The Conflict of Neonyms and Retronyms in Retronymy

SADOQAT KHOLMONOVA
Uzbek National University Tashkent, Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT

Retronyms are linguistic units that arise from the need to rename existing terms. Coined by Frank Mankiewicz and popularized by William Saphir, retronyms have been extensively studied in various languages. This article explores retronyms in the Uzbek language, focusing on the neonyms that prompted their emergence and the conflicts that arise between them. The evolution of society is reflected in the vocabulary of the Uzbek language, resulting in the creation of retronyms. By examining different examples, we aim to demonstrate the interconnection and conflict between these elements within the realm of retronymy.

Keywords: Retronym, protonym, neonym, hyponym, hypernym, opposition.

INTRODUCTION

The vocabulary of every language evolves and develops over time through a lengthy historical process. It is impossible to conceive or learn a language without considering the influence of people and society. All aspects and characteristics of societal life are directly reflected in the words that comprise a specific language. With time, changes and phenomena occurring within society give rise to new concepts that find their way into the language's vocabulary, while some concepts may become obsolete. "Each national language possesses its own set of limited vocabulary and concepts that are universally understood.

Without these fundamental elements, individuals within society would struggle to express their opinions, regardless of their location, culture, technology, or economy. A language has the ability to completely transform throughout its history, experiencing enrichment and impoverishment by gaining or losing specialized vocabulary respectively. However, it never loses its foundational core. To lose this core would signify a decline in the language itself". [1;16]

As society undergoes changes, new concepts emerge within a language's vocabulary; however, these concepts do not always receive new names outright. This means that advancements in technology or scientific achievements often result in the separation of existing words from these developments, leading to the creation of retronyms within the language.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The term "retronym" was first coined by Frank Mankiewicz, then president of US National Public Radio, in 1980. It gained popularity later through reporter William Safir's "On Language" article in the New York Times. Although initially associated with journalism, retronymy has also attracted attention from linguists. French philosopher Jacques Derrida introduced the term "paleonymy."

Xidopoulos and Lazana's study on retronyms in Greek (2014) differentiates between protonyms, neonyms, and retronyms as components within the retronymic series. Maria Lozano Zahonero and Monica Palmerini explore retronyms in Spanish and examine their synchronic and diachronic complex semantic relationships through Spanish examples. Iso Sari considers retronyms as a type of neologism in his article on the subject (2013). MarufjonYoldoshev discusses the intricate relationship between retronyms and neologisms specifically in Uzbek (2020), suggesting] a separate approach to this issue is necessary. K. Mkhitaryan's dissertation on retronyms in English (2014) also highlights their appearance as a type of palindrome according to Epstein.

In this article, we aim to provide insights into the contradiction between retronymy in the Uzbek language and its constituent parts.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This article uses methods of comparison, etymology, classification and description, and semantic analysis of words.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

Retronyms are nouns that exist within a noun group of words. The primary word, known as the protonym, belongs to the noun group and sometimes represents an action. The determiner, also referred to as the interpretant, forms both the neonym and retronym, which may belong to a different group of words.

The emergence of retronymy can be observed through three stages. In the first stage, there is only one protonym that represents a community without any divisions into types. In the second stage, a neonym is formed, creating a new type that necessitates distinguishing it from the previous old type. Finally, in the third stage, the preceding new type is renamed and referred to as a retronym.
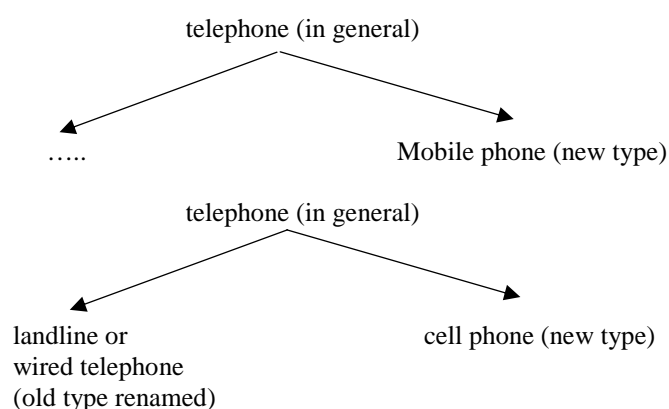
It is important to note that retronyms appear during the last stage of retronymy. Their uniqueness lies in the fact that all three members (protonym, neonym, and retronym) are actively used in speech while maintaining their independent meanings.

In certain cases, retronyms are perceived as old names and equated with obsolete words. However, it is crucial to understand that these two phenomena are not equivalent. The introduction of neologisms in our language may lead to some words becoming obsolete and falling out of use. In such cases, the old word ceases to be used in speech completely.

In contrast, within retronymy, this phenomenon is not observed. The introduction of a neonym does not render the original concept obsolete but instead leads to its renaming under a different term. For instance, pagers were introduced shortly before mobile phones became widely available. Initially
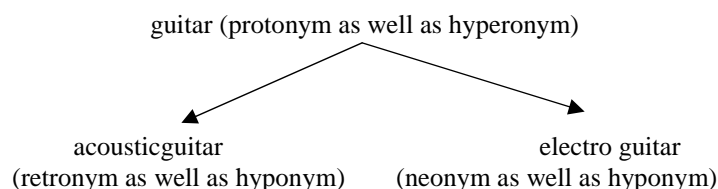
considered a neologism at its inception, pagers eventually vanished with the rise of mobile phones.

However, this disappearance did not result in complete obsolescence for pagers or their name; instead, it turned into a historic term. The development of mobile phones did not eliminate the previously used phones entirely but rather gave them a different name, such as home phone or city phone.

telephone (in general)

.....   Mobile phone (new type)

telephone (in general)

landline or   cell phone (new type)
wired telephone
(old type renamed)

Hence, the emergence of novelty in retronymy does not render the original word redundant, but rather prompts its renaming. There is undoubtedly a semantic link among the components of the retronymic sequence. Protonyms encompass various symbols, while neonyms and retronyms incorporate distinctive symbols to differentiate themselves from each other, as well as shared symbols to associate with the protonym.

NimertisLazana characterizes this process as a taxonomic phenomenon, wherein both the new name and the old name function as taxa within a common classification. The relationship between elements within the retronymic series exemplifies hyponymy, whereby protonyms are elevated to the status of hypernyms. Retronyms and neonyms, on the other hand, serve as hyponyms. Protonyms, akin to hypernyms, possess all the distinguishing characteristics of hyponyms, and there must be discernible differentiating features among hyponyms themselves.

guitar (protonym as well as hyperonym)

acousticguitar
(retronym as well as hyponym)

electro guitar
(neonym as well as hyponym)

The guitar is an ancient and extensively utilized stringed musical instrument. While most guitars possess six strings, there exist variations with four, seven, ten or even more strings. Initially, there was only one type of guitar. Electric guitars were invented in 1931 and subsequently gained popularity among jazz musicians before ultimately becoming a pivotal instrument in pop music today. The advent of electric guitars prompted the rechristening of their predecessors as acoustic guitars. Acoustic guitar is a retronym coined after the introduction of electric guitars.

Thus, the emergence of a retronym contributes to the enrichment of hyponymy. As illustrated by our previous example, the term "guitar" encompasses various semes, making it a hypernym. Electric guitar and acoustic guitar share common traits with guitars while also possessing distinguishing characteristics from each other. Consequently, they function as hyponyms within the broader category of "guitar".

The presence of retronyms has an impact on the hierarchy of terms within a semantic analysis framework. As seen in the previous example, "guitar" encompasses various features, making it a hypernym. Electric guitars and acoustic guitars share common characteristics with the overarching term "guitar," but they also have distinct attributes that differentiate them from each other. Thus, electric and acoustic guitars can be considered hyponyms of the hypernym "guitar."

When examining retronyms, it is essential to consider their opposition to neonyms. Retronyms and neonyms stem from a shared concept but possess conflicting characteristics within themselves. These conflicts are evident through the use of determinants added to common nouns as nouns. The defining word in a neonym establishes its contrast with a retronym.

For instance, "color television" prompted the inclusion of "black and white" in reference to earlier television sets. Although both fall under the general concept (television), their definitions contradict each other. This pattern can be observed in various examples:

- Natural grass vs. artificial grass
- Genuine leather vs. artificial leather
- Natural hair vs. artificial hair
- Natural nails vs. artificial nails
- Natural eyelash vs. artificial eyelash
- Natural flower vs. artificial flower

As Jalaluddin Rumi said: "The value of any object is revealed through its contrast." It is impossible to describe something without acknowledging its opposite. The emergence of "artificial" items led to the renaming of their "natural" counterparts. This lack of contrast would render the distinction meaningless. The conflict between the two terms contributes to the diversification within this context.

A similar pattern can be observed in retronymy influenced by the word "online" and its opposite:

- Offline service vs. online service
- Offline learning vs. online learning
- Offline lesson vs. online lesson
- Offline meeting vs. online meeting
- Offline conference vs. online conference, and so on

Furthermore, terms associated with "usual, ordinary, regular" appeared before those linked to "digital":

- Conventional technology vs. digital technology
- Regular economy vs. digital economy
- Regular camera vs. digital camera
- Simple signature vs. digital signature
- Regular radio vs. digital radio

In the study of retronymy, the connection between retronyms and neonyms is often reminded by the protonym. This clash between retronyms and neonyms can be observed at different levels.

1. At the lexical level, conflicts arise through the use of antonyms. Retronyms are created by using lexical antonyms before the protonym. For example, "organic fertilizer" is a retronym compared to "chemical fertilizer", "natural language" is a retronym compared to "artificial language", and "black and white TV" is a retronym compared to "color TV". These conflicts at the lexical level are realized through antonyms that evaluate concepts positively or negatively. The presence of a negative value, such as an artificial flower, enhances the value of a positive concept, such as a living flower. Similarly, the introduction of a positive concept, like color TV, devalues the previous concept of black and white TV.

2. At the morphological level, conflicts arise through affixal antonyms. Retronymic series are formed with suffixes expressing affirmation and negation. For example, "silent film" is a retronym compared to "sound film", "wired internet" is a retronym compared to "wireless internet", and "still water" can be seen as a retronym compared to other types of water like sparkling or flavored water. In this case, conflicts arise between affixes rather than lexemes. Adverbs indicate confirmation-negation relationships between retronyms and neonyms. However, contradictions at the morphological level are rare in our collected materials for this scientific work.

When analyzing these contradictions in retronymy, it is important to consider their evaluative nature. According to Cruse (2004), evaluation is a complementary process to phenomena. Based on socio-cultural criteria, one of the conflicting units is evaluated as negative while the other is evaluated as positive. For example, good-bad, beautiful-ugly. Anastasiadis-Simeonidis (2001) emphasizes that a positive meaning arises through the use of a

new name (neonym). The new name is seen as more modern than the old one, which carries a certain negativity due to its age.

On one hand, consumers tend to prefer new products because they offer novelty, modernity, and conveniences that were not available before. This natural process of choosing the new over the old highlights the value of positivity in neonyms. Examples of this can be seen in the preference for color TV over black and white TV, sound films over silent films, and automatic transmissions over manual transmissions. Similarly, smartphones are favored over regular phones due to their added features and capabilities.

On the other hand, we see that the new is not always positive. In some cases, the appearance of a new thing creates a positive value in the old thing and serves to increase its value. If we look at the emergence of the retronymic series of the concept of "flower".

Flower (protonym)

1. The part of angiosperms that serves for pollination, consisting of an inflorescence, sepals, petals, stamens and seeds.
2. Roses or plants planted for decoration or growing naturally; smallpox. [2]

It is clear from the dictionary meaning of the word flower that it is used as a botanical unit or colloquially as a plant. Since flowers originally meant only one concept, there was no need for differentiation and there was no value system.

An analogue of flowers appeared after the development of art, especially sculpture. That is, they began to make artificial flowers. At first they were used as decorations in various ceremonies, then artificial flowers were used in various demonstrations and gradually became home decorations. Artificial flowers are made from different materials (for example, fabric, plastic, silicone). The appearance of this type of flower led to the appearance of another word in our speech: a natural flower.

Retronym	*Protonym*	*Neonym*
Natural flower	*flower*	*Artificial flower*

In this series, the protonym has no meaning scheme. Although the neonym exists as a novelty, it has a negative meaning compared to the retronym. So any news may not appear with a positive assessment. As a result of the fact that the new element is not always better than the old one, there is a possibility that the positivity score is observed not with the neonym, but with the retronym. We can also observe it in the following examples:

Retronym	Protonym	Neonym
(positive rating)	(no rating)	(negative score)
Live show	performance	phonogram
Genuine Leather	leather	artificial leather
natural hair	hair	artificial hair
marriage of the opposite sex	wedding	same-sex marriage

In some cases, any part of the retronymic line may not have an evaluation scheme. Even if there is a conflict between the retronym and the neonym, there is no positive or negative evaluation relationship:

> *summer olympiad - winter olympiad*
> *still water - carbonated water*
> *surface transport - underground transport*

The above analyzes are considered cases of semantic classification of retronyms, and we analyzed the units serving to narrow down the meaning as contrast pairs, as well as based on their evaluation characteristics.

CONCLUSION

This article has explored the concept of retronyms in the Uzbek language, providing an explanation of their appearance, components, and the role of neonyms in their development. It was established that the emergence of neologisms in society necessitates the renaming of pre-existing units, leading to the formation of retronyms. Additionally, attention was given to the

evaluation criteria used to distinguish between neonyms and retronyms. Linguistics has extensively studied and analyzed the phenomenon of neologism, however, there is still much work to be done in understanding retronyms as a relatively new phenomenon. The study of their structural and semantic features, as well as the principles governing their inclusion in dictionaries, remains an important task for linguists.

REFERENCES

1. Abayev V. I. Osetenskiy"Yazikifolklor". T.I.M. –L. 1949.
2. Explanatory dictionary of the Uzbek language. "O`zbekiston". –T. 2020
3. Lazana, I. (2012). *The Phenomenon of paleonymy in modern greek.*Greece: Patras University.
4. Lozano, Z. M. (2019) An approach to the study of retronymy in spanish. Roma University. https://www.researchgate.net/ publication/ 334761562.
5. Mkhitaryan K. Sovremennye perespektivy razvitiya angliyskogo yazyka i factor retronymii v modelirovanii yazykovoy kartiny mira: doctor thesis: 10.02.04.-Batumi.
6. Safire, V. (2007). About language: retronyms.*The New York Times.*https:// www.nytimes.com/2007/11/18/magazine/18wwln-safire-t.htm
7. Sari, I. (2013). The need for renaming in language: retronyms. *Turkbilig,* 25, 19-26.
8. Xydopoulos, G, Lazana, I. (2014): Looking at retronomy as a source of neology, neology in specialist language. Definition, installation and distribution of new terms, edits. Lyon: Centre de RechercheenTerminologie et TraductionUniversité Lumière Lyon 2, pp. 75-98.
9. Yuldashev, M. (2020). Retronyms in the uzbek language. *International journal on integrated education, 3*(8), 155-158.

SADOQAT KHOLMONOVA
PHD STUDENT,
UZBEKNATIONAL UNIVERSITY TASHKENT,
UZBEKISTAN.
E-MAIL: <SADOQAT87@GMAIL.COM>