# CHARACTERISTICS OF DERIVATIVE FUNCTIONING WITH THE SUFFIX —SH(A) IN RUSSIAN JARGON

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## **ABSTRACT**

This article discusses the features of the derivative functioning of with the suffix -sh(a) in Russian jargon.. The material for the research was the "Big Dictionary of Russian Jargon" containing about 25,000 words. 20 units with the suffix -sh(a) were identified by the method of continuous sampling, their derivational and semantic properties were analyzed. It was found that out of 20 derivatives with the suffix -sh(a), seven are recorded in the National Corpus of the Russian language, representing by 97 contexts. Two words out of seven (guest performer and commandant) are used only in their direct meaning. No contexts have been identified in which these words would be used in the meaning recorded with the Great Dictionary of Russian Jargon. The main way of forming jargon with the suffix -sh(a) is the actual suffixation; in rare cases, suffix universalization is observed. The inclusion of foreign words in word-formation processes is noted, which confirms the productivity of this suffix in colloquial speech. It was found that the suffix -sh(a) performs the following functions in jargon: nominative, evaluative-expressive and style-forming.

**Keywords:** Word formation. Kazan language school. Type of word formation. Suffix. Universalization of suffix.

## CARACTERÍSTICAS DO FUNCIONAMENTO DERIVATIVO COM O SUFIXO —SH (A) NO JARGÃO RUSSO

CARACTERÍSTICAS DEL FUNCIONAMIENTO DERIVADO CON SUFIJO —SH (A) EN RUSO JARGON

## **RESUMO**

Este artigo discute as características do funcionamento derivado do sufixo -sh(a) no jargão russo.. O material para a pesquisa foi o "Grande Dicionário do Jargão Russo" contendo cerca de 25.000 palavras. Foram identificadas 20 unidades com sufixo sh(a) pelo método de amostragem contínua, suas propriedades derivacionais e semânticas. Verificou-se que dos 20 derivados com o sufixo -sh(a), sete são registrados no Corpus Nacional da língua russa, representando por 97 contextos. Duas palavras em sete (artista convidado e comandante) são usadas apenas em seu significado direto. Não foram identificados contextos em que essas palavras seriam usadas no significado registrado com o Grande Dicionário do Jargão Russo. A principal maneira de formar jargão com o sufixo -sh(a) é o sufixo real; em casos raros, observa-se a universalização do sufixo. Nota-se a inclusão de palavras estrangeiras em processos de formação de palavras, o que confirma a produtividade desse sufixo na fala coloquial. Verificouse que o sufixo -sh(a) desempenha as seguintes funções no jargão: nominativo, avaliativo-expressivo e formador de estilo.

**Palavras-chave:** Formação de palavras. Escola linguística Kazan. Tipo de formação de palavras. Sufixo. Universalização de sufixo.

#### RESUMEN

Este artículo analiza las características funcionamiento derivado de con el sufijo -sh(a) en la jerga rusa. El material de la investigación fue el "Big Dictionary of Russian Jargon" que contiene unas 25.000 palabras. 20 unidades con el sufijo -sh(a) fueron identificadas por el método de muestreo continuo, sus propiedades derivacionales y semánticas fueron analizadas. Se encontró que de 20 derivados con el sufijo -sh(a), siete están registrados en el Corpus Nacional de la lengua rusa, representando por 97 contextos. Dos palabras de siete (artista invitado y comandante) se utilizan sólo en su significado directo. No se han identificado contextos en los que estas palabras se utilizarían en el significado registrado con el Gran Diccionario de la Jerga Rusa. La forma principal de formar la jerga con el sufijo -sh(a) es el sufijo real; en raras ocasiones, se observa la universalización de sufijos. Se observa la inclusión de palabras extranjeras en los procesos de formación de palabras, lo que confirma la productividad de este sufijo en el habla coloquial. Se encontró que el sufijo -sh(a) realiza las siguientes funciones en la jerga: nominativo, evaluativo-expresivo y formador de estilo.

**Palabras-clave:** Formación de palabras. Escuela de idiomas de Kazán. Tipo de formación de palabras. Sufijo. Universalización del sufijo.

## INTRODUCTION

The founder of the Kazan linguistic school I.A. Baudouin de Courtenay, who called the slang vocabulary public "layers," paid a lot of attention to the study of Russian jargon. So, when they edit the "Explanatory Dictionary of the Living Great Russian Language" by V. I. Dal (1903-1909), he wrote the following: "The scientific accuracy of each explanatory dictionary from the aspect of the material appears in the reflection of reality in the life and views of the given people. If life is wild and ugly, a compiler or an editor must come to terms with this sad fact and cannot limit himself to silence. What has been said applies to everything: profanity, swearing, abominations of areal jargon. The lexicographer has no right to curtail and castrate "living language". Since well-known words exist in the minds of the vast majority of the people and are constantly pouring out, the lexicographer is obliged to enter them into the dictionary" (DAL, 1903,  $\rho$ . 4).

I.A. Baudouin de Courtenay provided the impulse to study the socially conditioned uncodified spheres of the Russian ethnic language existence. Currently it develops more and more obviously: the positions of Russian sociolinguistics are being strengthened; Russian sociolects (jargon, slang) are becoming the object of attention among lexicographers and the subject of diverse linguistic research more and more often.

In 1998, general Russian jargon became the object of the first dissertation research (KHOROSHEVA, 1988). In 1999, the book "Words We Met" was published in Moscow (edited by E. A. Zemskaya, R. I. Rozina and O. P. Ermakova) with a notable subtitle "Dictionary of Common Jargon" (ROZINA, ERMAKOVA, ZEMSKAYA, 1999). This edition became the first explanatory dictionary of the Russian general jargon.

Jargon as one of the uncodified forms of the national language is characterized by a strong emotional coloring, expression and special expressiveness, therefore, when forming jargon, peculiar suffixes are often used, that is, jargon speakers deliberately use formants that differ from the literary language.

## **METHODS**

The theoretical works of leading domestic and foreign scholars in the field of jargon and word formation served as a methodological platform for the study.

The main methods that were used in the work are the following ones: descriptive method, the method of derivational analysis of derived words, the method of dictionary definition analysis.

# **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Despite the fact that quite a lot of attention is given to the study of various areas of word formation both by Russian (see (KOLOSOVA, 2016), (REGINA, 2018), (SHTYRLINA, 2017) and many others) and foreign scholars (see (BIDERKESEN; AGEEVA; UCGUL, 2019), (STERIOPOLO, 2008), (CHARLES, 1975), (MULLER, et al. 2016), (HIPPISLEY, 1988) and many others), Russian slang word formation has not been studied enough. In this work, we have chosen the suffix -sh(a), which rarely becomes the object of special studies due to the fact that the number of derivatives with it is not as large as with other suffixes. Besides, according to Russian grammar-80, the main sphere of its productivity is the colloquial speech. According to the "New Dictionary of the Russian Language" edited by T. F. Efremova (EFREMOVA, 2005), the suffix -sh(a) has the following meanings:

- 1. A word-formative unit that forms nouns the names of females with meanings: 1) a person by profession, activity or other feature called a motivating word (director, commander, literary lady, manicurist, millionaire, reporter, etc.); 2) the wife of the person named by the motivating word (general, governor, professional, sultansha, factory worker, etc.); sometimes both of these meanings can coexist in one word (doctor, majorsha, professorsha, etc.).
- 2. A word-formative unit that stands out in nouns of a general gender with the meaning of a person, which is characterized by an action or a feature called a motivating verb or an adjective (left-handed, right-handed, confused, etc.).
- 3. A word-formative unit that stands out in a feminine noun with the meaning of an object, which is characterized by an action called a motivating verb (roof).

In the Big Dictionary of Russian Jargon, edited by V.M. Mokienko and T.G. Nikitina (25,000 words) (MOKIENKO; NIKITINA, 2000) 20 derivatives with the suffix –sh(a) are recorded. Almost all of the identified derivatives are formed according to the first word-formation type, for example:

- Biker. Youth slang. A girl who is a member of a club, a group of motorcyclists; a motor-rocker (Mokienko, Nikitina, 2000: 45).
- Maravikhersha (marvihersha). Flash tongue. Pickpocketing (from maraviher/marviher) (MOKIENKO; NIKITINA, 2000, p. 335).
- Prepodsha. Student slang. A derogative name of a teacher (MOKIENKO; NIKITINA, 2000, p. 470).
- Punkersha. Youth slang. A girl from the group of punks (MOKIENKO; NIKITINA, 2000: 490) (from puncher).
- Upyrsha. Youth slang. Der. 1. A stupid, incompetent, uneducated girl. 2. An ugly, slovenly dressed girl (MOKIENKO, NIKITINA, 2000, p. 614).
- Fraersha. Flash tongue. An unemployed financially secure woman (MOKIENKO, NIKITINA, 2000, ρ. 632).
- The derivatives with the suffix -sh(a) can be formed from the stems of a foreign language origin. Two similar formations are recorded in the Large Dictionary of Russian Jargon:
- Fensha. Youth slang. A fan of any pop or rock group (MOKIENKO, NIKITINA, 2000, p. 636);
- Mensha. Youth slang. A girl, a woman (MOKIENKO, NIKITINA, 2000, ρ. 365)].

They would also like to note that along with the derivative of the mahansha (Flash tongue. 1. Mother. 2. The owner of the brothel. 3. The old female thief) (MOKIENKO; NIKITINA, 2000, p. 342), the pakhansha derivatives are recorded (Flash tongue. 1. Mistress. Mistress of the brothel. 2. Elderly thief. 3. Also youth slang. Mother. 4. Wife) (MOKIENKO; NIKITINA, 2000, p. 423) and pehansha (Flash tongue. Mother (MOKIENKO, NIKITINA, 2000, p. 432) (cf.: pehan = godfather = father).

Besides, two derivatives are recorded in the Big Dictionary of Russian Jargon, which were formed by the means of suffix universalization: decretarsha (Humorously. A woman on maternity leave) (Mokienko, Nikitina,2000: 151) and Stosha (Jargon. One-ruble note; one hundred rubles) (MOKIENKO; NIKITINA, 2000, p. 568).

# CONCLUSIONS

In order to assess the frequency of such unit use in the Russian language, let us turn to the materials of the National Corpus of the Russian language (http://www.ruscorpora.ru/reference date: 01.05.2020) 13 derivatives out of 20 (waldersha, decreetarsha, combinersha, mutersha, mensha, pakhansha, pekhansha, prepodsha, punkersha, stosha, upyrsha, fraversha, fensha) do not have contexts.

Most of the contexts (36) are represented in the National Corpus of the Russian language with the derivative of bandersha/bandyrsha (Flash tongue. Keeper of a brothel [MOKIENKO, NIKITINA, 2000, p.: 49]): "Looking at him, it was hard to believe that he, seeking entertainment, was dragging along unimaginable dens once, because of nothing to do. He came to visit a local bandersha" (http://www.ruscorpora.ru/ reference date: 01.05.2020). "The prudent Dresdensha regularly gave gifts to city officials so as not to have trouble. This, however, did not save the Bandersha from the highest anger." "We laughed until we fell. They laughed both at Heine and at themselves, remembering how the day before they gallantly kissed the hand of a one hundred percent Bandersha, mistaking her for a respectable lady" (http://www.ruscorpora.ru/ (reference date: 01.05.2020), etc.

34 contexts were identified with the derivative of the commandant in the National Corps of the Russian Language: "The fact is that this morning he entered the hostel where the girl lived, and the commandant told him that Hikur had gone to her village early this morning, taking her red suitcase" (http://www.ruscorpora.ru/ (reference date: 01.05.2020). "The besieged sent a drummer (when?) to Sheremetev with a letter from the commandant and all the officers' wives asking for permission to leave the fortress" (http://www.ruscorpora.ru/ (reference date: 01.05.2020) etc. In all examples, this word is used in its direct meaning (1. Jargon. The commandant's wife. 2. Jargon. Coll. Female Commandant (EFREMOVA, 2020), however, in the Big Dictionary of Russian Jargon by V.M. Mokienko, T. G. Nikitina another meaning of this word is fixed: Comendantsha. Hom. Jok. A homosexual on duty in a public toilet waiting for a partner (MOKIENKO; NIKITINA, 2000, p. 273).

With the derivative gastrolersha, 19 contexts were recorded in the National Corpus of the Russian Language: "Very rarely anyone sent a random thing that could be printed. I was more of a guest performer than a permanent employee" (http://www.ruscorpora.ru/ (reference date: 01.05.2020), "There is nothing to say about the performance of the guest performer as Larisa Dmitrievna. The performance is incomparably good" (http://www.ruscorpora.ru/(reference date: 01.05.2020), "The owner of an excellent dramatic soprano, Ms. Dorliak

received her musical education in St. Petersburg. In the Parisian opera, the artist acted only as a guest performer" (http://www.ruscorpora.ru/(reference date: 01.05.2020), etc. In the Modern Explanatory Dictionary by T.F. Efremov two meanings of the word gastrolersha are noted: Female guest performer I (1. An artist, invited, who arrived on tour. 2. The one who often changes his place of work, place of residence, etc. in search of easy money) and the female guest performer II (One who commits crimes outside the territory in which he lives) (EFREMOVA, 2020). The second meaning presented in the Modern Explanatory Dictionary is close to the interpretation given in the Large Dictionary of Russian Jargon by V.M. Mokienko, T.G. Nikitina: Flash tongue. Female guest performer – a criminal who commits crimes in different cities and in transport (MOKIENKO; NIKITINA, 2000, p. 123). It is important to note that in all 19 examples recorded in the National Corpus of the Russian language, the derivative of the guest performer is used only in the first meaning.

If in colloquial speech a derivative is used in the same sense as in jargon, then it performs an expressive function; if the word is used only in jargon, we can talk about the nominative and style-forming function.

There are three contexts with the derivative of the biker (bikersha) in the National Corps of the Russian Language ("It was necessary to tell us, and, therefore, almost all Muscovites, how to kill competently a woman with a saw who rides a motorcycle in "Full Throttle" videogame. This biker woman is harmful, although she does not interfere with the development of an exciting computer history, she clearly infringes upon the dignity of the player", "Lena the biker woman sits at the table behind me, nervously smokes, listening to my nonsense, without which cooking a diet stew has no sense" (http://www.ruscorpora.ru/reference date: 01.05.2020, etc.).

Two contexts in the National Corpus of the Russian language were recorded with the derivatives mahansha and fraersha ("Mahansha went to the village for a week", "Look what kind of love he twisted with this melodious fraersha below!", "Who is this?" They asked each other, with fear and looking respectfully at the original "fraersha" (http://www.ruscorpora.ru/(reference date: 01.05.2020. etc.), in which derivatives with the suffix -sh(a) are used in the same meaning that is fixed with the Great Dictionary of Russian Jargon by V.M. Mokienko and T.G. Nikitina.

With the derivative of the maraviher/marviher (Flash tongue. Pickpocket (MOKIENKO; NIKITINA, 2000, p. 335), one context is revealed in the National Corpus of the Russian language: "The "marviher" never makes a crime alone, but takes an assistant with him, mostly a friend of heart, which is called "marviher" (http://www.ruscorpora.ru/ (reference date: 01.05.2020).

## **SUMMARY**

Thus, having studied the derivational and semantic properties of the derivatives with the suffix -sh(a), as well as having analyzed 97 contexts with these derivatives, which were recorded in the National Corpus of the Russian language, we come to the following conclusion.

It has been established that the main method for the formation of jargon with the suffix -sh(a) is the actual suffixation. Besides, it should be noted that there are single derivatives formed by suffix universalization. The inclusion of foreign words (mensha and fengsha) in word-formation processes is observed, which confirms the productivity of this word-formation type in colloquial speech. The suffix -sh(a) performs the following functions in jargon: nominative, evaluative-expressive and style-forming. Our study proves the need for further comprehensive study of jargon word formation using various sources.

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