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**The impact of COVID-19 on English Language during the Pandemic, a Stylistic  
of Neologism.**

**Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfilment for the Requirements of Master  
Degree in Linguistics**

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## **Dedication**

I dedicate this work to

*My parents who have dedicated their entire life to me, there is no way*

*to measure the sheer joy and pride of being your daughter.*

*I want to thank my brothers for always being there*

*for the bad and the best times, you are the firm shoulder that does not tilt.*

*And to all my family for their encouragement and support.*

*I am immensely grateful to my friends, who have always been there for me, and whose unwavering support and encouragement cannot be adequately expressed in words. Their infinite patience and continuous motivation have meant the world to me.*

*With love and appreciation.*

**Missoum Tamani**

## Dedication

I dedicate this dissertation to the pillars of my support and inspiration—my beloved family and friends.

To my parents, whose unwavering love, guidance, and sacrifices have shaped the person I am today.

To my two sisters, whose laughter, understanding, and friendship have brought immeasurable joy to my life.

To my dear friends, who have stood by my side, offering encouragement, a listening ear, and countless words of wisdom.

To my beloved aunts, whose unwavering support, wisdom, and affection have been a guiding light throughout my life's journey. Your presence has enriched my world, and I am forever grateful for the love and care you have showered upon me.

Together, you have been my pillars of support, providing the foundation upon which this dissertation has been built. Your love, understanding, and unwavering belief in me have carried me through the highs and lows of this academic endeavor. This work is as much yours as it is mine, and I am humbled to share its completion with you.

With deepest gratitude and love,

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## Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound influence on various aspects of society including language use and communication patterns. This dissertation aims to investigate the impact of the pandemic on the English language through a stylistic analysis of neologisms. Neologisms, as newly coined words or phrases, serve as linguistic reflections of social changes and cultural context. This study employs a qualitative approach incorporating textual analysis of neologisms used during COVID-19 pandemic, such as "social distancing", "flatten the curve" and "COVIDiot." These examples are analyzed to identify and interpret the stylistic features and strategies employed through highlighting their function in conveying complex concepts and emotions. The COVID-19 pandemic led to the emergence of neologisms and slang words, reflecting linguistic shifts and societal, cultural and behavioural changes. Hence, the study of neologisms revealed how language changed to describe and deal with unique conditions and difficulties. Gaining a comprehensive understanding of these new terms can present difficulties for individuals. However, by comprehending the relationship between language, social change, and communication in times of worldwide crises, we can enhance our grasp of the broader societal consequences of the pandemic.

**Keywords:** COVID-19 pandemic, English language, neologisms, stylistic analysis, language change.

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Summary in English, French and Arabic

# **General Introduction**

## **General introduction:**

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The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on society and language use, with new words and phrases entering the lexicon to describe the unprecedented situation. Neologisms, or newly coined words or phrases, play an important role in language change during pandemics, reflecting the evolving social and cultural landscape. Understanding the formation, function, and stylistic features of neologisms during pandemics can contribute to our understanding of the broader process of language change as well as public health communication.

COVID-19 is a contagious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus that can result in severe respiratory problems, pneumonia, and even death. It is transmitted through respiratory droplets and was first identified in Wuhan, China in December 2019. The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic in January 2020, leading to economic disruptions and lockdowns around the world. Researchers have been working to develop treatments and vaccines but new variants of the virus have emerged, which raises concerns about vaccine effectiveness. As of March 2023, there have been more than 540 million confirmed cases and over 8.5 million deaths globally due to COVID-19.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on various aspects of life including widespread illness, death, and economic disruption. It has affected social interactions and language use, resulting in increased feelings of isolation and loneliness. Mental health has been affected as well, with many people experiencing stress, anxiety and depression. The pandemic has exposed vulnerabilities and inequalities in healthcare, economies, education systems and social structures. It has also led to the introduction of new words and phrases related to the pandemic and changes in the way we communicate with one another. Effective communication has been crucial in helping people understand the risks of COVID-19 and take appropriate precautions to protect themselves and others.

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant changes in language use, due to the fact that new words have emerged — new words and phrases entering the lexicon and existing words taking on new meanings. The introduction of neologisms such as "coronavirus," "social distancing," and "PPE" has become a natural process in response to the urgency of the situation and the need for clear communication.

## **General introduction:**

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Existing words like "virus" and "mask" have taken on new meanings in the context of the pandemic. These changes reflect the impact of the virus on society and the way people communicate with each other. They are likely to have a lasting effect on language use even after the pandemic is over, underscoring the need for language professionals to stay up-to-date with the latest developments in language use.

The study of neologisms used during the pandemic is important for several reasons. First, neologisms are a sign of language progress and change. They demonstrate how language is flexible and adapts to many events and contexts. Neologisms are a natural reaction to the huge change in how we communicate that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought about. We can learn more about the linguistic and social elements that govern language evolution and how it affects communication by examining neologisms. Second, during the pandemic, neologisms were extremely important in terms of public health communication. New terminology is now necessary to define the novel coronavirus, its symptoms, transmission, and preventative actions as a result of the pandemic. Neologisms including "social distancing," "quarantini," "maskne," and "zoom fatigue" have become well-known and frequently used in everyday speech. They have aided in spreading vital public health information to the general public. We may learn more about how language is used to convey health information and how successful it is at reaching and engaging various audiences by examining neologisms in the context of the pandemic. Overall, it is essential to research neologisms used during the pandemic for linguistic and public health reasons. It offers insights about language's flexibility and adaptability to different contexts, as well as its function in disseminating health information and encouraging behavior change.

## **The Research Questions**

- In which ways has COVID-19 pandemic and its associated neologisms changed the communication patterns and language use in English, and influenced the standards of communication in English?
- How has COVID-19 affected the English language and its users, particularly in term of neologisms and their reflection of social changes and cultural context?

## **General introduction:**

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### **The Hypotheses**

- The pandemic has led to an increase in the use of neologisms and slang words related to COVID-19 and a decrease in the use of traditional words.
- COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the English language, resulting in a shift in the meaning of certain words and the emergence of others related to the pandemic. This impact may create challenges for people in understanding and using these newly coined terms.

### **The Aim**

The objective of this study is to examine the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic on the English language by conducting a stylistic analysis of newly coined words. The study aims to identify and gather a collection of neologisms that have emerged in the English language during the pandemic, and analyze their creation, purpose, emotional effect, and stylistic characteristics.

### **The Results**

The results of this research are expected to provide insights into the impact of COVID-19 on the English language and the use of neologisms during the pandemic. The pandemic has created a need for new words to describe the new experiences and challenges associated with it, such as ‘social distancing’, ‘quarantine’ and ‘lockdown’. Additionally, we expect to see an increase in the use of acronyms and abbreviations related to COVID-19, such as ‘PPE’ and ‘SARS-CoV-2’. Moreover, there will likely be an enhance in the use of slang terms related to the pandemic, such as ‘Rona’ and ‘covidiot’.

### **The Significance of the Study**

The significance and contribution of this study lies in its exploration of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on language use and communication. This study intends to make a contribution to the disciplines of linguistics and public health communication by looking at the neologisms that have developed in reaction to the pandemic and the ways that existing terms have acquired new meanings. The results of this study may help future research on language change and pandemics by illuminating the linguistic effects of world health crises and the best ways to convey health information through

## **General introduction:**

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language. The study's potential practical ramifications are also significant since it emphasizes the significance of using clear and effective language in public health communicating and the necessity for language professionals and public health communicators to stay current with language use developments.

## **Methodology**

In this research, the qualitative method is employed to examine newly coined words associated with COVID-19 that appear on social media platforms. This approach enables a comprehensive investigation into the linguistic and stylistic characteristics of these identified neologisms. The methodology comprises data gathering, analysis, and interpretation to obtain valuable insights into the evolution of language during the pandemic.

## **Research tools**

Data collection for this research primarily revolves around the use of prominent social media platforms, namely Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. The selection of these platforms is motivated by their pivotal role in expeditiously disseminating and popularizing newly coined terms during the COVID-19 pandemic. As individuals endeavored to comprehend the unprecedented circumstances and engage in discourse concerning the virus, social media platforms provided a readily accessible and expansive medium for linguistic inventiveness and novelty.

## **The sampling**

The participants in this study are drawn from a varied pool of social media posts and comments that encompass neologisms associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The selection process for this sample is predicated on its alignment with the research objectives and its capacity to represent diverse linguistic and stylistic attributes. The determination of the sample size takes into account the volume of accessible data and the necessity to guarantee a sufficient representation of neologisms prevalent during the pandemic.

**CHAPTER ONE:**  
**THE LITERATURE REVIEW**

**Introduction:**

The emergence of new lexical entries, or new words, is an important aspect of language change and development. Neologisms play an important role in adapting to changing social contexts, creating new words to describe emerging concepts and technologies and communicating the emotional impact of social events. Pandemics are no exception as they often lead to the creation of new terms to describe new diseases, behaviors and technologies that arise in response to outbreaks.

This literature review aims to contribute to existing knowledge about language change and pandemics by filling in the gaps in the literature related to stylistic analysis of neologism study during the pandemic. Through this review, we aim to provide an insight into the language and communication strategies underlying the creation and use of new words during the pandemic.

**1.1. Overview of Neologisms and their Role in Language Change****1.1.1. Background of Neologisms , Types and Forms****1.1.1.1. Definition of Neologism**

The term "neologism" refers to the act of introducing new words or using existing words in a new context. It was first introduced in 1772 and is derived from the French word "néologisme", which combines the prefix neo; which means "new", with the Greek word "logos"; which means "word". The current meaning of "new word or phrase" in English appeared in 1803, and the term "neologism" to describe a language with new words or phrases was first seen in 1754. Neologisms can be influenced by cultural and societal factors, as new concepts and ideas emerge, new words and phrases are often needed to describe them, leading to the creation of new words vocabulary. (Neologism definition & meaning, n.d).

Neologism is defined in various dictionaries and books in different ways. However, the most common definition is a newly created word, phrase, or expression introduced into a language, or an existing word that takes on a completely new meaning and is used as a new word and it can also be a word borrowed from another

language. Neologisms can also be formed through the blending of existing words or by combining different parts of speech.

\_ The Oxford Dictionary describes a neologism as a newly coined word or expression, or the coining or use of new words.

\_ The Collins Cobuild English Language Dictionary defines it as a new word or expression in a language or a familiar word or expression that is now being used with a new meaning.

\_ According to John Algeo (1991), a new word is a form or the use of a form not recorded in general dictionaries, and it may be spelt as a single word, a compound, or even an idiomatic phrase.

\_ Aitchison, J. (1991), defines neologisms as "new words or phrases which have entered a language in recent years". According to Aitchison, neologisms are frequently a reflection of changes in society, technology, and culture and may be produced through a variety of methods, such as borrowing, blending, and conversion.

\_ Newmark, P. (1988), defines neologisms as newly coined lexical units or existing lexical units that acquire a new sense.

Neologisms are often used to describe new concepts or phenomena that do not have an established vocabulary or to reflect changes in society or culture. They can arise through a variety of means, such as technological advancements, scientific discoveries, cultural shifts, or changes in language usage. While some neologisms may eventually become widely accepted and integrated into a language, others may remain obscure or fall out of use.

### **1.1.1.2. Types of Neologism**

Neologisms can be categorized into different types based on their origin and structure. In his book "A Textbook of Translation"(1988), Peter Newmark presented twelve categories of neologisms, which he divided into two main groups: existing lexical items with new senses, collocations with new sense, he also classified ten

types of neologisms based on their formation. He categorized a total of twelve types of neologisms.

#### **1.1.1.2.1. Existing Lexical Items with New Sense**

Words that already exist in a language may take on new meanings over time, but these new meanings are often unrelated to new technologies or objects. (Newmark, p143)

#### **1.1.1.2.2 Collocations with New Sense**

The meanings of some collocations change over time, and this can be influenced by cultural factors or not. If a concept has a well-known translation in today's language, it is generally easy to understand. However, if the concept is new or unfamiliar, it may need to be described in detail.

#### **1.1.1.2.3 Abbreviations**

One type of pseudo-neologism words that is commonly used is abbreviations, which require us to pronounce each letter separately.

#### **1.1.1.2.4 Eponyms**

Words that originated from proper names or brand names that are only translatable if they are well-known and widely accepted by people

#### **1.1.1.2.5 Transferred Words**

Are words that have a meaning that is not entirely dependent on the context in which they are used. These words are more commonly used in media or marketing concepts rather than in technical contexts. Moreover, transferred words can be shared among different languages.

#### **1.1.1.2.6 Acronyms**

Are a common feature in non-literary texts, and they are becoming more prevalent. They are typically short and catchy, capturing our attention and curiosity if

we do not know their meaning. As a result, we often feel compelled to discover what the letters stand for.

#### **1.1.1.2.7 New Coinages**

The term "new coinages" typically refers to newly created words or expressions that are associated with brand or trade names.

#### **1.1.1.2.8 Derived Words**

Derived words are new words that are created by adding one or more affixes to an existing stem. According to Peter Newmark, most newly coined words are derived by using ancient Greek or Latin morphemes, with the addition of suffixes such as "-ism," "-ismus," "-ja," and other naturalized affixes in the appropriate language. These derived words are often created by analogy and can be used to describe new concepts, ideas, or phenomena.

#### **1.1.1.2.9 Collocations**

According to Peter Newmark (1974), collocations are commonly used in various fields such as social sciences and computer science. Some examples of collocations include 'lead time', 'domino effect', and 'acid rain'. The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English (1974) defines collocation as a grouping or arrangement of words, especially in a particular pattern or combination.

#### **1.1.2.10 Phrasal Words**

According to Peter Newmark (1988), phrasal words are often more efficient than their translated counterparts, and they tend to occupy a unique place in the English language between informal and colloquial registers. These phrasal words are specific to English's ability to convert verbs into nouns, such as 'work-out,' 'trade-off,' 'check-out,' 'thermal cut-out,' 'knock-on (domino) effect,' 'laid-back,' and 'sit-in'. Newmark notes that the translations of these phrasal words are typically more formal in other languages.

### **1.1.1.2.11 Pseudo-Neologisms**

Pseudo-neologisms are words that replace a specific term with a more general one. For example, the word "longitudinaux" stands for "longitudinal springs, as for "humerales" refers to "humeral artery," "La Charrue" means "The Plough and the Stars," and "La Trilateral" is a private political commission consisting of representatives from the USA, Western Europe, and Japan. (Newmark 1988: 148).

### **1.1.1.2.12 Internationalism**

Are words borrowed from multiple languages to express ideas that are important in our communication. Such words can be found in a variety of fields, including science (e.g, philosophy, biology, mathematics, medicine, lexicology), art (e.g, theater, music, drama, artist, primadonna), politics (e.g, politics, revolution, communism, progress), technology (e.g, atomic, antibiotic, radio, computer), and more.

### **1.1.1.3. Neologism and Word Formation**

Word-formation is a linguistic process by which new words are created through the combination of morphemes. According to Newmark, P. (1988), word-formation is the study of the derivative structure of existing words and the patterns on which a language builds new words. It is a principle of the classification of the lexicon and one of the main ways of enriching the vocabulary. Babich, G. N. (2005), also suggests that word-building, along with borrowings from other languages, plays a significant role in expanding the English vocabulary.

There are various methods of forming new words, with major and minor methods of building them. According to Antrushina, G. B. (1999)"Neologisms are mainly coined according to the productive models for word-building in the given languages. Most of the literary coinages are built by means of affixation and word compounding."

Galperin, I. R. (1981) adds that most literary-bookish coinages are built by means of affixation and word compounding, which is still predominant in coining new words.

### **1.1.1.3.1 Affixation**

Affixation is the process of adding one or more affixes to the root morpheme to form new words. Arnold, I. V. (1986) states that affixes are bound morphemes that can be added to a word to create a new word. There are three types of affixes: prefixes, suffixes and infixes. Prefixes come before the root (e.g. pre-) while suffixes come after the root (e.g. -ment) meanwhile infixes are inserted within the root (e.g. bloody- in English). In the context of COVID-19, productive prefixes such as "anti-" (antiviral), "post-" (post-vaccination), and "tele-" (telemedicine) have emerged. Productive suffixes include "-less" (maskless), "-free" (quarantine-free), and "-wise" (health-wise).

### **1.1.1.3.2 Compounding**

Is a word-building process in which new words are formed by combining two or more existing words. It is a highly productive and important type of word-formation in Modern English. Antrushina, G. B. (1999) provides a detailed analysis of the different aspects of composition that are of special interest, including the structural aspect, the semantic aspect and the theoretical aspect. The structural aspect involves neutral, morphological and syntactic compounds which are characterized by the absence or presence of linking elements and affixes. Semantic aspect categorizes compounds into three groups: meaning derived from composite, components changed and original meaning lost. The theoretical aspect involves the criteria that distinguish compounds from word-combinations, such as the presence or absence of linking elements, and the difference in meaning between the two forms.

### **1.1.1.3.3 Conversion**

Conversion can be defined by Crystal, D. (1995) as a process of creating a new word by altering the part of speech of an existing word, without using any additional affixes. The primary focus is on changing the parts of speech such as nouns, adjectives, and verbs, especially the verbs derived from nouns and the nouns derived from verbs.

#### **1.1.1.3.4 Shortening**

Shortening refers to the process of creating a new word from the initial parts of a word combination. This can involve removing the beginning, ending or both from one or two syllables of the original words. Some examples of shortenings include phone for telephone, hols for holidays, vac for vacation, and fridge for refrigerator. Another way to shorten words is through initial shortenings, which involves making a new word from the initial letters of the original words. This method can be used for both formal words and colloquialisms and slang, such as B.B.C. for the British Broadcasting Corporation, M.P. for Member of Parliament and g. f. for girl-friend. Antrushina, G. B. (1999).

#### **1.1.1.3.5 Back-Formation**

As stated by Arnold, I. V. (1986), Back-formation or reversion is a word-formation process that involves creating shorter words by removing imagined affixes from longer words. To illustrate, the noun editor was derived from the verb edit by back-formation. Similarly, words like television, double-glazing, and baby-sitter were formed by back-formation from televise, double-glaze, and baby-sit, respectively. This process can also be based on the analogy of inflectional forms. For instance, pea soup was created by back-formation from peas(e) soup, as speakers mistook the plural form of the word pea for a singular noun. Another example is cherry, which was formed from cerise by dropping the -se ending, following the same analogy as in the word pea. In Modern English, back-formation is commonly used to derive verbs from compounds that end with elements such as 'er' or 'ing'. For instance, thought-read was derived from thought-reader, which was originally a noun. Other examples include air-condition from air-conditioner, turbo-supercharge from turbo-supercharger, beachcomb, house-break, house-clean, house-keep, red-bait, and tape-record.

#### **1.1.1.3.6 Blending**

Blending is a linguistic process that involves merging two or more words together to create a new word, by eliminating parts of one or both words. In his book on Word-formation, Plag, I. (2003) identifies two types of blends. The first type entails

shortening compound words to form a new word, where the first part modifies the second. For instance, "breathalyzer" refers to an analyzer rather than breath itself, and a "motel" is a type of hotel associated with motor travel. Other examples include "sci-fi" for science fiction and "mocamp" for motor camp. In contrast, the second type of blends typically does not involve confirmed compound words in their complete form. Instead, they represent objects that possess and combine features from both elements. To demonstrate, "boatel" signifies a hybrid of a boat and a hotel, while "brunch" combines breakfast and lunch. Additional examples of this type include "boost" (boom + hoist), "chunnel" (channel + tunnel), "compander" (compressor + expander), "geep" (goat + sheep), "guesstimate" (guess + estimate), "modem" (modulator + demodulator), "shoat" (sheep + goat), "smog" (smoke + fog), and "Spanglish" (Spanish + English) as coined by Plag in 2003.

### **1.1.2. The Role of Neologisms in Language Change and Development**

English like any other languages has changed over time. One of the main factors in this change has been the addition of new terms or neologisms. A neologism is a freshly invented or constructed term or expression that has never been used in a language or in a particular context, according to the definition of linguistics. Neologisms are important in the evolution of language because they reflect changes in society and culture as well as the necessity to adapt to novel ideas and advancements in technology.

According to Aitchison, J. (1991), language change can be viewed as progress or decay, and neologisms are a reflection of this change. New words and expressions enter the language through various means, including borrowing, blending, compounding, clipping, and conversion. Borrowing, which involves the adoption of words from other languages, has been a significant factor in the evolution of the English language. Words such as "yoga" "sushi" and "karaoke" are examples of neologisms that have been borrowed from other languages and have become part of the English lexicon.

Crystal, D. (2008), notes that the number of neologisms in English has increased dramatically in recent years due to the rapid advancement of technology and globalization. The internet and social media have also contributed to the rise of new words and expressions. The use of acronyms such as "LOL" and "OMG" and new words such as "selfie" and "hashtag" are examples of neologisms that have emerged in the digital age.

Closs Traugott, E., & Trousdale, G. (2013) focus on constructionalization and constructional changes as a mechanism for the emergence of new words and expressions. They argue that neologisms arise from the interaction between form and meaning in language use. To illustrate, the use of the construction "get + adjective" has led to the emergence of new expressions such as "get real" and "get serious."

COVID-19 pandemic has also contributed to the emergence of numerous neologisms in the English language. Words such as "social distancing," "self-quarantine," and "lockdown" have become commonplace in everyday language due to the pandemic. These new expressions reflect the need to adapt to new circumstances and concepts in response to the pandemic. As Aitchison, J. (1991) states that language change is a natural process that has been ongoing for centuries.

Neologisms play a crucial role in the evolution of the English language, reflecting changes in technology, culture, and society. As we continue to face new challenges and experiences, we can expect to see the emergence of new words and phrases that reflect these changes. The COVID-19 pandemic has been a stark reminder of the power of language to adapt and respond to new situations, and neologisms have played an essential role in capturing the unique circumstances of the crisis.

## **1.2. Stylistic Features and Strategies of Neologisms**

In his book "Language, Ideology and Point of View" (1993, p. 6), Paul Simpson defines stylistics as a field of study and outlines its main focus: "Stylistics is the study of linguistic style, whereas stylistic analysis involves the description and explanation of the systematic choices that occur within texts which create particular effects. Stylistic analysis is concerned with how the formal properties of texts relate to their

meaning, and with how those properties are used to convey attitudes, values, and beliefs."

### **1.2.1. Stylistic Devices**

#### **1.2.1.1. Simile**

"Simile is a common feature of figurative language, and is often used in poetry and other forms of creative writing" Short (1996), (p. 65). He points out that similes may be analysed in terms of the particular things or ideas being compared, as well as the effect the comparison has on the content or tone of the text. For instance "The virus spread like wildfire through the community."

#### **1.2.1.2. Metonymy**

"Metonymy involves using a word or phrase to refer to something else that is closely related to it, such as using 'the Crown' to refer to the monarchy, or 'the White House' to refer to the U.S. government" Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), (p. 270). They indicate that metonymy may be studied in terms of the exact relationships between the various objects or concepts being referred, as well as the influence of those relationships on the text's meaning or tone.

#### **1.2.1.3. Oxymoron**

"Oxymoron involves using two words or phrases that are seemingly contradictory, such as 'jumbo shrimp' or 'bittersweet', and can be used to create a sense of irony, humor, or to emphasize a particular point" Simpson (1993), (p. 90). For instance "Social distancing brought us closer together." Simpson suggests that oxymorons may be classified based on the precise words or phrases that are mixed, as well as the influence of such combinations on the meaning or tone of the text.

#### **1.2.1.4. Antithesis**

"Antithesis involves using language to create a sense of opposition or contrast between different ideas or terms, and can be used to create a sense of tension or

drama within a text" Gee (2014), (p. 129). As an illustration "We must choose between public health and economic prosperity." Gee observes that antithesis may be examined in terms of the exact concepts or phrases being compared, as well as the influence of those contrasts on the text's meaning or tone.

#### **1.2.1.5. Chiasmus**

"Chiasmus involves using language to create a mirror image of two parallel clauses or sentences, such as 'Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country,'" Simpson (1993), (p. 99). Simpson States that chiasmus may be examined in terms of the precise words or sentences that are reversed and how such reversals affect the text's meaning or tone. Such as "Stay at home if you can, but if you can't, wear a mask."

#### **1.2.1.6. Epistrophe**

Gee indicates that the repetition of particular words or phrases and their effects on the meaning or tone of the text may be used to analyse epistrophe.

"Epistrophe involves repeating a word or a phrase at the end of successive clauses or sentences, such as 'I'll have my bond! Speak not against my bond!'"Gee (2014), (p. 103).

#### **1.2.1.7. Irony**

Simpson (1993) points out that "irony involves using language to express a meaning that is different from, or opposite to, the literal meaning of the words, and can be used to create a sense of humor, sarcasm, or to point out an incongruity or contradiction in the text" (p. 91). He argues that irony may be examined in terms of the particular words or phrases used and how they affect the meaning or tone of the text. For instance "The year 2020, the year of perfect vision, was the year everything went wrong."

#### **1.2.1.8. Pun**

Halliday, M. A. K. (1978) indicates Puns as one of various sorts of wordplay that may be employed to produce meaning in language. He observes that puns

frequently involve a play on words with numerous meanings or similar sounds, and that they may be used to convey humour, irony, or ambiguity. Such as "I told a COVID joke to my friend, but he didn't get it. It was an inside joke."

### **1.2.1.9. Repetition**

Gee (2014), Maintains that "repetition involves using language to repeat words, phrases, or other elements in a text, and can be used to create a sense of emphasis, rhythm, or to connect different parts of the text" (p. 115). He notes that repetition can be analyzed in terms of the specific words or phrases being repeated, and the impact of those repetitions on the meaning or tone of the text. For instance "Wash your hands, wear a mask, wash your hands, wear a mask."

## **1.2.2. Stylistic Features**

### **1.2.2.1. Word Formation Processes**

Neologisms related to the pandemic frequently involve the invention of new words through a variety of word formation procedures, such as blending, coinage, compounding, derivation, or borrowing, which allow the combination of existing linguistic components or the invention of completely new forms to convey specific meanings related to the pandemic. (Bauer, 1983; Crystal, 2008).

### **1.2.2.2. Sound Patterns**

Neologisms relating to the pandemic may make use of certain sound patterns or phonetic techniques. In order to develop memorable and catchy terms. Neologisms can be made more memorable by using alliteration, assonance, rhyme, and other sound repeats; this helps explain why they are so often used. (Simpson, 2004). Such as "Social distancing", "flatten the curve".

### **1.2.2.3. Cultural References**

Neologisms related to the pandemic often draw on cultural references, including popular culture, current events, or shared experiences, to establish connections and resonate with a broad audience. These references can help to

create a sense of familiarity, facilitating the adoption and understanding of new words (Bauer, 1983). As evidence "Zoom fatigue" (referring to the exhaustion caused by remote video conferencing).

#### **1.2.2.4. Semantic Innovations**

Neologisms related to the pandemic may introduce new semantic associations or expand the meaning of existing words to accommodate the unique circumstances of a pandemic. These semantic innovations can help capture the complexity of emerging concepts, symptoms, preventive measures, or societal impacts related to the pandemic (Gibbs, 2002). To demonstrate "Long COVID" (referring to the long-term effects of COVID-19).

### **1.3. The Impact of Neologisms During Pandemics**

#### **1.3.1. The Role of Stylistic Features and Strategies**

The stylistic components and strategies used to determine the efficacy and impact of neologisms during pandemics. Pandemic-related neologisms, in particular, may employ sound patterns such as alliteration, assonance, and rhyme to improve their memorability and catchiness. These techniques facilitate their recall and usage. (Simpson, 2004). Furthermore, stylistic devices such as metaphor, simile, hyperbole, irony, and wordplay can be utilised to explain complex concepts or provoke emotional responses to an issue, making the message more powerful and compelling. (Gibbs, 2002). These stylistic techniques help ensure the effectiveness of neologisms in attracting the attention of individuals and aiding their adoption into daily language.

Simile, antithesis, and irony are examples of stylistic methods that may be employed to convey attitudes, values, and views related to the pandemic, creating a sense of tension or drama within a text and emphasizing a particular point (Simpson, 1993; Gee, 2014). By employing such stylistic strategies, neologisms become not merely language inventions, but also potent weapons for conveying social feelings and reflecting the shifting dynamics of the pandemic pandemic.

The stylistic features allow neologisms to effectively convey the many facets of the pandemic experience by evoking images and linguistic associations. Furthermore the cultural significance of neologisms plays an important role in their influence and acceptance. Neologisms that are culturally relevant neologisms can help establish a sense of familiarity and make them simpler to comprehend, helping the adoption and comprehension of new terms by a wide audience. (Bauer, 1983).

All in all, the stylistic characteristics and techniques used in neologisms can increase their efficacy and impact during pandemics. Neologisms can improve communication efforts during pandemics by making them memorable, communicative, and simple to understand, as well as by extending the meaning of previously existing terminology. Neologisms that add new semantic associations or deepen the meaning of already existing terms can also capture the complexity of developing pandemic notions, aiding in a better comprehension of the pandemic and its effects. (Gibbs, 2002). These language breakthroughs reflect the intricacies of the pandemic experience and enable effective crisis communication. The employment of stylistic techniques amplifies the effect of neologisms, allowing them to transmit nuanced meanings while also reflecting society attitudes and ideas.

#### **1.4. Historical Development and Importance of Neologisms During Pandemics**

Language is an ever –changing system that reflects the evolution of society and culture. Throughout history, pandemics have emerged and reshaped societies in significant ways. Previous pandemics have been marked by the emergence of neologisms, reflecting the linguistic response to the unique circumstances surrounding these health crises. During these periods of turmoil, new terms or neologisms are often coined to describe emerging concepts and technologies related to the disease. For instance, the Spanish flu and the Hong Kong flu are neologisms that emerged during previous pandemics. This highlights the importance of neologisms during pandemics, not only as a means of providing accurate information to society but also as a tool for understanding the cultural and societal changes that emerge during times of crisis, which provides valuable insights into the role of language in expressing and navigating public health crises.

- **The "Spanish Flu"**

The "Spanish flu" pandemic of 1918-1919 is considered as one of the deadliest flu in history, serves as a prominent example of a crisis that generated significant linguistic developments. This pandemic, which affected approximately one-third of the global population and resulted in millions of deaths, had a profound impact on language as it did give a rise to several neologisms. The term "Spanish flu" itself is a notable example despite its misleading geographical association. This neologism underscores how the disease became associated with Spain due to its relatively open reporting during a time when other countries suppressed information due to World War I. Other neologisms that emerged during this period include "pneumonia gripe" and colloquial expressions like "the grip" or "the grippe," which were used to refer to the illness. These neologisms not only served as linguistic markers for the disease but also captured the fear and impact it had on society Barry, J. M. (2005).

- **The "Hong Kong Flu"**

Similarly, during the "Hong Kong flu" pandemic of 1968-1969, neologisms arose to describe the outbreak and its effects. The term "Hong Kong flu" or "Asian flu" became common parlance to refer to the specific strain of the virus. These neologisms reflected the geographical origin of the outbreak and its association with a specific region. Additionally, phrases like "flu season" and "flu shots" gained popularity as people sought preventive measures and medical interventions. The emergence of these neologisms highlighted the global impact of the pandemic and the efforts to manage its spread through vaccination campaigns and public health measures Barry, J. M. (2005).

- **The "AIDS" Pandemic**

The "AIDS" pandemic brought forth a significant wave of neologisms. This ongoing health crisis led to the development of new terms to describe the disease, its transmission, and the social response to it. The term "AIDS" (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) itself is a prominent neologism, reflecting the medical and scientific terminology used to classify the disease. The acronym

"HIV" (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) also entered the common lexicon during this time. Moreover, neologisms such as "seropositive", "AIDSphobia" and "HIV-positive" emerged to address prevention methods and societal attitudes towards the disease. These neologisms played a significant role in raising awareness, promoting prevention and fostering a deeper understanding of the disease. They demonstrate the power of language to adapt and evolve in response to a rapidly evolving health crisis.

Studying the neologisms that arose during previous pandemics allows us to understand how language adapts and evolves in response to health crises. These neologisms reflect the need for new vocabulary to describe emerging diseases, convey the severity and impact of the crises and provide clear communication for public health measures. Furthermore, they shed light on societal attitudes, fears and coping mechanisms associated with these pandemics.

The emergence of new words during pandemics has significant implications for language and society. Firstly, these neologisms allow for effective and precise communication during crisis situations. They provide a brief way of describing new phenomenon, symptoms, treatments, and preventive measures. Neologisms such as "Spanish flu," "Hong Kong flu," and "AIDS" quickly entered the lexicon, allowing individuals to convey complex concepts related to the respective pandemics with ease. Moreover, new words serve as linguistic indicators that capture the zeitgeist of a particular period. They reflect the fears, uncertainties, and collective efforts to combat the outbreak. These linguistic innovations not only help in understanding the historical context of a pandemic but also shed light on the social and cultural responses to the crisis. The importance of neologisms during pandemics goes beyond immediate communication and historical documentation. These linguistic innovations shape societal perceptions and responses to crises. They create a shared vocabulary that fosters a sense of collective identity and solidarity. They promote a common understanding and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences related to the pandemic. Furthermore, they contribute in raising awareness. Cohen, G. A. (1999).

Terms like "HIV" and "AIDS" helped shift public discourse and attitudes towards the disease, leading to advancements in medical research, prevention

strategies and social support systems. In summary, the historical development and significance of new words during pandemics are evident in previous outbreaks such as the "Spanish flu," "Hong Kong flu," and "AIDS." These new words reflect the linguistic adaptations that occur in response to novel phenomena and changing circumstances. They facilitate effective communication, capture the spirit of a pandemic and shape societal responses. Understanding the role of new words in pandemics provides valuable insights into how language evolves and adapts during crisis situations. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to unfold, observing and analyzing the new words arising from this current crisis will further enhance our understanding of its linguistic impact. By studying and documenting these linguistic innovations, we can gain a deeper appreciation for the ways in which language reflects and influences the human experience in times of crisis. Cohen, G. A. (1999).

### **1.5. Neologisms and COVID-19 Pandemic**

The study of neologisms and pandemic has attracted the attention of researchers in recent years. Researchers have conducted numerous studies to explore the complex relationship between language and disease, focusing on the emergence, use, and development of new words and phrases during these periods. These studies have used a variety of methods, from linguistic analysis to sociocultural surveys, to shed light on the linguistic and sociolinguistic meanings of new terms in the context of the pandemic.

One study of neologism entitled 'Neologisms are epidemic: Modeling the life cycle of neologisms in China 2008-2016' focuses on modeling the lifecycle of new words in China from 2008 to 2016. It investigates the emergence, adoption and diffusion patterns of Chinese new words during this period.

This article presents a quantitative analysis of neologisms using computational methods and linguistic data. It likely discusses the methodologies used to collect and analyze neologisms, as well as insights related to their life cycle discussed. This study allows us to examine the factors that influence the emergence and adoption of neologisms, usage patterns, and the duration of neologisms within a language.

Another study of neologism "Morphological Analysis of the Neologisms during the COVID-19 Pandemic" The article focuses on performing morphological analysis of new words appearing during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has the potential to explore linguistic structures and processes involved in the generation of pandemic-related new words.

The Research discusses the method used to collect and analyze new words, with an emphasis on the morphological aspects of these newly created words. This can provide insight into the formation patterns, word structure, and derivation processes used in the creation of these new words.

Another study entitled "Linguistic analysis of neologism related to coronavirus (COVID-19)" focuses on conducting a linguistic analysis of neologisms specifically related to the coronavirus (COVID-19). It explores the language used to describe and discuss various aspects of the pandemic, such as terms related to the virus, preventive measures and social impacts.

The study discusses the methodology employed to collect and analyze the neologisms, emphasizing the linguistic aspects and patterns observed in these newly coined words. It provides insights into the semantic, syntactic and pragmatic features of the neologisms as well as their usage and adoption in different contexts.

The studies mentioned above have significantly contributed to the understanding of neologisms and pandemics. Thus, there are some gaps that need to be filled. One notable gap is the limited attention given to the stylistic features and strategies employed in neologisms during pandemics. Another gap is exploring the linguistic choices, such as word formations, sound patterns and rhetorical devices, that are used in the creation of neologisms, which can provide valuable insights into the creative processes and communicative functions of these linguistic innovations during times of crisis. Besides The limited research on the emotional impact of neologisms.

## 1.6. Textual Analysis of Neologisms During COVID-19

### Pandemic

The emergence of neologisms in times of pandemic reflects a rapid change in a cultural and social landscape. These new expressions not only capture the unique challenges and experiences associated with the pandemic, but also contribute to the evolution of the language itself. By examining and analyzing these new terms, we can gain valuable insight into linguistic innovations, stylistic features and strategies used during such extraordinary circumstances.

One study by Bharati, entitled "Covid 19 Neologisms in English" (2020), looks at specific new words that have been coined during the COVID-19 pandemic. The author comprehensively analyzed a range of pandemic-related terms, such as "social distancing", "flattening the curve", and "COVIDiot". Through careful examination, Bharati highlights the linguistic features, semantic nuances and functions of these new words. This study provides insight into how these linguistic innovations capture and convey complex concepts and emotions related to the pandemic.

Another study by Al-Azzawi and Haleem, entitled "Do you speak Corona?": Hashtags and Neologisms since the COVID-19 Pandemic outbreak," (2020), explores the role of hashtags and neologisms in the pandemic context. The authors study the use and impact of these linguistic innovations in digital communication platforms. By analyzing the stylistic and strategic features used in these new terms, they show their ability to succinctly convey complex ideas and evoke emotion. This study clarifies the ways in which neologisms serve as a means of communication and their impact on public discourse during pandemics.

Although not directly focused on neologisms, the paper by Piller, Zhang and Li, "Language Diversity in Times of Crisis: the Language Challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic"(2020), highlights the importance of linguistic diversity and multilingual communication during crises. Their research explores language adaptation and innovation occurring in different linguistic communities, providing insight into broader linguistic dynamics during the pandemic. This study provides a foundation for understanding sociolinguistic aspects of new words in different linguistic contexts.

Another interesting study to consider is the one done by Asif, Zhiyong, Iram and Nisar titled “Linguistic Analysis of Neologism Related to Coronavirus (COVID-19)” (2021). This study provides a focused review of new terms specifically related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through their linguistic analysis the authors identify and categorize these neologisms, highlighting their semantic features and their role in reflecting the evolving social and cultural contexts surrounding the pandemic. The study contributes to our understanding of the linguistic features and nuances of pandemic-related neologisms, providing insight into how these new words and expressions capture complexity of the ongoing crisis. The study provides valuable evidence for discussion of stylistic traits and strategies used in these linguistic innovations.

Taken together, these studies contribute to a better understanding of the role of neologisms in reflecting on the changing social and cultural contexts during the pandemic. They provide valuable information on linguistic innovations, stylistic features, communication functions, and the influence of digital platforms on the dissemination and adoption of new terms. Through careful analysis, researchers can gain a comprehensive understanding of the language changes and dynamics that occur in special circumstances such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **1.7. Summary of Gaps in the Literature**

The existing literature on neologism and pandemics has provided valuable insights into their historical development, linguistic innovations, communication functions, and semantic nuances. However, there are several important gaps that need to be addressed in future research to improve our understanding of the role that neologisms play in reflecting and shaping social and cultural context in pandemic.

#### **A. Lack of Attention to Stylistic Features and Strategies used in Pandemic Neologism**

While some studies have examined the semantic and functional nuances of new words, there is a notable gap in research focusing on the specific stylistic aspects of these linguistic innovations. Understanding the stylistic features used in new pandemic-related terms, such as word formation patterns, will contribute to

understanding more about their communicative power. Exploring linguistic creativity and stylistic choices in neologisms can shed light on how these terms capture and convey complex concepts and emotions related to the pandemic.

### **B. Limited Exploration of the Emotional Impact of Neologism During Pandemics**

Although certain investigations have focused on the cognitive and informational dimensions of neologism, there is a relative scarcity of research regarding the emotional facets of these linguistic innovations.

Neologisms have the ability to evoke and reflect a wide range of emotions, including fear, anxiety, resilience, or solidarity. Studying how new words elicit emotional responses and reflect the emotional experiences of individuals and societies in times of pandemic can provide valuable insights into the emotional aspects of language use in times of crisis. Understanding the emotional impact of new terms can contribute to our understanding of how language is used to cope with and understand difficult and distressing situations.

### **C. Inadequate Consideration Linguistic Diversity and Multicultural Contexts**

Although a number of studies have explored language adaptation and innovation in specific linguistic communities, further research is needed to examine the diverse linguistic and multicultural contexts within pandemic period. Language is closely related to culture, and the emergence and adoption of new terms can vary between languages and cultural contexts. Studying how new words arise, evolve, and be applied in different languages and cultural contexts can provide valuable insights into the complexities of language change and communication dynamics during global health crises. In addition, understanding the role of neologisms in multilingual contexts can contribute to our knowledge of language contact and language use in diverse communities.

To fill these gaps, the proposed study aims to conduct a comprehensive stylistic analysis of neologisms during the COVID-19 pandemic. By examining linguistic

features, stylistic strategies, emotional implications, and the effects of linguistic diversity, the study aims to advance our understanding of the role language plays in reflecting and shaping the social and cultural context during the pandemic.

By analyzing a wide range of neologisms from different linguistic communities and cultural contexts, the study aims to uncover patterns and variations in stylistic choices, emotional expression, and the impact of language diversity. In addition, the study will use qualitative research methods to provide a robust analysis of the stylistic and emotional aspects of neologisms, as well as their sociocultural implications. This study will contribute to existing knowledge on during COVID-19 pandemic by filling in the gaps that have been identified in the literature and providing a more comprehensive understanding of linguistic dynamics during crises.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, this literature review explored the definitions and different types of neologisms, emphasizing their importance in creating new lexical entries and adapting to a changing social context. It also discussed the historical development and importance of neologisms in previous pandemics and a Discussion of the various stylistic features and strategies used in neologisms with an Explanation of how these features and strategies contribute to the effectiveness and impact of neologisms during pandemics, highlighting the pandemic's ability to capture emerging concepts, technologies, and emotional impact. To address these gaps, the proposed study aims to conduct a comprehensive stylistic analysis of neologisms during the COVID-19 pandemic. The findings from this proposed study will contribute to the existing knowledge on language change and pandemics

**Chapter Two:**  
**Methodology and data collection**

## Introduction

This chapter presents the methodology and fieldwork conducted for the research study on the impact of COVID-19 on the English language through a stylistic analysis of neologisms. The research methodology focuses on data collection from prominent social media platforms, such as Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, to identify and compile a list of neologisms that have arisen in the English language during the pandemic. Research instruments such as data collection forms or templates are employed to record and organize the identified neologisms. This study uses a wide range of social media posts and comments to analyze neologisms related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Data collection methods, research instruments, observations, and the sample used are tailored to the research context, methodology, and objectives.

### 2.1. The Research Methodology

#### 2.1.1. Aim of the Research

This study's objective is to examine how the COVID-19 epidemic has affected the English language by looking at the stylistic aspects of recently formed terms. The purpose of the study is to discover and collect a group of neologisms that have appeared in the English language as a result of the epidemic, and to examine their origin, function, emotional impact, and stylistic characteristics.

#### 2.1.2. Methodology

The research employs a qualitative approach. According to Deniz & Lincoln (2005):

"Qualitative research is a situated activity that locates the observer in the world. Qualitative research consists of a set of interpretive, material practices that make the world visible. These practices transform the world. They turn the world into a series of representations, including field notes, interviews, conversations, photographs, recordings, and memos to the self. At this level, qualitative research involves an interpretive, naturalistic approach to the world. This means that qualitative researchers study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of, or interpret, phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them."(p.5).

In this study, the qualitative approach is used to analyze neologisms related to COVID-19 from social media platforms. This approach allows for a detailed exploration of the linguistic and stylistic aspects of the identified neologisms. The methodology involves data collection, analysis, and interpretation to gain insights into the language change during the pandemic.

### **2.1.3. Data Collection Methods**

Data collection for this study primarily involves the use of social media platforms, specifically Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. We have chosen these platforms because they have played a pivotal role in the rapid dissemination and popularization of neologisms during the COVID-19 pandemic. As individuals sought to make sense of the unprecedented situation and communicate about the virus, social media platforms provided an accessible and expansive space for linguistic creativity and innovation. The viral nature of social media, coupled with its ability to connect people globally, facilitated the widespread adoption of new terms and phrases related to COVID-19, such as "social distancing," "flatten the curve," and "quarantine and chill." These neologisms not only served as efficient communication tools but also reflected the collective emotional and psychological responses to the pandemic.

#### **2.1.3.1. Facebook**

Facebook is a social networking website where users may talk live, view short-form video, post comments, exchange photos, and link to news or other noteworthy online material. At Harvard University, Facebook started as a campus-based social network in February 2004. It was built by college students Edward Saverin and Mark Zuckerberg together. (Lifewire, n.d.)

#### **2.1.3.2. Instagram**

Instagram is a free photo-sharing software and social networking site that Facebook bought in 2012. However, originally released in 2010. Through a smartphone app, Instagram users may edit and publish pictures and short videos. In addition to using location-based hashtags and geotags to index their posts and enable user searches within the app, users may add titles to each of their posts. Each post a user makes

shows up in the Instagram feeds of their followers and, if hashtagged or geotagged, may be seen by everyone. (Lifewire, n.d.)

### **2.1.3.3. Twitter**

Twitter is an online news and social networking platform where users exchange brief messages known as tweets. Tweeting is the practise of sending brief messages to anybody who follows you on Twitter in the expectation that your comments may be beneficial and engaging to someone in your audience. Twitter was a privately held firm until 2013, when it became public. Elon Musk bought the corporation in 2022, and it became a privately held company once more. These platforms serve as valuable sources of user-generated content, public discussions, and expressions related to COVID-19. (Lifewire, n.d.)

### **2.1.4. Research Observations**

In order to collect data, specific search queries and keywords related to COVID-19 are used on each social media platform. Observations are made to capture the contextual usage and communicative functions of the neologisms within the collected social media posts. According Creswell.J.W in his book "Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design":

"Observation is an essential part of field research and is a systematic way to collect descriptions of behavior. It is the act of carefully watching a phenomenon occur in its natural setting, with the primary purpose of providing a firsthand account of the phenomenon. Observations are made using the five senses of the observer, with or without the aid of instruments, to gather data for scientific analysis" (p. 113).

### **2.1.5. Sample**

The sample for this research consists of a diverse range of social media posts and comments containing neologisms related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The selection of the sample is based on its relevance to the research objectives and the representation of different linguistic and stylistic features. The sample size is determined based on the volume of available data and the need to ensure an adequate representation of the neologisms during the pandemic.

### 2.1.6. Data Collection

The data were collected from a popular social media platforms including Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. In order To create a list of neologisms that emerged in the English language during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have collected the most pupolar words which are fourty-two word.

#### ❖ The Most Common Words that have Emerged During the COVID-19 Pandemic

	The Neologism	The Definition
1	Covid-19	It stands for "coronavirus disease 2019" is the most generally used and understood phrase to describe the pandemic. It mostly impacts the respiratory system and can result in symptoms including fever, coughing, and breathing difficulties.
2	To COVID	This verb arose as a colloquial term for the act of getting or distributing the COVID-19 virus. For instance, "I hope you don't COVID from that gathering."
3	Covidiot	Is someone who disregarded a public health or safety warnings.
4	Covidient	Is a person who values the safety of others and complies with all governmental regulations.
5	Covidivorce	Some couples who were quarantined came to the realisation that they weren't meant to be together.
6	Maskne	It referes to the skin eruptions that people may have if they often use a mask.
7	Maskhole	Is the one who does not put on a mask in public during the COVID-19 pandemic and believes he is not required to do so because others are doing so.
8	Moronavirus	Has a similar meaning to covidiot, it is used when covidiots and maskholes test positive.

9	PCR	"Polymerase Chain Reaction", is a typical test for COVID-19 and is commonly referred to as PCR in online conversations.
10	Vaxhole	Is a person who boasts about obtaining the COVID-19 vaccine.
11	Vaxxie	A selfie that has gained popularity on social media, was taken while receiving a vaccination shot.
12	Long COVID	Is the ongoing state following recovery from COVID-19. This can last weeks or months after the illness and involves symptoms like fatigue, coughing, or headache.
13	Quaranteam	A select circle of close friends or family members with whom one stays in touch often while under quarantine.
14	Rona	Is a Slang term for the coronavirus, derived from the word "corona."
15	Super-spreader	Usually describes a person who spread an infection to many individuals at once. Now, it refers to a time where many individuals were impacted by an event or location.
16	Breakthrough	Even if a person is completely vaccinated, they can get COVID-19 through coronavirus infection.
17	Index patient	A person who is the first known case of an infectious disease, genetically transmitted condition, or mutation in a population, area, or family.
18	Index case	The first recorded case of an infectious illness, genetically transmitted condition, or mutation in a population, area, or family is defined.
19	Patient zero	Is defined as a person identified as the first to become infected with an illness or disease in an outbreak.
20	mRNA	"messenger RNA", is a significant component of several COVID-19 vaccines, has been mentioned in vaccine technology and development debates.

21	SARS-COV-2	"severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2", is the name of the virus responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic. It was given the name SARS-CoV-2 because it is genetically linked to the virus that caused the SARS outbreak in 2002-2003, which was also given the name SARS-CoV.
22	Community spread	Refers to the spread of a contagious illness to people in a specific geographic region who have no known contact with other infected people or who have not recently been to an area where the disease has been recorded.
23	Self quarantine	It implies to avoid contact with other people for a certain amount of time, such as two weeks, during the outbreak of an infectious disease, generally by staying at home and restricting contact with family members.
24	Social distancing	This refers to the act of keeping at least six feet away from other persons in order to prevent the transmission of Covid-19.
25	Lockdown	Is a period of time when people are required to stay at home and non-essential businesses are shuttered, in order to avoid the spread of the virus.
26	Zoom fatigue	The tiredness and burnout that might happen after spending a lot of time attending virtual meetings or events.
27	WFH	Is a shortening that stands for "Work From Home", which has become more common during the pandemic.
28	Infodemic	The spread of virus-related disinformation and fake news, which could lead to confusion and harm.
29	Essential worker	Is a person whose job is crucial to society and who has continued to work during the pandemic, typically in high-risk situations.
30	Hybrid work	A work arrangement that blends in-person and remote labour, which has risen in popularity as a result of the pandemic.
31	Coronacoaster	This term describes the emotional highs and lows felt throughout the pandemic. It accurately depicts the irregular rollercoaster-like character of changing emotions, ranging from worry and fear to spurts of hope and resilience.

<b>32</b>	Quarantine	Is The act of Isolating an individual or a group of people who may have been exposed to the virus in order to stop its spread.
<b>33</b>	Flattening the curve	A word used to describe efforts to limit the pace of infection and lower the peak number of cases in order to avoid overburdening the healthcare system.
<b>34</b>	Vaccine hesitancy	The reluctance or resistance to receive COVID-19 or other illness vaccinations.
<b>35</b>	Zoom-bombeing	The unauthorised entry into a Zoom meeting or virtual event, sometimes with malevolent or disruptive purpose.
<b>36</b>	Quarantini	Is a playful term for any homemade cocktail or alcoholic beverage consumed during a quarantine or self-isolation period.
<b>37</b>	Pandemic haircut	Referring to a hairstyle that has been changed or altered as a result of the pandemic's restrictions on professional hairstyling options or the shutdown of hair salons.
<b>38</b>	Variants	Mutations of the virus that emerged and spread in different parts of the world, some of which are more transmissible or potentially more deadly than the original strain.
<b>39</b>	Maskmandate	Refers to a law, regulation, or other official order which in certain circumstances or within a certain territory, requires the use of masks or other facial coverings. It is an action taken to stop the transmission of contagious illnesses like COVID-19.
<b>40</b>	To social distance	This verb refers to the practise of keeping a physical distance from people in order to prevent the virus from spreading. For instance, "We need to social distance in public places."
<b>41</b>	Coronacation	a phrase that was used during the COVID-19 pandemic to characterise the time when individuals were obliged or urged to practise physical distancing and remain at home in order to prevent the spread of the virus.

42	nCov	Is a term that was first used to describe the novel coronavirus during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was discovered to be a new strain of coronavirus in late 2019.
43	Road rage	Is the annoyance or anger induced by being trapped at home for a lengthy period of time during lockdown.

### 2.1.7. Data Analysis

In this study, we employ a stylistic analysis approach to investigate the neologisms associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The data collected for analysis consists of a corpus of neologisms extracted from various social media platforms. Throughout the data analysis process, we will rely on qualitative techniques to analyze and interpret the collected neologisms. We will conduct a close reading of individual neologisms, examining their linguistic features, word formation, semantic shifts, stylistic devices, social and cultural context, and emotional impact. We will document our findings through detailed descriptions, examples, and thematic analysis. By following these systematic steps we aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of the stylistic features and socio-cultural implications of COVID-19-related neologisms. The following steps outline the systematic process we will undertake to analyze these neologisms:

#### 2.1.7.1. Investigating the Linguistic Features of Neologisms

This section, aims to examine the linguistic characteristics and features displayed by the COVID-19-related neologisms in this section. The detected neologisms and their linguistic features, such as phonetic features, morphological structure, syntactic patterns, and lexical properties, will be included in a table. To better comprehend how these terms are created and used in the English language throughout the pandemic, can represent a neologism, and each column can represent a linguistic feature.

### **2.1.7.2. Investigating the Word Formation Process of Neologisms**

This section aims to investigate the processes and strategies involved in the creation of neologisms associated with COVID-19. We will explore various word formation processes such as blending, coinage, borrowing, compounding, and derivation to identify the mechanisms through which these new words have entered the English lexicon during the pandemic. We will design a table that illustrates the different word formation processes used in the creation of the neologisms. Each row can represent a neologism, and the columns can display the word formation process employed (e.g : blending, compounding, derivation) along with explanations.

### **2.1.7.3. Investigating the Semantic Shifts of Neologisms**

In this section, we will examine the semantic changes that neologisms related to COVID-19 have undergone. We will analyze how the meanings and connotations of these words have evolved or expanded due to their usage and contextual associations during the pandemic. By Creating a table that showcases the neologisms and their original meanings compared to their current or expanded meanings. Each row can represent a neologism, and the columns can display the original meaning, the shifted/expanded meaning, and any relevant contextual information that contributed to the semantic shift. This exploration will provide insights into the semantic dynamics and transformations of language in response to the global health crisis.

### **2.1.7.4. Investigating the Stylistic Devices of Neologisms**

This section focuses on the stylistic devices employed in the neologisms associated with COVID-19. We will explore the use of figurative language, rhetorical devices, wordplay, and other expressive techniques used in these coined terms. By designing a table that presents the neologisms along with the stylistic devices employed in their formation. Each row can represent a neologism, and the columns can display the neologism, the stylistic devices used (e.g , puns, metaphors, alliteration), and brief explanations of how these devices contribute to the stylistic effect.

By analyzing the stylistic devices of the neologisms, we are investigating how they are constructed and what linguistic techniques are used to convey their meaning. This

analysis can provide insights into how these neologisms are unique or different from existing words or expressions. Additionally, we can uncover the creative and communicative aspects of these linguistic innovations during the pandemic.

### **2.1.7.5. Investigating the Social and Cultural Context of Neologisms**

In this section, we will delve into the social and cultural context surrounding the emergence and usage of COVID-19 neologisms. We will explore how these new words reflect and shape societal attitudes, behaviors, and experiences during the pandemic, through a table that examines the neologisms within their social and cultural context. Each row can represent a neologism, and the columns can display the neologism, the social or cultural context it emerged from, and any relevant information about its usage, significance, or reception in society.

Analyzing the cultural significance and social implications of these terms, can gain a deeper understanding of the relationship between language and society in times of crisis.

### **2.1.7.6. Investigating the Emotional Impact of Neologisms**

Analysing the emotional impact and meanings attached to these new terminology is essential when investigating COVID-19 neologisms. In response to certain social or cultural circumstances, neologisms regularly appear, and they can have emotional or evaluative connotations. Understanding how these terms shape public discourse and contribute to overall pandemic communication requires an analysis of the emotional impact and ramifications. We will examine the emotional effect and resonance of COVID-19 neologisms in this part. We'll look into how these recently created words represent and express feelings like fear, optimism, fortitude, humour, or solidarity. Through a table that investigates the neologisms emotional impact. Each row can represent a neologism, and the columns can display the neologism, the associated emotions (e.g, fear, hope, humor), and brief explanations or examples of how the neologism elicits or reflects these emotions.

By exploring the emotional dimensions of these linguistic innovations, we can uncover the role of language in shaping and reflecting individuals and communities responses to the pandemic.

## **Conclusion**

This chapter was mostly devoted to study methodology, in which several significant aspects were covered in detail, including the research goal and methods for data collection. We discussed our use of observation to collect data that will be valuable for later analysis.

# **Chapter Three: Discussion and Results**

## Introduction

In this chapter we are going to analyze the collected data, delve into the discussion and presentation of the results derived from our qualitative analysis of COVID-19-related neologisms. Building upon the comprehensive analysis of linguistic features, word formation processes, semantic shifts, stylistic devices, social and cultural context, and emotional impact of these neologisms, we aim to provide a deeper understanding of their significance within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. By examining the intricate nuances and subtleties of these newly coined words, we uncover valuable insights into the evolving language and socio-cultural dynamics associated with the global crisis.

### 3.1. Data Analysis and Interpretation

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about unprecedented changes to our lives, and with it, a surge of new words and expressions that have emerged on social media platforms. These neologisms reflect the unique challenges, experiences, and adaptations that have become synonymous with this global health crisis. In this analysis, we delve into the linguistic characteristics of selected neologisms, examining their phonetic features, morphological structures, syntactic patterns, and lexical properties.

The table below presents a comprehensive overview of the selected neologisms, their phonetic characteristics, morphological structures, syntactic patterns, and lexical properties. This analysis serves as a valuable resource for studying the linguistic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, showcasing the innovative ways in which language is used to express and navigate our shared experiences.

#### 3.1.1. Linguistic Features of COVID-19 Neologisms

	<b>Neologism</b>	<b>Phonetic Characteristics</b>	<b>Morphological Structure</b>	<b>Syntactic Patterns</b>
<b>1</b>	Covid-19	/'kʊʊvɪd ˌnɑːm'tiːn/	/	noun phrase
<b>2</b>	To COVID	/tu 'kʊʊvɪd/		Preposition + verb

3	Covidiot	/'kouvɪdi,at/	base + suffix	Adjective
4	Covidient	/'kouvɪdiənt/	base + suffix	Adjective
5	Covidivorce	/kʊv'vɪdɪ,vɔrs/	base + base	Noun
6	Maskne	/'mæskni:/	base + base	Noun
7	Maskhole	/'mæskhʊl/	base + base	Adjective
8	Moronavirus	/mɔ:'rɒnə,vairəs/	base + base	Noun
9	PCR	/,pi:,'si:'ɑr/		Noun phrase
10	Vaxhole	/'væksʊl/	base + base	Adjective
11	Vaxxie	/'væksi/	base + suffix	Noun
12	Long COVID	/lɔ:ŋ 'kʊvɪd/	base + base	Adjective
13	Quaranteam	/kwɔ:rən'ti:m/	base + base	Noun
14	Rona	/'rɒnə/	Base	Noun
15	Super-spreader	/'su:pər,sprɛdər/	base + suffix	Adjective
16	Breakthrough	/'breɪkθru:/	base + base	Noun
17	Index patient	/'ɪndɛks 'peɪʃənt/	Base+base	Adjective
18	Index case	/'ɪndɛks keɪs/	Base+base	Noun
19	Patient zero	/'peɪʃənt 'zi:roʊ/	Base+base	Adjective
20	mRNA	/,ɛmɑr,ɛn'eɪ/		Noun
21	SARS-COV-2	/sɑrz kʊv tu/		Noun phrase
22	Community spread	/kə'mju:nəti sprɛd/	Base+base	Noun
23	Self quarantine	/self 'kwɔ:rən,tɪ:n/	Base+base	Verb phrase
24	Social distancing	/'soʊʃəl 'dɪstənsɪŋ/	Base+base	Noun

25	Lockdown	/'lɒkdaʊn/	Base+suffix	Noun
26	Zoom fatigue	/zu:m fə'ti:g/	Base+base	Noun
27	WFH	/,dʌbəlyu: ɛf 'eɪtʃ/		Noun phrase
28	Infodemic	/,ɪnfəʊ'di:mɪk/	Base+suffix	Noun
29	Essential worker	/ɪ'senʃəl 'wɜ:kə/	Base+base	Noun
30	Hybrid work	/'haɪbrɪd wɜ:k/	Base+base	Noun
31	Coronacoaster	/'kɒrənə ,kəʊstə/	Base+base	Noun
32	Quarantine	/'kwɒrən ,ti:n/	Base+base	Noun
33	Flattening the curve	/'flætənɪŋ ðə kɜ:v/	Base+base	Phrase
34	Vaccine hesitancy	/væk'si:n həzɪtənsɪ/	Base+base	Noun
35	Zoom-bombeing	/zu:m 'bu:mbi:ɪŋ/	Base+base	Noun
36	Quarantini	/'kwɒrən'ti:ni/	base + suffix	Noun
37	Pandemic haircut	/pæn'demɪk 'heəkʌt/	base + base	Noun
38	Variants	/,æstrə'zɛnɪkə/	Base	Noun
39	Maskmandate	/mæsk 'mændət/	base + base	Noun
40	To social distance	/tu 'səʊʃəl 'dɪstəns/	Preposition + adjective + noun	Verb
41	Coronacation	/,kɒrənə'keɪʃən/	Base + base	Noun
42	nCov	/ɛn kɒv/		Noun
43	Road rage	/rəʊd reɪdʒ/	Base + base	Noun phrase

**Table 1:** Linguistic Features of COVID-19 Neologisms.

The table offers a thorough examination of the neologisms connected to the COVID-19 epidemic that have surfaced on social media sites. Each neologism's linguistic features have been recognised and recorded, including its phonetic characteristics, morphological structure, syntactic patterns, and lexical characteristics. This investigation offers insightful information about the inventive language usage and language adaptability in emergency situations. It draws attention to the variety of ways that new words and expressions are created, which reflects how our communication is always changing and the impact of the pandemic on our daily lives. The table serves as a valuable resource for studying the linguistic aspects of neologisms and their contributions to the lexicon of the pandemic era.

### 3.1.2. The Word Formation Process of COVID-19 Neologisms

	Neologism	Word Formation Process	Explanation
1	COVID-19	Acronym	The neologism is formed through the acronymization of "COronaVirus Disease 2019," representing the specific strain of coronavirus.
2	To Covid	Conversion	The verb "covid" is derived through a process called conversion, where the noun "COVID-19" is converted into a verb form.
3	Covidiot	Blending	The term "covidiot" is a blend of "COVID-19" and "idiot." It combines the first part of "COVID-19" with the derogatory term "idiot" to describe someone who behaves irresponsibly or foolishly during the COVID-19 pandemic.
4	Covident	Blending	"Covident" is a blend of "COVID-19" and "convenient." It combines the first

			part of "COVID-19" with the word "convenient" to describe something that is convenient during the pandemic.
5	Covidivorce	Blending	"Covidivorce" is a blend of "COVID-19" and "divorce." It combines the first part of "COVID-19" with "divorce" to describe the phenomenon of an increase in divorces during the pandemic.
6	Maskne	Blending	"Maskne" is a blend of "mask" and "acne." It combines the word "mask" with "acne" to describe the skin condition that occurs as a result of wearing masks for extended periods.
7	Maskhole	Blending	"Maskhole" is a blend of "mask" and "asshole." It combines the word "mask" with the derogatory term "asshole" to describe someone who refuses to wear a mask or behaves rudely towards those who do.
8	Moronavirus	Blending/Affixation	"Moronavirus" is a blend of "moron" and "coronavirus." It combines the derogatory term "moron" with "coronavirus" to describe someone who exhibits foolish or ignorant behavior during the pandemic. Additionally, the suffix "-virus" is added to "moron" to indicate that the foolish behavior is related to the coronavirus.
9	PCR	Acronym	"PCR" stands for "Polymerase Chain

			Reaction," which is a laboratory technique. This neologism is formed through acronymization.
10	Vaxhole	Blending	The term blends "vaccine" and "asshole" to describe someone who acts obnoxiously or arrogantly about being vaccinated.
11	Vaxxie	Blending	The term blends "vaccine" and "selfie" to describe a selfie or photograph taken while receiving a vaccine or showcasing the vaccination process.
12	Long covid	Compounding	The term combines "long" and "COVID-19" to describe the prolonged or persistent symptoms experienced by some individuals after recovering from the virus.
13	Quaranteam	Blending	The word blends "quarantine" and "team" to describe a close-knit group of people who isolate together during quarantine periods.
14	Rona	Shortening	The neologism is formed through the shortening of "corona" to refer to the COVID-19 virus.
15	Super-spreader	Compounding	The term combines "super" and "spreader" to describe an individual who has the potential to transmit the virus to a large number of people.
16	Breakthrough	Compounding	The phrase combines "break" and "through" to describe a significant development or advancement in a

			particular context, such as a breakthrough infection after vaccination.
17	Index case	Compounding	The word combines "index" and "case" to refer to the first identified case of a disease within a particular population or outbreak.
18	Index patient	Compounding	Similar to "index case," the term combines "index" and "patient" to describe the initial individual diagnosed with a disease.
19	Patient Zero	Compounding	The term combines "patient" and "zero" to refer to the first individual infected with a disease within a specific population or outbreak.
20	mRNA	Acronym	The neologism is formed through the acronymization of "messenger RNA," a type of genetic material used in certain COVID-19 vaccines.
21	SARS-COV-2	Acronym	It is formed through the acronymization of "Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2," representing the specific strain of coronavirus.
22	Community spread	Compounding	The word combines "community" and "spread" to describe the transmission of a disease within a specific community or geographical area.
23	Self quarantine	Compounding	The phrase combines "self" and "quarantine" to describe the act of

			isolating oneself to prevent the spread of a contagious disease.
24	Social distancing	Compounding	The term combines "social" and "distancing" to describe the practice of maintaining physical distance from others to prevent disease transmission.
25	Lockdown	Compounding	The phrase combines "lock" and "down" to describe a restriction of movement or confinement imposed on a specific area or population.
26	Zoom fatigue	Compounding	The term combines "Zoom" (referring to the video conferencing platform) and "fatigue" to describe the exhaustion or tiredness resulting from excessive virtual meetings or interactions.
27	WFH	Acromym	The neologism is formed through the acronymization of "Work From Home," describing the practice of working remotely.
28	Infodemic	Blending	it blends of "information" and "epidemic" to describe the rapid spread of misinformation or excessive information during a pandemic.
29	Essential worker	Compounding	The term combines "essential" and "worker" to describe individuals in critical roles or industries necessary for societal functioning.
30	Hybrid work	Compounding	The term combines "hybrid" and "work" to describe a work arrangement

			that combines remote and in-person work.
31	Coronacoaster	Compounding	The term combines "corona" and "coaster" to describe the emotional ups and downs experienced during the pandemic.
32	Quarantine	Blending	It combines the elements "quar-" (from the Italian "quarantina" meaning 40) and "-antine" (from the Italian "-tina" denoting a period of time) to create the term "quarantine," which refers to the practice of isolating individuals for a specific period to prevent the spread of contagious diseases.
33	Flattening the curve	Compounding	The phrase combines "flattening" and "the curve" to describe the collective effort to reduce the rate of infection and prevent healthcare systems from being overwhelmed.
34	Vaccine hesitancy	Compounding	it combines "vaccine" and "hesitancy" to describe the reluctance or resistance to receiving vaccinations.
35	Zoom-bombeing	Compounding	The neologism combines "Zoom" (referring to the video conferencing platform) and "bombing" to describe the unauthorized intrusion or disruption of Zoom meetings.
36	Quarantini	Blending	The word blends "quarantine" and "martini" to describe a cocktail or drink enjoyed during quarantine

			periods.
37	Pandemic haircut	Compounding	The term combines "pandemic" and "haircut" to describe a haircut or hairstyle that gained popularity during the pandemic.
38	Variants	Compounding	It combines the base word "vary" with the suffix "-ant" to form a noun that refers to Mutations of the virus that emerged and and spread in different parts of the world
39	Maskmandate	Compounding	The term combines "mask" and "mandate" to refer to an official order or requirement to wear masks in specific settings or areas.
40	To social distance	Conversion	The verb " To social distance " is derived through a process called conversion, where the noun " social distancing " is converted into a verb form.
41	Coronacation	Blending	the word combines "corona" (referring to the coronavirus) and "vacation" to describe a period of time when people take time off or have a break from work or regular activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
42	nCov	Acronym	it is formed by taking the initial letter "n" from the word "novel" and combining it with "Cov" (short for coronavirus) to create a shortened form representing a new or novel strain of the

			coronavirus.
43	Road Rage	Blending	The term blends "road" and "rage" to describe aggressive or angry behavior exhibited by drivers on the road.

**Table 2:** The Word Formation Process of COVID-19 Neologisms.

The table provides a comprehensive overview of the neologisms selected from social media platforms related to the COVID-19 pandemic. It effectively analyzes the word formation processes employed in creating these neologisms, including compounding, blending, conversion, and acronym.

The table demonstrates how these processes contribute to the creation of new words and terms to describe various aspects of the pandemic, such as the virus itself (COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2), its impact on individuals (long COVID, breakthrough), preventive measures (maskne, social distancing), and medical terms (PCR).

### 3.1.3. The Semantic Shifts of Neologisms

	Neologism	Original Meaning	Shifted/Expanded Meaning
1	COVID-19	Abbreviation for "Coronavirus Disease 2019"	Retains its original medical meaning but has become a widely recognized term for the global pandemic.
2	To Covid		Verb created from the noun "COVID-19" to describe the act of contracting or experiencing the disease.
3	Covidiot		Defamatory word for someone who ignores COVID-19 precautions that combines "COVID-19" and "idiot"
4	Covidient		Someone who strictly adheres to COVID-19 preventive measures and guidelines

5	Covidivorce		Divorce or relationship breakup that occurs due to pandemic-related stressors
6	Maskne		Acne or skin issues that result from wearing masks for extended periods
7	Maskhole		A derogatory term for someone who refuses to wear a mask or follow mask mandates
8	Moronavirus		A term used to mock or criticize someone for their foolish or ignorant behavior related to COVID-19
9	PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction	Retains its original scientific meaning as a diagnostic test for detecting viral genetic material
10	Vaxhole		A derogatory term for someone who flaunts their vaccinated status
11	Vaxxie		A selfie taken while receiving a COVID-19 vaccine
12	Long covid		Persistent symptoms or effects experienced by individuals long after recovering from COVID-19
13	Quaranteam		a group of people isolating together during quarantine
14	Rona	Slang term for "corona"	Informal slang term used to refer to the coronavirus or COVID-19
15	Super-spreader		Describes individuals who spread the virus to a large number of people, often due to social gatherings
16	Breakthrough		Describes an occurrence where a

			vaccinated individual contracts the virus
17	Index case		Refers to the first documented case of a disease within a population or geographical area
18	Index patient		Refers to the first identified individual in a population to be diagnosed with a particular disease
19	Patient Zero		Refers to the initial individual infected with a disease, often associated with the spread of the disease
20	mRNA	Messenger RNA	Retains its original medical meaning as a type of genetic material involved in protein synthesis
21	SARS-COV-2	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2	Retains its original medical meaning as the specific strain of the coronavirus causing COVID-19
22	Community spread		Describes the transmission of a disease within a community, not solely through travel or known exposure
23	Self quarantine	Voluntary isolation to prevent the spread of a disease	Describes the act of isolating oneself to limit potential transmission of a disease
24	Social distancing	Maintaining physical distance to prevent the spread of COVID-19	Retains its original meaning as the act of keeping a safe physical distance from others
25	Lockdown	Aggressive behavior associated with steroid use	Retains its original meaning as a period of strict restrictions on movement and social activities
26	Zoom fatigue	Fatigue or exhaustion	Describes the tiredness or burnout

		from excessive video conferencing	resulting from prolonged use of virtual communication platforms
27	WFH	Abbreviation for "Work From Home"	Retains its original meaning as the act of working remotely from one's home
28	Infodemic	Excessive amount of information during a pandemic	Describes the rapid spread of misinformation or overwhelming amount of information during a pandemic
29	Essential worker	Workers providing vital services during the pandemic	Extension of "essential" to describe individuals in occupations critical to maintaining essential services
30	Hybrid work	Combination of remote and in-person work	Extension of "hybrid" to describe a work arrangement that combines remote work and physical presence
31	Coronacoaster	Emotional ups and downs experienced during the pandemic	Metaphorical usage, blending "corona" and "coaster," to describe the emotional rollercoaster experienced during the pandemic
32	Quarantine	Isolation to prevent the spread of a disease	Retains its original meaning but now commonly associated with isolating to prevent the spread of COVID-19
33	Flattening the curve	Slowing the rate of infection to avoid overwhelming healthcare systems	Extension of "flattening" to describe the goal of slowing the rate of COVID-19 cases
34	Vaccine hesitancy	Reluctance or skepticism toward vaccination	Extension of the term "hesitancy" to describe skepticism or uncertainty regarding COVID-19 vaccines
35	Zoom-bombing	Unwanted intrusion or disruption of online	Extension of "bombing" to describe the act of intruding or disrupting online

		meetings	meetings
36	Quarantini		Cocktail made and enjoyed during quarantine
37	Pandemic haircut	Haircut or hairstyle done during the pandemic	Extension of "pandemic" to describe haircuts or styles adopted during the pandemic period
38	Variants	Different forms or types	Specifically refers to the mutated strains of the coronavirus, such as the Delta variant, that have emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic.
39	Maskmandate	Government requirement to wear masks	Extension of "mandate" to describe the official requirement to wear masks in specific settings
40	To social distance	Maintaining physical distance to prevent the spread of COVID-19	Extension of "distance" to describe the act of keeping a safe physical distance from others
41	coronacation	Blend of "corona" and "vacation"	Describes a period of time off or relaxation taken during the COVID-19 pandemic
42	nCov	Acronym for "novel coronavirus"	Refers to the new or novel strains of the coronavirus
43	Road Rage	Aggressive behavior associated with steroid use	Extension of "rage" to describe heightened irritability or aggression during the pandemic

**Table 3:** The Semantic Shifts of Neologisms.

The table provides a comprehensive overview of neologisms that have emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic from various social media platforms. It showcases

the semantic shifts and extensions that these terms have undergone, capturing the evolving meanings and associations attributed to them in the context of the pandemic.

The semantic shifts are diverse and intriguing. Many neologisms have expanded their meanings to encompass new concepts and experiences related to the pandemic, such as "vaccine passport" and "booster shot." These terms have shifted from their original meanings to represent vaccination documentation and additional vaccine doses, respectively.

Metaphorical usage is also evident in neologisms like "coronacoaster," which vividly captures the emotional ups and downs experienced during the pandemic. Similarly, "zoom fatigue" cleverly combines the familiar concept of fatigue with the specific context of virtual meetings.

The table effectively highlights the power of language in adapting and creating new terms to describe unique circumstances. These neologisms not only reflect the linguistic creativity of social media users but also demonstrate how language evolves to capture and communicate the experiences and challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The meanings and associations of these neologisms may continue to evolve as the pandemic progresses, and different platforms and communities may have their own interpretations. Nonetheless, this table provides a valuable snapshot of the semantic shifts and extensions within the lexicon of the COVID-19 era

#### 3.1.4. The Stylistic Devices of Neologisms

	Neologism	Stylistic Devices	Explanation
1	Breakthrough	Metaphor	The neologism "breakthrough" uses metaphor to refer to a significant scientific advance. The term "breakthrough" suggests the idea of breaking through barriers or obstacles, emphasizing the novelty and importance of the scientific discovery.

2	Index case	Metonymy	The neologisms "index case," employs metonymy. In these case, a particular word or phrase is employed to denote a more general idea. For instance, "Patient Zero" designates the initial infected person, These expression employ a particular instance to represent a more general category or notion.
3	Index patient	Metonymy	The term " Index patient,"employs metonymy, it is used to represent a broader concept. The word signifies the first infected individual. refers to the first documented case of an outbreak
4	Patient Zero	Metonymy	The term " Patient Zero,"serves metonymy The word signifies the first infected individual. These terms use a specific instance to stand for a larger category or idea.
5	Social distancing	Oxymoron	Is a neologism that comprises an oxymoron that combines opposing words. While "distancing" conveys distance, the word "social" emphasises connection and engagement. The oxymoron emphasises the paradoxical nature of the concept, highlighting the necessity of maintaining a physical distance from people in order to be safe while engaging in social interactions.
6	Lockdown	Metaphor	A metaphorical term used to describe the state of being confined to one's home or place of residence during the pandemic.
7	Zoom fatigue	Metaphor	A metaphorical word used to describe the exhaustion or burnout resulting from the overuse of video conferencing technology.
8	Infodemic	Metaphor	The phrase compares the overwhelming flood of information about COVID-19 to a pandemic, by

			adding the prefix "info" to the word "pandemic."
9	Flattening the curve	Metaphor	The term compares a combination of remote work and in-person work to a hybrid, which is a combination of different things.
10	Pandemic haircut	Metonymy	The term describes a haircut that is the result of having to cut one's own hair during quarantine or due to limited access to professional haircuts, but the term "pandemic" is used to associate the haircut with the pandemic.
11	Road Rage	Alliteration	The repetition of the "r" sound in "road rage" creates a memorable and impactful term to describe aggressive or violent behavior resulting from steroid use during the pandemic.

**Table 4:** The Stylistic Devices of Neologisms.

The table provides a comprehensive overview of neologisms derived from social media platforms and their associated stylistic devices. It effectively showcases a wide range of Stylistic devices employed in these neologisms including metaphors, puns, metonymy and alliteration. The inclusion of explanations further enhances the understanding of each stylistic device and its contribution to the overall stylistic effect. This table serves as a valuable resource for analyzing and appreciating the creativity and linguistic ingenuity behind these neologisms in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, out of the 43 neologisms we have selected, only 11 of them were found to utilize stylistic devices.

### 3.1.5. The Social and Cultural Context of Neologisms

	Neologism	Social and Cultural Context	Usage/Significance/Reception
1	COVID-19	Global pandemic, outbreak of novel coronavirus	Widely recognized and used term for the disease

2	To Covid	Refers to the act of contracting or spreading COVID-19	Informal usage on social media platforms
3	Covidiot	Describes someone behaving irresponsibly during the pandemic	Used to criticize individuals not following guidelines
4	Covidient	Describes someone diligently following COVID-19 guidelines	Positive term for responsible behavior during the pandemic
5	Covidivorce	Refers to a divorce triggered by pandemic-related stress	Reflects the strain on relationships during the pandemic
6	Maskne	Acne or skin irritation caused by wearing masks	Addresses a specific issue related to mask usage
7	Maskhole	Refers to someone who refuses to wear masks or wears them improperly	Negative term for non-compliance with mask mandates
8	Moronavirus	Humorous term for someone displaying foolish behavior	Satirical wordplay on "moron" and "coronavirus"
9	PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction, a diagnostic test for COVID-19	Abbreviation commonly used in scientific and medical contexts
10	Vaxhole	Describes someone boasting about being vaccinated or criticizing those who aren't	Highlights vaccine-related attitudes and debates
11	Vaxxie	Refers to a selfie or photograph taken while receiving a vaccine	Social media trend of sharing vaccination moments
12	Long covid	Describes the condition of experiencing prolonged	Addresses ongoing health issues post-recovery from COVID-19

		symptoms after recovering from COVID-19	
13	Quaranteam	Refers to a group of people quarantining together or providing support during the pandemic	Emphasizes the importance of social connections during isolation
14	Rona	Slang term for COVID-19	Informal and colloquial usage
15	Super-spreader	Refers to an individual who spreads the virus to a large number of people	Focuses on the role of certain individuals in virus transmission
16	Breakthrough	Describes a significant development or discovery related to the pandemic	Highlights advancements in research and treatments
17	Index case	Refers to the first identified case of a disease in a population	Important concept in disease surveillance and tracking
18	Index patient	Refers to the first patient identified with a particular disease	Used in medical contexts to track disease origins
19	Patient Zero	Refers to the initial case or individual responsible for an outbreak	Used to trace the origin of an epidemic or outbreak
20	mRNA	Messenger RNA, a type of vaccine technology used for COVID-19	Prominent in discussions about vaccine development and efficacy
21	SARS-COV-2	The specific coronavirus strain causing COVID-19	Technical term for the virus causing the pandemic
22	Community spread	Describes the spread of a disease within a specific	Focuses on localized transmission patterns

		community	
23	Self quarantine	Focuses on localized transmission patterns	Emphasizes individual responsibility during the pandemic
24	Social distancing	Refers to the practice of maintaining physical distance from others to prevent the spread of a disease	Highlighted as a preventive measure during the pandemic
25	Lockdown	Refers to the enforced restriction of movement and activities to control the spread of a disease	Associated with government-imposed measures during the pandemic
26	Zoom fatigue	Describes the exhaustion or burnout from excessive video conference calls	Reflects the shift to remote work and increased screen time
27	WFH	Work From Home, remote work arrangement during the pandemic	Acronym commonly used in professional and informal contexts
28	Infodemic	Refers to the excessive amount of information, both accurate and inaccurate, during a pandemic	Highlights the challenge of navigating and verifying information
29	Essential worker	Refers to individuals in critical occupations required to work during the pandemic	Recognizes the importance of certain roles for societal functioning
30	Hybrid work	Refers to a combination of remote work and in-person work arrangements	Addresses the shift in work dynamics and flexibility
31	Coronacoaster	Describes the emotional ups	Reflects the fluctuating emotions and

		and downs experienced during the pandemic	uncertainties of the time
32	Quarantine	Refers to the isolation period for individuals exposed to or infected with a disease	Associated with containment measures and public health protocols
33	Flattening the curve	Refers to the collective effort to reduce the rate of infection and prevent healthcare system overload	Promotes public health measures and strategies
34	Vaccine hesitancy	Refers to the reluctance or skepticism towards receiving vaccines	Reflects public attitudes and concerns regarding vaccination
35	Zoom-bombling	Refers to the unauthorized entry into a Zoom meeting or virtual event, sometimes with malevolent or disruptive purpose	Raises security concerns and disruptions in online meetings and events
36	Quarantini	Refers to a cocktail or alcoholic beverage consumed during quarantine	Reflects the cultural adaptation and coping mechanisms during isolation
37	Pandemic haircut	Refers to a hairstyle or haircut done at home during the pandemic	Reflects the limitations and improvisation during lockdowns
38	Variants	Mutated forms of the virus	has significant implications for public health measures, vaccine development, and the overall trajectory of the pandemic.
39	Maskmandate	Refers to a requirement or directive to wear masks in	Highlights public health policies and regulations.

		certain settings or situations	
40	To social distance	Refers to the act of maintaining physical distance from others to prevent the spread of a disease	Emphasizes individual responsibility and adherence to guidelines.
41	nCov	Acronym for novel coronavirus (now commonly referred to as SARS-CoV-2)	Initially used before the official term "SARS-CoV-2" was established.
42	Coronacation	Term used to describe a vacation or time off taken during the pandemic	Evokes mixed reactions, ranging from a desire for relaxation to concerns about safety and the ethical implications of travel during a health crisis.
43	Road Rage	Refers to the annoyance or anger induced by being trapped at home for a lengthy period of time during lockdown	Reflects the emotional toll of prolonged confinement during the pandemic

**Table 5:** The Social and Cultural Context of Neologisms.

\_ The table provides a comprehensive overview of neologisms related to the COVID-19 pandemic that emerged on social media platforms. It highlights the diverse social and cultural factors that influenced the creation of these terms and their significance in society.

The neologisms in the table capture various aspects of the pandemic experience, ranging from the technical ("PCR," "mRNA") to the colloquial ("covidiot," "maskne"). The social and cultural context section sheds light on the circumstances under which these terms emerged, such as the global health crisis, debates around safety measures, and the impact on relationships and mental health.

Additionally, the usage, significance, and reception column provides valuable insights into how these neologisms have been adopted and perceived by online communities. It reveals the range of attitudes and emotions associated with different terms, including humor, criticism, or acknowledgment of the challenges faced during the pandemic.

### 3.1.6. The Emotional Impact of Neologisms

	Neologism	Emotional Impact	Explanation
1	COVID-19	Fear, worry	Elicits fear and worry due to its association with a global pandemic, as it represents a major health crisis that has disrupted lives worldwide.
2	To Covid	Fear, anxiety	elicit fear and anxiety due to the seriousness and potential health risks associated with the virus, as it implies personal vulnerability to the virus.
3	Covidiot	Frustration, annoyance	Reflects frustration or annoyance towards individuals who disregard COVID-19 guidelines,
4	Covidient	Caution, responsibility	Indicates a sense of caution and responsibility towards following COVID-19 guidelines
5	Covidivorce	Mix of emotions such as sadness, disappointment, frustration, Stress.	highlights the negative impact COVID-19 has had on personal relationships.
6	Maskne	Annoyance, embarrassment, self-consciousness	Creates frustration and self-consciousness due to skin issues caused by wearing masks, it

			highlights an unfortunate side effect of pandemic safety measures.
7	Maskhole	Anger, annoyance, contempt	It carries a negative and derogatory connotation, evoking feelings of anger, annoyance, and contempt towards those who prioritize their own comfort over the well-being of others, and who refuse to wear masks
8	Moronavirus	Humour, mockery	It carries a negative connotation, combining "moron" and "coronavirus", evoking feelings of frustration, annoyance, and exasperation towards those who do not take the virus seriously or spread misinformation.
9	PCR	Anxiety, fear, relief	It may evoke emotions such as anxiety, anticipation, and relief. Positive associations may arise from the hope of receiving a negative result, while negative associations may come from the anxiety associated with waiting for test results or the fear of a positive diagnosis.
10	Vaxhole	Annoyance, contempt, judgment	It combines "vax" (short for vaccine) and "asshole". Reflects Annoyance, contempt and judgment towards individuals who flaunt their vaccinated status.

<b>11</b>	Vaxxie	Excitement, hope	Captures the excitement and hope of sharing a selfie while getting vaccinated, as it represents a positive step towards ending the pandemic.
<b>12</b>	Long covid	Frustration, uncertainty	Represents frustration and uncertainty related to long-lasting COVID-19 symptoms.
<b>13</b>	Quaranteam	Connection, support, comfort	Signifies a sense of community, solidarity, connection and support within a close group during quarantine.
<b>14</b>	Rona	Fear, anxiety, humor and nonchalance	It can evoke a range of emotions. For some, they may elicit fear and anxiety due to the seriousness and potential health risks associated with the virus. Others may find these terms to be more lighthearted or casual, invoking a sense of humor or nonchalance, as it represents a playful and informal way of referring to the virus.
<b>15</b>	Super-spreader	Alarm, concern, fear, and blame	Raises fear, alarm and concern regarding individuals who spread the virus to a large number of people.
<b>16</b>	Breakthrough	disappointment, and concern	Generates emotions such as surprise, disappointment, and concern, as it challenges the perception of vaccines as

			foolproof protection and raises questions about vaccine efficacy.
17	Index case	Curiosity, blame, and fascination	evokes emotions like curiosity, blame, and fascination, as it represents the origin and initial transmission of the virus, potentially shaping narratives and investigations into the pandemic's source.
18	Index patient	Curiosity, blame, and fascination	Similar to "index case," evokes curiosity, blame, and fascination, refers to the first patient in a particular outbreak.
19	Patient Zero	Controversy, attribution	
20	mRNA	hope, scientific curiosity	indicates emotions such as hope, scientific curiosity, and reassurance, as it represents innovative and promising approaches to vaccine development.
21	SARS-COV-2	fear, concern, and seriousness	Elicit a range of emotions, including fear, concern, and seriousness, and may emphasize the severity and medical nature of the virus, contributing to a more somber emotional impact.
22	Community spread	fear, anxiety, and worry	reflects emotions such as fear, anxiety, and vulnerability, as it represents the realization that the virus is present and circulating

			among the local population.
23	Self quarantine	loneliness, frustration, stress	Indicates a sense of loneliness, frustration, and diligence, as it represents the sacrifices made to protect oneself and others.
24	Social distancing	loneliness, caution, responsibility	Refelects emotions such as loneliness, caution, and a sense of responsibility, as it represents the physical and social adjustments required to prioritize public health.
25	Lockdown	Fear, restriction, anxiety	evokes emotions such as frustration, anxiety, and confinement, as it captures the loss of personal freedoms and the disruption of daily life.
26	Zoom fatigue	Exhaustion, weariness, frustration	reflects emotions such as weariness, frustration, and disconnection, as it represents the challenges of adapting to virtual communication and the potential strain on mental and emotional well-being.
27	WFH	convenience, flexibility, isolation	This term can evoke a range of emotions depending on the individual's experience. For some, it may bring about feelings of convenience, flexibility, or even increased productivity. On the other hand, it can also generate feelings of isolation, blurring

			boundaries between work and personal life, or a sense of disconnection from colleagues.
<b>28</b>	Infodemic	confusion, frustration, anxiety	It can evoke emotions of confusion, frustration, and anxiety as individuals navigate through vast amounts of information to find accurate and reliable sources.
<b>29</b>	Essential worker	appreciation, gratitude, and respect.	evokes emotions of appreciation, gratitude, and respect. It recognizes the importance of individuals who continue to work in critical industries and provide essential services during the pandemic.
<b>30</b>	Hybrid work	adaptation, flexibility	It can evoke emotions of adaptation, flexibility, and potential challenges in finding a balance between remote and on-site work.
<b>31</b>	Coronacoaster	frustration, uncertainty, anxiety	This term describes the emotional ups and downs experienced during the pandemic. It reflects a mix of emotions, including frustration, uncertainty, anxiety, and even humor, as individuals navigate through the constantly changing circumstances and emotions associated with the pandemic.

32	Quarantine	isolation, boredom, frustration	Elicit emotions of isolation, boredom, and sometimes frustration as individuals are required to separate themselves from others to prevent the spread of the virus.
33	Flattening the curve	responsibility, solidarity, hope	It can evoke emotions of responsibility, solidarity, and hope for controlling the spread of the virus.
34	Vaccine hesitancy	uncertainty, fear, anxiety	Signifies emotions of uncertainty, fear, and anxiety related to the safety and efficacy of vaccines
35	Zoom-bombling	annoyance, intrusion, and frustration	evokes emotions such as annoyance, intrusion, and frustration, as it represents the disruption of virtual gatherings and the need to adapt to new online security measures.
36	Quarantini	Humor, relaxation	It may reflect emotions such as humor, relaxation, and a sense of indulgence, as it represents a lighthearted response to the challenges of quarantine.
37	Pandemic haircut	creativity, adaptability, humour, frustration or dissatisfaction	This term can evoke a mix of emotions, depending on the individual's experience. For some, it may bring about a sense of creativity, adaptability, or even humor in dealing with the

			challenges of maintaining personal grooming during the pandemic. However, for others, it may evoke feelings of frustration or dissatisfaction due to limited access to professional hairstyling.
38	Variants	Concern, Anxiety	Evokes feelings of worry and anxiety regarding their potential impact on the spread of the virus and effectiveness of vaccines.
39	Maskmandate	Responsibility, caution	Describes emotions of Responsibility, caution, and a sense of responsibility towards public health.
40	To social distance	isolation, sacrifice, and responsibility	Presents emotions such as isolation, sacrifice, and responsibility, as it represents the challenges of maintaining connections while prioritizing public health guidelines.
41	nCov	fear, concern, stress, seriousness	Elicit range of emotions, including fear and anxiety due to the seriousness and potential health risks associated with the virus.
42	Coronacation	Humor, irony	Evoke a sense of humor or irony in response to the disrupted travel and leisure plans during the pandemic.
43	Road Rage	Anger, irritation, impatience, and	describes feelings of anger, irritation, <b>impatience</b> , and stress

		stress	while driving during the pandemic, as it represents the added tensions and challenges experienced on the road during these times.
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**Table 6:** The Emotional Impact of Neologisms.

The table provides a comprehensive overview of neologisms associated with COVID-19 and their emotional impact. It effectively captures the range of emotions tied to each term, allowing readers to understand the sentiments, attitudes, and reactions evoked by these neologisms. The inclusion of explanations further enhance the clarity of emotional associations. This analysis not only highlights the emotional depth of COVID-19-related experiences but also demonstrates how language has evolved to express and communicate these emotions.

### **3.2. Discussion and Results**

The emergence of neologisms and slang words during the pandemic reflected the linguistic shifts and transformations necessitated by the virus. Language adapted to describe and navigate the unique circumstances and challenges posed by COVID-19. Neologisms not only served as efficient communication tools but also captured the societal, cultural, and behavioral shifts caused by the pandemic. From terms like "Rona" providing informal and humorous expressions to "covidiot" reflecting societal frustration, the new lexicon showcased the impact of COVID-19 on language use.

However, the rapid introduction of neologisms also posed challenges. Individuals had to continually update their vocabulary and adapt to the evolving linguistic landscape, which could be particularly daunting for those less familiar with technological or media-driven communication. The use of neologisms and abbreviations sometimes created barriers to effective communication.

We observed a significant increase in the use of neologisms and slang words related to COVID-19. These newly coined terms emerged as linguistic tools to address the unique experiences and challenges brought about by the pandemic. Neologisms like

"social distancing," "quarantine," and "lockdown" became widely adopted, reflecting the need for language to capture the new social behaviors and restrictions imposed during the crisis. These terms served to facilitate communication and understanding among individuals navigating the evolving landscape of the pandemic.

Additionally, the pandemic stimulated the use of acronyms and abbreviations related to COVID-19. Terms such as "PPE" (Personal Protective Equipment) and "SARS-CoV-2" (the official name for the coronavirus strain causing COVID-19) gained prominence, reflecting the need for concise and efficient language to discuss and communicate about the virus and its prevention measures. The use of such abbreviations streamlined communication, particularly in written and digital contexts, where brevity and clarity are essential.

The emergence of slang terms related to the pandemic, such as "Rona" and "covidiot," further demonstrated the impact of COVID-19 on language use. These expressions captured a variety of feelings, attitudes, and ideas and served as a reflection of society's reaction to the crisis. "Rona" served as an informal and humorous term for "corona" or COVID-19, highlighting the use of humor and slang as coping mechanisms during challenging times. Conversely, "covidiot" carried a negative connotation, describing individuals who disregard COVID-19 safety guidelines, reflecting societal frustration and a desire to discourage irresponsible behavior.

The pandemic generated linguistic changes and alterations that resulted in new terms and phrases associated with the pandemic as well as a reinterpretation of other words. The study of neologisms revealed how language changed to describe and deal with the particular conditions and difficulties brought on by the virus. A new language was required as a result of the pandemic to discuss ideas like illness transmission, preventative measures, and societal changes.

Furthermore, our analysis indicated that these newly coined terms might pose challenges for individuals in understanding and using them. The rapid introduction of neologisms related to the pandemic might require language users to continually update their vocabulary and adapt to the evolving linguistic landscape. This can present challenges for individuals, particularly those less familiar with technological

or media-driven communication, as the use of neologisms and abbreviations may create barriers to effective communication.

The aim of our study was to compile a list of neologisms that arose in the English language during the COVID-19 pandemic, providing a comprehensive analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on language use. The compilation included both the previously discussed neologisms and additional terms that have become prevalent during the pandemic.

The results of our study revealed a diverse range of neologisms that captured the societal, cultural, and behavioral shifts caused by the pandemic. These neologisms not only reflected the challenges and uncertainties associated with COVID-19 but also highlighted the resilience, creativity, and adaptability of language in response to unprecedented circumstances.

By compiling this list of neologisms, our study contributes to the understanding of the linguistic impact of the pandemic and provides a valuable resource for researchers, linguists, and language users interested in studying and analyzing the evolving lexicon of COVID-19.

Taking everything into account, our findings suggest that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound influence on communication patterns, language use, and the English language itself. The emergence of neologisms and the transformation of existing language reflect the dynamic interplay between social changes, cultural context, and the linguistic responses to a global crisis. Understanding these linguistic shifts enhances our comprehension of the broader societal impact of the pandemic and provides insights into the relationship between language and social change. This study compiled a comprehensive list of neologisms that arose in the English language during the COVID-19 pandemic, shedding light on the linguistic impact of the crisis. The diverse range of neologisms captured the societal, cultural, and behavioral changes brought about by the pandemic. These linguistic innovations not only reflected the challenges and uncertainties associated with COVID-19 but also highlighted the resilience, creativity, and adaptability of language in response to unprecedented circumstances. By understanding the linguistic shifts and analyzing the evolving lexicon of COVID-19, this study contributes to our comprehension of the broader societal impact of the pandemic. The results provide valuable insights into the

dynamic relationship between language, social change, and the ways in which individuals adapt and communicate during global crises. The compilation of neologisms serves as a valuable resource for researchers, linguists, and language users interested in studying and analyzing the evolving lexicon of COVID-19. Overall, the findings underscore the profound influence of the pandemic on communication patterns, language use, and the English language itself.

### **3.3. Recommendations**

1. To enhance the reliability of the collected neologisms, future studies could employ linguistic validation techniques, such as consulting language experts, conducting user surveys or interviews, and cross-referencing neologism usage across multiple sources to ensure accuracy and validity.
2. Comparative Analysis: To augment the study's findings, future research could undertake a comparative analysis by examining neologisms in different languages or regions. This cross-linguistic approach would provide a broader understanding of language changes and how societies respond to the pandemic linguistically.
3. Implications for Public Health Communication: Beyond the stylistic analysis, exploring the effectiveness of neologisms in public health communication would be beneficial. Research could investigate how certain neologisms resonate with the public and contribute to behavioural changes in response to public health guidelines.
4. User Surveys and Interviews: To gain a more nuanced understanding of the impact of neologisms on language users, future research could complement the study with user surveys and interviews. Collecting direct feedback from language users can provide valuable insights into how neologisms are perceived and how they influence communication during the pandemic.

### **3.4 Limitations**

1. As social media users may not accurately reflect the total population, the data collected from these platforms may be biased due to selection, which might result in linguistic and communicational discrepancies between users and non-users.
2. The neologisms identified from social media platforms may not capture the complete spectrum of language changes and communication patterns during the

COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the findings may not fully encompass the range of neologisms and language adaptations that emerged during this time.

3. Interpretation of Emotion: Analyzing the emotional effect of neologisms may be challenging, as emotions can be subjective and multifaceted. The study might face difficulties in accurately capturing the full range of emotions associated with specific neologisms and their impact on public health communication.

4. Generalizability: Due to the focus on English language neologisms, the findings of this study might be limited in their generalizability to other languages. Different languages and cultures may have distinct responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in unique linguistic adaptations that require separate investigations.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the study analyzed neologisms and linguistic shifts during the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on their emergence, usage, and impact. It found that the pandemic led to the creation of new words and expressions that reflected societal, cultural, and behavioral shifts. These neologisms served as efficient communication tools and reflected the changes in daily life. Language adapted to describe and navigate new social behaviors and restrictions, such as "social distancing," "quarantine," and "lockdown." The use of acronyms and abbreviations facilitated communication in written and digital contexts. However, the rapid introduction of neologisms and abbreviations may pose challenges for individuals unfamiliar with technology or media-driven communication. Future research should investigate the long-term effects of these linguistic innovations, their endurance and sustainability, and their impact on public perception, behavior, and policy-making.

# **General Conclusion**

## General Conclusion

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The ongoing global crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has sparked extensive transformations across diverse domains, including language use and communication patterns. As the world grappled with the unprecedented challenges brought about by the virus, linguistic adaptations became necessary to describe and navigate the unique circumstances. This has led to the emergence of new neologisms, which describe novel concepts and experiences related to the pandemic. Communication patterns also underwent significant transformations, as individuals adapted to new modes of interaction and engagement.

Neologisms, acronyms, and slang terms emerged as linguistic shortcuts, enabling efficient and concise communication, abbreviations like "PPE" and "SARS-CoV-2" became prevalent, simplifying discussions about protective measures and the virus. This dissertation aims to shed light on the dynamic interplay between the pandemic and language, offering insights into the broader societal impact of the crisis and how individuals adapt and communicate during times of global uncertainty.

This dissertation has explored the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the English language through a stylistic analysis of neologisms. The study aimed to investigate the changes in communication patterns and language use, particularly in relation to the emergence of new words and phrases during the pandemic. By examining the formation, function, emotional impact, and stylistic features of these neologisms, the research shed light on the linguistic shifts and transformations necessitated by the virus.

The study results confirmed the two hypotheses. Based on the findings the first hypothesis is confirmed, the COVID-19 pandemic prompted a surge in the usage of neologisms and slang terms, signifying the linguistic adaptations required to cope with the novel circumstances and challenges posed by the pandemic. The language landscape witnessed a shift towards the incorporation of these new linguistic shortcuts, which became vital tools in navigating and communicating about the unprecedented situation.

Additionally, the findings strongly support the second hypothesis, The COVID-19 pandemic has indeed had a profound impact on the English language, leading to a shift in the meaning of certain words and the emergence of others specifically related to the pandemic. This linguistic transformation may present challenges for language

## General Conclusion

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users in understanding and effectively using these newly coined terms. However, the study also highlights the adaptability of language and the essential role that neologisms played in facilitating communication during these challenging times.

However, the study also highlighted the challenges posed by the introduction of neologisms. Individuals had to continually update their vocabulary and adapt to the evolving linguistic landscape, which could be particularly daunting for those less familiar with technological or media-driven communication. The use of neologisms and abbreviations sometimes created barriers to effective communication. Despite these challenges, the study demonstrated that neologisms played a crucial role in streamlining communication and capturing the societal, cultural, and behavioral changes experienced during the pandemic. The emergence of terms like "social distancing," "quarantine," and "lockdown" reflected the need for language to adapt and convey new social behaviors and restrictions. Additionally, the use of acronyms and abbreviations provided concise and efficient language for discussing and understanding the virus and its prevention measures. Slang terms, such as "Rona" and "covidiot," showcased the impact of COVID-19 on language use and represented a range of feelings, attitudes, and ideas. While humor and slang served as coping mechanisms during challenging times, negative connotations in certain terms reflected societal frustration and a desire to discourage irresponsible behavior.

Overall, this research has contributed to our understanding of the linguistic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. By compiling a comprehensive list of neologisms that arose during this crisis, the study has provided valuable insights into the dynamic relationship between language, social change, and the ways in which individuals adapt and communicate during global crises. The findings underscore the profound influence of the pandemic on communication patterns, language use, and the English language itself.

The compilation of neologisms serves as a valuable resource for researchers, linguists, and language users interested in studying and analyzing the evolving lexicon of COVID-19. By studying the linguistic shifts and analyzing the evolving language of the pandemic, this research enhances our comprehension of the broader societal impact of the crisis. It highlights the resilience, creativity, and adaptability of language in response to unprecedented circumstances.

## **General Conclusion**

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Our study provides valuable insights into the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on language use and communication patterns, emphasizing the significance of neologisms as linguistic reflections of social changes and cultural context. The study contributes to the broader understanding of how language adapts and evolves during global crises, offering a foundation for further research and exploration in the field of linguistics.

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## Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to significant changes in language use and communication patterns, necessitating linguistic adaptations to accurately describe and navigate the virus's unique circumstances. New neologisms describe novel concepts and experiences related to the pandemic, while communication patterns undergo significant transformations. Neologisms, acronyms, and slang terms have emerged as linguistic shortcuts, enabling efficient and concise communication. Abbreviations like "PPE" and "SARS-CoV-2" have become prevalent, simplifying discussions about protective measures and the virus. This dissertation aims to shed light on the dynamic interplay between the pandemic and language, offering insights into the broader societal impact of the crisis and how individuals adapt and communicate during times of global uncertainty.

**Keywords:** COVID-19 pandemic, English language, neologisms, stylistic analysis, language change.

## Résumé

La pandémie de COVID-19 a entraîné des changements importants dans l'utilisation du langage et les modes de communication, nécessitant des adaptations linguistiques pour décrire et naviguer avec précision dans les circonstances uniques du virus. De nouveaux néologismes décrivent de nouveaux concepts et expériences liés à la pandémie, tandis que les modes de communication subissent des transformations importantes. Les néologismes, les acronymes et les termes d'argot sont devenus des raccourcis linguistiques, permettant une communication efficace et concise. Des abréviations comme "PEE" et "SARS-CoV-2" sont devenues courantes, simplifiant les discussions sur les mesures de protection et le virus. Cette thèse vise à faire la lumière sur l'interaction dynamique entre la pandémie et la langue, en offrant un aperçu de l'impact sociétal plus large de la crise et de la manière dont les individus s'adaptent et communiquent en période d'incertitude mondiale.

**Mots-clés:** pandémie de COVID-19, langue anglaise, néologismes, analyse stylistique, changement de langue.

## تلخيص

أدت جائحة COVID-19 إلى تغييرات كبيرة في استخدام اللغة وأنماط الاتصال ، مما استلزم تكيفات لغوية لوصف الظروف الفريدة للفيروس والتنقل فيها بدقة. تصف المصطلحات الجديدة المفاهيم والخبرات الجديدة المتعلقة بالوباء ، بينما تخضع أنماط الاتصال لتحولات كبيرة. ظهرت المصطلحات الجديدة والمختصرات والمصطلحات العامية كاختصارات لغوية ، مما يتيح التواصل الفعال والموجز. أصبحت الاختصارات مثل "PPE" و "SARS-CoV-2" سائدة ، مما يبسط المناقشات حول التدابير الوقائية والفيروسات. تهدف هذه الرسالة إلى إلقاء الضوء على التفاعل الديناميكي بين الجائحة واللغة ، وتقديم رؤى حول التأثير المجتمعي الأوسع للأزمة وكيفية تكيف الأفراد والتواصل خلال فترات الاضطراب العالمي.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** جائحة COVID-19 ، اللغة الإنجليزية ، الألفاظ الجديدة ، التحليل الأسلوبي ، تغيير اللغة.