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## **THE INFLUENCE OF TECHNOLOGICAL ON THE LEXICAL SYSTEM OF MODERN ENGLISH**

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The evolution of the English language has always been intrinsically linked to societal, scientific, and industrial progress. However, the digital revolution of the late 20th and early 21st centuries has initiated a period of linguistic acceleration that is unprecedented in human history. As David Crystal [5] argues, technology does not merely introduce new gadgets; it fundamentally reshapes the cognitive and communicative frameworks of its speakers, creating a "technocentric" linguistic paradigm.

In the modern era, the integration of Artificial Intelligence, social media, and ubiquitous computing has transformed English into a highly fluid system. This

transformation is visible not only in the sheer volume of new terminology but also in how traditional grammatical boundaries are blurred. As digital interaction becomes the primary mode of communication, the English vocabulary undergoes a process of rapid expansion, adaptation, and global standardization [7]. This research aims to analyze the mechanisms of these changes, exploring how neologisms, semantic shifts, and the phenomenon of linguistic economy reflect the socio-technical reality of the modern world. We will examine whether these changes signify a degradation of the language or, conversely, demonstrate its remarkable resilience and capacity for innovation in the face of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The primary impact of technology is the continuous influx of neologisms required to name new concepts, hardware, and digital behaviors. Modern English demonstrates high productivity in several word-formation patterns [1]:

- **Blending and Compounding:** The creation of portmanteau words has become a hallmark of the IT sector. Examples include webinar (web + seminar), phishing (password + fishing), and malware (malicious + software).

- **Affixation:** Specific morphemes have gained high frequency. The prefix e- (electronic), cyber-, and the suffix -bot allow for the rapid generation of specialized terms.

- **Conversion (Functional Shift):** Technology encourages the transition of words from one part of speech to another without changing their form. According to McCulloch [6], the transformation of proper nouns into verbs, such as to google or to whatsapp, reflects the total integration of these platforms into everyday life.

Beyond the creation of new words, technology induces "semantic bleaching" or "semantic expansion" in traditional vocabulary. This process occurs when a word's technical meaning becomes more dominant than its original, literal sense [4].

- **Metaphorical Extension:** Terms like mouse, cloud, virus, and stream have been recontextualized. In modern discourse, a virus is more likely to be perceived as a malicious code rather than a biological pathogen.

- **Broadening of Meaning:** The word friend, traditionally implying a deep emotional bond, has been semantically diluted in the context of social media to signify any person within a user's digital network.[3]

The constraints of digital platforms (character limits, speed of real-time messaging) have popularized the "Principle of Least Effort," leading to the rise of Computer-Mediated Communication (CMC).

- **Acronyms and Initialisms:** Acronyms like AI, VR, and UX have transitioned from technical jargon to common nouns. Socially-driven acronyms such as FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out) demonstrate how psychological states are now framed through technological brevity.[6]

- **Pragmatic Markers:** The use of hashtags (#) and emojis serves a dual purpose: as metadata for categorization and as pragmatic markers that add emotional context without complex syntax.[7]

Technological progress has solidified the role of English as the universal language of innovation. Androutsopoulos [2] notes that this has led to the "Anglicization" of other languages, where technical terms like interface, hashtag, and wi-fi are borrowed

as internationalisms. Consequently, while technology changes English, English uses technology to influence the global linguistic landscape.

#### Conclusion

The influence of technology on the English vocabulary is not merely an additive process; it is a profound structural transformation. The digital age has acted as a catalyst, forcing the language to evolve from a relatively stable system into a highly dynamic, multi-modal tool for global exchange. As we have seen, the mechanisms of neologization and semantic expansion allow English to articulate complex technological concepts with remarkable speed. Simultaneously, the rise of Computer-Mediated Communication has introduced a new level of pragmatic efficiency, where brevity and visual elements coexist with traditional lexical units.

While some linguistic purists express concern over the potential "degradation" of English through abbreviations and the erosion of formal syntax, the evidence suggests a different conclusion. According to Crystal [5] and McCulloch [6], technology enhances the expressive potential of the language, providing speakers with a broader palette of nuances to navigate an increasingly complex virtual reality. English has solidified its status as the global lingua franca of innovation, not by remaining static, but by embracing the flexibility required by the digital frontier. In conclusion, the symbiosis between technology and English vocabulary ensures that the language remains the most adaptable and resilient communicative tool in the modern world, continuously reflecting the shifting boundaries of human knowledge and social interaction.

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