

**SPECIAL COLLOQUIAL WORDS ARE BEST WAY TO DEPICT THE MAIN
CHARACTER'S REAL SCRATCH TO THE READER**

Berdiyeva Nasiba

Master degree student of Bukhara State University

***Abstract-** In our regular talks with our friends and family, we frequently hear and utilize colloquial language. Authors utilize colloquial language because it is seen as a literary device. The reader may find people more believable and sympathetic as individuals with diverse economic status and cultural backgrounds when they use colloquialisms in their speech. The definition of colloquial language will be discussed in this piece along with several real-world and literary examples. It will also take into account the reasons for and effects of the use of colloquial language.*

***Key words-** casual conversation, jargon and slang, colloquium, reliability , social demographic, approachable , literary technique.*

I. Introduction

The word "colloquial" refers to informal speech that is commonly used in casual conversation, also known as colloquial language. Slang and colloquial language are comparable. It differs depending on where it is used and when it was first pronounced, both historically and geographically.

Colloquial language can tell readers about the regional area of a character or setting of the text colloquialisms are specific to the regional dialects and time periods, therefore examining colloquial language can reveal further information about the area in which the text is set, the views of society at the time, and where the character is from. Colloquial language is similar to jargon and slang but it is not the same jargon is specific to professional environments and slang is ever changing, whereas colloquial language refers to the informal language used in conversation. We use colloquial language on a daily basis but it is a literary technique- whilst we use colloquial language every day , writers use it to make their characters appear relatable and authentic, to hint at their age, where they are from, and where the text is set. Colloquialisms can save authors time establishing setting and character traits- including informal language within character dialogues is an economic way of hinting at where the text is set.

II. Literature review

Colloquialism is the use of informal, everyday language in writing. The word derives from the Latin colloquium, meaning "speaking together" or "conversation." Colloquialisms often evolve from specific dialects, or language variants spoken by native speakers in certain regions. Common forms of colloquialism include:

- proverbs and aphorisms
- profanities
- idiomatic expressions
- regional terms or phrases
- nonstandard grammar or syntax

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In literature, authors use colloquialism in dialogue and narration to show characters speaking in a realistic way or to give a character or narrative a distinctive and entertaining voice. Social contexts, culture, and time all have an impact on colloquial language. Because readers who are familiar with the character's background will be able to relate to the language used, adopting colloquialisms in literature can make characters seem more authentic.

III. Analysis

There several reasons why the special colloquial words can be used in literature. With the aid of special colloquial words several effects can be achieved:

- To give characters a genuine and authentic appearance
- to increase the reliability of characters and speakers
- To reflect societal demographics and the text's setting
- To make a time period clear
- To give characters a genuine and authentic appearance
- to express mood of the work
- to create the real speech of the protagonist
- to create uniqueness

To give characters a genuine and authentic appearance Social contexts, culture, and time all have an impact on colloquial language. Because readers who are familiar with the character's background will be able to relate to the language used, adopting colloquialisms in literature can make characters seem more authentic. The Black Flamingo (2019) by Dean Atta provides the following example of a narrator using informal language in a monologue. How can the use of informal language enable readers to empathize with the speaker and learn more about his character?

Above given example can prove this idea:

“come from a British passport and an ever-ready suitcase. I come from jet fuel and coconut water. I come from crossing oceans to find myself. I come from deep issues and shallow solutions.”¹

This text says: Since Atta's poetry is written in plainer English than most other poetry that calls for reading between the lines, readers may identify with the protagonist and connect with his character. As a reader, it is simple to understand that he is talking about his roots because he uses the pronoun "I come" frequently. The author illustrates the cultural mash-up that makes up the speaker's persona using symbols that are familiar to most people, such as a luggage, coconut water, passport, and jet fuel. Readers are able to learn more about the speaker's path through these well-known symbols and everyday language, and he comes across as a more genuine character as a result.

¹ Dean Atta. The Black Flamingo London.-2019.p.23

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to increase the reliability of characters and speakers. The use of colloquial language helps readers identify with characters more easily. This is because they make use of terminologies that the reader may be accustomed to. For instance, Wendy Cope humorously use vernacular language to explain a situation that many readers may identify with in her poetry "Message" from 1986. "Pick up the phone before it is too late And dial my number. There's no time to spare - Love is already turning into hate And very soon I'll start to look elsewhere». ² This text says: Cope does not speak in ornate terms, like Atta. This enables readers more able to access Cope's writing. The speaker's admonishment to the listener to "pick up the phone before it's too late" reveals her eagerness for them to call her. The reader is more likely to be able to relate to the content, in this case, the amusing familiarity of the speaker's desperation, because the text is more approachable due to its colloquial tone.

IV. Discussion

To be appropriate with the text's setting:

Colloquialisms can assist to paint the environment of a book in a raw and realistic light, as a place that readers are more likely to be familiar with, whether in descriptions of locations or speech between people. The speaker's admonishment to the listener to "pick up the phone before it's too late" reveals her eagerness for them to call her. The reader is more likely to be able to relate to the content, in this case, the amusing familiarity of the speaker's desperation, because the text is more approachable (due to its colloquial tone).

Colloquial language in description

In the following passage from Kayo Chingonyi's poem 'Andrew's Corner'(2017), colloquial language is used to describe an urban environment that many readers could relate to.

For example: *Where alleyways wake up to condom wrappers, kebab meat, a ballet pump, last week a van pulled up and it was blood. Today: joggers dodge a dead pigeon.*

In this passage:

Similar to Atta in *The Black Flamingo* (2019), Chingonyi's use of colloquial language helps readers to imagine the space by incorporating imagery that readers can easily envision, such as 'condom wrappers', 'kebab meat', 'joggers' and 'a dead pigeon'

□ Colloquial language in dialogue

The language characters use can also reflect their physical location if they are speaking in a certain dialect, as this implies that the text is set in the area in which a particular dialect is common.

² Wendy Cope .Message.poem.-1986.

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For example, this conversation between Dan and Malachy in Frank McCourt's *Angela's Ashes* (1996) indicates that the novel is set in Ireland, suggested by the use of Irish colloquialisms, which are highlighted in bold:

'There's a knock at the door, Mr. MacAdorey. Oh, Malachy, for God's sake, it's three in the morning. You have the whole house woke with the singing. "Oh, Dan, I'm only teaching the boys to die for Ireland." You can teach them to die for Ireland in the daytime, Malachy' 'Tis urgent, Dan, tis urgent.' I know, Malachy, but they're only children. Babies. You go to bed now like adacent man.'

To reflect social demographic

So, we have seen that colloquial language can be used to position a character within a certain location. However, it can also be used to place characters within a particular social demographic, too. Colloquialisms in dialogue can reveal a lot about a character's social demographic, such as age, gender, class, ethnicity, and education level, as well as their physical location.

We can see an example of this in the novel *Lara* (1997) by Bernadine Evaristo, as the colloquialisms used by the characters reflect Lara's working-class status and young age:

'You're too wild, that's your trouble. Pass the fag, meanie. What's it like then? Nothing much You'll get preggers.'

In this passage:

□ The word 'fag' (meaning cigarette) demonstrates the girl trying to sound older than her age by smoking a cigarette and using slang associated with the act, but her use of the word 'meanie' exposes her youth as this is a word used typically amongst children. The use of the word 'fag' for a cigarette is typically used by more working-class individuals.

The colloquial phrase 'You'll get preggers' express pregnancy, suggesting the girls are too young to understand the real possibility of getting pregnant and the difficulties this would bring into their lives.

'You'll get preggers' similarly demonstrates the speaker trying to talk about something 'grown-up', like smoking a cigarette, but her choice of slang once again reveals her youth.

□ To reveal a time period

What is considered colloquial changes over time. Because of this, the time period in which a piece is set can be revealed by using colloquial language that would have been commonly used at the time. Colloquial language can also be used to communicate popular ideologies from a particular point in history to the reader.

For example, in Thomas Hardy's poem 'The Ruined Maid' (1886), he uses colloquial language throughout as the poem is written in a conversational tone. The colloquial language reveals the popular view on women and virginity within society at the time:

"O 'Melia, my dear, this does everything crown!

Who could have supposed I should meet you in Town?

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And whence such fair garments, such prosperi-ty?" —

"O didn't you know I'd been ruined?" said she.

*In this passage:*³

□ The word 'ruined' in Melia's comment 'didn't you know I'd been ruined?' refers to the loss of her virginity. Her use of this colloquialism exposes the fact that unmarried women who were not virgins were viewed as 'ruined' and of less value to society and men. Why is colloquial language important?

Colloquial language is an important literary technique as it can be used for many reasons as we have seen in the examples. For example: It can represent the ideologies of a period of time. By using certain colloquialisms authors can save time representing the values and beliefs of a place or time period. In 'The Ruined Maid' (1886) Hardy does not specifically say that society frowned upon women having sex before marriage, or that society valued women less after they had lost their virginity. But, the fact that the maid uses the colloquial expression that she has been 'ruined' as a way of saying she has lost her virginity informs readers of the societal beliefs at the time.

It can help the text become more accessible. Colloquial language can make it easier for more readers to engage with the text and relate to the characters. The colloquial language used by Cope and Atta allows people who may not be particularly interested in poetry or literature to enjoy their work. This is because the meaning of the language they use is direct and, therefore, easier to understand than a lot of other poetry. For poetry fans, there are also many hidden symbols in their work to try and get to grips with! However, their use of colloquial language acts as a gateway into their poetry and makes characters more relatable to readers. It can represent the setting of a text. Because colloquial language is so dependent on culture and location, including colloquialisms specific to particular dialects in a text can make it clear where it is set even without directly stating the name of the place. If a character was to use the phrase 'apples and pears' it would suggest they are from London, as 'apples and pears' is cockney rhyming slang for 'stairs'.

Similarly, if a character used the words 'owt' or 'mardy' it may suggest they are from the North of England. Colloquialisms is a term for informal language—colloquial language describes the informal language used between friends and people who know each other well in conversation.

V. Conclusion

Colloquialism is everyday language, so it's appropriate in most informal contexts and often used in personal means of communication such as texts, emails, social media, or letters to family and friends. It is also widely used in literature.

In literary essays and news articles, writers may use colloquialism deliberately to enrich the writing. But typically, improper English or profanities are inappropriate in professional settings. Colloquial diction is rarely acceptable in business, legal, and other official contexts—especially

³ Thomas Hardy. 'The Ruined Maid' (1886)

where it could cause confusion. For science fiction and fantasy authors, inventing colloquialisms is a powerful tool for delivering information about an imaginary world's culture and society and making it feel real.

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