



Word formation varieties in French dictionaries' neologisms

¹ Shofa KHAIRUNNISA, ² Myrna LAKSMAN-HUNTLEY

^{1,2} French department, Universitas Indonesia – Indonesia

laksman@ui.ac.id

RÉSUMÉ - ABSTRACT

Le Petit Robert (LPR) et Larousse (LRS) sont deux dictionnaires français réputés et largement utilisés qui publient chaque année une nouvelle édition. Cette étude vise à décrire la formation des néologismes société dans l'édition 2025 des deux dictionnaires et à vérifier les caractéristiques de chacun d'entre eux en fonction de leur sélection de néologismes. Cette étude qualitative s'appuie sur les théories morphologiques de Delbecque (2006) et de Lehmann & Martin-Berthet (1999). Les résultats montrent que la majorité des néologismes société dans les deux dictionnaires sont formés par dérivation. Cela indique la productivité du système d'affixation français et les efforts des deux dictionnaires de garantir la conformité avec la grammaire française dans la sélection de leurs néologismes. En outre, cette étude soutient la recherche précédente de Williams (2012) : le LPR a un caractère plus académique, tandis que le LRS est un dictionnaire encyclopédique plus adapté aux utilisateurs généraux.

Le Petit Robert (LPR) and Larousse (LRS) are prominent and widely-used French dictionaries that regularly release new editions every year. This study aims to describe the word formation of society neologisms in the 2025 edition of both dictionaries and to verify each dictionary's characteristics based on their neologisms selections. This qualitative study uses word formation theories by Delbecque (2006) and Lehmann & Martin-Berthet (1999). The result shows that society neologisms in both dictionaries are mostly formed through derivation. This indicates the productivity of the French affixation system and the effort of both dictionaries to ensure conformity of French grammar in selecting their neologisms. Additionally, this study supports previous research by Williams (2012) that LPR is more academic in nature, while LRS is an encyclopedic dictionary that is more facilitating for general users from various backgrounds.

ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received 8 May 2025

Revised 10 August 2025

Accepted 20 November 2025

Available online 3 Desember 2025

Mots-clés : dictionnaire, formation des mots, langue française, morphologie, néologismes

Keywords:

dictionary; French language; morphology; neologisms; word formation

To cite this paper (in APA style):

Khairunnisa, S. & Laksman-Huntley, M.. (2025).

Word formation varieties in French dictionaries' neologisms.

Francisola, Volume 10(2), 85-98.

<https://doi.org/10.17509/francisola.v10i2.95520>

1. INTRODUCTION

One of the important factors driving language evolution is the creation of neologisms that emerge to fill gaps in a language to express new concepts (Kukiboyeva & Rakhimova, 2024). Derived from the Greek words *neo* 'new' and *logos* 'word, speech, discourse', neologisms expand the lexicon of a language and can be seen as a thermometer of social change (Zella et al., 2025). Newmark (1988 in Ibrahim et al., 2024) defines a neologism as a newly coined word, or a new meaning given to an existing word. A language becomes more vital when its vocabulary is constantly updated (Su, 2024).

Miller (2014 in Satriani et al., 2021) asserts that it is individual creativity that produces neologisms. In discussing neologisms, Würschinger (2021) cites Schmid (2020) who explains that these linguistic innovations become part of the language through two processes: *diffusion* and *usualization*. A new word, or neologism, is coined by an individual and first reaches a small community that may have a close relationship with the originator or those who share similar interests. After gaining traction, the word undergoes *diffusion*, a process of spreading the neologism to other speakers and communities, as well as wider use in different contexts. Then comes *usualization*, the repeated use of a word within a community that further strengthens its familiarity and acceptance. Eventually, a neologism becomes conventional when it is frequently used by many speakers widely.

While neologisms often arise organically from everyday conversation, their official integration into the lexicon of a language is marked by formal recognition. This recognition is usually achieved through inclusion in a dictionary when the neologism has been widely used by a language-speaking community (Guerra, 2016; Barymova & Erofeeva, 2023; Kukiboyeva & Rakhimova, 2024). Inclusion in the dictionary signifies the transition of a neologism from an informal innovation to a recognized vocabulary. This allows dictionaries to become a place for documenting language evolution and representing social change through regular updates by adding neologisms.

The important role of dictionaries in recording linguistic evolution is also evident in the context of the French language. France has been committed to preserving the integrity and purity of its national language for a long time (Riggio, 2021). One of the manifestations of this commitment is the establishment of the *Académie Française* which aims to protect, supervise, and provide certain rules to the French language to maintain its purity in order to adapt to the arts and sciences. The institution is responsible for compiling the official dictionary of the French language, *Le Dictionnaire de l'Académie française*, the latest edition of which was published in November 2024 (Académie Française, n.d.). The French Academy also regularly updates a blog series on their website, titled "*Dire, Ne Pas Dire*" 'Say, Don't Say', which aims to highlight errors and oddities in modern language use, and provide more specific recommendations for accurate French usage (Caruso 2012 in Riggio, 2021).

Despite its position as the official authority on the French language, *Académie Française* does not directly regulate the selection of neologisms from other commercial French dictionaries in France. These dictionaries generally operate autonomously, relying on their own criteria for selecting new words for inclusion in their respective dictionaries. Some of the most widely referenced commercial French dictionaries are Le Petit Robert (hereafter LPR) and Larousse (hereafter LRS). In 2019, LRS claimed a market share of 65%, while LPR estimated their market share at 35% (Bally et al., 2024). Despite this difference, both publishers dominate the French dictionary market. Both dictionaries regularly publish updated editions every year, adding around 150 new neologisms to each of their entries. The mechanism of adding new words to the LPR and LRS dictionaries is largely determined by three main criteria, namely the frequency of use of the word, the diffusion or spread of the word, and the durability or potential longevity of the word (Moinard, 2022; Bally et al., 2024).

The LPR was first published in 1967 by Paul Robert, a French lexicographer. The LPR dictionary as it is known today is a condensed version of Robert's earlier six-volume work, *Dictionnaire alphabétique et analogique de la langue française* (Notre Histoire, n.d.). LPR is renowned for its comprehensive coverage of the French language and has cemented its position as a reference dictionary for the French language. The dictionary is enriched with more than 100,000 words and expressions that are well described from a linguistic point of view: etymology, pronunciation, language register, analogies, literature citations, etc. (Moinard, 2022).

On the other hand, LRS was founded in 1852 by Augustin Boyer and Pierre Larousse, editors of *Grand Dictionnaire universel du XIXe siècle* which was the forerunner of the LRS dictionary (Larousse, n.d.). Pierre Larousse, who died in 1875, had worked during his lifetime on the development of encyclopedia dictionaries. Their current dictionary, *Le Petit Larousse Illustré*, was first published in 1905 under the direction of Claude Augé. To date, the LRS is seen as one of the most trusted and widely used French dictionaries not only in France but also in other francophone countries such as Canada and Belgium (Julisdianti & Susanto, 2021).

Aurélien Picton, a linguist and professor at the University of Geneva, suggests that the LRS is an encyclopedic dictionary while the LPR is a linguistic dictionary (Bally et al., 2024). Furthermore, she explains that the LRS was created primarily in an educational context to support student learning in schools. It features illustrations and information about words both as linguistic objects and as objects in the world. Meanwhile, LPR is preferred in a more academic context because it provides a lot of information related to the linguistic aspects of each word, such as its definition, etymology, and synonyms. This is in line with Williams' (2012) explanation that LPR entries are longer and more complex, filled with literature citations, while LRS combines dictionary entries with illustrative content and cultural references, as well as providing few usage examples and a relatively simple synonym network.

As of the 2025 edition, there are 7 neologism fields listed in each of the LPR and LRS dictionaries. LPR includes the domains "*Environnement*" 'Environment', "*Société*" 'Society', "*Nouvelles Technologies et Informatique*" 'Latest Technologies and Informatics', "*Gastronomie*" 'Gastronomy', "*Sport et Loisirs*" 'Sports and Hobbies', "*Francophonie*" 'Francophone', and "*Sciences et Médecine*" 'Science and Medicine'. Meanwhile, the LRS includes the domains "*Risques et Enjeux Environnementaux*" 'Risks and Environmental Issues', "*Société*" 'Society', "*Transformations Numériques et Technologiques*" 'Digital and Technological Transformations', "*Nouvelles Tendances Culinaires et Gastronomiques*" 'New Culinary and Gastronomic Trends', "*Sport et Loisirs*" 'Sports and Hobbies', "*Mots de Régions de la Francophonie*" 'Words from Francophone Regions', and "*Mutations des Sphères Économique, Politique, et Juridique*" 'Developments in Economics, Politics and Law'.

The *société* domain in both dictionaries recorded the highest number of neologisms compared to other domains. Based on the author's observation, this domain covers a wide thematic range and thus contains more neologisms. For instant, some neologisms are related to ideologies that are widely discussed in France such as *écoféminisme* and *masculinisme* (Ranc, 2022; Goupil, 2025), to current terms widely used in social media culture such as *stalker*, *désanonymiser*, and *tiktokeur/euse* (Mariani, 2024; Claessens, 2025; Demet, 2024). This can demonstrate both dictionaries' effort to keep up, record, and define the latest developments taking place in society.

Neologisms are closely related to morphological processes, which is a field of linguistics that studies the processes involved in word formation (Zufferey & Moeschler, 2021). Lehmann & Martin-Berthet (1999) explain that morphological word formation mechanisms in French are divided into two main types, namely derivation and composition. The derivation process is then divided into two: *dérivation affixale*, which consists of prefixation, suffixation, and parasynthetics; and *dérivation non-affixale*. Furthermore, the composition process is divided into two, namely popular composition (*composition populaire*) and scientific composition (*composition savante*). Polguère (2003) identifies more or less the same processes as those proposed by Lehmann & Martin-Berthet (1999), but he also includes flexion (*la flexion*) as part of the morphological mechanisms that enrich the French lexicon. In addition, the derivation process described by Polguère emphasizes more on its semantic perspective, rather than on the morphological level, as described in more detail by Lehmann & Martin-Berthet (1999).

Furthermore, aligned with Lehmann & Martin-Berthet (1999), Delbecq (2006) also argues that the process of word formation in French is generally through the process of derivation or composition, but other processes such as conversion (*la conversion*), regressive derivation (*la dérivation régressive*), abbreviation or truncation (*abréviation*), *le télescopage* or *mot-valise*, and acronym (*la siglaison*) are sometimes used. Regarding the inflectional process included by Polguère (2003), Delbecq explains that this process does not create a new word, but rather adjusts the form of an existing word for the syntactic purposes of the language such as tense, quantity, gender, and so on. Thus, the author decided

to use Delbecque (2006) word formation theory because of its more detailed classification. In addition, Lehmann & Martin-Berthet (1999) theory will also be applied to help categorize the composition process more comprehensively.

Studies on neologisms and their formation have already been conducted. Social media is one of the most frequently studied data sources due to its role as the primary space where neologisms flourish in the digital age. These neologisms emerge because new concepts are not yet represented in existing lexicon systems, and social media users require brevity in their communication (Satriani et al., 2021). Therefore, acronyms are the most widely used type of neologism in social media, as found in the research of Pratama et al. (2020), Cholilulloh & Purwani (2022), and Shahlee & Ahmad (2022). However, Ibrahim et al. (2024) found that English neologisms on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter by Canadian, British, American and Irish users during 2022-2024 were mostly formed through compounding, followed by lexical deviations and acronyms. The findings are in line with Chyrvonyi's (2024) study which examined 50 recent neologisms on social media between 2016-2024 and found that blending was the most common word formation process (40%), followed by affixation (21%), compounding (17%), and abbreviation (6%).

Neologisms listed in a monolingual dictionary are mostly formed through derivation or composition, and there are also the presence of loanwords from foreign languages (Julisdianti & Susanto, 2021; Lukina & Gaynutdinova, 2021; Murugova & Evtushenko, 2023; Niklas-Salminen, 2023). An interesting finding is found in Julisdianti & Susanto's (2021) research which found French word formation with *nom propre* as the base word. In addition, neologisms included in a dictionary can also be formed from processes that are rarely found, such as onomatopoeia, as found in Shi's (2025) who examined 932 English neologisms in the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary for the period 2020-2024.

Besides being formed through morphological mechanisms, neologisms can also be directly borrowed from foreign languages, especially English. The existence of anglicisms in French can be found in various contexts, such as in fashion magazines (Rosa & Budiman, 2023), news article titles (Naja & Laksman-Huntley, 2023), and digital technology field (Nogaeva, 2022). Wang & Yuan (2020) mentioned that the phenomenon of *franglais* (the mixing of English in French) is partly driven by the need of its speakers to stay up-to-date and connect with the global community easily. Moreover, in a multicultural environment, it is easier to use English terms than to look for their French equivalents. Ashrafova (2024a; 2024b) adds that English vocabulary is often used to create a sense of modernity in business contexts, connect young people with global trends and pop culture, and is also widely used in scientific contexts to maintain technical terms that are easier to understand internationally. Sargsyan & Arakelyan (2024) also argue that anglicisms can be caused by inaccurate translations from English into French, the dominant status of English, the invention and development of new technologies, and the desire of young French people to appear more trendy.

Furthermore, Williams (2012) in his study comparing LPR and LRS argues that LRS are more encyclopedic and target a more general audience than the highly scientific LPR. LRS is mostly used to confirm meaning and check spelling, while LPR is aimed at readers with higher education backgrounds. This is also supported by Sajous & Martinez (2022) who mentioned that LPR contains more specialized terms than LRS.

Based on the previous studies stated, a study that discusses the comparison of word formation processes of neologisms in LPR and LRS has never been done before. The purpose of this study is then to describe the word formation of the *société* neologisms in the latest editions of two widely used French dictionaries, as well as to verify the characteristics of each dictionary through the difference in neologism selection.

2. METHOD

This study uses the qualitative method of Creswell (2014), with literature study technique. The main data sources for this research are the lists of *les mots nouveaux* from *Le Petit Robert* and *Le Petit Larousse Illustré* 2025 edition taken from the *dossier de presse* released by each publisher. These

documents can serve as the summary of the most highlighted lexical phenomena or changes by each publisher in that year. The scope of this study is limited to words in the *société* domain of both dictionaries in order to identify the latest variety of word formation of neologisms that reflect the current French social landscape, as well as to explore the distinctive characteristics of each dictionary through the selected neologisms. The data chosen will be analyzed according to the morphological theories of Delbecque (2006) and Lehmann & Martin-Berthet (1999).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Varieties of Word Formation Process of the *Société* Neologisms in Both Dictionaries' 2025 Edition

In the list of new words in the field of *société* (society), LPR recorded 16 neologisms while LRS recorded 20 neologisms in the 2025 edition. Overall, five morphological word formation processes were found based on the theories of Delbecque (2006) and Lehmann & Martin-Berthet (1999). The processes consist of derivation, popular composition, scientific composition, abbreviation, and *mot-valise* (*le télescope*), while conversion, regressive derivation, and acronym were not found. In addition, there are also other formation processes that are not discussed in the two previously mentioned theories, namely onomatopoeia and loanwords.

In LPR, 6 derivation words (2 prefixes, 2 suffixes, 1 parasynthetic form), 1 popular composition word, 3 scientific composition words, 1 abbreviation word, 3 *mot-valise* (*le télescope*), and 1 onomatopoeia word were found. On the other hand, in LRS, there are 8 derivation words (1 prefixation, 6 suffixations, 1 parasynthetic form), 2 popular composition words, 1 abbreviation word, 1 *mot-valise* (*le télescope*), and 1 loanword from English which is adopted directly into French without morphological modification.

Table 1. Word formation varieties of neologisms in “*société*” domain in LPR and LRS 2025 edition

Word Formation Process	Le Petit Robert	Larousse
Prefix Derivation	<i>Écoféminisme</i>	<i>Désanonymiser</i>
	<i>Décolonialism</i>	
Suffix Derivation		<i>Masculinisme</i>
		<i>Mentorer</i>
	<i>Stalker</i>	<i>Patrimonialiser</i>
	<i>Tiktokeur / Tiktokeuse</i>	<i>Platism</i>
		<i>Verdir</i>
		<i>Visibiliser</i>
Parasynthetic Derivation	<i>Déconjugaliser</i>	<i>Empouvoirement</i>
Composition Populaire	<i>Afrodescendant(e)</i>	<i>Afrodescendant(e)</i>
	<i>Narcobanditism</i>	<i>Porte-Voix</i>
	<i>Surtourism</i>	
Composition Savante	<i>Lithothérapie</i>	-
	<i>Sapiosexuel(le)</i>	
Le Téléscopage / Mot-Valise	<i>Bigorexie</i>	<i>Permittent</i>
	<i>Pédibus</i>	

Urbex		
Abbreviation	TT (<i>télétravail</i>)	Collab
Onomatopoeia	<i>Tchip</i>	-
Loanword	-	<i>Fast-Fashion</i>

3.1.1 Systematic Expansion of The Lexicon

Based on the classification, derivation produces the most new words in both dictionaries. The process of word formation through derivation must follow the grammatical system. In French, grammatical rules can relate to the gender of nouns or adjectives, as well as the adjustment of verb conjugation (Julisdianti & Susanto, 2021).

In LPR, derivational neologisms are formed using the prefixes *éco-* and *dé-*; suffixes *-er* and *-eur/-euse*; and circumfix *dé...-iser*. Most of the words produced are nouns. One example is the word *tiktokeur/tiktokeuse* which is formed by combining the noun "TikTok", a social media platform for sharing short videos, with the suffixes *-eur* or *-euse*. In French, those suffixes are commonly used to refer to a person's profession. The use of the suffix *-eur* or *-euse* is adapted to the gender of the person performing an action: *-eur* for male and *-euse* for female. Thus, the word *tiktokeur/tiktokeuse* refers to 'someone who publishes their own videos on the TikTok app'. This neologism reflects how digital culture, especially through social media, can influence the evolution of language.

Meanwhile, in LRS, derivational neologisms are formed by the addition of affixes consisting of prefix *dés-*; suffixes *-isme*, *-er*, *-iser*, *-ir*; and circumfix *em...-ement*. Most of the words produced are verbs. An interesting example is the word *verdir*, which is the only second group verb found in both corpuses. The word *verdir* is formed through the process of derivation by adding the suffix *-ir* to the adjective and masculine noun *vert*, which means 'green'. This suffix is usually used in French to form verbs from adjectives or nouns, and generally refers to process or transformation. In this context, *verdir* means 'to make green (something)'. Beyond its literal meaning, in the LRS's 2025 edition, *verdir* takes on a new meaning, namely 'to make (something) more environmentally friendly' which refers to actions related to ecological sustainability, such as revegetating urban spaces or making an industry more environmentally friendly. However, the word already appeared in the previous edition of LPR dictionary with a similar definition.

3.1.2 French Lexeme Combination

Another method of word formation that contributes to the expansion of the French lexicon is *composition populaire*. This process combines two or more free lexemes in French to form a new word, while maintaining the form and meaning of each lexeme (Delbecque, 2006). Both dictionaries share the same neologism in this category: *afrodescendant(e)*. This word is formed through the combination of two words in the French lexicon. The word consists of the prefix *afro-*, which refers to 'African or African heritage', and the adjective and noun *descendant(e)*, 'descendant'. The *afro-* component is commonly used in French to form terms related to African identity, such as *afro-américain* and *afro-européen*.

LPR defines *afrodescendant(e)* as '(someone) of African descent' while LRS gives a more detailed definition, namely '(someone) born outside Africa, but descended from parents or ancestors of African origin'. The difference in definition may indicate that the LPR takes a more neutral or general stance, leaving room for interpretation and inclusivity. This approach allows the term to be applied in various contexts without rigid criteria. Meanwhile, the LRS includes more specific details, reflecting sensitivity to identity discourses, as well as highlighting a stronger emphasis on lineage and geographic displacement. This detailed framing aligns with the identity and socio-politics discourse, in which the term is often used to refer to diasporas of African descent born and/or living outside Africa (Townsend-Bell, 2021). Overall, the recognition of this word through its appearance in the lexicon of the two dictionaries reflects a broader trend in modern French neologisms, where social and cultural identities are increasingly represented through inclusive lexical items.

3.1.3 *Specialized Terminology*

Unlike *composition populaire*, which arises from the combination of two French words, *composition savante* or scientific composition involves foreign roots, especially from Greek or Latin. This formation process usually results in a scientific, technical, or vocabulary in a specific field. Out of all the *société* neologisms in the two dictionaries studied, the words formed through the *composition savante* process are only found in LPR, namely in the words *bigorexie*, *lithothérapie*, and *sapiosexuel(le)*. For example, *lithothérapie* consists of a combination of the Greek word *litho* 'stone' and the French word *thérapie* 'therapy'. LPR defines *lithothérapie* as 'the use of stones (usually crystals) as a therapeutic property.' The inclusion of these *composition savante* neologisms may indicate the LPR's greater exposure to lexical innovations in specialized fields. In this case, *lithothérapie* is a term used in the context of alternative treatment, particularly in relation to mental and spiritual health.

3.1.4 *The Fusion of Words' Forms*

Another creation process that enriches the French lexicon is the formation of *mot-valise* through a process called *le télescopage*. This process occurs when elements from two different lexemes are combined to create a new word that reflects the fusion of the two concepts of the lexemes (Delbecque, 2006)). Unlike composition that incorporates the original form of each word in its entirety, *mot-valise* only maintains some part of each word involved in the process (Cholilulloh & Purwani, 2022). In the 2025 edition, the LPR Dictionary found 3 neologisms in the *société* domain that are *mot-valise* while the LRS Dictionary found 1. For example, LPR includes the word *urbex*, which is the combined form of two English lexemes: *urban exploration*. LPR defines this word as 'an activity that involves exploring abandoned sites that are usually off-limits to the public'. Meanwhile, the *mot-valise* in LRS is found in the word *permittent* which is a combination of the French words *permanent* and *intermittent*. The term refers to 'a person whose job, like freelancing, involves alternating periods of work and non-work, but over a very long period of time, often with the same employer and in jobs where freelancing is not always justified'.

3.1.5 *Language Efficiency in Communication*

In the era of globalization where communication proceeds at a rapid pace, the process of abbreviation plays an important role in lexical innovation. Delbecque (2006) explains that abbreviation is the process of shortening a word. For example, LRS includes the word *collab* which is an abbreviation of the phrase *collaboration professionnelle*. This term refers to 'a professional collaboration between two major brands, two personalities (artists, influencers, etc.), or a personality and a brand.' The inclusion of this neologism can be attributed to the widespread use of social media, which has contributed to the shift in digital marketing culture where many companies or brands have started to work with social media influencers to promote their products or services. The emergence of this abbreviation shows that the phenomenon of *collaboration professionnelle* is becoming more common and people are starting to use its abbreviation in their daily conversations.

3.1.6 *Lexicalization of onomatopoeia*

LPR includes *tchip* as one of the neologisms in their latest edition. It comes from an onomatopoeia that refers to the sound of sucking teeth commonly used in African and Caribbean cultures to express disapproval, annoyance, or contempt. The word officially joins the French lexicon of the LPR dictionary and is listed as a masculine noun. This is an interesting finding because onomatopoeia is not discussed in the word formation theories by Lehmann & Martin-Berthet (1999) nor by Delbecque (2006). Methods of lexical creation are varied, including at the phonological level through the onomatopoeia process. This process produces words that are imitations of sounds made by humans, animals, nature, machines, or other objects. This is what distinguishes it from other neologisms in general, such as derivation words or compound words that are formed morphologically.

Some onomatopoeic productions are usually spontaneously improvised, and sometimes become conventional and lexicalized that can be found in dictionaries or written media (Azzouzi, 2023). When

an onomatopoeia develops into a standardized noun, it undergoes lexicalization (Ropert, 2009). This means that the word transitions from a mere imitation of a sound to a dictionary-recognized noun with a fixed meaning. Although rare, onomatopoeia is one of the processes that contribute to lexical productivity in a language, including French.

3.1.7 Loanwords

In the 2025 edition of the LPR dictionary, several new words in the société domain were adapted from English. These words include *stalker*, *urbex*, *bigorexie*, and *sapiosexuel(le)*. The word *stalker* originates from the English verb *to stalk*, which was adopted into French through derivation by adding the suffix *-er*. It is defined as 'the act of spying on others on the Internet, particularly on social media.' The word *urbex* is a *mot-valise* derived from combining the two English lexemes *urban* and *exploration*. LPR defines it as 'an activity involving the exploration of abandoned sites that are usually off-limits to the public.' The word *bigorexie* is a *composition savante* word formed from the English word *big* and the Greek word *orexis*, 'desire.' This term was influenced by the existence of the English word *bigorexia*, and it refers to 'an extreme obsession with physical appearance, characterized by a desire to increase muscle mass, often leading to excessive physical training and strict dieting.' The word *sapiosexuel(le)* is a neologism formed through *composition savante*, combining the Latin root *sapio-* (from *sapiens*, 'wise' or 'intelligent') and *-sexuel(le)*, which in French relates to gender or sexual life. This term likely emerged from the influence of the English word *sapiosexual*.

A similar process of adapting English words to align with French rules is also found in the 2025 edition of the LRS dictionary. The word *empouvoirement* originates from the English term *empowerment*. It is derived from the French masculine noun *pouvoir* 'power', which underwent a derivation process with the addition of the prefix *em-* 'in' and the suffix *-ement* 'an action or its result', resulting in a new masculine noun. However, LRS also includes the neologism *fast-fashion*, which is a direct loanword from English. Haspelmath & Tadmor (2009) explain that a loanword refers to a word transferred or copied from a source language into a recipient language. This type of neologism is not found in LPR of the same edition and domain. English loanwords in French can be classified into several types. According to Picone (1996), the adoption of *fast-fashion* into French can be categorized as an integral borrowing, where a word or phrase from English is fully adopted into French as a new lexical unit or concept. According to the Oxford Online Dictionary, *fast-fashion* refers to 'inexpensive clothing produced rapidly by mass-market retailers in response to the latest trends.' The LRS dictionary provides a consistent definition: 'a business model consisting of a segment of the ready-to-wear clothing industry that offers rapid collection updates at low prices and with average quality.' Thus, *fast-fashion* has been adopted into French with the same form and meaning as its original language.

LPR demonstrates a stronger tendency toward linguistic purism by assimilating English words into the French linguistic system through morphological adjustments that comply with French grammar and phonetics. In contrast, LRS appears more open to borrowing English terms without modification, as seen with *fast-fashion*, although it also includes adapted English word (*empouvoirement*) which indicates that there is still an effort to adjust to align with French grammatical norms. The inclusion of *fast-fashion* may reflect LRS's openness to globalization and the dominance of English, by highlighting popular term that is widely used over strict adherence to standard French grammar. This is in line with the discussion by Wang & Yuan (2020), who note that the presence of *franglais* (the blending of French and English) is partly driven by the need to stay up-to-date and connected with global society. Additionally, it is often easier for French speakers to use popular terms than to look for their formal equivalents in their own language

3.2 Characteristics comparison of each dictionary through neologisms

Through the identification of neologisms in LPR and LRS dictionaries, the editorial trends of each dictionary can be seen. First, difference is found in the naming of neologism domains between the two dictionaries. This may indicate different perspectives and approaches in categorizing language development. LPR provides concise labeling which indicates broader categorization, such as

"Environnement", "Gastronomie", and "Sciences et Médecine". In contrast, LRS provides more descriptive labeling, such as "Risques et Enjeux Environnementaux", "Nouvelles Tendances Culinaires et Gastronomiques", and "Évolution du Monde Médical et Scientifique".

This distinction is also apparent in how each dictionary defines individual words. Among the analyzed neologisms, 4 new words listed in the 2025 edition of LPR (*déconjugaliser*, *narcobanditisme*, *bigorexie*, *pédibus*) had already been recorded in LRS, while 3 new words in LRS (*masculinisme*, *verdir*, *porte-voix*) had been previously listed in LPR. These overlapping entries allow for comparison between the dictionaries' definitions. The findings show that LRS generally provides more elaborate and detailed definitions compared to LPR.

For example, LPR defines *masculinisme* as 'a set of claims aimed at promoting men's rights and interests in society, to the detriment of women's rights.' Meanwhile, LRS presents a definition with similar meaning but far greater detail: 'An ideology originating in North America, grouping together a myriad of movements mostly present online, in reaction to a feminist movement that they claim to be victimized by, and under the guise of denouncing all forms of discrimination, which spreads sexist, conspiratorial, and reactionary ideas through a well-structured misogynistic and/or patriarchal discourse.' The comparison of these definitions can be seen in Image 1 and Image 2 below.



Image 1. Example of word information presentation in the online LPR Dictionary

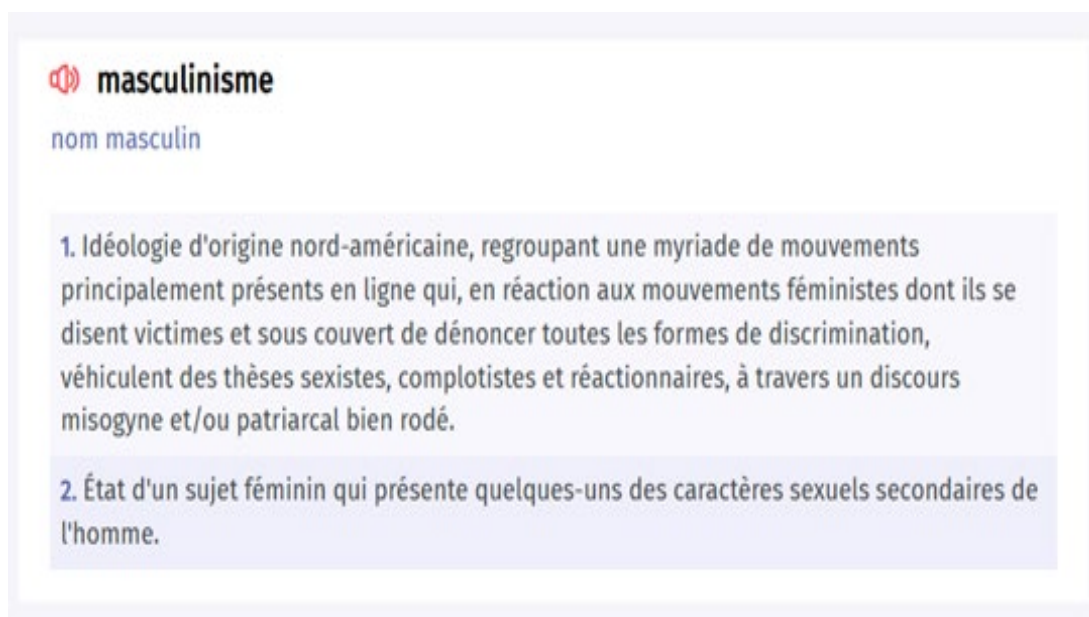


Image 2. Example of word information presentation in the online LRS Dictionary

The definition offered by the LRS is more detailed, covering specific contexts such as geographical factors, the intersection of digital cultures, and highlighting situations of ideological resistance. This may reflect the encyclopedic nature of the LRS, which provides comprehensive explanations for each word presented. This may indicate an aim to cater to a more general and broad readers, including those who are unfamiliar with particular terms, in order to understand not only the meaning of a word but also the context surrounding it. On the other hand, LPR presents straightforward definitions and focuses more on linguistic accuracy. This is supported by the presence of synonym information and direct usage examples of each word in the literature or mass media, which are not found in LRS.

Furthermore, based on the previous analysis of word formation process, neologisms formed through derivation dominate in both dictionaries. This may indicate that French, as reflected in the two dictionaries studied, expands its lexicon by using existing words and affixes rather than borrowing from other languages. The high use of derivation also indicates that the French affixation system remains strong and continues to function widely in generating new vocabularies. In addition, the preference for forming words through derivation may reflect purism or an attempt to preserve linguistic identity, especially in countries like France that maintain language preservation policies against foreign influences.

Although the *société* neologisms from both dictionaries are mostly formed through derivation, there are differences between them. The derivation process in LPR produces more nouns, while that of LRS is dominated by verbs. This difference may suggest that LPR highlights new ideas or concepts, while LRS focuses on emerging actions, practices, or processes. This distinction can also be analyzed from a syntactic perspective. As the pivot of French sentences, verbs are central to both spoken and written production (Roubaud & Sardier, 2022). The presence of a pivot is crucial, as it serves as the core around which phrases are organized within a sentence. In this regard, if taken further, LRS's emphasis on verbal derivation indicates a functional approach that encourages productivity in discourse by expanding the possibilities of forming verbal phrases with new vocabularies.

Moreover, in LPR, the word formation process is more varied compared to LRS, with the finding of onomatopoeia and *composition savante* processes. The inclusion of the onomatopoeia *tchip* in LPR shows their attention and recognition of spontaneous linguistic creativity, as well as cultural influences in everyday language phenomena. Meanwhile, *composition savante*, generally produces specified or technical vocabularies. In this corpus, the *composition savante* neologisms found are *bigorexie* and *lithothérapie* which are specific terms in the health field, as well as *sapiosexuel(le)* which refers to a concept in the realm of sexual orientation. The occurrence of these three neologisms may indicate that LPR has a tendency to highlight terminologies that often appear in specialized discourse. This aligns with the finding of Sajous & Martinez (2022) that LPR contains more specialized terms than LRS, as well as Williams' (2012) finding that LPR is suited to more literate and highly educated readers.

Meanwhile, the absence of *composition savante* words in the domain *société* in LRS may indicate their editorial selection that favors neologisms that are widely used and relevant. There is a preference for neologisms that emerge through a more organic approach. This can be seen through the inclusion of the loanword *fast-fashion* which was adopted directly from English without any morphological adjustment into French. This receptivity signifies a recognition of the influence of globalization and the impact of English dominance on the French lexical scope. Therefore, it appears that LRS is attempting to reflect a more dynamic use of French, by embracing external linguistic influences and communication trends.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the description of the previous analysis, French neologisms in the field of *société* in the 2025 edition of LPR and LRS dictionaries are mostly formed through the process of derivation word formation. This dominance may indicate the efforts of both dictionaries to pay attention to French grammatical adjustments in the selection of new words, which is in line with the commitment of the

French state to maintain the purity of the linguistic identity of its language. It also indicates that the French affixation system is still productive in forming new vocabulary.

However, there are differences in editorial approach between the two dictionaries. LPR tends to prioritize linguistic integration by adapting neologisms that have been morphologically adapted to French rules, while LRS adopts a more open stance by accepting foreign neologisms in their original language form without modification. This suggests that while absolute conformity to French grammar is not always necessary, integration through morphological adjustment, especially derivation, helps to increase the legitimacy and institutional recognition of a neologism in the French lexicon.

Another interesting finding is the presence of neologisms derived from onomatopoeia expressions in the LPR dictionary. The formation of new words through onomatopoeia is not discussed by Delbecq (2006) nor by Lehmann & Martin-Berthet (1999). This finding shows the LPR's attention to the spontaneity of everyday language in a society, which is then officially recognized as part of the French lexicon. In addition, there are also neologisms formed from the process of scientific composition, which shows the LPR's tendency to highlight specific terminology in specific discourses. This makes the variety of word formation in LPR more varied than in LRS.

Thus, this study supports and proves Williams' (2012) research that LPR is a more academic linguistic dictionary while LRS is an encyclopedic dictionary. The LPR dictionary has a lexicon that contains more field-specific vocabulary and presents more complete linguistic information, making it more ideal for someone who is familiar with or has a job that requires linguistic understanding, such as editors, translators, journalists, writers, and so on. In contrast, the LRS dictionary appears to be more accessible to general readers from all walks of life as it tends to adopt a more open and understandable editorial policy. This is demonstrated through the provision of more elaborate word definitions than the LPR and the lack of overly complex linguistic details, which facilitate everyone to understand the meaning and context of a word easily and comprehensively. Therefore, the LRS will most likely be more suitable for use by beginner French learners.

The findings of this study show that adapting foreign neologisms into the French lexicon is more common than creating new French words from scratch. The author realizes that there is still much to be explored from the phenomenon of French neologisms appearing in many fields. Future research could explore how neologisms are treated in various authoritative sources, such as dictionaries and public media, as well as the public reception of foreign neologisms and French neologisms. The analysis of this study is limited to the *société* neologisms featured in each dictionary's *dossier de presse*, rather than the full corpus, potentially overlooking other relevant entries. By concentrating exclusively on the 2025 edition, this study inevitably narrows its scope, precluding a diachronic examination of the evolution of the French lexicon across time. Moreover, its analytical framework is deliberately limited to the morphological characteristics of neologisms documented in French monolingual dictionaries, thereby excluding empirical data on real-world usage or more in-depth sociolinguistic variables.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors would like to acknowledge and express sincere gratitude to all individuals who have contributed to the successful completion of this research.

REFERENCES

- Académie Française. (n.d.). *Le dictionnaire: La 9e édition*. Retrieved June 6, 2025, from <https://www.academie-francaise.fr/le-dictionnaire/la-9e-edition>
- Ashrafova, I. (2024a). The Syntactic Adaptation of English Borrowings in Contemporary French. *EuroGlobal Journal of Linguistics and Language Education*, 1(1), 99–118.
- Ashrafova, I. (2024b). Cross-Linguistic Influence: Analyzing English Loanwords in Contemporary French. *American Journal of Language, Literacy, and Learning in STEM Education*, 2(4).
- Azzouzi, I. (2023). Analyse de la créativité lexicale dans la publicité de la presse écrite au Maroc entre 2007 et 2011. *Revue Internationale Du Chercheur*, 4(3), 1–17.
- Bally, G., Klaunzer, P., Salamin, M., & Himbert, D. (2024). *Le dictionnaire papier est-il condamné à prendre la poussière?* Radio Télévision Suisse. Retrieved June 6, 2025, from

- <https://www.rts.ch/info/2024/grand-format/le-dictionnaire-papier-est-il-condamne-a-prendre-la-poussiere-28518924.html>
- Barymova, N. S., & Erofeeva, A. A. (2023). French Neologisms from 2021-2022 (a dictionary review). *Russian Linguistic Bulletin*, 5(41).
- Cholilulloh, G. G., & Purwani, N. (2022). Néologismes de la pandémie Covid-19 sur le réseau social Twitter français. *Didacticofrancia: Journal Didactique Du FLE*, 11(1), 35–47.
- Chyrvonyi, O. (2024). The evolution of social media language: a sociolinguistic analysis of recent neologisms. *Transcarpathian Philological Studies*, 35, 127–132.
- Claessens, C. (2025). *Désanonymisation forcée: comment Meta et Yandex ont exploité une faiblesse Android pour relier votre historique web à votre vraie identité*. Clubic.Com. Retrieved June 6, 2025, from <https://www.clubic.com/actualite-567786-desanonymisation-forcee-comment-meta-et-yandex-ont-exploite-une-faiblesse-android-pour-relier-votre-historique-web-a-votre-vraie-identite.html>
- Creswell, J. (2014). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches*. Sage.
- Delbecq, N. (2006). *Linguistique cognitive: comprendre comment fonctionne le langage*. De Boeck Supérieur.
- Demet, A. (2024). *Les tiktokeurs sont-ils la nouvelle source d'information? "Le journalisme traditionnel évolue."* RTBF. Retrieved June 6, 2025, from <https://www.rtb.be/article/les-tiktokeurs-sont-ils-la-nouvelle-source-d-information-le-journalisme-traditionnel-evolue-11321950>
- Goupil, M. (2025). "Le masculinisme gagne du terrain car le féminisme est populaire et audible", estime la sociologue Mélissa Bla. Franceinfo.Fr. Retrieved June 6, 2025, from https://www.franceinfo.fr/societe/violences-faites-aux-femmes/le-masculinisme-gagne-du-terrain-car-le-feminisme-est-populaire-et-audible-estime-la-sociologue-melissa-blais_7025672.html
- Guerra, A. R. (2016). Dictionaries of neologisms: A review and proposals for its improvement. In *Open Linguistics* (Vol. 2, Issue 1). <https://doi.org/10.1515/opli-2016-0028>
- Haspelmath, M., & Tadmor, U. (2009). Loanwords in the world's languages: A comparative handbook. In *Loanwords in the World's Languages: A Comparative Handbook*. De Gruyter Mouton.
- Ibrahim, A. H., Edan, M. A., & Alnoori, B. S. M. (2024). Neologism in selected social media platforms: A Cross-Cultural Study. *Pixel International Conferences: Innovation in Language Learning*, 17.
- Julisdianti, A. W., & Susanto, D. (2021). French neologisms in Larousse dictionary of 2018 and 2019. *International Review of Humanities Studies*, 6(1). <https://doi.org/10.7454/irhs.v6i1.322>
- Kukiboyeva, M., & Rakhimova, N. (2024). The Peculiarities of Neologisms In Language And Speech. *Emergent: Journal of Educational Discoveries and Lifelong Learning (EJEDL)*, 3(4).
- Larousse. (n.d.). Encyclopédie Larousse En Ligne. Retrieved June 6, 2025, from <https://www.larousse.fr/encyclopedie/divers/Larousse/128890>
- Lehmann, A., & Martin-Berthet, F. (1999). *Introduction à la lexicologie: sémantique et morphologie*. Dunod.
- Lukina, M. S., & Gaynutdinova, D. Z. (2021). Neologisms in the sociopolitical discourse of modern French. *EntreLinguas Journal*, 7(3). <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.29051/el.v7iesp.3.15713>
- Mariani, M. (2024). *Les techniques de stalking sont-elles de pire en pire?* Radio France. Retrieved June 6, 2025, from <https://www.radiofrance.fr/franceinter/podcasts/veille-sanitaire/veille-sanitaire-du-lundi-15-janvier-2024-2863984>
- Moinard, G. (2022). *Comment les mots entrent-ils dans le Petit Robert?* Le Robert. Retrieved March 4, 2025, from <https://dictionnaire.lerobert.com/dis-moi-robert/raconte-moi-robert/actualites/comment-les-mots-entrent-ils-dans-le-petit-robert.html>
- Murugova, E., & Evtushenko, S. (2023). Neologisms and its role in the development of modern sustainable ecosystemic society. *E3S Web of Conferences*, 420. <https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/202342006028>
- Naja, T. S., & Laksman-Huntley, M. (2023). The use of anglicism in French and Quebec media headlines. *Francisola: Revue Indonésienne de La Langue et La Littérature Françaises*, 8(1), 9–21. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.17509/francisola.v8i1.60893>

- Niklas-Salminen, A. (2023). Les nouveaux mots dans le Petit Robert de la langue française 2021. *Białostockie Archiwum Językowe*, 23. <https://doi.org/10.15290/baj.2023.23.12>
- Nogaeva, V. U. (2022). The Era of Digitalization: Anglicisms or their French Equivalents? (On the Example of Modern French). *Courier of Kutafin Moscow State Law University (MSAL)*, 10. <https://doi.org/10.17803/2311-5998.2021.86.10.096-103>
- Notre histoire. (n.d.). Le Robert. Retrieved June 6, 2025, from <https://www.lerobert.com/notre-histoire.html>
- Picone, M. D. (1996). *Anglicisms, neologisms and dynamic french*. John Benjamins Publishing Company.
- Polguère, A. (2003). *Lexicologie et sémantique lexicale: notions fondamentales*. PUM.
- Pratama, M. E. S., Idris, Z., Simamora, T. H., & Tampubolon, J. S. (2020). Morphological Process Of Neologism Found In Social Networking Jargon. *Vernacular: Linguistics, Literature, Communication and Culture Journal*, 1(1). <https://doi.org/10.35447/vernacular.v1i1.132>
- Ranc, A. (2022). *Françoise d'Eaubonne and the Imperfect Foundation of Ecofeminist Thought*. Green European Journal. Retrieved June 6, 2025, from <https://www.greeneuropeanjournal.eu/francoise-deaubonne-and-the-imperfect-foundation-of-ecofeminist-thought/>
- Riggio, B. (2021). Attitudes Toward Anglicisms in Montpellier, France: A Study on Linguistic Purism and Americanization. *Proceedings of GREAT Day, 2020(1)*, 173–206.
- Ropert, F. (2009). Distance et proximité entre plusieurs discours dans l'argot journalistique de la revue *Variety*. *ASp*, 55. <https://doi.org/10.4000/asp.222>
- Rosa, A., & Budiman, A. (2023). WORD FORMATION OF ENGLISH LOANWORDS IN MODE RUBRIC OF FRENCH VOGUE PARIS MAGAZINE. *International Review of Humanities Studies*, 8(2). <https://doi.org/10.7454/irhs.v8i2.1120>
- Roubaud, M. N., & Sardier, A. (2022). Briser la glace entre lexique et syntaxe auprès d'élèves. *L'étude Du Fonctionnement de La Langue Dans La Discipline Français: Quelles Articulations?*, 13(271).
- Sajous, F., & Martinez, C. (2022). Metalexical investigations with the DiCo Database. *International Journal of Lexicography*, 35(1). <https://doi.org/10.1093/ijl/ecab017>
- Sargsyan, G., & Arakelyan, Z. (2024). The anglicism in the French language. *Foreign Languages for Special Purposes*, 23(1–2), 218–233. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.46991/flsp.v23i1-2.12188>
- Satriani, S., Said, I. K., & Asriani. (2021). Media Sosial sebagai Ruang Kreasi Neologisme. *Al-MUNZIR*, 14(1).
- Schmid, H.-J. (2020). The Dynamics of the Linguistic System. In *The Dynamics of the Linguistic System*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780198814771.001.0001>
- Shahlee, S., & Ahmad, S. (2022). Morphological Processes of Social Media Neologisms. *Development in Language Studies*, 2(1).
- Shi, A. (2025). An Analysis of Word-Formation Processes in Neologisms: A Case Study of the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary. *Lexikos*, 35(1), 26–43. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.5788/35-1-1977>
- Su, H. (2024). Sources and Updating of French Vocabulary. *Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Studies*, 6(3). <https://doi.org/10.32996/jhsss.2024.6.3.4>
- Townsend-Bell, E. (2021). 'We entered as blacks and we left as Afro-descendants': tracing the path to affirmative action in Uruguay. *Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies*, 16(3). <https://doi.org/10.1080/17442222.2021.1877872>
- Wang, L., & Yuan, H. (2020). The Influence of Anglicism on French Language—Enrichment or Danger. *Review of Educational Theory*, 3(3). <https://doi.org/10.30564/ret.v3i3.2044>
- Williams, G. (2012). Art for dictionaries sake: Comparing cultural outlooks through dictionaries and corpora. *English Dictionaries as Cultural Mines*, 171–200. <https://shs.hal.science/halshs-00725345/>
- Würschinger, Q. (2021). Social Networks of Lexical Innovation. Investigating the Social Dynamics of Diffusion of Neologisms on Twitter. *Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence*, 4. <https://doi.org/10.3389/frai.2021.648583>
- Zella, G., Bolderdijk, J. W., Caselli, T., & Peels-Matthey, S. (2025). The Role of Neologisms in the Climate Change Debate: Can New Words Help to Speed Up Social Change? *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change*, 16(2).

Zufferey, S., & Moeschler, J. (2021). Initiation à la linguistique française. In *Initiation à la linguistique française*. Armand Colin. <https://doi.org/10.3917/arco.ferey.2021.01>