

**CHARACTERISTICS OF GENERAL-LANGUAGE NEOLOGISMS AND
INDIVIDUAL NEOLOGISMS**

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Abstract

This article examines neologisms as indicators of lexical change in modern language, distinguishing between general-language and individual neologisms. The study briefly outlines major formation mechanisms and emphasizes the temporary nature of lexical novelty. Examples from Uzbek media discourse illustrate how neologisms function in public and journalistic contexts, reflecting ongoing language development.

Key words

neologism, general-language neologisms, individual neologisms, lexical innovation, media discourse, Uzbek language, vocabulary development

Language is a constantly evolving system that responds to social, cultural, scientific, and technological changes. One of the most evident manifestations of this evolution is the emergence of neologisms, which serve to name new objects, concepts, and phenomena of contemporary life. The study of neologisms has therefore become an important area of linguistic research, as it reflects both lexical innovation and the dynamic nature of language development.

According to John Algeo, neologisms arise as a natural linguistic response to new experiences and innovations in society, emphasizing their close connection with historical and cultural change. From a structural and semantic perspective, Victoria Fromkin and Robert Rodman define neologisms as newly formed lexical units or existing words that acquire new meanings, noting that only those accepted by the speech community become part of the active vocabulary. In stylistic linguistics, I. R. Galperin considers neologisms to be temporally relative phenomena whose novelty is determined by a specific historical period. Furthermore, Peter Newmark highlights the importance of neologisms in translation studies, pointing out the difficulties they pose due to their novelty and lack of standardization.

Thus, the analysis of neologisms is essential for understanding modern lexical processes, their formation mechanisms, and their role in contemporary discourse, which constitutes the main focus of the present study.

The Uzbek language is one of the most ancient and linguistically rich languages of the world and represents an invaluable cultural and spiritual heritage of the Uzbek people. Language serves as a fundamental component of national identity and functions as a dynamic system that evolves in accordance with social, cultural, and historical development. The Uzbek language did not emerge suddenly; rather, it has been shaped over a long historical process marked by continuous change and renewal.

In the course of language development, certain lexical units gradually fall out of use, while new words are created or borrowed in response to communicative needs and societal demands. As a result, the language expands not only through its internal resources but also through the assimilation of loanwords from other languages. This process reflects the adaptability and vitality of the language as a means of communication.

The development of vocabulary proceeds in two principal directions. On the one hand, the lexicon is enriched by expressing historical transformations and innovations occurring in society. On the other hand, it expands through the adoption of borrowed words, the formation of new lexical items, the emergence of new terms and expressions, as well as semantic changes in

existing words. One of the most significant manifestations of lexical development is the emergence of neologisms, that is, newly created or newly adopted words.

The term *neologism* (from Greek *neos* meaning “new” and *logos* meaning “word”) refers to lexical units that arise as a result of social development and are used to denote new objects, concepts, and phenomena. The study of neologisms is therefore essential for understanding the processes of lexical innovation and the dynamic nature of language evolution.

Neologisms can be classified into two main types depending on whether they belong to the language system as a whole or are characteristic of an individual speaker’s discourse. The first type is referred to as general-language neologisms, while the second type is known as individual speech neologisms or authorial neologisms. According to a widely held view, even general-language neologisms initially emerge within individual speech before becoming established in the language.

As noted by Shavkat Rahmatullayev, a general-language neologism gradually loses its sense of novelty after being used in the language for a certain period and often turns into an ordinary, modern lexical unit (Hozirgi adabiy o‘zbek tili, p. 93). In this regard, general-language neologisms are considered a linguistic phenomenon, whereas individual neologisms are viewed as a stylistic phenomenon. For instance, when a writer introduces a new word in a literary work, such a lexical unit may function as an individual or authorial neologism.

Furthermore, a word that is regarded as a neologism does not necessarily retain this status permanently. The novelty of a lexical unit and its newness are not identical concepts, as not every newly formed word qualifies as a neologism. Over time, a new lexical unit may either become a regularly used word or remain a permanent neologism. For example, words such as *credit*, *grant*, and *monitor* were once considered neologisms, but have since become part of the standard vocabulary, whereas words like *like* and *respect* are still perceived as relatively new lexical items in contemporary usage.

The emergence of neologisms is based on several key factors.

First, a new phenomenon appears in society, and the need to name this phenomenon necessitates the creation of a new word or term in the language. In such cases:

a) the name of the phenomenon may be borrowed from another language, as in *computer*, *monitoring*, and *slide*;) the name of the phenomenon may be formed within the Uzbek language itself, for example *CIS* (*Commonwealth of Independent States*).

Second, a new word may be created as a synonym for an already existing phenomenon in society or nature. Examples include *eskirtma*, a newly coined synonym for the term *archaism*, and *yangirtma*, a newly formed synonym for the term *neologism* (H. Jamolxonov, Hozirgi o‘zbek adabiy tili, p. 209).

The process of term formation occupies a significant place in linguistics. According to V. V. Vinogradov, term formation is closely connected with lexicology, the branch of linguistics that studies a language’s vocabulary, and is also closely related to grammar, particularly word-formation theory and the syntax of word combinations. This interrelation highlights the systemic nature of lexical innovation in language.

Neologisms can be encountered in a wide range of communicative contexts. Individual neologisms are frequently observed in literary works and in the speech of individual speakers, whereas general-language neologisms are more commonly found in mass media texts as well as in socio-political, cultural, and educational discourse.

In particular, media materials encompass a wide range of fields, as journalistic written discourse combines elements of artistic expression alongside political and public speech. Indeed, in weekly and monthly newspapers and magazines, it is possible to observe the frequent use of newly introduced terms within the continuous flow of news and information.

Public services are increasingly becoming an integral part of everyday life. For instance, citizens regularly face the need to obtain birth certificates for their children, enroll them in kindergartens and later in schools, acquire various official documents, and obtain licenses required for establishing and developing businesses. These processes reflect the growing interaction between individuals and state institutions.

In 2021, the Agency of Public Services obtained the international standard certificate ISO 37001:2016 for the Anti-Corruption Management System. This certification covers activities related to the implementation and development of public services, as well as the provision of services to both individuals and legal entities, including the organization of construction of public service centers funded by private investors.

Furthermore, at the United Nations General Assembly, a special resolution was unanimously adopted to declare the Aral Sea region a zone of ecological innovation and technologies. In this context, particular attention is being paid to innovations across various sectors. In foreign policy, the improvement of relations with neighboring states, the removal of political barriers, and the adoption of laws aimed at expanding legal guarantees for foreign investors have been widely recognized by the international community.

Additionally, new mechanisms have been introduced in the provision of public services, including the nationwide implementation of the extraterritorial principle of service delivery and the simultaneous opening of bank accounts during the registration of business entities. The mandatory use of seals and stamps has also been abolished.

In the above examples taken from newspaper discourse, lexical units such as *licenses*, *international standard certificate*, *investor*, *innovation*, *resolution*, and *extraterritorial* can be identified as neologisms. As previously noted, neologisms emerge as a result of social demand. For example, the term *investor* refers to a person who allocates financial resources for another individual's entrepreneurial activity. In the given context, the phrase *foreign investors* illustrates a concept that carries a sense of novelty for the speech community, as both the activity itself and the lexical unit denoting it were previously absent from common usage.

From November 2020, "*surdo-online*" tablets were introduced on a pilot basis in certain district (city) public service centers. These *surdo-online* tablets are connected to the internet and enable full-fledged online communication with individuals who have hearing and speech impairments. This initiative significantly improves accessibility and inclusiveness in the provision of public services.

At the same time, a *Situation Center* was launched, allowing real-time (online) monitoring of all public service centers across the country. This system makes it possible to monitor compliance with procedures and deadlines in the delivery of public services. In order to further facilitate remote access to public services, specialists of the agency introduced the possibility of obtaining a digital signature online.

In addition, large-scale regional infrastructure projects are being jointly promoted. At present, this major transport corridor contributes to balancing regional development and enhancing interregional cooperation.

The emergence of neologisms can also be observed in journalistic discourse. For instance, the term *wunderkind* is used to describe individuals with exceptionally high intellectual abilities, typically associated with youth. As noted in journalistic sources, individuals with an IQ above 145 are extremely rare, occurring approximately once among 1.5 million people.

Contemporary media texts frequently contain new lexical units related to academic careers and digital professions. Examples include expressions such as *tenure-track position*, *lifetime professorship*, *blogger*, *Telegram channel administrator*, and *call center*. These

neologisms reflect changes in professional structures, digital communication, and public administration.

Compared to newspapers, magazines tend to contain a higher number of neologisms. While neologisms in newspapers gradually become part of the general language vocabulary, magazines—primarily targeting younger audiences—are more open to the frequent introduction of new lexical items. Consequently, neologisms such as *wunderkind* retain a strong sense of novelty and are closely associated with youth discourse.

The process of neologism formation and adoption does not cease. Although the above examples illustrate lexical innovations relevant to 2020 and 2021, it is evident that in the near future these words may be replaced by new lexical units carrying an even stronger sense of novelty, reflecting the ongoing development of society and language.

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