

ABSTRACTS

УДК 81'1

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SPEECH VARIATION OF LEXICAL UNITS «YINZ» AND «YINZER» IN PITTSBURGH DIALECT

The article deals with the most popular lexical units of Pittsburgh Speech (Philadelphia, the USA) *yinz* and *yinzer* and their variations in the frames of the dialect. It is represented the history of the given lexical units and demonstrated their functioning through current examples of the speech of Pittsburgh citizens.

The most popular Pittsburgh Speech dialectics are lexical units *yinz* (*You – 2nd person plural*) and *yinzer* (*citizen of Pittsburgh*). These very words have become the symbols of the city and its citizens. The article demonstrates variation of the oral and written speech of Pittsburgh citizens by examples.

The second person plural pronoun *yinz* has been functioning since the colonial epoch times. The word type which has later become *yinz* was brought to the USA at first time by immigrants of Scottish and Irish origins. The main function of its usage has not been changed and is to address to two or more people. The pronoun *yinz* has got new meanings and become the most frequently quoted example of Pittsburgh lexical unit and the most popular one. The word *yinz* has been appearing at the labels, T-shirts, type supers which show that *Yinz* are in Steeler Country meant that *You are in Pittsburgh*.

There have been suggested different variants: *yunz*, *yins*, *you 'uns*, *youns* or *younz*.

Today the pronoun *yinz* has become the meaningful morpheme, so *yinz* is the denotative element which can be used in a new way, in particular in words *Yinzer*, *Yinzburgh* (*Pittsburgh*). Usage of the lexical unit *yinz* in the speech of Pittsburgh citizens is being redefined additionally. Along with its usage as a personal pronoun, they can use *yinz* as an adjective, a prefix or a suffix. In this sense *yinz* means «related to Pittsburgh» or «typical for Pittsburgh». *Yinz* is used as a part of the popular toy's name – *Yinz Teddy Bear* – the teddy bear dressed in the uniform for fans of the football team «Steelers». *Yinz* has been appearing in the names of art works. As a prefix or a suffix *yinz* is used for making such nouns as *Yinzburgh* or *YinzPitt* and *Yinz Sports* (*websites related to Pittsburgh*).

The variation of *yinz* and *yinzer* usage are based on its social status. The connection between *yinz* and its social meanings is fulfilled in the types of Pittsburgh citizens' activity: in communication, Mass-media, range of souvenirs made and sold in the city. All these emphasize the connection between the lexical unit *yinz* and local identity by different ways.