Modern Linguistic Trends in the Japanese Language[1]

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Abstract

This study is considered to be relevant due to the dynamic development of the lexical stock of modern Japanese language. Globalization and technical progress have brought changes in all spheres of life, including linguoculturology. The media space is becoming a specific reflection of modern reality, a new kind of socio-political discourse and a source of the origin of neologisms. The purpose of the article is to study and analyze the most popular neologisms in Japanese society in recent years, to compare the main trends in modern Japanese and identify their relationship with key events inside Japan and abroad. The leading approaches to the study of this problem are the system-structural approach and comparative analysis. The main result of the study is the identification of new linguistic and cultural characteristics in the preparation of neologisms, which becomes a reflection of the modern language picture of the world. The study also proved that most of the neologisms of modern Japanese are borrowed words and combined words written in katakana.

Keywords: Modern Vocabulary; Linguoculturology; Neologism; Internet Slang; Speech Recognition.

1. Introduction

Modern languages are undergoing constant change, which makes them alive. Dynamic globalization of all spheres of our activity also affects the transformation of the language system, as well as cognitive and sociolinguistic factors. The emergence of neologisms, as a rule, reflects the social development and worldviews of native speakers. As noted by the famous Chinese linguist Yu Yunhai, the lack of new words in the language indicates a lack of progress in society. So one of the most productive areas associated with the appearance of new linguistic categories is the Internet space. The Internet has already entered into the daily life of everyone, and now it is no longer

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just a virtual platform for communicating and receiving new information. The Internet is considered as a special informational, social, psychological and linguistic space, which has its own characteristic features. These include: virtuality, interactivity, hypertextuality, globality, creativity, anonymity and mosaic, together giving a unique opportunity for the emergence, existence and development of new linguistic and communicative forms (Hatoyama, 2008; Kun, 2007; Likhachev, 1987; Martin, 1960).

2. Research Methodology

In studying this problem, general research methods were used, such as the comparative method, narrative synthesis and analysis. First of all, we identified new neologism words in Japanese, which appeared in 2017 and in 2018 in the Japanese Internet space. The data was obtained on the basis of surveys and independent monitoring of chats, blogs, forums, and the materials of the two Japanese publishers, Shogakukan and Sanseido, which produce well-known dictionaries of the Japanese language. Further, the analysis and systematization of the information received was carried out, and a characteristic of each neologism was given, as well as a translation and an example of its use. We also conducted additional research regarding their linguistic and cultural characteristics. The results obtained made it possible to compare the main trends in modern Japanese and determine their relationship with key events inside Japan and abroad (Zhukova, 2015).

3. Results

In the course of the study, neologisms in Japanese, which were actively used in 2017-2018, were selected and studied. In 2018, a new expression, which has become very popular in Japan, is *kuhakukyofusho*, which means “fear of blank spaces” or “the syndrome of fear of empty (unfilled) places” (places for recording plans in the diary).途中から空白恐怖症に目覚めて、とりあえず背景を頑張った一年でしたね！[This was the year, in the first 6 months of which I did nothing, therefore, acquiring a phobia to live a life in vain, I have become more active in the second half of the year.]As scientists have found out, this phenomenon forces people to enter fictional upcoming events to get rid of anxiety. But it has become popular in the Internet space and is assosiated with the desire to get more "friends" in social networks, securing a sense of self-worth. The next neologism was the word *sotsukon* - “completed marriage” (by analogy with the completion of training in an educational institution) - meaning the situation when a couple continues to be married, but the husband and wife live their own lives and do not interfere in each other’s affairs. 下の子も20になったら卒婚したい。[When my youngest child turns 20, I think to start living separately with my husband, not divorcing him.]. Also, the expression -

gohanrompo - “the logic of the gohan” - has become actively used.*Gohan* in Japanese can mean both rice and food in general. The meaning of this phrase lies in the tendency among politicians to interpret words for their benefit and to pursue a policy of double standards. 批判されたご飯論法を続けていく政府の強権を表した元号なのでアウト。[This era ended because the government’s double standards policy was criticized.] This expression was also one of the candidates for the “word of the year” of the publishing house DziyuKokuminsya. Also during the analysis of the Japanese Internet space, two more verbs were identified: *baeru* and *moyaru*. In 2017, one of the most popular words was *insuta-bae* (something that stands out or looks good on the Instagram network). 見た目もインスタ映えだし、味もすごく美味しかった。[It looks good, as for instagram, and tastes very delicious]. This year, a new verb form appeared for *baeru* (originally the word sounds like haeru). In combination with another word, the voiced version of the verb has gained its own life. Also, the meaning of the word has undergone a change, now this verb form describes something impressive or stylish, regardless of the fact of publication in social networks. From the point of view of word formation, the verb *moyaru* (shortened from moyamoyasuru) is also interesting, meaning "to experience vague indignation or discontent in relation to someone."モヤる気持ちも桜見て乗り越えるぜ。[Even having a bad mood, if you look at sakura blossom, you will forget about all problems].The problem of neologisms in modern language was widely discussed in Japan. The reason for this was the inclusion of a large amount of Internet slang in the sixth edition of the "Modern Japanese language dictionary Sanseido" (SanseidoGendai Shin Kokugojiten). Thus, out of 77,500 words, about 1000 were new, among them such as *kusa*, literally “grass”, but used to express laughter (as eng. lol). It appeared in the list of publisher's new words in 2017. Also, the word *numa*, “swamp”, was included in the dictionary meaning “deeply bogged down” in something, for example, in hobby, and *giga* as an abbreviation of “gigabyte” - usually in conversations about smartphone traffic. In 2018, the first in ten years, a new edition of the prestigious Kojien dictionary of IvanamiShoten appeared. The seventh edition includes 250,000 words, among them*kuraudo* (as eng. cloud), which came from the world of modern technology and *kasotsuka* (cryptocurrency). It should be noted that, despite its widespread use, the word guguru, "search the web" (or "google"), was not found (俞允海. 新词语研究; 博文.の者言葉の中の外来語).

At the same time, publishers indicate that they do not seek to show unusual words, do not arrange a race between themselves for the number of new words in the dictionaries, so the words included in the dictionary have already entered into the daily routine of the majority of residents. The fact of the presence of neologisms from the Internet space in an authoritative dictionary was publicized in the Japanese media and caused a mixed reaction in society. Opponents of the spread of new words and

slang see them as a threat to the purity of the Japanese language and the original script. In their opinion, the abuse of such words in speech and writing entails the danger of the disappearance of such a huge segment of Japanese culture as hieroglyphic writing. Proponents of this point of view are confident that the Japanese language has tremendous potential and identity to exist without Internet neologisms, which in most cases have Japanese counterparts in the form of two-syllable or three-syllable phrases.

4. Discussion

The study of modern Japanese and new lexical units does not lose its relevance, since the process of replenishing the lexical stock of the language is continuous. And thanks to globalization, scientific and technical progress, the intensity of this process is increasing (Alikberova & Balakin, 2019; Glushkova Svetlana & Voronina Militsa, 2018). The studies of neologisms in Japanese at various times were carried out by such prominent Russian philologists asV. Alpatov, O. Vrubel, P. Shemanaev, S. Kozub.The works of the linguist NaoyaNiino "Gendainihongo no okerushinkouchuu no henka no kenkyuu" (Studies of new growths in modern Japanese) are widely known. Hatoyama Seigo is known as the author of several Japanese-Russian dictionaries of modern vocabulary. The scientist-teacher Inoue Hirofumi (Osaka Pedagogical University) also dealt with this problem. He owns a number of scientific articles on neologism among the youth and foreign borrowing of "gairaigo". Issues of modern vocabulary and their use are popular in Japan, as evidenced by the 1984 "Shingo-ryuukougotaishou" award ("Grand Prix of Neologisms"), as well as online neologisms dictionaries, the base of which is instantly updated as new words appear in Japanese. The most well-known online directories are "Shingo jiten" ("Dictionary of Neologisms", http://shingojiten.jimdo.com/), sections of neologisms on the websites of large electronic Japanese-language dictionaries "Yahoo! Jiten" (http://dic.yahoo.co.jp/newword/), "Goo Jiten" (http://dictionary. goo.ne.jp/) and others (Otheguy et al., 2015).

5. Conclusions

Japanese today is experiencing a time of active distribution of neologisms, which are gradually moving from Internet slang and terminological vocabulary to everyday speech. Analysis of these lexemes, included with modern dictionaries of the Japanese language, showed that most of them are represented by Internet slang. According to the form of education, a large group consists of so-called combined words - the synthesis of two words. Borrowed words, but transcribed on the basis of the phonetic alphabet of katakans, also occupy a significant place. Meanwhile, based on the above data, we can make the following assumption: combined words, along with borrowed words, will occupy strong positions in the lexical system of the

Japanese language, because, thanks to the rapid development of Japan, the Japanese are fluent in English, and the principle of linguistic economy also affects. At the same time, the large-scale penetration of borrowed words into the Japanese language, the active use of Internet slang leads to a decrease in language competence and language culture in general, which can cause a personality deformation. The potential changes that these units can cause in Japanese are comparable to a linguoecological disaster. In the long term, the rapid spread of letters, foreign borrowings, and anglicisms can provoke the romanization of Japanese writing and lead to the loss of the sociocultural characteristics of the Japanese language.

Recommendations

Article materials may be useful for linguists, Japanese language teachers and social scientists, who use data from the Japanese media space.

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