The age of the Internet contains only several decades, he has appeared at a boundary of 60-70 years of the last century. A third of the population of Earth used the World Wide web at least once, and the majority does it regularly. Nowadays the youth without exception buys smartphones to stay in touch even on the way to school.

The development of the World Wide Web and its penetration into all fields of culture, science and economics have caused the emergence of various Internet phenomena, such as memes (Internet memes), trolls. Сommunicating on the Internet, namely in social networks, people begin to form and use different cliches, jargons, slangs unconsciously and unintentionally, forming and combining them with ordinary everyday vocabulary, as well as with expressions from popular songs, films, serials, talk shows, reality shows.

Thus there is absolutely new modern slang which strongly lies along with the native language. Sometimes, even without realizing that, we use a slang as though it is already the norm. And moreover, during the communicating with people, we hear also various words which then quietly settle in our memory, and at a convenient opportunity appear in our speech.

Why did I become interested in this subject? Everything is very simple. I am a teenager and I am an active Internet user, including various social networks. Wandering on open spaces of the Internet, namely on a news feed, I have begun to notice that every day in increasing frequency on the Internet so-called memes appear, I already knew many of which or heard from my friends, and it became interesting to me from where and who had had such thought to call it a meme both why quite so and why this phenomenon of the Internet. Then the thought came to mind, my friends and schoolmates constantly use in their speech words about which adult, for example my brother who is elder than me just only 6 years, and my mother, had never heard. I have thought how teenagers communicated earlier. The Internet wasn't such widespread thing earlier like now? How did nevertheless our speech after appearance of the Internet change? Do we really so depend on the Internet that already began to speak using phrases from social networks, movies, series, computer games?

That is why today this subject is relevant as it allows us to understand young people who spend a lot of time on the Internet much better and also new Internet trends which have captured life of modern youth. Also materials of this work can be used in English lessons and also in out-of-class lessons.

Based on all the information above, we put forward the following goals of our research:

1. To consider various theories of the origin of such phenomenon as a meme, Internet meme.
2. To study the influence of memes on the minds of modern people.
3. To analyze the speech of teenagers on social networks, blogs and forums, identify what phrases and words are now heard in modern youth, how often they use memes in their speech and what kind of memes they use.

These goals define **the following tasks**:

1. To find material on the subject «Memes, Internet Memes»;
2. To investigate lexicon of Internet memes of modern social networks;
3. To analyze the material concerning influence of Internet memes on the speech of modern teenagers.

**Research object:** the development of the Internet, and with it the phenomenon of Internet meme.

**Research subject:** the research of the influence of Internet memes on language and behavior of modern youth.

**Research material:** the data collected as a result of continuous selection, periodicals (15 articles), Internet resources, fiction (2 books).

**Research methods:**

1. Studying of publications and literature.

2. Analytical method.

3. Generalization method.

Starting the research, we put the following **hypothesis**:

As much as we want, but as long as we are active users of the Internet and social networks, they will influence us, our mind and speech;

**The novelty** of this work lies in the fact that this topic is studied for the first time in the theoretical and practical sense on the basis of the analysis of speech on the Internet of modern people and the history of Internet memes as a special phenomenon, which has become widespread on the Internet.

As a very famous scientist Richard Brodie in his book Virus of the Mind: The Revolutionary New Science of the Meme and How It Can Help You wrote: This is the most surprising and most profound insight from the science of memetics: your thoughts are not always your own original ideas. You catch thoughts — you get infected with them, both directly from other people and indirectly from viruses of the mind.

Viruses of the mind have been with us throughout history, but they are constantly evolving and changing. They are infectious pieces of our culture that spread rapidly throughout a population, altering people’s thoughts and lives in their wake.

A mind virus is not spread by sneezing, like the flu. It’s not a physical thing. Mind viruses are spread by something as simple as communicating.

One of such viruses is mem or Internet-mem, that I`d like to speak today about.

A **meme** ([/miːm/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/English) [*MEEM*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Pronunciation_respelling_key)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meme#cite_note-1)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meme#cite_note-2)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meme#cite_note-3)) is an idea, behavior, or style that spreads from person to person within a culture — often with the aim of conveying a particular phenomenon, theme, or meaning represented by the meme. A meme acts as a unit for carrying [cultural](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture) ideas, symbols, or practices, that can be transmitted from one mind to another through writing, speech, gestures.

The concept of a meme and the term have been offered by the evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins in 1976 in the book "Selfish Gene". Dawkins has offered the idea that all cultural information consists of basic units — memes, in the same way as biological information consists of genes; and just as genes, memes are subject to natural selection, a mutation and artificial selection. This idea of Dawkins was evolved by the discipline of a memetik, which has now a disputable status.

Together with meme appeared the concept an Internet meme, which has the same meaning and sense as a meme, but Internet memes spread directly on the Internet.

**Internet meme** — an Internet meme (/miːm/ MEEM[1][2][3][4]) is an activity, concept, catchphrase or piece of media which spreads, often as mimicry or for humorous purposes, from person to person via the Internet.[5] An Internet meme may also take the form of an image (typically an image macro[6]), hyperlink, video, website or hashtag. It may be just a word or phrase, sometimes including an intentional misspelling.

In the Russian-speaking Internet culture, a wide discussion of this issue was caused by the phenomenon of "preved", which in February 2006 very quickly spread on blogs and forums and then caused a wave of publications in the media and various offline reviews. Three years earlier, in an English-speaking environment, a similar effect was caused by an owl photo labeled O` rly?.

Now let`s have a look at the practical part of my research.

Here you can see a lot of memes and publics with memes which were collected from different social networks and just from the Internet.

If we just enter into a search line in any browser, for example in a search line of Google and press picture search, we will immediately see that even the browser begins to divide memes into categories, so they are popular and common presently. Here we can see the following categories: pancake, history, most, creation of memes, top, memes of RuNet.

And now I would like to give some examples of the memes taken by me directly from the Internet, namely from social networks. Here I decided to study various Internet memes from Russian-language social networks, such as VKontakte, Odnoklassniki , as well as from foreign, namely, Instagram, twitter, facebook and tried to divide them into catogories myself. And that's what came out:

1. Internet memes with the image of animals;
2. Internet memes on football subjects;
3. Internet memes on historical subject;
4. Internet memes with heroes of cartoons;
5. Internet memes with the image of the political figures and people, who are connected with show business;
6. Internet memes on social subjects;
7. The Internet memes, which are connected with cinema.

Here I want to show you the most current Internet memes using by American and Belarusian teenagers.

Let's begin with memes from American Internet sources where we can find their infinite number.

**1. Dabbing, or the dab**, is a simple dance move in which a person drops the head into the bent crook of a slanted arm, often while raising the opposite arm in a parallel direction but out straight. Since 2015, it has also been used as a gesture of triumph or playfulness, becoming a youthful American cultural sensation and Internet meme.

**2. Ermahgerd** is 'oh my god' as pronounced by someone with a speech impediment. It means 'shock' and 'stupidity' at the same time, often as a caption for unflattering photos. You can caption 'ermahgerd' on your own photos to describe that you did something stupid today, or you can use it to insult someone else by replying 'ermagherd' to their online posts.

1. **What if i told you**... If it is needful someone to open his eyes to some obvious fact, it will be most convenient to put this revelation in the mouth of Morpheus. Everybody knows him, he is intelligent, confident in himself, has an inviting appearance and, what is especially important for the character of the Internet meme, he hides an obvious mockery in his look.

**4. O RLY?** is an Internet phenomenon, typically presented as an image macro featuring a snowy owl.[1] The phrase "O RLY?", an abbreviated form of "Oh, really?", is popularly used in Internet forums in a sarcastic manner, often in response to an obvious, predictable, or blatantly false statement. Similar owl image macros followed the original to present different views, including images with the phrases "YA RLY" (Yeah, really.), "NO WAI!!" (No way!)., and NO RLY. (Not really.)

**5. Letter Repetition**

symbolizes a type of language, often pointed as being used by teenagers, consisting of the same letter in a word repeated several times for emphasis. Other spelling phenomena has been derived from it such as [111oneeleven](http://knowyourmeme.com/memes/the-1-phenomenon) as an ironic way to replace an exclamation mark or FUUUUUU to express great frustration, and coming directly from [Rageguy](http://knowyourmeme.com/memes/rageguy-fffuuuu).

**6. Crash** It means you will have an accident (car accident, for example) but it is also used in memes for "I'm going to suddenly relax. That means "I'm tired and about go get into bed," in its simplest form. Basically, so tired that you're going to "crash" into your bed.

**7. All Your Base Are Belong to Us** 'All Your Base' is an 'Engrish' humor meme. It comes from the flawed translation of Japanese into English subtitles. Instead of 'all your bases belong to us,' this mistaken translation caught fire in 2001. The original video footage is from Zero Wing, a 1989 video game by Toaplan. Today, 'All Your Base' is a joke phrase used in pop culture.

**8. Feeling blue** - This phrase is used to say that we are in depression.

And now let's have a look at the most common memes among the Russian and Belarusian youth audience.

**1. Dabbing**, or the **dab**, is a simple [dance move](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dance_move) in which a person drops the head into the bent crook of a slanted arm, often while raising the opposite arm in a parallel direction but out straight. Since 2015, it has also been used as a gesture of triumph or playfulness, becoming a youthful [American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) cultural sensation and [Internet meme](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_meme).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dab_(dance)#cite_note-Ducey-1)

**2. LOL or lol,** is an acronym for laugh(ing) out loud[1][2][3] or lots of laughs,[4][5][6] and a popular element of Internet slang. It was first used almost exclusively on Usenet, but has since become widespread in other forms of computer-mediated communication and even face-to-face communication.

**3. Facepalm** (sometimes also face-palm or face palm) is the physical gesture of placing one's hand across one's face or lowering one's face into one's hand or hands, covering or closing one's eyes. The gesture is often exaggerated by giving the motion more force and making a slapping noise when the hand comes in contact with the face. The gesture is found in many cultures as a display of frustration, disappointment, exasperation, embarrassment, horror, shock, surprise, exhaustion, sarcasm.

**4. +1 (Плюс один – Plus one)** is an Internet abbreviation, which means "totally agree" or "I subscribe to all of the above."

**5. Няша (nyasha)** – a common epithet on the Internet. Formed from the word Nya. The word "nyasha" is used with the meaning "cute," "charming," "pretty," "glorious," "gracious." It can be applied to any object. This meme is often used by fans of anime.

**6. Намана (Namana)** is an abbreviation from the Russian word "normal" and means "as needed", "excellent", "successfully".

**7.Ничоси (ничего себе – wow)** is a meme that originated in Vkontakte and then spread across one site. It is something like a kind of ghost with his hands up and an open mouth expressing extreme surprise.

**8.** English meme invaded the web. The picture shows one of the heroes of "Lord of the rings" Boromir, making a characteristic gesture. The phrase in the picture always starts the same way – **"one does not simply "** – and the Internet users end this phrase themselves.

In conclusion I want to say that nowadays memes are very popular and useful among modern teens. Also I want to add that we have achieved our goals: we studied the concept of meme, Internet meme, who established it for the first time and what it means, we can also state that memes influence the speech, behavior and preferences of modern teenagers, and also determined which memes are most commonly used among teenagers in America and in Belarus.

**The hypothesis** that we, as modern users of the Internet and social networks, will be influenced by various Internet phenomena that change our speech, mind, behavior and communication. Every day we are exposed to the influence of media viruses, mental viruses coming to us from the World Wide Web and imperceptibly changing us. This is because we are a modern generation that grows on the Internet. All new Internet currents can not pass by, we absorb everything and it remains with us forever.

In my work I wanted to collect and summarize information on the topic of Internet memes and understand this Internet phenomenon, and find the reason for its popularity, understand what memes are, what they represent and how they appeared, as such work is done for the first time, I think that it will become interesting not only to teenagers of my age, but also it can help elder people to understand modern teens better.

This work can be used in English lessons, as well as on extra-curricular activities, and at various seminars and lectures on topics related to the Internet