

## Formation of Neologisms in Modern English and Their Social Causes

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### Abstract

This article is dedicated to the analysis of the formation of neologisms in modern English and the social reasons that prompted their emergence. The research shows that the emergence of new words is directly linked to extralinguistic factors (non-linguistic factors) such as technological revolutions, political changes, cultural trends, and the need for inclusivity in society. Through corpus analysis and a sociolinguistic approach, the mechanisms by which neologisms enter the vocabulary are studied, concluding that they are an important indicator reflecting the adaptability of the language.

**Keywords:** Neologisms, sociolinguistics, language change, lexicology, social causes, technological neologisms, inclusivity, corpus analysis.

### Introduction

Language is not just a means of communication, but a living system that reflects the social, political, and cultural state of a society. As the world changes, so does the language. The most noticeable changes in the lexicon are manifested through neologisms — new words, phrases, or new meanings given to existing words. Given that English has the status of a global lingua franca (international language of communication), changes in its vocabulary affect not only English-speaking communities but also languages worldwide. The unprecedented speed of global social and technological changes in the last two decades has sharply increased the demand for new lexical units. Therefore, studying neologisms is key for linguistics to understand the changing needs of modern society and how language adapts to these needs.

### Research Objective

To analyze the social determination of the neologism lexicon in modern English. To group the main social factors that lead to the emergence of neologisms. To highlight examples of neologisms belonging to each social cause group and determine their functional purpose. To reflect society's attitude toward new concepts and social groups through neologisms.

### **Methodology**

The sociolinguistic approach is taken as the basis for the research. Neologisms were collected from lexical sources (new words from the Oxford and Merriam-Webster dictionaries), scientific literature, and modern mass media discourse. Content analysis, systemic analysis, and lexical-semantic analysis were applied as methods of analysis.

#### **1. Influence of Technology and the Digital World**

The largest and fastest source of neologisms in the English language today is Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and the internet. The technological revolution led to fundamental changes in social life: the format of communication, work style, and information consumption were completely renewed. Language was obliged to name this new «digital reality». Examples include selfie (2002), unfriend, deepfake (2018), cryptocurrency (2009), blockchain, and prompt (reinterpreted in 1531). These neologisms demonstrate the adaptation of language to human experience in the digital age.

#### **2. Political and Global Conflicts**

Neologisms also leave a distinct mark on the political arena. New words arise from the need to name new political movements, conflicts, or ideologies. Examples include Brexit (2012), Fake News, and Alt-right (2003). These words express political polarization, social division, and new ideologies.

#### **3. Social and Cultural Inclusivity**

Recent social movements concerning gender, race, and orientation have encouraged more inclusive language. Examples include Woke and They/Them. These neologisms reflect social activism, awareness, and acceptance of diversity.

### **Conclusion**

Neologisms in modern English are deeply influenced by social factors. Technology, politics, and inclusivity are the three main drivers of new words. They reveal that language is adaptive, dynamic, and responsive to society's changes. Future research may explore the role of Artificial Intelligence in generating and spreading neologisms globally.

### **References**

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