

**THE USE OF ENGLISH SUBSTANDARD
LEXICAL ITEMS IN MODERN LITERARY WRITING
(based on the novel "Mystic River" by Dennis Lehane)**

J.A. Belenko

A bright feature of modern writers is an extensive use of substandard lexical items. The semantic potential of such items and their expressiveness presuppose a wide range of their functioning in the language of a literary work. A literary man can use substandard words and word combinations for different purposes. They are able both to create suspense and make scenes humorous. Colloquial and slang elements also help to reveal a whole bundle of people's personalities, including their "mean" traits as well as "virtuous" ones. Some substandard words and expressions combine semantic and cultural meaning which makes up for the background knowledge of the reader.