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SOCIOLINGUISTIC PECULIARITIES OF THE BRITISH YOUTH'S SUBCULTURE

Today the life of many young people in Britain as well as in other countries of the world is influenced by popular culture. The young follow certain stereotypes that are imposed on them through TV, movies, and music. In their lifestyle they try to imitate the images of their idols. Other young people are sports and music fans. They follow their idols in their tours and support them. Unfortunately, they are intolerant to those who don't share their view. It's a specific aspect of the youth subculture that can't be ignored.

Before we characterize some certain peculiarities of the British subculture, let's define the notion of subculture itself. According to Cambridge dictionary, subculture is defined as "the way of life, customs, and ideas of a particular group of people within a society that are different from the rest of that society" [1]. Based on the definition, we can say that the keyword that characterizes a subculture is "*different*". It seems that this *difference* of subculture might be caused by dissatisfaction of its members with their place in the society. According to some scientist [2, p. 22], there are many other reasons that determine the need for a particular group of people or individuals to join and operate within a subculture.

They include breaking away from stereotypes and cultural traditions, the need for self-expression, a vision of oneself in a special class of society, and the need for entertainment, freedom, limitlessness, desires at risk and ‘walk the edge’.

As we have already mentioned, different subcultures have their own beliefs, value systems, fashion, and favourite music. For example, the subculture of *Rastafairians* was based on nostalgia for a lost world. *Rastafairians* were Afro-Caribbean immigrants in Britain who idealized Africa. They began to wear distinctive clothes, camouflage jackets, large hats in the red, gold and green colours of Ethiopia and put their long, uncut hair in dreadlocks. They brought to us such types of music as ska, reggae and hip-hop. Many subcultures developed as a result of music fusion of black and white cultures.

There are other subcultures that are not connected with music, but have a specific ideology. For example, *skinheads*, which wore heavy boots, jeans and braces and shave their hair or cut it very short. *Skinheads* dreamed about the revival of the traditional working-class culture. *Skinheads* were identified with extreme right-wing views. Among other subcultures are *Hippies*, *Punks*, *Teds*, *Mods*, *Rockers*, *Ravers*, *Goths*, *New Romantics* and many others.

Apart from its peculiar style and traditions, a subculture is characterized by its own language, in particular lexicon related to their interests. Having analysed some examples, we have found out that specific lexicon of the youth relates mainly to such topics as *study* (e.g. *brains* - academically oriented students; *losers* - those, who have poor academic records; *nerds* - those who are socially inept or too publically studious; *normals* - most of the students in a schools - regulars or average students; *whiz kids* - described as brains, intellectuals, *APers* (Advanced Placement Students), intelligent.

Among the most popular topics is *look / image*, where we can find the following examples: *chain gang*- wearing chains; *crazy girls* - described as good looking, with an urge to party; *drama freaks/drama queers* - those who adopt distinctive and extreme styles of dress and behavior; *freaky girls* - those who use pale makeup, dark lipstick, dyed hair, knee-high socks; *geeks/dorks* - those who are inept in social events, dress, and style; *gossip* - those who make negative comments about someone not present; *hip-hoppers* - those who adopt hip-hop (e.g., baggy) fashions to establish a distinctive identity; *Jocks* - highly athletic-oriented, usually popular and rarely friends with less popular; *poseur* - a pejorative term to describe a person adopts the dress, speech, and mannerisms of a subculture to gain acceptance in the group; *preps* - image conscious types; neatly groomed; *pretend hoodlums* - those who dress and walk like those associated with gangs; *sun gods* - those with good looks, clothes, cars, and an afterschool social life.

Besides, there is such a thematic lexical group as *representatives of different subcultures*. Here you can find *band/orchestra/chorus* - one set of activity-oriented subgroupings; *alternatives* - “radical” subgroups such as freaks, weirdos, druggies,

hippies, metal heads, deadheads, punks, goths, straight-edgers, chain gang; country-subgroups referred to as cowboys, rednecks, kickers; *drifters/floaters* - those who participate in more than one subgroup; *hoodlums* - subgroups referred to as hoods, gangstas, thugs, dirtbags, willing to threaten and use force etc.

One more popular topic is **Music** (*indie rock*: originated in the 1980s, describes means of production and distribution of underground music; *emo*: a style of rock characterized by melodic music and expressive lyrics; *metalhead*: fan of heavy metal music).

To conclude, the British youth have their own subculture which is represented by various subgroups with specific interests. They have their own slang which reveals itself mainly at the lexical level. And the words used mirror mainly their school life, everyday problems, entertainment, look and attitudes to others.

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