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**Russian and English Slang in Georgian.
An Evaluation Study**
**რუსული და ინგლისური სლენგი ქართულში.
შეფასებითი კვლევა**

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Abstract. This study analyzes the sociolinguistic patterns of English and Russian slang usage in contemporary Georgian among speakers aged 15–35. The introduction outlines slang’s role in language change and social identity, especially within the context of globalization and post-Soviet political history. The study adopts a mixed-methods approach: quantitative analysis is based on survey data from 102 participants, while qualitative analysis applies thematic coding to open-ended responses. Results show that English slang is more frequently used by the younger segment of the cohort, while Russian slang tends to be used by those in the higher end of the age range. Respondents from Tbilisi report greater use of English borrowings, while those born in other regions more often use Russian-origin slang. Gender differences are modest, with male respondents slightly more frequent users of both varieties. Participants’ attitudes vary: some view slang as part of natural linguistic evolution, while others express concern over its effect on linguistic identity. The study reveals layered dynamics of language preference in contemporary Georgia.

აბსტრაქტი. კვლევა მიზნად ისახავს ინგლისური და რუსული სლენგის გამოყენების სოციოლინგვისტური მახასიათებლების ანალიზს თანამედროვე ქართულ ენაში 15 წლიდან 35 წლამდე ასაკობრივ ჯგუფში. შესავალ ნაწილში განხილულია სლენგის როლი გლობალიზაციისა და პოსტსაბჭოთა კულტურულ-პოლიტიკური კონტექსტის ფონზე. გამოყენებულია შერეული მეთოდოლოგია: რაოდენობრივი ანალიზი ეყრდნობა 102 მონაწილეზე ჩატარებული კითხვარის მონაცემებს, ხოლო თვისებრივი ღია კითხვების ანალიზი - ამავე მონაწილეთა პასუხებზე დაფუძნებულ თემატურ ანალიზს. შედეგი მიუთითებს, რომ ინგლისური სლენგი უფრო მეტად გავრცელებულია ახალგაზრდა ასაკობრივ ჯგუფში, ხოლო რუსულ სლენგს უმეტესად იყენებენ უფრო მაღალი ასაკობრივი ჯგუფის მონაწილეები. ანალოგიურად, თბილისელები უფრო ხშირად იყენებენ ინგლისურ სლენგს, ხოლო რეგიონებში დაბადებული რესპონდენტები - რუსულს. გენდერული განსხვავებები მცირეა, თუმცა კაცები ოდნავ უფრო ხშირად მიმართავენ საუბრისას ორივე ტიპის სლენგს. მონაწილეთა დამოკიდებულებები განსხვავდება: ნაწილი სლენგს ენობრივი ევოლუციის ნიშნად მიიჩნევს, ნაწილი კი ლინგვისტურ თვითმყოფადობაზე ზეგავლენის გამო მას კრიტიკულად უყურებს. კვლევა ასახავს ენობრივი არჩევანის მრავალშრიან სტრუქტურას თანამედროვე საქართველოში.

Keywords: slang, sociolinguistics, globalization, post-Soviet context

საკვანძო სიტყვები: სლენგი, სოციოლინგვისტიკა, გლობალიზაცია, პოსტსაბჭოთა კონტექსტი

1. Introduction

Language is a dynamic entity that constantly evolves through various factors, including cultural interactions, historical events, and societal changes. One prominent aspect of linguistic evolution is the incorporation of loanwords and borrowings from other languages. The Georgian language, with its distinct linguistic characteristics and cultural traditions, has a long and rich historical heritage dating back thousands of years. Located at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Georgian has come into contact with various linguistic communities, which have

contributed to the evolution and development of various slang terms and expressions. Andronikashvili (1966) delved into Georgian-Iranian language contact and old Persian borrowings, particularly in art-related vocabulary. Jorbenadze (1997) extensively examined Greek influence on Georgian, especially in Orthodox Christianity, adopting religious terminology and concepts from Greek due to the historical significance of the Greek Orthodox Church. Arabic and Turkish also contribute to Georgian vocabulary through historical interactions, with Arabic influencing everyday words and Turkish impacting animal-related and culinary terms.

Throughout this article we use the term (*English/Russian*) *slang use* to refer to the self-reported frequency with which speakers employ English- or Russian-origin slang items. For statistical purposes these frequencies were coded as *High* (daily use), *Moderate* (weekly use), and *Low* (monthly or rarer). We also use *socio-communicative* context to denote the interactional setting in which slang is used (e.g. peer conversation, social-media post, workplace exchange).

Russian and English have significantly impacted Georgian slang. The Russian influence dates back to the 19th-century Russification efforts and Soviet-era influence, as highlighted by Gabunia & Gochitashvili (2019). The 2008 Russia-Georgia war intensified linguistic divisions and shifted perceptions of the Russian language in Georgia, as discussed by Maisuradze (2016) and Jones (2015). Approximately 55% of Georgians claim fluency in Russian, but post-war, 70% see no urgent need to further develop their Russian language skills, and only 10% regularly read Russian literature (Maisuradze, 2016). On the other hand, the increasing globalization and influence of English have introduced English slang into Georgian, shaping it with a desire for modernity and cosmopolitanism, as noted by Kavtaradze & Mgeladze (2019), Lomidze (2008), Kirvalidze (2017), Goshkheletiani & Kikvadze (2018), and Davitashvili (2018).

Understanding the adaptation of Russian and English slang items in Georgian is crucial for revealing sociolinguistic dynamics and expressions of identity, particularly among the youth. Secondly, it contributes to the broader field of language contact and borrowing. Slang in Georgian is not merely a means of communication and the usage of slang words often has a sociolinguistic value as well. The present article will concentrate on various social variables that affect slang use in young speakers, as well as their attitudes toward English and Russian slang. The study aims to investigate the sociolinguistic use of English and Russian slang items in the Georgian language. It employs a mixed-methods approach, combining a qualitative and quantitative analysis of a questionnaire survey. Because slang innovation is typically youth-led, the questionnaire targeted speakers aged 15–35.

1.1 Research Questions

This all leads to the following research questions:

1. What is the effect of the selected social variables (age, gender identity, region of birth) on using English and Russian slang items?
2. In which socio-communicative contexts are English and Russian slang items used by Georgian speakers and what is their attitude towards using slang in general?

1.2 Defining Slang

Green (2015) defines slang as "informal, nonstandard vocabulary composed of coinages, arbitrarily changed words, and extravagant, forced, or facetious figures of speech" (p. 1). Hickey (2012) describes it as informal, often playful language used to create a sense of solidarity or exclusivity. Chernova and Shemanaeva (2017) find that youth slang is continuously evolving, presenting a significant and contradictory issue in modern lexicology. Adams argues in *Slang: The People's Poetry* (2012) that slang is a democratic and creative language form reflecting the diversity and vitality of modern culture. Slang is considered a complex and evolving aspect of language, often associated with creativity and diversity, contrary to the historical notion of being a language of the disreputable (Zhou & Fan, 2013; Nasution, 2016; Hendrajat et al., 2022; Pangestu, 2019; Amir, 2017; Izmaylova, Zamaletdinova, and Zholshayeva, 2017).

1.3 Motivations to Use Slang

Slang, a crucial language variety, is of particular interest to sociolinguists due to its strong connection to social and cultural factors. Research by Bucholtz & Hall (2005) and Eckert (2003) explores how slang is linked to social identity, signaling group membership and reinforcing social boundaries. Slang also serves as a tool for resistance or subversion, empowering marginalized groups (Bucholtz & Hall, 2005; Mendoza-Denton, 2008) but potentially leading to self-objectification and limiting social mobility (Baker & McEnery, 2015). The discussion on the role

of slang in language change involves perspectives from Labov (1972), suggesting it acts as a catalyst, while Baker & McEnery (2015) argue for a more complex relationship, with slang reflecting broader social and cultural changes rather than directly causing them. Overall, sociolinguistic research highlights the multifaceted nature of slang, significantly shaped by social and cultural influences.

1.4 Slang Use and Borrowings in Georgia

Borrowings, or loanwords, significantly contribute to the development of slang, reflecting cultural and societal influences and the dynamic evolution of language. The 2008 war between Georgia and Russia had linguistic implications, contributing to a shift in language attitudes driven by rising nationalism and a desire to distance oneself from Russian influence. While English has gained prominence due to globalisation, Russian still holds sway in various aspects of Georgian society. Research by Jalabadze (2017), Gotsiridze & Bokuchava (2014), and Shioshvili (2018) explores the impact of Russian slang on Georgian youth, hip hop music, and cultural ties. Other studies by Kikvidze and Alavidze (2016), Shanidze (2018), Mikautadze (2020), Darchia (2017), Kurdadze (2010), and Kavtaradze & Mgeladze (2019) delve into the use of English and Russian slang among Georgian youth in different contexts, revealing expressions of identity and rebellion against traditional culture. These studies collectively highlight the intricate nature of Russian slang in Georgian, influenced by diverse social and cultural factors, emphasising the need for further research. Additionally, borrowings in Georgian, shaped by English and Russian, have notably impacted Georgian slang across various domains, prompting a call for more exploration into the attitudes of Georgian youth towards slang.

1.5 Borrowings in Use

The subsequent section aims to provide a comprehensive examination of specific examples illustrating the assimilation of English and Russian slang items into the Georgian language. Below are English Slang Borrowings.

Social Media and Work Related:

- *modi, es posti davbustot^h* – ‘Let’s boost this post’ (A Facebook Boost Post is a type of paid advertisement on Facebook promoting an existing post from a business page, Sprout Social, n.d.)
- *tsota khanshi dagirekav, akhla k^holze var* – ‘I will call you shortly, right now I am on call’
- *es p^hoto sastsrapod dasapostia* – ‘We need to post this photo immediately’
- *breinsh(s)tormingi dagvekhmareba* – ‘Brainstorming will help us’ nm

Everyday-life-related:

- *eg vinme selebri^hia?* – ‘Is he/she some kind of celebrity?’
- *gushin dzaan bevri notip^hikeisheni mk^honda* – ‘I had a lot of notifications yesterday’
- *dzaan doup^hi albomia* – ‘This album is super dope’
- *basianze dzaan bevri dragia* – ‘There are many drugs at Bassiani (club)’
- *literali egea* – ‘That is literally so’

Below are Russian slang borrowings:

Everyday-life-related:

- *kokakola davlie da magra momkhoda* – ‘I drank cola and it got more energised’
- *kukhna mak^hvs gasaremontebeli* – ‘My kitchen needs renovation’
- *spasiba, brat* – ‘thank you, bro’
- *kakraz magas vguliskhmobdi-* ‘That’s exactly what I meant’
- *kak dzela* – ‘What's up?’
- *imena dzaan lamazia* – ‘She is like really pretty’
- *karoche, dzaan nervebs mishlis* – ‘Shortly, he plays on my nerves’
- *idi nakhui* – ‘Fuck off’

2. Methodology

To address the two research questions above, the study examines how age, gender identity, and region of birth shape (i) The frequency of using English and Russian origin slang items and (ii) actual slang use across specific socio-communicative contexts (peer talk, social media, education, and the workplace), as well as their attitudes towards using slang in general.

The study was based on an online questionnaire and was conducted online. The research analysed the usage of English and Russian as slang in the Georgian language. It concentrated on the younger population. Descriptive statistics was used to analyse the interview, while thematic analysis was employed to identify recurring patterns, themes, and insights related to slang use and sociolinguistic aspects.

The first step was to develop a structured questionnaire to collect data on social variables and the usage of Russian and English slang words among young Georgian speakers.

2.1 Procedures

The questionnaire included questions related to the participants' demographic information such as age, gender, place of birth, and native tongue. The other social variables employed in the study were the frequency of slang use, socio-communicative context of slang use, and their attitudes towards using English and Russian slang words, on language policies in regards to using English and Russian words in their tongue. The questionnaire was distributed through online platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, etc. The confidentiality of the questionnaire was ensured for all participants. The questionnaire was pilot-tested with a small group of participants to ensure clarity and relevance of the items.

A combination of convenience and random sampling techniques was used to recruit participants. This allowed the representation from different social groups within the target communities. The data for this study was collected through a questionnaire survey administered to participants in Georgia. The questionnaire consisted of both closed-ended questions, where participants provided numerical responses, and open-ended questions, allowing participants to elaborate and express their opinions.

2.2 Participants

There were a total of 102 participants in the study. Tables 1, 2, and 3 show the number of participants in each category based on: age distribution, gender distribution and region of birth.

Table 1. Ages of the Participants in the Study (N=102)

Age Group	Number of Participants
Group 1 (15-23 years old)	52
Group 2 (24-29 years old)	33
Group 3 (30-35 years old)	17

Table 2. Gender Identities of the Participants in the Study (N=102)

Gender	Number of Participants
Female	52
Male	50

Table 3. Regions of Birth of the Participants in the Study (N=102)

Region of Birth	Number of Participants
Capital City	52
Other Regions	50

Analysis

The study employed a mixed-methods approach, utilizing both quantitative and qualitative analyses to comprehensively address the research questions. This integrated approach facilitated a nuanced interpretation of the data, offering a more comprehensive insight into the study's objectives.

For the closed-ended questions, quantitative analysis was conducted using correlation analysis. Specifically, correlation coefficients were calculated to explore the relationships between variables of interest, including age, gender, region of birth and the usage of English and Russian slangs. The analysis focused on

examining the correlations between these variables to determine any significant associations. Frequency codes of high (daily use), moderate (weekly use) and low (monthly or rarer) are used to indicate the frequency.

Open-ended questions allowed participants to provide detailed responses. Thematic analysis was applied to code and categorize responses, revealing recurring themes and patterns in the qualitative data. This method provided a deeper exploration of participants' experiences, perspectives, and opinions regarding slang use and attitudes.

3. Results and Discussion

The aim of the study was to determine how age, gender identity, and region of birth correlates with the frequency of usage English and Russian slang items and the actual use of English and Russian origin slang in different socio-communicative contexts in Georgian, as well as their attitudes towards using slang in general. *Section 3.1-3.4* presents the quantitative tests that bear on RQ 1: the correlations between the three social variables and (a) frequency of English/Russian slang item use. *Sections 3.5 and 3.6* address RQ 2. Descriptive counts and thematic coding show how slang items cluster in four sociocommunicative contexts—peer talk, socialmedia interaction, education, and workplace, as well as the participants' attitudes towards using slang in general.

3.1 Age and Slang Use

Table 4 provides an overview of the correlation between age groups and how often each group reports using English and Russian slang. “High” = daily/almost daily, “Moderate” = once or twice a week, “Low” = once a month or less. Younger speakers favour English slang ($r = -0.12, p < 0.05$), whereas older speakers favour Russian slang ($r = 0.07, p < 0.01$).

Table 4. Correlation between Age and Slang use (102 participants)

Age	English Slang			Russian Slang		
	High	Moderate	Low	High	Moderate	Low
14-23	30	15	7	10	20	22
24-29	18	10	5	12	11	10
30-35	5	8	4	8	6	3

The correlation between age and English slang use was significant at the 0.05 level ($r = -0.12$), while the correlation between age and Russian slang use was significant at the 0.01 level ($r = 0.07$). As seen in Table 4, younger individuals (under 30) show a moderate frequency of English slang use but low usage of Russian slang. In contrast, participants over 50 exhibit a high frequency of Russian slang use. These results are consistent with age-graded variation studies, indicating that younger generations are more inclined towards English slang, while older individuals tend to use more Russian slang (Smith, 2015; Gabunia & Gochitashvili, 2019). These results also confirm various studies conducted in age-graded variation. In this specific research, the usage of both English and Russian are discussed, showing that Russian is more frequently used by the older speakers, while English is more popular among young people. Generally, as discussed by Smith (2015), younger generations introduce and employ slang words. In the case of Georgia, the declining popularity of the Russian slang among youth can be explained by historical reasons (dissolution of the Soviet Union, and the 2008 war as discussed by Gabunia & Gochitashvili, 2019). As for the rising tendency to use English, in the modern context, it is hardly surprising that the internet and social media platforms have become catalysts for linguistic innovation. Crystal (2001) discusses that English is the “lingua franca” of the internet, thus its implications on slang use is also quite common.

3.2 Gender Differences in Slang Use

Table 5 compares women ($n = 52$) and men ($n = 50$) on the same three-point frequency scale. Men are slightly more frequent users of both English ($r = 0.15, p < 0.05$) and Russian ($r = 0.13, p < 0.05$) slang.

Table 5. Correlation between Gender and Slang use (102 Participants)

Gender	English Slang			Russian Slang		
	High	Moderate	Low	High	Moderate	Low
Male	25	15	10	20	20	10
Female	28	18	6	15	20	17

The raw counts are shown in Table 3, but the main patterns can be stated in words:

- English slang – Roughly one half of the men (25/50) report daily use, compared with a little more than one half of the women (28/52). When we convert the whole distribution into a Spearman correlation, the association between gender and Englishslang frequency is small but significant ($r = +0.15, p < 0.05$).
- Russian slang – Daily use is reported by 20/50 men and 15/52 women. Here again the association is small but significant ($r = +0.13, p < 0.05$).

As shown in Table 3, men demonstrate a higher frequency of both English and Russian slang use compared to women. Additionally, men express a stronger desire for regulating slang use, aligning with previous research and theories on gender differences in language attitudes (Labov, 1963; Trudgill, 1972; Smakman, 2018). However, it should be mentioned that the difference is modest. Men are slightly more inclined than women to use both English and Russian slang, but the difference is modest: roughly five extra daily users out of fifty.

3.3 Correlation between Place of Birth and Slang Use

Table 6 compares respondents born in the capital (Tbilisi, $n = 52$) with those born elsewhere in Georgia ($n = 50$). Capital-born speakers lead in daily English slang use, whereas noncapital speakers lead in daily Russian slang use. The associations are modest but statistically significant: English slang $r = -0.12$ ($p < 0.05$); Russian slang $r = 0.13$ ($p < 0.05$).

Table 6. Regional Influence on Language Dynamics (102 Participants)

Place of Birth	English Slang			Russian Slang		
	High	Moderate	Low	High	Moderate	Low
Capital	30	15	7	10	20	22
Non-Capital	23	18	9	20	20	10

Exactly half of the sample (52 people) were born in Tbilisi, while the other half (50) were born in other regions. Using the same High / Moderate / Low scale as above, we obtain the following picture

- English slang – Daily use is most common in the capital (30/52). Outside the capital only 23/50 respondents report daily use. The overall correlation between region of birth and Englishslang frequency is negative but small ($r = -0.12, p < 0.05$), meaning that moving away from Tbilisi is associated with a slight drop in Englishslang frequency.
- Russian slang – The pattern reverses: daily Russian slang is reported by 20/50 noncapital respondents but only 10/52 capital respondents. The corresponding correlation is positive and of similar size ($r = +0.13, p < 0.05$).

Put simply, Tbilisi speakers lead in Englishslang adoption, whereas speakers from other parts of Georgia retain more Russian slang. The numerical effect is small (about seven extra daily users per fifty people) but statistically reliable, echoing wellknown urban–rural contrasts in language contact situations. This suggests regional variations in language preferences (Bobanovic and Grzinic, 2011; Preston, 2010).

3.4 Summary of the Qualitative Results

Overall, the numbers show clear but small links between the three social factors and how people treat slang in Georgia:

- Age: Younger speakers are the main drivers of English slang, whereas older speakers keep Russian slang alive.
- Gender: Men report slightly higher use of both slangs and are more in favour of regulating them, but the gap is modest.
- Region of birth: Capitalborn respondents reach most often for English slang; those from other regions turn to Russian slang more often and are less eager to police either variety.

Because each correlation coefficient is below ± 0.20 , these patterns are statistically real yet not strong enough to predict individual behaviour on their own. In other words, age, gender, and region set the stage, but other factors—personal experience, peer group, media exposure—still shape day-to-day slang choices. Together, the findings

highlight how multiple layers of social identity interact to steer language use and language policy attitudes in contemporary Georgia.

3.5 Qualitative Analysis

English Slang use and Socio-Communicative context

Table 7 summarizes the socio-communicative contexts, where participants deemed it appropriate to use English slang items. The contexts were as follows: i) peers/friends/social networks, (ii) school/university, (iii) work settings, and (iv) “never/negative view.”

Table 7. Contexts for Using English Slang (102 Participants)

Context	Number of Participants
Peer, friends, social networks	87
School and university	32
Work settings	41
Negative views and non-usage	5

A majority of participants (87 out of 102) mentioned using slang when communicating with friends and peers, while a considerable number also reported using it within social networks. Interestingly, slang use was also reported in educational settings like schools and universities (32 out of 102). Moreover, some participants acknowledged using slang in work settings (41 out of 102), indicating its presence in professional environments. However, a small minority expressed negative views towards English slang use (5 out of 102).

Russian Slang use and Socio-Communicative Context

Similarly, Table 8 shows the distribution of Russian slang items usage across the same four socio-communicative contexts:

Table 8. Contexts for Using Russian Slang (102 Participants)

Context	Number of Participants
Older generation	25
Peer, friends, social networks	49
Work settings	None
Negative views and non-usage	23

A high number of participants used Russian slang with the older generation (25 out of 102) and within their social circles, including friends and peers (49 out of 102). However, none of the participants reported using Russian slang in work settings. Additionally, a notable portion expressed negative views towards Russian slang items usage (23 out of 102), with 23 participants specifically mentioning that they do not engage in it.

Attitudes towards Using Slang in General

Table 9 summarizes three stance categories toward foreign slang in Georgian: (i) acceptance as natural language evolution (48 replies), (ii) concern for preserving linguistic integrity (31), and (iii) resignation to globalization’s influence (23).

Table 9. Attitudes towards Using Slang in General (102 Participants)

Attitude	Number of Participants
Acceptance of language evolution	48
Preservation of linguistic integrity	31
Inevitable influence of globalization	23

The table illustrates that a significant portion of participants (48 out of 102) embraced language evolution, viewing the adoption of foreign slang as a natural part of linguistic change. On the other hand, 31 participants expressed concerns about preserving the linguistic integrity of their native language, emphasizing the importance of maintaining its unique characteristics. Additionally, 23 participants acknowledged the inevitable influence of globalization on language change, accepting it as a consequence of increased cultural exchange and interconnectedness.

3.6 Summary of the Qualitative Data

Attitudes towards English Slang

Participants provided valuable insights into the cultural influence of English slang on their native language, revealing various perspectives on the matter. Here are the key points expressed by the respondents:

- **Soft Power of Western/American Culture:** 17 participants attributed the use of English in their native language to the influence of Western or American culture, perceiving it as a manifestation of the soft power exerted by these cultures in media, entertainment, and technology.
- **Lack of Appropriate Terms in Georgian:** 27 suggested that the adoption of English slang is driven by the absence of suitable terms in Georgian, filling semantic gaps or conveying concepts without direct equivalents in their native language.
- **Inevitability due to European Integration:** 21 participants connected the increased usage of English to their country's integration into the European Union, perceiving English as the dominant international language within the EU, necessary for effective communication and participation in a European context.
- **Temporary Trend or "Cool" Factor:** A perspective shared by 37 participants is that the current usage of English in their language is a passing phase or trend, attributed to its perceived fashionable or cool status at present.
- **Expression of Emotions and Influence of Media:** 41 participants noted that English is often perceived as better suited for expressing emotions, influenced by platforms like TikTok, social media, and movies, where English enjoys high prestige and is associated with youth culture.

Attitudes towards Russian Slang

The participants' perspectives on the cultural influence of Russian slang on their native language revealed several key themes:

- **Soviet Legacy and Historical Influence:** 41 Participants recognized the significant historical connection between Russia and Georgia, particularly during the Soviet era, acknowledging the once-strong influence of Russian on the Georgian language.
- **Declining Influence and Rooted Terms:** 58 participants noted that the influence of Russian in contemporary Georgian society has diminished compared to the past, though certain deeply rooted terms and expressions in Georgian are still used.
- **Political Context and Rejection of Russian Influence:** 36 participants expressed strong sentiments regarding the use of Russian in their language, considering it as the "enemy language" due to political tensions, and advocating for its avoidance to maintain linguistic independence.

These themes underscore the complex relationship between Russian and Georgian, shaped by historical, generational, and political factors. Understanding these perspectives is crucial for analyzing the dynamics of language and cultural influence between the two languages.

4. Conclusion

By investigating the utilization of English and Russian slang within the Georgian context, this study aimed to shed light on the multifaceted interplay between slang use patterns, regulatory frameworks, and societal norms, offering insights into individuals' perceptions and evaluations of these linguistic phenomena.

The findings from both the qualitative and quantitative analyses provide valuable insights into the usage of English and Russian slang in the Georgian context, shedding light on the sociolinguistic dynamics and expressions of identity among Georgian speakers. By integrating the results with existing literature, we can gain a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding slang use and attitudes towards slang.

4.1 Age, Gender, and Regional Variations in Slang Use

The quantitative analysis revealed correlations between age, gender, region of birth, and slang use (Bucholtz & Hall, 2005; Labov, 1973; Trudgill, 1974; Milroy, 2004). While age showed a slight negative correlation with English slang use and a slight positive correlation with Russian slang use, the effect sizes were minimal, suggesting that age has a limited impact on slang use. Gender differences were observed, with men demonstrating a higher frequency for using borrowed slang items and a stronger inclination towards language regulation compared to women (Milroy, 1981; Eckert, 1989; Paulston and Tucker, 2003). Additionally, differences in slang use were observed between the capital and non-capital regions, indicating regional variations in linguistic practices (Takhtarova et al., 2015; Dundua, 2023; Hajanto, 2021; Bobanovic and Grzinic, 2011).

4.2 Cultural Influence and Sociolinguistic Motivations

The qualitative analysis highlighted the cultural influence of English and Russian slang use on Georgian speakers. English slang use was associated with the soft power of Western or American culture, perceived as trendy and cool, particularly among the youth (Kavtaradze & Mgeladze, 2019; Lomidze, 2008; Kirvalidze, 2017). In contrast, Russian slang use was rooted in historical ties, reflecting Georgia's historical connection with Russia, albeit with a declining prevalence over time (Gabunia & Gochitashvili, 2019; Maisuradze, 2016; Jones, 2015). Participants expressed various sociolinguistic motivations for using slang, including expressions of identity, resistance, and solidarity, influenced by social, cultural, and political factors (Bucholtz & Hall, 2005; Mendoza-Denton, 2008).

4.3 Attitudes towards Slang

Participants held diverse attitudes towards the impact of slang on the Georgian language. While some viewed slang as a natural part of language evolution, others expressed concerns about its potential negative effects, such as linguistic degradation and cultural dilution (Green, 2015; Hickey, 2012). Attitudes towards slang use varied, with some participants embracing its use in specific contexts, while others advocated for its avoidance. These attitudes were influenced by factors such as nationalism, cultural identity, and perceptions of language prestige.

4.4 Comparative Perspectives

Comparing English and Russian slang use revealed distinct patterns shaped by historical legacies, cultural influences, and linguistic dynamics. English slang was perceived as more prevalent in informal settings, and associated with modernity, while Russian slang was often used in conversations with older generations and rooted in historical contexts (Maisuradze, 2016; Shioshvili, 2018). Understanding these differences provides valuable insights into the nuanced dynamics of language adoption and cultural influences in Georgia.

4.5 Cultural Dynamics and Language Evolution

Findings of this research align with previous research highlighting the pervasive influence of Western and American culture on the adoption of English slang among Georgian youth. This trend reflects broader patterns of globalization and cultural exchange, as noted by Kavtaradze & Mgeladze (2019) and Lomidze (2008). Conversely, attitudes towards Russian slang are influenced by historical ties between Georgia and Russia, with its usage declining among younger generations, consistent with the findings of Maisuradze (2016) and Jones (2015).

4.6 Social Variables and Linguistic Practices

The study reveals generational shifts in linguistic practices, with age serving as a significant predictor of slang use. This finding is in line with previous research by Labov (1973) and Chambers (2013), which suggests that language change is often influenced by generational factors. Additionally, gender differences in language attitudes and usage are observed, corroborating the findings of Milroy & Milroy (1993) and Smakman (2018). Furthermore, regional variations in slang use underscore the diverse linguistic landscapes within Georgia, consistent with previous studies by Takhtarova et al. (2015) and Dundua (2023).

4.7 Identity Construction and Language Ideologies

The study highlights the role of language in identity construction, with English and Russian slang serving as markers of sociocultural belonging. English slang is associated with modernity and cosmopolitanism, reflecting

broader trends in multicultural contexts, while Russian slang evokes historical ties and generational divides, echoing findings by Goshkheletiani & Kikvadze (2018) and Jones (2015).

4.8 Future Research

The sample size in future studies should be larger, and they should focus on nuanced regional differences. Including more granular regional data would enhance the analysis. Furthermore, the reliance on self-reported data may introduce biases. Future research could incorporate alternative methodologies to validate findings; preferably self-reliance is combined with other approaches. Also, the findings are context-specific to Georgia and may not be universally applicable. Comparative research in diverse contexts could provide broader insights.

Future studies could track slang use longitudinally and thus elucidate temporal language change patterns. Comparative analyses across diverse multicultural contexts could highlight sociopolitical influences on language dynamics. Furthermore, socioeconomic factors could be included as a factor, as these seemed to be relevant in the present investigation. Exploring socioeconomic determinants of slang use could deepen understanding of social dynamics. Addressing these limitations and pursuing future research avenues can advance our understanding of language dynamics in multicultural societies.

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