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NEOLOGISMS IN THE LIGHT OF THE NEW SLOVENIAN NORMATIVE GUIDE

Keywords Slovenian standard language; Slovenian orthography; Slovenian neologisms; COVID-19

This contribution presents the treatment of neologisms in the standard Slovenian language as presented in the new Slovenian normative guide, i.e., the accompanying dictionary.

1.   Codification of Slovenian standard language

Normative guides provide information about the acceptability of language elements for standard language use. In Slovenian, the standard language is a supra-regional idiom agreed upon by language users that has been used in the written language since the middle of the 19th century. A normative guide (*pravopis* in Slovenian) is a manual consisting of normative rules and an orthographic dictionary. It includes not only a systematic set of basic writing rules at the vowel-letter level (orthography or spelling) but also other consensual norms of the standard language, i.e., the use of lower- and upper-case letters, borrowing, one- or two-word spelling, punctuation, etc. (Dobrovoljc 2016). Along with the monolingual dictionary (*SSKJ* 1970–1991), the normative guide (*Slovenski pravopis* 2001) is one of the two main sourcebooks for the Slovenian language. The normative rules were published in 1990 and the orthographic dictionary followed in 2001.

Due to the considerate time span in which the codification process took place, several discrepancies occurred, resulting in asynchronic codification. Therefore, a new concept had to be created so that the orthographic dictionary could effectively accompany the normative rules. The new Slovenian normative guide consists of: (1) normative rules, which form the theoretical part of the normative guide (*Pravopis 8.0*), (2) an orthographic dictionary, which provides (additional) examples (*ePravopis*), and (3) orthographic categories (*Pravopisne kategorije*), a collection of comments on changes in codification; the main purpose of the latter is to ensure a transparent codification process (Dobrovoljc/Vranjek Ošlak 2021). All these resources are available online (the *Fran* portal).

2.   Detecting neologisms

The new approach to the elaboration of normative rules for the Slovenian language is problem-oriented. One of the most important resources used to identify linguistic dilemmas such as neologisms is the Language Counselling Service, the central online language counselling platform for the Slovenian language (*Jezikovna svetovalnica*, managed by the Fran Ramovš Institute of the Slovenian Language at ZRC SAZU). It is used to enquire about ambiguities in the standard language, enabling researchers to identify language description gaps. The Language Counselling Service automatically creates a provisional online language manual. Like similar platforms (cf. Beneš et al. 2017), it also reflects current social circumstances. The platform is connected to the *Fran* portal (Vranjek Ošlak/Dobrovoljc 2021).

3.   Neologisms in the new Slovenian normative guide

Below, some neologism (sub-)types are listed as they are presented in the new Slovenian normative guide, namely its accompanying dictionary:

1) new common nouns with notation and pronunciation information, as applicable:

   a) neologisms as a result of translation or adaptation of newer borrowed expressions, e.g., *fedžoja* ('feijoa'), *kovč* ('coach'), *timbilding* ('team-building');

   b) appellativization of proper names, e.g., *zika* ('Zika virus'), *marburg* ('Marburg virus');

   c) new acronyms, e.g., *COVID-19, mRNA, PCR*;

   d) transition from acronyms to ordinary words, e.g., *kovid < COVID-19, sars < SARS, mers < MERS*;

   e) feminine nouns, e.g., *kupka* ('female customer'), *piska* ('female writer');

   f) compounds from prepositional phrases, e.g., *nesimptomatičen* ('asymptomatic'), *anti-cepilec* ('male anti-vaccinationist');

   g) blended words, e.g., *hekaton* ('hackathon'), *jogalates* ('yogalates').

2) new common noun forms and compounds traditionally included in grammatical information of dictionary entries, e.g., *telešenje* ('embodiment');

3) new proper names (*Android; AstraZeneca, BioNTech, Vaxzevria; Teams, Zoom*);

4) new anthroponyms, e.g., *Ciudaddemexičan*/*Ciudadčan* ('male inhabitant of Mexico City'), etc.

Such neologisms can be challenging for Slovenian language users, especially when 1) the lexeme is not included in any of the existing dictionaries or other manuals; 2) research on written language usage suggests multiple variants; and 3) phonetic realisation of (borrowed) lexemes in Slovenian is difficult or has multiple variants.

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Acknowledgements