

## **Slang**

The word 'slang' refers to a casual, very informal speech, using expressive but very informal words and expressions. For some people, slang is equivalent to colloquial speech. For others, it means 'undesirable speech'. Usually, 'colloquial speech' refers to a speech variety used in informal situations with colleagues, friends or relatives, while 'slang' is used for a very informal speech variety which often serves as an 'in-group' language for a particular set of people such as teenagers, army recruits, pop groups, etc. Most slang is rather unstable as its words and expressions can change quite rapidly.

Slang, thus, consists of a lexicon of non-standard words and phrases in a given language. Use of these words and phrases is typically associated with the subversion of a standard variety and is likely to be interpreted by listeners as implying particular attitudes on the part of the speaker. In some contexts a speaker's selection of slang words or phrases may convey prestige, indicating group membership or distinguishing group members from those who are not a part of the group.