

Young people's English: the linguistics of adolescence

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The way young people speak is often regarded pejoratively as 'bad language' or 'slang'. But in linguistic terms, this is where the language is renewed, where innovations happen and take root – some of today's despised 'teen slang' may well be tomorrow's standard English. In this course, we explore many features of young people's grammar, phonology and discourse, looking at how the young help reorganise the language and how their usage varies geographically, socially and between genders.

Reading

Sali A. Tagliamonte, *Teen talk. The language of adolescents*. Cambridge University Press. ISBN 978-1-107-67617-6 (pb).

This is the main textbook for the course. A list of additional reading (articles available electronically via the library) will be available at the beginning of the semester.