

## Colloquial Style

### Functions:

- provides information
- communicates

### Forms:

- primarily spoken

### Substyles:

- **slang; dialect; jargon**
- **professionalisms; vulgarisms**

### General Characteristics:

- informal, familiar, **conversational**
- paralinguistic context, non-verbal communication

### Phonetic Features:

- **careless** pronunciation /'feller' for 'fellow'; 'dunno' for 'don't know'; 'attaboy' for 'that's a boy'/
- reduction, elision
- faster speech pace
- various noises (cough, rasp, chuck)

### Morphological Features:

- **contractions** /also 'wanna; dunno; cuppa'/

### Syntactical Features:

- specific structures
- **active** rather than passive structures
- frequent conjunction 'and'
- ellipsis, dropping of pronominal subject /'Wanna tea?'/

### Lexical Features:

- specific vocabulary
- short and simple words
- words of Germanic origin rather than of Latin origin
- word with emotional meaning: familiar forms of address, vulgarisms, evaluating adjectives
- discourse markers = **fillers** /'kind of, sort of, like, actually, you know, well'/
- parenthetical elements /'indeed; sure; no doubt; obviously; perhaps; maybe'/
- **idiosyncratic** expressions characteristic of a particular speaker
- onomatopoeic words /'drip drop; bow wow; splash'/
- **nonce words** = colloquial coinages: spontaneous attributing of new meanings to already existing words; elusive and readily disappearing from the language again
- interjections /'oh my, gee, yeah'/
- phraseology, idioms

### Special Nomenclature:

- fashion terminology: *a streetwise head-turner; fleeting flashbulb moments; a red-carpet goddess*
- **idioms**: *an armchair critic; a back-seat driver; an empty nester; too many chiefs and not enough Indians; keep a dog and bark yourself; give someone the hairy eyeball; chalk and talk; fit to be tied*

## Slang

### Relations to Other Styles:

- substyle of the colloquial style

### Forms:

- theatrical, commercial, internet, etc.

### General Characteristics:

- the core of the colloquial language outside of the conventional or standard usage
- **deviation** from the established form
- indicates membership in a particular social group

- developed from the attempt to find new, **fresh**, original, creative, playful, colourful and humorous expressions
- requires continuous **innovation**; never goes stable, gets dated very quickly

#### Syntactical Features:

- **multiple negation** /*'I dunno know nothing'*/
- present tense for the past /*'I'm at the mall, see this damn cool shirt and get it.'*/

#### Lexical Features:

- extensive use of fillers /*'stuff, thing, whatever'*/

#### Special Nomenclature:

- *bottle (courage); lolly (money); yob (trouble-maker)*

### Dialect

#### Relations to Other Styles:

- substyle of the colloquial style

#### Forms:

- Cockney; Estuary English; Scottish English; etc.

#### General Characteristics:

- cohesive **regional** and socio-economic variety of language
- confined to a particular location
- some dialect words have become generally understood as colloquial /*'lad'*/

### Jargon

#### Relations to Other Styles:

- substyle of the colloquial style

#### Substyles:

- computer jargon, jargon of musicians, of sportsmen, of students, etc.
- **cant** = the jargon of thieves and vagabonds /*'ain't a lifer'* for '*not sentenced to life imprisonment*'; '*get a stretch in stir*' for '*be imprisoned*'; '*pulling a leather up*' for '*stealing a purse*'/

#### General Characteristics:

- a special lexicon to preserve **secrecy** within a particular social group
- incomprehensible to people out of the group, needs translation (unlike slang)
- **old words** with entirely new meaning imposed upon them
- some words have become legitimate English words /*'kid, fun, humbug'*/

### Professionalisms

#### Relations to Other Styles:

- part of the colloquial style

#### General Characteristics:

- a special lexicon for a particular **profession** or trade
- aims at a quick and adequate grasp of the message, does not aim at secrecy
- designates working processes or implements of labour
- **names anew** already existing concepts (tools, instruments)

#### Morphological Features:

- **technical**, unambiguous, not polysemic

#### Special Nomenclature:

- *tin fish* (submarine); *block-bluster* (a bomb for a block of buildings); *outer* (a knockout blow)

### Vulgarisms

#### Relations to Other Styles:

- part of the colloquial style

#### Forms:

- **obscenities** = four-letter words

- **expletives** = swear words /*'damn, bloody, to hell'*/

General Characteristics:

- a special lexicon for low colloquial speech
- also in emotive prose in direct speech of characters
- express strong **emotions**, esp. negative (anger, annoyance, hostility)