



NEOLOGISMS

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Abstract. Neologisms, defined as newly coined lexical items or expressions, represent one of the most dynamic aspects of language development. In the context of modern English, the rapid expansion of technology, globalization, and digital communication has significantly accelerated the creation and dissemination of new words. This article aims to provide an in-depth analysis of neologisms by examining their formation processes, communicative functions, and sociolinguistic significance. The study applies a qualitative-descriptive and corpus-based methodology, drawing data from contemporary digital sources, academic literature, and media discourse published after 2020. The findings indicate that neologisms are systematically formed through linguistic mechanisms such as blending, compounding, affixation, borrowing, and semantic change.

Keywords. Neologism, lexical innovation, word formation, English linguistics, sociolinguistics, digital discourse, corpus analysis, language change

INTRODUCTION

Language is a constantly evolving system that adapts to the changing needs of its users. One of the most prominent indicators of linguistic evolution is the emergence of neologisms. These newly created words or expressions appear when existing vocabulary is insufficient to describe new realities, technologies, or cultural phenomena. In modern English, the rate of neologism formation has increased dramatically due to the influence of globalization, technological progress, and especially digital communication.

Neologisms are not merely random inventions; they are shaped by both linguistic rules and social contexts. For instance, the rise of the internet and social media platforms has generated a wide range of new lexical items that reflect online behavior, communication styles, and virtual identities. Words related to artificial intelligence, remote work, digital



culture, and environmental awareness have entered everyday language, demonstrating how closely vocabulary is tied to contemporary life.

The importance of studying neologisms lies in their ability to reveal patterns of language change and innovation. They provide insight into how speakers adapt language to meet communicative needs and how new forms gain acceptance within speech communities. Furthermore, neologisms contribute to linguistic creativity and expressiveness, allowing speakers to convey complex ideas in concise and innovative ways. This study aims to explore the mechanisms of neologism formation, analyze their usage in modern discourse, and evaluate their broader linguistic and cultural implications.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

Recent academic research has increasingly emphasized the significance of neologisms in understanding language change. Studies published after 2020 highlight that neologisms are influenced by a combination of internal linguistic processes and external sociocultural factors. Scholars note that technological innovation, globalization, and major global events play a central role in generating new vocabulary.

One major area of focus in contemporary research is the impact of digital communication on neologism formation. Social media platforms such as Twitter, TikTok, and online forums have created environments where new words can emerge and spread rapidly. Unlike traditional forms of language evolution, which required long periods for lexical adoption, digital communication enables almost instantaneous global dissemination.


Another important theme in the literature is the role of global crises in shaping language. For example, the COVID-19 pandemic led to the creation of numerous neologisms related to health, safety, and remote interaction. These terms quickly became part of everyday vocabulary, illustrating how language responds to shared human experiences.

From a methodological perspective, this study adopts a qualitative-descriptive approach combined with corpus analysis. Data were collected from multiple sources, including online corpora, news articles, academic publications, and social media content produced between 2020 and 2026. The research process involved identifying neologisms, categorizing them according to their formation processes, and analyzing their usage in context.

The methodology includes several stages. First, relevant lexical items were collected from contemporary sources. Second, these items were classified based on linguistic criteria such as morphology and semantics. Third, their frequency and context of use were examined to determine their communicative functions. Finally, the findings were interpreted within a sociolinguistic framework to understand their broader significance.

DISCUSSION (METHODS AND ANALYSIS)

The analysis reveals that neologisms in modern English are formed through a variety of well-defined linguistic processes. One of the most productive mechanisms is blending, which involves combining elements of two or more words to create a new term. This process reflects both creativity and efficiency, as it allows speakers to convey complex meanings in a compact form.



Compounding is another widely used method, particularly in technical and scientific contexts. By combining existing words, speakers can create new terms that are immediately understandable due to their transparent structure. This process is especially common in fields such as information technology and environmental science.

Affixation also plays a crucial role in neologism formation. The addition of prefixes and suffixes to existing words allows for the creation of new meanings and categories. In modern English, certain affixes have become particularly productive due to their relevance to contemporary issues, such as environmental sustainability and digitalization.

Borrowing from other languages continues to be an important source of neologisms. In a globalized world, English frequently incorporates words from different linguistic and cultural contexts. These borrowed terms often fill lexical gaps or provide more precise expressions for specific concepts.

Semantic change represents another significant pathway for neologism development. Existing words acquire new meanings in response to technological and cultural shifts. For example, words that originally had physical or biological meanings are now commonly used in digital or metaphorical contexts.

A key finding of this study is the central role of digital communication in accelerating neologism usage. Social media platforms serve as laboratories of linguistic innovation, where users experiment with language and introduce new expressions. The interactive and participatory nature of these platforms facilitates rapid adoption and adaptation of neologisms across different communities.

Furthermore, neologisms often function as markers of identity and group membership. Certain terms originate within specific social or professional groups and later spread to wider audiences. This process highlights the connection between language, identity, and social interaction.

RESULTS

The results of the study demonstrate several important trends in the formation and usage of neologisms. First, neologisms are strongly influenced by technological advancements and sociocultural developments. Second, digital communication plays a decisive role in both the creation and dissemination of new lexical items. Third, the most common formation processes include blending, compounding, affixation, abbreviation, and semantic shift.

Additionally, the study finds that neologisms often emerge rapidly in response to global events and can become widely accepted within a short period. Many of these terms transition from informal usage in online communication to formal recognition in dictionaries and academic discourse.

The findings also suggest that neologisms contribute to linguistic efficiency by providing concise and precise ways to express new ideas. At the same time, they enhance linguistic creativity and reflect the dynamic nature of modern communication.



CONCLUSION

Neologisms represent a vital component of language evolution, particularly in the context of modern English. This study has shown that neologisms are formed through systematic linguistic processes and are deeply influenced by external factors such as technology, globalization, and social interaction. The rapid growth of digital communication has transformed the way new words are created and spread, making language change more immediate and observable.

The analysis confirms that neologisms are not only linguistic innovations but also cultural indicators that reflect contemporary realities. They capture the essence of modern life, from technological advancements to social trends, and provide valuable insights into the relationship between language and society.

Future research should focus on expanding the scope of analysis through large-scale corpus studies and computational methods. Such approaches would allow for more precise tracking of neologism usage and development over time. Additionally, comparative studies across different languages could deepen our understanding of global linguistic trends.

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