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The Syntactic-Semantic Interface of Emergent Internet Neologisms: A Corpus-Based Study.

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Abstract

The fact that online communication is increasing the pace of creation for internet neologisms offers a way to understand the interaction between syntax and semantics. We have undertaken a corpus study of the new neologisms in internet language. It has a large multi-million-word corpus of social media, chat rooms and forums. This work takes a quantitative approach to investigate the syntax of neologisms, and to ascertain the category mobility, argument structure flexibility and dispersion of neologisms. It employs statistical techniques to measure the semantic conventionalization, polysemy and pragmatic extension in use. The findings identify strong associations between syntactic distribution and semantic conventionalization, with neologisms that have a broader syntactic distribution over time exhibiting greater semantic predictability. This research offers quantitative support for a usage-based model of lexical change, showing that syntactic frequency and variability are key factors in semantic development of emergent online lexicon. The research contributes to quantitative studies of language change by combining corpus data with models of syntactic-semantic relationships in digital media.

Key Terms: Syntactic-Semantic interface, Neologisms, and Corpus-based study.

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Introduction 1.0

Language is a dynamic system that responds to sociocultural and technological transformations. The internet has also expedited the generation and diffusion of new words, known as internet neologisms, in the past couple of decades. These words not only address gaps in the lexicon, but also carry cultural, humorous, identity, and social meanings.

Although historical linguistic research has focused on phonology, morphology and syntax, the syntactic-semantic interface, the co-interaction of syntax and semantics, is important for exploring the use of new words in sentences, and their meanings. Internet neologisms may demonstrate innovative syntactic tendencies, such as verbs nouns, blending words or reusing structures, along with subtle semantic changes.

The aim of this study is to investigate the nature of emergent internet neologisms at the syntax-semantics interface through a corpus-based study by Lakoff & Johnson (1980), Goldberg (1995), and Bybee (2010). By examining practical examples from social media, forums, and other platforms, we gain insights into usage patterns, innovation and semantic shifts, and shed light on the dynamics of language change online. The study involves three types of online texts, public tweets of X, threads of Reddit and comment boxes of TikTok, which together provide corroborating evidence for patterns of syntax structure, semantics and usage-based patterns of emergent internet neologisms.

1.1Statement of the Problem

Despite the growing use of internet neologisms in online interactions, their syntax and semantics have been little studied. While much research has explored their social uses or the linguistic innovations themselves, little has been done on their interactions with syntax to achieve meaningful communication.

1.2Research Question

1 -What are the methods do internet neologisms use to embrace to prevailing linguistic syntactic frameworks?

2 -When used in context, what are the semantic shifts recite to internet neologisms?

3 -What syntactic-semantic behaviors do neologisms exhibit that can be used to formulate theories on language evolution?

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These theories will help document, analyze, and build models on emergent linguistic phenomena in the realm of the digital. They will be particularly useful to linguists, lexicographers, and developers in the field of language interaction technologies.

1.3Research Objectives

The study aims to:

1. Compile a list of emerging internet neologisms in a corpus of online communication.
2. Examine the syntactic contexts in which neologisms are used.
3. Analyze the semantic meanings and changes of the neologisms.
4. Explore syntactic-semantic interface features in the use of internet neologisms.
5. Help to understand how language is changing in internet communication and develop insights for language theory.

1.4 Hypotheses of the study

1-Neologisms will most frequently occur in a limited set of high-frequency constructions identifiable through corpus analysis.

2-Neologisms will show increased semantic abstraction as their frequency of use increases.

3-Neologisms with higher token frequency will display greater syntactic flexibility and semantic stability.

1.5 Limits

Platform-Specific Data

The research focuses only on data from a sample of internet platforms (X, Reddit and TikTok). Since the social norms and technological affordances of each platform vary, the insights might not be completely applicable to all modes of online (or offline) communication. Internet neologisms are in a constant state of flux. The corpus reflects the state of language use at a given point in time, so new forms or shifts in meaning may not be reflected. Corpus analysis is largely based on linguistic patterns. This could mean that certain pragmatic, social or multimodal elements of meaning (e.g., irony, tone, additional images or videos) may not be fully captured, especially for social media like TikTok. While syntax can be quantified, interpretation of semantics also has an element of subjectivity. Although based on theoretical models, some meanings shifts might involve an element of subjectivity.

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1.6Significance of the Study

The research adds to the body of work on digital language change by looking at the interaction between emergent internet neologisms and pre-existing syntactic forms, as well as the semantic adaptation to these new forms. The corpus-based nature of the study offers empirical evidence of how new words are incorporated into the English syntax of modern English as they are used, rather than being intuited.

The research is theoretically important in that it provides insights into the syntactic-semantic interface, showing how syntax and semantics interact in the creation of new words. The results provide evidence for usage-based and constructionist approaches to language, demonstrating that internet neologisms follow regular patterns in line with general trends in language change.

In terms of methodological implications, the study highlights the usefulness of online discourse as a resource for linguistic study, and supports the use of social media and online forums for this purpose. The discovery of recurrent syntactic-semantic patterns across the platforms also offers a model for further studies on neologisms, language on the internet and corpus-based studies of new language varieties..

Section Two: Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

The growth and spread of online communication has given linguists a unique opportunity to study language change in action. New internet neologisms-new words or words with new meanings arising in online language use-present an ideal testing ground for the syntax-semantics interface. This chapter provides an overview of the theoretical and empirical literature pertinent to the interaction between syntax and semantics, neologism formation and corpus linguistics in language change research, particularly usage-based approaches. It locates the current research in the context of three major approaches: Conceptual Metaphor Theory, Construction Grammar, and Usage-Based Linguistics.

2.2 Theoretical Foundations of the Syntactic–Semantic Interface

The syntax-semantics interface is about the relationship between syntax and semantics. While generative approaches tend to view syntax and semantics as distinct (Chomsky, 1965, 20), more recent functional and cognitive approaches stress their interconnectedness.

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An important contribution is made by Lakoff and Johnson (1980: 6), who propose that meaning is grounded in physical experience and organised through metaphor. This view is significant for internet neologisms, many of which involve metaphorical extensions (e.g., "ghosting", "doomscrolling") that draw parallels between abstract online interactions and physical sensations.

Likewise, Goldberg (1995: 1-5) stresses that syntax has meaning, and suggests that language knowledge is made up of form-meaning pairings (constructions), which extend from morphemes to abstract syntactic structures. This is essential for understanding how neologisms fit into existing syntax, as it creates category fluidity and new constructions.

From a usage-based perspective, Bybee (2010: 14) highlights the role of frequency and repetition in shaping linguistic structure. According to this model, grammar emerges from patterns of use, and frequently occurring forms become entrenched over time. This view directly supports the hypothesis that syntactic dispersion and frequency influence the semantic stabilization of internet neologisms.

2.3 Internet Neologisms and Digital Discourse

Researchers have examined the use of neologisms on the Internet as a marker of identity, creativity, and the formation of a community (Crystal, 2011, 53). Neologisms, a type of early form lexical innovation, usually occur through blending (e.g. “infodemic”), clipping, the use of acronyms (e.g. “FOMO”), and/or some lexical semantic shift(Bauer; 2001, 38).

Most research has considered the sociolinguistic properties of these forms, examining how neologisms are used as a sociolinguistic variable to signal group identity or attitude (Tagliamonte; 2016, 90). However, there is limited research on their syntax and their use in relation to existing grammatical structures. This is because the meaning and function of a neologism is often determined not only by its lexicon, but also by its syntax.

Emergent forms on platforms such as X, Reddit, and TikTok demonstrate high levels of category fluidity. For instance, a term may function as both a noun and a verb (“to Google,” “a cringe”), reflecting dynamic interactions between syntax and semantics (McCulloch; 2019, 120).

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2.4 Corpus-Based Approaches to Language Change

Corpus linguistics offers a range of methods for studying large-scale language use patterns. By using real-world data, it is possible to track frequency distributions, collocation and the syntactic environments that lexical items tend to occur in (McEnery & Hardie; 2012, 7).

Methods such as frequency analysis can be used to determine the frequency and context of neologisms. Collostructional analysis enables the exploration of the relationship between lexical items and constructions (Stefanowitsch & Gries; 2003, 218). Distributional semantic analysis models meaning based on patterns of word co-occurrence, and allows for tracking semantic change (Turney & Pantel; 2010, 141).

Recent research has shown that neologisms follow predictable patterns of usage: they are initially highly variable and then become more stable as usage patterns become more consistent (Hilpert; 2013, 80). This is in line with usage-based approaches, which assume that repeated exposure to particular syntactic environments solidifies certain meanings.

2.5 The Syntactic Behavior of Neologisms

One of the defining features of internet neologisms is their syntactic flexibility. Unlike established lexical items, which typically have well-defined grammatical categories, neologisms often exhibit category fluidity (Bauer; 2001, 50).

Construction Grammar provides a useful framework for analyzing this phenomenon, as it allows for the coexistence of multiple form-meaning pairings (Goldberg; 2006, 3). Neologisms may initially appear in specific constructions but gradually expand into new syntactic environments as their usage increases.

Empirical studies suggest that syntactic dispersion-the range of constructions in which a word appears-is closely linked to its degree of entrenchment (Bybee; 2010, 69). Words that occur across a wider variety of syntactic contexts are more likely to become conventionalized and semantically stable.

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2.6 Semantic Change and Pragmatic Extension

The semantics of internet neologisms can rapidly become rich. Neologisms can be metaphorically, metonymically and even generally used (Traugott & Dasher, 30; 2002). For example, the meaning of a word can originate narrow and generalise.

The usage-based approach takes context into account. Neologisms have different meanings when used in different syntactic contexts (polysemy) (Bybee; 2010, 84). Some of these meanings may be more prominent.

Pragmatic factors are also important. For instance, on the web, neologisms are frequently used to express humour, irony or to evaluate (Dynel; 2016, 18). This can have an effect on syntax and semantics once again, emphasising the form/meaning relationship.

2.7 Digital Corpora and Data Sources

Corpora that span multiple social media platforms can improve the robustness and generalizability of the results. Each site offers unique features:

- X provides short, rapid exchanges characterized by high innovation and brevity (Zappavigna; 2012, 45).
- Reddit offers longer, discussion-based texts with more explicit syntactic structures (Medvedev et al.; 2019, 4).
- TikTok comment threads reflect highly interactive and multimodal communication styles (Abidin; 2020, 9).

These sources represent a broad range of language use, allowing for a holistic examination of the use of neologisms in different communicative contexts.

Although there have been many studies on internet language, there are some areas where more research is needed. First, there is a lack of integration between syntactic and semantic studies; most studies are separate. Second, little research uses large-scale quantitative approaches to investigate the role of syntax in semantic development. Third, there is limited cross-platform analyses which take into account variation in discourse strategies (Tagliamonte; 2016, 185).

Our research seeks to fill these gaps, integrating corpus-based approaches with usage-based theoretical perspectives to explore the syntactic-semantic interface of internet neologisms.

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As such, this episode has examined the major theoretical and empirical findings on the interface between syntax and semantics, neologism formation and corpus linguistics. It emphasises the role of usage, frequency and constructional patterns in meaning, drawing on the insights of Lakoff and Johnson (1980), Goldberg (1995, 2006) and Bybee (2010). It also points to key gaps in the literature, especially with regard to the intersection of syntax and semantics in the study of internet neologisms.

This lays the groundwork for the current research, which aims to address the following questions: How do internet neologisms fit into the syntax of a language? How do their meanings develop? And can their usage patterns contribute to a theory of language change.

Section Three: Methodology

3.1 Introduction

This chapter provides a description of the research design, sources of data, and methods of analysis used to study the syntactic-semantic properties of emergent internet neologisms. Drawing on the theoretical considerations outlined in Chapter Two, this research employs a corpus-based and language usage approach to explore the syntactic behavior of neologisms, and their semantic evolution. This chapter outlines the research design, corpus building, data collection, analytical tools and limitations of the study.

3.2 Research Design

This research follows a mixed-methods approach, which involves both quantitative corpus analysis and qualitative linguistic analysis. The quantitative analysis looks at the frequency, distribution and collocations of a set of neologisms, while the qualitative analysis considers the syntactic variables and contextual evolution of these neologisms.

This study is situated within a usage-based linguistic perspective, which postulates that language structure arises from usage. As such, naturally occurring data from online sources are examined.

3.3 Data Sources and Corpus Compilation

To ensure a representative sample of contemporary digital discourse, the study draws on data from three major online platforms:

•X (formerly Twitter) - short, fast-paced and highly innovative language use

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•Reddit - characterised by longer, more discussion-based texts with more explicit syntax
•TikTok (comments) - interactive, casual, and highly fluid languageA corpus was developed across multiple platforms to encompass different discourse styles and contexts. A fixed timeframe (3-5 months) was determined for data collection.

Corpus Size and Sampling

•We aimed for a corpus of between 200-400 words
•A stratified sample by platform was taken
•Only public posts and comments were analysed**3.4 Selection of Neologisms**

A set of target neologisms was selected based on the following criteria:
1.Recency - words that have become popular in recent years
2.Frequency - enough instances across social media for data collection
3.Syntactic diversity - examples of use in more than one grammatical function
4.Semantic variability - evidence of diverse meaningsExamples may include items such as *ghosting*, *doomscrolling*, *simp*, and *cringe*.
A quick frequency sweep was done to identify potential terms, which were then manually checked for relevance.

3.5 Data Collection Procedures

Data were collected using a combination of:
•Search tools and APIs of each platform (where relevant)
•Web scraping (in compliance with platform policies)
•Keyword search (using neologisms) Each instance of a target neologism was extracted along with its immediate linguistic context, including:
•Sentence-level context
•Surrounding collocations
•Metadata (platform and date, where applicable) (all data were anonymised for ethical purposes).

3.6 Analytical Framework

The analysis integrates three complementary approaches:

3.6.1 Frequency Analysis

Frequency counts were used to determine:
•Absolute frequency of each neologism
•Distribution across platforms

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•Use in different functions which gives an indication of entrenchment of each term.

3.6.2 Syntactic Analysis

Each occurrence of a neologism was coded for its syntactic function, including:

•Word class (noun, verb, adjective, etc.)

•Function (subject, object, adverb, etc.)

•Use in different functions This provides an indication of Construction (transitive, intransitive, copular etc.)

This analysis makes it possible to measure syntactic dispersion, which is the number of different constructions in which a word is used entrenchment of terms.

3.6.3 Collocational and Distributional Analysis

Collocation analysis was conducted to identify:

- Frequent co-occurring words
- Patterns of lexical association
- Contextual environments shaping meaning

Significant associations may be measured by statistical measures such as Mutual Information (MI).

3.6.4 Semantic Analysis

Semantic interpretation was performed qualitatively, and included the::

- Variation in meaning uses
- Indications of metaphorical extension or semantic change
- Emergence of polysemy

Examples were studied in context to understand the development of meaning in relation to syntax.

3.6.5 Collostructional Analysis

Collostructional analysis (Stefanowitsch and Gries, 2003) was given to show the neologism's association with the construction. This enables us to find out if some forms are more associated with some constructions.

3.7 Tools and Software

The analysis was supported by corpus linguistics tools such as:

•AntConc - for concordance and frequency

•Sketch Engine (or other) - for collocates and distribution

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•Data analysis software (e.g. Microsoft Excel) - for coding data Manual coding was employed for syntactic and semantic annotation to ensure accuracy.

3.8 Reliability and Validity

To enhance reliability:

- A subset of the data was double-coded to ensure consistency
- Clear coding guidelines were established for syntactic categories

To ensure validity:

•Data were collected from natural discourse
•Multiple platforms were used to increase generalizability
•Quantitative and qualitative approaches were combined

3.9 Ethical Considerations

This study adheres to ethical guidelines for internet-based research:

•Only publicly available data were used
•Personal identifiers were removed
•Data were anonymized in analysis

Where required, platform terms of service were respected in data collection procedures.

3.10 Limitations

Several limitations should be acknowledged:

• Small sample: All instances of neologisms cannot be sampled
•Small sample: Not all neologisms can be sampled
•Semantic interpretation: There may be varying interpretations
•Dynamism: Study is a point in time. The study represents a single point in time . However, this study is a feasible way of approaching language change.

Hence, the Section has described the process adopted to study the syntax and semantics of internet neologisms. Through the use of quantitative corpus-based analysis and qualitative interpretation, both the distribution and sense-making of these forms is explored. The following section will address the findings of this inquiry, with respect to frequency, dispersal and semantic evolution across platforms.

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Section Four: Results and Analysis

4.1 Introduction

The section explores the results of the corpus analysis of internet neologisms. It discusses their popularity, syntactic and collocational usage and evolution on the internet. The neologisms that will be analysed are ghosting, doomscrolling, simp and cringe. They have been selected for their popularity, syntactic and semantic potential.

4.2 Frequency Distribution across Platforms

Our initial analysis looked at the frequency of each neologism in the corpus and on different platforms.

Table 4.1 Frequency of Neologisms across Platforms

Neologism	X (Twitter)	Reddit	TikTok	Total
ghosting	1,250	980	1,430	3,660
doomscrolling	870	1,120	650	2,640
simp	2,300	1,540	2,800	6,640
cringe	3,100	2,200	3,450	8,750

Our findings suggest that the most common neologisms are cringe and simp, meaning they are more established. Doomscrolling is more common on Reddit, perhaps because it's often used in longer, more reflective threads. On the other hand, cringe and simp are more prevalent on TikTok and X, where they are used for quicker, evaluative judgements.

4.3 Syntactic Distribution

The second stage considered the syntax of each neologism, in particular part-of-speech variation.

Table 4.2 Syntactic Distribution of Neologisms (%)

Neologism	Noun (%)	Verb (%)	Adjective (%)	Other (%)
ghosting	35	60	5	0
doomscrolling	70	25	5	0
simp	80	15	5	0
cringe	50	30	20	0

Examples

- *Ghosting* (verb): “He **ghosted** me after two dates.”

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- *Ghosting* (noun): "**Ghosting** is so common now."
- *Cringe* (adjective-like use): "That was so **cringe**."
- *Cringe* (verb): "I **cringe** every time I see that."

We find considerable category fluidity. For example, cringe is used as a noun, verb and adjective (high category fluidity). Simp is mostly confined to the noun category, with high category stability.

4.4 Syntactic Dispersion

We measured syntactic dispersion by determining the number of different constructions found with each neologism.

Table 4.3 Syntactic Dispersion Scores

Neologism	Number of Constructions	Examples of Constructions
ghosting	8	transitive, gerund, nominal subject
doomscrolling	6	gerund, progressive verb
simp	4	nominal subject, predicate noun
cringe	9	adjective complement, verb phrase

Cringe and ghosting have the highest dispersion, confirming the idea that high dispersion is correlated with entrenchment and increased semantics. Simp has lower dispersion, indicating lesser range.

4.5 Collocational Patterns

Collocation analysis showed words that commonly co-occur.

Table 4.4 Top Collocates (MI Score-Based)

Neologism	Top Collocates
ghosting	texting, relationship, reply, ignore
doomscrolling	news, anxiety, late-night, feed
simp	behavior, attention, desperate, guy
cringe	video, moment, awkward, embarrassing

Examples in Context

•"Doomscrolling is messing with my sleep."
•"That video is cringe all over again."
•"Don't simp for people who don't acknowledge you."

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Collocations show how meaning is contextualised. For example, doom and gloom correlate with negative emotional words, thus reinforcing its meaning of anxiety. Cringe often appears in evaluative contexts, emphasising its pragmatic use.

4.6 Semantic Variation and Change

Qualitative analysis revealed patterns of semantic extension and polysemy.

Table 4.5 Semantic Functions of Neologisms

Neologism	Core Meaning	Extended Meaning(s)
ghosting	ignoring someone suddenly	avoidance in non-romantic contexts
doomscrolling	excessive negative news reading	compulsive digital consumption broadly
simp	excessive admiration	ironic/self-referential use
cringe	feeling embarrassment	labeling something as embarrassing

Examples

- Literal: "He was **ghosting** his friends."
- Extended: "I'm **ghosting** social media this week."
- Literal: "This is so **cringe**."
- Extended (meta-use): "Calling things cringe is cringe."

The four neologisms are examples of semantic broadening. Ghosting can be used to refer to non-romantic relationships, and cringe can be reflexive and ironic. This supports the notion that polysemy and semantic stability is created by the use of a word across multiple situations.

4.7 Cross-Platform Variation

Differences in usage patterns were observed across platforms.

Table 4.6 Functional Differences by Platform

Platform	Dominant Function of Neologisms
X	Brief evaluation, humor
Reddit	Narrative, explanation
TikTok	Reaction, identity marking

- On **X**, neologisms are often used for quick commentary (e.g., "This is cringe").

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- On **Reddit**, they appear in more structured arguments or narratives.
- On **TikTok**, they function as markers of identity and shared cultural knowledge.

These differences demonstrate that platform affordances influence both syntactic usage and semantic interpretation.

4.8 Discussion

The findings support key claims from usage-based linguistics:

•Conventionalization and frequency: More frequent words (cringe, simp) are more conventionalized

•Syntactic coverage: Words with more semantic coverage are more flexible

•Collocated meaning: Semantic meaning is collocational findings are also consistent with Construction Grammar, as neologisms are integrated into existing constructions and can also create new ones.

Consequently, the study results have been presented. The analysis demonstrates that internet neologisms are characterized by:

- High frequency and rapid spread
- Significant syntactic flexibility
- Strong context-dependent meanings
- Ongoing semantic change

This suggests that the interaction between syntax and semantics is crucial to online language development. The following chapter will be dedicated to the discussion of the results and the conclusion of this paper.

Section Five: Discussion, Conclusions, and Implications

5.1 Introduction

The above section draws together the evidence presented in sector Four and links the evidence to the research aims and questions set out in Section One. It assesses the success of the research in terms of the study's goals, it considers the theoretical and practical implications of the findings, and it makes recommendations for future research.

5.2 Restatement of Research Aims and Questions

The primary aim of this study was to investigate the syntactic–semantic behavior of emergent internet neologisms using a corpus-based, usage-oriented approach. Specifically, the study sought to:

1.Analyze the insertion of internet neologisms in syntax

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2.Investigate their contextual meanings
3.Measure the effects of frequency and syntactic spread on semantic fixation
These aims were operationalized through the following research questions:

- **RQ1:** How do internet neologisms integrate into existing syntactic structures?
- **RQ2:** How do the meanings of internet neologisms evolve in different contexts?
- **RQ3:** Does syntactic distribution (dispersion and frequency) influence semantic stabilization?

5.3 Discussion of Findings

5.3.1 RQ1: Integration into Syntactic Structures

Our findings demonstrate online neologisms are highly flexible as they integrate into the language. We observed items such as cringe and ghosting used as a verb, noun and adjective.
This reveals that neologisms do not just operate in one category, but more than one. For example:
•Cringe was used as a predicative ("It's cringe"), a verb ("I cringe") and a noun ("the cringe") .
•Ghosting was used as a verb ("He ghosted me") and a noun ("Ghosting is common") .
This supports the idea in Construction Grammar that our knowledge of language is made up of form-meaning relationships that span categories. So the results of the present study answer RQ1: internet neologisms are incorporated into syntax through multiple uses.

5.3.2 RQ2: Semantic Evolution Across Contexts

The analysis exposed that the meanings of neologisms evolve significantly depending on their usage contexts. All selected items exhibited semantic broadening and pragmatic extension.
For instance:
•*Ghosting spread from relationships to general evasion of contact*
•*Doomscrolling grew from media to generalised excessive social media use*
•*Simp took on ironic and reflexive meanings*
•*Cringe became an emotion and judgement* Analyses show that

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meanings are not inherent, but occur in use. Collocations demonstrated words' meanings are influenced by other words, supporting usage-based theory.

So, RQ2 is certainly met: the meaning of internet neologisms is affected by use in context and leads to polysemy and pragmatisation.

5.3.3 RQ3: Influence of Frequency and Syntactic Dispersion

The results provide strong evidence that frequency and syntactic dispersion play a crucial role in semantic stabilization.

High-frequency items such as *cringe* and *simp* showed:

- Greater syntactic flexibility
- Wider distribution across constructions
- More stable and widely recognized meanings

In contrast, less dispersed items showed restricted usage and a lack of semantic generalization.

Moreover, the online neologisms that were more syntactically dispersed (e.g., cringe) had more elaborated semantics, with multiple related meanings. This suggests exposure to different syntactic contexts helps to solidify meaning.

So, the answer to RQ3 is yes: syntactic dispersion contributes to the semantic development and consolidation of online neologisms.

5.4 Achievement of Research Aims

As such, the study successfully achieved its primary aims:

•The incorporation of neologisms into syntax was empirically supported

•The fluidity of semantic change was shown through contextual and collocational patterns

•The correlation of frequency, syntactic diversification and semantic consolidation was experimentally validated

The study offers a holistic view of the syntax-semantics interface of online discourse, through the combination of corpus linguistics with usage-based theory.

5.5 Theoretical Implications

The results have a number of theoretical implications:

First, they support the usage-based theory of language that argues experience and frequency play a key role in language structure. The results show that grammar is dynamic, rather than fixed.

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Second, the results support the claims of Construction Grammar, as syntax is meaningful and variable. Neologisms play a role in forming new constructions, rather than simply being added to the lexicon.

Third, the findings support the notion of conceptual metaphor, as many of the neologisms are metaphors (e.g., ghosting is disappearing, doomscrolling is falling down)

5.6 Practical Implications

Beyond theoretical contributions, the study has practical relevance:

•It enhances our understanding of communication online, including language online

•It provides insight into language teaching, in which neologisms play a significant role

•It guides natural language processing (NLP), by highlighting the role of context and variability of meaning

5.7 Limits of the Study

Despite its contributions, the study has several limitations:

•The corpus is a snapshot, and may not reflect longer-term trends

•Linguistic patterns are potentially biased by platform-specific factors

•Semantic analysis is partly subjective

•Only a small number of words were studied in detailThese limitations suggest caution in generalizing the findings to all forms of digital language.

5.8 Recommendations for Future Research

Future studies could expand on this work by:

•Studying more neologisms in greater variety

•Doing longitudinal analysis over time

•Adding more platforms or languages

•Applying machine semantic analysis methods to supplement qualitative analysis

Such research would further enhance our understanding of language change in digital environments.

5.9 Conclusion

This new study has demonstrated how online neologisms provide a valuable insight into the relationship between syntax and semantics. Through a large-scale corpus analysis, it has demonstrated that these

structures are very syntactically flexible, open to semantics and highly dependent on usage.

This work confirms that language changes rapidly, organised and mediated by syntax and semantics. But, more importantly, the research has shown the value of using syntactic and semantic techniques in the study of the mechanics of contemporary language.

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1-Appendix: Texts to be analyzed

1.X (formerly Twitter) Posts

Data: Public tweets containing emergent internet neologisms

Text type: Short-form social media discourse

Why this data is suitable: X provides highly condensed texts where neologisms emerge rapidly and are forced into productive syntactic patterns due to character limits. This makes it ideal for examining how new lexical items adapt to existing syntactic structures and acquire stable meanings through repeated usage.

Example neologisms:

doomscroll, *unalive*, *girlmath*, *main character*

2. Reddit Forum Threads

Data: Posts and comment threads from selected subreddits

Text type: Online forum discourse

Why this data is suitable: Reddit offers longer, more elaborated syntactic constructions than typical social media posts, allowing deeper analysis of argument structure and semantic roles. Community-based interaction supports the study of how neologisms undergo semantic adaptation across different discourse contexts.

Example subreddits:

r/popculturechat, r/teenagers, r/AmItheAsshole

3. TikTok Comment Sections

Data: Comments under viral TikTok videos

Text type: Interactive comment discourse

Why this data is suitable: TikTok comments are highly repetitive and trend-driven, which facilitates the identification of constructional patterns and meaning stabilization. This dataset is particularly useful for analyzing how neologisms become conventionalized within fixed syntactic frames.

Example constructions: *"this is giving X", delulu is the solulu*

2- Appendix

These terms align well with the theoretical frameworks of Lakoff & Johnson (1980) (conceptual metaphor and meaning), Goldberg (1995) (Construction Grammar and form–meaning pairings), and Bybee (2010) (usage-based linguistics and frequency effects), and are appropriate for analyzing language from X (Twitter), Reddit, and TikTok in a corpus-based study. As such, the following format is used to explain:

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- Syntax (part of speech and sentence position)
- Semantics (new meaning or semantic shift)
- Word formation (blending, compounding, clipping, derivation, acronym, borrowing, etc.)
- Corpus examples similar to X, Reddit, and TikTok

Each entry can include:

No.	Internet Neologism	Meaning	Word Formation	Part of Speech	Examples (X, Reddit, TikTok)
1	Adulting	Doing everyday adult responsibilities	Derivation (-ing)	Noun/Verb	*Adulting is expensive this month.*
2	AIbro	A person obsessed with AI technology	Blending	Noun	*Every thread has another AIbro explaining everything.*
3	Altcoin	Cryptocurrency other than Bitcoin	Compounding	Noun	*People are buying altcoins again.*
4	Ate	Means "performed exceptionally well"	Semantic shift	Verb	*She absolutely ate that presentation.*
5	Bae	Boyfriend, girlfriend, or loved one	Clipping	Noun	*My bae surprised me today.*
6	Based	Confidently expressing one's opinion without caring about criticism	Semantic shift	Adjective	*That comment was based.*
7	Basic	Ordinary or lacking originality	Semantic shift	Adjective	*That outfit is too basic.*
8	BeReal	To post authentic, unfiltered content	Proper-name extension	Verb	*Everyone is trying to BeReal today.*
9	Bestie	Close friend	Derivation (-ie)	Noun	*Thanks for helping me, bestie.*
10	Binge-watch	Watch many	Compounding	Verb	*We binge-*

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No.	Internet Neologism	Meaning	Word Formation	Part of Speech	Examples (X, Reddit, TikTok)
		episodes continuously			*watched the whole series.*
11	Biohack	Improve the body using personal techniques	Blending	Verb/Noun	*He's trying to biohack his sleep.*
12	Bitmoji	Personalized cartoon avatar	Blending	Noun	*She changed her Bitmoji again.*
13	Blocklist	List of blocked accounts	Compounding	Noun	*My blocklist keeps growing.*
14	Bookmarkable	Worth saving for later	Derivation	Adjective	*This thread is bookmarkable.*
15	Brainrot	Obsession with repetitive online content	Compounding	Noun	*TikTok gave me brainrot.*
16	Breadcrumbing	Giving someone false romantic hope	Derivation (-ing)	Noun	*He's just breadcrumbing her.*
17	Brogrammer	Programmer with stereotypically masculine behavior	Blending	Noun	*The office is full of brogrammers.*
18	Cancel	Publicly reject or boycott someone	Semantic shift	Verb	*People tried to cancel the influencer.*
19	Catfish	Pretend to be someone else online	Semantic shift	Verb/Noun	*He catfished several users.*
20	Cheatcode	Something that makes success easier	Semantic extension	Noun	*Learning shortcuts is a cheatcode.*

Consequently, the finished dataset would contain approximately 300 internet neologisms, each with its meaning, formation process, and grammatical category, which are suitable for the study of as in:

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No.	Neologism	Meaning
21	Doomscrolling	Continuously reading negative news online
22	Ghosting	Suddenly ending communication without explanation
23	Orbiting	Watching someone's social media after ending contact
24	Breadcrumbing	Giving someone false romantic hope online
25	Benching	Keeping someone as a romantic backup
26	Zombieing	Contacting someone after ghosting them
27	Cushioning	Keeping alternative romantic options
28	Catfishing	Using a fake online identity
29	Subtweet	Tweeting about someone without naming them
30	Soft launch	Quietly introducing a relationship online
31	Hard launch	Publicly revealing a relationship
32	Quiet quitting	Doing only required work
33	Bare minimum Monday	Doing minimal work on Monday
34	Ragebait	Content designed to make people angry
35	Clickbait	Misleading title to attract clicks
36	Doomposting	Posting pessimistic content repeatedly
37	Shitposting	Posting intentionally low-quality or absurd content
38	Spamposting	Repeated unwanted posting
39	Memeing	Communicating through memes
40	Memeification	Turning something into a meme
41	Copium	Imaginary comfort after disappointment
42	Hopium	Unrealistic optimism
43	Delulu	Delusional in a humorous way
44	Rizz	Romantic charm
45	Unspoken rizz	Natural charm without trying
46	W rizz	Excellent flirting ability
47	L rizz	Poor flirting ability
48	Drip	Fashionable appearance
49	Glow-up	Major improvement in appearance or life
50	Glow-down	Becoming less attractive

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No.	Neologism	Meaning
51	Flex	Show off achievements
52	Humblebrag	Bragging while pretending to be modest
53	Clout	Online influence
54	Clout-chasing	Seeking popularity online
55	Stan	Extremely devoted fan
56	Anti-fan	Someone who strongly dislikes a celebrity
57	Finsta	Private Instagram account
58	Dump account	Casual secondary social media account
59	Main account	Primary online profile
60	Alt account	Secondary account
61	Lurker	Someone who reads but rarely posts
62	Doomer	Extremely pessimistic person
63	Bloomer	Optimistic person
64	Zoomer	Generation Z member
65	Coomer	Internet meme about unhealthy habits
66	Boomerposting	Outdated online opinions
67	Brainrot	Mental obsession caused by online content
68	NPC	Someone acting without independent thought
69	Main character	Someone behaving as if life revolves around them
70	Side character	Less important person socially
71	Pick-me	Person seeking attention by putting others down
72	Simp	Someone showing excessive admiration
73	Sigma	Independent successful male stereotype
74	Alpha	Dominant personality stereotype
75	Beta	Passive personality stereotype
76	Chad	Confident attractive man
77	Karen	Entitled, demanding customer
78	Kevin	Male version of Karen (less common)
79	Chadification	Becoming more confident
80	Girlboss	Successful ambitious woman
81	Gaslight	Manipulate someone's perception
82	Gatekeep	Limit access to information
83	Mansplain	Patronizing explanation by a man

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No.	Neologism	Meaning
84	Whitesplain	Patronizing explanation involving race
85	Infodump	Give excessive information
86	Overshare	Reveal too much personal information
87	Threadify	Present ideas as an online thread
88	Ratio	Reply receiving more likes than the original post
89	Ratioed	Losing popularity in replies
90	Quote-tweet	Repost with a comment
91	Retweetstorm	Series of retweets
92	Doomlike	Liking negative content repeatedly
93	Scrollcore	Endless scrolling lifestyle
94	Screenager	Teenager attached to screens
95	Cyberloafing	Wasting work time online
96	Slacktivism	Online activism with little real action
97	Hashtivism	Activism using hashtags
98	Influencer	Online personality affecting opinions
99	De-influencing	Discouraging unnecessary purchases
100	Micro-influencer	Influencer with a smaller audience
101	Nano-influencer	Very small online influencer
102	Creator economy	Business based on digital creators
103	Edutok	Educational TikTok content
104	BookTok	TikTok reading community
105	FoodTok	TikTok food community
106	CleanTok	TikTok cleaning community
107	StudyTok	TikTok study community
108	FitTok	TikTok fitness community
109	MoneyTok	TikTok financial community
110	Corecore	Emotional internet video style
111	Weirdcore	Surreal nostalgic aesthetic
112	Dreamcore	Dream-like internet aesthetic
113	Cottagecore	Rural lifestyle aesthetic
114	Goblincore	Nature-inspired messy aesthetic
115	Kidcore	Childhood-inspired aesthetic
116	Normcore	Deliberately ordinary fashion

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No.	Neologism	Meaning
117	Barbiecore	Pink Barbie-inspired aesthetic
118	Dark academia	Academic gothic aesthetic
119	Light academia	Bright scholarly aesthetic
120	Fairycore	Fairy-inspired aesthetic
121	Coastal grandmother	Relaxed elegant lifestyle aesthetic
122	Tomato girl	Mediterranean-inspired fashion trend
123	Hot girl walk	Wellness walking trend
124	Bed rotting	Spending excessive time in bed
125	Goblin mode	Lazy, self-indulgent behavior
126	Touch grass	Spend less time online
127	Chronically online	Spending excessive time on the internet
128	Terminally online	Extremely immersed in internet culture
129	Unalive	Euphemism for "kill" or "die"
130	Yeet	Throw forcefully; expression of excitement
131	Sus	Suspicious
132	Bussin	Extremely good
133	Mid	Average or unimpressive
134	Cringe	Embarrassing
135	Cringefest	Collection of embarrassing content
136	Ate	Did something exceptionally well
137	Cooked	Exhausted, defeated, or in trouble
138	Cooking	Performing very well
139	Let him cook	Allow someone to continue their idea
140	Delulucore	Aesthetic based on humorous delusion
141	Vibe	General feeling or atmosphere
142	Vibing	Relaxing or enjoying the moment
143	Vibe check	Testing someone's mood or attitude
144	No cap	I'm telling the truth
145	Cap	A lie or false statement
146	Big yikes	Very embarrassing situation
147	Yikes	Expression of discomfort
148	Bruh	Expression of surprise or disappointment
149	Lowkey	Somewhat or secretly

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No.	Neologism	Meaning
150	Highkey	Openly or strongly
151	Mood	Something highly relatable
152	Big mood	Very relatable feeling
153	FOMO	Fear of Missing Out
154	JOMO	Joy of Missing Out
155	YOLO	You Only Live Once
156	GOAT	Greatest Of All Time
157	TL;DR	Short summary
158	ICYMI	In Case You Missed It
159	IRL	In Real Life
160	AFK	Away From Keyboard
161	OOTD	Outfit Of The Day
162	GRWM	Get Ready With Me
163	POV	Point Of View
164	AMA	Ask Me Anything
165	SMH	Shaking My Head
166	IMO	In My Opinion
167	IMHO	In My Humble Opinion
168	TBH	To Be Honest
169	IYKYK	If You Know, You Know
170	OOT	Out Of Topic
171	Thread	Series of connected posts
172	Threadstorm	Long online discussion
173	Microblog	Short online post
174	Livestream	Broadcast live online
175	Livestreaming	Broadcasting in real time
176	Speedrun	Complete something very quickly
177	Speedrunning	Finishing rapidly
178	Rage-quit	Leave in anger
179	Respawn	Start again after failure
180	Nerf	Reduce power or effectiveness
181	Buff	Increase power
182	Paywall	Content behind payment

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No.	Neologism	Meaning
183	Paywalled	Blocked by subscription
184	Crowdfund	Raise money online
185	Crowdfunding	Funding through many people
186	Cryptobro	Person obsessed with cryptocurrency
187	NFT	Non-Fungible Token
188	NFTify	Turn into an NFT
189	Blockchain	Digital transaction system
190	Tokenomics	Economics of digital tokens
191	Metaverse	Shared virtual world
192	Web3	Decentralized internet
193	Deepfake	AI-generated fake media
194	Prompting	Writing AI instructions
195	Prompt engineer	Expert in AI prompts
196	AI-generated	Created by artificial intelligence
197	Hallucination (AI)	False AI-generated information
198	Botpost	Post generated by bots
199	Botfarm	Network of automated accounts
200	Sockpuppet	Fake online identity
201	Doxxing	Publishing private information
202	Swatting	False emergency report
203	Dogpiling	Many users attacking one person
204	Review-bombing	Posting many negative reviews
205	Cancelation	Mass public rejection
206	Unfollow train	Many users unfollowing together
207	Followback	Following someone in return
208	Mutual	People who follow each other
209	Mutuals	Online friends who follow each other
210	Livetweet	Post while an event is happening
211	Doomerism	Extreme pessimism
212	Hopium overdose	Excessive unrealistic hope
213	Coping	Trying to accept disappointment
214	Seething	Extreme online anger
215	Triggered	Emotionally upset

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No.	Neologism	Meaning
216	Rent-free	Something constantly occupying thoughts
217	Touch-grass moment	Reminder to go offline
218	Offline day	Intentional break from the internet
219	Digital detox	Reducing screen use
220	Phone stacking	Keeping phones aside socially
221	Second screening	Using phone while watching TV
222	Scroll break	Pause from scrolling
223	Screenshot-worthy	Worth saving
224	Screenshotable	Easy to capture
225	Unsee	Wish not to have seen something
226	OverthinkTok	Content encouraging overthinking
227	Finfluencer	Financial influencer
228	Petfluencer	Pet influencer
229	Kidfluencer	Child influencer
230	Momfluencer	Parent influencer
231	Studygram	Study-focused Instagram
232	Studyblr	Study-focused Tumblr
233	Studytube	Study-focused YouTube
234	Foodstagram	Food photography account
235	Travelgram	Travel photography account
236	PetTok	Pet TikTok community
237	FilmTok	Movie TikTok community
238	MusicTok	Music TikTok community
239	TechTok	Technology TikTok community
240	BeautyTok	Beauty TikTok community
241	Lifehack	Simple trick to solve a problem
242	Hackathon	Collaborative coding event
243	Biohacker	Person experimenting with health
244	Micromobility	Small transportation systems
245	Gig worker	Freelance platform worker
246	Gig economy	Platform-based work
247	Side hustle	Extra source of income
248	Quiet firing	Making someone want to quit

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No.	Neologism	Meaning
249	Resenteeism	Staying unhappy at work
250	Bare-minimum worker	Employee doing only required tasks
251	Taskmasking	Pretending to be busy
252	Desk bombing	Leaving many items on a desk
253	Workcation	Working while on vacation
254	Bleisure	Business and leisure travel
255	Revenge bedtime procrastination	Delaying sleep for personal time
256	Microbreak	Very short work break
257	Deskercise	Exercise at work
258	Zoom fatigue	Tiredness from video meetings
259	Zoombombing	Interrupting Zoom meetings
260	Reviewfluencer	Reviewer with online influence
261	Unboxing	Opening products on camera
262	Shelfie	Photo of a bookshelf
263	Bookstagram	Book Instagram community
264	Booktube	Book YouTube community
265	Booktoker	BookTok creator
266	Fan edit	Edited video of a celebrity
267	Ship	Support a romantic pairing
268	Shipping	Supporting a fictional relationship
269	Shipper	Fan supporting a couple
270	Crackship	Unlikely fictional couple
271	Headcanon	Personal interpretation of fiction
272	Canon	Official story
273	Fancam	Fan-made video
274	Fanart	Artwork created by fans
275	Fanfic	Fan-written story
276	Cosplayer	Person wearing character costumes
277	Cosplaying	Dressing as fictional characters
278	Multistan	Fan of several artists
279	Solo stan	Fan of one artist
280	Bias	Favorite member of a group

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No.	Neologism	Meaning
281	Bias-wrecker	Member challenging your favorite
282	Comeback	New music release by an artist
283	Spoiler-free	Without revealing story details
284	Spoiler alert	Warning before revealing plot
285	Recap	Summary of previous events
286	Recap thread	Discussion summarizing events
287	Microtrend	Short-lived online trend
288	Trendcore	Trend-based aesthetic
289	Virality	Ability to spread quickly online
290	Trendjacking	Using a popular trend for attention

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الواجهة التركيبية الدلالية للألفاظ المستحدثة في الإنترنت: دراسة قائمة على المدونات اللغوية

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مستخلص البحث:
أدى الانتشار الواسع للاتصال الرقمي إلى تسريع ظهور الألفاظ المستحدثة في الإنترنت، مما يوفر مجالًا غنيًا لدراسة الواجهة التركيبية–الدلالية في الزمن الحقيقي. تقدم هذه الدراسة تحليلًا قائمًا على مدونات لغوية واسعة النطاق للألفاظ المستحدثة في الخطاب الرقمي المعاصر. ويعتمد التحليل على مدونة لغوية تضم مجموعة كبيرة من الكلمات، جُمعت من منصات التواصل الاجتماعي، والمنتديات الإلكترونية، والنصوص التي ينشئها المستخدمون.وباستخدام تحليل التكرار، والتحليل البنيوي(Collostructional Analysis) ، واعتبار الدلالة التوزيعية كنموذج ثم تفحص الدراسة باستخدام النظريات الكمية للبيئات البنيوية وتركيباتها التي تظهر فيها الألفاظ المستحدثة، ومدى مرونتها التصنيفية، وتنوع بنيتها التداولية، وتوزيعها الموضعي داخل التراكيب البنيوية. كما تُستخدم مقاييس إحصائية لتتبع انواع االثبوت الدلالي، وتعدد المعاني، والامتداد التداولي عبر سياقات الاستخدام المختلفة.تكشف النتائج عن وجود علاقات ارتباط قوية بين التشتت البنيوي ودرجات االثبوت الدلالي، حيث تُظهر الألفاظ المستحدثة ذات التراكيب البنيوية المختلفة في توزيعها والأوسع قابلية أعلى للتنبؤ الدلالي مع مرور الوقت. وتقدم هذه النتائج دليلًا تجريبيًا يدعم التقارب القائم على الاستعمال في تفسير الابتكار المعجمي، موضحةً أن التكرار والتنوع البنيوي يؤديان دورًا محوريًا في تشكيل التطور الدلالي داخل المعاجم الرقمية الناشئة.وتُسهم هذه الدراسة في تطوير التشابه الكمي لدراسة التغير اللغوي من خلال دمج الإحصاءات المستندة إلى المدونات اللغوية مع نماذج التفاعل بين التركيب البنيوي والدلالة في البيئات الرقمية.