

## ANALYSIS OF LEXICAL-SEMANTIC VARIATIVENESS ENGLISH SLANG VERBS

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**Annotation:** This article analyzes the relationships between literary verbs and their slang variants, meaning and transitivity. It highlights how slang reflects social and evaluative aspects of human activity.

**Keywords:** literary verbs, slang, lexical-semantic variants, human action, mental activity, movement, social behavior, transitivity, semantics, evaluative language.

Based on the pragmatic meaning components of words, a range of relationships has been established between slang and primary literary lexical-semantic variants. Below, we provide separate lists for each word category under analysis. The literary and slang lexical-semantic variants in interaction are compared across several parameters simultaneously.

For the analysis of verbs, we mainly relied on the classification [1; 5-34] proposed by P.A. Soboleva. Additionally, since many verbs in their slang lexical-semantic variants reflect various social aspects of human activity, we also drew on analyses of different types of social activity to present a more detailed account.

For verbs, we identified 39 types of connections between literary and slang lexical-semantic variants.

1) to exert physical influence – to stop an action: *to kick v 1* – to stop using [2]; *to kill v 5* – to finish consuming something; *to hit v 5* – to stop and search, usu. of a vehicle;

2) to exert physical force – to hold someone criminally accountable: *to knock v 2* – to arrest; *to hit v 5 (a)* – to send to prison; *to pull 2 (b)* – to arrest and take before a magistrate; *to pinch v 7* – to capture;

3) to exert physical force – to commit a crime: *to hit v 5* – to rob; *to kick v 2* – to kill; *to knock down v 1* – to rob; *to punch v 4* – to break open a safe using a steel punch and a hammer to knock out the combination;

4) to exert physical influence – to engage in a sexual relationship with someone: *to punch v 1* – to engage in sexual intercourse; *to push v 1* – to have sexual intercourse; *to hit 2 (d)* – to seduce; *to pull 2 (e)* – to seduce;

5) to exert physical influence – to move in a (certain) direction: *to hit v 7* – to go to, to visit; to arrive at; *to push v 2* – to leave;

6) to exert physical influence – to engage in drug use: *to hit v 3* – to inject narcotics; *to push v 3* – to sell drugs;

7) to exert physical influence – to operate a vehicle: *to poke v 3* – to drive fast; *to push v 5* – to drive a vehicle;

8) to exert physical influence – to perform another physical action: *to poke v 4* – to stab; *to hit 8 (c)* – to give someone a drink; *to pull n 9* – to remove, to censor;

9) to move in a certain way – to move far away from a place: *to walk v 7* – to leave, to walk off; to resign; *to jump v 4* – to leave without paying one's bill; *to spring v 9* – to escape from prison; *to skip v 1* – to leave, to escape, to run off;

10) to move in a certain way – to exert physical force: *to walk v 5* – to beat up; *to jump 3 (c)* – to beat up; *to spring v 8* – to open; *to skip v 4* – to expel;

11) to move in a certain way – to consume drug: *to run v 6* – to be a habitual drug user; to inject narcotics; *rush v 5* – to experience the immediate effects of a drug, esp. heroin or cocaine;

12) to approach a place – to support someone: *to land v 2* – to help someone, to aid; *to reach v 3* – to help; *to come v 2* – to lend (money); *to see v 3* – to take care of;



- 14) to cover a long distance – to move away from a place: *to travel v 2* – to move quickly, to leave, to depart;
- 15) to improve or raise (condition, quality, number, state) – to move away from a place: *to boost v 5* – to leave; *to raise v 10* – to escape, to get out of, to be released from prison; *to double v 1* – to run off, to escape;
- 16) to improve or raise (condition, quality, number, state) – to persuade someone to do something: *to boost v 5* – to seduce; *to double v 2* – to double-cross;
- 17) to improve or raise (condition, quality, number, state) – to commit an illegal act: *to raise v 3* – to steal; *to boost v 2* – to steal esp. to shoplift;
- 18) to worsen or lower (condition, quality, number, state) – to give up (doing something): *to cut v 4* – to stop doing something; *to drop v 1* – to quit, to turn aside;
- 19) to worsen or lower (condition, quality, number, state) – to engage in romantic relationship: *to cut v 6* – to have sexual intercourse; *to trim v 4* – to have sexual intercourse;
- 20) to worsen or lower (condition, quality, number, state) – to commit an illegal act: *to drop v 5* – to bribe; *to trim v 5* – to cheat of money
- 21) to engage in one type of mental activity – to engage in another type of mental activity: *to read v 1* – to understand; *to reckon v 2* – to know, to be aware of; *to study v 1* – to think about; *to calculate v* – to think;
- 22) to engage in some physical activity – to commit an illegal act or a crime: *to do v 2* – to rob; *to play v 2* – to trick, to deceive; *to swim v 3* – to stab a victim; *to eat v 5* – to take a profit from criminality;
- 23) to engage in some physical activity – to engage in a romantic: *to eat v 7* – to have sexual intercourse; *to play v 2* – to pursue sexually, to seduce;
- 24) to engage in some physical activity – to take a narcotic: *to carry v 2* – to be in possession of drugs; *to do v 3* – to consume a given drug; *to pass v 4* – to deal illicit drugs;
- 25) to make a sound – to commit a crime: *to bang v 10* – to shoot; to kill by shooting; *to buzz v 3* – to pick pockets; *to crack v 2* – to break open;
- 26) tovush chiqarmoq – giyohvand modda qabul qilmoq: *to bang v 6* – to inject heroin; *to buzz v 8* – to experience a drug pleurably; *to snort v 1* – to inhale narcotics, usu. cocaine or heroin, through the nostrils;
- 27) to make a sound – to tell (on someone) / to give someone away: *to buzz v 1* – to inform on; *to bark v 3* – to inform; *to scream v 1* – to inform, usu. to the police but occas. against them; *to crack v 3* – to pass on a secret;
- 28) the state of a substance changes (intransitive) – to lose what one has: *to melt v 7* – to run out of money, to have no money; *to dry v* – to deprive a person of everything they possess;
- 29) the state of a substance changes (intransitive) – to affect someone psychologically (transitive): *to melt v 9* – to irritate, to cause annoyance; *to curdle v 2* – to delight, thrill or attract someone; *to freeze v 1* – to intimidate;
- 30) to change the state of a substance (transitive) – to physically affect someone: *to mash v 1* – to beat someone up; *to roast v 6* – to beat up;
- 31) to manufacture a product – to achieve success: *to produce v* – to produce good results; *to make v 1* – to succeed in getting something;
- 32) To bring together (people or things) – to bring to legal responsibility: *to gather v 2* – to arrest; *to collect v 2* – to arrest; *to glue v 2* – to arrest;
- 33) to bring together (people or things) – to obtain significant profit/benefit: *to gather v 1* – to win money; *to collect v 5* – to make a profit, a winning bet; *to connect v 2* – to succeed in obtaining something;
- 34) to break something into pieces – to divide the profit: *to chop v 5* – to share, divide up; *to cut v 6* – to cut a deal;



35) to crush, to break into pieces – to exert force on an object: *to slash v 1* – to beat (up); *to slice v* – to attack, usu. with a knife; *to cut v 4* – to switch off;

36) to express the immobility of an object (intransitive) – to physically affect an object: *to sleep v* – to knock someone down; *to nap v 2* – to break, to hit with a hammer;

37) to do household chores – to commit a crime: *to cook v 9* – to kill, to murder; *to fix v 2* – to bribe, to suborn, esp. in the context of sports or politics; *to dust v 1* – to kill, to murder; *to clean v 1* – to rob (of everything);

38) to do household chores – to kill / to be killed (transitive/intransitive): *to cook v 13* – to die or execute in the electric chair; *to bake v 2* – to execute in the electric chair; *to fry v 2* – to electrocute or be electrocuted in the electric chair;

39) to do household chores – to use drugs: *to cook v 6* – to experience a recreational drug very pleasurably and/or intensely; *to bake v 1* – to prepare an injection of a narcotic by heating the powder and water mixture; *to fix v 3* – to inject oneself with narcotics.

Above, we present a summary of the most common parameters for the literary verbs identified by us and their slang lexical-semantic variants:

- human action – human action (1-24; 30-39);
- movement of another object – human action (25-29; 36);
- one type of human physical action – another type of human physical action (1-20; 22-24, 30-35; 37-39);
- human mental activity – another type of human mental activity (21).

Most of the verbs analyzed (for example: to kick; to hit; to cut; to boost; to read) [3] are used transitively in both literary and slang contexts. For instance, to slash v.1 means “to beat (up)” and to collect v.2 means “to arrest.” Some verbs, such as to bang; to buzz; to crack; to bark; to melt, are intransitive in literary language but become transitive in slang—for example, to bark v.3 means “to inform” and to bang v.6 means “to inject heroin.”

At the same time, there are verbs that are transitive in literary language but intransitive in slang (e.g., to raise v 10 – “to escape, to get out of, to be released from prison”; to double v 1 – “to run off, to escape”) or verbs that remain intransitive in both literary and slang usage (e.g., to travel v 2 – “to move quickly, to leave, to depart”). However, the number of such verbs is relatively limited.

It is also important to note that besides transitivity, the main and derived slang lexical-semantic variants of verbs show both similarities and differences compared to nouns. For comparison, we conditionally adopted the parameter “movement of another object – human action” for verbs, analogous to the “non-human – human” opposition for nouns. The results show that this parameter is secondary in forming verb lexical-semantic variants, whereas the “human action – human action” opposition plays a primary role in slang verb formation. This clearly demonstrates that the “non-human – human” opposition is more prominent in nouns than in verbs, reflecting the distinctive semantic patterns across word classes in slang.

Thus, the relationships between primary literary and derived slang lexical-semantic variants of verbs function as linguistic evaluative markers of slang. They are revealed through the interactions of transitive and intransitive verbs, illustrating how their main and secondary meanings in literary language are transformed in slang. According to A.A. Ufimseva, literary verbs show a characteristic symmetry between their main (transitive) and secondary (intransitive) meanings—for example: to open a door – a door opens [4; 143]. However, this symmetry is generally absent in slang lexical-semantic variants.

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