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NEOLOGISMS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Every language is constantly enriched with new words. New words appear at such a high speed that native speakers themselves do not have time to follow it. Young people are always more responsive to new processes in society. They are main neologisms' authors. In most cases, neologisms appear due to the Internet. We write messages to friends where we describe the latest events in our lives or new acquaintances. Often there are simply not enough words to describe everything in detail in a small message. Neologisms arise in order to make our lives easier and to replace an entire sentence with one word.

Linguists claim that the English dictionary is updated annually by 15,000-20,000 lexical items. In 1987, the publishing house Penguin Random House conducted a large-scale study of English vocabulary. The researchers found that over 50,000 completely new lexical items appeared in 20 years, and the meaning of 210,000 words should be revised or supplemented (1). These days the processes of changing and supplementing the vocabulary of the English language certainly go even faster.

So, what are neologisms? There is still no consensus among scientists regarding the definition of this term, as it is not clear which word can be considered new.

One can consider the following definition: a neologism is an invented or recently created word that has become widely used in society. When such a word becomes frequently used and enters the dictionary, in this case it ceases to be a neologism.

It would also be appropriate to cite the definition of the term “neologism” from the terminological encyclopedia “Modern Linguistics” by Selivanova, O. “A

neologism is a word or word combination used in a language in a given period of time to denote a new or already existing concept in a new meaning and is perceived as such by native speakers” (Selivanova, 2006, 417).

English is considered one of the most active among European languages. That is why it often acts as a source for the vocabulary of other languages. Neologisms take root quite easily in different languages, and Ukrainian is no exception.

There are three types of neologisms:

- mixture of words is a combination of two or more words that form a new word with an independent meaning, e.g. staycation (stay + vacation) is a vacation spent at home.

- derived words are words borrowed and adapted to English from Latin and ancient Greek. The Latin word “villa” in English received the meaning “house”. As a result such words as “villa”, “villager”, “village” were formed.

- transferred words are also borrowed words from another language that have been modified in English.

Speaking of neologisms, one can also mention onomatopoeia and anagrams. They have a similar function to neologisms.

An onomatopoeia is a word that actually looks like the sound it makes, and we can almost hear those sounds as we read, for example: splash, bam, babble, mumble. Onomatopoeia is one way a poet can create sounds in a poem (3). Sometimes, neologisms can perform the function of onomatopoeia.

An anagram is a word or phrase made by transposing the letters of another word or phrase, for example: debit card = bad credit, school master = the classroom. Usually, anagrams are most interesting when they are relevant to each other.

Many linguists note that abbreviation is the most artificial way of creating new words in the language. After all, in fact, a completely new lexeme is created, the meaning of which has nothing in common with any other existing words. When creating abbreviations, the norms of phonetic consonance are also used.

There are 2 ways to create abbreviations (1):

- initial – the first letters of words are used for creation. In turn, there are two separate types of initial abbreviations: letter abbreviations (they are pronounced letter by letter). For example BBC, CNN; sound (read as full words) – NATO, UFO.

- combined – it combines the initial abbreviation with a truncated word or several truncated words. For example: Tacan (Tactical Air Navigation), Univac (Universal automatic computer).

We can conclude that neologisms enrich the lexical composition of the language and thus confirm the dynamics of language development. Whether a neologism will become part of the commonly used lexicon is only a matter of time. And we somehow need to keep up with language trends. After all, very often new words penetrate from English into other languages.

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