

Slang of Vietnamese Youngers and Keeping the Purity of Vietnamese

Le Thi Thuy Vinh

Faculty of Philology, Hanoi Pedagogical University 2, Vietnam

lethithuyvinh@hpu2.edu.vn

ABSTRACT : Based on surveying the system of slang words of Vietnamese youth, the article analyzes ways to create slang words. From there, evaluate the use of slang words by young people to the work of preserving the purity of the Vietnamese language. The orientations on the work of preserving the purity of Vietnamese in the use of slang by young people will be the guidelines to help the youth language become more standard, more complete, and more modern.

KEYWORDS - slang, Vietnamese youth, preserving the purity of Vietnamese language, youth language

I. INTRODUCTION

Youth slang is a specific social dialect, reflecting the characteristics of the youth social group (people aged 15-24, starting high school and ending around university graduation). in Vietnamese today. Based on surveying the system of slang words of Vietnamese youth, the article analyzes ways to create slang words. From there, evaluate the use of slang words by young people to the work of preserving the purity of the Vietnamese language. The orientations on the work of preserving the purity of Vietnamese in the use of slang by young people will be the guidelines to help the youth language become more standard, more complete, and more modern.

II. CONTENTS

2.1. An overview of youth slang and slang

Slang is a type of social dialect created by social groups for internal communication and also to protect the internal interests of each social group. In recent years, slang tends to thrive among young people, especially among students. Examples of slang on topics such as exams (buoy, rescue, photocopying, paying stupid money, potatoes), wisdom (jackfruit, banana, dumb, short, synching), dressing (cool, outfit, dust), friendship, love (planting sycamore, tamarind soup, dying, asking to die) etc. Therefore, the concept of "slang" has expanded in terms of both internal and external connotations of "secret" meaning in slang is being discounted, the meaning "only bad people, not good people use slang" is not typical for slang, but it seems that slang now, in addition to its inherent characteristics, has additional characteristics. new as to add to the utterance an unusual nuance, to increase the attractiveness of the speech" [6; tr314].

Based on views on the slang of Vietnamese linguists such as Nguyen Thien Giap, Do Huu Chau, Hoang Thi Chau, and Nguyen Van Khang... in this article, we conceive slang as a linguistic phenomenon. has the following characteristics:

-Slang is a variant of sociolinguistics, associated with a particular social group, created, used by a social group, and clearly expresses the identity of that social group.

- Slang has a limited range of uses, only used in informal communication.
- Slang is temporary, appears quickly, and can disappear just as quickly.
- Slang is no longer secret but is used for purposes related to group marking.

Young people's slang in the sense that it is a specific social dialect, reflects the characteristics of the youth social group (people aged 15-24, starting high school and ending at university) in Vietnamese today.

Considering slang in this age group will help linguists and culturists identify the "group identity" (style, behavior, interests, etc.), thereby having appropriate behaviors for the group. The social group is the future inheritor of the nation.

2.2. Ways to create slang for young people

Nguyen Van Khang said that "Vietnamese slang words are formed based on Vietnamese vocabulary, that is, from available materials and by inherent methods of creating words" [4; tr321]. Young people's slang is also made up of 3 main sources (1) new word structure sources using Vietnamese materials; (2) the existing word source is given a new meaning; (3) borrowed from a foreign language.

Here, we choose to learn the slang of young people in articles on kenh14.vn, a general electronic information website operating in Vietnam. With 16 categories, this website has content on topics of entertainment, society, life, people of the public, etc., aimed at the main audience of young readers such as students. Currently, this is a website that many young people are interested in and has a huge amount of traffic every day. Although the author team of these articles may not be young, the website's audience is young, so the journalist team must also have their way of seeing, thinking, speaking, and writing. young people as insiders. In addition, it must also be mentioned that the staff of kenh14.vn are mostly students.

2.2.1. Create new words

Creating new words is a way of using Vietnamese elements and word structure models to create new slang words that have not yet appeared in the Vietnamese language. The new system of slang words in electronic articles on kenh14.vn includes 546 words Here are some new slang words that appear quite commonly.

Table 1: New creative slang words on kenh14.vn

Number	Slang words	Number of occurrences	Meaning	Contextual
1	bựa	25	Weird, unusual behavior.	Không hổ danh nhóm nhạc "bựa" nhất Kpop, BtoB thì xem ai làm mặt giống... cún nhất (17/6/2018)
2	chảnh	27	Someone's personality, behavior, and actions have arrogance, disdain, even though their living conditions and circumstances may not be equal to others.	Tiệm trà sữa "chảnh" nhất sài gòn: ai mua nhiều quá thì "hông" bán, uống có ngon không mà phải xếp hàng một đũ vậy? (29/3/2021, kenh14.vn)
3	toang	16	Disruption, loss, cancellation of a plan or the end of a process.	Một cặp đôi vbiz chính thức "toang", chàng đã có người mới dù từng thề thốt "tôi yêu bà tới khi nào

				bà chết, tôi lo mồ yên mà đẹp" (29/1/2022, kênh14.vn)
4	phốt	18	Secrets (negative) that have been hidden but are still exposed and spread everywhere.	Vì sao "mỹ nhân 4000 năm" cứ tình y bị ghét nhất nhì cbiz? nói dối, giả tạo, kênh kiệu cùng 1001 phốt không hồi kết (14/7/2021, kênh14.vn)
5	quẩy	29	Fun activities, expressing their nature regardless of surrounding circumstances	11 quán pub rục rờ hà nội để quẩy valentine này, thích xập xình hay chill chill đều có cả! (12/3/2022, kênh14.vn)
6	cạ	35	Subjects with suitable personalities, interests...	"Hợp cạ" ăn uống quá như chi pu - sun ht đôi khi cũng "vắt vắ": ra hà nội ăn nguyên ngày, trước 2 tiếng bay vẫn ngồi... gặm vịt (18/9/2019, kênh14.vn)
7	phượt	29	A form of free travel in which participants choose their vehicle (usually a motorbike) and drive themselves to conquer challenges and dangers.	90 tuổi vẫn "phượt" lên sapa bằng xe máy, cụ bà "siêu chất" khiến cộng đồng mạng trầm trồ thán phục (12/8/2020, kênh14.vn)
8	sương sương	19	Just a light state	Góc chăm chỉ: 1 nam nghệ sĩ vpop đã ra mắt "sương sương" 20 mv trong năm 2021! (26/12/2021, kênh14.vn)
9	tiểu tam	15	A term used to refer to someone who interferes in the life and destroys the happiness of others.	"Tiểu tam" trơ trên nhất lịch sử showbiz: cặp kè đạo diễn đáng tuổi bố, thách thức "bà cả" để rồi nhận về cái kết đắng (5/1/2022)
10	tút tát	12	Change yourself (usually appearance) to make it fresh, attractive.	Tút tát nhan sắc cho một đêm valentine rục cháy, nàng đừng bỏ qua 5 sắc son cực phẩm này (14/2/2022, kênh14.vn).

The number of these newly created slang terms is not much, but these are quite commonly used words on kênh14.vn. In particular, these slang words can become word-forming elements to create new words. For example, from the slang word "cạ", we have new slang words such as *hợp cạ*, *cạ cúng*...; from the "bựa" slang word, we have words like *bựa nhân*, *bựa phẩm*, etc...; the word "phốt" have words like *bóc phốt*, *dính phốt*, etc; the word "phượt" we have words like *phượt thủ*, *dân phượt*, *xe ôm phượt*, *diễn đàn phượt*, etc. In addition to simple slang words, new complex slang words such as *tiểu tam*, *sương sương*, etc are also used quite commonly. *Sương sương* is a slang word that originally appeared in the field of makeup, referring to gentle, natural makeup, prioritizing the use of water powders instead of matte foundation or thick powder. Later on, *sương sương* was used in all fields with the meaning of low, normal level from the speaker's point of view. For example: After the Vertu hundreds of millions, Ms. Phuong Hang again attracted attention when using an auxiliary machine with a "sương sương" price of about 50 million (May 25, 2021, kênh14.vn) (*Sau chiếc Vertu hàng trăm triệu, bà Phuong Hằng lại gây chú ý khi dùng một chiếc máy phụ có giá "sương sương" khoảng 50 triệu* (25/5/2021, kênh14.vn).

Here, the low-level meaning of the auxiliary machine created by the slang word "srong srong" is related to the hundreds of millions of Vertu. Or ITZY sings "srong srong" a few lines behind the scenes that make fans "hú hồn" with their singing ability, the most shocking person is JYP's "secret weapon" (April 19, 2020, kenh14.vn). *Srong srong* in this case emphasizes only a small number (singing verses). *Tieu tam* reappears on the basis of a model created by Sino-Vietnamese with the meaning of a small third person to imply that the third person interferes in the lives of other couples, causing them to conflict and possibly have to break up.

2.2.2. Convert existing units of the Vietnamese language

This is a form of creating slang words by using the available units of Vietnamese and then transforming them based on semantic elements or phonetic form. This way of creating slang words in this form is the most common and also the most basic form.

Slang words often found in this form are slang words that immediately use the inherent lexical units of Vietnamese and give them a new meaning: slang meaning. Therefore, between the original meaning of the word and the slang meaning, there are still more or less certain semantic association links. Here are some typical slang words for young people on kenh14.vn page in this structure.

Table 2: Slang words created by transliteration

Number	Slang words	Number of occurrences	Meaning	Contextual
1	bóc	34	The act of making others see the truth of the matter	Netizen bóc ảnh chồng cũ Hoà Minzy ngồi cùng gái xinh, tiếp tục chất vấn về "người thứ ba" (19/2/2022, kenh14.vn)
2	nổ	30	The act of talking about oneself or what one knows with excessive exaggeration.	Xuất hiện được 2s nhưng hơn hờ "nổ" từ tận 2 tháng trước: "Tiểu tam" không có cửa lộ mặt chứ nói gì đâu với chị Thư (12/8/2019, kenh14.vn)
3	thánh	26	Only people who are suddenly or super good at something or doing something that other people don't dare to do	Thánh soi phát hiện Hoà Minzy vẫn giữ 1 điều với chồng đại gia, tin chia ly chỉ là lời đồn? (18/2/2022, kenh14.vn)
4	phèn	24	The dress or behavior hasn't been updated yet	Bạn trai Hương Giang lộ ảnh "thời còn phèn": Theo style HKT, can thiệp thẩm mỹ một điểm trên mặt! (23/2/2022, kenh14.vn)
5	đào mộ	16	The act of uncovering past events.	VirusS bị "đào mộ" ảnh thời trai trẻ không khác gì tài tử Hàn Quốc, tự nhận là Won Bin? (8/9/2021, kenh14.vn)
6	thả rông	17	The phenomenon where girls don't wear bras and accidentally or intentionally	Thả rông vòng một nhưng fan không tin, nữ streamer xinh đẹp đứng dậy xoay đủ một vòng, khoe luôn "cánh

			expose their breasts to others	xuân" để chứng minh (9/2/2022, kênh14.vn)
7	tạo nghiệp	21	Bad actions, bad thoughts intentionally (there will be retribution)	Thế giới chưa đủ rác thải nhựa hay sao mà những siêu thị này cứ thích đóng gói đồ ăn theo kiểu "tạo nghiệp" với môi trường? (6/2/2020, kênh14.vn)
8	ngủ khổi	20	Fail	Nhờ BTS, Big Hit bắt ngờ cho YG "ngủ khổi" ở mảng nhạc số tưởng như là bất bại (2/7/2019, kênh14.vn)
9	trà xanh	25	Only girls who always seem pure and innocent but are very cunning, calculating, and interested in men who already have lovers.	Hơn cả Tuesday, "trà xanh" là thể loại con gái mới mà các thanh niên phải tránh càng xa càng tốt (19/3/2020, kênh14.vn)
10	lên hương	26	Positive change (often associated with beauty)	Nhan sắc ngày càng lên hương nhưng ít ai biết 1 nỗi lo "thảm kín" về làn da luôn khiến Ngọc Thảo đau đầu (21/8/2019, kênh14.vn)
11	khô máu	24	Only act forcefully, decisively, despite everything to win	Giới trẻ TP.HCM "khô máu" shopping trước Tết: Xếp hàng từ... vòng gửi xe vẫn không chen chân nổi, có tiền muốn tiêu cũng khó! (26/1/2022, kênh14.vn)
12	làm màu	15	Actions and words of people who like appearances and want to prove themselves	Sao nữ kém sắc mà "làm màu" nhất showbiz: Rớt TVB rồi thi Hoa hậu vì ảo tưởng nhan sắc, mới nổi tí đã công khai đánh người? (20/2/2022, kênh14.vn)
13	nóc nhà	19	Only the wife in the family about the husband	"Nóc nhà" quyền lực như Tóc Tiên mà có ngày bị mắng, phải "lết" vào làm 1 chuyện dù bản thân đang rất lười (8/9/2021, kênh14.vn)
14	bay màu	14	Disappear quickly	Triệu Vy chính thức "bay màu" khỏi Hoàn Châu Cách Cách và hàng loạt bom tấn, bước đầu "phong sát" đã tới? (26/8/2021, kênh14.vn)
15	quay xe	18	The act of stopping, letting go quickly.	Nhiều trường đại học "quay xe" học online quá nhanh, sinh viên kêu trời vì lỡ cọc 10 triệu tiền nhà: Mong các trường đừng thay đổi quá gấp! (20/2/2022, kênh14.vn)
16	xả vai	12	Get out of the role	Lisa có màn "xả vai" khiến fan hú hồn: Lên hình là "bánh bèo chúa", tan làm lại thành "boy nổi loạn" khi gặp cô bạn gái (10/9/2021, kênh14.vn)

17	quần què	13	Pants are cut apart, modified in a one-for-one style	Không phải BLACKPINK, đây mới là vị chúa của chiếc "quần què" nhưng lại ở phiên bản lỗi hơn (18/8/2021, kênh14.vn)
18	gánh công lưng	18	The act of assisting (to a high degree) another person.	Đức Phúc được khen "gánh công lưng" khi song ca nhưng netizen lại "quay xe" bên vực Trấn Thành - Erik? (3/12/2021, kênh14.vn)
19	hết nước chấm	21	Used to praise or denigrate objects, actions, and events at a high level	Màn lột xác "hết nước chấm" của Shizuka ở Doraemon: Xinh yêu cỡ nào mà dân tình phải thốt lên... "thảo mai" quá? (19/2/2022, kênh14.vn)
20	bàn tay hư	15	The act of groping a man with a woman	Hyun Bin từng 3 lần lộ "bàn tay hư" khi ở cạnh Son Ye Jin: Hết lén lút nắm tay đến lộ liễu đụng nhẹ vòng 1(23/2/2022, kênh14.vn)

The system of meaning-changing words appears in both simple words, complex words, and phrases, in which complex words account for the most number and bring the most interesting meanings. For example, in recent times, a series of articles on kênh14.vn in particular and in the life of young people, in general, appears the word "roof" with the meaning of the wife in the family. Taking the image of the roof to compare with the wife is based on the method of metaphorical translation with similar properties. The roof is the place that bears a lot of the impact of the house, the roof and helps the house to stand firm against the storm. This is similar to women in today's society who have certain values in family and social life. In the relationship with the man, the woman has also proven an important role as an "inside minister" of the family. Comparing a woman to the "roof of the house" is not to negate the man's role as the breadwinner in the family, but to affirm that a man is not the one who can give all opinions that overwhelm his partner. Currently, the slang word "rooftop" is often used in witty ways of saying husbands to appreciate wives as well as ways of saying wives to remind their husbands of all problems in life. Or "turning the car" which is an act of changing the direction of the car now refers to the conversion of a certain decision at the end. The method of transcribing here is based on the similarity in the meaning of the way: change direction.

Besides creating slang words based on the transformation of the meaning of the available units, it is also necessary to mention how to use phonetic elements to create slang.

A partial change in syllable form such as *ngâm cứu* (*ngiên cứu*), *bình loạn* (*bình luận*), *bí kíp* (*bí quyết*), *túm lại* (*tóm lại*), *tình iu*, *tềnh iu* (*tình yêu*), *xúc sắc* (*xuất sắc*), *nằm thao* (*làm sao*), *tóp tóp* (*Tik Tok*) etc.

-Using the phenomenon of homonyms - different meanings: *hạt dẻ* (*giá rẻ*), *cá kiểng* (*kiếm chác*), *thịt lừa* (*bị lừa*), *cá sấu* (*xấu*) etc.

- Spoonerism: *bật mí* (*bí mật*), *tình tò* (*tỏ tình*), *chống lầy* (*lầy chồng*), *giang cư mạn* (*dân cư mạng*) etc.

- Ellipsis: *nghia* (*ngắm nghía*), *phũ* (*phũ phàng*), *soi* (*săm soi*), *trình* (*trình độ*), *lố* (*lố bịch*, *lố lăng*), (*anh*) *Phây* (*Facebook*), *Covy* (*Corona virus*), (*em*) *Vy* (*Covy*), (*mẹ*) *bim* (*mẹ bim sữa*) etc.

Create words by adding new elements: *phê pha* (*phê*), *bé mỗ* (*mỗ*) etc.

The phenomenon of abbreviation is also a way to create slang terms. The mechanism of this phenomenon is to use the first letter of each syllable of the phrase to create slang words that look like foreign words. For example, GATO is a slang word that stands for the idiom "be bursting with envy" (*ghen ăn tức ở*) (*GATO* with couples in love, the angry girl who set up Instagram to take a picture of each hand also attracts hundreds of

thousands of followers (October 23, 2019, [kenh14.vn](#)).), Mackeno is Ignore it (Example: You don't need to wear clothes to become the center of attention in the crowd. Tried to "makeno" but people keep looking at it!!! – Lesson: 19 of my summer nightmares) overweight girl - June 24, 2015), COCC (son of father and son) (Article: 5 hottest "COCC" models in the fashion industry today: It Girl Association is addicted to daring cut-outs, the main Brooklyn Beckham girlfriend turned out to be the most "gentle" person (July 23, 2021, [kenh14.vn](#)) There are also ATSM (illusion of strength), CMNR (his mother's child), KLQ (unrelated) ... This is the form slang language has high secrecy in the user group and has the value to reveal the nature of young people.

2.2.3. Borrowed from a foreign language

The way to create slang words by borrowing from foreign languages does not appear much, but it also clearly shows the characteristics of modern Vietnamese youth. This way of creating words is shown by Vietnameseizing how to write foreign words or construct foreign words.

Vietnameseization of foreign vocabulary is a fairly common way to create slang words. Because the Vietnameseized lexical units make it easy to read and remember foreign words and help to show the stylization in the way of writing words, which is witty and interesting. For example *sec-xi* (sexy) (Summer "*sec-xi*" with a mini jump (April 13, 2010, [kenh14.vn](#));); *xì – tai* (style) Zoom into *xì tai* of the dream girl Blake Lively (July 24, 2011, [kenh14.vn](#)); *Bo - ãi* (body) (Ugly "*bo - ãi*" suddenly... perfectly beautiful (September 22, 2011, [kenh14.vn](#)); *pha ke* (fake) (The milk tea market is so fierce to this extent. star: Same name with half the name but countless versions of "*pha ke*", slurred even tongue! (February 23, 2022, [kenh14.vn](#)); *heo - thì* (healthy) (A strawberry-flavored candy that you can't miss, especially for those who have sleep problems and want to adjust the "*heo - thì*" biological clock (Article: "Bored" of the pill, immediately switch to these marshmallows, which are both beautiful and beautiful, but also super delicious (February 23, 2022, [kenh14.vn](#)); *tông xoẹt tông* (tone sour tone) The same tone that you wear is guaranteed to be beautiful without having to spend a lot of time mixing & matching (July 23, 2020, [kenh14.vn](#)); *gét gô* (let's go) ("*Gét gô*" travel indispensable 5 luxury dress models are being heavily discounted on the occasion of 6.6 (June 6, 2022, [kenh14.vn](#)); *mít ren* (Miss Grand) ("*Can Tho mít ren*"; "*Go Cong mít ren*"... appeared in Miss Grand Cambodia, what happened? (August 28, 2022; [viez.vn](#))...

The trend of creating foreign words has also created some pretty popular slang terms on [kenh14.vn](#) recently. Sugar daddy (sugar father), and sugar baby (road) are slang words to refer to objects that have a relationship with each other in a "give-receive" style. Sugar daddies are middle-aged men, with good economic status, who may be married or still single who will financially support sugar babies in the form of money or material to receive love. , pampering and physiological satisfaction. On the contrary, sugar babies are young, beautiful girls (usually students) who want to have a full life without having to work, and will receive allowances from sugar daddies to meet their emotional needs. emotional and sexual. Example Infiltrating the underground world Sugar daddy - Sugar baby: Provide 10 million for 6-8 meetings/month, pamper like a lover, and have no relationship ties (January 4, 2022, [kenh14.vn](#)). Or “*cầu lương*” is a slang word imported from Chinese culture through movies and stories read in our country. This word is created from two Sino-Vietnamese elements to refer to the emotional actions of a certain couple in front of single people and make them jealous of that couple at times. Example: At the beginning of the year, I had to eat "*cầu lương*": Look at the scene where Thai Cong and his boyfriend go out to play! (January 3, 2022, [kenh14.vn](#)). Similarly, *soái ca* is also a slang word derived from Chinese romance novels, to refer to the perfect man who is passionately in love with an ordinary girl. For example, in "Nosebleed" with the handsome look of the male god Vbiz, anyone who thinks about the sister association regrets it because of 1 detail (January 26, 2022, [kenh14.vn](#)). From the slang word "*soái ca*", netizens created the word “*soái ti*” to refer to a strong girl, with a good-looking appearance, and outstanding talent.

3. Linguistic attitude towards slang phenomenon of today's youth

Regarding the issue of using slang, at present, there are two views in two directions, which are exclusion and acceptance. The negative view holds that slang is an unhealthy phenomenon in the language, so it should be

removed from the cultural language. The accepted view is that: accept good, positive slang, and add them to the vocabulary of the entire population; vulgar slang, to cover up the bad, should be abandoned.

Our view here is:

- Youth slang is the speech of young people, it is used by young people in social groups, so it is impossible to accept social groups without accepting the language of that social group.

- Many slang words used by young people for a long time and used a lot are gradually expanding their scope and becoming a habit of language users in general. These words are very likely to become units of the universal word. Of course, there are also slang words that only use "huge" for a while and then disappear.

- There should be orientations on the level of slang usage on websites for young people. Slang is indeed a special means to be used by writers, but it is also necessary to have reasonable choices so that electronic newspapers are both suitable for young people's linguistic tastes and ensure the preservation of their identity. transparency, protection, and development of modern Vietnamese.

III. CONCLUSION

Youth slang is a linguistic phenomenon that is inevitable in the development of language in general. This is a phenomenon that occurs in social groups, but it is also a phenomenon that shows the linguistic life of the masses. With 3 basic methods to create slang words, slang has brought users the vividness and attractiveness of speech as well as expressing the youthful, intellectual, and naughty personality of the age.

For the use of slang by young people today, we need to have the right orientation so that the youth language becomes more standard, more complete, and more modern, thereby contributing to the development of the national language. nation while still preserving its purity.

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