Coronapedia: A Corpus-Driven Analysis of COVID-19 Newspeak and Implications for Language Change

Ashraf Riadh Abdullah *
Ameen Abdulrahman -Dhiya'**

تأريخ التقديم: 2021/10/1 تأريخ القبول: 2021/11/14

Abstract

Challenging circumstances often generate new forms of expression. The particular challenges of the Covid-19 (also known as Corona Virus) pandemic have led to the emergence of neologisms and novel expressions. The availability of Big Data technology has made investigating the nature and specifics of this language change possible.

This study aims to identify and categorize newly emerging vocabulary related to the Covid-19, by investigating frequencies, collocates, and chronological development. It adopts a corpus-driven quantitative analysis, accompanied by qualitative analysis based on intuition, to consider the following research questions: What new vocabularies have emerged related to the coronavirus and are they significantly frequent replacing their normal language counterparts? What are the sources and etymologies behind these new items of vocabulary? How are they formed? How have these terms developed over time ?

This study adopts a corpus linguistic methodology by quantitatively and qualitatively investigating the publicly available Coronavirus Corpus at (english-corpora.org) which is comprised of approximately 341 million words. Frequencies, collocations, keywords and chronological comparisons of 'newspeak' will be commented upon, followed by an etymological analysis of these items and a documentation of their word-formation processes

***Lect/ Dept. of English/ College of Arts / University of Mosul.**

**** Lect / Dept. of English/ College of Arts / University of Mosul.**

according to the Bauer (1983) word-formation model, developed and updated by Author (2015.(

Preliminary findings include a catalogue of emerging neologisms such as covidiot, coronacation, Aunt Rona and quarantini, which are formed by blending, clipping and compounding. These are provided in Appendix A, along with explanations of meanings and etymologies of the terms. Phrases such as flattening the curve have undergone semantic deviation to correspond to new trends related to the virus, and there are cases of language play (Danet, 2001) such as fattening the curve and COVID-10 relating to overeating and putting on weight as a result of the lockdown and stay-home status.

Keywords: Language of Covid-19, language change, neologisms, semantic deviation, corpus linguistics

1.1. Introduction

It is a well-established fact that languages have experienced change, particularly with the development of Netspeak and the fact that online interaction about a global crisis leads to intensified language production. The year 2020 has sparked a large-scale language change. The Internet was right at the heart of the operation when Crystal (2001) introduced us to Netspeak and Danet (2001) investigated the different ways in which people "play" with language online. Linguists thrived in observing, analysing, and publishing research regarding newly-emerging vocabulary (Crystal, 2004; Author, 2005; Author, 2016), grammar (Herring, 2012), discourse structures (Rouzie, 2001; Baron, 2010; Herring, 2013), and even social aspects of language such as politeness (Harrison and Barlow, 2009; Page 2014), digital ethnography (Boellstorff et al., 2012) and virtual identity (De Fina, 2006; Author, 2016). These were followed by mobile supercomputing, intelligent robots, self-driving cars, neuro-technological brain enhancements (Schwab, 2017) and more relevantly, Big Data (Oguro, 2016).

The COVID-19 (also known as Corona Virus) pandemic has affected normality as we know it. Challenging circumstances have instigated new ways to express those challenges with the emergence of neologisms and semantic deviation of existing words and

phrases. In this, it parallels the emergence of new language during the UK Brexit campaign, and after. Robert Lawson, a sociolinguist at Birmingham City University, interviewed by the BBC (Ro, 2020) claims that "the speed of the linguistic change we're seeing with Covid-19 is unprecedented". This is attributed to the sheer speed of the spread of the deadly global pandemic, its abundance in the media, and global interconnectivity at a time when "social media and remote contact are so important" (Ro, 2020). If the mediatization of the epidemic has aided the proliferation of COVID-19 language, the availability of technology to collect and analyse large corpora has made investigating the nature and specifics of this language change possible.

This study aims to identify and categorize newly emerging vocabulary related to the Covid-19, investigating how they are used in social context, by conducting corpus-based quantitative analysis, accompanied by qualitative analysis based on intuition. The central research problem focuses on how the English language has witnessed some changes due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The following research questions are taken into consideration: What new vocabularies have emerged related to the coronavirus and are they significantly frequent replacing their normal language counterparts.? What are the sources and etymologies behind these new items of vocabulary? How are they formed?

This study adopts a corpus linguistic methodology by quantitatively and qualitatively investigating the publicly available Coronavirus Corpus at (english-corpora.org). Frequencies, collocations, keywords, and chronological comparisons of 'newspeak' will be commented upon, followed by an etymological analysis of these items and a documentation of their word-formation processes according to the Bauer (1983) word-formation model, developed and updated by Author (2016).

2. Related Work

One of the most significant duties of any language is to help its users describe their world. Traditionally, change was considered unobservable due to the lack of efficient means for collecting

historical or diachronic data. This was even the view of the likes of Bloomfield (1933) and Saussure (1959) and their followers, and that their only hope was to observe the consequences of change (Wardhaugh, 2006). Change has been attributed to be caused by different social groups, or due to interaction between communities and individuals of different linguistic backgrounds, or even for purposes of gender and politeness (Holmes, 2013). However, this study will demonstrate that global events and widespread challenging circumstances also cause language change just as evidently as social groups do. In April 2020, the word Covid-19 was officially added as a new entry in the Oxford English Dictionary (OED henceforth); an indication of English's dynamic interaction with the changes caused by this pandemic, in addition to its productivity.

According to (Aitchson, 2001), the most remarkable type of language change is the production of new lexical items, or neologisms. Thus, *Brexit* (the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union), *Hobbit* (a member of fictitious humanlike creatures), *Xerox* (a trademark of a photocopying machine), *Vuvuzela* (a traditional South African brass instrument), *AIDS* (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome), and *Tsunami* (a Japanese word for large sea waves accompanied by under-the-sea earthquakes), to count many, are past examples of such productivity. Neologisms are the "words, word meanings or collocations that appeared in a certain period in a language or that are once used (occasional words) in a text or speech act." (Yartseva, 1999: 279). They are new words that can be known or recognized without further definition or explanation. (Bauer, 1983:42). The existence of neologisms is an embodiment of language change and productivity.

However, "Linguistic aspects are insufficient in and of themselves for comprehending language change. Socio-historical factors must be considered as well." (Fischer, 1998: 6). The socio-historical-and-cultural factors can indeed be viewed as a rich area for the language change, leading to the emergence of new lexical items. Finance, politics, sports, education, the internet and media, technology, and

science are prominent among such factors. The 'science factor", in particular, has triggered the English language to produce new words like *Anthrax, Swine Flu, Mad Cow Disease, Bird Flu, SARS*, and, most recently, *COVID-19*; dangerous diseases that have, more or less, affected human life.

COVID-19 has emerged in a period of unprecedented global traffic, both physical and virtual. Given these networks of exchange, it is unsurprising that it has led to the formation of neologisms and semantic deviations, specifically related to the virus and its associated cultures. A major reason for this is that the language of Computer-mediated Communication, according to Miličević et al. (2017:16) "often deviates from the norms of traditional text production, instantiating numerous non-standard features at all levels, from unorthodox spelling to colloquial and other out-of-vocabulary lexis, as well as atypical syntax involving, for instance, frequent ellipsis and different uses, with and without syntactic value, of Twitter-specific elements such as @ mentions and hash-tags.". This prolificacy, especially at the word level, undoubtedly contributes to language change whether directly or not.

Word formation is generally identified as "the whole process of morphological variation in the construction of words, i.e. including the two main divisions of inflection (word variations signaling grammatical relationships) and derivation (word variation signaling lexical relationships)." (Crystal, 2003: 502). On her part, Bauer (1983) considers word formation as one of two branches of morphology, the other being inflectional morphology. She further classifies word formation into two types: derivation and compounding. Derivation is "composed of class-maintaining and class-changing forms", and compounding is "identified according to the word class of the resultant compound form, limiting it to only nouns, verbs and adjectives". (Author, 2016: 77).

3. Theoretical Framework and Methodology

This study investigates the emergence of neologisms (newly formed words) and semantic deviation of words and phrases during the Covid-19 crisis. It adopts a methodology that is selective in

identifying these new vocabulary items from different online resources, such as BBC articles about the "creation of a new language for coronavirus" (Ro, 2020), the Oxford English Dictionary (OED.com), the conversation.com website and many others (see Appendix A). Approximately 120 neologisms and semantically deviated words and expressions were collected from such sites and categorized according to genre and topic. The neologisms are analysed with regards to their etymology, word-formation process, frequency and collocations in the coronavirus corpus, how they have developed over time, and -where viable- a comparison is made between the neologism and if it has a pre-Covid-19 counterpart. As for the words and phrases that have undergone semantic deviation, a comparison is necessary between the pre-Covid-19 forms and the current forms, while also quantitatively analysing frequency of the two and their different collocates.

3.1 The Corpus

The Coronavirus corpus made publicly available by Brigham Young University under the supervision of Mark Davies available at (english-corpora.org/corona) is "designed to be the definitive record of the social, cultural, and economical impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in 2020 and beyond". The corpus, as of May 2020, is about 333 million words in size and growing at a rate of 3-4 million words per day. The aforementioned website allows researchers to observe frequencies, collocates, and patterns of words and phrases while also providing the opportunity to compare different time periods. It is collected from magazines and newspapers across 20 English-speaking countries, and even comparisons based of geographical location are possible, but will not be the focus of this study.

3.2. The Data

Appendix A lists the neologisms and semantically deviated words and phrases categorized according to genre and topic. Information provided includes the source of the terms, frequencies in the

coronavirus corpus, and brief definition or explanation of the meaning.

4. Analysis and Findings

The etymology of the name *coronavirus* is derived from Latin *corona*, meaning "crown" or "wreath", itself a borrowing from Greek κορώνη korṓnē, "garland, wreath" (Merriam-Webster Online, retrieved March 23rd, 2020). The name was coined by June Almeida and David Tyrrell who first observed and studied human coronaviruses (Tyrrell and Fielder, 2002). From that term comes the coinage of the initialism COVID-19, with the 'cov' representing coronavirus and the 'ID' being initials for "infectious disease". The number nineteen refers to the year in which it was first discovered. It is justifiable to commence with the words: corona, coronavirus, and *COVID-19* in this analysis and one immediately notices the increase in frequency with the chronological development and spread of the words referring to the pandemic.

SECTION	ALL	20-01-01	20-02-01	20-02-11	20-02-21	20-03-01	20-03-11	20-03-21	20-04-01	20-04-11	20-04-21	20-05-01	20-05-11	20-05-21	20-06-01
FREQ	21324	264	327	318	419	1284	1641	4542	3192	2493	2378	1914	1409	831	312
WORDS (M)	237	7.3	4.8	4.0	5.7	17.6	26.8	55.5	38.4	35.8	33.8	31.3	30.5	36.1	6.3
PER MIL	89.73	35.97	68.65	79.45	73.14	72.77	61.19	81.79	83.09	69.73	70.35	61.25	46.22	23.03	49.84
SEE ALL SUB-SECTIONS AT ONCE															

Fig. 1: Changes in frequency of *corona* over time

SECTION (CLICK FOR SUB-SECTIONS) (SEE ALL SECTIONS)	FREQ	SIZE (M)	PER MIL	CLICK FOR CONTEXT (SEE ALL)
20-01-01	20,063	7.3	2,733.29	
20-02-01	23,548	4.8	4,943.78	
20-02-11	16,096	4.0	4,021.52	
20-02-21	26,432	5.7	4,613.87	
20-03-01	73,792	17.6	4,182.39	
20-03-11	103,143	26.8	3,846.13	
20-03-21	180,958	55.5	3,258.78	
20-04-01	123,536	38.4	3,215.55	
20-04-11	105,623	35.8	2,954.14	
20-04-21	91,225	33.8	2,698.81	
20-05-01	74,515	31.3	2,384.38	
20-05-11	70,023	30.5	2,296.96	
20-05-21	71,616	36.1	1,985.16	
20-06-01	17,099	8.9	1,913.53	
TOTAL	997,669			SEE ALL TOKENS

Fig. 2: Changes in frequency of *coronavirus* over time

SECTION (CLICK FOR SUB-SECTIONS) (SEE ALL SECTIONS)	FREQ	SIZE (M)	PER MIL	CLICK FOR CONTEXT (SEE ALL)
20-01-01	940	7.3	128.06	
20-02-01	201	4.8	42.20	
20-02-11	4,787	4.0	1,196.01	
20-02-21	8,675	5.7	1,514.28	
20-03-01	32,927	17.6	1,866.24	
20-03-11	60,998	26.8	2,274.57	
20-03-21	150,039	55.5	2,701.97	
20-04-01	127,433	38.4	3,316.99	
20-04-11	120,709	35.8	3,376.08	
20-04-21	111,890	33.8	3,310.17	
20-05-01	100,911	31.3	3,229.01	
20-05-11	97,250	30.5	3,190.08	
20-05-21	94,393	36.1	2,616.52	
20-06-01	24,012	8.9	2,687.16	
TOTAL	935,165			SEE ALL TOKENS

Fig. 3: Changes in frequency of *COVID-19* over time

Figures 1, 2, and 3 show surprisingly different results. The general trend is that the different names given to refer to the pandemic began to increase in use at the turn of 2020, witnessing a general rise-fall pattern and by the end of May 2020 their frequency of use had decreased. Significantly though, it is evident that the pandemic is referred to in its full form *coronavirus* much more frequently than its clipped form *corona.* The former peaks in its use in late March and early April 2020 with frequencies below five thousand and an insignificant 83 occurrences per million words, while the latter witnessing frequencies of over one hundred thousand in the corpus between 11th of March and 11th of April 2020, but reaches its peak with regards to occurrences per million in early February 2020. One then witnesses a general decreasing pattern per million words of the term *coronavirus,* which seems to be replaced by *COVID-19.* The latter comes into the general picture around 11th of February and increases in use peaking in April and remaining quite stable throughout April and the beginning of May. Its frequencies and occurrences per million are similar to those of the full-form *coronavirus* making it no less significant in use. *SARS-CoV2* (severe acute respiratory Syndrome coronavirus 2) on the other hand (see Figure 4) seems to be much more of a technical term, appearing in medical magazines rather than being used in social context, and

hence is understandably used a lot less frequently than the aforementioned forms.

SECTION	ALL	20-01-01	20-02-01	20-02-11	20-02-21	20-03-01	20-03-11	20-03-21	20-04-01	20-04-11	20-04-21	20-05-01	20-05-11	20-05-21	20-06-01
FREQ	295	0	0	0	7	8	29	82	54	55	32	14	5	4	5
WORDS (M)	237	7.3	4.8	4.0	5.7	17.6	26.8	55.5	38.4	35.8	33.8	31.3	30.5	36.1	8.9
PER MIL	1.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.22	0.45	1.08	1.48	1.41	1.54	0.95	0.45	0.16	0.11	0.56
SEE ALL SUB-SECTIONS AT ONCE															

Fig. 4: Changes in frequency of *SARS-CoV2* over time

When searching for the most frequent noun collocates of the word *virus* in the L1 position, it can be noticed that the word *corona* by far exceeds any other type of virus such as the *flu virus* implying that COVID-19 is the most talked about virus in all media outlets. However, it is worth mentioning here that the recent pandemic is referred to as the *corona virus* when using two separate words, and not the COVID-19 virus for example. The word *bat* also appears among the most frequent collocates denoting its origin from the flying rodent, and that there is also an ambiguous or unclear nature of or reason behind its origin with the appearance of the word *mystery* as shown in Figure 5.

		CONTEXT	FREQ	ALL	%	MI
1	☐	CORONA	3577	18141	19.72	7.20
2	☐	INFLUENZA	714	10890	6.56	5.61
3	☐	FLU	528	32558	1.62	3.60
4	☐	KILLER	510	2562	19.91	7.22
5	☐	RNA	163	3039	5.36	5.33
6	☐	IMMUNODEFICIENCY	159	241	65.98	8.95
7	☐	EBOLA	136	7673	1.77	3.73
8	☐	BAT	98	3173	3.09	4.53
9	☐	MEASLES	93	2567	3.62	4.76
10	☐	MYSTERY	87	1904	4.57	5.09

Fig. 5: Noun collocates of the word *virus* in the L1 position

An investigation into the collocation of *virus* would be incomplete without observing the most frequent L1 position adjectives, shown in Figure 5. A pattern is forming here with words like *deadly, contagious, infectious, dreaded, fast-spreading, dangerous, lethal,* and *terrible,* all with negative

connotations, entailing that the discourse on COVID-19 is extremely pessimistic, especially given the absence of any positive or optimistic words. The words *new* and *novel* are expected since there has not been a significant occurrence of this virus historically. However, the frequency of the L1 collocate *deadly* exhibits the seriousness of the disease. It is also noteworthy that the virus is attributed to China, as that is the only region mentioned among frequent collocates, notwithstanding the fact that the virus has spread worldwide, but originating in Wuhan, China.

	CONTEXT	FREQ	ALL	%	MI
1	NEW	8155	546074	1.49	3.48
2	DEADLY	7509	23584	31.84	7.89
3	NOVEL	1401	59832	2.34	4.13
4	CHINESE	1317	73343	1.80	3.75
5	RESPIRATORY	1060	32199	3.29	4.62
6	CONTAGIOUS	1044	7605	13.73	6.68
7	FLU-LIKE	715	4740	15.08	6.82
8	SPREADING	591	33049	1.79	3.74
9	INFECTIOUS	490	26073	1.88	3.81
10	PARTICULAR	445	20748	2.14	4.00
11	DREADED	436	1849	23.58	7.46
12	FAST-SPREADING	372	1451	25.64	7.58
13	SARS-LIKE	343	799	42.93	8.33
14	DANGEROUS	309	12757	2.42	4.18
15	LETHAL	260	2578	10.09	6.24
16	TERRIBLE	259	4998	5.18	5.28

Fig. 6: Adjective collocates of the word *virus* in L1 position

A final brief exposition worth mentioning here, is that when observing collocates of *virus* in the British National Corpus (BNC), which was constructed in the late nineties to the early 2000s, the words *corona* and *COVID* do not appear at all, and although the most frequent L1 collocates are in fact *deadly* and *new*, they only appear 6 times each in that collocation in the entire 100-million word corpus.

4.1 Word Formations of Categorized Neologisms: Blending, Clipping, and Compounding

The COVID-19 pandemic has had clear effects on worldwide economy, the field of medicine, technology and even the mundane and normality of the way we live and socialize. Emerging neologisms can be distributed among these categories as evident in

Appendix A. Here, they are analysed according to their word-formation processes, the most evident being blends (Bauer, 1983) and the process blending, which involves two words making them one (Stageberg, 1981). The word *coronacation* for example is comprised of *corona* and the clipped form of *vacation* and blending these two words together exploiting the final 'a' letter in corona to act as the beginning of the '-acation' after clipping the 'v'. There are three possible meanings of this term based on actual user explanations posted on urbandictionary.com:

Coronacation: Mandatory vacation being in a state of off work and staying home due to the lockdown.	Getting paid to be off of work and having nothing to do or nowhere to go. *The trip I took to Puerto Vallarta and got stung by a sting ray beats the hell out of this coronacation I'm on. This sucks!* #coronavirus#vacation#misery **by Casper70 April 04, 2020** Travel ban being enforced from companies, schools, government, etc. due to the Coronavirus that's forcing people to stay home and/or telework. *I'm on a Coronacation due to the travel ban so I'll be attending the conference as virtual attendee.* #covid-19#coronavirus#travel ban **by Hiker Girl March 11, 2020**
An actual vacation when flights and hotels are very cheap during the travel ban	A coronacation is a vacation that takes place because of cheap flights and hotels that exist because of the 2020 coronavirus. It is a great way for a complete dumbass to travel to the place of their dreams on a budget. *Kevin took a coronacation to Italy because he's an idiot and now he's going to die.* *Because of the coronavirus I can buy*

and risk of travel because of the spread of the coronavirus	*an **airline** ticket to **Burkina Faso** for $13 as a spring break coronacation.* ##coronavirus #death #kevin **by TheOnlyEosin March 14, 2020** Due to all of the cheap flights and no college because of **the Coronavirus**, college people go on **coronacation** cause **so what** if we die *I'm bout to fly **first class** to the **Bahamas** for 36 bucks, **coronacation** bout to be sick!* #corona **by CNCJMC March 13, 2020**
Mandatory school holiday due to schools being closed down	The time where many students party and **enjoy** their time off from school because of **the coronavirus pandemic**. *Coronacation time!! Since we have 4 weeks off of school, lets **hangout** a lot and **throw some corona** parties!!* ##corona##2020##coronacation##coronavirus##covid-19##corona time **by CHUBBA.SUPREME March 14, 2020** ##corona##2020##coronacation##coronavirus##covid-19##corona time **by CHUBBA.SUPREME March 14, 2020**

(https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Coronacation)

The term *coronacation* does appear in the corpus nine times, collocated by quotation marks ("") denoting that this is a new term and needs explanation, and the words 'the' and 'activities', as in the examples:

(1) an unexpected vacation – they're calling it a **"**coronacation**"**

(2) **"**coronacation**"** (working from home) and so on

(3) The two juniors have launched **the** coronacation **Activities** website [site given]

(4) Referring to the pandemic as **the** coronacation, as they get to stay home and have less schoolwork.

Other examples of blends include the words *blursday, covexit, covideo, covidiot, moronavirus, quaranteams, quaranteens, quarantini, coronita, infodemic,* and *zumping.* The attached Appendix A exhibits the meanings of these words. Examples from the corpus are provided here:

(5) …the material changes from our everyday lives, from "**Blursday**" (an unspecified day because of lockdown's disorienting effect on time)

As can be seen from example 5, the word *blursday* is put in between quotation marks and immediately followed by an explanation of what it means. As the world is in lockdown and people are staying home for many consecutive days, one tends to lose track of what day it is, so what day of the week it is becomes a blur, hence the coinage of the word *blursday*. If the word was blurday, one could argue that it belongs to the word-formation process 'compounding', which is simply putting to words, or more specifically two free morphemes together to make one (Stageberg, 1981), the with the appearance of the 's' letter, it corresponds to Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

(6) "**covexit**" (the strategies around exiting lockdown and economic hardship)

(7) Wit to social media with her '**covideo'** parties. With the help of her followers, she chooses a film …

In the recent past, we saw Brexit - the withdrawal of the United Kingdom (UK) from the European Union (EU) – emerge as a term

whose meaning was recognizable worldwide. Its first entry into the OED in 2016 indicates its rapidly changing significance. Only coined in 2012, the entry has already had to be modified (Leyland, 2019). The coinage of the term *covexit*, appearing in example 6, parallels the formation of Brexit. It entails the planning, preparations and precautions needed to be taken when lockdowns are lifted, and people take to the streets once more. It abides by the process of "acronym-word blending" (Author, 2016:114) where the clipped initialism 'COVID' is blended with the free morpheme 'exit'.

While on the topic of lockdowns, staying home can become tedious, and many people have created words that express different kinds of pastimes as in example 7. The blending in *covideo* is quite suitable circumstantial as 'covid' and 'video' blend together very easily. This phenomenon is where a person is an established online social media group chooses a film and sets a time for the whole group to watch together as they are staying home in lockdown. The social media outlets provide the opportunity for this collaboration and continuous contact while watching the film.

Not all people abide by lockdown rules and practice social distancing though, and everyday swear words have taken on a new meaning to include the context, such as the words 'idiot' and 'moron', being blended with 'covid' and coronavirus respectively, resulting in the emboldened words in examples 8 and 9.

(8) 'a **covidiot'** is someone who ignores the warnings regarding public health or safety.

(9) The curse of the coronavirus is still among us and the **moronavirus** is compounding the curse.

Example 8 is self-explanatory, while 9 implies that 'morons who disregard COVID-19 precautions and safety regulations out of ignorance' are making the situation more critical by endangering more people's lives.

Self-isolation and quarantine are also two terms that have increased in frequency lately. The coronavirus corpus displays their

chronological distribution and frequencies as shown in figures 7 and 8 respectively.

SECTION (CLICK FOR SUB-SECTIONS) (SEE ALL SECTIONS)	FREQ	SIZE (M)	PER MIL	CLICK FOR CONTEXT (SEE ALL)
20-01-01	120	7.3	16.35	
20-02-01	215	4.8	45.14	
20-02-11	201	4.0	50.22	
20-02-21	466	5.7	81.34	
20-03-01	2,478	17.6	140.45	
20-03-11	5,265	26.8	196.33	
20-03-21	12,023	55.5	216.52	
20-04-01	5,209	38.4	135.59	
20-04-11	3,288	35.8	91.96	
20-04-21	2,108	33.8	62.36	
20-05-01	1,489	31.3	47.65	
20-05-11	1,250	30.5	41.00	
20-05-21	1,523	36.1	42.22	
20-06-01	613	18.4	33.27	
TOTAL	36,248			SEE ALL TOKENS

Fig. 7: Changes in frequency of self-isolat* over time

SECTION (CLICK FOR SUB-SECTIONS) (SEE ALL SECTIONS)	FREQ	SIZE (M)	PER MIL	CLICK FOR CONTEXT (SEE ALL)
20-01-01	2,816	7.3	383.64	
20-02-01	5,519	4.8	1,158.68	
20-02-11	4,832	4.0	1,207.26	
20-02-21	4,795	5.7	837.00	
20-03-01	9,545	17.6	540.99	
20-03-11	11,692	26.8	435.99	
20-03-21	23,242	55.5	418.55	
20-04-01	16,287	38.4	423.94	
20-04-11	13,421	35.8	375.37	
20-04-21	10,577	33.8	312.91	
20-05-01	9,057	31.3	289.81	
20-05-11	8,861	30.5	290.67	
20-05-21	6,604	36.1	183.06	
20-06-01	4,228	18.4	229.48	
TOTAL	131,476			SEE ALL TOKENS

Fig. 8: Changes in frequency of quarantine* over time

It is evident that the term *quarantine* came into frequent use in early February 2020, constituting more than 1.5% of all language used. Figure 8 shows that it peaks in use in this period, but not necessarily in frequency, as we see in the period around late March there are over twenty-three thousand instances of the word, followed by a gradual drop to below ten thousand. Based on intuition and sheer common sense, one can soundly say that the revelation of the need for people to be quarantined if infected with the virus quickly spread and dominated news articles. The term

self-isolation, however, follows a different pattern, (Figure 8) and logically follows *quarantine* in peaking time as it is revealed that people have the option to self-isolate rather than be quarantined if infected. Although, it is interesting to observe that frequency levels of *quarantine* are much higher than those of *self-isolate,* which partly explains the creation and emergence of other blended words stemming the former.

(10) and "**quaranteams**" (online teams created during lockdown)

(11) She jokes that her family is in '**quaranteen'** as she keeps her kids on a strict schedule.

(12) There's nothing like a martini (known as a **quarantini** in these lockdown times) to accompany a reading of the Rubaiyat.

Numerous institutions and workplaces worldwide modified their work policies and schedules to adapt to the lockdowns and work-from-home, which led to the coinage of the blend *quaranteams,* which as accurately explained in example 10 are online teams created during lockdowns to do collaborated work.

Teenagers are renowned to be moody and difficult to deal with under normal circumstances. Being imprisoned at home during lockdown would likely agitate them further, and language users have expressed this new challenge by calling them *quaranteens*. Another meaning is a continuance from *coronababies* (see compounding) when babies born in 2020 will be *quaranteens* in 2033 as they reach thirteen years of age.

Drinking a martini or any alcoholic beverage for that matter while in lockdown has become know as drinking a *quarantini* or a *coronita* (rhyming with margarita). However, it must be mentioned here that the latter is just as likely to be coined from Corona, which is a well-known Mexican beer brand.

An obvious pattern surrounding the lockdown is starting to form in the language of COVID-19. A change in people's daily habits and the way they socialize with each other is expected to influence their

relationships. Distanced relationships are immediately affected due to the absence of physical communion. The new face-to-face, as asserted in example 13 is video conferencing, and 'Zoom' (a video conferencing application) is widely used for this, and hence is blended with the present participle 'dumping' to coin *zumping* which denotes ending a relationship via the Zoom application.

(13) During the time of coronavirus, video conferencing is the new face-to-face. **Zumping** is the kindest, most respectful way to end a relationship.

With an immensely widespread pandemic serious enough to take thousands of lives, information about how to stay safe and healthy is important. However, as it is unprecedented, with experts and laymen having no prior experience, a "spread of disinformation and misinformation (makes) it difficult to find accurate live-saving information" (Indigenous Languages, 2020) which expresses the meaning of *infodemic* clearly coined by blending information and pandemic.

(14) She raised alarm about what she described as an '**infodemic'** – an epidemic of misinformation on the current outbreak.

4.1.1 Clipping

Bauer (1983:244) defines clipping as "the process whereby a lexeme … is shortened, while still retaining the same meaning and still being a member of the same form class". The process involves "cutting the beginning or the end of a word, or both, leaving a part to stand for the whole" (Stageberg, 1981: 122). He also claims that clipping results in new word forms and sometimes new morphemes in a language. In the coronavirus corpus, the clipped form 'rona', which is also a pun for a female name, was found in several instances. As it can refer to a female (Rona) as shown in example 15 from the corpus, the urge to be humorous in language has resulted in people talking about *Auntie Rona* coming to visit (16).

(15) … as directed by the Maryland Department of Ageing Secretary, Dr. Rona Kramer.

(16) "Yet **Auntie Rona** (coronavirus) came to visit me," she joked

The collocate *Miss* also occurs in L1 position, also for mostly humorous reasons as illustrated in Figure 9. Here, *Miss Rona* is compared to the likes of Lady Gaga or any female popstar known for wearing big earrings, and the 'world tour' expression denoting the wide spread of COVID-19.

Fig. 9: Meme posted to Twitter in March, 2020

However, the most frequent collocate by far is the inverted comma ('rona') in both L1 and R1 positions, denoting the novelty of the term, and frequently providing an immediate explanation either before or after its occurrence (example 17).

(17) The novel coronavirus; Covid-19, the '**Rona'** – however you choose to refer to it, is …

4.1.2 Compounding

Compounding is understood to be the simple joining of two or more words together to form one single word (Stageberg, 1981: 121). Compounded words can take three forms: separated, unseparated, and hyphenated. Bauer (1983: 28) explains a combination of stems

to form another stem. Compounded forms found in this corpus include *Zoombombing* and *coronababies.* The former seems to be unrelated to the virus, however, the data shows that this phenomenon only recently became an issue during COVID-19 lockdowns, because of which schools have taken to virtual classrooms and e-learning, and frequently using the video-conferencing platform 'Zoom'. The notion, shown in example (18) refers to the issue of hackers, or uninvited intruders invading live school classroom sessions and screen-sharing to often show obscene pornographic content.

(18) … use has led to criticism over Zoom privacy, and the phenomenon of "**Zoombombing**," where an uninvited guest uses Zoom's screen-sharing feature to broadcast shock videos.

Expectedly, the most frequent collocates by far are the quotation marks and inverted commas, but the term does also collocate with words like 'prevent', 'obscene', 'abuse', and 'racist,' all expressing the urgency to combat the emergent phenomenon.

In the above section on blending, the word *quaranteens* was witnessed to collocate with *coronababies*, the latter clearly a compounded form efflorescent due to the resultants of stay-home activities such as frequently engaging in coitus.

(19) We can now expect a wave of "**coronababies**" and a new generation of "**quaranteens**" in 2033.

4.2 Neologistic Expressions

Cases of newly emerging phrases due to COVID-19 involve much language play. *Flattening the curve* is exemplary as it is non-existent in the BNC and comes into the picture in the coronavirus corpus in early March, peaking in use in early April 2020.

On the livescience.com website, it is reported by Specktor (2020) that hundreds of thousands of COVID-19 infections will happen, but they do not all have to happen simultaneously. Is article is explanatory of the expression *flattening the curve*, which "refers to community isolation measures that keep the daily number of disease

cases at a manageable level for medical providers" (Specktor, 2020) and an illustrative image (Figure 10) provides the visual for the notion, in which the curve refers to the projected number of people who will contract COVID-19 over a period of time. Linguistically, the verb occurs in the corpus in the present indicative, present participle, past participle and third person singular forms (Figure 11), the first two being significantly more frequent than the other two forms.

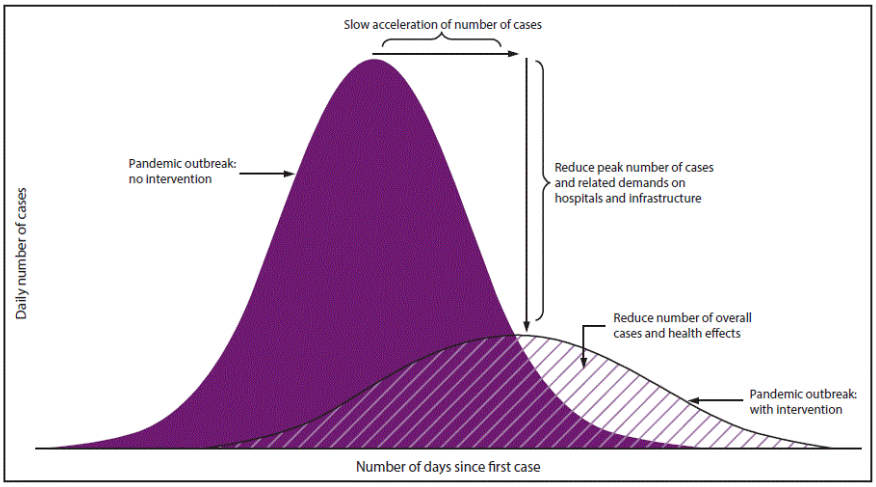

Fig. 10: Flattening the Curve (livescience.com)

		CONTEXT ALL FORMS (SAMPLE): 100 200 500	FREQ
1	☐	FLATTEN THE CURVE	5522
2	☐	FLATTENING THE CURVE	2716
3	☐	FLATTENED THE CURVE	550
4	☐	FLATTENS THE CURVE	36
		TOTAL	8824

Fig. 11: Frequencies of the different variants of *flatten* the curve*

An implication that can be induced from the numbers in figure 11 is that the process of *flattening* is still very much in its premature stages with the past tense being significantly less frequent than the present forms.

Beginning with a verb, *flatten the curve* is most frequently preceded by 'to' since it is in present or infinitive form, but it is interesting to

see that the verb 'help*' appears as one of its most frequent collocates, along with adverbials such as ultimately, successfully, drastically, effectively, artificially, eventually, and gravely, all contributing to the meanings related to combating the virus.

(20) … as I believe every effort we can make to practice social distancing, and help **flatten the curve**, particularly with a small team, is valuable.

Other noteworthy collocates are again the quotation mark and inverted commas, denoting the novelty of the term and the need for interpretation.

One expression that has been noticed on social media and several websites as an instance of language play is *fattening the curve*. Unfortunately, this phrase is absent from the coronavirus corpus, but the related term *COVID-15* does appear. The former denotes putting on weight due to lack of exercise and over-eating while staying at home during lockdown, and the latter is more specific to how many kilos or pounds are gained in weight.

(21) Are you putting on the **COVID-15**? We all are.

(22) The phrase "the **COVID-15**" is gallows humor for potentially universal weight gain with so many people holed up.

References to weight gain are clear in examples 21 and 22, and one can expect different variants of the term based on how much weight is gained.

5. Discussion

The majority of the above examples are explanatory in nature. Users are aware that these are neologisms and feel it necessary to explaining their meaning to readers. Even the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) management team have taken to these neologisms seriously, going out of their way outside their usually quarterly publication cycle.

It is the duty of linguists to document language change in all its forms, including not only formations, but also the reasons behind it and different uses of the new terms. What has been witnessed in this study is that expressions surrounding stay-at-home activities and precautionary measures combating the virus are salient. Eating and drinking (*quarantini, coronita, COVID-15*), education (*Zoombombing, coronacation*), work-from-home (*quaranteams*), pastimes (*covideo*), precautionary measures or ignorance of them (*flattening the curve, covidiot, moronavirus*), time and planning (*Blursday, Covexit*) and relationships (*Zumping*) are some of the activities mentioned. These neologisms were introduced into the language via conventional word formation processes like blending, clipping, and compounding.

Whether or not these terms are permanent is yet to be proven. Language has witnessed the appearance and disappearance of past neologisms such as *asl* (Age, sex, location?) and *ROFL* (Rolling on floor laughing) previously widely used in computer-mediated communication, especially Yahoo! Messenger (Author, 2005). This factor depends on the longevity of the influence COVID-19 has on the world, and on language. If it does diminish in say, a year for argument's sake, will these terms still be used a year beyond that? The next generation will be baffled by mentions of a *covidiot* or a *coronacation*. This leads to the development of "transient words and expressions," which refers to the phenomenon of neologisms entering a language due to a significant global event, and then exiting or dying out as the influences of that event diminish. Throughout history, language has had many lexical items enter and exit it, and the examples in this study are expected to cease trending and become obsolete as the coronavirus hopefully exits our lives.

6. Conclusion

The COVID-19 pandemic, with its immense global impact, has indeed changed the English language to describe human experience and contact with the disease. This change has taken the form of the emergence of neologisms and their entry into mediated discourse about and related to the coronavirus in one way or another. These

neologisms have developed over time, first appearing in newspaper and magazine websites around January 2020, and then reaching peaks in frequency of their language use around March and April of the same year. As can be seen in the coronavirus corpus, these terms become less frequent in occurrence as the effects of the virus decrease in many geographical locations. It is expected that their use will perish as the effects of the virus diminish and eventually leave our lives.

Many of these new entries into language provided in Appendix A are formed according to documented word-formation processes including blending, clipping, and compounding. The sources of these words often include some part of the words *covid* and *corona*, while others are formed from aspects relating to the virus such as *quarantine*. Precautionary measures, mundane daily stay-home activities, education, work, and relationships are all mentioned as sources advocating the coinage of such terms. Frequencies in terms of words per million words are significant to be branded 'neologisms' into the English language, and the overwhelming frequency of collocates such as quotation marks, inverted commas, and the words 'new' and 'novel' warrant such a classification.

In this study, it has been proven that circumstances and events of a mass scale can cause language change, and that that change can readily be observed through the availability of Big Data and corpus linguistic methods and software.

APPENDIX A

Word/Phrase	Part of Speech	Word Formation Process	Possible Dictionary Meaning(s) and Etymology[1]	Source
Coronavirus	Noun	Compounding	A type of virus that can cause pneumonia and other diseases in humans and animals.	https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/coronavirus?q=coronavirus
COVID-19	Noun	Coinage	A type of coronavirus that was first reported in 2019 and became a pandemic. Etymology: From the letters and numbers in '**co**rona **vi**rus **d**isease 20**19**'	https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/covid-19
Coronacation	Noun	Blending	1: Getting paid to be off of work and having nothing to do or nowhere to go. 2: A vacation that takes place because of cheap flights and hotels that exist because of the 2020 coronavirus. 3:The time where many students party and enjoy their time off from school because of the coronavirus pandemic.	https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Coronacation

[1] It is worth-mentioning that only three items in this appendix appear as entries in the online Oxford English Learners' Dictionary. The remaining items have not yet been officially considered entries in reliable English dictionaries, so the meanings they acquired are derived from the daily communication, whether in real life or on social media.

Blursday	Noun	Blending	A humorous word for any day of the week that feels not much different from the one before. It is a meme used during the coronavirus lockdown.	https://www.collinsdictionary.com/submission/22351/Blursday
Covexit	Noun	Blending	The strategy deployed by governments to ease restrictions brought about by COVID19.	https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Covexit
Covideo	Noun	Blending	1: A video conference, catch up, or chat during COVID-19 pandemic time. 2: Any of the increasingly boring videos people are putting online to try and feel connected to anything in isolation.	https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=COVIDeos
Covidiot	Noun/ Adjective	Blending	1: A person who acts like an irresponsible idiot during the Covid-19 pandemic, ignoring common sense, decency, science, and professional advice leading to the further spread of the virus and needless deaths of thousands. 2: A person who makes themselves look like an idiot, during or after a	https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Covidiot

			pandemic.	
Moronavirus	Noun	Blending	1: A virus that affects the stupidest of people, making them act irrational and reckless like a moron. 2: A virus related to COVID-19 that affects both sides of the political spectrum. Symptoms are either intense overreaction or extreme ignorance.	https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Moronavirus
Quaranteam	Noun/ Verb	Blending	*(Noun):* The people you live with or hang out with during a pandemic quarantine. *(Verb):*To raid supplies during a pandemic quarantine.	https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Quaranteam
Quaranteens	Noun	Blending	1: Kids born between 2001 and 2007, who were technically teenagers during the COVID-19 quarantine period in 2020. 2: The generation born between December 2020 and March 2021, as a result of the enforced quarantining of their parents due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as they turn teenagers in	https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=quaranteen

			2033/2034.	
Quarantini	Noun	Blending	1: A strong alcoholic beverage that is made when people are quarantined, or otherwise locked up or trapped in a location for an extended period of time. 2: An alcoholic beverage like Martini, except one sits at home and drinks it by oneself.	https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Quarantini
Coronita	Noun	Blending	A mild case of coronavirus.	https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Coronita
Infodemic	Noun/ Adjective	Blending	An excessive amount of information concerning a problem such that the solution is made more difficult. *In February 2020, the term was used by the World Health Organization to refer to (mostly false) information about the COVID-19 outbreak.*	https://www.collinsdictionary.com/submission/7826/Infodemic
Zumping	Noun	Blending	Dumping a romantic partner via Zoom or similar applications.	https://www.collinsdictionary.com/submission/22234/zumping
Auntie/ Miss Rona	Noun	Clipping	A humorous name for COVID-19	https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=miss+rona
Coronababies	Noun	Compounding	Babies born twelve to sixteen months	https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=C

			after the start of the COVID-19 mandatory quarantine pandemic.	orona%20baby
Zoombombing	Noun	Compounding	The act of raiding a call on Zoom platform, usually on school- related calls by posting offensive content.	https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Zoombombing
Flattening the curve	----------	----------	Managing the rate or quantity of something so that it does not increase too much within a short period of time,	https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/flatten

References

Author, A., 2005. A Linguistic Analysis of Internet Chat. Unpublished MA Thesis, University of Mosul.

Author, A., 2016. Language and Virtual Identity in Second Life. LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, Saarbrücken.

Aitchison, J., 2001. Language Change: Progress or Decay? (3rd Ed.). Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Baron, N., 2010. Discourse Structures in Instant Messaging: The Case of Utterance Breaks. Language@Internet. 7(4), 1–32.

Bauer, L., 1983. English Word-Formation, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Bloomfield, L., 1933. Language. Henry Holt, New York.

Boellstorff, T., Nardi, B., Pearce, C., Taylor, T. L., 2012. Ethnography and Virtual Worlds: A Handbook of Method. Princeton University Press, Princeton and Oxford.

Crystal, D., 2001. Language and the Internet. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Crystal, D., 2003. A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics (5th Ed.). Blackwell Publishing Ltd., Oxford.

Crystal, D., 2004. A Glossary of Netspeak and Textspeak. Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh.

Danet, B., 2001. Cyberpl@y: Communicating Online. Berg Publishers, Oxford.

Davies, M., 2020. The Coronavirus Corpus. Viewed 13th-20th June 2020. https://www.english-corpora.org/corona/

De Fina, A., 2006. Group Identity, Narrative and Self-representations, in: De Fina, A., Schiffrin, D., Bamberg, M. (Eds.), Discourse and Identity. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, pp. 351-375.

Fischer, R., 1998. Lexical Change in Present-day English: A Corpus-based Study of the Motivation, Institutionalization, and Productivity of Creative Neologisms. Gunter Narr Verlag Tübingen, Tübingen.

Harrison, S., Barlow, J., 2009. Politeness Strategies and Advice-giving in an Online Arthritis Workshop. Journal of Politeness Research. 5(1), 93-111.

Herring, S.C., 2012. Grammar and Electronic Communication, in: Chapelle, C. (Ed.), Encyclopedia of Applied Linguistics. Wiley-Blackwell, Hoboken, NJ.

Herring, S.C., 2013. Discourse in Web 2.0: Familiar, Reconfigured, Emergent, in: Tannen, D., Trester, A.M. (Eds.), Discourse 2.0: Language and New Media. Georgetown University Press, Washington D.C., pp. 1-25.

Leyland, C., 2019. Old words, new words, EU words: Brexit and the OED, 24th May, viewed 20th May 2020. https://public.oed.com/blog/brexit-and-the-oed/

Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, 2020. Viewed 23rd May. https://www.merriam-webster.com/

Miličević, M., Ljubešič, N., Fišer, D., 2017. Birds of a Feather Don't Quite Tweet Together: An Analysis of Spelling Variation in Slovene, Croatian and Serbian Twitterese, in: Fišer, D., Beißwenger, M. (Eds.), Investigating Computer-mediated Communication: Corpus-based Approaches to Language in the Digital World. Ljubljana University Press, Ljubljana, pp.13-43.

Oguro, K., 2016. Big Data- Key to the 4th Industrial Revolution. Japan Spotlight, 24-27. Available at: https://www.rieti.go.jp/en/papers/contribution/oguro/data/07.pdf

Oxford English Dictionary Team, 2020. Corpus Analysis of the Language of Covid-19, 15th April, viewed 20th May 2020. https://public.oed.com/blog/corpus-analysis-of-the-language-of-covid-19/

Page, R,. 2014. Saying 'Sorry': Corporate Apologies Posted on Twitter. Journal of Pragmatics. 62, 30-45.

Page, R., Barton, D., Unger, J. W., Zappavigna, M., 2014. Researching Language and Social Media: A Student Guide. Routledge, Abington and New York.

Ro, C., 2020. From "covidiots" to "quarantine and chill", the pandemic has led to many terms that help people laugh and commiserate, BBC, 25th May, viewed 10th June 2020. https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20200522-why-weve-created-new-language-for-coronavirus

Rouzie, A., 2001. Conversation and Carrying-on: Play, Conflict, and Serio-ludic Discourse in Synchronous Computer Conferencing. College Composition and Communication. 53, 251-99.

Saussure, F. de, 1959. Course in General Linguistics. McGraw-Hill, New York.

Schwab, K., 2017. The Fourth Industrial Revolution. Crown Publishing Group, New York.

Shropshire Star, 2020. Oxford English Dictionary expands to reflect 'extraordinary' pandemic, Shropshire Star, 4th April, viewed 20th May 2020. https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/uk-news/2020/04/09/oxford-english-dictionary-expands-to-reflect-extraordinary-pandemic/

Stageberg, N.C., 1981. An Introductory English Grammar. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, New York.

Tyrrell, D., Fielder, M., 2002. Cold Wars: The Fight against the Common Cold. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Urban Dictionary, 2020. Viewed 20-23rd May. https://www.urbandictionary.com/

Wardhaugh, R., 2006. An Introduction to Sociolinguistics. Blackwell Publishing Ltd., Oxford.

Yartseva, V.N., 1999. Linguistics: A Large Encyclopedic Dictionary. Soviet Encyclopedia Publishing House, Moscow.

كورونابيديا: تحليل موجه بالمتون للكلمات الجديدة الناتجة عن كوفيد-19 وآثار ذلك على التغيّر اللغوي

أَشرف رياض عبدالله *

أَمين عبدالرحمن ضياء **

المستخلص

غالبًا ما تولِّد الظروف الصعبة صيغًا لغوية جديدة للتعبير عنها، ولعل تلك الظروف التي تسبب بها وباء كوفيد-19 (أو ما يعرف بفيروس كورونا) قد أَدَّت إِلى بروز كلمات وتعابير مستحدثة، وتوافر تقنية البيانات الكبيرة قد جعل من عملية استقصاء طبيعة وخصوصيات هذا التغير اللغوي أَمرًا ممكنًا.

* مدرس / قسم اللغة الإِنكليزيَّة/ كلية الآداب/ جامعة الموصل.

** مدرس / قسم اللغة الإِنكليزيَّة/ كلية الآداب/ جامعة الموصل.

وتهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تحديد وتبويب المفردات الناشئة حديثًا والمرتبط نشوؤها بكوفيد-19، وذلك عن طريق تقصي تكرارها والمفردات المتلازمة معها وتطورها الزمني، وتتبنى الدراسة المنهج التحليلي الكمي الموجه من خلال المتون، إلى جانب التحليل النوعي المبني على التخمين، وذلك لمعالجة الأسئلة الآتية: ما هي المفردات الجديدة المتعلقة بفيروس كورونا وهل أنَّها متكررة بشكل مؤثر ليجعلها تحل محل نظيراتها في الاستخدام الاعتيادي للغة؟ وما هي مصادر وأصول هذه المفردات الجديدة؟ وكيف تشكلت هذه المفردات؟ وكيف تطورت هذه المفردات عبر الزمن؟ فضلًا عن ذلك تتبنى هذه الدراسة المنهج اللغوي المتني عن طريق الاستقصاء الكمي والنوعي للمتون المتوافرة فيما يتعلَّق بفيروس كورونا على موقع (english-corpora.org) الَّذي يتضمَّن 341 مليون كلمة تقريبًا؛ إذ سيتم التعليق على تكرارات الكلمات الجديدة والكلمات المصاحبة لها والمقارنات الزمنية المتعلقة بها، وعلاوة على هذا أُجري تحليل لأصول هذه الكلمات وتوثيق عمليات صياغتها وفق منهج باور (1983) الَّذي تم تطويره وتحديثه من المؤلف (2015).

وتضمنت النتائج الأوليَّة للبحث فهرسًا بالكلمات المستحدثة مثل Covidiot و Coronacation و Aunt Rona و Quarantini الَّتي تشكلت عبر المزج والقص والتركيب، وهي موجودة في الملحق أ الَّذي يتضمن إلى جانب ذلك شرحًا لمعاني وأُصول هذه الكلمات، وقد توصَّل البحث أيضًا إلى أَنَّ عبارات مثل Flattening the curve (تسطيح المنحنى) قد خضعت إلى انحراف دلالي لتتماشى مع التوجهات الجديدة المتعلقة بالجائحة، وهذا إلى جانب اكتشاف حالات من التلاعب اللغوي، على وفق لدانيت (2001)، في عبارات مثل Fattening the curve (تسمين المنحنى) وCOVID-10 والمرتبطة بتناول الطعام بشكل مفرط واكتساب الوزن نتيجة لحالة الإغلاق والبقاء في المنزل.

الكلمات المفتاحية: لغة كوفيد-19، التغير اللغوي، الكلمات المستحدثة، الانحراف الدلالي، المتون اللغوية.