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**BORROWING AS A SOURCE OF SYNONYMOUS NEOLOGISMS  
(BASED ON THE DICTIONARY OF NEOLOGISMS OF THE 1990s  
OF THE XXth CENTURY)**

The article deals with revealing the synonyms among the neologisms of the 1990s of the XX-th century and elucidating the role of borrowing in their origin. A great amount of synonyms has been revealed among these neologisms, which are connected in one way or another with the process of borrowing (internal or external). Different types of synonyms and the frequency of their use in the texts have been analyzed. On the basis of informants' survey, the data about the usage of these words in informants' everyday life have been received. The words that are not used now in the language have been determined.

**Key words:** synonym, neologism, autochthonous word, borrowing, loan-translation, semi-loan-translation, pseudoanglicism.

**Introduction.** The urgency of the the analyzed question is determined by the fact that in the modern German language such synonyms are common as "foreign word" - "autochthonous word," which is a word-formative loan-translation of a foreign word, as well as "foreign word" - "hybrid word" that consists of foreign and autochthonous components as a result of partial loan translation [1]. We found a large number of such synonyms among the neologisms of the 90s of the XX century, and by their analysis we found out that there are quite a lot of them, and this problem hasn't been described yet. Which word of the synonymous pair (word-formative loan-translation or foreign prototype) is preferable in some situations, more frequent, and what type of synonyms these words are, still remains unclear. The purpose of this research is to identify the synonymy of neologisms of the 90s of the XX century, and to ascertain the role of borrowing in its appearance. Borrowing of linguistic phenomena from a language into another one is considered to be one of the oldest processes of interlingual interaction, and diverse loanwords and loan-translations at the present stage of languages development are the most representative way of vocabulary enrichment of each language [2]. The data for the research was taken from the dictionary [www.owid.de](http://www.owid.de), dictionary of neologisms of the Institute of German Language in Mannheim, which is an autonomous, ordered, systematic organized corpus of units in the lexical system of modern language and has about 1,000 new words, phraseologisms, meanings of words that appeared and were fixed in the German language from the 90s of the XX century. These words are especially interesting as an object of studying neologisms as opposed to neologisms of the first decade of the XXI century that are fixed lexicographically only in part.

Synonymy is a universal type of relations between linguistic units that consists in coincidence of their meanings fully or partially. Synonymy of words or lexical synonymy - is a

semantic phenomenon associated with the processes of nomination of the same actuals, reflected in concepts and ideas of people. [2] Speaking about the definition of "synonym", it can be noted that in our opinion the most complete wording of the definition of synonyms was in the works of A.P. Yevgenyeva. "As synonyms should be regarded the words denoting the same concept, identical or similar in meaning, that are correlated in some way at a given time in the language and provide detalization and distinguishing subtle shades of meaning of the concept or expression of expressive, stylistic genre and other differences" [3].

There are many classifications of synonyms. In our research, we follow the classification of V. Vinogradov: we identify full and partial synonyms and partial synonyms are divided into ideographic and stylistic synonyms [4]. Ideographic synonyms are based on the semantic differences and agree with the essential features of semantic core and differ in certain characteristics (semes). Stylistic synonyms have common denotative semes with the same denotate content [4], but differ in the usage field. We should also mention that synonyms can have both semantic and stylistic differences, i.e. be defined as stylistic and ideographic synonyms.

Analysis of the dictionary owid.de showed that synonyms are found among neologisms as well. In this article we will examine examples of synonymy of neologisms of the 90s of the XX century.

We found examples of several types of synonymy. Let us dwell on each of them.

### **1. Synonymy of the type *direct loanword* – *semi-loan-translation***

Among the neologisms of the 90s we found direct loan-translations from which semi-loan-translations were made. That's why some notions are represented in two variants: as a loanword and as a semi-loan-translation, for example: *Beachvolleyball* / *Strandvolleyball*, *Bungeejumping* / *Bungeespringen*, *Couchpotato* / *Couchkartoffel*, *Telelearning* / *Telelernen*, *Splattermovie* / *Splatterfilm*. Some pairs in the dictionary owid.de are indicated as synonyms, but we think that these pairs can be regarded as variants of one word because the word just assimilates in the language, for example: *Chatroom* / *Chatraum*, *Chill-out-Room* / *Chill-out-Raum*, *Mousepad* / *Mauspad*, *Newsgroup* / *Newsgruppe*, *Prepaidcard* / *Prepaidkarte*.

Some of such neologisms have the third synonym that is usually a loan from the English language as well: *Bungee* – *Bungeejumping* – *Bungeespringen*, *Baggy* – *Baggy Pants* – *Baggyhose*, *Mall* – *Shoppingmall* – *Einkaufsmall*. Words *Baggy* and *Mall* are loanwords, and the word *Bungee* is a shortening from the English word *bungee jumping*.

Using the method of linguistic interviews, we found out that most frequent from these examples loanwords are whereas semi-loan-translations are hardly used and is likely that soon they will be completely ousted by synonyms-loans. Exceptions are only words *Prepaidkarte* and *Splatterfilm*. Speakers pointed out that some words are not used at all, for example, semi-loan-translations *Strandvolleyball*, *Bungeespringen*, *Couchkartoffel*, *Chatraum*, *Chill-out-Raum*, *Newsgruppe*, *Mauspad*, thus one synonym almost entirely displaces another one.

In our opinion, these synonyms are full and differ only in the frequency of usage. The fact that loanwords are much more popular than semi-loan-translations, we found out analyzing the corpus COSMAS of Institute of German Language in Mannheim. Loanwords are much more common, for example, *Bungeejumping* (173 mentions) / *Bungeespringen* (62 mentions).

### **2. Synonymy of the type *direct loanword* – *loan-translation***

In the German language anglicism and its loan-translation can be used simultaneously as well, for example: *Alles-inklusive-Reise* – loan-translation from *All Inclusive (Travel / Holidays)*. In the dictionary owid.de according to the relevant comments we revealed 6 full word-formative loan-translations: *Autoteiler* – *Carsharer*, *Autoteilen* – *Carsharing*, *herunterladen* – *downloaden*, *Bezahlfernsehen* (as well as *Zahlfernsehen*) – *pay TV*, *Datenautobahn* – *Informationhighway*, *Hörbuch* – *Audiobook*.

The borrowed verb *downloaden* «to download» is included as well as the loan-translation *herunterladen* to the dictionary of neologisms of the 90s. Our analysis of the examples of the using words in the corpus COSMAS of Institute of German Language in Mannheim showed that the German word *herunterladen* is used much more frequently than the loanword *downloaden*: 4706 times against 654. In our point of view, higher frequency of using the verb *herunterladen* is related to the fact that in the German language there is a problem with the formation of the English verb forms (see the example of using the verb in the past tense: Ich habe das Programm gedownloadet ir downgeloadet). Doris Steffens also notes that the verb *herunterladen* is more common than the loanword *downloaden*: "Die Neubedeutung herunterladen wird inzwischen wohl sogar häufiger gebraucht als das Lehnwort downloaden ..." [6]. These verbs can be regarded as stylistic synonyms: loanword is rather used in a special computer communication, and the German verb is common.

Words *Autoteiler* and *Carsharer* are used in the language almost equally (occurred in the corpus COSMAS 25 and 24 times, respectively), the word *Carsharing* is more frequently used than *Autoteilen* (771 vs. 684) and the loanword *pay TV* occurs several times more frequently than the loan-translation *Bezahlfernsehen* (2917 vs. 603). Loan-translations *Datenautobahn* and *Hörbuch* are significantly higher on the frequency of use than their synonyms-loanwords - 2.578 against 5 and 2,944 against 28, respectively. The same is confirmed by native speakers, however, noting that the loan-translations *Autoteilen* and *Autoteiler* as well as the loan *Informationhighway* aren't almost used in the language. In our view, all these words are full synonyms.

In this type of synonymy we can separately identify neologisms loan-translations - **set phrases** (German term *Lehnwendung*). In the 90s of the XX century not only words, but also set phrases in English can be loan-translations, for example, *politische Korrektheit* (*political correctness*), *politisch korrekt* (*politically correct*), *globales Dorf* (*Global Village*), *elektronisches Buch* (*E-Book*). In the German language both direct loans and loan-translations are used, but according to the corpus COSMAS direct loans are used more often than loan-translations, only the phrase *politisch korrekt* exceeds frequency of the corresponding loan. Native speakers also noticed that they use only the German expression from these pairs in their speech, and it can be concluded that these synonyms are stylistic. The only exception is the word *E-Book* that the Germans use more often, so the pair *elektronisches Buch* - *E-Book* we regard as full synonyms.

### **3. Synonymy of the type direct loanword – semi-loan-translation – loan-translation**

Loan-translations are used in the German language along with semi-loan-translations. For example, the word *Inselhüpfen*, that is loan-translation from the English expression *Island hopping*, is used along with the semi-loan-translation <http://www.dict.cc/englisch-deutsch/sth..html> *Inselhopping*. However, the loan-translation is more common (213 mentions against 10 by *Island hopping* and 27 by *Inselhopping*).

Along with the loan-translation *Alles-inklusive-Reise* we can find among the neologisms of the 90s the direct loan *all-inclusive* and the semi-loan-translation *All-inclusive-Reise*. The semi-loan-translation is used more often than the loan-translation (20 vs. 2), native speakers notice that they don't use the word *Alles-inklusive-Reise* at all. And the loan *all-inclusive* is more common and occurs 402 times. These words don't differ at all and can be regarded as full synonyms.

### **4. Synonymy of the type loanword – loanword**

In the German language there are synonymic rows of loans from the English language: *Afterparty* – *Aftershowparty* – *Afterhourparty*, *Anchor* – *Anchorwoman* and *Anchor* – *Anchorman*, *Bodypiercing* – *Piercing*, *Carjacking* – *Carnapping*, *Cybercafe* – *Internetcafe*, *Factoryoutlet* – *Factoryoutletcenter* – *Outlet* – *Outletcenter*; *Homeshopping* – *Internetshopping* – *Onlineshopping*; *Late Night* – *Late-Night- Show* – *Late Show* – *Nightshow*; *Organizer* – *Palmtop* – *PDA* (though there is also German synonym-neologism *Handheld*); *Rafting* – *Riverrafting*; *Web* *World Wide* – *Web* – *WWW*; *Upgrading* (in the meaning «improvement») – *Upgrade*; *Junkmail* – *Spam* –

*Spammail*, *Chatbox* – [Chatline](#) – [Chatroom](#) (there is also a synonym/semi-loan-translation [Chatraum](#)), *Link* – *Hyperlink*.

Some of these words native speakers use very little or don't use at all in their speech: *Afterparty*, *Cybercafe*, *Late Show*, *Nightshow*, *Palmtop*, *Chatline*. There is a doubt also in the use of words *Factoryoutlet* and [Factoryoutletcenter](#), the Germans use them rarely or do not use, preferring shorter synonyms, and in the corpus COSMAS these words do not occur at all.

Often one of the synonyms of a word has a narrower meaning, for example, *Bodypiercing*, *Riverrafting*, *Anchorwoman*, *Anchorman*, there are also ideographic synonyms such as the word «chat»: *Chatbox* «place for chat» – [Chatline](#) «chat for private talks» – [Chatroom](#) «chat on a certain theme», *Afterparty* «a later party» – [Aftershowparty](#) «party after a show or a concert to which only certain people are invited» – *Afterhourparty* «party after party», *Factoryoutlet* «discount shop» – [Factoryoutletcenter](#) «mall with discount shops». But we found in the examples full synonyms most of all: *Internetcafe* – *Cybercafe*, *Internetshopping* – *Onlineshopping*, *Outlet* – *Factoryoutlet*, *Organizer* – *PDA*, *Link* – *Hyperlink*.

### 5. Synonymy of the type *pseudoanglicism* – *loanword* / *semi-loan-translation* / *loan-translation*

Regarding this type of synonymy we should first explain what pseudoborrowing is and in particular, what pseudoanglicism is.

Currently, German not only borrows English words, but also actively creates new ones using borrowed anglicisms. To denote them the term "pseudoanglicism" is used - the words that are not used by English native speakers in such a form, or used in other sense.

There are examples of synonyms, where one of the words is a pseudoanglicism, for example *Basecap* – *Baseballcap*. The word *Basecap* doesn't exist in the English language, it's called in English *baseball cap*. In the pair of synonyms *Sidebag* - *Seitenairbag* the first word is also pseudoanglicism, English designation for this concept is *side airbag*. Also, the pseudoanglicism *Daily* has several synonyms: *Daily Soap* or *Daily Talk*. The word *daily* doesn't have the meaning "daily talk show or TV series" in the English language. The most famous pseudoanglicism in our view – *Handy* – has also synonyms-neologisms: 1. *Mobiltelefon* – loan-translation from the anglicism *mobile (phone)* and 2. *Handtelefon* – indirect loan-translation that native speakers hardly use.

It's remarkably that all the pseudoanglicisms are used more often than their synonyms-loans, perhaps in order to save linguistic resources, as pseudoanglicisms are usually shorter than loans. We immediately noticed that these words are shortenings (the middle component in *Baseballcap* and *side airbag* is eliminated). The fact that pseudoanglicisms are used more often in the language, we can see in the synonymic rows as well, with the exception of the verb *inlinen*, which occurs in the corpus COSMAS only 84 times and the semi-loan-translation *Seitenairbag*, which is used more often than the pseudoanglicism *Sidebag*.

A large number of synonyms we can see by the noun-pseudoanglicism *Inline* (*Blade*, *Inlineskate*, *Rollerblade*, *Skate*). This word is also absent in the English language, the English word for this concept is *in-line skate*. The paronymous verb-pseudoanglicism *inlinen* (English word *to in-line skate*) has many synonyms-neologisms - *bladen*, *inlineskaten*, *rollerbladen*, *skaten*. Also the pseudoanglicism-shortening *FOC* has some full-synonyms (in English there isn't such a shortening from *Factoryoutletcenter*): *Factoryoutletcenter*, *Outletcenter* («point of sale»). Again, we note that the pseudoloan is used more often than other synonyms, it is found 4291 times.

Thus, we can conclude that German native speakers more often use in their speech pseudoanglicisms than their English equivalents that are compound polybasic words (*Baseballcap*, [Factoryoutletcenter](#)) or word combinations (*side airbag*, *mobile phone*, *in-line skate*).

In our view, all these words are full synonyms. Creating pseudoanglicisms is explained by the law of saving linguistic resources.

## 6. Synonymy of the type *semi-loan-translation* – *loan-translation* / *German word*

Such examples are quite rare in the dictionary: *Sektdusche* – *Champagnerdusche*, *Kochshow* – *Kochsendung* – loan-translations from *Champagne shower* and *Cooking show*. We find the synonym pair *Brenner* – *CD-Brenner* very interesting. The first word has acquired a new meaning under the influence of English, and the second one is the semi-loan-translation from *CD-Burner*. Here we can also note the pair of synonyms *MP3-Player* / *MP3-Spieler* that are semi-loan-translation and loan-translation from the English word *MP3 player*, respectively. It is hard to say which synonym is more common in the pair semi-loan-translation – loan-translation, for example semi-loan-translations *Kochshow* and *MP3-Player* are more common than corresponding synonyms, but loan-translations *Brenner* and *Sektdusche* are found more frequently than their synonyms/semi-loan-translations.

Most likely that the pairs *Kochshow* – *Kochsendung*, *Brenner* – *CD-Brenner*, *MP3-Player* – *MP3-Spieler* are full synonyms, because we don't see differences either in their meanings or in stylistic nuance. Synonyms *Sektdusche* – *Champagnerdusche* are ideographic, the difference in their semantics is related to the different meanings of the words *Sekt* and *Champagner* in the German language. The second word has the meaning «sparkling wine produced in France».

## 7. Synonymy of set phrases

Describing the tendencies of synonymy of neologisms, it may be noted that there is also synonymy of set phrases, for example, *Bis der Arzt kommt* – *bis der Doktor kommt* “to the point of exhaustion”. These phraseologisms have different components *der Arzt* - *der Doktor*, so we can talk about the variability of one idiom, because there is no difference in the semantics of these two phrases. But in this case, according to the corpus COSMAS, the first phrase is used more often: 352 mention to 9, this fact is confirmed by native speakers as well.

## 8. Word-formative synonymy

In the article “Perspectives of reactualization of some unproductive German structural elements owing to the influence of some English word-building morphemes” N.A. Kuleshova notes that a big amount of anglicisms can not even integrate into the lexical system of the German language, but also deal with the word-formative system [7]. In the verbal system the synonymy occurs when the verb is borrowed from the English language and gets a synonym with the German particle (German terms for such verbs is *Partikelverb* or *Präverbfügung*): *chillen* - *auschillen* («relax»), *mailen* - *anmailen* («to send an email»), there is also a synonym *emailen*. The dictionary *owid.de* gives such verbs as synonyms. However, verbs with the particle are used much less frequently in the press and in everyday speech. The first two verbs are full synonyms, one of which native speakers do not use at all (*auschillen*), and in the second pair there are some differences, verbs *emailen* and *mailen* mean “to correspond by e-mail” and the verb *anmailen* means only “to send a letter.” Thus, these synonyms are ideographic.

There are many synonyms for words with the element “E” in the meaning “electronic”, which are shortenings: *E-Business* - *Electronic Business*, *E-Book* - *elektronisches Buch*, *E-Commerce* - *Electronic Commerce* - *Internethandel*, *Electronic Mail* - *E-Mail* - *Mail*, *E-Cash* - *Electronic Cash*, *E-Learning* - *Telelearning* - *Telelernen*, *E-Banking* - *Electronic Banking* (there are also synonyms *Internetbanking* and *Onlinebanking*). Perhaps, in order to save the language resources, native speakers prefer to use shorter expressions with the element E-, exceptions are only the words *Electronic Cash* and *Electronic Banking*. COSMAS confirms the same. The words *Elektronisches Buch* and *Electronic Mail* aren't almost used and are likely to be ousted entirely by shorter synonyms.

A large number of synonyms is found among the words with the same stems, often a synonym is formed from another by means of truncation, “e-mail” *E-Mail-Adresse* - *Mailadresse* - *Adresse*, «Internet address» *Internetadresse* - *Netzadresse* (almost not used) - *Webadresse* - *Adresse*, «data format» *Dateiformat* - *Format*, «Internet portal» *Internetportal* - *Portal* (in these



examples, the second word is neosemantism); *Call-in-Sendung* - *Call-in* (in the meaning of "programme"), *Spielkonsole* - *Konsole*. The last words in the ranks are full synonyms for first ones, shorter versions of the expressions of these concepts.

We speak about *synonymic rows* when several words are related to one concept on the basis of synonymous elements. We see the correlation in the pair of terms of Informatics *Datenhighway* and *Informationhighway*. The definition of the last word refers to the English word *highway*. Formally, these terms are united by the English element *highway*, which refers to information 'highway', a digital two-way communication. The above-mentioned synonyms have further synonyms such as *Informationshighway*, *Infobahn*, *Infohighway*, *Superhighway*, *Datenautobahn*. However, the word *Datenautobahn* is the most commonly used among them, other nouns native speakers hardly use.

Polyonymy is observed among the words denoting, for example, everything about skating: *bladen* - *inlinen* - *inlineskaten* - *rollerbladen* - *skaten*, *Blade* - *Inline* - *Inlineskate* - *Rollerblade* - *Skate*, *Inliner* - *Inlineskater* - *Skater*. Also, the concept "Page in the Internet" is presented in the German language by set of synonyms: *Internetseite* - *Seite* - *Webseite*, as well as *Website* and *Site*. In computer lexicon rows of synonyms the following words can be distinguished: "Internet user" *Cybernaut* - *Netzbürger* - *Internetuser* - *Netizen*, which do not differ in their meaning; *Homepage* - *Startseite* - *Leitseite*, which are ideographic synonyms. All these words refer to the page in the Internet, but with the difference that *Startseite* - is the first opened page in the browser, *Leitseite* - is the first page of the website, and *Homepage* is the whole site. Speakers noted that they do not use the words *Blade* - *Inline*, *Cybernaut* - *Netizen*, and the two last words many of them heard for the first time.

Some neologisms can have several meanings, and sometimes only one meaning has synonyms. For example, the word *Internetmagazin* has synonyms only in the meaning "online magazine" – *E-Zine*, *Onlinemagazin*, *Webzine*, but in the meaning "the magazine about the Internet" there aren't any synonyms. German native speakers would prefer the first word in this row to other synonyms. The words *E-Zine* and *Webzine* native speakers do not use.

Thus, in the modern German language there is phenomenon of lexical synonymy, which has its cause in the borrowing, mostly borrowing from the English language. We identified synonymy among the neologisms of the 90s of the XX century, recorded in the electronic dictionary [www.owid.de](http://www.owid.de) and integrated in the XXI century into the lexical system of the German language. As our study of texts of contemporary German press showed, synonymy of these lexical units is represented now as well, but in some cases it is eliminated.

**Conclusions.** Summarizing the study, it may be noted that the majority of analyzed synonyms are full, but there are also stylistic and ideographic synonyms. And the following question arises: why in the language such words co-exist in parallel that mean the same concept and did not differ either semantically or stylistically? In our view, in the language only a little while two synonyms or more exist in parallel. Then a synonym is inevitably ousted by others. By saving synonymy synonyms have different shades of meaning or express stylistic differences.

On the basis of informants' survey and results of the corpus analysis we can conclude that the synonymy of new words that is recorded vocabulary in the 90 years of the XX century has some changes at the beginning of the XXI century, so the number of frequently used words is reduced. In our opinion, this is related to the fact that synonymy is partially eliminated, and from two words denoting the same concept native speakers use only one. It can be also noted that the number of full synonyms is being reduced, while the number of stylistic and ideographic synonyms increases, for example, *politische Korrektheit* - *Political Correctness*, *mailen* - *anmailen*.

It should be noted that in most cases a direct loan survives in the German language, as it often comes to the language along with the denoted object and is fixed in the lexical system of the

language. But sometimes, loan-translation or semi-loan-translation are good formations and out direct loans.

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#### Source of examples

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