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**Investigating Neologisms in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter: Applying a  
Morphological Theory by W.N. Francis**

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# *Dedication*

*For my dearest parents, who supported me and gave me strength*

*For my sweet sister Abir, who loves me the most*

*For my beloved brothers Issam and Salaheddine, who encouraged me in my journey*

*For my friend and soulmate Hala, who stood beside me like always*

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I would like to acknowledge all of my dearest friends, for their love and kindness.

### **Abstract**

J.K. Rowling's style of writing had a great impact not only on literature, but also on several areas of research. The present research work aims at investigating neologisms found in Rowling's Harry Potter series from a stylistic viewpoint. This study is conducted based on the morphological word-formation theory suggested by W.N. Francis to examine the processes used by the author in creating new lexical units. The corpus of the study consists of 22 neologisms extracted from four books of the saga through reading and note-taking. Therefore, each neologism was examined and classified under the process that corresponds to its characteristics. Results and findings of this course of thought showed that J.K. Rowling used two processes more often than other ones. These processes are Borrowing and Compounding, for that half the data was attributed to them.

**Keywords:** Harry Potter, neologisms, J.K. Rowling, word-formation theory, stylistics, borrowing, compounding.

## **List of Acronyms**

**Bo:** Borrowing

**Dr:** Derivation

**Cm:** Compounding

**F.S:** Functional Shift

**B.F:** Back Formation

**Cl:** Clipping

**P.N:** Proper Names

**Im:** Imitation

**Bl:** Blending

**Co:** Coinage

**EOD:** English Oxford Dictionary

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## **General Introduction**

Dr. Seuss once said that fantasy is often a necessary ingredient in living. From the darkest dungeons of Hogwarts, to the magical Neverland of Peter Pan, fantasy does not just carry us away to magical worlds, but also plays a prominent role in teaching us how to grapple with life's challenges. This genre of literature acknowledges critical matters regarding society, politics, and culture embodied in a way of epic battles and charismatic heroines, making it easier for the readers to digest such topics.

When speaking about an author's style of writing, we often refer to the unique choices of words they use to create stories. A writer's literary style is manifested in their sentence structure, figurative language, and other components of prose. One of the key figures of fantasy genre is J.K. Rowling. With her masterpiece of the Harry Potter series, Rowling set sail to a long journey of fame and success. J.K. Rowling's style of writing is one of a kind, for that this style constitutes a large number of neologisms created to introduce readers to the magical world of the saga. The Harry Potter series has attracted many researchers to investigate the creative style of the novel from several areas of study, such as literary criticism, morphology, and stylistics.

This research work aims at investigating the invented words of J.K. Rowling in her novel entitled Harry Potter by extracting a sum of 22 neologisms from the saga. These neologisms are analysed based on a morphological word-formation theory. Along that, to achieve the objectives of this course of thought, several questions have been arisen:

1. Did the writer rely on borrowing words from old languages such as Latin to invent neologisms?
2. Are there any combinations of different words to create new lexical units?
3. Did Rowling invent neologisms by simply changing semantic properties of existed words?
4. Did the neologisms invented in the Harry Potter saga manage to join dictionaries?

In order to find reliable answers to these questions, the following hypotheses have been put forward:

1. The writer might depend on old languages to create new words thanks to her fine knowledge and background of regarding those languages.
2. There could be a combination of words as incarnated in different neologisms in the saga.
3. There are many ordinary words found in the novel. There could be a change in their semantic properties.
4. Due to the large and international community of Harry Potter, lexicographers may adopt words from the novel.

For the sake of answering the previous questions, and confirming or refuting the suggested hypotheses, this research work has been conducted based on the linguistic model, which is the word-building processes theory proposed by W.N. Francis. Although the Harry Potter series constituted of seven books, only four books were included in the data collection. Furthermore, in order to figure out the processes used by Rowling in creating these lexical items, the theory suggested ten (10) processes, which are: Borrowing, Derivation, Compounding, Functional shift, Back Formation, Clipping, Proper names, Imitation, Blending, and Coinage. Therefore, neologisms are to be analysed and classified based on these processes of word-formation.

The general layout of the present dissertation falls under three chapters. The first chapter is typically theoretical and seeks to delimit the framework and the scope of the subject matter. That is, this chapter gathers fundamental concepts and terminologies related to the study. As for the second chapter, it is divided into two parts: the first part handles the methodological procedures, whereas the second part constitutes of analysing the corpus of this dissertation. Finally, the third chapter is devoted for the discussion of findings generated from the data analysis. It also covers limitations and recommendations for further studies.

**CHAPTER ONE:**

**FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS AND  
TERMINOLOGIES**

## **Introduction**

The present chapter aims at introducing the scope of Stylistics by providing several definitions according to different scholars. Then, it moves at exploring key-concepts in the study such as neology and neologisms. In addition, this chapter gives a brief overview about the theory of word-building processes. By the end of this chapter, the reader will be able to grasp a fine amount of information, which will help him understand in wider depth the following chapters.

## **I. Definitions and Terminologies**

This part sheds light on the scope of study as well as basic terms and notions related to the subsequent chapters. Clarifying these terminologies will enrich the content of the research and thus make it easier to comprehend.

### **1. Stylistics**

Stylistics is the study of how meaning can be created through language in literary texts as well as other types of texts. Thus, for these lexical items to be analyzed and explained, stylisticians use linguistic models and theories as their analytical tools. Simply put, describing how and why a text works as it does, and how to relate meaning to the words written on the page. The analysis, being quantitative or qualitative, relies on the linguistic levels. That is, it focuses on the phonological, lexical, grammatical, semantic, pragmatic or discoursal features of texts. (Nina et al., 2010)

Simpson (2004) defines stylistics as:

A method of textual interpretation in which primacy of place is assigned to language.

The reason why language is so important to stylisticians is because the various forms,

patterns, and levels that constitute linguistic structure are an important index of the function of the text. (p.2)

What Simpson is trying to point out is that stylistics takes into account the place of words within a text. In other words, the structure of language (its patterns, levels, and forms), is highly recommended when analyzing and describing texts. For him, the structure constitutes the mirror of the function. That is, by explaining the structure of a particular text, stylisticians can, as a result, denote the function of that text.

David Crystal is considered as a key figure in the scope of stylistics, for that he provided several definitions and explanations to the field. He (1997, p.2) argued that: “Linguistics is the academic discipline that studies language scientifically, and stylistics, as a part of this discipline, studies certain aspects of language variation”. That is to say, stylistics adopts the scientific methodology of linguistics to study ‘style’ in language. In other terms, scholars use linguistic models and frameworks as analytical tools to describe and explain literary and non-literary texts. Crystal (1992) also defined it as “the study of aesthetic use of language in all domains” (p.34). Meaning, stylistics explores the different creative styles of writers not only within the domain of literature, but also from other areas of non-fictional forms such as advertising, news reports, academic writings, and so on.

Moreover, H.G. Widdowson (1975) in his book “*Stylistics and the Teaching of Literature*” claimed that:

By ‘stylistics’ I mean the study of literary discourse from a linguistic orientation and I shall take the view that what distinguishes stylistics from literary criticism on the one hand and linguistics on the other is that it is a means of linking the two and has (as yet at least) no autonomous domain for its own (p.3)

One can say that Widdowson views stylistics as the fusion between the two disciplines, in which one might complete the other. He also points out that the morphological structure of the word stylistics is

divided into two parts: ‘*style*’ and ‘*istics*’, in which the first one indicates literary criticism, whereas the second stands for linguistics (p.3). Thus, stylistics is considered as an analytical tool that combines several disciplines at a time.

Leech and Short (1987), on the other hand, argued that stylistics is a linguistic approach to literature that is restricted to one specific domain, that is of literary texts “We normally study style because we want to explain something, and in general, literary stylistics has, implicitly or explicitly, the goal of explaining the relation between language and artistic function” (p.11). In light of the aforementioned, one can say that—unlike other scholars who viewed stylistics as an unlimited scope of study, Leech and Short stressed out that stylistics’ concerns can be related to ‘*artistic functions*’ only, that is, literature.

## 2. Neology

The term Neology originates etymologically from the Greek word *neos*: meaning ‘new’, and the word *logos*: meaning ‘word’. The meaning of this term is extracted from combining both of the Greek words, that is, the study of coining new words (Hoad, 1999 p.311). Another definition was provided by the *Merriam Webster Dictionary*, which says: “neology is the use of a new word or expression or of an established word in a new or different sense”. In other words, neology studies the emergence of new words. These words can be coined from the nothingness, or may have existed before with the change in their semantic structure.

J.C Boulanger (1989), a classical lexicologist stated that:

The concept of neology cannot easily be defined, especially because it cannot be reduced to a linguistic curiosity. Neology is part of a current interactive subgrouping about which the general purpose language and the technolects have reached an agreement that establishes a close relationship between society, the dictionary makers, the political situation and, nowadays, the huge sector of language industries (p.173)

According to Boulanger, the definition of neology is way more complex than it seems. Neology is considered as a field which cannot be constrained to linguistics only, in fact, it can extend to larger areas of study. Due to the close relationship between language and other factors such as society, this latter has got access to several subjects and disciplines.

Additionally, M.T. Cabré (1999) claimed that: “The appearance of a new concept normally coincides with the appearance of a new designation” (p.204), to explain more, Cabré stressed out the fact that whenever a new *designation* in a particular society emerges, a new word arises parallel to its appearance. Thus, neology is related to the emergence of new linguistic phenomena within a group of community. She also added that neological activities are often necessary in special subject fields, for that the rise of new concepts requires the emergence of new terms. Moreover, this latter suggests two reasons why a neological activity is needed: Firstly “when two or more designations converge in a concept and this results in a negative impact on communication”; and, secondly “when a special language does not have the designation required for expressing a concept”. In short, the emergence of new terms (neological activities) facilitates communication and diminishes chances of ambiguity.

In her book “*Terminology: Theory, Methods, and Applications*”, Teresa Cabré (1999) based her analysis on the opinion of classical lexicologists,

In the opinion of classical lexicologists like Rondeau (1983) or Guilbert (1975), neology deals with the study of the linguistic phenomena that appear at a given time in the development of a language in use. These phenomena can be seen at all descriptive levels of language, in the phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax or the lexicon (p.204)

The definition given by Rondeau and Guilbert suggests that neology studies the appearance of new terms and concepts in a particular period of time of language use. They added, all the descriptive linguistic levels: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax or the lexicon, can have a noticeable effect on these lexical items.



Cabré (1999), on the other hand, asserted that, unlike the traditional definition of neology which is restricted to linguistic processes specifically, this latter is nowadays seen as ‘*not comprehensive enough*’, for that it cannot analyze all the approaches surrounded by the linguistic innovations. To make things crystal clear, the scope of neology of the present day embodies different areas of study and a whole series of approaches on the linguistic, cultural, and political level (p.204). Cabré (2012) In her article, to support her view, stated that neology covers specialized subjects such as language change, globalization, and so on. She argued: “A language that is not continuously updated is left, over time, with a marginal presence in formal and prestigious communication” (p.1). For that reason, neology plays a crucial role in explaining and describing how languages change by adopting new words. That is to say, neology analyses the lexical changes, and thus making them detectable and clearly visible.

### 3. Neologism

The term neologism originates from the French word ‘*néologisme*’. It is defined as a new word or expression or a new meaning of a word, by *The Oxford Dictionary Press* (2010). Poets and writers often use neologisms in their literary pieces, especially in fantasy genre. Yet, this latter is not limited to literary works only, but it expands to other types of non-fictional writings. To this matter, Leech (1968) agreed that: “Journalists, copywriters, and scientists, to mention three other types of linguistic practitioners, are for various reasons renowned for lexical inventions” (p.42).

According to G.N. Leech (1968, p.42), neologism is defined as the invention of new words, in which one of the more obvious ways poets and writers might surpass or exceed the ordinary resources of language. That is, in their literary works, authors create neologisms from their own imaginations and beyond the normal use of language. He also added, these new words are called ‘*nonce-formations*’, for that they do not attempt to increase the English wordstock and vocabulary, but to fulfill the writer’s vivid imagination for single occasions only. These neologisms are often found in poetry, such as *blatant* (Spenser), *assassination* (Shakespeare), and *casuistry* (Pope)

Liu Shuxin (1990) confirms that:

A word or expression may be regarded as new not only if it appears from nothingness into existence, but also if it receives the general approval by the users, extensive use and has already been set up in the language vocabulary. When this kind of word has already existed in the language for a fixed amount of time, let's say for fifteen to twenty years, then the people use it with ease and the freshness has been abolished. It starts to leave the scope of a neologism as it transforms into a commonly used word (p.283)

In agreement with Liu, one can say that new words and expressions are considered as neologisms not only if they come from nothingness into existence, but they must fulfill certain conditions: first, extensive use and approval by the users; and second, these invented words need to be adopted in the language vocabulary. Furthermore, a new word leaves the scope of neologism and transforms into a frequently used word, when it becomes used with ease and loses its freshness.

There are other definitions which incorporate the notions of 'new meaning' and 'new concept'. Tiekun (1991) supports this claim: "Neologisms denote words that are either newly created or borrowed from other languages, dialects of mother languages, ancient languages or professions, or even denote a newly generated word meaning or new usage of the original word" (p.11), this means that dialects, ancient languages, and professions can be the source of the creation of neologisms. Also, this definition provides several characteristics that any new word may adopt, that is, the notion of newness includes 'form', 'meaning', and 'usage'. In brief, neologisms emerge when words incarnate new lexical categories, new semantic structures, and new ways of usage.

G. Leech (1968, p.42) overlooks the problem which says that neologism is a violation of lexical rules. Instead, he argues that there is a more accurate explanation of this linguistic phenomenon when using the existing rule of 'word-formation' with more generality than it's usual: "that the usual restrictions on its operation are waived in a given instance". This latter gives a sample in word-formation of the English rule, in which it allows the prefixation of *-for* to a verb for the meaning to

be achieved, as in *forsee* or *fortell*. He adds that, if this rule is not limited when applied, it could be used with other verbs like, *forsell*, meaning to sell in advance, or *forappear*, meaning to appear in advance, without even noticing their oddity in fact, there will be an infinite list of words among the lexicon of the language.

Further to this, Leech (1968, p.43) stresses out the point that rules of word-formation embody different processes from which neologisms may occur. The most well-known processes are: affixation, which means the addition of a prefix or a suffix to an existing lexical item, and compounding: which is the joining of two or more lexical items to create a single compound one.

#### 4. Lexicology:

According to the Merriam Webster Dictionary, the term lexicology is defined as a branch of linguistics concerned with the signification and application of words. Etymologically, it originates from the Greek word *lexikos* or *lexis*: of word, and the word *logia*: to study. Putting things clear, one can say that lexicology is a branch that analyses the stock of words or lexicon in a given language. Since lexicology focuses on ‘words’, it is related to different fields that study the same matter, such as morphology, semantics, and etymology. Further, another definition was provided by McArthur (1992) “lexicology is an area of language study concerned with the nature, meaning, history and use of words and word elements and often also with the critical description of lexicography” (p.602), this definition covers different schemes to the study of lexicon, in which it incorporated etymology as in ‘history’, and semantics in ‘meaning’.

T. Cabré (1999) argues that the lexicon is one of the most crucial components in any language, for that it covers “words of the language and the rules accounting for a speaker’s creativity” (p.29). She also added, lexicology, that is the systematic study of words, was neglected and marginalized, for that it was considered as too irregular and asystematic. However, latest studies proved that lexicology

is as important and systematic as other scientific disciplines, hence, it is nowadays studied from the viewpoint of its regularities.

It seems that when mentioning the term lexicology, another concept occurs often frequently and cannot be neglected, which is lexicography. Lexicology and lexicography are two different concepts, yet they are tightly anchored to one another. In his article “definition and example of lexicography”, Nordquist (2019) defines it as: “the process of writing, editing, and/or compiling a dictionary” (p.1). Simply put, it is the art of collecting and compiling words in a dictionary, be it ordinary dictionaries or digital ones.

## 5. Etymology

According to Malkiel (1994) “Etymology traces the history of a word from one language to another as far back as can be determined with reasonable certainty” (p.504), that is, etymology studies the origin of words and attempts to trace back their meaning from the first appearance. He also insists that etymology is a branch of linguistics, in which scientific methods and approaches are necessary in the analysis of the etymological processes. Unlike other modern linguists –who claimed that etymology cannot be as scientific as other branches of linguistics like phonology and syntax, and is more likely to be artistic, Malkiel (1958), as a rebuttal to their claims, argues that these critics contend, first, the element of *haphazardness* found in their discoveries; and second, the fact that their researches and working habits suggest an art rather than a science (p.201).

In addition to that, Malkiel (1962) confirms that “Like all lexical sub-disciplines, etymology is equally concerned with form and with meaning and, through the latter, also with the outer world of realities” (p.200), to put things differently, this latter presents an effective counterargument, in which etymology is as concerned as other lexical sub-disciplines with form and meaning in a synchronic way of study.

Philip Durkin (2009), defines etymology as the investigation of word histories, in which he stresses out the point that this branch focuses on words that their histories are not to be certain. That is to say, etymology studies words with uncertain history, and thus, a hypothesis must be constructed to make the distinction between the correct word origin and a particular stage in its history (p.1). He adds, the term ‘etymology’ is also used more broadly for the description of the entire endeavor which attempts to give coherent account of a word's history (or pre-history) (p.1). Moreover, Durkin (2009, p.2) asserts that etymology belongs to the broader field of historical linguistics. This latter works at explaining how and why languages develop and change. Yet, it is not constrained with particular linguistic level as other branches like, historical phonology, historical morphology, historical semantics, and historical syntax.

## **II. The linguistic model**

This section highlights the linguistic theories and frameworks used to analyze data in this research paper work. The theory of word-building processes suggested by W.N. Francis is defined and explained in the following pages.

### **1. Word-Building Processes**

The English language vocabulary, among other vocabularies, has the largest number of words, for that English took the chance to borrow words from all the languages it had contact with in the past. However, borrowing is not the only method that languages use to adopt new words. Instead there are other word-formation processes that can be used to create new words. (Virginia et al., 1994)

According to Francis in (Virginia et al., 1994), borrowing is considered as the most productive way to come up with new words. Yet, there are several ways to create new lexical units. Those are: derivation, compounding, functional shift, back formation and clipping, proper names, imitation, blending, and original coinage. (p.368

**a. Derivation**

Francis in (Virginia et al., 1994, p.368) suggests that a derivational process constitutes the use of an existing word, or in other cases a bound morpheme or morphemic structure—the smallest meaningful unit of language, as a stem to which affixes are attached to. For instance, the imaginary word *pandle* might become a stem to derivatives as *pandler*, *depandle*, and *repandalize*. This addition of affixes is called by Francis as: productive. Additionally, based on this process, any new word, regardless of its source, may almost immediately become the nucleus of a cluster of derivatives. Hence, *plane* formed by clipping from *airplane*, produced *emplaned* and *deplane*.

**b. Compounding**

Compounding is considered as a special form of derivation for that instead of adding affixes to a stem, two or more words are put together to create a new word. Since earliest times to the present day, this latter was known as the source of the creation of new lexical items. (Francis in Virginia et al., 1994, p.369). one can analyze any daily paper and come up with the result of infinite illustrations of compounds such as: *launching pad*, *blast off*, *jet-port*, *ski-tow*, and so on. Moreover, the semantic relationships between the parts of compounds are very varied. Put it in different words, if one considers that compounds are the product of transformation process, that relationship might be revealed by reconstructing the phrase from which the compound might have been created. He explains further, this may cause a slight modification in terms of the stress pattern, like *hot dog* and *bluebird*. In addition, with the growth of scientific knowledge, a special group of compounds emerged, which covers mostly technical and scientific concepts that are created from morphemes borrowed from Greek. This word-formation process started in the Greek language, in which words such as *philosophia* is compound from *philo* ‘fond of’ and *sophia* ‘wisdom’.

**c. Functional shift**

When the English language had finally get rid of the inflections from Old English, it becomes easier for words to be shifted from one part of speech to another without distorting its form, at least in the unmarked base form, Francis (in Virginia 1994, et al., p.371). For instance, the verb *to walk* can be changed into a noun simply by using it in a noun syntactic position, as in *he took a walk*, where the determiner *a* marks *walk* as a noun, direct object for *took*. This word-formation process is called *functional shift*, in which many verbs like the example cited can be shifted into nouns, like *run*, *steal*, *laugh*, *touch*, and so on. He also suggests that, these shifted words might be seen as derivatives with zero affixes, in which for some cases they may take a different stress pattern in the new use. As an illustration to what has been added, the noun *implement* with weak stress in the last syllable, took secondary stress on the last syllable when shifted to a verb.

**d. Back formation and Clipping**

Francis in (virginia et al., 1994) argues that back formation and clipping are two modes of word-formation, in which they can be classified together as different types of *reduction*. In other words, these two processes create new lexical units, when a shorter word is made up from a longer one, thus, the effect is the opposite of previous processes, like derivation and compounding. Back formation uses analogy to create a sort of opposite derivation. For example, the existence of words like: *creation*, *create*, and, *donation* suggests the necessity of the verb *donate*. Further to this, another words that were adopted in the English vocabulary are the result of back formation, such as *edit* (from *editor*), *enthuse* (from *enthusiasm*), *automate* (from *automation*), and many more. As soon as these kind of words become established, the historical record is the only way that help distinguishing them from formal derivational words. (p.372)

Francis also adds, clippings are seen as the shortenings of words regardless of their derivational analogy. This type of word-formation is commonly used in informal language, specifically the spoken

one, as in the classroom and campus use of *exam*, *lab*, *math*, and *dorm*. These words can be agreed on because the syllable which holds the main stress is considered as sufficient in identifying the meaning of the word, especially in a restricted context. The remaining syllables are to be redundant, and hence, can be easily left out. Most of these words keep a colloquial aspect and are restricted to a special vocabularies of occupational groups. However, unlike the words of limited groups and contexts, other ones have attained a wide circulation and might consequently replace the longer forms on all levels of usage. Some illustrations are: *van* (from *caravan*), *bus* (from *omnibus*), and *cello* (from *violoncello*) (p.373).

Besides, Francis claims that there existed an extreme form of clipping which reduces words to their abbreviations as well as longer words to their initials. One can say that abbreviation is a standard device in the writing system of English, which helps at saving more space by diminishing the length of frequent redundant words. Even though this way of shortening addresses informal writing, some others were adopted in speech. The most commonly used abbreviations are the two halves of the day, *a.m.* and *p.m.* which stand for the Latin phrases *ante meridiem* (*before noon*), and *post meridiem* (*after noon*).

#### **e. Proper names**

Francis in (Virginia et al., 1994) asserts that naming persons, geographic places, deities, and even animals is a conventional human practice, which is as old as language itself. Because proper names are constrained to specific referents, their distribution and reference cannot be generalized and varied. Yet, there is a common interchange between proper names and other words. For instance, several proper names like *Taylor*, *Clark*, and *Smith* are derivatives from nouns that describe occupations; also like *Brown*, *Strong*, and *Wright* are derived from adjectives that describe the person holding that name. Additionally, proper names may interchange in the other direction, in which a proper name of a place or a person becomes widened in meaning to refer to a product or activity that is connected with the referent of the proper name. A well-known example of this phenomenon is the name



‘*Caesar*’, which refers to a Latin nickname derived from the verb *caedo* (to cut), describing *Julius Caesar*, who was cut from his mother’s womb by the operation still called *Caesarian section* (p.374). Moreover, various words were created from proper names coming from the Bible, such as *jeremiad* (a denunciatory tirade), *babel* and *lazar* (from *Lazarus*; common for *leper* in Middle English), and *maudlin* (from *Mary Magdalen* and her noted tears) (p.375).

#### **f. Imitation (Onomatopoeia)**

As stated by Francis in (Virginia et al., 1994), the appearance of a small number of lexical items in the English language were the result of imitating natural sounds. Words like *Bow-wow*, *meow*, *baa*, *moo*, and others are sounds made up by animal cries of dogs, cats, sheep, and so on. However, these words are not exact imitations for that they are pronounced based on the sound-system of English, in which these animals are not to be put as native speakers of this particular language. Also, imitations of other languages create different words, such as *Both cock-a-doodle-doo* and *kikiriki* are supposedly imitative of a rooster's crow. If only one may take into account that English and Greek roosters make different sounds, “we must attribute the difference between these words to the differing sound-systems of the two languages.” (p.376)

Francis (1994) also adds that, in relation to imitation, another concept called *sound symbolism*, which means: “the habit of associating a certain type or class of meanings with a certain sound or cluster of sounds” (p.376). This phenomenon seems to occur in the English language, by which an association between the initial consonant cluster *sn-* and the nose (*snarl*, *sneer*, *sneeze*, *sniff*, *snivel*, and others). It is also frequently found in slang words when referring or involving the ‘nose’, words like *snook* or *snoop* are coined.

#### **g. Blending**

As defined by Francis in (Virginia et al., 1994), blending is a combination of clipping and compounding, whereby new words are created by putting together fragments of existing words in new

combinations (p.377). He explains that, although this process is not as different as derivation, they do not share similar points. That is to say, in the blending process, the elements combined are not morphemes when blends are created, even though they may become so as a result of the blending process. For example, the history of the word *-burger* can show that the blending process can give rise to a new morpheme. In other words, the name *Hamburger steak* was named after a kind of ground beef in America in the 1880s. After a short period, this latter was shortened by another word-forming process –that is phrase-clipping, to *hamburger*, in which it lost its proper-name feature in the process. To elaborate, the *-er* represents the usual German suffix for making adjectives out of proper nouns. Yet, for the ones who were not familiar with the German language, the new word sounded like a compound of *ham* and *burger*.

#### **h. Coinage**

The last word-formation process suggested by Francis (1994) is called: coinage, in which words are created from the nothingness and no relative trace can be found to prove their existence. This category of words is made up out of unrelated, meaningless elements. Put it differently, the outright-coinage, unlike the previous processes, is often hard to memorize for that no familiar elements are available to help the memory, and thus, new coinages are both harder to make as well as less frequently to be memorized and used. Examples of this process are the words *quiz*, *pun*, *slang*, and *fun*, because firstly, no cognates in English or other Germanic languages are related to them; and secondly, they cannot be found in other languages as loan-words. Finally, because of their monosyllabic feature, they are neither compounds nor derivatives. He adds that, the word *slang* –an eighteenth-century coinage, is the combination of *slovenly* and *language*, yet, this explanation is just a pure guesswork (p.378). Besides, there can be found more complex coinages: lexical units having more than one syllable. These words combine original elements with other different processes of word-formation, more specifically derivation. For instance, the stems of *segashuate*, *sockdologer*, and *spifflicated* are likely to be coinages, however, their suffixes are familiar morphemes.

**Conclusion**

To conclude, this chapter has presented several notions and terminologies concerning stylistics, neology, neologisms, and others. Although the lack of information faced when delving into the field of neology, different definitions and concepts were provided to simplify the theoretical background of this research work. Also, definitions of etymology were included to hint the role of this latter in the following analysis. Finally, among many theories of word-formation, the model described by W. Francis was selected and explained in the previous pages.

## CHAPTER TWO:

# A MORPHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF NEOLOGISMS

## Introduction

The following chapter handles the analysis of the neologisms invented by J.K. Rowling in her novel entitled Harry Potter. The first part to start with is explaining the research methodology of this research work. Then mentioning key elements that are related to this chapter, such as the methods involved, and the materials in which the data were collected from. Finally, establishing the analysis based on the word-formation processes suggested by W.N Francis.

### I. Research Methodology

The present study is conducted under the realm of social sciences and humanities, for that neologisms found in the Harry Potter series are collected and analyzed. Therefore, this research applied qualitative methods to interpret the collected data. Qualitative research does not aim to interpret numbers and statistics, but instead, it is targeted towards non-numerical data. Consequently, the researcher used reading and note-taking as basic tools to gather data. Furthermore, neologisms were collected from only four books of the saga. The hard copy of the first and the second book were available for the researcher, whereas the third and the fourth book were downloaded as pdf files. Finally, the corpus can be defined as a sum of 22 words (neologisms) selected carefully by the researcher to explore the ways of Rowling in inventing new lexical units.

### II. Data collection: Methods and Materials

The data of this research was collected from a novel entitled Harry Potter written by J. K. Rowling. The author divided the novel into seven books, however, only four books were included in the data collection, which are: *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, and *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*. Moreover, this part of the research is concerned with analyzing neologisms found

in the books mentioned above. In other words, these lexical units created by J. K. Rowling in her novel are to be collected and analyzed based on the word-formation theory provided by Francis.

There is a sum of 22 neologisms involved in the analysis which were selected from the four books of the Harry Potter series. Most of these neologisms belong to the magical world that the author created, such as spells, potions, magical places, and magical creatures. Further, the theory of word-formation suggests that new lexical items are to be classified according to ten (10) processes, which are: borrowing, derivation, compounding, functional shift, back formation, clipping, proper names, imitation, blending, and finally coinage. Therefore, each neologism was examined and categorized according to the process which matches its characteristics.

### **III. Data Analysis:**

This section of the study shows the analysis of neologisms extracted from the novel of Harry Potter –which is the only material used for the collection of data. To begin with, each neologism will be followed by its occurrence in the novel in a form of quotation, hence, a sense of reliability will be established. Also, the analysis of data will follow a specific pattern, which will help at organizing the classification of the processes, and provide a better understanding for the readers. This pattern can be described as follow: classifying the processes of word-formation by order, providing the occurrence of the neologisms by quoting from the novel, mentioning a brief definition of the neologism, and finally describing the focal point of the study, which is the analysis of the neologism selected.

#### **1. Borrowing**

Borrowing is the most well-known process among the other word-formation processes that is used to come up with new lexical units. This latter constitutes of taking words from other languages and using them in different contexts. The first neologism to start with is called **Gryffindor**, which appeared in the first book of the series as follows:

“Goodness, didn’t you know, I’d have found out everything I could if it was me,” said Hermione. “Do either of you know what House you’ll be in? I’ve been asking around, and I hope I’m in **Gryffindor**, it sounds by far the best; I hear Dumbledore himself was in it, but I suppose Ravenclaw wouldn’t be too bad. (Rowling, 1998, p.106)

The word Gryffindor refers to one of the four Houses of Hogwarts School that Rowling invented in the series of Harry Potter. This latter is originated from the Latin word ‘*Griffin*’ which refers to a mythical creature that has a body of a lion. While ‘*dor*’ is from French which means ‘*gold*’. By combining them we will come up with ‘*Griffin of Gold*. Thus, Rowling borrowed and combined both words to create a new lexical item which represents the House of Gryffindor that is symbolized by the lion and the golden color.

The second lexical unit which belongs to this category is **Lumos**. This neologism refers to a famous spell in Harry Potter, which is also called the Wand-Lighting Charm. This latter allows wizards to cast light from the tip of their wands to lighten up the place. The word appeared in the second book, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*:

and Fang bounded happily out of the house behind them, dashed to the edge of the forest, and lifted his leg against a large sycamore tree. Harry took out his wand, murmured, “**Lumos!**” and a tiny light appeared at the end of it, just enough to let them watch the path for signs of spiders. (Rowling, 1999, p.278)

The spell Lumos is derived from the Latin word ‘*lumen*’ which means: light, while ‘*os*’ is a Latin suffix which simply means: to have something, hence, combining them together gives us the expression ‘*to give light*’, which is exactly what the spell does. Therefore, Rowling applied the process of borrowing to create this neologism.

Another neologism that is under this category is called **Dementor**, which incarnates a dark amortal non-being creature which feeds on the happiness of humans, often thought to be one of the foulest dark creatures to inhabit the earth. Most commonly repelled with the Patronus Charm (The Daily Prophet). This latter showed up in the third book:

“and he said, ‘None of us is hiding Sirius Black under our cloaks. Go.’ But the **dementor** didn’t move, so Lupin muttered something, and a silvery thing shot out of his wand at it, and it turned around and sort of glided away. . . .” (Rowling, 1999, p.85)

Dementor was borrowed from the Latin verb ‘*demento*’, meaning to drive mad or insane. The author borrowed this latter to show that these creatures have the ability to drive people insane when confronting them.

Further, another invented word was made up using the process of borrowing called **Nimbus** Two Thousand. This neologism can be defined as one of the fastest broomsticks that was gifted to Harry Potter by his professor. It appeared on the first book:

A low, soft hooting came from a dark shop with a sign saying Eeylops Owl Emporium — Tawny, Screech, Barn, Brown, and Snowy. Several boys of about Harry’s age had their noses pressed against a window with broomsticks in it. “Look,” Harry heard one of them say, “the new Nimbus Two Thousand — fastest ever —” (Rowling, 1998, p.72)

This word was borrowed from the Latin noun ‘nimbus’, meaning ‘*cloud*’, to represent the flying broomstick. Rowling borrowed Nimbus and changed its meaning to become a flying broom, yet the characteristics of the cloud were attributed to the new created word.

The next neologisms which will follow are a group of spells that the author created to enrich her magical world. These spells are words that Rowling borrowed from other languages, thus, they will be categorized in this section. The first spell to begin with is called **Expelliarmus**, which also refers to as The Disarming Charm. This latter causes whatever your opponent is holding to fly away, and it can even knock out the person. Its first occurrence was on the third book:

The waxy skin was stretched so tightly over the bones of his face, it looked like a skull. His yellow teeth were bared in a grin. It was Sirius Black. “**Expelliarmus!**” he croaked, pointing Ron’s wand at them. Harry’s and Hermione’s wands shot out of their hands, high in the air, and Black caught them. (Rowling, 1999, p.339)

In Latin, the word ‘*expello*’ means ‘*I expel* or *I drive out*’, whereas the word ‘*arma*’ means ‘*weapons*’, when combined together, Rowling gave the meaning of expelling away the enemy’s weapon, which is what the spell does.



The second spell which belongs to the borrowing process of word-formation is called **Accio**, also refers to as The Summoning Charm. This latter is used to bring an object to the caster or to propel an object to the wizard. It appears in the following quotation:

Well, now we know what to do next time I can't manage a spell," Harry said, throwing a rune dictionary back to Hermione, so he could try again, "threaten me with a dragon. Right . . ." He raised his wand once more. "**Accio** Dictionary!" (Rowling, 2000, p.347)

Rowling borrowed the word Accio from Latin, which means '*I call*' or '*I summon*', thus, this latter matches what the spell can do.

Another spell that the author borrowed is **Crucio**, which is considered as one of the unforgivable spells in the wizarding world of Harry Potter. Crucio or as called the Torture Curse has the ability to torture and cause intense pain when cast successfully. It appeared in the fourth book *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*:

The spider swelled. It was now larger than a tarantula. Abandoning all pretense, Ron pushed his chair backward, as far away from Moody's desk as possible. Moody raised his wand again, pointed it at the spider, and muttered, "**Crucio**!" (Rowling, 2000, p.214)

This neologism was invented by borrowing from Latin the word '*crucio*' which means '*to torture*' or '*to torment*'. This spell also can be called '*cruciatus*' which is from latin '*to cause pain*'. Thus the Latin meaning denotes the effect of the spell itself.

**Imperio** is another word that the author created and categorized within the borrowing process. This spell is also one of the unforgivable curses in the wizarding world of Harry Potter, for that when cast correctly it will place the victim completely under the caster's control. This spell's first appearance was marked in the fourth book as follows:

Not one of them seemed to be able to fight off the curse, and each of them recovered only when Moody had removed it. "Potter," Moody growled, "you next." Harry moved forward into the middle of the classroom, into the space that Moody had cleared of desks. Moody raised his wand, pointed it at Harry, and said, "**Imperio**!" (Rowling, 2000, p.231)

This lexical unit is borrowed from the Latin verb “*to order*” or “*to command*”, which makes it clear that the ability of this curse is to command or to take control over a person just as the Latin verb means.

The last neologism which belongs to the borrowing process is called **Oblivate**. This spell, also refers to as The Memory Charm, gives the wizard the ability to erase the recipient’s memory. It showed up in the fourth book:

At that moment, a wizard in plus-fours appeared out of thin air next to Mr. Roberts’s front door. “**Oblivate!**” he said sharply, pointing his wand at Mr. Roberts. Instantly, Mr. Roberts’s eyes slid out of focus, his brows unknitted, and a look of dreamy unconcern fell over his face. (Rowling, 2000, p.77)

This word can be borrowed from two lexical items. The first one is the Latin verb ‘*oblivisci*’, meaning ‘*to forget*’ or to ‘*neglect*’. Whereas the second word is the English noun ‘oblivion’, which means: the fact or condition of not remembering (Merriam Webster Dictionary).

## 2. Derivation

Derivation is the second word-formation process proposed by Francis, in which this process suggests that the creation of a new lexical unit constitutes the use of an existing word or a morphemic structure as a stem to which affixes are attached to (Francis in Virginia et al., 1994, p.368).

Moreover, there are two neologisms which belong to this category. The first neologism is a common word used in the Harry Potter saga, which is **Muggle**. This invented word by Rowling is the incarnation of a human being who was born to two non-magical parents, and incapable of performing magic. This latter’s first appearance was on the first book, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone* as follows:

“Don’t make me feel worse,” said Harry. He told Hagrid about the pale boy in Madam Malkin’s. “— and he said people from **Muggle** families shouldn’t even be allowed in —” “Yer not from a **Muggle** family. If he’d known who yeh were — he’s grown up knowin’ yer name if his parents are wizardin’ folk. (Rowling, 1998, p.79)

The word Muggle is composed of two components: *mug* + *-le*. The first component is the word ‘mug’ which means according to the Oxford Dictionary: a person who is stupid and easy to trick. Whereas the second one is the suffix *-le*. Therefore, Rowling combined the two parts to come up with this neologism. One can say that there is a clear relation between the definition of the English word ‘mug’ and the invented one ‘muggle’. That is, both of these words share the same characteristic of foolishness.

The second neologism under the category of derivation is called **Seeker**. This latter belongs to a group of words that the author invented to establish an entire lexicology for a magical sport called Quidditch. The word Seeker refers to a role player in the game. That is, the main aim of this player is to catch a special ball in the game. The occurrence of the word is as follows:

“Out, Peeves!” she barked. Peeves threw the chalk into a bin, which clanged loudly, and he swooped out cursing. Professor McGonagall slammed the door behind him and turned to face the two boys. “Potter, this is Oliver Wood. Wood — I’ve found you a **Seeker**.” (Rowling, 1998, p.151)

The word Seeker is composed of two parts: an existing stem, that is the verb ‘*to seek*’, and the suffix *-er*. The combination of the stem and the suffix gives us the word ‘seeker’. Rowling connected the definition of the verb, which means according to the Merriam Dictionary: to make a search or inquiry, with the role of the player, which is to look for the ball and eventually to catch it.

### 3. Compounding

Compounding is simply defined as a word-formation process that consists of combining two words or more to create a new lexical item. J.K. Rowling used this way of inventing new words to come up with many neologisms in her novel. Furthermore, six neologisms will be listed in this category, which are: Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, Mudblood, Alohomora, Hippogriff, and Quidditch.

The first neologism to begin with is called **Hufflepuff**, which is the name of one of the four Houses found in the Harry Potter saga. This latter has his own legacy among the other Houses and produced a remarkable wizards and witches. This lexical item occurred in the first book:

The Weasleys complained that Wood was becoming a fanatic, but Harry was on Wood's side. If they won their next match, against **Hufflepuff**, they would overtake Slytherin in the Hous Championship for the first time in seven years. (Rowling, 1998, p.216)

The word Hufflepuff is formed from the compound '*huffle*' which means 'to blow in gusts' (Merriam Dictionary), whereas the second compound 'puff' means 'a short, explosive burst of breath or wind' (Oxford Dictionary). Also '*Huffing* and *puffing*' suggests hard work (The Harry Potter Lexicon), which is related to the members who belong to this House, for that they are not very intelligent yet hard workers.

The second invented word by Rowling is another name related to the four Houses which is **Ravenclaw**. This latter is the Hogwarts house of founder Rowena Ravenclaw. The House places high value on intelligence, wit, and learning. It appeared in the following passage from the first book:

"Listen, you've got to be up for the end-of-year feast tomorrow. The points are all in and Slytherin won, of course — you missed the last Quidditch match, we were steamrollered by **Ravenclaw** without you — but the food'll be good." (Rowling, 1998, p.302)

This neologism can be divided into two words: '*raven*' and '*claw*'. Rowling combined these words to come up with the name of this particular House. Although the naming suggests that the blazon animal of this House should be a raven, the author changed it to an eagle. According to the Harry Potter Wiki, this change was due to the bad reputation of the raven, thus, it was turned to an eagle.

The next invented word created by Rowling is **Alohomora**. This neologism represents a spell in the novel for the unlocking charm. It can be used to unlock doors or windows, and is also used as a counter-charm to open doors locked by the Locking Spell (The Daily Prophet). This word occurs in the first book:

"This is it!" Ron moaned, as they pushed helplessly at the door, "We're done for! This is the end!" They could hear footsteps, Filch running as fast as he could toward Peeves's shouts. "Oh, move over," Hermione snarled. She grabbed Harry's wand, tapped the lock, and whispered, "**Alohomora!**" (Rowling, 1998, p.160)

The present neologism is considered to be a compound word. In other words, it is formed by combining the words ‘*aloha*’ and ‘*mora*’, in which the first refers to a Hawaiian word meaning ‘*goodbye*’, while the second is derived from the Latin word meaning ‘*obstacle*’. When these words are combined, they give us the expression of ‘*goodbye obstacle*’. Rowling relates the meaning of this neologism by the spell itself, which opens locked doors and windows, hence, casting this spell avoids obstacles.

Another neologism under the process of compounding is **Mudblood**. It refers to a foul, nasty name for a witch or wizard who is Muggle-born. That is to say, any individual with no wizarding relatives (The Harry Potter Lexicon). This latter showed up in the second book of the saga:

The Slytherin team howled with laughter. “At least no one on the Gryffindor team had to buy their way in,” said Hermione sharply. “They got in on pure talent.” The smug look on Malfoy’s face flickered. “No one asked your opinion, you filthy little **Mudblood**,” he spat. (Rowling, 1999, p.112)

This word is simply formed from combining both nouns: ‘*mud*’ which means wet earth that is soft and sticky, and ‘*blood*’ which is the red liquid that flows through the bodies of humans and animals (Oxford Dictionary). With combining these words, Rowling came up with a new lexical unit, which indicates blood that has been tainted or dirtied by their Muggle status.

**Hippogriff** is another neologism that is included in this category of the compound words. This neologism refers to a flying creature with the head, wings, and forelegs of a giant eagle and the body (including hind legs and tail) of a horse. This word was mentioned in the following passage from the third book:

A sudden sound from the corner of Hagrid’s cabin made Harry, Ron, and Hermione whip around. Buckbeak the *hippogriff* was lying in the corner, chomping on something that was oozing blood all over the floor. “I couldn’ leave him tied up out there in the snow!” choked Hagrid. “All on his own! At Christmas.” (Rowling, 1999, p.218)

The word Hippogriff is the union of the Greek word ‘*hippos*’ meaning a horse, and the Latin word ‘*gryfus*’ which means a fabulous bird from the Greek mythology (The Harry Potter Lexicon). When

combining the two, Rowling gives the creation of this neologism, which incarnates the creatures mentioned in the series.

The last neologism in this section is **Hogwarts**. This invented word refers to the wizarding school of the Harry Potter world, in which all the adventures of the novel started from this place. The first appearance of the word was marked in the first book:

Malfoy couldn't believe his eyes when he saw that Harry and Ron were still at **Hogwarts** the next day, looking tired but perfectly cheerful. Indeed, by the next morning Harry and Ron thought that meeting the three-headed dog had been an excellent adventure, and they were quite keen to have another one. (Rowling, 1998, p.163)

Although Rowling announced that the name of Hogwarts refers to a flower: "Ideas come from all sorts of places and sometimes I don't realize where I got them from" (The Harry Potter Lexicon), yet this latter is considered as the combination of the compounds: '*hog*' and '*warts*'.

#### 4. Blending

Blending basically deals with two processes at a time. That is, it is the combination of clipping and compounding, in which new words are created by putting together fragments of existing words in a new combination. There will be three neologisms to be analyzed under this section, which are: Animagus, Portkey, and Pensieve.

The first invented word to begin with is called, **Animagus**. It means the ability to turn into a certain animal at any moment. The word appeared in the fourth book as follow:

She seemed to be taking the library's lack of useful information on the subject as a personal insult; it had never failed her before. "I know what I should have done," said Harry, resting, face-down, on Saucy Tricks for Tricky Sorts. "I should've learned to be an **Animagus** like Sirius." (Rowling, 2000, p.486)

The word Animagus is formed from the clipping two lexical units and then combining together. In other words, the English word '*animal*' is clipped into '*anim*', and with the addition of the Latin word '*magus*', which means '*magic user*', Rowling, finally came with the word Animagus, which refers literally to a wizard with animal abilities.

The second neologism that goes under this word-formation process is **Pensive**. The Pensieve is a magical object used to review memories. It has the appearance of a shallow stone or metal basin, into which runes and strange symbols are carved and precious stones are fitted (The Harry Potter Wiki). This latter appeared in the fourth book *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*:

The contents had returned to their original, silvery-white state, swirling and rippling beneath his gaze. “What is it?” Harry asked shakily. “This? It is called a **Pensieve**,” said Dumbledore. “I sometimes find, and I am sure you know the feeling, that I simply have too many thoughts and memories crammed into my mind.” (Rowling, 2000, p.597)

This invented word is a blend, which is the result of the combination of ‘*pensive*’ and ‘*sieve*’. ‘*Pensive*’ is derived from French, and originally from the Latin ‘*pensare*,’ meaning ‘*to ponder*’ and in common English usage means ‘*thoughtful*’ or ‘*reflective*’. Whereas ‘*sieve*’ means an object used to separate unwanted material from wanted material. Thus Rowling established a relationship between these two blend words and the neologism she created, for that Pensieve deals with memories and thoughts of the person.

The neologism named **Portkey** is the last one to be analyzed under this word-formation process. This lexical unit refers to a magical object enchanted to instantly bring anyone touching it to a specific location (The Harry Potter Lexicon). This latter occurred in the following passage extracted from the fourth book entitled *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*:

A hill rose above them to their left. Harry could just make out the outline of a fine old house on the hillside. Cedric looked down at the Triwizard Cup and then up at Harry. “Did anyone tell you the cup was a **Portkey**?” he asked (Rowling, 2000, p.636)

This invented word by Rowling is a blend word, for that she used the clipping process to create the first part, which is ‘*port*’ from French ‘*porter*’ meaning ‘*to carry*’, and the second part is the English word ‘*key*’ meaning a thing that makes you able to understand or achieve something (Oxford Dictionary). When compounding both words one can realize that the final meaning of this neologism

is: being able to be carried to a certain place, which is the function of the object that Rowling invented in her novel.

## 5. Coinage

The last word-formation process used by J.K. Rowling to invent new lexical units is coinage. This process, as explained in the previous chapter, refers to those neologisms which do not have any roots or cognates related to them. Further, there are two words that belong to this category which were found in the Harry Potter saga, which are: **Quidditch** and **Parseltongue**.

The first neologism to start with is called **Quidditch**. This neologism refers to the only sport in the wizarding world of Harry Potter. is a fast, dangerous, exciting game in which two teams flying on brooms compete for points scored by throwing a ball – the Quaffle – through hoops on either end of a large grassy pitch (The Harry Potter Lexicon). It was mentioned in the first book:

Harry had a lot of trouble keeping his mind on his lessons that day. It kept wandering up to the dormitory where his new broom- stick was lying under his bed, or straying off to the **Quidditch** field where he'd be learning to play that night. (Rowling, 1998, p.166)

This word invented by Rowling has no records among the other languages, hence, it is a coined word. Moreover, Rowling (1999) claimed that: "I invented Quidditch while spending the night in a very small room in the Bournville Hotel in Didsbury, Manchester" (AmazonUK). Therefore, we can say that the word Quidditch belongs to the coinage process, for that it came up from the depth of the author's imagination.

The last neologism to be examined in this research paper, which belongs the process of coinage is **Parseltongue**. This latter is the language of snakes; to a human who cannot speak it, it sounds like hissing without taking a breath. A speaker of Parseltongue is referred to as a Parselmouth (The Harry Potter Lexicon). This word was seen in the second book of the series:

Could he be a descendant of Salazar Slytherin? He didn't know anything about his father's family, after all. The Dursleys had always forbidden questions about his wizarding relatives. Quietly, Harry



tried to say something in **Parseltongue**. The words wouldn't come. It seemed he had to be face-to-face with a snake to do it. (Rowling, 1999, p.197)

The word Parseltongue does not have nor roots neither any sense of belonging to other old languages. Thus one can say that this neologism was created from the writer's own imagination. Therefore, this latter has no cognates in any language.

## CHAPTER TWO A MORPHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF NEOLOGISMS

The table below summarizes all the morphological processes and the neologisms related to them:

Morphological processes	Bo	Dr	Co	F.S.	B.F.	Cl	P.N.	Im	Bl	Co
Neologisms										
Hogwarts			✓							
Muggle		✓								
Gryffindor	✓									
Alohomora			✓							
Hufflepuff			✓							
Quidditch										✓
Ravenclaw			✓							
Seeker		✓								
Parseltongue										✓
Lumos	✓									
Mudblood			✓							
Animagus									✓	

## CHAPTER TWO A MORPHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF NEOLOGISMS

Dementor	✓									
Hippogriff			✓							
Expelliarmus	✓									
Pensieve									✓	
Accio	✓									
Portkey									✓	
Crucio	✓									
Imperio	✓									
Obliviate	✓									
Nimbus	✓									

Table 1. The morphological processes and neologisms associated to them

## **Conclusion**

To sum up all what have been mentioned above, we can say that this chapter tackles the different methodological analysis followed in the study. From the type of research to the analysis of the data, the researcher explains the methods as well as the tools used to gather the data. Also, a detailed examination of the neologisms was provided using the theory of word-formation, which was developed by Francis.

**CHAPTER THREE:**

**DISCUSSION OF RESULTS**

## **Introduction**

The chapter at hand covers the last part of this research paper. It aims at discussing the results and findings generated from the analysis of neologisms extracted from the four books of the Harry Potter series based on the word-building processes by W.N. Francis. This chapter also sheds light on answering the main questions of the present study. Finally, this chapter addresses the obstacles faced when conducting the research as well as suggests a list of recommendations for future studies.

### **I. Results and Findings**

This paper discusses the invented words of J.K. Rowling, or as we call them, neologisms, in her novel entitled Harry Potter. Among her writings, Rowling was able to create a fine amount of words, hence, inspiring many researchers to investigate these phenomena through several ways. Thus, we can say that this research is an attempt to provide a morphological analysis of these invented words.

After collecting and analysing the data using the theory of word-formation proposed by W.N. Francis, the researcher established different results and conclusions concerning the previous analysis. The first result yielded from the analysis of these neologisms shows that Rowling was often eclectic when inventing such lexical units. Alternatively stated, the author used specific processes often frequently than other ones. The most commonly used processes in her way of creating new words, according to the findings, are Borrowing and Compounding, for that approximately half of the data was included in this category.

Since Rowling was often acquainted with languages, especially old ones, she used this quality in her favour to come up with new words (such as the list of spells in the saga), thus, the

Borrowing process was the most one to be used. Moreover, the analysis showed that the Compounding process was also frequently used. Words like *Ravenclaw*, *Mudblood*, *Hufflepuff*, and *Hippogriff* all belong to the Compounding process, which as a result, reveal that the author used this process more often.

In addition to the processes mentioned above, Rowling also took into consideration other word-formation processes, such as Derivation, Blending, and Coinage, however, these processes were less likely to be used. The bar chart below demonstrates the word-formation processes used in the analysis of data as well as the other left processes, which do not correspond any neologism collected in this research.

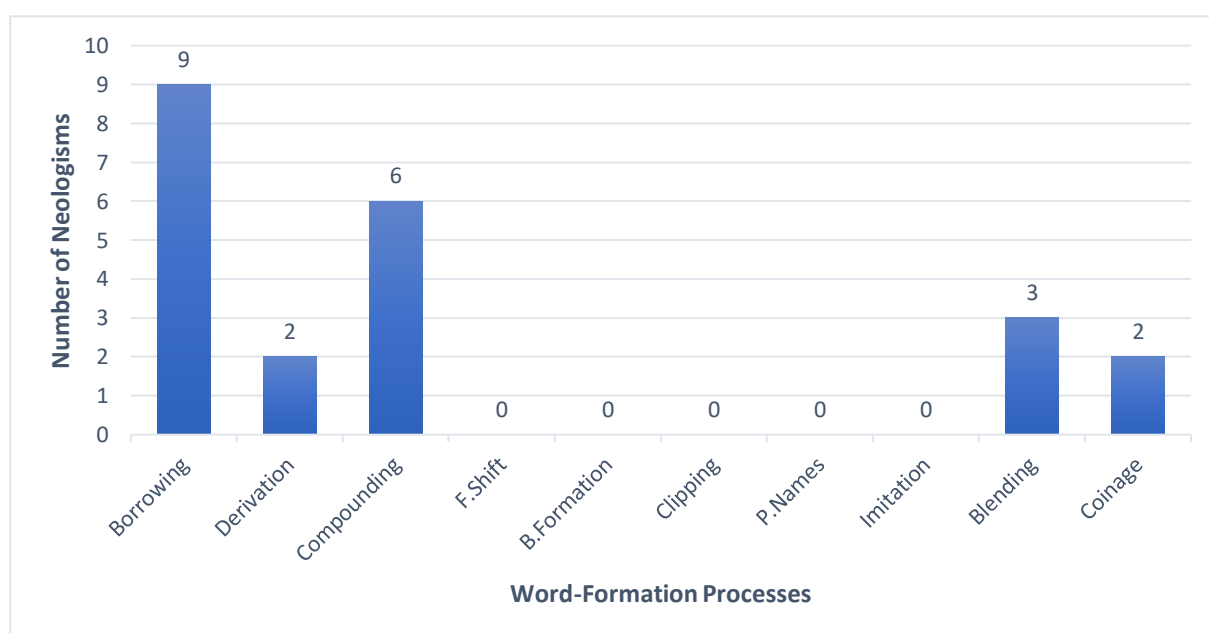


Figure 1. Word-Formation Processes used in the Analysis of the Neologisms

This latter also illustrates that there are other processes proposed by Francis, which the author did not use in her way of creating words. Simply put, the processes including Functional Shift, Back Formation, Clipping, Proper Names, and Imitation were absent among the analysis of neologisms.

Another result that can be generated from the previous analysis is that several neologisms may belong to more than one process regarding their formation. Put it another way, among the words

invented by J.K. Rowling –which were the essence of this research, a specific group of words have a special formation, which allow them to accept different analysis than the other ones. For instance, the word ‘*Gryffindor*’ was considered as a borrowing neologism, because, as mentioned in the analysis, it was derived from Latin noun ‘*gryffin*’, and French ‘*d’or*’. However, the word ‘*Gryffindor*’ can be under the compounding section, that is, ‘*gryffin*’ as well as ‘*d’or*’ can be seen as two compounds. In addition, the word *Expelliarmus*, as the previous one, also belong to two different processes: borrowing and compounding. The first process was borrowing, which was mentioned in the analysis, whereas the second one is compounding. That is to say, the author combined both the Latin words ‘*expello*’ and ‘*arma*’ to create the spell called *Expelliarmus*. The third illustration is the neologism called *Alohomora*. This neologism was analyzed to be a compound word, yet, we can say that it can belong also to the borrowing process. To explain more, Rowling invented the word *Alohomora* by borrowing ‘*aloha*’ from Hawaiian and ‘*mora*’ from Latin, hence, it can be categorized as a borrowed word. The last word to be mentioned is *Hippogriff*, in which the analysis showed that this neologism is considered to be a compound word. In other words, although *Hippogriff* is the combination of the Greek word ‘*hippos*’ and the Latin word ‘*gryfus*’, this neologism can also belong to the borrowed words, for that Rowling combined it by borrowing from both old languages Greek and Latin. The table below illustrates all the aforementioned:

Neologism	Borrowing	Compounding
Gryffindor	From Latin ‘ <i>gryffin</i> ’, French ‘ <i>d’or</i> ’, or ‘ <i>dor</i> ’.	‘ <i>gryffin</i> ’ + ‘ <i>dor</i> ’
Expelliarmus	From Latin ‘ <i>expello</i> ’, Latin ‘ <i>arma</i> ’	‘ <i>expello</i> ’ + ‘ <i>arma</i> ’



Alohomora	From Hawaiian ‘aloha’, Latin ‘mora’	‘aloha’ + ‘mora’
Hippogriff	From Greek ‘hippos’, Latin ‘gryfus’	‘hippos’ + ‘gryfus’

Table 2. An illustration of special neologisms based on two word-formation processes

## II. Discussion of Findings

It is believed that the present research work attempts to investigate the invented words by J.K. Rowling in the Harry Potter series. By analyzing these neologisms, the researcher’s aim was, first to answer the research questions regarding this study; and second, to whether validate or refute the suggested hypotheses of the research. The first part to start with is testing the hypotheses, while the second one is for answering the research question.

Several Hypotheses were formed in the present study to develop a better understanding and eventually to answer the research question –which is the reason why this research is conducted in the first place. Furthermore, the first hypothesis proposes that Rowling relied on languages, especially old ones, to create neologisms in her novel. According to the analysis as well as the findings, we can say that the author used a lot of borrowings from languages, more specifically from Latin. That is to say, this latter created a large number of neologisms simply by borrowing from different languages, like Latin, Greek, and French. Consequently, the researcher claims that the first hypothesis is validated.

Moreover, the second constructed hypothesis in this dissertation suggests that Rowling invented these lexical units from combining different words together. In other words, the creation of one neologism constitutes the linking of two words or more. Further, based on the analysis of neologisms, we can say that Rowling used this specific method to invent new words. That is to

say, the previous analysis, which was based on Francis' theory of word-formation, clarified that the author used two processes related to this hypothesis. The word-building processes associated with this hypothesis are: Compounding and Blending, in which the former suggests that two or more words are put together to create a new word (Francis in Virginia et al., 1994, p.369), whereas the latter is a combination of clipping and compounding, for that new words are created by putting together fragments of existing words in new combinations (p.377). Several words were found in the analysis which corresponded these processes, such as: *Mudblood*, *Ravenclaw*, *animagus*, and *portkey*. The researcher, as a result, claims that the hypothesis which proposes the use of special combinations to create neologisms is confirmed.

The next formed hypothesis concerning this study proposes the existence of any change in the semantic properties while creating new words. Simply put, this assumption suggests that whether the author came up with new words only by changing their meaning from the normal one to a different meaning to match particular incarnations in her novel or not. From what we discovered concerning the findings, this hypothesis does not match any neologism which correlates a change in its semantic properties. Therefore, we can say that this hypothesis cannot be approved.

The last hypothesis that was formulated in this research suggests that the words created by J.K. Rowling –which were analyzed specifically in this study, might be able to join English dictionaries. According to the Merriam Webster Dictionary, a word gets into a dictionary when it is used by many people who all agree that it means the same thing. That is to say, dictionary editors –or as called lexicographers, pick up words under two conditions, first, the word must reach a wide group of people; second, the meaning of this latter needs to be unified. Also, another condition for a neologism to be adopted in the English Oxford Dictionary (EOD), is that it has to be in circulation for 10 years (BBC).

When it comes to the neologisms invented by Rowling, which were included in the analysis, two lexical units gets into the English Oxford Dictionary. In other words, according the BBC News (2017) the word *Muggle* which made its first appearance in the novel entitled *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* written by J.K. Rowling was included in the (EOD), meaning a person who lacks a particular skill or skills, or who is regarded as inferior in some way. Furthermore, the second word to be added in the Oxford Dictionary is *Quidditch*, meaning a team sport played while straddling broomsticks, in which goals are scored by throwing a ball through any of three hoops fixed at either end of the pitch. This latter made it to the dictionary in 2017, marking the second neologism invented by Rowling to enter the Oxford Dictionary. From all what have been said, we can say that the last hypothesis is validated.

Moving to the second part, which consists of answering the question of the present research paper. Further, the main focus of the study was to investigate the procedures followed by J.K. Rowling in creating neologisms in her novel entitled *Harry Potter*. After collecting the data and analyzing them using the theory of W.N. Francis of word-formation as the only linguistic model, the researcher was able to uncover the methods that the author applied to create these lexical units.

That is to say, based on the linguistic model, Rowling used five word-building processes to invent new lexical units within her novel. These processes are: Borrowing, Compounding, Blending, Derivation, and finally Coinage. In addition, we can say that Borrowing and Compounding were the most likely to be used, for that a large number of the data collected (neologisms) was assigned to these specific processes.

### **III. Limitations**

This section is made for the problems and obstacles that the researcher encountered in conducting the present study. Hence, several limitations are to be listed in the following lines. The first obstacle to begin with is the lack of information as well as resources concerning the scope of

Neology, for that few reliable resources were found to explain the nature of this field to the readers. Consequently, this obstacle has made it quite difficult for the researcher to enrich the literature review section.

In addition, the next setback encompasses methodological choices. That is to say, the researcher found it challenging to choose the right linguistic model. Another significant barrier to be mentioned while undertaking this research is the COVID-19, which is a global virus that was spread in the entire world. This latter caused a huge amount of stress as well as prevented the researcher from meeting her supervisor, for that a strict quarantine regulations were established. The last obstacle that was faced in writing this research paper is the limited number of pages allowed in a master dissertation. In other words, the researcher could not include a fine amount of neologisms for the analysis due to the small number of pages in the second chapter, thus, the generalizability of the results was limited.

In brief, regardless of all the aforementioned, we can say that the research at hand did not lose its valid findings nor failed in presenting credible results, for that even the best research has their own shortcomings.

#### **IV. Recommendations**

As any other research paper, the present study did not have the capability to embody all the elements concerning Neology and Stylistics. Also, other researchers may conduct their studies from considering different angles of this research. The first recommendation that can be suggested for other researchers is to expand the amount of neologisms extracted from the Harry Potter series. Simply put, this study did not investigate all the invented words of J.K. Rowling, in fact, there was a long list that had been left out due to the minimized number of pages.

Moreover, further studies should take into account the scope of lexicography. That is to say, researchers should address the critical issue of how neologisms join dictionaries, for that this study did not tackle this latter in wider depth. Furthermore, future research may also apply different linguistic models. That is, apart from the theory of word-building processes proposed by Francis, other linguistic theories should be used.

In addition, this study was based on analyzing neologisms extracted from the Harry Potter series. However, there are other fantasy novels which include interesting neologisms, such as the trilogy of *The Lord of the Rings* written by J.R.R. Tolkien, the book series written by G.R.R. Martin, and others. The final recommendation suggests that further research can be carried out from different scope of studies. Alternatively put, other researchers may rely on lexicology or semantics rather than neology.

### **Conclusion**

In brief, this chapter provided the results and findings yielded from the analysis of the invented words by J.K. Rowling. It also covered the discussion of results, which constitutes of discussing the hypotheses as well as answering the research question. At the end, a list of recommendations was suggested for further studies to be conducted

## General Conclusion

The study at hand has attempted to reveal methods and techniques applied in creating neologisms in the Harry Potter world based on the word-formation theory suggested by W.N. Francis. The main objective of this research was to shed light on the morphological processes used by J.K. Rowling to invent new lexical units in her novel. The corpus of this study constituted of 22 neologisms extracted from four books of the Harry Potter series.

In order to achieve the purpose of this research, the subsequent structure has been respectively followed. The first chapter highlighted the theoretical framework of the study, in which related concepts and terminologies like stylistics and neology were introduced to equip the reader with the knowledge and background needed. In addition, the linguistic model, that is the theory of word-formation by Francis was introduced and explained in wider depth.

Moreover, the second chapter aimed at casting light on methodological procedures and data analysis. The researcher explained the research methodology that embodied the steps followed in gathering the data of this research work. Furthermore, the morphological theory was applied on neologisms to explore the processes used by Rowling in creating these lexical items.

As for the third chapter, it encompasses results and discussion of findings. After applying the word-formation theory in the second chapter, several conclusions were drawn from the analysis. It has been shown that Rowling used Borrowing and Compounding more often than other processes. By employing the Borrowing process, Rowling was able to bring old language into life again. From this conclusion, we can say that the first and the second hypotheses were validated. In addition, the third hypothesis was refuted, for that no neologism was found to confirm the semantic change. Finally, the researcher has concluded that the words *Muggle* and *Quidditch* were able to join the English Oxford Dictionary (EOD). Therefore, the last hypothesis was confirmed.

For the sake of conducting further research works concerning neologisms, researchers may look into other fantasy books, for that this genre of literature covers a wide range of invented words by different writers. Authors like J.R.R. Tolkien and G.R.R. Martin can be as creative as Rowling. Additionally, researchers may take into consideration other morphological theories. These theories differ from one scholar to another, however, they can fulfill the same task, by which neologisms can be analyzed.

All in all, one has to say that this master dissertation strived to examine neologisms extracted from the Harry Potter series, written by J.K. Rowling. Neologisms were analyzed based on the morphological theory proposed by W.N. Francis to demonstrate the ways Rowling utilized to come up with these new words.

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