Sources and Prospects of New English words

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Abstract. The development of the times and the progress of technology have injected a lot of fresh blood into the vocabulary of English. Vocabulary is the basic unit of language, and to grasp the development and changes of a language, we must first understand the direction of vocabulary changes. This study will analyze the direction of development and the characteristics of changes in new English vocabulary from three perspectives: the causes of new English vocabulary, word formation methods, and development trends. It is helpful to understand the changing characteristics of new vocabulary in time so that the public can master the language better.

Keywords: English neologisms; causes of production; word formation methods; development trends.

1. Introduction

All languages are constantly evolving and changing, rather than remaining static. English, as the most widely spoken language in the world, is constantly evolving as society evolves. One of the most intuitive phenomena in the development of English is the creation of new vocabulary in English. In the Internet era of the 21st century, all changes can be captured as quickly as possible. The creation of new things and new ideas has prompted people to create a new vocabulary for communication and exchange.

The article will briefly analyze the reasons for the emergence of new English vocabulary, word formation methods, and development trends.

2. History of New Words

2.1 Causes

The creation of new English vocabulary must be closely related to the latest changes and developments in society. Various developments in the political, economic, and cultural spheres all contribute to the creation of new vocabulary.

2.1.1 Political Changes

New words are created as a result of various new events in the political arena. Some of the new words created by political events are synthetic or derivative constructions. One of the well-known new words brought about by Britain's exit from the European Union is "Brexit", which is a combination of the words "Britain" and "exit". Exit" is a new word created by combining the words "Britain" and "exit". Those who advocate leaving the EU are called "Brexit" or "brexiteer". After the result of Brexit, the pound fell to its lowest level in more than thirty years and some people began to regret leaving the EU. The term "Regrexit" emerged. The word is a combination of the words "regret" and "exit", derived from "Brexit". Some of the new words are not originally new words, but they are new words with new meanings based on old words, thus contributing to the creation of new words.

In 2022, the scandal of the British Prime Minister's social gathering during the epidemic, which violated public health regulations, contrasted with the isolation of the majority of the population and the sense of loss brought about by the isolation, which led to the emergence of new meanings of old words, such as partygate, scandalbroke, Downing Street, and contravene. Partygate refers to the

scandal of social gatherings in Downing Street during the pandemic, contravening public health rules and contrasting markedly with most people's sense of isolation and loss.

2.1.2 Technology Development

With the continuous development and progress of technology, people's lifestyle has also undergone many changes. The popularity of the Internet has brought a lot of convenience to people's lives. For example, the booming take-out industry has made it possible for people to enjoy various kinds of food while sitting at home, and "take-out restaurants" have appeared in people's eyes. Our traditional payment methods have also changed dramatically due to the development of technology. "WeChat pay" and "Alipay" are new words in English. The emergence of WeChat and Alipay payments has greatly facilitated people's daily life. The popularity of the Internet has not only facilitated people's daily life but also enriched their entertainment. The emergence of various social media such as "Facebook", "Twitter" and "Instagram" has made it possible for people to keep up with the latest news and trends around the world without having to leave home. The emergence of social media such as "Facebook", "Twitter" and "Instagram" has made it possible for people to stay up-to-date with the latest news and trends around the world without leaving home.

In the past year of 2022, "lying flat on the stomach" and "quiet quitting" have become popular on social media as the global public health crisis erupts and people around the world become more aware of the latest trends. As the global public health crisis broke out, the mindset of people around the world gradually changed from "rolling inward" to "lying flat", and the action of "lying flat" is very similar to people's negative psychology of coping with everything. The action of "lying flat" is very similar to people's psychology of reacting negatively to everything. The growing practice of "quiet quitting" - doing basic duties at work but no more, in rejection of competitive careerism and out-of-hours emails - made the cut, as did "vibe shift", meaning a "significant change in the prevailing atmosphere or culture".

2.1.3 Social Issues

The development of technology and social progress has made people's life more convenient and colorful on the one hand and brought some social problems on the other. For example, the rapid development of the takeaway industry has facilitated people's lives, but the production of large amounts of white waste has caused huge and irreversible damage to our living environment. The word "Permacrisis" also reflects this serious global problem in the 2022 Collins Dictionary's top 10 words of the year. The word is defined as "an extended period of instability and insecurity", which some may argue is an accurate summary of the past few years. Collins said it chose the word as it "sums up quite succinctly how truly awful 2022 has been for so many people". The term "Permacrisis" is being used frequently in 2022 as the world grapples with the threats posed by public safety issues. Permacrisis tops a list of 10 words, six of them new entries in the dictionary, which represent 2022, Collins said.

The word "tank" also reflects a serious social problem - the economic downturn - in the 2022 Corinthian Dictionary's top 10 words of the year. The word "tank" is often used as a noun meaning "tank", but this year it often means "to perform badly, to decrease rapidly, to decline, to fall", referring to the economic downturn. For example, the common word "MeToo" has also been given a new meaning. "Me Too" is a campaign launched by actress Alyssa Milano and others in response to the sexual assault scandal of American gold producer Harvey Weinstein, calling on all women who have been sexually assaulted to come forward and speak out about their experiences as a way to draw society's attention to women's safety issues.

2.2 Word Formation Methods

The definition of neologism in the Oxford Dictionary is "a new word or expression or a new meaning of a word". From the definition, we can see that neologism is not always a brand-new word that people have never come across before. Many new words are not created by people out of thin air, but by building on existing words. The most traditional methods of word formation are

combining, blending, deriving, and simplifying new words. In addition, new words can be created by borrowing exonyms or by giving new meanings to old words.

2.2.1 Traditional Word Formation

Traditional word formation refers to the modification of the original word to form a new word in terms of morphological structure. The four main ones are as follows: 1) Combination. The combination is the combination of two or more words with complete meaning into one word. The words such as "deadline", "download", "housework", " downtown" and so on people are familiar with are new English words formed by the combination method. With the development of the Internet, some new words reflecting the characteristics of today's times have come into our sight, and among these new words, many of them use the combination method. For example, the word "binge-watch" combines the words "binge" and "watch" together, meaning a group of people who are crazy about watching TV shows. Another example is "keyboard-man", which refers to people who are dissatisfied with their real life and comment on others or certain social phenomena on the Internet. 2) Blending. Blending differs from the synthesis in that it takes parts of two words and combines them to form a new word. For example, some words like "brunch", "smog", "motel", etc. are words that take a part of two words and combine them to form a new word. These words have been widely used in our daily life. Nowadays, the development of technology has led to the emergence of more new words. For example, the development of smartphones has led to the emergence of "phubbers", and the corresponding word "phubber" has appeared in English. This word is a mixture of "phone" and "snubber". 3) Derivation. The derivation is the process of adding a prefix or suffix to a root word to create a new word, and many English words are created using derivation. For example, by adding the suffixes "-ly" and "-ship" to the word "friend", we get two new derivatives "friendly" and "friendship". The derivation method has greatly enriched the vocabulary of English. The word "selfie", which has become very popular in recent years, is derived by adding the suffix "ie" after the root word "self". 4) Abbreviations. As the pace of modern life continues to accelerate, people pursue a more efficient and convenient life. Simplification and abbreviation are gradually becoming popular trends. Common ways of abbreviating words are letter omission, initial synthesis, and harmonic substitution. For faster recording and easier communication, people use letter omission to omit some letters in a word and keep the important consonant letters. For example, pro-professor, tmr-tomorrow, plz-please, asap-as soon as possible, etc. Initial Compounding is the most common type of abbreviation in English, usually taking the first letter of each word and combining them. For example, AFAIK -as far as I know, BTW -by the way, BBL-be back later, and other similar acronyms have been widely used in people's daily communication conversations. The harmonic substitution method refers to replacing the word with a number or letter that sounds similar to the English word. For example, CU-see you, F2F-face-to-face, 4ever-forever, etc.

2.2.2 Foreign Words

The sources of new vocabulary in English are certainly not limited to the internal vocabulary of the English language itself. In the process of communicating with other languages, many foreign words have been introduced into the English vocabulary due to the fierce sparks from the different cultures of other countries. These words were gradually assimilated and accepted with the deepening of mutual cultural exchanges, and thus became new words in English. From the Renaissance onward, English borrowed a large number of words from Greek and Latin. Today, as countries around the world become more connected, English has also begun to borrow words from some Asian countries. For example, English has borrowed tsunami, sushi, kimono, tatami, karoshi, etc. from the Japanese. English has borrowed "tae, kwon, do" from Korea. English also borrows many words from Chinese, such as kung fu, tofu, feng shui, kowtow, etc.

2.2.3 Old Words with New Meanings

The development of the economy and society has brought us many new science, technology, and ideas. People are overwhelmed by all kinds of new things. To facilitate the definition and naming of new things, people began to use a convenient way, that is, old words with new meanings, that is, using the old words and giving them new meanings. This method not only saves time but also relieves people's memory pressure. There are four main ways to give new meaning to old words. Transformation of word nature; transfer of word meaning; expansion or contraction of word meaning; and ascending or descending of word meaning.

A lexical shift is a change in the lexical nature of a word without a change in its form. In this case, the most common use is the transformation of a noun into a verb. For example, "Google" originally referred to the name of the Google search engine. But with the rapid development of Google in the field of Internet search engines, "Google" not only refers to the name of the company, but it also began to become a synonym for the word "search". In this process, the lexical nature of the word "google" has changed, and a noun has been transformed into a verb. There are many other examples of noun-verbalization. For example, in social networking software, the word "friend" not only means the noun "friend", but also the action of "adding friends" in online social networking.

A shift in meaning is when the extension of the new meaning of a word breaks away from the original meaning and enters a different context. For example, the word "bug" originally meant "bedbug", but now it means "a bug in a system or program". Another example is that "gammon" originally meant cured ham, but now it is used to describe those angry "Leave" supporters who are red in the face.

The expansion of the meaning of the word means that the original meaning of the word has been changed to reflect a larger range of objects than the original. For example, the word "lady" originally meant "mistress", then "educated woman", and now it means "any woman "The meaning of the word is constantly expanding. The narrowing of the meaning of the word means that the original meaning of the word has been changed to reflect a smaller range of objects than the original. For example, "wife" is narrowed from the old meaning of "woman" to "wife".

Word elevation is when a word that was originally pejorative is used to mean something good. For example, "awesome" used to mean "terrible, awesome", but now the word has been upgraded to "excellent". Degradation is when a word that was originally positive is used to refer to something bad. For example, the original meaning of "flame" is "flame", but now it is degraded to "bad information war on the Internet". For example, the word "cunning" originally meant "knowledgeable, skillful", but now it means "cunning".

3. Development Trend of New English Words

3.1 More Concise Language

With the continuous development of society, the pace of people's life is also accelerating. To improve efficiency, concise language is accepted by more and more people, which is one of the reasons why acronyms are becoming more and more prevalent. Acronyms undoubtedly improve the speed of information transmission in the process of people's communication, but sometimes the words are too concise, and they can make people have trouble understanding rational language. For example, ICU (I see you) is often used by people in Internet chats. However, if people are not familiar with this abbreviation, it can be confused with the medical term ICU (intensive care unit) and cause misunderstanding.

3.2 Increased Weight of Technology Vocabulary

With the flourishing of science and technology, new inventions and concepts are constantly emerging, and with them come fresh new words in science and technology. Today's new words are mostly combinations of words, including many acronyms. For example, "the 5th generation mobile

communication" (5G), "virtual reality" (VR), and "head mount display" (5G). "head mount display" (HMD, head-mounted visual device), "intelligent appliance" (IA, information appliance), etc. In today's information age, science and technology are booming. Therefore, the proportion of new words in English will become bigger and bigger afterward.

3.3 Broader Sources

English neologisms come from a wide range of sources, not only in the sense that they arise from all areas of social life, but also in the sense that English neologisms refer to many foreign languages. English, as a common language throughout the world, plays an important role in communication between countries. In this process of communication, English also collides with the languages of other countries, and a large number of foreign words are introduced into the English language system and gradually accepted by people, thus becoming new English words. For example, "hot pot" is from Chinese; "paparazzi" is from Italian; "karoshi" is from Japan; and "taek" is from Japan. The word "karoshi" is from Japanese, and "taekwondo" is from Korean.

4. Summary

Vocabulary is the basic unit of language. To grasp the development of a language, we must first study how the vocabulary of the language has developed and evolved. With the development of the times and the progress of science and technology, a new vocabulary has emerged in English. The emergence of these new vocabularies is inseparable from the development and changes in various fields such as politics, economy, and culture. The study of the reasons for the emergence of new English vocabulary, word formation methods, and development trends is important for us to further study the development and changes of English as a language.

Acknowledgment

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