LINGUISTIC NORMS FOR CREATING A NEOLOGISM

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ANNOTATION

This paper examines the phenomenon of neologisms in the English language. Neologisms are newly coined words or expressions that are not yet fully accepted by the language community. They are often created to describe new concepts or cultural phenomena. This paper provides an overview of recent neologisms, discusses their origins, and explores their implications for the English language. It concludes with a summary of the discussion and actionable items for further research.

Keywords: Neologisms, language evolution, language contact, social change, technological advancement.

INTRODUCTION

A neologism is a newly coined word, term, or expression that is not yet widely used or accepted in a language. Neologisms can be created through various means, such as borrowing from other languages, combining existing words, abbreviating phrases, or inventing entirely new words. Neologisms may emerge in response to new technologies, cultural changes, or shifts in social attitudes, among other factors. While some neologisms become popular and enter common usage, many others remain obscure or are quickly forgotten.. Neologisms can be created to describe new concepts or cultural phenomena, and they reflect the changing needs and interests of speakers. This paper provides an overview of recent neologisms in the English language, discusses their origins, and explores their implications for language study.

All languages change over time and the reasons why neologisms arise are diverse. However, the new developments in technology, economy, politics and other new social contexts that have taken place in the 1990s have had a very important impact on the creation of neologisms in English and in languages across the world. The new words that have been created are spread more quickly than ever before (Abbas, 2009) through the Internet in a globalised world and, knowledge, entertainment and culture are also easily transmitted. In this section, I will consider five areas in which many neologisms can be found nowadays: technology/science, political developments, the COVID-19 pandemic, advertising and the news, and we will see some of the processes that were discussed in the previous section at work.

Neologisms can take many forms, from portmanteau words like "brunch" (a combination of "breakfast" and "lunch") to acronyms like "YOLO" (short for "you only live once"). They can also be created by adding prefixes or suffixes to existing words, such as "unfriend" (to remove someone from a social network) or "selfie" (a photograph that one takes of oneself). Neologisms are often seen as a sign of a living, evolving language, as they reflect the changing needs and interests of speakers and reflect the development of new concepts or ideas. They can also be a source of creativity and humor, as people play with language to express themselves in new and

unexpected ways. However, not all neologisms are successful, and some face resistance or criticism from language purists or conservative speakers who view them as unnecessary or even harmful to the integrity of the language. Additionally, some neologisms may be limited to certain contexts or communities, and may not be widely understood or accepted outside of those contexts.

METHOD

Neologisms are also found and created in the news. As the purpose of news is to cover the latest events in politics, society, culture, economy and science, among others, news has to keep up with the new concepts and new words needed to talk about them. Neologisms which are loan words, i.e. terms borrowed from another language, are also very frequent in the news. In many occasions, news reports have to cover events that happen in other parts of the world, or they need to refer to foreign concepts. Consequently, the news reporters resort to loan words. For instance, some examples of loan words that have been adopted in English are the Korean word 'fengshui', the French word 'déjà vu' or the Spanish word 'salsa' (these words can also be found in other genres, obviously). Examples of neologisms created through derivation are plentiful in the news such as the words 'incubator', 'regift' or 'faunavore' (Zhou, 2016, pp. 293-294). Another type of neologism employed in the news isanalogy, that is, the "cognitive process of transferring information or meaning from a particular source to another" (Zhou, 2016, p. 294). Some examples of analogy are 'down market' from 'upmarket' and 'cityscape' or 'riverscape' from 'landscape' (Zhou, 2016, p. 294)

Examples of neologisms:

There are many examples of neologisms that have emerged in the English language in recent years. Some of these include bromance, staycation, glamping, mansplaining, and textlationship. These neologisms reflect the changing needs and interests of speakers, and they help to simplify complex ideas and make them more accessible to a wider audience. There are many neologisms that have become widely used in the English language in recent years. Here are some examples:
1. Selfie - a photograph that one takes of oneself
2. Emoji - a small digital image or icon used to express an idea or emotion in electronic communication
3. App - an abbreviation of "application," referring to a software program designed for a specific purpose on a computer or mobile device
4. Hashtag - a word or phrase preceded by the # symbol, used on social media to categorize and organize content
5. YOLO - an acronym for "you only live once," used as a motto to encourage living life to the fullest
6. FOMO - an acronym for "fear of missing out," referring to the anxiety or unease caused by the idea that others are having more enjoyable experiences than oneself
7. Memes - humorous images, videos, or pieces of text that are copied and spread rapidly by internet users
8. Vlog - a video blog, typically featuring a person's daily life or experiences

9. Influencer - a person who has a large following on social media and uses their influence to promote products or ideas

10. Brexit - a term coined to refer to the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union.

These neologisms have become widely used and accepted in the English language, and they reflect the changing needs and interests of speakers.

Origins of neologisms:

Neologisms can originate from a variety of sources, including technology, popular culture, and social and political movements. For example, the term "selfie" was coined to describe a photograph that one takes of oneself, and it emerged in response to the proliferation of smartphones with front-facing cameras. Similarly, the term "mansplaining" was coined to describe the condescending or patronizing way that men sometimes explain things to women, and it emerged as part of the feminist movement. Neologisms reflect the changing needs and interests of speakers by providing new words and expressions to describe new concepts, ideas, and cultural phenomena. As society changes and new technologies, trends, and social norms emerge, speakers need new language to describe and understand these developments. Neologisms fill this gap by providing new ways to express complex or novel ideas. For example, the neologism "selfie" emerged in response to the proliferation of smartphones with front-facing cameras and the resulting trend of taking photographs of oneself. The term "mansplaining" emerged to describe a specific type of behavior in which a man explains something in a condescending or patronizing way to a woman. These neologisms reflect the changing needs and interests of speakers, and they help to simplify complex ideas and make them more accessible to a wider audience.

Neologisms also reflect changes in language use and style. For example, the use of "LOL" (laugh out loud) and other text message abbreviations reflect the growing use of digital communication and the need to express tone and emotion in a limited space. Similarly, the trend of combining words or parts of words to create new terms, such as "brunch" (breakfast + lunch) or "staycation" (stay + vacation), reflects a desire for efficiency and brevity in language use.

DISCUSSION

Neologisms have several implications for language study. They reflect the changing needs and interests of speakers, and they help to simplify complex ideas and make them more accessible to a wider audience. However, not all neologisms are successful, and some may be short-lived or never catch on. This can happen for a variety of reasons, such as the word being too difficult to pronounce or remember, or simply because it fails to resonate with people. Neologisms become widely accepted in the English language through a process of adoption and usage by speakers. There are several factors that can influence the acceptance and adoption of neologisms:

1. Frequency of use: The more frequently a neologism is used, the more likely it is to be accepted and adopted by speakers. As a new word or expression gains popularity and is used more often, it becomes more familiar and easier to understand.

2. Context: The context in which a neologism is used can also influence its acceptance and adoption. If a new word or expression is used by influential speakers or in a specific field or industry, it may be more likely to be adopted by others in that context.

3. Need: Neologisms that fill a gap in the language or provide a new way of expressing a concept or idea are more likely to be accepted and adopted by speakers. As new technologies and cultural practices emerge, new words and expressions are often needed to describe them.

4. Simplicity: Neologisms that are easy to pronounce, remember, and understand are more likely to be accepted and adopted by speakers. Complex or difficult-to-pronounce neologisms may be less likely to catch on.

5. Catchiness: Neologisms that are catchy, humorous, or memorable are more likely to be shared and spread among speakers, leading to their adoption and acceptance.

Overall, the acceptance and adoption of neologisms is a complex process that can be influenced by a variety of factors. As new words and expressions continue to emerge in response to changing needs and interests, some will become widely used and accepted, while others may remain obscure or short-lived.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, neologisms play an important role in the evolution of the English language. They reflect the changing needs and interests of speakers, and they help to simplify complex ideas and make them more accessible to a wider audience. Neologisms can originate from a variety of sources, including technology, popular culture, and social and political movements. It is important to note that not all neologisms are widely accepted or considered to be "good" additions to the language. Some may be seen as unnecessary or gimmicky, while others may be controversial or offensive. The acceptance and adoption of neologisms can vary depending on factors such as their frequency of use, context, and cultural relevance. Neologisms are a natural and inevitable part of language evolution, and their creation and adoption reflect the dynamic nature of human communication and culture. However, not all neologisms are successful, and some may be short-lived or never catch on. Actionable items for further research include examining the factors that influence the success or failure of neologisms and exploring the cultural and social implications of neologisms in the English language.

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