

Use of Informal Expressions

English translation:

Usually, from an early age, teenagers, mostly teenagers from thirteen to nineteen, speak most slang; even up to those who are twenty, or those up to thirty. People these days don't want to grow up. Nowadays, it's much more common, even with older men like our fathers, who come to you and say, "How is it going?" in slang. As a younger person, it's harder to respond in slang, so you end up speaking more formally, saying things are well. They might even continue and say, "Let things fire" in slang. You have to just maintain speaking in a more formal way. So, it's good if the adults are the ones who initiate the conversation using slang, but you can't start talking to adults using slang. The other thing, even older men have their own slang that they use as adults and they understand each other as friends. As a young person, I cannot join that conversation because that would be considered as ill manners. Even older women have their own language and they understand each other.

Slang depends on who you are talking with and whether you understand each other in that slang. Slang combines many languages depending on who is speaking. It's a mix of broken English, Shona, Shonglish, and Ndebele that sounds like Shona.

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