

**THE ROLE OF NEOLOGISMS IN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE STUDIES:
INNOVATION, TRANSLATION, AND CULTURAL IDENTITY****Raximova Dilnoza Pardayevna**

Termiz davlat universiteti talabasi.

drakhimova@gmail.com<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17721928>

Abstract. Neologisms—newly coined words or novel uses of existing terms—serve as vital intersections of linguistic creativity, cultural expression, and ideological meaning-making in literary texts. This study explores the role of neologisms in comparative literature, emphasizing their functions as markers of authorial innovation, tools for worldbuilding, and challenges in translation. Drawing on corpus-based research, cognitive translation theory, and case studies from modernist fiction to contemporary dystopian literature, this article demonstrates how neologisms operate as critical nodes where style, ideology, and cross-cultural reception converge. Integrated methodological approaches combining corpus analysis, conceptual blending frameworks, and reception studies are proposed to advance comparative literary scholarship. Attention to neologisms illuminates broader questions of literary creativity, cultural identity, and the dynamics of power in global literary circulation.

Keywords: neologisms, comparative literature, literary translation, linguistic innovation, worldbuilding, cultural identity, translation strategies, corpus linguistics

Аннотация. Неологизмы — вновь созданные слова или новые значения уже существующих терминов — представляют собой важные точки пересечения языкового творчества, культурного выражения и идеологического смыслообразования в литературных текстах. В данном исследовании рассматривается роль неологизмов в сравнительном литературоведении, с акцентом на их функции как маркеров авторского новаторства, инструментов построения художественного мира и проблемных элементов в переводе. Опираясь на корпусные исследования, когнитивную теорию перевода и анализ кейсов — от модернистской прозы до современной антиутопической литературы — автор показывает, что неологизмы функционируют как ключевые узлы, где пересекаются стиль, идеология и межкультурная рецепция. Для развития сравнительных литературных исследований предлагается комплексный методологический подход, включающий корпусный анализ, модель концептуального смешения и методы исследования читательской рецепции. Анализ неологизмов позволяет глубже понять вопросы литературного творчества, культурной идентичности и динамики власти в глобальной литературной циркуляции.

Ключевые слова: неологизмы, сравнительное литературоведение, литературный перевод, языковая инновация, мировостроение, культурная идентичность, переводческие стратегии, корпусная лингвистика

Annotatsiya. Neologizmlar — yangi yaratilgan soʻzlar yoki mavjud birliklarga berilgan yangi maʼnolar — adabiy matnlarda lingvistik ijodkorlik, madaniy ifoda va ideologik maʼno yaratishning muhim kesishuv nuqtalarini tashkil qiladi. Ushbu tadqiqotda neologizmlarning qiyosiy adabiyotshunoslikdagi roli koʻrib chiqilib, ularning mualliflik yangiliklarining belgisi, badiiy dunyo yaratish vositasi va tarjimada murakkablik tugʻdiruvchi birlik sifatidagi funksiyalariga urgʻu beriladi. Korpus tadqiqotlari, kognitiv tarjima nazariyasi va zamonaviy distopiya hamda modernistik adabiyotdan olingan misollar asosida maqola neologizmlarning uslub, ideologiya va madaniyatlararo qabul jarayonlarida tutgan markaziy oʻrnini yoritadi.

Qiyosiy adabiyot tadqiqotlarini rivojlantirish uchun korpus tahlili, kontseptual aralashuv modeli va o'quvchi qabulini o'rganish asosidagi kompleks metodologik yondashuv taklif etiladi.

Neologizmlarni o'rganish adabiy ijod, madaniy identitet va global adabiy aylanishdagi kuch dinamikasi bilan bog'liq yanada kengroq masalalarni tushunishga yordam beradi.

Kalit so'zlar: neologizmlar, qiyosiy adabiyot, adabiy tarjima, lingvistik innovatsiya, badiiy dunyo yaratish, madaniy identitet, tarjima strategiyalari, korpus lingvistika

1. Introduction

Neologisms—authorial coinages and newly repurposed words—hold a distinctive position in literary studies. They are simultaneously linguistic innovations, aesthetic choices, and cultural artifacts that encode worldviews, challenge conventions, and create meaning that often resists straightforward translation [1]. From Lewis Carroll's chortle and galumph to Margaret Atwood's dystopian vocabulary in *The Handmaid's Tale*, neologisms allow writers to construct fictional realities, express cultural difference, and engage in ideological critique.

In comparative literature, neologisms present both opportunities and challenges. They offer insight into the creative processes shaping literary language across traditions, revealing how writers negotiate the boundaries between linguistic convention and innovation. At the same time, they pose recurrent analytical and translational difficulties, as their meaning, function, and aesthetic effect may not transfer readily across languages, genres, or historical moments.

1.1 Defining Neologisms

Literary neologisms can be categorized as follows:

Lexical neologisms: Entirely new words created through compounding, derivation, or blending.

Semantic neologisms: Existing words assigned new meanings or used in novel contexts.

Stylistic neologisms: Creative manipulation of morphology, syntax, or orthography to produce innovative linguistic forms.

Nonce formations: One-time coinages specific to a particular text or context.

These categories often overlap; many literary neologisms combine formal innovation, semantic novelty, and stylistic distinctiveness simultaneously.

1.2 Comparative Literature Imperative

Studying neologisms requires a comparative approach due to:

Cross-linguistic variation: Word-formation capacities differ across languages, affecting neologism creation and translation.

Genre conventions: Use of neologisms varies across genres, from science fiction to modernist experimental literature.

Historical evolution: Reception and translatability of neologisms shift over time.

Cultural specificity: Neologisms often encode culturally specific concepts that require contextual understanding.

Comparative literature provides frameworks and tools to examine these dimensions systematically, treating neologisms as intersections of style, ideology, and reception.

2. Historical Development and Theoretical Foundations

2.1 From Descriptive to Theoretical Approaches

Early scholarship focused on cataloging and classifying neologisms, documenting word-formation processes, and describing translation solutions [3]. Later research shifted toward theoretical modeling, explaining creative and translational processes.

Corpus-based studies examine patterns across texts and translations, revealing tendencies in how translators handle neologisms [4].

2.2 Cognitive Frameworks: Conceptual Blending Theory

Conceptual Blending Theory explains how translators reconstruct novel lexical frames across languages [5]. Understanding neologisms requires integrating multiple mental spaces: the source language frame, target language resources, genre conventions, and contextual knowledge.

Translators must analyze conceptual structures, identify available frames, assess overlaps, and select appropriate blending strategies.

2.3 Genre-Specific Models

Dystopian and science fiction literature often employ:

Euphemistic compounds (e.g., Orwell's Newspeak).

Technical-sounding derivations giving authority to fictional systems.

Semantic shifts repurposing familiar words with new meanings.

These genre-specific models map word-formation tendencies to thematic and ideological functions [6][7].

2.4 Translator Agency

Contemporary translation studies recognize translators as co-creators, capable of generating target-language neologisms equivalent to source coinages [8]. This approach emphasizes:

Translator creativity as a legitimate literary act.

The target text as an independent artifact with aesthetic integrity.

Translation as an ideological act shaping cultural reception.

3. Functions of Neologisms

3.1 Linguistic Innovation and Aesthetic Experimentation

Neologisms demonstrate linguistic creativity, showcasing language systems' productive potential. Modernist writers like James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, and Thomas Mann used neologisms to challenge conventional literary language [4]. Joyce's *Finnegans Wake* exemplifies extreme multilingual portmanteau words blending semantics, phonetics, and languages, creating defamiliarization effects and distinctive stylistic signatures.

3.2 Worldbuilding and Fictional Reality

In speculative fiction, neologisms contribute to worldbuilding, naming technologies, social structures, and cultural concepts. For example, Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* introduces soma, Bokanovsky's Process, and feelies, encoding dystopian society values and promoting estrangement [7]. Translators use strategies like literal translation, borrowing, or lexical substitution, balancing source opacity with target comprehensibility.

3.3 Cultural Expression and Identity Formation

Neologisms often encode culturally specific concepts, particularly in:

Postcolonial literature (hybrid terms blending colonizer and indigenous languages).

Minority language writing (asserting linguistic identity).

Diaspora literature (expressing transcultural experiences).

Translators negotiate between domestication and foreignization, considering ideological implications [9].

3.4 Ideological Resistance

Neologisms can serve political critique. Orwell's *Newspeak* exposes linguistic control in politics [10].

Contemporary terms reveal hidden power relations, satirize political rhetoric, and imagine emancipatory alternatives. Translators must understand cultural and political contexts to preserve critical effects.

4. Translation Challenges and Strategies

4.1 Typology

Common strategies include borrowing, literal translation, target neologism creation, lexical substitution, explanatory paraphrase, and omission. Each strategy balances comprehension, stylistic effect, and innovation preservation.

4.2 Case Studies

Modernist Fiction: Thomas Mann's *Der Tod in Venedig* – English retranslations often normalize neologisms [4].

American Literature: Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick* – Danish translators prefer converting neologisms to non-neologisms for comprehension [11].

Children's Literature: Astrid Lindgren's *Pippi Longstocking* – British and American translations differ in strategies, affecting characterization and humor [12].

Science Fiction: Diachronic patterns show that some neologisms become borrowed or replaced as concepts globalize [1].

4.3 Cognitive and Pragmatic Factors

Factors include conceptual frame availability, reader inference, genre expectations, text function, and publication context. Conceptual Blending Theory explains how translators bridge source and target conceptual systems [5].

5. Methodological Approaches

5.1 Corpus-Based Methods

Parallel corpora: Compare strategies across texts and translators.

Comparable corpora: Examine genre and cultural differences.

Retranslation corpora: Track diachronic changes and translator creativity [1][4].

5.2 Cognitive Analysis

Analyze conceptual structures, frames, blending patterns, and equivalence to understand translation decisions [5].

5.3 Reception Studies

Assess comprehension, acceptability, and adaptation in multimodal contexts [13].

5.4 Integrated Frameworks

Combine corpus, cognitive, reception studies, and close reading for holistic insights [13].

6. Contemporary Trends

Digital literature: Accelerates neologism circulation via social media, memes, and interactive texts [14].

Globalization: English neologisms spread worldwide; translation hubs mediate [15].

Multilingual writing: Code-mixing, translanguing wordplay, and self-translation challenge translators [8].

Political neology: Identity, resistance, and activist language require culturally aware translation [9][10].

7. Conclusion

Neologisms illuminate literary creativity, linguistic innovation, cultural identity, and cross-cultural communication. They require translators to balance fidelity and creativity, highlighting the dynamic relationship between language, literature, and culture.

Comparative literature benefits from methodological pluralism, integrating corpus analysis, cognitive frameworks, and reception studies to understand neologism creation and translation.

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