



pedagogical strategies employed in second language education, facilitating a more effective and empathetic approach to teaching languages.

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THE FUNCTION OF NEOLOGISMS IN LANGUAGE PROGRESSION

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Abstract

This paper explores the significant impact of pop culture on language evolution through the creation of neologisms—new words and expressions that enter common usage. Pop culture, through media such as films, music, television, and social media, not only enriches language but also introduces complexities in communication. Neologisms reflect societal shifts and technological advancements, serving as linguistic markers that encapsulate cultural and social dynamics. While they enhance expressiveness and fill lexical gaps, their emergence can lead to confusion and misunderstandings due to varying degrees of acceptance and understanding across different demographics. This analysis highlights the dual role of neologisms in both enriching linguistic expression and posing challenges to clear communication, underscoring the need for careful integration into mainstream language to avoid potential miscommunications.

Keywords: neologisms, language evolution, social media, technology, miscommunication, sociolinguistics, cultural dynamics.

Language is a dynamic and evolving entity, continuously shaped by various cultural forces. Among these, pop culture stands out as a significant driver in the development of language, influencing it through the creation of new words and



expressions known as neologisms. These neologisms emerge from diverse areas including movies, television shows, music, and increasingly, social media. They significantly shape how we think, communicate, and understand each other.

Neologisms are new lexical entries that gain currency within a language, reflecting ongoing cultural and societal shifts. As pop culture permeates various aspects of daily life, it catalyzes the creation of such terms, making them a potent force in language evolution. While neologisms can enhance communication by offering new ways to describe modern phenomena, they also present challenges, particularly in terms of ambiguity and miscommunication.

For instance, the term “manspreading,” which describes the practice of a man sitting on public transport with his legs wide apart, encapsulates a specific social behavior that has sparked discussions about gender etiquette in public spaces (Saxena, 2017). Similarly, “microaggression” was coined to articulate subtle forms of often unintentional discrimination, providing a linguistic tool for discussing complex social dynamics (Sue et al., 2007).

These terms do more than expand the lexicon; they offer new ways to frame and understand contemporary issues. They also reflect broader societal trends, such as the increasing sensitivity towards social justice and inclusivity. For example, “cisgender” emerged to describe individuals whose gender identity matches their biological sex, born from a growing recognition of transgender rights and issues.

Technological advancements significantly contribute to the development of neologisms. The digital age, characterized by the rise of the internet and social media, has been particularly prolific in generating new terms. Words like “selfie,” “hashtag,” “tweet,” and “meme” have all entered common usage, shaped by our interactions with technology. Each term started as a neologism and has now become integral to the digital lexicon, highlighting how technological contexts can accelerate the adoption of new language.

Pop culture also fuels neologism creation through media such as television, movies, and music. Phrases coined in popular songs or blockbuster films often



transcend their original contexts to become part of everyday language. For example, the term “binge-watch,” which describes the act of watching several episodes of a television series in one sitting, originated from video-on-demand services and has now entered common parlance (Aguilar, 2016).

While neologisms can enrich language, their introduction is not without issues. New terms can lead to confusion, especially if they are not widely accepted or understood. This was evident with the term “meme,” coined in 1976 but not popularized until decades later with the advent of internet culture. Its initial obscurity led to widespread misunderstanding about its meaning and usage (Oxford English Dictionary, 2013).

Misunderstandings can occur when neologisms cross cultural and linguistic boundaries without adequate explanation. This necessitates a period of adaptation during which the meanings of new terms are negotiated within the language community. Over time, successful neologisms become fully integrated into the language, often filling gaps in the lexicon that previously existed.

Neologisms also play a critical role in reflecting and shaping societal values. They can act as markers of cultural identity and group belonging, often emerging among specific social groups before spreading to wider society. Additionally, they can serve as tools for social critique and resistance. For example, “mansplaining” has gained traction as a critique of gender dynamics in communication, encapsulating a specific form of patronizing explanation that some men direct at women. The development of slang and informal language is closely tied to neologism creation. Informal language allows for expressive flexibility and innovation, often leading to the birth of neologisms that capture new concepts or phenomena succinctly. Slang, in particular, provides a fertile ground for such creativity, reflecting and reinforcing social bonds among users.

As pop culture continues to evolve, its impact on language will undoubtedly persist, with new neologisms regularly entering the discourse. These terms not only enrich our language but also challenge us to engage with and understand the changing



world around us. They encapsulate complex social phenomena, technological innovations, and cultural shifts, all while influencing how we think and communicate.

The dynamic interplay between language and culture ensures that as long as there are changes in society, there will be evolutions in the language we use. Neologisms are at the forefront of this process, continuously shaping and reshaping the landscape of communication. They serve not only as linguistic tools but also as cultural artifacts, providing insight into the zeitgeist of our times and the endless creativity of human expression.

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IMPROVING STUDENTS' SPEAKING SKILL THROUGH PROJECTBASED LEARNING FOR A2 LEVEL STUDENTS

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Abstract

This research is aimed at improving the speaking skills of a group of schoolchildren who participated in the experiment through Project Based Learning. This study started by taking a pre-test from the students to determine the initial knowledge level of the students, and at the end of the