
The study of neologisms in contemporary English

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Annotation

This article discusses how the English language is changing rapidly, specifically between 2020 and 2026, with a primary focus on the emergence of neologisms. As digital communication and socio-political shifts undergo a global transformation, the processes of word formation are also evolving, and traditional rules for creating new words have become increasingly flexible. Additionally, the study examines the most productive morphological processes through which new words are created, such as blending, compounding, and semantic shift. The research explores why and how these terms appear and what factors motivate people to integrate them into their daily lives. The analysis is predicated on qualitative data derived from digital media, contemporary dictionaries, and professional communication. In this context, the study emphasizes that neologisms are not merely temporary linguistic trends but are essential components of modern communication that reflect our changing world. By examining these lexical shifts, we can better understand the current direction of the English language and its future development.

Keywords

Neologisms, lexicography, word formation, digital change modern English, morphological analysis, digital discourse, social media

Zamonaviy ingliz tilida neologizmlarning o'rganilishi

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Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqolada ingliz tilining bugungi kunda, ayniqsa 2020-2026 yillar oralig'ida neologizmlarga e'tibor qaratgan holda qanchalik tez o'zgarib borayotgani muhokama qilinadi. Raqamli aloqa va ijtimoiy-siyosiy siljishlar transformatsiyaga uchrar ekan, so'z yasash jarayoni ham rivojlanmoqda, chunki yangi so'zlarni yaratish qoidalari unchalik muhim bo'lmay qoldi. Bundan tashqari, tadqiqot yangi so'zlar yaratiladigan eng samarali morfologik jarayonlarni, masalan, so'zlarni aralashtirish orqali yasalishi, ikki so'zni birlashtirish, ularni qorishtirish yoki odamlar eski so'zlarga qanday qilib yangi ma'no berishini ko'rib chiqadi. Tadqiqot,

shuningdek, ularning nima uchun va qanday paydo bo'lishini hamda odamlarni ulardan kundalik hayotda foydalanishga nima majbur qilishini o'rganadi. Tadqiqot raqamli media, zamonaviy lug'atlar va professional muloqotdan olingan ma'lumotlarning sifat tahliliga asoslangan. Shu nuqtai nazardan, tadqiqot neologizmlar nafaqat vaqtinchalik lisoniy tendentsiyalar, balki o'zgarib borayotgan dunyomizni aks ettiruvchi zamonaviy muloqotning muhim tarkibiy qismlari ekanligini ta'kidlaydi. Ushbu leksik o'zgarishlarni o'rganish orqali biz ingliz tilining hozirgi yo'nalishini va uning kelajakdagi rivojlanishini yaxshiroq tushunishimiz mumkin. Bu jarayonlar tilning naqadar hayotiylikini va ijtimoiy hayot bilan chambarchas bog'liqligini yana bir bor isbotlab beradi.

Kalit so'zlar *Neologizmlar, leksikografiya, so'z yasalishi, zamonaviy ingliz tilining raqamli o'zgarishi, morfologik tahlil, raqamli diskurs, ijtimoiy media*

Исследование неологизмов в современном английском языке

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Аннотация

В данной статье рассматривается то, как английский язык быстро меняется сегодня, особенно в период с 2020 по 2026 год, с упором на неологизмы. Поскольку цифровая коммуникация и социально-политические сдвиги претерпевают трансформацию, процессы словообразования также развиваются, потому что правила создания новых слов стали менее строгими. Кроме того, в исследовании рассматриваются наиболее продуктивные морфологические процессы, с помощью которых создаются новые слова, такие как словообразование путем смешения, соединение двух слов вместе, их смешивание или то, как люди придают старым словам новые значения. Исследование также изучает, почему и как они появляются и что заставляет людей использовать их в повседневной жизни. Исследование основано на качественном анализе данных, полученных из цифровых медиа, современных словарей и профессиональной коммуникации. В этом контексте работа подчеркивает, что неологизмы являются не просто временными лингвистическими тенденциями, а важными компонентами современного общения, отражающими наш меняющийся мир. Изучая эти лексические сдвиги, мы можем лучше понять текущее направление развития английского языка и его будущее расширение в условиях глобальной цифровизации общества.

Ключевые слова *Неологизмы, лексикография, словообразование, цифровые изменения современного английского языка, морфологический анализ, цифровой дискурс, социальные сети*

Introduction

The English language is currently experiencing significant changes, mostly because of the digital communication, global social changes, and the increasing role of artificial intelligence in daily life. Between 2020 and 2026, the appearance of new words has become faster and more noticeable, reflecting the immediate needs of modern society. As noted by Shamuradova and Sadridinova (2026) the digital media plays a important role in this process, the development of new vocabulary support through borrowing, blending and semantic change.

One of the main factors influencing this process is the digital platforms development. Kurniadi and Erwin (2024) identify platforms such as TikTok as key drivers of the rapid spread of new words. These platforms allow words to become popular instantly. In addition, Lanteigne (2023) explains that modern communication is no longer only text-based but also includes visual and symbolic elements, such as emojis and internet-specific language.

Global events have also impacted language evolution. For example, the COVID-19 pandemic introduced new terms and meanings, often referred to as "Coronaspeak" (Thorne, 2020). At the same time, the rise of artificial intelligence has introduced new technical vocabulary into everyday communication. Roose (2021) and Al-Rousan (2025) discuss that many AI-related terms have moved outside of specialist use and now they are part of general language.

Changes are also visible in business and social contexts. Popovich (2020) highlights how socio-political developments have led to new expressions related to equality and technology.

At the same time, business communication has adapted to new realities, creating terms such as *greedflation* and *hushed hybrid* according to recent studies.

The continuous appearance of new words makes this topic timely, since many studies examined neologisms also This article aims to analyze the most common word formation processes and understand how these changes influence modern English.

Materials and Analysis

The Social Media Role in Lexical Diffusion. The traditional "top-down" model of language change, where academic institutions or dictionaries dictate new vocabulary, has been largely supplanted by a bottom-up digital process. Kurniadi and Erwin (2024) identify short-form video platforms, particularly TikTok, as key drivers of new word formation. Their research suggests that a multimodal nature of these platforms such as combining audio, text overlays, and visual cues allows for the rapid significant spread of abbreviations and playful neologisms.

This digital shift is not limited to mere slang, it shows a fundamental change in how the English lexicon operates. Lanteigne (2023) argues that the modern digital dictionary is multimodal, where emojis and specialized "netspeak" function as legitimate lexical units that convey complex emotional and social nuances. Furthermore, Zirker (2024) notes that 21st-century word formation patterns, particularly clipping and blending are being optimized for digital brevity, reflecting a global move toward linguistic economy in online discourse.

Socio-Political Catalysts and Business Terminology. Neologisms also serve as a «cultural barometer» reacting instantly to

global crises and shifts in social values. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic provided a unique case study in crisis-driven linguistics. Thorne (2020) documented the emergence of "Coronaspeak" noting that global emergencies necessitate a shared vocabulary to describe new social behaviors and psychological states. This process of semantic extension allowed existing words to take on entirely new, urgent meanings within a matter of weeks.

Similarly, the socio-political movements of the early 2020s have left a permanent mark on the English language. Popovich (2020) analyzes how contemporary texts reflecting gender equality and social justice have introduced a suite of neologisms that challenge traditional linguistic norms. This "socially conscious" lexicon has moved from activist circles into mainstream professional communication. As documented in a ResearchGate Publication (2025), this has led to a new "business lexicon" tailored for the post-pandemic era. Terms such as *greedflation* and *hushed hybrid* demonstrate how the language employs compounding and blending to categorize complex economic phenomena and new labor market realities.

Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Word-Formation. The most recent and profound driver of lexical innovation is the mainstream integration of Artificial Intelligence. Roose (2021) explores how the "Age of Automation" has forced a redefinition of human-centric vocabulary, introducing technical descriptors that have quickly entered general use. This technological push is further analyzed by Al-Rousan (2025), who highlights how AI tools such as large language models are creating new verbs and redefining old ones for instance, the technical re-purposing of the verb *to hallucinate* to describe AI errors.

The acceptance of these new terms is usually confirmed by major dictionaries. For example, the Oxford English Dictionary's 2026 quarterly updates, it becomes clear that

neologisms are no longer a small or technological topic. They are now an important part of modern English, reflecting how society and technology continue to influence each other as noted by Shamuradova and Sadridinova (2026).

This study is based on a qualitative analysis of new words that appeared between 2020 and 2026. To make the data reliable and diverse, several sources were used.

Frist, dictionary data was taken from recent updates of the Oxford English Dictionary (2026) and the "Words to Watch" section of Merriam-Webster. These helped identify words that are already accepted or likely to become part of standard English.

Second, digital platforms such as TikTok and Twitter were analyzed to observe language changes in real time. These platforms are important because they show how new words are created and spread in everyday communication.

Finally, professional and academic sources were reviewed, especially in business and technology. These provided examples of new terms related to artificial intelligence and the modern work environment.

After collecting the data, each word was analyzed based on its formation process. The main categories included blending, compounding, semantic shift, and abbreviations. This approach helped to identify patterns and evaluate how stable these new words are in modern English.

The primary data for this research was gathered from three distinct categories of linguistic environments:

- *Lexicographical Records*: Recent quarterly updates from the Oxford English Dictionary (2026) and the "Words to Watch" section of Merriam-Webster were used to identify terms that have been accepted or are likely to become part of standard English.
- *Digital and Social Media*: Real-time linguistic innovation was examined through trending hashtags and high-

frequency «netspeak» on platforms such as TikTok and X (formerly Twitter). This helped identify playful neologisms and abbreviations, as described by Kurniadi and Erwin (2024).

- **Professional and Academic Discourse:** Business and tech-related neologisms were collected from professional journals and economic reports (2023–2025), with a particular focus on terms emerging from artificial intelligence and modern work environments (ResearchGate, 2025; Al-Rousan, 2025).

Once the corpus of neologisms was established, each term was subjected to a morphological analysis to determine its method of formation. The study specifically categorized words based on the following established linguistic processes:

- **Blending:** The fusion of two or more morphemes (e.g., *staycation*, *greedflation*).
- **Compounding:** The combination of two independent words (e.g., *remote-work*, *deepfake*).

- **Semantic Shift:** Existing words acquiring new meanings in a digital or socio-political context (e.g., *hallucinate*, *cloud*).
- **Acronyms and Initialisms:** Shortened forms common in digital “linguistic economy”.

By cross-referencing these findings either the theoretical of Popovich (2020) and Shamuradova and Sadridinova (2026), this study evaluates the stability of these words that is their likelihood of remaining in the English lexicon. The data collected for this study reveals a significant shift in the English lexicon between 2020 and 2026. The analysis focuses on three dominant morphological processes such as Blending, Compounding, and Semantic Shift, as these are the most productive mechanisms identified in contemporary digital and professional oral communication.

Morphological Analysis of Selected Neologisms. The following table categorizes a selection of high-frequency neologisms identified during the research period, providing their origin and the specific word-formation process utilized:

Neologism	Origin/Components	Process	Domain
<i>Greedflation</i>	Greed+Inflation	Blending	Economics / Business
<i>Deepfake</i>	Deep learning+Fake	Blending	Technology / AI
<i>Hushed Hybrid</i>	Hushed+Hybrid(work)	Compounding	Professional / Workplace
<i>Doomscrolling</i>	Doom+Scrolling	Compounding	Social Media / Psychology
<i>Hallucinate</i>	Existing verb (to see visions)	Semantic Shift	Artificial Intelligence
<i>Staycation</i>	Stay+Vacation	Blending	Lifestyle / Socio-political
<i>Fintech</i>	Financial+Technology	Blending	Business / Finance
<i>Ghosting</i>	Existing noun (Ghost) to verb	Semantic Shift	Digital Communication

Table 1.

The Productivity of Blending and Compounding. Blending has become one of the most common ways to create new words. For example, the term *greedflation* combines “greed” and “inflation” to describe a complex economic situation in a simple way. This reflects the idea of linguistic economy, where speakers prefer shorter and more expressive forms.

Compounding is also widely used, especially for describing new social behaviors. Words like *doomscrolling* and *hushed hybrid* clearly shows how two familiar concepts can be combined to create a new meaning. According to Zirker (2024), such words are more likely to remain in the language because they describe real and relevant situations.

Semantic Shift and Technological Contextualization. Another important process is semantic shift, where existing words gain new meanings. For example, the word *hallucinate* is now used in the context of artificial intelligence to describe incorrect outputs. Similarly, *ghosting* has shifted from its original meaning to describe behavior in digital communication.

This shows that language does not always need completely new words to develop. Instead, existing vocabulary can be adapted to reflect new realities.

Discussion

The analysis shows that many modern neologisms are becoming stable faster than before. Due to social media, words can spread globally within a short time. As a result, words like *deepfake* and *staycation* are no longer considered temporary.

The inclusion of such terms in the Oxford English Dictionary (2026) confirms that frequency of use in digital communication is now an important factor in recognizing new words.

Moreover, the speed which new words are created is changing how people see language rules. Traditional rules are becoming less strict, as users now focus more on creativity, clarity and effective communication rather than perfect correctness. This shows that control over language is slowly shifting from

formal institutions to everyday users, especially those who are active online. As a result, the line between informal and formal language is becoming less clear, allowing new words to move easily into professional and academic use.

Conclusion

The period between 2020 and 2026 has shown that the English language is growing faster than before. This study shows that digital communication, global events, and technological progress are the main factors causing importance in the creation of new words.

The analysis of blending, compounding, and semantic shift shows that these processes are actively used to adapt language to modern needs. Social media platforms, especially TikTok, play a key role in spreading new vocabulary quickly and widely.

An important finding of this study is that many neologisms are no longer temporary. Instead, they are becoming part of standard English due to frequent usage. The role of artificial intelligence is also vital, as it appears new meanings and terms into everyday discourse.

All in all, language continues to adapt to social and technological changes. Neologisms serve as an important indicator of these changes and reflect how people communicate in a modern, fast-changing world.

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