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THE LIFE OF THE NEOLOGISM FREELANCE IN THE MACEDONIAN LANGUAGE

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Abstract

New words and expressions constantly enter the language and are in the center of the researchers' interest, primarily, due to their complex nature in terms of definition, origin, formation, classification, meaning, and transfer from one language to another. The present paper examines the origin and the status of only one neologism, *frilens* (*freelance*) in the Macedonian language with the aim to showcase the exploited strategy, regarding its transfer in the Macedonian language, the complex nature of this particular neologism, and its future existence. The researcher's experience and two criteria (the word has to be in use 20 years and the word should not be registered in the current monolingual Macedonian dictionary), are taken into account as a proof that this word is a neologism.

The sample consists of more than a 5 000 Google results with the key word *frilens* [*freelance*], in which this word and the words derived from it appear, forming a corpus Do It Yourself, which suits the needs of the research. The analysis exploits the coding and the general qualitative interpretative-inductive method.

The research results demonstrate that this word is introduced in the Macedonian language from the English language, being simply transcribed, in line with the transcription rules of the Macedonian language. Although in existence more than 20 years, serving as a base for creation of other novel word and compounds, according to the word formation processes in the Macedonian language, it is still absent from the Dictionary. Its further future in the Macedonian language is uncertain due to the priority given to the domestic words.

Key words: Neologisms, freelance, Macedonian language.

1. Introduction

The development of each language is closely connected with all changes that occur in the society and therefore, its lexis is constantly changing, which is a necessity because the language has to address its users' needs. Although the phonological and grammatical structure of a given language tend to stay unchanged and to keep the organized whole in order to provide communication, in fact, the language constantly changes, regarding the fond of the words and regarding the meaning of the words (Crystal & Robins, 17.6.2024). Thus, the language changes, which are a result of the social-political, economical, cultural, and other changes are most obvious in ones' language vocabulary.

In the Macedonian language, as in any language, in general, there are words, which are used for a short or long time, some of them broaden or narrowed their meaning, some of them lose their actuality and become part of the passive lexicon, which means that they have limited usage in the literary works or in the conversational style, thus having stylistic meaning. Some of the words are domestic and some of them are loans. Additionally, new words enter the language on a daily basis (Janusheva, 2017), and each of them have its own formation characteristics (Koneski, 1995).

Speaking about the new words, it has to be stressed out that albeit the substantial amount of definitions in the dictionaries and the worldwide research, it is hard to capture their essence. As claimed by Crystal & Robins (17.6.2024), the Latin and the Greek language are source to many neologisms in the European languages. According to them, the neologisms enrich the language vocabulary because many new words are introduced when something new enters the ones' experience due to the contact with a speaker of a different language. They further state that the term *tea* is borrowed from the Chinese, and the notion *coffee* from the Arabian etc. They also refer to the German word *Kindergarten* as borrowed into the English to denote a non-formal school for small children.

In recent days, in relation to the neologisms, mainly, the English language influence on the languages worldwide may be noticed. Seen as a lingua franca, its impact is so big, that in Macedonian language, for instance, a new Macedonian-English language starts to be noticed, regarding the usage of the numerous words from the English language which present a serious challenge for the linguists in relation to their orthography (Orthography, 2017), and especially in the construction of the sentence (Janusheva, 2021).

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1.1. The neologisms' definitions in various dictionaries

The Merriam-Webster online dictionary says that the neologism means *new word, new usage, or new expression*. Similarly, the Cambridge online dictionary, the Collins' online dictionary, and the Longman dictionary of contemporary English define the word neologism as *a new word or expression or as a new meaning of an already existed word*. In the Collins dictionary, it is very useful to pay attention to the claim that some neologisms become a part of the language. In the Longman dictionary, the notion neologism is seen as *a synonym with the term coinage*. The monolingual Macedonian dictionary (2006), defines the word neologism identically. In the same vein, Zeydan (2024) in Encyclopedia Britannica describes the neologism as *a new word, new expression or a new definitions for a word that already exist in the language* and lists several example, the verb *to google*, the noun *twit*, the concept *emoji* and the term *social distance*. According to Zeydan, slang is a type of neologism which is typically non-formal and limited in the usage of certain social group. In the Dictionary of linguistic terms in Serbian language, the word neologism is determined *as a new, newly formed or borrowed word, expression or construction which recently starts to be used in the language, and as a usage of the old words and expressions with a new meaning as well*. The value of this Dictionary is the knowledge that the neologisms may be standardized or eliminated from the language. In this Dictionary one can find a very relevant explanation of the neologisms. Namely, this Dictionary makes a distinction among *neologism, occasionalism, coinage, and hapax*, and states that sometimes there are expressions such as *individual, or author neologisms*. The occasionalisms sometimes called as author's neologisms are considered as a new words which are specific for the literary expression and are formed, according to the word formation rules of a given standard language. This Dictionary further provides an insight that various languages differ according to their approach regarding the inclusion of the neologisms in the monolingual dictionaries. In the Croatian encyclopedia, neologism is determined as *a newly formed word or expression which is not yet accepted in general*, for example *predochnik* for *screen*, or a *word which starts to be used with a new meaning*, for example, *mrezha* for the English term *network*. This Encyclopedia states that the neologisms are often created in the literary works, for example, in the poems, where they are stylistically marked, and in the language of science, art and certain closed social groups. The main and very relevant aspect of this definition is that it points out that the neologisms stop to be new words after they are generally accepted in the language or become a part of the specialized dictionaries. The online edition of the Russian language dictionary claims that the word neologism is *a word or expression which appears as new* in the language.

From the abovementioned, it can be seen that the word neologism is explained as a new word or expression, or as an already existed word which gains a new meaning, which is not yet part of the general language. However, in these dictionaries there is no information on what one should understand by the notion *recently* referring to the period of time which is considered as *recent* or *new*.

1.2. The neologisms definition by various researchers

There is a great amount of researchers who define the word neologism exactly alike the dictionaries. Vinogradov (1972) determines the notion neologism as *a new word or meaning denoting a new concept, item or though*. According to Martincová (1982), the neologisms *are not included in the latest dictionary of a language*. Herberg (1988) claims that a neologism is *a lexical unit which is created in a certain phase of the language development* based on the communicative needs of a given community, and in this phase, this word is perceived as new by many speakers. He also states that the new word gains extended usage and then become part of the language norm. Newmark (1988) also defines the new word as a *newly coingaed lexical unit or an already existing unit that gains a new meaning*. According to Rey (1995), a neologism is *a lexical unit, word, part of the word, or expression in which the relation denoter - denoted has not been previously materialized as a linguistic form in a given language vocabulary*. Finnaly, Jaansen (1996) offers the following definition: „Any word that does not occur in the morphological database derived from the dictionary because of its recentness is a neologism. A coinage is a neologism – a new word or word combination – that is created deliberately." Similar definitions for neologism as a new word, new expression or an old word that gains a new meaning are given by many researchers (Crystal, 2001; Karlík, Nekula, & Pleskalova, 2002; Dasgupta, 2004; Peprník, 2006; Sablayrolles, 2008; Usevičs, 2012; Janovec, 2013;

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Liu & Liu, 2014; Janusheva & Jurukovska, 2015; Janusheva, 2015; Horbach & Hryniuk 2018; Assanova, Zhampeiis, Toyshibaeva, Ismagulova & Ermagambetova, 2019; Holubnycha, Kostikova, Besarab, Moshtagh, Lushchyk, & Dolgusheva, 2020; Nelcoska, 2020; Janusheva & Stojanoska, 2021; Nam, 2021; Janusheva, 2022 etc.).

From the previous, it is clear that a substantial body of research determines the new word identically like in the dictionaries. However, again, there is no reference to the period of time and to the meaning of the term *recent* or *new*.

1.3. Criteria to determine the neologisms

Although it is true that there are no clear criteria to determine the neologisms (Mostovy, 1998), many linguists offer their criteria. Jaansen (1996) lists the following criteria:

a) Psychological: A neologism is a word which is comprehended as new in a given language community.
b) Lexicographic: Each word used by the speaker which is not part of the dictionaries is a neologism.
c) Exclusive definition: A word not appearing in a pre-determined exclusion lexicon is a neologism.
d) Diachronic: Each word form that appears in the general language and was not a part from that language previously is a neologism.
e) Reference corpora definition: Any word-form which appears in a recent general language text, and does not appear in an established reference corpus of that language is a neologism.

Cabré (1999) takes into account the diachronic, psychological and lexicographic criteria and attaches additional criterion:

a) Instability: The lexical unit is neologism if it shows signs of formal instability (morphologic, graphic, phonetic), or semantic instability.

Horbach & Hryniuk (2018) and Assanova et. al (2019) include two new additional criteria:

a) Nomination: The new word or the already existing word is denoting certain concept or phenomenon.
b) Scope: The scope of usage of the new word formation. Regarding the chronology, they assert that the neologism exists for certain time in the history of the language and in the society.

The online Serbian dictionary of the linguistic terms mentions the very same criteria, stating the intersection between the diachronic and nominational (functional) parameter, meaning that the new word is created or enters the language with the aim to nominate a new reality, but this is not a necessary condition due to the fact that sometimes, according to this Dictionary, the existing concepts or phenomenon gain new nomination in other social-political frame, for example the use of the English word to nominate a profession, such as *menadzer* for *upravnik/rakovoditel*, *biznis* for *work*, *biznis asistent* for a *secretary*, *model* for a *maneken* etc.

Despite these criteria which certainly help clarify the notion new word, it is still hard to cope with the period of time. What does it mean when it is said that a neologism is a word used recently? What recently really means? According to Zhakanova & Luchkova (2013), many schollars offer different views. Some claim that it is a personal decision, and some state that a new word should be in use less than 25 years. Therefore, it seems appropriately to think about the neologism as a word that is in general use approximately for 20 years (one generation). After this period of time, its faith is uncertain:

a) It may be adjusted to the language norm and registered into the current dictionaries, thus stops to be seen as a new word.

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b) It may still be present in the press or in the conversational style, but its element may still be perceived as foreign and therefore it may not be included in the dictionaries yet.

c) It may be moved to the passive lexicon (not in active usage) (Janusheva & Jurukovska, 2015).

In relation to the period of time, it has to be stressed that many new words may be comprehended as new words – meteors (the new word is present a short time, and then disappears from the language). However, regarding the Macedonian context, due to various reasons, there are many words that are not evidenced in the Dictionary although there are in use for 20 years.

2. Broader research context

There is plenty of research dedicated to the new words from various aspects, in different languages and from a different point of view, such as their translation, their word formation, their origin, the sphere they belong to etc.

Mostly, they refer to the new words in the English language (Rey, 1995; Newmark, 1988; Mostovyi, 1998; Peprnik, 2006; Fröhlichová, 2011; Usevičs, 2012; Liu, 2014; Hardini, Setia & Mono, 2019; Nelcoska, 2020; Holubnycha et al., 2020; Medvid et al., 2022). Further, there are research papers which consider the Bulgarian language (Aleksandorva, 2016); the Croatian (Ančić & Božanić, 2022); the Chinese (Guo, 2023); the German (Herberg, 1988; Horbach & Hryniuk, 2018); the Check (Martincová, 1972; Janovec et al., 2013); the French (Sablayrolles, 2008; Mudrochová, 2016); the Korean (Nam, 2021); the Macedonian (Janusheva & Jurukovska, 2015; Janusheva & Stojanoska, 2021; Janusheva, 2022).

Predominantly, the above mentioned research deals with the strategies used to translate the new words related to the ICT in their language. Some of them showcase the novelty words in their language. Some of them recognize the new word as a loan word or as a foreign word. However, there is a difference between a loan word and the foreign word, in relation to their status. Both of them are foreign words, but the loan is completely adjusted to the grammatical system of the language and in the foreign word, the foreign elements are still present (Koneski, 1967; Filipović, 1987; Lazarevska & Janusheva, 2019).

3. Methodology

This paper seeks an answer of the question related to the origin and the status of only one neologism, *frilens* (*freelance*) in the Macedonian language with the aim to showcase the exploited strategy, regarding its transfer in the Macedonian language, the complex nature of this particular neologism and its future existence. The researcher's experience and the two criteria, the time period of 20 years in use and the absence from the current monolingual Macedonian dictionary, are taken into account as a proof that this word is a neologism.

The sample consists of more than a 5 000 Google results in which this word and the words derived from it appear, forming a corpus Do It Yourself, which suits the needs of the research, in accordance with Hardie (2016). The selected sample is also in correlation with Mason's (2002), Cheek's (2008) and Yin's (2011) views on what represents the sample and with Lincoln & Guba (1985) who claim that each sample is in a way purposeful given that it is gathered to fulfill some purpose.

The results are carefully read and coded, according to Maxwell's (2005) organizational coding (three boxes – the neologism, the words motivated from it, and the period of time when they appear). The analysis exploits the general qualitative interpretative-inductive method used by Thomas (2006), Kahlke (2014) and Harding & Whitehead (2016) which stresses the inductive thinking which leads to producing ideas from the data.

4. Analysis, results and discussion

Taking into account the three criteria mentioned above (the researcher's experience, the period of time (a word is considered as neologism if it is in use for the last 20 years), and its absence from the current monolingual Macedonian dictionary), the organizational coding reveals many Google results in which the word *frilens* [*freelance*] and words which derivate from it are present.

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According to several online English language dictionaries (Merriam-Webster, Cambridge dictionary, Collins' dictionary), the word *freelance* may serve as an adjective, a noun, verb or adverb, and it is a synonym with the word *freelancer*, which functions as a noun. In the Macedonian language, the word *frilens* [*freelance*] is present as an adverb since 2017: *Rabotish frilens* [*You are working freelance*?] (25.11.2021, frontline.com). In 2023, *frilens* [*freelance*] is used with the meaning *honorarna rabota* [*freelance work*] (6.8.2019 forum.kajgana.com), which means that it functions as an adjective.

From the Google results, it is evident that the word *frilenser* [*freelancer*] is present in the Macedonian language on a regular basis since 2018 although in some forums, such as, *forum.kajgana.com*, it can be traced from 2010. From 2019, the word *frilenserka* [*woman freelancer*] (23. 1.2019, factor.mk) is observed. This novel word is formed in correlation to the word formation processes in Macedonian, according to which feminine nouns are derived from the masculine with the suffix *-ka*, from domestic or foreign base. This also confirms Janusheva's and Jurukovska's (2015) findings that this hybrid word is one of the way neologisms are created. The creation of the feminine forms contributes to the gender sensitive language debates because it shows that in the Macedonian language, domestic means are used in the formation of a new word.

Further, the Google results demonstrates that the word *frilens* serves as a base for word formation of many compound words, such as: *frilens profesii* [*freelance professions*], *frilens kariera* and *frilens-kariera* [*freelance career*], *frilens rabota* [*freelance work*], *frilens rabotenjeto* [*the freelance working*], *frilens profil* [*freelance profile*], *frilens pisateli* [*freelance authors*], *frilens konferencija* [*freelance conference*], *frilens krugovite* [*freelance circles*], *frilens mozhnosti* [*freelance opportunity*], *frilens servisite* [*freelance services*], *frilens paket* [*freelance package*], *frilens novinar* [*freelance journalist*], *frilens obuka* [*freelance training*], *frilens proekti* [*freelance projects*], *frilens kurs* [*freelance course*], *frilens biznis* [*freelance business*], *frilens platform* [*freelance platform*], which pose a question in relation to their orthography and their meanings. The analysis suggests that their meaning can be interpreted differently which affect their orthography.

It can be perceived that almost all of these compound words are written separately. The examples *frilens kariera* and *frilens-kariera* are the only ones written in two different ways, with and without hyphen. Which is the correct way, regarding the Macedonian language orthography norm? The answer is not so easy and depends on the comprehension of the component *frilens* as a noun or as and adjective.

If the meaning of the component *frilens* equals the meaning of Macedonian adjective *honoraren* (m), *honorarna* (f), *honorarno* (n), *honorarni* (pl.), in these compounds, *frilens* functions as an adjective, meaning that the two component of the compound should be written separately, as *frilens kariera*.

If the meaning of the component *frilens* refers to the meaning of the Macedonian noun *honorar*, in these compounds, *frilens* may function as a noun, meaning that the first noun *frilens* complements the meaning of the second component *konferencija* [*conference*], and therefore, the two components should be written with hyphen, as *frilens-kariera*, such as: *panel-diskusija* [*panel discussion*], *rok-muzika* [*rock music*] etc.

Nevertheless, seen as an adjective, in the compound *frilens konferencija*, the meaning would have be *honorarna konferencija* [*a conference organized on a freelance basis*]. Yet, there is no illustration of the existence of such phrase in the Macedonian language. According to the Macedonian dictionary, the word *honoraren* refers to word *honorar*, which means *money paid to a person for a certain job/activity done, according to a previous agreement*. However, this is not the meaning of the compound *frilens konferencija*. From the broader context where this compound is used, it is obvious that it means a conference that is organized for those who are engaged in a freelance work.

Furthermore, the words *frilensing* [*freelancing*] and its determined form *frilensingot* [*the freelancing*] are also present in the Macedonian language since 2018 (30.11.2018, biznisinfo.mk), and on some forums even since 2011 (forum.femina.mk). There are also compound words with the first component *frilensing* [*freelancing*], such as: *frilensing sajtovi* [*freelancing sites*] (24.11.2017, forum.it.mk). On some forums, the word can be seen as *frilansing* [*freelancing*] (10.5.2021, forum.it.mk), which is an orthographic variation, showing the uncertainty regarding the transcription of the English word *freelancing* in the Macedonian language. In the Macedonian language, the word *frilensing* represents the first component of the compound, and thus the two words of the compound

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should be written with hyphen, resting on some similar models: *shoping-centar* [*shopping mall*] (Orthography, 2017).

Furthermore, the Google results manifest the appearance of a completely new word in the Macedonian language, *frilenserstvo* [*freelance activity*] (20.5.2018, fakulteti.mk), which is more often present in 2024 (17.4.2024. mia.mk; 1.6.2024, inovativnost.mk). This word is a noun formed in harmony with the word formation processes in the Macedonian language, from a foreign base and the domestic suffix *-stvo*.

Since 2023, the word *frilenserski* [*freelance*] (14.6.2024 imapctfoundation.mk) started to be used. This word is an adjective formed with a foreign base and the domestic sufix *-ski*, analogously to the word formation rules.

Among the newest words motivated from the word *frilens*, three new words are noticed: *frilens video editor*[1] [*freelance video editor*] (11.1.2022, forum.it.mk), *frilens kopirajteri* [freelance copywriters] (since 2024), and *frilens ekosistem* [*freelance ecosystem*] since (2024).

Finally, since March 2024, a brain new word is formed with the component *frilens*, namely a verb in the second person singular in present simple time *frilensirash* [*to freelance*]: *Da frilensirash ili ne*? [*Whether to freelance or not*?] (blog creativehub.mk, 11.3.2024).

Following the aforementioned, it may be said that these word formations have a great potential to be used most often by the Macedonian language speakers, and to be included in the Dictionary as regular lexical units. However, there are many reasons due to which this might not be the case.

In the Macedonian language, as mentioned, there is a noun *honorar* (*honorarium*), which according to the Online etymology dictionary origins from the Latin and is accepted as a loan word a long time ago.

The adjective *honoraren* (m), *honorarna* (f), *honorarno* (n), *honorarni* (pl.) is formed from the noun *honorar* with the suffix *-en*.

In addition, many Macedonian language researchers agree that in the formal styles (scientific, administrative, and publicist), the presence of the foreign words should be reduced, especially if there is a domestic word or if there is a loan word which is completely accepted, used among the speakers, and is not perceived as a loan word anymore.

5. Conclusion

The research results showcase that the period of time as a criterion is crucial among the factors that can assist in determining the novel words. Further, the findings reveal the complex nature of a single neologism, suggesting that each neologism should be examined as a particular lexical unit and that each has various paths in a given language. From the results it is obvious that the word *frilens* is still alive and has still not disappeared from the language. Yet, it is absent from the current Macedonian dictionary. Accordingly, it can be predict that this word and its derivations will still live in the conversational styles and be part of the language of some specialized groups. Finally, it should be noticed that the preference in using domestic instead of a foreign words will contribute in preservation of the Macedonian language norm.

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[1] In the Macedonian, video editor is written as closed compound, videoeditor.

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