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Enlarging the lexical body of the English language during the Covid-19 pandemic

Abstract
This article aims to analyze neologisms collected during COVID-19 pandemic from English news channels in the UK, USA and Canada, as well as from English sites and popular blogs. The material was collected using continuous sampling. As a result, about 140 units were identified as neologisms and further classified into 6 groups according to the current societal issues they denote. The distribution turned out unequal. The largest number of neologisms in the groups of "anti-epidemiological measures", "isolation", "discrimination/split" and much fewer units in "economy" and "digitalization" groups indicate considerably higher involvement in discussing quarantine measures and negative attitude towards them rather than novelties connected with digitalization of different spheres in people's lives. The most interesting examples of neologisms are viewed with the focus on their meanings and word-building patterns. The findings show that English lexical system being the most flexible among other systems of the language, has given an immediate response to the changes of reality embracing the new lexical units generated during language use.

Keywords: vocabulary, pandemic, word formation, realm-based classification, COVID-neologisms