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DEVELOPMENT AND FUNCTIONING OF COMPUTER NEOLOGISMS IN MODERN ENGLISH

Introduction. With the technical progress and the advent of the Internet a huge number of new language units – neologisms – appeared in English, especially in the IT sphere. It has led to the language vocabulary enrichment and changing its semantic structure [10].

Review of recent publications. Many research works of such linguists as A. Metcalf, I. Danilova, M. Kozak, Yu.A. Honest, D. Crystal and others are devoted to the study of neologisms [4; 6; 8]. However, the problem of the emergence, formation and functioning of neologisms in the computer sphere remains ambiguous and demands being further investigated.

There is still no a complete definition of the term “neologism”. Scientists just emphasize on the novelty of a word. I. Danilova interprets the term as “... a new word, linguistic novelty, a grammatical feature that appears in the language” [4]. M. Kozak adds that the novelty of a neologism “is understood by the speakers” [4].

So, after we have examined the main tendencies of the interpretation of the term “neologism”, we can assume that the computer neologism is a word or a phrase that

appeared in the vocabulary to denote a new concept in the computer industry and it is perceived and understood by speakers.

Objectives of the paper are to determine the mechanism of neologisms appearance and functioning in the computer and Internet spheres and their interaction with commonly used vocabulary.

Results of the research. Following the ideas of A. Metcalf we distinguished five main factors that allow neologism to enter the active vocabulary of the language. They are: the frequency of usage; “unobtrusiveness”; a wide range of situations and a significant number of people who use new words; the ability to produce new word forms and create new meanings; and the “use” of the concept [7: 63].

There are two kinds of neologisms: a) lexical neologisms that are absolutely new words both in the meaning and in the spelling; and b) semantic neologisms – the ones with new meanings of already existing words [8: 228].

After computer neologisms had been investigated, we have identified their several lexical-semantic groups:

- lexical units that represent the types and components of the computer structure (e.g., port, system unit, hardware, disk controller, etc.);
- lexical units denoting computer software (e.g., antivirus, software, Microsoft Excel, etc.);
- lexical units denoting actions related to work on the computer (e.g., programming, handshaking, disabled, delete, hung, grovel, etc.);
- lexical units that are related to the Internet (e.g., Internet, dot com, spam, search, etc).

I.M. Dyachenko and L.I. Shchetinin believe that the transition of a new word into the category of an independent lexical unit occurs through one of the homonymous meanings. For example, “cookie” (n.) – “home cookie” > “a small piece of data automatically created by the server on the user’s machine” [5: 137].

Some neologisms are formed by metaphorizing, e.g., “*mouse*” (n.) – “computer *mouse*” (value transferred by the similarity); “*to mousetrap*” – to put the mousetrap – “to program the website in such a way that the visitor cannot easily get out of it”, e.g., “if your browser is behaving strangely, you are “*mousetrapped*”.

Important sources of the vocabulary replenishment by neologisms in the Internet communication sphere are social networks (Facebook) and microblogs (Twitter).

Due to them such neologism as “*to connect*” appeared; it means that users, who subscribe to updates of famous people’s personal pages, acquire the content of having a desire to receive news from the idol: “*connect your any account with Facebook to start sharing with your Facebook Friends!*” [1]. “*To follow*” is used in the Twitter with the similar meaning to the verb “*connect*”. In a neutral context the verb means “to follow/follow someone”: “*well-known investor Marc Andreessen has produced a list of his favourite people to follow on Twitter*” [2].

The noun “*friend*” in social networks has a semantic shift. In the Internet environment a friend can become not only a person you know, but also a user with whom you communicate only in this network [1]: “*when you find and follow friends on Twitter, you will have the ability to view their status updates*” [2]. “*To share*” is used in the social media of Facebook, which means not only to share something, but

also to populate a news[1]: “before you can start sharing photos and videos from Instagram to Facebook, you need to link your Instagram account to Facebook one” [3]. “Tweet” (n., v.) gets a new meaning in Twitter.

It is used to refer to the actual communication process via Twitter as a channel for the information transmission [1]: “I posted a new tweet to Twitter about what I had for breakfast. Here are some ideas of funny things to tweet when you're out of ideas” [3].

Computer terms usage in everyday communication has become trendy and shows the one who uses them as an enlightened, witty and clever companion. For example, “she is multitasking” means “she deals with two things at a time”; “let’s go offline” means “let’s talk privately”; “he is living in hypertext” means “he has something to hide”. “Eyou later” says when they say goodbye. This phrase is made of an element “E” from “electronic” (as in e-mail) instead of the traditional “see you later” as a word game [8: 19].

Conclusion. In the computer sphere neologisms are used often by expanding the meaning of already existing words more than the emergence of completely new ones. In the case of computer neologisms, we often observe the process of terminology – a word transition from the commonly used vocabulary to terminology, and the process of determinologization – when a word returns back to the commonly used language with a new meaning.

The processes of neologism formation and functioning point the dynamism of the vocabulary and permeability of the boundaries between commonly used words and terminology.

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