Student Slang in English

INTRODUCTION

The rapid development of human society has a great influence on the most important tool of the communication language. The modern way of living goes faster and new trends are also reflected in the development oflanguage in a form of various new words and expressions as well as the improvement and facilitation of grammar structure. Comparison of those two linguistic areas shows that vocabulary grows so rapidly that the communicative function of language claims more novel and concise expressions in the language terminology in order to keep pace with modern trends in human life.

Slang seems to be one of the most important language formation having a great influence on the development of language. Slang speech is characterized by various linguistic features reflecting the users ́ way of living and using the language with emphasis on belonging to a particular group of language users. Student slang ranks the unique position among those groups characterized by specific features distinguished within the student environment. Student speech might be seen as a reaction to formalism and social conventions of literary language. Therefore, it contains a great number of slang expressions restricted to concrete time, place or even subject. Special attention is drawn to modern trends in language realization of students, such as SMS and e-mail slang.

The aims of the project work:

* Representing current situation in use of slang terminology in the

English and American student field in a form of graphs showing the top slangs in both languages.

* Consider their word-formation processing with respect to theoretical knowledge.
* Giving examples ofall used slang words among English and American students in various categories connected to school.

**The creation of students’ academic slang**

The study investigates the creation of students’ academic slang. The findings show that the students draw extensively on and exploit the language resources at their disposal to create new meanings for describing their academic life. The findings also show that all the word formation processes highlighted relate to certain areas of the students’ academic life, notably, the students’ relationships with their lecturers, difficult courses and those who teach them, performances and grades.

Slang terms and text-speak such as IDK (I don’t know), SMH (shaking my head), and BTW (by the way) have become a common sight on student assignments, befuddling some high school teachers who are unsure how to fix this growing problem.

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The way students communicate with one another through social media and text messaging is creeping into high school classrooms across the country. Slang terms and text-speak such as IDK (I don’t know), SMH (shaking my head), and BTW (by the way) have become a common sight on student assignments, befuddling some high school teachers who are unsure how to fix this growing problem.

Almost 85 percent of the students using a form of electronic communication, whether through instant messaging, text messaging, or social media. Growing up in a technological era, high school students may be unaware they are using language shortcuts in the classroom. 64 percent of students in the study reported inadvertently using a form of shorthand native to texting or social networking. But, the problem does not end there because younger teachers see the slang but “let it go.”

**Examples**

**A-levels** **–** an excellent student, a student who pass well his study.

**Freshers**–This is the name given to new students who have just entered university/higher education.

**Freshette**–sexist term for female Fresher*.*

**Long–**an adjective used to describe something as irritating, time-consuming or boring, for example lecture.

**Go bananas**– go slightly mad, before some exam, for example.

**Butthead, airhead**–an extremely foolish or inept student.

**Chillax**– combination of the word “chill” and “relax,” which is used by student totell someone they should calm down.

**Dead Week**–the last week of classes before final exams. Usually by the time Dead Week rolls around, professors have already accomplished everything on the syllabus, so they will refrain from assigning anything new (good).

**Act** – successful candidates for the degree of Doctor of Medicine are said to have kept the Act.

**Ace–**to pass a test or exam relatively easily.

## Sick–having replaced the conventional meaning of sick with chunder, students found themselves with a leftover word which they weren’t quite sure how to use.

**Put a sock in it**–keep quiet.

**Bnoc**–an acronym standing for “big name on campus”.

**Desmond**–nickname for a lower second-class degree.

**Lad–**a noun used to describe a student alpha male. Connotations of being deemed a “lad” include, but are not limited to: promiscuity, heavy drinking, sporting prowess, a fondness for protein shakes, love of practical jokes and a general arrogance in most aspects of life.

**Class**: Has the same meaning as “module” or “lecture” in the UK.

**Grade**: Has the same meaning as “mark” in the UK.

**Conclusion**

Surprisingly, derivation, one of the most productive processes in other areas of language use, was not productive in the study. The result of this phenomenon is that the students used mainly existing English lexical items, which already exis, to form their slang expressions.

**Slang Words about Studying of Students**

**-ace a test**

To “ace a test” is to get a very good grade.

“How’d you do on the chemistry test?”

“I aced it!”

**-cram**

If you “cram,” it means you study a lot in a short period of time.

“Are you going to the party tonight?”

“Nah, I have to cram for my history test.”

**-cut class**

If you “cut class,” it means you don’t go to class.

“I’m gonna cut math class so that I can finish this project for biology.”

“OK. I’ll tell the professor you’re sick.”

**-drop a class**

If you “drop a class,” it means you stop taking that class.

“I’m really stressed out this semester. I’m thinking of dropping a class.”

**-hit the books**

To “hit the books” is to study.

“I gotta go hit the books. I have a final exam tomorrow.”

**-pop quiz**

A “pop quiz” is a surprise quiz.

“We had a pop quiz in philosophy class today. I was completely unprepared!”

**-flunk**

To “flunk” a test or a class is to fail.

“I’ve flunked economics three times.”

“Really? Maybe you should get a tutor.”

If a person flunks so many classes that they stop going to school or college, we say they “flunked out.”

**-slack off**

If you slack off, it means that you get lazy and don’t work hard.

“A lot of students start to slack off near the end of the school year.”

**-dorm**

“Dorm” is short for dormitory – the place where students live.

“How’s your dorm?”

“It gets a little noisy on weekends, but in general I like it.”

**-quad**

The “quad” is a rectangular area surrounded by buildings on a college campus.

“Where’s Jenny?”

“She’s sunbathing out on the quad.”

**-freshman 15**

Many students gain weight when they start college. People often say that first-year students (freshmen) gain 15 extra pounds during their first year of school – this is called the “freshman 15.”

In high school and college, there are names for students in each year:

**-freshman** = first-year student

**-sophomore** = second-year student

**-junior** = third-year student

**-senior** = fourth-year student

**-full ride–**If someone has or gets a “full ride,” it means they have a scholarship that pays for 100% of their education.

“She got a full ride to the state university thanks to her good grades in high school.”

**-senioritis–**“Senioritis” is when students who are in their last year of college get lazy and stop working hard, because they know that they will finish their studies soon.

**-pull an all-nighter**–If you “pull an all-nighter,” it means you stay awake the whole night, usually studying.

**Campus Student Slang**

This part of the report introduces the student slang. Here you will come across with the vocabulary used on campus and in the daily life of Students. Let’s start!

***“A Hard Test”***

Sometimes test results can feel like a matter of life and death. Students submitted some pretty grim terms they use to describe tests that leave them feeling less than confident. Alex C. over at Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis calls a hard test ***aGPA killer*** or ***a bloodbath***. A hard test, according to Iris B. at Queen Margaret University, is called ***a death trap***. Many students called a difficult test ***a bomb***, which also happens to be a term students use to describe a wild party. This goes to prove that in realm of college slang, context is king.

***“Wild Cards”***

According this topic I unearthed some of student`s favorite responses, including a few fun acronyms and a new use of the verb to have. Here are several examples.

***NCMO:*** This acronym meaning ***“noncommittal make-out”*** was submitted by several students who attend Brigham Young University. It seems that this acronym is, at least sometimes, pronounced aloud, as some students spell it ***NiCMO*** or ***nicmo***.

***Cupcaking:*** Ziris S. at North Carolina A&T State University described cupcaking as “when two people are caught talking or flirting with each other.” This seems appropriate as cupcakes are undoubtedly the most flirtatious baked good.

***NARP:*** Another term that came up in our survey is NARP, an acronym meaning “non-athletic regular person.” A.R. from Emory University further defines a NARP as “someone who doesn’t play a varsity sport.” Sorry, intramural kickballers, you’re all NARPs. All of you.

***Soil Mate:*** Perhaps our favorite response came from Alec M. at Michigan State University. He explained many slang terms used within the food horticulture program. He writes: “On Valentine’s Day, we had an event at the Student Organic Farm called ‘Weed Dating’ where you would weed a bed of veggies across from a new person, and you would rotate every couple of minutes. The purpose was to find your ‘soil mate.’ There are a truly surprising number of suggestive horticultural terms.” Sounds like horticultural students have all the fun.

***The Dungeon:*** Kris C. at Georgia Institute of Technology wrote to us about a basement computer cluster for ChemE students on campus colloquially known by students the Dungeon: “It has no windows. Students often end up there for entire days and don’t realize it’s morning again until they go outside.” Sounds pretty intense.

***Having:*** Michael S. at the University of Minnesota Duluth told us about a new use of the verb to have: “‘Having’ is a term most commonly used when describing the consumption of a good or service (i.e. We really had it last night at that party.)”.

So, we reviewed several popular examples of the using of slang in a student’s life. Now let’s learn the words which are most commonly used in the campus.

***Whats up ?-*** a way to greet a person or ask about them- great, awesome, wonderful, perfect, cool, attractive, nice;

***My bad –*** it means “I am sorry!”;

***Wack***– a term used to describe a male with plenty of girlfriends;

***Floss*** – it means “ to show off, behave in an affected manner;

put on airs”;

***Grub***– good tasting;

***Tight***– awesome, wonderful, perfect, cool, attractive, nice;

***Playa*** – a person who dates many others at the same time usually without letting them know;

***Player hate***– to disapprove of the tactics of players;

***Aight*** – all right; OKAY, YES;

***Chick*** – a girl;

***Mack*** – one who is good with the opposite sex, usually a maleit- to relax with friends;

***Shorty*** – a female;

***Crib***– a place of residence

**Slang Terms Students Have Come Across in the Context of Collegiate Life**

There are some slang terms students have come across in the context of collegiate life:

**Ace:** to do very well, receive the grade of an “A”. *Example: “I feel like I aced my math test!”*

**Bro:** a friendly greeting or form of address. *Example: What’s up, bro?*

**Cramming:**intensive memorization in a short period of time — usually done by a student preparing for a school examination.*Example: “I’m always stuck cramming for that professor’s class.”*

**Crash:**to sleep. *Example: “I crashed on the couch last night.”*

**Cut:**to purposely miss class. *Example: “Joe cut class in order to attend a concert.”*

**Dude:**an informal term of address, usually referring to a man or boy. *Example: “Hey dude! I haven’t seen you on campus in forever!”*

**Prof:**Short for “professor”.

**Work-study:**Programs that allow students to work, often on campus, as part of their financial aid package.

**Beer Pong:** a drinking game common at some college parties. It involves throwing a ping pong ball across a table with the aim of making the ball land in one of several cups of beer.

**Chundergrad**: a general term for anyone studying a bachelor’s degree, regardless of their vomiting history. It is thought to derive from the partying tendencies of those studying for their first degree.*Example: “Having a job is seriously going to affect my partying quota. I had better make the most of my years as a chundergrad.”*

**Libes:**affectionate term for the library. *Example: “Meet me in the libes, I’m on the second floor.”*Used by: Frantic essay writers who need to conserve all of their formal language ability for their work.

**Big name on campus (Bnoc):**a self-proclaimed campus celebrity – often the chair of a society or involved in student politics. The term is often used to mock the subject for their delusions of grandeur, rather than as a compliment.

*“Sam thinks he’s such a Bnoc, but really he’s just deputy treasurer of the cheese appreciation society.”*

## Vac: a contraction of “vacation” which can refer to any university holiday period. Usage is prevalent among students at Oxford, who also refer to their faculty as the “fac” and a tutorial as a “tut”.*Example:“I’ve got a tut, but I’m hoping to leave the fac building early to go home for the vac.”*Used by: Oxbridge students and the extremely time-poor.

Slang which students use to express an «easy course»:

**Bird Course:** a *bird course* or a *birdy course* is a class that is so easy that you can “sing your way through it”. Students call these classes *bird courses* “because you fly right through” them.

***Cakewalk:*** many students gravitated toward this food-related expression to describe an easy course.

As students tend to keep odd hours, it’s no surprise that they have many words in their lexicon referring to late-night studying. They are the following:

**All-Nighter:** a student who puts off studying until the night before an exam or deadline. *Example: “John pulled an all-nighter to get his paper finished.”*

***Zombies:***Students who sit up late at night and learn by rote the subject.

***Vampires:*** In the context of studying, however, the students use *vamp* to refer to the fact that vampires sleep during the day and do their work at night. Students use these terms describing creatures of the night because they look undead the morning after pulling an all-nighter.

**Snoozer/Sleeper:**this term defines students who actually sleep in class.

**Test and exam slang in university**

So, imagine that you are a student of a foreign language university and not a hard-worker. Once on the grammar lesson, you suddenly find that you will have a test. Oh! Here we are! You did not expect that unexpected test. In desperation, you exclaim: **Damn it! I have a pop quiz today.**– Damn! Today, I have a sudden test on grammar.

However, you’re in luck. Next to you were lovely female creation that always had feelings to and she is ready to do anything for your attention. “Anything” it was not necessary, but help in the test you would not miss. You smile nicely, and lovely excellent- mark student does all the work for you. She **“killed the test”**, that means “easily dealt with the test, did everything perfectly”

**She killed the test.**– She made a great test.

The test is delivered, and you’re back to normal life – a house, club, internet. But as long as you have fun, university teachers invent new job for you. And yesterday, you knew that today you have a control test on grammar again, and became upset. How many times it will be again?! But the real tragedy was the news that that lovely girl was transferred to another university, so that you couldn’t see her again. Now you can’t wait any help from your classmates.

And your head, fool of mojitos and tequila, suddenly began to reach one simple idea – you can **boom your grammar test** (doesn’t pass a grammar).

**I am afraid of bombing my grammar test.**– I’m afraid to flunk a test on grammar.

In order to avoid the worst you are buying energy drinks, furiously grabs the books. In one night you have to learn all the information that should be absorbed gradually and methodically. You are trying **“to cram for your grammar”** (quickly and in large numbers of books get a knowledge of grammar).

**I have to cram for my grammar test.**– I need to work hard to prepare for the test on grammar.

Immodestly you say that generally I **“get straight A’s”**(only get excellent grades)

**I get straight A’s on my report card.**– I have only excellent marks in a register.

Such slang is very popular in numerous universities in the world, and every day we use it without thinking.

There are some more examples of this slang

To “ace a test” is to **get a very good grade.**

If you “cram,” it means you **study a lot in a short period of time.**

If you “cut class,” it means you **don’t go to class.**

To “hit the books” is to **study.**

To “flunk” a test or a class is to **fail.**

If you **slack off,**it means that you **get lazy and don’t work hard.**

If you “pull an all-nighter,” it means you **stay awake the whole night, usually studying.**

**Students` slang in the Internet**

The new social order created by the new media of communication, especially the Internet, hassled to a form of consensus on language use (mainly English). Scholars have investigated thislanguage use and have come up with various the form of slang and its implications on aspects of communication in the larger (offline/formal) discourse environments. For instance, the Internet discourse style has come to resemble both thespoken and written forms of communication. One of the reasons adduced for this in the CMC(computer-mediated communication) literature is the nature of the media itself, which hints at theMarshall Mcluhan’s aphorism of “media is the message” and the media’s attendant constraintssuch as:  
copresence,visibility,audibility,sequentality,reviewability,reviseability,multimodality, anonymity,locatabilityandsynchronicityof the CMC media (e.g. echat email, and instant messaging).To this end, scholars are of the opinion that the informal writing styles engendered by the new media of communication, especially those of email, echat, GSM SMS service, pose serious threats to the formal (conventional) writing style of the traditional media.

These informal writing styles manifest in the slangy use of alphanumerics (e.g. ‘b4’ for ‘before’, ‘gr8’ for ‘great’, ‘10q’ for ‘thank you’, etc.), alphabetisms (e.g. ‘b’ for ‘be’, ‘c’ for‘see’, ‘d’ for ‘the’, ‘u’ for ‘you’, etc.), abbronyms (e.g. ‘BRB’ for ‘Be Right Back’, ‘LOL’ for ‘Laughing Out Loud’) and other apitalizati hortening and surrogacy processes (as in ‘pix’ for ‘picture’, ‘cam’ for ‘web camera’, ‘bf’ for‘boyfriend’, ‘gf’ for ‘girlfriend’, ‘abt’ for ‘about’, ‘tday’ or ‘tdy’ for ‘today’, etc.). Apart from these, the Internet writing style also includes the use of intentional misspellings operating aslexical homophonyms (e.g. ‘ic’ for ‘I see’, ‘2moro’ for ‘tomorrow’, ‘gud’ for ‘good’, etc.), vowel letter extension (e.g. ‘veryyyyyyy gooood!’), symbolisms (e.g. emoticons,), repeated punctuation marks (as in ‘great!!!!’) and gratuitous apitalization (e.g. PLS STAY!). While these styles could be said to have serious implications on the communicative intentions and offline writing  tasks of the Net users, they have served more as veritable slang for online group identification and display of (net) status than as mere communicative tools.

In order to create and increase people’s awareness of the antics of Internet fraudsters,who are mostly located in the West African countries, and Nigeria in particular, attempts have been made to document logs of messages broadcast to unsuspecting Net users (here after, UNS) as spam. It is interesting to note that many of these messages, irrespective of their heterogeneous backgrounds, do contain the informal writing styles identified above. It is, then, not uncommon to see this identified slangy writing in lecture notes and examination papers of some of the students, especially the frequent Internet users who are most likely to be in the category of fraudulent Net users (henceforth, FNU). A linguistic tracking of their spammed email messages,constructed to gain the target’s confidence, appeal to the target’s financial needs or greed will no doubt yield some traces of this slang.

Apart from these identified patterns of writing, slang in Internet conversations also include the use of pseudonyms in the FNUs’ addresivities as well as the subject lines of the emails. Therefore, our analysis is also geared towards an examination of the slangy pattern of addressivities as another linguistic effort to the tracking of the intents behind the constructs of Nigerian-based FNUs.

Students` slang in the Internet

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Slang | | Full Meaning |
| A | AFAIK | As far as I know |
| AFK | Away from keyboard |
| ASAP | As soon as possible |
| ATM | At the moment |
| B | B | Be, Back |
| B4 | Before |
| BBL | Be back later |
| BC | Because |
| BICBW | But I could be wrong |
| BRB | Be right back |
| C | CUL | See you later |
| F | FYI | For your information |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| G | GG | Gotta Go |
| GL | Good luck |
| GMTA | Great minds think alike |
| GR8 | Great |
| H | HAND | Have a Nice Day |
| HT | Hi there |
| HTH | Hope this helps |

**Student Slang in Modern Technology**

# SMS slang

# Concerning student slang, specific attention must be drawn to texting short messages via mobile phones. Writing SMS (the abbreviation refers to short message service) centers on student slang realization in a form of short messages sent via mobile. Crystal (2008:164) sees texting as “just another variety of language, which has arisen as a result of a particular technology. It takes it place alongside the other mediums of electronic communication which have resulted from the internet revolution.” As the abbreviation of SMS prompts, the more needs to be written the shorter language has to be used. Thus, the user usually treats as much letter-saving quality as possible. Acronyms occur even in a shorter way than in e-mails. Like replaced letters and acronyms, using numbers, instead of some letters, is also frequently used while writing text messages. E.g. 4Y (for you), U2 (you too), Gr8 (great), Gt2gthr (get together), NE1 (anyone), rUf2t? (Are you free to talk?), Il b l8 cuz cRs bin im￡ed. (I´ll be late because my car has been impounded.), fanC gOn clubn 2nite? (Fancy going clubbing tonight?), hve I told U l8tly that I luv u? (Have I told you lately that I love you?)15, etc. Messages are linguistically and stylistically obvious and transparent for the users of such a communication so that the process is made quicker and clear. To successfully achieve this, it is necessary to be aware of all acronyms, symbols and abbreviations

Web slang

Slang is for most part attributed to speech of young generation which is closely associated with modern trends in the way of its life, thinking, clothing, acting as well as speaking. Slang is considered as a one of the most important tools of students´ realization, thus it contributes to all forms of their communication and it is highly represented in a written informal form of various web chats, discussions, e-mails or text messaging. Just as values of young people change rapidly and their way of living goes faster, their communication is adapted, as well. There is no doubt that slang expressions are those of no long persistency in the field of speaking but innovative, fresh and rapidly growing as a reflection of user´s way of living. Slang is represented in virtual communication enormously. Slang words are expressed by many acronyms, lingos or symbols, called emoticons, used to display one´s emotions and feelings. Those symbols may vary according to user´s geographical or culture factors, e.g. Asian style, European style, South-American style, etc. The more acronyms and symbols are used the quicker communication is. Nevertheless, frequent use of such a communication form affects everyday speech acts so much, thus the boundary between standard and non-standard language seems to be ambiguous.

# Web communication has become a part of students´ everyday life. Its role is to communicate rapidly, briefly, usually with a lot of slang words and no grammar rules. Therefore, it demands to be skilled and educated in various acronyms and symbols which help to make communication easier and quicker. Typical examples of web communications are writing e-mails or messages containing series of letters expressing the meaning in abbreviated forms

The list of e-mails and SMS acronyms

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| --- |
| b4 – Before, BAK – Back at the Keyboard, BBS – Be Back Soon , bf – Boyfriend , BTW – By The Way , DIKU – Do I Know You?, F2F – Face To Face , FAQ – Frequently Asked Question, fu – f\*\*\* you, GR or GTR – Gotta Run, H&K – Hugs and Kisses, HAGD – Have A Good Day, JK – Just Kidding, KIT – Keep In Touch, L8R – Later, LOL – Laughing Out Loud, SOL – Shit Out Of Luck, SPST – Same Place, Same Time, SYL – See You Later, TC – Take Care, TTYL – Talk To You Later, US – You Suck. |

Like abbreviations, replaced letters frequently occur in web slang words and we speak about letter-saving quality. It usually happens within letters producing the same sound, e.g. rox (rocks), thanx (thanks), X-mas (Christmas); single letter might replace whole words as b (be), c (see) r (are), y (you); -ing form is in most cases replaced by shorten –in such as in words comin, eatin, havin, etc.

**Student SlangWords of Classmates and Subjects**

As a result of different studying subjects quite a few slang expressions were given in this category. The most are abbreviationscreated in the process of clipping in which the initial part is preserved,i.e. English > Eng, Economics > Econ, Gastronomy > Gastro,Psychology > Psych. Another terms used for Economics wasBusiness and for Gastronomy Culinary *the loan* from Latin word*culina* (kitchen) or Cooking course.

Concerning the names of people, students were less creative in the names of school persons. Headmaster is for most students *principal*with the meaning of the head administrator of school, boss as someone who manages the school and generally, he holds the top position. The slang word *top banana*denotes an important person occupying a leading post. Like abbreviated subjects, teachis a reduced word from a teacher created in the process of clipping. Slang expressions for a cleaninglady were mostly *maida* clipped form of chambermaid, in which a final part of the unabbreviated word is preserved, or cleaner created byadding 1er suffix to the verb to clean. American did not know the meaning of the British wordschool porter. Thus, the word had to be properly explained to them. American janitoris used instead.

Concerning the personal qualities of the classmates, students were more creative and many expressions were given. The first type was student who is very intelligent and prepares carefully for each lesson:although approximately 12 different terms for that student were mentioned, two words *geek* and *nerd* were common for 24 informants. The Etymology of the word *nerdcomes* from children ́s book«If I Ran the Zoo»written by Dr. Seuss in which the narrator Gerald McGrew claims that he would collect «*a Nerkle, a Nerd, and a Seersucker too*» for his imaginary zoo. As a slang word, it has been used since 1951 with a meaning of a highly intellectual person not much socially skilled and not popular.

The topstudent slang word is *drifter*. This word was created in the process of adding 1er suffixto the verb to drift (to move). Thus drifter is someone who does not stay in the same place for a long time. Another word, highly represented in the questionnaire, is *jerk*, possibly originated in the ME word yerkwith a meaning of a sudden motion. Further slang word denoting such a student was flakederived in the process of back formation from the word *flaky* (odd).

*Loser and floater* are created by adding 1er suffix to verbs to lose (to miss) and to float (to move slowly).

*Lazy*:8 different terms were used for being lazy, e.g. *slacker*created by adding 1ersuffix to the verb to slack (to hang around). Similarly made, in the process of suffixation is loafer abbreviated from a *landloafer,* the compound of two nouns derived from the verb to loaf (to hang around) by particular suffix. The slang expression*couchpotato* is based on compounding of two nouns couchpotato in whichthe first noun comes from the old French word la couch (a bed) and it is forced by a figurative expression of potato, that may refer either to such a kind of vegetable that only “sits” or potato chips that are usually eaten while watching TV and doing nothing.

*Deadbeat*is the slang compound consists of the adjective dead(not alive)and the noun beat(pulsation) figuratively expressing a lazy person who is almost dead to do something.

*Bum* is another term related to a lazy student probably derived in theprocess of back formation from bummer(poor). Slouchoriginated in Old Norse *slókr*(a lazy fellow). Further examples of such a student are underachiever the opposite of overachievermentioned above or daftfrom Old English *dæfte*(silly).

So, student slang of subjects and school system is quite diverse.Slang does not belong only to students but it is closely related to school environment consisting of teachers, parents, school and out-of-school activities and expresses a specific form of students ́ perception of reality.

[**Top 10 university student slang words in popular Nigerian English**](http://www.dailytrust.com.ng/sunday/index.php/politics-of-grammar/18463-top-10-university-student-slang-words-in-popular-nigerian-english)

Slang words are often, by nature, transitory and limited to particular age groups, subcultures, eras, and even professions. But a few slang words do endure and make the transition from marginality to respectable mainstream usage.

A notable example of a word in common usage today, especially in British English, that started life as a student slang term is “don,” an alternative word for a university teacher. An English-grammar website called World Wide Words says it was undergraduates at Oxford and Cambridge universities who first used “don” as a slang term to refer to their teachers. And then the term caught on.  
There are many words in mainstream Nigerian English that also started as university student slang words but are now in general use in Nigeria. In fact, many Nigerians don’t recognize these words and their meanings as nonstandard. I list 10 such words below.

**1. “Dub.”** It means to cheat during exams by copying another person’s test answers word for word. It’s obviously derived from a metaphorical extension of the sense of dubbing that means “make a copy of a recording,” as in “dub music from CD to tape.”   
Slang terms are notoriously difficult to periodize and etymologize because they are usually first primarily spoken for a long time before they are written, but it seems to me that “dub” entered Nigerian English in the early 1980s and reached the peak of its popularity in the 1990s. I thought it had lost currency in contemporary Nigerian English until I saw it used many times on a popular Nigerian online discussion site called Nairaland.com by people who are obviously not students.

**2. “Gist”** (sometimes misspelled as “jist”). This is probably the most popular Nigerian student slang term that has transitioned to mainstream Nigerian English.  In both formal and informal Nigerian English “gist” now means light informal conversation, especially about other people’s private business. A Nigerian celebrity gossip website called “gistmania.com” derives its name from this sense of the word.   
**3. “Form.”** This word is used as a verb in Nigerian English to mean put on airs, that is, affect manners with intent to impress others, as in “the guy is just forming; that’s not the way he speaks naturally.” I thought the word was self-evidently slangy until I found that it is used even in formal contexts by Nigerian English users. Someone with a high level of proficiency in English also once asked me if the word was standard. That was when it really dawned on me that the word had crossed over to mainstream usage in Nigeria.

**4. “Popsy.”** This annoying word for father in informal Nigerian English was also initially a student slang term. It’s probably coined from a mimicry of “pops,” the colloquial American English term for father, which Vocabulary.com says is “derived from baby talk.” But, more crucially, “popsy” is a real word in British English and means—wait for it—an attractive young girl! It is also sometimes used as the diminutive form of poppet, a term of endearment for a girl or a child in informal British English. So good luck with calling your dad “popsy” in Britain.

**5. “Mumsy.”** This is the feminine version of “popsy,” also probably derived from the American English “moms,” the informal term for mother. Nevertheless, the Oxford Dictionary also says “mumsy” started to be used as a humorous variant of “mummy” (which Americans spell as “mommy”) since the 19th century. Maybe, that’s where the Nigerian English “mumsy” comes from. But in contemporary British English “mumsy” is chiefly an adjective of disapproval to describe women who are drab and unfashionable. Cambridge Dictionaries Online gives this example of the word’s usage: “As she became more successful, she changed her mumsy hairstyle for something more glamorous.”

**6. “Swags.”** Swag is universally recognized as the short form of “swagger,” a pompous manner of walking intended to impress others. But Nigerian youngsters tend to add an “s” to the end of the word, which makes it sound like British thieves’ slang term for stolen goods.

**7. “Runs.”** This slang term is too semantically slippery to be adequately captured in one definition, but it generally tends to be used to denote borderline illegal or immoral activities. It has graduated from a student slang word to a mainstream colloquial term, and appears to collocate frequently with “girl” or “babe,” as in “runs girl” or “runs babe,” which refers to polished, well-dressed girls, often university students, who engage in a form of soft prostitution.  Patrons of “runs babes” on university campuses are called “aristos,” the short form of aristocrat. But “runs” can also mean “run errands” with no suggestion of illegality or immorality, as in “let me do some runs before my 2 o’clock appointment.”

**8. “Jambite.”** This refers to a first-year undergraduate, what Americans call a freshman, or what the British call a fresher. It’s formed from the acronym JAMB, which stands for Joint Admission and Matriculation Board, the agency that regulates entry into Nigerian universities. This previously marginal student slang term has gained mainstream acceptance in Nigerian English. It’s not unusual these days to see the term used in official communication from university administrators.

**9. “Number six.”** It means one’s brain. To be told to use one’s “number six” is to be exhorted to be sensible. As Roger Blench observes in his draft Nigerian English Dictionary, this expression started as student slang. My recollection of the origins of this expression is that biology teachers in secondary schools often assigned the number 6 to the cerebral cortex, the grey matter of the brain. If my recollection is wrong I’d appreciate a correction from anyone who knows how the connection between number 6 and the human brain started in Nigeria.

**10. “Toast.”** This word competes with “gist” for the most popularly used Nigerian student slang term in mainstream Nigerian English. Used primarily as a verb, it means to talk to a girl. In the pre-Internet age, there used to be pamphlets that gave teenage boys tips on “how to toast a girl.” Now several Nigerian websites give tips to young men on “how to toast a girl.” As with most slang terms, toast has no basis in anything. It just erupted out of nowhere in student dorms.  
 When toast is used as a verb in Standard English it usually means one of two things: to make something brown through exposure to heat (e.g. to toast slices of bread) or to say nice words before drinking a glass of water or wine in honor of a person or an event (as in, “let us toast the birthday boy!”).

**Student Slang’s Influence on the Language**

Slang words are often, by nature, transitory and limited to particular age groups, subcultures, eras, and even professions. But a few slang words do endure and make the transition from marginality to respectable mainstream usage. A notable example of a word in common usage today, especially in British English, that started life as a student slang term is “don,” an alternative word for a university teacher. An English-grammar website called World Wide Words says it was undergraduates at Oxford and Cambridge universities who first used “don” as a slang term to refer to their teachers. And then the term caught on.

“The source [of the word] is the Spanish Don, originally a term of high rank, which derives from Latin dominus, master or lord, which has also bequeathed English words such as dominate and dominium, as well as domine, a one-time term of respect for a clergyman or a member of a learned profession and — as dominie — for a schoolmaster in Scotland. Around the middle of the seventeenth century, English began to use don for a leader or a man of importance or ability; to be a don was to be an adept at some activity, whether literature, cricket or a craft skill. Undergraduates at Oxford and Cambridge began to humorously apply don to the tutors and fellows of their colleges, with perhaps an echo of domine, and the term went into the language,” the website says. Student slang is a rapidly changing lingo, and you don't want to get caught out during freshers week confusing "hench" with "dench". In the interests of preserving your cool, here's our glossary of well-worn faves.

*Bnoc -* An acronym standing for "big name on campus". A Bnoc (prounounced bee-knock) is a self-proclaimed campus celebrity – often the chair of a society or involved in student politics. The term is often used to mock the subject for their delusions of grandeur, rather than as a compliment.

"Sam thinks he's such a Bnoc, but really he's just deputy treasurer of the cheese appreciation society."

*Chundergrad -* Chundergrad is a general term for anyone studying a bachelor's degree, regardless of their vomiting history. It is thought to derive from the partying tendencies of those studying for their first degree.

"Having a job is seriously going to affect my partying quota. I had better make the most of my years as a chundergrad."

*Desmond -* Nickname for a lower second-class degree (2:2), after the former archbishop Desmond Tutu. "I had better stop watching repeats of Arthur on iPlayer instead of revising, or I'm going to end up with a Desmond."

*Hench -* Hench is a term denoting a large and muscle-bound individual. More recently, it has been used to describe anything of voluminous size.

"Let's go to Perfect Fried Chicken, their portions of chips are hench."

*Jel -* A contraction of "jealous", first popularised by the cast of The Only Way is Essex but now common in student circles. If the situation calls for it, a student may even pronounce themselves "well jel".

"You've finished your dissertation? Jel."

*Lad -* A noun used to describe a student alpha male. Connotations of being deemed a "lad" include, but are not limited to: promiscuity, heavy drinking, sporting prowess, a fondness for protein shakes, love of practical jokes and a general arrogance in most aspects of life. Often used ironically, the term may be compounded to describe someone who has had particular luck or success in a certain field, as in example two below.

"Did he just swig some sambuca on the rugby pitch whilst making sexual advances towards multiple women? What a lad."

"He got a first? Geography lad."

*Libes*

Affectionate term for the library.

"Meet me in the libes, I'm on the second floor.

**Conclusion**

Slang is usually restricted to a specific time, which means it is topical only for a short time period and replaced by other terms soon; however, it may cover some invariable expressionspassing through time. Moreover it is restricted to a concrete place, which means it might be used and understood by particular school institution and people there. It is usually created by the idea of an individual adapted to people nearby, enriched by various semantic associations, synonyms or corrupted words. Therefore, instances arefound in which one concept is represented by a great number of slang terms.

The aim of thework was to chart the variability, richness, level and variety of current speech among English and American students in the field of different topics related to school and out-of-school activities. It must be borne in mind that student slang is not permanent, thus many expressions may differ soon. Despite of that fact, the most important aspect has to be remembered that student slang hasalways maintained the prime position in their communication and had a great influence on the development of language.

The final thesis, Student slang, can be used as an additional educational material for classes of English languagedevoting attention to the given style or as a school slang dictionarysummarizing some of student slang expressions.