

Structural-Grammatical Analysis of Lexemes Related to the Coronavirus Pandemic in English and Uzbek

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the processes of formation of new lexical units, in particular, neologisms, abbreviations, acronyms, compound and mixed words, that appeared in the English and Uzbek languages during the coronavirus pandemic. In the course of the study, the mechanisms of the main methods of word formation - affixation, composition, abbreviation, blending, and borrowing - were studied in a comparative aspect. The structural and grammatical features of terms related to the pandemic in the English and Uzbek languages were analyzed based on mass media and dictionaries. The results show the adaptability of the language to social needs during the pandemic, the active use of word-formation methods in expressing new concepts.

Keywords: Coronavirus pandemic, neologisms, word formation, abbreviations, acronyms, blending, compounding, English-Uzbek linguistic transformations

INTRODUCTION

The coronavirus pandemic has radically changed not only people's lifestyles, but also their speech and language usage. The global health crisis has affected all aspects of society's life, causing the emergence of new concepts, terms, and lexical units in the language. Medical innovations, quarantine measures, forms of remote work and education, and social distancing

require new linguistic tools. As a result, the pandemic period was characterized by the active creation of neologisms, abbreviations, and new compound words in both English and Uzbek.

The coronavirus pandemic was not only a global health crisis, but also a linguistic crisis that spurred the rapid expansion and development of the English language.

New concepts and social changes have led to the acquisition of new meanings by ex In English linguistics, I. V. Arnold interprets a neologism as a lexical unit created using existing word-formation patterns in the language or assimilated to express new concepts and objects, as well as arising as a result of adding new meaning to existing words. The main feature of neologisms is that they have a new connotation [1].

E. V. Rosen notes that as long as the word retains the meaning of novelty, it is a neologism, but over time this feature disappears [2]. V. V. Lopatin also notes that the novelty of neologisms depends on the frequency of their use: the more frequently a word is used, the faster it integrates into the general vocabulary [3].

Methods of word formation in the English language In I. Plag's work "Word Formation in English," the processes of word formation in the English language are described in detail. It shows the main methods of word formation, such as inflection and derivation, affixation, conversion, reduction, blending, acronyms and abbreviations, as well as compounding. It was these mechanisms that played an important role in the formation of new lexical units that emerged during the pandemic [4].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In Uzbek linguistics, the concept of "word formation" is used in two senses: firstly, as a process that enriches the lexical composition of the language; secondly, as a linguistic term denoting word formation using morphemes and affixes. While the word-formation base is the initial part where a new word is created, the word-forming affix joins the base and creates a new meaning.

In the Uzbek language, the basis of word formation is the initial part from which a new word is derived. A word-forming element is a morpheme that, when attached to the stem, changes its meaning or adds a new meaning. In Uzbek word formation, affixation is widespread, which involves using prefixes (added at the beginning of a word) and suffixes (added at the end of a word) to create new words. For example, in the word-formation structure of *terim*, the suffixes "-im" and "-chi" function as word-forming elements. "-im" is a noun-forming suffix that creates the noun *terim* from the verb "ter" (to pick). "-chi" is a suffix denoting a profession and forms the noun *terimchi* (picker) from the noun *terim* (harvest) [6].

It should be noted that during the process of word formation, the meaning of the stem can change or acquire a new meaning. This process serves to enrich the lexical composition of the language. Word formation in the Uzbek language is highly productive, and new words can be created using various word-forming affixes.

A. Khodzhiev notes that word formation in the Uzbek language is carried out by means of affixation and composition [7]. Affixes are divided into productive and unproductive, as well as active and passive types according to their productivity. The scientist classifies the main methods of word formation as follows: semantic, phonetic, syntactic-lexical, affixation, composition, and abbreviation [8].

Abbreviations in the Uzbek language were formed under the influence of the Russian language at the beginning of the 20th century. A. Gulyamov evaluates abbreviations as a type of compound words formed by composition [9]. Z. A. Alikulov divides abbreviations into initial, syllabic, mixed, graphic, and other types, allowing for their systematic study [10].

As material for this study, lexical units used in the mass media, official healthcare organizations, and internet resources in the English and Uzbek languages during the coronavirus pandemic (2020-2023) were selected. The research corpus was based on the following sources: dictionaries and medical resources in English: *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, *Oxford Dictionary*; international and official sources of information:

WHO (World Health Organization) documents and announcements; mass media and official websites in the Uzbek language: kun.uz, information of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan; words and abbreviations actively used in social media and online media discourse during the pandemic. Neologisms, abbreviations, acronyms, compound and mixed (blending) words related to the pandemic in the English and Uzbek languages were selected as research material. For a general analysis, thematically corresponding lexical units from both languages were selected on a comparative basis.

The following linguistic methods were used in the study:

- Based on the descriptive method, it was used to describe the formation, structure, and features of the use of new lexical units. The morphological structure and word-formation model of each word were determined.
- Through structural-grammatical analysis, the morphemic structure of the selected units was analyzed based on such word-formation mechanisms as affixation, composition, abbreviation, and blending.
- Through the comparative-analytical method, lexical units that emerged during the pandemic in the English and Uzbek languages were compared, and their commonalities and differences were identified. This method served to determine the uniqueness and universality of language systems.

RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

During the pandemic, many international and local abbreviations appeared in English and Uzbek. In the English language, acronyms such as COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, nCoV, and abbreviations such as WHO, PPE, WFH, RT-PCR, COVAX were actively used. In the Uzbek language, abbreviations PCR, SSV, ZZT, KSH, MMR, ZMP were widely used. Some English abbreviations are given in full explanation in Uzbek.

Abbreviations specific only to the Uzbek language and created based on the needs of official agencies during the

pandemic YAIDXP-yangi aniqlangan infeksiya darajasi va xavfsizlik pog'onasi (Single Portal of Interactive Public Services (SPIPS) - the level of newly identified infection and the security level); JSSTU-Jahon sog'liqni saqlash tashkilotining uchrashuvi (WHO-World Health Organization meeting); SMTSh – sanitariya-medsina talablariga shartnoma (contract for compliance with sanitary and medical requirements); TYXX-Tibbiy yordamni yetkazib berish xizmati (Medical Care Delivery Service); MMR-Majburiy Maska rejimi (Forced Mask Mode); ZMP-Zaruriy mahsulotlar paketi (Package of necessary products); TDB-Tibbiy dispenser boshqarmasi (Medical Dispensary Department) were also identified. This situation shows that it is connected with the internal capabilities of the language and communicative needs.

During the pandemic, many words were observed in the English language created by blending: covidiot, quarantini, infodemic, coronapocalypse, covidivorce, etc. These units are usually formed by combining two or more word elements and express new social situations.

Lexical units such as social distance, super-spreader, confirmed case, self-quarantine, created by the compounding method, became widespread in official and scientific discourse. In the Uzbek language, compound words such as maintaining distance, wearing a mask, staying at home, online education, quarantine regime were actively used during the pandemic. Also, with the help of affixes, new units such as *covidli*, *covidiot*, *koronaskep tik*, *zumlashish*, *covidarnost* were formed.

New lexical units created during the coronavirus pandemic clearly reflect the dynamic nature of the language, the adaptability of society to emergencies, and the need to name new concepts. According to the research results, lexical units, in particular mixed words (blending), which are formed as a result of the combination of two or more word elements in the English language and represent a single holistic concept, are actively formed. This method allows for the rapid and effective creation of new words by combining the semantic components of existing words.

The units created by the blending method include: Coronallennial: Corona + Millennial, Covidiot: Covid + Idiot, Quarantrolls: Quarantine + Trolls, Maskhole: Mask + Asshole, Morona: Moron + Corona, Covidol: Covid + Idol, Quarantrends: Quarantine + Trends, Quarantips: Quarantine + Tips, Coronapocalypse: Corona + Apocalypse, Coronaphobia: Corona + Phobia, Covideoparty: Covid + Video + Party, Quaranteams: Quarantine + Teams, Bodymullet: Body + Mullet, Bodyzoom-morphia: Body + Zoom + Dysmorphia, Coronaclosed: Corona + Closed, Coronawashing: Corona + Whitewashing, Coronacrisis: Corona + Crisis, Coronacancellations: Corona + Cancellations, Coronavacation: Corona + Vacation, Coronacopia: Corona + Cornucopia, Coronaquake: Corona + Earthquake, Coronababies: Corona + Babies, Covidient: Covid + Obedient, Quarantini: Quarantine + Martini, Infodemic: Information + Epidemic, Coronials: Corona + Millennials, Covexit: Covid + Exit, Covidivorce: Covid + Divorce, Coronaspeck: Corona + Speck, Coronacoma: Corona + Coma, Handsanitizer: Hand + Sanitizer. The majority of these units belong to the noun word class and are widely used in informal and journalistic discourse.

Additionally, compound words formed through the method of composition (compounding) are actively used in the English language. Such units are created by combining two or more complete lexical units and often achieve terminological precision. Examples include: face-naked (face + naked), Chinese flu (Chinese + flu), boomer remover (boomer + remover), self-quarantine (self + quarantine), index case, index patient, index zero, super-spreader, social distance, confirmed case, viral shedding, viral test, viral load. These words are primarily formed based on the adjective + noun or noun + noun models.

In the Uzbek language, new compound and derived words were formed, expressing social and medical situations during the pandemic, based on the capabilities of the national language. In particular, such units as maintaining distance, wearing a mask, staying at home, online education, disinfectant, quarantine regime, and vaccine passport were actively used in public speech. New words formed by the affixation method also deserve special attention. For example, covidli (covid + -li) is formed with the

help of an adjective-forming suffix, indicating involvement in the disease; covidiot (covid + -iot) represents a person who denies the pandemic or is indifferent to it; covid-dissident (covid + dissident) represents a person who expresses an opinion against views related to covid; coronasceptics (corona + -sceptics), corona enthusiasts (corona + -enthusiasts), coronafeykes (corona + -feykes) are formed as lexical units with a socially evaluative meaning.

Moreover, the verb zoom (zoom + -lashish) was created to express the process of remote communication, while covidarnost (covid + -arnost) emerged as an abstract concept expressing a complex social situation during the pandemic. The combination of covid fingers was used as a medical term denoting symptoms of the disease. Coronavirus (corona + virus + -cha) is formed with the help of an affix that gives the word a stylistic and evaluative meaning.

CONCLUSION

New words and abbreviations created during the coronavirus pandemic clearly reflect the dynamic nature of language, the process of adaptation of society to changing conditions. In the English and Uzbek languages, various mechanisms of word formation – affixation, composition, abbreviation, mixing, and borrowing – are actively used. These processes ensured the lexical enrichment of the language and served as an important tool for expressing new social and medical concepts.

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