

# СЕМІТСЬКА МОВА

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DOI <https://doi.org/10.32782/2710-4656/2023.1.1/36>**Melikov T. P.**

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## METHODS OF THE FORMATION OF NEOLOGISMS IN ARABIC

*The article discusses the lexical, semantic and grammatical characteristics of neologisms that occupy the key place in the modern Arabic language vocabulary, intra- and extralinguistic factors affecting the process of creating neologisms, their development, involvement in literary and conversational Arabic, ways of formation of neologisms, the quantity and quality of the changes in the vocabulary of language, the penetration of borrowings into the language, the discovery of new scientific provisions in the field of lexicography, the determination of new stages of development of the Arabic in the information society, since upper mentioned problems were not studied fully and systematically. An analysis of the language material presented in the Arabic and related to neologisms was carried out in various numbers of the journal "Lisan Al-Arab", published at the scientific level with the support of the League of the Arab states. Modern trends on linguistic problems have been analyzed, since the latest events in the world political arena and in people's lives are reflected in the lexical units of the language. Although this topic is rarely touched upon in Azerbaijani Arabic studies, the topic of neologisms formed by lexical-grammatical methods constantly maintains its relevance and novelty. Currently, there is a need to acquire new words to express new concepts that are formed daily in the Arabic language. For this reason, the most relevant topic of the problem of neologisms in modern Arab linguistics are ways of their formation. In connection with modern linguosociological events, there is a need to give a new name to emerging concepts in order to prevent spontaneous entry of foreign words into the Arabic language. In this case, it is necessary to give close attention to the implementation of new words created in accordance with the internal rules of Arabic grammar.*

**Key words:** Arabic grammar, neologisms, bilingualism tendencies, culture of speech, vocabulary.

**Introduction to the problem.** The modern Arabic language has gone through certain stages of development and has undergone a number of historical, political, economic, social and other influences, has reached its current state, having been exposed to various factors. Hence, the study of the vocabulary of the language also serves to analyze the modern process of the development of the Arabic language. Neologisms make up the newest vocabulary of any language. Neologisms are formed both by creating a new meaning and a new form of words existing in the language, and in the form of certain borrowed words under the influence of some foreign languages.

Where appropriate, even within the limitations of the language, new methods of word formation should be developed against the constant influx of new terms and words into the Arabic language. Here the responsibility falls on language institutions that operate in many Arab countries. As a result of

their efforts, the language included methods such as الاشتقاق (a word created on the basis of the word roots), التوحيّد (a word with a new meaning), تعريب (arabization of words), القلب (creating a word by changing the place of syllables), النحت (words, formed by merging words or syllables); in general, the acquisition of neologisms was very productive [10, p. 191–214].

**The degree of study of the problem.** There is no research on this topic, except the number of articles by V.M. Mamedaliev [6, p. 81–87], M.A. Panahi [9, pp. 111–123], H. N. Al-Abbasi on neologisms in Arabic and textbook by T.R. Melikov [3],

However, many modern Arab linguists expressed their opinion on this topic in periodic journals such as "Lisan Al-Arab". Although they put forward certain proposals on the problem of neologisms in Arabic linguistics, from a theoretical point of view, the methods of formation of neologisms here are not

sufficiently developed. To be concise about the views of the Arabic linguists in neologisms, we can mention the study on abbreviations and their transliteration in the Arabic language of Dr. Mahmud Fahmi [15], on the arabization of written terms of Muhammad Rashad Hamzavi, the analysis of the problems of the terms of Muhammad Hasan Abdulazis [17], the problems of the terms used in the electrical engineering of Muhammad Yunis Abdul, the studies of Dr. Atif Nasar, as well as research works of Ibrahim al-Samaraini about the words used in the oil and gas industry [14], Subhi of as-Salihi [16] and others.

**The purpose of this article** is to analyze the processes that took place in the language after political, economic, social, scientific and technical, etc. changes at the end of the XX – beginning of the XXI centuries, to consider the process of acquiring new words from a number of languages of the world, particularly through English and French, to analyze the new words, obeying the grammatical rules of the Arabic and arising due to the internal capabilities of the language, as well as features of expansion of the semantic meaning of words existing in the language. For this purpose, a classification of neologisms is given, the circumstances of their origin are clarified, their lexical-semantic and grammatical characteristics are examined, the novelty of vocabulary in relation to intra- and extralinguistic factors is determined.

#### **The main content of the study**

**Neologisms in linguistics.** In general, speaking of the degree of research about neologisms in linguistics, first of all, it should be noted that they are important in enriching and developing the vocabulary. Neologisms are international, polysemantic words, terms that are typical for certain areas of practical activity, etc. In this study, we touch on the methods of formation of neologisms, as well as some terminological issues. As it is known, neologisms consist of new words and phrases, most of which have not yet been reflected in any dictionary. For this reason, there are certain differences in writing of neologisms.

When studying any language, it is very important to explore its lexicon, the main vocabulary and their relationship, the conditions for the development and change of lexicon. The words included in the vocabulary of the language are extremely diverse and meaningful. The number of active words in the language is much less than the number of passive words. Due to historical development, a certain number of obsolete words are gradually removed from the vocabulary of the language, and more new words and expressions are included, that is, neologisms. However, these processes are not

entirely characteristic of the Arabic language. Thanks to the Holy Quran [1], the vocabulary of the Arabic language has not changed much over the centuries. Most of the neologisms in the modern Arabic literary language and modern press are new words, consisting of borrowed words adapted to the structure of the Arabic due to the capabilities of this language itself.

Since the 60s – 70s of the twentieth century the research work in the field of theoretical issues of the Arabic language, as well as in the field of history, methodology, dialectology, lexicology, general and comparative linguistics has been carried out in Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries. Of particular note is the journal “Lisanul-Arab”, which has unique merits in the formation of modern Arab linguistics. First published in Rabat in 1964, this journal became the body of the Permanent Bureau of Communications of the Arab States for all translations carried out into the Arabic language. One of the largest goals of the magazine is to study relations between language and dialect, to increase the number of research on the vocabulary of the modern Arabic literary language in Arab countries and publication of obtained scientific results. The goal is to encourage Arabs more inclined to dialects, to use the literary language both in oral and written communication. The results of research and analysis carried out by the journal, dedicated to revival of the literary language and its preference over dialects. In addition, the editors of the journal also publish materials related to dialects, the impact of dialects on the development of the literary language, their role in determining the fate of the language [5, p. 154].

It should be noted that the Arabic literary language, which has rich lexicon, sufficiently reflects the achievements of the modern scientific and technical revolution and the depth of socio-economic changes, the requests of socio-political life, new concepts of events, qualities, etc. Its formation influenced the emergence of neologisms that determine the development of the vocabulary of all languages, including Arabic. Also, in the process of formation of modern Arabic literary language, many words have lost their functionality and left the vocabulary of the language, or their meanings became limited. The process of creating neologisms demonstrates the great potential of the language, which is enriched with new words included in the socio-political, scientific and technical vocabulary. The study of their composition, structure, values and functions leads to the study of many specific issues of grammar, vocabulary and stylistics.

If we consider its specific characteristics, its the genealogical composition, history, sources, types,

groups, origin, elements of neologisms existing in the Arab linguistics, we will see that borrowings, international words, new terms related to certain sciences and other areas remain their relevance in the language even today. Neologisms are not only the words created newly at the expense of the own internal capabilities of the language, but also the words of foreign origin, which have just been included in the vocabulary of the language. Therefore, when we are talking about the most important views of linguists to neologisms, grammarians refer to terms, borrowed words, international words, etc. We should not ignore their views and opinions about neologisms. The problem of neologisms is considered as one of the least investigated topics in linguistics, but it is also one of the problems that is constantly updated, since it is associated with new phenomena that arose based on the requirements of modern science. Nevertheless from a theoretical and practical perspective, the classification, history, elements, principles and types of neologisms retain their relevance and novelty for each era.

The main part of this study is devoted to neologisms formed by the lexical and semantic method in the Arabic language. Let us consider the formation of neologisms in connection with changes in the phonetic composition of the word. For example, neologism such as “عولمة” (globalization) [12, p. 655] was obtained by the addition of a new sound and letter to the word with the root letters “ع ل ع”. Also, when we are talking about neologisms formed due to the internal capabilities of the language, we also understand new expressions presented by the words existing in the language as part of a combination. These combinations are sometimes in the form of unions, sometimes in the form of adjectives, and sometimes in the form of complex words. For example, “نقدية سيولة” (cash), “آلي إنسان” (robot), “آلي بطاقة” (smart card), “النفق قطار” (metro), “المت المدانة رسائل خدمة” (MMS) etc. [18, p. 284].

The process of formation of neologisms, consisting of borrowed words, also occurs due to word creation by the lexical method. Borrowed words that make up the new vocabulary of the modern language began to enter the literary language due to a certain need. As the terminology develops, the number of borrowings increases as well. Words that have passed into Arabic from foreign languages are called *muarrab* neologisms, since they are adapted to the internal rules of the language. However, there are also borrowings that are used in the form in which they are used in the initial language, that is, they are simply transliterated. “Arab linguists do not

perceive the creation of neologisms using this method of borrowing. In fact, this criticism is based on the number of words obtained by acquisition, but not on the acquisition method itself. The use of borrowed words in a language is fast and uncontrolled. This leads to the invasion of foreign words and elements into the language” [11, p. 284].

The content of new borrowings, which include *ad-dahil* or *muarrab*, are characterized as neologisms consisting of borrowing in the Arabic language, and sufficient number of samples of new words formed by the lexical method have been noted. Most of these neologisms are transliterated words. This phenomenon linguistics is called “الحرفي النقل” [15] in Arabic. Although many Arab linguists consider the transliteration as a disrespect for the Arabic language, these type of words are often found in modern Arabic. For example: “فوفوزيلا” (vuvouzel), “تلفزيون” (TV), “كمبيوتر” (computer), “ويكيبيديا” (Wikipedia), “فاكس” (fax) and others. Although Arabic linguists seek to find an equivalent of such neologisms using the internal capabilities of the Arabic language, most of them are not actively developed and applied in the language.

Borrowed words that have entered the Arabic in modern times are among the neologisms created by foreign languages. However, a borrowed word cannot always be considered as neologism. These words usually go into the passive reserve of the language. In some cases, the borrowed word is accepted as a neologism adapted to the internal rules of the language [7, p. 348].

Note that modern Arab poetry also has unsurpassed merits in enriching the vocabulary of the language. It is possible to find many neologisms in modern Arabic literature. For example, the Iraqi poet Ahmad Matar writes in his poem “Akhadiysul Abvab” [20]:

لا أمنعُ الهواءَ ولا التُّورَ ولا أحجُبُ الأَنْظارَ  
أنا مؤمِنٌ بالديمقراطية

(“I will not prevent the penetration of air and light (shine). I will not close my eyes. I believe in democracy”).

In addition, there are many neologisms formed by the semantic method due to the internal capabilities of the Arabic language, which can be found in a number of poetry samples. For example, Egyptian poet Amal Dungul [21] says in the verse:

وطنى لو شغلت بالخلد عنه و  
نازعتنى لمجلس الامن، نفسى

“If I forget my homeland and focus on the eternal paradise, my soul will complain about me in the Security Council.”

Here, مجلس الامن (Medzhlis al-amn) means the United Nations Security Council.

In general, neologisms obtained by the semantic method are considered lexical units obtained by giving a new meaning to the existing in the language words. Arabs call this method a metaphor. Today, the number of such neologisms in Arabic, that serves new significance to many areas of science and technology, is increasing. For example: مراقبة (monitoring), قرصان (hacker), وزير (minister), دخيل (borrowed word), برميل (barrel), etc.

Neologisms obtained by the semantic method can mainly consist of infinitives, verbs, nouns, adjectives, etc. Mostly, neologisms of this type are simple and corrective infinitives. Generally, in Arabic linguistics, the infinitive is used for nouns denoting work, state or action. In classical Arabic linguistics, it is widely believed that all verb forms are formed from the infinitive. Infinitives, like verbs, show an action or condition, are active or passive. Infinitives, like any noun, have appropriate models or forms, they are inclined, changed by numbers, used in a definite or indefinite form, participate in the corresponding phrases, etc.

Neologisms obtained by the grammatical method are productive in the process of word – making of the Arabic language, are formed morphologically and syntactically. The morphological method includes neologisms obtained according to fixed models, which, from a grammatical point of view, appear in the vocabulary of the Arabic language in the form of infinitives of the type I–X *bab*. In addition, neologisms obtained through prefixes or endings in Arabic are also considered neologisms formed by the morphological method.

Lexical units created based on the internal material of the language play a decisive role in maintaining its identity and uniqueness. The grammatical word-making holds the language from the influence of foreign origin words or adapts the newly introduced borrowed word to the grammatical rules of the Arabic.

In the process of morphological formation of neologisms in the Arabic, certain prefixes اللواحق, suffixes السوابق and infixes الاحشاء are used [19, p. 112–175]. These suffixes help to describe the meaning of the word more accurately and clearer. In Arabic, there are some endings such as حِيّ [iyyun], حِيّ [aviyun], حِيّ [iyyatun], اَتْ [a:tun], نة [atun], حُون [u:nə] etc. [8, p. 490]; they are added to the end of both specific words of the Arabic language and borrowed

words for the formation of many neologisms exactly by the morphological method. For example: “برلمانيون” (parliamentarians), “فـأريـق” (factories), “كاميرات” (cameras), “إلكترونيات” (electronics), “جمهوري” (Republican), “قنصوليّ” (consulate), “جنصوليّة” (customs officer). [3, p. 536].

Furthermore, neologisms were created using a morphological method that conveys a new meaning by placing local and borrowed words in the vocabulary of the Arabic language into certain patterns. For example; “فـبـرك” (for production), “برمج” (for program) [13, p. 149], “دبـلـج” (for duplication), “أزب” (for Europeanization) [2, p. 298], etc.

Although some Arabic linguists classify the creation of neologisms by the morphological method as a syntactic category, some grammarians note that this method differs from the syntactic method, and that formation of the word by the morphological method has taken on a more complex picture in modern times. Looking at Arab lexicology in general, we can say that the morphological method first arose on the basis of the syntactic method, and then developed and became a separate category in the formation of neologisms.

Neologisms formed syntactically, which is a very productive method in the Arabic language, are usually performed by *nakht* method. In this case, words with a new form and content are formed as a result of the merging of certain letters and syllables of two different words.

The process of creating a new word in a syntactic way that fully meets the grammatical rules of the Arabic language is one of the phenomena actively used in the language for a long time. Currently, syntactic word-making plays a special role in enriching the vocabulary of the Arabic language. In modern Arab linguistics, abbreviations are also part of neologisms formed by the syntactic method. The number of such abbreviations is growing day by day, and basically, they are used in military sources. Neologisms formed both syntactic and morphological, i.e. grammatical ways, consist of the internal basis of the language, as well as words formed due to borrowings.

Many of the syntactically created neologisms in the Arabic have certain morphological characteristics. However, it is difficult to identify syntactically created neologisms and give a certain opinion about them. Given that these types of neologisms are formed from a combination of two or more words, it will not be mistaken to include them in the group of new complex words. It should be noted that the phenomenon of syntactic word -making in the Arabic began a long time ago. A large number of words appeared in the

vocabulary of the language, and thanks to this, the vocabulary of the language was constantly enriched. In the study of various languages and in a number of theoretical questions of general linguistics, the problem of a compound word often gave rise to various disputes. Some linguists tried to determine the characteristics of complex words based on their content, while others were based on their form. The content and form of a complex word are closely related. The connection between them can manifest itself in various forms, that is, syntactic neologisms by the method of formation can be considered as complex words.

Before turning to the question of neologisms formed by the syntactic method in the Arab linguistics, it is noteworthy that even in the VII century representatives of the Basr school expressed certain ideas about word formation with a syntactic method: “Just as a completely new medicine is formed as a result of mixing different herbs ( drugs), when two words are connected in one compound word, the individual signs of each of them are lost and this composition acquires a new characteristic. For instance, the compound word “munzu” (since, because) was formed as a result of a combination of the prefix “min” and the word “iz”. The first of them controls the subsequent word in possessive case, the second in the nominative case; as a result, *munzu* acquires a completely new meaning and requires the use of the following word in the nominative case, and in the case of the role of the prefix – in possessive case [4, p. 58–59].

Note that the phenomenon of word formation in the Arabic language by the syntactic method was formed in the form of *manhut* (mənħut) and shortened words. *Manhut* is neologism formed by combining two or more words and excluding certain letters, and shortened words are understood as words consisting of abbreviations or initials. These words belong to the category of neologisms obtained by the method of *nakht*. They are considered as new words both in form and in content, forming the latest

vocabulary of the language. In neologisms formed by the method of *nakht*, all the letters of the word are written sequentially, and they can be adapted to the grammatical rules of the Arabic language and used in certain rules and models. For example: wireless is “لاسلکي”, capital is “راسمال”, high speed train is “قطسر”, hydropower is “کهرهاري”, surfing is “رکمة”, bioclimatology is “الحيماخية”, etc. However, letters in neologisms consisting of abbreviations can be arranged in the form of adjacent, separate letters, or with dots between letters. These types of words cannot adapt to the grammatical rules and forms of the Arabic language, and in some cases are transliterated from foreign languages. “حماس” (حركة المقاومة الاسلامية) HAMAS, (الدولة الاسلامية في العراق والشام) ISID, [ترقيم دولي موحد للكتب] “تدمك” [22] ISBN, etc. Many abbreviated words formed by the *nakht* method grammatically have the form of both a verb and a noun, neologisms in the form of an abbreviation are always used in the form of a noun from a grammatical point of view and mean a name. *Manhut* neologisms are mostly *rubai* and *humasi*, and short words can even consist of one letter.

**Conclusions.** Evidently, syntactically formed neologisms combine two different techniques. However, in addition to the mentioned differences, there are similarities between these methods. So, both *manhut* and abbreviated neologisms remove letters from word, abbreviate words in phrases and connect them to each other.

Although the phenomenon of creating words by the syntactic method contributes to the enrichment of the vocabulary of the language due to its internal capabilities, in some cases the words created by this method damage the purity of the Arabic language. The originality of the Arabic vocabulary is lost due to the acquisition of words that do not fit any model. That is why the modern linguists are both for and against the creation of neologisms by syntactic means. From our perspective, although the creation of new words in Arabic is also productive by the syntactic method, it is more expedient to resort to this method only when necessary.

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### Меліков Т. П. СПОСОБИ ТВОРЕННЯ НЕОЛОГІЗМІВ АРАБСЬКОЮ МОВОЮ

У статті розглядаються лексико-семантичні та граматичні характеристики неологізмів, які посідають ключове місце в лексиці сучасної арабської мови, внутрішньо- та екстралінгвістичні чинники, що впливають на процес творення неологізмів, їх розвиток, залучення до літературної та розмовної арабської мови, шляхи формування неологізмів, кількість і якість змін у словниковому складі мови, проникнення в мову запозичень, відкриття нових наукових положень у галузі лексикографії, визначення нових етапів розвитку арабської мови в інформаційному суспільстві, оскільки зазначені вище проблеми не були вивчені повно та систематично. Аналіз мовного матеріалу, представленого арабською мовою і пов'язаного з неологізмами, проводився в різних номерах журналу «Lisan Al-Arab», що видається на науковому рівні за підтримки Ліги арабських держав. Проаналізовано сучасні тенденції лінгвістичних проблем, оскільки останні події на світовій політичній арені та в житті людей відбиваються на лексичних одиницях мови. Хоча в азербайджанській арабістиці ця тема зачіпається рідко, тема неологізмів, утворених лексико-граматичними методами, постійно зберігає свою актуальність і новизну. В даний час існує потреба в придбанні нових слів для вираження нових понять, які щодня формуються в арабській мові. З цієї причини найбільш актуальною темою проблеми неологізмів у сучасному арабському мовознавстві є способи їх утворення. У зв'язку з сучасними лінгвосоціологічними подіями виникає необхідність дати нові назви поняттям, що виникають, щоб запобігти спонтанному входженню іношомовних слів в арабську мову. У цьому випадку необхідно приділити пильну увагу впровадженню нових слів, створених відповідно до внутрішніх правил арабської граматики.

**Ключові слова:** граматики арабської мови, неологізми, тенденції двомовності, культура мовлення, лексика.