

# Anti-Terrorism and National Security Newspeak

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Celem opracowania jest analiza nowomowy i żargonu związanego z bezpieczeństwem narodowym i globalną polityką antyterroryzmu. Opracowanie bazuje na teoretycznych założeniach socjolingwistyki – dziedziny językoznawstwa badającej związku języka z kontekstem społecznym, w jakim język jest używany. Założenia teoretyczne są wsparte licznymi przykładami użycia języka, co stanowi element leksykograficzny pracy. Materiał językowy został zebrany przez autora podczas kwerendy bibliotecznej na University of Portsmouth w latach 2012 i 2013.

## 12.1. Newspeak as a Sociolinguistic Phenomenon

Newspeak is a language invented by George Orwell in the novel entitled “1984”. “The Principles of Newspeak”, compiled by this author himself, gives the best illustration of the motives behind the use of newspeak in the fictional world he created. Consider the following fragments to understand the logic and purpose of Newspeak as presented in “1984”. Says Orwell in the appendix to “1984” [2004: 302-304]:

“Newspeak was the official language of Oceania, and had been devised to meet the ideological needs of Ingsoc or English Socialism. In the year 1984 there was not as yet anyone who used Newspeak as his sole means of communication, either in speech or writing. The leading articles of the *Times* were written in it, but this was a tour de force which could only be carried out by a specialist. It was expected that Newspeak would have finally superseded Oldspeak (or standard

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English, as we should call it) by about the year 2050. Meanwhile, it gained ground steadily, all party members tending to use Newspeak words and grammatical constructions more and more in their everyday speech. The version in "1984" and embodied in the Ninth and Tenth Editions of Newspeak dictionary, was a provisional one, and contained many superfluous words and archaic formations which were due to be suppressed later. It is with the final, perfected version, as embodied in the Eleventh Edition of the dictionary, that we are concerned here.

The purpose of Newspeak was not only to provide a medium of expression for the world – view and mental habits proper to the devotees of IngSoc, but to make all other modes of thought impossible. It was intended that when Newspeak had been adopted once and for all and Oldspeak forgotten, a heretical thought – that is, a thought diverging from the principles of IngSoc – should be literally unthinkable, at least so far as thought is dependent on words. Its vocabulary was so constructed as to give exact and often very subtle expression to every meaning that a Party member could properly wish to express, while excluding all other meaning and also the possibility of arriving at them by indirect methods. This was done partly by the invention of new words, but chiefly by eliminating undesirable words and stripping such words as remained of unorthodox meanings, and so far as possible of all secondary meaning whatever.

To give a single example – the word *free* still existed in Newspeak, but could only be used in such statements as "The dog is *free* from lice" or "This field is *free* from weeds." It could not be used in its old sense of "politically free" or "intellectually free," since political and intellectual freedom no longer existed even as concepts, and were therefore of necessity nameless. Quite apart from the suppression of definitely heretical words, reduction of vocabulary was regarded as an end in itself, and no word that could be dispensed with was allowed to survive. Newspeak was designed not to extend but to *diminish* the range of thought, and this purpose was indirectly assisted by cutting the choice of words down to a minimum. Newspeak was founded on the English language as we now know it, though many Newspeak sentences, even when not containing newly created words, would be barely intelligible to an English-speaker of our own day. Newspeak words were divided into three distinct classes, known as the *A vocabulary*, the *B vocabulary*, and the *C vocabulary*. It would be simpler to discuss each class separately, but the grammatical peculiarities of the language can be dealt with in the section devoted to the *A vocabulary*, since the same rules held good for all three categories".

In Orwell's fictional world Newspeak was a totalitarian regime's tool for facilitating manipulation and total control over the entire speech community. The lexical items such as *crimethink*, *duckspeak*, *sexcrime*, *unperson*, *blackwhite*, *thoughtcrime*, reflected the new world order of Orwell's fictional reality. They were intended to shape and mould the minds of language users.

Newspeak is not a literary phenomenon *per se*. It is a language type existing in the real world. Newspeak may be defined as a deliberately ambiguous and misleading language style used by the bureaucrats and politicians of the establishment whose purpose is to exert influence on language users. This type of language is a reflection of the social, economic and political phenomena, developments and trends prevalent at a particular time. Hence, newspeak has to be approached from the sociolinguistic standpoint. Newspeak of diverse types substantiates one of the basic tenets of sociolinguistics saying that social structure has an impact on language structure. Analogically to Orwell's fictional Newspeak, real-life newspeak serves a particular political orientation, ideology or view on the world.

J.B. Pride [1974: 5] says that a particular speech community can draw selectively upon two or more languages, dialects or language varieties. Newspeak functions in a similar manner – its users are innately capable of switching to a standard language variety. A good illustration of this characteristic is Valleyspeak. It is an American sociolect used by the so-called Valley girls – young, rich, good-looking girls from southern California. Valleyspeak is characterised by the irritating overuse of specific lexical items such as *absolutely*, *seriously*, *totally*, *cool*, *awesome* and *betch* instead of *bitch*. *Like* is invariably used as a discourse marker. It combines meaninglessly with other words, so it is possible to hear utterances such as “*Are you like serious?*” or “*I like seriously don't believe you.*” The hesitating “*um*” and “*oh my gawd*” appear in speech at all times. Additionally, this sociolect presupposes that language users adopt a particular tone of voice or modulate their voice in a specific manner. The question intonation must be applied at all times – even in declarative sentences. The users of this sociolect are generally considered not to be on the highest level of intellectual development. Most of them are from good families and have received proper education. The users of this sociolect, in most cases, are capable of using a standard variety of language if they wish to. It depends on the situational context in which a conversation act takes place. To understand the exceptional and unique character of Valleygirl speech consider the following extract from a testimonial by Tiffany Johnson, Enrico, California:

“So like I'm sitting in the mall the other day and like my friend Buffy says to me “Hey, Tiff” (my name is Tiffany, but, like, my friends call me Tiff), “have you seen this mega-huge computer thingy called the

Internet?" Helloooo, who does she think she's talking to – Miss Uninformed? It's not like \*I\* wasn't the one who told her all about the time I caught HER ex-boyfriend Brian making out with that heifer cheerleader last week. Anyway, I told her how I had gone over to Jeff's house (he's, like, a total stud puppy) and asked him to show me this web stuff. I was like "oh my gawd, only a total dweeb would like this" because none of this stuff made ANY sense. Everyone was, like, TOTALLY talking in languages that made no sense... until I found "Valley URL" by those bitchin' '80s Server guys. These guys are like WAY cool!!!"

Valleyspeak is a cultural phenomenon – its heyday was in 1981 when it became a nationwide fad. For young people it still is an addictive language style. For Valleygirl newspeak users the motives for using Valleyspeak are similar to the motives for using slang – Eric Partridge, the famous British slang lexicographer lists them in "Slang Today and Yesterday" [1970]. Among others, slang, similarly to Valleyspeak, is used for sheer fun, to be unmistakably arresting, as an exercise in wit, humour and ingenuity, to disperse the solemnity and pompousness of a conversation act. Widawski [2003:3], the contemporary Polish slang lexicographer and sociolinguist, further enumerates the motives for using slang. In-group solidarity and group identification are important motives for using slang. Valleyspeak serves the same purposes. In many instances the reasons for using slang overlap with the reasons for practising Valleygirl newspeak. The similarity between the motives for using slang and Valleygirl speech may indicate that newspeak is a psycholinguistic and sociolinguistic phenomenon. To acquire the first hand experience of Valleygirl speech see the film *Clueless* [1995].

Newspeak is characterised not only by adopting specific prosody or speech mannerisms but also by a careful choice of lexis. Political or religious newspeak functions in a way similar to Valleyspeak of Californian girls or fictional Newspeak of "1984". A lofty and solemn tone of voice and a particular selection of lexis combined generate the contemporary newspeak of men of power. Analogically, users of political or religious newspeak can switch to a standard mode of discourse depending on the audience they are addressing, the situational context and the purpose of a communication act.

## 12.2. Jargon and Newspeak

Jargon – this type of language may be discussed in correlation with newspeak. Analysing the political newspeak of the Cold War and the contemporary anti-terrorism and national security newspeak, it is possible to conclude that it is jargon that is primarily responsible for the creation and existence of newspeak. Orwell's Newspeak was a self-contained language whose purpose was to eliminate personal thought by restricting the expressiveness of language. Valleyspeak relies on lexical mannerisms and distinct intonation. Real-life newspeak is a type of language strongly marked by jargon. This article strives to illustrate this theoretical assumption by numerous citational corroborations.

Widawski [2003: 31] views jargon as technical lexis specific to particular jobs, occupations, trades or a type of lexis useful in carrying out a profession or pursuing an interest. Jonathon Greene [1987:IX-XI] in his preface to his *Dictionary of Jargon* defines jargon as a mode of speech full of unfamiliar terms, as the language of scholars and philosophers, the terminology of science and art. He also points at the apparent obscurity of jargon and suggests that it is characterised by complexity, which is sometimes an aim in itself. Jargon is a useful tool in the hands of politicians and men of power. President Harry S. Truman said: "If you can't convince them, confuse them". Jonathon Greene observes that jargon allows politicians to adopt calming tones when they refer to something unpalatable or speak about the unthinkable – our possible nuclear demise. The citational evidence provided in this article will substantiate this fact.

Newspeak is connected with the phenomenon of audience design introduced by Spolsky [1988: 85]. A language user who has mastered more than one variety of language is in the position of choosing a level of speech according to the audience he or she is addressing. Spolsky [1988] refers to language users capable of adopting different dialects or to bilingual speech communities in which two languages are used in different situations and for different purposes. The idea of audience design may be extended to newspeak. Its users may apply jargon-saturated newspeak when they address the general public and wish to sound knowledgeable or when they intend to camouflage an aspect of reality they are referring to. The same applies to Valleyspeak – its users are capable of adopting this mode of speech when they are in a relaxed situation. In more formal social contexts they switch to a standard language variety.

Newspeak cannot be analysed in separation from jargon. Jargon defines newspeak and gives it a distinct character. This language phenomenon of

newspeak-jargon interdependence falls under the scope of sociolinguistic studies. The main task of sociolinguistic is to map language variation on to social conditions [see Spolsky: 5]. This enables the analysis of synchronic language variation (at a specific single point in time) as well as diachronic variation (variation in time) or language change. Jargon-saturated newspeak lends itself to such an analysis. The citational evidence presented in this article will illustrate the political newspeak of the times of the Cold War and the contemporary newspeak of the post-September 11 era. It will bring back the long forgotten military terminology, which was filtered into the political discourse of the 1970s and 1980s. The textual examples will also attempt to present the basic language exponents of the contemporary political newspeak, which may be referred to as anti-terrorism or national-security newspeak.

### **12.3. Newspeak of the Cold War**

The history learning site provides a brief description of the Cold War era. The Cold War is a term used to describe the relationship between America and the Soviet Union from 1945 to 1980. Neither side ever fought the other – the consequences would be too appalling – but they did ‘fight’ for their beliefs using client states who fought for their beliefs on their behalf e.g. South Vietnam was anticommunist and was supplied by America during the war while North Vietnam was pro-communist and fought the south (and the Americans) using weapons from communist Russia or communist China. During the Cold War the threat of nuclear demise was real. During the Cuban crisis of 1962 nuclear annihilation seemed imminent. The world braced for a catastrophe. The Americans built bomb shelters and there were food shortages in shops. In Afghanistan, the Americans supplied the rebel Afghans with weaponry after the Soviet invasion in 1979. The Americans never physically involved themselves in combat, thus avoiding a direct clash with the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union, under the command of Field Marshal Kulikov, prepared real plans to invade the West and believed in the idea of a limited nuclear war in the early 1980s. The political changes in the Soviet Union brought about the long-awaited détente in the late 1980s. The escalation of the arms race and the Soviet military involvement in Afghanistan led to the collapse of the Soviet economy and the fall of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s. At the time of the Cold War the political discourse or newspeak of men of power was full of military jargon. The citational corroborations quoted below will remind us of the ghosts of the Cold War. In the 1980s the jargon demonstrated in the textual

examples presented below was commonplace. The first aggregate of citational evidence substantiates the fact that many of the expressions used in the Cold War newspeak were borrowings. These lexical coinages were the effect of languages coming into contact. Take a look at this sample:

*"In the relationship between the **Politbureau** [= Soviet political leadership] and the general secretary a crucial role was played by the Party Secretariat." – F.J.M. Feldbrugge, *Russian Law: The End of the Soviet system and the Role of Law*, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 1992].*

*"For all its surface resemblance to the American derived DESC model this management structure would have been instantly familiar to a Communist Party **aparatchik** [= Communist Party activist] back in Soviet times." – Thane Gustafson, *Wheel of Fortune*, Harvard University Press, 2012 "**Aparatchik**. Full-time party worker, member of the party bureaucracy, or a party propagandist in the former USSR." – Watler John Raymond, *Dictionary of Politics*, Brunswick Publishing Corp, 1992.*

*"... need not therefore blame Brezhnev's senility or the notorious intransigence of Gromyko, who was called in the West **Mr. Niet** [= Soviet Foreign Affairs Minister notorious for his tough negotiating stance]. Rather, the accentuated irrationalities of the Soviet state – manifested in its ever clumsier propaganda machinery, ..." – Georgi M. Derluguian, *Bourdieu's Secret Admirer in the Caucasus: A World System Biography*, University of Chicago Press, 2005.*

*"**Perestroika** [=attempted reform of the Communist system], like all great transformations in Russian history, has taken the world by surprise." – Alfred J. Rieber, Alvin Z. Rubinstein, *Perestroika at the Crossroads*, M.E. Sharpe, 1991.*

*"On October 4, 1957, the Soviet launch of **Sputnik** [=first Soviet unmanned spacecraft] sent shock waves around the world—shock waves felt most strongly in the United States, where the news of the launch of the world's first artificial satellite indicated that the country's Cold War ..." – Homer A. Neal, Tobin L. Smith, Jennifer B. McCormick, *Beyond Sputnik: U.S. Science Policy in the Twenty-first Century*, Kris Nia, 2008.*

*"Many of the **refuseniks** [=dissidents; neologism stylised to sound Russian-like] have been fired from their jobs and forced to take menial work. University professors and physicians now labor as janitors and street sweepers." – Michael Novak, *Taking Glasnost Seriously: Toward an Open soviet Union*, American Enterprise Institute, 1988.*

*"Aleksi Kireyev then said that the times required that the USSR 'cite sufficiently full data and right away, or not cite them at all' as evidence of **glasnost** [=openness, part of the policy of reforming the Soviet Union]*

*in military affairs.*” – David Thomas Twining, *Strategic Surprise in the Age of Glasnost*, Transaction Publishers, 1992.

“The withdrawal of Soviet troops led to a period of turmoil, when **Mujahedins** [= Afghan freedom fighters of late 1980s] continued the fight against the regime of Najibullah. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Soviet-backed regime of Najibullah no longer received support and fell.” – Isak Svensson, *Ending Holy Wars: Religion and Conflict Resolution in Civil Wars*, Univ. of Queensland Press, 2013.

“The balance: what the **contras** [= Nicaraguan rebels fighting the Ortega leftist regime in the 1980s] achieved and the true nature of their failure The contras’ moment had passed. But time no longer smiled on the Sandinistas.” – Rogelio Pardo-Maurer, *The Contras, 1980-1989: A Special Kind of Politics*, ABC-CLIO, 1990.

“Second, having learned from the travails of their predecessors, the Nicaraguan **guerrillas** [=rebel fighters] embraced new strategies that allowed them to exploit these mounting domestic tensions and achieve an unprecedented breadth of public support.” – Hal Brands, *Latin America’s Cold War*, Harvard University Press, 2012.

“The most important Russian propaganda films such as ‘**Propaganda** [= information, ideas, doctrines, or special appeals spread to influence the opinions, attitudes or behavior of any specified group to benefit the sponsor] Persuasion.’ “ – Garth S. Jowett, Victoria O’Donnell, *Propaganda and Persuasion*, SAGE, 2011.

During the Cold War military jargon dominated political discourse. A considerable aggregate of jargon terms entering the newspeak of the Cold War were the terms denoting various types of lethal weaponry or military devices that could have brought about the annihilation of nations. Some of them were proper names which had an iconic status as they triggered automatic, unequivocal responses and were commonly understood in other than English-speaking speech communities. This was the effect of the raging arms race dominating the world media and the global threat posed by a possible East-West conflict. Other expressions denoted social or economic phenomena dominating the political life of the era such as disarmament negotiations or economic policies. Let us analyse the following citations:

“**Cruise missiles** [=guided missiles] exist in three versions: (1) land-based or ground-launched cruise missiles (GLCM), (2) sea-based or sea-launched cruise missiles (SLCM), and (3) air-launched cruise missiles (ALCM).” – George M. Siouris, *Missile Guidance and Control Systems*, Springer, 2004.



“...informal walk-in-the-woods formula suggested that the United States might be prepared to forego deployment of the **Pershing II** [= type of weapon; proper name] missiles while proceeding with the deployments of the GLCMs in exchange for certain Soviet concessions...” – Committee on International Security and Arms Control, office of International Affairs, Policy and Global Affairs, *Nuclear Arms Control: Background Issues*, National Academies Press, 1985.

“The major task under this Nunn-Lugar project is to provide assistance in destroying SS-18 ballistic missile **silos** [=ballistic missiles underground launch pads] in Kazakhstan, in accordance with START requirements.<sup>3</sup> This project began in the summer of 1994.” – John M. Shields, William C. Potter, Sam Nunn, *Dismantling the Cold War*, MIT Press, 1997.

“Security forces in Turkey also found **Stinger rockets** [=portable rocket launchers used mainly by Afghan rebels against Soviet forces] in an arms cache of a Kurdish dissident group.” – James Lutz, Brenda Lutz, *Global Terrorism*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Routledge, 2013.

“At the height of the Cold War against the Soviet Union in the 1960s, the U.S. military developed the **Minuteman** [=proper name, type of American intercontinental ballistic missiles] missiles, which could reach the Soviet Union and were designed to carry nuclear warheads.” – Jason Porterfield, *Montana: Past and Present*, The Rosen Publishing Group, 2010.

“The Soviet Union has 130 ‘**short-range**’ missiles [=missiles deployed in Europe, to be used in Europe] (those with a range of 300 to 600 miles) facing Europe.” – Robert E. Harkavy, *Bases Abroad: The Global Foreign Military Presence*, Oxford University Press, 1989.

“An analysis of the economic policies of the Reagan administration looks at inflation, interest rates, unemployment, supply-side economics, government spending, income distribution, and the new federalism” – William Craig Stubblebine, Thomas D. Willett, **Reaganomics**: A Midterm Report, ICS Press, 1983.

“...outbreak of the conflict in October 1973, it had greatly facilitated American-Soviet cooperation in defusing the conflict and preventing its escalation. The Soviet policy of **detente** [= resigning from confrontation, relaxed negotiating position] and cooperation with the United States did pose a problem for ...” – Raymond L. Garthoff, *Détente and Confrontation: American-Soviet Relations from Nixon to Reagan*, Brookings Institution, 1994.

“**Deadly Gambits: The Reagan Administration and the Stalemate** [= stagnation, lack of progress] in Nuclear Arms Control” – April Carter,

*Success and Failure in Arms Control Negotiations, Oxford University Press, 1989.*

*“Turbulent times by the mid-1960s, right across the western world, the post-war **baby** [=infant born during war time] boomer generation now entering their late teens and early twenties was flooding the West with demands for emancipation from the constraints of war-era ...” – David Cox, Sign Wars: The Culture Jammers Strike Back, UoM Custom Book Centre, 2010.*

Jargon always displays a tendency towards the use of abbreviations and acronyms. Many jargon terms used during the Cold War period functioned as a professional shorthand adopted by politicians and men of power. Jargon served the purpose of obscuring reality and provided a means of easier reference to the unthinkable. In time, many jargon terms entered the popular lexicon and became a common element of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century discourse. The textual examples below are a good illustration of this observation:

*“Consequently, the characteristics of the strategic offensive arms limited by Article II of the treaty – in particular, the deployed and non-deployed launchers of ICBMs, the deployed **ICBMs** [= intercontinental ballistic missiles] and their associated warheads.” – John F. Kerry, Treaty with Russia on Measures for Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, DIANE Publishing 2011.*

*“I have examined the Soviet attitude towards partial disarmament between 1917 and 17 November... No other source of wholly disinterested and reliable information is available regarding the **SALT** [= Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty]1 and SALT 2 Treaties .” – Peter Hast Vigor, The Soviet View of Disarmament, Macmillian, 1986.*

*“The **Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI)** [=planned missile defense shield commonly known as ‘Star Wars’] was the brainchild of US President Ronald Reagan, who called on US scientists in the early 1980s to develop a ‘peace shield’ that would protect the United States and its allies from ballistic nuclear missiles” – R.J. Barry Jones, Routledge Encyclopedia of International Political Economy, Taylor & Francis, 2001.*

*“In World War Two, it was **D-Day** [=day when operations commence]. It was an incredible day. I am old enough to remember sitting by the radio in school: we stopped classes and listened to the reports coming to us from Normandy, because everybody knew that all the chips were ...” – Michael P. Knowles, The Folly of Preaching: Models and Methods, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2007.*

## 12.4. Anti-Terrorism and National Security Newspeak of the Post-September 11 Era

The demise of the Soviet Union, the terrorist attacks on the United States, the Second Gulf War and the invasion of Afghanistan led to the realignment and a total change of focus of American foreign and internal policy in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. This political shift involved a change of jargon dominating political discourse. National security became a momentous catchphrase associated with righteous patriotism. It was originally coined by James W. Forrestal, the first Secretary of Defence. Uttering this phrase was intended to open any closed doors or close any open doors, literally and figuratively. It functioned as an invocation to bend the law for a higher or greater cause. Numerous new jargon terms entered the political newspeak of the new anti-terrorism era. As was the case with the Cold War jargon, the newspeak of the anti-terrorism era incorporates borrowings from the language of the enemy including proper names. Their ubiquity in the political newspeak pinpoints the new enemy. The following citational corroborations provide an illustration of this change:

*“...the **insurgency** [= uprising, civil rebellion, subversive political activity, revolt] had achieved in Saudi Arabia as well as the determination and expertise of its operatives. It also demonstrated the thoroughness of the Saudi security forces in tracking, monitoring, and eventually eliminating **jihadists** [= Islamist militants]. Barry Rubin, *Conflict and Insurgency in the Contemporary Middle East*, Routledge, 2009.*

*”RECRUITMENT FOR **JIHAD** [= Muslim holy war]. Omar Bakri Mohamed, the firebrand radical and head of the British group Al-Muhajiroun, told a television reporter in 1997, ‘If I lived in Saudi Arabia, I could never get away with what I do here, hah’ – Alison Pargeter, *The New Frontiers of Jihad: Radical Islam in Europe*, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008.*

*“Hard evidence linking south-east Asian **Islamic militant groups** [= organised of Muslim rebels] and **Al-Qaeda** [= supranational terrorist organization] has been hard to find.” – *Asia and Pacific Review*, Kogan Page Publishers, 2003.*

The adjective *Islamist*, with its evidently negative connotation, has become ubiquitous in the new anti-terrorism and national security newspeak. Word connotation is not a dictionary meaning of a lexical item. Word connotation relates to emotions that a lexical item evokes. The textual evidence below will confirm that the adjective *Islamist* is invariably endowed with negative

emotional colouring. The older adjective *Islamic* is normally endowed with a more positive connotation, as in the phrases such as *Islamic culture, architecture, traditions* or *literature*. The adjective *Islamic* acquires a conspicuous negative connotation when it refers to militant groups or combatants. The lexical items denoting organised groups of fighters are different in the new anti-terrorist and national security newspeak. Note that *militants, combatants* and *terrorist groups* have superseded *guerrillas* or *contras* of the Cold War times. Consider the following textual corroborations:

By the time the **Islamists** [= Muslims supporting the creation of Islamic states or regimes] came to power, this identity management had produced well defined formations within the movement. Some of the Islamists from Darfur such as Daud Bolad – a prominent Islamist student leader in the al-Fashir ...” – Abdullah A. Gallab, *The First Islamist Republic: Development and Disintegration*, Ashgate Publishing Ltd, 2013.

“**Islamist** [= related to Islamic religious radicalism] activism in urban neighbourhoods became intermeshed with the societal modes of organisation and with local power struggles. However, opposition to government is not the only form that Islamist politics has taken. Islamist discourses ...” – Salwa Ismail, *Rethinking Islamist Policies: Culture, the State and Islamism*, I.B. Tauris, 2006.

“Other movements have also reached the conclusion that the time for building the caliphate is nigh and have developed their views independently of Egyptian jihadi thinkers and Saudi **Islamist** [= related to Islamic religious radicalism] revolutionaries.” – Yaakov Lappin, *Virtual Caliphate: Exposing the Islamist State on the Internet*, Potomac Books, Inc, 2010.

“**Islamist** [= related to Islamic religious radicalism] radicalisation in Europe: the facts In recent years 9/11 has become a strong signifier, not only for the first major attack of Islamist terror against the West and the ensuing ‘war on terror’, but also as a trigger for an ongoing and ...” – Daniela Psoiu, *Islamist Radicalisation in Europe: An Occupational Change Process*, Routledge, 2011.

“**Islamist** [=related to Islamic religious radicalism]’ agenda, can be usefully contrasted and compared with the ‘incumbent Islamist’ regime in Riyadh and its ‘conservative’ if not ‘ultra-conservative Islamist’ agenda.” – Richard Martin, Abbas Barzegar, *Islamism: Contested Perspectives on Political Islam*, Stanford University Press, 2010.

“Some of these preparations were shielded and supported by senior and mid-rank officers and officials, particularly in the security and defense apparatus, who were convinced that the **Islamist** [=related to Islamic religious radicalism] wave was “on the march in Pakistan.” – Yossef

Bodansky, Bin Laden: *The Man Who Declared War on America*, Random House LLC, 2011.

“Since the beginning of the Intifada, most of the violent attacks against Israeli targets had been committed by **Islamic combatants** [= terrorist fighters supporting the rise of the Islamic state], whether Hamas, the Islamic Jihad, Islamic activists across the Jordan River, or Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.” – Shaul Mishal, Avraham Sela, *The Palestinian Hamas: Vision, Violence and Coexistence*, Columbia University Press, 2006.

“The country was awash with rumours: rumours about coups, rumours about deals between Chadli and the Islamists, rumours about impending **Islamist insurrection** [= uprising of Islamist radicals].” – Martin Evans, John Phillips, *Algeria: Anger of the Dispossessed*, Yale University Press, 2007.

“On the north-western border of Afghanistan lies the Federal Administered Tribal Areas, which have become home to some of the most radical **Islamic militant groups** [= Islamist fighters, terrorists] today.” – Mathieu Guidere, *Historical Dictionary of Islamic Fundamentalism*, Scarecrow Press, 2012.

“Finally, figures for the number of established **terrorist groups** [= Islamist fighters] in each country are presented. By established terrorist groups we mean, as in the previous chapter, terrorist groups that have survived for five years or more or which have killed five ...” – Jan Oskar Engene, *Terrorism in Western Europe, Explaining the Trends since 1950*, Edward Elgar, 2004.

“Of course, the majority of terrorists are recruited by men, as illustrated by the examples above, most likely because men continue to dominate the operational, leadership, and decision-making roles in **terrorist groups** [= Islamist fighters].” – Kim Cragin, Sara A. Daly, *Women as Terrorists: Mothers, Recruiters and Martyrs*, ABC-CLIO, 2009.

“Most of Southeast Asia’s **militants** [= Islamist fighters, terrorists] are middle-class converts who worked in the Middle East, or young, angry, anti-Western and technically savvy educated professionals who saw an anti-Western and militant [= using violent, terrorist or military means] Islam as a refuge from the crimes, ...” – Andrew T.H. Tan, *A Handbook of terrorism and Insurgency in Southeast Asia*, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2007.

Similarly to the Cold War newspeak, contemporary jargon of the anti-terrorism era abounds in diverse abbreviations, commonly recognisable proper names and military terminology which was filtered into the daily

political discourse. The analysis of the vast aggregate of new military jargon terms, which constitute the contemporary anti-terrorism and national security newspeak, is a reliable source of knowledge about changes in military doctrines and new generations or types of weapons. The following citational examples confirm this point of view:

*“Bergen and Tiedemann reach a similar conclusion in their policy paper that analyzes **drone** [= unmanned combat aircraft] attacks from 2004 to 2010. They found that since Obama entered office, the use of drone attacks has risen considerably.”* – Fawaz A. Gerges, *The Rise and Fall of Al-Qaeda*, Oxford University Press, 2011.

*“The DC-130 served as the mother ship for Firebee drones during the Vietnam War. This DC-130 is in use by the US Air Force’s 6514th Test Squadron, hosting AQM-34 Firebee target **drones** [= unmanned combat aircraft] to test air defense systems like those on Aegis ...”* – Steven J. Zaloga, *Osprey Publishing*, 2008.

*“On October 7, 2001, the first operational deployment of ‘Global Hawk’ spearheaded the American missile strikes in Afghanistan. **Global Hawk** [= type of unmanned combat air vehicle; proper name] is the name of the latest version of a high-altitude, long-endurance unmanned air vehicle...”* – Jim Marrs, *The Terror Conspiracy: Deception, 9:11 and the Loss of Liberty*, Red Wheel Weiser, 2006.

*“The **sidewinder** [= type of air-to-air missile; proper name] moves across the desert sand in a sideways motion by applying a downward force in which only two parts of its body touch the sand. It is able to skip across the sand at speeds of three feet (91 cm) per second when in pursuit of ...”* – Angelique D. Tarbox, *A Desert Food Chain*, The Creative Company, 2009.

*“**GUIDED BOMB UNITS** (GBU) Mating with the BLU-109 is the GBU-10 laser guidance kit containing an MK-84 2,000-pound bomb. The GBU-10 **Paveway** [=type of bomb; proper name] II bomb relies on an operator-illuminated target using a laser designator to hone in on its target.”* – Tyson Rininger, *F-15 Eagle at War*, Zenith Imprint, 2009.

New anti-terrorism and national security newspeak indicates that modern military doctrines and strategies are more concerned with limited surgical operations, containing a multitude of hot spots in remote corners of the world, dealing with a primitively-equipped but determined enemy, greater mobility of specialised army units and undercover secret operations of professional task forces rather than inflicting total destruction upon the enemy territory. Let us analyse the citations presented below which illustrate this hypothesis:

“Standoff jamming aircraft are large and carry large jammers with high radiated jamming power. Since they are farther away than the targets they are protecting, standoff **jammers** [= devices disrupting an electronic signal] must have extra jamming power to overcome the square of the ...” – David Adamy, *Introduction to Electronic Warfare Modeling and Simulation*, Artech House, 2003.

“Electronic **jamming** [= disrupting an electronic signal, deliberate interference intended to prevent reception] is one method of ECM in which a transmitter — the jammer — broadcasts EM radiation to interfere with enemy radar or C3 (command, control, communications) signals.” – Patrick Di Justo, Kevin Grazier, *The Science of Battlestar Galactica*, John Wiley & Sons, 2010.

“This may be accomplished by the use of noise or deception **jamming** [= disrupting an electronic signal, deliberate interference intended to prevent reception]. Depending upon the method of operation, a jammer’s effective radiated power (ERP) may vary from a few watts to tens of thousands of watts.” – *International Electronic Countermeasures Handbook*, Horizon House, 2004.

“To pose these analyses, **key terrain** [= land, the possession of which could prove decisive in combat] parameters and the wheel-terrain contact angles must be known. Methods for sensor-based estimation of these quantities are discussed below.” – Karl Iagnemma, Steven Dubowsky, *Mobile Robots in Rough Terrain*, Springer, 2004.

“Just then each anchored ship fired a blank charge to celebrate the return of the men of the **naval landing party** [= force of naval personnel for the conduct of ground operations ashore]. Wake returned Erne’s salute and struggled to maintain his composure, seeing that others around him were doing the same.” – Robert N. Macomber, *Point of Honor: The Continuing Exploits of Lt. Peter Wake*, Pineapple Press Inc, 2005.

“Three years later, a similar **assault** [= final step of the attack phase] the American culture center in Taegu took place. A daring expression of anti-Americanism erupted in the busiest street in downtown Seoul in 1985.” – Yur-Bok Lee, Wayne Patterson, *Korean-American Relations 1866-1997*, SUNY Press, 1999.

“How do you keep your right elbow high, in the attack position [= the most forward, covered and concealed position], when you’re opening the throttle all the way? The secret is to use the over-grip procedure.” – Anthony Sutton, *Motocross: How to Be an Awesome Motocross Rider*, Capstone, 2012.

“...to improve the security of the attacking force, the increase in the expected collateral damage [= civilians killed in a military action] outweighs the anticipated military advantage.” – Ian Henderson, *The Contemporary Law of Targeting*, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 2009.

“These two words simply mean **clandestine** [= secret, undercover, intelligence and counterintelligence operations by government department using illicit means against another country] operations. General Donovan’s office was called Strategic Services, and his duties were described as special services.” – Heinz Duthel, *The Secret Team*, BoD – Books on Demand, 2013.

“Our Evaluations of Selected Areas The close **air support** [= air operations against the enemy executed at very close range to friendly front lines] study group included representatives of all four services and the Joint Staff. The Joint Staff representative gave the study group an initial concept paper that outlined four alternatives.” – United States general Accounting office, *Roles, Missions and Functions of the Armed Services*, DIANE Publishing, 1993.

“Every flight now has a **U.S. Marshal** [= undercover anti-terrorist agent] on board and he is to tell him that this was smuggled on board.” – D.H. Reid, *Stepping Stones To Injustice*, Lulu.com, 2004.

Poetry. “There is always distance in language. Readers and writers move in this distance, between the innumerable points that define their positions. The poems of **NOMADIC TRAJECTORY** [= path described by a projectile in flight] are but notations of absence and displacement.” – Pasquale Verdicchio, *Nomadic trajectory*, Guernica Editions, 1990.

“According to Peggy Kornegger, picking up an expression used by Daniel Guerin, **shock action** [= actual hand-to-hand combat] is a matter of ‘purposeful illegality.’” – Ginette Castro, *American Feminism: A Contemporary History*, NYU Press, 1990.

“Laws passed after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, such as the **USA Patriot Act** [= anti-terrorism laws; acronym – Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept or Obstruct Terrorism] of 2001, made it more difficult for journalists to obtain records regarding surveillance information.” – S.L. Alexander, *Media and American Courts: A Reference Handbook*, ABC-CLIO, 2004.

”Morale issues, racism, drugs, sabotage, and related matters the U.S. Navy is now confronted with pressures... which, if not controlled, will surely destroy its enviable tradition of discipline. Recent instances of **sabotage** [= disguised or deliberate damage of materials, products,



equipment, military facilities so as to disrupt or incapacitate normal functions of political, economic or military ends], riot...” – Roger Thompson, *Lessons Not Learned: The U.S. Navy’s Status Quo Culture*, Naval Institute Press, 2007.

“Titov later recalled that he attempted to record his observations of the performance of the spacecraft from data on the instrument panel during the fully automated **abort** [= unexpected termination of a military mission], but that the flight was so short, and imparted such high g, that he was...” – Rex Hall, David Shavler, *Soyuz: A Universal Spacecraft*, Springer, 2003.

“For the bands involved in the project Emmanuel was the real deal, an actual **Kalashnikov kid** [= member of a children’s brigade due to the ubiquity of the AK47 assault rifle, esp. in North Africa] who lent the album the kudos of actual conflict.” – Michael Hodges, *AK47: The Story of the People’s Gun*, Hachette UK, 2008.

Similarly to the times of the Cold War, today’s political discourse displays an abundance of abbreviations. This tendency is an inherent characteristic of jargon. Let us take a look at the following citational evidence containing abbreviations used in the anti-terrorism and national security newspeak of the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. Military and political terms in this form are frequently adopted by politicians who sound more knowledgeable and professional when they use them in discourse. The following citations will substantiate this:

22 Mar 05 was a busy day full of meetings and preparation for the CAG mission. Our **CAG** [= Carrier Air Group] Officer, Major Rick Crocker, had previously asked me if I was willing to participate with CAG in their visit to the nearby city of Kubeysah and I had ...” – Glenn F. Thibault, *Sword in the Lion’s Den: Navy Doc with 3/25<sup>th</sup> Marines in Iraq*, PublishAmerica, 2008.

“As the **IED** [=improvised explosive device, self-made explosives meant to destroy, incapacitate, harass or distract; can be in a form of toys or mobile phones, Molotov cocktail being more primitive] threat increased in both the Iraq and Afghan theaters, technological solutions were developed to begin to counter the threat. Against any remote detonated IED’s that are placed within 8” of a vehicle equipped with IED Counter...” – Leigh Neville, Shawn Carpenter, *Enduring Freedom: Afghanistan 2001-2010*, Osprey Publishing, 2011.

”‘Drowning in the Desert’ is both a legal thriller and a searing account of the savagery that can occur when commanders place ‘the fight’ above all else.” – Vivian H. Gembara, Deborah A. Gembara, *Drowning in the*

*Desert: A JAG's [= lawyer in uniform; Judge Advocate General] Search for Justice in Iraq, Zenith Imprint, 2008.*

*"The base vehicle in the light armored infantry battalion (LAIB) is the LAV-25. This is the workhorse of the unit, the element around which everything else in the battalion revolves. The LAV [= Light armoured vehicle] -25 is named for its weapon: the 25-mm automatic chain ..." – G.J. Michaels, Tip of the Spear: U.S. Marine Light Armour in the Gulf War, Naval Institute Press, 2008.*

*"In 1961 these forces consisted of the Strategic Army Corps (STRAC), the composite air strike forces of Tactical Air Command (TAC), and Navy and Marine Corps units not assigned to unified commands. " – Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, The History of the Unified Command Plan, DIANE Publishing, 1996.*

*"The Cambodian airlift was begun by crews from the 374th TAC [= Tactical Airlift Wing] which, by 1973, was the only C-130 wing still assigned to Pacific Air Forces..." – Sam McGowan, Anything, Anywhere, Anytime: Tactical Airlift in the US Army, Author House, 2012.*

*"Is your Roy Boy Black? he asked earnestly. No, said Dad. "He's my cousin. A vet. Veteran [= a retired soldier who fought in war]. We showed you the sketch. Oh yeah, he said softly. He needs us." – Henry G. Brechter, Louis and the Ghost, Dog Ear Publishing, 2013.*

*"UNSC [= United Nations Security Council] Resolution 687, 3 April 1991 1991 UNSC Resolution 688, 5 April 1991 1992 UNSC Resolution 770, 13 August 1992 1992 UNSC Resolution 794, 3 December 1992 1994 UNSC Resolution 925, 8 June 1994 1994 UNSC Resolution ..." – Andrea de Guttry, Marco Gestri, Gabriella Venturini, International Disaster Response Law, Springer, 2012.*

\* \* \*

The analysis of newspeak and jargon allows us to clarify certain nomenclatural confusion – newspeak and jargon are often mistakenly used interchangeably. Jargon denotes specialised technical lexis whereas newspeak pertains to a type of discourse in which these technical terms appear. The analysis of newspeak confirms the key sociolinguistic assumption saying that variations in language are closely related to variations in society [see Spolsky; 1998].

Further studies on political newspeak could concentrate on the axiological parameter inherent in lexis classified as jargon.

## Summary

This paper aims to present the selected frequently encountered terms of contemporary anti-terrorism and national security newspeak. The paper also introduces a historical perspective and contrasts the new national security language with the Cold War jargon. The notions of newspeak and jargon are illustrated by real-life citational examples. The language presented is divided into several semantic and morphological categories. This paper also attempts to demonstrate that language change is inseparable from social or political change. It is, therefore, an endeavour to look at political newspeak from a sociolinguistic and lexicographical point of view.

The paper is an effect of library research carried out by the author at the University of Portsmouth in Great Britain in 2012 and 2013.

## Streszczenie

### Nowomowa związana z polityką antyterroryzmu i bezpieczeństwa narodowego

Celem opracowania jest prezentacja wybranych oraz często spotykanych określeń językowych związanych ze współczesną polityką antyterroryzmu i bezpieczeństwa narodowego. Wprowadzając perspektywę historyczną, opracowanie kontrastuje współczesną polityczną nowomowę z nomenklaturą czasów Zimnej Wojny. Pojęcia nowomowy i żargonu są zilustrowane autentycznymi przykładami użycia w tekstach. Zaprezentowane przykłady użycia językowego są podzielone na semantyczne i słowotwórcze kategorie. Opracowanie próbuje wykazać, że zmiany językowe są związane ze zmianami społecznymi lub politycznymi. Jest zatem próbą spojrzenia na polityczną nowomowę z punktu widzenia socjolingwistyki i leksykografii.

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