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FROM THE HISTORY OF THE STUDY CITY LANGUAGE

The study of city language has been necessitated by the development of sociolinguistics, as far as general problems of sociolinguistics mainly coincide with those of city language.

One of the earliest instances of the interest toward the characteristics of city language was the British lexicographic attempts in the 15th-16th cc., followed by other lexicographic works in the late 16th c. and the early 17th c. (Harman Th. A. Caveat of Warning for Common Crusaders Called Vagabonds, London, 1565; Dekker Th. The Shoemaker's Holiday (1599), Jonson B. Masque of the Gypsies Metamorphosed (1614), The Dictionary of the Cant in Crew Ancient and Modern of Gypsies, Beggars, Thieves (London, 1699).

In the late 19th c. and the early 20th c., works dealing with characteristics of city language appeared in France.

In the 1920 s, B. Larin published significant papers dealing with city language in Russia.

Since the 1960 s, W. Labov's research has initiated a new stage in the investigation of characteristics of city language.