

Lexical Words Used In Social Network And Their Semantic Field

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Abstract: This article explores the semantic field of lexical words associated with social networks in the English language. Today digital communication is developing day by day and it has an effect to linguistic evolution also. There are a lot of words used in social network platforms which are considered as neologisms, semantic shifts, blending words, abbreviations for both Uzbek and English languages. Today such lexical units are so popular among people, especially, youngsters. Coming from English dictionary, social network words have been used in Uzbek dictionary also both in formal and informal communication.

Keywords: Semantic field, social networks, neologisms, the English language, the Uzbek language, social network vocabulary, semantic change, polysemy.

Introduction: In linguistics, a semantic field refers to a set of related words grouped by meaning, often sharing common semantic properties. These words are not necessarily synonyms but are interconnected, with their meanings influenced by their relationships within the conceptual domain. We can identify all the words in our life with some kind of semantic field. Regarding to Instagram, Facebook and Telegram, we can consider them as the semantic field of social network, like "post", "story", "profile", "reels", "send", "share", "content", "comment", "like", "repost", "reply" etc. This article examines the semantic field of these lexical items, analyzing their formations, interrelations, and evolutions. By grouping them into subfields and discussing semantic changes, it aims to elucidate how social media shapes English vocabulary, with implications for translation, education, and digital literacy. English vocabulary had such words used in social network platforms before, but they have come with new meanings to the language, and with translations to the Uzbek language.

Today's era is known as a digital age or sometimes it is known as information age. It is a time when most information is digitalized. It starts with the introduction of the personal computer with its ability to transfer information quickly. It even grows faster when internet is used. Since then the society can access and share much information fast and freely through a new media

called a social media. It is a kind of technology with computer that enables its users to create and share information, ideas, career interests and other forms of expression through communities and network. Nowadays most of the society know and use a social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram in their life. Many people are bound to social media. They start and end their days with social media [1]. In fact, today many people take their phones in order to scroll the Internet, the social media after getting up in the morning. While working or studying they use their smart phones again for the same reason. After work or study, people end their day to surf the Internet. Before we had magazines or journal which we read in the morning or evening together with our family. Now because of the developed technology we can know news in social network platforms or sites, we can get in touch with our family or friends in Instagram or Facebook and so on.

METHOD

Nowadays research on social media's linguistic impact has grown, particularly focusing on neologisms — new words or expressions formed through processes like blending, compounding, clipping, and abbreviation. Regarding social network platforms, there appears some interests to learn the words or phrases related to them. In our article, we have aimed to discuss lexical units related to Instagram, Facebook and Telegram, their formation and their relationship with each other.

Because all the social network platforms are related to each, that is, their words and phrases are similar and used in all of the three platforms.

The main features that distinguish social networks on the Internet from the social networks extracted based on interactions between people in the real world are as follows:

- i. Lack of physical, in person contact – only by distance, sometimes very large distances;
- ii. Usually the lack of unambiguous and reliable correlation between member's identity in the virtual community – internet identity and their identity in the real world;
- iii. The possibility of multimodal communication, simultaneously with many members; also the possibility of easy switches between different communication channels, especially online and offline, e.g. online VoIP and offline text communication;
- iv. The simplicity of a break up and suspension of contacts or relationships;
- v. The relatively high ease of gathering data about communication or common activities and its further processing;
- vi. Potential lower reliability of the data about users available on the Internet. Users of internet services relatively frequently provide fake personal data due to privacy concerns [2].

In fact, now face to face communication is decreasing while online one is increasing. People prefer to contact by their mobile phones, in the Internet, in social network. It has actually some beneficial sides, like convenience, easiness, saving time, money and so on. Moreover, a person can utilize more than one platform or keep in touch with more than one person simultaneously. Platforms like Instagram, Facebook can give this opportunity. In order to use such platforms, we should know the words utilized in these platforms, such as post, like, blog, story, profile, like, comment, respect, hashtag, content, reels, follow, send, repost and so on. While blogging, especially, blogger should know such lexical units. In addition, blogging is becoming a profession in platforms and advertisement is increasing day by day in these platforms because people are used to watching videos in social network rather than TV or listening to radio, or just reading magazines.

Millions of people are using social media, sharing content and offering their opinions online. It is of no surprise that these tools have begun to pave their way into the professional working environment as well. Globalization, mobility and virtualization have become common trends, whereas the collaborating to make

business decisions is on top priority for many companies [4].

"A nine-story apartment building in Kyiv was completely demolished in the deadliest attack on Ukraine's capital this year" (New York Post, June 18, 2025).

The given example is taken from the online magazine named "New York Post". It shows that in English the word "story" has several meanings adding social network meaning also. In the given example, "story" means "the space in a building between two adjacent floor levels or between a floor and the roof" and there it indicates the building. But in social network it means "a short, temporary piece of content (photo, video, text, link, etc.) that is visible for 24 hours". So several words, which are used in social network platforms in speech and written form, are taken from English dictionary, but changed their first own meanings. The word "story" is not an exception. We consider them as polysemy. Besides from this word, we can exemplify some words like post, platform, profile, reels, like, share, follow, channel, group, account and so on.

In our article, we have taken an example of the lexical units of three social network platforms, which are Facebook, Instagram and Telegram. It might be because there are a lot of users of these platforms around the world and they are the most used platforms according to statistics. In English spoken countries, people use Instagram and Facebook in order to communicate, know about news, share information, for advertisement, profession needs and so on, while for Uzbek people Telegram is more convenient. So the words related to these social network have undergone some changes before accepting to the languages. For both Uzbek and English social network words are considered as neologisms. Moreover, some of the words have been changed semantically in English. "Semantic change (also semantic shift, semantic progression, semantic development, or semantic drift) is a form of language change regarding the evolution of word usage—usually to the point that the modern meaning is radically different from the original usage. In diachronic (or historical) linguistics, semantic change is a change in one of the meanings of a word. Every word has a variety of senses and connotations, which can be added, removed, or altered over time, often to the extent that cognates across space and time have very different meanings" [5]. Semantic changes are central to this evolution. Words undergo shifts where original meanings are overshadowed by digital ones. Broadening occurs when terms expand, like "like" extending to digital approval, and narrowing when they become more specific, as with "wall" referring to a Facebook profile page.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study employs a number of lexical units related to social network, such as friend, follow, unfriend, block, mute, unmute, follow, follower, subscribe, subscriber, post, share, upload, story, reel, blog, vlog, repost, comment, content, respect, send, lifehack, hashtag, insta star, insta family, blogger, blogging, bookmark, like, heart etc. From the given words some of them are neologisms, some of them blending words, some of them have undergone semantic change.

Social network has become the most convenient way to advertise something to people: "To effectively promote a product or service on Instagram, three main types of content are traditionally used: informational, entertaining, and selling (or promotional). By combining all three types, you can achieve high engagement and feedback in the form of follows, likes, saves to bookmarks, and comments" [3].

The words like lifehack, vlog are considered as neologisms for the English language. Lifehack comes from the words "life" and "hack", and mostly used in social network to show people useful and easy (homemade) ideas. The other word is vlog, the words "video" and "blog" are blending of two words. These words are also considered as neologisms for the Uzbek language. So social media have spawned a number of neologisms, blendings, abbreviations and other formations. Below we can exemplify some of them:

Blending words in English: blog – web + blog, podcast – iPod + broadcast, Instafam – Instagram + family, Instastar – Instagram star; abbreviations: LOL – laugh at loud, OMG – oh my God, DM – direct message and others. When it comes to the Uzbek language, blending words like Instaoila – Instagram oila; abbreviations like Rhm – rahmat, kk – kerak, mn – mumkin and others are used in daily speech, especially, in informal communication.

As we mentioned above, some words that are used in social network now, were existed before, but had other meanings and used in different contexts. After appearing social network platforms, their meanings are broadened. For instance, "friend" has broadened from a noun for close associates to a verb ("to friend") meaning to add someone on a platform, and as a noun for any connected user; "follow" has shifted from physical pursuit to digital subscription; "share" has broadened to mean disseminating content online; "story" has narrowed to ephemeral content on Instagram and so on.

CONCLUSION

Social networks have become an interesting learning theme in contemporary language. This field has given

new words and phrases to learn for researchers in linguistics. Lexical units related to social network are considered as neologisms, like creating or forming new words: vlog (video + blog), podcast (iPod + broadcast), or changing words semantically (semantic shift): reel, story, account, profile, post; abbreviations, such as LOL, BTW, OMG etc. Across languages, including Uzbek, these innovations often emerge through borrowing (especially from English), code-mixing or local adaptation (e.g., layk bosmoq, chellenj, post joylamoq). In conclusion, social networks do not merely use language—they actively reshape it. As platforms continue to evolve, so will their linguistic footprint, ensuring that the vocabulary of social interaction remains one of the most dynamic domains of contemporary lexicon.

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