

## USING CORPUS METHODS TO STUDY CHANGES IN THE VOCABULARY OF THE MODERN RUSSIAN LANGUAGE

**Khudoyorova Gulnora Nuriddinovna**

Teacher of the Department of Russian Language and Literature  
Termez University of Economics and Service

**Ismoilova Nasiba Saitmurod kizi**

First-Year Student, Philology and Language Teaching (Russian Language)  
Termez University of Economics and Service

**Abstract:** This article examines the role of corpus methods in studying changes in the vocabulary of the modern Russian language. In contemporary linguistics, vocabulary is viewed as the most dynamic layer of language, as it immediately reflects social, political, cultural, scientific, and technological transformations. The rapid development of digital communication, globalization, media discourse, and professional terminology has significantly influenced lexical processes in Russian, leading to the emergence of neologisms, semantic shifts, borrowing, changes in word frequency, and the transformation of stylistic functions of lexical units.

The study emphasizes that corpus linguistics provides powerful tools for identifying and analyzing lexical change on the basis of authentic language material. Unlike traditional lexicographic or purely descriptive approaches, corpus methods make it possible to observe language in actual use, compare lexical behavior across time periods, track the productivity of specific words and word-formation models, and detect contextual meanings in various discourse types. The use of corpora allows researchers to move from isolated examples to systematic empirical observation, which increases the objectivity and reliability of linguistic conclusions.

**Keywords:** corpus linguistics, modern Russian language, vocabulary change, lexical transformation, neologisms, semantic shift, borrowing, frequency analysis, language corpus, discourse, lexical dynamics, digital communication

**Introduction.** Language is not a static phenomenon; it constantly develops in response to changes in society, culture, science, politics, and technology. Among all levels of language, vocabulary is the most sensitive to external influence because it directly reflects new realities, concepts, and forms of communication. In the modern Russian language, lexical change has become especially noticeable due to globalization, the spread of digital technologies, the growth of social networks, and the active interaction of Russian with other languages and cultures.

Over the last decades, the Russian lexical system has undergone considerable transformation. New words have appeared to describe technological innovations, economic processes, social trends, and online communication. At the same time, many traditional lexical units have acquired new meanings, changed their stylistic coloring, or become less frequent in everyday usage. Such processes demonstrate that vocabulary is a dynamic and adaptive subsystem of language, shaped by real communicative needs.

In this context, corpus methods have become one of the most productive tools for linguistic analysis. Corpus linguistics is based on the study of large collections of authentic texts that represent language in actual use. These corpora allow researchers to examine lexical phenomena not only descriptively but also quantitatively and contextually. A corpus-based approach makes it possible to identify emerging lexical tendencies, compare different periods of language development, and analyze word behavior across genres, styles, and communicative spheres.

The relevance of this study lies in the growing need for objective methods for analyzing language change. Traditional linguistic observation often depends on isolated examples or subjective intuition, while corpus methods provide empirical evidence based on large-scale

textual data. This makes corpus linguistics particularly valuable for the study of lexical evolution in the modern Russian language.

The purpose of this article is to analyze the significance of corpus methods in studying vocabulary changes in modern Russian and to show how these methods help identify lexical innovations, semantic transformation, frequency dynamics, and contextual shifts in word usage.

### Literature Review

The development of corpus linguistics has significantly changed modern approaches to lexical research. In traditional lexicology, vocabulary was often described through dictionary definitions, literary examples, and the intuition of linguists. Although such approaches remain important, they do not always provide sufficient evidence of how words function in real communication. Corpus linguistics addresses this limitation by working with large volumes of authentic texts collected from different periods, genres, and discourse types.

Researchers in modern linguistics emphasize that corpora make it possible to study language as a living system. Through corpus analysis, scholars can observe how words appear, spread, change meaning, and disappear over time. This is especially important in the study of contemporary Russian, where lexical changes are intensified by the influence of mass media, advertising, digital platforms, youth speech, and professional communication.

A number of studies have shown that lexical innovation in Russian is closely connected with social transformation. Political changes, economic reforms, technological progress, and intercultural contact have all contributed to the growth of neologisms and borrowings. At the same time, scholars note that vocabulary change is not limited to the emergence of new words. It also includes the restructuring of lexical meanings, the rise of new collocations, and the re-evaluation of stylistic norms.

In this scholarly context, corpus methods are increasingly regarded as indispensable for modern lexical research. They allow linguists to compare usage patterns across historical stages, identify frequent lexical combinations, determine semantic preferences, and reveal discourse-specific vocabulary. Thus, corpus analysis strengthens both theoretical understanding and practical description of lexical processes.

### Research Methodology

The methodological basis of this study is the corpus-based approach to language analysis. The research relies on general principles of descriptive linguistics, lexical semantics, contextual analysis, and comparative observation. Corpus methods are used as the primary instrument for identifying lexical changes in the modern Russian language.

The corpus approach involves the analysis of lexical units in authentic contexts rather than in isolated form. This makes it possible to determine how a word functions in real communication, what meanings it acquires, what words it typically co-occurs with, and in which discourse spheres it is most productive. Such analysis helps reveal the dynamics of lexical usage more accurately than traditional introspective methods.

Several core analytical procedures are central to corpus-based lexical research:

First, **frequency analysis** allows researchers to determine how often a word appears in texts from different periods or genres. An increase in frequency may indicate the social relevance of a concept, while a decline may reflect lexical obsolescence or replacement.

Second, **contextual analysis** helps identify semantic shifts. When a lexical unit begins to appear in new communicative environments, its meaning may expand, narrow, or acquire metaphorical and evaluative connotations.

Third, **collocational analysis** makes it possible to study stable lexical combinations and semantic associations. Changes in collocational behavior often signal deeper shifts in meaning and stylistic function.

Fourth, **comparative diachronic analysis** allows the researcher to compare lexical material from different time periods. This reveals long-term tendencies in vocabulary development and helps distinguish temporary language trends from stable lexical changes.

Thus, corpus methodology combines quantitative precision with qualitative interpretation. It enables a comprehensive examination of lexical change in modern Russian and provides a reliable basis for scientific conclusions.

### **Analysis and Discussion**

The vocabulary of the modern Russian language demonstrates several major types of change, all of which can be effectively studied through corpus methods.

#### **1. Emergence of Neologisms**

One of the most visible lexical processes in modern Russian is the appearance of neologisms. These words arise in response to new realities in politics, economics, information technology, culture, and everyday life. The digital sphere has generated a large number of new lexical units connected with the internet, social media, online education, and virtual communication. Corpus methods make it possible to identify when such words first appear, how rapidly they spread, and in which genres they become normalized.

Moreover, corpora help distinguish between occasional innovations and widely accepted neologisms. A lexical unit that appears only sporadically in isolated contexts may remain marginal, while a word that demonstrates growing frequency across media, public discourse, and conversational usage can be considered part of the active lexical stock.

#### **2. Borrowing as a Source of Lexical Renewal**

Another important process in modern Russian vocabulary is lexical borrowing. English has become a particularly strong source of borrowed words, especially in technology, business, marketing, fashion, and youth communication. Corpus analysis allows researchers to trace how borrowed words are integrated into Russian usage, whether they preserve foreign spelling or pronunciation patterns, and how they adapt to Russian grammar and word formation.

In many cases, borrowed words initially appear in professional or media discourse and later spread into everyday speech. Corpus materials make it possible to observe this transition and to determine whether native lexical equivalents continue to coexist with borrowed forms or whether the borrowing gradually replaces earlier Russian expressions.

#### **3. Semantic Shift and Polysemy**

Lexical change is not limited to the introduction of new words. Many existing words undergo semantic transformation. Some develop additional meanings, while others experience narrowing or metaphorical extension. Corpus methods are particularly valuable in this area because semantic change can only be properly understood through repeated contextual observation.

For example, a word that originally functioned in one thematic field may begin to be used metaphorically in political, economic, or digital discourse. Through corpus analysis, researchers can identify patterns of semantic extension and detect how new meanings become stabilized. This shows that lexical development often takes place not by replacement but by functional enrichment.

#### **4. Changes in Frequency and Lexical Relevance**

The frequency of lexical units is an important indicator of language change. Words that become central to public discussion usually demonstrate increased occurrence in newspapers, online platforms, interviews, and analytical texts. Conversely, words connected with outdated realities, former ideological models, or older communicative practices may decline in frequency.

Corpus methods allow for the measurement of such tendencies across large collections of texts. This is especially important for analyzing how social change is reflected in vocabulary. Frequency data provide evidence not only of linguistic development but also of cultural and ideological shifts in society.

#### **5. Influence of Internet and Media Discourse**

Modern Russian has been strongly influenced by digital communication. Internet discourse is characterized by speed, creativity, hybridity, and a tendency toward compression. As a result,

vocabulary has absorbed new abbreviations, conversational forms, expressive constructions, and lexical innovations shaped by online interaction.

Mass media also play a major role in spreading new words and meanings. Through media discourse, lexical items quickly become visible to a large audience and may move from restricted usage into the general language. Corpus-based analysis of online texts, journalistic publications, and public commentary allows linguists to examine this process in detail.

### **6. Stylistic Redistribution of Vocabulary**

Corpus methods are also effective in studying stylistic changes. Some words that once belonged to colloquial speech may enter journalistic or literary discourse, while other lexical units become markers of informal, youth, or professional communication. Such stylistic redistribution is difficult to capture without a broad textual base.

A corpus makes it possible to compare the use of a lexical unit across different genres: fiction, academic prose, journalism, spoken language, and digital communication. This helps determine whether lexical change involves only meaning or also includes a shift in communicative function and stylistic status.

### **Results**

The analysis shows that corpus methods provide a highly effective framework for studying vocabulary changes in the modern Russian language. Their major advantages can be summarized as follows:

- they provide authentic linguistic material drawn from real communication;
- they allow the researcher to identify frequency changes objectively;
- they reveal semantic transformation through contextual evidence;
- they make it possible to trace the spread of neologisms and borrowings;
- they help compare lexical usage across periods, genres, and discourse types;
- they support both quantitative and qualitative analysis of lexical dynamics.

As a result, corpus methods offer a more precise and scientifically grounded picture of lexical change than purely descriptive approaches. They make it possible to analyze vocabulary as a dynamic communicative system rather than as a static set of dictionary units.

### **Conclusion**

The study of lexical change in the modern Russian language requires methods that are both systematic and empirically reliable. Corpus linguistics fully meets this requirement by providing access to large-scale authentic language material and by enabling objective analysis of word usage, meaning, distribution, and development.

The research confirms that corpus methods play a central role in identifying neologisms, tracing borrowings, examining semantic shifts, measuring lexical frequency, and analyzing stylistic redistribution. These methods make it possible to observe vocabulary not as an abstract linguistic inventory, but as a dynamic and socially conditioned system shaped by real communicative practice.

In the context of the modern Russian language, corpus analysis is particularly important because lexical change is occurring rapidly under the influence of technological innovation, globalization, media development, and internet communication. Therefore, the corpus-based approach should be regarded not only as a useful research instrument but also as an essential methodological basis for modern lexical studies.

The practical significance of this approach is also considerable. Corpus methods can be applied in lexicography, language teaching, stylistics, discourse analysis, and translation studies. They contribute to a more accurate description of modern Russian vocabulary and help scholars understand the broader tendencies of language development in the contemporary world.

### **References**

1. Biber, D., Conrad, S., & Reppen, R. *Corpus Linguistics: Investigating Language Structure and Use*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
2. McEnery, T., & Hardie, A. *Corpus Linguistics: Method, Theory and Practice*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
3. Sinclair, J. *Corpus, Concordance, Collocation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
4. Stubbs, M. *Words and Phrases: Corpus Studies of Lexical Semantics*. Oxford: Blackwell.
5. Zakharov, V. P., & Bogdanova, S. Y. *Corpus Linguistics*. Saint Petersburg: Saint Petersburg State University Press.