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DOI <https://doi.org/10.24919/2308-4863/68-2-41>**Yuliya TALALAY,***orcid.org/0000-0003-3134-2030*

*Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, Associate Professor,  
Head of the English Language and Translation Department  
Drohobych Ivan Franko State Pedagogical University  
(Drohobych, Lviv region, Ukraine) jutal@dspu.edu.ua*

## ENGLISH COVID-19 COMPOUND NEOLOGISMS: STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS

*The article focuses on the word-formation characteristics of English Covid-19 compound neologisms. Diverse domestic and foreign scholars focus on neologisms. These neologisms have been classified according to a structural approach. The Covid-19 neologisms-compound words have been classified into neutral, morphological and syntactic. The source base of the research is lexicographic sources: Oxford English Dictionary, Merriam-Webster Dictionary, Urban Dictionary etc. The purpose of the research is to characterize the Covid-19 compound neologisms: structural characteristics. The methodological base of the research is based on the methods of analysis, synthesis, descriptive method, word-form analysis, quantitative analysis. 120 Covid-19 complex neologisms were recorded in our sample. The results of the analysis of our sample provide the evidence regarding the dominance of neutral Covid-19 compound neologisms. Neutral Covid-19 neologisms-compound words have been subdivided into simple neutral, affixal neutral and contracted neutral. In neutral compounds the process of compounding is realized without any linking elements, by a mere juxtaposition of two stems. There are three subtypes of neutral compounds depending on the structure of the constituent stems. Simple neutral compounds: they consist of simple affixless stems. Syntactic and morphological Covid-19 compound neologisms are the least numerous in our sample. The third subtype of neutral compounds is called contracted compounds. These words have a shortened (contracted) stem in their structure. In our sample there are no contacted compounds. According to the results of our sample analysis neutral Covid-19 compound neologisms are predominant. This predominance can be explained by the law of a language economy. The prospects of further research consist in going research on the Covid-19 shortenings.*

**Key words:** word-formation, Covid-19 compound neologism, structural characteristics.

**Юлія ТАЛАЛАЙ,***orcid.org/0000-0003-3134-2030*

*кандидат педагогічних наук, доцент,  
завідувач кафедри англійської мови та перекладу  
Дрогобицького державного педагогічного університету імені Івана Франка  
(Дрогобич, Львівська область, Україна) jutal@dspu.edu.ua*

## АНГЛІСЬКІ КОВІД-19 СКЛАДНІ НЕОЛОГІЗМИ: СТРУКТУРНІ ХАРАКТЕРИСТИКИ

*У статті здійснено аналіз англійських Ковід-19 складних неологізмів за структурними характеристиками. Неологізмам приділяють увагу різноманітні вітчизняні та зарубіжні вчені. Виокремлено нейтральні Ковід-19 складні неологізми, морфологічні складні неологізми, синтаксичні складні неологізми. Нейтральні Ковід-19 складні неологізми у свою чергу поділяються прості нейтральні, похідні нейтральні та скорочені нейтральні. Джерельною базою дослідження слугують лексикографічні джерела: Оксфордський словник, словник Меріам-Вебстер словник Урбан та ін. Мета дослідження – схарактеризувати Ковід-19 складні неологізми: структурні характеристики. Методологічна база дослідження: методи аналізу, синтезу, описовий метод, словотвірний аналіз, кількісний аналіз. У нашій вибірці зафіксовано 120 Ковід-19 складних неологізмів. Результати аналізу нашої вибірки засвідчують домінування нейтральних Ковід-19 складних неологізмів. Нейтральні афіксальні Ковід-19 неологізми є менш чисельними у нашій вибірці. У нейтральних складних неологізмах процес складання реалізується без будь-яких сполучних елементів, простим зіставленням двох частин. Розрізняють три підтипи нейтральних складних неологізмів залежно від структури основ. Прості нейтральні складні неологізми: вони складаються з простих безафіксних основ. Третій підтип нейтральних складних неологізмів називають підрядними. Ці слова за своєю будовою мають скорочену (підрядну) основу. У нашій вибірці немає контактних слук. Найменш чисельнішими у нашій вибірці є синтаксичні та морфологічні Ковід-19 складні неологізми. Домінування нейтральних Ковід-19 складних неологізмів можна пояснити законом мовної економії – прагнення мовця зекономити зусилля при користуванні мовленням. Перспективи подальших досліджень полягають у проведенні досліджень скорочень Covid-19.*

**Ключові слова:** словотвір, Covid-19 складний неологізм, структурні характеристики.

**The Problem Statement.** The Covid-19 had impact on all spheres of our life. Numerous Covid-19 neologisms penetrated into the English language.

**The Analysis of Recent Researches and Publications.** Many domestic and foreign scholars focus on neologisms. Yu. Zatsnyi, A. Yankov did research on neologisms in the English language (Zatsnyi, Yankov, 2008). Ukrainian linguists T. Kosmeda, T. Osipova, V. Slipetska focused on the changes in communication during the COVID-19 pandemic, Coronavirus as a factor of new terms appearing in linguistics (Kosmeda, Osipova, Slipetska, 2021), I. Alyeksyeyeva and the others analyzed new cultural practices through neologisms (Alyeksyeyeva, 2022), Yu. Talalay focused on the analysis of word-formation types and thematic groups of the COVID-19 neologisms (Talalay, 2023); O. Tkachuk-Miroshnychenko (Tkachuk-Miroshnychenko, 2021). Among foreign scholars we should single out the papers by Al-Salman Saleh and Ahmad S. Haider (Al-Salman, Ahmad, 2021), D. Bilefsky and C. Yeginsu (Bilefsky, Yeginsu, 2020), D. Crystal (Crystal, 2020), etc.

**The purpose of the research** is to characterize the Covid-19 neologisms compounds, their structural characteristics.

**The source base** of the research is social networking websites, New Word We Created Dictionary (New Word We Created Dictionary, 2023), Urban Dictionary (Urban Dictionary, 2023), Merriam-Webster Dictionary (Merriam-Webster Dictionary, 2023).

**The methodology of the research** is based on the methods of analysis, synthesis, a descriptive method, word-formation analysis, quantitative analysis.

**The Statement of the Basic Material.** The Covid-19 pandemic took the world by the storm and had impact on the English language. The English language was enriched with the COVID-19 neologisms. A. Roig-Marín used the term “coroneologisms” to refer to “the rise of many new lexical formations, mostly blends” during the COVID-19 pandemic (Roig-Marín, 2021).

In the article written by Yu. Talalay the chief focus was on the word-formation ways (Talalay, 2023). Composition is considered to be one of the dominant ways of word-formation. According to Oxford English Dictionary composition – the action of putting together or combining; the fact of being put together or combined; combination (of things as parts or elements of a whole) (Oxford English Dictionary, 2023).

From the point of view of a structural approach, compound words are subdivided into neutral, morphological and syntactic (Slipetska, 2009). In neutral compounds the process of compounding is realized without any linking elements, by a mere juxtaposi-

tion of two stems. There are three subtypes of neutral compounds depending on the structure of the constituent stems. Simple neutral compounds: they consist of simple affixless stems. In our sample there are the following simple neutral compounds, for example:

*Coronacut* – a bad haircut given under lockdown coronaphobia The fear of catching the current strain (COVID-19) of human coronavirus, expressed by wearing a face mask in public, or simply avoiding public places, public events and public transport;

*Coronanation* – the time period in which the entire world experienced the Coronavirus outbreak (Urban Dictionary, 2023);

*Zoom mullet* – business on top, pajama pants on the bottom. The perfect pandemic work-from-home attire;

*Zoom fatigue* – being tired after spending too much time on Zoom platform;

*Zoom town* – where housing sales are booming thanks to remote work;

*Coronarelationship* – a new type of relationship during quarantine;

*Corona boyfriend* – a new type of relationship during quarantine;

*Coronaspeak* – neologisms that have entered everyday English discourse during the coronavirus pandemic;

*Coronababie* – babies born in 2020;

*Coronabeard* – no shaving during quarantine;

*Corona hair* – no haircuts during the Covid-19;

*Covid divorce* – divorces during quarantine;

*COVID bubble* – the group of people you socialize or live with during quarantine;

*Coronatar* – a human being that goes into full “end of the world” mode because of the corona virus. Most coronatars buy unbelievable quantities of toilet paper;

*Coronaverse* – the name given to human society in a post Covid-19 world;

*Coronagrass* – a person who informs on those contravening crisis-related restrictions;

*Coronacoma* – when you take sleep so long during quarantine that you don't know what time it is or what is happening in the outside the world and you may as well be in a coma;

*Corona classic* – the original strain of infection rather than a later variant;

*Coronafool* – idiot, who holds a party for 47 people in a 500 square foot apartment during the coronavirus outbreak with no regard for anyone else;

*Coronaclickbait* – false advertisement or short teaser message regarding the Covid-19;

*Coronaspeck* – meaning weight gained because of isolating (with food) during the pandemic.

The term is a take on the German *kummerspeck*, meaning weight gained as a result of emotional eating;

*Coronarate* – the inflated cost of Goods and PPE due to the Covid19 Coronavirus;

*Coronadodge* – swerving to avoid passers-by to comply with distance restrictions;

*Covidstay* – isolation, home stay, quarantine resulting from the Covid-19 Pandemic of 2020;

*Corona crunch* – the dramatic impact of the pandemic on e.g university income, investment returns;

*Covid marshals* – officials sent to public locations to enforce new UK social distancing rules from September 2020;

*Wobble room* – a safe physical space designated for the use of those experiencing psychological distress.

Compounds which have affixes in their structure are called derived or derivational compounds, for example:

*Coronacoaster* – emotions experienced during the pandemic;

*Coronahoarder* – someone who attempts to conquer the uncertainty of the Coronavirus by hoarding common household goods, such as toilet paper (Urban Dictionary, 2023);

*Coronaclosed* – quarantine during the Covid-19;

*Zoombombing* – hijacking a video call;

*Doomscrolling* – constantly refreshing feeds for the latest news about the pandemic;

*Lockdowners* – people who stay at home during the pandemic;

*Cluttercore* – an aesthetic that embraces a large amount of books and décor;

*Coronawashing* – corporations or individuals taking advantage of the pandemic to promote their altruism, philanthropy and achievements (Thorne, 2020);

*Corona-compromised* – (of an event) called off, postponed or abandoned due to the ongoing threat of the virus (Thorne, 2020);

*Corona-shaming* – publicly criticising those, particularly celebrities, who have infringed public health regulations;

*Vaccine nationalism* – competing to discover and produce an antiviral vaccine (benefitting from prestige thus acquired) and potentially then restricting availability to one's own citizens;

*Clandestine barbers* – hairdressers operating illicitly before being allowed to reopen after lockdown;

*Surge-jabbing* – an intensification of a vaccination programme to deal with a highly contagious new variant, as in the UK in May 2021;

*Boomer remover* – the coronavirus viewed as a phenomenon resulting in the decimation of the baby-boomer demographic;

*Long-haulers* – recovered victims of the virus who suffer long-term after-effects;

*Vaccine-hunters* – desperate individuals who, rather than wait for invitation to be vaccinated, stalk a pharmacy, hospital or other vaccination site in the hope of obtaining a leftover dose;

*Videofurbishing* – enhancing one's décor prior to videoconferencing;

*Virtual backgrounding* – adjusting one's visible décor for videoconferencing;

*Couple-spreading* – couples permitted under regulations to walk together taking up excessive space in public places;

*Overreaching* – enforcing crisis-related regulations too zealously;

*Coronasnitching* – informing on those contravening crisis-related restrictions;

*Viral anxiety* – fear and uncertainty, sometimes excessive, due to the COVID-19 outbreak and its ramifications;

*Digital vigilance* – raising awareness of and guarding against cybercrime and fraudulent claims;

*Armchair virologist* – an unqualified self-styled expert on viral spread dispensing explanations and/or advice;

*Disaster capitalism* – profiting, profiteering and exploitation in conditions of local and global crisis;

*Doomsurfing* – slang for the driving need to search the internet for saddening, disheartening or depressing news (Merriam-Webster Dictionary, 2023).

The third subtype of neutral compounds is called contracted compounds. These words have a shortened (contracted) stem in their structure. In our sample there are no contracted compounds.

**Morphological** compounds are few in number: *Blursday* – a day of the week indistinguishable from any other during quarantine.

**Syntactic:** *Stay-at-home*; *whack-a-mole* – a piecemeal response to a major problem, such as ad hoc local lockdowns in the context of a second wave of infection.

**The Conclusions and Prospects for Further Research.** According to the sample analysis results, simple compound neutral Covid-19 neologisms are predominant. This predominance can be explained by the law of a language economy. The prospects of further research consist in going research on the Covid-19 shortenings.

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