

Productive Word-Formation Patterns in Modern Armenian: A Lexicographical Data Analysis

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Abstract—In the era of globalization and technological advancement, languages employ various strategies to denominate new concepts. This paper, based on data from the New Words dictionary series published by the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, analyzes the most productive word-formation patterns of neologisms in Modern Armenian and compares them with trends in English, a major source of international neologisms. The study utilizes a multifaceted methodology, combining descriptive-classificational, quantitative, qualitative-semantic, and comparative-typological methods. The findings indicate that compounding is the predominant method of word formation in Armenian. Patterns with components such as *media-*, *ēko-*, *tesa-*, *-kentron*, and *-hay* are particularly productive, reflecting contemporary socio-technological developments. The comparative analysis reveals that Armenian addresses the influence of English through two primary strategies: calquing (e.g., hamats'ants' 'internet') and direct borrowing (e.g., feysbuk' 'Facebook'). This dual approach demonstrates a balance between linguistic openness and the preservation of its structural identity. The study concludes that the word-formation system of Modern Armenian is fully viable and creatively adapts to modern challenges.

Index Terms—neologism, word-formation, lexicographical data, borrowing

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Neologisms as Indicators of Language Dynamics

A language's lexicon is a dynamic and continuously evolving system that reflects the socio-cultural, technological, and socio-political shifts within a society. In this process, neologisms serve as vivid indicators of a language's vitality and its capacity to respond to change. Their study allows not only for the documentation of language development at a given stage but also for the identification of productive word-formation patterns and their underlying extralinguistic factors (Li, 2024). For languages with millennia of history that have largely preserved their core native lexicon, such as Armenian, analyzing neologisms provides critical insights into how the language maintains its indigenous features while adapting to contemporary global influences (cf. Kumunts et al., 2025).

Major global events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, often act as catalysts for a "neological explosion" (Gocotano, 2023; Asif et al., 2021; Semerdzhidi, 2022). Concurrently, a constant source of neologisms is technological advancement and the dominance of social media (Sabir, 2022), which facilitate the formation of an international discourse of new concepts. In this context, linguists employ various research approaches. These range from large-scale, corpus-based methods that track the "life cycle" of new words to sociolinguistic studies (Säily et al., 2018) and works on translation (Awadh & Khan, 2020).

B. Theoretical Framework of the Study: Neologism, New Formation, Loanword

In contemporary neology, a key area of discussion is the strategy languages employ to denominate new concepts, particularly the choice between direct borrowing and internal coinage or calquing (Talebinejad et al., 2012). For terminological clarity, this study adopts a hierarchical framework (see Figure 1). A neologism is broadly defined as any new lexical unit entering a language. This includes coinages (or new formations), which are created using the language's internal word-formation rules (e.g., *hamats'ants* 'internet'), and loanwords, which are adopted from other languages (e.g., *feysbuk* 'Facebook').

This inclusive approach aligns with the views of prominent Armenian linguists such as Aghayan (1984) and Jahukyan (1989), who considered borrowings and calques integral to the renewal of a language's lexicon and root stock. Therefore, this study examines all types of neologisms recorded in the analyzed material, analyzing their specific formation methods.

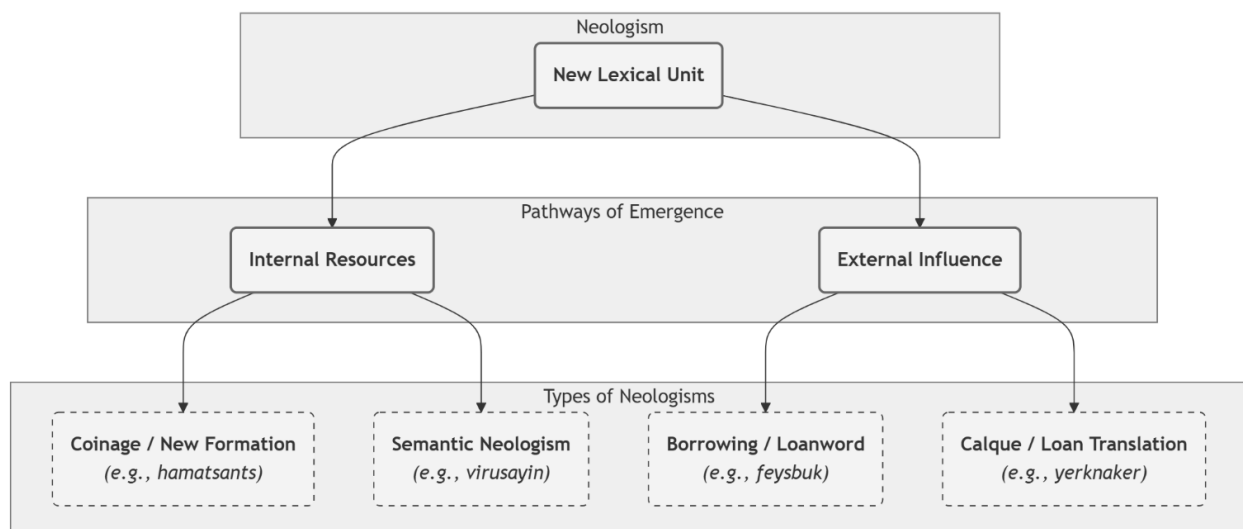


Figure 1. A Framework for the Classification of Neologisms Based on Their Origin

C. Research Aim and Objectives

Although valuable descriptive analyses of new formations in Modern Armenian have been conducted (e.g., Galstyan, 2020; Martirosyan, 2007), a comprehensive, large-scale quantitative study of the field based on lexicographical data has been lacking. This study aims to fill that research gap. The primary material for this investigation is the collection of neologisms in the New Words dictionary series (Volumes I-V), published by the H. Acharian Institute of Language of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia between 2015 and 2020. This series is the most authoritative and comprehensive documentation of neologisms in Modern Armenian and has previously served as a source for scholarly analysis (Galstyan, 2020; Galstyan et al., 2021; Galstyan et al., 2022; Galstyan et al., 2023).

The aim of this research is to identify and analyze the most productive word-formation patterns in Modern Armenian, based on the aforementioned material, by combining structural, quantitative, and functional-semantic approaches. To achieve this, the following objectives have been set:

To quantitatively analyze and identify the predominant types and patterns of neologisms formed through compounding, affixation, and abbreviation.

To classify the new formations according to their structural-semantic characteristics, isolating the most productive native and foreign components.

To analyze the main thematic domains that foster the emergence of new words (e.g., information technology, socio-political life, daily life), linking them to extralinguistic factors.

To examine deviations from linguistic norms as a natural part of the language's dynamic development.

By presenting a systematic overview of lexical enrichment trends in Modern Armenian, this study contributes not only to a deeper understanding of its contemporary development but also to the broader theory of neology.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

A. Research Material

The primary source of data for this study is the *New Words* dictionary series, published by the H. Acharian Institute of Language of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia. This series systematically documents lexical innovations gathered from diverse sources, including print media, fiction, and online domains. Treating a dictionary series as a data source to monitor lexical change is a well-established practice in lexicographical research. The volumes selected for analysis (2021-2023) contain approximately 5,000 lexical units, from which a sample of 455 was chosen for detailed analysis. To provide a broader lexicographical context, other dictionaries (e.g., Eloyan, 2002) were also consulted.

B. Methodology

To address the research objectives, a multifaceted methodology was employed, integrating several analytical approaches.

Descriptive and Quantitative-Structural Analysis: This initial stage involved compiling a complete sample of neologisms from the analyzed dictionary entries and classifying them according to their word-formation processes (e.g., compounding, affixation, abbreviation). Subsequently, the frequency of each specific pattern and component was calculated to objectively identify the most productive models in Modern Armenian.

Qualitative-Semantic Analysis: In the second stage, the neologisms formed through the most productive patterns were analyzed. They were grouped by thematic-semantic domains (e.g., technology, politics, daily life) to identify their extralinguistic motivations and functional characteristics. Special attention was given to deviations from linguistic norms, which were treated as an integral part of the language's dynamic development.

Comparative-Typological Analysis: The third stage, primarily presented in the "Discussion" section, compares the findings from the Armenian data with neologism formation trends in English. Based on the principles of morphological typology and established frameworks (Murray, 1995), this analysis contrasts the "strategies" of the two languages, such as the preference for calquing versus direct borrowing.

This combined approach provides a comprehensive picture of neologisms in Modern Armenian, linking their structural form to their semantic content and functional significance. It should be noted that this study focuses primarily on word-formation patterns, while a broader sociolinguistic analysis or a deep quantitative study of neologism frequency remains a potential avenue for future research.

III. RESULTS

The analysis of the *New Words* dictionary series indicates that the lexicon of Modern Armenian is enriched primarily through its internal word-formation capacities. The main findings of this analysis are presented below, classified by word-formation method and pattern.

A. Compounding

Compounding is the most productive method for forming new words in the analyzed dataset. The analyzed material is dominated by synthetic-type compounds.

(a). Compounds With Highly Productive Components

The analysis reveals that certain native Armenian components demonstrate exceptional productivity. Prominent among these are compounds with the final component *-hay* and the initial component *hay-* 'Armenian'. These morphemes have a rich derivational history and remain highly active in the contemporary language.

1. Compounds With the *-hay* Final Component

This model is extremely productive in Armenian, typically indicating a person's affiliation with a specific territory or community. Toponyms primarily serve as the derivational base, and new units are often created by analogy (Bybee & Beckner, 2015). This dynamic model has also given rise to new compound types where the base is not a geographical toponym, demonstrating the language's flexibility in responding to new realities (see Table 1).

TABLE 1
TYPES OF NEOLOGISMS WITH THE -HAY FINAL COMPONENT

Group	Base Type	Semantic Nature	Examples
Classic Model	Geographical Toponym	Physical/National Affiliation	glendelahay [գլենդելահայ] 'Glendale Armenian', kiprahay [կիպրահայ] 'Cypriot Armenian', arterkryahay [արտերկրահայ] 'diaspora Armenian'
Newest Model 1	Virtual Space	Virtual Community Affiliation	feysbuk'ahay [ֆեյսբուքահայ] 'Facebook Armenian', feysbuk'ahayuhi [ֆեյսբուքահայուհի] 'Facebook Armenian (female)'
Newest Model 2	Historical-Political Term	Socio-Political Group Identification	arts'akhahay [արցախահայ] 'Artsakh Armenian (after the events of 2023)'
Newest Model 3	Scientific Term	Historical-Chronological Affiliation	vaghnhayahay [վաղնջահայ] 'ancient Armenian (cf. Eloyan, 2002)'

2. Compounds With the hay- Initial Component

The initial component *hay-* serves to emphasize the national character, affiliation, or orientation of a phenomenon, concept, or action. Neologisms featuring this prefixoid can be grouped into several main semantic domains, ranging from public-political terms to purely artistic, authorial coinages (see Table 2). This pattern is particularly productive in Modern Armenian for creating terms related to national identity (Melkonyan, 2002).

TABLE 2
SEMANTIC GROUPS OF NEOLOGISMS WITH THE HAY- INITIAL COMPONENT

Semantic Group	Subgroup	Function	Examples
Political-Social	Organization/Movement	Naming, Identification	hayadaran [հայադարան] 'Armenian repository / archive', hayak've [հայաքվե] 'Armenian vote'
	Historical Reality	Conceptualization of Tragedy	hayajard [հայաջարդ] 'Armenian massacre', hayaver [հայավեր] 'Armenian ruin / destruction', hayavtang [հայավտանգ] 'danger to Armenians'
National Identity and Culture	Self-awareness	Creation of an Abstract Concept	hayagitaks'ut'yun [հայագիտակցություն] 'Armenian consciousness / national identity', hayachanach'ut'yun [հայաճանաչություն] 'Armenian recognition'
	Cultural Symbol	Emphasizing the National	hayataraz [հայատարազ] 'Armenian national costume / attire', hayojakh [հայօջախ] 'Armenian hearth / home'
	Belongingness	National centralization	hayahimnadir [հայահիմնադիր] 'Armenian founder', hayakentron [հայակենտրոն] 'Armenian-centered / Armeno-centric'

(1). Authorial-Artistic Word Formation: The Example of Jivan Aristakesyan

While the aforementioned neologisms were mainly formed in public-political or cultural discourse, in artistic literature—particularly in poetry—the *hay-* component becomes a device for creating individualistic and stylistically charged words. The poetry collection *Matyan-shiver* by Jivan Aristakesyan provides exceptional material in this regard (Aristakesyan, 2024). Here, neologisms (authorial coinages) featuring the *hay-* prefixoid are not only numerous but also carry a profound ideological and emotional load.

Aristakesyan's neologisms with the *hay-* component can be grouped into several stylistic-semantic domains (see Table 3).

TABLE 3
STYLISTIC-SEMANTIC CLASSIFICATION OF JIVAN ARISTAKESYAN'S NEW FORMATIONS WITH THE HAY- INITIAL COMPONENT

Semantic Field	Function	Examples of Neologisms
1. National Identity and Homeland	Emphasizing the essential connection and creative nature of Armenian identity.	hayhogh [հայհող] 'Armenian land', bnahay [բնահայ] 'native Armenian', hayarmat [հայարմատ] 'of Armenian root/origin', hayashen [հայաշեն] 'built by an Armenian'
2. Expression of Tragedy and Animosity	Creating a negative, highly evaluative imagery.	hayajard [հայաջարդ] 'slaughterer of Armenians', hayaker [հայակեր] '(lit. 'Armenian-eater') perpetrator of genocide against Armenians'
3. Abstract and Spiritual Concepts	Forging national-philosophical concepts.	hay-dards [հայ-դարձ] 'a return to Armenianness', hayhasnut'yun [հայհասնություն] 'national maturity', hayazni [հայազնի] 'of Armenian nobility' or 'of Armenian descent'

(2). Symbols of National Identity and Homeland

Words in this group emphasize the indigenous roots of the Armenian people and their inseparable connection to their land. The word *hayhogh* is a poetic condensation that transforms the phrase 'Armenian land' into a single, indivisible concept. *Bnahay* underscores an autochthonous identity, in contrast to what is foreign or alien. The word *hayarmat* symbolizes the deep historical roots of the Armenian people, while *hayashen* signifies their creative, constructive essence. These coinages evoke a strong sense of historicity.

(3). Compounds With Negative Evaluation

In this group, the *hay-* component attaches to words with negative meanings, creating powerful, expressive units to describe tragic realities. Although the word *hayajard* ('Armenian massacre') is not entirely new, it gains new momentum and frequency in the author's work. A more striking example, however, is the word *hayaker* (lit. 'Armenian-eater'). This is an authorial and extremely potent characterization directed at the enemy, conveying an ultimate degree of rage. It is far stronger than, for example, the word *hayaspan* ('Armenian-killer'), as it contains an element of bestial, savage brutality.

(4). *Abstract Concepts and Spiritual Qualities*

The words in this group describe phenomena related to national consciousness and spiritual life. *Hay-dardz* is a unique formation that can be interpreted as a 'return to Armenianness,' signifying a national or spiritual rebirth. The word *hayhasnutyun* carries the idea of national maturity and self-realization. The word *hayazni* not only means 'noble Armenian' but also encapsulates the concept of 'Armenian nobility' or being 'of Armenian lineage'.

3. *Compounds With the -kentron Final Component*

The proliferation of compounds with the final component *-kentron* ('-center') in Modern Armenian is a vivid example of linguistic calquing. These neologisms emerge not from internal linguistic development, but rather from the adoption of Western, particularly Anglophone, concepts in fields such as education, sociology, and technology. Instead of literally translating analytical phrases, Armenian has adopted the productive English word-formation model of *-centric* / *-centered* and replicated it using its own linguistic resources.

For instance, the words *ashakertakentron* and *usanoghakentron* (both meaning 'student-centered') directly replicate the well-known *student-centered* model from the English-speaking educational sphere. Similarly, *mardakentron* ('human-centered') appeared in Armenian as an equivalent to the English term *human-centered*, which is widely used in fields like human-centered design. The word *ashkhatoghakentron* ('employee-centered') is a calque of the *employee-centered* model from business management, which emphasizes employee well-being in corporate culture.

This phenomenon is highlighted when comparing the Armenian neologisms with their English parallels, which are nearly identical not only semantically but also structurally and functionally (see Table 4).

TABLE 4
COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE -KENTRON WORD-FORMATION MODEL

Armenian Neologism	English Parallel (Model)	Literal Translation/Structure	Sphere of Use
ashakertakentron [աշակերտակենտրոն] 'student-centered'	student-centered / pupil-centered	աշակերտ-կենտրոն / student-center	'Education, Pedagogy'
usanoghakentron [ուսանողակենտրոն] 'student-centered'	student-centered	ուսանող-կենտրոն / student-center	'Higher Education'
mardakentron [մարդակենտրոն] 'human-centered'	human-centered / anthropocentric	մարդ-կենտրոն / human-center	'Design, Technology, Philosophy'
tsnoghakentron [ծնողակենտրոն] 'parent-centered'	parent-centered	ծնող-կենտրոն / parent-center	'Psychology, Upbringing'
ashkhatoghakentron [աշխատողակենտրոն] 'employee-centered'	employee-centered / worker-centered	աշխատող-կենտրոն / employee-center	'Business, Corporate Governance'

As is evident from the table, the Armenian neologisms precisely replicate the English models. This testifies not to the 'impoverishment' of the language, but to its flexibility and capacity to integrate global concepts. Armenian demonstrates its word-formation potential by giving international terms a national form and structure. This process contributes to the development of the Armenian terminological field, making it more contemporary and aligned with international scientific discourse.

4. *Neologisms With the tesa- Initial Component in Technology*

The advancement of information technology has significantly impacted the enrichment of the Modern Armenian lexicon. The emergence of neologisms with the *tesa-* ('video-') component is a prime example of this phenomenon. This component, derived from the verb *tesnel* ('to see'), has become the direct structural equivalent of the highly productive English prefixoid *video-*.

To denominate new technological concepts, Armenian often activates its internal word-formation potential rather than directly borrowing English terms (e.g., *video call*, cf. Russian *видеозвонок*) or creating analytical phrasal compounds (cf. Turkish *görüntülü görüşme*). This strategy results in the creation of native, transparent, and comprehensible terms based on the principle of calquing (see Table 5).

TABLE 5
COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE TESA- WORD-FORMATION MODEL

Armenian Neologism	English Parallel (Model)	Literal Translation/Structure	Sphere of Use
tesaharts'um [տեսահարցում] 'video poll'	video interview / video poll	տեսահարցում / video-interview	'TV, Journalism'
tesahaghordagrut'yun [տեսահաղորդագրություն] 'video message'	video message	տեսահաղորդագրություն / video-message	'Communication, Social Media'
tesatsughak [տեսածուղակ] 'video trap'	video trap (conceptual)	տեսա-ծուղակ / video-trap	'Security, Law Enforcement System'
tesakhmbagir [տեսախմբագիր] 'video editor'	video editor	տեսա-խմբագիր / video-editor	'Media Production, Technology'
tesalratvut'yun [տեսալրատվություն] 'video journalism'	video journalism	տեսա-լրատվություն / video-journalism	'Journalism, Media'
tesadzaynagrel [տեսաձայնագրել] (verb) 'to video-record'	to video-record	տեսա-ձայնագրել / video-record	'General Technology'

As is evident from the table, Armenian neologisms with the *tesa-* component closely follow the English *video-* model. This correlation demonstrates the strong link between modern language development and technological progress, which is largely driven by English-language discourse. Terms such as *tesakhmbagir* ('video editor') or *tesalratvutyun* ('video journalism') not only translate the corresponding concepts but also designate new professions and fields of activity in Armenian. Notably, this pattern is versatile across different parts of speech, forming both nouns (e.g., *tesaharts'um*) and verbs (e.g., *tesadzaynagrel*). This process obviates the need for unnecessary loanwords, thereby contributing to the development and enrichment of the Armenian terminological system.

5. Thematic Formations With the *-patum* Final Component

A particularly interesting word-formation pattern in Armenian involves compounds with the final component *-patum* (from the verb *patmel*, 'to narrate'). This productive suffixoid allows the creation of new nouns signifying a story, narrative, or an artistic-conceptual interpretation of a given phenomenon. While this is a distinctly Armenian word-formation process, its function and conceptual underpinnings resonate with paradigms prevalent in international academic and literary discourse.

Unlike the previously discussed patterns, there is no direct suffixal equivalent to *-patum* in English. Instead, the concept is typically conveyed through the analytical structure *-narrative*, which is widely used in the humanities and critical theory (see Table 6).

TABLE 6
COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE -PATUM WORD-FORMATION MODEL

Armenian Neologism	English Parallel (Model/Concept)	Literal Translation/Structure	Semantic Nature
yerevanapatum [Երևանապատում] 'Yerevan-tale'	Yerevan-tale / a narrative of Yerevan	Երևան-պատում / Yerevan-story	'Urban narrative, local history'
yergapatum [Երգապատում] 'song-narrative'	song-narrative / a narrative through song	Երգ-պատում / song-story	'Definition of an artistic genre'
vogepatum [Ոգեպատում] 'spiritual narrative'	spiritual narrative / a tale of the spirit	ոգի-պատում / spirit-story	'Philosophical-existential narrative'
sp'yurk'apatum [սփյուռքապատում] 'diaspora narrative'	diaspora narrative / a narrative of the diaspora	սփյուռք-պատում / diaspora-story	'Socio-cultural narrative'
ts'eghaspanapatum [ցեղասպանապատում] 'genocide narrative'	genocide narrative / a narrative of genocide	ցեղասպանություն-պատում / genocide-story	'Historical-political narrative'

The parallels presented in the table demonstrate that the *-patum* model in Armenian performs a similar function to the *-narrative* model in English: it allows a specific phenomenon (e.g., a city, a diaspora, a genocide) to be framed as a narrative construct, a text subject to interpretation and meaning-making. This function is particularly relevant to 20th and 21st-century humanities scholarship, where the concept of 'narrative' holds a central role.

Therefore, it can be argued that while coinages like *yerevanapatum* ('Yerevan-tale') or *yergapatum* ('song-narrative') may be products of Armenian's internal development, the emergence of *sp'yurk'apatum* ('diaspora narrative') and especially *ts'eghaspanapatum* ('genocide narrative') was likely stimulated by the influence of diaspora studies and genocide studies within international academic discourse, where the term *narrative* is pivotal. Thus, *-patum* serves as a prime example of how Armenian terminologizes international academic concepts using its own rich word-formation resources.

6. Field-Specific Neologisms: The *-ashkharh*, *-volort*, *-dasht* Patterns

In contemporary Armenian discourse, several productive word-formation models have become active for denominating new realities, particularly abstract or specialized fields. These include compounds with the final components *-ashkharh* ('-world'), *-volort* ('-sphere'), and *-dasht* ('-field'). These models facilitate the creation of new terms that signify a specific domain of activity, knowledge, or phenomenon. Although all three are established words in literary Armenian and share

a similar core meaning, each carries a unique semantic and stylistic nuance, often corresponding to specific English word-formation patterns.

TABLE 7
COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF FIELD-SPECIFIC COMPONENTS

Armenian Component	English Equivalent (Model)	Semantic Nuance	Armenian Examples	English Examples
-ashkharh [-աշխարհ] '-world'	-world	An expansive, often metaphorical, emotional, or fantastical space.	t'akhtsashkharh [թախժաշխարհ] 'world of sorrow', tekhnashkharh [տեխնաշխարհ] 'techno-world', mediaashkharh [մեդիաշխարհ] 'media-world', filmashkharh [ֆիլմաշխարհ] 'film-world'	underworld, cyber-world, media-world, show-world
-volort [-ոլորտ] '-sphere'	-sphere	A more organized, structured, public, or scientific sphere.	mediavolort [մեդիաոլորտ] 'media sphere', kinoolort [կինոոլորտ] 'cinema sphere', blogolort [բլոգոլորտ] 'blogosphere'	mediasphere, blogosphere, Twittersphere
-dasht [-դաշտ] '-field, -space'	-field, -space	A concrete, clearly defined area of activity; a working space.	lratvadasht [լրատվադաշտ] 'information field', mediadasht [մեդիադաշտ] 'media field', k'aghak'akan dasht [քաղաքական դաշտ] 'political field'	media field, political field, information space

The table demonstrates that these three Armenian components are not used arbitrarily. A subtle semantic and stylistic differentiation exists among them, which often aligns with their English parallels.

The *-ashkharh* ('-world') component is the most metaphorical. *T'akhtsashkharh* ('world of sorrow') represents an emotional space, while *tekhnashkharh* ('techno-world') or *mediaashkharh* ('media world') denote a virtual, seemingly boundless environment. This suffixoid emphasizes the vastness and diversity of the domain.

The *-volort* ('-sphere') component carries a more "scientific" and "public" connotation, highlighting the interconnected, networked nature of a domain. *Blogolort* ('blogosphere'), for instance, is not merely a collection of blogs but a systematic sphere of their interaction. The activation of this component is directly linked to the popularization of the English term *blogosphere*.

The *-dasht* ('-field', '-space') component is the most practical and concrete, denoting a clear, often competitive, arena of activity. *Lratvadasht* ('news field') or *k'aghak'akan dasht* ('political field') are not abstract spaces but rather operational domains with specific actors and rules.

It is noteworthy that for certain concepts, such as 'media,' all three Armenian variants can be used: *mediaashkharh*, *mediavolort*, and *mediadasht*. Each term emphasizes a different aspect of the phenomenon—its boundlessness, its networked nature, and its practical-competitive arena, respectively. This demonstrates the stylistic richness of Armenian and its potential for conveying subtle nuances.

(b). Compounds With Color Names: A Manifestation of Linguistic Originality

In contrast to the word-formation patterns discussed previously, whose activation is often driven by the calquing of English models, the creation of new color terms in Armenian stems almost entirely from the language's internal developmental logic. In this domain, neologisms are not merely linguistic formulations of global concepts; they are a testament to the language's creative potential to vividly describe and denominate the nuances of the real world.

The Armenian color lexicon, as evidenced by etymological studies (e.g., Jahukyan, 1987), has a unique developmental history, preserving elements of its Indo-European heritage while forming its own lexical layers. Contemporary coinages continue this national tradition by employing several productive word-formation models:

The "Object/Phenomenon + -guyn" Model. This is the most productive pattern, where the first component (a noun) directly indicates the natural source of the color or shade. This model is a prime example of linguistic economy, as a single compound word (e.g., *borbosaguyn* 'mold-colored,' *t'eyaguyn* 'tea-colored,' *nardosaguyn* 'lavender-colored') conveys a meaning that would otherwise require an analytical construction ('the color of mold').

The "Color + Color + -avun" Model. This pattern is used to denote a mixture of two colors or a transitional, specific shade, again demonstrating the language's ability to differentiate nuances: *voskedeghnnavun* ('golden-yellowish'), *kaptaartsat'avun* ('bluish-silvery'), *gorshamokhravun* ('grayish-ashy'). In these neologisms, words like *voski* ('gold'), although nouns, have a secondary meaning of color designation. This process is analogous to that in English, where words like *orange* (fruit > color), *chocolate* (food > color), and *silver* (metal > color) have become full-fledged terms denoting their corresponding colors. This universal linguistic phenomenon shows that when creating new concepts, languages often expand the semantic fields of existing vocabulary rather than inventing entirely new words. The Armenian compounds *voskedeghnnavun* and *naranjadelghnavun* are excellent examples of this process, where a color-denoting noun is combined with another color name to create a more subtle, complex shade.

The "Comparison + Color" Model. In this type of compound, the first component serves not only as the source of the shade but also as a qualitative comparison, emphasizing the color's intensity, purity, or brightness. These words carry a distinct figurative charge: *kavchaspitak* ('chalk-white'), *shushanachyermak* ('lily-white'), *meghradeghin* ('honey-yellow'), *tskhagorsh* ('smoke-grey').

(c). Compounds Denoting Professions and Occupations: Revitalizing Historical Roots

Changes in the economic, scientific, and social structures of society are directly reflected in the names of new professions and occupations. The analysis shows that Armenian responds to this challenge not primarily by borrowing new components, but by activating its own historical word-formation arsenal: native Indo-European roots and ancient, fully assimilated loanwords. This process demonstrates the language's capacity to preserve its identity and flexibly reinterpret its internal resources.

1. Formations With Indigenous Indo-European Roots

Many of the most productive components have ancient origins, stemming from Proto-Indo-European. The components *-gorts* (from PIE *uerg- 'to work'), *-ban* (from PIE *bhā- 'to speak'), and *-get* (from PIE *ueid- 'to see, to know') (Pokorny, 1959), which historically denoted fundamental actions and roles, are now applied to contemporary fields. These ancient roots are revitalized in neologisms such as *otsanagorts* ('perfumer'), *mshakut'aban* ('culturologist'), *snnadaban* ('nutritionist'), *ts'eghaspanaget* ('genocide scholar'), and the particularly modern term *tyyalaget* ('data scientist'). Similarly, the final component *-buyts*, derived from PIE *bheug'- ('to nourish'), is now used to name new branches of agriculture: *jaylamabuyts* ('ostrich breeder') and *shinshilabuyts* ('chinchilla breeder').

2. Reactivation of Ancient (Iranian) Loanwords

Alongside native elements, ancient loanwords that have been fully integrated over centuries are also productively used in the Armenian word-formation system. The components *-var* (from an Iranian root cognate with PIE *uedh-, 'to lead') and *-buyzh* (from Iranian *bēšaz*, 'medicine, remedy') (Acharyan, 1979; Jahukyan, 2010), long used to denote administration and healing, are now gaining new life in specialized service and medical fields. Examples include *handisavar* ('event host'), *nyardavirabuyzh* ('neurosurgeon'), *srtavirabuyzh* ('cardiac surgeon'), and *datahogebuyzh* ('forensic psychiatrist').

3. Typological Parallels With English

Although these word-formation models are a product of Armenian's internal development, they exhibit typological parallels with English. To denominate new professions and occupations, English also actively employs its historical suffixes:

The Armenian components *-gorts* ('-doer') and *-ogh* ('-er') are semantically and functionally analogous to English suffixes of Germanic origin, such as *-er* (e.g., *processor*) and *-maker* (e.g., *chocolatier*, from French), or the Latin-derived suffix *-or* (e.g., *director*).

The Armenian suffixes *-ban* ('-logist') and *-get* ('-ist'), which denote a field of science or expertise, correspond in English to suffixes of Greek origin like *-logist* (e.g., *sociologist*), *-ist* (e.g., *novelist*), or *-ician* (e.g., *technician*).

This phenomenon should not be interpreted as direct calquing from English, but rather as a case of parallel development. Both languages, when faced with the same extralinguistic challenge of naming new professions, activate their historically formed yet functionally similar word-formation resources. The Armenian word *tyyalaget* ('data scientist') is not a direct translation of its English counterpart but an independent coinage expressing the same concept through Armenian's native means.

B. Affixation

Although it is quantitatively less frequent than compounding, affixation remains a highly productive and important method of word formation in Modern Armenian. It allows for the refinement or modification of a word's meaning to form new abstract nouns, adjectives, and verbs.

(a). Prefixation

In the analyzed material, prefixed formations are relatively few. However, the prefix *haka-* stands out for its exceptional productivity. As the Armenian equivalent of the international prefix *anti-*, its activity is driven by the demands of both technical and socio-political discourse, forming words that express opposition, prevention, or resistance. Examples from various domains include:

Technical and everyday life: hakaborbosayin ('anti-mold'), *hakasayt'ak'un* ('anti-slip').

Socio-political sphere: hakakorupts'ia ('anti-corruption'), reflecting a key topic on the public agenda.

Journalistic-publicist sphere: hakarekord ('anti-record'), demonstrating the stylistic flexibility of the prefix.

(b). Suffixation

Suffixation is more diverse and performs a wider variety of functions.

Formation of Abstract Nouns with *-ut'yun*: This suffix is the primary tool for creating abstract nouns in Armenian. In the modern language, it is actively used to terminologize global social and philosophical concepts. For instance, *nerarakanut'yun* ('inclusivity') is a direct calque of the English concept, created using a native Armenian suffix. The word *karoghunakut'yun* ('capability') is formed in the same manner.

Indication of Feminine Gender with *-uhi*: This traditional suffix remains productive, showcasing the language's remarkable ability to integrate foreign words into its grammatical system. While words like *yergehonaharuhi* ('female organist') follow a traditional model, *barmenuhi* ('female bartender') is a prime example of a hybrid formation where the English loanword *barman* is augmented with the Armenian feminine suffix.

Formation of Material Adjectives with *-e*: This suffix (denoting 'made of') is indispensable for naming new materials in the technical and construction sectors, such as *gipsastvarat'ght'e* ('made of plasterboard') and *artsnapake* ('made of enamel glass').

Formation of Action Nouns with *-um*: This is another highly productive suffix that nominalizes a verb, transforming an action into a noun signifying a process or result. It is widely used in official, business, and technical domains: *tomsavaverats'um* ('ticket validation') and *aygehimnum* ('orchard establishment'). The word *tesaharts'um* ('video interview') is particularly noteworthy as it combines both compounding (*tesa-*) and suffixation (*-um*) models.

C. The Role of Foreign Components in Word Formation (Hybrid Formations)

Neologisms formed by combining international components (primarily of Greek and Latin origin) with native Armenian words play a significant role in the enrichment of the Modern Armenian lexicon. These hybrid formations attest to Armenian's integration into global scientific, technological, and social discourses. Instead of fully borrowing foreign terms, the language often adopts only an internationally recognized root and combines it with its own lexicon, creating transparent and readily comprehensible new words.

The most productive international initial components in the analyzed material reflect key global trends:

Agro- (from Greek *agros*, 'field'): This component highlights the modernization of the agricultural sector and its integration with other economic branches. Examples include: *agrolratu* ('agro-journalist'), *agroshuka* ('agro-market'), and *agrobiznes* ('agribusiness').

Ēco- (from Greek *oikos*, 'house, environment'): Driven by the contemporary relevance of environmental issues and sustainable development, this component has become one of the most productive. Examples include: *ēkoavan* ('eco-village'), *ēkozbosashrjut'yun* ('eco-tourism'), and *ēkokrt'ut'yun* ('eco-education').

Ēthno- (from Greek *ethnos*, 'people'): This component is widely used in the humanities and cultural discourse to emphasize ethno-cultural characteristics. Examples include: *ēt'nok'arak'osabanut'yun* ('ethnolichenology'), *ēt'nots'id* ('ethnocide'), and *ēt'noguyun* ('ethno-color').

Media- (from Latin *media*, 'means'): In the information age, the productivity of this component is a natural development. It forms words related to mass media and its societal impact. Examples include: *mediaakumb* ('media club'), *mediagraget* ('media literate'), and *mediaazdets'ut'yun* ('media influence').

Eno- (from Greek *oinos*, 'wine'): Parallel to the development of winemaking and wine tourism in Armenia, this component has entered the language, creating new terms for which native Armenian equivalents are also proposed. For example, *ēnolog* (cf. *gineget* 'oenologist/wine expert') and *ēnoturizm* (cf. *ginezbosashrjut'yun* 'wine tourism'). This parallel usage illustrates the ongoing interplay between international terminology and native coinages.

D. Abbreviation

As a prominent manifestation of the principle of linguistic economy, abbreviation continues to be an active word-formation method, particularly in official-business, socio-political, and technical domains. Two main types of abbreviation stand out in the analyzed material.

(a). Mixed-Type Abbreviations

These formations, also known as clipped compounds, function as initial components of compound words. The initial segment of a word (e.g., *sots-* from *sotsialakan* 'social'; *pet-* from *petakan* 'state') becomes an independent word-formative element that attaches to a full word. Neologisms created using this model are closely linked to the social and state sectors:

With the initial component *sots-*: *sots'anapahov* ('socially insecure'), *sots'ashkhatakits* ('social worker').

With the initial component *pet-*: *petashkhatogh* ('state employee'), *petguyk* ('state property').

The high productivity of these components indicates their establishment as fully-fledged word-formative elements in Modern Armenian.

(b). Initialisms

Initialisms are among the most sensitive linguistic indicators of changes in socio-political life, primarily used to designate state bodies, organizations, and technical concepts. Recent administrative reforms and technological developments in Armenia are directly reflected in the emergence of new initialisms.

Renaming of State Structures: Older initialisms, some dating back to the Soviet era or the 1990s, are being replaced by new ones that document changes in the state administrative system.

- *KGN* (Ministry of Education and Science) → *KGMSN* (Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sport).

- *BOH* (Higher Attestation Commission) → *BOK* (Higher Attestation Committee).

Naming of New Entities and Technical Units:

- *AATM* (Health and Labor Inspection Body).

- *ATS* (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle - UAV). This initialism became particularly widespread during the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War, evolving into a commonly used term.

The study of such initialisms thus allows not only for the documentation of linguistic trends but also for tracking the political and technological agenda of the period.

E. Word-Formation Inaccuracies

The analysis also revealed instances of word-formation errors, a phenomenon that attests to the dynamic and sometimes unregulated nature of language development. A common issue is the confusion of paronymous roots. For instance, the component *-hen* ('rebel, rebellion') is sometimes incorrectly used instead of *-henk'* ('base, framework'), resulting in malformations like *ch'ap'oroshch'ahen* ('standard-based') and *ardyunk'ahen* ('outcome-based'), where the correct forms would be *ch'ap'oroshch'ahenk'* and *ardyunk'ahenk'*. Another example is the erroneous coinage *hnēaget*, which appears to be a blend of *hnaget* ('archeologist') and *hnēaban* ('paleontologist').

IV. DISCUSSION

An analysis of the presented results allows for several observations regarding the developmental trends of modern Armenian's *word-formation system*, active patterns, and the *extralinguistic factors* influencing them.

A. The Predominance of Compounding as a Structural Feature of the Language

The results clearly show that compounding remains the most productive method for creating new words. This attests to a core structural characteristic of Armenian as a predominantly synthetic-agglutinative language. In contrast to analytical languages, where new concepts are often expressed through phrasal constructions, Armenian tends to form a single, integrated lexical unit, compressing meaning into one word (e.g., *jermahagust* 'thermal clothing,' *mediagraget* 'media literate,' *tesaharts'um* 'video interview'). This tendency also aligns with the principle of linguistic economy.

B. Neologisms as a Mirror of Societal Developments

Our analysis confirms the view that neologisms are a linguistic reflection of societal changes (Li, 2024; Semerdzhidi, 2022).

Technological and Global Trends: The exceptional productivity of components such as *tesa-*, *herusta-*, *media-*, *eko-*, and *agro-* is directly driven by global technological, informational, and environmental agendas. These components are used to create words that not only denominate new realities (e.g., *tesahaghordagrut'yun* 'video message,' *mediadasht* 'media field') but also signify the deep penetration of these domains into public consciousness.

Socio-Political Shifts: The proliferation of words with the final component *-kentron* (e.g., *mardakentron* 'human-centered,' *ashakertakentron* 'student-centered') indicates the growing relevance of humanistic and individual-centered approaches in public discourse. Simultaneously, changes in initialisms such as *KGMSN* and *BOK* are the direct linguistic consequences of administrative reforms within the state governance system.

C. The Interplay of Foreign and Indigenous Components

The analysis reveals two significant trends regarding the interaction between foreign and native lexical elements. On the one hand, the language actively assimilates international roots (e.g., *eko-*, *media-*, *agro-*), demonstrating Armenian's openness and integration into a global context. On the other hand, these foreign components are frequently combined with native Armenian words to create hybrid formations (e.g., *mediadasht* 'media field,' *ekogyugh* 'eco-village,' *agroshuka* 'agro-market'). This process indicates that Armenian does not merely borrow; it adapts and integrates foreign elements into its own word-formation system.

D. Comparative Observations: Word-Formation Strategies in Armenian and English

The findings of this study become particularly insightful when compared with word-formation trends in English, a global "donor" language. This comparison reveals that Armenian and English often employ distinct strategies to denominate new concepts.

(a). Calque and Direct Borrowing

As numerous studies indicate, English is the primary source of technological and socio-cultural neologisms (Sabir, 2022). Armenian responds to this influx through two main strategies:

Word Formation via Internal Resources (Calquing): In many cases, Armenian prefers to create its own equivalents through calquing. A classic example is the term *hamats'ants* ('internet'), which was coined as a semantic calque of the English word *internet* (from *hama-* 'pan-/all-' + *ts'ants* 'net'). This strategy reflects the language's tendency to maintain its lexical purity and structural independence.

Direct Borrowing: In cases where a term is closely tied to a specific brand or a global cultural phenomenon, Armenian tends to borrow the word directly, adapting it to its phonetic system. For example, attempts to create native Armenian equivalents for words like *Facebook* and *smartphone*—such as *dimagirk'* (lit. 'face-book') and *khelats'i herakhos* (lit. 'smart phone')—have not gained widespread acceptance, and the loanwords remain dominant in colloquial usage. As new entrants to the Armenian lexicon, these units can be described with terms such as *barbarism* or *foreignism* (*otarabanut'yun*) in their initial, unassimilated stage (cf. Avetisyan, 2021; Kamalyan, 2020; Weinreich, 1953). However, as they become established and integrated, they function as a significant category of neologisms, illustrating a primary pathway of lexical enrichment through external influence.

(b). Compounding versus Phrasal Structures

The results indicate that Armenian shows a strong tendency to form long, multi-component compounds (e.g., *herustafilmashar* 'television series,' *gegharvestaardyunaberakan* 'artistic-industrial'). In contrast, English typically expresses the same meaning through analytical phrasal structures (e.g., *television series*, *artistic-industrial*). This demonstrates that Armenian prefers a synthetic approach, compressing meaning into a single lexical unit, whereas English opts for an analytical one. This strategic difference poses a significant challenge for lexicographers, particularly in the context of bilingual dictionaries, where decisions must be made on how to represent these structurally divergent units.

(c). Conversion versus Verb Derivation

English productively uses conversion (or zero-derivation) to create verbs from nouns without changing their form (e.g., *to google*, *to friend*). As an inflectional language, Armenian lacks this mechanism but finds alternative pathways. In colloquial speech, hybrid formations such as *layk'el* ('to like') or *sheyr anel* ('to share') emerge, where an English root combines with an Armenian verbal suffix or an auxiliary verb. This shows that although the word-formation strategies differ, the linguistic challenge of naming a new action is resolved in both languages, each using its own available means.

E. Broader Context and Parallels

The findings of this study show clear parallels with international research on neologisms. The significant role of technology in driving lexical innovation in Armenian, as revealed in our analysis, corresponds with Ahmad's (2000) findings on the growth of scientific and technical vocabulary in English. Similarly, the activation of creative word-formation strategies to rapidly denominate new concepts in Armenian resonates with research on neologisms in crisis situations, such as the proliferation of blends during the COVID-19 pandemic (Gocotano, 2023; Akut, 2020). These parallels suggest that although languages employ their unique structural resources, the underlying drivers and certain functional outcomes of neologism formation are often universal.

V. CONCLUSION

This study, based on data from the *New Words* dictionary series, analyzed the productive word-formation patterns in Modern Armenian, placing them within a comparative context with English. The analysis yields the following main conclusions:

Productivity of Word-Formation Methods: Compounding remains the most productive method for coining new words, a characteristic rooted in Armenian's predominantly synthetic structure. While also active, affixation and abbreviation are quantitatively less frequent. Components such as *-hay*, *-kentron*, *tesa-*, and *-patum* are particularly productive, reflecting the importance of diasporic ties, as well as social, technological, and cultural developments.

Neologisms and Extralinguistic Reality: The research confirmed that the emergence of new words is directly linked to societal changes. Technological advancements have spurred the creation of words with *media-*, *eko-*, and *agro-* components, while socio-political shifts are reflected in new initialisms (e.g., *KGMSN*, *BOK*) and thematic coinages (e.g., *mardakentron* 'human-centered', *hakakorupts'ia* 'anti-corruption').

Armenian vs. English Word-Formation Strategies: The comparative analysis demonstrated that Armenian responds to the influence of English—the primary source of global neologisms—with two main strategies: (a) calquing and the creation of native equivalents (e.g., *hamats'ants'* for 'internet') when a suitable term can be formed, and (b) direct borrowing (e.g., *feysbuk*, *smart'fon*) when a term is closely tied to an international brand or phenomenon. This dual approach illustrates a balance between linguistic openness and the preservation of identity.

Linguistic Creativity and Norms: The presence of word-formation inaccuracies (e.g., *hnēaget*) indicates that word formation is a dynamic, collective process that extends beyond linguistic codification, reflecting the creative potential of all language users.

In conclusion, Modern Armenian actively and creatively responds to the challenges of the contemporary world, enriching its vocabulary through both internal resources and international borrowings. This research demonstrates that the Armenian word-formation system is fully viable and capable of serving the communicative needs of a modern society.

APPENDIX. ARMENIAN DISTRIBUTION TABLE

Uppercase	Lowercase	Uppercase	Lowercase	Uppercase	Lowercase	Uppercase	Lowercase
Ա-A	ա-a	Լ-L	լ-l	Շ-Sh	շ-sh	Բ-W	բ-w
Բ-B	բ-b	Խ-Kh	խ-kh	Ո-O	ո-o	Ու-U	ու-u
Գ-g	գ-g	Ծ-Ts	ծ-ts	Չ-Ch'	չ-ch'	Փ-P'	փ-p'
Դ-D	դ-d	Կ-K	կ-k	Պ-P	պ-p	Զ-K'	զ-k'
Ե-E	ե-e	Հ-H	հ-h	Ջ-J	ջ-j	Եւ-Ew	եւ-ew
Զ-Z	զ-z	Ջ-Dz	ձ-dz	Ր-R	ր-r	Եվ-Ev	եվ-ev
Է-Ē	է-ē	Դ-Gh	դ-gh	Ս-S	ս-s	Օ-O	օ-o
Ը-Ē	ը-ē	Ճ-Ch	ճ-ch	Վ-V	վ-v	Ֆ-F	ֆ-f
Թ-T'	թ-t'	Մ-M	մ-m	Տ-T	տ-t	Ու-Ū	ու-ū
Ժ-Zh	ժ-zh	Յ-Y	յ-y	Ր-R	ր-r	Ա-Ā	ա-ā
Ի-I	ի-i	Ն-N	ն-n	Ց-Ts'	ց-ts'	Օ-Ō	օ-ō

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