

OCCASIONALISMS IN INFORMAL COMMUNICATION ON THE INTERNET (BASED ON THE EXAMPLE OF RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE INTERNET FORUM)

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Abstract: The article analyses derivational and semantic features of occasionalisms, or nonce words, coined by individual users of Russian-language forums during their internet interactions. Gathering of research data was carried out by following the method of continuous and targeted sampling on the Internet forum Forum.Exler.ru <https://club443.ru/> in the period from February 2023 to February 2024. Research was conducted on the material of the author's corpus including 183 lexical units. As a result of the study, the most productive standard and non-standard word-formation patterns have been identified. It has been established that most occasionalisms were coined according to conventional Russian word-formation patterns.

Keywords: occasionalisms, Internet forum, Russian language, standard and non-standard word-formation patterns.

Introduction

Transfer of information through the Internet is one of the most important features of modern life. The Internet nowadays represents a particularly complex communication system covering almost all aspects of human activity. Today, a significant part of our daily communication on the Internet is carried out by means of specific programmes that ensure instant delivery of written messages from one user to another. Written communication is widely used for everyday, informal contacts, which has inevitably influenced and favoured the ongoing changes concerning the status of the written and oral forms of language.

Scholars (Crystal, 2003, pp. 47 – 48; Lutovinova, 2008, pp. 58 – 65; Trofimova, 2011, p. 83, et al.) draw attention to the fact that the new forms of communication which arose from Internet interactions, combine electronic properties with features of both writing and speech, resulting, therefore, in the development of an entirely new medium. In this regard, as D. Crystal points out, the Internet should not be considered as „*a homogenous language-using electronic situation, likely to generate a single variety of language*“ (Crystal, 2003, p. 9). As a matter of fact, the appearance of the Internet has led to the emergence of many different outcomes, each with its specific linguistic features that are subject to variation and that, therefore, need a more detailed description (Crystal, 2003, pp. 9 – 10). These new situations include, among others, Internet forums, which provide users with the opportunity to constantly create topics in proposed sections for subsequent discussion. The structural and semantic organization of an Internet forum can be described as a „*written asynchronous virtual polylogue*“ (Patrusheva, 2013, p. 128). The interactions are conducted in written form,

but the texts that electronic users create in real time arise primarily under the influence of spontaneous speech.

In informal communication on an Internet forum, the main goal of the users is their self-expression (Trofimova, 2011, p. 151), which in turn creates favourable conditions for the inclusion of all interlocutors in the processes of word-formation, frequently resulting in the formation of new *occasionalisms*. *Occasionalisms*, or *nonce words*, are new complex words, spontaneously coined for a specific purpose and occasion, in order to cover some immediate communicative need (e.g. the need for linguistic economy, the need to fill a conceptual/lexical gap or to achieve a specific stylistic effect, etc.) (see Bauer, 2001, pp. 39 – 40; Fischer, 1998, pp. 5 – 6; Mattiello, 2017, pp. 25 – 26 et al.).

Despite the fact that the term occasionalism has been used in Russian linguistic literature since the middle of the 20th century, it still lacks a widely agreed definition. Based on comparison between new occasional, nonce words and common usual words, scholars have identified some of main features of occasionalisms, like, e.g., the fact that they belong to speech and that are always determined by a specific context. Moreover, other characteristics have been emphasized, like their expressiveness, temporary character, non-normativity, creativity (non-reproducibility); novelty; belonging of occasionalism to a specific author, etc. (Lykov, 1976, pp. 11 – 35).

In their studies dedicated to nonce-formations and to the problematic delineation of the boundaries between occasionalisms and other types of neologisms, Russian scholars adopt two main approaches. Thus, for instance, on the one hand, in Lykov (1976), Lopatina (1973) and Babenko (1997), *occasionalism* is viewed as a cover term for any new word, whose formation is determined by a specific context, regardless of whether it is coined according to conventional and well-established word-formation patterns (the so-called potential words) or, on the contrary, without complying with standard word-formation rules (proper nonce words). On the other hand, Zemskaya (1992) and Namitokova (1986) under the term *occasionalism* include exclusively the latter category, i.e. new words coined according to unconventional word-formation patterns and techniques, without complying with standard word-formation rules.

In this regard, it seems to us that the inclusion of potential words in the category of occasionalisms is particularly justifiable, since both potential and nonce words are not part of everyday practice and are coined at the moment of speaking. In our study, therefore, unconventional words with respect to the lexical norm are viewed as nonce formations, as opposed to conventional ones. Thus, occasionalisms in the broad sense of the term, are divided on the basis of their relationship to word-formation rules, and potential words are considered a variety of nonce words.

Aims, data collection and research methods

The aim of the present study is to conduct a structural and semantic analysis of nonce words, coined by individual users of Russian forums during their electronic interactions, with particular attention paid to the most productive patterns according to which nonce words are coined and to the main peculiarities concerning their formation.

The collection of research data was carried out by following the method of continuous and targeted sampling on the Internet forum Forum.Exler.ru <https://club443.ru/> in the period from February 2023 to February 2024. For the purposes of the present study newly formed words used within a specific context, and not recorded in Russian dictionaries, were selected. Collected corpus consists of 183 lexical units.

Theoretical framework of the present paper focuses on studies dedicated to word-formation processes in the Russian language (Zemskaya, 1983, 1992, 2009; Uluhanov, 1992a, 1992b, 1996; Namitokova, 1986; Kubryakova, 1981; Yanko-Trinitskaya, 2001; Izotov, 1998; Popova, Ratsiburskaya, Gugunava, 2005, et al.) and to Internet linguistics (Crystal, 2003; Kolokol'tseva, Lutovinova, 2012; Trofimova, 2011, et al.). The corresponding English terminology is primarily based on the studies of Bauer (1983, 2001), Fischer (1998) and Mattiello (2017).

In the study the following research methods and techniques were applied: the descriptive method, involving systematic observation, generalization, interpretation and classification of the linguistic data under consideration; the methods of contextual, semantic and stylistic analysis; the analysis of word-formation processes, which allows to identify the word-formation patterns according to which the new lexical unit was coined as well as its internal word structure; statistical data analysis.

Occasionalisms: standard word-formation patterns

Word-formation patterns in the modern Russian language are described in detail from a synchronic point of view in the studies of Vinogradov (1947), Shanskij (1959), Zemskaya (1992; 2009), Uluhanov (1996), Yanko-Trinitskaya (2001) and other Russian scholars researching word-formation processes. Several criteria are used to identify various conventional word-formation patterns. In fact, based on the number of motivating bases involved in the word-formation processes, it is possible to distinguish between formation of simple and complex words. In linguistic literature several classifications concerning standard word-formation patterns have been proposed. It should be noted, however, that all these classifications are fundamentally similar and that the differences among them are not particularly significant¹.

In our study, we will rely on the traditional classification presented in the *Russian Grammar* (Shvedova, 1980, pp. 136 – 137), which describes 15 different word-formation patterns, the main criterion for distinguishing them being the number of derivational bases. The most productive ways of coining new words from a single derivational base include suffixation, prefixation, postfixation, as well as prefixal-suffixal, prefixal-postfixal, suffixal-postfixal type of derivation and nominalisation. Moreover, the most productive ways of forming new words consisting of more than one derivational base are compounding, suffixal compounding, fusion and truncation or clipping. Among less frequent word-formation patterns it is possible to observe the

¹ See, e.g., Zemskaya (2009, pp. 176 – 189); Beloshapkova (2003, pp. 364 – 377); Lopatin, Uluhanov (2016, pp. 35 – 36) et al.

prefixal-suffixal postfixation, prefixal and prefixal-suffixal compounding, as well as fusion combined with suffixation.

The analysis of the collected data allowed us to identify 117 occasionalisms, coined according to conventional Russian word-formation patterns (Table 1).

No.	Word-formation pattern	Quantity	Example
1.	Suffixation	46	<i>отвезти + -енец</i> ∅ > отвезенец (1)
2.	Prefixation	8	<i>недо- + зуб</i> > недозуб (2)
3.	Prefixal-suffixal pattern	6	<i>на- + смет(а) + -и(ть)</i> > насметить (3)
4.	Postfixation	1	<i>хохотать + -ся</i> > хохотаться (4)
5.	Prefixal-postfixal pattern	2	<i>об- + закрывать + -ся</i> > обзакрывать (5)
6.	Prefixal-suffixal postfixation	6	<i>по- + цигун + -и(ть) + -ся</i> > поцигуниться (6)
7.	Compounding	30	<i>спиц(а) + -е- + терапия</i> > спицетерапия (7)
8.	Suffixal compounding	11	<i>подарк(и) + -о- + бра(ть) + -тель</i> > подаркобратель (8) <i>подарк(и) + -о- + получа(ть) + -тель</i> > подаркополучатель (8)
9.	Fusion combined with suffixation	3	<i>во время операции + -онн-</i> > вовремяоперационные (9)
10.	Truncation / Clipping	4	<i>рецепты</i> > рецы (10)
Total		117	

Table 1. Occasionalisms coined according to standard word-formation patterns

(1) Жизнь была спокойная. Меня отец отвезет к бабушке в деревню, и три месяца делай, что хочешь. <...> У нас таких "**отвезенцев**" целая компания собралась, ну и делали, что хотели.²

(2) У меня до сих пор один делает попытки вылезти. Настойчивый дерзкий **недозуб**.

(3) Решила расширить балкон. Позвала испанца (по рекомендации), чтобы он мне сделал смету. Испанец **насметил** 2,5k без налога.

(4) Аж, чаем поперхнулась, **хохоталася**.

(5) У нас котов не все закрытые двери раздражают. Только те, за которыми "мама" или "папа". Остальные хоть **обзакрывайся**, никакой реакции.

² In all examples the author's spelling and punctuation are preserved.

(6) Ну и когда рано встаешь, день становится дольше, и много приятного не пропускаешь. Хочется выйти утром в парк с кофейком или **поцигунуться**, или в лес сходить пока никого там нет.

(7) Когда я активно вязала, называла это занятие **спицетерапией**.

(8) Что со мной не так? Надя не хочет принимать мой подарок, а ведь у неё работа такая! **Подаркобратель**, или **подаркополучатель**!

(9) Нам коллега показывала (ну, желающим) **вовремяоперационные фотографии** - как это все последовательно делалось.

(10) Мне почему-то совсем не заходят рецепты Емельяненко и Фuffy, вот совсем. Ни к кому неприязни нет, конечно, **рецы** наверняка хорошие, раз столько форумчан одобряют, но не мое.

The analysis of the collected data shows that some nonce words, coined according to conventional word-formation patterns, deviate to a certain extent from word-formation rules. As a matter of fact, there are several types of restrictions that prevent the addition of a particular affix to a specific base, restricting therefore the possible set of combinations: semantic constraints caused by the semantic incompatibility among morphemes, including restrictions on the compatibility of an affix with the base of a particular part of speech; stylistic constraints caused by the stylistic incompatibility of morphemes; word-formation constraints, implying the impossibility for specific derived bases to serve as motivating ones (Beloshapkova, 2009, pp. 377 – 383). Deviations from semantic and word-formation constraints refer to systemic restrictions imposed by the language system itself, while stylistic constraints are non-systemic in nature and „*emerge precisely as tendencies of compatibility/incompatibility, rather than as strict, inviolable rules*“ (Zemskaya, 2009, p. 207).

In this regard, for instance, the nonce word **вирусятина** (11), coined on the basis of the noun **вирус**, shows deviation from the restrictions of a specific type of derivation as far as the part of speech of the base is concerned. Namely, the formation of nouns with the suffix **-атин(а)/-ятин(а)**, denoting mass/uncountable or collective concepts characterised by the quality of the base – mainly with derogatory connotations – is motivated, as a rule, by adjectives, not nouns (cf. Lopatin, Uluhanov, 2016, p. 285).

(11) *Лежу, лечусь от **вирусятины**. У нас погода самая простудная: -1/+2, и почти каждый день дожди.*

A similar kind of deviation from a specific type of derivation, strictly connected with the features of the base, is displayed by the occasionalism **анти-Плюшкин** (12), motivated by the anthroponym **Плюшкин**, instead of a common noun (cf. Lopatin, Uluhanov, 2016, p. 44).

(12) *У меня перед глазами есть пример **анти-Плюшкиных**. Это мои соседи в доме напротив.*

The material we studied also presents the formation of occasional compound words by combining lexico-semantically and stylistically heterogeneous usual words. For example, the noun **терапия** as the second part of complex words introduces the meaning ‘treatment of disease in the way indicated in the first part of the word’. The

combination of this medical term with colloquial words gives nonce words a playful, ironic coloring: *спицы* (7) or *кот* (13).

(13) *Это мои любимые коты в монастыре на Орше, тут недалеко, минут 20 от Твери, я часто езжу их кормить, это у меня **кототерапия**.*

In this context, the widespread use of derivational affixes and word-formation patterns pertaining mainly to colloquial speech is also noteworthy (Zemskaya, 2021, pp. 110 – 135). This is particularly true for suffixes of subjective evaluation, including diminutive and augmentative suffixes. E.g.: *капучино* + -к- > *капучинко* (14); *перфекционист* + -ищ(е) > *перфекционистище* (15).

(14) *Девочка, наконец, распечатала кофемашину, оказывается она умеет пользоваться, работала раньше в кофейне (не в нашей) и я уже второй день пью чудный **капучинко**, с пенкой.*

(15) *Это он сам перфекционист. **Перфекционистище**. Ему самому хотелось все довести до совершенства.*

Furthermore, in their online posts, Internet-forum users introduce also nominal derivatives coined by adding the suffix -ул(я), particularly productive in colloquial speech, that typically refer to a person, conveying affectionate or derogatory connotations (cf. Lopatin, Uluhanov, 2016, p. 661). E.g.: *ждать* + -ул(я) > *ждуля* and *мечтать* + -ул(я) > *мечтуля* (16).

(16) *Спасибо за заботу, но не по адресу, **ждули** и **мечтули** тут под другими никами.*

Particularly frequent is also the coinage of new words by suffixal univerbation, whose meaning is synonymous with the meaning of the expression they originated from. In this case, the initial sequence of words refers to neutral and official names and designations, while new words formed by univerbation are used in colloquial speech or jargon (Zemskaya, 2021, p. 113). E.g.: *планетарка* < *планетарный миксер* (17).

(17) *И вот до меня только дошло. Раз у тебя **планетарки** нет, это ты руками делаешь?*

Occasionalisms: non-standard word-formation patterns

There is quite a large body of research concerning the different unconventional word-formation patterns in Russian, however, there is still no generally-accepted classification. In this regard, scholars draw attention to the fact that it is particularly difficult to provide a systematic description of non-standard word-formation patterns, as compared to standard ways of coining new words (Zemskaya, 1992, p. 190; Ilyasova, Amiri, 2018, p. 214). The descriptions of the different types of unconventional derivation presented in the studies of Russian linguists (see Lykov, 1976; Namitokova, 1986; Babenko, 1997; Izotov, 1998; Zemskaya, 2009; Uluhanov, 1992a, 1992b, 1996; Yanko-Trinititskaya, 2001; Popova, Ratsiburskaya, Gugunava, 2005, et al.), show the variety of approaches aimed at identifying in greater detail the specific types of unconventional derivation and the difficulties in drawing a finer distinction in this regard, which in turn explains why it is possible to find a large number of both suggested denominations and classifications concerning unconventional ways of forming new words. In fact, in recent literature there is still no general agreement on

the concrete number of potential non-standard word-formation patterns. Thus, for instance, Uluhanov identifies 53 unconventional ways of forming new words in the Russian language of which 10 are non-mixed (pure)³ and 43 are mixed (Uluhanov, 1996, pp. 94 – 95). At the same time, Uluhanov presents the set of word-formation patterns as „a system of interconnected units (cells), potentially possible, but not always realised lexically“ (Uluhanov, 1996, p. 26), allowing for the possibility of identifying new unconventional types of derivation that could fill empty gaps. Similarly, Izotov singles out more than a hundred ways of forming nonce words (Izotov, 1998, pp. 40 – 71). Zemskaya points out that the precise number of patterns according to which occasionalisms are formed is in principle very difficult to calculate, since they are coined individually, which is why an attempt to subclassify them according to some standard methods is particularly complex, if not – to a certain extent – impossible (Zemskaya, 1992, p. 191).

The analysis of the main studies dedicated to non-standard types of derivation in Russian allowed us to provide a list of the main and currently most frequent ways of forming new words according to unconventional patterns.

1. **Derivation according to a specific pattern** (Rus. *деривация по конкретному образцу*) (Zemskaya, 1992, p. 194; Kubryakova, 1981, p. 25; Popova, Ratsiburskaya, Gugunava, 2005, p. 101). The occasionalism is coined by analogy with a specific existing word, and both an affix or a non-morphemic segment of the prototype can be used as a word-forming element. For instance, the model for the occasionalism *самушка* ‘a small work of art imbued with satire’ in the text of a newspaper article was the noun *юмореска* ‘a small work of art imbued with humor’, coined by adding the irregular and relatively rare suffix *-ешк(а)* (Popova, Ratsiburskaya, Gugunava, 2005, p. 102). It is not always possible to determine unambiguously whether a new word is coined according to a specific pattern or simply produced in a conventional way. In this specific case, the correct interpretation of this unconventional/non-standard type of derivation is facilitated by the use – in the same context – of both the model and the occasionalism.

2. **Word-formation by substitution** (Rus. *заменительная деривация*) (Izotov, 1998; Izotov, Panyushkin, 1997; Popova, Ratsiburskaya, Gugunava, 2005, etc.). This process assumes, on the one hand, the replacement of one of the root morphemes in an existing complex word, on the other hand, the replacement of an affix in a word consisting of one single root. For instance, the occasionalism *кетчупозависимость* ‘ketchup addiction’ is formed by substituting the first element of the compound *наркозависимость* ‘drug addiction’ with the root morpheme of the noun *кетчуп* (Popova, Ratsiburskaya, Gugunava, 2005, p. 103). Some Russian linguists (Uluhanov, 1998, p. 140; Yanko-Trinitskaya, 2001, p. 463) equate substitution with derivation

³ Among the non-mixed occasionally realized ways of forming new words Uluhanov includes deprefixation, desuffixation, depostfixation, denominalisation, decomposition, overlapping blends, variation of the phonemic composition of the base, as well as the use of affixes as single words. Mixed unconventional word-formation patterns consist of various combinations of non-mixed, occasionally realized ways of forming new words and standard derivational types (Uluhanov, 1996, p. 66).

according to a specific pattern. However, when coining a new word by analogy, while the word-forming element of the prototype is reproduced, the motivating base is modified. Word-formation derived by substitution implies, on the one hand, the replacement of the affix combined with the same root, and on the other hand, the replacement of one of the roots – or of a longer segment – in an existing complex word (Samylicheva, 2013, p. 219).

3. **Contamination** (Rus. *контаминация*) (Namitokova, 1986, p. 135; Zemskaya, 1992, p. 192; Nikolina, 2011, pp. 41 – 45) or **blending** (Rus. *блендинг*) (Khrushcheva, 2009; Grigorieva, 2019). The formation of a new word by blending, i.e. by joining two words, either whole or shortened. Formally in the newly-coined occasionalism both original constituents are represented by at least one phoneme, while their meanings intertwine complexly giving rise to a new meaning, e.g. in the occasionalism *филантроп* ‘a person who bequeaths his/her body to a university clinic’ < *филантроп* ‘philanthropist’ + *труп* ‘corpse’ (Sannikov 2002: 164). While pointing out the difficulties in distinguishing the different unconventional word-formation patterns, Ilyasova and Amiri draw attention to transitional phenomena between contamination or blending and other unconventional ways of forming new words. For instance, the nonce word *банкротат* can be interpreted both as a blend coined by combining the words *банкрот* and *банкомат*, or as an occasionalism created by analogy with the word *банкомат* (Ilyasova, Amiri, 2018, p. 207).

4. **Hendiadys** (Rus. *гендиадис*) (Izotov, Panyushkin, 1997, p. 12). A word is formed of rhymed complex words in which the second constituent of the compound is a phonetic modification of the first constituent. Often the second constituent of the complex word is a pseudomorpheme obtained by replacing the initial consonant in an existing word, e.g.: *перец-шмерец* < *перец* ‘pepper’ + pseudomorpheme *шмерец* (Zemskaya, 1983, p. 193).

5. **Graphoderivation** (Rus. *графодеривация*) (Popova, 2007, p. 230), also referred to in Russian linguistic literature as **graphic word-formation** (Rus. *графическое словообразование*) (Izotov, 1998, p. 76) is an unconventional word-formation pattern, carried out by modifying the graphic appearance of an existing word. The use of different graphic elements results in the semantic diversity of the word. Popova argues that when coining graphic occasionalisms (so-called *graphoderivatives*), complex word-forming elements are used, consisting of two constituents: a substantial constituent (an affix, a whole word, a non-morphemic segment of a word, etc.) and a graphic sign (quotes, brackets, hyphen, graphic signs from a foreign language, elements from a foreign code, font highlighting of a specific segment of a word, etc.), i.e.: «супер»вещь, бес-порядок, интернетмэн, встреч@ться, ве4ер (Popova, 2009, p. 125).

6. The term **holophrasis** (Rus. *голофразис*) (Izotov, Panyushkin, 1997, p. 14)⁴, also defined in Russian literature as **integration** (Rus. *интеграция*) (Gugunava, 2002), is used to describe a particular word-formation pattern, according to which new words

⁴ Popova considers this specific word-formation pattern rather an instance of graphoderivation (Popova, 2009, p. 125).

are produced on the basis of a multi-word expression or a whole sentence by eliminating the spaces between the words or by replacing the spaces with hyphens, i.e.: *слова слились в одну фразу* < *слова слились в одну фразу* (Popova, Ratsiburskaya, Gugunava, 2005, p. 109).

7. The process of **back-derivation**, also named as **back-formation** (Rus. *редеривация*) (Namitokova, 1986, p. 144; Izotov, 1998, p. 190), refers to the deletion of an affix from the motivating model by analogy with similar cases in which the affixed and non-affixed forms are both regularly existing words. For instance, as pointed out earlier, among the non-mixed occasionally realized methods of forming new words, Uluhanov includes *deprefixation* (e.g. the noun *разбериха*, formed from *неразбериха*), *depostfixation* (e.g. the verb *содрогать*, coined from *содрогаться*), *desuffixation* (e.g. the verb *радиовещать*, formed from the noun *радиовещание*) (Uluhanov, 1992a, p. 5).

8. The **emancipation of an affix** (Rus. *эмансипация аффикса*), or, in other words, „the use of an affix as an independent word“ (Uluhanov, 1992a, p. 14) presupposes the debonding of a derivational affix (both a prefix or a suffix) from an existing word and its use as a free morpheme, e.g. the occasionalism *измы* (cf. the suffix *-изм*) (Zaitseva, 2022, p. 14).

9. **Deonymisation** (Rus. *дезонимизация*) (Popova, Ratsiburskaya, Gugunava, 2005, p. 109) is the transition of a proper name into a common noun, e.g. *камю* and *сартры*, from the surnames *Камю* and *Сартр*.

The analysis of the collected data shows that 66 lexemes were coined according to unconventional ways of forming new words, and their distribution on the basis of the specific word-formation pattern is presented in Table 2.

(18) Я значит сплю, а на форуме рыбалка и **грибалка**.

(19) Любююдиии, мне плохо... Это называется: **Покончил жизнь самообжорством**.

(20) Как же мне нравятся мои новые карты... Просто оргазм **картрический**.

(21) Там для блюд всего две тарелки под какой-нибудь **пудинг-шмудинг** и пироженки, а блюда - под чашку.

(22) Ну в принципе у меня с тренажерным залом так же **фигня**, заниматься нравится, а в зеркало посмотришь... Ох сколько еще надо заниматься и возможно это для меня вообще, что бы мне в зеркале понравился вид **ЖИВОТНОЙ** части тела!

(23) Про платки. О чем спор? Это круто на все времена. **Инеспорьтесомной**.

(24) В Милане вон наши красотки и **красоты** зажигают как в старые времена.

(25) Другое дело что еще **дцать** лет понадобится чтобы это не вызывало сразу же автоматического отторжения, допустим, у работодателей.

(26) Я вообще побаиваюсь кошек. Они себе на уме, с ними надо общий язык найти. А собаки как-то проще, обычно сразу дружить хотят, ну кроме каких-нибудь **баскервилей**.

No.	Word-formation pattern	Quantity	Example
1.	Derivation according to a specific pattern	8	<i>рыбалка</i> > <i>грибалка</i> (18)
2.	Substitution	4	<i>самоубийство</i> > <i>самообжорство</i> (19)
3.	Contamination / Blending	11	<i>карты</i> + <i>тантрический</i> > <i>картрический</i> (20)
4.	Hendiadys	9	<i>пудинг-шмудинг</i> (21)
5.	Graphoderivation	10	<i>ЖИВОТный</i> (22)
6.	Holophrasis	15	<i>И не спорьте со мной</i> > <i>Инеспорьтесомной</i> (23)
7.	Back-derivation / Back-formation	3	<i>красотки</i> > <i>красоты</i> (24)
8.	Emancipation of an affix	2	suffix <i>-дцать</i> 'a certain number of tens' > noun <i>дцать</i> (25)
9.	Deonymisation	4	<i>Баскерквили</i> 'Baskervilles', cf. <i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i> , by Arthur Conan Doyle (Rus. <i>Собака Баскервильей</i>) > <i>баскервили</i> (26)
Total		66	

Table 2. Occasionalisms coined according to non-standard word-formation patterns

Conclusion and further prospects

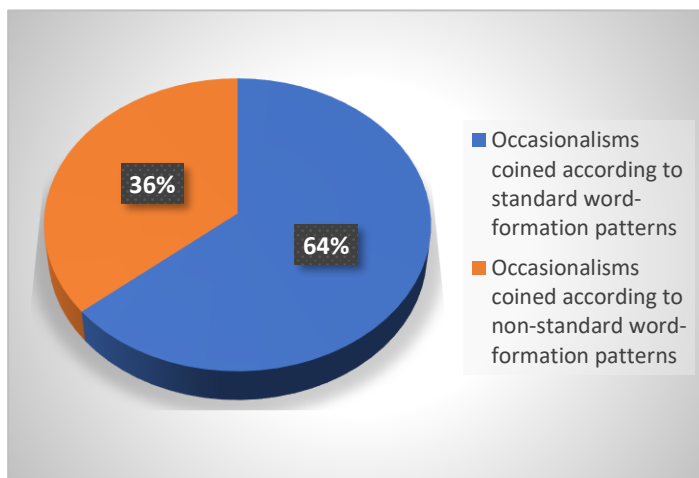


Figure 1. Correlation between standard and non-standard word-formation patterns

Analysis of structural and semantic features of words, coined by individual users of Russian-language Internet forum, enabled to identify the most productive ways of creating occasional words. Word-formation analysis of occasional words showed that the majority of them – 64% of the total number of words from our corpus – were coined according to conventional Russian word-formation patterns, while 36% of lexemes were coined by unconventional word-formation patterns (*Figure 1*).

It can be therefore concluded that in informal computer-mediated communication predominantly conventional methods of word formation are implemented, among which the most productive are suffixation (39%) and compounding (30%) (Figure 2). At the same time, it should be noted that some occasionalisms, coined according to standard word-formation patterns, deviate to a certain extent from word-formation rules.

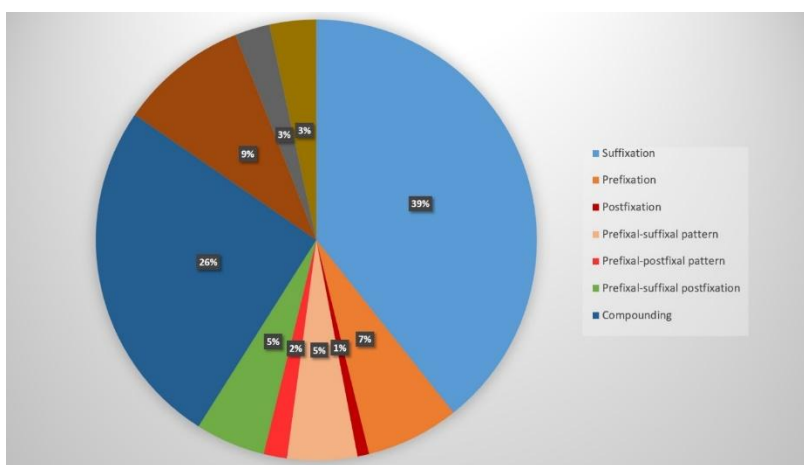


Figure 2. Distribution of standard word-formation patterns in the corpus

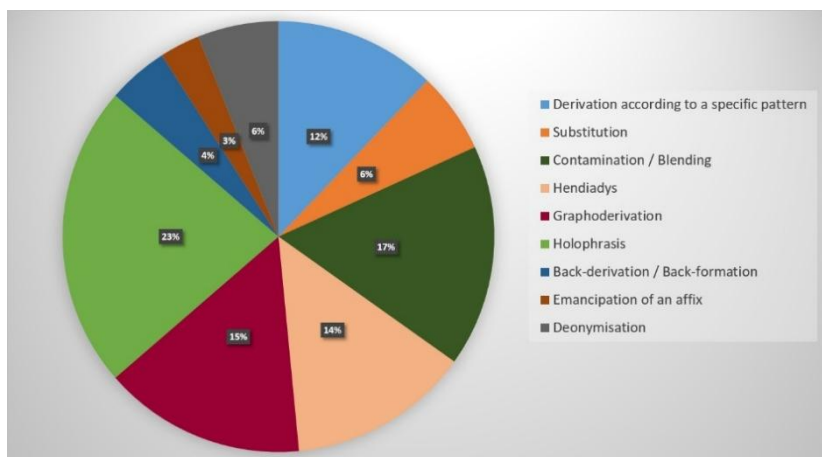


Figure 3. Distribution of non-standard word-formation patterns in the corpus

Informal communication on an Internet forum combines the features of both oral and written speech which is confirmed by the linguistic material we collected and analyzed. On the one hand, we observed a widespread use of derivational affixes and word-formation patterns pertaining mainly to colloquial speech. And on the other hand, the corpus contains a large number of occasionalisms, the understanding of semantics of which requires visual perception. These are nonce words coined according to such non-standard word-formation patterns as holophrasys (23%), blending (17%), graphoderivation (15%) and hendiadys (14%) (Figure 3).

As a conclusion, we would like to note the need for further study of word-formation processes in informal computer-mediated communication, using the material of the Russian language, as well as conducting comparative studies using data from other languages.

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