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THE CONCEPT OF NEOLOGISM, ITS ESSENCE AND PLACE IN LINGUISTICS

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Annotation: The article analyzes the essence of the concept of neologism, its place in linguistics and the mechanisms of its formation. A neologism is interpreted as a new word or a word that has acquired a new meaning as a result of changes in society, economy, technology and culture. Three main ways of nominating new concepts are examined in detail: semantic expansion of existing lexemes, word-formation based on the internal resources of the language, and direct borrowing. The modern usage and historical development of neologisms are studied on the basis of synchronic and diachronic approaches.

Keywords: neologism, semantic expansion, synchronic approach, diachronic approach, borrowing, lexical innovation, language dynamics.

NEOLOGIZM TUSHUNCHASI, UNING MOHIYATI VA TILSHUNOSLIKDAGI O‘RNI

Annotatsiya: Maqolada neologizm tushunchasining mohiyati, uning tilshunoslikdagi o‘rni va shakllanish mexanizmlari tahlil qilinadi. Neologizm jamiyat, iqtisod, texnologiya va madaniyatdagi o‘zgarishlar natijasida paydo bo‘ladigan yangi so‘z yoki yangi ma’no olgan leksik birlik sifatida talqin etiladi. Yangi tushunchalarni nomlashning uch asosiy yo‘li – mavjud leksemalarning semantik kengayishi, tilning ichki imkoniyatlari asosida so‘z yasash va to‘g‘ridan-to‘g‘ri o‘zlashtirish – batafsil yoritiladi. Sinxron va diaxron yondashuvlar asosida neologizmlarning hozirgi qo‘llanilishi va tarixiy rivojlanishi o‘rganiladi.

Kalit so‘zlar: neologizm, semantik kengayish, sinxron yondashuv, diaxron yondashuv, so‘z o‘zlashtirish, leksik innovatsiya, til dinamikasi.

ПОНЯТИЕ НЕОЛОГИЗМА, ЕГО СУЩНОСТЬ И МЕСТО В ЛИНГВИСТИКЕ

Аннотация: В статье анализируется сущность понятия неологизма, его место в лингвистике и механизмы формирования. Неологизм трактуется как новое слово или слово с новым значением, возникающее вследствие изменений в обществе, экономике, технологии и культуре. Подробно рассматриваются три основных способа номинации новых понятий: семантическое расширение существующих лексем, словообразование на основе внутренних ресурсов языка и прямое заимствование. На основе синхронного и диахронного подходов исследуется современное употребление и историческое развитие неологизмов.

Ключевые слова: неологизм, семантическое расширение, синхронный подход, диахронный подход, заимствование, лексическая инновация, динамика языка.

Language acquires particular significance not only as the primary communicative means that enables interpersonal communication, but also as an important source that transmits and preserves a

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people's cultural heritage, spiritual qualities and national values from generation to generation. Among all the constituent parts of the language system, the lexicon is regarded as the most dynamic, rapidly changing and socially sensitive layer. Any changes occurring in socio-economic, cultural, technological and political life find their expression, first of all, in the lexical stratum. This is because new concepts, realia and phenomena continually enter social life, generating the necessity of naming them adequately, precisely and systematically within the language system. In the lexical expression of newly emerging concepts, both the internal and external resources of a language are employed. Three principal paths are followed in this process: a) the use of units already existing in the lexicon; b) the formation of new words on the basis of the language's internal word-formation resources; d) the borrowing of words from the language of the people among whom the concept first appeared. In the first case the semantic range of existing lexemes expands, i.e. a process of polysemy takes place and the lexeme acquires new layers of meaning. For example, the principal meanings of the lexeme "kuzatuvchi" recorded in explanatory dictionaries are as follows:

"1. To observe. 2. One who observes, examines and exercises control; a supervisor" [1:963].

In contemporary speech practice the semantic scope of this lexeme has expanded still further and is actively employed to designate observers in sports competitions, electoral processes, educational supervision, technical monitoring and other spheres. This phenomenon clearly illustrates the semantic development of a lexical unit, its adaptation to social needs and the dynamic processes operating within the lexical system of the language.

Nevertheless, the semantic range of the same lexeme has by now expanded considerably through the acquisition of a new layer of meaning that denotes a specialised terminological concept belonging to the sphere of social networks. In modern Uzbek the lexeme "kuzatuvchi" successfully renders the notion expressed by the English word "follower" – a person who follows a given user on social networks and monitors that user's content. The naming of concepts in this manner, i.e. by expanding the meaning of an already existing lexical unit, is directly linked to the laconic quality of language. "Laconism is an important means that ensures precision and expressiveness" [2:17-24]. In other words, laconism functions as a distinctive protective mechanism that prevents an excessive proliferation of lexical units in the language system and as a "response" that maintains the internal balance of the language. The fewer the lexical units a language possesses, the easier it is to master them, the more convenient the process of communication becomes and the lighter the burden of fulfilling the communicative function of language. This process rests upon the principle of linguistic economy and demonstrates an efficient way of expressing new concepts through semantic expansion.

In the second case (the creation of new lexical units on the basis of the language's internal word-formation possibilities) and in the third case (the borrowing of words from foreign languages) the appearance of neologisms is regarded as a natural process. The term "neologism" is formed from the Greek words "neos" (new) and "logos" (word, speech; science, doctrine) and in linguistics denotes a word or a stable word combination that has newly arisen as a result of various social, cultural and communicative needs. As the language system develops continuously, occasional (situational, individual-authorial) neologisms appear alongside ordinary neologisms. Although the concept was initially employed in the fields of philology and literary studies, it is now widely investigated in all branches of linguistics [3:366]. Neologisms play an important role in the continuous development and change of the language system. They take shape under the influence of social, technological, cultural and economic transformations and function as a mechanism of adaptation to the new needs of society. The emergence and spread of neologisms in the world's languages are conditioned by globalisation processes, the rapid advance of science and technology, and socio-political changes. Every new concept or phenomenon stimulates the creation of new terms, thereby enriching the vocabulary of a

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language and significantly expanding its communicative potential. From a linguistic point of view neologisms may be evaluated as an important indicator of the enrichment of the lexical stratum. For example, the linguist S. Romaine defines neologisms as "new units in the language system" and explains their formation by social, cultural and technological factors [4]. Lexemes such as "vebinar" and "kriptovalyuta" are vivid examples of contemporary neologisms that have arisen as a result of technological progress and demonstrate the language's capacity to assimilate new realia rapidly and efficiently.

The formation of neologisms by means of word creation on the basis of a language's internal resources is a frequently encountered and effective mechanism in linguistic practice. In this regard the period from the middle of the last century until the beginning of the 2010s occupies a special place owing to the particular importance of television and radio. The relatively regulated and normalised character of speech on television and radio imparted a certain stability and normativity to the process by which neologisms became established in the language. Consequently, deviations from linguistic rules and ethical norms were comparatively rare among the neologisms that took shape up to that period. In subsequent decades the influx and dissemination of neologisms into our language have been closely bound up with the internet phenomenon and the widespread use of social networks. In other words, the active penetration of terms into Uzbek has become intimately connected with the functioning of social networks, the internet and the communicative means associated with them. Because of the limited possibility of fully regulating social networks, neologisms that do not conform to linguistic rules or ethical norms have also appeared in recent years. For instance, the use of the lexeme "kuyovsalom" has been observed in the Uzbek segment of social networks [5]. A similar situation is widespread in English-language internet communication: the lexeme "snowflake" is currently employed in a pejorative sense to denote an excessively sensitive person who is unable to defend himself or herself [6]. Nevertheless, the full entry of such words and combinations into the lexical system of a language and their acquisition of a stable place usually prove difficult. All the same, it must not be forgotten that at the stage of its appearance any neologism is first used in the speech of a particular individual. In this connection the following observation may be cited: "Any neologism first arises in individual speech. Only when such a neologism is accepted by the majority, is formed in accordance with the developmental laws of the language and is regarded as necessary for expressing a certain meaning in the language does it become a general-language neologism and leave the sphere of individual speech" [7:93]. If it fails to meet these requirements it remains within the bounds of individual speech and does not pass into the general language. After a general-language neologism has been actively used for a certain period it loses its novelty colouring and frequently turns into an ordinary, contemporary lexeme. Lexical units such as "uyali aloqa", "ijtimoiy tarmoq" and "non-kabob", formed on the basis of the internal resources of Uzbek and expressing new concepts for the Uzbek linguistic world, are regarded as neologisms. It becomes clear that the process of creating a new word (sometimes a term) on the basis of internal resources may also be realised by means of calquing. Taken separately, the above-mentioned lexical units may be evaluated as ordinary words; yet their transformation into stable combinations and their use as terminological units belonging to a definite sphere elevate them to the status of genuine neologisms.

The social and technological changes that have taken place in the twentieth century and subsequent periods have brought about the continuous improvement and dynamic development of the language system. Neologisms emerge as a natural product of this process, and their formation and use directly reflect the speed and direction of societal development. According to statistical data, more than 390 million people at present use English as their native language [8], while approximately 1.53 billion people speak it as a second language. These figures clearly demonstrate the special importance

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of English as a language of international communication. Neologisms in English spread rapidly in close connection with global technological innovations and are actively employed in various spheres. As the language of international communication, English is among the first to reflect the rapid changes of social life in its lexical system. In other words, because a large part of the world's technological progress is accounted for by English-speaking societies, the majority of new lexemes are first formed precisely in English and are subsequently borrowed into other languages. On the basis of the assimilation of the concept of neologisms in English, the processes of their origin and formation are analysed in various scholarly sources. Just as language never ceases to change, so its vocabulary is continually renewed. The third type of naming new concepts consists in the direct, unaltered borrowing of a unit from the language in which the concept first appeared. Lexemes currently existing in Uzbek and evaluated as neologisms – such as "vayn", "vebinar", "bloger", "android", "kontent" and "xosting" – may be assigned precisely to this type, i.e. to the category of directly borrowed neologisms.

When neologisms are subjected to analysis, particular attention must first of all be paid to the essence of newly appearing words, the time and circumstances of their emergence, and the process of their entry into the vocabulary. Relying on the data presented above, a neologism is understood as a new word or a new meaning assigned to an existing word that, as a result of rapid changes in the spheres of society, economy, politics and culture – and especially of science and technology – enables human society at a given period to adapt to a new situation and to new needs. In the study of neologisms within linguistics, synchronic and diachronic approaches make it possible to analyse linguistic change from different viewpoints according to period. The synchronic approach examines neologisms within the framework of a single period – the present day or a definite historical stage. This method helps to determine how contemporary new words are used, their speech context, morphological structure and semantic features [9]. The diachronic approach, by contrast, studies language from a historical perspective and consistently analyses how words have developed, as well as the processes of the appearance, dissemination and consolidation of neologisms within the language system [10]. Below we attempt to analyse both approaches to the study of neologisms separately:

a) analysis on the basis of the synchronic approach. In contemporary linguistics the transformation of the name of a concept into a neologism takes place in close connection with social, technological and cultural factors. Today, owing to new technologies, scientific discoveries and social changes, new concepts appear every day and their lexical expression ensures the dynamic development of the language system. For example, "metaverse" is a new term created to denote the virtual world and its economic and social aspects; it is currently widely used by Facebook (Meta) and other large technological companies. The term serves to unite the virtual-reality environment and the economic relations within it under a single concept. Likewise, NFT (Non-Fungible Token) has taken shape as a special term that certifies digital assets based on cryptocurrency technology. The word is employed in the spheres of cryptocurrency and blockchain in the sense of a digital asset or token (for instance, ERC-20 tokens – a digital unit expressing a right of use or value) and in the spheres of computing and programming as a small portion of data, in particular a word or character unit in language processing (tokenization – the division of a text into tokens). Its principal meaning denotes a technology that certifies the uniqueness of digital objects. New words that have appeared in the field of cybersecurity [11] – cybersecurity, phishing, ransomware, cryptojacking – express important concepts of the modern information environment. "Cybersecurity" is at present one of the most important concepts in the sphere of information security and is widely used in social networks and professional speech. "Phishing" denotes a technique of stealing users' personal data by means of internet fraud; its varieties include spear phishing (directed at a specific person), whaling (directed against high-ranking individuals), smishing (via SMS) and vishing (via telephone). "Ransomware" is a

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malicious programme that encrypts and locks the files on a user's computer or device or restricts access to the system, demanding payment (usually in cryptocurrency) for the return of the data. "Cryptojacking" (crypto + theft) denotes the illegal use of computer resources for the mining of cryptocurrency (for example, Monero or Bitcoin). These neologisms clearly demonstrate the direct influence of technological progress on the lexical system of language.

b) analysis on the basis of the diachronic approach. The diachronic approach investigates how words have historically developed into neologisms and entered the general vocabulary. Focusing on historical neologisms in Uzbek and English makes it possible to render the relevant observations more concrete. For instance, the lexeme "elektr" was first used in Greece in the form "elektron" (ἤλεκτρον) to denote the concept of "amber"; later, after the discovery of electric energy, a new, modern meaning was assigned to the word. The term "kompyuter" in the nineteenth century designated a person who performed mathematical calculations, whereas today it denotes only a technological device. The term "internet" appeared in the 1960s and is now widely used throughout the world [12]. The lexeme "metaverse" mentioned above was first employed in 1992 in Neal Stephenson's science-fiction novel Snow Crash in the sense of a digital, virtual reality – i.e. a digital world that exists separately from, yet parallel to, the real world [13]. The abbreviation NFT first appeared in 2014 with the development of blockchain technology and performed the function of ensuring the uniqueness of each token. The term "cybersecurity" took shape in the 1980s for the protection of computer systems; "phishing" first appeared in 1996 as a method of deceiving America Online (AOL) users; the term "cryptojacking" became widely known in 2017 with the appearance of the Coinhive script. It must be noted that the semantic scope and semic composition of all the listed lexemes have expanded considerably, which clearly reveals the historical dynamics of the language system.

Thus, neologisms must be analysed not merely as purely linguistic phenomena but as complex notions directly linked to the general social, economic, cultural and technological development of society. Their formation, inclusion in the vocabulary and wide use acquire particular importance for the study of the dynamic development of the language system. Through the addition of neologisms to the lexical stock the adaptability of a language increases considerably and its capacity to respond promptly and efficiently to the needs of society is strengthened. The fact that the greater part of neologisms is being formed precisely in English vividly demonstrates the high degree of adaptability and the global communicative potential of that language.

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