

English language Morphological Neologisms Reflecting the War in Ukraine

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Received: March 3, 2023

Accepted: April 13, 2023

Online Published: April 24, 2023

doi:10.5430/wjel.v13n5p432

URL: <https://doi.org/10.5430/wjel.v13n5p432>

Abstract

The aim of this article is to consider English morphological neologisms based on English-language postmodern Ukrainian literary texts. The ways of neologisms formation and their appearance in the language are described. The uses of general theoretical and specific theoretical and empirical research methods system include a description of neologisms, appearing in the English language in the realities of large-scale military aggression in Ukraine, in the context of general issues of linguistic neology. The theoretical significance of the study consists in the analysis of morphological neologisms in terms of postmodern perception. As a result, new speech units of the English language emerge in postmodern literary texts as a result of the war in Ukraine. As the war in Ukraine has acquired global significance for the whole civilized world, the postmodern literary texts ceases to be sectoral and falls into the general discourse. New lexemes are formed, objectifying the modern reality and becoming trendy for society. The paper aim is to analyse the reasons for the formation of war concerned neologisms as well as to investigate their semantically emotive component and pejorative connotations. The methodology included analysis of scientific sources, information search of scientific literature, description, deduction, induction, and continuous sampling method. The results of the study show that during the war in Ukraine, new lexical units emerge and consolidate in the English language. A special characteristic of the sample of neologisms is their emotionality. This can be explained by the proper coverage of the course of the war, where the genocide of the Ukrainian nation takes place and accordingly evokes a spectrum of negative emotions. Morphological neologisms in English have become common due to the catastrophic and global nature of the war in Ukraine. These linguistic neologisms need terminological unification, but the rapid development of events in Ukraine makes it difficult to codify these changes and requires permanent work and research. The study is based on lexicology as a science that studies words, but with special attention to neologisms. Neologisms are more than a code, they are elements of identity that describe a period of conflict and remain a reflection, if not a testimony, of all the atrocities suffered by the population during the war.

Keywords: postmodern literary texts, military aggression, morphological neologism, pejorative connotation

1. Introduction

1.1 Introduce the Problem

The relevance of this study is explained by the fact that it is necessary to study neologisms as a way of reflecting changes in linguistic culture, which is influenced by certain important factors, namely globalisation, computerisation, informatisation, etc. In times of war, the question of language change arises. It becomes one of the most important issues in scientific research because it actually reflects the dynamics of social and spiritual life of society. At the same time, at the time of the change of linguistic paradigms at the crossroads of centuries, the interest of linguists in the study of cognitive structures in different language forms is significantly growing. Taking all these facts into account, it can be concluded that the importance of translation activities and linguistic research on the cultural transit of linguistic formations from one language to another is indeed growing in the world.

The emergence of neologisms in the language is a reflection of the peculiarities of a certain period in history. The history of mankind is always associated with wars. Military actions have not only catastrophic consequences but are also a catalyst for powerful linguistic

transformations. Together with the new realities, its lexical syllable changes, new words emerge. English is the most widely spoken language in the world. Of course, with the global publicity of atrocities by Russian invaders, facts, events, and social trends began to be reflected in the English language. In the realities of the Russian war against Ukraine, all world spheres of functioning have undergone global consequences; the lexical composition of the English language was no exception.

1.2 Explore the Importance of the Problem

The research significance is determined by the formulated objectives, orientation of the study to reveal the scientific potential of the foundations of the methodology, to search and analyse information, taking into account not only linguistic, but also cultural factors that formulate the content of English neology, as well as to touch upon the existential issues of postmodern literature that reflects the tragic present.

The importance of the study is seen in the need to study the neological vocabulary, which rapidly appears in the vocabulary of the English language against the background of the war in Ukraine. The determination of the emotive component in the lexical meaning of neologisms of postmodern literary texts actualises this work.

The relevance of the research lies in the fact that because of the tragic and dynamic events that are now taking place in Ukraine, there is an impact not only on the social but also on the linguistic level. The question of the emergence of neologisms that have emerged over the past years and their research is evaluated.

1.3 Describe Relevant Scholarship

The proliferation of neologisms in general and English language in particular, their penetration into the language due to an increasing number of speakers, is undoubtedly one of the important characteristics of the development of living languages (Trudgill, 2022). In the aspect of neologisms study, Adam (2019) raises the problem of language purity. According to the author, it is necessary to use neologisms with caution, trying to avoid "drunkenness of words" and, above all, errors.

As Nkhata & Jimaima (2020) note, that a neologism is a concept used both for the names of new formations that have arisen on the basis of the language and for phrases that mean a new, non-existent concept: a subject, a branch of science, a profession. According to Rasool & Noreen (2021), neologisms are of great interest to linguists. The general word-formation, lexical-semantic and stylistic trends of development are considered in many works. The emergence of new words - neologisms - is associated with the need to name new phenomena, objects or concepts that come into existence in connection with the development of science and technology, economics, etc. Since the belonging of words to neologisms is a relative and historical feature, there is no single universal definition of this category of lexical composition of the language. The English language produces quite a lot of individual and individual-author neologisms, or, as they are also called, occasionalisms. They should be considered as a complex systemic phenomenon (realisation of word-formation possibilities inherent in the system of a particular language) and as an asystemic phenomenon (non-normativity, functional and expressive conditionality, creation for situational needs). As a rule, these are extra-normative peripheral lexical items created mainly for stylistic purposes - to express a situation, image, fragment of reality, as indicated by the context. The main sphere of functioning of such units is artistic and colloquial styles, and less often journalistic style (Yarchi, 2022).

Akut (2020) explores the issues of neologisms phonetic features. The author argues that in order to avoid distorting the pronunciation of neologisms, the first measure to be taken is to continually cultivate speakers. The second step is to study grammar, spelling, and generally pay constant attention to what is said and especially what is written. The issue of pejorative use of neologisms, especially those derived from other languages (barbarisms), according to Čilić & Plauc (2021), is a desirable trend in language. It should be regarded as linguistic deviations that complicate the style of speech and disturb the overall harmony of the language. Neologisms play their well-defined role in the vocabulary of any language (Yarchi, 2022). Neologisms are considered to be those words that have recently entered the lexicon of language (Ryskina, Rabinovich, Berg-Kirkpatrick, Mortensen & Tsvetkov, 2020). A common definition, even in specialized works, does not specify the origin of this lexical class, which plays a major role in any living language. Emerging from the needs of communication, neologisms refer to concepts, objects, and phenomena from all spheres of material and spiritual life, especially in technical and scientific language, in order to modernize and enrich it and in military and political discourse in the context of certain global events (Brothers, Zeitlin, Perrachione, Choi & Kuperberg, 2022).

In the aspect of neologisms study Ciuriak (2022) analyses their formation. According to the scholar, the penetration of neologisms into the lexicon takes place in two ways: through borrowings and through the language formations. If neologisms in general are understood as borrowed words, this fact is due to the large number of extremely diverse neological borrowings in structure and origin, noticeably more numerous than those created within the language (Rasool, Jan & Noreen, 2021). Even with existing linguistic material in the language, at least one of the formative elements of a new word is a neologism (a combination of two neological formative elements of the neological type prefix + neologism, a combination of a neologism with an old, autochthonous prefix, a combination of an old topic with a neological suffix) (Chouliaraki & Fairclough 2022). If polemising, the neologisms do not become the property of a language except through adaptation to its phonetic and grammatical system, through intensive circulation, otherwise, they will have an ephemeral existence. The problem of adaptation of neologisms of a certain linguistic system concerns both phonetic and morphological aspects as well as graphic ones (Nkhata & Jimaima, 2020). In these cases, their seniority in the language plays an important role, due to which recently borrowed terms retain their graphic appearance and even their pronunciation from the language of origin. To the extent that they are accepted by the speakers' reckoning as they come to fill a gap in the lexicon, neologisms are subject to the rules of spelling and pronunciation of a

particular language.

1.4 State Hypotheses and Their Correspondence to Research Design

The war in Ukraine has gained world publicity. All these processes determine the permanent formation of neologisms, but, paradoxically, in postmodern literary texts a restrained and technical politico-military discourse is used and under the conditions of the tragic and horrifying events of the war in Ukraine begins to acquire emotionality. New neologisms semantically convey an array of feelings and emotions. This new phenomenon requires linguistic study.

2. Method

To solve the outlined tasks, the following scientific methods were used: the analysis of scientific sources, the information search of scientific literature, description, deduction, induction, and continuous sampling method. This research was based on a double complementary approach: on the one hand, the sociolinguistic approach, which allowed us to study the semantics of the selected neologisms from the perspective of coverage of global events related to the war in Ukraine on the material of English-language postmodern literary texts. A special attention to the evolution of language, both linguistically and sociolinguistically is paid.

2.1 Identify Subsections

In order to describe morphological neologisms in English that emerged from the war in Ukraine, special methods were used: linguistic description and observation, specific techniques of structural method: distribution, contextual interpretation of lexical units.

2.2 Participant (Subject) Characteristics

The material from the following postmodern literary texts describing the war in Ukraine was processed: «Conflict in Ukraine», by Rajan Menon and Eugene Rumer, «Midnight in Chernobyl», by Adam Higginbotham, «The Orphanage», by Serhiy Zhadan. In order to reveal the topic's hypothesis British, American and Ukrainian (in English translation) fiction texts of postmodern literature were analysed.

2.3 Sampling Procedures

From the selected sources 30 most colorful morphological neologisms were selected and highlighted. Neologisms were analyzed from the point of view of formal neology. Their structure and ways of formation have been analysed. The limitation of this work is the complete absence of scientific sources concerning the topic and the small number of neologisms, which appeared in English against the background of the war in Ukraine.

The material for the study was Ukrainian postmodernist works in English and popular English-language media. The sample of 30 neologisms was collected by the method of social sampling. The methodological basis of the analysis is the theory of neologisms from the standpoint of cognitive nomination (Brothers, Zeitlin, Perrachione, Choi & Kuperberg, 2022). Thus, a neologism, regardless of its structural type, should be considered as a bilateral sign - a neoform created to activate a certain meaning, i.e. a concept or information of factual and evaluative nature. In addition to the relative perceived novelty, "neo-signs" are mostly motivated at the time of creation, i.e., in addition to the external form, it has an internal form/motivator - a fragment of information activated by the sign as one of the identifying features of the referent, which facilitates access to other information about it.

3. Results

The language perfect mastery implies a conscious approach to linguistic resources and at least partial understanding of the "inner mechanism" that makes a huge linguistic system permanently change. Modern linguistics treats word formation as a system of dynamic and creative actions. Structurally, the word formation is the process of creating neologisms from the available material in a language according to certain structural-semantic formulas and patterns (Awadh & Shafiu, 2020). The consideration of the morphological neologisms that emerged as a result of the war in Ukraine was conducted in accordance with the existing models of word formation in modern English.

Taking into account the urgency of this event, the linguistic analysis of postmodern literary texts is of particular interest. In the work, morphological and semantic (semantic) neologisms with reliance on the former are distinguished.

Within morphological neologisms, there are different ways and means of formation. The affixal method is one of the main ways of vocabulary enrichment throughout the history of the English language. It consists in adding an affix to the root of a certain part of speech. No doubting the fact that there are easily described patterns that explain the patterns of new words and give us an idea of why certain formations will be more likely than others.

Derivational processes necessarily produce the desired semantic effect in most cases (Freixa & Torner, 2020).

It is well known that derivational words are very numerous in English postmodern literary texts. Affixal neologisms are usually constructed according to existing models in the language, so they do not belong to the group of strong neologisms to which phonological neologisms usually belong. They are formed by means of affixation, root-affixation, and compound-affixation models of morphological and syntactic types.

3.1 Recruitment

30 most semantically abbreviated morphological neologisms covering military events in Ukraine were identified in the work. These lexemes were collected from selected English-language postmodern literary texts.

The hypothesis of the work is the neologisms that appear in postmodern literary texts are part of the politico-military discourse, which essentially have a clear morphology and semantics, in this sample carry exclusively pejorative and emotive element and reflect the true attitude of the world to the aggressor country. Thus, the neologisms given in this paper are predominantly negative, disparaging, and derogatory.

This list is certainly not exhaustive. There are English neologisms that have simply acquired additional meanings and moved away from their military semantic axis (Table 1).

Table 1. English neologisms that emerged as a consequence of the war in Ukraine

Rushism (rashism)	Rushism is a neologism meaning the Russian version of Nazism, all manifestations of fascism, whose peculiarity is the hatred of the democratic world
Rushist (rashist)	Rushist is a neologism that originated from the combination of the lexemes “Russian” and “fascism”. It is especially popular in the mass media. It expresses Putin's expansionist ideology
Orcs	Orcs is a neologism, analogous to the monsters in John Tolkien's Lord of the Rings trilogy. The neologism is endowed with pejorative semantics, describing Russian soldiers who invaded Ukraine in 2022.
Gauleiter	Gauleiter, a neologism with the initial meaning “Nazi official during World War II,” took on a new meaning in the context of armed aggression, Expresses disdain for collaborators
To be ukrained	To be ukrained (or alienated) is a neologism describing the global humiliation of an aggressor country.
Chornobaite	Chornobaite is a neologism with a pejorative meaning and characterizes the repetition of the same mistakes.
Tractor troops	Tractor troops is a neologism describing Ukrainian peasants who towed Russian tanks and other weapons from the battlefield for the Ukrainian armed forces with their tractors.
Macronite	Macronites is a neologism expressing strong concern, but no attempt to help. It describes the French president's inaction over the Russian invasion of Ukraine.
Putinversteher	Putinversteher (German: putin and verstehen) is a neologism conveying justification or understanding of Putin.
Shoiguing	Shoiguing is a neologism describing the neglect of Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu's speeches, pretending that the war is going according to plan.
Screps	Screps is a neologism describing the concept of “spiritual crosses”. It expresses some incomprehensible values that supposedly hold the Russian nation together.
Ukry	Ukry is a neologism, an abbreviation for Ukrainians. A pejorative word invented by the Russians to refer to Ukrainians.
Khuilo	Khuilo is a neologism, a pejorative term for Putin in Ukraine.
Khuilostan	Khuilostan is a neologism invented as an alternative to the name Russia.
Putiniste	Putinist is a neologism cognate of Putin fans.

Sample: author's own development

Thus, linguistic derivation turns out to be a penmanship process. The number of neologisms formed in English in response to the events in Ukraine is rather small. The strong influence of military actions on linguistic realities in modern English is undeniable, as military and political discourse, which covers not only military technologies and strategies, but also the spirituality of society, debates, and emotional responses, quickly covers the modern literature (Table 2):

Table 2. English neologisms that reflect military actions

Thermals	The uniform
Kalashnikov	Assault rifle
Cartoons	Delicious food
Disco	Missile attack
Pigdogs	Russian soldier
Digit	The uniform
Pok ánon	Assault rifle
Eyes	Night vision device
Nishtyaky	Something delicious
Mirror silence	Before the attack
Vanka	russian soldier
Pixel	The uniform
Shaitan-pipe	Assault rifle
Mamalyha	Strange food

Sample: author's own development

The described morphological neologisms of the English language are now in such a trend that they are actively used not only by politicians and the military but also by postmodern authors. The consequence of the war for the English language is the rapid addition of new lexical items. They are borrowed from the Ukrainian language and reveal its culture and understanding of the reasons for the military attack and the need to win this war. Depending on the type of connection between the motivator and the concept, we can distinguish between metonymic, metaphorical, analogical, generalising or specifying motivations. The emotivity of a sign is understood as its evaluative nature, i.e., the internal evaluation of the referent, and expressive nature, i.e., the degree to which the motivator is reflected in the external form of the neologism. Thus, the analysis procedure involves clarifying the following: 1) the conceptual categories of

neologisms (referent > concept/meaning of the sign), 2) factuality and evaluativeness (concept/meaning of the sign > internal form of the sign), and 3) expressiveness of the sign (internal form of the sign > its external form).

Most often, neologisms are formed by suffixation, i.e., adding an affix directly after the root, or by suffixation, i.e. adding an affix by adding an affix that follows the root – Chornobaite (Menon, R., & Rumer, E. B. (2015).

The most striking example is the political discourse, where there is a shift from proper naming to the construction of new names. The anthroponyms of political leaders and military commanders gave rise to the creation of common verb creations - macronite.

The way the neologism is created may follow the pattern of English linguistics, which uses the suffix -iste to denote an adherent of an ideology or political leader.

It should be noted, however, that the transition from the virtual to the real is limited by usage, as well as by psychological and sociological factors that determine the acceptability of the word putinist.

According to the results of the study, in some cases, the suffixation complies with the norms of the source language, while in others it violates them. The suffix -iste is indeed very common in English. However, we should pay attention to the suffix forms khuilo (Zhadan, S. (2021), which are calibrated from Ukrainian.

There is only one borrowing in this selection. It comes from the German language – putinversteh (Higginbotham, 2019). In this case, we are talking about linguistic layering and neologisms created by hybridization, i.e., from two different languages.

3.2 Statistics and Data Analysis

During the war in Ukraine, new lexical units emerge and consolidate in the English language. A special characteristic of the sample of neologisms is their emotionality. This can be explained by the proper coverage of the course of the war, where the genocide of the Ukrainian nation takes place and accordingly evokes a spectrum of negative emotions: Thus, this sample represents the most expressive morphological neologisms related to the war in Ukraine.

These neologisms are specific and have an immediate psychological effect. On the one hand, they demonize the enemy, and on the other, they are a means of unblocking anger, expressing contemptuous deed and hatred towards the enemy, ridiculing him. It has been established that postmodern literature neologisms can be grouped according to certain logic into what can be called “families of words”. These families are mostly traceable from the semantic point of view. This allowed to formulate the idea that the described neologisms form a pejorative semantic code.

The emergence of these morphological neologisms indicates the popularization of all Ukrainian not only on the level of language but also on the level of thinking. A distinctive feature of the studied vocabulary is its emotionality, emphasizing a mocking-negative attitude to the enemy or his supporters. Thus, morphological neologisms, reflecting the still ongoing war, in the first ergo convey a rethinking of reality, imagery of thinking, and a sense of humor.

4. Discussion

Frleta & Frleta (2019) distinguish two types of neologisms: neologisms of form and neologisms of meaning. Regarding the rules for the creation of neologisms, this paper takes into account the analysis of formal neology. It is defined that neologisms as a process of global formation appear through the joint appearance of a new meaning and another form. In this perspective, Hanaqtah (2019) emphasizes that meaning neology is difficult to identify because it is the result of innovation or mutation at the level of meaning. Goltsova & Chybis (2021) describe derivation as an inherent process of forming new words by changing the stem. According to Hardini, Setia & Mono (2019), derivation is the fusion of lexical elements into a single continuous form, the radical on the one hand, and the appendix or affix if placed along the radical.

According to López-Rúa (2019), the affix following the root is necessarily a suffix. One agrees because derivation is, in the most standard case, a morphological mechanism consisting of a combination of root and affix - the so-called derivational affix - with the following three properties: The expression of its signifier is less general and less abstract than that of the affix, the expression of the signifier is less general and less abstract than that of the inflective affix, it is akin to the lexical signifier, the expression of the signifier usually corresponds to the free choice of the lexeme, the expression of the signifier usually corresponds to the free choice of the speaker who chooses to convey the signifier, the combination with the base lexeme results in a word form that is associated with another lexeme. In this context, let us add two more of the most common types of derivation: correct derivation and incorrect derivation. Nelkoska (2020) notes that the proper derivation is done by a prefix: e.g., from a verb or suffix. The incorrect derivation, on the other hand, occurs without a form configuration, but with a grammatical category configuration. Thus, the adjective rushist becomes a noun for an aggressor. Accordingly, the derivation itself is consistent with the logic of the source language from which the words were taken. The examples chosen in the paper illustrate the concept of correct derivation, which consists in creating new words from existing words, and the concept of incorrect derivation, which consists in changing a grammatical category, and the concept of incorrect derivation, which consists in changing a grammatical category. Regarding the formation of derivatives, Trudgill (2022) notes that derivatives must be the product of a derivational rule, to be formally and semantically analytic. In the same perspective, Akut (2020) speaks of two meanings: ordinary meaning and attested meaning.

There is no doubt that this differentiation is fundamental at the level of lexicology in the sense that the latter is closely related to the

analysis of neologisms. Usual meaning derives from a rule based on three elements: the relation between two grammatical categories, the transformation of the suffix, directs meaning.

5. Conclusion

This research reveals the innovativeness and highly productive nature of speech at a time of great tragedy and upheaval, the potential of language to reflect a mass change in society. The emergence of lexical derivation emphasizes the connection between the social and the linguistic. The emotional component is paramount in the formation of neologisms.

The war in Ukraine has affected all spheres of life. Until now, very few studies have been conducted on the types of linguistic behavior and the richness of new words that emerged against the background of the war in Ukraine, generated by the events of the sad events that hit Ukraine, plunging many thousands of people into mourning.

In this work English morphological neologisms are investigated in terms of the logic of lexicology, appealing to two dimensions: semantics and morphology. So, the first approach brought us in contact with contextual meaning, the second allowed us to identify the rules of creation. Obviously, neologisms deviate from the logic of authentic meaning, preferring context-dependent meaning.

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