

STRUCTURAL AND SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF NEOLOGISM IN CHINESE LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT

The article is devoted to neologism structure studying in Chinese language and investigation of semantic relations between new words of Chinese language. The article presents ways of neologism formation, models of neologism composition and groups of neologisms, pointed out based on belonging to a particular structural type. Using analyses and comparison, we investigated neologisms dictionaries. Additionally, the article presents a new group of new words in Chinese language – neosemantisms. The main result of this investigation shows the systematization of neologism in Chinese language. The materials of this investigation can be useful for writing of dictionary of neologisms in Chinese language. Moreover, during Chinese classes the materials of this article can be productive for students with precise level of language mastery for reading newspapers on Chinese language, because this investigation reveals the present-day vocabulary of Chinese language, which can be used by students when they have problems with understanding of articles in Chinese newspapers.

Key words: linguistic, neologisms; structural analysis; word-building models; Internet-words, sinology, Chinese.

INTRODUCTION

In any language in the course of scientific and technological progress, we can observe changes in different areas of language. However, the most significant changes are noticed in lexical structure of language: continuous renovation and enlargement, reflection of fundamental changes in life of society. Additionally, the lexical language level permanently enlarges with a great amount of new units of language. As a result of appearance of new things in life of humanity there is a problem of its designation in oral and written speech as well as translation from one language to another in order to support and develop intercultural communication. Thus, there are new words in language – neologisms, whose the main function is to denote new things in process of communication. Because all of this reasons the new words, neologisms, appears in language.

However, before providing this investigation, it is necessary to give the definition for neologisms. There are a great number of such definitions in works of Russian, English and Chinese scientists.

In scientific works of N.M. Shamansky, O.S. Ahmanova, D.A. Rozental, M.A. Telenkova and V.I. Kylikova [12; 4; 11] also the problem of appearance of new words in Chinese language is studied. With help of analyses of these works, we manage to give the definition of neologisms: “neologism is word in language or speech, which is considered to be new in its form and context.

The other definitions of neologisms. The most common definitions are the three definitions given by Wan Tie kun, Dao Yan Bin and Yao Hanmin:

«为了适应社会生活的变革和科学文化发展的需要，利用已有的构词材料，按照汉语的构词规律新创造出来的词和语。新词语是指一个新创造的或从其他语言中，从本民族语言的方言词、古语词和行业语种借用过来的词语，也指一个产生了新语义、新用法的固有词» [13; 14; 15].

From these definitions we understand that neologism is the new words and expressions created on the basis of the existing language material according to the normative word-formation patterns of Chinese language in order to meet the needs of language nomination, caused by changes in social life and development of science and culture, as well as words which are borrowed from other languages, Chinese dialects, ancient Chinese language, professional slang and jargon, and words that have received new meaning and new ways of use.

A famous British scholar Peter Newmark (2001) defines “neologism” in his *A Textbook of Translation* as “newly coined lexical units or existing lexical units that acquire a new sense” [19:140]. Liu Shuxin holds the opinion that a word, which not only created, but also achieved universal acceptance and widely used by people, having its position in the vocabulary system, can be called neologism [18]. This definition is more complicated and it will be chosen as a main definition in the investigation. Based on the above definitions of neologisms, Chinese neologisms can be defined as the follows: Chinese neologisms refer to the newly created Chinese words, or the words borrowed from other language, or the old Chinese words with new meanings, which can express the new things, new concepts, new ideas, new experiences, or new problems in Chinese society and culture. Besides, Chinese neologisms should abide by the laws of Chinese formation and should be universally accepted and widely used by a group of people [15;16].

During the analyses of the works of above-enumerated authors, we also manage to reveal the following reasons of appearance of neologisms in Chinese language:

1. Emergence of new things and phenomena
2. The necessity of exchange outdated words to new words
3. Appearance of loan-words from another languages, in processes of intercultural communication and cultural exchange.

It is worthwhile noting that the emergence of new words in Chinese language is associated with changes in Chinese society. The foundation of the People's Republic of China, when the economic and political reformations were on the first place, lead to appearance of new words in Chinese language. Moreover, indeed, over the past 25 years in Chinese language a great amount of new words are appeared. This can be explained by the fact that Chinese society also changed a lot; degree of openness of China in cooperation with different countries has increased. In addition, adaptation of science and technology and globalization also had played a role and entailed the emergence of neologisms in Chinese language.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

With help of analyses of special literature, dictionaries of neologisms of Chinese language and articles from magazines “Magazeta” and “South China”, we manage to reveal different types of neologisms in Chinese language. Additionally, we determine the word-building models of new words. With help of historical method, we manage to identify the year of appearance of neologisms in order to reveal the topicality of this neologisms.

With help of producing of classifications of neologisms which is formed on the basis of belonging to particular way of word-formation we manage to systematize neologisms by developing a system, which units the divergent phenomena to one single principle.

With help of simulation method, we manage to investigate word composition as a way of word-formation of neologisms in order to determine the word-buildings models of neologisms.

By way of abstraction, we manage to study and reveal the semantic relations between new words in Chinese language.

RESULTS

Structural analyses of neologisms in Chinese language

With the help of analyses of vocabulary of different dictionaries of new words in Chinese language, we observe that a lot of neologisms in Chinese language are **compound words**:

俏销 – qiàoxiāo- as a noun - wanted goods, as a verb – to sell well; to have market for manufactures

中介人 – zhōngjièrén – intermediary agent

装嫩族 – zhuāngnènzú - adults (more often over thirty), which put on clothes and behave not by their age

月光族 – yuèguāngzú – people, who have been living from pay cheque to pay cheque

洋腐败 – yángfǔbài – corruption in multinational companies.

It is worth mentioning that a great amount of new word, which are presented above, are nouns.

In further investigation, we notice that there is a tendency in Chinese language when a large number of neologisms are formed with help of adding of so-called **affixes and half-affixes**多, 高, 大, 热, 户, 盲, 坛, 感:

高坛 – gāotán –member of a golf-club

外语热 – wàiyǔrè – people, who are interested in studying foreign languages

科技盲 – kējì máng – least-well-oriented in science and technique.

武坛 - wǔ tán – world athletes of Chinese martial arts

关系户 guānxìhù - profitable connections, protection, pull; people or organizations who have social connections.

From one point of view this 高, 大...characters called affixes and half-affixes, because this characters meet in written and oral speech in function of the composition of a word. This point of view is supported by Semenas and Burov[9].

Nevertheless, there is another point, where this characters treated as a separated morpheme. According to Saint Petersburg linguistic school the morpheme is “part of the word, which has an independent mental life and it can’t be indivisible from this point of view” [11;].

This issue still remains controversial, that is why it is considered to be very difficult to determine their function in word-building. In this group of neologisms, the nouns take precedence over the rest of part of speech. In the course of structural analyses of neologisms in Chinese language, we manage to reveal

monosyllabic neologisms. Among monosyllabic neologisms in Chinese language, we pick out the words, which are used in the Internet:

素 – sù – in common lexis - unpainted pure white silk; gray cloth, in the Internet - yes (synonym 是 in the Internet)

寒- hán- in common lexis - cold, frosty; severe, in the Internet – to be in no condition to send or to get something

呆 – méi - in common lexis - stupid; naive, in the Internet – to get oneself stupid, to be dumbfounded.

In addition, we can distinguish in group of monosyllabic shortenings of neologisms:

博bó -博客 bókè - blog, blogger

院yuàn -院长yuànzǎng - director, chairman, president

申吉shēn jí - It's short for: apply for note in «Guinness World Record».

In the course of structural analyses of new words in Chinese language we manage to reveal that the main way of word-formation of neologisms is word composition. For instance:

洗工龄 – xǐ + gōnglíng – leaching the old workers

邦金妆 – bāng + jīn + zhuāng - women's style of clothes and make-up, characterized by a large number of gold tones

互联网寡妇 – hùliánwǎng + guǎfu – Internet-widow (women, who get involved with the Internet and who don't like men)

In the Chinese language among the neologisms, we can observe the tendency to the growth of agglutinative, i.e. when there are not only two-, but also three- component formation of new words. For example:

食膏族 – shí + gào + zú - ans liniments (the common name of young professionals and extremely busy people, who don't have the opportunity to do sports (as usual the Chinese — sometimes bringing the passion up to the abuse, then — to the point of absurdity tonic Chinese medicine; English meaning: tonic lovers)

孕味摄影 – yùn + wèi + shèyǐng – photo of gestation period

心理婚检 – xīnlǐ + hūn + jiǎn - marriage psychological test

It should be noted that a great amount of compound words are nouns.

In the course of structural analyses we manage to reveal the certain group of neologisms – alphabetical words, consisting of letter and hieroglyph combinations, combinations of letters and numbers, and simply of numbers. For instance, in the Internet it can be found such an alphabetical words:

M – bloody fool

E – malicious intent

3Q – thank you

High – joyfully, cheerfully

And other alphabetical words:

VC – venture capital

3F 奴性 sān – núxìng (3F – fat, fertile, forty) – a woman of forty years, who is able to give a birth and to have a baby [1;2;3;5].

After analyses of the main word-building models and the main structural types of neologism in Chinese language, we can draw the given classification of neologisms on the basis of dividing all the news words into nouns, adjectives and verbs.

To organize the conducted investigation we can present the data in the figure below table 1:

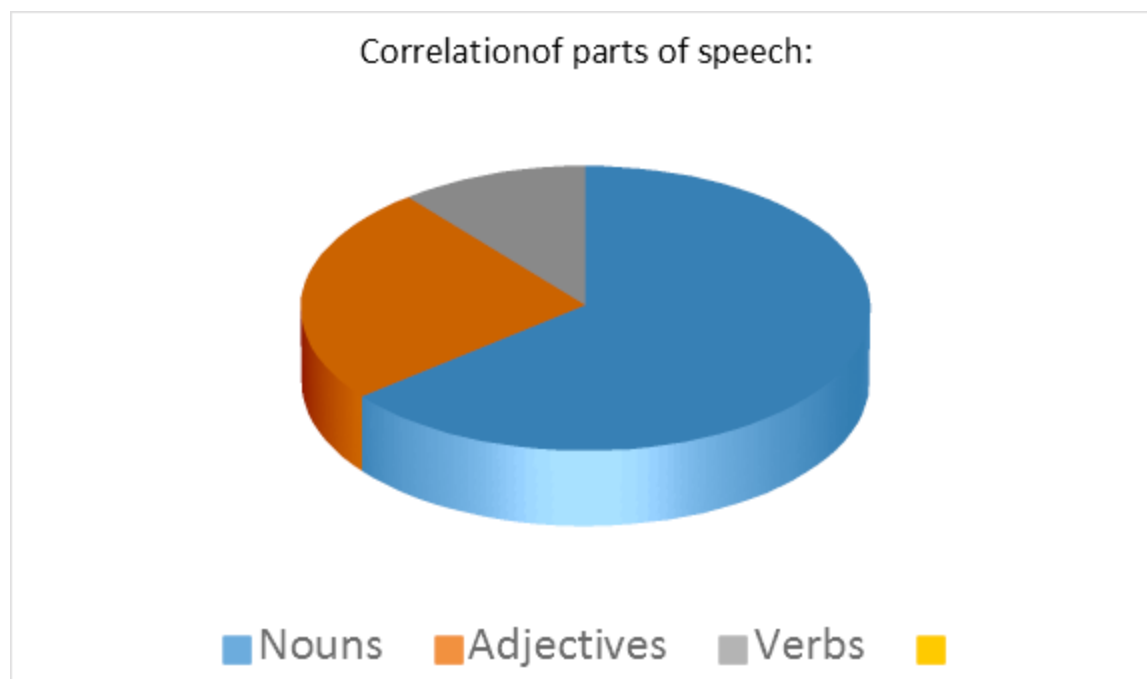


Table 1.

Thus from the above chart it is evident that among neologisms the nouns take precedence over the rest parts of speech, on the second place in productivity there are the adjectives and then verbs.

The predominance of nouns over the rest parts of speech can be explained by the fact when new things appear in life of people, it is necessary to give for these new things brief and concise names. With the help of a noun, we can give a concise name for these new things, and, moreover, the noun is able to express the essence of these new things.

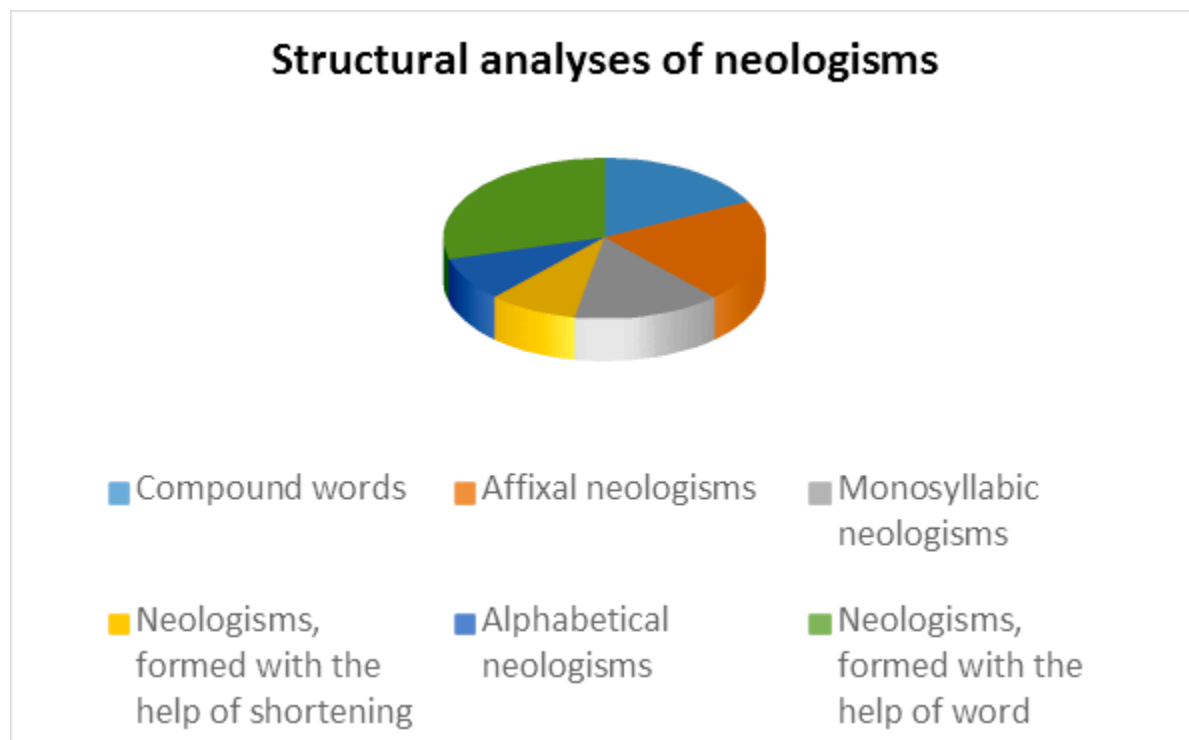


Table 2

In addition, we can observe from the above chart that neologisms, formed with the help of word composition are the most productive. This phenomenon can be explained by the peculiarity of the structural organization of vocabulary in the Chinese language, when among such new words two- and three-components neologisms are dominated, and these words are formed with the help of compounding of several words.

Semantic analyses of neologisms in Chinese language

In the analysis of new words in Chinese language we manage to reveal the new group of neologisms – neosemantisms, i.e. old words with new meaning. For example:

第三者 - dìsānzhě – original meaning: people or organizations involved in resolving the issue in addition to the two stakeholders; new meaning: paramour

充电 – chōngdiàn – original meaning: to recharge the batteries; new meaning: personnel retraining;

下课 – xiàkè – original meaning: the end of the lesson, new meaning: quit job, to leave the current position.

Analyzing the dictionaries of new words in Chinese language, it was revealed that among new words, referring to the topic “the Internet”, there are a lot of compound words:

黑人 – hēi+rén – actions, associated with criticism or slander of other people;

好康 – hǎo+kāng – beautiful

茶具 – chá+jù – deviation, difference [4;6].

This phenomenon can be explained by the fact that nowadays every person uses computer and the Internet. And due to the increasing number of people, who use Internet and computer, the new words in the form of computer slang and jargon appear. The increasing knowledge in the field of information technology is connected with penetration of Internet users in the language environment, where people use new Internet- words, which are more convenient for Internet communication.

Thus, the Internet is able to change language by the emergence of new words, the acquisition of words other meanings. In the virtual world people think up their own words, which are more comfortable for communicate and owing to his phenomenon neologisms in the Chinese language continue to appear.

DISCUSSIONS

The problem of emergence of neologisms in the vocabulary of the Chinese language was discussed by many Russian and Chinese scientists [7, 103-106; 8;10; 12, 231-234]. Chinese scientists describe the situation with the appearance of neologisms in the Chinese language as the "explosion" which occurs in different spheres of social life, natural and social sciences, education, life, etc. [10]. According to various estimates, every year Chinese vocabulary is supplemented by more than 700-800 words, so for the last twenty-five years approximately 20 thousand new words had appeared. However, it was observed that the part of the new words is old words the meaning of which is obsolete and as a result, these words received new meaning [10].

Van Dachun, Chen Yuan, Zhao Cazin, N.In. Solntseva, A.L. Semenas [13; 14; 11; 9] noticed that a large number of new words among the neologisms in Chinese language are compound words, and these scientists explain this phenomenon as a feature of the neologisms in the Chinese language.

CONCLUSION

Thus, in the article we conduct the investigation of the structural-semantic analysis of neologisms in the Chinese language and based on results of this investigation the most productive models of formation of neologisms have been allocated. In addition, we have discovered that the most productive part of speech is the noun, because with the help of this part of speech it can be simply given the name of new things, which have been appeared in the life of humankind. The most important fact that compound words take precedence on the other new words in the Chinese language. In the article, the main ways of formation of neologisms were revealed and they are word composition, affixation and lexical-semantic methods of formation.

In addition, the investigation shows that the number of alphabetical words has been increased. This group of new words is presented not only alphabetical words, but also words-hybrids, which consists of combination of Chinese hieroglyphs, letters and numbers.

The semantic relations between neologisms in the Chinese language were investigated in this article. The semantic relations between neologisms are presented in the form of neoshamanism and Internet-words. Nowadays the Internet-words continue to develop. This phenomenon can be explained by the fact that almost all of people communicate in the Internet. Due to the rapid development of Internet communication, a specific Internet terminology was formed with its own slang and jargon. As a result, the Internet communication language continue to enlarge with new words, and this phenomenon led to the emergence of neologisms in Chinese language.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The article is of interest to professionals who are engaged in making dictionaries of neologisms and new words in Chinese language. In addition, this material can be useful during the classes of Chinese language for students with a sufficient level of language, when students read newspapers on Chinese language. In

case of difficulties in reading Chinese articles, the material of this article will be useful for overcoming difficulties in understanding articles from newspapers on Chinese language

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