

LEXICAL AND SEMANTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF PROTOLOGISMS IN THE MODERN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Abstract. The article has analyzed the semantic and lexical features of protologisms in the modern English language. It has been established that protologisms are considered new words that are proposed by a particular author in order to introduce those words into the language; these words have not yet found application in the vocabulary of other authors, i.e. have not yet become established as neologisms. Therefore, neologisms are always the author's lexical units. Thus, based on the analysis of the scientific literature, it has been highlighted that the author's neologisms bring some sense into the technical text, but at the same time, sometimes they perform another task that is to help draw a caricature of reality. On the other hand, author's neologisms by their artistic significance sometimes have some features of a metaphor: for example, their creation is based on the desire to give that or another word a new special meaning; specific linguistic means to depict a vivid image in the literary text for a reader.

It has been generalized that the author's protologisms are created to ensure the expressiveness of the speech. An author who seeks to preserve their individual style using their own terms and ignoring the fact that authorial lexical tokens in texts are difficult to translate, so they risk being misunderstood. It has been noted that the correct translation of protologisms is a difficult problem, though. For example, while translating neologisms in technical texts from Ukrainian into English, the most commonly used technique is a descriptive translation of a specific term. The specificity of translation of the author's protologisms is dictated by the fact that there is a very low probability of using direct conformities of a particular lexical token, as the author creates similar terms themselves. Thus, the author's protologism is not a vocabulary means of the language. However, the structure of protologism is predictable because new words, as a rule, evolve on the basis of already existing words and morphemes in the language. It has been established that in order to simplify the translation of the author's protologisms, it is necessary to dogmatize the most famous and generally accepted ways of word formation in English. They include the following: giving an existing word one more meaning (call - to call, cause); word formation (carryback (refund)); formation of forms by analogy with the existing ones in the language by adding to the different productive affixes (kite flyer (recipient of money in the form a fictitious bill)); conversion (E-mail me/us to... (to write by an e-mail...)); borrowing from other languages; reverse derivation; emergence (Forex reserve (forex = foreign + exchange), that is reserved in foreign currency); abbreviation (B-unit (Barclays currency unit, that is the international currency of the bank "Barclays Bank International"))).

Keywords: protologism, neologism, author's neologisms, individual and author's neologisms, English language.

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INTRODUCTION

Living speech is in constant dynamics. Consequently, it is always developing its internal and external resources, adapting to the constantly changing conditions of social, cultural, political, and scientific life, creating new forms and content, abandoning old means of expression, and producing new ones. Language is one of those spheres of human activity that are the first to respond to political, social, cultural, economic, and other changes. Thus, speech cannot only follow the changes and accompany them but also cause them (Karaban, 2004, p. 10).

Every social or political change, revolution, innovation leads to the introduction of new words and terms, for example, some of the last: *Butskellism* (Butskelism, Conservative R.A. Butler + Hugh Gaitskell, Labor); *the Butskellite economy* (the economy of the Butskelismperiod); *Blairites* (Blair' admirers); *Thatcherites* (Thatcher' admirers); *Grexite* (Greece's exit from the European Union); *Brexit* (Britain's exit from the European Union); *Brexiters* (supporters of Britain's exit from the European Union or Eurosceptics) (Melkonian, 2015, p. 9). All these terms appeared in the language as a reflection of socio-political phenomena in society. As the English say, "Where habit leads, language follows".

Any historical period has a factor or a group of factors causing the emergence of new features and properties of a particular language. These factors, both linguistic and extra-linguistic, play a crucial role in the study of the nature of speech changes, their inner essence, and regularities. Transformations within language occur at different levels - phonetic, morphemic, lexical, syntactic, etc. It is obvious that the first three of them are the most prone to changes, which can be traced even within a single generation. Syntactic changes manifest themselves somewhat more slowly, and we can trace them mainly

through the written texts of several generations.

The most noticeable changes in the language are lexical because the vocabulary of the language is constantly being replenished. A new unknown word, as a rule, attracts attention, makes a person think, guess its meaning. The study of language development was first based on the study of lexical changes, because the first linguists saw those texts, written or spoken, differed from modern ones by their lexical composition. This was one of the reasons that led linguists to begin to study and investigate the nature of language. Every era is accompanied by the introduction of new words. Thus, a central point in the development of any language is the enrichment and expansion of its vocabulary. Newly authored words, known as protologisms, after a certain period are perceived as an integral part of it (Zatsnyi & Yankov, 2008, p. 203).

Analysis of recent studies and publications

In modern scientific literature, the problem of English vocabulary replenishment is reflected in numerous scientific publications of modern researchers. D. Haieva turned her scientific attention to the study of the peculiarities of affixation as the most productive way of creating neologisms in modern English-language media discourse (Haieva & Prokopovych, 2017). In his turn, Yu. Zatsnyi studied the innovations in the vocabulary of the English language at the beginning of the XXI century (Zatsnyi & Yankov, 2008). Features of translation of scientific Komysarov (1990) and technical (Adams, 1976; Algeo & Algeo, 1993). Neologism was singled out by Karaban (2004), Maliarchuk (2015) concretized the specific characteristics of the creation of neologisms-telescopisms in modern English (on the material of lexicographic sources). It is noteworthy that Melkonian has identified the latest trends in the system of word formation in

modern English (on the material of journalistic texts) (Melkonian, 2015). Senkiv & Letnianska (2016) and Yashyna (2017) studied the processes of neologization in the vocabulary of XIX century English.

At the same time, as the compiled analysis of the scientific literature demonstrates, the issue of singling out the semantic-lexical features of protologisms in modern English remains insufficiently studied.

Therefore, the **purpose of the article** is to analyze the semantic-lexical features of protologism in modern English.

RESULTS

Protologisms are new words proposed by a particular author for introduction into the language, which has not yet found application in the vocabulary of other authors, that is, they have not yet established themselves as neologisms (Karaban, 2004, p. 67). Consequently, neologisms are always the author's lexical units. A review of works devoted to the study of the studied lexemes revealed an abundance of names of these protologisms: individual, authorial, individual-authorial, stylistic, contextual, individually stylistic, occasional, potential, "self-made words", "words-meteors". In this paper, we use the term "individual-author protologisms", by which we mean protologisms of individual-author production, created as a way of expressing their author's attitude to a particular situation. We also share O. Yashyna's opinion that in some cases these lexical units perform "a certain expressive-semantic function" (Yashyna, 2017, p. 57).

In the word-formation system of modern English the following ways of forming new words are usually used to create protologisms:

1. Affixation (prefixation and suffixation) - the word-formation structure of a newly formed word implies the presence of three obligatory components: the root or base, the affix, and the model in which the affix is attached to the base.
2. Conversion is a morphological-syntactic method of word formation in which new words arise without changing the basic form of the original word.
3. Word compounding. In modern English, it is one of the most productive ways of word-formation. Word formation reflects the specificity of the language, as along with universal features English, like every language, has certain features. Thus, the analytical structure of the English language, the wide use of word order as a means of expressing lexico-grammatical relations explain the existence of a fairly large number of compound words formed without connecting elements.
4. Reduction (truncation, initial abbreviations, and telescopes) is the process of reducing the number of phonemes and/or morphemes in words or word combinations available in the language without changing their lexico-grammatical meaning (category), which results in a new nominative unit or version of the original unit.
5. Reverse word formation (reversion) is the formation of new words by cutting off the word-forming element of the original word. In this case, it is implied that the original word includes in its composition a suffix or, more rarely, a prefix, using which the original word was once created.
6. Repetition (reduplication) is a way of creating new words by completely or partially repeating the root or base of the original word without changing or partially changing its sound composition. The main types of English word formation include affixation, conversion, word formation, and abbreviation. As it should be noted, authorial

protologisms are created to ensure the expressiveness of speech. An author who seeks to preserve his individual style by using his own terms and ignoring the fact that authorial lexemes in texts are difficult to translate runs the risk of being misunderstood. It has been noted that the correct translation of protologisms is a difficult problem, though. For example, when translating neologisms in technical texts from Ukrainian into English, such a technique as a descriptive translation of a particular term is most often used (Adams, 1976, p. 225-226).

The specifics of translating the author's protologisms is dictated by the fact that there is a very small probability of using direct correspondences of a particular lexeme since the author himself creates such terms. Therefore, the author's protologisms are not a lexical means of language.

The main difficulty in translating an author's neologisms is figuring out the meaning of the new word. Actually, translating a neologism whose meaning is already known to the translator is a relatively easier task, and it is solved by using the methods below, depending on what type of words the neologism belongs to. If a new word is not in the English-Ukrainian dictionary, one should try to find it in the English explanatory dictionary. In many famous dictionaries, there are New Words Section. It is recommended to use the dictionaries of the latest editions. The meaning of neologisms usually has to be found out from the context. So, the process of translating neologisms from English into Ukrainian takes two steps:

- clarification of the meaning of neologisms (when the translator either refers to the latest editions of the English explanatory (encyclopedia) dictionaries or clarifies the meaning of a new word,

taking into account its structure and context);

- translation (transfer) using the Ukrainian language, namely: transcription, transliteration, calibration, descriptive translation, direct inclusion.

However, the structure of protologisms is predictable, because new words usually arise based on already existing words and morphemes in the language. To simplify the translation of authorial protologisms it is necessary to dogmatize the well-known generally accepted ways of word formation in English, which include the following: giving to an already existing word another meaning (call - to call, to cause); word composition (carryback (damage compensation)); formation of forms by analogy with existing in the language by adding to the various productive affixes (kiteflyer (receiver of money under a fictitious bill); conversion (E-mail me/us to... (email me/us...)); borrowing from other languages, reverse derivation;

Let us note that a special place in the composition of protologisms is occupied by the so-called individual-stylistic protologisms - words created more often by writers, poets, publicists with a particular artistic purpose. The creation of individual-stylistic protologisms may be due to the desire of writers to reflect the peculiarity of a new literary movement by lexical means.

We should also pay attention to the fact that individual-stylistic protologisms, as well as occasionalism, are used within the context. Consequently, they live only in the work of fiction in which they are used by the author. But it should be noted that these phenomena have some special characteristics. Thus, O.

Maliarchuk emphasizes that: "individual-stylistic protologisms have a number of significant differences from occasionalisms. Occasionalisms are used in colloquial speech, mainly during oral communication, individual-stylistic protologisms belong to

the book language and are fixed on paper. Occasionalisms arise spontaneously, while individual-stylistic protologisms are created in the process of conscious creativity with a specific stylistic purpose" [5, p. 138].

Individual stylistic protologisms include the word *boughetto*, which was coined by the African American rap artist Nurphy Lee and was found in the following lines: "on D's, that's boughetto / Tell 'em what's boughetto, bourgeois, and ghetto". The author independently explains the origin of this word, which is formed by combining *bourgeois* and *ghetto*. This protologism is a negative mockery of the unwarranted queer behavior of African-American ghettos and is used to mean "a financially secure person who does not observe the rules of etiquette or decorum in society".

As an additional example, let us give such an authorial protologism as *shaboobalaboopy*. This word was found in the lines of another African-American rap artist Mistah F.A.B. ("And bet you I can make u say shaboobalaboopy / What the hell does it mean? I don't know you bootsy / I bet you I can make u say shaboobalaboopy / What the hell does it mean? I do not know you bootsy"). This protologism consists of the graphemes of the English alphabet, and the presence of the suffix *-u* and the verb *say*, also standing next to it, help us to understand that this is a noun with the meaning of "nonsense". This kind of protologism appears to be a manifestation of wordplay, an ironic attitude toward the subject. The context emphasizes that the author himself evaluates his new formation as atypical, not peculiar to his usual lexicon. We emphasize that it becomes impossible to

determine the semantics of such words outside the context.

Such examples help to reflect most fully and adequately those expressive-semantic nuances that the author wants to convey, and for the expression of which traditional means are not laconic enough. At the core of the individual-stylistic protologism is the desire to give a figurative description of the subject, and the author does not set a goal to introduce the words he invented into broad usage. Such protologisms do not lose their freshness for long.

CONCLUSIONS

Consequently, protologisms are important for the speech system as a whole and the lexical composition of a particular language, including. The use of individual-author protologisms in literary works is due to the stylistic tasks set by any writer, poet, who seeks to stand out from the general mass of literary writers not only through the original plot but also because of the special language, which involves, among other things, the use of unusual, previously unknown words. Such lexical units organically fit into the fabric of the work and enhance the emotional effect they produce on the reader. In English, at the level of the literary norm, some lexemes came out from the pen of writers and poets and, accordingly, were considered to be individual-author units until they entered the active vocabulary of speakers of a particular language. Thus, authorial protologisms act as an important means in the process of filling lexical gaps.

We see prospects for further research in this direction in the highlighted semantic features of protologisms as lexically powerful word-formation trends in modern English.

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