

## Research in Neology: COST Action ENEOLI

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The project titled *European Network on Lexical Innovation* (ENEOLI)<sup>1</sup> was launched at the end of 2023 as part of the COST programme. The project brings together a multidisciplinary team of experts in the fields of linguistic, neological, and lexicological research, as well as IT specialists working in the domain of language technologies. The aim of the project is to foster collaboration and exchange of knowledge, experience, and best practices among researchers from European countries and beyond over the course of four years, with a focus on the study of new words and expressions – so-called lexical innovations – and the implementation of specific tasks in this area. More than 200 scholars from over 30 European countries are involved in this action, including representatives from scientific institutions in Serbia who specialize in this field: a team of lexicographers from the Institute for the Serbian Language of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Belgrade, and a team of computational linguists and language technology experts from the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Mining and Geology, working on the development of language models and technologies for the Serbian language.<sup>2</sup>

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1. ENEOLI

2. CA22126 - European Network On Lexical Innovation (ENEOLI)

Organized neological research is a relatively recent development, although the study of new words has long attracted the interest of language experts. It gained momentum in the second half of the 20th century, when neology began to emerge as an independent sub-discipline within lexicology. While the term neologism generally refers to newly coined words or expressions, as well as new meanings of existing words, the concept itself has not yet been fully defined, which has led to varying interpretations in the academic literature. One of the major tasks facing the researchers involved in the ENEOLI Action is the critical reexamination and further development of the theoretical, research, and methodological framework of neology as a scientific discipline.

The core principles of the COST organization are based on promoting and disseminating scientific excellence, encouraging interdisciplinary research, empowering young researchers, and ensuring equality and openness. These goals are achieved through the development of research networks, known as Actions or projects. The sharing of ideas, knowledge, and experiences is facilitated through participation in working groups, workshops, training activities, as well as conferences and seminars.

The ENEOLI project is one such COST Action, focused on the investigation of lexical innovations in various European languages. Researchers will aim to provide a more precise terminological codification of this emerging linguistic discipline, enabling its methodological development in the direction of interdisciplinarity and integration with contemporary computational technologies.

According to the project proposal, the scientific program of the Action is structured into four thematic areas, organized as working groups with the following objectives:

1. The development of an open-access multilingual digital glossary defining and illustrating neological concepts (*Multilingual Dictionary of Neology*);
2. The exploration of methods, digital resources, and tools available for the study of lexical innovations (*Methods, Digital Resources and Tools for Neology*);
3. The implementation of diachronic and synchronic comparative neological research (*Diachronic and Synchronic Comparative Studies of Neology*);
4. The design of innovative forms of training in the field of neology (*Training in Neology*).

As the Action is currently in its initial phase of implementation, the planned tasks are being further specified and will be carried out over the next four-year period. One of the upcoming activities includes the development of

an Action website, which will provide detailed information on all future activities and outputs.

Within the first working group, *Multilingual Dictionary of Neology*, activities are focused on the development of an open-access multilingual terminological dictionary of neology. This resource will serve as an international meta-language database for this relatively new linguistic discipline, thereby facilitating better connectivity and collaboration within the global research community in this field. The dictionary is envisioned as a result of several successive phases, including: the compilation of a specialized corpus of linguistic works on neologisms; the identification of core concepts used in neological research; the definition of the microstructure of dictionary entries; and the drafting of the lexicographic articles themselves. The first phase is currently underway and involves the compilation of an electronic database of neological works published in national and international linguistic journals, conference proceedings, monographs, doctoral dissertations focusing on neology, as well as existing neological dictionaries. This database will provide insight into research practices across different languages, including Serbian. The references collected so far clearly illustrate the development of neological thought over a timespan of more than fifty years – beginning with the earliest included publication from the 1960s – while most of the collected works date from the second and third decades of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This confirms that now is a timely moment to establish stronger links among the research practices of different scientific and linguistic communities. Members of the working group are faced with a number of challenging methodological questions regarding the compilation of a specialized terminological dictionary of neology based on a multilingual database – ranging from the identification of relevant terms and the delimitation of neology as a scientific discipline, its overlap with other linguistic phenomena, to determining the best model for implementing the dictionary's multilingual nature: whether by creating a model dictionary of neological terms for one language that would serve as a reference for others, or by developing a parallel multilingual dictionary from the outset. Addressing these challenges requires collaboration not only from linguists, lexicologists, and lexicographers, but also from experts in language technologies, whose involvement will ensure the successful implementation of the digital database and the multilingual neological terminological dictionary.

Within the second working group, *Methods, Digital Resources and Tools for Neology*, the activities are aimed at consolidating the most up-to-date digital resources and tools specifically developed for researching lexical in-

novations, which will be made available to the research community and the general public through an online repository. These resources include, above all, monolingual and multilingual dictionaries of new words enriched with relevant linguistic information, as well as general and specialized corpora intended for the registration and extraction of neologisms. Such corpora will enable the timely documentation of new lexical units and reliable monitoring of their development – frequency, productivity, and their status within the lexical system. The goal is to promote an interdisciplinary approach to neological research by strengthening the ties between neology and other linguistic disciplines such as sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, and beyond, as well as with modern computational technologies such as artificial intelligence. This will provide a solid methodological foundation for more comprehensive synchronic and diachronic descriptions and analyses of neological material. The approaches adopted by this working group also allow smaller languages to utilize the tools and resources already developed for so-called major languages as auxiliary supports. This opens up opportunities for enhancing existing solutions for the Serbian language within the scope of this Action.

The activities of the third working group, *Diachronic and Synchronic Comparative Studies of Neology*, are focused on assessing the “permeability” of languages to external influences (particularly in the field of new digital and web technologies) and the degree of responsiveness they exhibit in the processes of creating and disseminating new expressions. This will involve conducting studies across multiple languages and performing comparative analyses. Globalization trends – largely characterized by Anglo-American influence – necessitate comparative assessments of the current situation and the measurement of the impact of English on other languages. Planned research topics within this working group include: the place of neologisms in the mental lexicon, neologisms and language varieties, neologisms from a lexicographic perspective, blends, and others.

The fourth working group, *Training in Neology*, is oriented toward the didactic aspects of neology and aims to develop methodological approaches to neology at both theoretical and practical levels. The Action will propose the practical and efficient integration of neological competences into lexicology, lexicography, corpus linguistics, sociolinguistics, and translation studies, with the goal of establishing an adequate methodology for continuous professional development and training of lexicographers, terminologists, translators, teachers, as well as for teaching practice across different languages. Ultimately, these efforts will provide a foundation for the creation and im-

provement of pedagogical materials within university curricula, particularly in the context of foreign language teaching.

The planned activities and objectives of the ENEOLI Action clearly demonstrate its multifaceted significance for the international linguistic community, as the goals of all working groups are oriented toward achieving concrete results in the theoretical, research, and practical aspects of neological studies. In the conceptualization of language as a dynamic system, neology holds a prominent place, as it represents a clear point of intersection between language and the social context in which it functions – new words emerge with the appearance of new objects, newly discovered technological and other concepts and phenomena, new situations and circumstances, states, and the naming of new attitudes, directions of learning, and so on. In neology, theoretical aspects of linguistic inquiry intersect with applied linguistics, including language policy, translation, and language didactics. The rapid development of computer technologies presents new challenges for linguists and lexicographers in terms of creating and advancing new methodologies for collecting, documenting, and presenting new linguistic material by integrating traditional, primarily descriptive practices with contemporary interdisciplinary approaches. This integration allows for the parallel presentation of lexical innovations alongside the sociocultural contexts that give rise to them. The collaboration of researchers working on various languages and different aspects of neology – synchronic, diachronic, contrastive, and language-technological – constitutes a significant scientific platform for implementing the planned activities.

In the Serbian linguistic context, interest in neological research has significantly intensified in recent years, particularly with the launch of a new linguistic journal dedicated to neology – *Novorečje* (2019). In recent years, *Novorečje*, along with the Philological Society “Words” (which publishes the journal), has organized round tables and international conferences devoted to current issues in neology, such as: anglicisms and pseudo-anglicisms, blends, contests and websites for new words, deanthroponymic neologisms, new words in children’s and youth language, new words and language engineering, new words on social media, and other relevant topics. These activities contribute to broadening our understanding of neologisms, the mechanisms of their formation, integration into the language system, usage, and the cultural dimensions of new words. Serbian researchers participating in the ENEOLI Action are also actively involved in the work of this journal. Consequently, the collaboration of Serbian scholars and the results of the ENEOLI Action will be of exceptional importance for the further develop-

ment of neology within Serbian linguistic studies in the broader European context – both in terms of enhancing theoretical perspectives and aligning theoretical-methodological frameworks for future research, and in terms of practical neographic and lexicographic work on documenting lexical innovations and presenting them in dictionaries of new words and descriptive dictionaries of the Serbian language.

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