

FACTORS BEHIND THE EMERGENCE OF NEOLOGISMS IN FRENCH

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Annotation: This article explores the factors behind the emergence of neologisms in the French language, their formation mechanisms, criteria for dictionary inclusion, and methods of linguistic analysis. The study highlights globalization, technological advancements, intercultural communication, and social media as key drivers of neologism creation. Neologisms serve not only as linguistic innovations but also as reflections of the socio-cultural dynamics within contemporary French society.

Keywords: neologisms, French language, globalization, technology, intercultural communication, social media, linguistic change

The French language is one of the world's richest and oldest languages, constantly undergoing development and change. The evolution of the language is often influenced by social, cultural, and technological factors. Neologisms represent one of the most significant indicators of this transformation, serving to express new concepts and adapt to contemporary needs. New words frequently emerge in various areas of modern life, including technology, science, art, and daily life. Their lexicographical validation indicates the extent to which they have penetrated the language system. Modern technologies and globalization processes significantly impact the emergence of new words, or neologisms, in the French language. This phenomenon not only enriches the language but also reflects the dynamic nature of society and its adaptability to modern realities.

1. **Concept and Importance of Neologisms.** Neologisms are newly introduced words, terms, or expressions that primarily arise due to social needs and innovations. Although the French language is renowned for its historical purity, recent years have seen a growing tendency to embrace new technologies, scientific discoveries, and popular culture. Neologisms play a vital role in filling lexical gaps and providing linguistic tools to describe emerging concepts.¹

2. **Main Sources of Neologisms in French.** Globalization has intensified the interaction between world languages. English, as the primary global lingua franca, has introduced numerous new words into French. For instance, terms such as "email" (electronic mail) and "start-up" (new company) are widely used in the French language. Additionally, economic integration and

¹ Académie Française. Le rôle de l'Académie dans la sauvegarde de la langue française. <https://www.academie-francaise>.

international collaborations have facilitated the adoption of technical and business-related terminology.²

3. **Technological Advancement.** The vocabulary of French language users is rapidly evolving due to the internet and social networks. Blogs, tweets, and online communications have given rise to new words like "liker" (to like) or "influenceur" (influencer). Advances in modern technology necessitate new terminology, with examples including "télétravail" (remote work) and "cloud computing" (cloud computing). Furthermore, the rise of artificial intelligence and digital platforms has introduced new terms like "algorithme" and "cybersécurité."³

4. **Intercultural Communication.** Cross-cultural exchange introduces new expressions into the language. Tourism and immigration have led to the adoption of foreign words into French. For example, in the field of gastronomy, words like "sushi" and "tapas" have become universal phenomena. The influence of global music, cinema, and fashion industries also contributes to the influx of loanwords, reflecting the cultural diversity of contemporary society.⁴

Neologisms in French Culture

Neologisms (new words and expressions) play a crucial role in the development of any language and culture. In French culture, neologisms hold particular significance due to the language's renowned richness and precision. Neologisms reflect the changing dynamics of modern French society, capturing social changes, technological advancements, and cultural influences. However, the Académie Française approaches the official recognition of new words with caution, helping to maintain a balance between tradition and modernity. Below is a detailed overview of the role of neologisms in French culture:

1. **Enrichment of the French Language.** The French place great importance on protecting and developing their language. Neologisms play a key role in expressing new concepts in technology, science, and everyday life. For example, with technological advancements, terms such as "télétravail" (remote work) and "selfie" (self-portrait) have become widely used.⁵

2. **Preserving Cultural Identity.** The invention of neologisms to protect the French language from the influence of international languages, especially English, is common in France. This process is overseen by the Académie Française. For example, the word "ordinateur" (computer) was specifically created to replace the English word "computer."⁶

3. **Creativity in Literature and Art.** Neologisms are widely used in literature and art as a part of creative expression. Poets and writers use new words to convey their ideas in richer and

² Crystal, David. *Language and the Internet*. Cambridge University Press, 2006.

³ Haugen, Einar. "Borrowing as a Source of Lexical Change in Languages." *Language*, vol. 26, no. 2, 1950, pp. 210–231.

⁴ Gadet, Françoise. *Sociolinguistique: Étude des variations linguistiques*. Armand Colin, 2011.

⁵ Tagliamonte, Sali A. *Language and Variation: Key Topics in Sociolinguistics*. Cambridge University Press, 2012.

⁶ Trudgill, Peter. *Sociolinguistics: An Introduction to Language and Society*. Penguin Books, 2000.

more unique ways. For example, authors like Raymond Queneau and Boris Vian brought aesthetic innovations to the language by creating new words in their works.⁷

4. **Reflection of Contemporary Social Issues.** Neologisms mirror the spirit of the times. As ecology and climate change have become pressing issues, words like "écocide" (ecocide, environmental crime) have emerged, drawing attention to social and environmental problems.⁸

5. **Role in Youth Culture.** Neologisms frequently appear in youth culture, often in the form of slang. Words like "kiffer" (to like) or "chelou" (weird, reverse form of "louche") have gained popularity among young people.⁹

6. **Promotion of French Language on the Global Stage.** French is not only the official language of France but also of several countries worldwide. Neologisms help to modernize and maintain the relevance of the language, enhancing its global prestige.¹⁰

Conclusion

Neologisms are a vital component of the French language's continuous evolution, reflecting the dynamic interplay between tradition and modernity. They serve not only as linguistic tools for expressing new concepts but also as indicators of social, cultural, and technological changes. The careful management of neologisms by institutions like the Académie Française highlights the importance of preserving linguistic identity while embracing innovation. As French society continues to evolve, neologisms will remain essential in maintaining the language's relevance and vibrancy in the globalized world. Furthermore, they represent a bridge between the past and the future, demonstrating the adaptability of the French language. The ongoing creation and adoption of neologisms signify the resilience and richness of the French language in the face of constant global transformation.

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