

NOMINAL SPHERES AND WAYS OF FORMING MODERN NEOLOGISMS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

With the passing of time, the emergence of new technologies, and changes in national mentality, new words – neologisms – arise in any language, denoting these new processes, phenomena, and characteristics. Neologisms are new words or phrases that appear in a language according to the needs of society (*electronics, friend zone, TikToker, internally displaced person*) or the creative intentions of a writer (*зорехмарний ряд, води сніготалі*) (Zatchnyi, p.348). Correct translation of neologisms requires the translator to understand the origin, usage context, and emotional connotations of the new terms.

According to the definition by Louis Gilbert, neologisms can be classified into the following groups based on their formation method:

- Formed by affixation; most often, these neologisms are formed by adding prefixes (un-, re-, pre-) or suffixes (-ness, -tion, -ism) to previously used words. Examples could be words: “*to unfriend*” or “*humanness*”.
- Formed by blending existing words: these neologisms may contain two or several words and create a new concept with a unique meaning. For example: *cyberspace* (*cyber + space*) or *workaholic* (*work + alcoholic*).
- Formed by abbreviation and contraction, for example: *lol* (*laughing out loud*) or *vlog*.
- Appearance of new lexical units, such as names of scientific phenomena and discoveries or modern technologies. Examples of such words may include “*cybersecure*” or “*nanotechnology*”.
- Formed in the process of human speech creativity, for example, sometimes people can abbreviate words to make it easier to speak: “*googling*”.

To analyze the spheres of formation of modern neologisms and prevalent

models of their formation, we examined 300 neologisms taken from the “Dictionary of English Neologisms of the 21st Century” (by N. Kramar).

Based on the analysis results, it has been determined that the most productive method of forming modern neologisms is mixing the stems or components of two lexical units (see Table 1). This method accounts for 34% of the neologisms in our selection. The most commonly used among them include:

- workaholic (work + alcoholic) – a person who works a lot of the time and finds it difficult not to work;
- brunch (breakfast + lunch) – a meal typically served later than breakfast but earlier than lunch;
- booktokker (book + TikTokker) – a person who posts book review videos on the TikTok platform;
- edupunk (education + punk) – an approach to learning that rejects traditional educational methods and institutions in favor of internet technologies;
- Brangelina (Brad Pitt + Angelina Jolie) – Brad Pitt + Angelina Jolie;
- cryomation (from cryogenic and cremation) – an alternative burial method involving the freezing of the body by immersion in liquid nitrogen.

The second most prevalent category is neologisms formed through affixation. The number of such words constitutes 26% in our selection. Among the most popular ones are:

- humanness (human + -ness) – the quality or state of being human;
- adulting (adult + -ing) – an ironic term used by millennials (members of Generation Y) to describe the routine chores and skills associated with adult life, such as managing finances or paying taxes;
- unboxing (un- + box) – the act of unpacking;
- bestest (best + -est) – the best of the best, excellent;
- instagrammer (Instagram + -er) – a person who uses the social media platform Instagram.

The remaining 40% are divided between the methods of combining two words and abbreviations. Among the neologisms created based on the combination of two existing words, we can highlight:

- alpha girl – a girl who holds a leadership position;
- remote learning – the process of education that occurs remotely, without the physical presence of students in the educational institution, often with the use of video conferencing technologies and interactive platforms;
- digital detox – a period of time during which a person takes a break from use electronic devices and digital media;
- screen fatigue – it is fatigue or feeling tired from looking at the screens of devices such as computers, smartphones, or tablets for long periods of time, especially when working remotely or studying;
- digital campfire – a small group of people engaging in online communication, primarily on social media platforms.

Examples of neologisms formed with the help of abbreviations are the following lexical units:

- dappy (derived from the word “dopey”, which means “stupid”) – about a person: stupid, even stupid, very strange, crazy;
- grats (shortened form of “congratulations”) – greetings;
- sis - sister, abbreviation of “sister”;
- emoji (formed from Japanese words “e” meaning “picture” and “moji” meaning “character” or “letter”) – an icon or pictogram used to express emotions or emphasize mood in electronic messages and social media;
- vape (derived from the word “vaporize”) – the use of electronic cigarettes or vapes;
- Yolo – an acronym for “You Only Live Once”, used to justify risky actions or behavior.

Table 1. *Comparative table (%) of productive methods of forming modern*

English neologisms

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|---|-----|
| Mixing stems or components of two lexical units | 34% |
| Formed by affixation | 26% |
| Combining two words | 20% |
| Abbreviations | 20% |

As a result of the research, it was also found that the most productive nominative sphere for the formation of neologisms nowadays is the sphere of modern technologies (see Table 2). Neologisms in this sphere constitute 34% of the neologisms in our sample. Among the most popular ones are:

- cyberspace – the online environment where digital communication occurs;
- chip-and-PIN – a credit card with a chip, for payment of which you need to enter a PIN code;
- creeping – secretly looking through someone's information online, particularly on social media;
- screen fatigue – it is fatigue or feeling tired from looking at the screens of devices such as computers, smartphones, or tablets for long periods of time, especially when working remotely or studying;
- influencer – a person who has a significant impact on social media or the internet, usually due to a large number of followers or subscribers.

The second largest number of formations of modern neologisms is the field of social sciences and psychology. It makes up 30% of the total number of words in our sample. Among the most used neologisms are:

- beleft – abandoned, lonely, disillusioned;
- allophilia – positive attitude towards members of other social groups;
- adulting – an ironic term used by millennials (Generation Y) to describe routine tasks and skills associated with adult life, such as managing

household chores or paying taxes;

- flex – displaying one's strength, success, or wealth through social media or in real life;

- sadwear – clothing that helps cope with sadness;

- skinny shaming – discrimination against thin people.

The next group of neologisms, which comprises 14%, belongs to the entertainment and leisure sphere. Some common neologisms in this group include:

- BookTokker – a person who publishes videos with book reviews on the TikTok platform;

- buddy-movie – a pleasant film watched together with a friend;

- unboxing – the action of unpacking;

- noob – a newcomer in an online community or game;

- to binge-watch – to immerse oneself completely in a particular activity.

12% of the total number of neologisms in our study belongs to the field of culture, speech and literature. Examples of neologisms in this group are lexical units such as:

- bestest (best + -est) – the best of the best, excellent;

- dappy (derived from the word “dopey”, which means “stupid”) – about a person: stupid, even stupid, very strange, crazy;

- grats (shortened form of “congratulations”) – greetings;

- sis – sister, abbreviation of “sister”;

- grip-lit is a type of novel with a fascinating psychological plot.

The least productive sphere of formation of neologisms was the sphere of science and education (10%). In this area, there are such neologisms as:

- remote learning – the process of education that occurs remotely, without the physical presence of students in the educational institution, often with the use of video conferencing technologies and interactive platforms;

- foodomics – a scientific field that studies the components of food and its nutritional elements at the molecular level;
- edupunk – an approach to learning that rejects traditional educational methods and institutions in favor of internet technologies;
- SHAPE (abbreviation for Social Sciences, Humanities, and the Arts for People and the Economy) – a collective term for social sciences, humanities, arts, and economics.

Table 2. *Comparative Table (%) of Nominal Spheres of Formation of Modern Neologisms*

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|--|-----|
| Sphere of modern technologies | 34% |
| Sphere of Social Sciences and Psychology | 30% |
| Entertainment and recreation | 14% |
| Sphere of Speech and Literature Culture | 12% |
| Sphere of science and education | 10% |

Therefore, it can be concluded that neologisms are new words reflecting the contemporary development of society and emerging in language to denote newly created terms and phenomena. During the research, it was found that the most common sphere of formation of modern English neologisms is the field of modern technologies. This can be explained by the constant technological advancement of humanity and the emergence of a large number of technical inventions. Understanding the productive nominal spheres and methods of forming modern neologisms is important for conveying all the nominative nuances when translating them into another language.

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