

An Analysis of Lexical Neologisms on Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic to Enhance Morphological Knowledge

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to find neologisms formed during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as to categorize the content terms and describe the neologisms' word-formation processes. The qualitative method was used in this study, which was based on a content analysis approach. The focus of this study was on online articles and news portal websites that focused on the lexical problem of language used in the production of neologisms, with the goal of enriching the understanding of neologism as a study of analytical issue during the coronavirus pandemic. It was gathered using document reading and note-taking approaches. In addition, the referential identity technique was employed to examine the data in this study. The findings of this study demonstrate that 28 neologisms were discovered during the research process. There are three types of content words that

have been discovered: nouns, verbs, and adjectives. Borrowing, derivation, compounding, clipping, blending, coinage, and multiple processes are among the seven categories of word-formation processes identified in this study. Finally, it can draw some meaningful results about the use of morphology learning strategies to engage the teaching and learning process so that learners can consistently achieve learning objectives.

Keywords: content words, COVID-19, Neologism, word-formation process

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is one of social phenomenon that reflects the general public that utilizes it, simultaneously and using it affects the minds of individuals of the society. Applying language automatically anywhere has been the thought by its user because they learn and know it by heart. Stevenson cited in Kolobe (2015) stated that it is not easy to apply language within its cultural surrounding, it is not simple to know the meaning of the words in their cultural surrounding even with strict definitions gave by dictionaries. Language construct reality. It termed, discussed and communicated any new phenomenon in society. Language is also a universal ability of human to make sounds, establish words and sentences (Karachina, 2020).

For college and high school students, morphology acquisition, particularly in English morphology, is also crucial (Domínguez, 1991). When compared to other materials in high school English, morphology students receive a modest fraction. In Indonesia, the English learning curriculum promotes a text-genre approach that prioritizes text mastery while excluding morphology instruction. Morphology is only taught when students are learning a text genre, and there is no time set aside to study morphology. Students with high morphological knowledge are anticipated to get the results obtained in determining the meaning of words and can see the process of finding the meaning of words.

Nowadays, people all over the world have already known of the booming pandemic that was happening at the end of 2019 from Wuhan, China, which is Corona Virus as known as COVID-19. All the activities were affected to be shut in including Indonesia as the country that also happened to get affected by the pandemic. The whole country has to suffer from various fields such as economy, business, health, and education caused by the spread of the virus (Nugroho, 2020). In the outbreak of the current pandemic it has not only gave impact on health system, economy and social relationship but also it highlights the explosion of new words, phrases, and expressions since language is a dynamic concept rather than being static (Ibrahim et al., 2020). That could happen since people use the language continuously in connection with the globalization era (Rohbiah, 2020).

The change in social life has firmly connected on the occurrence of neologism. Numerous new words are conceived for different reasons, it relies on many factors. However, the neologism has without a doubt become a genuine phenomenon in the current

English (Fröhlichová, 2011). English as a global language that has over five hundred thousand words continues borrowing new words from various part of the world or borrowed stem and affixes to form new words (Rets, 2016). In any language, words do not retain the original morphology when they are formed, but they are refined with time using that particular language to serve the needs of communication (Nelkoska, 2020). Mostovy cited in Aji and Tawami (2018) stated that neologism is a unit of linguistic which create the definition of a new idea. That can be explained that neologism is a linguistic unit that is made to define new term and notion in language.

Before neologisms gain entry to a conventional dictionary, it is come up to the surface of widespread usage (Veale and Butnariu, 2010). Through the far-reaching utilization of the Internet and its various discussions for those who uses it whether the writer or the reader there have been numerous new inventive methods of passing on messages dependent on need and reason. The Internet is giving amazing event to correspondence between individuals everything being equal and globally. It has additionally made incessant open doors for spreading new articulations over countless clients and hence making, most importantly, English neologisms develop all the while around the globe. The associating join for individuals is typically a common intrigue, and there are many particular online gatherings to be found for every, regardless of whether it is travel, books or games (Norlin, 2012).

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Neologism

According to Peterson and Ray cited in Shahlee and Mustaffa (2019), a neologism is two distinct words that have been combined. They are neo which derived from a French word means 'new' and a Greek word logos which means 'word'. Therefore, neologism refers to a new word or phrase formulated by a person, publication, or event that emerged to be used by the society with a new meaning. Neologism may disappear as fast as they happen in the language as its task is to serve a specific event with the time. Thus, the fate of new coinages is unclear as some of them may stay in the language for a long period of time whether others become forgotten and useless(Gontsarova, 2013).Kerremans (2015) explained that neologisms as form meaning pairings that have not yet frequently use and have not been spread widely within a given period to become a part and parcel of the lexicon of the speech community, yet have been manifested in use and no longer a nonce-formation.

Filipec and Čermák sum up that the main motives are to name a new reality for example to reflect new advancement and progress of science, culture, and the change of technology, political circumstance, social patterns, and so on. Language serves individuals as a direct point (Abu-Algaism M., 2020). Neologism grows the vocabulary of a language and brings out approaches for grammatical utilization or even may influence parts of its structure (Shahlee & Ahmad, 2020).

To sum up, neologism is new created words that frequently used by individuals in the society, yet it might not include in the dictionaries as it could only just used temporarily and be forgotten.

2.2 Lexicology

According to Frăţilă (2011), the term lexicology comes from the Greek words *lexis* which means ‘word’ and *logos* which means ‘science’. Lexicology is the study of words. Jackson and Amvela defined lexicology as “the study of *lexis*, understood as the stock of words in a given language, i.e. its vocabulary or *lexicon* (from Greek *lexis*, ‘word’, *lexikos*, ‘of/for words’). Lexicology deals with complex and compound words, the meaningful units of language not only with simple words. Lexicology relies on information derived from morphology as these units should be analyzed in both their form and meaning (Amvela & Jackson, 2007). In English, there are content words or open class words that are nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs which make up the largest part of the vocabulary. It is called open class because we can regularly add new words to these classes (Fromkin & Rodman, 1998).

2.3 Word Formation Process

A word-formation process refers to new words that are being formed by rule-governed combinations of bound and free morphemes. Some linguist argue that new words are being formed whenever the speaker use morphologically complex words there are being reconstructed by the brain, but there are some linguists that argue the *lexicon* of a language includes many items that are related to one another, it shows when new words are formed based on pattern that exists in the *lexicon*. Therefore, the speaker actually forms words that are not used in the current language are termed productive (Cipollone et al., 1998).

The study of the structure and composition of words from the smaller part is referred to basically as morphology (Cipollone et al., 1998). It is a process for learning the word-formation in a language. Most languages refer to a different word. A rule since words are referred to as the smallest syntax unit. The speaker understood the rule which reflects a particular pattern, since words from smaller units are written or spoken (Shahlee & Mustaffa, 2019). Francis in Clark (1994) has stated that borrowing has been produced a great number of words into the vocabulary of English, but he also stated that words can also acquire in some other several ways such as derivation, compounding, functional shift, back formation, clipping, proper names, imitation, blending, and coinage.

3. RESEARCH METHODS

This research is using a qualitative research method based on a content analysis approach. Qualitative research is in a context to design ways for social sciences, psychology, and many other fields to create concrete tendencies to maintain the necessary flexibility towards the objects and tasks (Flick, 2009). Downe Wamboldt (2009) stated that content analysis is a kind of research method that gives systematic and objective definitions to make valid references from verbal, visual, or written data in the purpose of describing and quantifying specific phenomena.

This research used documents as the instrument which is obtained from online articles and news portal websites, and also the writer herself as the subject of the research who is responsible to design the research, collecting the data by reading the articles, and identifying them in order to find neologisms, explain the data and produce a conclusion of the research.

Other than that, the research uses an additional instrument which is data sheet to help the researcher to collect the data.

This research was conducted by using the referential identity method to analyze the data. The references in this study were the theory of content words and the theory of word-formation processes. This research used data cards in analyzing data to assist the researcher. The data cards contained text number, part of speech in data card 1, and the word-formation processes in data card 2, total number, and percentage. Classifying the data by coding is the first procedures to analyze them. Datasheet provided to save each of them so that the datasheet that contained the data was summarized into the data cards. After that the procedure would be interpreting the data from the data cards, and the last step was making conclusions based on the result found and interpreted data.

4. FINDINGS

The objectives of this research are to find out the new words that appear during the coronavirus pandemic, the word categories of the neologisms, and the word formation process from those neologisms created. The following tables are provided to show the frequency of the data found according to the categories of the content word and the process of the word formation as the objective of this study.

Table: 1 The Frequencies of Content Word Categories

No.	Content word categories	Total numbers	Percentage
1.	Noun		
	a. Proper Noun	23	82,14
	b. Common Noun	2	7,14%
2.	Verb		
	a. Main Verb	2	7,14%
	b. Auxiliary Verb	0	
3.	Adjective		
	a. Attributive	1	3,58%
	b. Predicative	0	0%
4.	Adverb		
	a. Circumstantial Adverb	0	0%
	b. Degree of Adjectival Attribute	0	0%
	c. Intensifying Adverb	0	0%
	d. Conjunctive Adverb	0	0%
	Total	28	100%

From the data above, noun which divided to proper noun and common noun dominate the number of data. The amount of proper noun found in this study is 23 words or 71, 42% of the data found while common noun only makes 2 word or 7, 14% of the data. On the other hand, the amount of verb that found in this study is 2 words or 7, 14% of the data and it all belongs to the main verb. The last category of the content word found in this study is adjective, with only attributive adjective gain 1 word or 3, 58% of the data while predicative adjective gains no words. Furthermore, adverb with all of its sub-categories has zero words and percentage.

The following table is a second table to presents the finding of word formation processes.

Table: 2 The Frequencies of Word Formation Processes

No.	Processes of word formation	Total number	Percentage
1.	Borrowing	2	7,14%
2.	Derivation	4	14,29%
3.	Compounding	4	14,29%
4.	Functional Shift	0	0%
5.	Back Formation	0	0%
6.	Clipping	5	17,86%
7.	Proper Name	0	0%
8.	Imitation	0	0%
9.	Blending	7	25,00%
10.	Coinage	3	10,71%
11.	Multiple Process	3	10,71%
	Total	28	100%

The data shows that blending has the largest amount of how the words were preceded with the total number of 7 words or in percentage is 25%. The second-largest number is clipping with the total number of 5 words or in percentage is 17,86%. The rank is followed by derivation and compounding with the same amount of findings which is 4 words or 14,29%, coinage and multiple process with 3 words or 10,71% in the total number of findings. The last one is borrowing category with the total number of 2 word or in percentage is 7,14%. Meanwhile, functional shift, back formation, proper name, and imitation have zero data.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 Neologisms

The result of the research found that there are a total number of 28 neologisms obtained. Those neologisms are *corona*, *coronavirus*, *2019-nCoV*, *COVID19*, *SARS-CoV-2*, *Zoombombing*, *new normal*, *covidiot*, *covexit*, *anti-lockdown*, *covideo party*, *rona*, *quazzie*, *sanny*, *doomscrolling*, *quarantini*, *quaranteam*, *post-pandemic*, *self-isolate*, *WFH*, *walktailing*, *coronials*, *blursday*, *self-quarantine*, *PPE*, *PUI*, *RAT*, and *RT-PCR*.

5.2 Content Word Categories

There are three categories of content words found in this study. The neologisms created include nouns, verbs, and adjective category. First, Noun category which gains 25 words which means it is the majority of total data. In this case, the finding discussed both proper and common noun. For the proper noun, the data showed that this category gains 23 words or 82,14% from the total number of the finding of content word categories. The neologisms obtained for this category are *corona*, *coronavirus*, *2019-nCoV*, *COVID19*, *SARS-CoV-2*, *Zoombombing*, *covidiot*, *rona*, *quazzie*, *anti-lockdown*, *covideo party*, *quarantini*, *quaranteam*, *post-pandemic*, *self-isolate*, *coronials*, *blursday*, *self-quarantine*, *PUI*, *RT-PCR*,

and RAT. They were considered as proper noun since they are all names or terms that relate to the circumstance of coronavirus pandemic. On the other hand, common noun from the data obtained 2 words or 7,14% from the total number of the finding, they are *sanny* which is a pun refers to hand sanitizer, and *PPE* which refers to Personal Protective Equipment. Both are concrete things so that they are belonging to common noun.

The next category is verb which also gained 2 words or 7, 14% of the total number of the finding and which also belongs to main verb. They are *doom scrolling* which is an action when people searching and looking out for news regarding the pandemic that could give more stress to themselves, and *self-isolate* which refers to an action of isolating ourselves at home on our own willingly. The last one is adjective category which only gets 1 word or 3, 58% from the total number of the finding. The neologism obtained is the phrase *post-pandemic*; the term refers to a situation that describes the phase following the circumstances of coronavirus pandemic.

5.3 Word Formation Process

The word formation processes obtained are borrowing, derivation, compounding, clipping, blending, coinage, and multiple processes that is discussed in the further explanation. The first one is borrowing, in this process categories the neologism is in the last rank with only two words obtained or 7, 14% in total number of findings, The said neologism is *corona* which originally comes from a Latin ancient word that has a meaning of crown in English. The other one is *new normal* which in this case is a noun since it refers to a situation that is different from what has been experienced before but is expected to become usual or typical.

The second one is derivation that obtained 4 words or 14, 29% in the total number of findings. The neologisms that are classified as derivation in this study are *anti-lockdown*, *self-isolate*, *post-pandemic*, and *self-quarantine*. All the terms were formed by compounding the first word which is a prefix to the other word which is a free morpheme, for example the prefix "anti-" added to the word "lockdown".

The third one is compounding that has the same amount of total number of findings in this study with the previous category which is 4 words or in percentage is 14,29%. The first neologisms that found in this category are *coronavirus* which is originally a compounding of the word *corona* and *virus*. the second one is *zoombombing* which formed by linking the word *zoom* which in this case is a video call kind of application and *bombing*. Next is *doomscrolling* which formed by compounding the word *doom* and *scrolling* which refers to an activity where people search up and update their selves with news regarding the pandemic and stress themselves. The last one is *blursday* which is a compound of the word *blur* and *day*.

The fourth one process is clipping which obtained 5 words or 17,86% in the total number of findings. The neologisms obtained in this category are *WFH* which is an abbreviation kind of clipping category as the initial of the phrase Working From Home, *PUI* which stand for Patient Under Investigation, *PPE* which is an abbreviation of Personal Protective Equipment, and *RAT* which is an abbreviation of Rapid Antigen Test, and the last one is *RT-PCR* which stand for Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction.

The next one is blending which obtained 7 words or 25% of the total number of findings. The neologisms obtained as blending category are *Covidiot* as to present the shortened words of 'covid' and 'idiot', *Covexit* which is a blend word of 'covid' and 'exit', *Covideo Party* since the highlight is in the word *covideo* which is a blended word of 'covid' and 'video', *Quarantini* which is a blended word that originally from the word 'quarantine' and an alcoholic beverage which is 'martini', *Quaranteam* which it is originally a blended word of 'quarantine' and 'team', *Coronials* which it is the word 'corona' blended with the word 'millenials', and *Walktailing* which is the word that originally a blended of the word 'walk' and 'cocktail'.

The next process is coinage category, it gained 3 words or 10,71% of the total number of findings. The neologisms that are obtained in this process are *rona*, *quazzie*, and *sanny*. These 3 words are all a pun which is considered as a coinage category, the word *rona* is a pun for the word 'corona', *quazzie* is a pun that refers to the word 'quarantine', and the last word *sanny* is a pun for 'hand sanitizer'.

The last process is multiple process categories which obtained the same amount as the previous process which is 3 words or 10, 71%. The first neologism obtained as this category is *2019-nCoV* which is a compound word originally stands for '2019 novel Coronavirus' with the word *nCoV* that was created by clipping the word 'novel', 'corona', and 'virus' to representing it. The second one is the word *COVID-19* which created by combining the word 'coronavirus' and the word 'disease' to create the word 'COVID' and hyphenated by the year '2019' which shortened by taking the last two digits of the year to represent it. The last one in this category is the term *SARS-CoV-2* that stands for 'Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2' which derived from combining the abbreviation of the words *SARS*, *CoV*, and 2.

6. CONCLUSION

This paper addresses practical significance and strategies that teachers can use to develop morphological knowledge and encourage phonological, vocabulary, and reading comprehension performance in students with language and literacy deficits. Second, the benefits of morphological literature studies, which play an important role in improving vocabulary mastery and reading comprehension, have been discussed. Furthermore, there have been numerous findings on morphological understanding that lead to language acquisition.

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