

Vietnamese slang expressions*

SOPHANA Srichampa

Institute of Language and Culture for Rural Development

Nowadays, in Vietnam, many people, especially adolescents, often use slang expressions in their daily life. It seems that these slang expressions can convey more vivid and more understandable meanings among the users than the ordinary vocabulary items. Some words denote impolite meanings or actions. Some convey subtle meanings. Some slang expressions are short-lived and are replaced by others which are introduced into the language of the society.

The Vietnamese word for “slang” is “*tiếng lóng*” /tiəŋ⁵ lɔŋ⁵/. These slang expressions have been collected by me item by item during my stay in Hanoi from December 1997 till February 1998 and total more than 100 items. In this paper all the data will be classified according to the functions and meanings. The English meaning, the example sentence and most of the ordinary word(s) are presented relating to each slang expression. Some words can be used both as slang and as ordinary words with no slang meaning attached to them.

Adverbs: Slang expressions which function as adverbs modify the verbs as in:

1. *ác* /a:k⁵/ “well”

<i>Bạn</i>	<i>chơi</i>	<i>ác</i>	<i>thật.</i>
/ban ⁶	chəj ¹	a:k ⁵	thət ⁶ /
friend	play	well	true
NP	V	AdvP	AdvP

“You play really well.”

2. *ba hoa* /ba:¹ hwa:¹/ “boastful and talkative”

<i>Mày</i>	<i>chỉ</i>	<i>giỏi</i>	<i>ba hoa</i>	<i>thôi.</i>
/māj	chi ³	zɔj ³	ba: ¹ hwa: ¹	thoj ¹ /
you	only	skilled	boastful	only
NP	AdvP	V	AdvP	AdvP

“You are only skillful in boasting.”

The ordinary word is *hay nói* /haj¹ nɔj⁵/

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3. *bụi* /buj⁶/ “depraved”

<i>Con</i>	<i>bé</i>	<i>trông</i>	<i>bụi</i>	<i>thật.</i>
/kɔn ¹	bɛ ⁵	chɔŋ ¹	buj ⁶	thət ⁶ /
clf	child	look	deprave	real
NP		V	AdvP	AdvP

“The child looks really depraved.”

The literary meaning of *bụi* is “dust”. It is related to the bad behavior of a person. The ordinary word is *không tốt* /xɔŋ¹ tɔt⁵/.

4. *dặt dẹo* /zat⁶ zɛw⁶/ “bad”

<i>Thằng ôn</i>	<i>đó</i>	<i>trông</i>	<i>dặt dẹo</i>	<i>lắm.</i>
/than ² on ¹	ɔ ⁵	chɔŋ ¹	zat ⁶ zɛw ⁶	lam ⁵ /
youngster	that	look	bad	very
NP		V	AdvP	AdvP

“That young boy looks very bad.”

5. *gắt* /ɣat⁵/ “well”

<i>Cậu</i>	<i>chơi</i>	<i>gắt</i>	<i>thế.</i>
/kɿw ⁶	chɔj ¹	ɣat ⁵	the ⁵ /
you	play	well	part
NP	V	AdvP	PART

“You play so well.”

The ordinary words are *hay* /haj¹/, *tốt* /tɔt⁵/.

6. *ghê tởm* /ɣe¹ tɔm³/ “disgusting”

<i>Con bé</i>	<i>trông</i>	<i>ghê tởm.</i>
/kɔn ¹ bɛ ⁵	chɔŋ ¹	ɣe ¹ tɔm ³ /
child	look	disgusting
NP	V	AdvP

“The child looks disgusting.”

The ordinary words are *nhìn sợ thế* /ɲin²sə⁶ the⁵/, *bấn bấn* /bɒn³ bɒn³/.

7. *ngon* /ŋɔn¹/ “good, high quality”

<i>Xe</i>	<i>này</i>	<i>đi</i>	<i>ngon</i>	<i>lắm.</i>
/sɛ ¹	naj ²	di ¹	ŋɔn ¹	lam ⁵ /
car	this	go	easy	very
NP		V	AdvP	AdvP

“This car is very good.”

The ordinary word is *chất lượng cao* /chət⁵ lɿwɔŋ⁶ ka:w¹/.

8. *như cơm bữa* /ɲw¹ kəm¹ buəʔwəʔ⁴/ “often”

<i>Nó</i>	<i>thay đổi</i>	<i>người</i>	<i>yêu</i>	<i>như cơm bữa.</i>
/nɔ ⁵	thaj ¹ doj ³	ɲwəj ²	ɲiew ¹	ɲw ¹ kəm ¹ buəʔwəʔ ⁴ /
he	change	lover		often
NP	V	NP		AdvP

“He changes his lovers often.”

The slang expression *như cơm bữa* has the literary meaning “like a daily meal” which is the daily behavior. The ordinary word is *hay* /haj/.

9. *nuốt* /nuət⁶/ “nice, well”

<i>Cô</i>	<i>ta</i>	<i>nhìn</i>	<i>nuốt</i>	<i>thật</i>	<i>chả</i>	<i>trách</i>	<i>bao nhiêu</i>
/ko ¹	ta ¹	ɲin ²	nuət ⁶	thət ⁶	cha: ³	chac ⁵	ba:w ¹ ɲiəw ¹
she		look	nice	real	not	reproach for	how much
NP		V	AdvP	AdvP	NEG	V	Q

<i>đàn ông</i>	<i>đố xô</i>	<i>vào.</i>
dan ² oŋ ¹	do ³ so ¹	va:w ² /
male	flock	into
NP	V	P

“She is nice that’s why a lot of boys flock to flirt with her.”

The ordinary words are *giỏi* /zɔj³/, *tốt* /tot⁵/, *đẹ* /dɛ⁶/.

10. *phọt phẹt* /fɔt⁶ fet⁶/ “bad”

<i>Bây</i>	<i>giờ</i>	<i>nó</i>	<i>học hành</i>	<i>phọt phẹt</i>	<i>lắm.</i>
/baj ¹	zə ²	nɔ ⁵	hɔk ⁶ hap ²	fɔt ⁶ fet ⁶	lam ⁵ /
now		he	study	bad	very
AdvP		NP	V	AdvP	AdvP

“Now he studies very badly.”

The ordinary word are *nhìn ghê* /ɲin² ye¹/, *trông sợ thế* /chɔŋ¹ sə⁶ the⁵/.

11. *tằng tịu* /taŋ² turw⁶/ “adultery”

<i>Anh</i>	<i>đi</i>	<i>tằng tịu</i>	<i>với</i>	<i>con</i>	<i>nào</i>	<i>thế?</i>
/aŋ ¹	di ¹	taŋ ² turw ⁶	vəj ⁵	kɔn ¹	na:w ²	the ⁵ /
you	go	adultery	with	girl	which	so
NP	V	AdvP	PP			AdvP

“Did you commit adultery with any girl?”

The ordinary word is *ngoại tình* /ɲwaj⁶ tij²/.

12. *trâu* /tɾaw¹/ “violent in playing”

<i>Tao</i>	<i>không</i>	<i>giám</i>	<i>đá</i>	<i>bóng</i>	<i>với</i>	<i>bọn</i>	<i>nó</i>	<i>vì</i>
/taw ¹	xoŋ ¹	zam ⁵	da: ⁵	bɔŋ ⁵	vəj ⁵	bɔn ⁶	no ⁵	vi ²
I	not	dare	play	football	with	group	he	because
NP	NEG	V	V	PP				Conj

<i>bọn</i>	<i>nó</i>	<i>đá</i>	<i>trâu</i>	<i>lắm.</i>
bɔn ⁶	no ⁵	da: ⁵	chaw ¹	lam ⁵ /
group	he	kick	violent	very
NP	V		AdvP	AdvP

“I do not dare to play football with his group because they play very violently.”

The ordinary words are *thô bạo* /tho¹ baw⁶/, *thố bì* /tho³ bi³/.

13. *xông xênh* /soŋ¹ seŋ¹/ “generous”

<i>Thằng</i>	<i>cha</i>	<i>đó</i>	<i>ăn tiêu</i>	<i>xông xênh</i>	<i>lắm.</i>
/than ²	cha: ¹	do ⁵	an ¹ tiəw ¹	soŋ ¹ seŋ ¹	lam ⁵ /
he		that	spend	generous	very
NP			V	AdvP	AdvP

“He is very generous.”

The ordinary word is *thoái mái* /thwa:j³ maj⁵/.

Verbs: In the following section verbs used in slang expressions have been divided into two groups, (i) stative verbs, and (ii) functive verbs.

i) *Stative verbs* are verbs which can be preposed by the degree marker such as *rất* “very”, *hơi* “a little”, *khá* “pretty, rather” and can be postposed by the degree marker such as *lắm* “very”, *nữa* “more”.

14. *ấm đầu* /am⁵ daw²/ “mad”

<i>Mày</i>	<i>ấm</i>	<i>đầu</i>	<i>à?</i>
/maj ²	am ⁵	daw ²	a: ² /
you	mad		Q
NP	V		Q

“Are you mad?”

The literary meaning of the slang *ấm đầu* is “have a light fever”. It is related to the madness. The ordinary word is *hâm hâm* /ham¹ ham¹/.

15. *cáo già* /ka:w⁵ za:2/ “tricky”

<i>Thôi</i>	<i>đừng</i>	<i>có</i>	<i>tin</i>	<i>nó</i>	<i>thằng</i>	<i>cha</i>	<i>ấy</i>	<i>cáo già</i>	<i>lắm.</i>
/tho:j ¹	dun ²	ko ⁵	tin ¹	no ⁵	than ²	cha ¹	aj ⁵	ka:w ⁵ za:2	lam ⁵ /
stop	not	have	believe	he	guy		that	tricky	very
VP	NEG	V	V	NP	NP			V	AdvP

“Stop. Don’t believe him. He is very foxy.”

The literary meaning of *cáo già* is “old fox”.

16. *co vòì* /ko¹ voj²/, *chờn* /chən²/, *gườm* /ɣwəm²/ “afraid, panic”

<i>Nếu</i>	<i>mày</i>	<i>liều</i>	<i>chết</i>	<i>bọn</i>	<i>nó</i>	<i>sẽ</i>	<i>co vòì</i>	<i>ngay.</i>
/new ⁵	maj ²	liəw ²	chet ⁵	bən ⁶	no ⁵	se?e ⁴	ko ¹ voj ²	ɲaj ¹ /
if	you	reckless		group	they	will	afraid	suddenly
Conj	NP	V		NP	NP	AUX	V	AdvP

“If you are reckless, they will be afraid.”

17. *cay đắng* /kaj¹ daŋ⁵/ “miserable”

<i>Cuộc</i>	<i>sống</i>	<i>thật</i>	<i>cay đắng.</i>
/kwək ⁶	soŋ ⁵	that ⁶	kaj ¹ daŋ ⁵ /
clf	life	real	miserable
NP		AdvP	V

“Life is very miserable.”

The literary meaning of *cay đắng* is “bitter”. The ordinary word is *đau khổ* /daw¹ xo¹/.

18. *chanh chua* /caŋ¹ cua¹/ “sharp tongued”

<i>Chị</i>	<i>ta</i>	<i>rất</i>	<i>chanh</i>	<i>chua.</i>
/chi ⁶	ta:1	ɾat ⁵	caŋ ¹	chua ¹ /
she		very	sharp	tongued
NP		AdvP	V	

“She is very sharp-tongued.”

This slang expression *chanh chua* means “sour lemon”.

19. *chát* /chat⁵/ “expensive”

<i>Giá</i>	<i>chát.</i>
/za ⁵	chat ⁵ /
price	expensive
NP	V

“The price is expensive.”

The ordinary word is *đắt* /dat⁵/.

20. *chớ chết* /chɔ̌⁵ chet⁵/ “bugger or bastard”

<i>Thằng ấy</i>	<i>chớ chết</i>	<i>lắm.</i>
/thaň ² ʌj ⁵	chɔ̌ ⁵ chet ⁵	lam ⁵ /
he	bugger	very
NP	V	AdvP

“That bugger is very snotty.”

The literary meaning is “Dead dog.”

21. *choáng* /chwɑ̌⁵/ “be afraid”

<i>Mày</i>	<i>choáng</i>	<i>không</i>	<i>giám</i>	<i>đi</i>	<i>xe máy</i>	<i>à?</i>
/maj ²	chwɑ̌ ⁵	xõ ¹	zam ⁵	di ¹	se ¹ maj ⁵	a ² /
you	be afraid	not	dare	go	motorbike	Q
NP	V	NEG	V	V	NP	Q

“Do you not dare to go by motorbike?”

The ordinary word is *sợ* /sə⁶/.

22. *chùn* /chun²/ “panic”

<i>Mày</i>	<i>lại</i>	<i>chùn</i>	<i>à?</i>
/maj ²	laj ⁶	chun ²	a: ² /
you	again	panic	Q
NP	AdvP	V	Q

“You are panicked again, aren’t you?”

23. *đé cù* /ze¹ ku⁶/ “lustful”

<i>Thằng cha</i>	<i>ấy</i>	<i>đé cù</i>	<i>thật.</i>
/thaň ⁵ cha ¹	ʌj ⁵	ze ¹ ku ⁶	that ⁶ /
youngster		lustful	real
NP		V	AdvP

“He is really lustful.”

The literary meaning of this slang is “old goat” which is related to the lustful behavior.

24. *đông dài* /zõ¹ zaj²/ “waste time”

<i>Không</i>	<i>nên</i>	<i>đông</i>	<i>dài</i>	<i>như</i>	<i>vậy.</i>
/xõ ¹	nen ¹	zõ ¹	zaj ²	nu ¹	vʌj ⁶ /
not	should	waste	time	like	that
NEG	AUX	V		AdvP	NP

“(You) should not waste time like that.”

25. *đã* /daʔa⁴/ “wonderful, good”

<i>Thức</i>	<i>ăn</i>	<i>này</i>	<i>đã</i>	<i>thật.</i>
/thuək ⁵	an ¹	naj ²	daʔa ⁴	thət ⁶ /
food		this	good	true
NP			V	AdvP

“This food is very good.”

The ordinary word is *tốt* /tot⁵/.

26. *đĩ* *thỏa* /diʔi⁴ thwaʔa⁴/ “lustful”

<i>Ông</i>	<i>ấy</i>	<i>già</i>	<i>rồi</i>	<i>mà</i>	<i>đĩ</i>	<i>thỏa.</i>
/oŋ ¹	aj ⁵	za:2	zoj ²	ma:2	diʔi ⁴	thwaʔa ⁴ /
he		old	already	but	lustful	
NP		V	AdvP	Conj	V	

“He is already old but lustful.”

27. *đinh* /dip¹/ “difficult”

<i>Bài</i>	<i>toán</i>	<i>này</i>	<i>đinh</i>	<i>lắm.</i>
/baj ²	twan ⁵	naj ²	dip ¹	lam ⁵ /
lesson	math	this	difficult	very
NP			V	AdvP

“This math lesson is very difficult.”

28. *ghê* /ɣe¹/ “intelligent”

<i>Nó</i>	<i>ghê</i>	<i>lắm.</i>	<i>Không</i>	<i>bịp</i>	<i>được</i>	<i>nó</i>	<i>đầu.</i>
/no ⁵	ɣe ¹	lam ⁵	xoŋ ¹	bip ⁶	duək ⁶	no ⁵	daw ¹ /
he	intelligent	very	not	cheat	able	he	part
NP	V	AdvP	NEG	V	PostV	NP	PART

“He is intelligent. (You) can’t cheat him.”

The ordinary word is *thông minh* /thoŋ¹ mip¹/.

29. *giở* *hơi* /zə³ həj¹/ “cracked”

<i>Con</i>	<i>đó</i>	<i>bi</i>	<i>giở</i>	<i>hơi.</i>
/kɔn ¹	do ⁵	bi ⁶	zə ³	həj ¹ /
chick		suffer	cracked	
NP		AUX	V	

“He is cracked.”

The ordinary word is *hâm* *hâm* /ham¹ ham¹/.

30. *hãm tài* /haʔam⁴ taij²/ “unlucky”

<i>Hôm nay</i>	<i>gặp</i>	<i>con</i>	<i>bé ấy</i>	<i>hãm tài</i>	<i>lắm.</i>
/hom ¹ naj ¹	gap ⁶	kɔn ¹	bɛ ⁵ ʔj ⁵	haʔam ⁴ taij ²	lam ⁵ /
today	meet	she		unlucky	very
AdvP	V	NP		V	AdvP

“Meet her today is very unlucky.”

The ordinary word is *không may* /xoŋ¹ maj¹/.

31. *hết đạ*n /het⁵ dam⁶/ “short of money”

<i>Vào</i>	<i>nhà hàng</i>	<i>ăn</i>	<i>tối</i>	<i>đi.</i>
/va:w ²	na: ² haŋ ²	an ¹	toj ⁵	di ¹ /
enter	restaurant	eat	dinner	go
V	NP	VP		IMP

“Have dinner in the restaurant.”

<i>- Đang</i>	<i>hết</i>	<i>đạ</i> n.
/daŋ ¹	het ⁵	dam ⁶ /
prog	finish	money
AUX	VP	

“I am short of money.”

32. *hóc búa* /hɔk⁵ bwə⁵/ “difficult”

<i>Bài thi</i>	<i>hóc búa</i>	<i>quá.</i>
/baij ² thi ¹	hɔk ⁵ bwə ⁵	kwa: ⁵ /
examination	difficult	very
NP	V	AdvP

“The examination is very difficult.”

The ordinary word is *khó* /xɔ⁵/.

33. *hống hách* /hoŋ⁵ hac⁵/ “bossy”

<i>Cho</i>	<i>nó</i>	<i>một</i>	<i>trận,</i>	<i>nó</i>	<i>quá</i>	<i>hống hách.</i>
/cho ¹	no ⁵	mot ⁶	chan ⁶	no ⁵	kwa: ⁵	hoŋ ⁵ hac ⁵ /
give	he	one	match	he	very	bossy
V	NP	NP		NP	AdvP	V

“Give him one match. He is very bossy.”

The ordinary word is *cậy quyền* /kʌj⁶ kwien²/ .

34. *hời* /həj²/ “profitable”

<i>Làm</i>	<i>việc</i>	<i>cho</i>	<i>anh ta</i>	<i>rất</i>	<i>hời.</i>
/lam ²	viək ⁶	cho ¹	an ¹ ta: ¹	zat ⁵	həj ² /
do	work	for	he	very	profitable
V	NP	PP		AdvP	V

“Working for him is very profitable.”

The ordinary word is *lời* /ləj⁶/.

35. *khù khuẩm* /xu² xwam²/ “terrible”

<i>Đời</i>	<i>nó</i>	<i>cứ</i>	<i>khù khuẩm</i>	<i>thế</i>	<i>đấy.</i>
/dəj ²	nɔ ⁵	ku ⁵	xu ² xwam ²	the ⁵	daj ⁵ /
life	he	part	terrible	so	part
NP		PART	V	AdvP	PART

“Life is so terrible.”

The ordinary word is *khớ* /xo³/.

36. *ki bo* /ki¹ bɔ¹/ “stingy”

<i>Thằng cha</i>	<i>này</i>	<i>ki bo</i>	<i>lắm.</i>
/than ² cha ¹	nay ²	ki ¹ bɔ ¹	lam ⁵ /
guy	this	stingy	very
NP		V	AdvP

“He is very stingy.”

The ordinary word is *ket xỉ* /kət⁶ si³/.

37. *lém* /ləm⁵/ “intelligent (in speaking)”

<i>Thằng bé</i>	<i>ít</i>	<i>tuổi</i>	<i>nhưng</i>	<i>lém</i>	<i>lắm.</i>
/than ² be ⁵	it ⁵	tuəj ³	ɲum ¹	ləm ⁵	lam ⁵ /
boy	little	age	but	intelligent	very
NP	AdvP	NP	Conj	V	AdvP

“The boy is young but (he is) very intelligent.”

The ordinary word is *khéo mồm* /xew⁵ mom²/.

38. *lụa* /lua⁶/ “well”

<i>Mày</i>	<i>lái</i>	<i>xe</i>	<i>rất</i>	<i>lụa.</i>
/maj ²	laj ⁵	se ¹	zat ⁵	lua ⁶ /
you	drive	car	very	well
NP	V	NP	AdvP	V

“You drive a car very well.”

The ordinary words are *khéo* /xew⁵/, *giỏi* /zɔj³/.

39. *ma cô* /ma¹ ko¹/ “tricky”

<i>Thằng cha</i>	<i>ma cô</i>	<i>lắm.</i>
/than ² cha ¹	ma ¹ ko ¹	lam ⁵ /
man	tricky	very
NP	V	AdvP

“He is very tricky.”

40. *máu* /maw⁵/ “sexy”

<i>Con bé</i>	<i>máu</i>	<i>lắm</i>	<i>tán</i>	<i>luôn</i>	<i>đi</i>
/kɔn ¹ be ⁵	maw ⁵	lam ⁵	tan ⁵	luən ⁶	di ¹ /
she	sexy	very	court	immediately	part
NP	V	AdvP	V	AdvP	PART

“She is very sexy. Court (her) immediately.”

The ordinary word is *khiêu dâm* /xiəw¹ zəm¹/.

41. *mất chất* /mat⁵ chat⁵/ “degenerated”

<i>Nó</i>	<i>đạo này</i>	<i>mất chất</i>	<i>lắm</i>
/nɔ ⁵	za:w ⁶ naj ²	mat ⁵ chat ⁵	lam ⁵ /
he	nowadays	degenerate	very
NP	AdvP	V	AdvP

“Nowadays he has become very degenerate.”

The ordinary word is *trở nên xấu* /chə³ nen¹ saw⁵/.

42. *mĩ mãn* /mi⁴ ma⁴/ “great or wonderful”

<i>Kết quả</i>	<i>đặt</i>	<i>được</i>	<i>thật</i>	<i>mĩ mãn</i>
/ket ⁵ kwa: ³	dat ⁶	duək ⁶	that ⁶	mi ⁴ ma ⁴ /
result	place	able	real	great
NP	V	PostV	AdvP	V

“The obtained result is wonderful.”

The ordinary word is *tuyệt* /twiət⁶/.

43. *quí quyết* /kwi³ kwiət⁶/ “dishonest, deceitful”

<i>Cô gái</i>	<i>đó</i>	<i>quí quyết</i>	<i>lắm</i>
/ko ¹ ɣaj ⁵	do ⁵	kwi ³ kwiət ⁶	lam ⁵ /
girl	that	dishonest	very
NP		V	AdvP

“That girl is very dishonest.”

The ordinary word is *lừa* /lwə⁶/.

44. *ranh ma* /zap¹ ma:¹/ “tricky”

<i>Con bé</i>	<i>ranh ma</i>	<i>lắm</i>	<i>không</i>	<i>sao</i>	<i>lừa</i>	<i>được</i>	<i>nó</i>
/kɔn ¹ be ⁵	zap ¹ ma: ¹	lam ⁵	xoŋ ¹	saw ¹	luə ²	duək ⁶	nɔ ⁵ /
child	tricky	very	not	why	deceive	able	he
NP	V	AdvP	NEG	Q	V	PostV	NP

“She is too tricky to be cheated.”

The ordinary word is *khôn ngoan* /xon¹ ŋwam¹/.

45. *son* /sɔn¹/ “lucky”

<i>Số</i>	<i>cậu</i>	<i>son</i>	<i>thế</i>	<i>tán</i>	<i>cô</i>	<i>nào</i>	<i>cũng</i>	<i>đó.</i>
/so ⁵	kaw ⁶	sɔn ¹	the ⁵	tan ⁵	ko ¹	na:w ²	ku?uŋ ⁴	do ³ /
fate	you	lucky	so	flirt	girl	which	also	shoot
NP	NP	V	AdvP	V	NP	RelP	AdvP	V

“You have a lucky fate, so you are able to flirt with every girl.”

The ordinary word is *may* /maj¹/.

46. *tá điền* /ta⁵ diən²/ “hick”

<i>Tao</i>	<i>ăn mặc</i>	<i>thế</i>	<i>này</i>	<i>nhìn</i>	<i>có</i>	<i>tá điền</i>	<i>không?</i>
/ta:w ¹	an ¹ mak ⁶	the ⁵	naj ²	pin ²	ko ⁵	ta ⁵ diən ²	xoŋ ¹ /
I	dress	like	this	look		hick	Q
NP	V	AdvP	NP	V	Q	V	Q

“When I dress like this, do I look like a rural person?”

The ordinary words are *quê mùa* /kwe¹ mwə²/, *nông thôn* /noŋ¹ thon¹/.

47. *trình tương* /tjɪn¹ tuəŋ⁵/, *vi tính* /vi¹ tjɪn⁵/ “vain”

<i>Mày</i>	<i>trình tương</i>	<i>thế.</i>
/maj ²	tjɪn ¹ tuəŋ ⁵	the ⁵ /
you	vainful	so
NP	V	AdvP

“You are so vain.”

48. *xương (xấu)* /swəŋ¹ (saw³)/ “difficult”

<i>Bài tập</i>	<i>này</i>	<i>xương (xấu)</i>	<i>lắm.</i>
/baj ² tap ⁶	naj ²	swəŋ ¹ saw ³	lam ⁵ /
lesson	this	difficult	very
NP		V	AdvP

“This lesson is very difficult.”

ii) *Funcative verbs* are verbs which denote activities.

49. *ăn* /an¹/ “win or solve”

<i>Bài</i>	<i>toán</i>	<i>này</i>	<i>khó</i>	<i>lắm</i>
/baj ²	twan ⁵	naj ²	xo ⁵	lam ⁵
lesson	mathematics	this	difficult	very
NP			V	AdvP

<i>mày</i>	<i>có</i>	<i>ăn</i>	<i>được</i>	<i>không?</i>
maj ²	kɔ ⁵	an ¹	dwək ⁶	xoŋ ¹ /
you		solve	be able	Q
NP	Q	V	PostV	Q

"This mathematics exercise is difficult, are you able to solve it?"

The literary meaning of *ăn* is "to eat". The ordinary word is *làm* /lam²/, *giải quyết* /zaj³ kwiet⁵/.

50. *bám càng* /bam⁵ kam²/ "to accompany"

<i>Đi</i>	<i>đâu</i>	<i>đấy?</i>	<i>Cho</i>	<i>tớ</i>	<i>bám càng</i>	<i>với.</i>
/di ¹	daw ¹	daj ⁵	cho ¹	tə ⁵	bam ⁵ kam ²	vəj ⁵ /
go	where	part	give	I	be accompany for	with
V	NP	Part	V	NP	V	P

"Where are (you) going? Let me accompany you."

The ordinary word is *đi cùng* /di¹ kuŋ²/ "go together".

51. *biển* /biən⁵/ "clear off, to tell someone to go away"

<i>Mày</i>	<i>biển</i>	<i>đi.</i>
/maj ²	biən ⁵	di ¹ /
you	piss off	part
NP	V	part

"Go away."

The ordinary word is *đi đi* /di¹ di¹/.

52. *bịp* /bip⁶/ "tricky"

<i>Thằng</i>	<i>ấy.</i>	<i>tài</i>	<i>bịp</i>	<i>người</i>	<i>khác.</i>
/than ⁵	aj ⁵	taj ²	bip ⁶	ŋuəj ²	xa:k ⁵ /
guy	this	talent	tricky	person	other
NP		V	V	NP	

"This guy is talented in cheating other people."

The ordinary word is *lừa* /lwa²/.

53. *bùng* /buŋ²/ "not pay a debt"

<i>Tao</i>	<i>không</i>	<i>cho</i>	<i>vay</i>	<i>đâu,</i>	<i>mày</i>	<i>hay.</i>
/ta:w ¹	xoŋ ¹	cho ¹	vaj ¹	daw ¹	maj ²	haj ¹
I	not	for	lend	part	you	frequently
NP	NEG	P	V	Part	NP	AdvP

<i>bùng</i>	<i>lắm.</i>
buŋ ²	lam ⁵ /
not pay the debt	very
V	AdvP

"I do not lend (you money), because you frequently do not repay the debt."

54. *cà ấu* /ka:² dew³/ “irritate”

<i>Mày</i>	<i>muốn</i>	<i>cà ấu</i>	<i>tao</i>	<i>à?</i>
/maj ²	muən ⁵	ka: ² dew ³	ta:w ¹	a: ² /
you	want	irritate	I	Q
NP	V	V	NP	Q

“Do you want to irritate me?”

The ordinary meaning is *chọc tức* /cɔk⁶ tuək⁵/.

55. *cày* /kaj²/ “to save money”

<i>Độ</i>	<i>này</i>	<i>anh ấy</i>	<i>cày</i>	<i>nhiều</i>	<i>quá.</i>
/do ⁶	naj ²	ən ¹ ʌj ⁵	kaj ²	niəw ²	kwa: ⁵ /
period	this	he	save	a lot	many
AdvP		NP	V	AdvP	

“This period he saves a lot of money”

56. *chạy làng* /chay⁶ lam²/ “not pay a debt”

<i>Không</i>	<i>cho</i>	<i>mày</i>	<i>vay</i>	<i>đâu,</i>	<i>mày</i>	<i>luôn</i>	<i>chạy</i>	<i>làng.</i>
/xon ¹	cho ¹	maj ²	vaj ¹	daw ¹	maj ²	luən ¹	chaj ⁶	lam ² /
not	give	you	lend	part	you	always	avoid	paying a debt
NEG	V	NP	V	Part	NP	AdvP	V	

“(I) do not lend (you some money), you always avoid paying a debt.”

The literary meaning of the slang *chạy làng* is “run (around) the village”. It means that the borrower escapes from paying money back by running around the village.

57. *chăn dắt* /chan¹ zat⁵/ “A pimp guards the prostitutes in order to earn money.”

<i>Con ấy</i>	<i>bi</i>	<i>thằng ấy</i>	<i>chăn dắt.</i>
/kɔn ¹ ʌj ⁵	bi ⁶	than ² ʌj ⁵	chan ¹ zat ⁵ /
she	suffer	man	guard
NP	AUX	NP	V

“She is being controlled by that fellow.”

The literary meaning of this slang expression is “tend” but when it is related to the pimp, it conveys a violent guarding. The ordinary meaning is *tú bà* /tu⁵ ba²/.

58. *chác táng* /chak⁵ tam⁵/ “depraved, degenerate”

<i>Con ấy</i>	<i>chác táng</i>	<i>lắm.</i>
/kɔn ¹ ʌj ⁵	chak ⁵ tam ⁵	lam ⁵ /
she	depraved	very
NP	V	AdvP

“She is very depraved.”

The ordinary word is *ăn chơi* /an¹ chəj¹/ .

59. *cưa* /kwa¹/ “to flirt”

<i>Mày</i>	<i>có</i>	<i>cưa</i>	<i>được</i>	<i>con</i>	<i>đó</i>	<i>không?</i>
/maj ²	kə ⁵	kwa ¹	duək ⁶	kən ¹	do ⁵	xoŋ ¹ /
you		flirt	able	chick	that	Q
NP	Q	V	PostV	NP		Q

“Are you able to flirt with that girl?”

The ordinary word is *tán* /tam⁵/.

60. *cho đi tàu bay giấy* /cho¹ di¹ taw² baj¹ zəj⁵/ “to flatter”

<i>Đừng</i>	<i>cho</i>	<i>tôi</i>	<i>đi tàu bay giấy.</i>
/dum ²	cho ¹	toj ¹	di ¹ taw ² baj ¹ zəj ⁵ /
not	give	I	flatter
NEG	V	NP	V

“Don’t flatter me.”

The ordinary word is *nịnh* /nɪn⁷/

61. *chém* /chem⁵/ “rip off, charge too high a price for something”

<i>Bây giờ</i>	<i>mua</i>	<i>bán</i>	<i>phải</i>	<i>mặc cả</i>	<i>cẩn</i>	<i>thận</i>	<i>chứ</i>	<i>bọn</i>	<i>nó</i>
/baj ¹ zə ²	muə ¹	ban ⁵	faj ³	mak ⁶ ka ³	kan ³	than ⁶	chu ⁵	bən ⁶	nə ⁵
now	buy	sell	must	bargain	careful	if not	gang	it	
AdvP	V	V	AUX	V	AdvP		Conj	NP	

<i>chém</i>	<i>kinh</i>	<i>lắm.</i>
chem ⁵	kin ¹	lam ⁵ /
rip off	frighten	very
V	AdvP	AdvP

“Now (you) have to bargain carefully when (you) buy (things), if not they will over charge you very frightfully.”

The ordinary word is *đòi giá cao* /doj² za⁵ ka:w¹/.

62. *chuồn* /chuən²/ “return, come back”

<i>Thôi</i>	<i>tôi</i>	<i>chuồn</i>	<i>đây.</i>
/thoj ¹	toj ¹	chuən ²	daj ¹ /
be over	I	come back	here
V	NP	V	AdvP

“It’s over. I will come back here.”

The ordinary word is *đi về* /di¹ ve²/.

63. *chơi bớp* /chəj¹ bəp⁵/, *đánh bớp* /dap⁵ bəp⁵/ “to have sex with prostitute”

<i>Chơi bớp</i>	<i>nguy</i>	<i>hiếm lắm.</i>
/chəj ¹ bəp ⁵	ɲuj ¹	hiəm ³ lam ⁵ /
have sex with prostitute	dangerous	very
V	V	AdvP

“Having sex with a prostitute is very dangerous.”

64. *đào của* /da:w² kuə³/ “to gain property”

<i>Nó yêu</i>	<i>gì</i>	<i>đâu</i>	<i>mục</i>	<i>đích</i>	<i>của</i>	<i>nó</i>	<i>là</i>	<i>đào</i>	<i>của.</i>
/nɔ ⁵ ɲiəw ¹	zi ²	da:w ¹	muk ⁶	dic ⁵	kuə ³	nɔ ⁵	la: ²	da:w ²	kuə ³ /
he love	what	Part	purpose	of	he	be	dig	property	
NP	V	NP	NP			V	NP		

“He doesn’t love her. His purpose is to gain her property.”

65. *đi nặng* /di¹ naŋ⁶/ “go to toilet”

<i>Minh</i>	<i>đi</i>	<i>nặng</i>	<i>rồi.</i>
/min ²	di ¹	naŋ ⁶	zoj ² /
I	go	heavy	already
NP	V		AdvP

“I already went to the toilet.”

The ordinary word is *đi vệ sinh* /di¹ ve⁶ sin¹/.

66. *điềm đạm* /diəm² dam⁶/ “sober”

<i>Tôi</i>	<i>thích</i>	<i>người</i>	<i>điềm đạm.</i>
/toj ¹	thic ⁵	ɲuəj ²	diəm ² dam ⁶ /
I	like	person	sober
V	NP	NP	

“I like a sober person.”

67. *đủ (đớn)* /du⁵ dən⁵/ “flirting”

<i>Thôi</i>	<i>tôi</i>	<i>xin</i>	<i>cô</i>	<i>đừng</i>	<i>có</i>	<i>đủ đớn</i>	<i>nữa.</i>
/thoj ¹	toj ¹	sin ¹	ko ¹	dum ²	ko ⁵	du ⁵ dən ⁵	nuəʔwə ⁴ /
be over	I	ask	you	not	have	flirting	more
V	NP	V	NP	NEG	V	V	AdvP

“It’s over. I ask you not to flirt more.”

68. *đứt* /duət⁵/ “fail”

<i>Hôm</i>	<i>đi</i>	<i>thì</i>	<i>mình</i>	<i>không</i>	<i>làm</i>	<i>được</i>	<i>bài</i>	<i>chắc</i>	<i>là</i>
/hom ¹	di ¹	thi ²	mim ²	xoŋ ¹	lam ²	duək ⁶	baj ²	chak ⁵	la: ²
day	go	then	I	not	do	able	lesson	sure	that
AdvP	V	Conj	NP	NEG	V	PostV	NP	V	Conj

<i>đứt</i>	<i>thối.</i>
duət ⁵	thoj ¹ /
fail	be over
V	V

“I had an examination, but I couldn’t do it. I may fail.”

The literary meaning of *đứt* “break, cut off”. The ordinary word is *thất bại* /thət⁵ baj⁶/.

69. *đến Tết tây* /den⁵ tet⁵ tɔj¹/ “in vain”

<i>Chờ</i>	<i>nó</i>	<i>thì</i>	<i>có</i>	<i>mà</i>	<i>đến</i>	<i>Tết</i>	<i>tây.</i>
/chə ²	nɔ ⁵	thi ²	kɔ ⁵	ma: ²	den ⁵	tet ⁵	tɔj ¹ /
wait	he	then	have	which	result	is in	vain
V	NP	Conj	V	Conj	V		

“It is in vain to wait for him .”

The literary meaning of the slang *đến Tết tây* “reach New Year Day of Westerners.” because in Vietnam, the Vietnamese do not celebrate on the first of January. New Year Day is “Tết”. The ordinary phrase is *không bao giờ xảy ra* /xoŋ¹ ba:w¹ ziə² saj³ za¹/.

70. *gan lì* /ɣam¹ li²/ “wrongly persistent”

<i>trẻ</i>	<i>bé</i>	<i>quá</i>	<i>gan lì.</i>
/duə ⁵	bɛ ⁵	kwa: ⁵	ɣam ¹ li ² /
child	too	wrongly	
NP		AdvP	V

“The child is wrongly persistent .”

71. *gật hái* /ɣət⁶ hai⁵/ “to achieve, get some profit”

<i>Chơi</i>	<i>với</i>	<i>nó</i>	<i>mày</i>	<i>gật hái</i>	<i>được</i>	<i>gì</i>	<i>không?</i>
/chəj ¹	vəj ⁵	nɔ ⁵	maj ²	ɣət ⁶ hai ⁵	duək ⁶	zi ²	xoŋ ¹ /
play	with	he	I	achieve	able	what	not
V	P	P	NP	V	PostV	NP	NEG

“Can you get anything by being her friend?”

The ordinary word is *kiếm được* /kiəm⁵ duək⁶/.

72. *hẳn học* /han² hək⁶/ “burst into angry words”

<i>Sao</i>	<i>anh</i>	<i>hay</i>	<i>hẳn học</i>	<i>thế.</i>
/sarw ¹	əp ¹	haj ¹	han ² hək ⁶	the ⁵ /
why	you	often	burst	so
AdvP	NP	AdvP	V	AdvP

“Why do you often burst into angry words?”

The ordinary word is *quát tháo* /kwat⁵ tha:w⁵/.

73. *hươu vượn* /hurw¹ vuən⁶/ “tell a lie”

<i>Mày</i>	<i>toàn</i>	<i>có</i>	<i>hươu vượn</i>	<i>thôi.</i>
/maj ²	twam ²	kɔ ⁵	hurw ¹ vuən ⁶	thoj ¹ /
you	always	have	a lie telling	be over
NP	AdvP	V	NP	PART

“You always tell a lie.”

The ordinary word is *nói dối* /noj⁵ zoj⁵/.

74. *hết hơi* /het⁵ həj¹/ “tired, difficult, have a problem”

<i>Tối</i>	<i>ngày</i>	<i>mà</i>	<i>không</i>	<i>xong</i>	<i>thì</i>	<i>hết hơi</i>	<i>đấy.</i>
/toj ⁵	naj ¹	ma ²	xoŋ ¹	soŋ ¹	thi ²	het ⁵ həj ¹	ɗaj ⁵ /
evening	this	which	not	finish	then	tired	part
AdvP		Conj	NEG	V	Conj	V	PART

“If it is not finished this evening, I will have a problem.”

The ordinary words are *mệt* /met⁶/, *khó khăn* /xɔ⁵ xan¹/.

75. *kênh kiêu* /kep¹ kiəw⁶/ “conceit”

<i>Xấu</i>	<i>như</i>	<i>ma</i>	<i>mà</i>	<i>cũng</i>	<i>kênh kiêu.</i>
/saw ⁵	ɲw ¹	ma: ¹	ma: ²	kuŋw ⁴	kep ¹ kiəw ⁶ /
ugly	like	ghost	but	also	conceit
V	AdvP	NP	Conj	AdvP	V

“(She is) ugly like a ghost but also conceited.”

76. *kênh kiêu* /kep¹ kiəw⁶/ “to look down upon somebody”

<i>Anh ấy</i>	<i>luôn luôn</i>	<i>kênh kiêu</i>	<i>người ta.</i>
/əp ¹ əj ⁵	luən ¹ luən ¹	kep ¹ kiəw ⁶	ɲwəj ² ta: ¹ /
he	always	look down upon	people
NP	AdvP	V	NP

“He always looks down upon people.”

The ordinary word is *kiêu* /kiəw/.

77. *ké* /kɛ/ “get help from someone”

<i>Tôi</i>	<i>đi</i>	<i>ké</i>	<i>ôtô</i>	<i>của</i>	<i>cậu</i>	<i>có</i>	<i>được</i>	<i>không?</i>
/toj ¹	di ¹	kɛ ⁵	oto ¹	kuə ³	kaw ⁶	kɔ ⁵	duək ⁶	xoŋ ¹ /
I	go	get a help	car	of	you	have	be able	Q
NP	V	V	NP	PP	Q	V	Q	

“Can I go by your car?”

The ordinary word is *nhờ* /nə²/.

78. *khốn nạn* /xon⁵ nan⁶/ “naughty, bad, something bad”

<i>Mày</i>	<i>khốn nạn</i>	<i>lắm.</i>
/maj ²	xon ⁵ nan ⁶	lam ⁵ /
you	naughty	very
NP	V	AdvP

“You are very naughty.”

The ordinary word is *không tốt* /xoŋ¹ tot⁵/.

79. *bán tiền* /ban⁵ tiən²/ “short of money”

<i>Tao</i>	<i>bán</i>	<i>tiền</i>	<i>quá!</i>
/ta:w ¹	ban ⁵	tiən ²	kwa: ⁵ /
I	short of	money	very
NP	V		AdvP

“I am very short of money.”

The ordinary word is *cạn tiền* /kan⁶ tiən²/.

80. *kích bác* /kic⁵ ba:k⁵/ “to tease or taunt somebody”

<i>Thằng ấy</i>	<i>chỉ</i>	<i>giỏi</i>	<i>khốn</i>	<i>kích bác</i>	<i>thôi.</i>
/than ² əj ⁵	chi ³	zɔj ³	xwan ³	kic ⁵ ba:k ⁵	thoj ¹ /
he	only	skillful	irritating	taunt	part
NP	AdvP	V	V	V	PART

“He is very good at irritating at others.”

The ordinary word is *chọc tức* /chɔk⁶ tu:k⁵/.

81. *liu tiu* /liw¹ tiw¹/ ‘merry’

<i>Bác</i>	<i>uống</i>	<i>mấy</i>	<i>cốc</i>	<i>mà</i>	<i>nhìn</i>	<i>liu tiu</i>	<i>thế.</i>
/ba:k ⁵	uəŋ ⁵	maj ⁵	kok ⁵	ma: ²	pin ²	liw ¹ tiw ¹	the ⁵ /
uncle	drink	how many	glass	which	look	merry	so
NP	V	AdvP	NP	Conj	V	AdvP	AdvP

“How many glasses did you drink to make you look so merry?”

The ordinary word is *hơi chính chướng* /həj¹ cheŋ⁵ chwəŋ⁵/.

82. *lượn* /lwan⁶/ “go for a walk”

<i>Chúng</i>	<i>mình</i>	<i>lượn</i>	<i>đi.</i>
/chuŋ ⁵	mij ²	lwan ⁶	di ¹ /
we		glide	part
NP		V	PART

“Let’s go for a walk.”

83. *máu* /maw⁵/ “very interested in doing something”

<i>Tôi</i>	<i>không</i>	<i>máu</i>	<i>chơi</i>	<i>bóng</i>	<i>bàn</i>	<i>lắm.</i>
/toj ¹	xoŋ ¹	maw ⁵	chəj ¹	bəŋ ⁵	ban ²	lam ⁵ /
I	not	too interested in	play	table	tennis	very
NP	NEG	V	V	NP		AdvP

“I am not too interested in playing table tennis much.”

The ordinary word is *thích* /thic⁵/.

84. *nát rượu* /nat⁵ zuəw⁶/ “drunkard”

<i>Thằng</i>	<i>cha</i>	<i>nát</i>	<i>rượu</i>	<i>đấy</i>	<i>đừng</i>	<i>lấy</i>	<i>nó.</i>
/than ²	cha: ¹	nat ⁵	zuəw ⁶	da:j ⁵	dum ²	la:j ⁵	no ⁵ /
he		sot		part	not	take	he
NP		V		PART	NEG	V	NP

“He is a sot. Do not marry him.”

The ordinary word is *say rượu* /saj¹ zuəw⁶/.

85. *ngâm* /ŋam¹/ “delay to process something”

<i>Những</i>	<i>vấn đề</i>	<i>mà</i>	<i>tôi</i>	<i>yêu cầu</i>	<i>thì</i>	<i>ông hiệu trưởng</i>
/ŋuŋ ⁴	van ⁵ de ²	ma: ²	toj ¹	ŋiəw ¹ kaw ²	thi ²	oŋ ¹ hiəw ⁶ chwəŋ ³ /
Pl	problem	which	I	request	which	boss
Pl	NP	Conj	NP	V	Conj	NP

<i>vẫn còn</i>	<i>ngâm</i>	<i>ở đó.</i>
vəŋ ⁴ kən ²	ŋam ¹	ə ³ do ⁵ /
still	be lazy to process	over there
AdvP	V	AdvP

“The problems, which I have requested the boss to take care of, are still delayed over there.”

The literary meaning of *ngâm* is “to soak”.

86. *phê* /fe¹/, *xin* /sin³/ “drunk”

<i>Ồi</i>	<i>anh</i>	<i>lại</i>	<i>phê/xin</i>	<i>rồi.</i>
/oj ¹	an ¹	laj ⁶	fe ¹ sin ³	zoj ² /
Inj	you	again	drunk	already
Inj	NP	AdvP	V	AdvP

“Oh! You are drunk again.”

87. *sơ khanh* /sə³ xan¹/ “ladykiller”

<i>Đừng</i>	<i>tin</i>	<i>nó</i>	<i>thằng ấy</i>	<i>sơ khanh</i>	<i>lắm.</i>
/dum ²	tin ¹	no ⁵	than ² aj ⁵	sə ³ xan ¹	lam ⁵
not	believe	he	he	lady killer	very
NEG	V	NP	NP	V	AdvP

<i>bao nhiêu</i>	<i>con</i>	<i>gái</i>	<i>chết</i>	<i>vì</i>	<i>nó</i>	<i>rồi</i>	<i>đấy.</i>
ba:w ¹ niəw ¹	kon ¹	ɣaj ⁵	chet ⁵	vi ²	no ⁵	zoj ²	ɗaj ⁵ /
how many	clf	girl	die	because	he	already	part
AdvP	NP		V	Conj	NP	AdvP	PART

“Don’t believe him though he is very attractive, because so many girls are sexually abused by him.”

88. *sát gái* /sat⁵ ɣaj⁵/ “attractive man”

<i>Thằng cha</i>	<i>này</i>	<i>sát gái</i>	<i>thật.</i>
/than ⁵ cha: ¹	naj ²	sat ⁵ ɣaj ⁵	that ⁶ /
guy	this	lady killer	real
NP		V	AdvP

“This guy is an attractive man.”

The ordinary word is *duyên* /zwien¹/.

89. *té* /te⁵/ “go back”

<i>Hôm qua</i>	<i>mày</i>	<i>té</i>	<i>lúc nào?</i>
/hom ¹ kwa ¹	maj ²	te ⁵	luk ⁵ narw ² /.
yesterday	you	go back	when
AdvP	NP	V	AdvP

“When did you go back yesterday?”

The ordinary word is *về* /ve²/.

90. *vâm* /vam¹/ “firm”

<i>Anh ấy</i>	<i>tập luyện</i>	<i>nhiều</i>	<i>nên</i>	<i>nhìn</i>	<i>anh ấy</i>	<i>rất</i>	<i>vâm.</i>
/an ¹ aj ⁵	tap ⁶ lwien ⁶	niəw ²	nen ¹	pin ²	an ¹ aj ⁵	zat ⁵	vam ¹ /
he	drill	much	so	look	he	very	firm
NP	V	AdvP	Conj	V	NP	AdvP	V

“He has practiced so much, he looks very firm.”

The ordinary word is *chắc* /chak⁵/.

91. *tàu nhanh* /taw² nap¹/ “buy a prostitute for a short time”

<i>Tàu nhanh</i>	<i>bao</i>	<i>nhiều?</i>
/taw ² nap ¹	barw ¹	niəw ¹ /
train slow	how	much
NP	V	Q

“How much for a short time?”

The literary meaning of *tàu nhanh* is “an express train”.

92. *tàu chậm* /taw² cham⁶/ “buy a prostitute for a long time”

The literary meaning of *tàu chậm* is “a slow train”.

93. *về vườn* /ve² vuən²/ “to be dismissed”

<i>Trước kia</i>	<i>nó</i>	<i>là</i>	<i>giám đốc</i>	<i>nhưng</i>	<i>bị</i>	<i>về vườn</i>	<i>rồi.</i>
/chuwək ⁵ kiə ¹	no ⁵	la ²	zam ⁵ dok ⁵	nuŋ ¹	bi ⁶	ve ² vuən ²	zoj ² /
before	he	be	director	but	suffer	dismiss	already
AdvP	NP	V	NP	Conj	AUX	V	AdvP

“Before he was a director, but now (he) has been dismissed.”

The literary meaning of the slang *về vườn* is “return to the garden”. The ordinary word is *đuổi cổ* /duəj² ko³/.

94. *xong phim* /sɔŋ¹ fim¹/ “finish, be over”

<i>Quan hệ</i>	<i>của</i>	<i>mày</i>	<i>với</i>	<i>nó</i>	<i>thế nào?</i>
/kwam ¹ he ⁷ ⁶	kuə ³	maj ²	vəj ⁵	no ⁵	the ⁵ narw ² /
relationship	of	you	with	she	how
NP	PP	Q			

“How is your relationship with her?”

- <i>Xong</i>	<i>phim.</i>
/sɔŋ ¹	fim ¹ /
finish	film
V	N

“(It) is finished.”

The ordinary word is *xong* /sɔŋ¹/.

Slang expressions denoting people take the forms of nouns and noun phrases, as follows:

95. *bà xã* /ba:² saʔa⁴/ “wife”

<i>Bà xã</i>	<i>nhà</i>	<i>mình</i>	<i>thích</i>	<i>làm</i>	<i>đom</i>	<i>lắm.</i>
/ba:² saʔa⁴	na:²	min²	thic⁵	lam²	dəm¹	lam⁵/
wife	house	I	like	do	a kind of preserved fish	very
NP			V	V	NP	AdvP

“My wife likes to cook this preserved fish very much.”

The ordinary word is *vợ* /və⁶/.

96. *bờ* /bo²/ “sweetheart, lover”

<i>Đạo này</i>	<i>bờ</i>	<i>tớ</i>	<i>đang</i>	<i>đi</i>	<i>văng.</i>
/za:w⁶ naj²	bo²	tə⁵	daŋ¹	di¹	vaŋ⁵/
this time	lover	I	prog	be	away
AdvP	NP		AUX	V	

“Now my lover has gone away.”

The word *bờ* in the Southern dialect means “friend”. When it is used as a slang expression, the meaning is changed from the original. The lover refers to someone who has already gotten married but is engaging in a relationship with another man or woman.

97. *bớp* /bəp⁵/ “whore”

<i>Con</i>	<i>bớp</i>	<i>ấy</i>	<i>trống</i>	<i>tanh tươi.</i>
/kɔn¹	bəp⁵	aj⁵	chɔŋ¹	taŋ¹ tuəj³/
clf	whore	that	look	fishy
NP			V	AdvP

“That prostitute looks terrible.”

98. *ca ve* /ka¹ ve¹/ “whore”

<i>Nó</i>	<i>làm</i>	<i>ca ve.</i>
/nɔ⁵	lam²	ka:¹ ve¹/
she	do	whore
NP	V	NP

“She is a prostitute.”

The ordinary word is *gái điếm* /ɣaj⁵ diəm⁵/.

99. *bò lạc* /bo² la:k⁶/ “A rural girl comes to city so she is very silly”

<i>Những</i>	<i>con</i>	<i>bờ</i>	<i>lạc</i>	<i>dễ</i>	<i>bị</i>	<i>lừa.</i>
/ɲwʔuŋ⁴	kɔn¹	bo²	la:k⁶	ze:⁴	bi⁶	luə²/
pl	clf	rural	girl	easy	suffer	deceive
NP				AdvP	AUX	V

“These rural girls are easy deceived.”

The literary meaning of the slang is “The cow loses the way”. The ordinary word is *gái quế* /ɣaj⁵ kwe¹/.

100. *bà già* /ba:² za:²/ “mother”

<i>Bà già</i>	<i>cậu</i>	<i>làm</i>	<i>gì?</i>
/ba: ² za: ²	kaw ⁶	lam ²	zi ² /
mother	you	do	what
NP		V	Q

“What is your mother doing?”

The literary meaning of *bà già* is “old lady”. The ordinary word is *mẹ* /mɛ⁶/.

101. *con áy* /kɔn¹ ʌj⁵/ “chick” (woman)

<i>Con áy</i>	<i>trông</i>	<i>ăn chơi</i>	<i>lắm.</i>
/kɔn ¹ ʌj ⁵	chɔŋ ¹	an ¹ chɔj ¹	lam ⁵ /
chick	look	playgirl	very
NP	V	NP	AdvP

“She looks like a playgirl.”

The ordinary word is *cố gái* /ko¹ ɣaj⁵/.

102. *chân gỗ* /chan¹ ɣoʔo⁴ / “a helper”

<i>Tôi</i>	<i>rất</i>	<i>yêu</i>	<i>cố áy</i>	<i>cậu</i>	<i>làm</i>	<i>chân gỗ</i>	<i>cho</i>	<i>tôi</i>	<i>nhé.</i>
/toj ¹	zat ⁵	ʔiəw ¹	ko ¹ ʌj ⁵	kaw ⁶	lam ²	chan ¹ ɣoʔo ⁴	chɔ ¹	toj ¹	ɲɛ ⁵ /
I	very	love	she	you	do	helper	for	I	part
NP	AdvP	V	NP	NP	V	NP	PP		PART

“I love her very much. You help me to flirt with her.”

The literary meaning of *chân gỗ* is “wooden leg” which means to be a supporter who helps other people covertly. The ordinary word is *người mới* /ŋwəj² moj⁵/.

103. *cơm bụi* /kəm¹ buj⁶/ “cheap meal sold beside the road”

<i>Hôm nay</i>	<i>nhà ta</i>	<i>đi</i>	<i>ăn</i>	<i>cơm</i>	<i>bụi.</i>
/hom ¹ naj ¹	ɲa: ² ta: ¹	di ¹	an ¹	kəm ¹	buj ⁶ /
today	family	go	eat	rice	dust
AdvP	NP	V	V	NP	

“Today our family goes to eat street food.”

The literary meaning of *cơm bụi* is “dusty rice”. This usage conveys the idea of the cheap meal sold beside the road. The ordinary meaning is *cơm bình dân* /kəm¹ biɲ² zən¹/.

104. *đầu gấu* /dɔw² ɣaw⁵/, *phúi* /fuj³/ “gangster”

<i>Nó</i>	<i>là</i>	<i>đầu gấu</i>	<i>ở</i>	<i>trường</i>	<i>này.</i>
/nɔ ⁵	la: ²	dɔw ² ɣaw ⁵	ə ³	chuwəŋ ²	naj ² /
he	be	gangster	at	university	this
NP	V	NP	PP		

“He is a gangster at this university.”

The ordinary word is *du cón* /zu¹ kɔn¹/ .

105. *gã* /ɣaŋa⁴/ “guy”

<i>Sau</i>	<i>khi say rượu</i>	<i>gã</i>	<i>ta luôn</i>	<i>đánh</i>	<i>vợ.</i>
/saw ¹	xi ¹ saj ¹ zuəw ⁶	ɣaŋa ⁴	ta: ¹ luən ¹	daj ⁵	və ⁶ /
after	get drunk	guy	always	beat	wife
AdvP	V	NP	AdvP	V	NP

“After getting drunk, this guy always beats his wife.”

The ordinary word is *anh ấy* /aŋ¹ əj⁵/.

106. *ông già* /oŋ¹ za:²/ “father”

<i>Ông già</i>	<i>mình</i>	<i>làm</i>	<i>giáo viên.</i>
/oŋ ¹ za: ²	min ²	lam ²	zarw ⁵ viən ¹ /
father	I	do	teacher
NP		V	NP

“My father is a teacher.”

The ordinary word is *bố* /bo⁵/.

107. *phớ* /fə³/ “adulterous boy/ girl”

<i>Anh</i>	<i>lại</i>	<i>chán</i>	<i>cơm thêm</i>	<i>phớ</i>	<i>rồi</i>	<i>phải không?</i>
/aŋ ¹	laj ⁶	chan ⁵	kəm ¹ them ²	fə ³	zoj ²	faj ³ xoŋ ¹ /
you	again	bore	rice	noodle	already	Q
NP	AdvP	V	NP	NP	AdvP	Q

“Did you commit adultery with anyone?”

The ordinary word is *người tình* /ŋwəj² tɪŋ²/.

108. *thằng cha* /than² cha:¹/ “fellow”

<i>Thằng cha</i>	<i>nhìn</i>	<i>viêm</i>	<i>thế.</i>
/than ² cha: ¹	ɲin ²	viəm ¹	the ⁵ /
man	look	inflamm	so
NP	V	V	AdvP

“The man looks angry.”

The ordinary words are *anh ấy* /aŋ¹ ʌj⁵/, *ông ấy* /oŋ¹ ʌj⁵/.

109. *thằng ôn* /thaŋ² on¹/ “calling a man whom you hate much”

<i>Thằng ôn</i>	<i>đấy</i>	<i>khốn nạn</i>	<i>lắm.</i>
/thaŋ ² on ¹	dʌj ⁵	xon ⁵ nam ⁶	lam ⁵ /
guy	that	disgust	very
NP		V	AdvP

“That guy is very disgusting.”

The ordinary words are *anh ấy* /aŋ¹ ʌj⁵/, *ông ấy* /oŋ¹ ʌj⁵/.

The highest number of slang expressions are verbs which convey both state and action, while the numbers with adverbs and nouns are quite similar. Most slang expressions refer to sexual behavior which may be regarded by society as bad and unusual. Some slang expressions convey the simple meanings or modify the actions. These are known and used by certain groups of people. They also reflect how the language has been developing to become more lively and colourful.

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Institute of Language and Culture
for Rural Development
Mahidol University at Salaya
Phuttamonthon Sai 4
Nakhon Pathom 73170