

Program: Postgraduate Program (MA)
College: College of Arts
Academic Year: 2025-2026

Department: Department of English
University: University of Mosul
Course Class: An Introduction to Linguistics

MA ADVANCED SEMINAR SERIES

The Concept of Neologism and its Linguistic Significance

Based on Research by Kuldashova N. B. & Safarbaeva S. (2025)

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Introduction & Definition of Neologism

Etymological Root

Derived from the French *néologisme*, combining the Greek elements **néo** ("new") and **logos** ("word / discourse"). It denotes a newly coined word, expression, or an existing lexical item acquiring a novel semantic dimension.

Dynamic Nature of Language

Language functions as a mirror of socio-cultural, economic, and technological evolution. Neologisms encapsulate society's need to codify new real-world phenomena into lexical units.

Core Linguistic Function: Neologisms arise not merely as stylistic additions, but as essential tools to bridge lexical gaps created by continuous societal transformation.

Key Examples in Modern Lexicon

- **Technology & Cybernetics:** *Online, Blockchain, Cybersecurity, Chatbot, Neural Network.*
- **Socio-Professional Shift:** *Blogger, Vlog, Freelancer, Startup.*
- **Scientific/Medical:** *Genome, Biomarker, Exoplanet.*

Linguistic Significance & Functions

1. LANGUAGE EVOLUTION

Systemic Update

Neologisms serve as the primary mechanism for lexical expansion, enabling the language system to remain functional, adaptive, and synchronized with human progress.

2. COMMUNICATIVE EFFICIENCY

Economy of Expression

They allow speakers to compress complex, multi-layered modern concepts into concise, singular lexical units (e.g., *smartphones*, *freelancing*).

3. SOCIO-CULTURAL REFLECTION

Cultural Indicators

Neologisms store social trends, ideological shifts, environmental stances, and identity constructs (e.g., *eco-friendly*, *minimalism*).

4. STRUCTURAL INSIGHT

Morpho-Phonetic Diagnostic

Analyzing new formations offers linguists empirical data on active word-formation rules, morphological productivity, and phonotactic constraints.

How Neologisms Consolidate in the Language

Lexical Institutionalization: Not all novel creations survive. A neologism must pass through key filters to transform from ephemeral slang/nonce words into permanent entry in the lexicon.

1 Communicative Need

Must fill a semantic vacuum. Words naming indispensable phenomena (e.g., *Internet*, *Artificial Intelligence*) achieve swift adoption.

2 Scope of Application

Simultaneous usage across literature, mass media, scientific discourse, and daily conversation accelerates integration.

3 Structural Adaptation

Must conform to the phonetic, morphological, and grammatical matrices of the host language (e.g., loan adaptation).

4 Mass Media & Digital Spread

Social platforms, broadcasting, and news outlets act as primary catalysts (e.g., rapid proliferation of *hashtag*, *influencer*).

5 Lexicographic Recognition

Final official codification: inclusion in standard explanatory and official dictionaries seals permanence.

Primary Catalysts for Neologism Creation

Technological & Scientific Innovations

Unprecedented technological breakthroughs demand immediate naming conventions:

- *Computer Science*: Website, Blockchain, Cryptoasset
- *AI & Robotics*: Chatbot, Neural Network
- *Astronomy & Medicine*: Exoplanet, Microgalaxy, Genome

Globalization & Inter-linguistic Contact

Cross-cultural borrowing leads to lexical adaptation across languages (e.g., English loanwords like *marketplace*, *online*, *offline* integrating into international usage).

Social, Political & Economic Shifts

Realignments in public life generate targeted terminology:

- *Politics*: Geopolitics, Sanctions
- *Economy & Labor*: Startup, Freelancer
- *Global Events*: Pandemic-era usage (*COVID-19*, *Quarantine*)

Aesthetic & Internal Language Laws

Expressive needs in literature/art alongside morphological derivative affixes trigger creative coining (e.g., poetic expressiveness, new stylistic nuances).

Case Study: Neologisms in Modern Uzbek

Analytical Focus in the Article: The research specifically investigates how modern Uzbek demonstrates linguistic flexibility and structural resilience when assimilating foreign loan-neologisms and constructing indigenous terms.

Integration of Global Loanwords

Terms such as "**blogger**", "**vlog**", and "**freelancer**" transitioned from foreign lexical items to fully naturalized components of daily Uzbek discourse, demonstrating phonetic and grammatical alignment.

Internal Derivation & Stylistics

Formation of literary and domain-specific neologisms (e.g., in sports terminology, poetry like *tongsevar*, *oyparast*) showcasing affixational productivity within Uzbek morphology.

MA Seminar Discussion Prompt

"Compare the phonetic/morphological adaptation of global technological neologisms in Modern Uzbek with similar borrowing processes in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) or Mosuli Iraqi Arabic."

Key Questions:

1. Are borrowings translated via loan translation (calque) or phonological transliteration?
2. How do structural constraints affect user acceptance?

Conclusion & MA Research Horizons

Core Takeaways

- Neologisms serve as vital indicators of linguistic vitality and adaptability.
- The life cycle of a neologism moves from coining to institutionalization via societal acceptance and lexicographic codification.
- Language evolution is inextricably bound to socio-cultural, scientific, and technological progress.

Key Article Citation:

Kuldashova, N. B., & Safarbaeva, S. (2025). *The Concept of Neologism and its Linguistic Significance*. *American Journal of Education and Evaluation Studies*, 2(2), 32-36.

Suggested MA Research Topics

1. **Socio-Pragmatics of Digital Neologisms:** A Comparative Study of English and Arabic Social Media Platforms.
2. **Eco-Linguistic Neologisms:** Lexical Innovation in Response to Global Climate Change Discourse.
3. **Morphological Productivity:** Constraints on Loan Adaptation in Dialectal Discourse.