

A LEXICAL STUDY OF MEDIA COMMUNICATION TERMS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Abstract: This article examines the lexical features of media communication terms in English and Uzbek, as well as the influence of social networks on the lexical development of language. The study analyzes neologisms that have emerged through the Internet and social media, the phenomenon of “netspeak,” and the word-formation methods used in the creation of media terms. Particular attention is paid to newly formed lexical units created through affixation, blending, and compounding, especially on the example of Twitter. The article also highlights the penetration of English media terms into Uzbek and their role in modern communication.

Keywords: media communication, lexicology, neologism, social networks.

Language is an essential means through which people exchange experiences, worldviews, patterns of thought, and other aspects of human life. It exists in parallel with culture and reflects humanity's pursuit not only of practical needs but also of inquiry, knowledge, education, and cooperation among multicultural societies. Languages are the primary systems of communication used by specific groups of people within particular societies, or linguistic communities, to which they belong. The value of language and its priority in human history have never been questioned. Language functions as a means of interaction and communication in all spheres of human life, while also possessing additional cultural significance as an instrument of dominant ideology. Over the past two decades, the Internet has radically changed the way people communicate both locally and globally. Around the world, millions of people use the Internet and online services every day. In a globalized world, the rapid development of information technologies, particularly Internet applications, has produced significant results. This “social media revolution,” which began in the 1990s and developed with exponential growth, has influenced both written and spoken language, including the use of standard forms of expression. Critics of the Internet often point to poor grammatical usage on social networking sites and attempt to prove that such platforms contribute to weak language skills. It is true that Internet users spend more time on social networks than on many other types of websites. The emergence of the Internet and, consequently, social media networks has undoubtedly led to the rapid development of new forms of written language. Since English is the dominant language on the Internet, an important question arises: how have social networks changed the English language? Another important question is: what influence do social networks have on the Uzbek language?

There is no denying that social networks have had a considerable impact on the majority of people with whom we are now able to communicate. This has exposed users to a wide range of identities, perspectives, and communicative approaches when using social media. With the exception of social media specialists and professional journalists, most texts written by the general public on social networks are not edited, monitored, or checked to ensure correct English usage. As users enjoy freedom in their choice of language on social media, certain linguistic tendencies inevitably emerge.

In a recent study conducted by Samsung involving 2,000 parents, 86 percent of participants stated that teenagers and young people seemed to speak an entirely different language on social media. According to the study, there is now a “seismic generational gap” in the use of modern informal language. The study was led by Professor John Sutherland of University College London, a leading English-language specialist in the United Kingdom. He argues that the emergence of emojis may represent the next stage in language and communication. Undoubtedly, social media provides a rich space for experimentation, the creation of new words, and the transformation of old ones. It also offers a platform for people who do not strictly follow grammatical rules and syntax, giving them freedom to break traditional conventions of English and to think in innovative, creative, and forward-looking ways. Language has always evolved, and it will continue to do so. This study examines the significance of social networks in English and Uzbek and their influence on lexical richness. As is well known, vocabulary and the classification of words are studied within the branch of linguistics known as lexicology. The term *lexicology* derives from the Greek words *lexikos*, meaning “word” or “related to words,” and *logos*, meaning “study” or “doctrine.” Lexicology is the branch of linguistics that studies the vocabulary of a language and the word as a lexical unit. One of the main tasks of lexicology is to examine the meanings of words and phraseological units, polysemy, synonymy, antonymy, homonymy, and various semantic relationships between words. Lexicology also studies changes in the vocabulary of a language and the causes of such changes. These changes are usually connected with social, regional, and professional factors. The development and expansion of vocabulary occur through several processes. Three of them are based on the internal resources of a language: the creation of new words, the formation of new meanings through polysemy and semantic transfer, and the formation of word combinations. The fourth process involves the use of resources from other languages, namely borrowings, including lexical borrowings and calques. Words are generally classified according to certain features: origin, such as native and borrowed vocabulary; historical perspective, such as obsolete words and neologisms; sphere of use, such as common, specialized, and colloquial vocabulary; and stylistic coloring, such as neutral and stylistically marked vocabulary. Vocabulary is dynamic; therefore, under the influence of external factors, the lexical composition of a language changes significantly. Thus, words that currently have the status of neologisms may enter the core vocabulary of speakers within a few years and become common in everyday use.

Today, the widespread use of the Internet, particularly social networks, has affected not only all spheres of social life but also language. As a result of extensive use of social networking platforms, the term “netspeak,” meaning the language of the Internet, has emerged. It reflects the specific forms of speaking, writing, and word usage associated with the Internet and social media. The Internet and social networks have had a significant impact on human life and on language, which is directly connected with people and continues to develop together with them. The following points may be cited as evidence of this influence: The emergence of “netspeak,” or Internet language; The increasing importance of English and its transformation into a major language of communication;

The entry of neologisms into almost every language and their rapid popularization. Below, the enrichment of English and Uzbek vocabulary through the Internet and social networks is examined according to word-formation methods recognized in lexicology.

The names of social networks and the opportunities and limitations created for users on these platforms contribute to the daily increase of new words in English and Uzbek vocabulary. In English, which is recognized as the primary language of the Internet and social networks, the number of new words is increasing through internal linguistic resources, particularly internal word-formation mechanisms. In Uzbek, however, new words entering the language together with the Internet and social networks, that is, neologisms, are especially noticeable.

First, let us consider the growth of new words in English based on internal word-formation processes, using the social network Twitter as an example. New words are constantly being created on Twitter. This study focuses on Twitter as one of the richest sources for the creation and dissemination of new words, concepts, and ideas. The present research analyzes various productive word-formation methods, including affixation, compounding, blending, clipping, and abbreviation. The popularity of Twitter in English-speaking countries has caused it to be recognized as one of the richest sources enriching modern English. New words created on Twitter are not limited only to this particular social network; rather, they are connected with several different fields.

Publications related to Twitter often regard this social network not only as a means of creating new words, concepts, and ideas but also as a means of spreading them. Twitter provides a vast source of new lexical items and numerous innovative terms based on the words *Twitter*, *tweet*, and their shortened forms. People choose to create new units based on *Twitter* and *tweet* because such words are attractive, humorous, or recognizable through their models, and are therefore easier to understand and remember. Below, new words formed in relation to the Twitter social network are examined according to word-formation methods. From the early years of Twitter’s emergence, there has been a constantly growing stock of new words associated with the platform: words describing its communicative features and types, actions that can be performed on it, and the characteristics and descriptions of its users. More precisely, it is rather difficult to count and list all the new

words created under its influence. The database compiled for this study consists of information obtained from various online sources. The name of one important source may itself be regarded as a new word formed in English through blending: *Twittonary* = *Twitter* + *dictionary*. *Twittonary* is a dictionary based on a list of new English words used on the social network Twitter.

During the research conducted for this study, one of the most notable words encountered was *twittologism*. A *twittologism* is a general term for a new word or phrase created on Twitter. The word *tweet*, formed through back-formation, denotes a message written on the Twitter social network. If we consider its original lexical meaning, its first meaning was “the sound made by a bird”; later, it also came to mean a message on Twitter. Let us now examine examples of word formation on Twitter through suffixes. The analysis of new “Twitter words” makes it possible to identify the following categories.

Word	Formation	Through	Suffixation
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Noun-forming

suffixes

-er

<i>Twitter</i>	+	<i>-er</i>	=	<i>twitterer</i>
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A person who uses the Twitter social network. In some sources, a Twitter user is also referred to as a *tweeta*.

-ing

<i>tweet</i>	+	<i>-ing</i>	=	<i>tweeting</i>
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The process of communication on Twitter.

-ese

Twitter + *-ese* = *twitterese*

The language used when posting Twitter messages. As is known, Twitter messages, or tweets, have a character limit; one tweet must consist of a limited number of signs or letters. For this reason, Twitter users employ a special Twitter language, including specific words, abbreviations, and slang, in order to include more information in a single tweet. Thus, the word *twitterese* emerged in the sense of “Twitter language,” similar to language names such as *Chinese* or *Japanese*.

-ia

Twitter + *-ia* = *twitteria*

A condition of excessive use of the social network Twitter.com. Adjective-forming suffixes

-ish

<i>Twitter</i>	+	<i>-ish</i>	=	<i>twitterish</i>
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Very active on Twitter.

Verb-forming

suffixes

-ize

<i>Twitter</i>	+	<i>-ize</i>	=	<i>twitterize</i>
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To provide a person or object with access to Twitter.

Semi-affixes

-head

Twitter + *-head* = *twithead*
A person who writes foolish or uninteresting tweets on Twitter.

-worthy

twit + *-worthy* = *twitworthy*
An event or occurrence in life that is accidental, remarkable, or worthy of being tweeted.

-freak

tweet + *freak* = *tweetfreak*
A person who sends constant, excessive, and/or unnecessary tweets.

-aholic

tweet + *-aholic* = *tweetaholic* / *twittaholic*
A person addicted to Twitter and unable to live without it.

Blending

Blending is a word-formation method in which parts of two words are combined to create a new lexical unit.

detweet

delete + *tweet*
To delete a Twitter post or tweet.

twittertainment

Twitter + *entertainment*
Entertainment through popular content on Twitter.

Prefixation

Productive prefixes include the following.
Noun-forming prefixes

cyber-

cyber + *tweet* = *cybertweet*
A person with whom one interacts through Twitter but does not communicate in real life.
Verb-forming prefixes

mis-

mis- + *tweet* = *mistweet*
A tweet that one later regrets sending.

re-

re- + *tweet* = *retweet*
To copy and repost another user's Twitter post.

The research shows that affixation is a productive type of word formation involving the bases *Twitter* and *tweet*. The number of affixes involved is limited in comparison with the overall number of such formations.

Compounding

The following are examples of words formed through compounding:

twitology

tweet + *logos*
The study of Twitter and its influence on human social interaction.

Twitterphobe

Twitter + *phobe*
A person who is afraid of Twitter.

Twitosphere

tweet + *sphere*
The online Twitter community.

tweetstorm

tweet + *storm*
A wave or sequence of many Twitter messages from a particular person.

beetweet

bee + *tweet*
A tweet written in anger.

bulltwitter

A Twitter user who is not truthful when writing tweets.

twaffic

Twitter + *traffic*
Internet traffic on Twitter.

twapp

Twitter + *application*
An application used for Twitter.

twinfo

Twitter + *information*
Information transmitted on Twitter.

twam

Twitter + *spam*
Twitter spam.

twittionary

Twitter + *dictionary*
A list of words related to Twitter.

twemment

Twitter + *comment*
A Twitter comment.

tweetalog

Twitter + *catalog*
A catalog of Twitter lists.

twoet

Twitter + *poet* / *twoem* / *poem* / *twoetry* / *poetry*

A	poet,	poem,	or	poetry	on	Twitter.
twewbie						
<i>Twitter</i>			+			<i>newbie</i>
A	new		user		on	Twitter.
twappy						
<i>Twitter</i>			+			<i>happy</i>
Being		happy		on		Twitter.
tweople						
<i>tweet</i>			+			<i>people</i>
People			on			Twitter.
twapplications						
<i>Twitter</i>			+			<i>applications</i>
Twitter						applications.
twaddicted						
<i>Twitter</i>			+			<i>addicted</i>
Addicted			to			Twitter.
twaiting						
<i>Twitter</i>			+			<i>waiting</i>
The	state	of		waiting	on	Twitter.
twadd						
<i>Twitter</i>			+			<i>add</i>
To	add	someone	to	one's	Twitter	account.
twittercon						
<i>Twitter</i>			+			<i>conference</i>
A	conference		of		Twitter	users.
tweetthief						
<i>tweet</i>			+			<i>thief</i>
A person who steals jokes or materials from other people on Twitter and tweets them as if they were their own.						
twitterbeast						
<i>Twitter</i>			+			<i>beast</i>
A person who sends funny or obscene tweets to entertain friends on Twitter.						
snaptweet						
<i>snap</i>			+			<i>tweet</i>
A	tweet		containing		a	photograph.
Twitterbox						
<i>Twitter</i>			+			<i>box</i>
A	chat	box	that	uses	Twitter	as a delivery mechanism.
twitteridiot						
<i>Twitter</i>			+			<i>idiot</i>

A person who writes nonsense, complaints, or false information on Twitter.

Derivational Word Formation

The following examples illustrate derivative formations:

Noun + noun + -er = noun

tweetwatcher

tweet + *watch* + -er

A person who remains logged into Twitter all day but never tweets.

twitterwriter

Twitter + *write* + -er

A person who regularly writes on Twitter.

tweettetter

Twitter + *net* + -er

A person who tweets from several accounts.

reporttwitter

A Twitter user who writes in a reporter-like style.

Noun + noun + -ing = noun

tweetstacking

The practice of posting several tweets in sequence, usually in order to express more than can be contained in a single tweet.

tweetdropping

A one-sided fake conversation with a celebrity.

tweetcasting

Live tweeting on the Twitter social network.

tweetdecking

Stealing tweets and tweeting them to many people as one's own.

Twitter-camping

The act of regularly sending tweets.

twittering

Communicating or acting on Twitter.

twittergrieving

Public electronic mourning on Twitter in connection with the untimely death of a celebrity.

Adjective + noun + -ing = noun

drunktwittering

The act of posting messages on Twitter while intoxicated.

Multi-stem compound nouns

tweetfacelinkblogging

The act of posting the same message on several social media platforms.

twit-the-press

An ironic expression referring to press media that deliver false reports to unreliable information sources.

Twitter-to-business

Creating tweets in order to gain more business.
Prepositional Compounds

tweetback

A list of links to a particular tweet by other users.

tweetup

An organized meeting of people who use Twitter.

twitover

A situation in which everyone tweets at night instead of sleeping.

tweet-out

A general greeting sent to friends on Twitter.

Word

Combinations

twittertweeter

A user who posts very frequently on Twitter.

Twitter-twatter

A Twitter user whose excessive tweeting irritates other users.

speedtweet

A group of favorite or most frequently contacted users.

Twitter-bitter

A state of being very upset with Twitter, to the extent that even mentioning it causes discomfort or irritation.

tweeter-totter

A quarrel between two people on Twitter, usually about something humorous or meaningless.

tweet

skeet

A spam account on Twitter.

Rhyming Compounds

with

Coordinating

Conjunctions

Tweet and Greet

An event in social media in which celebrities use Twitter to tweet their location. The number of these new words is increasing day by day. The growing popularity of Twitter and the daily increase in its number of users contribute to the emergence of new lexical units, which in turn enrich modern English vocabulary. Not only Twitter but also other types of social networks generate lexical innovations in English, Uzbek, and many other languages of the world through affixation, compounding, blending, abbreviation, and other lexical methods and neologisms. In the following sections, other word-formation methods and neologisms are discussed in connection with other types of social networks.

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