

Pragmatic Feature of Neologisms in Uzbek and English Languages

Avlaeva Saida Bozorovna

Senior teacher, Karshi state university

Abstract. *this article considers new words, namely neologisms, that appear in the language and the ways of their formation in the language. In addition, the pragmatic features of neologisms in Uzbek and English languages are discussed with the use of examples.*

Key words: *neologism, to emerge, initial words, blending, borrowing, Acronyms and Initialisms, compounding, coinage, COVID -19, adaptation, media influence, Emotional Resonance.*

A neologism is a newly coined word, expression, or term that has recently entered a language and may be in the process of gaining mainstream use. Neologisms can emerge for various reasons, including the need to describe new concepts, inventions, phenomena, or societal issues. They can be formed through various linguistic processes, such as:

Coinage: Creating a completely new word, often without any root in existing language (e.g., "google" as a verb).

Compounding: Combining two or more existing words to form a new term (e.g., "social media," "toothbrush").

Blending: Merging parts of two words to create a new term (e.g., "brunch" from "breakfast" and "lunch").

Borrowing: Adopting words from other languages (e.g., "piano" from Italian).

Acronyms and Initialisms: Forming new terms by using the initial letters of a series of words (e.g., "LOL" for "laugh out loud").

Slang and Informal Use: Creating terms that often gain traction in casual conversation before entering more formal usage (e.g., "lit" to describe something exciting).

Neologisms often reflect cultural changes, innovations, and shifts in society, and they may become a permanent part of a language, fade away, or remain used only in specific contexts. They are particularly common during periods of rapid change, such as technological advancements or major global events, like the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to the emergence of many neologisms—new words or expressions—across various languages, including Uzbek and English. These neo-logisms reflect the unique social, cultural, and medical contexts of the pandemic. Here are some pragmatic features of COVID-19 neologisms in both languages.

Analyzing the pragmatic features of COVID-19 neologisms in Uzbek and English involves exploring how these new words and expressions reflect the social, cultural, and communicative contexts of the pandemic. Here are some useful methods for conducting such an analysis:

1. Contextual Analysis

Discourse analysis: It is important to examine the contexts in which neologisms are used by analyzing media reports, social media posts, and mass communications. It is important to identify how terms are contextualized in discussions about health, safety, and society.

Situational context: It is important to pay attention to how neologisms reflect specific situations that have arisen during the pandemic. For example, terms related to lockdowns, such as “stay-at-home orders” or “isolation,” should be assessed for their place in discourse about government measures.

2. Semantic Analysis

Meaning and Connotation: Investigate the meanings and nuances of neologisms in both languages. What emotions or connotations do these terms carry? For instance, the term "pandemic" may evoke fear, while "vaccine" may evoke hope.

Polysemy: Explore how some neologisms may have multiple meanings or interpretations, based on different cultural or societal perspectives.

3. Lexical and Morphological Analysis

Word Formation Processes: Examine the origins of neologisms. Identify whether they are compounds, blends, or borrowed terms. This can reveal patterns in how languages adapt to new concepts.

Morphological Characteristics: Analyze how grammatical structures may alter the meaning or use of neologisms in sentences. Consider the use of prefixes and suffixes.

4. Comparative Analysis

Cross-Linguistic Comparison: Compare Uzbek neologisms with their English counterparts to see how different languages have adapted to similar situations. This can provide insights into cultural attitudes towards the pandemic.

Cultural Significance: Investigate cultural differences in the understanding and use of specific terms. This could involve studying how community values influence the acceptance of certain neologisms.

5. Pragmatic Analysis

Speech Act Theory: Analyzes how neologisms function in communication. Are they used as performatives (e.g., to command, inform)? What social actions are associated with them?

Implication and Inference: Consider the implied meanings and assumptions behind the use of neologisms. What do speakers assume about the knowledge or beliefs of their listeners when they use these new terms?

6. Corpus Linguistics

Corpus Creation and Analysis: Create collections of texts (social media, news articles, academic papers, etc.) that contain COVID-19 neologisms. Linguistic software can be used to analyze the frequency, patterns, and context of these terms.

N-grams and collocations: Analyze how often neologisms occur together with other words. This helps to understand their usage patterns and how they relate to other terms in pandemic discourse.

7. Surveys and interviews

Public perception studies: Surveys or interviews can be conducted to collect qualitative data on people's understanding and reactions to COVID-19 neologisms in both languages. This can provide insight into the social impact of the terminology.

Focus groups: Conducting discussions with speakers of both languages to explore their personal experiences and understanding of the neologisms can shed light on the social and emotional contexts in which these terms are used.

Pragmatic Features in English Neologisms

1. Contextual Relevance: Many new terms are directly related to the pandemic, such as "social distancing," "quarantine," "contact tracing," and "flatten the curve." These terms became crucial in public discourse and reflected the social context of health measures.
2. Blending and Compounding: New terms often result from blending or compounding existing words. For example, "infodemic" (information + epidemic) refers to the overwhelming amount of information about the virus.
3. Emotional Resonance: Some terms convey heightened emotions or fears associated with the pandemic, such as "pandemic fatigue" or "COVID anxiety," highlighting the psychological impact of the crisis.
4. Adaptation of Existing Terms: Pre-existing words were adapted to fit the new context. Words like "mask" have gained additional meanings, often becoming symbols of safety or political statements.
5. Media Influence: Terms coined or popularized by media campaigns, government announcements, or social media trends can rapidly enter public lexicon, reflecting their viral spread (e.g., "Zoom fatigue").

Pragmatic Features in Uzbek Neologisms:

1. Calque Translations: Some neologisms in Uzbek come from direct translations of English terms, such as "social masofalashuv" (social distancing). These adaptations reflect global trends and the influence of English on Uzbek vocabulary.
2. Cultural Nuances: Neologisms often incorporate local cultural understandings of health and community. For instance, the term for quarantine may reflect traditional communal values surrounding safety and familial support.
3. Use of Local Dialects and Expressions: Some neologisms may incorporate elements from regional dialects or colloquial expressions, making them resonate more with specific groups within Uzbekistan.
4. Political and Social Commentary: Like in English, certain terms may carry political weight or critique societal responses to the pandemic, reflecting public sentiment about governmental actions or health policies.
5. Technology and Media Integration: The rise of digital communication during the pandemic prompted the creation of terms related to online platforms and virtual interactions, mirroring trends in English.

Neologisms in both languages reveal a trend of borrowing and influence, with English terms often being adapted in Uzbek. This reflects the global nature of the pandemic and the interconnectedness of contemporary communication.

Both languages exhibit a strong relationship between the neologisms and the emotional climate of their speakers, demonstrating how language evolves in response to societal anxieties and experiences.

The role of media in the propagation of neologisms is significant in both languages, showing how modern communication platforms can shape language.

Combining methods above mentioned allow for a fuller understanding of the pragmatic features of COVID-19 neologisms in Uzbek and English. The aim is to study not only the linguistic aspects of these words, but also their impact on communication, social interactions, and cultural perceptions during the pandemic. This multifaceted approach allows for a rich analysis of the development of language in response to unprecedented global challenges.

The contribution of neologisms to communication during the COVID-19 pandemic in both Uzbek and English illustrates their pragmatic features, from contextual relevance to cultural reflection. As neologisms continue to evolve, they will remain a crucial aspect of linguistic study and cultural documentation in post-pandemic society.

The pragmatic features of COVID-19 neologisms in Uzbek and English reveal how language adapts to new realities, reflecting cultural contexts, emotional experiences, and the impact of globalization.

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