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# Resume

## **Postcovid syndrome in the language. Polish-Bulgarian case study (experimental research report)**

This monograph is comparative Polish-Bulgarian study. The subject of exploration is language “in its happening”. The dynamic approach to the problem is crucial here, because conceptualization as a process of creating meaning is based on experiences relating to the directly experienced reality. The study used data obtained through an association experiment and a survey experiment simultaneously. This method is used to emphasize the role of participants in a communication event as conceptualizers. In this particular case, they are young people, Polish and Bulgarian students.

The overarching goal of the study was to create a holistic, synthetic, cognitive definition of the meaning of the studied concepts in both languages and to compare the reconstructed linguistic-cultural pictures of these concepts. In particular, the assumptions of the Lublin school of ethnolinguistics (with some modifications) were used in terms of defining and profiling concepts. The additional aim of the study was to identify compositional patterns, on the basis of which series of words with at least one common component are created (in this case, the *korona-* or *ковид-* component). To isolate the construction scheme of this type of composites, we used the tool developed by Ronald Langacker (Langacker 2009).

In addition, the study allowed to describe the associative fields of the research subject. The conducted linguistic empirical study is an associative experiment in the classical sense, as a result of which we obtain norms of free associations. Associative norms were used to reinforce the linguistic-cultural pictures of the concepts.

The subject of the study was three concepts related to different phases of development and response to the pandemic reality, selected taking into account their popularity in both languages and taking into account the presence and importance of the phenomenon they call in the pandemic existence of young people. They are accessed by lexemes composed of the first component *korona-* or *ковид-*: *koronapanika* vs. *коронапаника*, *koronaparty* vs. *ковидкупон*, *koronaturystyka* vs. *ковидтуризъм*.

The research is based on experimental data obtained through live surveys conducted among Polish and Bulgarian students. The surveys were collected in February 2022. The survey involved the same number, i.e. 50 people each, of Polish students (students of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań) and Bulgarian students (students of Kliment Ohrid University in Sofia and od New Bulgarian University in Sofia). Among the Polish respondents,

35 are women and 15 are men, mostly aged 19 to 30 (applies to 47 people) and three people over 40. All Polish respondents are students of humanities: Balkan studies, Bulgarian studies, Croatian studies, Czech studies and Polish studies. Among the Bulgarian respondents there are also more women (33 people) than men (15 people). In two surveys, respondents did not indicate demographic data. The age of Bulgarian students ranges from 18 to 26 years. Most of them are students of public relations (28 people), as well as such faculties as: communication management, art studies, film studies, interior design, finance, advertising, general and applied biology.

Two separate surveys were conducted among both groups. The association experiment was performed live in classrooms. Traditional paper questionnaires were distributed to students, containing the command: *Proszę wskazać pierwsze słowa, jakie przyjdą Ci do głowy po przeczytaniu wyrazów: koronaturystyka, koronaparty, koronapanika* / Напишете първите думи, за които се сетите, като прочетете следните думи: ковидтуризъм, ковидкупон, коронапаника [Please indicate the first words that come to your mind after reading the words: ...]. Then, the same groups of students were given a second questionnaire, containing three commands: 1) pol. *Co Twoim zdaniem oznacza słowo: koronaturystyka, koronaparty, koronapanika?* / bulg. Какво означава според теб дума: ковидтуризъм, ковидкупон, коронапаника? [What do you think the word means:...]; 2) pol. *Proszę zbudować zdanie z użyciem słowa: koronaturystyka, koronaparty, koronapanika* / bulg. Направете изречение с думата: ковидтуризъм, ковидкупон, коронапаника [Please build a sentence using the word:...]; 3) pol. *Proszę wskazać podobne słowa z komponentem korona-* / Посочете подобни думи, започващи с ковид- или корона- [Please indicate similar words with component/s...].

The book consists of five chapters. The first chapter of the title *Research on changes in Polish and Bulgarian languages in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic* presents the state of virolinguistic research in Poland and Bulgaria. Particular attention was paid to studies on the impact of media language on social reactions and attitudes. The second chapter *Subject of research and research method*, is devoted to the description of the subject of the research, the formulation of the research subjectives and the description of the research methods. In the third part of the monograph, entitled *Composite construction scheme*, a word-formation construction scheme was distinguished for Polish compounds with the component *korona-* and for Bulgarian compounds with the components *ковид-* and *корона-*. The fourth chapter, entitled *From pandemic panic to corona tourism. A network of associations*, presents the association fields of the studied concepts in both languages. In the fifth chapter, entitled *Results of the experimental study*, the results of the experimental study, based on definitional and contextual data, were analyzed in detail. In addition, the item is equipped with indices of Polish and Bulgarian derivatives and an index of words-reactions obtained as a result of an associative study. It also contains a bibliography, an index of names and a list of tables, diagrams and charts.

The review of compound structures created in the word-formation experiment by Polish and Bulgarian students showed the fundamental similarity of the construction scheme in both languages. However, while in the Polish language this scheme starts to function autonomously early and new compounds are automatically generated on the basis of it in the native context, borrowings predominate in the Bulgarian language, and the strong influence of the English language on the Bulgarian language in terms of the productivity of the *covid-* component is also noticeable. Polish composita may have a hybrid form (foreign component + native component) or may imitate English expressions (foreign component +

foreign component). Bulgarian compounds, apart from a large group of integer borrowings or structures in which the second term is internationalism, also take the form of hybrids (foreign component + native component). However, Bulgarian students did not create pseudo-anglicisms.

The results of the associative study showed that the studied lexemes are clearly anchored in the linguistic awareness of young Poles and Bulgarians, although the semantic structure of words is largely variant. This is evidenced by the high dispersion of linguistic reactions. The high diversity of reaction words proves a relatively low degree of stabilization of lexical units in the studied languages and shows that we are dealing with a constantly active process of creating new meanings.

Finally, based on definitional and contextual data, it was possible to reconstruct the linguistic-cultural pictures of the studied concepts. This study allowed for the formulation of synthetic cognitive definitions of the meaning of lexemes. According to the results of the study, the concepts are understood as:

#### KORONAPANIKA / КОРОНАПАНИКА

- 1) **only in Polish:** a number of social behaviors caused by fear of the Covid-19 pandemic and the virus itself, manifestations of such behaviors are: impulsive and irrational actions, preventive buying of necessities and groceries, avoiding social contacts, excessive care for cleanliness, building and relying on conspiracy theories;
- 2) panic or fear, anxiety, high-level global and local tension caused by the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and/or which occurred in the initial phase of the pandemic; **and throughout the pandemic (only in Bulgarian);**
- 3) high level of fear of contracting the coronavirus;
- 4) excessive, unnecessary and exaggerated fear, the source of which is unreliable media information about the coronavirus.

#### KORONAPARTY / КОВИДКУПОН

- 1) a social meeting or other type of meeting with the participation of a large number of people, taking place during the Covid-19 pandemic live with signs of illegality (usually at home and/or in secret), carrying a high risk of coronavirus infection due to: participation in a meeting of infected people and/or non-compliance with sanitary rules and restrictions and/or **a conscious desire to become infected in order to gain immunity or dismissal (only in Polish);** due to a skeptical attitude towards the virus, **due to a skeptical attitude towards the government's decisions (only in Polish);**
- 2) a social meeting taking place during the Covid-19 pandemic, in compliance with sanitary rules and restrictions, of an open nature and taking place live: with the enforcement of Covid passports, for a limited number of people, with social distancing, wearing masks, etc., e.g. wedding for a limited number of people, going to the theater or cinema while maintaining the applicable sanitary rules and restrictions;
- 3) **only in Polish:** online meeting using online tools (Zoom, Skype, FaceTime, etc.), taking the form of a videoconference, involving participation in an official cultural event (e.g. concert, performance, etc.) or having the character of a private meeting, involving, for example, watching movies and/or accompanied by alcohol consumption;
- 4) **only in Bulgarian:** a metaphor used to indicate the outbreak of a pandemic outbreak.

## KORONATURYSTYKA / КОВИДТУРИЗЪМ

- 1) all manifestations of tourist activity (travelling, trips, sightseeing, etc.), carried out during the Covid-19 pandemic;
  - • tourist activity may be carried out in compliance with the limitations and restrictions imposed by law;
  - or on the contrary:
    - • tourist activity can be carried out against and regardless of the limitations and restrictions imposed by law, entailing a high risk of disease;
- 2) a way of adapting to a new reality, a new „normality”;
- 3) traveling to places related to the pandemic in some way (places of the PANDEMIC outbreak);
- 4) the cause of losses and financial difficulties in the tourism sector or an opportunity for exotic (Zanzibar, Tanzania, Jamaica, etc.) **and low-budget travel (only in Polish)**;
- 5) a dangerous manifestation of irresponsibility.

Each of the studied lexemes in the semantic layer turns out to be variant, i.e. it can be understood in different ways, sometimes certain semantics within one word even seem to exclude each other (for example in the understanding of coronatourism as: 1) limited tourism, practiced with the observance of pandemic restrictions vs. 2) tourism practiced against pandemic bans, risks, etc. and other similar ones). Semantic variations are confirmed by data from other surveys – definition and contextual data. The semantic diffusion of the studied lexical units turns out to be clear, especially when we take into account the high dispersion of linguistic reactions in the study at all its levels. We mean, on the one hand, a relatively large diversity of words-reactions in response to specific linguistic stimuli, and on the other hand, the multiplicity of descriptor features attributed to the studied phenomena.

In general, the facts presented above should indicate a small degree of stabilization of lexical units in the studied languages. However, the studied concepts are characterized by a high degree of stereotyping in both Polish and Bulgarian. Thus, we can clearly see that although we are dealing with a live process of creating new meanings all the time and with ideas of concepts that are shaped in the social experiential frames. And it is the experiential frame that plays a key role in this case. To a large extent, it is common to both young Poles and Bulgarians.

The experiential frame is the reality of the pandemic (related fears, tensions, limitations, such as lockdown), but also the common needs of the social group under study, such as the need to explore the world, recognize one's own identity, and build individual autonomy in various contexts. It largely influences the formation of such pictures of the studied concepts that have many tangents in both languages. Polish and Bulgarian linguistic-cultural pictures of *koronapanika*/коронапаника, *koronaparty*/ковидкупон and *koronaturystyka*/ковидтуризъм are based on images that are not yet fixed in these languages, but are available through these languages and refer to new and common knowledge about the world.