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Modeling the lexical-semantic field of “coronavirus” (Based on Chinese)

Abstract

Covid-19 has become that extralinguistic factor leading to the emergence of new lexical units and expansion of the meaning of the old ones. Moreover, coronavirus is a phenomenon that has recently been familiar to a circle of narrow specialists but is now rethought and transformed into a culturally significant concept becoming a semantically structural entity, the result of the new reality cognitive experience for the people of China in the Covid and post-Covid era. Vocabulary as an open and flexible system is one of the first to respond to challenges of a changing reality. The period of the coronavirus pandemic will be remembered for active word creation, lexical and semantic field expansion due to neologisms including borrowings. Modeling the concept “coronavirus” using the field method makes it possible to supplement understanding of the Chinese linguistic picture of the world. For this purpose, the author analyzed lexical units selected by continuous sampling from Chinese sources, identified the core and the periphery of the concept’s field. The results enable to conclude that the medical term “coronavirus” has gone beyond medical discourse having obtained new content, appealing to new values, and these dynamic processes developed and enlarged lexical and semantic field of the concept.

Keywords: Chinese, lexico-semantic field, core, periphery, concept, coronavirus

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