

CREATION AND FUNCTIONING OF THE NEOLOGISMS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The article describes the principles for defining and the interpretation of neologisms in the English language. It focuses on the factors, that allow a new lexical unit to enter the vocabulary of the language.

Key words: neologisms, neology, socialisation, lexicalisation

У статті описано принципи визначення та тлумачення неологізмів в англійській мові. Зосереджено увагу на факторах, які сприяють входженню нової лексичної одиниці до лексичного складу мови.

Ключові слова: неологізми, неологія, соціалізація, лексикалізація

The study of the functioning and translation of neologisms is one of the leading topics in linguistics. The scientists understand neologisms in the general sense as the words or the meanings of the existing words that appeared in the language recently [1; 2; 7; 8; 11].

A new lexical unit goes through several stages of socialisation (its acceptance in society) and lexicalisation (fixing it in the language). As a result, a separate lexical unit is formed a structural type (simple, derived, complex, complex derived word or phrase), which is included in various dictionaries of neologisms. The emergence of a new word is the result of the struggle of two tendencies – language development and its preservation. At the same time, the appearance of a new word is not always caused by the direct needs of society for some new values [4].

In recent years neology has mainly emphasised the functional-pragmatic aspect of new words and meanings, taking sociological factors into account. It is installed a certain connection between pragmatics and active processes of nomination. For instance, appearance in words of the new lexical-semantic option in the pragmatic aspect of variability is considered as a result of varying its use in different communication situations depending from the social, territorial, national, professional and other statuses of the participants communication. Therefore, language formation is possible to imagine as an interaction of the spiritual desire to mark the material that the inner ones need communication conditions. A person who creates a new word (originator) strives for individualisation and originality [5, p.108].

A. Metcalf [10], a well-known American researcher of neology, singles out five main factors that allow a new lexical unit to enter the vocabulary of the language:

- frequency of use;
- “unobtrusiveness” (“new words are more successful when we do not notice them” [10]);
- a wide range of situations and a large number of people using new words (diversity of users and situations);
- the ability to form new word forms and generate new meanings (generation of other forms and meanings);
- “survival” of the concept (endurance of the concept – “words have short lives when they represent short-lived concepts”) [10]

The creation of new meanings of words in speech is carried out as a reflection in the language of the needs of society in the expression of new concepts that constantly arise as a result of the development of social relations [3]. In the English language, examples of neologisms in cursive can be words that appeared relatively recently: *old gang* – “консерватори”; *rooster* – “крикливий член парламенту”; *the tiger* – “партійний лідер”; *Commander of the Swiss Flee* – “товстосум”; *dog* – “зрадник”; *left centre* – “обережні ліберали” [9]. Such words as *deterrent*, *redundancy*, *landslide* and others also changed their meaning in connection with the emergence of a new political situation [9, p.369, 1186, 789].

It becomes clear that neologisms arise on the basis of the existing linguistic tradition. It is important that the connection between the sociolect and the literary language is not one-sided but dialectal in nature. Many sociolect terms make a reverse migration into the general literary genre. However, reverse enrichment is less typical for the English language. The “diffusion” of the subculture takes place, its language can spread to other peripheral layers and into the standard language. New meanings of words that have appeared in the speech expand their pragmatics, expand the spectrum of situations and contexts of their use. It is obvious that such words are perceived as neologisms only until the concepts expressed by them become familiar, after which they firmly enter the vocabulary and are no longer perceived as new ones [3].

The emergence of a new word in the speech is dictated by pragmatic needs. The addressee chooses from the lexical thesaurus what best reflects his/her feelings and thoughts. So, for instance, the word *aggressive* has a negative dictionary meaning [9, p. 26], and as a political neologism, on the contrary, in combination with the noun *policy* (“*aggressive policy*”) means “*assertive, strong-willed, unyielding, energetic, active policy*” [9], or the word “*mafia*” nowadays acquires the meaning of a *closed society* [9]. With the development of social activity, the following neologisms appeared: *Euromarket, Eurodollar, Europarlament, Europol* [9], etc. So, if such a word does not exist in the sender’s lexicon, then he/she modifies the old one and creates a new lexical unit. Ambiguity in the stylistic characteristics of neologisms, and therefore in the question of assigning slang units, professionalisms and terms to neologisms raises the question of the need to create their functional and stylistic classification [3].

This is explained by the fact that the English language, like other languages, is in a state of change – dynamics. Vocabulary, as the most mobile layer of language, reacts most sensitively to all changes in social, cultural and other spheres of society. The inherent properties of a word as a lexical unit intersect in it with the properties of other language elements. This interaction underlies the functioning of the language system as a whole. In this connection, it is necessary to trace how a new word is created. In the structure of the act of nomination, as a starting point, a determined individual (originator) participates, striving for individualisation and originality [3].

So, neologisms enrich the lexical composition of the language and thus confirm the dynamic the nature of language. Despite the opinion of some critics who care about the “purity” of the language, it is not necessary underestimate the importance of neologisms for its development. They are the ones who resolve the contradictions, which arise between the existing lexical composition of the language and new communicative and cognitive ones needs of speakers [6, p. 115]. They deserve the attention of scholars, perhaps in the form of publications the collections of neologisms, because dictionaries cannot reflect the constant growth of the number lexical novelties.

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