

# Consequences of Verbal Deviations in the Sociocultural Behavior of Modern Youth

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**Abstract.** This article presents the results of the author's study of the consequences of sociocultural deviations in the verbal behavior of students. Modern society is undergoing major changes in all spheres of life: politics, economics, education, culture. All these changes affect the behavior of young people both positively and negatively. The younger generation performs special social functions that no one else can carry out. Deviant behavior is one of the ways to adapt culture to social change. Studying the verbal behavior of young people gives an idea of the state of our society at the moment, which allows us to see the trends of the future, without which it is impossible to purposefully and successfully counter negative activity.

## 1. Introduction

Virtually the entire life of any society is characterized by the presence of deviations. Abnormal or deviant behavior (from the Latin *Deviatio* – deviation), that is, committing acts that are contrary to the norms of social behavior in a particular society is present in each social system [20].

The dynamism of social processes in the period of perestroika, the crisis situation in many spheres of public life inevitably lead to an increase in deviations, manifested in behavioral forms that deviate from the norms[14]. Along with the growth of positive deviations (political activity of the population, economic enterprise, scientific and artistic creativity), negative deviations increase - violent and selfish crime, alcoholism and narcotization of the population, adolescent delinquency, immorality, verbal aggression, foul language [15].

In recent decades, the problem of bad language has acquired of particular importance not only in Russia. In the life of the largest cultures such as American, English foul language has spread so much that the society has no right to remain indifferent to this phenomenon. The concept of abusive speech in each language corresponds to a whole synonymous series: abuse, foul language, swearing, hula, evil wishes [21]. What has happened to us? Why has the line between good and evil been erased, and profanity has taken so deep roots that it is difficult for us to understand why it is impossible to swear? We live in the time of advanced technologies, advanced innovations, however, our language is under threat.

## 2. Methodology

Abnormal verbal behavior of young people is one of the least studied and at the same times the most actual problems of our society. Despite the fact that many scientists have been studying this topic, the problem of deviant behavior in the younger generation does not lose its relevance now, because of the

changes taking place in our country, and accordingly in families and interpersonal relationships, which contributes to the formation of emotional disorders and manifestation of deviations [11].

One of the stages of our study was the analysis of the negative consequences of the use of obscene expressions by students. The study was conducted using questionnaires. The survey was attended by students of 10–11th grades of secondary schools, gymnasiums and lyceums, educational institutions of secondary vocational education and higher educational institutions (the study was conducted in 2018; the type of sample was stratified, multi-stage).

### **3. The study of the consequences of verbal deviations in the behavior of the youth**

An analysis of critical literature has shown that deviant behavior of an individual is behavior that does not correspond to social norms and roles officially accepted in society, which actually harms society or the individual [19, 10].

Deviant behavior plays an important role and is very controversial. On the one hand, deviants pose a threat to the stability of society; on the other hand, they support this stability. The successful functioning of social structures can be considered effective only if order and predictable behavior of members of society is ensured. Each member of society should know what behavior he should expect from people around him, what behavior other members of society expect from him, to which social norms children should be socialized. Deviating behavior violates this order and the predictability of behavior: a disorganization of culture and the destruction of social order occur. Moral norms cease to control the behavior of group members and individuals lose their sense of confidence in their actions. Therefore, society will function effectively only when the majority of its members will accept established norms and act mainly in accordance with the expectations of other individuals.

On the other hand, deviant behavior is one of the ways to adapt culture to social change. There is no such society which remained static for a long time. Even communities completely isolated from world civilizations should from time to time change the patterns of their behavior due to environmental changes. Fertility explosions, technological innovations, changes in the physical environment can lead to the need to adopt new norms and adapt members of society to them [8].

Authors who consider deviant behavior cite many reasons contributing to its formation, noting that adolescence associated with its turning point may contribute to the development of deviant behavior of young people. Young people who are prone to deviant behavior manifest features of the emotional state expressed in an increased level of physical and verbal aggression, irritability, emotional instability, anxiety, and an increased state of depression [1, 2, 4, 9, 12].

Under the current regulatory documents of the Russian Federation, young people are understood to be citizens aged 14 to 30 inclusive, that is, the socially active part of the population, which is the most promising part of our citizens who want to ensure the realization of their interests [3, 16, 17].

This social group is characterized by physiological maturation, completion of the formation of personality, entry on a full basis in the main spheres of public life (economy, politics, and family relations). The younger generation performs special social functions that no one else can carry out.

First of all, young people inherit the achieved level of development of society and the state. Today they are already shaping the image of the future, carrying the function of social reproduction and continuity of the development of society.

Secondly, like any social group, young people have their own goals and interests, which do not always completely coincide with the goals and interests of the whole society.

Thirdly, young people are characterized by lack of formation of value, spiritual and moral guidelines and a lack of life experience, which increases the likelihood of erroneous choices when making responsible decisions. On the other hand, entering into labor and social life, young people are the main object and subject of education, socialization, education and adaptation.

Fourthly, on the one hand, young people are the main participants in social mobility and economic initiatives; on the other hand, it is characterized by incomplete inclusion in existing socio-economic and political relations.

Fifth, youth is a social stratum of society, which, on the one hand, is a source of Russia's socio-economic and spiritual rebirth, and on the other, a source of replenishment of crime, drug addiction, and social tension [5, 13].

Having studied the functions of such a stratum of society as youth, we understand that it is the youth that is the mirror reflects the laws, customs, traditions, moral norms of the society in which they are located.

The English thinker Clive S. Lewis tends to find in the norms of morality a kind of «instruction» that «ensures the proper functioning of the human machine». That is why almost any deviation can be considered as a deviation from the social norm.

Consider such a deviation as bad language, foul language, obscene or profanity. The obscene (synonym – abusive) vocabulary is an expressive vocabulary that the public consciousness of modern society completely prohibits in public use, that is, in a public place. In a narrow circle, when there are no strangers, obscene word usage will not cause public condemnation – since the society of this word use simply does not hear. It happens if the situation is public. That is, communication takes place in a public place – obscene language is completely prohibited by public morality [6].

The manner of communication in obscene language has already passed into the norms of society. Abusive expressions can be heard not only from people of low social level, but also from quite decent personalities, and, even worse, even from children and teenagers. Neither children nor young girls who actively swear at others are condemned. Often this behavior is even encouraged in the circle of relatives. Parents do not even try to explain why you should not repeat this expression [18].

The results of our sociological survey showed that abnormal vocabulary is usually used either to express its attitude towards an event or person (47%), or to «decorate» speech (53%). Both options from the mouth of any person sound extremely unpleasant. In this regard, obscene words can be compared with dirt (68.3%), departing from the speaker's mouth.

The fact of the negative impact of swearing on the general development of the brain has been scientifically proven [7]. Nevertheless, the percentage of people who use indecent words in their speech does not decrease and even grows, as evidenced by the respondents' answers to the question «Do you think there has been less profanity in recent years?» pupils of higher education institutions (30.2%), colleges (36.8%) and schools (52.5%) claim that there has been more bad language now. To measure the frequency of using obscene language, a nominal scale was used: it became less – remained at the same level – became more.

As it is known, a person who thinks and expresses himself in an abusive language is degrading. This is evidenced by 84.2% of respondents. So, to resist the abundance of obscene words, you need to «fill» your brain with new knowledge, replenish your vocabulary and develop. It is precisely in the unwillingness to improve that the problem of bad language lies (73.7%). After all, it is always easier to say about any situation briefly and in one language, rather than culturally and in a few sentences.

People don't want to think much. The abundance of words in slang, obscene vocabulary, and various abbreviations – the use of such words ostensibly saves time. But how can one remain a truly cultured person, if the vocabulary is critically small, and speech is abundantly interspersed with abusive interjections?

Only refusal to use obscene expressions in a conversation will help a person to remain a person. And swearing only humiliates the speaker, and this should not be forgotten.

Young people express hostility (42.4%), try to declare their superiority (27.0%), use abuse as an instrument in the conflict (44.2%). The task of using obscene vocabulary, first of all, is in lowering the social status of an opponent (after all, the most important moral values – man's house, mother, mental abilities and religious beliefs) can be ridiculed and insulted.

According to the study, the younger generation as a whole has a negative attitude to foul language, all the students surveyed responded – «with condemnation». At the same time, the vast majority of respondents – 79.8% noted the negative consequences of using obscene expressions in educational institutions, 56.2% – in the street, 55.3% – among friends, 63.3% – in public transport, 76.6% – in the family, 74.2% – in the media. From the point of view of respondents, swearing in a circle of friends is

often considered fun. The foul language serves as a way of liberation from the usual social restrictions, a release of negative emotions. A swear word helps to emphasize the importance of a word or phrase. Bad language demonstrates openness, honesty and sociability of the young people. Discussing the use of obscene language in schools, we can conclude that the respondents use it to enhance the effect of expressing thoughts, in crisis situations, to express the depth of feeling, considering themselves adults. To some extent, this is due to the uncertainty, lack of balance, and dissatisfaction with oneself.

The nature of these negative consequences is expressed in the following: the deterioration of human relationships – 48.7%, increased irritability, aggressiveness – 46.2%, vulgarization of the language of communication – 44.9%, deterioration of the moral and psychological atmosphere in society – 35.8%. We see that the respondents themselves point out the negative effect of using foul language.

The use of profanity testifies, above all, about the lack of culture of the speaker, the inability to behave in society, ignorance of the basic rules of communication (63.7%). Moreover, such vocabulary is not always addressed to the interlocutor as an insult (33.7%). For the most part, people swear due to the fact that they are in a stressful situation (or so perceived) (57.6%). It is under stress that a person's intellect level drops (i.e., «as if» verbal-logical thinking and the main lexicon closes), he becomes more psychologically vulnerable and therefore psychological defenses are automatically triggered. Foul language in stress, on emotions will be the protection acting as an auxiliary mechanism.

In certain situations, this vocabulary can be used unaddressed to emit emotions – «to connect words» (41.2%). A cultural person is usually insulted by the use of bad language by someone in his presence. In other cases, obscene vocabulary is usually used with the intention to insult or humiliate the addressee or a third party (23.7%). Public use of expletive vocabulary is condemned by the public consciousness.

#### **4. Conclusion**

Thus, the deviation of behavior is the main beginning of generally accepted cultural norms. Without it, it would be difficult to adapt a culture to changing social needs. It should be recognized that the overwhelming number of social deviations play a destructive role in the development of society. The deviating behavior of a significant mass of society currently embodies the most dangerous destructive trends for the country.

The destructive scale of deviance leads society to a state of social anomie, society loses its historical memory, its value system. In other words, it faces a rebirth leading to degradation, social regression. Something similar can happen today in our state, if effective measures are not taken to stop the decline in production and reduce the living standards of the majority of the population, otherwise the situation with deviant behavior will become even more complicated.

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