

Colloquialism

- The use of slang or informalities in speech or writing; not generally acceptable for formal writing, colloquialisms give a work a conversational, familiar tone
- Colloquial expressions in writing include local or regional dialects.
- Represents the differences of various groups living in the region
- Colloquial words are not exclusive—they are used by everybody.

Literary colloquial words

- are used by educated people in the course of ordinary conversation or when writing letters to intimate friends
- are used by English and American writers to create an intimate, warm and informal atmosphere
- *E.g. pal, chum (friend); girl (woman of any age); bite, snack (meal), etc.*

Familiar colloquial words

- are used mostly by the young and semi-educated
- are more emotional, free and careless than literary colloquial
- are characterized by a great number of jocular or ironical expressions and nonce-words
- E.g. *doc* (for *doctor*), *ta-ta* (for *good-bye*), *to kid smb.* (to tease *smb.*), *to pick smb. up* (to make a quick and easy acquaintance), *shut up*, *beat it* (go away), etc.

Low colloquial words

- illiterate popular speech
- contains more vulgar words, and sometimes also elements of dialect

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

- “I never seen anybody but lied, one time or another” (ch. 1)
- “Don’t scrunch up like that, Huckleberry – set up straight” (ch.1)
- “Whar is you? Dog my cats ef I didn’t hear sumf’n. Well, I knows what I’s gwyne to do.” (ch. 2)