METHODS OF WORD FORMATION IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN SOCIAL NETWORKS AND TEXT MESSAGES

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The Internet, and specifically social media, promotes rapid language development in the course of computerization. Appearance of newly-formed words is particularly widespread in the process of constant message exchange. Due to the fact that there is a need for users to save time on writing words they instinctively turn to different ways of word formation, introducing new concepts in the «netspeak» (vocabulary used in the Internet). So it is essential to understand the ways of creating words, be able to analyze the origin of lexical units. If a user does not know a particular word, by correlating roots with affixes and possible forms of words, one can understand its meaning.

To carry out our research we selected 200 most used newly-formed English words from social media and divided them in accordance with methods of word formation, their lexical meaning and parts of speech.

For the first analysis we took into account the most common ways of word formation in English. Among them are *affixation* (*suffix-formation* (selfie, emojinal)*, prefix-formation* (to unfriend, no-filter)*, prefix-and-suffix-formation* (oversharing, nonlinear))*, changing the meaning of the word* (mainstream, follower)*, conversion* (to facebook, to snapchat)*, abbreviations* (LOL, asl)*, reductions* (pic, bro)*, stem composition* (skype family, antisocial networking)*, compounding* (podcast, flog)*, creating words as a new lexical unit*, *"from zero"* (spam, meme, buko), and we have identified a group of words that went through several changes or were formed by replacement of letters with digits, signs, etc., and called this method *"special"*. For example, it includes such words as ok, 4eva (instead of "forever"), 2day (for "today").

In chart 1, we see that most words are formed with the help of *compounding* (29%), which is one of the oldest way of word formation that keeps high productiveness in English nowadays [2, p. 59]. There is also a significant portion (17.5%) in *abbreviations*, as this method is stable phenomenon that is improving in different ways [1, p. 144]. Our *"special"* way is slightly less popular (13.5%).

Our next task was to identify the degree of formation of words according to their lexical meaning. We divided the chosen words into the following categories:*words that describe users of social networking sites* (netizen, hacktivist)*; activities in the Internet* (dumbwalking, to comment)*; technical phenomena* (password wallet, heatmap)*; SMS abbreviations – «texting»* (IMHO, asap)*; aftermath of usage of social networks* (selfiecide, techneck)*; words connected with photos* (photobomb, foodfie)*; words typical of Twitter* (tweetheart, tweet seats)*; names of social networking sites* (ICQ, Instagram)*; blogging* (bloggeratti, vlog)*; expressing emotions with pictures* (meme, emojis)*; mass actions, spread via social networks* (flashmob, "ice bucket chalange")*; words typical of Instagram* (hashtag, iger)*; the types of files distributed via the Internet* (listicle, edutainment)*; "vocabulary" of social networks* (leet speak, netiquette)*; lexical units from profile pages* (nickname, post).
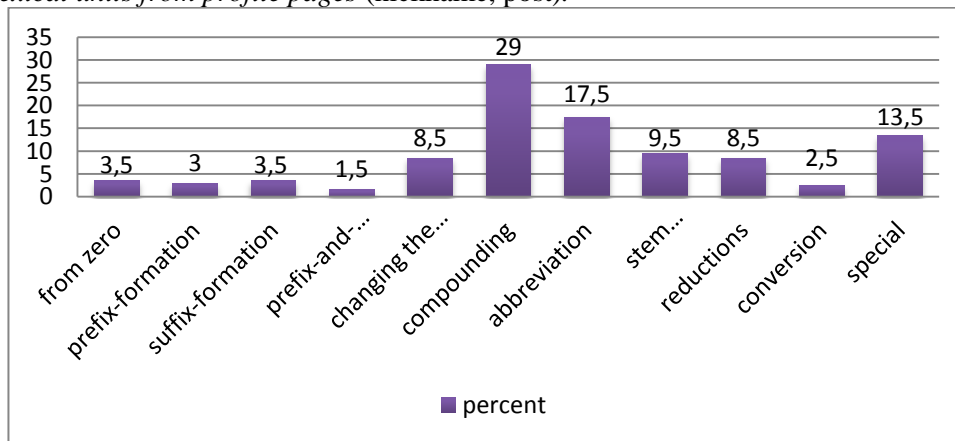

Chart 1 – The popularity of using ways of word formation

The following chart 2 shows that *«texting»* has the biggest indicator of usage while creating new words - 38.5% (77 words).
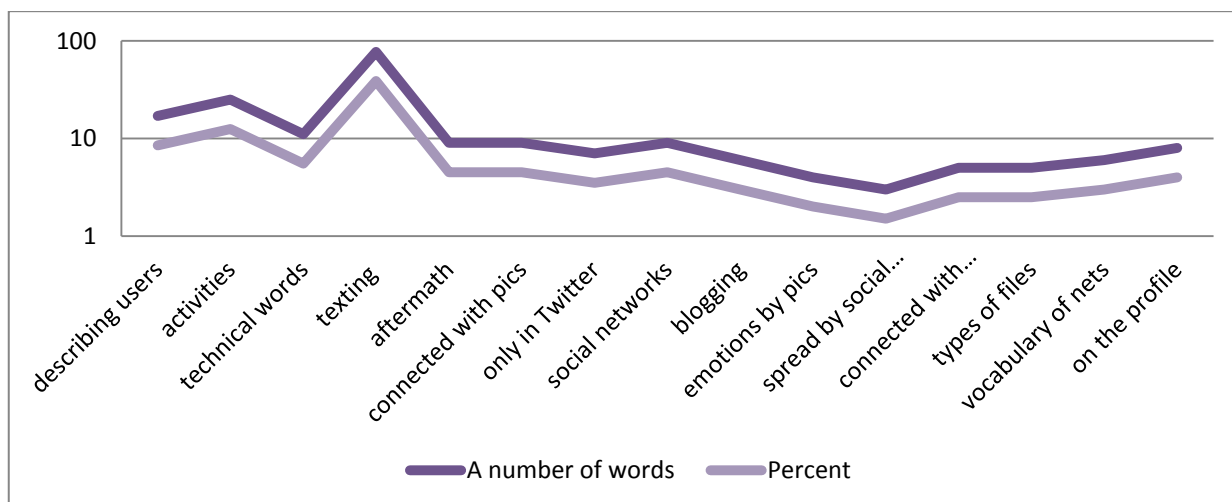

Chart 2 – Estimating words by their lexical meaning

In each of the categories offered above, we analyzed separately etymology of words and highlighted the most commonly used method of word formation. So in eight lexical groups of the words the method of *compounding* dominates, in three groups – *the change of meaning*; *affixation* (*suffixes*) and *abbreviations compounding* outnumbered in one group and in one of the categories *change of meaning, compounding and compression* created equal number of words. These facts prove that most neologisms appear with instant messaging, because people need to save their time, writing words.

Dividing words in accordance with parts of speech, we have got the following results (table 1). Among the two hundred words there are *nouns*, *adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, verbs*, and a group of *structural parts* of speech. The largest part of newly-formed vocabulary accounted for *nouns* (62%), which in their turn are mostly formed by *compounding*. *Abbreviation* dominates in categories such as *verbs, adjectives* and *adverbs*.

Table – The indicators of the degree of formation of words in accordance with parts of speech

Parts of speech	*Number of words of part of speech*	*Percent from general number*
nouns	127	63.5
adverbs	22	11
adjectives	12	6
verbs	29	14,5
pronouns	2	1
structural parts of speech	8	4

So we see that language is developing and getting richer with new words from the sphere of social media. To explore this fact we have analyzed most used ways of word formation in English, chosen two hundred words and divided them in specific categories, and arrived at conclusion that the most widespread way of word formation is *compounding*, most words were created for "*texting*" and the biggest group of parts of speech is *nouns*.

The results of our research can be used at English lessons, in scientific studies on the influence of social networks on the language, in everyday life when dealing with unfamiliar word in social networks and in the case when a new concept appears and there is a need to name it.

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