

LINGUISTIC TERMINOLOGY: FORMATION PRINCIPLES

The aim of this paper is to describe the formation principles of modern linguistic terms. The main trends in term formation are described. Examples of abbreviation, acronyms, blends, loan words and metaphors are presented in the article. The cognitive aspect of linguistic terms are described in the article.

INTRODUCTION

The development of terminology started in the first half of the 20th century. To investigate new terms linguists and experts needed to invent appropriate methods and approaches. New phenomena and scientific changes as a result of the technical progress were denoted by novel terms [7, p. 8]. Novel concepts and terms make the development of language a continuous process which has recently become more intensive. This leads to the formation of terms for a particular occasion and also via translation. Thus, “there is a lack of constantly upgraded LSP dictionaries, unified terminological registers and databases” [7, p. 8].

Language for specific purposes (LSP)

Language for Specific Purposes (LSP) should be regarded in opposition to Language for General Purposes (LGP). LGP is used to exchange ideas in everyday communication whereas LSP deals with specialised fields of knowledge. It consists of the number of specialised terms, which are combined in a particular way. LSP is characterised by specialised vocabulary along with collocations [1, p. 126].

The range of specialised vocabulary is diverse and can be presented by neologisms, abbreviations, acronyms, blends, loan words, metaphors, etc.

According to Rey [8], the “novelty” of the unit is the main feature for defining a neologism, and identifying the neological status of a lexical unit. Rey distinguishes two levels of neology: individual or dialectal which refers to the creation of units for the user’s communication purposes, and lexicological and

lexicographical when a novel unit appears in the lexicon [8, p. 8]. Pecman considers Rey's study essential because it allows "to disentangle the part of ambiguity, which stems from the hybrid vision of neologisms either as forms accepted by the language users, or as nonce productions in the discourse" [6, p. 5].

Abbreviated neologism falls into three categories: acronym, clipping, and blending. Acronym consists of the initial components in a phrase or a word, and is more space saving, and eye-catching. Clipping deals with the reduction of a word to one of its parts, the most common type is apocope in which the beginning of the prototype is retained. Blends combine lexemes to form a new word. Loan word is a word borrowed from a source language and incorporated into a recipient language without translation [10, p. 293].

The specialised linguistic vocabulary contains various lexical units. Acronyms are: *RP* (*Received Pronunciation*), *TT* (*Target Text*), *ST* (*Source Text*), *ADS* (*American Dialect Society*), *AE* (*American English*), *ESL* (*English as Second Language*), *MLA* (*Modern Language Association*). Blends can be illustrated by such terms, as: *Lexicography*, *Sociolinguistics*, *Psycholinguistics*, *Macrolinguistics*, *Spanglish*, *Frenglish*, *slanguage*, etc. Loan words: *chronotope* (Russian), *Gesamtbedeutung* (German), *Aktionsart* (German), *Algorithm* (Arabic), *alveolar* (Latin), *Sentimentalism* (Greek).

The modern trends in term formation in linguistics

Terminology is based on semantics, the meaning of the terms are groups of units representing objects in the real world, the specialists use terms to express their thoughts, represent themselves, and organize the structure of their disciplines. We can describe the term in three aspects, first, linguistically, second, cognitively, and finally, communicatively, we can represent any sign with its meaning by three axes, the form, the meaning, and the referent it represents. We can analyse the terms according to their relation between each other, and this relation can be examined on each axes, from the form we can access to the formal system which make us build new words and expressions, and this formal system includes units

(words and elements) and set of term formation rules which restrict their combination [2, p. 38].

Term formation is the most important subject for many of the terminologists, translators, and also the specialists. Term formation depends on the lexical, morphosyntactic, and phonological structures of individual language. Each language has its own rule, language specific conventions dictate whether the term will consist of a single lexical element or several morphological elements, combined to form a new unit.

There are two kinds of term formation, one is the primary and the other is the secondary term. We can distinguish between them because the primary term formation occurs when a newly created concept has to be named, it results from the appearance of the concept, there is no linguistic precedent, although the rules of forming terms usually exist in the given language, on the other hand secondary term formation occurs when a new term is created for an existing concept [5, p. 45-46].

Thus, there are three cases to make a new term:

1) As a result of transferring knowledge and information to another linguistic community, this case is more interesting for translators;

2) As a result of the discovery of the new term (new entity in the same subject field) such as (*telephone is now referring to as landline following to the discovery of the mobile telephone*);

3) As a result of the revision of the term in the framework of a single monolingual community (the creation of a term in the context of the normative document (standard) [5, p. 45-46].

The traditional approach to the vocabulary of special language is likely to be rejected by socioterminology. Studying terminology in texts implies the investigation of real language usage [9, p. 32].

One of the main trends in term formation is metaphorisation, which means “a transfer of meaning based on similarity and expansion of a semantic kernel of the word” [4, p. 51-52].

According to J. Lakoff there are two types of metaphors, one is structural and the other is orientational. The first kind means that metaphor describes the concept of one subject row by means of another based on their similarities. Orientational metaphors are based on spatial orientation [3, p. 202-251].

According to the experientialist theory metaphorisation is achieved by partial mapping of some ICM (Idealised Cognitive Model) structure in the source domain onto a corresponding structure in a target domain [9, p. 164-165].

There are many examples of metaphorical linguistics terms : *Black comedy, Broken rhyme, Closet drama, Code switching, Daughter languages, Dead metaphor, Dub poetry, Eye rhyme, Family of languages.*

Thus, further analysis of metaphorical terms of linguistics can reveal the mechanisms of creative thinking in the process of term formation.

CONCLUSION

The formation of linguistic terms depends on the concepts they denote. Along with abbreviated forms and borrowings, there exist metaphorical terms. Further investigation of term formation reasons would be important for linguists and researchers to understand the nature of specialised conceptualisation and categorisation.

References

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