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Bachelor's thesis

LEXICO-SEMANTIC FIELD 'JOBS & PROFESSIONS' IN MODERN ENGLISH

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ABSTRACT

This bachelor's paper is devoted to the study of job- and profession-related vocabulary in Modern English, with a focus on its semantic structure, linguistic features and contextual usage. In this study we have examined a wide range of vocabulary within the domain of jobs and professions, in order to uncover the core structural components, patterns of word formation and contextual variations.

Jobs and professions, as a distinct semantic field, play a crucial role not only in linguistic studies, but also in everyday communication. This paper explores the hierarchical and relational structure of occupational vocabulary, the influence of historical events such as the industrial and post-industrial revolutions on the development of new terminology, as well as the stylistic features that shape the way different professions are perceived. The analysis of key morphological and semantic features facilitates the understanding of how professional lexicon is constructed and used.

Additionally, the research focuses on gender-specific terminology, regional differences in job titles and descriptions and collocational tendencies, analysing them in the news discourse. The study also involves the exploration of distinction between traditional and emerging professions and the impact of social and technological spheres on the creation of new occupational terms.

The results of this study showcase that the function of job-related vocabulary is not simply communicative. This lexico-semantic field shapes perceptions, defines social roles and is constantly adapting to the changes in language.

Key words: lexico-semantic field, job, profession, occupational terms, news.

АНОТАЦІЯ

Ця бакалаврська робота присвячена дослідженню лексики, пов’язаної з назвами робіт та професій в сучасній англійській мові, зосереджуючись на її семантичній структурі, мовних характеристиках та вживання у контексті. У межах дослідження було проаналізовано широкий спектр професійної лексики з метою виявлення основних структурних елементів, моделей словотворення та контекстуальних змін.

Професії та види зайнятості, як окреме семантичне поле, важливі не лише для лінгвістики, а й у повсякденному спілкуванні. У цій роботі розглянуто ієрархічну структуру та взаємозв’язки в лексиці, пов’язаній з професіями, вплив історичних подій - таких як індустріальна та постіндустріальна революції - на формування нової термінології, а також стилістичні особливості, що впливають на сприйняття різних професій. Аналіз основних морфологічних і семантичних ознак сприяє глибшому розумінню того, як формується та функціонує професійна лексика.

Дослідження також охоплює термінологію, пов’язаній із гендерними особливостями, регіональних відмінностях у назвах професій, а також на характеристиках словосполучень, що аналізуються в контексті новинного дискурсу. У роботі розглядається відмінність між традиційними новоствореними професіями, а також вплив соціальної та технологічної сфер на формування нової професійної лексики.

Результати цього дослідження демонструють, що функція професійної лексики, не є лише комунікативною. Це лексико-семантичне поле формує уявлення, визначає соціальні ролі та постійно адаптується до змін у мові.

Ключові слова: лексико-семантичне поле, робота, професія, професійна термінологія, новини.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

Language serves as a mirror of society, reflecting its values, structures, and development. Among the many areas of vocabulary that reveal much about culture and human organization is the lexico-semantic field of jobs and professions. This field encompasses the words and expressions used to describe various types of work, occupational roles and professional identities.

Unlike more static lexical fields (e.g., colors or natural elements), occupational terminology constantly evolves in response to technological innovation, socio-economic change, and cultural transformation. New professions emerge (e.g., *influencer*, *data scientist*), others disappear (*blacksmith*, *lamplighter*), and many undergo redefinition (*secretary* vs. *administrative assistant*). Moreover, job titles often carry implicit social values and hierarchies, signaling prestige, gender roles or economic importance, which makes their study not only linguistic but also sociolinguistic and culturally relevant.

Many linguists have examined the lexico-semantic field of jobs and professions from a wide range of perspectives, underscoring its complexity. For instance, Oksana Dobrovolska (2020) has chronologically stratified occupational vocabulary and therefore analysed the evolution of the semantic system. Additionally, Richard Ingham, Louise Sylvester and Imogen Marcus (2019) have studied penetration of French-origin lexis in Middle English occupational domains and highlighted its influence on Modern English. Frank Marutello (1981), in his turn, has outlined a semantic definition of a profession and its features.

The research topicality lies in its exploration of the job-related lexico-semantic field, reflecting the evolving nature of societal structure and professional identity in Modern English. By analyzing conceptual foundations, hierarchical structures, and linguistic features, the study highlights how occupational language adapts to cultural, technological, and social change. It also identifies key trends such as gendered terms, regional variation, and emerging professional designations.

The aim of this research is to analyze the lexico-semantic field of jobs and professions in modern English, focusing on its structure, development, and linguistic

features. Using data from contemporary English corpora, the study examines contextual usage, including gender-specific terms, regional variation and emerging professional vocabulary, to identify key semantic and sociolinguistic trends. To achieve this, the following **objectives** must be accomplished:

- to define and conceptualize the lexico-semantic field of jobs and professions in Modern English;
- to examine the semantic organization of job-related vocabulary;
- to investigate the historical development of job-related terms;
- to analyze linguistic features of job-related terms in terms of morphology and stylistic variation;
- to contextualize the use of job and profession lexicon in Modern English;
- to identify and describe gender-specific language within the domain of jobs and professions;
- to explore regional variation in job terminology across different English-speaking contexts;
- to analyze collocational patterns in job-related language;
- to compare traditional and emerging professions in terms of lexical representation and integration.

The **subject** of this study is the lexico-semantic field of job- and profession-related vocabulary in Modern English. The **object** of the study is the linguistic features, structural organization, historical development and sociocultural variation of job-related lexicon.

The **materials** for this study were taken from American and British English corpora, which provided authentic, context-rich examples of job- and profession-related vocabulary.

The methodology employed in this research is a mix of diachronic analysis and a corpus-based approach. This allows the study to examine the chosen topics using real language data from English corpora and to track how they have changed over time. In addition, quantitative methods are used to analyze and measure the findings.

The scientific novelty of this research lies in its analysis of the emergence and integration of newly coined job titles within the lexico-semantic field of professions in Modern English. In recent years, a significant number of new professions such as *influencer*, *UX designer*, *data ethicist* and others have entered the lexicon, yet many of these terms remain underexplored in linguistic research.

Practical significance of this study lies in its usage as a supporting material during the later investigation of the unique features of occupational vocabulary in English, their lexical, semantic and structural characteristics. Moreover, this work can be useful for socio-linguistic research, as we face this lexico-semantic field in various spheres of everyday life.

The first part of the research defines and analyzes the structure of the job-related lexico-semantic field, exploring its conceptual organization, historical origins, and key linguistic features such as word formation, idioms, and stylistic variation. It examines how professional vocabulary is hierarchically arranged and distinguishes between core and peripheral terms. The second part focuses on the contextual use of this vocabulary in modern English, investigating variations based on gender, regional differences, and collocational patterns. It also compares traditional professions with emerging ones to reveal how social and cultural factors shape the contemporary professional lexicon.

1. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND OF LEXICO-SEMANTIC FIELD OF JOBS AND PROFESSIONS

1.1 Defining the lexico-semantic field of Jobs and Professions

The wide range of words related to jobs and professions can be explained by the fact that such vocabulary is essential in many areas of human life, including education, economics, career development, and everyday conversations. People constantly discuss work, professions, and industries, making this lexicon an integral part of communication. Moreover, the glossary of job-related terms is continuously expanding, as modern society doesn't stay still and new professions emerge due to technological advancements and the appearance of new concepts. As a result, new job titles appear, while existing ones adapt to meet the demands of an evolving society.

Therefore, many prominent scholars studied the concept of lexico-semantic field in their research. J. Trier (1931) , a renowned German scholar, is considered to be the founder of the theory of the field. He described a lexico-semantic field as a group of words that are connected by meaning, where each word's meaning is shaped and limited by its relationship to the others in the group. Moreover, the first theoretical explanation of the "field" in linguistics was introduced by G. Ipsen (1924). Additionally, a lot of Ukrainian linguists investigated lexico-semantic field. Nataliia Knyshenko (2020) states that a **lexico-semantic field** can be defined as a complex microsystem of lexical units, united by their content and formal features, reflecting conceptual, objective, or functional similarities of the phenomena they denote

Apart from these outstanding linguists, many other scholars have contributed to the study of the lexico-semantic field of jobs and professions. Oksana Dobrovolska (2020) has been deeply researching occupational vocabulary from different perspectives. She has worked on chronological stratification of occupational terms and her other research is dedicated to the loan-blends amongst occupational lexicon. Richard Ingham, Louise Sylvester and Imogen Marcus (2019), devoted their study to the penetration of French-origin lexis in English occupational domains. The study shows that French-origin words made up about 30% of vocabulary in several Middle

English occupational fields, highlighting significant French influence into everyday work language. Lesya Rohach (2021) has investigated how professional titles reflect semantic characteristics through both referential and lexical semantics. Referential semantics links words to real-world roles in economic contexts. For instance, “worker” in English suggests a general employee, whereas the Ukrainian “робітник” emphasizes physical or manual labor. Lexical semantics interprets these terms within economic discourse, recognizing how words like “manager” or “менеджер” encode structured, conceptual roles in business or society.

According to Svitlana Lypka (2015), a semantic field possesses the following characteristics:

- the presence of semantic relations (correlations) between its constituent words;
- the systemic nature of these relations;
- interdependence and mutual conditioning of lexical units;
- relative autonomy of the field;
- continuity of denoting its semantic space;
- interconnectedness of semantic fields within the entire lexical system

Frank Marutello (1981) has also conducted research on the semantic treatment of profession. He suggests that there are three types of definition in dealing with profession:

- persuasive definitions, designed to argue the case for a particular occupation;
- operational definitions, used to facilitate decisions about the organization and practice of an occupation;
- logistic definitions, which were descriptive attempts to draw verbal boundaries around historical material and customary usage.

Marutello (1981) also argues that the key factors that naturally drive a business or occupation to develop into a true profession are cruciality, mystique, and denouement. These elements make the work essential, specialized, and impactful over time. Here cruciality means that a job or occupation becomes crucial when a group of people sees it as essential for their well-being, survival or success. It doesn’t have to be important to everyone, but it must be significant to some. A profession is considered

mystique when the knowledge or skills required seem difficult to understand for the average person. People with a serious problem often turn to someone they believe has specialized skills that they cannot easily master. Denouement implies that knowledge has been scientifically or practically tested and is applied to specific situations to achieve expected results within a short time.

The best way to give the semantic definition of the concept profession is to look at well-established professions and identify the key qualities they share. Marutello (1981) has provided the analysis of professions in different fields (medicine, law, clergy) from the perspective of their cruciality, mystique and denouement. In our study we decided to take the same look at professions in two other spheres:

Profession	Cruciality	Mystique	Denouement
Education	Without education, society would struggle to grow and develop	Not everyone can teach effectively, it requires skill, training, and a deep understanding of both the subject and the learners.	Successful application of teaching methods and knowledge to achieve meaningful results
Technology and IT	People and businesses need technology to stay connected, work efficiently	Only trained experts understand how software and networks work	Tech professionals create and maintain software and websites to solve problems

	and keep their data safe		and make life easier

Another important point that should be analysed is jobs and professions as a semantic domain. In language, a semantic domain helps organize related words, making it easier to understand how different terms are connected. One such important semantic domain is that of jobs and professions, which encompasses a wide range of terms related to occupations, careers, and roles within society. The domain of jobs and professions is rich with variety, reflecting the many different functions, skills and responsibilities people can have within the workplace. This domain includes words that describe specific job titles, the skills required for various professions, the hierarchical structures within different fields and the social and cultural impact on various occupations and their significance. By analyzing this domain, we can better understand how society is organised and how language shapes our perceptions of work.

If we go back to the theory of lexico-semantic introduced by J. Trier (1931), we will notice a little flaw in it. Trier's (1931) idea is that it doesn't give a clear way to group words together into specific fields, making it vague. The concept of semantic domain improves on this by providing a clear way to group words based on their meanings. Semantic domains refer to shared topics of human conversation, like MEDICINE, EDUCATION, TECHNOLOGY and so on, which show a pattern of related vocabulary. A semantic domain tied to a specific field consists of terms that are unique to that field and it is defined by a group of words that often appear together in texts.

The concept of semantic domains received significant attention within the cognitive and semiotic study of meaning following the influential work of G. Lakoff and M. Johnson (1980). In their analysis of metaphor, they argued that human thinking is strongly shaped by physical experiences. They proposed that different aspects of our daily, lived experiences serve as the foundation for how we form concepts. Abstract ideas, they claimed, are often understood by connecting them metaphorically to more concrete and bodily experiences. According to Ronald Moe (2011), a semantic domain can be described as a key concept along with the group of words that are closely connected to it through lexical relationships.

In our research, we will rely on the Internet resource SemDom, developed by Ronald Moe ("Semantic Domains," n.d.), a linguist working with SIL International, as a tool for collecting the words of a language and developing a dictionary. We have analysed the semantic domain of *Work and Occupation* and researched that the domain of *Occupations* is divided by specific categories:

- **words refer to a person's occupation**
  occupation, job, living, work, employment, profession, trade
- **occupations in agriculture**
  farmer, palm tree climber
- **occupations in animal husbandry**
  shepherd, herdsman
- **occupations in hunting and fishing**
  hunter, fisherman, honey gatherer
- **occupations in medicine**
  doctor, nurse, medicine man, midwife, medical technician, pharmacist, herbalist, witchdoctor
- **occupations in hotel management**
  hotel owner, concierge, porter, desk clerk
- **occupations in administration**
  business man, secretary, treasurer, accountant

- **occupations in manufacturing**
  mechanic, potter, tailor, weaver, blacksmith
- **occupations in building**
  carpenter, bricklayer
- **occupations in trading**
  storekeeper, shopkeeper, trader, merchant
- **occupations in food preparation**
  cook, butcher, baker, restaurant owner, waiter
- **occupations in politics**
  president, MP, congressman, senator, legislator, cabinet member, minister, ambassador, civil servant, lawyer, lobbyist, tax collector, customs officer
- **occupations in childcare**
  homemaker, children's caretaker, nursery worker, nurse (for children), nanny
- **occupations in religion**
  pastor, priest, clergyman, diviner
- **occupations in transportation**
  chauffeur, driver, truck driver, cab driver, porter, loader, mover, dispatcher, captain of ship, sailor, pilot, copilot, navigator, steward, stewardess
- **occupations in the police and military**
  policeman, guard, watchman, soldier, officer
- **person who is very good at his job**
  expert, skilled worker, master craftsman, leader in his field, specialist
- **words used of finding a job**
  look for a job, find a job, find employment, job hunting
- **words used for doing a job?**
  do a job, make a living, perform a task

To conclude, the semantic definition of profession includes three key elements: mystique, cruciality and denouement. The element of mystique emphasizes the specialized knowledge and unique expertise that define certain professions. Cruciality

highlights the importance of these professions, showing their impact on daily life and wellbeing. Denouement reflects the resolution or result associated with professional work that can bring benefits to the society. These elements work together to form a detailed meaning of professions and associations attached to different roles in society. The lexico-semantic field of jobs and professions shows how language reflects not only the tasks and skills required for each profession but also the values, status, and cultural significance. We shall also summarise that the lexico-semantic field of jobs and professions is divided into categories to reflect various sectors of society, each serving different needs and roles. Jobs within the same category often require similar skills and knowledge. Many of these categories have historical roots, showing the evolution of society and the shift from traditional to modern professions. Linguistically, this division facilitates better communication by allowing the use of concise, domain-specific terms that convey clear meaning.

1.2 The structure of lexico-semantic fields in Jobs and Professions

In linguistics, semantic hierarchy plays a crucial role in organizing lexical units based on their level of generality and specificity. One of the key relationships within this hierarchy is hyponymy and hypernymy.

According to Denham and Lobeck (2010), a hyponym is a word that represents a more specific idea within the broader meaning of a more general term. Therefore, a word that has a broader or more general meaning is referred to as a hyperonym (or sometimes hypernym) (Murphy, 2003). It represents a general category in a hierarchical structure of vocabulary.

This hierarchical relationship helps categorize professions based on shared characteristics, making it easier to group related jobs. For instance, the hypernym *educator* has various hyponyms including *primary school teacher, high school teacher, university lecturer*, *special education teacher* and so on. Another example is the hypernym lawyer that encompasses hyponyms like *criminal lawyer, corporate lawyer,*

family lawyer, intellectual property lawyer, etc. However, this hierarchy can be seen the most vividly in military ranks. For example, commissioned officers have a great variety of ranks: *general of the army* is a hypernym that has many hyponyms such as *lieutenant general, major general, brigadier general, colonel, lieutenant colonel, major and so on.*

Additionally, Miller (1998) identifies two primary types of hyponymy: taxonomic and functional hyponymy, with taxonomy playing a central role in the lexical hierarchy. While taxonomy represents the "is-a-kind-of" relationship, functional hyponymy is understood as the "is-used-as-a-kind-of" relationship. For instance, the term *doctor* is in a taxonomic relation to *healthcare professional* (a doctor is a healthcare professional), but in a functional relation to *medical practitioner* (a doctor is used as a medical practitioner). The functional relation is less certain because it is not logically necessary, not every doctor is directly involved in medical practice (e.g., some might teach or do research), and not every medical practitioner is necessarily a doctor.

According to Y. Tsvetkov and C. Dyer (2015), language lexicon can be divided into four main strata, depending on origin of words: core vocabulary, foreign words that are fully assimilated, partially-assimilated foreign words, and named entities which belong to the peripheral stratum.

N.Y. Kliuchka (2012) claims that a functional-semantic field has its own structure: within the field, subfields are distinguished as variations of invariant content, and these consist of a center (core, dominant) and a periphery.

In our study we will focus on the examination of foreign words that are fully or partially integrated into a language, known as "borrowed words." Borrowed words (or loanwords) are content words present in almost every language, making up as much as 70% of the vocabulary. Therefore, the lexico-semantic field of jobs and professions is not an exception. Global connections and cultural exchange have contributed to the widespread usage of loanwords. These words are expected to be less typical than core vocabulary, because they often describe specialized, new, or foreign concepts that are

not used in everyday conversation. In contrast, core vocabulary consists of basic, universal terms that are widely used on an everyday basis.

O. Dobrovolska (2020) has been working on loan-blends amongst occupational lexicon. Even though her study was mostly focused on the occupational terms that existed in Middle English, we can apply these findings to our research. The research shows that 37% of Middle English occupational terms had both classification (naming the job) and identification (pointing to a specific person) functions and consists of two parts:

- the core of this variety is constituted by the native occupational terms, which belong to the fund of Middle English appellatives and continue to exist during the Modern English period;
- the periphery of this variety is constituted by the native occupational terms, which date back to the Old English period and continue to function in Middle English and Modern English;

Furthermore, 50% of the words fall under the category of native vocabulary used solely for identification (anthroponyms), and this category can be divided into three parts:

- the core consists of words that were only used in the Middle English period;
- the semi-periphery includes new words that only became part of the vocabulary in the Modern English period;
- the periphery includes words that originated in Old English but became outdated during the Middle English period.

Last but not least, 13% of the words are part of the native vocabulary used only for classification (appellatives), which first appeared in Middle English and are still used in Modern English today.

If we take a closer look at the core occupational vocabulary in the English language, then we can notice that the most commonly used words denote jobs that are familiar to a broad audience and are used frequently in everyday language: *doctor, teacher, lawyer, nurse, engineer, ect.* On the other hand, peripheral vocabulary refers to less popular, more specialized obsolete or recently introduced terms. For instance,

biotechnologist, cybersecurity analyst, data scientist, UX designer, urban planner, lamplighter, switchboard operator and so on. These words might be specific to certain industries and that is why they are not so widespread.

The lexico-semantic field of jobs and professions encompasses a huge variety of lexical units that have specific connections. However, synonymy is one of the most widespread relations because it provides flexibility in language use and allows for a range of terms to describe similar roles or functions, which can vary based on context, formality or industry.

First of all, it is important to determine a definition of synonymy. Any two lexemes were considered synonymous if replacing one lexeme with the other did not change the "truth semantic" meaning of the phrase (Lyons, 1968).

The complex relationship between semantic similarity and distinction, along with the contextual factors that affect synonym choice, has led to a variety of viewpoints on synonymy and therefore the emergence of different types of synonyms. The classification of synonyms often distinguishes between lexical and contextual synonyms. Lexical synonyms are words that have the same meaning within a language system, while contextual synonyms arise from how words interact in specific linguistic environments. Absolute synonyms have almost the same meaning, while partial synonyms share similarities in meaning, style, or connotation but not completely. However, this classification is not fixed, as the meanings of synonyms can change and develop over time and in different contexts (Diachuk, 2024).

Contextual synonymy highlights the dynamic nature of meaning, as words can acquire synonymous relationships within specific contexts, even if their core meanings differ. This showcases the importance of context in the lexico-semantic field and proves that we should consider the interaction of words. Lexical synonymy, defined by the ability of words to be used interchangeably in terms of meaning, is a fundamental aspect of the lexicon of any language. Lexical synonymy, while characterized by semantic similarity, is often marked by subtle differences in meaning and usage.

This feature of synonymy can be seen in the lexico-semantic field of jobs and professions. While these synonyms often share similar meanings, they can vary in

connotation, formality or specific context, which influence their usage. For instance, the terms *doctor* and *physician* are commonly used synonymously, both referring to a medical professional, though *physician* might be considered slightly more formal or technical. Similarly, *teacher* and *educator* are often used interchangeably, but *educator* can encompass a broader range of roles, including administration, whereas *teacher* is more often associated with the direct process of teaching people. Another example can be the profession of *engineer*. In some cases, the term *technician* can replace *engineer*, but typically *engineer* refers to someone with a higher level of technical education, while *technician* denotes mostly manual, more practical work.

Moreover, regional variations often result in different terms for the same profession, such as *attorney* and *lawyer* in American English, or *solicitor* and *barrister* in British English. These terms cannot always be used interchangeably due to important professional distinctions that exist within the legal systems of different countries.

We should also mention such a type of relation among words as antonymy. According to George Yule (1996), antonyms are words which are "opposite" in meanings. Antonymy is often thought of as the opposite of synonymy, but the status of the two antonyms are very different (Palmer, 1976).

In the lexico-semantic field of jobs and professions, antonymic relations play a crucial role in structuring and contrasting occupational meanings. Unlike classic lexical antonyms such as "hot" and "cold," antonyms in this field are often relational, emerging from oppositions in function, status or social roles. For instance, pairs like "employer" and "employee" or "teacher" and "student" represent interdependent roles that gain meaning through their contrast.

In conclusion, hypernyms and hyponyms play a crucial role in organizing and structuring the lexico-semantic field of jobs and professions. Hypernyms, as broader categories, provide a way to group various roles within larger, semantic domains (e.g., *healthcare professional* as a hypernym for *doctor*, *nurse*, and *pharmacist*). Hyponyms, on the other hand, represent more specific roles within these categories, helping to define particular positions and tasks more precisely. Synonymy is a widely used semantic relation that reflects the interaction of occupational lexicon. A great number

of words in the lexico-semantic field of jobs and professions can be used interchangeably without difference in meaning. On the other hand, some lexical units are considered to be complete synonyms, while their connotation and role can differ depending on the context or regional distinction. Antonymic relations in the lexico-semantic field of jobs and professions often arise from functional or hierarchical contrasts between roles. These oppositions help structure our understanding of professional relationships by opposing responsibilities within societal systems.

1.3 Origins of job-related vocabulary

The lexico-semantic field of jobs and professions has undergone a great number of changes that have influenced its development. In our research we will focus on the impact of different social, technological, economic and cultural factors. Without a doubt, our society has been shaped by various industrial revolutions that contributed to the emergence of new occupations and therefore to the disappearance of obsolete ones.

Scientists identify four key stages of revolutions. The First Industrial Revolution (late 18th to late 19th century) has led to the shift from manual labor to machine-based production. The Second Industrial Revolution (mid-19th to early 20th century) was marked by electrification, the expansion of railway networks and advancements in the chemical industry. The Third Industrial Revolution (1970s–2000s) is characterised by the widespread adoption of computer technologies. The Fourth Industrial Revolution, introduced by H. Kagermann (2013), is determined by the development of cyber-physical systems.

All these stages had a huge impact on the lexico-semantic field of jobs and professions. However, First and Second Industrial Revolutions played the most crucial role. The creation of new professions has facilitated the appearance of terms to name newly-emerged occupations. Some examples include: *electricians, aerospace engineers, automobile mechanics, printers and so on.*

On the other hand, due to the rapid development of new industries, many workplaces have been replaced by machines and some professions were no longer necessary. One the most popular examples are *knocker-uppers* and *lamp lighters*.

Before the Second Industrial Revolution *knocker-uppers* used to wake up factory workers by tapping on windows, but with the invention of alarm clocks their service became useless. The same happened to *lamp lighters*, who lit gas lamps in factories before electric lighting was introduced.

Third and Fourth Industrial Revolutions were marked by the implementation of modern technologies that were the reason for many professions to disappear. Accordingly, a lot of modern jobs in various fields came into existence: IT (*software developers, web developers, database administrators, cybersecurity analysts*), communication and media (*graphic designers, video game designers, digital marketers*), manufacturing and automation (*robotics engineers, CNC machine operators, renewable energy technicians*), healthcare (*biomedical engineers, geneticists, radiologic technologists*), etc. Therefore, all these new professions displaced old-fashioned ones. The perfect example of this can be the profession of *telegraph operator,* who used to send and receive messages via Morse code on telegraph machines. The telephone and later the internet allowed for faster, more reliable communication, rendering the telegraph system outdated.

It is also worth mentioning that our world doesn't stay still. That is why many professions are at risk of becoming extinct in the near future. Automation, artificial intelligence and other technological innovations are likely to replace human labor in several fields. For instance, *cashiers* are on the verge of disappearing as self-checkout systems and cashier-less stores are becoming more and more widespread. Another example is *travel agents*. Online booking platforms and travel apps have made it easier for people to book their own flights, hotels, and trips without needing human assistance. Other professions such as *print journalists, postal workers (letter sorters), librarians, newspaper delivery workers* are also in danger of becoming needless soon.

All in all, industrial and post-industrial revolutions have brought about many changes that have both pros and cons. If we look at the impact of these revolutions from the perspective of the lexico-semantic field of jobs and professions, then we can conclude that the English lexicon has definitely expanded with the emergence of vocabulary to denote new phenomena. On the other hand, the development of

technologies has led to the extinction of a great number of words that were used to name obsolete professions.

1.4 Linguistic features of Job and Professions terms

Morphology plays a fundamental role in English like in any other language. The understanding of morphological processes is crucial to determine the meaning of the words that can vary depending on their structure. By adding suffixes, prefixes and other morphemes we can create new words, alter their grammatical functions or change their meanings completely. For example, by adding the suffix "-ed" to a verb like "work," we create "worked," indicating the past tense. Similarly, prefixes like "un-" can negate the meaning of a word, as seen with "employed" becoming "unemployed."

Many linguists have been analysing the English lexicon from the morphological perspective. According to Hacken and Thomas (2013), the word formation process is how to produce the new words based on some rules. Additionally, Plag (2019) suggested that the word formation process is the process to create new words from other words. Therefore, it can be stated that morphological processes allow for the expansion of vocabulary by constantly modifying or combining words according to established linguistic patterns.

Word-formation deals with a wide range of vocabulary that cannot be studied from a singular point of view. That is why Bauer (1983) classifies the word-formation in English as follows:

- **compounding:** process of combining two or more independent words to form a new word with a distinct meaning. For example, *firefighter* is the combination of *fire* and *fighter;*
- **prefixation:** addition of a prefix (a morpheme placed before a word) to modify its meaning *(unemployed, subordinate);*
- **suffixation:** process of adding a suffix (a morpheme placed at the end of a word) to create a new word or change its grammatical category. For instance, *manager* (manage + -er) - someone who manages, *librarian* (library + -ian) - a person who works in a library;

- **conversion:** process of changing a word's grammatical category without altering its form *(to chair (verb) → chair (noun)).* Here *chair* as a noun refers to a position of authority (e.g., the chair of a committee);
- **backformation:** creation of a new word by removing an affix (prefix or suffix) from an existing word. For example, the noun *professor* became a verb *profess* when we removed an affix *-or*;
- **clipping:** process of shortening a longer word by removing one or more syllables. The popular examples are *doc* (shortened from "doctor"), *vet* (shortened from "veterinarian");
- **formation of blends:** creation of a new word by combining parts of two or more words, often taking the beginning of one word and the end of another. For instance, *edutainer (educator + entertainer), mediapreneur (media + entrepreneur), technopreneur (technology + entrepreneur);*
- **formation of acronyms:** creation of a new word from the initial letters of a phrase or series of words, often pronounced as a word itself. There is a great number of acronyms among the occupational vocabulary, some examples include: *CEO (Chief Executive Officer), HR (Human Resources), CFO (Chief Financial Officer) and so on;*
- **word manufacturing:** deliberate creation of new words through various linguistic processes, including coining completely new terms or modifying existing ones to meet the needs of communication or technology. For example, *cybersecurity expert, content creator, app developer, cloud architect, etc.*

Another feature that drew our attention is the role of idioms in the lexico-semantic field of jobs and professions. It must be mentioned that any world's language is not complete without its unique set of idioms. There is a huge range of various phraseological units and expressions that help us describe the field of jobs and professions in a more complicated and colourful way. Idioms can be more difficult to understand for non-native speakers or those unfamiliar with the culture or language, as

they often require background knowledge in which they are used and are completely different from the literal meaning of the separate words in them.

First of all, it is crucial to give a definition of an idiom. Many prominent linguists have been struggling to clarify the notion of the idiom. A. Healey (1968) suggests that "any group of words whose meaning cannot be deduced from the meanings of the individual words" can be considered as an idiom. For Strassler (1982) idiom is " a concatenation of more than one lexeme whose meaning is not derived from the meaning of its constituents and which does not consist of a verb plus an adverbial particle of preposition".

As the English language encompasses a huge number of various idioms, they are divided by different categories based on their meaning and structure. Vyvyan Evans (2006) has developed a detailed classification of idioms:

- **decoding idioms** ("kick the bucket", the literal meaning suggests physically kicking a bucket, but the idiomatic meaning is "to die"). On the other hand, **encoding idioms**, like "blown away", just convey idea in a more colorful way ("blown away" is used instead of very surprised);
- **grammatical idioms** like "break the ice" that follow the usual rules of grammar and extra grammatical idioms like "out of the blue" that cannot be applied to the regular rules;
- **substantive idioms** like "kick the bucket" versus formal idioms like "let alone";
- **idioms that include expressions like greetings or conveying attitudes**, as well as those without a specific pragmatic purpose, like "all in all." .

Kövecses Z. (2010) also highlights the challenges in classifying idioms, comparing them to a "mixed bag" that includes metaphors (e.g., a heart of stone), metonymies (e.g., have a good head on one's shoulders), word pairs (e.g., salt and pepper), idioms with "it" (e.g., make it up to someone), similes (e.g., as busy as a bee), sayings (e.g., you can't judge a book by its cover), phrasal verbs (e.g., break down), grammatical idioms (e.g., let alone), and so on.

Like in any other lexico-semantic field, idiomatic expressions play a significant role in the field of jobs and professions. Idioms can convey various ideas concerning occupations. We can highlight the specific group of English idioms that denote behaviour connected to the working environment. For instance, “burning the midnight oil” (working late into the night) is an idiom that originates from the practice of using oil lamps for extended work hours. Another example is the type of idioms used to describe workplace hierarchies and power dynamics. The idiom “top dog” (the person in charge or with the most power) uses metaphorical language to demonstrate the most important person or organization in a particular situation. Moreover, we single out the category of idioms focused on shaping professional identity or stereotypes. To exemplify this we can look at the idiomatic phrase “cold-calling” (contacting someone unsolicited for business purposes). This expression is widely used in sales and carries negative connotations. Last but definitely not least is the newly-emerged category of idioms describing emerging professions. One of the most popular is “zoom fatigue” (exhaustion from excessive video calls) reflects the shift to digital communication tools in modern workplaces.

Another point of our analysis is stylistically marked and stylistically neutral words. Words are not only used to name an object or to denote an action, but they also help the speaker express their positive, negative or neutral attitude. Therefore, the word can perform evaluative-expressive function except for the nominative one. Depending on the circumstances we can use either stylistically marked or neutral words. Stylistically marked words are used to add color and emphasis to a piece of writing or speech, while stylistically neutral words convey information in a more objective way.

In her manual, N. Neborsina (2023) has provided a detailed classification of different layers of English vocabulary. She suggests that the connotation the words carry greatly influences their position in the stratum of lexicon. It is crucial to consider nuances and emotional associations attached to words. These connotative meanings help classify vocabulary into different categories, such as neutral, positive, or negative.

If we take a look at the occupational vocabulary, we can also observe the difference in meanings of almost the same words. For example, both words *worker* and

laborer can refer to someone who works, but *worker* often has a neutral or slightly positive connotation, while *laborer* can imply a more negative or hard-working connotation, often associated with physical, manual labor.

Therefore, the notions of different types of connotations form the basis for a general stylistic classification of words. Based on the level of formality or context in which words are typically used, vocabulary is divided into three strata:

- ➢ formal stratum of vocabulary: includes words used in formal settings, academic writing, official documents, or professional communication. Formal stratum can be further subdivided into:
  - archaic words - they are not used in modern speech but they can be found in historical works to describe more vividly the epoch and its coloring. For example, a *scribe* used to be a person who copied manuscripts or documents by hand, a precursor to modern-day clerks or secretaries;
  - literary words - are the words with highly stylistic coloring and elevated mood. Literary words are mostly archaic and rarely used in daily conversation. For instance, *minstrel*, an old term for a musician or poet, often used in historical or literary contexts;
  - terms - are specialized words used in specific fields or areas of expertise;
  - officialese - refers to language used in official or bureaucratic contexts, often formal and impersonal. For example, delegate, in the context of formal meetings or official events, someone who is chosen to represent a group;
  - barbarisms - words or expressions considered to be incorrect or not standard in a language, often borrowed from other languages or improperly used;
  - foreign words - are words or expressions that are borrowed from another language and incorporated into a different language. There is a great number of foreignisms among the English occupational

vocabulary, especially borrowed from French. For instance, *sommelier* (a wine expert), *chauffeur* (a person employed to drive a car), *entrepreneur* (a person who organizes and operates a business) and so on;

- ➢ neutral stratum of vocabulary: consists of words that are considered standard and appropriate for general communication;
- ➢ informal stratum of vocabulary: includes words used in casual conversation, among friends and family, or in informal writing. This stratum is also subdivided into different categories:
  - colloquial words - are informal words that are commonly used in everyday conversation. For example, *gig* is a temporary job or performance, especially in the entertainment industry;
  - low-colloquial words (slang words, vulgarisms, obscene words) - are words used in informal settings, but may be considered impolite or inappropriate in formal situations. In North American slang *grunt* is used to describe a low-ranking or unskilled worker, especially in a military or manual labor context;
  - jargon words - terms used by specific professions or industries, often difficult for others to understand. For example, *firewall* is a tech jargon words which means security system designed to protect networks or computers from unauthorized access;
  - professionalisms - are formal terms used within specific professions, often used in professional or official contexts. are formal terms used within specific professions, often used in professional or official contexts. For instance, *heart man = cardiologist;*
  - dialect words - are regionally specific words that are often used in certain local dialects or informal regional speech. An example can be the difference between *lorry driver* and *truck driver*. *Lorry driver* is used in the UK, while *truck driver* is more common in the US.

- nonce-words - are words created for a specific occasion or use, often made up for humorous, creative, or unique contexts. For example, *infopreneur* - a made-up term for someone who creates and sells information products, often in the digital world;
- coinages or neologisms - are newly created words or expressions that emerge to describe new ideas, concepts, inventions or phenomena. Some examples include *influencer, webmaster, e-commerce specialist, content creator, social media manager, etc.*

Based on the emotional connotation or the feeling they evoke, vocabulary is also distributed into three layers:

➢ positive layer of vocabulary: includes words that express positive emotions, approval, praise, or positive attributes;

➢ native layer of vocabulary: refers to the core vocabulary of a language, the words that are most basic, common, and fundamental to communication;

➢ negative layer of vocabulary: includes words that express negative emotions, disapproval, criticism, or negative attributes.

To summarize, morphological, idiomatic, and stylistic features all significantly shape the lexico-semantic field of jobs and professions. Morphology enables the formation of precise job-related terms through processes like suffixation (*teacher*), prefixation (*unemployed*), and compounding (*firefighter*), reflecting the diversity and evolution of professional roles. Idioms, in turn, capture workplace behaviors, hierarchies, and changing trends, showing how language adapts to evolving work culture. The contrast between stylistically neutral terms (e.g., *doctor*) and marked ones highlights the importance of context and tone, allowing speakers to select language appropriate to different communicative situations.

CONCLUSION TO CHAPTER 1

In this chapter, we examined the lexico-semantic field of jobs and professions in terms of their social, cultural and historical meanings. We defined a profession through three key elements: mystique (specialized knowledge), cruciality (societal importance) and denouement (the result or impact of the work). These elements helped us understand how different roles were perceived and valued.

We also explored how occupational vocabulary was divided into core and peripheral layers. Core terms like *doctor* or *teacher* were widely recognized and commonly used, while peripheral terms such as *UX designer* or *lamplighter* referred to more specialized or outdated roles. This division reflected the evolution of language alongside major historical and technological developments, especially during the industrial and post-industrial revolutions.

We further analyzed semantic structures such as hypernyms and hyponyms, which organized professions from broad categories to specific roles. Synonymy played an important role as well, with some terms being fully interchangeable and others differing in connotation based on context or region. We emphasized how neutral and marked terms were used differently depending on the social or formal setting.

In addition, we studied how morphological processes like suffixation, prefixation, and compounding contributed to the formation and adaptation of occupational terms. These processes illustrated the language's flexibility in naming new professions and adjusting existing ones. Moreover, we studied how idioms reflected the language used within the workplace.

By summarising these observations, we can state that the vocabulary of jobs and professions is dynamic and deeply connected to linguistic structures, cultural values and historical shifts.

2. SEMANTIC AND SOCIOLINGUISTIC DIMENSIONS OF OCCUPATIONAL LEXICON

2.1 Gender-specific terms

Language changes over time, and in English, one major change has been the push for gender neutrality. These reforms are often driven by a desire for social justice. For example, laws and guidelines have been created to ensure non-discriminatory language in job advertisements, promoting the use of gender-neutral terms for professions and roles. Language reform for gender neutrality and sensitivity comes from the idea that even small changes in language can have a profound effect on how we perceive the world.

The English language contains a great number of gender specific terms, therefore in our research we decided to divide them by categories and analyse each of them. Morphological structure played a crucial role in the division. One of the vivid features that is common for most gender specific titles is the use of suffixes “man” and “woman.” In the study we observed different online dictionaries to collect the most widespread terms with these suffixes and took a look at them in the context:

Job titles with suffixes “man” and “woman”	Frequency of usage in the news
fireman/woman	14487 / 73
policeman/woman	101030 / 7158
mailman/woman	6627 / 23
postman/woman	13374 / 329
salesman/woman	41564 / 2376
businessman/woman	289128 / 37192
spokesman/woman	1059449 / 340749

congressman/woman	118968 / 41335
councilman/woman	41398 / 17144
chairman/woman	2294466 / 55669
doorman/woman	7741 / 16
lineman/woman	94449 / 5
milkman/woman	5609 / 15
newsman/woman	3521 / 267
anchorman/woman	5353 / 494
cameraman/woman	21328 / 454
craftsman/woman	13645 / 330
draughtsman/woman	1427 / 37
repairman/woman	3267 / 16
handyman/woman	9704 / 73
journeyman/woman	15496 / 180
boatman/woman	4141 / 25
oarsman/woman	646 / 44
helmsman/woman	7734 / 64
fisherman/woman	56474 / 603
statesman/woman	71930 / 855
lawman/woman	3700 / 3

hitman/woman	34275 / 210
weatherman/woman	8847 / 59
yeoman/woman	6563 / 6
seaman/woman	17037 / 11

To investigate the frequency of the usage of these terms we utilized English-Corpora.org (Davines, 2008) a well-known resource for accessing large, structured collections of texts (corpora) in English. Corpus linguistics is a data-driven approach within linguistics that focuses on the systematic collection and examination of extensive, organized sets of real-life spoken and written language, called corpora, in order to explore how language is used in natural contexts (Bennett, 2010).

Firstly, we have to mention that such terms as *policewoman, saleswoman, businesswoman, chairwoman, congresswoman* are the most frequently used gender-specific terms with the suffix “woman”. As women increasingly entered these fields, there was a need to linguistically distinguish their presence in roles typically referred to with masculine or generic terms (like *policeman, salesman*, etc.). Additionally, these roles are often mentioned in media, politics, and everyday conversation, which reinforces their frequency. For instance, the term chairwoman has been used more than 55000 times in news from 2010 to now. Here is the example:

- *At a public meeting at Eventfinda Stadium in Wairau Valley on Wednesday, Kaipātiki Local Board deputy* ***chairwoman*** *Danielle Grant told the Herald‘s Simon Wilson there was a series of 15 tests the plans must pass* (Bruce, n.d.).

Another common term is *congresswoman* that we can encounter more than 41000 times. Here is the example of its usage:

- ***Congresswoman*** *Lynn Morley Martin (R-IL) began the first of two terms as vice chair of the Republican Conference in the House, the first time a woman held an elected position in the congressional party's hierarchy* (Center for American Women and Politics, 2025).

On the other hand, if we take a look at such terms as *doorwoman, linewoman, milkwoman, camerawoman, craftswoman, draughtswoman, repairwoman, boatwoman, oarswoman, helmswoman, fisherwoman, hitwoman, seawoman* and others are not as widespread as the terms referring to politics and business. This is mainly because many of these roles are either highly specialized and therefore less common on a daily basis. Moreover, in many of these cases, the male forms (like *repairman, fisherman*) have remained dominant, and the female equivalents have not gained the same level of usage or recognition. Some of these terms also sound unusual to native speakers due to their rarity, which further limits their spread. For instance, the term *doorwoman* is extremely rare. According to English-Corpora.org (Davies, 2008) *doorwoman* has been mentioned only 16 times in the news. One of the examples is:

- *A **doorwoman** working at the venue was seen pulling his friend's outside the club as she screamed "oh my god, oh my god"* (Roberts-Haslam, n.d.).

Another vivid example is the use of the term *boatwoman.* It is so uncommon that its frequency is only 25 times within 15 years. Here is the example:

- *"She's a **boatwoman** from the fishing community but she's in love with the king even though she isn't supposed to desire what she can't get. She's not expecting anything from him. Her love is pure"* ("Ponniyin Selvan II," n.d.).

It is definitely worth mentioning that recently there has been a tendency in linguistics to implement strategies to avoid gender specific occupational terms. One such strategy is lexical replacement of "man" and "woman" compounds with "person" compounds which has seen the coining of words like *chairperson, layperson* (Sibanda & Begede, 2015). However, according to Winter and Pauwels' (2006) study , some of these forms such as *fisherperson* and *repairperson* were not well-received. Some "man" compounds which do not have feminine equivalents like *countryman, statesman, alderman and ombudsman* have also resisted conversion into "person" or "woman" compounds. At the same time, a lot of gender specific terms like *draftsman, foreman, fireman, air hostess, housewife, etc.* have shifted to more gender-neutral alternatives such as *drafting technician, supervisor, firefighter, flight attendant, homemaker and so on* (Ordan & Wintner, 2005).

Another way to make job titles gender-neutral , introduced by Winter and Pauwels (2006) is by removing the parts of words that show gender. For example, instead of saying “chairman,” people now say “chair,” and instead of “headmaster,” they just say “head.” This way, the words “chair” and “head” are used in new ways that don't suggest a specific gender. The frequency of the word “chair” used as a reference to the position of the person in charge of something is 314599 times which proves the widespread use of it. Here is one of the examples:

- *“It's heartbreaking to hear that @PierceTransit employee and rail aficionado Zack Willhoite did not survive the derailment,” **chair** of the transit company's advisory board Chris Karnes tweeted on Tuesday* (Law, n.d.).

One example of a linguistic innovation that hasn’t been widely embraced is the altered spellings of *woman* and *women* to forms like *wommon*, *wimmin*, or *womyn*. These were introduced to question the idea that male-centered language is the standard and to reject the implication that women must be defined in relation to men (Palmer, 1976).

One more strategy that has been implemented is the elimination of feminine suffixes like “-ess,” “-trix,” and “-ette” from such words as *actress, administratrix, majorette and so on* (Ovchar & Polina, 2024). A similar approach is to stop using words like “male secretary,” “female doctor,” “lady lawyer,” or “girl boss.” Adding these labels shifts focus away from a person’s skills and qualifications, and instead highlights their gender. These types of labels also suggest unfair ideas about men and women and can lead to unequal treatment. Therefore, the frequency of collocation “male secretary” is extremely low. For the last 13 years it has been used only 38 times in the news. We have found the following example:

- *A **male secretary** for a mid-level lawmaker who belongs to the Liberal Democratic Party’s Abe faction recently spoke about the revenue from ticket sales for political fundraising parties, which is suspected of being used as hidden funds* ("Unreported funds," n.d.).

The same can be said about “lady lawyer”. Even though this collocation is a bit more common being used 219 times, it is still rare and avoided in most cases. Here is the representation of its usage:

- *The matter at hand concerned a **lady lawyer** practicing in the Puttalam High Court since 2019, who was found to be in contumacious conduct* ("Appeal Court suspends," n.d.).

We should also pay attention to the fact that there is a great number of jobs associated only with one gender. The term *midwife* is a good example of a profession that has traditionally been connected to women. Historically, midwifery has been viewed as a female-dominated role, due to cultural norms linking childbirth and caregiving with women. “Mid” comes from an old English word meaning “with,” and “wife” (in the archaic sense used to mean “woman” so *midwife* originally meant “with woman,” referring to someone assisting a woman during childbirth, not necessarily a woman herself. However, even though men can and do work as midwives today, the term hasn't changed to reflect gender neutrality, likely because of tradition and the strong association with women's reproductive health. Some have suggested alternatives like *birth attendant* or *perinatal practitioner,* but *midwife* remains the widely accepted professional title, even for men. For instance, the lexeme *midwife* has been mentioned 39595 times in the news with the *birth attendant* being used only 702 times. Here is one the news title where the term *midwife* refers to a man:

- *Male **midwife** Christian Wright helped three-week-old Imogen McQuire into the world* (O'Flaherty, 2018).

From this example we can observe the tendency that has been mentioned before, namely the use of the prefix “male”.

The same goes with *housewife.* The term “househusband” exists, but is much less common and still sounds unusual to many ears. To prove this idea we can state that according to English-Corpora.org, the term *housewife* has been used 36155 times in the news, while the term *househusband* has been spotted only 504 times. Here are the examples to illustrate this:

- *Ama, a warm-hearted romantic whose faith shapes her choices; and Aisha, a quiet, devoted* ***housewife*** *navigating life with her ultra-wealthy, ultra-traditional husband, Sheriff* ("The Weekend Watchlist," n.d.).
- *According to him, he got a house in Sweden and decided to get married to her and was a* ***househusband*** *all through their marriage* ("I was house husband in Sweden," n.d.).

Therefore, the problem of "social gender" is the one to be tackled. It is a category that refers "to the socially imposed dichotomy of masculine and feminine roles and character traits" (Kramarae, 1985). Personal nouns reflect social gender when their use can't be explained by grammatical or lexical gender. In English, high-status jobs like *lawyer* or *scientist* are often referred to with *he*, even when gender is unknown, while roles like *nurse* or *secretary* tend to be linked with *she*. Even neutral terms like *consumer* or *patient* are traditionally paired with *he*. This pattern stems from gender stereotypes about what roles are typically male or female (Hellinger & Motschenbacher, 2015).

To summarize, we can claim that the English language has undergone significant changes to promote gender neutrality, mostly driven by a desire for social justice. This has included reforming job titles and occupational terms that traditionally used gender-specific suffixes like "-man" and "-woman" or "-ess," "-trix," and "-ette" to indicate woman job titles. To move toward more inclusive language, strategies such as replacing gender-specific terms with neutral ones (e.g., *firefighter* instead of *fireman*, *chair* instead of *chairman*) have been widely adopted. Some gender-neutral alternatives like *chairperson* are commonly accepted, while others like *fisherperson* are less popular. Moreover, society tends to get rid of collocations that specify gender, such as "male nurse" or "female doctor". On the other hand, there are still stereotypes concerning some professions that have been historically bounded with certain gender such as *doorman, lineman, midwife* or *housewife.*

2.2 Regional differences in professional titles and descriptions.

As English is considered to be one of the most prevalent languages in the world, there are a bunch of English-speaking countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. There are many differences between British and American English, including vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation and spelling. For example, the term for a person who handles money transactions in a store or bank is *cashier* in British English, but *teller* in American English (Novari et al., 2021).

In our research we will pay attention to the spelling differences in job titles. Mariana Opyr, Svitlana Panchyshyn and Svitlana Dobrovolska (2021) in their study have mentioned some differences between American and British English, namely the use of *or* in American English instead of *our* and simplification of double consonants

There is also another tendency towards simplification. While “orthopaedics” remains the dominant spelling in British English and in many international medical journals, “orthopedics” is increasingly common in American English and electronic communication, reflecting changes in usage and preferences (Christodoulou et al., 2019).

To conduct our research on the use and popularity of various job titles, we have utilized a great number of dictionaries to compile job titles that differ in the US and UK as these countries are the most populated among the English-speaking ones. Here is the table that shows the comparison of terms:

US job titles	**UK job titles**
sales clerk	shop assistant
mailman/mail carrier	postman
garbageman	dustman
principal	headmaster
babysitter	childminder

bartender	barman/barmaid
truck driver	lorry driver
janitor/custodian	caretaker
realtor	estate agent
gas station attendant	petrol station assistant
attorney	solicitor/barrister
HR generalist	personnel officer
line cook	commis chef
flight attendant	air steward
dishwasher	kitchen porter
pediatrician	paediatrician
crossing guard	lollipop man/lollipop lady
delivery person	delivery driver
soccer player	footballer
veterinarian	vet
counselor	counsellor

From a linguistic perspective, the differences in job titles between the US and the UK can be analyzed in terms of suffixes, prefixes, word endings, spelling conventions and lexical choices. These linguistic features reveal how language evolves in different regions due to cultural, historical, and social influences.

Firstly, we should pay attention to one of the most inherent features of American English - simplification of the language. This includes the simplification of word forms

and spelling, as seen with terms like *pediatrician* (US) / *paediatrician* (UK), *counselor* (US) / *counsellor* (UK). The shift toward simplification is part of the tendency toward a more pragmatic, utilitarian approach in American English. In the UK, more traditional and formal terms persist, reflecting a different approach to linguistic conservatism.

As for the frequency of these terms we can state that the simplified term pediatrician has been used 27453 times in the news. Here is the example:

- *Dr. Rubin, a **pediatrician** who often shares information about allergies and how to combat them, posted a recent TikTok clip detailing why he won't be boarding a cruise* (Lefroy, n.d.).

On the other hand, the term paediatrician that prevails in the United Kingdom has been mentioned only 11215 times in the press. Here is the quote from of the articles:

- *"She told me that her friend took her child to a **paediatrician** in St Ann, where the child was assessed for autism," added Panton* ("Finding out your child," 2025).

The same tendency is observed in the use of words *counselor* and *counsellor*. The American spelling *counselor* has been utilized 58758 times in contrast to *counsellor* that has been noticed 52161 times in the news. Here is the exemplification of their usage:

- *"A lot of times, patients are scared to go to a genetic **counselor**" because of "fear of the unknown," Dr Ahmad said* ("Cancer runs in my family," n.d.).
- ***Counsellors** should be well aware of how addiction can affect the whole person and the people around them* ("How Counselling for Drug Addicts," n.d.).

We should also note some peculiarities concerning terms vet (UK) and veterinarian (US). At first it may seem that they both refer to the same profession, a person who is qualified to treat sick or injured animals, however, the meaning may differ depending on the region. While in British English *vet* is used to define an animal doctor, in informal American English *vet* is someone who has served in the armed forces of their country, especially during a war. Here is the use of term *vet* as a shortened form of *veteran*:

- *"As can be seen in several of the examples below, any Vietnam **vet** character still around in the 21st century will be old and likely retired from service…"* (TV Tropes, n.d.)

At the same time, even though the term veterinarian is more common in American English, the shortened form vet can be also used in medical context. For instance, here is American news article:

- *"This NYC **vet** makes house calls. In 'Pets and the City,' she's penned a memoir full of tails"* ("This NYC vet makes," n.d.)

Another feature that we noticed in the process of conducting our research is that American English tends to utilize more gender-neutral terms. This can be seen in the example of such job titles as *flight attendant* (US) vs. *air steward/stewardess* (UK) and *bartender* (US) vs. *barman/barmaid* (UK). Terms like *flight attendant* and *bartender* not only avoid specifying gender but also place the focus on the role rather than the individual's sex. In contrast, British English has been slower to abandon traditional gendered terms such as *steward/stewardess* or *barman/barmaid*, although change is gradually occurring there too.

Considering the frequency we can assume that American gender-neutral term bartender prevails, being used 35046 times in news:

- *The **bartender** was working on a drink with such care, precision and beauty I couldn't look away* (Bruce, n.d.).

On the other hand, the British term barman occurs only 11850 times. Here is the example from British news:

- *Neither of us had had a chat with a **barman** this good in months* (McGhie & Thompson, n.d.).

Moreover, some terms are culturally rooted and therefore not popular on other territories. The occupational title *lollipop man/lady* is a perfect representation of this. It refers to school crossing patrol officers and is derived from the circular sign they hold, resembling a large "lollipop." In the US, although similar signs are used, this visual metaphor never entered mainstream vocabulary. American English typically prefers literal and descriptive terms, so *crossing guard* more directly explains the job.

As for the news, the term lollipop man occurs only 312 times and predominantly in British news:

- *The St Patrick's Day parade was called off as a mark of respect following a tragic road traffic collision in the town that saw* ***lollipop man*** *Anthony Gallagher lose his life* (McNulty, n.d.).

In comparison to culturally-specific *lollipop man*, *crossing guard* is much more popular, being used 2608 times:

- *The intersection does have* ***a crossing guard*** *during the morning and afternoon for school kids* ("Long-awaited crosswalk," n.d.).

We should also mention one of the key reasons for the difference between American and British job titles - different base words in each dialect. Some word choices are deeply embedded in daily language and naturally extend into job naming. These preferences are shaped by history, cultural context, and usage patterns, and they often lead to distinctly different job titles even when the roles are identical. Here are some occupational titles that showcase this idea:

1. <u>mailman (US) vs. postman (UK):</u>

   "mail" in American English originally referred to letters or parcels, deriving from the French *male* (a bag or pouch). Over time, it became the standard word for all postal items. In British English, "post" became the dominant term, dating back to the days when messages were delivered on horseback and left at "posting stations."

Talking about the frequency, we should note that the British alternative *postman* is much more common than American *mailman.* The word *mailman* has only been used 6641 times:

- *The 40-year-old married mum-of-two from Conneticut, US, grew up with a niggling curiosity on how she could look and act so different to her father, and even joked that she perhaps was the* ***mailman's*** *child* (Fry, n.d.).

Postman is much more prevalent, occurring 13390 times in the news:

- *The **postman** had uploaded a photo of his tattered uniform, asking for a new one and mentioning that customers had remarked on its poor condition* ("Pos Malaysia Apologises," n.d.).

2. truck driver (US) vs. lorry driver (UK):

   "truck" comes from Latin *trochus*, meaning a wheel, and was adopted early in American English to refer to heavy goods vehicles. "Lorry" is British and has originated from the verb *lurry* (to pull or drag), first appearing in the 19th century.

Here the situation with usage is different from *post-* and *mailman.* The American term truck driver has been mentioned 42479 times:

- *When confronted, the **truck driver** began to cry* (Seidel, 2025).

Lorry driver is much less frequent with only 8561 citation:

- *The **lorry driver** fled the scene, leaving the victims in critical condition* ("Deadly collision," n.d.).

3. gas station attendant (US) vs. petrol station assistant (UK):

   gasoline is the common American term, shortened to "gas." It entered American usage in the 19th century. Petrol is used in the UK, derived from the French *pétrole* from Latin *petroleum*.

Gas station attendant appeared to be not really a widespread term in the scope of news. It has been used only 806 times:

- *Consider the case of Ronald Read, a janitor and **gas station attendant** from Vermont who lived modestly his entire life* ("Reframing perception," n.d.).

However, the occupational title *petrol station assistant* has hardly ever been used. This term has been mentioned just twice. Here is one example:

- *A prolific criminal held up a **petrol station assistant** with a knife, demanding money and getting away with cigarettes* ("Petrol station robber," n.d.).

4. soccer player (US) vs. footballer (UK):

   In the UK, "football" means the sport where you kick a ball with your feet, which Americans call "soccer". In the USA, "football" defines American football, where players mostly use their hands. Because of that, Americans needed a

different word for the sport played with feet, so they utilize term “soccer” instead and therefore a person who plays it is called a soccer player.

The term soccer player is relatively highly frequent in the news, occurring 18917 times:

- *David will bring fun conversation along with some of his closest friends, including former professional **soccer player** Thierry Henry, chef Gordon Ramsay, and American actor Tom Cruise* ("What's new on Paramount," n.d.).

However, the term footballer is extremely prevalent, being mentioned 153647 times:

- *Irish Times columnist and former Dublin **footballer** Dean Rock reckons the Louth-Kildare fixture is the most important football match of the weekend* ("After 5,418 days," 2025).

In conclusion, we can state that even though both British and American English share the same language, they often use distinct terms to describe the same occupations. A key observation is that American English tends to favor simplified, gender-neutral, and more utilitarian job titles, while British English often retains more traditional, formal, or culturally specific terminology. Additionally, spelling differences such as *pediatrician* (US) versus *paediatrician* (UK), and *counselor* versus *counsellor*, reflect broader linguistic trends, with American English typically leaning toward streamlined forms.

2.3 Collocational patterns in job-related vocabulary

Collocations are an essential aspect of English because they reflect the way native speakers naturally combine words. Unlike single-word vocabulary knowledge, understanding common word pairings helps learners and speakers use language in a way that sounds authentic and contextually appropriate. These combinations also help understand nuances, such as the difference between *part-time job*, *temporary position* and *freelance work*, each suggesting a different employment type and context.

J. R. Firth (1957) introduced the term “collocations” to describe common and regularly occurring word pairings. He suggested that a word's meaning and function can, in part, be understood by examining the words it typically appears alongside or collocates.

In our research we decided to analyse various dictionaries that contain collocations with the word “job”. To do this we compiled the list of the most common occupational collocations, divided them by categories and investigated their use in the context.

Here are widespread grammatical and lexical collocations with word “job” separated by categories:

- Job + noun:
    - **job search and applicants:** job search, job hunter, job seeker, job opportunities, job prospects;
    - **job promotion / listings:** job ad, job advertisement, job vacancy;
    - **application process:** job application, job interview;
    - **job details and role:** job title, job description, job specification;
    - **labour markets and trends:** job market, job cuts, job losses, job creation;
    - **job quality / experience:** job satisfaction, job security;
- Job + preposition:
    - in a/the job; on the job; out of a job; job as; job at; job for; job with;
- Adjective + job:
    - **occasional/seasonal jobs:** holiday, summer, vacation (vac), evening, Saturday, weekend job;
    - **work schedule:** full-time, part-time, 9-to-5 job;
    - **positive qualities:** decent, good, worthwhile, interesting, plum, cushy, marvellous, grand, excellent, admirable, professional, wonderful, fine, magnificent, first-rate, thorough, good, amazing, terrific job;
    - **prestige / seniority:** high-powered, top job;
    - **work stability:** regular, steady job;
    - **job nature:** proper job;
    - **pay level:** highly-paid, well-paid, badly-paid, low-paid job, paid, unpaid job;
    - **skill level:** semi-skilled, skilled, unskilled job;
    - **manual or mental:** manual, non-manual job;

- **job class:** blue-collar, white-collar job;
- **negative qualities:** boring, dead-end, menial, routine, undemanding, tedious, unenviable, fiddly, hard, dirty, tough, challenging, demanding, difficult, taxing job;
- **length of contract:** permanent, temporary job;
- **importance:** small, big, little, important job;

- Verb + job:
  - **job search / pursuit:** have a job, look for a job, apply for a job, go for a job, find a job, get a job, land a job;
  - **job acceptance / onboarding:** take a job, interview somebody for a job, give somebody a job, offer somebody a job;
  - **leaving / losing a job:** lose a job, give up a job, pack in a job (informal, quit), resign from a job, quit job;
  - **job retention / management:** hold down a job, keep a job;
  - **job creation / reduction:** create jobs, provide (somebody with) a job, axe jobs, cut jobs, shed jobs;
  - **job protection:** protect jobs, safeguard jobs;

To understand the tendency of usage of these collocations, we decided to analyse their frequency in the news. Our research has shown that noun combinations "job losses" and "job market" appeared to be the most common. The collocation "job losses" has been seen 69386 times in the scope of the news of English-speaking countries. Here is the example:

- *Harry del la Cruz, professor of Economics at Malvar University, noted the repatriation of hundreds of thousands of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) due to **job losses** and other issues that contributed to the steeping poverty curve* (UCA News, n.d.).

"Job market" is also highly frequent, being used 66994 times:

- *Every year, there will be more than 40,000 SPM school leavers in Sabah. Many of these will continue to pursue further studies either locally or abroad but a*

*sizeable number of around 15,000 school leavers will try to enter the **job market*** (Bhd S. P. H. S., n.d.).

On the other hand, the noun phrase “job specification” is one of the least used from the list. It has been mentioned only 460 times:

- *“I am not impressed by the quality of work in some schools visited. Some of the Contractors failed to abide by the **job specification**. This is not acceptable,” the governor insisted* ("Perform or be fired," 2017).

If we take a look at the collocations with adjectives, we will notice the tendency towards using collocation “full-time job”. It has been utilized 30188 times:

- *While this was his first **full-time job** with the navy - he recently finished working for a bank, where he was a commercial lending manager…* ("New officer seeing," n.d.)

The collocation “part-time job” has also appeared to be popular, being used 12148 times:

- *But we were a middle-class family with financial issues. Being the elder son, I started a **part-time job** very early* ("Shahid Kapoor," 2010).

Considering the least frequent adjective collocations with “job”, we can state that “fiddly job” and “cushy job” are definitely not widespread. The combination “fiddly job” has been seen only 35 times:

- *Whether you soak them in the bath or use bicarbonate of soda, it's always a **fiddly job*** (Evans, n.d.).

Even though the collocation “cushy job” has been spotted 804, it is still not common compared to other combinations with the word “job”. Here is the example of its usage:

- *The Bluff boy was in tears, he wanted to get a **cushy job** in Durban and now we were being sent to a flipping war zone* (Cheruo, 2013).

The last category of collocations is the combination of the verb and the word “job”. “Have a job” dominates because it expresses the basic, default state of being employed. It’s simple, general, flexible and frequent. In the discourse of news, collocation “have a job” appeared 27462 times, here is the example of its usage:

- *Now that you **have a job**, why don't you try and rent a little room with its own facilities and move out of this man's house?* ("Baby father is very abusive," 2016)

Another most frequent verb collocation with “job” is “get a job”, being used 37479 times. The verb “get” is one of the most frequently used and flexible verbs in English. Its versatility adds to the popularity of this collocation. For instance:

- *She hopes to one day go to university and **get a job*** (Javorski & Myall, n.d.).

Talking about least common *verb + job* collocations, we should mention *axe jobs* (used 115 times) and *resign from a job* (used 54 times).

- *Other businesses have said they will have to hike prices, **axe jobs**, reduce investment or close venues* (Wise, n.d.).
- *A recent report published by HRD Asia described “revenge quitting” as an act where employees rudely **resign from a job** to show vengeance for feeling unacknowledged…*("Revenge quitting," n.d.)

We should also outline the prevalence of some collocations over others, even though they share the same meaning. For instance, both collocations *cut jobs* and *axe jobs* mean the act of reduction in the number of jobs in an organization, however, their frequency is rather different. In contrast to the collocation *axe jobs*, which was used only 115 times, the collocation *cut jobs* is definitely much more widespread, as it was mentioned 4885 times in the news. The example from the article is following:

- *Ryanair has warned it may close bases and **cut jobs** after the date for delivery of its first 10 of Boeing’s grounded 737 Max aircraft was delayed until the autumn* (Staff, n.d.).

This tendency can be explained by the fact that “cut” is a very common verb in English with broad usage (cut costs, cut staff, cut spending), so it appears in more contexts. “Axe” is much less common as a verb and when used, often has a metaphorical or exaggerated connotation.

The same pattern can be applied to the collocations with “job” that contain nouns, namely *job hunter* and *job seeker*. The collocation *job hunter* is less common, with the usage of 210 times.

- *According to the **job hunter**, she applied for over 100 different jobs but has not been successful* ("I've never owned human hair wig," n.d.).

On the other hand, the collocation job seeker is of a high popularity, being utilized 5097 times in media:

- *Whether you're a student, **job seeker**, young entrepreneur, or simply hungry for growth, this channel is made with you in mind* ("Springboard goes live," n.d.).

This can be proven by the fact that *job seeker* is more popular because it is formal, respectful, widely used in official and professional contexts and clearly conveys someone's employment-seeking status. In contrast, *job hunter* is more informal, metaphorical and less commonly used in serious or institutional language.

All in all, unlike individual vocabulary words, collocations reflect how native speakers instinctively combine words, which helps understand subtle differences in meaning. We examined how these collocations are used in English-language news. Some expressions, like *job losses* and *job market*, appeared frequently. Others, such as *job specification* or more informal terms like *fiddly job*, were much less common and appeared only occasionally. We also noticed that the tone and formality of certain collocations significantly affect their usage. For instance, while both *cut jobs* and *axe jobs* refer to reducing employment, *cut jobs* is used far more often because it sounds more neutral and is appropriate in a variety of contexts than *axe jobs*.

2.4 Domain (traditional vs. emerging professions).

The nature of work is constantly evolving and with it, the language we use to describe professional roles. As technological innovation, globalization and social change reshape the job market, a clear distinction has emerged between traditional professions, those rooted in long-standing social structures, and emerging professions, which often reflect the demands and possibilities of the digital age.

One of the most significant and recent impacts of social media on language is the emergence of new linguistic forms such as abbreviations, slang, acronyms and emojis that often disregard traditional rules (Crystal, 2011).

Through a linguistic analysis spanning morphology and semantics, we investigated how professional lexicon adapts to change.

At first we focused on the domain of emerging and traditional professions from the morphological perspective. Without a doubt, one of the most vivid patterns in traditional professions is their simple, monolexemic structure. Traditional profession names mostly have consistent word endings, which often reflect the clear and stable nature of the roles they describe. Common suffixes like "-er", "-man" and "-ist" are widely used. For example, professions such as *teacher*, *farmer*, and *baker* end in "-er", referring to someone who performs a specific task. It is a derivational morpheme, as "-er" in "worker," because it changes the word from the verb "work" into a noun "worker," and the meaning is also changed from "to have a job" to "a person who works" (Cao, 2022). The "-man" ending appears in older, often gendered terms like *postman* or *salesman*, which have gradually been replaced by more neutral alternatives. Meanwhile, "-ist" has the same meaning of (-eer) that means a member of a party, occupation and is used in professions tied to specialized knowledge or fields of study, such as *artist*, *scientist* or *pianist* (Elsharif & Haroum, 2023). These suffixes are deeply rooted in English word formation, making traditional job titles easy to recognize and understand.

On the other hand, emerging professions tend to be multi-word expressions or noun phrases, such as *AI ethics officer, cloud infrastructure architect and so on.* Newly coined occupations frequently involve blends, initialisms, or technological compounds. For instance, *fintech specialist* = finance + technology; *UX designer* = user experience; *devOps engineer* = development + operations.

These names often lack transparent, fixed meanings, especially for those unfamiliar with the field. Unlike traditional titles that clearly describe a trade or function, emerging titles may be ambiguous or overly technical without contextual knowledge. Furthermore, in their titles these jobs frequently adopt such words as *digital*, *cloud* or *data*.

From a semantic standpoint, the difference between traditional and emerging profession names lies in how directly or indirectly they communicate the nature of the

job. Traditional job titles are usually semantically transparent - they clearly describe what the person does, often referring to tangible tasks or physical roles. Words like *butcher*, *carpenter*, and *librarian* carry concrete meanings rooted in daily life and observable actions. A *butcher* cuts and sells meat, a *carpenter* works with wood, and a *librarian* manages books and library services. These titles don't require specialized knowledge to understand.

In contrast, emerging professions often involve abstract or metaphorical language, drawing on figurative meanings or hybrid terminology that blends multiple domains. For example:

- *Growth hacker* uses the metaphor of "hacking"- originally a term from computing - to describe unconventional strategies for rapidly increasing business growth. This title doesn't clearly indicate specific tasks without further explanation.
- *Cloud architect* combines a digital metaphor (*cloud*, referring to remote data storage) with a term from construction (*architect*), creating a hybrid role that blends IT infrastructure design with strategic planning.

In our research we also focused on tracing the tendency in the usage of traditional profession titles and newly coined titles that represent the same job, we provided the comparative analysis of occupations that are deeply rooted in the English language and alternative titles that are gradually replacing them. To showcase this we compelled the table which represents the contrast in the names of professions:

Traditional profession	Emerging profession
cleaner	cleaning operative
salesperson	customer service representative
travel agent	destination counselor
receptionist	director of first impressions
postal worker	dispatch service facilitator

teacher	knowledge navigator
security guard	loss prevention officer
paper boy	media distribution officer
nurse	patient care assistant
sandwich maker	sandwich artist
window cleaner	vision clearance engineer
garbage collector	waste management engineer
IT support officer	head of technical competence
marketing director	wizard of light bulb moments
ticket inspector	revenue protection officer
pest controller	environmental health officer
doorman	bouncer
recruitment executive	outplacement consultant
real estate agent	space consultant
photocopier	reprographics expert
toll-booth collector	coin facilitation engineer
gardener	technical horticultural maintenance officer

After the linguistic analysis of the emerging job titles we came to the conclusion that the English language has implemented certain techniques to coin new names of occupations:

1. Semantic broadening:

- some roles are reframed to suggest a wider scope of responsibility than traditionally understood. For instance, the shift from *salesperson* to *customer service representative* emphasizes customer care, not just sales. Another example is the change towards *patient care assistant* instead of just *nurse*, which focuses on assistance and care rather than just clinical skills. Additionally, the replacement of *travel agent* with *destination counselor* also highlights advisory/consultative nature, not just booking.

2. Use of figurative language:

- some titles tend to become more humorous and metaphorical. The use of the term *director of first impressions* instead of *receptionist* clearly represents this tendency. Moreover, the quirky title *wizard of light bulb moments* that is gradually becoming more popular than just *marketing director,* showcases the imaginative and creative nature of this profession. However, once these metaphors become conventional, they may fail to communicate their full meaning to newcomers who lack the specialized knowledge needed to understand the deeper or contested senses of such professional titles (Mattson, 2015);

3. Use of euphemisms:

- a lot of job titles aim to enhance job prestige, soften perceived "low status" and therefore we can notice the increased popularity of euphemisms. Some examples include: *garbage collector* → *waste management engineer* ("garbage" becomes "waste", "collector" becomes "engineer" - suggesting higher skill), *dishwasher* → *crockery cleansing operative* (adds value to the profession). People, aware of the power of word, try to change names of their professions to make them sound more important suggest that our emotional drive for social equality has led to giving more impressive or refined names to ordinary jobs (Pyles & Algeo, 1993);

To investigate the frequency of emerging titles in contrast to traditional ones, we decided to trace the appearance of selected titles in the scope of news of English-speaking countries and provide a comparison.

For instance, the job title *nurse* is highly frequent, being used 399714 times, while *patient care assistant* is significantly more rare, being noticed only 67 times. Here are examples:

- *Nia Ayers, 24, a Florida home health **nurse**, was arrested for aggravated abuse of a disabled 18-year-old woman* (Brown, n.d.).
- *She's now embarking on a new role as a **patient care assistant** with a vet and is awaiting specialist counselling* (Philbin & Pounds, n.d.).

The same pattern can be noticed with the titles *receptionist* and *director of first impressions.* The term *receptionist* has been mentioned 20171 times in different articles, however *director of first impressions* is definitely much less common, with frequency 49 times:

- *A **receptionist** at a local hotel revealed how the area, popular with British tourists, had been fully hit by midday* ("Toxic chlorine cloud," n.d.).
- *A creative twist on the traditional receptionist role, the **'Director of First Impressions'** is responsible for welcoming visitors and setting a positive tone for their experience* ("When work gets weird," n.d.).

Furthermore, the imaginative job title *wizard of light bulb moments* has an incredibly low usage. It has been spotted only once for the last 10 years. Here is the citation from the article:

- *From Digital Overlord to **Wizard of Light Bulb Moments** or the seemingly benign but utterly meaningless creative technologist, if we are going to have job titles, let's forget about the wank* ("Why the ad industry," n.d.).

In contrast, the traditional title *marketing director* is extremely popular, being noticed 25525 times:

- *Serra group **marketing director** Paul Thomaz says Serra is duty bound to highlight health and sustainable environmental practices as they become more relevant* ("Growthpoint receives," 2020).

If we take into consideration the use of euphemisms, we will also outline some distinct features. For instance, the title *garbage collector* is relatively common, as we have seen it in the news articles 1187 times:

- *According to the report, a **garbage collector** told investigators that Sirhan had expressed his plan to kill Kennedy after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4, 1968* ("Robert F Kennedy's," n.d.).

At the same time, the title *waste management engineer* is significantly less widespread. It has been utilized just 6 times within 10 years:

- *Tracey Annette, senior **waste management engineer**, Engineering and Environmental Services, Region of Waterloo, told 570 NewsRadio there are some specific things the team would like to know from the public* ("Region developing," 2025).

In summary, the language of professional roles has evolved alongside technological, social and economic changes, focusing on the differences between traditional and emerging professions. Traditional job titles are typically simple, familiar and semantically transparent, often formed with suffixes like "-er," "-man," or "-ist," clearly indicating the role's function - such as teacher, postman, or scientist. In contrast, emerging professions often have longer, more complex names, including blends, multi-word phrases and initialisms - like *AI ethics officer* or *fintech specialist* - which can be ambiguous without context. We identified key naming strategies in emerging titles, including semantic broadening, figurative language and euphemisms aimed at elevating the perceived status of roles. However, our comparison of media usage revealed that traditional titles remain significantly more common, proving that clarity and recognizability still play an important role.

CONCLUSION TO CHAPTER 2

In this chapter, we examined how the language of jobs and professions evolved alongside social, technological and cultural changes. A key focus was the shift toward gender-neutral language in order to replace traditional gendered job titles like *fireman* or *stewardess* with neutral terms such as *firefighter* and *flight attendant*. Some neutral terms like *chairperson* became widespread, however, others such as *fisherperson*

remained unpopular. Society also tends to get rid of gender-marked collocations like *male nurse* or *female doctor*.

We compared British and American English. Our observations prove that American English tends to utilize simpler, more neutral terms, while British English often keeps traditional or formal expressions. Differences in spelling also reflected this trend toward simplification in American English.

Our analysis of collocations showed that common phrases like *job losses* were widely used. The tone of these phrases influenced their popularity, with neutral terms preferred over more inflated ones like *axe jobs*.

We further explored the contrast between traditional job titles and emerging professions. We came to the conclusion that traditional profession titles are mostly short, familiar and clear, while newly-coined ones often have longer, more complex, involving blends or initialisms. Although new titles are creative and used to elevate status, traditional titles remain more common due to their clarity.

These findings show that the lexico-semantic field of jobs and professions is very complex and can be studied from various linguistic perspectives. The occupational vocabulary has significantly evolved, reflecting changes in society, technology and culture.

CONCLUSION

The lexico-semantic field of jobs and professions is a fundamental element of linguistic inquiry and therefore holds a pivotal position in the modern scientific world. The study of this lexico-semantic field is vital because it helps us understand how language reflects and shapes our ideas about work, roles and society. The analysis of words and meanings related to jobs can provide us with understanding of how different professions are valued, how social status is viewed and how gender roles or societal preconceptions are embedded in language. The English language is incredibly rich and contains a great number of vocabulary to describe the domain of jobs and professions. All these lexical units are very different and unique, but share some common features and consequently can be grouped and studied from various perspectives. This bachelor's paper represents the exploration of jobs and professions lexicon in everyday English communication, mostly focusing on the use of such vocabulary in the news discourse. The findings of our research showcase the role of occupational lexicon in the English language and its impact on certain spheres of everyday life, such as society, culture and ongoing technological development of the modern world.

During our theoretical research, we outlined the notion of a lexico-semantic field of jobs and professions, namely its semantic definition and factors that determine it, such as cruciality, mystique and denouement, as proposed by Frank Marutello (1981). We also examined the way job-related vocabulary is organized into two layers: core terms like *doctor* or *teacher*, which are widely known and frequently used, and peripheral terms like *UX designer* or *lamplighter*, which are either highly specialized or outdated. This division shows how language evolves in response to historical and technological shifts. Additionally, we studied semantic structures such as hypernyms and hyponyms, as well as synonymy. We came to the conclusion that while some job titles are interchangeable, others carry different meanings or connotations depending on context or region. We also discussed how neutral and marked terms are used in different social or formal situations. Moreover, we shed light on how new job terms are created or modified through morphological processes like adding prefixes, suffixes

or blending words, as exemplified by terms such as firefighter (compounding) or manager (suffixation). This research shows the adaptability of language in naming emerging professions. We also studied idioms related to the workplace and their influence on professional communication, with examples such as *burning the midnight oil* vividly illustrating the contextual richness of the lexicon.

In the second part of our research, we examined the use of various job and profession titles in the examples from the selected news articles, utilizing data from English-Corpora.org (Davies, 2008). As our world does not stay still, the perception of stereotypical gender roles is changing. In our study, we decided to concentrate on the shift toward gender-neutral language, replacing older gender-specific job titles like *fireman* or *stewardess* with inclusive terms such as *firefighter* and *flight attendant*. Our data showed that terms like *chairwoman* are still frequently used, appearing over 55,000 times in news, while less common "woman" suffix terms like *doorwoman* were found only 16 times. There is also a noticeable trend of eliminating gender-marked terms such as *male nurse* or *female doctor*, as evidenced by the collocation *male secretary* appearing only 38 times in news over the last 13 years, compared to *lady lawyer* at 219 times, indicating a societal aim at viewing professions without gender bias. The next step of our research was the investigation of the regional difference between occupational terms in British and American English. The findings of our comparison prove that American English generally favors simpler and more neutral job titles, whereas British English tends to retain traditional or formal expressions. For instance, *pediatrician* (US spelling) was used 27,453 times in news, while *paediatrician* (UK spelling) appeared 11,215 times. Similarly, the American *bartender* was observed 35,046 times, significantly more than the British *barman* at 11,850 times, further highlighting the preference for gender-neutral terms in American English. The spelling of job-related vocabulary also differs, showing that Americans prefer simplified forms, with *counselor* (US) being used 58,758 times compared to *counsellor* (UK) at 52,161 times. Our analysis of collocations in the lexico-semantic field of jobs and professions showed that neutral expressions tend to be favored over more dramatic ones. For example, *job losses* was recorded 69,386 times, and *job market* 66,994 times,

while less formal collocations like *fiddly job* appeared only 35 times. Another issue that drew our attention was the tendency in the use of traditional job titles in comparison to emerging ones. We found that older titles are typically well-known and straightforward, as demonstrated by *footballer* (UK) appearing 153,647 times compared to *soccer player* (US) at 18,917 times. On the other hand, modern titles are often more elevated and may involve abbreviations or blended words. Despite the prestige carried by new titles, traditional ones remain dominant.

This thesis contributes to the understanding of the complexity of the lexico-semantic field of jobs and professions. The vocabulary within this field has experienced considerable development and therefore has adapted to transformations in society, technology and culture. Future research may explore the implications of emerging job titles in various contexts, analyse their evolution over time and investigate cross-cultural variations.

SUMMARY

Лексико-семантичне поле назв професій є динамічним мовним явищем, що відображає устрій суспільства, зміни в уявленнях про працю та розвиток нових видів діяльності. Ця група лексики охоплює слова та вирази, пов’язані з видами зайнятості, функціями працівників і назвами фахівців. У сучасній англійській мові професійна лексика постійно оновлюється у відповідь на технічний прогрес, зміни в суспільних поглядах та розвиток культури. З'являються нові професії, зокрема *influencer* чи *data scientist*, а старі поступово виходять з ужитку.

Бакалаврська робота присвячена всебічному аналізу лексико-семантичного поля назв професій у сучасній англійській мові. Актуальність дослідження полягає в тому, що професійна лексика відображає трансформації у способі мислення людей про престиж, гендер та роль окремих спеціальностей у сучасному світі. Через мову ми можемо спостерігати зміни в цінностях, стереотипах і тенденціях розвитку суспільства.

Об'єктом дослідження є лексика, пов’язана з професіями в англійській мові. Предметом є її мовні особливості, історичні зміни, граматичні риси та варіанти вживання у різних соціальних і культурних контекстах.

Мета дослідження полягає у вивченні структури, розвитку і функціонування професійної лексики англійської мови. Для її досягнення було поставлено низку завдань: з’ясувати зміст поняття лексико-семантичного поля професій; проаналізувати його внутрішню будову (загальновживані та вузькоспеціалізовані терміни); простежити зміни у вживанні назв професій з часом; дослідити способи творення нових слів; розглянути гендерні та регіональні відмінності у вживанні назв професій; проаналізувати сталі словосполучення у професійному мовленні; порівняти традиційні професії з новими.

У теоретичній частині дослідження розкрито загальне поняття лексико-семантичного поля, його структуру та взаємозв’язки між словами, зокрема синонімію, підпорядкування понять та зміна значень в залежності від контексту.

Професійні терміни поділяються на загальновживані (наприклад, *teacher, doctor*) та вузькоспеціалізовані або, які вже вийшли з ужитку (наприклад, *UX designer*, *lamplighter*). Також було проаналізовано процеси творення нових назв, зокрема додавання префіксів і суфіксів, складання основ кількох слів або використання абревіатур.

У практичній частині було досліджено вживання назв професій у текстах англомовної преси. Особлива увага приділена питанням гендерної рівності, зокрема поступова заміна старих назв із гендерним маркером (*fireman, hostess*) на нейтральні варіанти (*firefighter, flight attendant*), що свідчить про зміни в суспільному сприйнятті професій. Також розглянуто різницю між британським і американським варіантами англійської мови. Американський варіант англійської зазвичай застосовує простіші, нейтральні терміни, тоді як британський більше зберігає традиційні назви. Завдяки використанню корпусної лінгвістики вдалося порівняти, як уживаються назви професій у різних контекстах, та визначити типові словосполучення з ними. Окремо було розглянуто, які професійні назви мають додаткове значення або емоційне забарвлення, і як вони використовуються в офіційному та повсякденному мовленні.

Порівняння між традиційними та новими назвами професій довело, що, хоча сучасні назви часто звучать складніше або технічно, традиційні залишаються більш зрозумілими й поширеними.

Результати дослідження підтверджують, що професійна лексика англійської мови це жива, змінна частина мови, що тісно пов’язана з реаліями сьогодення. Вона здатна швидко адаптуватися до нових умов, відображати суспільні процеси та впливати на комунікацію. Отримані дані можуть бути використані у подальших дослідженнях із лексикології, соціолінгвістики. У перспективі можливе глибше вивчення впливу нових назв професій на сприйняття ролей у суспільстві, дослідження міжкультурних відмінностей та вивчення мовної адаптації нових термінів у різних типах дискурсу.

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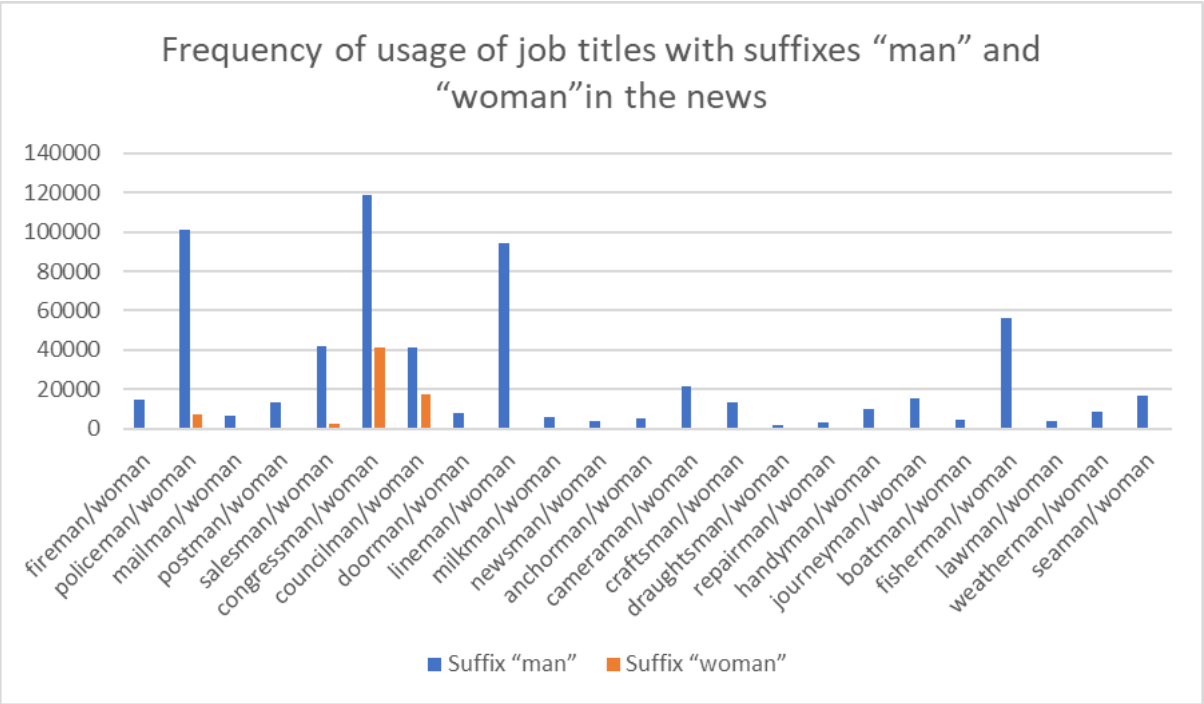
APPENDIX 1

The usage of job titles with suffixes “man” and “woman” in the news



APPENDIX 2

Lexico-semantic classification of jobs and professions based on ISCO-08 major groups

Groups	Subgroups
Group 1: armed forces occupations	Commissioned officers: second lieutenant, captain, major, colonel, general Non-commissioned officers: sergeant, staff sergeant, corporal Other ranks: private, airman, seaman
Group 2: managers	Executives: CEO, CFO, COO, CTO, CHRO Admin managers: office manager, secretary, clerk Production/service: retail manager, hospitality manager
Group 3: professionals	Science & engineering: physicist, architect, engineer Health: dentist, cardiologist, radiologist, surgeon ICT: programmer, data scientist, cybersecurity specialist Legal/social/cultural: lawyer, economist, journalist Education: teacher, professor, principal
Group 4: technicians/associates	Engineering/science: technician,

	controller Legal/social: paralegal, coach ICT: system administrator, computer operator
Group 5: clerical support	clerk, secretary, receptionist, payroll clerk
Group 6: service & sales	Personal service: cook, hairdresser, guide Sales: sales rep, account manager, sales director Care: carer, dementia carer, palliative carer Protective: lifeguard, animal control officer
Group 7: agricultural/forestry/fishery workers	farmer, gardener, fisher, breeder, florist
Group 8: craft trades workers	Metal/mechanics: welder, mechanic Handicraft: potter, jewellery maker, printer Garment/wood: tailor, cabinet-maker
Group 9: machine operators	plant operator, assembler, bus driver, truck driver
Group 10: elementary occupations	cleaner, housekeeper, waste collector, food assistant

APPENDIX 3

Slang occupational terms in English

electrician	sparky	Australia, New Zealand
carpenter	chippy	Australia, UK
psychiatrist	shrink	US
accountant	bean counter	US
taxi driver	hack	US
police officer	bobby	UK
police officer	cop	US
lawyer	ambulance chaser	US
surgeon	sawbones	UK
detective	gumshoe	US
farmer	sodbuster	US
mechanic	grease monkey	US

APPENDIX 4

Types of word formation in job and profession terms

Affix	Type	Function	Example
-er	suffix	denotes a person who performs an action	*teacher, driver, builder, writer*
-ist	suffix	denotes a person skilled in or practicing something	*scientist, artist, pharmacist, dentist*
-ian	suffix	denotes a person belonging to or associated with a place or field	*musician, historian, librarian, politician*
-or	suffix	similar to "-er"	*actor, inspector, conductor*
-man/-woman	suffix	indicates gender-specific roles (now often avoided or replaced)	*fireman, spokesman, policewoman*
-ee	suffix	recipient or beneficiary of an action	*employee, trainee, interviewee*
co-	prefix	indicates	*co-worker, co-*

		cooperation or shared responsibility	*author, co-founder*
ex-	prefix	indicates former profession or role	*ex-president, ex-manager, ex-employee*
pre-/post-	prefix	refers to job timing	*pre-med, postdoc*