

**BỘ GIÁO DỤC VÀ ĐÀO TẠO
TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC DÂN LẬP HẢI PHÒNG**



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FOREIGN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT**

GRADUATION PAPER

**ANALYSIS OF COLLOQUIAL LANGUAGE USED IN
CONVERSATION IN THE TEXT BOOK
“STREAMLINE ENGLISH DEPARTURES”**

By:

Vũ Thị Thắm

Class:

Na1001

Supervisor:

Nguyễn Thị Phương Thu, M.A

HAI PHONG - 2010

**BỘ GIÁO DỤC VÀ ĐÀO TẠO
TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC DÂN LẬP HẢI PHÒNG**

Nhiệm vụ đề tài tốt nghiệp

Sinh viên:Mã số:.....

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2. Các số liệu cần thiết để thiết kế, tính toán.

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3. Địa điểm thực tập tốt nghiệp.

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Người hướng dẫn

Hải Phòng, ngày tháng năm 2010

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Part I. INTRODUCTION

I. Rationale

Nowadays, society is changing day by day, the need in communicating and exchanging information, culture, technology and science among countries is becoming greater, English language as a common means of communication has become increasingly important.

In the English language, there are many fields in which each is studied by different linguists. Lexicology, which is considered an important branch of English language, has also been investigated and studied by many linguists. In fact, there are many problems for the learners of English as an international language. Among them colloquialism causes a lot of troubles.

Colloquialism is one of lexicology phenomenon which is one of the most commonly used in conversations, so it is necessary to work in depth with its features.

In conversations, colloquialism becomes very useful because it not only saves time but also helps the hearer understand easily. Though colloquial words are used quite popularly in daily conversations, they belong to a new lexicology phenomenon for Vietnamese learner of English because it has been studied insufficiently.

As a matter of fact, non-native English speakers do not know how to use colloquialism in a wide variety of contexts, which reduces effectiveness in communication and makes the conversations sound odd.

Therefore, I choose to analyze colloquial words in some conversational situations the textbook “**Streamline English Departures**” and I hope that it will be helpful for the Vietnamese learners of English.

II. Aims of the study

This study mainly aims at:

- + Providing the theoretical background about language and culture, conversation, the stylistic aspects of English words vocabulary.
- + Stating the functions of conversations.
- + Discussing colloquial words in various types of conversations.

III. Scope of the study

Colloquial words or colloquialism is an interesting field for anyone who wants to do research on. However, due to the limitation of time and knowledge, I only analyze colloquial words in some conversations the textbook “**Streamline English departures**”. All the rest is to be left for further research.

IV. Method of the study

With the aims of helping English learners have a thorough understanding of colloquial words or colloquialism. I have used the following methods to complete my study.

Firstly, this study is implemented based on the help of my teachers and my own knowledge and experience I gained during the process of learning English and from reference books on colloquial words or colloquialism I have read.

Secondly, I have collected materials relating to colloquialism to give clear and precise definition and classification of colloquial words or colloquialism.

Lastly, the method of extracting information from various sources has also been applied.

V. Design of the study

With the aims of helping readers easily understand the study, it is clearly divided into three parts:

Part I is the Introduction which gives the background of the study. It includes rationale, scope of the study, aims of the study, method of the study and design of the study.

Part II is the Development which consists of three chapters:

Chapter I is the theoretical background in which the knowledge involved in the study is referred to. It comprises the stylistic aspects of an English conversation.

Chapter II is the detailed analysis of colloquial words used in some conversation in “**Streamline English departures**”

Chapter III states some difficulties that Vietnamese learners may face with when using colloquial words and some suggestions.

Part III is the Conclusion which summarizes things mentioned in Part I, Part II and raises necessary petition.

Part II: DEVELOPMENT

Chapter I: THEORETICAL BACKGROUND.

I. Language and culture

1. Language

1.1. What is language?

A language is system of signs (symbols) for encoding and decoding information. Since language became an object of study by the ancient grammarians, the term has had many and different definitions.

Language has a setting-the people that speak it belong to a race or a number or a race that is group that is set off by physical characteristic from the other groups. Again language does not exist apart from culture, that is, from the socially inherited assemblage of practices and belief that determines the texture of our lives (Edward Spir, 1963:207).

Language, which is born of life, necessity and desire, develops primarily through synthesis. M.Vendryes show that thought, a stranger to grammatical classification begins by being poured in its molten state into language. The verbal image or the phonetic word, just because language is originally an action possesses the value of a sentence, nouns, representing objects and their properties, verbs, representing states and grammatical auxiliaries. Indicating relation, are all derived from them.

In modern times, a large number of artificial languages have been devised, requiring a distinction between their consciously innovated type and natural language. The term “language” has branched by analogy into several meanings. The most obvious manifestations are spoken languages such as English or Spoken Chinese. However, there are also written languages and other systems of visual symbols such as sign languages. In cognitive science the term is also sometimes extended to refer to the human cognitive facility of creating and using language. Essential to both meanings is the systematic

creation and usage of systems of symbols, each pairing a specific sign with an intended meaning, established through social conventions.

Language in a different order, is one of the most extraordinary creations that has developed in course of human evolution, it deserves to arrest our attention and hold it for a while.

Functions of language

Informative language function: essentially, the communication of information.

- + The informative function affirms or denies propositions, as in science or the statement

- + This function is used to describe the world or reason about it

E.g. whether a state of affairs has occurred or not or what might have led to it

- + These sentences have a truth value; that is, the sentences are either true or false (recognizing, of course, that we might not know what that true value is). Hence, they are important for logic.

Expressive language function: reports feelings or attitudes of the writer (or speaker), or of the subject, or evokes feelings in the reader (or listener).

- + Poetry and literature are among the best examples, but much of, perhaps most of, ordinary language discourse is the expression of emotions, emotions, feelings or attitudes.

- + Two main aspects of this function are generally noted: evoking certain feelings and expressing feelings.

- + Expressive discourse is best regarded as neither true nor false.

E.g. Shakespeare's King Lear's lament, "Ripeness is all"

Or Dickens' "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times; it was the age of wisdom; it was the age of foolishness"

Directive language function: language used for the purpose of causing (or preventing) overt action.

- + The directive function is the most commonly found in commands and requests.
- + Directive language is not normally considered true or false (although various logics of commands have been developed)
- + Example of this function: “*Close your window*”. The sentence “*You’re smoking in nonsmoking area*”, although declarative, can be used to mean “*Do not smoke in this area*”

2. Culture

2.1. What is culture?

Culture is a term used by social scientists for a people’s whole way of life. In everyday conversation the word “culture” may refer to activities in such fields as art, literature, and music. But to social scientists, a people’s culture consists of all the ideas, objects, and way of doing things created by the group. Culture includes arts, beliefs, customs, inventions, language, technology and traditions. The term “civilization” is similar, but it refers mostly to scientifically more advanced ways of life. A culture is any way of life, simple or complex.

Culture consists of learned ways of acting, feeling and thinking, rather than biologically determined ways. The British anthropologist Sir Edward Burnett Tylor defined culture as “that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society”. Tylor’s definition includes three of the most important characteristics of culture: Culture is acquired by people, A person acquires cultures culture as member of society, culture is a complex whole.

Culture is acquired by people because it consists of learned patterns of behavior rather than the biologically determined ones that are sometimes called instinctive. Culture is a complex whole that social scientists can break down into simple 8units called’ cultural traits. A trait may be a custom, such

as burial of the dead; a device, such as a plow; a gesture, such as a handshake; or an idea, such as democracy.

What are basic elements of all cultures? All cultures have features that result from basic needs shared by all people. Every culture has methods of obtaining food and shelter. Every culture has ways to protect itself against invaders. It also has family relationships including forms of marriage and systems of kinship. A culture has religious beliefs and a set of practices to express them. All societies have forms of artistic expression such as carving, painting and music. In addition, all cultures have some type of scientific knowledge. This knowledge may be folklore about the plants people eat and the animals they hunt, or it may be a highly developed science.

How do cultures differ? Cultures differ in their details from one part of the world to another. For example, eating is a biological need. But what people eat, when and how they eat, and how food is prepared differ from culture to culture.

When did culture develop and how? The foundation for human culture developed in the prehistoric times. Some important steps were: the development of tools, the start of farming, the growth of cities, and the development of writing.

Hunters/Gatherers. The ancestors of human beings lived by gathering fruit, insects and edible leaves and by catching small animals with their hands. They took the first steps toward the development of culture at least 5 million years ago, when they learned to make and use tools. Many of the earliest tools were sharp-edged rocks used for cutting and scraping. The sharp edge was produced by hitting or grinding one rock with another.

2.2. Functions of culture

Culture carries with it a framework of meaning and interpretation that enables participants to integrate themselves and their activities into a meaningful whole.

Culture provides reasons for participants to be willing to devote energy and loyalty to the organization. It provides reasons for sacrifice and investment of self in the future of the organization.

Culture legitimates the structure of authority and organization that control activities within the organization. Myth, ritual, and symbol provide explanations for activities and thus help to reconcile differences between ideals and actual behavior.

Culture enables people to make sense of their surrounding. From the instance of birth, a child is formally taught how to behave. Common behaviors are shared among all members of society. Children regardless of culture quickly learn how to behave in manner that is accepted by the adults.

2.3. Characteristics of culture

Culture refers to the pattern of human activity and the symbols that give significance to these activities. Culture manifests itself in terms of the art, literature, costumes, language, religion and religious rituals. The people and their pattern of life make up the culture of region. Cultures vary in the different parts of the world. They are different across the land boundaries and the diversity in cultures results in the diversity in people around the world. Culture also consists of the system of beliefs held by people of the region, their principles of life and their moral values. The patterns of behavior of the people of a particular region also form a part of the region's culture.

Culture is shared, by which we mean that every culture is shared by a group of people. Depending on the region they live in, the climatic conditions they thrive in and their historical heritage, they form a set of value and beliefs. This set of their principles of life shapes their culture. No culture belongs to an individual. It is rather shared among many people of a certain part of the world. It belongs to a single community and not to any single human being.

Culture is learned. The members of a culture share certain ideals, which shape their lives. Generations learn to follow these ideals and

principles. Culture propagates through generations, which adopt their old customs and traditions as a part of their culture. The ideals they base their lives on is a part of their culture. Culture values are imparted from one generation to another, thus resulting in a continual of traditions that are a part of culture. The language, the literature and the art forms pass across generations. Culture is learned, understood and adopted by the younger generations of society. No individual is born with a sense of his/her culture. He/she has to learn it.

What are the elements of culture? The language, other forms of expression as also the thoughts and emotions of the people, their social and cultural norms, their principles and beliefs are the basic elements of culture. For an effective transfer of culture from one generation to another, it has to translate in terms of symbols, which represent the cultural values of a community. Language, art and religion form the system of symbols that render a deep meaning to culture.

Despite the efforts of the older generations to transfer their cultural values to the forthcoming generations, many tend to remain unaware of their culture. People are often found to have an incomplete knowledge of their culture. People seldom know their culture completely.

A gradual change is characteristic to almost every culture. Cultures are subject to change. Culture lose some of its traits and a gains with the passage of time, new technologies emerge, new modes of work come up, social thinking undergoes transitions and so does culture. Every culture changes in time although the rate of change of every culture varies.

Studies have brought out a fact that no culture can remain in isolation. There is hardly any social community that is completely isolated from the rest of world. Every culture hence is mostly influenced by cultures of the surrounding regions. Cultural values are prone to be affected by the values of communities in close vicinity. The cultures, which emerged during the same periods of time often, show certain similarities. Modern times have witnessed

an intermix of cultures. Cultures are blended together giving rise to shared cultures.

3. The relations between language and culture

Language is a tool for doing things in the world, for reproducing as much as changing reality. From a Vygotskian perspective, language is the most important tool because it has both semiotic and communicative characteristics. If culture is a product of human interaction, then cultural manifestations are acts of communication that assume and build particular speech communities. “The totality of the messages we exchange with one another while speaking a given language constitutes a speech community, that is, the whole society understood from the point of view of speaking”.

It is not just culture that communicates through language, but also language that communicates through cultures. Michael Silverstein proposed that the communicative force of culture works not only in representing aspects of reality, but also in connecting one context with another. The concept of the indexical meaning of signs postulates that “communication is not only the use of symbols that stand for beliefs, feelings, identities, events, it is also a way of pointing to, presupposing or bringing into the present context beliefs, feelings, identities, events

According to the linguistic relativity principle, the way in which we think about the world is directly influenced by the language we use to talk about it. As Edward Sapir (1929) put it, “...the ‘real world’ is to a large extent unconsciously built up on the language habits of the group. No two languages are ever sufficiently similar to be considered as representing the same social reality. The worlds in which different societies live are distinct worlds, not merely the same world with different labels attached. The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis emphasizes the inextricable relationship between the grammatical categories of the language a person speaks and how that person both understands the world and behaves in it.

Language exists in the context of cultural practices necessary for competent participation in a community. Therefore, to speak is to assume a culture, and to know a culture is like knowing a language. Culture is as much a product of language as language is a product of culture. Language and Culture are thus homologous mental realities. Cultural products are representations and interpretations of the world that must be communicated in order to be lived. “Control of linguistic means often translates into control over our relationship with the world just as the acceptance of linguistic forms and the rules for their use forces us to accept and reproduce particular ways of being in the world.

II. Conversation

1. Definition of conversation

A conversation is communication between two or more people. It is a social skill that is not difficult for most individual. Conversations are the ideal form of communication in some respects, since they allow people with difference views on a top of learn from each other. For a successful conversation, the partners must achieve a workable balance of contribution. A successful conversation includes mutually interesting connections between the speakers or things that the speakers know. For this to happen, those engaging in conversation must find a topic on which they both can relate to in some sense. Those engaging in conversation naturally tend to relate the other speaker’s statements to themselves. They may insert aspects of their lives into their replies, to relate to the other person’s opinions or points of conversation.

(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/conversation>)

2. Functions of conversation

Each of conversation has its own cluster of purposes and expectations attached:

- +) Functional conversation is designed to convey information in order to help achieve an individual or group goal

+) Small talk is a type of conversation where the topic is less important than the social purpose of achieving bonding between people or managing personal distance

+) Banter is non-serious conversation, usually between friends, which may rely on humor or in jokes at the expense of those taking part. The purpose of banter may at first appear to be an offensive affront to the other person's face. However, people engaging in such a conversation are often signaling that they are comfortable enough in others' company to be able to say such things without causing offense. Banter is particularly difficult for those on the autism spectrum, or those with semantic pragmatic.

[\(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/conversation>\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/conversation)

3. Types of conversation

3.1. Formal conversation

In formal conversation language is more formal or less emphatic

e.g. *Julia Rosetti (J.R): Good morning, Mr. Gray.*

Colin Grey(C.G): Good morning, Miss Rosetti

Are you all right? You are looking worried?

JR : Oh, yes. I am fine, thank you. But am a little concerned about David.

CG : David Wheeler? Why? what is the problem?

JR : He really is not very well. He is been getting headaches.

CG : I would think he has been over working.

Everyone supposes that conversations among friends are informal but sometimes formal conversations still occur, like in the following example:

Collen: I gave up anything. I can not eat anything that is chocolate.

Tony: I did not give up anything

Collen: At first it was just chocolate that I gave up for lent but, then, I figured "Let's make it more difficult" It has been very difficult, too.

Tony: of course, everyone has been bringing snacks into our senior seminar class.

3.2. Informal conversation

This type of conversation is very popular in life. It includes simple structures, colloquial words or colloquialism which is really informal.

Informal conversation is characterized by spontaneity and is limited to a relatively small number of interested people.

We could say that informal conversation itself is not without its limitation. Its scope is narrower and its influence is smaller than formal conversation. Informal conversation, limited to a small group of people, no matter how important the themes with which it deals, does not have relevance, as we should expect because of what it can not be sufficient to itself.

Although, we can hear informal conversation everywhere, no double this way of presenting informal political conversation is an ideal type. In fact it is often subject to different direct or indirect influences from political power, propaganda, or the interests of this or that part.

Certain autonomy in a government makes possible informal conversation without institutional pressure on the participants, which enables it to have greater spontaneity and achieve a higher level of criticism.

Informal conversation is used in many contexts such as among friends, colleagues...

e.g. *Mr Winter: That is a very nice shirt. What is it made of?*

George Hadeer: It is 100% cotton; there is no polyester in it lovely shirt.

MW: Yes, it is very good quality. How much is it?

GH: It is \$2000!

MW: That is about 30 US dollars. Oh, I was not thinking of playing that much. I will give you \$15 for it.

GH: No. It is \$20, well, \$19 to you

MW: Ok, then, \$19. I will take it

So, language in this conversation is very informal and closed.

Hoa: What is your favorite subject, Thu?

Thu: I like history. It is an interesting and important subject.

What is your favorite subject?

Hoa: Oh, Maths. It is difficult but fun.

The theoretical background will help beginners to understand the aspects of English words vocabulary which are used suitably in the language and culture. Besides, learners can study continually chapter II to know more clearly.

III. The stylistic aspects of English words vocabulary

According to the textbook “**Basic English lexicology**” (Hoang Tat Truong, 1993:14), stylistically English words are divided into two main layers: standard words and non-standard words.

1. Standard words

1.1. What is a standard word?

A standard language (also standard dialect, standardized dialect, or standardized dialect) is a language variety used by a group of people in their public discourse. Alternatively, varieties become standard by undergoing a process of standardization, during which it is organized for description in grammars and dictionaries and encoded in such reference works. Typically, varieties that become standardized are the local dialects spoken in the centers of commerce and government, where a need arises for a variety that will serve more than local needs.

(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/standard.language>)

Types of standard words

Standard words include neutral words, colloquial words and bookish words.

1.3. Neutral words

Neutral words take up the majority of the English vocabulary. They are used in all styles, all spheres human life, neither formal nor informal. They are used in both bookish and colloquial language. A great number of neutral words belong to the basic stock of words.

e.g.: we, they, man, children, (to) go, (to) eat, tall, so on.

1.4. Colloquial words

Colloquial words are spoken language rather than in written language. They are informal, casual, lively, and may be also friendly or humorous.

e.g.: dad, kid, fellow

1.5. Bookish words

Bookish words are subdivided into:

1.5.1. General bookish words: they are chiefly used in formal speech especially in writing

e.g.: infant, assist, retire

1.5.2. Scientific words

Scientific words are also called learned words or terms.

They are used like neutral words, for example: “lexicology, morpheme, physics, opera Medicare, radio, newspapers, and television”

Here we can see that many terms are familiar to the public since they have become words of general usage. They may be used figuratively: atmosphere, camp.

Usually terms have one meaning (monosemantic) but when used for different sciences they become polysemantic for example: “*operation*”: can mean: - *A march, movement of troops, or ship.....*

-Act performed by a surgeon

- Addition, subtraction, multiplication etc.

Terms have no connotational meaning (connotation) and are stylistically neutral except when they are no longer terms but words of general usage.

A number of terms are borrowed from slang: “*know-how, rake-off*”
They are also coined from available material with the help of affixation, compounding, conversion etc: “speedometer, air-conditions, black-out”.

1.5.3. Poetic and archaic words

They are used in poetry. They are used to create elevated, solemn atmosphere of poetry an intensity of poets’ feeling

e.g.: steed (horse), foe (enemy)....

1.5.4. Non-assimilated foreign words

There words are borrowed from different languages which still retain- their spelling and pronunciation. Usually they have equivalent in English.

e.g.: “Chic (fashionable), fiancé.

These words are usually understandable to educated people. Their stylistic function is to create local color (describing conditions of life, manners of a given country at a given time etc.)

2. Non-standard words

2.1. What is a non-standard word?

The terms were introduced by linguists and lexicographers to describe usages and language varieties that had previously been labeled with terms such as vulgar and illiterate. Nonstandard is not simply a euphemism but reflects the empirical discovery that the varieties used by low-prestige groups have rich and systematic grammatical structures and that their stigmatization more often reflects a judgment about their speakers rather than any inherent deficiencies in logic or expressive power. Note, however, that the use of nonstandard forms is not necessarily restricted to the communities with which they are associated in the public mind. Many educated speakers freely use forms such as ain’t hardly or ain’t I to set a popular or informal tone. Some dictionaries use the term substandard to describe forms, such as ain’t, associated with uneducated speech, while reserving nonstandard for forms such as irregardless, which are common in writing but are still regarded by

many as uneducated. But substandard is itself susceptible of disparaging interpretation, and most linguists and lexicographers now use only nonstandard, the practice followed in this Dictionary.

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/nonstandard>

2.2. Types of non-standard words

Non-standard words are chiefly used in spoken English thus being considered as non-standard colloquialism. These are subdivided into:

2.3. Slang

All slang is informal. There are:

2.3.1. General Slang:

Used by all people but considered as sub-standard (non-standard) due to excessive informality:

E.g. dough (money), bird (girl), mug (face)

2.3.2. Special slang

Special slang is also called jargon of which the words and expressions are called jargonisms. Special slang is used within some social or professional group and is understandable to the members of these groups only.

There are school slang, military slang, political slang and so forth:

e.g. 'belly-robber' (cook-military)

'To take for a ride' (to kill-criminals)

It is also interesting to note that slang in general may be caused by phonetic:

e.g. 'cuppa' (cup of tea); lotta (lots of)

Many slang words have become and are becoming colloquial and literary:

e.g. know-how, chap, hi-jack, kid

The most characteristic feature of slang is that it changes very quickly because it quickly gets 'stale' and requires innovation

Unlike Vietnamese, English slang as well as English colloquialisms are rather widely used both in speaking and in writing especially in newspapers.

2.4. Vulgar words (vulgarisms)

Vulgar words are ‘dirty’ words used by few people. They are not generally used in public

‘Dammed’: It is dammed hot today

‘Bloody’: The shirt is bloody expensive!

‘Hell’: Go to hell!

Vulgarisms express anger, annoyance, disagreement and other strong emotions. Because of high frequency of usage, the examples above are getting less vulgar, less ‘dirty’ and are often heard among friends, students etc.

2.5. Dialectal words

Dialectal words are used in a definite territory or locality. They are called dialectisms.

e.g. ‘loch (Scottish) =lake’

Chapter II: COLLOQUIALISM IN SOME CONVERSATIONS IN “STREAMLINE ENGLISH DEPARTURES”

I. Colloquial words

1. Definition of colloquial words language

Colloquial language is informal language that is not rude, but would not be used in formal situations. It is less unacceptable than slang and swear words.

Colloquial words are an expression not used in formal speech, writing or paralinguistic. Colloquial words are also sometimes referred to collectively as colloquialism is considered to be characteristic of or only appropriate for casual, ordinary, familiar, or informal conversation rather than formal speech or writing. Dictionaries often display colloquial words and phrases with the abbreviation colloq, as an identifier

(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/colloquialism>)

The powerful role played by vocabulary in making shifts between formal and informal style, and in signaling the social identifies of speakers, is well-known. Public awareness of the opposition between ‘standard’ and non-standard changing fashions in colloquial vocabulary (conventionally labeled fam..., pop....., vulg....., in the general dictionaries) attract a large amount of comment, from prescriptive guardians of usage, who see them as signs of an impending linguistic Apocalypse, to journalists anxious to demonstrate the depth of their awareness of current social trends, new dictionaries of ‘slang’ are published almost annually. However, these often lengthy accumulations of new and exotic specimens are not normally accompanied by revealing insights into how they work.

Certain colloquial items are extremely stable and have been in wide use throughout society for many decades, even centuries. Others are more ephemeral, linked to their users’ playful use of the group. The latter

commonly receive the label of argot. Traditionally, argot was felt to be substantially distinct from the rest of the lexicon: it was the technical vocabulary of a particular activity or professional group and more specifically, the semi-secret vocabulary of the Parisian criminal fraternity.

Colloquial words are considered as a pair of synonyms because some words are synonyms to each other but they are used in different situations. Those used in every situation are called neutral words and those used in more informal situations are called colloquial words .Consider the following dialogue:

A: Do you like your school new school?

B: It is OK

A: And the KIDS in your class

B: There is decent BRUNCH

A: And the teacher?

B: oh, he is a terrific BLOKE

(J.Gralsworthy)

In the dialogue, speakers use some colloquial words: *Ok, kids, decent, bunch, terrific, bloke*. They are used as informal language and in a informal situation.

This is the dialogue between two friends so they can use these words freely to make the atmosphere friendly. Since then, there are some neutral words which are synonyms to them.

Ok-all right

terrific-marvelous

Bunch-group

decent-pleasant

Kids-children

bloke-man

Besides, many other colloquial words are substituted for other neutral words in informal situations like: *hassle for trouble, guts for courage, posh*

for high-class, a do for a celebration, jiffy for moment, punch for steal, boldly for umbrella, draft for stupid, etc.

Provided that someone were that at present speaking to audience of many thousands of scientists or experts by using colloquial words such as *hassle, guts, a do, jiffy, pinch.....*, it is certain that many of them do not understand or they are trying hard to follow our words.

It must be said that a great number of colloquial words are short or shortened words. This shortening process has created new words which are short and snappy and become synonyms of the original words.

E.g. Soames went to the door: he heard this father say:

- Here, I am tired.

And his mother answering:

*- That is right, James, it will be ever so much more **comfy** .*

(J.Galsworthy)

*‘Sir’, he said “you’re been **a gent** to me, and it is heard to say things”.*

(J.Galsworthy)

*“What is **trig**”.*

*“Trigonometry”, Norman said .A higher form of **math**”.*

*“And what is **math**?”* was the next question which somehow, brought the laugh on Norman .

(J.London)

In the above examples, there are some shortened words such as: **comfy, gent, trig, math** which originated from the words, **comfortable, gentleman, trigonometry and mathematics** respectively and become their synonyms.

A part from them, there are some pairs of synonyms

<i>Cute-acute</i>	<i>Sample-Example</i>
<i>Lab-Laboratory</i>	<i>Scenen- Elyscreen</i>
<i>Doc-doctor</i>	<i>Pro-professor</i>
<i>Mo-moment</i>	<i>Lone-alone</i>

Colloquial words (colloquialism) are often used primarily across a geographical area, known by linguists to spread through normal conversation interaction of a language, though more often now through informal online interaction. A common example given is the regional term used by people when describing a carbonated soft drink. In the Upper Midwestern United States, in common with Canada, it is commonly called ‘**pop**’, while in the other areas, notably the Northeastern and extreme Western United States, it is referred to as ‘**soda**’. In the Southern United States, it is commonly called ‘**Coke**’ regardless of brand. Some Southerners even refer to soft drinks as ‘**dope**’. The common belief is that this is an outdated reference to stimulant properties contained in these drinks. In New England it is occasionally called ‘**Tonic**’. In some areas of Scotland it is referred to as ‘**ginger**’, and confusion over whether this term referred to all soft drinks or just ginger beer was apparent in the case of Donoghue Stevenson (see: Names for soft drinks for more regional examples of colloquial names given to soft drinks).

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/colloquialism>

At Present, English is becoming more colloquial. Not only are colloquialisms (colloquial words and expression) used in the familiar, among friends, in informal speeches but they are also called in literary language and even serious academic writing.

E.g. Taxi - taximeter

Cab – cabriolet

Fan – fanatic

In short, colloquial English has been defined as the informal language of ordinary educated conversation of familiar writing. Besides, it is also used in personal letters, informal essays, popular and newspaper features and in novels.

2. Types of colloquial words

2.1. Standard colloquial words

Standard colloquial words are language systems that are usually used in spoken, sometimes used in writing. This may also include liturgical writing.

Such as Colloquial Arabic is the form of language used in daily communication between common people. Although, its root is classical Arabic, it was simplified for easy daily use. Some non-Arabic words were infiltrated in colloquial Arabic due to geographical location, external cultural and linguistic influences.

Each Arabic speaking country or region also has its own variety of colloquial spoken Arabic. These colloquial varieties of Arabic appear in written form in some poetry, cartoons and comics, plays and personal letters.

2.2. Non-standard colloquial words

A non-standard dialect word does draw negative attention to itself; that is, educated people might judge the speaker of such a dialect word as socially inferior, lacking education, and so on. A nonstandard dialect word can thus be characterized as having socially marked forms, such as ain't. A socially marked form is one that causes the listener to form a negative social judgment of the speaker.

“In fiction non-standard forms are mostly found in dialogue and they are used as a powerful tool to reveal character traits or social and regional differences” .

*(John Benjamins (1999) writing in Nonstandard English.
Irma Taavitsainen, et al)*

3. Colloquial words and slangs

It is difficult for Vietnamese to distinguish between colloquial words and slangs. So this part will help learners avoid mistaking between them.

Slang is also called jargonisms. Slang has limited use in society. It means that not all people use it but it is used within some social or professional groups only.

In other words, slang is considered as a type of language in which standard words are used in something less than their best senses and in which other words are created to supply the needs of the moment.

E.g:

*Peter: Lend **US** a few **QUID**. I'm **BROKE***

*Tony: Here's a **FIVER***

*Peter: **SMASHING**. **TA***

(J.London)

Some pairs of synonyms can be drawn from the examples:

Us – me

Fiver – five pound note

Quid – pounds

Smashing – wonderful

Broke – without money

Ta - thanks

If they are seen as slangs only, we will not understand what Peter and Tony told about. Because they are jargon which are used among friends and only they can understand each other.

Commonly, slang is considered as the own words of thieves. It is quite wrong. Generally, each social class has its own circumstance, life style and special words can be created among individual in groups. All these words can be named slang. A slang word may be substituted for a more named slang. A slang word may be substituted for a more formal word and still be understood. The more familiar any word is, the more rapidly and briefly it may be spoken.

These are school slang, military slang, and political phenomena. Because of different purposes, these groups of people create words of things or objects which were indicated by neutral words. For examples, the old like

using slang as **fat**, **smashing** to substitute for the neutral words as **marvelous**, **wonderful** and **best**, **clot** for **fool** in very informal conversation.

Slang is drawn from the vocabularies of limited groups: can't, the words or expressions coined or adopted by an age, ethnic, occupational, or other group (e.g.: college students, jazz musicians); jargon, the shoptalk or technical terminology specific to an occupation; and argot, the cant and jargon used as a secret language by thieves or other criminals. Occupying a middle ground between standard informal words accepted by the general public and the special words or expressions of these subgroups, slang often serves as a testing ground for words in the latter category. Many prove either useful enough to become accepted as standard or informal words or too faddish for standard use. **Blizzard** and **Okay** have become standard while conbobberation ("disturbance") and **tomato** ("girl") have been discarded. Some words and expressions have a lasting place in slang; for instance, **beat it** ("go away"), first used in the 16th century, has neither become standard English nor vanished.

+) **The similarity between colloquial language and slang**

Colloquial language and slang overlap to a certain extent. Both are informal, and are more common in spoken than in written language. You might use either when speaking or writing to a friend; when speaking or writing to a person in authority or writing to an acquaintance you might use colloquial language but avoid slang and you would not use either in a formal letter or report.

+) **The difference between colloquial language and slang**

The difference between them lies mainly in who uses them, and why. Colloquial language of informal everyday speech, and its words and phrases will be known and used naturally by most people having the language as their mother tongue. Slang is more often used consciously in particular

circumstances or within a restricted group. Each generation of teenagers a maker up its own slang and uses it as a private language. Most trades and professions have their own slang words, often shorter and simpler word for technical terms, which are used partly for convenience and partly so that the speaker is “ in the trade” and “ in the know”. Slang can be quite vivid and picturesque, and may be used in fun or to shock. It can also be used to show that the user is speaking informally; that he or she feels at ease or is trying to put the listener at ease.

Colloquial terms tend to stay in the language for a long time and to be fairly stable. Slang, on the other hand, may die or fairly quickly or may escape from restricted usage and be accepted, into colloquial and standard English; clever; fun; or mob were all once regarded as slang. (This is less true of professional slang), where the in group is stable although individual members of it come and go).

(<http://expertsolumn.com/content/difference-between-colloquial-English-slang-and-jargon>)

Colloquial language is the one commonly spoken or used in conversation speech.

Slang is words or phrases used by certain groups of people in popular speech which are not used in correct or written language.

The difference between slang and colloquial words is mainly how they are used and spoken. Colloquial words are informal, while slang is generally used to show membership in a cultural subgroup. Slang words can be used to bond or generally more neutral in effect.

(simple.wiktionary.org/wiki/category)

According to Ghil’ad Zuckermann “slang” refers to informal (and often transient lexical items used by a specific social group, for instance teenagers, soldiers, prisoners, and thieves. Slang is not the same as colloquial (speech),

which is informal, relaxed speech used on occasion by only speaker; this might include contractions such as “you’re” as well as colloquialism.

A colloquialism is a lexical item used in informal speech; whilst the broadest sense of the term. Colloquialism might include slangism, its narrow sense does not. Slangisms are often used in colloquial speech but not all colloquialisms are slangisms.

II. Colloquial words or colloquialism in some conversational situations.

Streamline English Departures has been specifically designed for students who are beginning to learn English as a foreign language. The approach is also suitable for “false beginners”. The course covers the elementary structures and vocabulary of English. With emphasis on developing oral/aural skills, the aim is to give students a practical command of simple spoken English so that they can communicate at a basic level in an English-speaking environment.

1. Formal conversation

In formal conversation, it is very rare for colloquial words to occur because of this makes conversation less formal. There are some cases in which colloquial words are not allowed to be used such as conversation among the members of government.

However, sometimes we still can see the appearance of colloquial words in formal conversations.

Colloquial words or colloquialism in an interview.

Colloquial words or colloquialism in interviews occurs quite regularly. It helps the interlocutors get information fast and exactly.

Consider the following conversation:

Interview: Come in.

Mr Bull: Ah, good afternoon. My name’s Bull...John Bull. I’m looking for a girlfriend.

Interview: Please sit down, Mr Bull. May I ask you some questions?

Mr Bull: Oh, yes...what about?

Interview: Ahmusic, for example...do you like music?

Mr Bull: Yes, I do. I like classical music.

Interview: Do you like pop music?

Mr Bull: No, I don't...and I don't like jazz.

Interview: How old are you, Mr Bull?

Mr Bull: What! I don't like personal questions!

Interview: Oh, well...can you complete this form letter, and send it by post!

(Bernardhartley&P,1997:143)

Through this conversation we can see that it is long, but all of sentences are short and understandable. Because this interview occurs quite regularly so interviewer and interviewee used some short sentences. To shorten a sentence, they used many colloquial words, for example: *girlfriend, pop music, post*. Undergoing a process of standardization and have been used by a group of people in their public discourse, colloquial words become the local dialects spoken and step by step become universal in the English language.

Thanks to clipping, some colloquial words are shortened and they usually used in advertisements.

E.g:

Pop music – popular

Post - post office

Girlfriend – sweetheart

Colloquial words are established undergoing clipping of subject, verb, to make sentences shorter without repeating the previous idea, so the listeners do not feel bored such as: *Come in, what about, please sit down, yes, I do*.

Moreover, colloquial words in small talks the interviewer knew the partner's personal information and responder achieved purpose what he needs to know.

Colloquial words or colloquialism in a conversation at an airport.

When arriving at an airport, we must answer some question from the customs officer and colloquial words are usually used in the customer officer's speech as well as the customer's speech.

Customs Officer(C.O): Good morning. Can I see your passport?

Man: Certainly. Here it is.

*C.O: Yes, that's all right. Have you got
anything to declare?*

Man: Yes, I have.

C.O: What have you got?

Man: I have got some whisky and some cigarettes.

C.O: How much whisky have you got?

Man: A litre.

*C.O: That's all right. And how many
cigarettes have you got?*

*Man: **Two hundred.***

*C.O: Fine. What about perfume?
Have you got any perfume?*

Man: Er...No, I haven't.

C.O: Good. Open your case, please.

*Man: **Pardon?***

*C.O: **Open your case, please.***

Open it now! Oh, dear!

*Look at this! You have got three
Bottles of whisky, four hundred cigarettes
And a lot of perfume!*

(Bernardhartney&P,1997:94)

Looking at this conversation, the reader sees C.O immediately. This is an abbreviation method of Customs Offices by undergoing a process of standardization and using the local dialects spoken so C.O is used widely and become colloquial words especially in advertisements.

Besides, an airport is regarded as a formal place and many passengers coming from everywhere therefore using the language must be obeyed regularly. In this situation, we should use colloquial words such as: *open your case, please, dear, pardon.*

To make this conversation suitable for a elegant place like an airport, some colloquial words or colloquialism were formed by undergoing a process of clipping of subject, verb and object when the staff of the airline needs to ask the client about the information relating to time or place and the client will make himself clearly understood by avoiding the repetition of subject, verb and object in the preceding part of conversation.

E.g.:

- *A litre*
- *Two hundred.*

This colloquialism was used at the airport so the listener understand the meaning of the sentence easily.

2. Informal conversation

In daily conversation, we often use informal dialogue in which colloquial words or colloquialism always occur. They become popular in

lexicology in informal English dialogues. Of course, with each situation of an informal conversation, colloquial words may be used differently.

2.1. Colloquial words or colloquialism in conversation between husband and wife.

When the husband and wife talk with together, a short speech is mostly used. Colloquial words play an important role to make speech shorter and clearer. Colloquial words appear usually in this situation of conversation.

Mrs Brown: John! Is that you?

*Mr Brown: Yes, **dear**. I'm back.*

*Mrs Brown: Did you come home by **taxi**?*

*Mr Brown: Yes, **dear**. The bags were very heavy.*

Mrs Brown: Did you get everything?

*Mr Brown: Yes, **dear**. I got everything...nearly everything.*

*Mrs Brown: Yes, **dear**... I went to the butcher's, but they have
Any steak.*

*Mr Brown: No, **dear**. They didn't have any steak!*

*Mrs Brown: Did you go to the **pub** again?*

*Mr Brown: Yes, **dear**.*

(Bernardhartley&P,1997:214)

First of all, we can see that this dialogue is different from the others. The colloquial the word “**dear**” is repeatedly used. It emphasizes the relationship between husband and wife. Through the word “**dear**”, the readers feel Mr Brown's fear of his wife when he comes back home by taxi. This makes the conversation funny, thanks to colloquial word “**dear**”.

Moreover, we see that in this conversation, a variety of colloquial words are used such as: *taxi, pub*. They are short and snappy words. In addition, they are used as informal language and in informal situation but they are also called literary language and even serious academic writing.

E.g.: Tax – taximeter

Pub – publichouse

Besides, colloquial words are used widely among family members such as: between parents and children, among friends and even couples.

E.g: dad, mom, honey, dear.

2.2. Colloquial words or colloquialism in hotels and restaurants

When coming to the hotel or the restaurant, the customers as well as the staff of the hotel or the restaurant normally say short and clear sentences.

Customer: Waiter! I'd like the menu, please.

*Waiter : Here you are, **sir**.*

Customer: Thanks...I'd like some soup...

*Waiter : **Tomato soup?***

Customer: Yes, please...and I'd like a steak.

*Waiter : **Rare, medium, or well-done?***

*Customer: **Medium, please.***

Waiter : Which vegetables would you like?

Customer: I'd like some potatoes, some peas, and a salad, please.

*Waiter : Certainly, **sir**.*

Customer: Oh, and I'd like some wine.

*Waiter : Which wine would you like, **sir?***

Customer: A bottle of red wine, please.

(Bernardhartley&P,1997:67)

Through this conversation, we recognize immediately that this conversation is different from in conversation between husband and wife. In the conversation between husband and wife, the colloquial word “*dear*” is used repeatedly; the conversation in the hotel and the restaurant, the colloquial word “*sir*” is repeated. The word “*sir*” is often added in spoken

language to express the speaker's respect especially and pleased. So the customer will feel more comfortable.

In addition, if the waiter or the receptionist wants to be sure of the customer's requirement, he or she can repeat the request, but the subject and verb are omitted.

*E.g. –Tomato.
- Rare, medium or well-done.
- Medium, please.*

These words will supply the waiter or the receptionist some information exactly and fast.

Clearly, colloquial words are helpful and are used in every circumstance to make shorter and more understandable sentences.

2.3. Colloquial words or colloquialism in conversation in office

An office is the place where many daily conversations take place. Consider the following conversation:

*I: Have you got a **car**?
J: Yes, I have.
I: What kind is it?
J: It's a **V.W.**
I: Do you like it?
J: Yes, I do.
I: Why?
J: Because it's very economical.*

OR another conversation:

K: Excuse me...

L: Yes?

*K: Have you got any **change**?*

L: What do you need?

K: I need some tens.

L: Ok.

(Bernardhartley&P,1997:39)

In daily conversation, everybody used many languages to express what they want even though they can use the dialect words. This is a problem for the listener. If we do not understand colloquial words, we will be confused. *For example: change.* The word “*change*” means “*money*”. Sometimes, they use technical terms such as: *V.W.* This is an abbreviation of a famous kind of motorcar. It is clear that the word “*car*’ becomes a colloquial word by the process of initial clipping.

Car – motorcar

In general, colloquial words or colloquialism make all the sentences short. They make communication convenient. Besides, we also meet colloquial words or colloquialism in social communications.

Example of colloquial words or of social communications:

E.g. - Bike – bicycle

-Fend – defend

-Phone – telephone

-Photo – photograph

2.4. Colloquial words or colloquialism in a conversation at school

(Between teachers and students)

Some people wondered that colloquial words in the student’s answer in particular and colloquial words in the student’s speech in general is not acceptable because this is lack of respect to the teachers. Indeed, the student’s

attitude is important to show respect. But it is not all. We can see the following conversations:

*K: Have you ever had **flu**?*

L: Yes, I have.

K: When did you have it?

L: I had it last winter.

OR

G: Are you a new student?

H: No, I'm not.

G: How long have you been here?

H: As long as you.

G: Why haven't I seen you?

*H: I've been **ill**.*

(Bernardhartley&P,1997:313,341)

The conversations still have colloquial words such as:

Flu – influenza

Ill – sick

Although two words are used in the conversation between the teachers and students, they do not reduce the respect of the student to the teacher. In contrast, they make a shorter and clearer sentence. Moreover, they make the sentences sound more natural and make teachers and students more friendly.

In short, Chapter II is a detailed analysis of colloquial words and how to use colloquial words in some real situations. Moreover, learners recognize the distinction between colloquial words and slangs clearly.

Chapter III: THE DIFFICULTIES IN USING COLLOQUIAL WORDS OR COLLOQUIALISM IN CONVERSATIONS AND SOME SUGGESTIONS.

I. Some difficulties

Colloquial words (colloquialism) become a lexicology device, which is often used in dialogue. However, sometimes it causes ambiguity for listeners to accurate formation. Let's look at the example below:

Receptionist: Do you want breakfast in your room?

Mr. Ali : Yes, please. I'd like a continental breakfast.

Receptionist: What time?

Mr. Ali : At eight o'clock, please.

When the receptionist asks: "what time?" we can understand it in two ways. The first, he wants to ask Mr. Ali what the time is now. The second is that he wants to know what time Mr. Ali would like a continental breakfast. So if we do not base on the context we can misunderstand Mr. Ali's purpose.

Moreover, colloquial words (colloquialism) are very necessary in conversations but it is easy for the listener to be confused.

E.g:

Man: Hi, Jane...says, are you ok! You are looking a bit tired.

Jane: Oh, I am. It's my neighbors

Man: So, they are acting up again. Huh?

Jane: Unfortunately, yes, they are.

Man: Loud music?

If the listener does not concentrate on listening and paying attention to the speaker's intonation, he does not know that the man is asking or not therefore, intonation is very important in conversation especially occurrence of colloquial words (colloquialism) .

In addition, for colloquialism, the English or Vietnamese misunderstand easily to slangism. These are colloquialism:

E.g.: - How come?: Làm thế nào vậy?

- *No way* : *Thôi đi (đừng đùa nữa)*
- *Ask for it* : *Tự làm tự chịu*
- *No litter* : *Cấm vứt rác*
- *Go for it* : *Cứ thử liều đi*
- *Got a minute*: *Có rảnh không?*
- *It's over* : *Thế là hết*
- *Where to* : *Tới đâu?*
- *Don't take it to heart*: *Đừng bận tâm!*
- *In the nick of time*: *Thật là đúng lúc.*
- *I given in* : *Tôi chịu thua, đầu hàng*
- *Stop it right way*: *Có thôi ngay đi không.*
- *I got it*: *Tôi hiểu rồi*
- *I did it*: *Tôi làm được rồi.*
- *Don't do graffiti*: *Cấm vẽ bậy.*

Some colloquialisms usually appear in dialogues:

A: Hi/hey. How are things? /How is it going? /How are you doing?

B: Pretty good/ok

Other dialogues:

A: Hi. How are you?

B: Fine, and you?

(Richards,J.2001:86)

Or

A: Honey, why are you so sad!

(B says nothing)

*A: **Honey**, why are you so unhappy? I do not understand.*

B: You don't love me!

*A: But, **honey**, I love you very much*

B: That's untrue. You love my cousin, Sunny. You think she's lovely and I'm ugly.

A: Janet, just once last month I took Sunny out for lunch. You musn't worry. I like your company much better than Sunny's

*B: Oh, **shut up**, Russ.*

*A: But, **honey**, I think you're wonderful. You musn't...*

*B: Oh, **SHUT UP!***

(Ann.B,1977:18)

Besides, we often use some colloquial sentences such as:

What's your name?

What's your company?

Where is it?

Do you have a telephone?

Can you repeat your name?

But spoken English for office staff is different:

May I have your name, please?

Could I have the name of your company, please?

May I have the address, please?

Could I have your telephone number, please?

Can you spell your name, please?

(Minh,Q.2006:56)

In short, we must base on the context to understand exactly what the speaker wants to say.

II. Some suggestions.

It is not deniable that during the process of learning English, not only beginners but also people who have learnt English for years as well as advanced learners sometimes have difficulties.

It is recommended that learners should pay much attention to the theory of colloquial words (colloquialism) and practice using colloquial words (colloquialism) in spoken English more often to avoid speaking out unnecessarily long sentences.

Besides, learners should know when it is normal to use colloquial words (colloquialism) and in order to reach the goal, interaction with native English speaker should be encouraged. And books in English preferably written by English writers, should be read as much as possible. It is because “Practice makes perfect”.

Through this part, learners will know what should be used and what should not be used when they communicate with another person. In addition, learners know some English learning methods in order to reach their goal.

Part III: CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this paper has described colloquial words (colloquialism) in English conversations through a detailed analysis. A colloquial word (colloquialism) in English conversation is regarded as a necessary linguistic device to avoid repetition of subject, verb.... Besides, it plays an important role in making the sentence shorter and more cohesive.

In this paper, conversation is classified into two main types:

- + Formal conversation
- + Informal conversation

However, colloquial words (colloquialism) in lexicology occurs in informal conversations because this type of conversation is not too strict in making sentences there are many situations belong to formal conversation such as:

Colloquialism in conversation in an interview

Colloquialism in conversation at the airport

Besides, in informal conversation colloquialism also occurs. Colloquialism often appears in conversation among members in family.

Colloquialism in a conversation between husband and wife

Colloquialism in conversation in the hotel and the restaurant

Colloquialism in a conversation in an office

Colloquialism in a conversation at the school

Occurrence of colloquial words (colloquialism) is popular. Each kind of conversation with the occurrence of colloquial words (colloquialism) has been investigated carefully so as to help readers to understand easily the use of colloquial words (colloquialism) and its significance. Moreover, it helps readers have deep knowledge of colloquialism in general and of colloquial words (colloquialism) in English conversations in particular.

All examples used for description and analysis in this paper have been drawn from different sources to make ellipsis in each of conversation

situation clear and help learners use colloquial words (colloquialism) effectively in daily conversations.

A colloquial word (colloquialism) is a useful and effective lexicology device, but we still must face with some difficulties. To overcome these difficulties, some suggestions are given in Chapter III.

A colloquial word (colloquialism) has an important role in spoken, however, because of my limited knowledge; this study only refers to colloquialism in the textbook “Streamline English Departures”. And of course mistakes and shortcomings are inevitable. Therefore, I hope to receive the sympathy and contribution from the teachers and readers to make it better.

Hopefully, in future, this topic will be studied further to help learners know how to use colloquial words in spoken language effectively.

***) APPENDIX**

#) Practicing exercises on colloquial words.

I. Read each sentence below. Decide whether the sentence demonstrates colloquial English or standard written English.

1. Patti was in a jam when she lost her keys.
2. YunJin decided to take a course in Canadian history.
3. A jumper is an evergreen shrub or tree, having prickly leaves and dull-colored berries.
4. The business deal didn't pan out.
5. When Sasha got lost in the mountains, he held up in on old miners' catim.
6. There was on automobile accident at the concert of Fort Street and Douglas Avenue.
7. In 1066, under the leadership of William I, the Normans conquered England.
8. The teenagers yakking on the subway drove the other passengers up the wall
9. When Mr.Robb told me the alligator story, I almost died laughing
10. If my brother sees me driving his car, I'm a goner.
11. The voters waited eagerly to hear the broadcast of the national elections return.
12. My allowance is shot so I can't go to the concert with the crowd.
13. Mr.James regretted that he had given this son permission to drive the family car.
14. Kim was such a brain she never had to hit the books after school.

II. Have a look at these words

Slang	Meaning
Wanna	Want to
Oughta	Ought to
Lotta	Lot of
Gonna	Going
Gotcha	I got you
Gimme	Give me
dunno	Don't know

Use one of these words to fill in these sentences :

1. I'm.....get you!
2. Then he grabbed hold of me and said “.....!”
3. Thief: “Just shut up andthe money!”
4. Sorry, I can't stay. I.....go now.
5. – What's his name?
- I.....
6. Go away! I don'ttalk to you!
7. I think you.....talk to him before it's too late.
8. This is going cost you a whole.....money.

III. Here are 4 sentences: a main sentence and 3 alternate colloquial sentences. Find the sentence which is the opposite of the main sentence.

(= which does NOT have the same meaning as the main sentence)

Note: “US” = American English

a) "I'M COLD"

1, "I'm freezing"

2, "I'm barming up"

3, "I'm a popsicle"

b) "HE STAYED CALM"

1, "He didn't bat an eyelid"

2, "He saw red"

3, "He was as cool as a cucumber"

c) "I'M HUNGRY!"

1, "I'm famished!"

2, "I'm stuffed!"

3, "I'm starving!"

d) "IT'S VERY CLEAN!"

1, "It's filthy!"

2, "It's spotless!"

3, "It's as shiny as a new pin!"

e) "HE'S STUPID!"

1, "He's thick!"

2, "He's a real agghead!"

3, "He's dumb"

#) KEY TO EXERCISE.

I.

- 1, colloquial “to be in a jam” means to have a big problem.
- 2, Standard
- 3, Standard
- 4, Colloquial “pan out” means to have the desired effect
- 5, Colloquial “to be holed up” means to take refuge in.
- 6, Standard
- 7, Standard
- 8, Colloquial “to yak” means to speak without pause
Colloquial “to drive some up the wall” means to really annoy someone
- 9, Colloquial “to die laughing” means to laugh really hard
- 10, Colloquial “to be a goner” means to die. It’s an exaggeration
- 11, Standard
- 12, Colloquial “to be shot” means to be wasted or swum

- 13, Standard
- 14, Colloquial “to be a brain” means to be very smart

II.

- 1, gonna
- 2, gotcha
- 3, gimme
- 4, gotta
- 5, dunno
- 6, wanna
- 7, oughta
- 8, lotta

III.

a)

2, "I'm barming up"

b)

2, "He saw red!"

c)

2, "I'm stuffed"

d)

1, "It's filthy"

e)

2, "He's a real agghead!"

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