

THE WAYS OF NEOLOGISMS CREATION

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Анотація

Дана робота розкриває суть поняття неологізм, окреслює причини появи неологізмів в англійській мові, розглядає основні шляхи формування неологізмів.

Ключові слова: неологізми, англійська мова, формування неологізмів

Abstract

The paper explains the notion of neologisms, touches upon the reasons of their appearance in the English language and describes the main ways of their creation.

Keywords: neologisms, the English language, neologisms creation

In linguistics, a neologism is a recently-coined word or the act of inventing a word or phrase. Additionally, it can imply the use of old words in a new sense that is, giving new meanings to existing words or phrases. Neologisms are especially useful in identifying new inventions, new phenomena, or old ideas which have taken on a new cultural context. The word 'neologism' was coined around 1800 and was, at that time, a neologism itself. Neologisms form a highly relevant linguistic category for many reasons – they are the elements making a language living and dynamic rather than dead, they are indicative of language change. At present, the vocabulary of English is expanding faster than ever.

There are several definitions describing the notion of a 'neologism'. Woodhouse dictionary states 'Neologisms are words that have appeared in a language in connection with new phenomena, new concepts... but which have not yet entered into the active vocabularies of a significant portion of the native speakers of the language. (Woodhouse dictionary, 1972, p. 225) As is written in the Collins Cobuild English Language Dictionary (1987) neologism is a new word or expression in a language or a familiar word or expression that is now being used with a new meaning. Peter Newmark considers neologisms as newly coined lexical units or existing lexical units that acquire a new sense (Newmark 1988: 140). The Oxford Dictionary (1998) defines neologism as a new coined word or expression; the coining or use of new words.

New words forms can be formed through the following processes:

1. Borrowing. Borrowed words are also referred to as loanwords. Borrowing is the word-formation process in which a word from one language is borrowed directly into another language. Speakers of English aggressively borrow words from other languages: *kindergarten* (German), *sushi* (Japanese), *near* (Sanskrit), *pizza* (Italian), *murder* (French), among many others.
2. Eponymy (Generification). Eponyms are words that come from the proper name of a person or a place. They can be based on both real and fictional people and places. The words like *watt*, *Xerox*, *Kleenex*, *narcissism*, a *guy*, *chauvinism*, *saxophone* and others are eponyms. Eponyms can be derived by the person themselves or by others. As they come to be used over time, sometimes their interesting origins can be forgotten or taken for granted.
3. Blending. Blends may be defined as formations that combine two or more words and include the letters or sounds as a connecting element. For example, a *motel* (from a *motor hotel*), *infomercial* (from *information and commercial*), *edutainment* (from *education and entertainment*), *brunch* (from *breakfast and lunch*), *cafetorium* (from *cafeteria and auditorium*), *netiquette* (from *network etiquette*), *trashware* (from *trash and software*), and *bit* (from *binary and digit*).

4. Acronymy. Acronymy is the process of creating new words when only initial letters are taken. These above-mentioned means are frequently used in the sphere of technology and politics but may occur in everyday language as well (for example, *a g.f.* – *a girlfriend*, *U.N.O.* – *United Nations Organization*, *Laser* – '*light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation*', *Phat* - *Pretty Hot And Tempting* (used to describe someone who is attractive or something that is popular at the time.)
5. Derivation. The process of creating a new word out of one or more old words is called derivation. New words can be created by adding prefixes or suffixes or by compounding. '*How ya doin', padna?*' (Greeting used by a group of my friends), where *padna* is the word derived from the existing word 'partner'. It refers to someone as a friend, boy(girl)friend.
6. Clipping (back-formation). Clippings are shortened forms of words, such as a *blog* (short for *web log*), *hols* – *holidays*, *ad* – *advertisement*, *peops* – *people*, *especially friends*. Reversing the process of affixation, a back-formation creates a new word by removing an affix from an already existing word, context and source: '*Come chat with your peops, eat good food and listen to good music.*' (Alison Zientara, October 25, 2003).
7. Conversion. Conversion is the creation of a word (of a new word class) from an existing word (of a different word class) without any change in form. The proper noun *Google* has become the verb *to google* because of the nature of the function of the noun. This is a shift in grammar. Before computers, the noun *virus* referred to a sickness within the body, but now also refers to a sickness of a computer. This is a shift in meaning. The word '*monochrome*' can stand for '*extremely boring*', for example: '*That guy was totally monochrome. I couldn't get rid of him quickly enough*'.
8. Calquing. Calques are also referred to as root-for-root or word-for-word translations. Calquing is the word-formation process in which a borrowed word or phrase is translated from one language to another. For example, the following common English words are calqued from foreign languages: *blue-blood* came from the Spanish *sangre azul*, *commonplace* from Latin *locus commūnis*, *loanword* from German *Lehnwort*, *pineapple* from Dutch *pijnappel*, and *scapegoat* from Hebrew *ez ozel*.
9. Reduplication. In this type of word-formation new words are formed by doubling the stem of a word. *Bye-bye* (for good-bye), *ping-pong*, *chit-chat*, *walkie-talkie* can be used for illustration. A vast number of new words, which are made by reduplication are used in informal style, they are often colloquial words and slangs.

Neologisms often become popular due to mass media, the Internet, or oral speech. Virtually every word in a language was, at some time, a neologism, though most of these ceased to be such through time and acceptance. When a word or phrase is no longer 'new', it is no longer a neologism. Neologisms may take decades to become 'old', though. Opinions differ on exactly how old a word must be to no longer be considered a neologism; cultural acceptance probably plays a more important role than time in this regard. Many are accepted very quickly; others attract opposition.

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