

Semantic Analysis Of English Neologisms Related To The Covid-19 Pandemic

Abdullayeva Nigora Rustamovna

Senior teacher, Department of Theory of Translation and Comparative Linguistics, National University of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Received: 16 December 2025; **Accepted:** 10 January 2026; **Published:** 31 January 2026

Abstract: This article is devoted to the study of neologisms formed during the coronavirus pandemic. The object of the research is neologisms in the English language related to the coronavirus infection pandemic. The main goal of the work is to identify and describe the semantic features of English neologisms about the coronavirus pandemic. In the research process, the main characteristics of the notion of neologisms were analyzed, leading approaches to the study of neologisms were considered, and neologisms related to the coronavirus infection pandemic were divided into four thematic groups: nominations representing persons affected by coronavirus, names of infections, neologisms reflecting the consequences of quarantine, as well as lexical units related to prevention, treatment, and observation of patients with COVID. Archithemes and differential semes of these four groups were identified, and a semantic field was created based on them.

Keywords: Neologisms, coronavirus, component analysis, semes, semantic field.

Introduction: At the current stage of lexicology's development, the description of neologisms - new lexemes and phrases - continues to generate significant interest in ongoing communication processes and the representation of an individual's cognitive activity, as well as in nominative creativity. Traditionally in linguistics, neologisms are defined as "words, meanings, or combinations of words that emerge in any language during a specific period or are used only once in a particular text or speech act" [1].

The English language is a dynamically developing system. Words that name new realities of life constantly appear in it. The need to analyze and describe such lexical units led to the formation of a separate field in lexicology, such as neology.

METHODS

The problems of neology were studied by such scientists as O.D. Meshkov, O.S. Akhmanova, I.V. Arnold, V.I. Zobotkina. In particular, O.S. Akhmanova defines a neologism as "a word or phrase created (emerged) to express a new (previously unknown)

object or new concept" [1, p. 261]. I.V. Arnold defines neologisms as words or phraseological combinations that have entered speech and are newly perceived by speakers in connection with the development of culture and technology, the formation or change of social relations, as well as changes in people's lives and living conditions [2, p. 323].

I.N. Zenina and I.G. Ishchenko distinguish a number of factors that determine the emergence of neologisms. According to them, the first factor is associated with the emergence of new concepts or neo-concepts. The second, cognitive factor, includes the process of a deeper and more detailed understanding of concepts that already exist and are reinforced in the conceptual and linguistic image of the world.

In addition, the pragmatic aspect is determined by the need to create new language forms to express new content. This process is usually carried out through regular or semantic word-formation mechanisms [3, p.25].

Linguists study the reasons for the emergence of neologisms at various stages in the history of society

and develop semantic and structural classifications for them.

O.S. Rubleva, A.A. Tsvittsova, and E.V. Shkalikova, in their studies, present a comprehensive framework of the main criteria for classifying neologisms. This framework includes such parameters as the method of formation, the type of linguistic unit, the degree of novelty of the linguistic item, the type of denoted reality, structural characteristics, the mode of emergence, conditions of creation, communicative purpose, productivity, and the nature of the object of nomination [4].

Y.Y. Skalkina proposes a semantic classification of neologisms based on their spheres of usage. According to this classification, neologisms can be grouped as follows: (1) neologisms associated with politics, social life, and religion; (2) neologisms related to economics, trade, finance, and banking; (3) neologisms arising in the fields of science, scientific discoveries, and medicine; (4) neologisms connected with technology and technical innovations; (5) neologisms used in mass media and advertising; (6) neologisms pertaining to art and popular culture, particularly music, cinema, and visual arts; (7) neologisms related to education; (8) neologisms associated with military affairs; (9) neologisms related to sports and tourism; (10) neologisms connected with fashion; and (11) neologisms related to everyday life [5].

E.A. Koltsova identifies five generalized thematic groups (or spheres of activity) of neologisms: (1) social and everyday life; (2) computer technologies and social networks; (3) the socio-economic sphere; (4) socio-political vocabulary; and (5) anthropocentric nominations that describe people and their needs, psychological traits, attitudes, beliefs, and lifestyles [6].

RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

Neological nomination represents a sphere of human nominative activity that reveals linguistic creativity and reflects cognitive processes associated with understanding changes in the linguistic worldview of a speech community. In contemporary linguistics, the study of neologisms is conducted through a range of theoretical and methodological approaches. These include structural-semantic, cognitive, psycholinguistic, pragmalinguistic, cognitive-discursive, linguocultural, and functional-pragmatic perspectives.

The present study adopts a structural-semantic approach to the analysis of neologisms, focusing on their semantic structure and classification.

The group of neologisms united by the archiseme "a person infected with coronavirus" includes more than fifteen nominations. These nominations are divided into three micro-groups based on semantic distinguishing features - differential semes.

The first microgroup covers neologisms expressing human behavior in the context of the coronavirus pandemic. These include the following units: facenaked (walking without a mask), corona-uber (a person who uses taxi services during the pandemic), covidol (someone excessively interested in COVID-related topics), coronaroamers (those who do not follow quarantine rules), covidiot (a person who denies epidemiological rules), quarantrolls (those engaging in provocative behavior on social networks during quarantine), maskhole (a person with an aggressive or dismissive attitude towards masks), morona (an expressive term for someone exhibiting foolish behavior). Neologisms in this micro-group are typically characterized by evaluative and ironic semantics.

The second microgroup includes nominations expressing a person's physical or psychological state. These include units such as coronic (long-lasting COVID state), coviddy (a general term expressing a COVID-related state), coronator (an expressive term for a person who spreads the disease), quarantrolls, and morona. These neologisms reflect subjective attitudes, fear, or critical assessments of the disease state.

The third microgroup consists of neologisms expressing a person's social status, age category, or social role. For example, coronallennial (young generation whose social consciousness was shaped during the pandemic), quaranteens (those who spent their teenage years in quarantine), key workers (professionals considered essential to society during the pandemic), Wuhan clan (a social group associated with the origin of the disease). In this micro-group, nominations serve the function of social identification.

In the semantic structure of these nominations, several defining differential semes are identified. Firstly, the time component is significant (2019-nCoV, COVID-19), as these neologisms are associated with a specific historical period - the onset of the pandemic. Secondly,

there is a differentiation of nominations based on their popularity and prevalence: scientific-terminological units (COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, nCoV, 2019-nCoV) and nominations formed in public discourse that lack terminological status (corona, Trump flu, Chinese flu, boomer remover). Thirdly, some neologisms contain a political component, reflecting an assessment of the pandemic from a political or ideological standpoint (Trump flu, Chinese flu).

Thus, the neologisms united under the archiseme "a person infected with coronavirus" linguistically reflect human behavior, state, and social status during the pandemic, demonstrating the anthropocentric orientation of the neological system in modern English. The group of neologisms united by the archiseme "Quarantine Consequences" includes nineteen nominations. Based on differential semes, this group is divided into three micro-groups.

The first micro-group includes neologisms expressing the economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic. As a result of changes in economic relations during the pandemic, the following lexical units began to be actively used: work from home (WFH) - a form of remote work; coronacrisis - a global economic crisis associated with the pandemic; coronancellations (corona + cancellations) - the cancellation of sports competitions, cultural events, theatrical performances, restaurant activities, travels, weddings, and other public events due to the coronavirus; coronaclosed - a business or institution closed due to the pandemic; coronavacation - a period of forced self-isolation in the context of the coronavirus epidemic; coronawashing - the practice of profiting through scientifically unfounded information about the effectiveness of products in preventing or treating coronavirus infection.

The second micro-group consists of neologisms reflecting the social consequences of the coronavirus pandemic. They represent new models of social behavior and relationships in society: social distancing - maintaining social distance; self-isolating - self-isolation; quarantrends - activities or hobbies that became popular during quarantine; quarantips - clothing, food, and lifestyle advice for self-isolating individuals; coronapocalypse - interpreting the global crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in an

apocalyptic spirit; coronaphobia - a strong fear of contracting coronavirus; coronavirusing - the practice of canceling all personal meetings and staying home due to the risk of infection.

The third micro-group includes neonominations associated with the shift of communication and social interaction to digital space in the context of the pandemic. As a result of the active use of the Internet and online platforms, the following units were formed: covideoparty - online meetings held through video communication platforms; quaranteams - online working or social groups organized during the pandemic; bodymullet - the state where the upper part of a video conference participant is in formal clothing, while the lower part is in casual wear; bodyzoom-morphia - a decrease in attention to the work process as a result of excessive focus on personal appearance during group video calls.

Additionally, the coronavirus pandemic has caused certain changes in the family and personal lives of every individual. This situation is expressed in lexemes combined with the differential seme "pandemic impact": isobeard - beard not groomed during the quarantine period; coronacuts - hairstyles done independently due to the pandemic; nominations such as bodymullet and quarantrends.

Stylistically neutral neologisms include terms such as social distancing, self-isolating, work from home (WFH). They are widely used in official speech and in the mass media.

The group of neologisms combined with the archiseme "treatment, prevention, and monitoring of patients with COVID-19" includes eight nominations: personal protective equipment (PPE) - individual protective equipment; community spread - the spread of an infectious disease in society; ventilator - a device for artificial lung ventilation; quarantine - isolation of a person suspected of being sick for a certain period; epidemic; pandemic; flatten the curve - a strategy to reduce the rate of infection; coronacoma - a state of coma caused by severe complications of coronavirus infection.

Semantic analysis allows for classifying these neologisms in the form of a semantic field. The core of the field consists of the archisemes "person infected with coronavirus," "consequences of quarantine,"

"names of infection." The immediate periphery consists of units related to the field of medicine, representing measures to combat the pandemic (PPE, ventilator, flatten the curve). The distant periphery includes socio-lexical neologisms (social distancing, self-isolating, quarantine) formed since the end of 2019 in connection with the pandemic.

The study of the semantic structure of neologisms associated with the coronavirus pandemic allows us to characterize them as experimental nominative units, as these units are the result of human cognitive and objective activity. Epistemologically, these neologisms reflect the set of knowledge accumulated by society during the pandemic and serve as evidence of conceptual changes occurring in the Anglo-American linguistic landscape.

A comprehensive approach is required for a full understanding of neologisms as a multifaceted linguistic phenomenon. The prospects of the research are related to a deeper study of neologisms associated with the coronavirus pandemic in linguocultural, pragmatic, and cognitive directions.

CONCLUSION

The semantic analysis of COVID-19-related neologisms demonstrates that they constitute a dynamic lexical layer reflecting social, cognitive, and cultural responses to the pandemic. These neological units not only name new realities but also encode evaluative and pragmatic meanings. The study confirms that a comprehensive approach is necessary for a full understanding of pandemic-related neologisms. Further research may focus on linguocultural, pragmatic, and cognitive aspects of COVID-19 neology.

REFERENCES

1. Заботкина В. И. Новая лексика современного английского языка / В. И. Заботкина. – М.: Высшая школа, 1989. –126 с.
2. Котелова Н.З. Первый опыт лексикографического описания русских неологизмов / Н.З. Котелова. – Л.: Наука ЛО, 1990. – 156 с.
3. Кубрякова Е. С. Части речи с когнитивной точки зрения / Е. С. Кубрякова. — М.: Институт языкознания РАН, 1997. – 237 с.
4. Марченко Е. И. Когнитивные подходы к

исследованию неологизмов / Е. И. Марченко. – Вестник КРСУ. —2013. – 151с.

5. Норман Б. Ю. Лингвистическая прагматика (на материале русского и других славянских языков) / Б. Ю. Норман. – Минск: БГУ, 2009, – 183с.
6. Попова Т. В. Неология и неография современного русского языка: Учебное пособие / Т. В. Попова, Л. В. Рацибурская, Д. В. Гугунава. – Москва: Флинта – Наука, 2005, –168с.
7. Сабурова Н.А. Семантическая характеристика англоязычных неологизмов о пандемии коронавирусной инфекции / Н.А. Сабурова, А.П. Кельмяшкин // Международный научно-исследовательский журнал.- 2021. - №6 (108).
8. Тогоева С. И. Современная лексикография и новые единицы номинации / С. И. Тогоева. – Тверь: ТвГУ , 2000. – 147 с.
9. Улуханов И. С. Единицы словообразовательной системы русского языка и их лексическая реализация / И. С Улуханов. – М.: Русские словари, 1996, – 224с.
10. Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary [Electronic resource] / Cambridge University Press 2021. – URL:<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/> (accessed: 12.03.2021).
11. CollinsDictionary [Electronic resource] / Collins 2021. – URL: <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english> (accessed: 12.03.2021).