

Vietnamese slang expressions*

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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 ləŋ⁵/. 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>
/măj	chi ³	zɔj ³	ba: ¹ hwa: ¹	tho:j 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 ɔn ¹	ɔɔ 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>
/kɔw ⁶	chəj ¹	ɣat ⁵	thɛ ⁵ /
you	play	well	part
NP	V	AdvP	PART

“You play so well.”

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

6. *ghê tởm* /ɣɛ¹ tɔm³/ “disgusting”

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

“The child looks disgusting.”

The ordinary words are *nhìn sợ thế* /ɲin²sə⁶ thɛ⁵/, *bẩn bẩn* /bən³ bən³/.

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* /chat⁵ lɔwəŋ⁶ ka:w¹/.

8. *như cơm bữa* /ɲw¹ kəm¹ bwəʔwəʔ⁴/ “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 bwəʔwəʔ 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. *nuột* /nuət⁶/ “nice, well”

<i>Cô</i>	<i>ta</i>	<i>nhìn</i>	<i>nuột</i>	<i>thật</i>	<i>chả</i>	<i>trách</i>	<i>bao nhiêu</i>
/ko ¹	ta ¹	ɲin ²	nuət ⁶	thət ⁶	char ³	chac ⁵	barw 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 xó</i>	<i>vào.</i>
dan ² oŋ ¹	do ³ so ¹	va:rw 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/, *đẹp* /dɛ⁶/.

10. *phọt phẹt* /fɔt⁶ fɛt⁶/ “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 fɛt 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 ɣe¹/, *trông sợ thế* /choŋ¹ sə⁶ the⁵/.

11. *tằng tịu* /taŋ² tuw⁶/ “adultery”

<i>Anh</i>	<i>đi</i>	<i>tằng tịu</i>	<i>với</i>	<i>con</i>	<i>nào</i>	<i>thế?</i>
/ap ¹	di ¹	taŋ ² tuw ⁶	vɔj ⁵	kɔn ¹	na:rw 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 tɪŋ²/.

12. *trấu* /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>
/taɯ ¹	xoŋ ¹	zam ⁵	daɯ ⁵	bɔŋ ⁵	vaj 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>trấu</i>	<i>lắm.</i>
bɔn ⁶	no ⁵	daɯ 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/, *thô 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>
/thaŋ ²	chai 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 *thoải mái* /thwaɯj³ 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 dɔw²/ "mad"

<i>Mày</i>	<i>ấm</i>	<i>đầu</i>	<i>à?</i>
/maj ²	am ⁵	dɔw ²	aɯ 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* /karw⁵ zai²/ “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>
/thoij ¹	dum ²	ko ⁵	tin ¹	no ⁵	than ²	cha ¹	Aj ⁵	karw ⁵ zai 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 vôi* /ko¹ voj²/, *chờn* /chən²/, *gữm* /ɣwəm²/ “afraid, panic”

<i>Nếu</i>	<i>mày</i>	<i>liều chết</i>	<i>bọn</i>	<i>nó</i>	<i>sẽ</i>	<i>co vôi</i>	<i>ngay.</i>
/new ⁵	maj ²	liəw ² chet ⁵	bən ⁶	no ⁵	seʔe 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	thət 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* /cap¹ cua¹/ “sharp tongued”

<i>Chị</i>	<i>ta</i>	<i>rất</i>	<i>chanh</i>	<i>chua.</i>
/chi ⁶	ta ¹	rat ⁵	chap ¹	chuə ¹ /
she		very	sharp	tongued
NP		AdvP	V	

“She is very sharp-tongued.”

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

19. *chất* /chat⁵/ “expensive”

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

“The price is expensive.”

The ordinary word is *đắt* /dat⁵/.

20. *chớ chết* /*chɔʔ chetʔ*/ “bugger or bastard”

<i>Thằng ấy</i>	<i>chớ chết</i>	<i>lắm.</i>
/ <i>thanʔ ʔjʔ</i>	<i>chɔʔ chetʔ</i>	<i>lamʔ</i>
he	bugger	very
NP	V	AdvP
“That bugger is very snotty.”		

The literary meaning is “Dead dog.”

21. *choáng* /*chwəŋʔ*/ “be afraid”

<i>Mày</i>	<i>choáng</i>	<i>không</i>	<i>đi</i>	<i>xe máy</i>	<i>à?</i>
/ <i>majʔ</i>	<i>chwəŋʔ</i>	<i>xoŋʔ</i>	<i>diʔ</i>	<i>sɛ¹ majʔ</i>	<i>aʔ</i>
you	be afraid	not	dare	go	motorbike
NP	V	NEG	V	V	NP
“Do you not dare to go by motorbike?”					

The ordinary word is *sợ* /*sɔʔ*/.

22. *chùn* /*chunʔ*/ “panic”

<i>Mày</i>	<i>lại</i>	<i>chùn</i>	<i>à?</i>
/ <i>majʔ</i>	<i>lajʔ</i>	<i>chunʔ</i>	<i>aʔ</i>
you	again	panic	Q
NP	AdvP	V	Q
“You are panicked again, aren’t you?”			

23. *đé cù* /*ze¹ kuʔ*/ “lustful”

<i>Thằng cha</i>	<i>ấy</i>	<i>đé cù</i>	<i>thật.</i>
/ <i>thanʔ cha¹</i>	<i>ʔjʔ</i>	<i>ze¹ kuʔ</i>	<i>thatʔ</i>
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. *đống dài* /*zoŋ¹ zaiʔ*/ “waste time”

<i>Không</i>	<i>nén</i>	<i>đống</i>	<i>dài</i>	<i>như</i>	<i>vậy.</i>
/ <i>xoŋ¹</i>	<i>nen¹</i>	<i>zoŋ¹</i>	<i>zaiʔ</i>	<i>nu¹</i>	<i>vaʔjʔ</i>
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>
/thuuk ⁵	an ¹	naj ²	daʔa ⁴	that ⁶ /
food		this	good	true
NP			V	AdvP

“This food is very good.”

The ordinary word is *tốt* /tot⁵/.

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

<i>Ông</i>	<i>ấy</i>	<i>già</i>	<i>rồi</i>	<i>mà</i>	<i>đi thỏa.</i>
/oŋ ¹	aj ⁵	zar ²	zoj ²	mar 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 mij¹/.

29. *giở* *hơi* /zə³ həj¹/ “cracked”

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

“He is cracked.”

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

30. *hãm tài* /haʔam⁴ taɿ²/ “unlucky”

<i>Hôm nay</i> /hom ¹ naj ¹ today AdvP	<i>gặp</i> gap ⁶ meet V	<i>con</i> kon ¹ she NP	<i>bé ấy</i> be ⁵ ʔj ⁵ she NP	<i>hãm tài</i> haʔam ⁴ taɿ ² unlucky V	<i>lắm.</i> lam ⁵ / very AdvP
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“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> /va:w ² enter V	<i>nhà hàng</i> na: ² haŋ ² restaurant NP	<i>ăn</i> an ¹ eat VP	<i>tối</i> toj ⁵ dinner VP	<i>đi.</i> di ¹ / go IMP
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“Have dinner in the restaurant.”

<i>- Đang</i> /daŋ ¹ prog AUX	<i>hết</i> het ⁵ finish VP	<i>đạ</i> n. dam ⁶ / money
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“I am short of money.”

32. *học bừa* /hok⁵ bwə⁵/ “difficult”

<i>Bài thi</i> /bai ² thi ¹ examination NP	<i>học bừa</i> hok ⁵ bwə ⁵ difficult V	<i>quá.</i> kwa: ⁵ / very AdvP
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“The examination is very difficult.”

The ordinary word is *khó* /xɔ⁵/.

33. *hống hách* /hoŋ⁵ hac⁵/ “bossy”

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

The ordinary word is *cậy quyền* /kɿj⁶ kwien²/.

34. *hời* /həj²/ “profitable”

<i>Làm</i> /lam ² do V	<i>việc</i> viək ⁶ work NP	<i>cho</i> cho ¹ for PP	<i>anh ta</i> aŋ ¹ ta: ¹ he PP	<i>rất</i> za: ⁵ very AdvP	<i>hời.</i> həj ² / profitable V
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“Working for him is very profitable.”

The ordinary word is *lời* /ləj⁶/.

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

<i>Đời</i>	<i>nó</i>	<i>cứ</i>	<i>khù khuăm</i>	<i>thế</i>	<i>đấy.</i>
/dəj ²	nə 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 *khó* /xo³/.

36. *ki bo* /ki¹ bo¹/ “stingy”

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

“He is very stingy.”

The ordinary word is *kết xi* /ket⁶ 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	nuŋ 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	zət 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* /zəj³/.

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	luon 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>dạo này</i>	<i>mất chất</i>	<i>lắm</i>
/nɔ ⁵	zaw 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* /mi¹i⁴ ma⁷an⁴/ “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 ¹ i ⁴ ma ⁷ an 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 ma¹/ “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	lwə ²	duək ⁶	no 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 ɲwam¹/.

45. *son* /sɔn¹/ "lucky"

<i>Số</i>	<i>cậu</i>	<i>son</i>	<i>thế</i>	<i>tán</i>	<i>có</i>	<i>nào</i>	<i>cũng</i>	<i>đó</i>
/so ⁵	kaw ⁶	sɔn ¹	the ⁵	tan ⁵	ko ¹	naɯ ²	kuʔuŋ 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>
/taɯ ¹	an ¹ mak ⁶	the ⁵	naj ²	jin 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. *tinh tướng* /tjɪn¹ tuaŋ⁵/, *vi tính* /vi¹ tjɪn⁵/ "vain"

<i>Mày</i>	<i>tinh tướng</i>	<i>thế</i>
/maj ²	tjɪn ¹ tuaŋ ⁵	the ⁵ /
you	vainful	so
NP	V	AdvP

"You are so vain."

48. *xương (xấu)* /sɯəŋ¹ (saw³)/ "difficult"

<i>Bài tập</i>	<i>này</i>	<i>xương (xấu)</i>	<i>lắm</i>
/ba:j ² ɬap ⁶	naj ²	sɯəŋ 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>
/ba:j 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 kaŋ²/ "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	daɯ ⁵	cho ¹	tə ⁵	bam ⁵ kaŋ 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. *biến* /biən⁵/ "clear off, to tell someone to go away"

<i>Mày</i>	<i>biến</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	taɯ ²	bip ⁶	ŋwəj ²	xaɯk 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>
/taw 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* /ka² 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* /cək⁶ tuək⁵/.

55. *cày* /kaj²/ “to save money”

<i>Đợt</i>	<i>này</i>	<i>anh ấy</i>	<i>cày</i>	<i>nhieu</i>	<i>quá.</i>
/do ⁶	naj ²	ən ¹ ɲj 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* /chaj⁶ lam²/ “not pay a debt”

<i>Không cho</i>	<i>mày</i>	<i>vay</i>	<i>đầu,</i>	<i>mày</i>	<i>luôn</i>	<i>chạy</i>	<i>làng.</i>
/xoŋ ¹	cho ¹	maj ²	vaj ¹ dɔw ¹	maj ²	luən ¹	chaj ⁶	lam ² /
not	give	you	lend	part	you	always	avoid
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>bị</i>	<i>thằng ấy</i>	<i>chăn dắt.</i>
/kən ¹ ɲj ⁵	bi ⁶	than ² ɲj 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* /cha:k⁵ tam⁵/ “depraved, degenerate”

<i>Con ấy</i>	<i>chác táng</i>	<i>lắm.</i>
/kən ¹ ɲj ⁵	cha:k 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	kɔ ⁵	kwa ¹	duək ⁶	kɔn 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 ta^{w2} baj¹ za^{j5}/ “to flatter”

<i>Đừng</i>	<i>cho</i>	<i>tôi</i>	<i>đi tàu bay giấy.</i>
/duŋ ²	cho ¹	toj ¹	di ¹ ta ^{w2} baj ¹ za ^{j5} /
not	give	I	flatter
NEG	V	NP	V

“Don’t flatter me.”

The ordinary word is *nịnh* /nɪŋ⁷⁶/

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>chú</i>	<i>bọn</i>	<i>nó</i>
/ba ^{j1} za ²	muə ¹	ban ⁵	fa ^{j3}	mak ⁶ ka ³	kan ³	than ⁶	chu ⁵	bɔn ⁶	no 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* /do^{j2} 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	da ^{j1} /
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 bộp* /chəj¹ bəp⁵/, *đánh bộp* /dap⁵ bəp⁵/ “to have sex with prostitute”

<i>Chơi bộp</i>	<i>nguy</i>	<i>hiểm 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* /darw² kuə³ / “to gain property”

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

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

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

<i>Mình</i>	<i>đi</i>	<i>nặng</i>	<i>rồi.</i>
/mɪn 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 siŋ¹/.

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>có</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	nua ⁷ wa 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	mij 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>đứa</i>	<i>thời</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* /that⁵ baj⁶/.

69. *đến Tết tây* /den⁵ tet⁵ tāj¹/ “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	nə ⁵	thi ²	kə ⁵	ma ²	den ⁵	tet ⁵	tāj 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 barw¹ zia² saj³ za¹/.

70. *gan lì* /γan¹ li²/ “wrongly persistent”

<i>trẻ</i>	<i>bé</i>	<i>quá</i>	<i>gan lì</i>
/duə ⁵	be ⁵	kwa ⁵	γan ¹ li ² /
child	too	wrongly	
NP		AdvP	V

“The child is wrongly persistent.”

71. *gạt hái* /γat⁶ hai⁵/ “to achieve, get some profit”

<i>Chơi</i>	<i>với</i>	<i>nó</i>	<i>mày</i>	<i>gạt hái</i>	<i>được</i>	<i>gì</i>	<i>không?</i>
/chəj ¹	vəj ⁵	nə ⁵	maj ²	γat 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. *hắn học* /han² hək⁶/ "burst into angry words"

<i>Sao</i>	<i>anh</i>	<i>hay</i>	<i>hắn học</i>	<i>thế</i>
/sarw ¹	ən 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* /hưw¹ 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	hưw 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>nay</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	xon ¹	son 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 kiệu* /kep¹ kiəw⁶/ "conceit"

<i>Xấu</i>	<i>như</i>	<i>ma</i>	<i>mà</i>	<i>cũng</i>	<i>kênh kiệu</i>
/saw ⁵	ɲw ¹	ma: ¹	ma: ²	kuʔuŋ 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 kiệu* /kep¹ kiəw⁶/ "to look down upon somebody"

<i>Anh ấy</i>	<i>luôn luôn</i>	<i>kênh kiệu</i>	<i>người ta</i>
/ən ¹ ɿj ⁵	luən ¹ luən ¹	kep ¹ kiəw ⁶	ŋuəj 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	ke ⁵	oto ¹	kuə ³	kɔw ⁶	kɔ ⁵	duək ⁶	xon 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* /xon¹ tot⁵/.

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

<i>Tao</i>	<i>bần</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 baik⁵/ “to tease or taunt somebody”

<i>Thằng ấy</i>	<i>chỉ</i>	<i>giỏi</i>	<i>khóan</i>	<i>kích bác</i>	<i>thôi.</i>
/than ² ɲj ⁵	chi ³	zɔj ³	xwam ³	kic ⁵ baik 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 tuək⁵/.

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	uən ⁵	mɲj 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	Advl

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

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

82. *lượn* /lʷəŋ⁶/ "go for a walk"

<i>Chúng</i> /chuŋ ⁵	<i>mình</i> mɪŋ ²	<i>lượn</i> lʷəŋ ⁶	<i>đi.</i> 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> /toj ¹	<i>không</i> xoŋ ¹	<i>máu</i> maw ⁵	<i>chơi</i> chəj ¹	<i>bóng</i> boŋ ⁵	<i>bàn</i> bam ²	<i>lắm.</i> 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 zʷəw⁶/ "drunkard"

<i>Thằng cha</i> /thaŋ ² cha ¹	<i>nát rượu</i> nat ⁵ zʷəw ⁶	<i>đấy</i> daɰ ⁵	<i>đừng</i> dum ²	<i>lấy</i> laɰ ⁵	<i>nó.</i> 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 zʷəw⁶/.

85. *ngâm* /ŋam¹/ "delay to process something"

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

<i>vẫn còn</i> vəŋ ⁴ kɔŋ ²	<i>ngâm</i> ŋam ¹	<i>ở đó.</i> 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>Ơi</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	da:j 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 ɲaŋ¹/ "buy a prostitute for a short time"

<i>Tàu nhanh</i>	<i>bao</i>	<i>nhiều?</i>
/taw ² ɲaŋ ¹	baɯ 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 ɕam⁶/ "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 bị</i>	<i>về vườn</i>	<i>rồi.</i>
/tʃuək ⁵ kiə ¹	no ⁵	la ²	zəm ⁵ dok ⁵	ɲuŋ ¹ bi ⁶	ve ² vuən ²	zoj ² /
before	he	be	director	but	suffer	dismiss
AdvP	NP	V	NP	Conj	AUX	V

"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	kuə ³	maj ²	vəj ⁵	no ⁵	the ⁵ naɯ 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 /ba² sa²a⁴/ “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 sa ² a ⁴	ja ²	mi ²	thic ⁵	lam ²	dəm ¹	lam ⁵
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>vắng.</i>
/zarw ⁶ naj ²	bo ²	tə ⁵	daŋ ¹	di ¹	vaŋ ⁵ /
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 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>trông</i>	<i>tanh tươi.</i>
/kən ¹	bəp ⁵	aj ⁵	choŋ ¹	taŋ ¹ twəj ³ /
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>
/nə ⁵	lam ²	ka ¹ ve ¹ /
she	do	whore
NP	V	NP

“She is a prostitute.”

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

99. bỏ lạc /bo² laik⁶/ “A rural girl comes to city so she is very silly”

<i>Những</i>	<i>con</i>	<i>bỏ</i>	<i>lạc</i>	<i>dễ</i>	<i>bị</i>	<i>lừa.</i>
/ɲw ⁷ uŋ ⁴	kən ¹	bo ²	laik ⁶	ze ⁷ le ⁴	bi ⁶	lwa ² /
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* /ba² za²/ "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* /me⁶/.

101. *con áy* /kɔn¹ aj⁵/ "chick" (woman)

<i>Con áy</i>	<i>trông</i>	<i>ăn chơi</i>	<i>lắm.</i>
/kɔn ¹ aj ⁵	chɔŋ ¹	an ¹ chəj 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 gố* /chan¹ ɣo¹o⁴/ "a helper"

<i>Tôi</i>	<i>rất</i>	<i>yêu</i>	<i>cố áy</i>	<i>cậu</i>	<i>làm</i>	<i>chân gố</i>	<i>cho</i>	<i>tôi</i>	<i>nhé.</i>
/toj ¹	zat ⁵	ɣiəw ¹	ko ¹ aj ⁵	kaw ⁶	lam ²	chan ¹ ɣo ¹ o ⁴	cho ¹	toj ¹	ɲe 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 gố* is "wooden leg" which means to be a supporter who helps other people covertly. The ordinary word is *người mới* /ɲuəj² 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 tai 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 bìn* /dán /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	ɔ ³	chwəŋ 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	ɗəp 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 ɰj⁵/.

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	mɪŋ ²	lam ²	za:rw 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	la: ⁶	chan ⁵	kəm ¹ them ²	fə ³	zo: ²	fa: 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* /ŋuəj² tɪŋ²/.

108. *thằng cha* /thaŋ² cha:¹/ “fellow”

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

“The man looks angry.”

The ordinary words are *anh ấy* /aŋ¹ ɰj⁵/, *ông ấy* /oŋ¹ ɰj⁵/.

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	dɰj ⁵	xon ⁵ nan ⁶	lam ⁵ /
guy	that	disgust	very
NP		V	AdvP

"That guy is very disgusting."

The ordinary words are *anh ấy* /aŋ¹ ɰj⁵/, *ông ấy* /oŋ¹ ɰj⁵/.

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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