



The Peculiarities of Neologisms In Language And Speech

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Abstract: Language is a dynamic, evolving process that reflects the ever-changing realities faced by its speakers. One of the key factors driving this linguistic evolution is the creation of neologisms—new words or expressions that emerge to fill gaps in language or express new concepts, often as a response to technological advancements, cultural shifts, and globalization. Neologisms not only enrich the vocabulary but also offer a rich point of analysis in linguistics, shedding light on societal and cultural contexts. They are formed through various processes such as borrowing, compounding, blending, and acronym creation, all of which reflect the interaction between linguistic mechanisms and the cultural environment. This paper explores the formation and implications of neologisms from both linguistic and cultural perspectives, with a particular focus on ecolinguistics and sociolinguistics. Historical examples, such as the Industrial Revolution and the Digital Era, illustrate the deep connection between language and social change. By examining neologisms, this study seeks to illuminate the role of language in adapting to societal transformations and how it serves as both a mirror and a driver of cultural evolution.

Keywords: Neologisms, Language Evolution, Ecolinguistics, Sociolinguistics, Language and Culture, Technological Change

Introduction

Language is certainly dynamic process, in continuous evolution, reflecting the ever-altered realities its speakers are facing. The reason for this evolution is development of neologisms, or the creation of new terms or phrases which help to fill gaps in language or to express newly discovered concepts and phenomena. Since neologisms come to represent changes in society brought about by technological advancement, cultural shifts, and globalization, neologism creation provides a rich point of analysis in linguistics. Neologisms are an important component for linguists because they reveal the cultural and social context where the neologisms exist.

Methodology

Neologism is, by definition, a newly coined word or expression that has recently come into being and gained usage in a language. Many times, this comes into being with the need for changes in culture, technology advancement, and social alterations as the world advances, enabling the language to move forward and meet the expressive needs of its users. Neologisms are terms that are completely new or even words that have already been

used but with a new meaning. It is a dynamic process which basically forms the basis of understanding the dynamics underlying how language is in constant evolution and flux with contemporary society. For instance, neologisms are not casual linguistic events but rather a relation between language and the general ecology. According to Shamne and Rets (2015), an ecolinguistic approach focuses on the way neologisms come into being within a linguistic ecosystem, which is both internally driven-by linguistic mechanisms-and externally driven-by cultural context. This, if anything, underlines the importance of monitoring the changes in language, particularly the interaction that new words have with the already existing vocabulary and the influence this might have on general linguistic balance. For instance, the very rapid rise in the number of English loanwords in other languages does indeed show the process of globalization pressures coupled with digital communication affecting contemporary languages.

Neologisms are formed through various ways such as by borrowing, compounding, blending, and the creation of acronyms, among others, through various processes. All these mechanisms reflect linguistic economy and expressiveness driving the evolution of language. Ismoilova et al. (2023) present that neologisms appear as a result of social needs and changes in technology, underlining the continuous interaction between language and the specific cultural contexts in which it operates. This duality in the influences of both linguistic and extralinguistic elements underlines how new words perform both the functions of enriching the vocabulary and expressing the spirit of the time.

Neologisms, however, also define the attitude and identity of society. Sometimes they can serve as an indicator of cultural shifts and epitomize the spirit of the time, thus influencing public awareness. For example, other words like "adulting" and "woke" have also joined everyday vocabulary and reflect broader debates about responsibility and social awareness in contemporary society. This brings up the questions of neologisms and their association with social dynamics, linguistic purism, identity, and erosion of cultural distinctiveness through relentless borrowing and adaptation.

While this paper examines the complex interplay of neologisms, neologistic formation, and neologistic implications relative to linguistic and cultural evolution, the paper tries to shed light on the continuous dialogue between language and determinants. The investigation into neologisms in the realm of ecolinguistics and sociolinguistics within this study will deliver substantial insights into how language is evolving and adapting to changing society. Ultimately, neologism studies will not only contribute to further development of knowledge about the dynamics of language but also serve as some kind of keyhole through which one can observe the cultural changes that define human life in the contemporary world.

Historical Context of Neologisms

Throughout history, language has undergone significant changes that reflect the cultural and technological advancements of the time. Creating new words and expressions, and their passing into the mainstream, happens largely when major social changes are in process. Two historical periods representative of this theme are the Industrial Revolution and the Digital Era.

The "Industrial Revolution" of the 18th and 19th centuries used rapid innovations in technology and industry to demand new vocabulary for the innovations and lifestyle changes that made life so different. With the new concepts, practices, and machinery came the requirement for different terms. For instance, there was the term "factory" to define these new manufacturing sites that defined this period. Words like "steam engine" and "railway" also became everyday conversations because they transformed transportation and production.

The neologisms that actually represent the changes in the structure and relationship during the Industrial Revolution are part of the cultural dynamics, such as the original term for "broadcasting," in which the old term actually refers to scattering seeds for planting into a larger area. Therefore, the term was originally referring to something related to agricultural production; later, it changed meaning for information to flow from broadcasting on the air through the use of radio or television. Such change reflects the nature of the advance of technology that does not only mold the physical form of human existence but even more significantly changes the spoken words.

Another important phase of linguistic development is the so-called "Digital Era" beginning in the late 20th century. The coming of the Internet and digital technology basically changed both the communication process and the way information spreads. Neologisms due to this technological revolution cannot be avoided in modern language. For example, the term "blog" is a certain kind of personal online journal or website where one can share his ideas, which appeared with the growth of online content creation. The combination of "web" and "log" is a good example of novel linguistic practices that result from technological intersection.

Furthermore, the digital space has created a possibility for abbreviation and acronym terms to take form, as in the case of "email" for electronic mail and "IM" for instant message. These actually have emerged out of a need for efficiency in digital communication. The other popular neologisms include the hashtag, a term that was coined for social media platforms and categorizes content while providing a way through which to discover other related topics in online conversations. Such neologisms are thereby realized as part of shifts in interaction and changes in the nature of language in a digital world.

These neologisms besetting these historical periods point out the very close relationship there is between language and cultural development. As society grapples with new technologies and accepted social behaviors, so language also changes to reflect such changes. Neologisms are indicative not only of linguistic creativity but also symptomatic of values, anxieties, and progressions that happen in society. They act as a window into the mass consciousness of a period in history that pinpoints the juncture between language and culture in human experience.

Neologisms, in their historical context, essentially manifest the period when every serious societal change—for instance, those occasioned by the Industrial Revolution and the Digital Era—stimulates new-word inventions. Inasmuch as language is always changing, neology is an important concept in order for one to understand in detail the interplay of linguistic and cultural forces at work.

The Process of Neologism Formation

The process of neologism formation is dynamic and energetic, reflecting the dynamic nature of language in its adaptation to cultural, technological, and social pressures. The various mechanisms of neologisms include borrowing, compounding, blending, acronyms, and neological innovations-all of which contribute vitally to the enrichment of the vocabulary and reflect tendencies in modern society.

Borrowing

Borrowing refers to the adoption of certain words from one language into another and is generally symptomatic of some sort of cultural exchange, colonization, or globalization. Such words may be modified in pronunciation and meaning and used differently in their new language. For example, the word "ballet" is originally French, referring to a kind of dance that is highly stylized. Although it was borrowed because of its particular cultural implication, it has retained its original form but has also undergone changes in usage and has become a common term in an English-speaking context.

Other examples include "kindergarten," borrowed from German, meaning "children's garden." The English adopted this to mean the description of a young child educational system at the change of the philosophy and practice of education. The development of terms borrowed often includes modifications to meet the phonetic and morphological patterns of the borrowing language. This again shows the influence of culture on the development of language, something Leonardovich & Vladimirovna 2015 have demonstrated.

Besides, the borrowing process very often reflects trends in a society, for instance the rise of foreign cuisines and cultures which saw the borrowing of words such as "sushi" in Japanese and "café" in French. These are examples of how language adapts to the needs of speakers, accommodating new ideas and experiences as McDonald states (2005).

Compounding

Compounding means forming a new term by putting together two or more already existing words. This mechanism is quite productive in English and gives rise to many well-known modern examples. By example, "toothbrush" joins "tooth" and "brush," whereby the function of it is easily understood. Similarly, "snowman" puts together "snow" and "man" in order to refer to a figure made out of snow, especially during winter festivities.

The other contemporary neologism is the "smartphone," a portmanteau of the words "smart," as in advanced, technologically, and "phone." This neologism actually denotes technological change and the role mobile communications are playing in everyday life. Compounding allows speakers creativity and specificity in language, while they are able to denote new ideas and experiences in an efficient manner. Other examples of this process are the compounds "laptop" (lap + top) and "webinar" (web + seminar), as they both reflect shifts in technology and communication.

Blending

Blending is the process by which elements of two or more words are combined to form a new word, with the result often being a humorous or snappy expression. The most commonly cited example is "brunch," which comprises elements of "breakfast" and "lunch,"

referring to a meal eaten late in the morning that replaces both breakfast and lunch. It first appeared toward the end of the 19th century and has since become very common in today's dining experience. Another example is a "mockumentary," a combination of words "mock" and "documentary," describing a form of film or television that laughs at the documentary genre. This blurring has mirrored changes in media and entertainment, showing clearly how language adapts to new cultural phenomena. Other terms, such as "glamping," short for glamorous camping, reveal the blending of concepts relating to lifestyle and mirror changing trends in leisure.

Acronyms

Acronyms are made by taking the first letters of a sequence of words and developing a new word with that. The practice is very common in technology and organizations. For instance, "NASA" is an acronym, meaning National Aeronautics and Space Administration—a name that has been synonymous with space travel in the United States. Usually, acronyms facilitate communication and allow for the attachment of catchy labels to long-tailed organizations or concepts.

The same happens with "scuba"; the acronym for "self-contained underwater breathing apparatus" gained popularity and is now popularly known in diving. This use of acronyms reflects a need for speed; a fast-paced environment, especially technological, medical, and governmental industries. New acronyms are coined day after day; reflecting current issues, here we go with "FOMO," or Fear of Missing Out, a name given to a kind of anxiety felt by people in the age of social media (Sharipova, 2024).

Neological Innovations

Neological innovations involve inventing new words or phrases to refer to new concepts, induced in most cases by technological development or social changes. Probably a very good example of this is the word "Google," which originally was just a brand name for a particular search engine but has taken on the meaning of a verb: "to search for information online." This evolution aptly shows how language can adapt to new practices and technologies. Other recent additions include "crowdsourcing," a blend of "crowd" and "outsourcing," referring to a process where work or ideas are sourced from a large group of people, often via the internet. This term represents the changes in the way that business is done and also the proliferation of online collaborative platforms which exploit collective intelligence. The appearance of terms such as "selfie" within digital communication shows that quite often neological creations keep up with technological development and new social behaviors.

Compounding, blending, acronyms, neological innovations, and borrowing are the means through which neologisms are formed, revealing the flexibility and ingenuity of language. These various processes enable speakers to negotiate and deliver the complexity of life in modern times, signaling cultural changes, technological modifications, and social reconfigurations. Inasmuch as language is never static, research in neologisms will continue to form a significant route to understanding linguistic dynamics.

Neologisms in Contemporary Language

The development of language within the context of the modern world is catalyzed, for the most part, by rapid development in technologies and, more particular to this topic, the pervasive impact of social media. Websites and apps such as Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, and Facebook function not only as basic spaces for communication but also as agents for linguistic innovation. With social media, this reach is globally immediate. This contributes to the rapid spread and normalization of neologisms in everyday language. Words such as "meme" and "tweet" point out that the language of social media represents not only current cultural phenomena but also reshapes current linguistic trends (Sharipova, 2024).

One of the most important dimensions in which social media have affected the way we use language is in the capacity to invent and popularize new words in a question of days, sometimes hours. Take for instance the term "meme," coined by evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins in 1976: even as originally used, a concept or behavior that spreads within a culture, it has taken on a completely new dimension in the age of the internet. Now, the modern usage of memes refers only to a humorous picture, video, or chunk of text that is rapidly diffused through the social platforms and could, as well, stand for social commentary or package the zeitgeist. In this respect, the word "meme" has shifted from an academic term to cultural shorthand for digital communication as a way of illustrating combined humor and social commentary shared across online communities.

On the other hand, "tweet" is another very good example because it, too, can take an already existing word and give it a completely new meaning for new technological purposes. The term, when first coined, means the sound emitted by birds, but later this term was taken over by the social media named Twitter to describe its 280-character posts. Now, "tweet" is everywhere in digital culture-common not only as a term but also as a verb, meaning posting something on Twitter. Linguistically, the evolution of "tweet" speaks volumes to how social media influences the invention of new uses and meanings for words, showing how digital culture reshapes language for technological contexts.

Social media also aids in the adoption of neologisms through a platform where trendsetting influencers, celebrities, and other influential voices can introduce new terms and make them trend overnight. The term "selfie," for instance, refers to a self-taken photograph; it caught its prominent usage early in the 2000s owing much to the sharing culture on platforms like Instagram. In 2013, "selfie" was even declared the Oxford English Dictionary's Word of the Year, a signal of its wide influence in popular culture. Likewise, on TikTok, terms like "Glow-up" can go viral, describing the transformation or change someone goes through when his appearance or lifestyle improves, thus proving that the vocabulary specific to a particular platform can filter into the mainstream speech and define the cultural trends.

The interaction and participation in social media have democratized language creation, too, where any day-to-day user can make additions to the lexicon in real time. Trends, challenges, and any form of viral content create new terms or phrases which then join the popular vocabulary. Such is the hashtag, too-a term born as a way to classify content on social media that has since come to represent an entire cultural phenomenon. Something like "hashtag activism" shows how social media not only brings new words into the English

lexicon, but also mint new meanings to older words, this one having to do with using digital platforms for advocacy on social issues.

Social media accelerates the process of dissemination and institutionalization of neologisms by representing the most accessible and immediate platform for linguistic experimentation. While novel words, such as "meme," "tweet," and "selfie," are thrown into the lexicon, they become markers of the digital era and reflective of how online culture shapes the tone of contemporary language. Social media facilitates language to be more flexible and responsive to the emerging cultural changes—a tribute to the power of digital platforms in driving and documenting linguistic evolution in real time.

Word Relations and Semantic Change

In linguistic study, 'semantic fields' are categories of related words that share a common theme or concept, such as colors, emotions, or technology. With neologisms, there is always an enlargement in such semantic fields, and at times the fields themselves are redefined. Such a process is important in keeping the language relevant to the changes in society and technology. The semantic field for "technology," for instance, has extended to incorporate such words as "smartphone," "app," and "streaming," each covering specific conceptual gaps that did not exist before the digital era. Neologisms in such fields do not simply add to the stock of words but even afford speakers insight into how they think about and organize new experiences.

Result and Discussion

Neologisms also have an effect on "polysemy" or the coexistence of several meanings within a word, and they give rise to some interesting forms of "semantic shift". For example, the term "viral" was used exclusively in the context of medicine to denote highly infectious and rapidly spreading diseases. Nowadays, it also covers the rapid diffusion of information, usually pictures or videos, over the internet. This new meaning of "viral" does not cancel its medical meaning; rather, it coexists with it, thereby making the term polysemous and able to function within either field depending on the context. Such a semantic shift reveals how language extends to cover both literal and metaphorical meanings and allows words to extend their senses to new, quite unrelated domains while remaining relevant to their original meanings.

Another good example of semantic shift is the word "cloud," which originally designated a form of weather. Nowadays, with the general adoption of cloud computing, "cloud" has taken the meaning of a data storage model where information is retained online, not on a personal device. Such a shift is illustrative of how technological advancement may reuse existing vocabulary for new applications. Such polysemies illustrate how neologisms can reshape languages, allowing all-too-familiar terms to take on new meanings alongside older ones. Semantic shifts of this kind require speakers to enter into a contextualization of words according to their domains of use, a process which underlines the flexibility of language in covering new realities.

Another aspect where neologisms have their presence is in the case of "synonymy," or words having similar meanings. New terms are often coined to create specific shades of

meaning or to capture some sense of the cultural zeitgeist, and this often happens even when synonyms could already exist. The term "influencer" takes a place within more traditional vocabulary, such as "celebrity" or "spokesperson," capturing the special signature of social power interpreted through social media and brand popularity. Although "influencer" shares a meaning with these more familiar words, it carries a special sense related to the online and advertising worlds. Similarly, the word "gig" has taken on new meaning about temporary work within the "gig economy," imbuing a word that used mainly to describe musical performances or short-term engagements with new meaning and consequence. This process suggests the way in which neologisms enrich the language by providing the words that capture subtle nuances of meaning significant in contemporary contexts.

Neologisms fill not only lexical gaps but also reshape semantic fields, thus affecting the relations between words and their meanings. By driving such changes in polysemy and synonymy, they themselves show how language is irrepressibly sensitive to cultural change. This responsiveness is a prime way that languages retain relevance to an ever-changing world and proves that language is not merely a passive reflection of human experience but also an active participant in shaping it.

Sociolinguistic Perspectives

Neologisms are effective markers of identity and belonging because their presence in or absence from a person's vocabulary acts almost like a password to get access into certain social groups or communities. The new words often provide a common lexicon to unite people through interests, age groups, professions, or subculture and anchor members solidly therein. For example, words like "stan," a portmanteau of "stalker" and "fan," have become common on the internet in fan communities, especially among the young. The usage of such words would indicate that one has belonged to certain cultural movements or a fan community and shared knowledge which others know and can use. This sense of linguistic identity is even more powerful in virtual space, where rapid cultural exchange gives birth to special sets of neologisms, each carrying values, experiences, or attitudes specific to the group in question.

The creation and use of neologisms also play into broader debates between "prescriptivism and descriptivism"—two contrasting approaches to language evolution. "Prescriptivists" maintain that language should adhere to established rules and norms, often resisting the inclusion of neologisms that they perceive as informal, unnecessary, or detrimental to the language. They may argue that words such as "selfie" or "influencer" lack seriousness or longevity, viewing them as fleeting trends rather than meaningful additions to the lexicon. For prescriptivists, linguistic integrity is often seen as linked to tradition and clarity, and they may view neologisms as contributing to language degradation.

On the other hand, 'descriptivists' consider language as one evolutionary system in which the turn to neologisms is a natural linguistic development. The latter view language as its speakers' product and neologisms as valid adjustments to new ideas, technologies, or cultural changes. The descriptivists, on one hand, would say neologisms like "ghosting" or

"binge-watch" will capture certain contemporary behaviors and experiences that the pure breed of neologisms captures; hence, it enriches the language by filling in the lexical gaps. This is a view of description that embraces language change as one that is dynamic; acceptance and usage of new words mean adaptability and cultural relevance.

Social media has magnified these sociolinguistic dynamics by speeding up not only the spread but also the normalization of neologisms. Platforms like Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok provide a conduit through which new terms and phrases can spread fast, building a feedback loop in which popular neologisms are taken up and integrated into mainstream language at a rapid pace. This influence of social media blurs generational lines and calls into question prescriptive attitudes inasmuch as terms coined within the specific online subcultures often find their way into wider usage and then get eventually adopted into everyday speech, and in some cases, even formalized in dictionaries.

The debate between prescriptivism and descriptivism views language as a fixed system or an adaptive tool, respectively. This represents tension-neologisms themselves change and innovation-which usually disturb established ways of linguistics. With society continuing to evolve, new words prove a fascinatingly right lens through which one may consider cultural shift, social identities, and meaning and belonging negotiation by people through language.

Problems in Neologism and Word Relation Studies

The study of neologisms and the relations between them and other words involves scores of linguistic and methodological challenges. The first of the "linguistic challenges" is the fact that it is impossible to predict which of the recently coined words will gain general acceptance and which will soon disappear. Indeed, hundreds of neologisms are being coined every year, yet only a few of them become part of the mainstream. For example, "selfie" entered the daily vocabulary in a flash due to its high usage rate, while hundreds of thousands more-in smaller cyber-niches or specialized areas-never escape their niche groups. Factors of relevance, cultural currency, and use come into play in helping or hindering a neologism to survive, and thus it remains unpredictable to foresee which words will stick and which will be short-lived.

Another significant challenge is the "polysemy and semantic drift"-one neologism starts to take on several different meanings or change in unforeseen ways. An example of that would be "viral," which originally was referring to the conduit of diseases; nowadays, with the rise of digital contexts, it has taken a new meaning and refers to content which rapidly rises in popularity online. This semantic shift complicates linguistic analysis, as the moving meanings of neologisms can be very far from their origins, influencing how they are comprehended and classified.

On the "methodological front", the tracking of neologisms in usage gets increasingly complicated with the pace of digital communication. Traditional lexicographic methods relied on print sources and standardized language corpora, which are too slow and rigid for capturing the rapid development of new terms online. Social media, forums, and other online platforms generate copious quantities of language data; this, due to its enormity and

the fleeting nature of online communication, is a challenge to analyze and verify. Usage patterns differ greatly online for different demographics and locations, and samples that are truly representative of word usage are not readily available.

And then there is the "ephemerality of digital language trends" to add more challenge. The reason being that it is within a niche online community that many neologisms first arise; these will very often concern some sort of viral event, trend, or meme that is in fashion for perhaps only a few days or weeks. It is for this reason that some words rise and then finally fall in popularity before they can even be documented for study, let alone placed within the dictionary. It follows, therefore, that the monitoring and neologistic research in real-time is a task that keeps imposing ever-growing demands for more flexible and adaptive methodologies in linguistics.

While neologisms can apparently offer deep insight into cultural and linguistic evolution, difficulties in predictability, tracking, and analysis only point to but a few of the complications in language study in the digital era.

Conclusion

Neologisms represent a window into the dynamic processes involved in the interaction between language and society; they demonstrate how words get created, adopted, and adapted in light of contemporary social, cultural, and technological changes. Indeed, many neologisms truly originate within specific historical contexts, such as those provided during the Industrial Revolution and the Digital Era, each of which shaped language toward new experiences and innovations. All neologistic mechanisms of formation, such as borrowing, compounding, blending, and acronyms, turn out to reflect the way in which a language evolves according to the requirements imposed by new ideas, technologies, and social practices. While doing this, they illustrate language as one living system which is adaptable by human needs and modified collective consciousness.

As the discussion progresses, one realizes that neologisms are not only words but also "identity markers" through which people like to feel they belong to a certain social groupings, industry, or cluster. The words "meme" or "tweet" have become common in everyday speech mainly because of the effect of social media, which spreads the word around. These examples show how neologisms are, in effect, a sort of linguistic currency, spreading and being acknowledged with incredible rapidity across very large networks that represent common experiences and shared reference points in a globally connected world.

Besides, neologisms also serve to break conventional linguistic paradigms; thus, they always involve some debate between "prescriptivists and descriptivists". Whereas prescriptivists may be more unwilling to accept new words into the formal vocabulary because they regard them as ephemeral or colloquial, for the descriptivist, they constitute a development of the language expressive of social advancement and pluralism. This suggests that, in reality, there has been and will continue to be a tension between a concept of linguistic purity and one of natural language growth. Ultimately, neologisms remind us that language is not static but a reflection of the changing world; every new word can carry with it the power to reshape meaning and redefine cultural narratives. It follows, then, that embracing language evolution through neologisms is inevitable and vital for effective

communication and social cohesion. In so far as rapid changes in language-particularly driven through AI, social media, and digital platforms-continue, openness to these changes allows us to meaningfully communicate across generations, cultures, and communities. Neologisms give our language greater precision, inclusiveness, and relevance to life lived today. It is rather the hallmark of language's resilience and flexibility, serving as a bridge in the sense that it connects the past, the present, and the future in one continued discourseness. Understanding and accepting this process bring insight into the mechanics of language and the story in evolution that is human culture.

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