

Language Usage of Jargon and Slang in Strategic Studies

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Abstract: The coherent view of language in strategic studies is to assemble a face out of a police identikit. All of the pieces, and no matter which ones, it does not look quite right. In this situation, it is necessary to specialize fairly rigidly and amidst the vast array of possible topics related to language, jargon and slang and this attracted the researchers. Methods: Language usage of jargon and slang is linked to strategic studies by the Speaking mnemonic. *The Speaking Model* offers a theoretical basis for language study that accounts for both linguistic variation from individual to individual and relative linguistic coherence across the social realm. Police jargon and slang is a unique language that police use to communicate with each other. It consists of terms, body language, acronyms, codes, and abbreviations. This can quickly and concisely be used to describe many things by the police both in written and verbal form. This language can describe people, places, property and situations by using *The Speaking Model*. This study is relevant to ascertain the perception of usage of jargon and slang by using *The Speaking Model* and this model can applied to study the elaborated codes of jargon and slang in sociolinguistic. Thus, the information obtained is jargon and slang associated in every profession but police jargon and slang is the most interesting one in strategic studies because of their own identity in communication. *The Speaking Model* is to look at a series of speech events and speech acts within a cultural context by using the first letters of terms for speech components and more vocabularies can be form. Shared knowledge of the linguistic code in police identity and as well as of the socio-cultural rules, norms gives values in a community.

Key words: *jargon, slang, police force, linguistic, strategic studies, The Speaking Model*

INTRODUCTION

Language is a city to the building of which every human being brought a stone (Emerson, 1876). Within any recognizable speech community, variations are normally found on all levels of linguistic structure such as phonological, grammatical, and lexical. Some of the variations are correlated with the social and cultural context. All speakers of one particular language can talk to each other and pretty much understand each other. Yet no two speak exactly alike. Each person speaks somewhat differently from all others is shown by our ability to recognize acquaintances by hearing them talk. The unique characteristics of the language of an individual speaker are referred to as the speaker's idiolect. Beyond these individual differences, the language of a group of people may show regular variations from that used by other groups of speakers of that language. When speakers in different profession and from different social groups shows systematic differences, the groups are said to speak different codes of the same language. The codes of a single language may thus be defined as mutually intelligible forms of a language that differ in systematic ways from each other. The belief that language studies and strategic studies are alien in methodology is superficially ambiguous. There are sufficient findings to regard the two disciplines as interlinked or parallel as both are social sciences in nature.

According to Bernard Loo (2011), the discipline of strategic studies concerns itself with the use of force as an instrument of state policy. In that respect, Strategic Studies remains an eminence Clausewitzian enterprise, deriving from the Clausewitzian notion of strategy as "the use of engagement for the purpose of the war" (Von Clausewitz, 1976). A further refinement of this notion of strategy comes from Colin Gray, who defines strategy as "the bridge that relates military power to political purpose" (Gray, 1999). This notion of strategy, however, opens up questions about the notion of war, which, again from Clausewitz, we understand as "an act of force to compel our enemy to do our will" (Gray, 1999). What these definitions tell us about strategic studies, however, is limited. The discipline has evolved from its Cold War origins, to encompass not simply the use of military force, but has since widened its focus considerably. The difficulty the discipline will face is in incorporating these new aspects within its ambit to remain relevant. That being said, strategy has always been about finding the right prescription to the specific problems at hand. In this respect, the definition of strategic studies within

the scope of this paper is narrowed to social aspects of language being used by police force world-wide known as jargon and slang.

Jargon:

It is common knowledge that police force world-wide has a language that is quite peculiar to them and that is not understood very well outside the law enforcement society. However if the code of behaviour somewhere is particularly lively, then the language is all the richer for it and vice versa. Practically every conceivable science, profession, trade, and occupation has its own set of words, some of which are considered to be slang and others technical, depending on the status of the people using these "in" words. Such words are sometimes called 'jargon'. Linguistic jargon consists of terms such as phoneme, morpheme, case, lexicon, phrase structure rule, and so on. The existence of jargons is illustrated by Fromkin and Rodman (1993) with the story of a seaman witness being cross-examined at a trial, who was asked if he knew the plaintiff. Indicating that he did not know what *plaintiff* meant brought a chide from the attorney: "You mean you came into this court as a witness and don't know what 'plaintiff' means?" Later the sailor was asked where he was standing when the boat lurched. "Abaft the binnacle," was the reply, and to the attorney's questioning stare he responded: "You mean you came into this court and don't know where abaft the binnacle is?" Because the jargon terms used by different professional groups are so extensive (and so obscure in meaning), court reporters in the Los Angeles Criminal Courts Building have a library that includes books on medical terms, guns, trade names, and computer jargon, as well as street slang.

The word "jargon" has up to five definitions depending on which dictionary being used. It can mean jibberish, vague language, or specific dialects of a language or several languages, but the most common definition will be addressed. That would be the language and vocabulary that is peculiar to certain people in a trade, profession, or other group. The word "jargon" comes from a 14th century word for "twittering of birds" with the root word "garg" which forms other words like "gurgle" or "gargle." If you are not a member of a certain group, and they are talking and using jargon, it could sound like they were twittering since you wouldn't understand what they were saying. Jargonists, who study jargon, feel that it came about just to make communication easier within a group, and there was no deceit intended

Many jargon terms pass into the standard language. Jargon, like slang, spreads from a narrow group until it is used and understood by a large segment of the population. In fact, it is not always possible to distinguish between what is jargon and what is slang. It is highly probable that the word *fossil*, meaning a "person who has been a college student for more than four years" is used in this way only on college campuses, but certainly the term *prick*, referring to a "mean, offensive, inconsiderate, rude person (usually, a male) is used as a general slang term on and off university campuses. Writing in police force jargon requires at least a basic understanding of how members of the group communicate. Like any other government backed department, the police force is crammed to the gunnells with police force jargon. As it is linked to the legal profession the police force jargon is pretty much comprehensive covering all aspects of the police force. Police jargon is also used very effectively to confuse the public when they carry out their duties. Police jargon is in a category all of its own - complicated and designed to confuse the public. Some terms are used universally; however, many are branch specific. Servicemen and women use the jargon in the course of regular conversation so that it sounds natural. Police jargon is the specialized language (terms or expressions) primarily used in the line of police duty. When the civilians trying to use this jargon, the risk of frustration are there when the people started to be confuse. However, it will be interesting if the learning process in police jargon is appropriate. Police business jargon is included in this text because the police are an essential, important part of our society. The police also learning something new and "different" can stimulate our brains and thought processes and there are business analogies between police work and the work that civilians often do. Below are some common terms we probably know well and others may not have heard before.

Suspect:

suspects are the people that the police are looking at for a crime. Other names for suspect might include defendants, arrestees, or persons of interest.

10-4:

It means, "OK" or "Got it". However, the codes have changed a bit to be more clear due to most, if not all, police officers talking over radios now.

P.O.V.:

Personally Owned Vehicle (versus patrol car, etc.) is all this means.

Code Eight:

Serious situation where an officer is requesting help immediately. If you're a police officer on duty, you drop everything and go right away.

Taking a code 7:

This simply means you're on lunch break.

Code Eleven:

You're on the scene

So, the rookie was on his first day of work.

Over the radio, he heard: "Code 11, take a code 7."

He thought he was supposed to stop for lunch at the 7-Eleven!

Here are some additional jargon words quite relevant to the business world.

FTP:

"Failure To Pay" means a fine wasn't paid in accordance to the law. This bit of police jargon also applies to businesses when, for example, a customer hasn't paid for the service rendered or product delivered.

I.R. Number:

In police talk, this acronym stands for "Individual Record Number". Every person who is arrested is assigned an I.R. Number that stays in use for all correspondence related to that individual (including subsequent arrests). In the business world, an I.R. Number is similar to the account number assigned to each client or customer.

NFA:

"No Further Action" - this one is pretty self-explanatory. In the business world it could mean that a client is satisfied or a complaint has been resolved.

WOFF:

"Write off" - in police jargon, it means property has been written off for insurance purposes, the same that's often done in business.

House Mouse:

This refers to a police officer that rarely leaves the building for one reason or another. A house mouse in the business world might refer to someone who is always on site to help the associates in the field (contact person).

Tango:

"Thank you!" This acronym could be used anywhere, anytime

Slang:

The introduction of slang terms can be regarded as a response to a kind of need. When older words have become over-used and lose their impact, new vivid ones are introduced in their place. As one writer expressed it: Slang is language that takes off its coat, spits on its hands, and goes to work (Aitchison, 1998). Police are notorious for creating new words by shortening existing ones, such as *perp* for *perpetrator*, *ped* for *pedestrian*, *wit* for *witness* and *rempit* (malay slang for illegal bike street racer). More baffling to court reporters is the gang member who might testify that he was in his *hoopty* around *dimday* when some *mud duck* with a tray-eight tried to *take him out of the box*. Translation: The man was in his car about dusk when a woman armed with a .38 caliber gun tried to kill him (Los Angeles Times, August 11, 1986).

One mark of an informal style is the frequent occurrence of slang. Almost everyone uses slang on some occasions, but it is not easy to define the word. Slang has been defined as "one of those things that everybody can recognize and nobody can define." The use of slang, or colloquial language, introduces many new words into the language by recombining old words into new meanings. *Spaced out*, *right on*, *hangup*, and *rip-off* have all gained a degree of acceptance. Slang may also introduce an entirely new word, such as *Tom*, *Po Po*, and *10/8*. Finally, slang often consists of ascribing totally new meanings to old words. *Grass* and *pot* widened their meaning to "marijuana"; *pig* and *fuzz* are derogatory terms for "policeman". The use of the word *pig* for policeman goes back at least as far as 1785, when a writer of the time called a Bow Street police officer a "China Street pig" (Fromkin and Rodman, 1993). *Rap*, *cool*, *dig*, *bread*, and *split* have all extended their semantic domain.

It is not always easy to know where to draw the line between slang words and regular words. This confusion seems always to have been around. One generation's slang is another generation's standard

vocabulary. The use of slang varies from region to region, so slang in New York and slang in Los Angeles and Slang in Kuala Lumpur differ. The word *slang* itself is slang in British English for “scold”. Slang words and phrases are often invented in keeping with new ideas and customs. They may represent “in” attitudes better than the more conservative items of the vocabulary. Their importance is shown by the fact that it was thought necessary to give a certain group a glossary of new words and phrases. Many of the terms had come into use during only several years. Many of the terms may have passed out of the language and many new ones will have been added. The following is a listing of slang that might be used by police officers world-wide, extracted from the Urban Dictionary (2011).

Tom:

Police slang used by the British force, especially by the Metropolitan, to describe a prostitute.
I want everyone out there night and day questioning all the Toms, we’ve got to find Jack before he strikes again.

Po Po:

Slang for the police.
Girl 1: If you don’t stop I’ll call the police!!
Madea: I don’t care! Call the po po, ho!

10/8:

A date to signify a terrorist attack, making the journalists job easier as they have shorthand but misses the point entirely.
Journo 1: The police are trying to appear important by randomly arresting two dozen people without evidence, and can’t get their story straight!
Journo 2: Quick, in order to make it easier and scare the readers into buying our paper for the way forward, give it a date. What’s today’s date?
Journo 1: 10th August 2006.
Journo 2: 10/8 it is, then!

Bobs:

Jamaican slang for police. It is derived from the word Babylon.
Yo mi jus pass some bobs down the road.
Translation: I just passed some police down the road.

Shapiro:

Urban black slang for lawyer referencing the attorney Robert Shapiro who miraculously got OJ Simpson off of murder even with mountains of damning evidence against him.
You, state police just found my biscuit in Q river. Call my shapiro.

Chunk:

Handgun
These cops pull their chuncks and then had me on the ground

BOLO:

Be On the Lookout
We put out a BOLO for suspicious characters.

Ghost car:

A Canadian slang term for an unmarked police car.
I just got pulled over by a ghost car that looked like a mustang.

Brianna:

Marajuana tablets
The police arrested the man for posetion of brianna

Zebra:

Police cars, black and whites.
Hide the dope, here comes the zebras.

The objective of this paper is to discuss on the use of language jargon and slang in strategic studies. It is deem necessary to give examples of jargon and slang in this text for further understanding the different between the two. Dictionary.com (2011) defines jargon as the language, especially the vocabulary, peculiar to a

particular trade, profession, or group. However, slang is defined as a kind of language occurring chiefly in casual and playful speech, made up typically of short-lived coinages and figures of speech that are deliberately used in place of standard terms for added raciness, humor, irreverence, or other effect. Based on the description, it is found that a sociolinguistic model can be applied to study the elaborated codes of jargon and slang related to *The Speaking Model*.

The Speaking Model:

Sociolinguist Dell Hymes (1974) developed *The Speaking Model* to promote the analysis of discourse as a series of speech events and speech acts within a cultural context. It uses the first letters of terms for speech components. The categories are so productive and powerful in analysis that this model can be used to analyze many different kinds of discourse including jargon and slang. Hymes (1986) is concerned with actual linguistic variety as found in speech and therefore calls for concepts and methods that enable us to deal with diversity. The concepts and methods for linguistic investigation are taken from actual language use in social contexts. Hymes proposed the term ‘ethnography of speaking’ to describe a new approach to understanding language in use. In doing this, Hymes aimed to move away from considering speech as an abstract model and toward investigating the diversity of speech as it is encountered in ethnographic fieldwork. In fact, Hymes is best known for his founding role in the ethnography of communication. Speakers of a language in particular communities are able to communicate with each other in a manner which is not only correct but also appropriate to the sociocultural context. This ability involves a shared knowledge of the linguistic code as well as of the socio-cultural rules, norms and values which guide the conduct and interpretation of speech and other channels of communication in a community. The ethnography of communication is concerned with the questions of what a person knows about appropriate patterns of language use in his or her community and how he or she learns about it (Farah, 1998).

Thus Hymes offers a theoretical basis for language study that accounts for both linguistic variation from individual to individual and relative linguistic coherence across the social realm, while also offering a methodological heuristic for investigating communication, often represented in terms of the Speaking Mnemonic.

Setting and Scene: Setting refers to the time and place of a speech act and, in general, to the physical circumstances. Scene is the psychological setting or cultural definition of a scene, including characteristics such as range of formality and sense of play or seriousness.

Participants: Speaker and audience.

Ends: Purposes, goals, and outcomes.

Act Sequence: Form and order of the event.

Key: Cues that establish the tone, manner, or spirit of the speech act.

Instrumentalities: Forms and styles of speech.

Norms: Social rules governing the event and the participants’ actions and reaction. The norms might allow interruptions, collaboration, or possibly interruptions or attention.

Genre: The kind of speech act or event.

These terms can be applied to many kinds of discourse. Different disciplines develop terms for kinds of speech acts, and speech communities sometimes have their own terms for types.

The Speaking Model and the Word Tom:

Speech act:	I want everyone out there night and day questioning all the <i>Toms</i> , we’ve got to find Jack before he strikes again.
Setting and Scene	time: 10.00 am place: Police station Psychological setting – formal and serious
Participants	Speaker: Superior Audience: Subordinates
Ends	Purpose: Directive Order Goal: Questioning all the <i>Toms</i> night and day Outcome: To catch Jack
Act Sequence	Verbal form as directive order from a higher ranking police officer
Key	Serious and urgent
Instrumentalities	Regulatory: Language is used to tell others what to do
Norms	Attention
Genre	<i>Tom</i> , is a police slang used by British force, especially by the Metropolitan, to describe a prostitute.

Conclusion:

Police jargon and slang serve with any language, expression or terms that are used within a profession or organization, slang and jargon provide an efficient method of communicating with each other. It also tends to unite people in the profession such as a police officer or work somehow in the criminal justice system. They

have their very own language or unique form of communication - similar to being a part of a club. In fact, it is not always possible to distinguish between what is jargon and what is slang. Many jargon terms pass into the standard language. Jargon is like slang, spreads from a narrow group until it is used and understood by a large segments of the population. Slang is the use of informal words and expressions that are not considered standard in the speaker's dialect or language and often found in areas of lexicon that refer to thing. Overall, then, jargon and slang does not disrupt the basic structure of a language. Widely held view on sociolinguistics causes of jargon and slang involves the notion of need. Language alters as the needs of its users alter. Need is certainly relevant at the level of vocabulary. New words are coined as they are required. Therefore, the introduction of jargon and slang terms can also be regarded as a response to a kind of need. When older words have become over-used and lose their impact, new vivid ones are introduced in their place. Social needs can trigger a more widespread change than the simple addition of new vocabulary items. Type of fast moving, thorough activity may represent a change in the pace of life, which is in turn reflected in the language.

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