the story. It has chiefly negative connotation and the narrative subject collocates it constantly with an adjective emotional.

4. **Gay**, n.

”Mum had been to church and suddenly realized in a St Paul-on-road-to-Damascus-type blinding flash that the vicar is ***gay***. 'It's just laziness darling,' was her view on the whole homosexuality issue.” (p. 38)

The Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English:

-a homosexual person

The Routledge Dictionary:

- a homosexual, US, 1953-the acceptable term for homosexuals, male or female

Oxford English Dictionary:

-a homosexual person, especially a man (origin: Old French gai)

In recent terminology this word is very common. From semantic considering, it can be regarded as a simple kind of person, or way of expressing certain personal identity. This word could be easily confused with the same expression but of different word class. Therefore, adjective gay is not the same as a noun. Adjective means cheerful and happy, while noun refers to particular sexuality.

5. **Bloke**, n.

”Thinking moonily about Daniel Cleaver, I ventured that not all men are like Richard. At which point Sharon started on a long illustrative list of emotional fuckwittage in progress amongst our friends: one whose boyfriend of thirteen years refuses even to discuss living together; another who went out with a man four times who then chucked her because it was getting too serious; another who was pursued by a ***bloke*** for three months with impassioned

proposals of marriage, only to find him ducking out three weeks after she succumbed and repeating the whole process with her best friend”(p. 20)

The Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English:

-in mid-C.19, occ.bloak. Occ. Contemptuous; occ. a term of address among sailors. A man; a chap, fellow (-1839). Until ca. 1860, c.; until ca. 1900, low. Pre-1870 examples: Brandon (in ‘Ducange Anglicus’), Mayhew, Sala, Kingsley, Ouida, Miss Braddon, James Greenwood. The nuance ‘a cabman’s customer’ occurs in Sessions, Oct. 1848. The word continues, in the late 1970s, to have a very wide currency, akin to the US guy

2.-a lover

3.- the passive male in a homosexual partnership

A bloke can be used as a general term in order to address person who is not directly specified, as it is in the example above. It is commonly connected to synonyms such as chap or fellow.

6. **Telly**, n.

”9 p.m. V. much enjoying the Winter Wonderland and reminder that we are at the mercy of the elements, and should not concentrate so hard on being sophisticated or hardworking but on staying warm and watching the ***telly***.”(p. 45)

The Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English:

1. The Daily Telegraph: newsagents’ and newsboys’ coll.: late C.19-20. Among Sydneyites

2. television, since ca. 1947

Obviously, this is an informal expression for television which is part of semantic field of technology since it refers to technological device.

7. Bitch, n.

”This isn't too tarty, is it?' the girl was saying to Patchouli. 'You should have seen those ***bitch*** thirty somethings' faces when I walked in . . . Oh!' Both girls looked at me, horrified, with

their hands over their mouths. 'We didn't mean you,' they said. ” (p. 210)

The Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English:

1. since ca. 1837 it has been a vulg. rather than a coll. (In C.20 low London it= a fast young woman)

The Routledge Dictionary:

1. a woman, UK, 1713

2. a despicable woman, UK,

Oxford English Dictionary :

1. a female dog, wolf, fowl or otter

2. informal, a spiteful or unpleasant woman

3. informal, a difficult or unpleasant thing or situation

(Origin: Old English)

Extremely vulgar word, but widely accepted and used in colloquial and everyday communication with figurative meaning of negative conotations. Just to connect, it is listed even literally meaning which refers to a female dog, while the expression is mostly used to refer to a bad and furtive woman, as it was showed even in the example.

8. Crap, n.

”Oh, that is just such ***crap***, you cowardly, dysfunctional little schmuck. Right. I'm going to talk to that woman,' said Sharon, getting up. ” (p. 21)

The Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English:

1. rubbish, worthless, since ca. 1910. Also, ‘utter nonsense’, US, adopted in 1944

The Routledge Dictionary:

1. nonsense, UK, 1898

Oxford English Dictionary:

vulgar slang;

1. nonsense; rubbish

(Origin: perhaps from Dutch *krappe* ‘chaff’)

Also a part of informal, vulgar communication referring to something regarded as nonsense.

9. Bastard, n.

”The unanimous initial verdict was, ‘Bastard fuckwittage.’ (p. 68)

”I bloody well can't!' shrieked Magda, tugging at the car hood. 'Jerrers!' she yelled into the portable phone. 'Jerrers, you fucking adulterous bastard! How do you open the hood on the Saab!”(p. 109)

The Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English:

1. a fellow, chap, man, with no pj. Connotation: coll.: C.20, chiefly Aus., perhaps ex US

2. fig. of a thing, an incident, a situation: low coll.: C.20

3. angry or upset

4. for fig. use as adjective

The Routledge Dictionary:

1. a despised or disrespected person; a derogatory insult or challenging form of address to someone considered objectionable, UK, 1598

Oxford English Dictionary:

1. old use or derogatory- a person born to parents who are not married to each other

2. informal., an unpleasant person

3. Brit. informal., a person of specified kind: *the poor bastard*

(Origin- Latin *bastardus)*

This word is used in exclusively negative contexts. It can also be regarded as a sort of male equivalent for the previously analyzed expression “bitch”.

10. Outfit, n.

”Daniel was very sweet tonight and spent ages helping me choose my ***outfit*** for the Tarts and

Vicars. He kept suggesting different ensembles for me to try on while he weighed it up. He was quite keen on a dog collar and black T-shirt...” (p. 167)

A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English:

1- the whole thing or collection of things

Oxford English Dictionary:

1. a set of clothes worn together

The meaning of the word is clothes, therefore this word can be regarded as a part of semantic field of fashion.

11. Make-up, n.

”8.05 p.m. Hair is more or less dry now. Then just have to do ***make-up***, get dressed and put mess behind the sofa. Must prioritize. Consider ***make-up*** most important, then mess-disposal.”(p. 238)

Oxford English Dictionary:

1. cosmetics applied to the face

In this particular context, the word “make-up2 refers to cosmetic products. But it can also be used as an expression for compensation, or in different forms as phrasal verb. In this context it is part of semantic field of fashion and look.

12. Trollop, n.

”I altered my path to pass his table, at which he immersed himself deep in conversation with the ***trollop***, glancing up as I walked past and giving me a firm, confident smile as if to say 'business meeting.' I gave him a look which said, 'Don't you business meeting me,' and strutted on.”(p. 95)

A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English:

1. a woman, respectable or otherwise, obviously an ironically humorous misuse

Oxford English Dictionary:

a woman who has many sexual partners, origin is probably from former *trull* “prostitute”, from German *Trulle*

This word refers to a new woman in the course of action which presents herself in a respectable manner.

13. **Bugger**, n.

”Um. Excuse me. My current boyfriend is twenty-three,' I said, sweetly. There was a stunned silence. 'Well, in that case,' said Alex, smirking, 'you can bring him to us next Saturday when you come to dinner, can't you?' ***Bugger.*** Where am I going to find a twenty-three-year-old who will come to dinner with Smug Marrieds on a Saturday night instead of taking contaminated Ecstasy tablets? “ (p. 213)

Oxford English Dictionary:

-vulgar slang, chiefly British-an annoying or awkward thing

Although OED states annoying or awkward “thing”, in this particular case it reefers to physical person.

14. **Lift**, n.

”God, sorry about that lot. Will you be OK, hon?' whispered Magda, who knew how I was feeling. 'Wanta ***lift*** or anything?' said Jeremy's brother, following it up with a belch, 'Actually, I'm going on to a nightclub. I trilled, hurrying out into the street. 'Thanks for a super evening!' Then I got into a taxi and burst into tears.”(p. 41)

Oxford English Dictionary:

-a free ride in another person’s vehicle

In this context the word lift is not a British word for elevator, but it has exclusively slang meaning which refers to transport. Also, the word is preceded by another slang expression “wanta” which is an abbreviated slang for of “Do you want”.

15. **Dead End**, n.

”10.30 a.m. Office. Just called Richard Finch's assistant Patchouli and it is a job offer but must start in a week. I don't know anything about television but sod it, I'm stuck in a ***dead end*** here, and it is just too humiliating working with Daniel now. I had better go and tell him.” (p. 203)

Oxford English Dictionary:

-a situation in which no further progress can be made

A collocation familiar with slang in the English language. It is a combination of two words of different word classes; dead which is adjective and end which is noun. These words used separately do not have the same meaning as a collocation and can be used in standard forms as well. But, as soon as the word collocates, it has a new meaning which reefers mainly to impossible and unbearable situation or occurrence.

16. **Club**, v. /n.

”I’ll tell you what. Why don’t Jamie, Daddy and I all ***club*** together and get you a proper new big suitcase and a set of wheels?” (p. 9)

”If the woman is 'below' (i.e. willing to sleep with him, very keen on him) then in a Groucho Marx kind of way he does not want to be a member of her ***club***” (p. 72)

Oxford English Dictionary :

n.

1.- an association of people who meet regularly to take part in a particular activity

2.- an organization where members can meet, eat meals and stay overnight

3.- a nightclub with dance music

v.

1.-clubs, clubbing, clubbed- combine with others to do something, especially to collect a sum

of money

2.- informal, go out to nightclubs (origin: Old Norse)

In English, slang expression “club” could be used in both categories, as a noun and as verb. As such, it can be found even in the novel. There is restriction in meaning because as verb in this case, the word has a meaning which says combine something, or put something together. Also it can be referred to going out in nightclubs, but in the example it has the first meaning. Secondly, the word “club” as noun is used in order to refer to a specified group of people whose membership is limited. More precisely, the expression with the word “club2 in the second example states that the particular person does not want to be in the presence of somebody else. Also, the word as noun could have connotations of a “nightclub”, but not in this particular context.

VERBS:

17. **Shop**, v.

”1 p.m. Just saw Daniel leaving for lunch. He has not messaged me or anything. V. depressed. Going ***shopping***.” (p. 31)

”What?' I muttered grumpily. 'I've got a job as a TV presenter.' I'm going ***shopping***.”(p. 81)

”Schedule: 6.30. Go to ***shop***. 6.45. Return with forgotten groceries.” (p. 83)

The Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English:

1. to shop at, since 1957

Oxford English Dictionary:

1. go to a shop or shops to buy goods

2. shop around- look for the best available price or rate for something

(Origin: Old French *eschoppe* ‘lean-to-booth’)

The word in English has several different meaning, but mostly refers to buying different

goods. Since the words is exclusively used during contemporary times, it appears trough novel very often. It always collocates with the preceding veb “go”, e.g. “go to shop” or “going shopping”.

18**. Shut up**, v.

”Message Cleave Please ***shut up***. I am very busy and important. Jones.” (p. 29)

”'A ladder, Bridge?, said Daniel, What sort of ladder?' '***Shut up***,' I bristled crossly. 'It's all chop-change chop- change with you. Either go out with me and treat me nicely, or leave me alone.”(p. 76)

”Whose territory is Srebrenica in, then?' 'Srebrenica is a safe area,' said Daniel in deeply patronizing tones. 'So how come the people from the safe area were attacking before?' '***Shut up.***' 'Just tell me if the Bosnians in Srebrenica are the same lot as the ones in Sarajevo.'”(p.157-158)

The Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English:

1. to end (a matter): coll.: 1857

2. to cease talking, stop making noise, ca. 1890

3. to stop doing something, no matter what

Phrasal verb which is a combination of the verb shut which literally means “to close” and a particle “up” which gives to this expression another meaning, i.e. “stop talking.” It is mostly used as imperative and exclusively in informal, slang communication.

19. **Bugger off**, v.

”I could take his messages, tell patients wanting night visits to ***bugger off***, cook him little goat cheese soufflés, then end up in a foul mood with him when I am sixty, like Mum.” (p. 49)

”What time are we meeting tomorrow?' I mumbled sheepishly. 'Eight-thirty. Cafe Rouge. Don't worry, we love you. Tell him to ***bugger off*** from me. Emotional fuckwit. ” (p. 68)

Oxford English Dictionary:

-to go away, used to express annoyance

Another phrasal verb consisting of noun “bugger” which is something or somebody that provokes annoyance and particle “off” which introduces its verbal character. Therefore, the phrasal verb combined of these two elements has a new meaning which says “go away”, in annoyed and irritated way.

20. **Go blank**, v.

”You must be Bridget!' he shouted impatiently. 'How does a man with a beautiful girlfriend manage to sleep with a prostitute, get found out and get away with it?' I panicked. My mind ***went blank***. 'Well?' he said. 'Well? Come on, say something!” (p. 198)

A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English:

1.- to forget

2.- to become unconscious

This phrasal verb is a combination of the verb “go” which indicates some sort of moving, and “blank” is adjective. Combined together, this phrasal verb receives another meaning and therefore that is semantic extension.

ADJECTIVES:

21. **Cool,** adj.

”Get upset over men, but instead be poised and ***cool*** ice-queen.” (p. 2)

”Eventually managed to worm out of Perpetua that Daniel has gone to New York. He will clearly by now have got off with thin American ***cool*** person called Winona who puts out, carries a gun and is everything I am not.” (p. 39)

A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English:

1.(Esp. With *fish* or *hand*.) Impertinent, impudent, audacious, esp. If in a calm way: from ca. 1820; coll. till ca. 1880, then S.E. The same with the adv. *Coolly*.-

2. Stressing the amount in a large sum of money: from 1728 (SOD); Coll. Fielding, in *Tom Jones*, "Mr Watson...declared he had lost a cool hundred, and would play no longer."

3. At Eton College, clear, effective, as in *cool kick:* mid-C. 19-20. Cf. *Cool,* v., 1.

4. Very pleasing or attractive or satisfactory: Canadian (esp. teenagers'): adopted, ca. 1955, from US. All these senses came from US: 4 and 5 were adopted at least five, perhaps ten, years earlier in Canada than in Britain. *'Cool'* became a word of praise when hot ceased to be one; that is, when hot jazz went out of fashion, to be displaced by bop or bebop, a later- a "progressive" or "modern jazz" (F.E.L.Priestley, in letter of 20 Dec.1959)

The Routledge Dictionary:

1. fashionable, attractive, admired US, 1947

The word "cool" has showed remarkable staying power, never waning in the affection of young people since its entry on the scene in the 1950s. In 2005, the term faced its biggest challenge, when copies of affectionate notes from Harriet Miers, briefly nominated as Justice on the Supreme Court, to then Governor George Bush surfaced. In one card, Mier wrote to Governor Bush, "Hopefully Jenna and Barbara recognize that their parents are 'cool'-as do the rest of us." After this near-miss, cool survived.

Oxford English Dictionary:

1-fairly cold,

2-keeping one from becoming too hot,

3-not excited, angry, or emotional: *he kept a cool head* ,

4-not friendly or enthusiastic,

5-informal, fashionably attractive or impressive,

6-informal. Excellent,

7.informal, used to express acceptance or agreement, 8-informal, used to emphasize a specified amount of money

Cool is one of the pioneers considering slang words. It is present in all dictionaries used for the analysis and the meaning is wide. Firstly, it can be used indicating the level of temperature as the opposite of "hot". Like this, the word also has its figurative meaning which is the case in the first example from the novel listed above "cool ice-queen" referring to a person who does not show emotion, or do not have them. Also, the word is broadly used as a part of semantic field of fashion, indicating person, thing or occurrence that is very modern and currently actual.

22. **Super** adj.

"***Super***, thanks" (p. 11)

"Wise people will say Daniel should like me just as I am, but I am a child of Cosmopolitan culture, have been traumatized by ***super*** models and too many quizzes and know that neither my personality nor my body is up to it if left to its own devices." (p. 59)

Oxford English Dictionary:

-informal. Excellent

Informal expression which has meaning of expressing excellence and accordance with somebody or something. It is widely used in the English speaking areas. The expressions is so often and regular that sometimes can be mixed even in formal forms, although it is exclusively slang.

23. **Super-dooper**, adj.

" You know Julie, darling, Mavis Enderby's daughter. Julie! The one that's got that ***super-dooper*** job at Arthur Andersen..." (p. 8)

"Do you remember Mark Darcy, darling? Malcolm and Elaine's son? He's one of these super-dooper top-notch lawyers. Divorced. Elaine says he works all the time and he's terribly lonely. I think he might be coming to Una's New Year's Day Turkey Curry Buffet, actually."(p. 9)

The Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English:

-an intensive of super

This word is in fact just extension of the previously analyzed with no change in meaning. The only small difference is that this expression "super-dooper" is used as an intensifier, when we want to express something extraordinary good, or better than something else.

24. **Weird**, adj.

"Rang Mum and Dad again tonight but no one answered. V. ***weird.***" (p. 45)

"Magda said they had had a ***weird,*** almost spooky sixth sense that the Grand Marnier soufflé and frizzled lardon thing were not going to work out. Love the friends, better than extended Turkish family in ***weird*** headscarves any day." (p. 84)

The Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English:

(frequently misspelt wierd).- odd, unusual; wonderful: from the middle 1920s, and mostly upper classes'

Oxford English Dictionary:

1. informal, very strange or unusual

2. mysterious or strange in a frightening way

(Origin: Old English 'destiny, fate')

The adjective is used informally, meaning strange or odd. In the first example the narrative subject uses it since she called her parents but received no answer and that is strange. Subsequently, in the second example describing an usual capacity (sixth sense) and finally in the expression "weird headscarves" it is used as a part of semantic field indicating that something is not part of the current fashion and therefore unusual.

25. **Hippy**, adj.

"'OK, this is it. It's very simple. All you do is not eat any food which you have to pay for. So

at the start of the diet you're a bit porky and no one asks you out to dinner. Then you lose weight and get a bit leggy and shag-me ***hippy*** and people start taking you out for meals. So then you put a few pounds on, the invitations tail off and you start losing weight again." (p. 159)

Oxford English Dictionary:

-having large hips (of a woman)

This word has several different meanings and mainly it is connected to the group of Hippies appeared in the USA promoting general freedom and so-called "flower-power". Therefore, it has connotations today mostly in the part of semantic field of fashion describing floral patterns or similar. But in this particular context, it derives from a noun "hip" (part of human body) and it is used as an adverb referring to the look of woman and often means an over weighted person.

ADVERBS:

26. **Bloody**, adv.

"I immediately called Sharon and an emergency summit has been scheduled for 6.30 in Café Rouge. I hope I can get away without ***bloody*** Perpetua kicking up." (p. 19)

"

The Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English:

1. in mid-c-17-18, gen. Bloody (drunk). Also, a low coll. intensive=very. C.17-20, but respectable till ca. 1750.

2. it is often inserted

3. elliptical for bloody well, itself eligible as an intensive stop-gap adv. Dating from late C.19

Oxford English Dictionary:

3.informal, chiefly Brit. used to express anger, or shock or for emphasis

This adverb is one of the most prominent and characteristic of a British slang. Basically, it could be heard everywhere. The novel is abundant of this adverb. As far as it was counted, the word showed up for 68 times. Naturally, not all of them are used with the same meaning of expressing anger, shock or emphasis. In the following example, the word is used in order to refer to a specific sort of cocktail drink: “2 Bloody Marys (count as food as contain Worcester sauce and tomatoes)” (p. 7) But mostly, the expression is used as a constant collocation to everything possible, even when the narrative voice of Bridget Jones speaks to herself she is not withholding from repetitive use of the mentioned word. She collocates with anything, things or people such as in example: “He indulged me while I obsessed to him about my unattractiveness crisis — precipitated, as I told him, first by bloody Mark Darcy then by bloody Daniel at which point he said, I must say not particularly helpfully, 'Mark Darcy? But isn't he that famous lawyer — the human-rights guy?” (p. 27)

27. **Sloaney**, adv.

”I looked at her wistfully, her vast, bulbous bottom swathed in a tight red skirt with a bizarre three-quarter-length striped waistcoat strapped across it. What a blessing to be born with such ***Sloaney*** arrogance.” (p. 18)

The Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English:

Sloane Rangers- the generic nickname, coined by Peter York for his article in *Harpers & Queen,* Oct, 1975, for the distinctive upper-middle class, ex public and finishing school girl secretaries, living around Sloane Square, London, and going their county homes at weekends

Oxford English Dictionary:

-Brit. informal, a fashionable upper-class young woman (origin from Sloane Square, London + Leone Ranger, a fictional cowboy hero)

It is used as a part of semantic field of fashion since it refers to fashionable and upper-clase woman. It derives from the name of Sloane Square in London where the women of this sort lived.

EXCLAMATIONS:

28. Yuk

”It was all right, I suppose. I would have felt a bit mean if I hadn’t turned up, but Mark Darcy... ***Yuk***.” (p. 12)

The Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English:

Listed as “yuck”

-an exclaim of disgust: since early 1960s. Ex the sound of vomiting, and perhaps an intensification of ugh! Whence yuck-yuck, unpalatable food: schoolchildren’s B.P., 1969, notes use of the exclam. In Aus. Hence yuck, and derivative yucky, ad adj. =revolting or nauseating (e.g. of food, a stench, etc.); hence, unduly or excessively sentimental)

The Routledge Dictionary:

-to laugh, US, 1974.

-Echoic

Oxford English Dictionary:

-informal exclamation used to express disgust

-as noun, something messy or disgusting (origin: imitating the sound)

Although The Routledge Dictionary states that this expression could be associated with laugh, in this context it is exclusively connected with the expression of disgust towards one of the principal characters in the novel Mark Darcy.

29. **Damn,** from damned, adj.

”I blurted. ***Damn. Damn.*** Why?” (p. 99)

The Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English:

1. an adj. expressive of reprobation of mere emotional crudity or as an ever-weakening intensive (cf. bloody): late C.16-20: S.E. till ca. 1800, then coll.

2.- Adv., damnably: very: mid C.18-20; S.E. till ca. 1850, then coll.

3.- used in intensive phrases

4. a coll. exclam. and a coll. Imprecation: C.17-20.

Oxford English Dictionary:

1. exclamation, informal, expressing anger or frustration

This is also one of the notable British slang expressions mostly used casually in order to express pity or anger towards someone or something. Very common to British everyday speech, as it was used in the following example in the diary: “Damn. Missed start of Blind Date as Tom rang and is coming round. Jerome, having taken him back, has chucked him again and gone back with former boyfriend who is member of chorus in Cats.” (p. 298)

30. Yup

”Ah, that'll be Julio. ***Yup, yup.***' She was balancing a portable phone under her chin now and scribbling. '***Yup, yup.*** Put it on, darling,' she hissed. '***Yup, yup. Yup. Yup***.”(p. 192)

The Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English:

-yes

This affirmative exclamation is widely used in the novel. Commonly, when the narrative subject uses it for the first time, it is repeated few times even more probably to intensify the course of action as it is the case in the example from above. The expression is sort of

equivalent for standard and widely accepted affirmative “yes”, while this sort of “yes” is exclusively informal.

Onomatopoeic words and expressions

As it was previously stated, the narrative subject frequently uses onomatopoeic and exclamation examples as a way of communication, mostly in interior monologues and dialogues. Let’s observe the following examples:

1. “Yesssssss! Yesssss! (p. 26) - yes, affirmative answer, exclamation in the state of enormous excitement
2. “Oooh. Yes, pleased” (p.75) - also extremely excited, although not at so large extent as in the previous sample
3. “Shud-urrrrrrrrp” (p. 50) -meaning shut up and expressing annoyance and frustration
4. “Aargh” (p. 74) - exclamation indicating state of distress, annoyance and frustration

Using exclamations and onomatopoeic sounds and terms, Bridget is trying to present her feelings and states on the most effective way. Therefore, she is using many explicit expressions in order to reach her audience. Here there were listed two pairs of examples indicating different Bridget’s states going from chiefly happy and excited to anxious and nervous tones. All that shows the moods of the protagonist and how it usually fluctuates.

Eponyms

Furthermore, the novel provides a number of references to modern, popular culture, particularly British since the setting is in the United Kingdom. Bridget usually talks about TV

presenters, characters on TV programs, as well as the name of shops, icons and brands. For example:

”....while watching *EastEnders “* (p. 18)

”...Want to[....] watch *EastEnders”* (p. 98)

EastEnders was a BBC soap opera with fictional setting in East End of London and that is why it has that name. It is one of the highest rated programs since its broadcast in 1985.

”We ended up, for some reason, talking about *Princess Diana*” (p. 218)

”She adopted her wounded *Princess Diana* look” (p. 269)

”So glad decided to be festive Home Alone Singleton like *Princess Diana*” (p. 297)

Here, it is obvious mentioning of famous person, in this particular case Princess Diana, but each time in separate context.

Also, there are examples of brand names referring to food, especially chocolates since the protagonist keeps her diet diary concerning daily calorie intake.

”12 Milk Tray” (p. 7)

”the last Milk Tray” (p. 51)

”1 Milky Way” (p. 115)

”You bring me Diary Box please, instead of Quality Street?” (p. 242)

”Get us a Twix and a Lion bar” (p. 242)

Subsequently, the names of different shops and designers.

”...something really nice from Nicole Farhi” (p. 123)

And TV persons.

”I’m thinking studio: Frank Skinner and Sir Richard Rogers on furry seats...” (p. 214)

Here, Bridget’s boss refers to two popular British TV personalities, writer and comedian Frank Skinner and an architect Sir Richard Rogers.

4.4. Results of the Analysis

To sum up, in the novel "Bridget Jones's Diary" among the collected data there are in total 16 nouns, 4 verbs, 5 adjectives, 2 adverbs and 3 exclamations. The majority of the collected data are nouns, but some words such as the word "club" could be used in both categories; as noun and verb. Verbs that are presented in the novel are mostly phrasal ones which is also characteristic feature of slang and informal communication. Also, it is important to state that the novel is from 1996 which demonstrates that even 21 years ago slang was widely used. Today, as a result of rapid emergence of neologisms the number of slang expressions constantly grows and it is an inevitable part of human communication. It is entering and affecting many fields of work and activity, for example, literature. Due to globalization and the rapid development of technology, we can accept that slang expressions would be even more present.

5. Conclusion

Having taken everything into consideration, slang as a way of expressing and communicating is undoubtedly present in the Helen Fielding's novel Bridget Jones's Diary. The author uses distinctive style in order to adapt the communication to the masses and identify with the reader of the novel. Therefore, the novel is easy to read and understand, giving a reader a particular feeling of sympathy with the protagonist since her role is set as an easily liked comic character. Using this sort of vocabulary, a narrative subject does not want to be some objective, distant narrator, but a confident and trustworthy friend of a reader himself. The slang used in the novel is mainly very modern and urban, although analysing the words separately it is possible to find even older roots of the particular word or phrase. Finally, regarding the source for analysis, three different dictionaries were used for the research. Despite the fact that the novel is a product of British author I decided to use even *The*

Routledge Dictionary of Modern American Slang and Unconventional English by Tom Dalzell owing to the fact that slang was greatly used and developed even on the USA territory. Furthermore, I wanted to notice possible deviations in meaning of the same term in British and American English. Overall, in some cases, word can be found explained in all of them, sometimes identically, sometimes with differences. Also, not all the words are present in all dictionaries, but it must be stated that the Patridge's dictionary offers the most detailed insight into the roots and historical appearances, while the Routledge Dictionary offers a clear and simple analysis. The reason why Patridge's dictionary provides more explanations for slang terms found in Bridget Jones's diary could be seen from the fact that his dictionary is exclusively oriented to British field of speak, while The Routledge dictionary is specialized mainly for American English. Last but not least, classical Oxford English Dictionary offers general explanation for term with further slang reference, but not detailed as previous two dictionaries. Also OED, indicates origin of the word or expression where possible.

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7. Summary

This final paper deals with slang and its development through history while the examples were taken from well-known novel by Helen Fielding *Bridget Jones's Diary* which is abundant in modern slang and terms used in everyday, colloquial communication. The first forms of slang were exclusively illustrative, in the ancient languages such as Greek or Latin. Slang initially developed from criminal undergrounds since it served to criminals as a form of secret communication, and lately upgraded to the use of free individuals. But, it has always been associated to lower, working classes compared to those higher who were inclined to use a standard language. Slang itself is known to be rich in synonyms since it replaces standard forms and commonly is related to large cities and streets. Target users of slang are definitely the youth; teenagers and college students. On the concrete example of Bridget, she in her confidential diary uses exclusively slang spoken by British middle classes during the late 1990s. *Bridget Jones's Diary* served as a reliable source for finding slang examples which were further analysed using two large dictionaries specialised for slang as well as inevitable Oxford English Dictionary as a final point in this analysis.

Key words: slang, communication, standard language, Bridget Jones, literature

Sažetak

Slang u Dnevniku Bridget Jones

Ovaj završni rad tematizira slang i njegov razvitak kroz povijest, dok su primjeri preuzeti iz poznatog romana Helen Fielding *Dnevnik Bridget Jones* koji je prepun modernog slanga koji se koristi u svakodnevnoj, razgovornoj komunikaciji. Na samim početcima, slang je bio isključivo u formama ilustracija, u jezicima poput starog grčkog i latinskog. Prvotno, slang se

razvio iz kriminalnih podzemlja jer se koristio kao tajna vrsta komunikacije među kriminalcima, a kasnije ga koriste i slobodni individualci. Ali, uvijek se povezuje s nižim, radničkim klasama u usporedbi s višim klasama koji su naginjali korištenju standardnog jezika. Slang je poznat po tome da je bogat sinonimima jer zamjenjuje standardne oblike te se većinom povezuje s većim gradovima I ulicama. Skupina koja najviše koristi slang su zasigurno mladi: tinejdžeri i studenti na fakultetu. Na konkretnom primjeru Bridget Jones, ona u svom povjerljivom dnevniku koristi isključivo slang kojeg su koristile britanske srednje klase krajem 1990-ih godina. Dnevnik Bridget Jones je poslužio kao pouzdan izvor u pronalaženju primjera slanga koji su dalje analizirani koristeći dva velika rječnika, specijalizirana za slang kao I nezaobilazni Oxford English Dictionary kao zaključna točka u analizi.

Ključne riječi: slang, komunikacija, standardni jezik, Bridget Jones, književnost