


<p align="center">NEOLOGISMS IN CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH: A MORPHOLOGICAL STUDY OF WORD FORMATION AND LEXICAL INNOVATION</p>		<p align="center">Morphology</p> <p>Keywords: neologisms, word development, morphological innovation, lexical creativity, English linguistics, derivation, compounding, blending, semantic change, language change.</p>
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<p align="center">Abstract</p> <p>This study considers neologisms as an essential part of language development and lexical innovation in the modern English. Neologisms are new words, expressions or new meanings given to existing words. Often, these new words, expressions or new meanings are due to technological, cultural and social advances. The article describes basic categories of neologisms and morphological methods of their formation, such as: blending, compounding, derivation, clipping, borrowing, semantic shift. In particular, contemporary English neologisms related to digital communication, youth culture and social media are discussed. The study employs a qualitative descriptive design and illustrates how English adapts to the needs of current communication by discussing examples of linguistic innovations such as selfie, hashtag, emoji, ghosting and unfriend. The results indicate the key significance of the morphology in the formation and dissemination of neologisms, and the influence of cultural and technological factors on their acceptance and productivity. The study emphasizes the fluidity of English vocabulary and the significance of neologisms in the research of language change.</p>
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1. INTRODUCTION

Language is continually changing to accommodate social, cultural, scientific and technological advancements. One of the most obvious signs of this development is the creation of neologisms. Neologisms are freshly generated words or new meanings to terms already in existence. Neologisms allow speakers to convey new ideas, innovations, identities, and societal trends that cannot be expressed in existing language.

According to Joos (1967), A neologism is a new word or expression or a new meaning of an existing word that is in the process of entering a language. This definition illustrates that neologisms are not restricted to wholly new lexical objects, but also include semantic extensions of existing words. Neologisms are a reflection of cultural and communication development and provide important insights into the link between language and society.

Neologisms are particularly essential in morphology, showing how languages develop and increase their lexicon through productive word-formation processes. According to Bauer (2001), the analysis of new words allows linguists to understand the productivity of morphological structures. Neologisms are an essential source for investigating lexical innovation in English (Plag, 2003).

The study deals with neologisms in modern English: its main categories, morphological structures and social purposes. It also looks at the impact of technical change, digital communication and popular culture on the creation of new words.

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Neologisms have been the subject of much linguistic research as they show how language adapts to new communicative situations. Neologisms are usually defined by linguists as new lexical units or new meanings that are eventually adopted by a speech group.

According to Bauer (2001), neologisms are directly connected to the morphological productivity, since they depend on the current mechanisms of word-formation to develop new expressions. These are *derivation*, *compounding*, *mixing*, *cutting*, *forming acronyms* and *borrowing*. These processes enable speakers to efficiently construct terminology for new notions and experiences.

One of the most fruitful processes in the production of neologisms is blending. Blends are made by combining pieces of two words to form a new lexical unit. Examples: *brunch* (breakfast + lunch), *smog* (smoke + fog). Blends are particularly prevalent in media and advertising, being innovative, memorable and economical (Plag, 2003).

Another crucial process is compounding. Existing words can be merged to reflect modern concepts, for example in compound neologisms such as *smartphone*, *podcast* and *social media*. Compounds are very productive because they allow speakers to produce new and intelligible statements without new, wholly novel forms (Bauer, 2001).

Derivation is also an important actor in lexical innovation. You can add prefixes and suffixes to create new words, e.g. *unfriend* or *preorder*. This illustrates how the process of morphological affixation can add new grammatical or semantic functions to already existing lexical elements.

Another main source of neologisms is borrowing. English is a language that has borrowed words from other languages, particularly for ideas that are new to the English-speaking world. Words such as *emoji* (Japanese) and *tsunami* demonstrate how loanwords are absorbed into English lexicon and become regular lexical elements.

Semantic neologisms are a process of giving new meanings to already existing terms. For example, the word *cloud* used to mean *a visible mass in the sky*, but in modern contexts it now means *online data storage*. These semantic alterations show how language absorbs technical advancement while maintaining familiar lexical forms.

Researchers also observe the influence of social and cultural factors in the dissemination of neologisms. Social media, young culture, and globalization all help to spread new expressions from community to community, thereby speeding up the pace of lexical innovation. *Ghosting*, *stan* or *meme* are among the words that acquired prominence mostly because to the use of digital communication platforms. Over the past few years, online social platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, and LinkedIn have revolutionized the way people communicate

with individuals, groups, and communities, while also transforming everyday practices (Boyd & Ellison, 2007, as cited in Nelkoska, 2020).

In general, the literature indicates that neologisms play a key role in the study of language evolution, morphological production, and the link between society and vocabulary expansion.

3. METHODOLOGY

The present study is a qualitative descriptive research design in the framework of morphological analysis. The aim of the research is to find and analyze widely used neologisms in the modern English language, especially related to technology, social media and young culture.

Data were acquired from:

- Linguistic and morphological studies of English word development
- Online dictionaries and lexical databases like Merriam-Webster and Wikipedia.
- Examples from digital communication, online media, and modern usage contexts.

The study classifies neologisms according to:

1. Morphological formation process
2. Semantic function
3. Use in social and cultural context

The study is not about statistical analysis but qualitative interpretation. The purpose is to understand the role of morphological processes in lexical innovation in modern English.

4. RESULTS

The research revealed many broad classes of neologisms and demonstrated the importance of the morphological component in the evolution of current English vocabulary.

4.1. Morphological Processes of Neologisms Formation

The results indicate that neologisms are frequently created by productive morphological processes:

Word	Formation Process	Meaning
selfie	Blending	A photo taken of oneself
hashtag	Compounding	A keyword preceded by #
unfriend	Derivation	To remove someone from a social network
emoji	Borrowing	Digital icon expressing emotion
blog	Clipping and lexicalization	Online journal or website
ghosting	Derivation	Ending communication suddenly
stan	Slang derivation	Extremely enthusiastic fan

The results show that *compounding*, *blending* and *derivation* are some of the most productive processes in present-day English.

4.2. *Social and Technological Impact*

The study also indicated that most recent neologisms are closely linked to:

- Social media messaging
- Culture of the internet
- Digital platforms and technology
- Identity and informal interaction of youth

Along with technology advancement, we saw the introduction of words like *hashtag*, *podcast*, and *selfie*, and also concepts like *ghosting* and *stan* that are altering social behaviour and online communication practices.

Words such as *hashtag*, *podcast*, and *selfie* emerged alongside technological innovation, while terms like *ghosting* and *stan* reflect evolving social behavior and online communication practices.

4.3. *Semantic Innovation*

Many neologisms involve semantic expansion rather than entirely new lexical forms. Existing words acquire additional meanings in response to new contexts. For example:

- *Cloud* → mechanism for internet storage
- *Friend* → friend on social media
- *Stream* → media stream on the Internet

These studies show the adaptability and flexibility of the English lexicon.

5. DISCUSSION

The results support the idea that morphology is important for lexical innovation and language development. But productive morphological processes like *blending*, *derivation* and *compounding* allow speakers to construct meaningful and efficient expressions for new realities.

Modern English word creation has a creative side with popular blended forms like *selfie* and *brunch*. Blending enables the speakers to compress complicated meanings into short and memorable forms that makes such terms particularly useful in digital communication and media discourse.

Compounding is still highly productive in combining familiar lexical pieces into meaningful new expressions. Words like ‘*smartphone*’ and ‘*hashtag*’ show how English is able to accommodate technological change by fitting existing vocabulary, without the need for completely foreign structures.

Results also suggest that social and cultural variables are crucial to the diffusion of neologisms. Neologisms can be widely recognized in a short amount of time since the new words are disseminated and accepted more quickly on digital communication platforms. Internet communities, worldwide media and youth culture are major source of lexical innovation in the current English language.

Semantic neologisms also mirror a further crucial characteristic of language change. Instead of generating new forms, speakers often give new meanings to familiar terms. This technique makes communication more efficient, since terminology already known can be quickly adapted to new settings.

In conclusion, the relationship between *morphology*, *technology*, and *culture* shows that neologisms are not random linguistic creations, but rather systematic answers to communicative demands and society evolution.

6. CONCLUSION

Neologisms provide one of the most vivid elements of the modern English vocabulary. They reveal social, cultural and technical changes and demonstrate the productivity and adaptability of morphological processes. English is continually growing its vocabulary to meet new realities and experiences by *blending*, *compounding*, *derivation*, *borrowing*, *clipping* and *semantic modification*.

The study of recent new words such as selfie, emoji, hashtag, and ghosting, demonstrates that language is adapting to the new mode of communication and the shifts in social behavior. Morphology gives the structural means of making these words. Cultural environment affects their popularity and adoption.

The research emphasizes the importance of neologisms for understanding language change, lexical innovation and the adaptability of communication. Further research can also investigate the continuing effect of artificial intelligence, globalization and online communication on the emergence of neologisms in English and other languages.

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