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DIGITAL LEXICON: THE INFLUENCE OF TECHNOLOGY ON CONTEMPORARY WORD USAGE

The research investigates how technology transforms modern vocabulary development along with its present-day utilization patterns. The paper analyses how digital communication platforms, together with online discourse and technological innovation, affect English language lexical dynamics. The study is focused on the process of language modification that emerges from virtual environments and algorithmic mediation as people interact through changing modes of communication. The research examines how digital tools cause both structural and semantic changes in the lexicon through their growing popularity. The study explains how non-traditional communication methods result in new word creation and spelling differences as well as broader lexical category development. The article illustrates how technological elements introduce fresh vocabulary while they change both the usage frequency, interpretive meaning and social evaluation of existing word-stock. The main study concentrates on how digital systems affect the pace and quantity of vocabulary transformations. Moreover, the research demonstrates how online communication quickly spreads and normalizes new language patterns, which frequently avoid traditional linguistic institutions. The paper examines how automated systems together with artificial intelligence determine word selection and guide language usage. Another aspect of interest in the study is the effects on modern lexicography, which demands current dictionary practices to track language mutations as they occur. The paper calls for an adaptable and comprehensive method to record language, as it exists within different digital settings. The paper ends with the conclusion that technology fundamentally transforms the way people create, use and spell languages, eventually producing linguistic distortion and mutation.

Key words: digital age, technology, language, norm, mutation, distortion.

Statement of the problem. In the past decades, integration of digital technology in everyday life has had a profound impact on vocabulary development and language use. This article examines how technological advancements, especially the advent of the internet, social media, mobile applications, and virtual communication websites, have facilitated the creation, alteration, and popularization of new words. From hashtags and emojis to loanwords and clipped phrases, internet-based communication has remapped not only the language we use but also the words and means of producing them.

The research looks at the way the internet communication brings about rapid linguistic change by encouraging the use of slang, acronyms, and creative spellings that reflect efficiency, informality, and cultural flavour. It also points out the recontextualization of lexemes, which have acquired brand new meanings in internet usage. Those are not simply stylistic changes; they have a bearing on the way individuals communicate identity, build communities, and decode messages between generations and cultures.

Through a combination of discourse analysis, case studies, and corpus-based investigation, this article examines the mechanisms underlying lexical innovation in digital environments. Particular focus is placed on the manner in which younger users drive much of this innovation, and how the deployment of language in digital environments predictably resists conventional grammatical principle and norms. The article discusses educational and social consequences of these trends, including the need to integrate digital literacy into the study of language learning and communication.

Moreover, the article underscores the growing importance of understanding digital lexicon as a vital component of modern linguistic competence. As technology continues to shape communication, the ongoing evolution of word usage reflects deeper transformations in culture, identity, and social interaction [2].

Undoubtedly, digital technology has revolutionized the manner in which people communicate. Social media, cell phones, artificial intelligence, and online platforms have become the central channels of communication, and their influence on language,

primarily vocabulary, has been evident. This article analyzes the manner in which digital technology revolutionizes contemporary word use using neologisms, semantic change, platform-specific jargon, and their implications for standard lexicography. Through qualitative and corpus-based analysis, the article maps the evolution of new lexis and traces the trajectory where online spaces not only disseminate language change but also dynamically create it [1].

Language is constantly evolving; it moves in step with social change. One of the most radical among such developments in recent years is the emergence of digital technology. From sms messages to tweets, and Googling to Zooming, digital-era lexis serves new modes of communication and social norms. Lexicology – the study of the form, meaning, and use of words – offers useful tools to analyse this transformation. We explore in this article the effects of computer environments and tools on word invention, word meaning, and linguistic convention.

Virtual environments are contained linguistic groups. Each site: Reddit, TikTok, Twitter (X), Instagram, and messaging platforms, has its own discourse patterns, such as specialized vocabulary. The Twitter character limit, for example, triggers abbreviation and ingenuity. Memes are likely to facilitate lexical creativity by ‘verbifying’ proper nouns (“Rickrolled”), or adjectives (“Karen” as a cliché). The real-time and global access of online communication enable such alterations to make rapid progress, making ‘virality’ in the application of words possible.

Analysis of recent research and publications.

The article involves analysis of recent books and publications by Dinkelman D. [3], McKeown K. [8], Tagg C. [11], Crystal D. [2], Jackson H. [7], Hajiyeva A. [6], Stubbs M. [10].

Task statement. The main objective of this research paper is to examine how digital technology has shaped and transformed contemporary word usage other than linguistic norms. It also aims to identify key trends and patterns in language distortion and mutation.

Outline of the main material of the study. One of the most prominent effects of digital technology on language is the prolific generation of neologisms. Digital neologisms arise from various processes, including:

- Blending (e.g., “webinar” from “web” + “seminar”)
- Compounding (e.g., “cybersecurity”)
- Conversion (e.g., “Google” as a verb)
- Acronyms and Initialisms (e.g., “LOL,” “DM,” “NFT”)

These new words reflect both technological functions and emerging digital subcultures. Some neologisms (e.g., “selfie”) have been institutionalized in dictionaries, while others remain ephemeral, serving specific online communities [9].

Another consequence is semantic shifts and recontextualization as technology has transformed the meanings of existing words. For instance:

Cloud: once referring only to the sky, now commonly signifies online data storage.

Stream: previously associated with flowing water, now often means real-time media delivery.

Friend: a noun has become a verb (“to friend someone”), changing not only grammar but also social implications.

Such semantic shifts illustrate the recontextualization of language – how digital technology injects new meaning into established vocabulary, altering usage and perception.

The spread of Internet slang and platform-specific lexicons is inevitable as different platforms give rise to unique lexicons. Such terms reflect not only functional use but also identity and belonging within digital subcultures. For example:

Reddit: Terms like “OP” (original poster), “TL;DR” (too long; didn’t read), or “AMA” (ask me anything) are commonplace.

TikTok: audio, hashtags, and filters, giving rise to catchphrases like “it’s giving,” or genre tags like “core” (e.g., cottagecore”), drive lexical trends.

Gaming communities: Have their own jargon: “geek”, “noob”, “grind”, “camping”, or “nerf” (as a verb).

Digital communication has reinforced the dominance of English as a global lingua franca, particularly in technology-related contexts; platforms like Instagram, YouTube, and Reddit serve international audiences, where English often functions as a common denominator. As a result, English slang, tech terms, and idioms are integrated into other languages, producing hybrid forms (e.g., “likear” in Spanish or “googlar” in Swedish).

However, this globalization is twofold: while English spreads, it also absorbs international slang, such as Japanese “kawaii” or Korean “aegyo.” Technology thus facilitates both the dominance and hybridization of linguistic forms [5].

Emojis and Visual Language as Lexical Elements

Another proof of language mutation is the growing popularity of usage of smileys, emojis and visual Language as non-verbal lexical elements

The rise of emojis, GIFs, stickers, and memes introduces a brand new semiotic layer to digital

lexicons. Emojis often function as semantic modifiers, replacing or complementing words (e.g., 😄 for “funny” or ❤️ for “love”).

Some researchers argue emojis are evolving into a “visual pidgin” – a simplified language form used for communication across linguistic boundaries. While they are not words in the traditional sense, these symbols are integral to modern meaning making and reflect a shift toward the so-called multimodal lexicology.

– *Algorithmic and AI-mediated language shifts*

The impact of algorithms together with AI on language shows increasing prominence. Autocorrect systems together with predictive text functions and machine translation tools influence user decisions while determining vocabulary trends and grammar patterns. The output generated by AI tools such as Siri and ChatGPT as well as translators tends to reinforce particular word choices and common expressions. These systems both mirror language patterns and help determine language usage patterns which leads to either language standardization or increased variation through algorithm manipulation such as “SEO speak.”

– *Ethical and Cultural Implications*

Online lexical innovation does not always exist outside of political contexts. Some terms carry biases because they emerge from exclusionary processes such as “simp,” “incel,” and “snowflake.” Electronic communication systems can rapidly distribute harmful language alongside dangerous ideas. Marginalized communities actively embrace internet terms to create empowering vocabulary through concepts like “Latinx,” “Blerd” and “queerplatonic.” The online lexicon serves as both a platform for cultural discussions and a medium for communication.

The future development of our vocabulary will be shaped by technological progress in augmented reality and AI and immersive platforms. Future research might examine:

The rise of voice-based commands (e.g., Alexa/Google Home) and their linguistic simplification.

AI-human linguistic hybrids, where users adapt to machine-friendly language norms. *Digital aging of language*, where older users adopt digital vocabulary differently than younger generations. Digital lexicology continues to evolve as an active research area because of these developments.

Sociolinguistic variation in digital lexicon use is another field worth paying attention. Thus, while digital language may appear universal or uniform across global platforms, sociolinguistic

peculiarities such as age, gender, ethnicity, and geography continue to influence how people adopt digital vocabulary and adapt to it. In this paper, we will attempt to classify some of the most explicit sociolinguistic variables as following:

– *Age-Based Variations*

Digital neologisms originate primarily from younger generations (Gen Z and Alpha) who lead their creation and distribution. The younger generation approaches language with playful creativity and subversion through their transformation of noun phrases into slang terms such as “it’s giving main character” and their reinvention of older words through “slay,” “rizz,” and “mid.” The adoption process of these innovations by older generations remains conservative because they prefer traditional syntax over extensive abbreviation usage and they maintain older terms in their original context. The generational difference produces a linguistic divergence that results in age-based sub-dialects that coexist within the same language system.

– *Gender and Identity Variations*

Gendered usage also emerges in digital language. For example, terms like “girlboss,” “mansplain,” or “himbo” reflect gendered linguistic creativity and social commentary. Marginalized groups and communities have historically been sources of digital lexical innovation, popularizing terms like “Mx” (instead of Mr/Mrs), “they/them” for singular pronouns, “shade,” “read,” “serving,” and “drag,” which as a result diffuse into broader vernacular through certain meme culture and popular influencers.

– *Geographic and Cultural Adaptation*

People from different cultural backgrounds apply English-based digital terminology in distinctive ways. People from Nigeria use the term “to flex” in a way that differs from other regions when expressing success. Indian English speakers have adopted the term “prepone” which functions as an informal digital word to move events earlier though it lacks international standardization. The sociolects demonstrate that local linguistic identities maintain their existence through distinctive development patterns even within global digital networks [4, p. 174].

Language distortion exists as a negative concept because it suggests language deterioration or language corruption. Digital communication produces distortion as a natural outcome because of its creative and fast-paced nature and context-dependent nature. Language distortion means any intentional or unintentional departure from traditional rules that includes spelling and grammatical rules and word

formation patterns. Language mutations develop into accepted standard language changes, which become permanent in specific groups and eventually spread across the entire language in the following alteration:

1. *Phonetic Spellings and Orthographic Alteration*

The most obvious distortion type manifests through spelling modifications. The users of TikTok, Reddit and Twitter platform modify spellings to express tone and pronunciation as well as to bypass algorithm moderation systems. Examples: • “thicc” instead of “thick” to signal emphasis or body positivity. “kewl” for “cool” to convey irony or exaggerated tone. • “boi” as a gender-neutral or meme-coded variant of “boy.”

The variations function as purposeful language tools to achieve irony and playfulness and subcultural distancing from conventional language patterns. The stylizations represent purposeful modifications that express personal identity and emotional states and subcultural group membership.

2. *Syntax Mutation and Grammatical Shift*

Grammar also undergoes significant mutation in digital communication. Non-standard syntactic constructions are often used for humour, emphasis, or stylistic effect:

Omission of auxiliary verbs: “You good?” instead of “Are you good?”

Deliberate subject-verb disagreement: “We was vibin’.”

Fragmented sentence structures: “Me. Explaining. This. To. My. Cat.”

The manner in which users bend language rules shows their ability to adapt to particular communication situations rather than indicating language degradation. The formal writing standards view certain expressions as incorrect yet digital platforms recognize them as powerful tools for effective communication.

3. *Semantic Drift and Repurposing*

A word meaning experiences gradual transformation during the course of time, known as semantic drift. The digital environment speeds up the natural process of semantic change through its memetic culture and platform-specific language patterns. Examples of semantic mutation:

“Dead” now commonly expresses laughter or extreme amusement (e.g. “I’m dead 😂”).

“Cancelled” has shifted from meaning, “called off” to a cultural critique (e.g., “He’s cancelled” = socially ostracized).

“Sus” (for suspicious) became widespread due to the game *Among Us*, evolving into a broader

term for untrustworthiness or social awkwardness. Language changes happen swiftly at times alongside insufficient formal institution intervention. Language transformations arise naturally from social groups where influencers and memes initiate their distribution while repetition and reinterpretation maintain their presence.

4. *Deliberate Misuse and Subversive Language Play* Language mutation occurs as a deliberate disruptive strategy that serves both linguistic resistance purposes and critical evaluation of established systems. The intentional modification of language through subversive methods undermines established standards while resisting automated algorithmic controls. Examples include:

Using “unalive” instead of “dead” to avoid content moderation on TikTok or YouTube repurposing misspellings like “ab0rtion” / “a-bor-tion”; “dr*gz” / “substances”; “seggs/secks”; symbols “h@te”; “kIll” to discuss taboo topics without triggering censoring and moderation algorithms [11, p. 84].

These innovations demonstrate that distortion is not always accidental or chaotic. Instead, they often involve user’s intentionality and creativity, and frequently serve strategic purposes, such as cultural, rhetorical, or technological.

Digital language distortion thus plays a critical role in emergence of lexical innovation, testing the limits of linguistic norms and expanding boundaries of what counts as legitimate lexical expression.

Conclusion. The digital world induces linguistic changes that do not indicate language decay but rather demonstrate language evolution. Users demonstrate active control over language through their ability to modify it for digital environment requirements and cultural norms. Modern lexicons gain vitality through users’ inventive spelling changes and their creative syntax and their subverted meanings. The linguistic community together with educators and digital communicators must dedicate proper attention to these innovations. Digital technology exhibits a strong and complex influence on how people use words today. The digital age has transformed language creation and distribution through its impact on neologism generation and semantic shift as well as platform-specific jargon and emoji-based semiotics. Digital lexicon understanding has become essential for both linguists-educators, communicators and technologists because we live in an increasingly mediated world. The digital age brought about unmatched transformations in human language usage patterns. The digital lexicon consists

of dynamic, diverse, and complex elements that include rapid-fire neologisms and platform-specific slang and emoji-driven communication and AI-mediated semantics. The digital lexicon mirrors technological developments, cultural changes, and ideological movements and it undergoes ongoing evolution in real time.

Digital environments function as active agents of language change because their structural elements combine with user behaviours and algorithmic

feedback systems. The extensive effects of this transformation spark interest almost in all linguists, educators as well as developers and translators. Future lexicology will not merely document words – it will need to document networks, interactions, and visual or symbolic artefacts. The digital lexicon requires essential understanding for both linguistic research and cultural literacy because our world advances toward AI integration with immersive media and worldwide interaction.

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Гасанова Севіндж. ЦИФРОВА ЛЕКСИКА: ВПЛИВ ТЕХНОЛОГІЙ НА СУЧАСНЕ СЛОВОВЖИВАННЯ

У дослідженні досліджується, як технології трансформують Сучасний словниковий запас, а також сучасні моделі його використання. У статті аналізується, як цифрові комунікаційні платформи, а також онлайн-дискурс та технологічні інновації впливають на лексичну динаміку англійської мови. Дослідження зосереджено на процесі модифікації мови, який виникає внаслідок віртуальних середовищ та алгоритмічного посередництва, коли люди взаємодіють через зміну способів спілкування. Дослідження досліджує, як цифрові інструменти викликають структурні та семантичні зміни в лексиконі завдяки своїй зростаючій популярності. Дослідження пояснює, як нетрадиційні методи спілкування призводять до створення нових слів та відмінностей у написанні, а також до розвитку більш широких лексичних категорій. У статті показано, як технологічні елементи привносять нову лексику, одночасно змінюючи частоту вживання, інтерпретаційне значення і соціальну оцінку існуючого словникового запасу. Основне дослідження зосереджується на тому, як цифрові системи впливають на швидкість та кількість змін у словниковому запасі. Більше того, його дослідження демонструє, як онлайн-спілкування швидко поширюється і нормалізує нові мовні моделі, які часто обходять традиційні лінгвістичні інститути. У статті розглядається, як автоматизовані системи спільно зі штучним інтелектом визначають вибір слів і спрямовують використання мови. Іншим аспектом, що представляє інтерес у дослідженні, є вплив на сучасну лексикографію, яка вимагає застосування сучасних методів словника для відстеження мовних змін у міру їх виникнення. У статті закликається створити адаптований та всеосяжний метод запису мови, оскільки він існує в різних цифрових умовах. Стаття закінчується висновком про те, що технологія принципово змінює спосіб створення, використання та написання мов людей, що в кінцевому підсумку призводить до лінгвістичних спотворень та мутацій.

Ключові слова: цифрова епоха, технологія, мова, норма, мутація, спотворення.