

CONCEPTUAL FORMULATION OF NEOLOGISMS IN VARIOUS DICTIONARIES AND LANGUAGES

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Abstract:

The scientific work analyses the given definitions for the term neologism in various dictionaries of Macedonian language, other Slavic and non-Slavic languages, as well as in primary school Macedonian language textbooks. In addition, there is also an interpretation of the role of, both, time and lexicographic criterion in the definition of neologisms.

Keywords: neologism, scientific work, dictionary, language. Macedonian language, non-Slavic languages, electronic edition, Serbian.

Introduction

In the analyzed dictionaries of Macedonian language, other Slavic and non-Slavic languages, on the one hand, there is compatibility between the given definitions for the term neologism, but, on the other hand, those definitions are too general, therefore, lacking precision, as a result of which it is very difficult to determine what the term neologism should signify. Furthermore, the analysis of Macedonian language textbooks in primary school shows a degree of imprecision, incompatibility and inconsistency regarding the definition of neologisms, and as a result, it is difficult to define the meaning of the term neologism. All things considered, the previously mentioned reasons might lead to inaccurate conclusions which has an influence on the assimilation of neologisms by students. The article reveals a possible classification of neologisms and on basis of the analysis it represents the attempt to reach more general conclusions.

In light of the article’s objective, our starting point concerns, the utilization of a word for at least fifteen years and its presence in the dictionaries. Both of these points are considered sufficient for the word not to be accepted as a neologism. The definitions used for the term neologism are excerpted from print and electronic editions of Macedonian language dictionaries, dictionaries of other Slavic and non-Slavic languages and from Macedonian language textbooks from sixth and seventh grade for eight-year primary education. In the beginning, there is an analysis of dictionaries which refers to the compatibility regarding the given definitions for the term neologism, as well as to the conclusions that can be reached. Next, the material in Macedonian language textbooks for primary education is analyzed concerning the level of compatibility between the given explanations for the definition of neologisms and the illustrated examples. Then, taking the time and lexicographic criteria interpretation into account, explanation for certain inaccurate conclusions from the written text in some textbooks is provided, which would, surely,



influence the accurate assimilation of neologisms by students. There is an attempt to reach more general conclusions which would ease the conceptual formulation of neologisms, as well as an attempt at a possible classification of neologisms as a result of the indicated literature analysis.

To begin with, the printed and electronic editions of Macedonian language dictionaries, as well as the dictionaries of other Slavic, and non-Slavic languages are examined, so as to determine the variations in definitions regarding the term neologism. In the Dictionary of Macedonian Language with Serbo-Croatian Interpretations - printed in three volumes and published in 1961, 1965 and 1966; however, here we use the edition of 1986 in which the text from the first edition is reproduced without changes - the term neologism is defined as “a new word or expression”. In the “Толковий рисунок на македонски јазик” (TRMJ, 2006, p. 358) [Monolingual Dictionary of Macedonian Language], neologism is defined as “a new word, a new expression or a new meaning of an existing word in the language”. In the Dictionary of Foreign Words in the Macedonian Language, meaning of the term neologism is as follows: “a new word, a newly created word in the language, which slightly deviates from the usual manner of creating words of that kind with its form”. In the Lexicon of Foreign Words and Expressions, there is the following definition: “a new word created according to the pattern of foreign languages, a coinage, an old word with a new meaning”.

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Despite the lack of precision, the definitions for the term neologism in the previously mentioned dictionaries imply consistency on account of it being mainly defined as a new word in all of them. On the one hand, the fact that, in dictionaries, there can only be given a short definition of the words is taken into consideration. However, on the other hand, those definitions initiate a series of questions which hold necessary answers for a more precise understanding. For instance, the manner in which the speakers of the Macedonian language interpret the noun phrase “new word” or the way they determine whether a word is new is not precise and specific. Furthermore, some



of the previously mentioned dictionaries state that the term neologism also refers to a new meaning of an existing or an old word, but this criterion is neither precise nor specific, because every new meaning of an existing or an old word does not necessarily classify the word as a neologism, which brings us to our next point - this should be done by means of association, i.e. reconsideration, so that the connection between words is rendered a new meaning. This means that the connection between the words must be meaningful; otherwise, they would be homonyms, which by definition are “related only according to the sound and spelling and not according to any meaningful connection”. Thus, the following conclusion can be drawn: in the dictionaries, there is an indirect indication of one of the manners for creating neologisms that is accepted by the scientific study of the language. That is the creation with reconsideration, for example, ‘mouse as animal’ and ‘mouse as a computer device’. In the second meaning of the word ‘mouse as a computer device’ is not present, and the first volume of TRMJ was published in 1997. It has not been introduced in the TRMJ yet. Nevertheless, the “Поимник на македонски здорови од информатекста технологија” (2009, p. 47) [Glossary of Macedonian Words in the Field of Informatics Technology], which is considered an official document that contains words recommended for usage, states that the word divide ‘DVD’ is actually an abbreviation consisting of the first letters of the words digital video disk ‘digital video disk’ and the words digital, video and disk have all been introduced in the TRMJ. Therefore, this leads to the notion that abbreviations might be a distinct group of neologisms.

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Neologisms can also be compound words - a combination of two words that denote one idea drvo + red = drvored, ‘n. sing, a straight line of trees on both sides of a road’, avto + mehanicar = avtomehanicar ‘automechanic’) - as stated in the textbook. On account of the first word drvored being present in, both, RMJ and TRMJ, it cannot be accepted as a neologism. This process indicates the creation of compound nouns from two components - in this case, the noun drvo ‘tree’ + the noun red ‘line’ equals to the compound noun dryoared. This instance indirectly signifies the creation of neologisms by using elements from the native language. Such is the already mentioned word pecatac ‘printer’, for instance. In the word avtomecanicar ‘automechanic’ the word mehanicar ‘mechanic’ is considered a foreign word (Belcev, 2002, p. 401 and Vujaklija, 1980, p. 561) and avto- ‘auto-’ is the first part of foreign origin compound words with the following meanings: 1. of or by yourself and 2. relating to cars (TRMJ, 2003, p. 6). For that reason, although avtomehanicar ‘automechanic’ is not a neologism, its two components are of foreign origin. Accordingly, a neologism might be a compound word consisting of two foreign elements, such as printer ‘printer’ considering neologism in the period when it was created. In this textbook, as well as in the previous one the two types of neologisms (accepted and unaccepted) are concerned. However, the only deficiency is the lack of examples. All of this leads to the conclusion that authors regard the given examples as accepted neologisms. The accepted neologisms are defined differently in this part of the textbook. It is stated that: “accepted neologisms... are regularly used



in communication”.

Further on in the textbook, there is an exercise that asks from students to write sentences with the following words given as neologisms: vработuvanje ‘employment’, bran ‘wave’, kompromitiran ‘compromised’, legalno ‘legal’, stremez ‘aspiration’, polet ‘impetus’ ilegalno ‘illegal’, avtolimar ‘autotinsmith’ and renome ‘renown’ A significant part of these words are present in the RMJ and only two of them are not: vработuvanje ‘employment’ and avtolimar ‘autotinsmith’. They are, however, present in the TRMJ As previously stated, these words must have been widely used for a longer period of time by speakers of the Macedonian language so as to be present in the TRMJ, therefore they cannot be accepted as neologisms.

There is no explanation for the manner used to create neologisms in the textbook, but the words given in the exercise show that, some of them, for example, bran ‘wave’ are already existing in the language, in spite of having the meaning extended by means of association, i.e. by reconsideration. For instance, the word’s bran ‘wave’ new extended meaning would be: “every movement or appearance that comes one after another, that looks like a wave” However, regarding, both, the time and lexicographic criterion, i.e. the utilization of this word in a longer period of time and its presence in the TRMJ, it cannot be considered a neologism. The verb vработi ‘to employ’ was suggested as a substitute for the Serbian verb zaposliti ‘to employ’ around the end of 1970 by the well- known language expert and professor Krume Kepeski. The Macedonian verb vработi ‘to employ’

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To sum up appearance and disappearance of assimilated neologisms in the language is manifested in its adoption in the language or in dictionaries. If assimilated neologisms are accepted and used



by citizens of the society, these assimilated neologisms are also accepted in linguistics and lexicography. The emergence of assimilation neologisms plays an important role in the development and change of language. Before and after the Uzbek language was given the status of the state language, a number of journalists, even some linguists, instead of fully implementing the law on the state language, for a long time almost ignored some of its provisions. began to replace many of the terms used and absorbed into public discourse with newly misrepresented lexemes without studying their inner meaning.

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