



FEATURES OF NEOLOGISMS IN THE ECOLOGICAL DISCOURSE OF ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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ABSTRACT

The article examines the structural, semantic, and pragmatic features of ecological neologisms in the English and Uzbek languages. The study highlights the sociolinguistic factors behind the emergence of eco-neologisms, focusing on global ecological challenges, environmental activism, and the expansion of green technologies. Particular attention is paid to the mechanisms of word formation in English eco-vocabulary, the specificity of borrowing and adaptation in the Uzbek language, and the key translation strategies used when transferring newly coined ecological terms. Through comparative analysis, the paper demonstrates the differences in lexical innovation between English, where eco-neologisms emerge naturally within public discourse, and Uzbek, where such units mainly enter through translation and terminological standardization. The findings contribute to the broader understanding of how ecological discourse shapes contemporary lexicons and reflects cultural attitudes toward environmental issues.

In recent decades, ecological concerns have become a central topic in global communication, leading to the emergence of a new and rapidly expanding lexical domain—ecological neology. Neologisms associated with environmental protection, climate change, sustainable consumption, and green technologies are now integral to contemporary discourse. This linguistic evolution reflects not only technological and scientific progress but also a profound transformation in social values and environmental awareness.

The English language, due to its global communication status, has become a fertile ground for the creation of eco-neologisms. Terms such as *ecotourism*, *carbon footprint*, *food miles*, and *eco-anxiety* have quickly become widely used. In contrast, the Uzbek language tends to adopt ecological terminology through borrowing, calquing, and descriptive translation, which mirrors the stages of ecological discourse development in the region.

This paper investigates how ecological neologisms emerge, function, and evolve in English and Uzbek, highlighting their structural features, semantic motivations, and translation-related challenges.

Neologisms are generally defined as newly coined or borrowed lexical units that denote concepts, phenomena, or realia not previously represented in the linguistic system (Vinogradov, 2001). They emerge in response to societal, technological, political, and cultural changes and often serve as linguistic markers of new trends.

Several scholars (Barannikova, Andriyenko, Komissarov) emphasize that neologisms:

- appear in response to new realities,
- fill lexical gaps in communication,
- reflect socio-cultural needs,
- stabilize within the language once widely adopted.

The ecological neologisms that emerged in the late 20th and early 21st centuries exemplify this process, as environmental concerns became global and interdisciplinary, penetrating scientific, political, and everyday discourse.

Ecological discourse is a specialized communicative domain focused on environmental issues, ecological activism, sustainable development, and ecological policy. Its linguistic features include:

- increased use of metaphors (e.g., *carbon footprint*, *ecological footprint*),
- evaluative and persuasive vocabulary,
- scientific terminology entering mass media,
- lexical innovations that express new eco-behaviors and lifestyles.

According to Grechishkina (2018), the rapid development of environmental culture in the United States and Europe has directly influenced the growth of eco-related terminology. Public debates on environmental policy reshape consumer behaviors and generate new lexical items.

Eco-neologisms in English frequently emerge through productive word-formation mechanisms:

1. Affixation

- **eco-** (eco-friendly, eco-anxiety, eco-warrior)
- **bio-** (biodiversity, bioplastics)

2. Compounding

- *greenwashing*, *carbon-neutral*, *climate-smart*

3. Blending

- *ecocide* (ecology + genocide)
- *ecotage* (eco + sabotage)

4. Semantic expansion

- *green* shifting from “color” to “environmentally sustainable”

Examples from the 2000s eco-vocabulary include:

- **ecotage** — sabotage motivated by ecological activism;
- **locavore** — a person who consumes locally produced food;
- **off-gridder** — a person living independently from centralized systems;
- **garbology** — the study of human waste to analyze consumption patterns;
- **green consumers** — environmentally responsible buyers.

These units demonstrate linguistic creativity and reflect rising environmental consciousness.

Unlike English, the Uzbek language adopts eco-neologisms primarily through:

1. Borrowing (transcription/transliteration)

- *ekoturizm, ekosistema*

2. Calquing

- *yashil iqtisodiyot* (green economy)
- *uglerod izi* (carbon footprint)

3. Descriptive translation

Used when there is no direct lexical equivalent:

- *cradle-to-cradle* → “*atrof-muhitga zarar yetkazmaydigan qayta ishlab chiqarish konsepsiyasi*”

The development of Uzbek eco-vocabulary corresponds to the growing regional focus on environmental education, ecological legislation, and sustainable economy initiatives.

However, the Uzbek language still lacks many one-word eco-neologisms found in English due to:

- the early stage of ecological discourse development,
- low frequency of grassroots eco-activism,
- reliance on official terminology rather than spontaneous lexical innovation.

According to Komissarov (1990), translating neologisms requires:

- transcription,
- transliteration,
- calquing,
- descriptive translation,
- contextual substitution.

Examples:

- **locavore** → **lokavor / mahalliy iste'molchi**

(calquing + semantic adaptation)

- **eco-anxiety** → **ekologik xavotir**

(descriptive translation)

- **ecosexual** → **ekoseksual**

(transliteration)

- **ecocide** → **ekotsid**

(blended unit preserved through morphological analogy)

Translation difficulties arise when:

- the neologism contains wordplay (*cradle-to-cradle*),
- the original language has a richer morphological system,
- cultural concepts do not align.

The ecological discourse of the English language is distinguished by a high level of productivity in generating new eco-terms, demonstrating extensive lexical innovation. It frequently employs creative blends and metaphors, which contribute to the expressive and dynamic nature of environmental communication. Another characteristic feature is the active participation of ecological activist groups, whose discourse continuously introduces new terminology into the public sphere. Furthermore, the strong presence of environmental topics in mass media accelerates the dissemination and normalization of eco-related vocabulary within English usage.

In contrast, the development of ecological discourse in the Uzbek language largely occurs through translation rather than spontaneous word formation. It relies heavily on the standardization of terminology, with eco-terms primarily being adopted and regulated through official sources. These terms are most often introduced in administrative, legislative, and educational contexts, rather than emerging organically from public activism or grassroots initiatives. As a result, Uzbek eco-discourse currently lacks the spontaneous lexical creativity that is characteristic of English environmental communication.

Overall, these distinctions illustrate broader cultural and communicative differences between the two language communities, particularly in relation to environmental awareness, societal engagement, and the mechanisms through which ecological concepts enter everyday language. To sum up, Eco-neologisms represent a dynamic lexical field shaped by global environmental challenges and sociocultural transformations. English, due to its innovative linguistic nature and active ecological discourse, constantly generates new eco-terms. Uzbek, on the other hand, incorporates such innovations through translation and adaptation.

Understanding the structural and semantic characteristics of eco-neologisms, alongside translation strategies, allows linguists to better analyze evolving environmental communication. As ecological awareness increases in Uzbekistan, it is expected that the national language will gradually develop its own eco-based neological system.

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