

A Sociolinguistic Investigation into (Semantic) Neologisms of Adamu (Baba-Ina-Ne)

HASSAN SABO (Corresponding author)
School of Languages, Literacies and Translation
Universiti Sains Malaysia
Penang, Malaysia
washkash2006@gmail.com

SALASIAH CHE LAH (0000-0001-6814-6346)
School of Languages, Literacies and Translation
Universiti Sains Malaysia
Penang, Malaysia
salasiah@usm.my

ABSTRACT

This study investigated the neologism manifestations in the communication style of Adamu, also known as Baba-ina-ne, using semantic analysis method. As an individual with speech impairment, Adamu (Baba-ina-ne) does not speak his indigenous language fluently similar to other individuals in his locality. As such he innovated simple and peculiar way of expressing meanings to events and identities, at his capability. The term "neologism" used in the study refers to the creation of new words. The main focus of this study is the phenomena of neologism, which explores how a dialect in the person of Adamu "Baba-ina-ne" comes up with new terms. The three elements of neologism—word generation, borrowing, and coining—form the basis of this paper's theoretical framework. The use of neologism as a research tool is the foundation of this work. Participant observation, interviews, and the ethnography method were used to gather the data. The research showed that one person could have a significant impact on the development of new terms, which are then adopted by the local population and used in daily speech. Undoubtedly, neologisms offer vivid depictions of a variety of social and cultural acts in the separate societies, and the motivation behind them all is the same: to increase the language's vocabulary.

Key words: Baba-ina-ne, Ethnography, language, Neologism, Semantic,

To cite this article: Sabo, H., & Lah, S. C. (2023). A Sociolinguistic Investigation into (Semantic) Neologisms Of Adamu (Baba-Ina-Ne). *International Journal of Language, Literacy and Translation* 6(1), 90-98. <https://doi.org/10.36777/ijollt2023.6.1.066>

To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.36777/ijollt2023.6.1.066>

Received: 8 November 2022

Accepted: 11 February 2023

Published Online: 31 March 2023

This work is licensed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

INTRODUCTION

The method of semantic analysis offers wide spectrum of neologism approach, by understanding how words are created and used as a means of communication across contexts and circumstances. A case of Adamu, who is popularly known as "*Baba-ina-ne*" provides such instance, as a specific circumstance for researching manifestation of neologism in a specific personal context. The person Adamu, who is of approximately sixty (60) years of age, was born, raised and has lived all his life within predominantly Hausa-speaking society, and as a result, Hausa was Adamu's first language. Adamu is generally known as "*Baba-ina-ne*." taking up residence in the Matsaro area of the old city of Hadejia. The Hadejia Local Government Area is located in the state of Jigawa. He was born with a degree of both deafness and mutism. Because of Adamu's (*Baba-ina-ne*) disability, he is unable to speak as fluently as a typical person would. As a result, he develops his own vocabularies, which he uses to communicate with the people around him, beginning with his immediate family and eventually expanding to include all of the people in his community. Adamu is credited with having created the phrase *Baba-ina-ne*, which was then used by those around him to give him the name *Baba-ina-ne* in place of his given name, Adamu. *Baba-ina-ne* is considered to be one of Adamu's vocabularies. Because Adamu (pronounced *Baba-ina-ne*) always responded so quickly whenever he heard the word, people decide to named him with the word and he equally accept it as his name. Neologism is the process of creating new words from existing terms. This also sheds light on the evolving language used within the group and the proliferation of new words.

People believe that humans have the ability to create through their use of language. In addition to that, as opposed to being static, it is dynamic. In spite of this, these characteristics are what ensure the continuation and development of a language. In point of fact, the dictionaries of each and every language are always being expanded (Stenetorp, 2010). Therefore, the new editions are the result of neologism, which may be defined as the creation of new terminology through various means such as borrowing and lexical deviation (Linhua 2008). The same can also be said for the discourse of "*Baba-ina-ne*". The newly invented words eventually became part of the common vernacular of both his family and the town in which he lived. Neologism is the phenomenon that describes the process of new words being introduced into an existing language. According to Stenetorp (2010), a neologism is a lexeme that is not defined in any of the existing dictionaries (2010). The neologism phenomenon is the primary subject of this investigation, and the terms that "*Baba-ina-ne*" invented are being looked at.

However, neologisms have not yet entirely assimilated into the standard language's mainstream usage despite being widely used and possibly on the verge of becoming common place. Neologisms typically contain lexical, phonetic, or semantic ties to some relevant canonical words and are not frequently encountered in regular dictionaries or language lexical (Zalmout et al., 2019).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Neologism aids in the emergence of new words and the development of word forms (Qaisar, 2015). It recognizes word forms and encourages the creation of new words in a language. Neologism also draws attention to the current and contemporary perspectives within the social and cultural milieu. According to Khan (2013) neologism, which may be loosely translated as the

creation of new words, is a vital tool for understanding how languages develop through time (2013). When no other term sufficiently conveys our thoughts or experiences, we continually create new words in order to describe or explain one-of-a-kind concepts and things. However, it is vital to note that we only do this when no other word adequately expresses our thoughts or experiences (Tulloch et al.,1997). Loan words, acronyms, and abbreviations are examples of the types of terms that fall under the category of neologisms (1999). According to Khan (2013), neologisms are newly-generated phrases or lexical features that may be migrating into everyday usage but are not typically regarded as belonging to a formal language. Neologisms can also refer to words that have been repurposed from another language. According to Peprnik et research's neologisms are utilized in a variety of fields that are not related to linguistics (2006). A neologism is a word that is either brand new or an innovative usage of a word that already exists (Peprnik, 76). This article views neologism from the perspective of *Baba-ina-ne* coinage and investigates as well as analyzes it. People around him frequently used newly developed terminology to successfully underline specific words, whether they were speaking with him or with others.

People who utilize languages in different parts of the world are able to generate and coin new terms based on their particular concerns and requirements. Nevertheless, they accomplish this while employing terminology that are already in use. On the other side, language functions as a bridge between a variety of people, civilizations, and linguistic groups (Mefcalf, 2002), Khan (2013), (2013) and Asif, et-al (2019). Syntactical words and unconventional morphological features are utilized in this type of linking. Therefore, the language is composed of social and interpersonal phenomena that are responsible for the transmission of information from one generation to the next. One way of looking at a language is as a collection of ideas and concepts that is continually coming up with new words to fulfill the requirements of different types of conversational settings. Khan maintains that the impact of newly coined phrases is greater than the sum of all previously known information (2013). Asif et al. (2019), who focus on language users in a particular setting, also provide insight into the invention and use of new terms in their research. This is an important aspect of the research. According to Qaisar, the author goes beyond the prescriptive criteria of using a language and creates a variety of novel terms that do not fit into the regular grammatical rules (2015).

According to Usevic (2013), the terminology should not be older than 25 years; otherwise, it is possible that it will be regarded as a neologism. According to Crystal's (2001) definition, a neologism is the foundation for new lexical items that are accepted within a speech community during a specific time period. According to Janssen, neologisms are a type of words found in the English language (2005). It is a representation of the components that go into the process of language change. It also makes it clear that language is not static but rather has the ability to change over time.

The process of word generation was the first feature of neologism that was stressed by Krishnamurthy (2010). Compounding, blending, affixation, coinage, and acronym formation form the fundamental building blocks of word development. Morphemes are what are meant to be thought of when the phrase "minimal units of words holding complete meaning" is used. The second component of this paradigm is known as borrowing. The speakers mix a number of languages together in order to make communication simpler. When it comes to efficient communication, speakers may borrow an entire sentence or just a single word depending on the circumstances and the surrounding context. Borrowing the words of Krishnamurthy is one way to increase one's vocabulary in any language (2010). The use of borrowing can be observed to

have had a considerable impact on the corpus that this study is analyzing. The theoretical framework includes a third component, which is referred to as lexical deviation. Lexical variation is the process that describes when a writer comes up with a new word that has never been used before. This is an example of neologism, which is simply the process of creating new words. It is one of the clearest illustrations of how a writer pushes the boundaries of what is considered to be acceptable language (Leech, 2014). Neologisms, or new words, are frequently the product of lexical deviation, which can be defined as the expansive application of established principles (of word formation). According to Rey (1995), newly-invented phrases and words cannot be classified as neologisms because they are just combinations of phonemes, therefore the term does not apply to them. He refers to a certain region as the "specific domain of lexicology," which is the category under which all neologisms can be found.

RESEARCH QUESTION

How likely is it that a single individual was responsible for the neologism phenomena as well as the semantic component of it?

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To demonstrate how a single individual played a big part in the phenomenon development of neologism as well as the semantic component of it.

METHODOLOGY

Within the scope of this research, the researcher engaged in descriptive qualitative research (case studies). The approach of inquiry known as qualitative research aims to get an understanding of human behavior by constructing intricate and comprehensive representations of the social and cultural contexts in which such behavior happens. This type of study was conducted in the United States. It did this by focusing on the analysis of words rather than numbers, and by describing in great detail the perspectives of the individuals who were researched. In contrast to carefully designed laboratories or clinical or experimental settings, the research in question was carried out in an environment in which individuals naturally interact with one another.

RESEARCH SETTING

This research would be done within six month, because ethnography will be use for the data collection. This research was conducted at where Adamu known as *Baba-ina-ne* used to live at Matsaro quarters Hadejia.

RESEARCH SUBJECT

Participants were described as those who would be questioned regarding the information needed for the research to be conducted. Participants in this study were members of the Adamu community (*Baba-ina-ne*). While gathering data, an interview with members of his community

was done. The total subjects who were willing to engage in the study and who met the sample requirements over the course of the six-month data collection period made up the respondent's size of experienced persons, which includes both male and female respondents.

RESEARCH INSTRUMENT

In this study, some research instruments were applied for completing the Data Observation checklist.

In doing the observation, the researcher used the observation checklist as the research instrument. The observation checklist consists of some words which possibly used by participants in their conversation. This checklist also helped researcher to collect data related to the frequency of vocabularies.

INTERVIEW GUIDE

Fulfilling the study, the researcher structurally interviewed the people around Adamu (*Baba-inane*). The interview guide provided some lists of questions for getting the information about his vocabularies.

TECHNIQUES OF DATA COLLECTION

Ethnography gave the researcher reliable data. People and writing make up ethnography. Ethnography is social science writing about people. (2001:45) Social science uses ethnography. Instead of ethnography, relies on personal experience and maybe engagement. Transdisciplinary ethnographers often work together. The ethnographic focal point may be extensive language and cultural learning, rigorous subject or domain study, and a combination of historical, observational, and interview methods. Most ethnographic investigations use interviews, observation, and records. Quotations, descriptions, and document snippets result in one product: storyline (1990).

The following distinguish ethnographic social research from others. (John, 2000)

OBSERVATION

Observation is a natural approach to data collecting and is deemed as the most accurate modern research method. (Sidhu, 2011:158) Observation is the process of learning what individuals think and do through watching them in various circumstances and activities. (2008) believes: The observation approach involves the researcher visiting the field or respondent to obtain data. Observing a person, thing, or situation gives firsthand information.

The researcher will spend a month in his village to see how his people utilize vocabulary for this research.

INTERVIEW

Interviews are face-to-face attempts to collect authentic and trustworthy spoken responses from one or more respondents. Interviews are a great way to get data in fieldwork. (2000). Open system interview techniques will be used to collect data from selected his community people, who are the target audience an interview will verify the vocabularies acquired during community interaction observation.

Participant observation and interviews were employed to collect valid data, words, phrases, used by "*Baba-ina-ne*" were collected through observation. Inmates' field notes were used to observe for six months.

PARTICIPANT OBSERVATION TOOK PLACE IN THE COMMUNITY

The researcher interviewed and observed the participants. Interviews were process questions and answers on the problem and information to be gathered. The researcher received information from participants in both structured or unstructured interviews.

The researcher interviewed each respondent regarding gender and language. The researcher provided several interview guide questions. The researcher recorded the interview using his mobile phone. The interview began with some general questions. After the interview started, the researcher encouraged participants to keep talking by nodding or making interested sounds. An in-depth interviewer has to follow indications to discover a phenomenon's "real" significance.

After the interview, the data was transcribed into English and analyzed. Interview and observation data were evaluated. All data was verified.

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

Table 1

Baba Words

S/N	WORDS	LITERAL MEANING	GLOSSARY
1	Ya ki-ya ki	Come come	Prostitute or Harlot
2	Hai ya-hai sya	Sign of crowd	Market
3	Kal-kal	Sound	Cloth washing
4	Lala-lala	No no	Tomorrow
5	Shit-gal	Sound	Scorpion
6	Allah-babu	No GOD	Atheist or Idolater
7	Tayar-ruwa	Water Tear	Baobab soup
8	Taya-mai daxi	Pleasantness Tear	Stew
9	Ku-ku	Sound	Chicken
10	Ingwal-ingwal	sound	Walking
11	Ba ni-ba ni	Give me, give me	Market day
12	Gangan- gangan	Sound	Train
13	Can- kashi	Sound	Police division
14	Baba- babu	No father	Bastard
15	Inyan - inya	Sound	Grand child

According to the table of compounding processes above, compounding is the process of joining two words to form a new word. The process used to create neologisms the bulk of the time, and notably in the case of this research, is without a doubt compounding. According to all the data the author has collected, compounds account for 73.8 percent of all neologisms. Compound words can be created and assessed from the perspective of their structures (Pookhao, 2012). He used semantic extension to create those names, either based on the nature of the thing or by using the object's name, for instance: By semantic extension, the words "*ya ki-ya ki*" and "*prostitute*" are interchangeable because both terms refer to a prostitute or harlot. If we look at the word "*ya ki-ya ki*," it literally just means "*come come*." However, in this context, he uses the

word to refer to a prostitute. Additionally, when he uses the term "*market*," *hia ya-hai-ya* simply refers to a crowd of people, which implies naturally occurring places where people congregate through semantic extension. Another example is *Allah-babu*, which simply translates to "*No God*." By semantic extension, he refers to *atheists or idolaters* because, in his view, anyone who is *atheist* does not believe in God.

Table 2

Baba Words

16	Iya-ba-nono	Mother without Mammary gland	Transgender
17	Ga shi-nan-ga shi-nan	Here it is, here it is	New moon
18	Nan-nan-babu	No here here	A mad person or Lunatic
19	Ina-ne-ina-ne	Where where	Greetings
20	Ba ni -in - sha	Give me and drink	Tea

In Table 2, he employed a technique known as conversion, which means that the names of the words are created by semantic extension while maintaining the word's form. For instance: Another example is *ga shi-nan-ga shi-nan*, which literally means "*showing something*," and which he uses to refer to a *new moon*. The word *iya-ba-nono* technically translates as "*mother without mammary gland*," but he uses it to refer to the name of a *transgender person*. By extension, whenever a new moon was spotted, some individuals would look at it and tell those who hadn't seen it to do so by saying *ga shi-nan-ga shi-nan*. So, in this instance, he provides the names by considering the custom of displaying the *new moon*.

Table 3

Baba Words

21	Bamban	Sound	Bellyful or satiate
22	Fatiya	Opening verse of Koran	Beggar
23	Lalle	Henna	House wife
24	Inya	Sound	Baby
25	Kyarrrr	Sound	Tailor
26	Ingwat	Sound	Witch
27	Kuwuuu	Sound	Hunger
28	Moyi	Sound	Sugar
29	Mumu	Sound	Dog
30	Bubuuu	Sound	Wind or Breeze
31	Bak	Sound	Death
32	Faaa	Sound	Light
33	Kam	Sound	Police man
34	Ingit	Sound	Beating or Flogging
35	Ammm	Sound	Fasting
36	Wash	Sound	Sickness or Illness
37	Daxi	Pleasantness	Rice
38	Allah	GOD	Friday
39	Cut	Sound	Needle or Syringe
40	Inyawuuu	Sound	Seasoning
41	Huuu	Sound	Fire
42	Gangan	Sound	Iron
43	Oooo	Sound	Vomit
44	Kiyi	Sound	Blood
45	Sha	Sound	Urination or Urinating
46	Nama	Meat	Butcher
47	Zuuu	Sound	Motorcycle

48	Shaaaa	Sound	Rain
49	Cuwuuu	Sound	Bean cake
50	Aaaa	Sound	Sleep

In Table 3, he used the coinage word generation techniques for the majority of the terms by producing a sound to give each item or thing a name. For instance: *Witch* is referred to by the sound *ingwat*, which sounds like *swallowing*. In the past, people thought that a *Witch parson* could swallow another human being. Another illustration is the term *bak*, which signifies "death," "falling sound," and "anyone dead it means he fell." Another illustration is the sound *inya*, which is used to allude to *babies*. He gave it the name *Infant* because it sounds like a newborn baby being carried. Another example of the word *lalle*, which is used to refer to a *housewife* and literally means "henna," can be found in this table. In this instance, the author observed how the women applied makeup and gave them the name by semantic extension. Once more, the word *fatiya*, which is a literal translation of the *first verse of the Koran*, is used by him to refer to *almajiri*, which in his view always refers to a *beggar* by way of semantic extension. The final word is *Allah*, which is Arabic for "the creator" (GOD). Because he believes that Friday is a day for serving God, he refers to it as *Friday*. As a result, the mane is implied by semantic extension.

CONCLUSION

Adamu, also known as Baba-ina-ne, was born with a disability, and as a result, his immediate family and, later, the entirety of the people in his village had access to new vocabulary and new phrases. It has been noted that the portion of linguistic innovation associated to Baba-ina-ne contributed, in some way, to the development of new terms. In addition, it was discovered that, from the point of view of Baba-ina-ne, the process of creating a neologism did not entail all possible types of word construction in its entirety. The Onomasiology, written by Pavol Stekaver, is referenced in some way throughout the study (1994). He explored the process of word development with regard to the various communities of speech. Despite this, the majority of neologisms in this context are represented by nouns. Word-formation is applied in the form of nouns, adjectives, and verbs when speaking Baba-ina-ne, which the majority of people in his village accept as their language. There is little question that neologisms provide colorful depictions of a variety of nations and cultures. The findings of the research indicate a tendency to perform some other systems and refrain from producing neologisms in the target language. At the moment, neologism is arranged in a variety of ways, with the exception of "Baba-ina-ne," which is because of his impairment. "Neologisms should continually endeavor to be understood, and they should also be aware of how to present them in a clear and acceptable manner," as stated by Baurer (1994). At the time a word is produced, it may not be able to foresee what its future place will be in a language: it may become the norm and turn out to be a neologism, or it may not and continue to be a nonce term.

RECOMMENDATION

The findings of this study demonstrate how the work of a single person contributed to the evolution of neologisms and semantic components. As a researcher, I hope that this paper would mark the beginning of our fellow researchers conducting in-depth research on this topic so that we, together, could make a significant number of contributions to the field.

REFERENCES

- Asif, M. Deng, Z. H. (2019). The case study of pragmatic failure in second language of Pakistani Students. *International Journal of English Linguistics*, 9(4).
- Ayto, J. (1999). *Twetieh Centuary Words*. Oxford, England: Oxford University Press
- Crystal, D. (2001). *Language and Internet*. Cambridge University Press.
- Janssen, M. (2005). *Between Inflection and derivation paradigmatic lexical functions in morphological databases*. Lisboa. Portugal.
- Khan, M. (2013). Neologism in Urdu A Linguistic Investigation of Urdu media. *Language in India*, 13(6).
- Leech, G. N. (2014). *A Linguistic guide to English Poetry*. Routledge. London
- Linhua, C. (2008). *An Introduction to Linguistics*. Jilin University Press. China.
- Metcalf, A. (2002). *Predicting New Words. The Secrets of their Success*: Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Company
- Peprnik, & J. (2006). *English Lexicology*. Univerzita Palackeho Volomouci. Czech Republic
- Plag, I. (2002). *Word-formation in English*. Cambridge University Press.
- Qaisar, K. (2015). The diary of a Social butterfly. *European Academic Research*, 11.
- Rey, A. (1995). *Essays an terminology*. John Benjamins Publishing Company. Amsterdam Netherland
- Stenetorp, P. (2010). *Automated extraction of Swedish neologism using temporally annotated corpus*.
- Tulloch, S, Knowles, E, & Elliot, J. (Eds) (1997). *The Oxford Dictionary of Words*. Oxfoed, England: Oxford University Press.
- Usevic, S. (2013). *Neologism in Britsh Newspaper*.
- Zalmout, N., Pappu, A., & Thadani, K. (2019). Unsupervised neologism normalization using embedding space mapping. *W-NUT@EMNLP 2019 - 5th Workshop on Noisy User-Generated Text, Proceedings*, 425–430. <https://doi.org/10.18653/v1/d19-5555>