

## SOURCES OF NEOLOGISMS

O'rinova Gulposhsha Farhod qizi

Jizzakh State Pedagogical university faculty of philology, foreign language in pre-school and primary education, student of group 541-22

**Abstract:** The study of neologisms is essential for understanding the dynamic nature of language development in modern society. This article explores the main sources of neologisms, focusing on both linguistic and extralinguistic factors that contribute to the emergence of new lexical units. Special attention is given to social, cultural, technological, political, and economic changes that necessitate the creation of new words. The article also examines internal linguistic mechanisms such as word-formation processes, borrowing from other languages, semantic change, and lexical innovation. Furthermore, the role of mass media and digital communication in accelerating the spread and acceptance of neologisms is analyzed. By identifying and classifying the sources of neologisms, the article highlights their significance in enriching vocabulary and reflecting contemporary realities. The findings demonstrate that neologisms serve as a key indicator of linguistic adaptability and play an important role in the continuous evolution of language.

**Annotatsiya:** Ushbu maqolada zamonaviy til taraqqiyotida neologizmlarning kelib chiqish manbalari har tomonlama tahlil qilinadi. Neologizmlarning ijtimoiy, madaniy, texnologik va lingvistik omillar ta'sirida yuzaga kelishi yoritib beriladi. Shuningdek, so'z yasalishi, o'zlashma so'zlar va semantik o'zgarishlar neologizmlarning asosiy manbalari sifatida ko'rib chiqiladi. Maqola neologizmlarning til rivojidadagi o'rni va ahamiyatini ochib beradi.

**Аннотация:** В статье рассматриваются основные источники возникновения неологизмов в современном языке. Анализируются экстралингвистические и лингвистические факторы, такие как социальные изменения, научно-технический прогресс, заимствования и словообразовательные процессы. Особое внимание уделяется роли средств массовой информации и цифровой коммуникации в распространении неологизмов. Статья подчеркивает значение неологизмов в развитии языка.

This article examines the main sources of neologisms in modern language development. It analyzes both extralinguistic and linguistic factors, including social change, technological progress, borrowing, and word-formation processes. Special attention is given to the role of mass media and digital communication in the creation and dissemination of neologisms. The study highlights the importance of neologisms as indicators of language evolution and adaptability.

**Keywords:** Neologisms, sources of neologisms, language development, word formation, borrowing, semantic change, mass media, globalization

## INTRODUCTION

Language is a dynamic and constantly evolving system that reflects social, cultural, technological, and ideological changes in human society. One of the most evident



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manifestations of language development is the emergence of neologisms—newly coined lexical units that appear to name new objects, phenomena, concepts, or experiences. Neologisms play a crucial role in enriching vocabulary and ensuring effective communication in rapidly changing contexts. The study of neologisms has therefore become an important area in linguistics, particularly in lexicology, sociolinguistics, and cognitive linguistics.

In modern times, the pace of neologism formation has significantly accelerated due to globalization, technological innovation, digital communication, and cultural exchange. Words such as internet, selfie, hashtag, blog, and metaverse illustrate how new realities necessitate new linguistic forms. Understanding the sources of neologisms is essential for analyzing how languages adapt to new conditions and maintain their relevance.

This article aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the main sources of neologisms in contemporary language. It explores linguistic and extralinguistic factors that contribute to neologism formation, including borrowing, word-formation processes, semantic change, technological advancement, mass media, and socio-cultural influences. The article also discusses the role of neologisms in language development and their gradual integration into the lexical system.

#### The Concept of Neologism

The term neologism originates from the Greek words *neos* (new) and *logos* (word or speech). In linguistics, a neologism is defined as a newly created or newly introduced lexical unit that has not yet been fully integrated into the standard vocabulary of a language. According to linguistic scholars, neologisms can be new words, new meanings of existing words, or new combinations of words.

Neologisms are typically characterized by their novelty and limited usage at the initial stage. Over time, some neologisms gain widespread acceptance and become part of the standard lexicon, while others disappear due to lack of use. This process highlights the selective nature of language evolution.

Linguists distinguish between temporary neologisms, which exist for a short period, and stable neologisms, which become permanently established. The sources from which neologisms arise determine their structure, usage, and longevity in the language.

#### Extralinguistic Sources of Neologisms

##### Social and Cultural Changes

One of the primary sources of neologisms is social and cultural transformation. Changes in lifestyle, values, social roles, and human relationships often require new vocabulary. For example, concepts related to modern identity, gender, and social interaction have generated neologisms such as non-binary, cancel culture, influencer, and digital native.

Cultural movements, fashion trends, and youth subcultures also contribute significantly to neologism formation. Slang expressions often originate in specific social groups and later spread into mainstream language. These neologisms reflect the attitudes and experiences of particular communities.

##### Technological and Scientific Progress



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Technological advancement is one of the most productive sources of neologisms in modern language. Innovations in science, information technology, medicine, and engineering introduce new concepts that require precise naming. Words like smartphone, artificial intelligence, blockchain, biotechnology, and nanotechnology illustrate how scientific progress leads to lexical expansion.

The digital revolution has particularly influenced neologism formation. The rise of social media platforms and online communication has produced numerous terms such as tweet, emoji, livestream, cyberspace, and algorithm. These neologisms often spread rapidly due to global digital connectivity.

#### Political and Economic Factors

Political events and economic changes also generate neologisms. New political movements, ideologies, and policies introduce specialized terminology. For example, terms such as Brexit, globalization, neoliberalism, and sanctions emerged as responses to political and economic developments.

In economic discourse, neologisms arise to describe new market phenomena, financial instruments, and business practices. Words like startup, cryptocurrency, gig economy, and e-commerce demonstrate how economic innovation influences vocabulary growth.

#### Borrowing from Other Languages

Borrowing is one of the most significant linguistic sources of neologisms. Languages often adopt words from other languages to name unfamiliar objects or concepts. English, for instance, has borrowed extensively from Latin, French, Greek, and more recently from other languages due to globalization.

Borrowed neologisms may retain their original form (pizza, sushi, karaoke) or undergo phonetic and morphological adaptation. Borrowing enriches the vocabulary but may also raise concerns about language purity and identity.

#### Word-Formation Processes

Word-formation mechanisms are highly productive sources of neologisms. These include:

Derivation, which involves adding prefixes or suffixes to existing words (digitalize, happiness, unfriend).

Compounding, where two or more words are combined to create a new lexical unit (laptop, crowdfunding, social media).

Blending, which merges parts of words (smog from smoke and fog, brunch from breakfast and lunch).

Acronyms and abbreviations, such as AI, COVID, NASA, and FAQ, which become lexicalized over time.

These processes demonstrate the internal resources of a language for creating new words without external influence.

#### Semantic Neologisms

Semantic change is another important source of neologisms. In this case, an existing word acquires a new meaning. For example, the word cloud traditionally referred to a



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natural phenomenon, but in modern usage it denotes online data storage. Similarly, virus has expanded its meaning to include computer malware.

Semantic neologisms illustrate how language adapts to new realities by reinterpreting existing vocabulary.

#### Mass Media and Digital Communication as Sources of Neologisms

Mass media plays a crucial role in disseminating neologisms. Journalists, bloggers, and content creators often introduce new terms to describe emerging trends and events. Media exposure accelerates the acceptance and spread of neologisms across different social groups.

Social media platforms, in particular, function as laboratories for linguistic innovation. Hashtags, memes, and viral content generate creative neologisms that reflect contemporary culture. Words such as viral, clickbait, doomscrolling, and cancel gained popularity through digital communication.

The informal nature of online interaction encourages experimentation with language, leading to rapid lexical change.

#### Neologisms in Professional and Specialized Fields

Specialized domains such as medicine, law, education, and linguistics produce neologisms to describe new theories, practices, and technologies. Medical neologisms, for example, emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic (lockdown, self-isolation, social distancing).

Professional neologisms often begin as technical terms but may enter general usage over time. This process demonstrates the interaction between specialized language and everyday communication.

#### The Integration and Stabilization of Neologisms

Not all neologisms survive in the language. The integration of a neologism depends on factors such as frequency of use, social relevance, simplicity, and institutional recognition. Dictionaries and language authorities play an important role in standardizing neologisms.

Once a neologism becomes widely accepted and recorded in dictionaries, it loses its status as a “new word” and becomes part of the active vocabulary. This transition marks the final stage of neologism development.

#### Conclusion

Neologisms are a vital indicator of language vitality and adaptability. They emerge from a wide range of sources, including social change, technological progress, cultural interaction, political developments, and internal linguistic mechanisms. The study of neologism sources provides valuable insights into how language responds to new realities and maintains communicative efficiency.

In the context of globalization and digitalization, the number of neologisms is expected to increase. Understanding their origins and functions is therefore essential for linguists, educators, translators, and language learners. Neologisms not only enrich vocabulary but also reflect the intellectual and cultural evolution of society.



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