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Quotes about Slang

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By such innovations are languages enriched, when the words are adopted by the multitude, and naturalized by custom.

- Cervantes, Miguel De

I've found that there are only two kinds that are any good: slang that has established itself in the language, and slang that you make up yourself. Everything else is apt to be pass? before it gets into print.

- Chandler, Raymond

All slang is metaphor, and all metaphor is poetry.

- Chesterton, Gilbert K.

The language of the younger generation has the brutality of the city and an assertion of threatening power at hand, not to come. It is military, theatrical, and at its most coherent probably a lasting repudiation of empty courtesy and bureaucratic euphemism.

- Hardwick, Elizabeth

Dialect words are those terrible marks of the beast to the truly genteel.

- Hardy, Thomas

Nothing can be more depressing than to expose, naked to the light of thought, the hideous growth of argot. Indeed it is like a sort of repellent animal intended to dwell in darkness which has been dragged out of its cloaca. One seems to see a horned and living creature viciously struggling to be restored to the place where it belongs. One word is like a claw, another like a sightless and bleeding eye; and there are phrases which clutch like the pincers of a crab. And all of it is alive with the hideous vitality of things that have organized themselves amid disorganization.

- Hugo, Victor

Slang is a language that rolls up its sleeves, spits on its hands and goes to work.

- Sandburg, Carl



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