

Contextual and Linguistic Analysis of Neologism Related to COVID 19

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Language is dynamic to accommodate new happenings in the society. Neology is the process of generating new lexical units by forging new forms or by revisiting the meaning of already existing forms. The emergence of COVID-19 has contributed in the formation of global neologisms. The objective of this research is to explore the formation and functions of neologisms that are coined in English during the outbreak of COVID-19. The linguistic and contextual analysis of neologisms will be undertaken. A descriptive qualitative method of analysis is used. The data are collected from articles, books, Oxford Corpus, social media retrieved from January to March 2021 around the issue of COVID-19. The study analyses all forms and functions of derivation such as portmanteaus or blending, acronyms and affixation and to show how words are related and are identified in different contexts. Various theoretical approaches to neologisms are discussed. MAK Halliday functional theory is used to account the changes in the language use. This study adds more validation to the COVID-19 neologisms which are followed as communicative and terminological strategies by institutions and media. These technical vocabularies have transcended linguistic boundaries. Neology continues to be the mechanism that generates new lexical forms, thus participating in the dynamism of the language to retain its status as alive. The emergence of neologisms reveals the vitality of the English language in order to respond to emerging situations in times of crisis. The neology helps in the process to preserve the vitality of a language. The study recommends that further research is to be carried out on the new terms in case to justify the vitality of English Language.

Keywords: Neologism; Covid-19; Linguistics; Communicative; Dynamism