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## AUSTRALIAN FOOD SLANG

### Abstract

The article analyzes Australian food slang. The first part of the research deals with the definition and etymology of the word 'slang', the purpose of slang and its main characteristics, as well as the history of Australian slang. In the second part, an Australian food slang classification consisting of five categories is provided: -ie/-y/-o and other abbreviations, words that underwent phonetic change, words with new meaning, Australian rhyming slang, and words of Australian origin. The definitions of each word and examples from the corpora and various dictionaries are provided. The paper also dwells on such particular cases as regional varieties of the word 'sausage' (including the map of sausages) and drinking slang.

**Keywords:** Australian food slang, Australian English, varieties of English, linguistic and culture studies.

Australian slang is a vivid and picturesque part of an extremely fascinating variety of English. Just like Australian English in general, the slang Down Under is influenced by both British and American varieties. Australian slang started as a criminal language, it moved to Australia together with the British convicts. Naturally, the attitude towards slang was negative – those who were not part of the criminal culture tried to exclude slang words from their vocabulary. First and foremost, it had this label of criminality and offense. This attitude only changed after the World War I, when the soldiers created their own slang, parts of which ended up among the general public. Naturally, the newspapers yet again were the main trendsetters. This was the time when Australian slang was at its peak – in the sense that it was perhaps most authentic. After that it was heavily influenced by American slang and American culture in general – just like the rest of the world. Australian slang adopted a number of American words and phrases, but still, it is very distinct (partly due to the accent) and recognizable.

This particular topic – food slang – was chosen due to the fact that food remains a major part of socialization. It is a universal topic that is understood across all countries and nationalities. It is also an extremely important part of culture, it is a reflection of the culture. Australian food is a very social experience that often takes place outside – at the beach. Australians are known for their laid-back attitude, and their slang is another proof of it.

## Data and Methodology

The aim of this research is to show Australian food slang in all its variety, to determine and describe the meanings of separate words and phrases, and to provide a classification of it. The purpose of this research is to provide a collection of Australian food slang terms that are used today. While different slang dictionaries provide different terms for food, this article is a more full and complete representation of Australian food slang. The materials used for this research include the definitions from a number of dictionaries (*Oxford English Dictionary*, *Macquarie Dictionary*, *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, etc.), the Corpus of Global Web-Based English, NOW Corpus, and the TV Corpus data, as well as publicist texts. The theoretical base of the research are monographs, academic articles, teaching aid books in the field of linguistic and culture studies, etymology, varieties of English.

The main methods of this research include lexical semantic and cognitive types of language analysis, as well as lexicological analysis. The slang terms related to the topic of food were extracted from publicist texts and dictionaries, after which the definitions were drawn based on the Corpus examples. This methodology allowed to describe Australian food slang in detail and classify it.

## 1. What Is Slang?

### 1.1. Definition and Etymology

Writing about slang presents a complicated task, since the idea of slang is universally understandable but very hard to define and explain. Moreover, slang is often intuitive and requires cultural background knowledge in order to understand it. Still, in this research paper I will try to identify and define some of the culinary terms Australians use in an informal setting, i.e. food slang. Before we proceed to the words and phrases themselves, it is important to get an understanding of what slang is in general.

The *Oxford English Dictionary* says that slang is “a type of language consisting of words and phrases that are regarded as very informal, are more

common in speech than writing, and are typically restricted to a particular context or group of people". The term originated in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and initially was the language of thieves, although later it received a more positive meaning of a "jargon of a particular profession". In the book *Slang Today and Yesterday*, Eric Partridge argues that slang used to indicate vulgar language before 1850, after which it was accepted by general public and became widely used. Now that slang is used by every class and is recognized everywhere, it does not contain any negative meaning or connotations (Partridge 1954: 3).

The definition of the word *slang* in the *Cambridge Dictionary* is very similar to the *Oxford Dictionary* one: a "very informal language that is usually spoken rather than written, used especially by particular groups of people". *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* defines slang as a "language peculiar to a particular group" and "informal nonstandard vocabulary", and "extravagant... speech". So, we can highlight several main points: informal context, group identity, and colorfulness.

As for the etymology of the word, scholars lean towards three different theories: Romani, Scandinavian, and variations on English words *language*, *lingo*, or the French *langue*.

The first theory, Romani, goes back to the Isaac Taylor's findings in the village named Flash, Derbyshire. It was him who noticed that a "narrow strip of land" is called *slang*, "such as used for gypsy encampments" (Green 2016: 3). *Slang* had a wider meaning and included traveling shows organized by gypsies. However, it was not possible to find a Romani etymology for the word slang.

The Scandinavian theory finds its roots in Walter Skeat's work, namely, his *Etymological Dictionary of the English Language*. In this dictionary, he traces the origin of the word slang to the Norwegian *sleng* – "a slinging, an invention, device <...> a little addition or burthen of a song, in verse and in melody". The derivatives of this word include *slengjenamn* – "a nickname", *slanger* – "gossip", *slengjeord* – "an insult or allusion". This etymology was accepted by a number of generations of OED's editors, until the groundbreaking work by Eric Partridge, who suggested that the word *slang* comes from the Old and Middle English verb *sling*, which also has links to Old Norse. This theory would explain the meaning of *slang* as a somewhat abusive language (Green 2016: 5).

The third theory relies on the fact that slang, be it criminal jargon or simply a vulgar language, is still a language, thus it seems logical to link it to the words *language*, *lingo*, and *langue*. How and why did the 's' appear in the beginning then? Some linguists explain it with the theory of 'attraction'. In this case, such compound words as "beggars' lang" or "thieves' lang" have pulled the letter 's', which explains *slang*.

If we look at some other materials, for example the *Online Etymology Dictionary*, we will see that it does not give any concrete information. Moreover, it says that the etymology is unknown, however, the word *slang* was thought to have come from Norwegian *slengnamn*, which is translated as “nickname” (*Online Etymology Dictionary*). However, this is not correct, as is the connection to the French *langue*, and both are denied by etymologists such as Anatoly Liberman. In his study *The Etymology of the Word Slang*, he states that the word was previously used for “a narrow piece of land” and “those who travel about this territory” (hawkers), so it was “the manner of hawkers’ speech”, “low class jargon, argot” (Liberman 2003: 99), which brings us back to the Romani theory (it is, however, important to understand that there are no links to Romani except for the “narrow strip of land” meaning).

The solution offered by Jonathon Green is closely related to the Anatoly Liberman’s theory, which he considers the most accurate. He agrees that the roots can be found in Scandinavian languages, but we should look at parallel definitions rather than one single word. He claims that some of these terms might have been borrowed by hawkers and brought to the English (London) underworld (Green 2016: 7).

## 1.2. The Purpose of Slang

Slang exists in all well-known languages, moreover, sometimes it develops to an extent when it can be considered as a language within the language. For example, Ebonics was widely used in the United States of America in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was the language of the African-American population and its main purpose was to communicate secretly without being understood by the police. Some of their vocabulary was adopted by the white population, which is why African-Americans had to create new words to stay secretive.

Many professions, especially in the sphere of finance or IT, have developed a special jargon, which also is inaccessible to an uninitiated person. Still, even those words penetrate into the standard language and enrich it, make it more interesting.

Slang is used for self-expression, and even more – it reflects personality, it helps a group of people distinguish themselves from others (Partridge 1954: 4). Referring to M. Alfredo Niceforo, Partridge enumerated fifteen reasons why slang “is employed”. They include the “playfulness or waggishness” of it, the humorous side or the desire to express snobbishness, to separate from the crowd, to be “picturesque”, “startling”, “to be brief and concise”, “to enrich the language”, “to reduce... the excessive seriousness of a conversation”, “to amuse”, to ease “social intercourse”, to show one’s belonging to a “school, trade, or profession”, “social class”, or “to be secret” (Partridge 1954: 6–7).

### 1.3. Slang Characteristics

It is natural that there are numerous ways to characterize slang. We can look at the social aspect of it: slang does not belong to any class since it encompasses words that come from various social backgrounds and that are still understandable for the majority of people (Partridge 1954: 10). As noted by E.W. Bowen, “it is composed of colloquialisms everywhere current...” However, we must also be aware of the fact that *colloquialism* and *slang*, even though often used in the same context, are different terms. While *colloquialism* is an informal version of a language, a phrase that is used in a less formal context, *slang* is the use of non-standard words, or misuse of certain words and phrases (Austin Peay State University Academic Support Center, 2012). Apart from not being class-dependent, slang is culturally universal: it can be found in all linguistic communities. Although slang does appear in different forms and possess various traits, it is present in all cultures (Moore, Bindler, Pandich 2010: 524–26).

We can also talk about slang’s informal or colloquial tone. While slang does not belong to any class, it can be used in order to identify with a particular sub-group, which is why slang is bright, playful, rebellious, and inventive. It serves a “group-identifying function”. These days, however, the goal is changing, and instead of creating a group identity, people want to identify with a particular style or an attitude (Eble 1996: 119). In order for this to happen, slang has to be new, appealing, acceptable, and fashionable, as well as creative (Eble 1996: 120, Coleman 2014: 4). The importance of style also explains the linguistic variation of slang. However, style in this case does not only relate to the means of saying the same thing in different ways. It combines the way people speak, the way they dress, the way they behave (Davie 2019: 78).

Another distinct trait of slang is its secrecy. It is known that around 52% of all the terms in the English language are not recorded in dictionaries (research by Jean-Baptiste Michel et al.), some scholars believe there is ‘dark lexis’ in every language, and slang can be considered part of this ‘dark net’. The role of secrecy is extremely important for slang. In fact, this characteristic once again reminds me of Ebonics, the goal of which was, partly, to communicate secretly.

It is also important to mention that slang is made in the cities, it is urban. After the industrial revolution, the countryside language, the regional dialects started to disappear. Instead, cities began to provide new slang words that ended up on the industrial streets. Slang has always been considered vulgar, low, and non-standard, but, to give it justice, slang did appear on the streets, and these two words – slang and street – will always be connected (Green 2016: 37). Apart from that, slang is not restricted geographically, it is not a variety. Although, some exceptions do exist: for example, British bloke vs. American guy (Eble 1996: 10).

### 1.4. Australian Slang

For a very long time Britain's slang was the only English-based non-standard language. However, with the emerging Australian population, the situation changed. It happened so that the first ever dictionary published in Australia included both slang words and the standard English, since it was "a glossary of cant appended to the memories of the transportee James Hardy Vaux" in 1819 (Green 2016: 49). After that, a number of magazines that included new words appeared, the words that were unknown to the British, which was a step towards creating a new variety of English. These days, such terms are known as Australianisms.

Australian English is known to be very different from the rest of the world Englishes, and the distinct accent appeared in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Coleman 2012: 207). Colin Bowles in his *G'day! Teach Yourself Australian in 20 Easy Lessons* argues that it is "patently untrue" that even someone who speaks English fluently can understand Australians. Back in 1945 it was considered a serious issue, as even the then Minister of Immigration announced that "all newcomers of course will have to learn to speak Australian." (Bowles 1986: vii). As for the non-standard language, at first, it mainly consisted of the language of criminals (like in the UK and the US). Apart from that, many British slang words traveled to Australia together with its citizens, which explains the similarity between the two. Still, Australian slang started to develop on its own, independently of other English-speaking countries. The attitude towards it changed, too. If before the WWI slang was considered vulgar and shameful, after the war it "came to represent vitality, virility, and defiantly high morale" (Coleman 2012: 215). Slang became widespread and reached further beyond the bounds of Sydney. Naturally, such popularity led to the compilation of the first Australian slang dictionary by Sidney J. Baker. The dictionary speaks about the influences that Australian slang had, including the dominance of American movies and TV shows, as well as a general multiculturalism, which leads to a decline of slang. However, no slang is pure, and such influence is only natural. Today, Australian slang is presented on a number of official governmental websites, aiming to help newcomers feel at home in the Land Down Under. Australian slang remains varied, creative, and accepting of other cultural influences (Coleman 2012: 216–23).

## 2. Australian Food Slang Classification

While researching dozens of different words and phrases that comprise Australian food slang, I tried to find interrelations and similarities between them, so that a classification can be created. In this paper, Australian food

slang is divided into five subcategories. The first one is the -ie/-y/-o and other abbreviations – words that ‘lost’ their endings due to the peculiarities in Australian pronunciation. The second subcategory are words that underwent phonetic change, which resulted in the change of spelling. The third one is the words with new meaning. Naturally, not all of the words are new to the English language, but the meaning of these particular words in this particular context, which is Australian food slang, is different from the rest of the world. The fourth group is Australian rhyming slang – an obvious choice, since rhyming slang is very rich and colorful, and offers plenty of examples from various spheres of life, including food. The last subcategory is words of Australian origin, which includes words from aboriginal languages. In most cases, they signify various edible plants that are native to Australia.

### 2.1. -ie/-y/-o and Other Abbreviations

The first group of words in the classification are diminutives, which are very common in Australia. This is why Australian English is considered a somewhat ‘lazy’ variety – Australians simply omit the endings of some words. In fact, these endings mark informality and point to familiarity between speakers (Moore 2014: 90). The examples below belong to the Australian food slang vocabulary.

**Avo** – avocado.

(1) Veggie breakfast – eggs, sourdough, spinach, avo, tomato, mushrooms (GloWbE).

**Barbie** – BBQ.

(2) (a) Here I was, across the world, in this land with kangaroos, clear blue water, shrimp on the barbie and I had nothing to say? (GloWbE).

(b) He propounded the natural and national virtues of the Aussie beach barbie with beer and prawns, and the big chunder – *Australian*, p. 20, 1976 (cited in G. Wilkes’ *Dictionary of Australian Colloquialisms*).

**Bardie** – an edible wood grub (*Bardistus cibarius*).

(3) (a) “They’ve been stuck out in the mulga for nearly a week... livin’ on lizards and bardies” – Stuart Gore *Holy Smoke* p. 82, 1968 (cited in G. Wilkes’ *Dictionary of Australian Colloquialisms*).

(b) So, for example, a bardie bush doesn’t have a lot of palatable value to cattle but it has a high eco-system value because it acts as a nursery for other more desirable shrubs to come through (NOW Corpus).

While one might argue that this word should be included in the last category, Words of Australian origin, I decided to leave it here since the name derives not from the Australian aboriginal languages but from Latin.

**Brekky (brekkie)** – breakfast (Coleman 2012: 221).

(4) You put butter on your toast then put a thin spread of the stuff on. Not a bad brekkie (GloWbE).

**Chewie** – chewing gum (Coleman 2012: 221). According to GloWbE, much more popular in the US.

(5) (a) “Shut up, mug”, Danny said. “Give us a chewie”. – William Dick, *A Bunch of Ratbags*, p. 244, 1965 (cited in *The New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English*).

(b) I went with the plantain chips, a package of Justin’s peanut butter cups, and a pack of chewie Fruities (The TV Corpus).

**Chokkie (choccy)** – chocolate (Coleman 2012: 221).

(6) I know it’s addictive to me – one small choccy and hell, give me the whole damn block thanks! (GloWbE).

**Choccy Biccyy** – chocolate biscuit. One would assume that the phrase would also be of Australian origin, however, the corpus shows that it is only found in Britain. It can be explained by the fact that the word *biccyy* originated in Britain (Coleman 2012: 221).

(7) So with an early morning sing-along, a cup of tea and a choccy biccyy we were all cheery enough once we arrived at Boathouse organic farm (GloWbE).

**Eski, esky** – trade name of portable cooler for drinks, etc. (Coleman 2012: 221).

(8) (a) “Look, mate, I don’t mind a tidal wave as long as it doesn’t knock over my esky.” – Sunday Telegraph (Sydney), 1976 (cited in G. Wilkes’ *Dictionary of Australian Colloquialisms*).

(b) For a simpler solution fill the bath with ice and put the beers in, or buy some eski’s – the polystyrene ones work equally as well for the day and won’t break the bank (The TV Corpus).

**Lobby (lobbies)** – lobsters, a freshwater crayfish. Also called *yabbies*.

(9) (a) Growing up in Brisbane during the 60’s and 70’s a lobby was a fresh water cray while only those found in salt water were called yabbies.

(b) My husband grew up in Bundaberg, Qld, in the 1950’s & early 60’s and always used the word lobby not yabbie (both – *Macquarie Dictionary*).

**Lollies** – sweets (Coleman 2012: 219).

(10) (a) Fanny ran away to the nearest lolly shop, and all her brothers and sisters followed her. – Catherine Spence *Clara Morison*, p. 278, 1971 (cited in G. Wilkes’ *Dictionary of Australian Colloquialisms*).

(b) His series on corner stores set off recollections of children buying lollies from friendly and not-so-friendly shop owners (NOW Corpus).

**Maccas** – McDonald’s.

(11) I can’t remember the last time I ate Maccas – it’s hideous junk (GloWbE).

**Mash** – mashed potatoes.

(12) The Lord Nelson is a big chicken schnitzel topped with avocado, nz mussels, prawns & occy in creamy garlic white wine sauce served with chips & salad or mash & vegies. Outstanding (GloWbE).

**Pav** – pavlova, a meringue dessert with cream and fruit topping.

(13) (a) The food... included the best pay I’ve had in years (although the topping of kiwi fruit somehow departed from the WA theme). – Australian, Mag. 20, 1983.

(b) If the result represents an incongruous collision of cultures and comic sensibilities – the whole experience can feel like nibbling on a Four’n Twenty croissant, or a pav topped with escargot – it’ll make you giggle and wince at its



daring (unless you fancy yourself a purist, in which case you'll probably grimace and feel inappropriately superior) (NOW Corpus).

**Sammie** – a sandwich.

(14) You doan like it, there's Vegemite inner cupboard. Make yourself a sammie (Bowles 1986: 27).

**Sav** – saveloy (see *saveloy*).

(15) The cook's home port was in Boston, and he'd just managed to get the savs covered with cold water before blowing through. - *As You Were*, p. 58, 1949 (cited in G. Wilkes' *Dictionary of Australian Colloquialisms*).

**Spag bol** – spaghetti bolognese.

(16) (a) "And [Al Grassby] brought in all those migrants... y'know, those coons and spags". - Bulletin 1 Jun, pp. 399–40, 1974 (cited in G. Wilkes' *Dictionary of Australian Colloquialisms*).

(b) It could be that lovely Helen at the local pool telling me she read and liked my article, my husband saying I look really pretty in that dress or my little tykes exclaiming their spag bol is amazing (NOW Corpus).

**Toastie** – a toasted sandwich. According to GloWbE, more popular in Britain.

(17) Italy's answer to a cheese toastie - the cheese calzone (calzone ai formaggi) was up next... (GloWbE).

**Veggies** – vegetables (Coleman 2012: 221). According to GloWbE, more popular in the US.

(18) For 10 weeks, they were given a low-calorie diet consisting of veggies and a diet shake (for a total of around 500 calories per day) (GloWbE).

## 2.2. Phonetic Change

The words presented below underwent phonetic change, which led to a different spelling and, eventually, to a new word.

**Chook** – a domestic fowl, a chicken (Coleman 2012: 219).

(19) (a) A game rooster that could massacre twenty of your neighbours' domestic cooks in as many minutes. - J.C.L. Fitzpatrick *The Good Old Days*, p. 71, 1900 (cited in G. Wilkes' *Dictionary of Australian Colloquialisms*).

(b) Yet, at May Street they sell a belter of a side dish of Perth's current chook of choice, Korean fried chicken, that will set you back a measly six bucks (NOW Corpus).

**Sanger** – a sandwich

(20) (a) "I fixed a few sangos for you". - John Kiddell *Euloowirree Walkabout*, p. 21, 1969 (cited in G. Wilkes' *Dictionary of Australian Colloquialisms*).

(b) Defining sanger, he wrote: "Sandwiches. Someone who fancied a chicken sausage sandwich could ask for a chook snag sanger". (NOW Corpus).

## 2.3. Words with New Meaning

Naturally, this category is the largest, as the words presented below are used in Australian English and, particularly, in Australian food slang, with a modified meaning. While the words themselves are not new to the English

language, the meanings are quite peculiar and different from the rest of the world.

**Arse nuts, bum nuts** – eggs (Bowles 1986: 75).

(21) The curried bum-nuts are freakin awesome. Incidentally, egg dishes are very popular in India too. Nothing like the dirty ‘curried egg’ we get on sangers over here in Oz (GloWbE).

**Billy** – teapot or a small pot used for brewing tea or cooking soup in. The term originates from the times when bushmen (a dweller who lives away from the populated areas in Australia) had to provide themselves with food while being away from civilization.

(22) Edward came behind... carrying in one hand a gun, in the other a tin kettle or billy, as the diggers call it. – William Howitt *Land, Labour and Gold*, p. 195, 1855 (cited in G. Wilkes’ *Dictionary of Australian Colloquialisms*).

**Billy tea** – tea made in a billy.

(23) A barbecue breakfast, billy tea and damper will be on sale and highlights of the ceremony include Citizen of the Year awards (The TV Corpus).

**Counter lunch, countery** – pub lunch. Lunch counter is an equivalent used worldwide, it is a small diner where a client sits on a stool by a counter and the food is cooked on the other side.

(24) (a) During smoko at Leopold Conrad’s butcher’s shop, his men would swarm across the street to Mildren’s pub for a counter lunch (GloWbE).

(b) Down in South Albury we’ll gather at Brady’s Hotel, have a counter lunch and a few frothies, before sitting down, having a few more frothies and yelling our guts out for the working class teams (NOW Corpus).

**Cut lunch** – sandwiches. In the UK the term means a light meal put in a container (*Cambridge Online Dictionary*).

(25) Cut lunch – another way to say sandwich (GloWbE).

**Damper** – bread made out of flour and water, soda bread. Australian travelers who went to remote areas would traditionally bake this bread in the coals or ashes of a campfire.

(26) (a) “You wait til I get out. Your damper’ll be dough”. – Brian Penton *Landtakers*, p. 51, 1934 (cited in G. Wilkes’ *Dictionary of Australian Colloquialisms*).

(b) Tasting plates include oysters, bimbals, mullet, abalone, and damper, depending on what’s being cooked at the time (NOW Corpus).

**Dingo’s breakfast** – no breakfast, also bush-man’s breakfast. A dingo is a wild dog, which is considered dangerous and often persecuted. This dog’s life is tough and it has no time for breakfast, it is always on the run.

(27) A dingo’s breakfast, a pee and a look around, is free, which I’m told is popular with tourists on buses. – Age (Melbourne) 16 Hun Extra 11, 1984 (cited in G. Wilkes’ *Dictionary of Australian Colloquialisms*).

**Fairy floss** – candy floss, cotton candy.

(28) (a) Just between you and I, pistachio-flavoured fairy floss is the new Black Forest gateau (GloWbE).

(b) “Sundaes with cream and fairy floss and lollies, things like that. And milkshakes – we put lollies on top of them”, Elisha says (NOW Corpus).

**Flake** – shark’s flesh, mainly the small ones’; shark’s meat (Bowles 1986: 35).

(29) Knowing it was shark has been the reason why I have generally chosen whiting, not really sure why, but something about eating something called ‘flake’ when it was really ‘shark’ annoyed me for some reason and didn’t sit right (GloWbE).

**Icy pole** – frozen flavored water snack; the equivalents in other English-speaking countries are *freezer pop*, *ice lolly*, *ice block*.

(30) While waiting we were given an icy pole and after we had been rescued we were given a box of chocolates and letter from the Motel Reception apologising for the inconvenience. Pretty amazing (GloWbE).

**Jaffle** – A toasted sandwich. Also, a cooking appliance for making toasts.

(31) If you’ve ever made a jaffle or toasted sandwich and cursed at how your cheese has melted out and on to the cooking surface, haloumi is best eaten fried or grilled! This is because of its high melting point (GloWbE).

**Mush, moose** – prison food, esp. porridge.

(32) “What’s mush?” I asked... “Breakfast, kid”, said George. “A dixie full of lumpy gluey, reviled wheat” (*Oxford Dictionary of Slang*).

**Mystery bag** – a meat pie or a sausage. It is unknown what the butcher put in there, hence the name.

(33) “The bags of mystery or links of love are sausages” (*Oxford Dictionary of Slang*).

**Pie floater** – a meat pie floating in a bowl of pea soup with lots of sauce. Generally used in South Australia, in Adelaide (Bowles 1986: 75).

(34) That means it’s shirts off and in the mud for Dr Chris and Commando – at least once a week Plus Tiffany gets a weekly eating challenge – starting with a pie floater from Harry’s Cafe de Wheels and ending with a dozen of them chicken embryo eggs they had to eat on Survivor (GloWbE).

**Plate, bring a** – instruction on party or BBQ to bring a previously prepared and assembled plate of food to share.

(35) When you are invited to a party and asked to “bring a plate”, this means to bring a dish of food to share with your host and other guests. Take the food to the party in any type of dish, not just a plate, and it is usually ready to serve (GloWbE).

**Saveloy** – a hot dog.

(36) A Paddy’s market was an open air affair, a mixture of merry-go-rounds, sideshows, saveloy sellers, farmers with produce and animals for sale, second hand dealers, craftsmen and members of the rag trade (GloWbE).

**Snag, snagger** – a sausage. It is possible that the word appeared due to a similarity of the shape of a sausage and an actual snag. However, a more frequent interpretation is that the word originated from ‘snack’. Colin Bowles notes that Australian sausages are “thin, pink, obscene and tasteless” (Bowles 1986: 61). Other sources such as *Macquarie Dictionary* also point out to the fact that Australian sausages typically are mild, not too spicy.

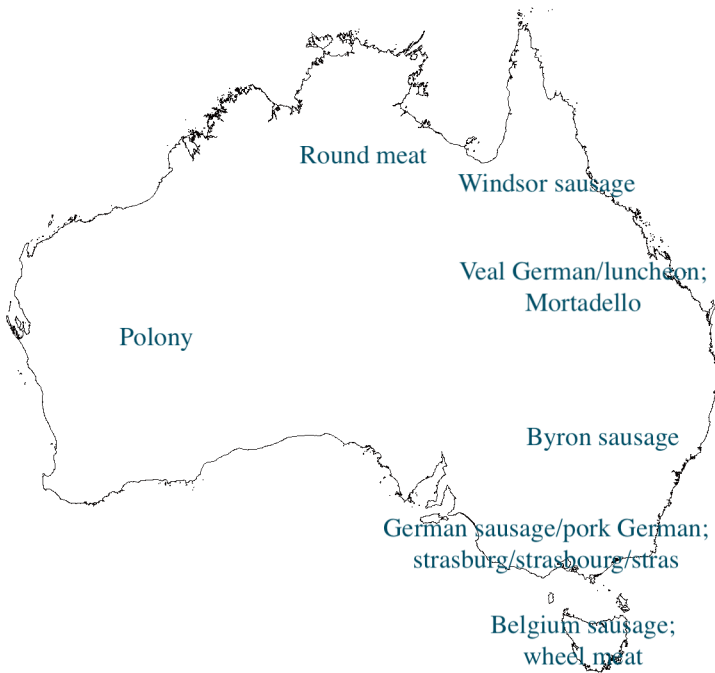
(37) Throwing some snags on the barbie, turning on the cricket and cracking a cold beer are just part and parcel of summer (GloWbE).

**Snarler** – a sausage. According to the corpora, more popular in New Zealand.

- (38) At the end of the dispensing line little chaps from the Boys' Brigade ejaculated a blob of rich red Fountain Tomato Sauce on top of each snarler. – Sydney Morning Herald, 1982 (cited in G. Wilkes' *Dictionary of Australian Colloquialisms*).

Since, at this point, we have encountered two different Australianisms signifying the word *sausage* – *snag* and *snarler* – it would be appropriate to dig deeper into the topic and discuss Australian regional names for the word. It appears that all regions in Australia have different names for the word *sausage*, all of them are shown on the map below (Figure 1).

Starting from the very north of Australia, we encounter the phrase **round meat**. We might assume that the name appeared due to the round shape in which some of the sausages are made. As we move south, new terms are found. **Windsor sausage** is the typical sausage name found in North Queensland; the flavor and the shape of the sausage are the same as Devon sausage (see below), but the name is different (*Macquarie Dictionary*). Queensland has several names for the word *sausage*, those include **veal German**, **luncheon**, and **mortadello(a)** (the Italian influence). And again, the contents of the sausage remain the same, and the only difference is the name. *Macquarie Dictionary* contributors note that as children they did not realize that it was not common to call a sausage, for example, a *luncheon*, but as they grew up and started traveling around the country, they encountered all this great variety of names used, essentially, to define the same thing. **Byron sausage** is the name typical for a large area which includes New South Wales and Northern Rivers. One of the contributors notes that while they were growing up in Lismore (a town close to Brisbane), it was common to use this word. The name itself derives from a small factory at Byron Bay called Norco, which was producing these sausages (*Macquarie Dictionary*). Moving further 'down', all the way to Victoria and Northern Tasmania, we encounter a number of different words: **German sausage**, **pork German**, **Strasbourg**, **Strasburg**, and, simply, **Stras**. The last one can be explained by the Australian's love for shortenings. As for the first two, clearly, the German influence can be traced. One of the contributors notes that their mother, who was from Melbourne, would always use the word *Strasbourg*. Moreover, *Strasbourg*, compared to all the other sausages listed above, has a strong flavor, it is spicier and reminds of salami (*Macquarie Dictionary*). Another popular name in that area is Devon sausage, which is more common and well-known throughout Australia than the other regionalisms. In Tasmania the common names for sausage are **Belgium sausage** and **wheel meat**. Last but not least, in the less populated Western Australia the common name for a sausage is **polony**. This word may have originated from the Italian *bologna*, and, as one of the *Macquarie Dictionary* contributors notes, "in Perth it is polony" (*Macquarie Dictionary*).



**Figure 1.** Australian Sausage Map. (Source: compiled by the author)

**Spud** – a potato. The word comes from the digging a hole in the soil before planting a potato. Related to the Latin word *spad-* meaning *sword*. According to GloWbE, more popular in Ireland.

(39) One of the projects that caught her eye was potato stamping, which she tackled on her own – including the cutting of the spud (GloWbE).

**Tucker** – food. Some examples from Australian National Corpus include: “Sit down and have some tucker”, “Let me have some tucker I will work for it”, “And have to eat their tucker too”. One could argue that the word *tucker* presupposes the necessity to fight for food, work hard to get some.

(40) Eastenders are known as hard-working, hard-living folks. They also have pretty hard stomachs? come lunchtime, don’t be surprised if jellied eels, or eel pie, appear before you as traditional tucker (GloWbE).

**Tucker-bag** – food bag.

(41) They also carried a tucker bag containing a frying pan, tucker and a billy or billycan to make tea (GloWbE).

## 2.4. Australian Rhyming Slang (Food and Drinks)

**Dead horse** – tomato sauce (The Melbourne Local, Apr 2, 2012). Interestingly, the phrase *tomato sauce* means *horse* according to *A Dictionary of English Rhyming Slang*.

(42) (a) Dead horse – a phrase meaning tomato sauce (GloWbE).

(b) A couple of pounds of stammer and stutter with a bottle of dead horse – W.S. Ramson, ANND, 1998. Puckapunyal: Official Journal of the 17<sup>th</sup> Australian

Infantry Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1940 (cited in *A Dictionary of English Rhyming Slang*).

**Dog's eye** – meat pie. The dish is popular not only in Australia but also in the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Canada and several African countries.

(43) (a) Dog's eye- a type of Australian meat pie (GloWbE).

(b) You're a two wheeler, go and get us a dog's eye and dead horse. – M. Balwyn, *Survival Guide*, p. 143, 2007 (cited in *A Dictionary of English Rhyming Slang*).

**Bleeding dog's eye** – a meat pie with tomato sauce (cited in *A Dictionary of English Rhyming Slang*).

**Britney Spears** – beers. Sometimes only the first name is used. Another variant of the phrase is simply *brittos*.

(44) Ready for a few cold Britneys? – Sunday Herald Sun, Melbourne, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2001 (cited in *A Dictionary of English Rhyming Slang*).

**Harold Holt, Harry Holt** – salt, considering the usual Australian pronunciation of the word. Harold Holt was an Australian Prime Minister, who disappeared at Portsea in Victoria where he was swimming.

(45) So we nutter out a few quid, pair of lobsters, and I did a Harold. – 2007 (cited in *A Dictionary of English Rhyming Slang*).

**Angus Murray** – a curry. Angus Murray was an Australian criminal. *A Dictionary of English Rhyming Slang* references S.J. Baker's *The Australian Language* and G. Seal's DEDH, however, no examples of the use were found in the corpus.

**Gypsy Lee** – tea.

(46) The great British response to any huge crisis – put the kettle on and have a brew-up, the world may be about to end but there's still time for a cup of Gypsy Rose Lee... – 2008 (cited in *A Dictionary of English Rhyming Slang*).

**Kerb and gutter** – butter. *A Dictionary of English Rhyming Slang* references S.J. Baker's *The Australian Language* and J. Meredith's *DAS*, however, no examples of the use were found in the corpus.

**Loop the loop** – soup. Also used in Britain and America, as well as New Zealand. However, the variant *loopy the loop* was only found in Australia.

(47) "I want some squad halt in my looping-the-loop", is the modern way of asking for salt in your soup. – A.W. Boyd, *Country Diary*, p. 226, 1946 (cited in *A Dictionary of English Rhyming Slang*).

**Soft as silk** – milk. *A Dictionary of English Rhyming Slang* references S.J. Baker's *The Australian Language* and J. Meredith's *LTOJL*, however, no examples of the use were found in the corpus. Still, the phrase soft as silk is very often found near the word milk, or white as milk. Thus, we may assume that this is how the phrase came about.

**Squatter's daughter** – water. According to *A Dictionary of English Rhyming Slang*, the short form appeared in the Sydney *Kings Cross Whisper* in 1967.

(48) Rhyming slang that my father used included squatter's daughter for water and salt-sea wave for shave. – *The Age*, Melbourne, 1996 (cited in *A Dictionary of English Rhyming Slang*).

**Tom and Sam** – jam. *A Dictionary of English Rhyming Slang* references S.J. Baker's *The Australian Language* and J. Meredith's *LTOJL*, however, no examples of the use were found in the corpus.

**Uncle Ned** – bread. Used only in the full form.

(49) If you are asked have you any 'Uncle Ned', is have you any bread[.] – *The Kapunda Herald*, Kapunda, South Australia, 1894 (cited in *A Dictionary of English Rhyming Slang*).

**Stop thief** – beef. The word has a specific meaning – while talking about a piece of beef that was stolen.

(50) I have got this piece of stop thief. – D. Anglicus, VT, 1857 (cited in *A Dictionary of English Rhyming Slang*).

**Off break** – a steak. *A Dictionary of English Rhyming Slang* references E. Spilsted's GASB1 and G. Seal's DEDH, however, no examples of the use were found in the corpus.

## 2.5. Words of Australian Origin

**Adjigo** – a yam native to coastal Western Australia. The word originated in one of the aboriginal languages called Nhanta in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (*The Oxford English Dictionary*).

**Anzac Biscuits, Anzacs** – cookies made with oats and coconut that were given to ANZAC ("Australian and New Zealand Army Corps") soldiers during WWI.

(51) These were the tastiest anzac biscuits ever and so easy to cook as well (GloWbE).

**Barra** – an abbreviation for barramundi (see *barramundi*).

(52) Back in '89 i was in at Windjana by myself and at the time there where no 'no fishing' and yes I did throw a lure around, caught ox eyed tarpon and a few small barra all released, there were also plenty of small crocs waiting for a feed (GloWbE).

**Barramundi; barra** – aboriginal name for Australian freshwater fish, esp. the large ones and found in the north of the continent.

(53) 1<sup>st</sup> Course – Confit Salmon with Peas # 2<sup>nd</sup> Course – Duck Ravioli with Wild Mushroom # 3<sup>rd</sup> Course – Barramundi with Roasted Fennel # 4<sup>th</sup> Course – Beef Cheek with Parsnip Mash # 5<sup>th</sup> Course – Peach Bellini (NOW Corpus).

## 2.6. A Glimpse into Australian Drinking Slang

While in order to cover Australian drinking slang fully, one will need to conduct serious research, it is essential to show at least some examples in this paper, which is why I call it simply a glimpse and not a comprehensive review. The words below can also be categorized based on the classification presented earlier, however, since the groups would end up being too small, I present the terms in alphabetical order.

**A Cold One** – beer. Considering how hot it can get during summer in Australia, a cold beer on the beach is a must, hence the name.

(54) "We've all won this race ... and now that we've done it I think we deserve a cold one". (GloWbE).

**Adam's Ale** – water.

(55) Adam's Ale – refers to the biblical first man, means water as in "I am bloody parched, need a gulp of Adam's ale". (GloWbE).

**Amber fluid** – beer. The name appeared due to the similarity of the color of amber and beer (*Oxford Dictionary of Slang*).

(56) There'll be 360 meat pies and 30 kilos of snags to demolish, washed down with 40 cartons of amber fluid. – NT News (Darwin), 1980.

**Bottlo, bottle-oh** – a person who collects and sells used bottles (Coleman 2012: 222).

(57) It was an approach as familiar as the postmen with their whistles, and the cockatoos glanced idly at the sweating pony and the two bottle-os in their grubby trousers and singlets. – Vince Kelly, *The Bogyman*, p. 186, 1956 (cited in *The New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English*).

**Bundy** – Bundaberg Rum, often in the expression *bundy and coke*.

(58) The "spirit of the game" was over-proof Bundy run and all players entered freely into it. – National Times 10 Mar Colour Mag. 6, 1984 (cited in G. Wilkes' *Dictionary of Australian Colloquialisms*).

**Cab Sav** – Cabernet Sauvignon.

(59) The big one, a traditional Bordeaux blend of Cab Sav, Merlot, Cab Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot (GloWbE).

**Cleanskin** – a bottle of wine with no label.

(60) This improvement has apparently been eroded over the last eighteen months by the promotion of cleanskin bottled wine selling for as little as \$2 a bottle (GloWbE).

**Coldie** – a can or bottle of cold beer (Coleman 2012: 221).

(61) "Copla coldies in the fridge", he said. – Nino Culotta *They're a Weird Mob*, p. 126, 1957 (cited in G. Wilkes' *Dictionary of Australian Colloquialisms*).

**Cuppa** – a cup, cup of.

(62) So sit back, read on and enjoy with a cuppa herbal tea... (GloWbE).

**Dead soldier or dead marine** – empty beer or spirits bottle.

(63) "Woodcartin's not the game it used to be, neither is collectin' dead marines". – K.S. Prichard *Golden Miles*, p. 375, 1948 (cited in G. Wilkes' *Dictionary of Australian Colloquialisms*)

**Drink with the flies** – to drink alone in a pub; unsociable attitude.

(64) "A few days ago a common swage, drinking with the flies". – Arthur Wright *The Boy from Bullarah*, p. 114, 1925 (cited in G. Wilkes' *Dictionary of Australian Colloquialisms*).

**Frothy** – Beer. Originally meant *foamy* or *bubbly* and could be applied to any liquid (i.e. milkshake).

(65) Red noses and more plans and counter plans and big fires and frothy beers held aloft and there were congratulations all round (GloWbE).

**Get on the turps** – to drink alcohol (see *turps*).



(66) You get the people going out on a yabby picnic and they yake a big heap of grog with them, they get on the turps, fall in the river and all sorts of terrible things (GloWbE).

**Goon** – a flagon of wine; cheap cask wine, also the bag containing the wine (goon bag).

(67) Tim Stanford started off drinking with ‘the goon’. It’s a flagon of moselle or riesling. – Sydney Morning Herald, Nov 30, 1982 (cited in G. Wilkes’ *Dictionary of Australian Colloquialisms*).

**Grog** – a general term for an alcoholic drink (usually liquor, beer).

(68) The pubs were full of shearers gorging on and waiting for a break in the weather. – Bobbie Hardy *The World Owes Me Nothing*, p. 146, 1979 (cited in G. Wilkes’ *Dictionary of Australian Colloquialisms*).

**Handle** – a beer glass with a handle.

(69) No schooners here, George, but I guess a handle will do the job. <...> They’re about the size of a middy. – M.J. Burton, Bush Pub, p. 148, 1978 (cited in *The New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English*).

**Hottie** – a hotwater bottle (Coleman 2012: 221).

(70) We’d had a run of late nights and we were pretty fagged so round about ten I filled the hottie and Beryl and I went to bed. – Barry Humphries *A Nice Night’s Entertainment*, p. 17, 1981 (cited in G. Wilkes’ *Dictionary of Australian Colloquialisms*).

**Lolly water** – sweet soft drink or a soda that does not contain alcohol (or very little alcohol); used to describe an overly sweet drink, esp. if artificially colored.

(71) Lolly-water Soft drink (as an example of derivation from pidgin). – Baker, p. 231, 1945 (cited in G. Wilkes’ *Dictionary of Australian Colloquialisms*).

**Maggoted** – a term used to describe someone who is extremely drunk.

(72) Greta tells the queen that she’s going to the clubs to get maggoted. Classy, Greta (GloWbE).

**Plonk** – cheap wine; derives from WWI rhyming slang: *plinkety plonk*, meaning *vin blanc* (Coleman 2012: 220).

(73) We went to a show and the queues for the dreadful cheap plonk were long and populated by people with sad faces who would probably have been happier with an ice cream (GloWbE).

**Plonko** – a person who drinks cheap wine; also a *wino*.

**Roadie** – a final drink, usually drunk before one heads back home.

(74) A roadie is normally a beer before one hits the road (GloWbE).

**Shout** – a turn to buy a round of drinks (also for others).

(75) Like to come and have a beer with me? I’ll shout. – William Dick *Naked Prodigal*, p. 75, 1969 (cited in G. Wilkes’ *Dictionary of Australian Colloquialisms*).

**Slab** – a carton consisting of 24 bottles or cans of beer.

(76) After paying legal costs, court costs and dividing up his assets like a cold slab of beer on a hot day to an angry mob that just gate-crashed his party, Mr. X estimated that the whole legal experience set him back a cool \$250,000.00 and this he tells me is a conservative estimate (GloWbE).

**Skin full** – drunk.

(77) One father was concerned that his children would be able to express their feelings. I know men really struggle in that area and it is not until they get a skin full of beer that it comes out (GloWbE).

**Stubby** – a 375 ml bottle of beer, smaller than usual.

(78) He threw an empty stubby into the box and went to the refrigerator for a full one. – Frank Hardy *The Unlucky Australians*, p. 49, 1968 (cited in G. Wilkes' *Dictionary of Australian Colloquialisms*).

**Tinny** – a 375 ml can of beer.

(79) The aluminium "tinnie" has long been a major force in the Australian boat market for its low initial cost, durability and ease of use. – Herald (Melbourne), Jun 35, 1979 (cited in G. Wilkes' *Dictionary of Australian Colloquialisms*).

**Turps** – any kind of alcoholic drink.

(80) What about the rest who are going straight back on the turps the minute the stores do open? – NT News (Darwin), Mar 6, 1982 (cited in G. Wilkes' *Dictionary of Australian Colloquialisms*).

## Conclusion

Slang is a valuable topic for research, since it is always changing, always developing. Slang is universal and can be found in almost every language, which means that it is understandable to the majority of the population. Still, it is very difficult to define slang, since it comes in many forms. Its characteristics vary from having informal tone and not belonging to any class to the importance of style and attitude. Slang is secret, fashionable, vibrating, and colorful. Due to the fact that it appeared on the streets and is, in its essence, urban, slang is ever-changing, free, and accepting. All these characteristics serve the purpose of slang. Slang is used to express oneself, to stand out from the crowd and to show one's belonging to a subculture, to a group. It also helps to make the language richer, more picturesque, and playful. Last but not least, slang reduces the formality of a conversation and makes social intercourse easier.

Australian English is a distinct variety. One of its most interesting parts is food slang. Since food is an important and often essential part of a social interaction, food slang is vast and inventive. In this paper, an Australian food slang classification was proposed, which divides slang words into five categories: -ie/-y/-o and other abbreviations (e.g. pav, spag bol); words that underwent phonetic change (e.g. sanger); words with new meaning (e.g. billy, mystery bag); Australian rhyming slang (e.g. kerb and gutter, soft as silk); words of Australian origin (e.g. adjigo). Each word and phrase was defined, and the examples were given. Moreover, regional varieties of the word *sausage* were explained, and the map was attached as a form of visual

representation. To complete the review, drinking slang was also touched upon, and a number of examples were drawn.

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