



'How is **English changing the language
of adolescents?'**
The impact of **English on teenagers'
everyday communication**

Presentations by Nikola Szuba

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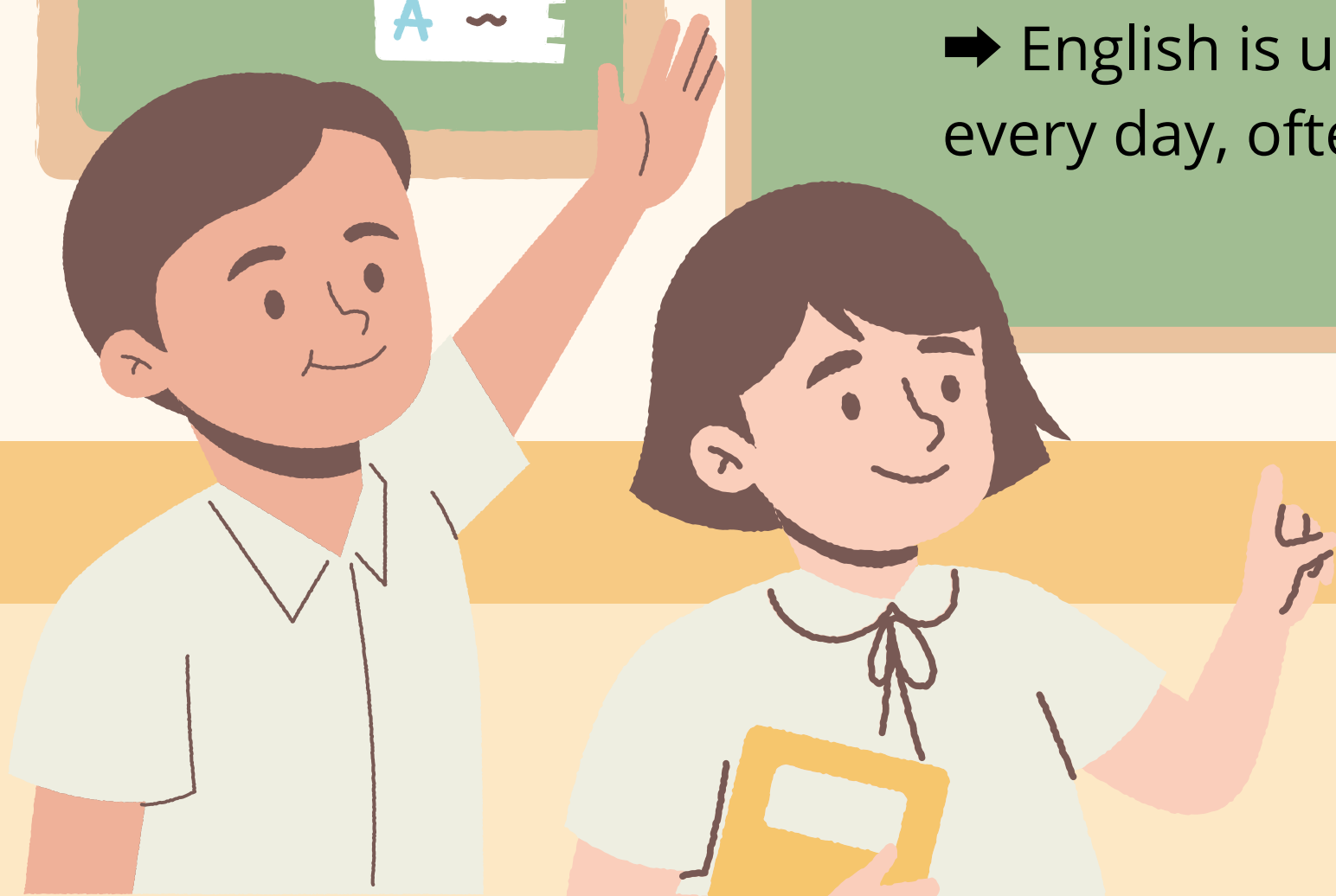




Where does this influence come from?

Main sources of English in youth speech:

- 🎮 Online games (e.g. Fortnite, Roblox, CS:GO).
 - 📱 Social media (TikTok, Instagram, YouTube, X)
 - 🎧 Music (rap, pop, K-pop - often in English)
 - 🎬 Films and series (often without dubbing)
 - 🏠 Learning English from an early age
- ➡ English is ubiquitous today - youngsters hear it every day, often more than Polish.







Youthful language vs. adult language

Example of the same situation in two versions:



 Teens: 'Total drama, seriously.... he did a rage quit on the call!'

 Adult: 'There was quite a stressful situation. He left the call because he got upset.'

Same message – completely different language.
Young people's language tends to be shorter, expressive, sometimes even theatrical.

How does language change? – a
historical example
What we consider ‘pure language’
today was once a novelty too.

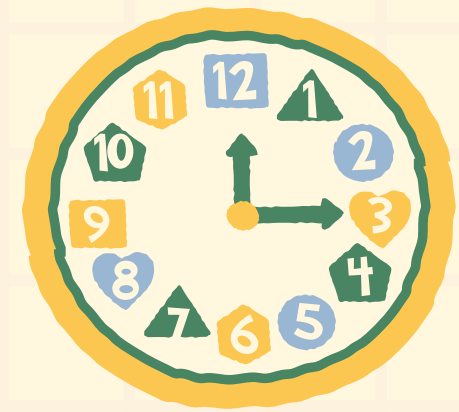
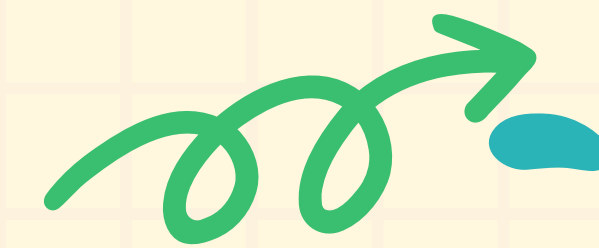
The word ‘telephone’ used to sound foreign.

‘Weekend’ was criticised as unnecessary borrowing.

‘Computer’, “email”, “click” – were not immediately accepted either.

Every generation introduces new words. This is the natural
development of language.





ADVANTAGES OF THIS PHENOMENON

- ✓ Greater linguistic flexibility
- ✓ Easier to communicate online
- ✓ Preparation for life in a global world
- ✓ Freer use of English-language knowledge sources
- ✓ Improved acquisition of foreign language - through play and practice



But there are downsides too...

✗ slowness of speech - less precise messages

✗ Difficulty writing in Polish correctly

✗ Elder exclusion - not all understand youth slang

✗ Blurring of boundaries between languages - chaos in speech

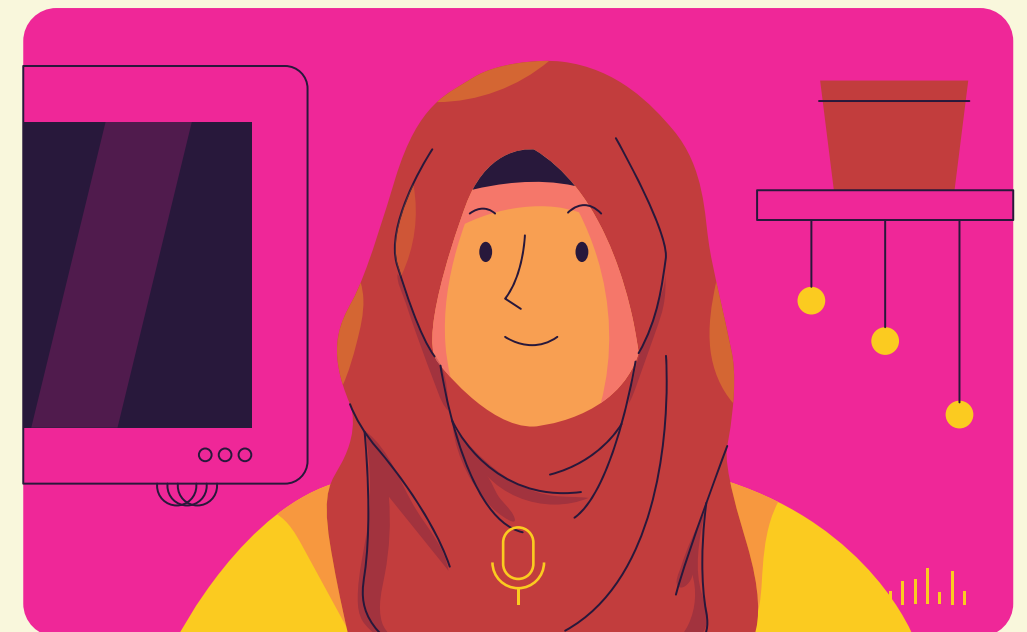
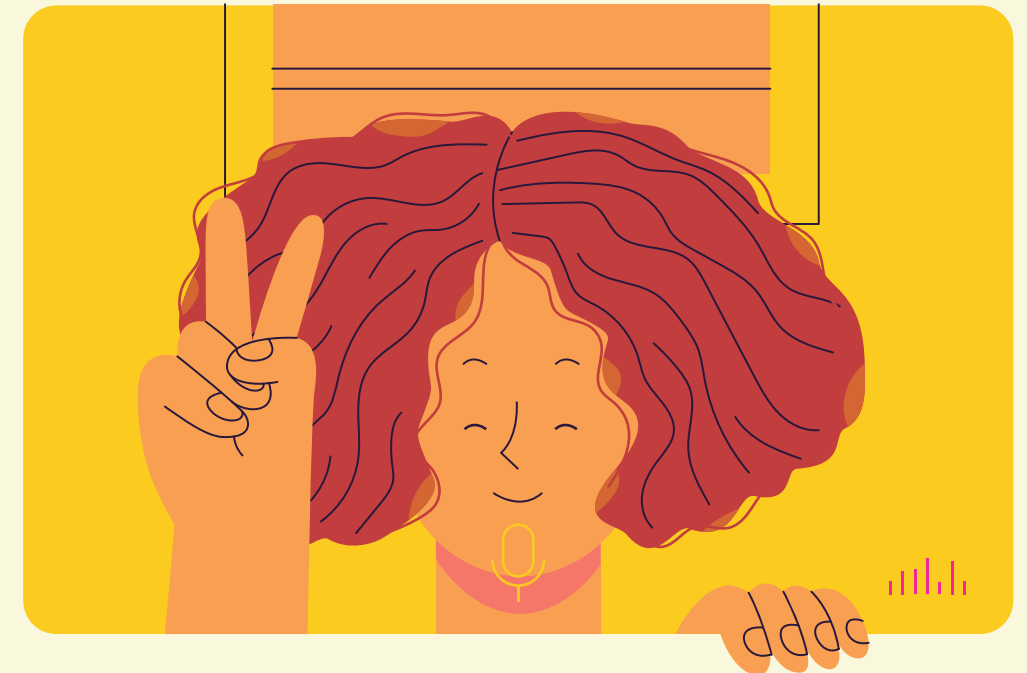
✗ Possible weakening of competence in mother tongue



A new form of communication

In many cases, the young create their own way of communicating from Polish and English - quick, abbreviated, often emotional. For them it is comfortable and natural. For adults - it is sometimes difficult to understand.

It is not laziness, but a different way of expressing oneself.



Is the Polish language endangered?

We don't have to worry about it being completely 'supplanted' - Polish is still going strong. However, there is a **risk of:**

- loss of proficiency in the mother tongue,
- problems in official situations,
- lack of ability to adapt the language to different audiences.
- This is a signal that it is necessary to take care of the development of both languages - in parallel.



Quotes from renowned linguists and experts

- **Language is not just a tool - it is the way we think, feel and see the world.'**
- Prof. Jerzy Bralczyk
- **'Let's not be afraid of changes in language, but let's teach young people to be able to speak correctly when they need to.'**
- Prof. Jan Miodek
- **'Every generation creates its own language. It's not a rebellion - it's a need to express oneself.'**
- Prof. Anna Dąbrowska (UWr)
- **'Borrowing is a natural part of language development. It is important not to forget one's own roots in the process.'**
- Prof. Andrzej Markowski

Summary

- 📌 English influences the way young people speak - this is a fact.
- 📌 It's an influence that can develop, but also weaken the mother tongue.
- 📌 The key is language awareness - knowing when and how to use a particular style.
- 📌 Young people create their language - and it's our job to help them do it wisely.

biography

- linguistic studies (on the impact of Anglicisms on the Polish language),
- reports by institutions such as NASK, NCK, Ministry of Digitalisation,
- popular science and linguistic publications (e.g. statements by Prof. Jerzy Bralczyk, Prof. Jan Miodek, Prof. Anna Dąbrowska),
- observation of linguistic phenomena in social media, education and digital communication of young people.



thank you for listening :)