



# College of Languages English Language Department

## The History of the English Language Jargon and Slang

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# What are **jargon** and **slang**?

Jargon and slang are kinds of English that are not part of Standard English.

# What is JARGON?

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- 1 - Jargon refers to the specialized language of a professional or occupational group.
- 2 This language is often useful or necessary for those within the group, but it is usually meaningless to outsiders.
- 3- Some professions have so much jargon of their own that it has its own name; for example, lawyers use legalese, while academics use *academese*.
- 4- Jargon is also sometimes known as lingo or argot. A passage of text that is full of jargon is said to be *jargony*.
- 5 - Jargon is often written as well as spoken.
- 6 - Jargon gives us new words for new things or ideas.

# Is Jargon necessary for navigating the intricacies of certain professions?

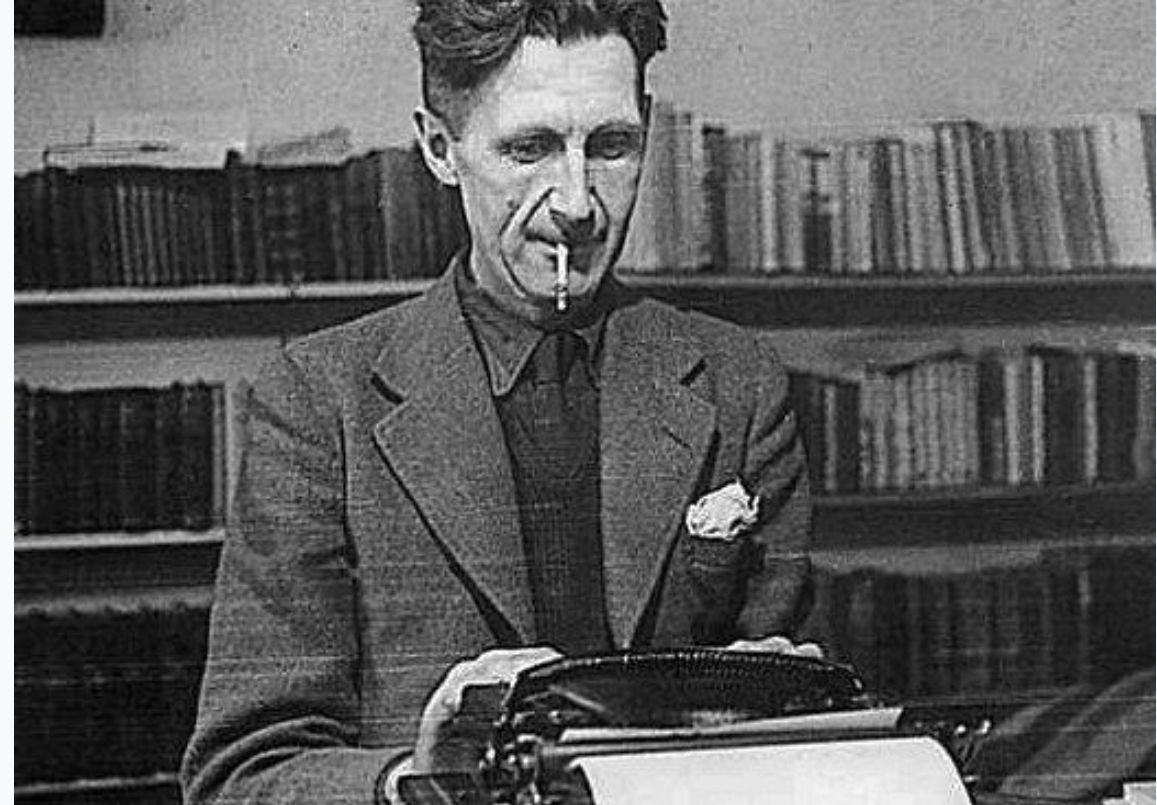
## EXPLAIN.

- Supporters of jargon believe such language is necessary for navigating the intricacies of certain professions. In scientific fields, for instance, researchers explore difficult subjects that most lay people would not be able to understand. The language the researchers use must be precise because they are dealing with complex concepts (molecular biology, for example, or nuclear physics) and simplifying the language might cause confusion or create room for error.



## How can you justify this quote which is said by George Orwell?

- George Orwell argues that **obscure and complex language** is often used to "make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind."



# What is slang?

- *Slang* is an informal nonstandard variety of speech characterized by newly coined and rapidly changing words and phrases.
- "slang is not merely a lexical phenomenon, a type of word, but a linguistic practice rooted in social needs and behaviors, mostly the complementary needs to fit in and to stand out."



## AMERICAN SLANG



**Hot** - attractive

**Bro** - friend

**Cool** - great or fantastic

**Boo** - boyfriend or girlfriend

**Awesome** - wonderful or amazing

**YOLO** - You Only Live Once

**Dude** - guy

**Sick** - cool

**To hang out** - spend time together

**Dope** - very fun, exciting, or cool

## JARGON VS SLANG

- Jargon should not be confused with slang, which is informal, colloquial language sometimes used by a group (or groups) of people.
- The main difference is one of register; jargon is formal language unique to a specific discipline or field, while slang is common, informal language that is more likely to be spoken than written.

# What are the characteristics of slang?

- “... it is a correlate of human groups with shared experiences, such as being children at a certain school or of a certain age, or being a member of a certain socially definable group, such as junkies, jazz musicians, or professional criminals.”





# What distinctions can you draw between jargon and slang?

## **BRITISH SLANG**

**Tosh** - nonsense

**Chuffed** - pleased, happy

**Gander** - take a look

**Cheeky** - doing s.thing disrespectful

**Mate** - friend

**Gutted** - sad, disappointed

**Fag** - cigarette

**Trollied** - drunk

**aettina somethina**



It's just a mild hyperinsulism due to islet cell hyperplasia with a touch of hepatic insufficiency and glycogen depletion.

“...we no longer control English in any meaningful way. It is no longer our ship, but the sea.”



**What does this quote mean?**

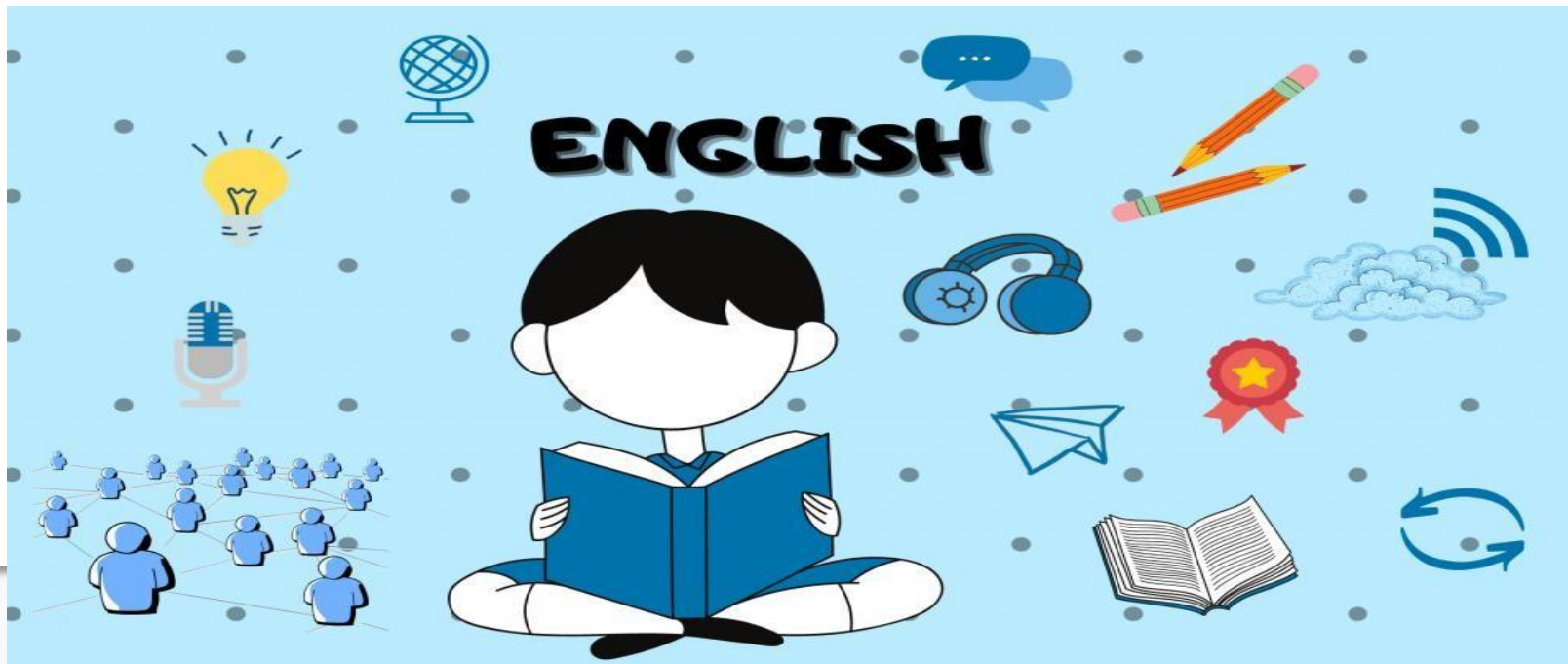
**English does not  
just belong to the  
British or  
Americans, but to  
the whole world.**



In Britain, the US, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, English will remain the first language of most people, but will continue to change. New slang and dialects will develop, often from groups of people who speak other languages, for example, Spanish in the US and South Asian languages in Britain. In countries where English is used as a second language, it is possible that new languages will develop which use English and local languages.

# Will the change that will happen to the English language make it lose its importance? EXPLAIN

The number of people who use English will continue to grow, and English will remain a world language for many years. In this view, the US will remain the richest country in the world, American popular music and films will continue to be fashionable, and English will still be the language of science, communications technology, international business, education at universities, and television news. English will continue to change, but it will not lose its importance in the world.



## Is the future of English as a world language certain?

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- Some people think that the future of English as a world language is not so certain. Mandarin Chinese, Spanish, and Arabic may become other world languages, as the number of people who speak these languages continue to grow, and the countries where they are spoken become richer.
- There are now more users of the internet who do not speak English as a first language than those who do, so businesses and organizations have to provide information and services in different languages for those internet users.
- English might also lose its importance in the world of education due to the fact that a lot of students seek to Europe, China, Malesia, and etc. for continuing their studies.

# What is the next step in the history of the English language?

- The next step in the history of the English language is hard to see clearly because it depends on many things: changes in business, science, technology, and numbers of people. Will the speakers of English at the end of this century speak a very different English from the one we use now? Who will use it? And how? There are interesting questions for all users of English.



**What do you think about future of English as a world language in Kurdistan?**

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