

STUDY OF LINGUISTIC ASPECTS OF NEOLOGISMS

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***Abstract.** The article deals with the problems of the formation of new words in a language have been relevant in linguistics since its inception, but there is still no consensus on the understanding of neologism in the proper linguistic sense. The article emphasizes national specific of neologisms through their space, realize those categories that representatives of people thinking, and boundaries in which they are placed in order to perceive and analyze the world around them.*

***Keywords:** neologisms, linguistics, linguaculturological, approach, lexical units.*

INTRODUCTION

The study on neologisms or the new words created in a language has been gaining strength lately and has been getting the attention of linguists. It is obvious that neologism produce a feeling of curiosity since they frequently appear in the vocabulary of speakers quite suddenly. For this reason, researchers have tried to explain how they are created and have also tried to classify them into different categories, even though they do not always coincide in their approach. While there is a general awareness of the meaning of neologisms that we use daily, researchers have investigated the reasons for their emergence, the preference that speakers show among competing forms of these new words and how they develop [2, 216].

Languages are living entities which evolve over time and the lexicon plays a relevant role in this change because while words cease to be used other new words emerge. Neologisms are the new words that speakers create in a language. They serve to keep the language up-to-date since they generally emerge because of the new situations that need to be referred to, such as new technologies, new situations in politics and new developments. Speakers create and are exposed to neologisms everywhere, for instance, in the news, social media and advertising. Thus, the study of neologisms is of particular interest because they reflect the language that speakers use to talk about new realities and situations.

Compounds are built by joining already existing words. Compounds can be analysed from three different points of view: the structural aspect, the semantic aspect and the lexical aspect [12, 7].

From the structural point of view, there are also three types: the neutral aspect,

TIL HÁM AWDARMA MÁSELELERI

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the morphological aspect and the syntactic aspect. The neutral aspect is the combination of two stems with no linking component such as ‘tall boy’ and ‘black bird’. The morphological aspect is the combination of two stems with a consonant or a vowel functioning as a linking unit such as “handiwork, handicraft, craftsmanship, spokesman” [12, 12]. Finally, the syntactic aspect refers to the combination of different categories of words –including nouns, verbs, articles, adverbs and prepositions – that appear together and are usually linked with a hyphen as in: “*lily-of-the-valley, good-for-nothing, mother-in-law, sit-at-home, pick-me-up, know-all, know-nothing, go-between, get-together*”[12, 17].

O. Glazunova divides the semantic aspect into three groups: compounds in which the combination of the meaning of the two words leads to a word whose meaning can be predicted as in the case of “*classroom, bedroom, working-man, dining-room, sleeping-car, dancing-hall*”[8, 100]; compounds in which the combination of the words has produced a word with a new meaning such as “*blackboard, blackbird, football, lady-killer, good-for-nothing, lazy bones*”[8, 101]; and compounds that have lost their original meaning as in ‘lady bird’, which is not a bird, but an insect, ‘tall boy’, which does not mean a boy who is tall but a piece of furniture, ‘*bluestocking*’ an intellectual or literary woman, and ‘blue bottle’, which designates both a flower and an insect but never a bottle [8, 102].

Finally, the lexical aspect distinguishes between word combination and compounds. For instance, the word-combination ‘*tall boy*’ is different from the compound ‘*tallboy*’ since the meaning of the latter might not coincide with the addition of the meaning of the independent elements that conform it, which we have already mentioned before [9, 27].

Some modern compound neologisms that have been inserted in the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* (2021) and in the *Cambridge University Press Dictionary* (2021) are ‘*crowd funding*’ and ‘*sadwear*’. ‘*Crowdfunding*’ is a compound created by the combination of the words ‘*crowd*’ and ‘*funding*’ and its meaning is to ask for money massively (sometimes online) with the aim of creating a new business. ‘*Sadwear*’ is also a compound created from the combination of the words ‘*sad*’ and ‘*wear*’, and it refers to clothes that reduce the sadness felt by the person who wears them.

Derived words are words created with already existing words and the help of affixes [12, 21]. An affix is defined as “a bound morpheme that attaches to bases” [13, 22]. Accordingly, derivation or affixation is a word-formation process in which affixes (prefixes or suffixes) are added to the root of a word to build new words. These affixes are usually morphologically bound, that is, they cannot appear alone as

TIL HÂM AWDARMA MÁSELELERI

V ilimiy maqalalar toplami

a word. Some of the most common affixes are: “a-”, “co-”, “de-”, “dis-”, “-able”, “-er”, “-ism”, “-tion” and “-less” [7, 96]. Thanks to these affixes, new words are created such as ‘endistancement’, ‘tracklement’, ‘underlayment’ (suffix:-ment), ‘gamification’ (suffix-tion) or ‘hyperconnectivity’ (-ity) [7, 97]. An example of a new neologism that has been created through affixation, in particular, through the addition of the prefix “co-” is ‘coworking’ (*Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, 2021). The word refers to people who work together and share a particular workplace, ideas, knowledge and equipment.

The formation of new words in English is influenced by the productivity of certain affixes or patterns [9, 188]. However, productivity varies with time, and an affix that may have been productive in the past—leading to multiple neologisms—may not be productive any longer, this is the measure called “extent of use” [9, 189]. An example of derivational productivity is the suffix “-er” that creates neologisms such as “birder, realtater, bubblegummer, miler, heartacher, mudder, porker, homer, birther, domainer” [9, 189]. In addition, it is important to note that the affixes employed to create neologisms need to provide the word with semantic transparency and economy [9, 190].

Reduplications are created by doubling the stem of a word and are usually associated with colloquial speech or slang. There are two ways to produce reduplications: (i) without phonetic variations, such as ‘bye-bye’ for ‘good-bye’, and (ii) with a change in one of the roots vowels or consonants, as in ‘ping-pong’ and ‘chit-chat’. More examples of reduplication are ‘walkie-talkie’ (a portable radio), ‘riff-raff’ (the worthless or disreputable element of society; the dregs of society), and ‘chi-chi’ (slang for chicanas chi-chi girl) [10, 200].

Some neologisms are words that already exist but with a new meaning. Now a days all pervasive application of computer and the Internet has been a key procreation ground for this progression, with new senses for words such as window, mouse, bug, virus, surf, net and web now being part of everyday English” [5, 122]. Since these words have both their old and new meanings they have become polysemic words as in the case of “Hostess: The previous meaning: A woman who has guests—The latest meaning: Sex-worker, Footprint: The previous meaning: the mark made by a person’s or animal’s foot -The latest meaning: An impact on our planet” [5, 122]. The grammatical category of these words is the same as that of the original word.

Eponyms are words inspired by existing proper names (a place, person, animal, etc.). They can be real or imaginary and they can only be included in the

TIL HÁM AWDARMA MÁSELELERI

V ilimiy maqalalar toplami

language when they are wide spread and known well enough. Some other in stances of eponym sare ‘atlas’ from the proper name of Atlas, ‘boycott’ from the proper name of Charles C. Boycott, ‘cereal’ from Ceres and ‘nicotine’ from Jean Nicot[4, 122].

Words frequently collocate in English. This happens when two or more words usually co-occur together. Native speakers are usually very sensitive to collocations and, when a word different from the word that is generally used is chosen, the speaker will not like that word combination, even though the meaning is the same (e.g. you ‘make your bed’, you do not ‘do your bed’). A new combination of two or more words frequently appearing together maybe considered a neologism. Examples that illustrate this kind of neologisms are ‘fast food’ (but not ‘quick food’), ‘a quick shower’ (but not ‘a fast shower’) [1, 104].

Borrowings, also referred to as loan words, are those words that have been taken from one language to be incorporated into another. Examples of borrowing sare the following: “algebra–Arabic, chowmein–Chinese, kielbasa–Polish, murder–French, near– Sanskrit, pizza – Italian” [3, 330]. More examples of borrowings are ‘kindergarten’, an originally German word that means play school, and ‘sushi’, a Japanese word for a typical Japanese dish [3, 331]. A new neologism that has been introduced in *the Merriam-Webster Dictionary* (2021) is ‘hygge’, This is a borrowing from Danish and that has been transferred to English without changes to its original word form and it means the feeling of comfortability or well-being due to a cosy environment.

Transferred words are new words that maintain the form they had in the language they were first created in. These words do not change when they are used in different countries because they are usually brand names, cultural manifestations such as [6, 417-418], new food (‘Momo’) or brands of clothes such as, ‘Adidas’ or ‘Nike’ [6, 418].

The existence of new political situations in the last decade has also been the source of neologisms. A good example is the creation of the neologism ‘Brexit’. The term emerged in 2012 to describe the intention of Britain to leave the European Union. This word was first employed in print and social media in the UK but has now been spread to other language and countries in the world. It might have found its inspiration in the word ‘Grexit’, the result of the blend ‘Greek’ and ‘exit’, when Greece was indebted with the European Union and the possibility of Greece leaving the EU was considered. In any case, although the neologism ‘Brexit’ has not been included in dictionaries, it does appear in Wikipedia and it was awarded the word of the year by the *Collins Dictionary* in [11, 19].

‘Brexit’ is a peculiar example of blending since one of its components, ‘exit’, does not lose any of its parts. ‘Exit’, comes from the 3rd person singular of the Latin verb ‘exire’ which was borrowed by Middle English as a noun, conforming the actual noun ‘exit’ [13, 20]. Like many blending neologisms, ‘Brexit’ has taken several other forms until its current predominant form has been established. For instance, the blending ‘Brexit’ was sometimes produced as ‘Brixit’, but this variation did not last much. However, according to Fontaine, it may be possible that the blending will keep on developing for some more time since it is still a topic of debate. What ever its form, news media as well as speakers are conscious of the innovative character of the term so it is usually presented in single and double inverted commas, and after “so-called” indicating, therefore that it is a new term [12, 6].

CONCLUSIONS

Summing up of all what has just been said, it should be stressed:

New vocabulary is the most important material for embodied by means of language concepts, as it reflects the characteristic features of the world view of the people. Neologism due to its ability not only to reflect, but also to “absorb” the culture of native speakers of the language to which it belong sin recent decades, became a power ful linguistic and social mediator serving to enrich both the language it self and the social environment as a whole.

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