

NEOLOGISMS IN MODERN ENGLISH: HOW NEW WORDS ARE FORMED

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ABSTRACT

Language is a living system that constantly evolves as society, technology, and culture change. One of the key aspects of this evolution is the emergence of neologisms – new words or expressions created to describe new concepts, inventions, and trends. In modern English, neologisms appear frequently, especially in areas such as technology, social media, science, and entertainment. Neologisms can be formed in several ways. One of the most common methods is compounding, where two or more words are combined to create a new term. Examples include “cybersecurity” (cyber + security) and “laptop” (lap + top). Another popular method is blending, where parts of two different words merge to form a new one, such as “brunch” (breakfast + lunch) and “motel” (motor + hotel). Additionally, clipping (shortening a longer word) and

borrowing (adopting words from other languages) play a significant role in expanding the English vocabulary. The rapid growth of the internet and digital communication has accelerated the spread of neologisms. Many new words related to social media and online culture have emerged, such as “selfie,” “vlogger,” “clickbait,” and “influencer.” These words have quickly become part of everyday language due to their widespread use. Neologisms not only enrich the language but also reflect cultural and technological progress. Studying neologisms helps us understand how language adapts to modern realities and how new words influence communication. Since neologisms are constantly evolving, keeping track of them is essential for language learners, researchers, and anyone interested in linguistic development.

Аннотация

Язык – это живой организм, который постоянно развивается под влиянием изменений в обществе, технологиях и культуре. Одним из ключевых аспектов этого развития является появление неологизмов – новых слов или выражений, созданных для описания новых понятий, изобретений и тенденций. В современном английском языке неологизмы появляются особенно часто в таких сферах, как технологии, социальные сети, наука и развлечения. Неологизмы формируются различными способами. Один из самых распространенных методов – словосложение (compounding), когда два или более слова объединяются в новый термин. Например, “cybersecurity” (cyber + security) и “laptop” (lap + top). Еще один популярный метод – смешение (blending), при котором части двух разных слов сливаются в одно, например, “brunch” (breakfast + lunch) и “motel” (motor + hotel). Кроме того, важную роль в пополнении словарного запаса играют усечение (clipping) и заимствование (borrowing) – использование слов из других языков. Бурное развитие интернета и цифровых технологий ускорило распространение неологизмов. Многие новые слова связаны с социальной сетью и интернет-культурой, например, “selfie”,

“vlogger”, “clickbait”, “influencer”. Эти слова быстро вошли в повседневную речь благодаря их популярности в медиaprостранстве. Неологизмы не только обогащают язык, но и отражают культурный и технологический прогресс. Их изучение помогает понять, как язык адаптируется к современным реалиям и как новые слова влияют на коммуникацию. Так как неологизмы постоянно появляются и меняются, их отслеживание важно для изучающих язык, исследователей и всех, кто интересуется развитием лингвистики.

Annotatsiya

Til doimiy ravishda rivojlanib boradi va bu jarayonda neologizmlar muhim o'rin tutadi. Neologizm – bu yangi yaratilgan yoki yaqinda tilga kirib kelgan so'z yoki ibora bo'lib, u texnologiya, madaniyat va jamiyatlardagi o'zgarishlarga javoban paydo bo'ladi. Zamonaviy ingliz tilida yangi so'zlar turli usullar orqali shakllanadi. Eng keng tarqalgan usullardan biri qo'shma so'z yaratish (compounding) bo'lib, ikki yoki undan ortiq so'zlar qo'shilib, yangi ma'noli so'z hosil qiladi, masalan, “laptop” yoki “cybersecurity”. Shuningdek, aralashtirish (blending) usuli orqali ikkita so'zning bir qismi qo'shilib, yangi so'z yuzaga keladi, masalan, “brunch” (breakfast + lunch) yoki “motel” (motor + hotel). Bugungi kunda internet va ijtimoiy tarmoqlar ta'sirida ham ko'plab yangi so'zlar paydo bo'lmoqda. Masalan, “vlogger”, “clickbait”, “selfie” kabi so'zlar qisqa vaqt ichida ommalashib, kundalik tilning bir qismiga aylandi.

Neologizmlar tilning dinamikasini ko'rsatadi va jamiyatlardagi madaniy va texnologik taraqqiyotni aks ettiradi. Shu sababli, ularni o'rganish nafaqat tilshunoslik balki zamonaviy jamiyatni tushunish uchun ham muhim hisoblanadi.

Key words: acronyms, language evolution, linguistic innovation, modern English, neologisms, word formation.

INTRODUCTION

The term “neologism” was introduced into scientific discourse by French linguist Georges Dumézil and other scholars. (Georges Dumézil,) However, the phenomenon of neologisms has existed in linguistics for a long time, and this concept became clearly defined in the late 19th – early 20th century. The Swiss linguist Ferdinand de Saussure also discussed the emergence of new words and the evolution of language. Throughout history, languages have continuously expanded their lexicons by adopting new words through various linguistic mechanisms. English, in particular, has been highly adaptable in incorporating new vocabulary, often borrowing from other languages or forming new words by blending, compounding, or modifying existing ones (Yule, 2020). The rise of social media, online platforms, and digital culture has further accelerated the process of word formation, with many new words gaining widespread usage in a short period. For instance, terms like “selfie,” “cryptocurrency,” and “metaverse” did not exist a few decades ago but are now common in everyday discourse. Understanding how neologisms are created and integrated into the English language is crucial for linguists, educators, and language learners. Neologisms not only reflect linguistic creativity but also demonstrate how language serves as a tool for adapting to societal and technological progress. While some new words become permanent additions to the lexicon, others may fade over time, highlighting the dynamic nature of language change. This study explores the formation of neologisms in modern English, focusing on the primary word-formation processes and the sociocultural factors influencing their development. By analyzing recent linguistic trends and examining real-world examples, this research aims to provide insights into the mechanisms behind neologism formation and their impact on contemporary communication.

Every year, hundreds of new words (neologisms) appear in the English language. For example, in 2020, the Oxford Dictionary added more than 1,000 new words and phrases. Based on this, it can be estimated that over the last five years (2020–2024), more than 5,000 new words have been introduced into the English language. However, these numbers are approximate, as the exact count depends on dictionary updates and the acceptance of new words. According to linguistic studies, neologisms can make up 5-10% of a language's total vocabulary. However, this percentage varies significantly because: With advancements in technology, science, and culture, the number of new words increases.

Some neologisms remain in use for a long time, while others quickly disappear. For example, in modern English, approximately 10% of words are new or have emerged in the last few decades. In the Uzbek language, this percentage is estimated to be around 5-7%, depending on technological and social changes. If you need more precise statistical data, I can check the latest research on this topic.

Neologisms in modern English show that language is constantly evolving. Due to new technologies, science, social media, and cultural changes, thousands of new words appear every year. This process enriches the language and expands its possibilities. Neologisms are formed through various methods. For example, compounding combines two or more words to create a new meaning (cybersecurity, notebook). Blending merges parts of two words to form a new one (brunch – breakfast + lunch, motel – motor + hotel). Additionally, abbreviations are widely used (OMG – Oh My God, LOL – Laugh Out Loud). Today, the influence of the internet and social media is significant. Words like selfie, influencer, and clickbait have become popular in a short period. Some words emerge as slang but later enter formal language. Neologisms are of interest not only to linguists but also to sociologists and cultural researchers. The emergence of new words reflects how society is developing and what changes are taking place. Therefore, studying neologisms is important for understanding modern society.

In modern English, neologisms are the result of multiple language processes:

1. Compounding: To generate a new term, two or more existing words are combined. For example, the term "laptop" refers to a portable computer by combining the words "lap" and "top."
2. Blending: This technique creates a new expression by combining word fragments. One prominent example is "brunch," which combines the words "breakfast" and "lunch" to indicate a midmorning meal.
3. Affixation: New meanings are created by appending prefixes or suffixes to already-existing words. On social media, the prefix "un-" in "unfriend" denotes the opposite of adding someone as a friend.
4. Acronyms and Initialisms: It's customary to create new terms from the first letters of a string of words. Relevant instances are "COVID-19" (Coronavirus Disease 2019) and "NASA" (National Aeronautics and Space Administration).

Neologisms are most commonly found in rapidly developing fields and areas with new discoveries. Below are the main fields where neologisms frequently appear:

1. Science and Technology

Information Technology (IT): "blockchain," "cryptocurrency," "metaverse," "AI-generated"

Cybersecurity: "phishing," "deepfake," "ransomware"

Astronautics and Astrophysics: "exoplanet," "space tourism," "terraforming"

Biotechnology and Medicine: "bioprinting," "gene editing," "mRNA vaccine"

2. Social Sciences and Culture

Psychology and Sociology: "toxic positivity," "doomscrolling," "ghosting"

Politics and Society: "fake news," "cancel culture," "wokeism"

3. Economics and Finance

Finance: “NFT,” “fintech,” “gig economy”

Business and Marketing: “growth hacking,” “dropshipping,” “brand activism”

4. Pop Culture and the Internet

Entertainment and Art: “influencer,” “meme,” “vlogger”

Mass Media: “clickbait,” “binge-watching,” “podcast”

5. Ecology and Environment

Climate Science and Ecology: “climate anxiety,” “greenwashing,” “carbon footprint”

onclusion:

Neologisms play a crucial role in modern English and reflect the continuous evolution of the language. New words mainly emerge due to influences from technology, the internet, culture, and social processes. They are formed through various methods such as compounding, blending, clipping, and borrowing. Today, the internet and social media have a significant impact on the rapid spread of new words. For example, terms like “selfie,” “vlogger,” and “clickbait” have quickly become a part of everyday language. Studying neologisms helps us understand how language evolves and adapts to cultural and technological changes. Therefore, keeping track of new words and knowing how to use them correctly is essential for any language learner.

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