Conceptual formulation of neologisms in various dictionaries and primary school Macedonian language course textbooks

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Abstract

The paper analyses the conceptual formulation of neologisms in various dictionaries of Macedonian language, other Slavic and non-Slavic languages, as well as in primary school Macedonian language textbooks, by putting special emphasis on the role of, both, time criterion, i.e. the period of time in which a lexical unit is present in the active lexicon of the speakers, and lexicographic criterion, i.e. the presence of a given lexical unit in the "Rečnik na makedonskiot jazik so srpskohrvatski tolkuvanja" – RMJ [Dictionary of Macedonian Language with Serbo-Croatian Interpretations] and in the “Tolkoven rečnik na makedonskiot jazik” – TRMJ [Monolingual Dictionary of Macedonian Language].

The results of the analysis convey that in a sufficient number of analysed dictionaries, the various conceptual formulations of the term neologism are compatible, but on account of being too general, they are lacking precision, as a result of which it is very difficult to determine what the term neologism should signify. In the analysed Macedonian language textbooks there is a noticeable degree of inaccuracy, incompatibility and inconsistency which affects the students’ understanding and assimilation of this term and its further treatment in the language. The offered classification of neologisms proves to be extremely useful for linguists, teachers and students.

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1. Introduction

Contemporary social trends suggest a series of inevitable changes which affect all aspects of human life, including the language. Macedonian language, as a means of communication between people, should constantly be renewed and enriched in accordance with the growth of the social changes. Moreover, out of the entire language system, it is the lexical composition, i.e. the lexicon of the language, that is most subjected to those changes because the lexicon is closely related to the entire human activity. In Macedonian lexicology, which is a part of scientific studies of the Macedonian language, studying words as units of a lexicon, there is a classification of words in accordance with three basic aspects, among which is the aspect of classifying words regarding the process of renewal. According to this process, words are classified into two categories: old and new (Minova-Gjurtkova, 2003, pp. 134–135). The new words (neologisms) are given great prominence because of their singularity, which, in turn, comes as a result of the difficulties in their definitions.

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Beside the conceptual explanation of the term neologism as a new word, it is not easy to define the exact meaning of this term, on account of the definitions’ length and precision, which are taken into account in the analysed dictionaries of Macedonian language, other Slavic and non-Slavic languages. Thus, it can not be determined what exactly the term neologism should signify. In addition, regarding neologisms, the analysed Macedonian language textbooks contain no identical definition. However, there is a series of inconsistencies in the definitions of neologisms owing to two simple reasons: the information about the meaning of neologisms is provided in different manner, and different examples are used depending on the stage of education for which the textbook is intended. The incompatibility and insufficient clarity in determining the status of neologisms in the analysed textbooks for primary education often lead to inaccurate conclusions which render the understanding and assimilation of neologisms difficult for the students.

The article analyses the given definitions for the term neologism in various dictionaries of Macedonian language, other Slavic and non-Slavic languages, as well as in primary school Macedonian language textbooks. In addition, there is also an interpretation of the role of, both, time and lexicographic criterion in the definition of neologisms. In the analysed dictionaries of Macedonian language, other Slavic and non-Slavic languages, on the one hand, there is compatibility between the given definitions for the term neologism, but, on the other hand, those definitions are too general, therefore, lacking precision, as a result of which it is very difficult to determine what the term neologism should signify. Furthermore, the analysis of Macedonian language textbooks in primary school shows a degree of imprecision, incompatibility and inconsistency regarding the definition of neologisms, and as a result, it is difficult to define the meaning of the term neologism. All things considered, the previously mentioned reasons might lead to inaccurate conclusions which has an influence on the assimilation of neologisms by students. The article reveals a possible classification of neologisms and on basis of the analysis it represents the attempt to reach more general conclusions.

2. Method

In light of the article’s objective, our starting point concerns, the utilization of a word for at least fifteen years and its presence in the dictionaries. Both of these points are considered sufficient for the word not to be accepted as a neologism. The definitions used for the term neologism are excerpted from print and electronic editions of Macedonian language dictionaries, dictionaries of other Slavic and non-Slavic languages and from Macedonian language textbooks from sixth and seventh grade for eight year primary education. In the beginning, there is an analysis of dictionaries which refers to the compatibility regarding the given definitions for the term neologism, as well as to the conclusions that can be reached. Next, the material in Macedonian language textbooks for primary education is analysed concerning the level of compatibility between the given explanations for the definition of neologisms and the illustrated examples. Then, taking the time and lexicographic criteria interpretation into account, explanation for certain inaccurate conclusions from the written text in some textbooks is provided, which would, surely, influence the accurate assimilation of neologisms by students. There is an attempt to reach more general conclusions which would ease the conceptual formulation of neologisms, as well as an attempt at a possible classification of neologisms as a result of the indicated literature analysis.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Dictionaries of Macedonian language, other Slavic, and non-Slavic languages

To begin with, the printed and electronic editions of Macedonian language dictionaries, as well as the dictionaries of other Slavic, and non-Slavic languages are examined, so as to determine the
variations in definitions regarding the term neologism. In the “Rečnik na makedonskiot jazik so srpskohrvatski tolkuvanja” – (RMJ, 1986, p. 491) [Dictionary of Macedonian Language with Serbo-Croatian Interpretations] – printed in three volumes and published in 1961, 1965 and 1966; however, here we use the edition of 1986 in which the text from the first edition is reproduced without changes – the term neologism is defined as “a new word or expression”. In the “Tolkoven rečnik na makedonskiot jazik” – (TRMJ, 2006, p. 358) [Monolingual Dictionary of Macedonian Language], neologism is defined as “a new word, a new expression or a new meaning of an existing word in the language”. In the “Rečnik na stranski zborovi vo makedonskiot jazik” (Belčev, 2002, p. 434) [Dictionary of Foreign Words in the Macedonian Language], the meaning of the term neologism is as follows: “a new word, a newly created word in the language, which slightly deviates from the usual manner of creating words of that kind with its form”. In the “Leksikon stranih reči i izraza” (Vujaklija, 1980, p. 603) [Lexicon of Foreign Words and Expressions], there is the following definition: “a new word created according to the pattern of foreign languages, a coinage, an old word with a new meaning”. In the “Digitalen rečnik na makedonskiot jazik” [Digital Dictionary of Macedonian Language], the term neologism is defined as “a new word, a new expression or a new meaning of an existing word in the language, for instance: brzonog ‘light-footed’, vodovod ‘waterworks’, dvoboj ‘duel’, padobran ‘parachute’, patokaz ‘signpost’”. In the electronic edition of the “Rečnik srpskog jezika” [Dictionary of Serbian Language], the same meaning for the term neologism is given as in the Lexicon by M. Vujaklija. In the “Hrvatski jezični portal” – HJP [Croatian Language Portal], the term neologism is defined as “a new word, a new language creation, a coinage, or a loanword from another language”. In the “Merriam-Webster’s Online Dictionary”, neologism is defined as “a new word or expression or a new meaning of a word”. In the “Online Collins English Dictionary”, the term neologism is defined as “a newly coined word, or a phrase or familiar word used differently”. In the “Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary” (Hornby, A., S., 2009, p. 982) the meaning of the term neologism is the following: “a new word or expression or a new meaning of a word”. In the “Online Etymology Dictionary”, it is said that the term neologism has two meanings: one from 1772, which refers to the “practice of innovation in language”, and another one from 1803, which states that the meaning of the term neologism signifies “a new word or expression”.

Despite the lack of precision, the definitions for the term neologism in the previously mentioned dictionaries imply consistency on account of it being mainly defined as a new word in all of them. On the one hand, the fact that, in dictionaries, there can only be given a short definition of the words is taken into consideration. However, on the other hand, those definitions initiate a series of questions which hold necessary answers for a more precise understanding. For instance, the manner in which the speakers of the Macedonian language interpret the noun phrase “new word” or the way they determine whether a word is new is not precise and specific. Furthermore, some of the previously mentioned dictionaires state that the term neologism also refers to a new meaning of an existing or an old word, but this criterion is neither precise nor specific, because every new meaning of an existing or an old word does not necessarily classify the word as a neologism, which brings us to our next point – this should be done by means of association, i.e. reconsideration, so that the connection between words is rendered a new meaning. This means that the connection between the words must be meaningful; otherwise, they would be homonyms, which by definition (Bojkovska et al., 2001, p. 212) are “related only according to the sound and spelling and not according to any meaningful connection”. Thus, the following conclusion can be drawn: in the dictionaires, there is an indirect indication of one of the manners for creating neologisms that is accepted by the scientific study of the language. That is the creation with reconsideration, for example, gluvče ‘mouse as animal’ and gluvče ‘mouse as a computer device’ (Bojkovska et al., 1998, p. 215). In the TRMJ (2003, p. 350) the second meaning of the word gluvče ‘mouse as a computer device’ is not present, and the first volume of TRMJ was published in
2003. Therefore, taking into consideration, both, the period of publication and the fact that Macedonia began to massively use the computer technology in the nineties, it can be noted that the word gluvče ‘mouse’ was considered a relatively new word when the first edition of the Macedonian language textbook (Bojkovska et al., 1998, the first edition of this textbook is from 1997) and the first volume of TRMJ were published. Nowadays, it is accepted as a commonly used word. The “Poimnik na makedonski zborovi od informatička tehnologija” (2009, p. 29) [Glossary of Macedonian Words in the Field of Informatics Technology] imposes usage of Macedonian words in the field of informatics technology rather than English ones. In the “Poimnik” [Glossary], the word “mouse” is translated into Macedonian, meaning that we should tend to use the Macedonian gluvče ‘mouse’ rather than its English counterpart. From this example, it can clearly be noticed that the meaning of an existing word – in this case, of the word gluvče ‘mouse’ – is extended on the basis of a meaningful connection, a process known as semantic extension. Therefore, regarding the attempt to render a possible classification of neologisms, they (created as a result of reconsideration of an existing word or an old word in the language) might actually form the first group of neologisms named semantic neologisms. In the “Leksikon stranih reči i izraza” [Lexicon of Foreign Words and Expressions] and the “Hrvatski jezični portal” – HJP [Croatian Language Portal] the term “coinage” is mentioned. Moreover, this term can also be found in the analysed textbooks, thus, there is a dilemma whether the term coinage and the term new word, i.e. neologism are synonyms or they have different meanings (s. Section 3.2.3). In the definition from the Lexicon by Vujaklija, the following part: “a new word created according to the pattern of foreign languages” indicates that a new word should be constructed in the same manner as it is in foreign languages, but the definition does not provide instruction about the manner in which words are constructed in foreign languages. What is more, it is not specifically indicated whether the new word should be made in a native language fashion, for example, pečatač for the foreign word ‘printer’ from the English language – (the term pečatač ‘printer’ is used as an example of neologism by Bojkovska et al., 1998, p. 215, and it consists of two native elements, i.e. the root pečat which is a translation of the English ‘to print’ and the derivational suffix -ač), or perhaps by combining elements from the native and the foreign language, for example, the neologism printač ‘printer’, a word which consists of an English element ‘print’, i.e. the verb ‘to print’, which is not translated but only transcribed, and the native, Macedonian derivational suffix used when forming agent nouns (nomina agentis), -ač, which is a translation from the English derivational (agentive) suffix ‘-er’ (this word, printač ‘printer’, is common among the speakers of Macedonian standard language). This consideration can be used as basis when forming two groups of neologisms: the ones created from the already existing foreign words by using elements from the native language and those created by combining elements from the native and the foreign language. Regarding the criterion of time, the word pečatač ‘printer’ is used as a part of the Macedonian language lexicon, which means that it is no longer considered a neologism. However, the fact that, regarding the lexicographic criterion, the word is introduced in the TRJM (2008, p. 79), but not in the RMJ (1986), indicates that it could not have been a part of the RMJ immediately after its creation (the computer technology in Macedonia began to be massively used in the nineties). As a matter of fact, the word must have been used by Macedonian language speakers for a longer period of time – a period of at least fifteen years – for it to become a part of the TRMJ. It must have had a status of a new word at a particular point in time, in the period of publishing the first edition of the Macedonian language textbook (Bojkovska et al., 1998, p. 215) for instance, but nowadays, on account of its common use and its presence in the TRMJ, it cannot be considered a new word. The “Poimnik” (2009, p. 33) [Glossary] imposes the use of the Macedonian word pečatač ‘printer’ instead of the English word ‘printer’, besides the fact that Macedonian language speakers have given both of them (the Macedonian translation pečatač and the English word which is only transcribed as ‘printer’) equal prominence. The least specific and precise definition is the one given in the “Rečnik na stranski zborovi vo makedonskiot jazik” (2002, p. 434) [Dictionary of
Foreign Words in the Macedonian Language] by Belčev, which initiates three questions: 1. What is “the usual manner for creating new words of that kind”? 2. What should the phrase “that kind” denote? 3. What kind of deviation of the form should be taken into consideration when creating a new word? Only the “Hrvatski jezični portal” – HJP [Croatian Language Portal] mentions the phrase “a loanword from another language” as well, besides having the phrase “a new word”. It can be summarized that one group of neologisms can consist of loanwords (foreign words that have permeated a language), and that alone aids the conceptual formulation of neologisms. However, the first phrase is not introduced in any of the previously mentioned dictionaries except in the Croatian Language Portal, so it is no wonder that this indirectly results in coming to a conclusion that the new word could be a loanword, also known as internationalism, a foreign word of Greek or Latin origin that exists in many developed standard languages or a loanword from other languages such as English. Therefore, there should be a distinction between neologisms that enter a language and neologisms that are created using native or foreign elements, or perhaps a combination of both.

The definition given by the “Vikipedija, slobodna enciklopedija” [Free Encyclopaedia Wikipedia], offers more specific, and yet, not much precise explanation. In other words, it is said that the term neologism is used as a name for a newly coined term, word, or phrase that may be in the process of infiltrating in a language, but has not yet been accepted as a part of the active lexicon. According to “Vikipedija” [Wikipedia], broadly speaking, neologisms are not introduced in dictionaries, but are used generally in some communities. This explanation might seem more specific, but in fact, it is not precise by any means, because two questions arise. The first question refers to what should an active lexicon be considered, while the second one refers to the explanation that neologisms should not be introduced in dictionaries. According to the explanation given by “Wikipedia”, the words used in the “Digitalen rečnik na makedonskiot jazik” [Digital Dictionary of Macedonian Language] as an illustration, should not be considered neologisms, because they have already been introduced in the RMJ (1986, p. 46, 74, 129, 632, 652) and TRJM (2003, p. 181, 276, 403; 2008, p. 12, 49). In the “A multilingual free encyclopaedia, Wiktionary, a wiki-based Open Content dictionary” the term neologism is defined as “a word or phrase which has recently been coined, a new word or phrase”. In the previous explanation, the word “recently” does not indicate a precise period of time, but has a relative meaning instead. That means that this word would be of no use in the conceptual formulation of neologisms. However, “Wiktionary”, besides the given meaning, provides additional information that gives further precision in the conceptual formulation of neologisms. This source emphasizes the fact that a word must be obtained as a valid word by a larger part of the population for it to cease being considered a neologism, which would occur only if the word exceeded utilization of at least one generation, i.e. a period of time between fifteen to twenty years. Yet, that still indicates that no universal period of time can be used as an accepted measurement. If no such period exists, then the conclusion would argue that the criterion of time cannot offer precision in the conceptual formulation of neologisms to a great extent. Nevertheless, as mentioned, the suggested period in this article is accepted, as well as the consideration that the new word should not be introduced in the dictionaries of a language.

3.2. Sixth grade Macedonian language course textbooks for eight year primary education

Next comes the analysis of Macedonian language textbooks for eight year primary education, conveyed in order to examine the following: how the term neologism is defined, what statements are there about it, whether there is compatibility between written material from different textbooks, whether the given words could be considered neologisms for certain, and above all, how the written text influences the understanding of neologisms by students. There is greater precision in the elaboration of the term neologism in the Macedonian language textbooks for eight year primary
education. At the same time, however, the degree of imprecision and inconsistency in the given explanation could lead to inaccurate conclusions that can influence the assimilation of neologisms by the students.

3.2.1. Macedonian Language Course Textbook for Sixth Grade of Primary Education (Dimkovska, B., Cvetković, S., 2009, pp. 43–44)

According to this textbook, the emerging of neologisms is associated with, both, the social development of a nation and the communicational necessities of speakers. In this textbook, it is emphasized that “often, in the place of the old, existing words and expressions, people, especially linguists and writers, create new words and expressions, known as neologisms” (p. 43). It is also noted that “neologisms supersede foreign words in a language and contribute to the purity of a language” (p. 43). The given examples are: elektronika ‘electronics’, vseleena ‘universe’, generacija ‘generation’, kompjuter ‘computer’ (p. 43). In this case the explanation that neologisms supersede foreign words and contribute to the purity of a language is imprecise and could result in a fairly inaccurate conclusion. It should, accordingly, be decided which are the foreign words that have been superseded by the cited neologisms, and whether all neologisms supersede foreign words because this is the impression students might obtain from the textbook explanation, as well as emphasized that the words given as examples are not considered neologisms in the Macedonian language, in spite of the textbooks’ explanation. Therefore, taking the word generacija ‘generation’ into consideration (“Rečnik stranih reči i izraza”, 1980, p. 168) [Lexicon of Foreign Words and Expressions], there is a low probability that this word belongs to the group of neologisms on account of it having been introduced in the RMJ (1986, p. 95), and it has been exactly 53 years since its publishing. This word, generacija ‘generation’ is present in the TRMJ (2003, p. 337) as well. Hence, it is indisputable that the word generacija ‘generation’ is associated with the social development and the people’s need for constant improvement of their enunciation. This international word, synonymous with pokolenie ‘posterity’ and potomstvo ‘progeny’, cannot be mistaken for having superseded these two native words, because they are still in use. Students are prone to drawing an inaccurate conclusion that the word generacija ‘generation’ has superseded the foreign words pokolenie ‘posterity’ and potomstvo ‘progeny’ from the given explanation in the textbook. These words are actually native and synonymous with the word generacija ‘generation’. Regarding the purity of the language, we are all familiar with Koneski’s standpoint (1967, p. 21) on the creation of the Macedonian standard language based on possibilities that the national language offers. With the help of, both, word formation suffixes and then with borrowings, we need “…to find and use every healthy and living grain of our already piled up lexical treasure”. Thus, in this case, the use of the words pokolenie ‘posterity’ and potomstvo ‘progeny’ contributes to the preservation of the national spirit of the standard language. Therefore, those neologisms created only according to the models of the national language can supersede foreign words and contribute to the purity of the language, take the creation of the word pećatač ‘printer’ instead of the foreign word printer ‘printer’ in the period of time when the word pećatač ‘printer’ was created and considered neologism, for instance. But, this is not the same case with the word generacija ‘generation’. Because the word vseleena ‘universe’ has been introduced in the TRMJ (2003, p. 317) and can also be found in the RMJ (1986, p. 87), it is not probable that it would belong to the group of neologisms. Its meaning, however, is same as the Serbo-Croatian word kosmos ‘cosmos’. The word kosmos ‘cosmos’ is an internationalism that originates from Greek (Belčev, 2002, p. 338 and Vujaklija, 1980, p. 473) and has the following meaning: svet ‘world’, vseleena ‘universe’. According to this, the word vseleena ‘universe’ is actually a synonym of the foreign word kosmos ‘cosmos’, and it has not superseded the word kosmos ‘cosmos’ on account of they are both in current use. In the “Rečnik na stranski zborovi vo makedonskiot jazik” (Belčev, 2002, p. 117) [Dictionary of Foreign Words in the Macedonian Language] it is stated that the word vseleena ‘universe’ originates from
Church Slavonic and has the meaning of *svet* ‘world’, *kosmos* ‘cosmos’, ‘a space outside the Earth’. It is well known that Church Slavonic words are a special class of Slavonic vocabulary in Macedonian language that have entered the language mainly at the beginning of the nineteenth century through the literary work of J. Krčovski, K. Pejinović, P. Zografski and others (Bojkovska et al., 2001, p. 216). Consequently, Spasojević’s consideration (2011) according to which, neologisms are considered new names created as a supplement of the already existing in order to satisfy the stylistic and pragmatic demands, i.e. the social, political, economic and cultural development of the community, may be accepted. Their function is to provide differentiation in the enunciation. However, it can be concluded that the words *generacija* ‘generation’ and *vselena* ‘universe’ do not belong to the group of neologisms taking, both, the criterion of time and the lexicographic criterion into consideration. Moving on to the words *elektronika* ‘electronics’ and *kompjuter* ‘computer’, they could not have been present in the RMJ (1986) on account of the underdeveloped computer technology which began to be massively used in the nineties in Macedonia. But, their presence in the TRMJ (2003, p. 594; 2005, p. 574) proves that these words had to be widely used by speakers of Macedonian in a certain point in time – a period of fifteen or more years. Accordingly, they are no longer considered neologisms.

Further in this textbook, there is an explanation which points to two types of neologisms: accepted (which are accepted by the science and are a part of the written and spoken enunciation of a person) and unaccepted (which appear in a certain moment, last for only a short period of time and then are rejected by science because they are not in accordance with the spirit of the native language). However, there are no examples of these two types of neologisms provided. Thus, a conclusion can be drawn that the previously analysed words, given as examples of neologisms, are actually regarded as accepted neologisms.

Regarding the shortlasting neologisms – an instance of such words is the neologism *studentiziraj se* ‘studentize yourself’, which appeared at the end of 2014 and the beginning of 2015 with the meaning of ‘solidarity with the ideas of the students’. In this sense, the neologism *DžaBest* ‘DžaBest’ should be mentioned, which is a name for a tariff model offered by the mobile network operator One (Telecom Slovenia Group), emerged three years ago as a new opportunity for its users. When asked about the slogan, the team said that it came from the motto *Džabe razgovori za Best društvo* ‘Free conversations for Best company’. The word *Best* ‘best’ means *’najdobar/ najdobra/ najdobro/ najdobri* which are the superlative for all three persons in singular and plural in the Macedonian language and it is an adjective from the English language ‘best’ which means of the highest quality. In the slogan *Džabestira se i ti!* there is the newly formed verb *džabestira*. The meaning of the verb *džabestira* is ‘to become a part of the family of DžaBest with activation of their service’. It should be emphasized that these two neologisms are currently massively used, especially by the young population and the journalism, but they are not registered in the dictionaries on account of their relatively short period of existence, which renders their future uncertain.

In one of the exercises in the textbook the task is to find the neologisms in a text taken from a daily newspaper and list their meanings. The text is translated into English and presented subsequently:

“Sony” introduced the new game console

The company “Sony” finally introduced the new game console “PSP Go” at the conference for video games “E3” held in Los Angeles. Video spots and photographs of this device could have been seen on the internet before the official presentation. The new game console is regarded by many as a direct rival of “DSi” made by “Nintendo” which was released in April. (p. 44)

Students are faced with a serious and difficult task of finding new words which have substituted, the old, existing ones, and supersede the foreign words, according to the previously analyzed explanation from the textbook. Also, the previously analyzed given examples were of no additional
help. As seen from the analysis, the word *generacija* ‘generation’ could not have substituted a foreign word, in account of it being a foreign word itself. However, the text reveals a degree of contradictority because there is an abundance of foreign words for which there are no old, existing substitutes, such as, *konzola* ‘console’, *videospotovi* ‘video spots’, *Internet* ‘internet’. The word *rival* ‘rival’, for instance, which should be considered neologism according to the textbook, is of foreign origin (Belčev, 2002, p. 566 and Vujaklija, 1980, p. 806) thus, it cannot have superseded a foreign word when, in fact, it is a foreign word itself. On account of being introduced to, both, RMJ (1986, p. 1218) and TRMJ (2011, p. 38), the foreign word *rival* ‘rival’ is not a neologism and can be considered a synonym of the native words *protivnik* ‘opponent’ and *sopernik* ‘antagonist’. Nowhere in this textbook it is mentioned that one way of creating neologisms is when a new word is accepted together with the new item or idea, so the students should be in a search of something that is not explicated in the textbook, but in some of the examples in the previously mentioned text there is a clear juxtaposition of the new word and the new item, for instance, the word *konzola* ‘console’ with the meaning of ‘a flat surface or board that contains controls for a machine, piece of electrical equipment, computer etc.’ (Longman 1995, p. 287). The word *konzola* ‘console’ is not introduced in the RMJ (1986), but it is present in TRMJ (2005, p. 584) with the following meanings: 1. a girder of a balcony, fixed to a wall with one end, (archaic); 2. a balcony protruded from the wall without support, (spoken). As a result, it is considered a new word, i.e. a neologism only when its meaning is connected with computer games. The outcome, indeed, does confirm that one group of neologisms, mostly from English origin, are loanwords accepted together with the new item, as is the case with the word *konzola* ‘console’. Within this group the word *ajfon* ‘iPhone’ is added as well.

3.2.2. Macedonian Language Course Textbook for Sixth Grade of Eight Year Primary Education (Lozanovski, R., Rusevska, Z., 2009, pp. 72–74)

In this textbook it is stated that the emerging of new words is associated with the needs of the speakers and again, it is emphasized that the new words can supersede certain outdated words but claiming this one should be very careful. The excerpt from the textbook: “Some of the newly created words are neologisms” (p. 72) attracts attention. This statement could lead to a series of inaccurate conclusions, despite the one stating that all of the newly created words are not neologisms, that neologisms are only those words with their own, distinctive meaning, that all neologisms do not have a counterpart in the Macedonian language, and that their brand new meaning, such as the one of the newly created word, had not existed before. The textbook provides an indirect indication of the previously mentioned manner which is used to create neologisms, i.e. one type of neologisms would be the loanwords from the English language (s. Section 3.2.1). These are the examples given in this textbook: *devoredi* ‘straight lines of trees on both sides of a road’, *avtoritet* ‘authority’, *univerzalen* ‘universal’, *afinitet* ‘affinity’, *avtomehaničar* ‘automechanic’, *sonarodnici* ‘pl. countrymen’, *dijaspora* ‘diaspora’, *kompjuter* ‘computer’, *stojalište* ‘a stop’, *mikser* ‘mixer’, *video* ‘video’, *dividi* ‘DVD’, *kompleks* ‘a complex of buildings’, *avtolimar* ‘autotinsmith’, *eksport* ‘export’, *import* ‘import’, *apsoluten* ‘absolute’ (p. 72). These words cannot be considered neologisms because a part of them had been introduced in the RMJ (1986, p. 155, 5, 1539, 16, 1372, 1432, 345, 169, 291, 13). The words that are not present in the RMJ are the following: *avtomehaničar* ‘automechanic’, *dijaspora* ‘diaspora’, *kompjuter* ‘computer’, *mikser* ‘mixer’, *video* ‘video’, *dividi* ‘DVD’, *avtolimar* ‘autotinsmith’. However, their presence, except that of the word *dividi* ‘DVD’, is noted in the TRMJ (2003, p. 541, 447, 9, 7, 52, 68, 240, 589; 2005, p. 329, 574, 575; 2006, p. 133; 2011, p. 494, 574; 2014, p. 184). The following conclusion can be drawn: the words that are not present in the RMJ (1986) must have been widely used prior to being introduced in the TRMJ (2003, 2005, 2006, 2011), which is why they cannot be considered neologisms. The word *dividi* ‘DVD’, being widely used by speakers of Macedonian language, is not considered a neologism as well. That said, it is not clear why this word
has not been introduced in the TRMJ yet. Nevertheless, the “Poimnik na makedonski zborovi od informatičkata tehnologija” (2009, p. 47) [Glossary of Macedonian Words in the Field of Informatics Technology], which is considered an official document that contains words recommended for usage, states that the word dividi ‘DVD’ is actually an abbreviation consisting of the first letters of the words digitalen video disk ‘digital video disk’ and the words digital, video and disk have all been introduced in the TRMJ (2003, p. 240, 443, 452). Therefore, this leads to the notion that abbreviations might be a distinct group of neologisms.

Neologisms can also be compound words – a combination of two words that denote one idea: drvo + red = drvored, ‘n. sing. a straight line of trees on both sides of a road’, avto + mehaničar = avtomehaničar ‘automechanic’) – as stated in the textbook. On account of the first word drvored being present in, both, RMJ and TRMJ, it cannot be accepted as a neologism. This process indicates the creation of compound nouns from two components – in this case, the noun drvo ‘tree’ + the noun red ‘line’ equals to the compound noun drvored. This instance indirectly signifies the creation of neologisms by using elements from the native language. Such is the already mentioned word pečatač ‘printer’, for instance. In the word avtomehaničar ‘automechanic’ the word mehaničar ‘mechanic’ is considered a foreign word (Belčev, 2002, p. 401 and Vujaklija, 1980, p. 561) and avto- ‘auto-’ is the first part of foreign origin compound words with the following meanings: 1. of or by yourself and 2. relating to cars (TRMJ, 2003, p. 6). For that reason, although avtomehaničar ‘automechanic’ is not a neologism, its two components are of foreign origin. Accordingly, a neologism might be a compound word consisting of two foreign elements, such as printer ‘printer’ considering neologism in the period when it was created.

In this textbook, as well as in the previous one (s. Section 3.2.1) the two types of neologisms (accepted and unaccepted) are concerned. However, the only deficiency is the lack of examples. All of this leads to the conclusion that authors regard the given examples as accepted neologisms. The accepted neologisms are defined differently in this part of the textbook. It is stated that: “accepted neologisms... are regularly used in communication” (p. 72). However, it is not clear whether the accepted neologisms are a part of the active vocabulary of the language or it simply means that almost everyone uses them. The explanation for unaccepted neologisms is the same as the one in the previous textbook (s. Section 3.2.1).

Further on in the textbook, there is an exercise that asks from students to write sentences with the following words given as neologisms: vrabotuvanje ‘employment’, bran ‘wave’, kompromitiran ‘compromised’, ilegalno ‘illegal’, stremež ‘aspiration’, polet ‘impetus’, ilegalno ‘illegal’, avtolimar ‘autotinsmith’ and renome ‘renown’ (p. 73). A significant part of these words are present in the RMJ (1986, p. 345, 381, 1439, 289, 1206, 44) and only two of them are not: vrabotuvanje ‘employment’ and avtolimar ‘autotinsmith’. They are, however, present in the TRMJ (2003, p. 7, 299). As previously stated, these words must have been widely used for a longer period of time by speakers of the Macedonian language so as to be present in the TRMJ, therefore they cannot be accepted as neologisms.

There is no explanation for the manner used to create neologisms in the textbook, but the words given in the exercise show that, some of them, for example, bran ‘wave’ are already existing in the language, in spite of having the meaning extended by means of association, i.e. by reconsideration. For instance, the word’s bran ‘wave’ new extended meaning would be: “every movement or appearance that comes one after another, that looks like a wave” (TRMJ, 2003, p. 174). However, regarding, both, the time and lexicographic criterion, i.e. the utilization of this word in a longer period of time and its presence in the TRMJ, it cannot be considered a neologism. The verb vraboti ‘to employ’ was suggested as a substitute for the Serbian verb zaposliti ‘to employ’ around the end of 1970 by the well-known language expert and professor Krume Kepeski. The Macedonian verb vraboti ‘to employ’
consists of two elements: the verb *raboti* ‘to work’ and the prefix *v*- ‘em-/en-’. The suggestion startled the professional public. From the discussions, a new solution was found (Korubin, 1976, p. 285), thus, the verb *vrabotuva* ‘to employ’ is widely accepted and not considered a new word nowadays.

In the part called “Interpretation and use of neologisms” there are rules for correct word spelling: *korigira* ‘v. to correct’, *inteligencija* ‘intelligence’, *fizionomija* ‘physiognomy’ and *injekcija* ‘injection’ (p. 73). On account of these words being present in the RMJ (1986, p. 292, 356, 1571) and TRMJ (2005, p. 337, 345, 608; 2014, p. 237), they cannot be considered neologisms.

The following words are interpreted as neologisms according to the authors: *avtomehaničar* ‘automechanic’, *stojalište* ‘a stop’, *gluvče* ‘mouse’, *sneg* ‘snow’, *ilegalno* ‘illegal’, *korigira* ‘v. to correct’, *ekspresno* ‘adj., adv. express’, *univerzalen* ‘universal’, *avtoritet* ‘authority’, *dijaspora* ‘diaspora’ (p. 74). Some of them, *sneg* ‘snow’ and *gluvče* ‘mouse’, for instance, have been given a new meaning by means of association, i.e. reconsideration, despite already existing in the language. The new meanings are: ‘snow on the screen’ and ‘mouse as a computer device’. Again, students have to look for explanation somewhere else rather than in their textbook. However, it is ambiguous why the words *gluvče* ‘mouse’ and *sneg* ‘snow’ are not included in the TRMJ with their extended meanings (TRMJ, 2003, p. 350; 2011, p. 468) if it is known that *gluvče* ‘mouse’ and *sneg* ‘snow’ are widely used by Macedonian language speakers. In addition, in the “Poimnik” (2009, p. 29) [Glossary] it is suggested that the Macedonian translation *gluvče* be used rather than the English word ‘mouse’. However, the two words – the Macedonian translated word *gluvče* ‘mouse’ and the word *maus* ‘mouse’, which is not translated but only transcribed – are currently in use.

The word *afinitet* ‘affinity’ (p. 72) is present in the RMJ (1986, p. 16) with the following meaning: *srodnost* ‘relation’, *privlečnost* ‘attraction’, while in the TRMJ (2003, p. 68) two meanings are given: a) inclination for something, activity; b) attraction between two people. In the Lexicon by Vujaklija (1980, p. 9) the word’s Latin origin is emphasized: *srodstvo* ‘kinship’, *srodnost* ‘relation’, *oroduvanje* ‘becoming related’ – meaning that it is an international word. In addition, this word is also introduced in the “Rečnik na stranski zborovi vo makedonskiot jazik” (Belčev, 2002, p. 69) [Dictionary of Foreign Words in the Macedonian Language] with the meaning of *srodnost* ‘relation’, *sličnost* ‘similarity’, *bliskost* ‘closeness’, *megjusebna privlečnost* ‘mutual attraction’. Thus, the word *afinitet* ‘affinity’ is a foreign word, synonymous with the native *sklonost* ‘inclination’ and *privlečnost* ‘attraction between two people’. A larger part of the examples are international words that have entered the Macedonian language from Greek and Latin. Despite not being neologisms, it is concluded that they (international words from Greek and Latin origin) could form a group of neologisms. The analysis shows that the cited words cannot be accepted as neologisms, as they could not have substituted certain outdated words, on account of them being, both, foreign words and synonyms with the already existing ones in the RMJ, for example, *afinitet* ‘affinity’ – *sklonost* ‘inclination’, *legalno* ‘legal’ – *zakonski* ‘lawful’, *renome* ‘renown’ – *ugled* ‘reputation’, and so on. This actually means that the stylistic and pragmatic needs of the speakers are satisfied using the foreign words, which, in turn, exist alongside the native words, providing a nuance of differentiation in the enunciation (Spasojević, 2011).

3.2.3. *Macedonian Language Course Textbook for Sixth Grade of Primary Education (Velkova, S., Jovanovska, S., 2009, pp. 120–121)*

In this textbook the newly created words, called coinages or neologisms, are associated with the social and communicational needs. This could lead to a conclusion that these two terms are synonyms. However, the matter at hand is to determine 1. whether the conjunction “or” signifies synonymy between these two terms or 2. whether it is used to signify that the words that enter the language are called neologisms and the newly created ones – coinages. The term coinage, according to the RMJ
(1986, p. 336) has the meaning of neologism, and in the TRMJ (2005, p. 543) this term denotes a new, artificially created word. In two of the previously mentioned dictionaries, the Lexicon of Foreign Words and Expressions, and the Croatian Language Portal, the term coinage is one of the meanings the term neologism has.

There is an exercise in the textbook that requires identification of the given words’ components: (the following words are given as examples of neologisms): sedumkatnica ‘seven-storey building’, osumgodišen ‘eight year old’, sekojdneven ‘daily’, vinoštito ‘rainbow’ and drvored ‘n. sing. a straight line of trees on both sides of a road’ (p. 120). Determining the components of the words is an easy task. All of them are compounds, created according to the word formation processes in the Macedonian language, and are introduced in the RMJ (1986, p. 1274, 608, 1278, 155, 65), and the TRMJ (2003, p. 248, 541; 2006, p. 576; 2011, p. 336, 342). However, their daily use prevents them from belonging to the group of neologisms.

Further on, there is another exercise which requires the students to state the origin of the words satelit ‘satellite’, rolerrki ‘rollerblades’, kompjuter ‘computer’ and renome ‘renown’ (p. 120). These words are presented as neologisms and another task for the students is to determine their meanings. While only the words satelit ‘satellite’ and renome ‘renown’ are introduced in the RMJ (1986, p. 1206, 1252), all of them are present in the TRMJ (2005, p. 274; 2011, p. 209, 254, 301). The conclusion is a follows: the examples from the first exercise are coinages because they are created with elements from the native language, but they cannot be considered neologisms because of their presence in the RMJ and in the TRMJ. In this sense, the term coinage cannot refer to the examples from the second exercise because satelit ‘satellite’, kompjuter ‘computer’, renome ‘renown’ are loanwords from foreign languages, but are not neologisms on account of them being present in the RMJ and the TRMJ. A very interesting case is that of the word rolerrki ‘rollerblades’. The model for this word does not exist in the English language. This word has modelled freely in the Macedonian language from the English word ‘roller’ (the first element roler is only transcribed with Cyrillic letters) and the native suffix -ka for singular and -ki for plural ‘-er’. This word is introduced in the TRMJ (2011: 254) with the meaning of ‘special shoes with wheels’. The word kaubojki ‘cowboy boots’ belongs to this category as well, but is not present in RMJ (1986). However, the word kauboj (the word is only transcribed with Cyrillic letters ‘cowboy’) has the following meaning in the TRMJ (2005, p. 497): 1. a person in Western America, who takes care of large herds of cattle, riding on a horse; 2. a character in the American movies and novels for the Wild West and the fight between the colonists and the Indians. This widely known word exists in the Bitola dialect (Republic of Macedonia) that is the reason why people no longer consider it a neologism. Although there is no model in the foreign language for the word kaubojki ‘cowboy boots’, it is formed in the same manner as rolerrki ‘rollerblades’ and is used to signify a type of knee-high boots. This explanation takes into account that certain dialect words might also be neologisms.

Regarding the term coinage, it could be accepted that coinage is one type of neologism and that two types of neologisms-coinages exist. The first type is the commonly used group of neologisms-coinages which refer to newly created, i.e. “coined” words with elements of the native language, or by combining native and foreign elements from the already existing foreign words such as the words pećatač ‘printer’ and printač ‘printer’. In fact, this refers to the creation of neologisms with means of the native language, or with combination of foreign and native elements from the already existing foreign words. The second type of neologisms-coinages refers to the language of writers whose goal is not to spread it worldwide, but to evoke certain stylistic effects in the reader. If this type of word enters the common lexicon, then it would lose its stylistic effect (Panovska, 1974, pp. 49–50). These kinds of neologisms are called author neologisms. It is very rare for an author neologism to begin being widely used or become a part of the common vocabulary, for that matter.
There is an explanation that refers to the manners in which neologisms enter the language in the textbook: “a) they are created with elements of the native language: rusokos ‘blond’, pčelarnik ‘apiary’, firmopisec ‘firm writer’; b) by accepting foreign words: satelit ‘satellite’, telefon ‘telephone’, anfinitet ‘affinity’; c) when the word is given a new, extended meaning: operator ‘a doctor who operates but also a mobile operator’, telo ‘body, as human body, but also a part of a tap’ “ (p. 120). All of these words, except for firmopisec ‘firm writer’ had been introduced, both, in the RMJ of 1986 and the TRMJ of 2003, 2008, 2011, 2014. Therefore the only remaining conclusion is that firmopisec ‘firm writer’ is a neologism consisted of one foreign and one native element. There is another exercise in the textbook which requires the students to interpret and explain the neologisms given by the authors: hektolitar ‘hectoliter’, radiostanica ‘radio station’, fraza ‘phrase’, demant ‘denial’, krilo ‘wing’, krt ‘mole’ (p. 121). All of these words are present in the RMJ, (1986, p. 1591, 1112 – radiostanica ‘radio station’ only the device, 1581, 133, 366, 369) and in the TRMJ (2014, p. 279, 259; 2011 – radiostanica ‘radio station’ the device and the place where the radio station is located; 2003, p. 424; 2005, p. 641, 651). Thus, it is not clear why these words are considered neologisms. Only the word krt ‘mole’, (with the meaning of traitor, obtained with the method of reconsideration), can be considered a neologism because this meaning is not yet given in the dictionaries.

3.3. Seventh grade Macedonian language course textbooks for eight year primary education

3.3.1. Macedonian Language Course Textbook for Seventh Grade (Velkova, S., Jovanovska, S., 2009, pp. 50–51)

The lexicon of a language should constantly be renewed and enriched, so that it can respond to the communicational needs of its users, as stated in this textbook. Here, there is a classification of the lexicon according to the words’ origin and taking it into consideration the words which compose a part of the Macedonian language lexicon are: Church Slavonic words, dialect words, neologisms, internationalisms and Turkish words (p. 50). There is an explanation, as well as examples for each category; regarding the textbook examples for neologisms are: kompjuter ‘computer’, hotel ‘hotel’, and pčatač ‘printer’ (p. 50). The same manners in which neologisms enter the language (s. Section 3.2.3) are also given in this textbook

This classification is perplexing because, in the specialized literature, it is accepted that neologisms are words regarded from the lexicon’s renewal standpoint. But, in this textbook, they are regarded from the origin’s standpoint, so the students might conclude that neologisms and internationalisms belong to the same group, which is inaccurate (Bojkovska et al., 1998, pp. 214–218). It was already mentioned that international words can compose a group of neologisms.

The following words are examples of internationalisms: legalno ‘legal’, kvalitet ‘quality’, gramatika ‘grammar’, teatar ‘theatre’, opera ‘opera’, dekan ‘dean’, filozofija ‘philosophy’ (p. 50). The problem which may arise is that students might not be able to differentiate between neologisms-borrowings that have entered the language from foreign languages and internationalisms from mostly Latin and Greek origin that are present in many standard languages today. For instance, the word legalno ‘neuter legal’ is classified as internationalism in this textbook, while in another (s. Section 3.2.2) it is said to be a neologism. The word legalen ‘masc. legal’ is present in, both, the RMJ, (1986, p. 381) and the TRMJ (2006, p. 25). It is given as an international word with Latin origin in the Lexicon by Vujaklija (1980, p. 499) and in the “Rečnik na stranski zborovi vo makedonskiot jazik” (Belčev, 2002, p. 354) [Dictionary of Foreign Words in the Macedonian Language].

3.3.2. Macedonian Language Course Textbook for Seventh Grade (Bojkoska, S., Aleksova, G., Pandev, D., Gočkova, K., 2009, pp. 75–77)

In this textbook neologisms are defined as “newly created words that have not become a part of the active lexicon yet and have limited use”, such as the words: video ‘video’, kompjuter ‘computer’,
soliter ‘high-rise’, naivec ‘naïve person’, pečatač ‘printer’, viljuškar ‘forklift truck’ (p. 76). The same manners in which neologisms enter the language (s. Section 3.2.3) is presented in this textbook. The authors refer to the active lexicon which depends on the speaker, on account of this type of lexicon having more individual than collective features. Contrary to what accepted neologisms have been accounted for (that they are used in communication and have become a part of the written and spoken vocabulary of a person), their limited use is emphasized in this textbook.

The following exercise from the textbook contains excerpts of poems. Students’ task is to determine what type of lexicon is most prevalent and explain the stanzas’ style. The characteristics of poetry’s language have not been mentioned in the explanation, hence students might face problems when determining which words should be classify as neologisms (although they can easily notice the words’ unusual form). It is paramount to emphasize that these excerpts are not from the original translation of the poems, but they have been translated from Macedonian to English for the needs of this article:

1. We are richer now with one more death and a fresh grave,/Sadness unwept, stay proud untold,/Uncover armpits you black earth dirty, devastated,/for you to hug your son who was at least a slave; If you are to become a poet,start every day and do not finish off a song,/for the erroneous and semi-erroneous,/for all of those who are not to become elbow walkers; 2. The forest is silent, like the Archimedes’ Secret,/With dignified non-movement, eternal and ancient,/Exhilarated in the sign of a known height,/Of a lavish view – with a lot of grass and silent; Forest view shattered from here to everywhere,/Far down the dry summer is weighting./I am alone in the middle of a magic and a bliss in this wide somewhere,/Alone, with the lie that I am finally above the world! (p. 77)

For the purpose of evoking a stylistic effect, the words used in the stanzas are created with elements of the native language, i.e. they are author neologisms. Neisplakana ‘adj. fem. unwept’, neodustena ‘adj. fem. untold’, kataden ‘adv. everyday’, dokrajčuvaj ‘v. finish off’, laktoodi ‘adj. pl. for someone who walks on the elbows, elbow walkers’, nedvižba ‘n. non-movement’, mnogutrevna ‘adj. fem. with a lot of grass’, gorogled ‘n. a view of the forest, forest view’ belong to this group, but the author neologisms seldom become widely used and keep the characteristic of neologisms only in the given context.

The emerging of difficulties while trying to determine the meaning of the term neologism can be confirmed from the analyzed material, the dictionaries and textbooks. The analysis indicates that there can be several groups of neologisms: semantic neologisms, created with the process of reconsideration; neologisms created with elements from the native language from the already existing foreign words – coinages; neologisms created by combining native and foreign elements from the already existing foreign words – coinages; neologisms – loanwords – internationalisms (with Latin and Greek origin); neologisms – loanwords – from other foreign languages, mostly English, by accepting the new item or idea; potential neologisms – present mostly in the spoken variant, and in the journalism; neologisms – abbreviations; neologisms – dialect words; neologisms-coinages – author neologisms, typical for the language of prose and poetry.

4. Conclusion

The following conclusion can be drawn from the analysis of the dictionaries: the word neologism is defined as a new word, but on account of the inaccuracy as to what this noun phrase should mean, it is evident that students might not be able to find a precise answer regarding which word should be considered a neologism, given that only a short definition is available in dictionaries. Further on, the analysis demonstrates that the dictionaries indirectly indicate the manners of creating neologisms–forming neologisms by means of reconsideration, i.e. semantic neologisms. It is of a vital importance
to clarify the following: every new meaning of an existing or an old word does not necessarily classify the word as a neologism. As a result, this should be done by using means of association, i.e. the process of reconsideration, so that the connection between the words has a new meaning, because otherwise, the students would be assimilating homonyms and not neologisms; creating neologisms by using native language elements and creating neologisms by a combination of native and foreign elements. In both cases, great attention should be paid to the examples given as neologisman account of the time and the lexicographic criterion which serve to demonstrate that it is not clear why certain words are considered neologisms. That certainly influences the students’ assimilation of neologisms. In addition, the dictionaries emphasize that neologisms might also be loanwords that have entered the language from other foreign languages. These are known as internationalisms, i.e. foreign words from mainly Greek or Latin origin that exist in many developed standard languages or loanwords from other foreign languages, such as English. Certain definitions in the dictionaries lead to a dilemma whether the terms neologism and coinage are synonyms or simply terms with nuances in meaning, resulting in students’ indistinction when determining these two terms without proper explanation.

The analysis of Macedonian language textbooks for primary education clearly demonstrates the connection between neologisms and the social and cultural development, the progress in different areas of science and the production of goods, as well as the need for constant renewal and enrichment of the language, so that it can respond to the communicational needs of its users. However, this explanation is not sufficient for students to be able to clearly determine the new words on account of the lack of precise criteria that would help them decide. In one part of the textbooks it is emphasized that the new words supersede the foreign words in a language and contribute to the purity of the language. Albeit this might hold true in certain cases, such as the substitution of the foreign word *printer* ‘printer’ with the Macedonian word *pečatac* ‘printer’ in the time of this native word’s creation and, as such, considered a neologism, students should be informed that all new words do not necessarily supersede foreign words – they exist alongside the native words, despite their slight difference in pronunciation, as well as that all foreign words are not neologisms. For example, the word *generacija* ‘generation’ can neither be a decent substitute for a foreign word on account of it being a foreign word itself, nor a neologism, taking the two mentioned criteria into consideration. This word is synonymous with the native words *pokolenie* ‘posterity’ and *potomstvo* ‘progeny’ and, naturally, the use of native words contributes to the preservation of the national spirit of the standard language. The most common reason for creating neologisms is the necessity for naming a new item, idea or process. Thus, the only thing that should serve as a criterion (besides the two already mentioned) is for the neologism to have its own, distinctive meaning with no Macedonian equivalent. Only that type of word could become a part of the standard language after a certain period of utilization by the Macedonian language speakers.

Part of the textbooks points to the two types of neologisms – accepted and unaccepted – but, students might find it difficult to understand the division on account of the lack of examples. The manner used when formulating the material and the explanations for neologisms is crucial because, often, the exercises require interpretation of something that has not been mentioned or explained in the textbook or the explanation might not be in accordance with the given task. For instance, such is the task that requires students to find new words that have superseded the old, existing ones, with no such examples in the exercise, or to find new words that signify ideas which have no old, existing words to be explained with, such as, *konzola* ‘console’, *Internet* ‘internet’, and so on. It is obvious that most of the words are foreign words used as synonyms alongside the native ones, such as the words *rival* ‘rival’, *afinitet* ‘affinity’, *legalno* ‘legal’ and so on. As a result, students might get the impression that all foreign words are neologisms. The situation becomes even more complicated when a word is
treated differently in two different textbooks, such as legalno ‘legal’ which is classified as a neologism in one textbook, and as internationalism in another. Therefore, students might have difficulties in differentiating neologisms from internationalisms and might inaccurately interpret the fact that these words are classified according to the same criterion, thus, belonging to the same group of words. In some of the textbooks the degree of ambiguity as to how the terms neologism and coinage should be treated is evident, but according to the analysis, coinages can be considered a distinct group of neologisms, resulting in, both, neologisms-coinages – created, i.e. coined with elements of the native or foreign language, or by combining native and foreign elements, and neologisms-coinages – created by writers with the purpose of evoking a stylistic effect. For example, drvored ‘n. sing. a straight line of trees on both sides of a road’ is a coinage because it consists of two native words that signify one idea, but taking the two already mentioned criteria into consideration, this word should not have the status of neologism. What is more, some of the given examples for coinages in the textbooks are not coinages at all, but rather loanwords from foreign languages, such as satelit ‘satellite’, renome ‘renown’ and so on.

Further on, some of the textbooks offer an explanation about the process of neologisms entering the language, but according to the analysis, it is unclear why the given examples are considered neologisms. It should be emphasized, once again, that it is very important to be careful when defining neologisms. However, there are various interpretations regarding their use in the textbooks. In one of the textbooks they are defined as words that are regularly used as a part of the written and spoken enunciation of a person, but in another one it is said that neologisms have limited utilization. Thus, these two different explanations might confuse the students.

Moreover, the analysis indicates that when authors formulate textbooks, little attention is dedicated to the explanation for neologisms. This holds true regarding the given examples and there is, also, the possibility that words are taken from other already existing textbooks –disregarding the period of their publication. In other words, the examples might be taken from very old textbooks, which would result in old examples as well, meaning that a long time has passed since the period when the textbook was published, and, thus, since the period when the words were considered neologisms. It would appear that the authors have not taken the time and lexicographic criterion into consideration, as well as the words’ utilization by Macedonian language speakers. All of this certainly influences the manner in which students assimilate the given information about neologisms and that would affect their further treatment in the language.

The several groups of neologisms offered in this article, representing their possible classification, appear as a result of the already established methods according to which neologisms enter the Macedonian language, as well as of the indirect interpretations and analysis of the written material from dictionaries and textbooks. The development of the language, alongside the need for constant renewal and enrichment, is taken into consideration as well. The given analysis and classification are considered to prove extremely useful for linguists, teachers, students and all of the people around the world who are interested in this linguistic phenomenon; note that it is not only present in the Macedonian language, but in other languages as well. This article elaborates issues of great interest for those concerned with writing textbooks and certainly for teachers who have an extremely complex task of explaining a phenomenon by using materials that do not offer precise definition and explanation to the students. The unreliability of this subject on account of it not being explored in greater depth, results in having scarce materials and lack of reliable sources. However, authors of textbooks should have a serious approach regarding the material’s interpretation for different educational stages, especially for this subject, and they should be cautious when selecting proper examples.
References


Çeşitli Sözlükler ve İlkokul Makedonca Dil Kursu Kitaplarındaki Yeni Sözcüklerin Kavramsal Formulasyonu

Öz

Anahtar Sözcükler: Yeni sözcükler; Kavramsal; formulasyonlar; kriter; sınıflandırma

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