

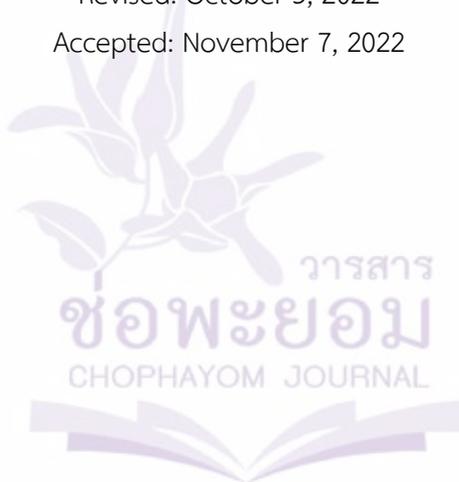
New Normal Words: An Analysis of Word Formation Processes of COVID-19 Neologisms

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Abstract

New words always occur in a language since people have the creativity to develop and form new words. They are often produced for naming newly created things and concepts, or old ideas that have taken on a new cultural context, mainly as a result of historical and social changes (Lin, 2013). Such process of creating new words is called neologism. Nowadays, it could be noticed that there are a number of neologisms coined in reference to the global pandemic of COVID-19. Therefore, this study highlighted neologisms as a linguistic phenomenon that has been aroused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The aim of the study is to investigate the common types of word formation processes involved in creating COVID-19-related neologisms based on the framework proposed by O'Grady et al. (2005) and Yule (2006). The research data were collected from lists of words related to COVID-19 selected from five different websites, published from March to October 2020. The results revealed that blending, compounding, and multiple processes are the three most frequently employed processes in creating COVID-19-related neologisms. These three processes are the most productive ways for creating COVID-19-related words mainly because a newly derived word is meaningful consisting of two or more words combined together and its meaning can be deducible from its constituents. Moreover, most of the new words have a component that is related to a pandemic situation, so they are able to connect to people's lives during the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, the study could

illustrate how language adapts to new environmental conditions by creating new words using already existing words. It also established that the rise of the coronavirus pandemic has accounted for the recent increase of numerous neologisms in English.

Keywords: COVID-19, Coronavirus, new words, neologisms, word formation processes

Introduction

In 2020, the entire world experienced the most severe global health crisis of the century due to the pandemic of novel coronavirus disease 2019, also known as COVID-19. In the six months since the infections were found, the virus has affected over 7 million patients worldwide and a death toll has surpassed 400,000 (Decerf, Ferreira, Mahler, & Sterck, 2020). Alongside the tremendous changes in public health, COVID-19 has also caused an upheaval in the use of language. The coronavirus has given rise to a bunch of new usage of some existing words, and recalled certain words from disuse or oblivion. For example, there has been an increase in the use of words such as social distancing, the previously unknown medical jargon which is now a newly ubiquitous term referring to measures that keep a certain distance from other people to avoid infection. Apart from bringing some old words to a new light, the pandemic has also introduced an extraordinary range of newly coined words. They have been created accordingly in response to the pandemic to describe this new type of social phenomenon. For example, there is



the emergence of new words such as covidiot (someone who disregards public health advice), locktail (a cocktail one enjoys during lockdown), and doomscrolling (the act of endlessly reading negative pandemic news on the phone).

In linguistics, these newly created words are called neologisms. Neologisms can be formed in various ways according to the rules of word formation processes. Such patterns of word formation that are commonly used to create new words are, for example, compounding (combining two existing words into a new one), blending (combining some parts of two existing words), and clipping (shortening part of a word). Different types of word formation processes are also responsible for creating the neologisms of COVID-19 (Reichelt, 2020). For example, the compound Zoom mom (mothers who spend too much time using Zoom program) results from combining the words Zoom and mom; coronacation (the holidays taken due to the pandemic) is formed by blending coronavirus and vacation; and rona is a clipped form of coronavirus. Essentially, the pandemic has resulted in the development of new words in helping to understand and cope with the changes that happen to humanity.

There have been several studies discussing the pandemic in respect of the field of language, in particular the occurrence of the terminology and neologisms (e.g., Alyeksyeyeva, Chaiuk, and Galitska, 2020; Asif et al., 2021; Al-Azzawi and Haleem, 2021; Mweri, 2021; Ibrahim et al., 2020). The main objectives of these studies are to

highlight the linguistic change and to examine the neologisms created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As an illustration, three studies analyzed and discussed the phenomenon of neologisms relating to the coronavirus pandemic specifically: Asif et al. (2021), Al-Azzawi and Haleem (2021), and Ibrahim et al. (2020). These studies investigated language developments, especially the appearance of new vocabulary, and classified new words by using Krishnamurthy's model of neologism (2010). According to Krishnamurthy's model, neologisms related to COVID-19 were created by three major strategies, namely word formation (i.e., the creation of new words from scratch), borrowing, and lexical deviation (i.e., the formation of new words from existing words). The results of these three studies suggested that most of the COVID-19 neologisms were formed by the three strategies and they shaped the perceptions and views of people about the new pandemic.

Evidently, the arrival of COVID-19 has had a significant impact on language by resulting in its own specialized discourse. The objective of this study is then to investigate the word formation processes of COVID-19 neologisms. The study will reveal modern tendencies in word formation processes in English in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. That is, it may be revealing to examine the processes that the system of English word formation offers to be used in practice and this may relate to current tendencies in forming neologisms in the language. Moreover, the results of the study are expected to provide a useful foundation for English language



learners in the comprehension of new vocabulary that could lead them to improve their reading skills in general. This study will also help the general audience to better understand the meaning of new words surrounding the pandemic that they might find useful when communicating in real life.

Literature Review

The literature review consists of two major parts, which include the concept of neologisms and word formation processes.

Neologisms

This part provides the description of the general characteristics of neologisms and the background information of the COVID-19-related neologisms.

1. General characteristics of neologisms

There are three basic aspects according to the general characteristics of

neologisms that have been suggested by several scholars.

The first characteristic is the creation of a new word or a new meaning of a word. This aspect involves the inherent semantics of neologisms as a “new word” or a “new meaning” of an existing word. There were many scholars in the field of linguistics who gave a definition to neologism in this aspect. For instance, Newmark (1988), defined neologism as “newly-coined lexical units or existing lexical units that acquire a new sense”. Likewise, neologisms, as

remarked by Cook (2010) and Rets (2014), mean terms that already subsist in a language, but have gained a new definition in the past years.

The second characteristic refers to the notion of a “new concept” or “new culture” occurring in a society. For this aspect, neologisms are regarded as new words created for new experiences, usually when language users cannot identify any correct standard expression to satisfy the communicative purpose of their immediate environment. To support this aspect, Mair (2006) gave an idea that “the most salient type of neologism is a word which is new in its form and which refers to a concept which is new”. Kubova (2009) also suggested that neologisms are a result of social development and technological advancements.

The third characteristic involves the non-presence or recent presence in dictionaries and the life cycle of neologisms. According to Aduda (2013) and Kemmer (2006), a neologism is a recent concept used in the general discourse, but still not completely embraced in a language. In terms of the life cycle, Galperin, (1981) refers to a neologism as “the given word or meaning holds only in the given context and is meant only to serve the occasion”. As a result, some of neologisms only exist for a short period of time as they are invented for certain use scenarios at the time of speech.

After examining these three aspects, the present study defines neologisms as words that are inventive in their form or meaning. They often denote new concepts or ideas that reflect the



current phenomenon in the society. Due to the recency of their introduction to the language, they may have entered into the mainstream usage, but have not yet to be formally documented in dictionaries.

2. Neologisms of COVID-19

Throughout history, extraordinary circumstances or global events like natural disaster or war often led to extensive change and innovation in language, requiring a completely new vocabulary to process and describe the dramatic shifts to new reality. Accordingly, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a rapid growth in the formation of new words in English. Since people are trying to make sense of a new reality, the development of new language is required to respond to it. A whole new set of vocabulary is then created to designate the new phenomenon especially the pandemic itself and its effect on society. In other words, neologisms are employed to represent and account for this unprecedented circumstance. With COVID-19 still a present threat, new words around it are being spawned quickly and gradually gaining more prominence.

Word Formation Processes

There are various definitions of word formation processes (also called morphological processes) given by linguistic scholars. Most of the definitions involve the ways in which new complex words are formed by composing other words (Huddleston, 2002;

Plag, 2003). Therefore, based on some previous definitions, it can be concluded that that word formation processes refer to the constructive ways a language produces new words by modifying existing words in a certain way.

This study relies on the classifications of word formation processes proposed by O'Grady et al. (2005) and Yule (2006), which could be divided into eleven types as follows:

1) Compounding – the process of combining two or more words that have different meanings to form a new word. Compounding can be a combination of words with the same type or different types. In cases they are words from different type, the rightmost element normally serves as the head that can determine the semantic category of that compound such as sugar-free, living room, and daydream.

2) Affixation – the process of adding affix(es) to an existing word in generating new terms. In other words, affixation refers to the addition of one or more affixes to change the word's part of speech or its meaning in order to form a new complex word. There are two main types of affixes in English: prefixes and suffixes. For example, in the word mismanagement, mis- is the prefix and -ment is the suffix.

3) Conversion – the process of changing the category of a word without any change in its form, such as a verb to a noun, to create a new word. That is, the word's class and meaning change without the appendix of the word being added or reduced. Therefore,



conversion is also called zero derivation or functional shift. For example, the noun email is converted into a verb: to email (you).

4) Blending – the process of merging parts of two or more separate words into one word. Consequently, a newly formed word will acquire a combined meaning of parts of each original word. Blended words are sometimes regarded as portmanteaus or telescoped words. For example, brunch is a blend of two words, breakfast and lunch.

5) Acronyms and abbreviations – the process of combining the first letters of a group of words to create a new word. If the new word is pronounced as a single word, it is called “acronyms” such as SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome). Whereas, if the new word is pronounced as individual letters, it is called “abbreviations” or “initialisms” such as FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation).

6) Clipping – the process of forming a word out of a long existing word by reducing it into a new shortened version. Clipping is also known as “shortening” or “truncation”. Such that the shortened form represents the word in its entirety. For example, the words burger, condo, and fridge are clipped from hamburger, condominium, and refrigerator respectively.

7) Borrowing – the process of taking a word directly from a foreign language to fit into the vocabulary of another; therefore, no new word is formed. The words formed by borrowing can also be called “loanwords”. For example, the words ballet, cafe, croissant come from French.

8) Backformation – the process of shifting a word's function from one category to another. Cases of backformation occur when clipping off a word's affix to derive a new word with a new function and meaning. For example, the nouns regulation, peddler, and editor are backformed to form the verbs regulate, peddle, and edit respectively.

9) Coinage – the process of inventing a new word from scratch in a certain context to fit some purpose. It means coinage words are completely new and previously did not exist in a language. Normally, coinage can be found in the case of product or brand names such as eBay, Google, and Kodak.

10) Reduplication – the process of creating new words by repeating certain sounds of existing words. All or part of a word is doubled exactly or with a slight phonological change such as bye-bye, walkie-talkie, and ping-pong.

11) Multiple processes – the operation of more than one process at work in the creation of a new word. That is, a word can be constructed by a mixture of word formations. For example, the word footballer is a product of compounding (foot + ball) and affixation (football + -er).

Conceptual framework

The objective of this study is the investigation of word formation processes of COVID-19 neologisms. In this regard, only newly created words in English were the focus of this study, that is,



already existing words related to the pandemic were not included in the data set. To conduct the study, the data were collected from the word lists found in five websites, which provide a glossary of key COVID-19 terms, published by Merriam-Webster Dictionary, Oxford English Dictionary, Dictionary.com, Tony Thorne (a noted British linguist and lexicographer), and Bangkok Post Newspaper. The new words gathered from those websites were checked for their existence with Merriam-Webster Dictionary Online and Oxford English Dictionary Online. If they were recently added into the dictionaries due to COVID-19 (new entries in 2020) or not found in both dictionaries, they were considered to be new words. Then, all the new words were analyzed in terms of their word formation processes based on the theories proposed by O'Grady, et al. (2005) and Yule (2006) as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Types of Word Formation Processes

Word Formation Process	Definition	Example
Compounding	Combining two words to create a new word	girl + friend = girlfriend ice + cream =ice-cream
Affixation	Adding one or more affixes (i.e., prefixes and suffixes (to a word	un + -usual = unusual port
Conversion	Changing the category of a word (functional shift)	- +able = portable vacation) N (→) V
Blending	Merging parts of two words together into a new word	"I'm vacationing in Paris". binary + digit = bit
Acronyms and Abbreviations	Extracting the initial letters of several words to form a word	spoon + fork = spork ASAP (As Soon As Possible)
Clipping	Deleting part of a polysyllabic word	HR (Human Resources) grandma (grandmother)
Borrowing	Borrowing words from foreign languages	bot (robot) yogurt (Turkish)
Backformation	Removing a suffix of a word to form another word type	pretzel (German) donation (N) → donate (V)
Coinage	Inventing totally new terms	editor (N) → edit (V)
Reduplication	Repeating all or part of a word	granola, nylon, vaseline
Multiple Processes	Operating multiple processes to create a word	hush-hush, easy-peasy snowball (V) → compounding + conversion

Source: O'Grady et al. (2005) and Yule (2006)

Related research

1) The Studies on the COVID-19-Related Neologisms

Akut (2020) investigated medical neologisms associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Medical neologisms related to COVID-19 were collected from five medical articles and analyzed to identify



their morphological structures. The results showed that most of the neologisms found were nouns. Compounding, blending, and affixation were the most frequent word formation processes used to form medical neologisms.

Khalfan, Batool, and Shehzad (2020) investigated COVID-19 neologisms by focusing on language-mind relationship related to the linguistic relativity. The samples of 25 neologisms related to COVID-19 from online dictionaries and Twitter.com were selected for analysis. The results showed that these terms were categorized into scientific and pop culture neologisms, and they were intended to offer scientific and technical terms in response to new social reality or reflect people's perception of the world and the situational facets of new experiences in society.

Alyeksyeyeva et al. (2020) analyzed neologisms that became part of everyday English due to COVID-19. The three theories of neologisms, namely stylistic, etymological, and denotational were applied to analyze neologisms in this study. The data were neologisms obtained from British and American websites and articles related to the pandemic. The results showed that stylistic neologisms used to be medical terms but in 2020 have moved into everyday discourse; etymological neologisms have changed their meaning though preserved their form; denotational neologisms emerged to name new phenomena.

Asif et al. (2021) explored the creation of new words and expressions that emerged due to COVID-19. This research relied on

three strategies of creating neologism from Krishnamurthy's framework (2010), i.e., word formation, borrowing, and lexical deviation. The data were collected from websites, Oxford Corpus, books, articles, and social media (Twitter). The findings revealed that many of new words used during the pandemic were not entirely new, but they were rather unfamiliar until 2020. Most of the neologisms were nouns, verbs, and adjectives.

2) The Studies on the Word Formation Processes of Neologisms

Shahlee and Ahmad (2020) examined the neologisms created among the public figures on social media platforms in terms of morphological processes. The samples of 40 neologisms were collected from postings in social media (Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter) and analyzed qualitatively based on the 11 types of morphological processes proposed by Murray (1995). The results showed that blending occurred at the highest percentage (24.3%), followed by acronym (19.5%), abbreviation (14.6%), compounding (14.6%), conversion (7.3%), and reduplication (4.9%).

Ratih and Gusdian (2018) investigated word formation processes in English new words from the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) online. Systematic random sampling was utilized to obtain samples of new words from 2012 to 2016. The results of the study showed that the productive processes of creating new words in English between 2012 and 2016 were affixation (239 words), compounding (137 words), blending (63 words), clipping (37 words), acronyms (11 words), folk etymology (11 words), borrowing (8



words), abbreviation (7 words), and back-formation (1 word).

Liu and Liu (2014) conducted an analysis of word formation processes of neologisms on the internet. The data used for the study were 210 words which were collected from www.wordspy.com, and under category Computer, the subdivision Internet was selected for analysis. The results indicated that the most commonly used process to form new words of netspeak was compounding (154 words). This was followed by blending (33 words), affixation (13 words), old words with new meaning (5 words), conversion (2 words), acronyms (2 words), and clipping (1 word).

Methodology

This study used a qualitative design and a descriptive method to analyze the processes of word formation for COVID-19 related neologisms. The researcher selected five reliable websites that contain the lists of new words connected to COVID-19 as the samples to analyze. The five websites and their names of the word lists are as follows:

- 1) Oxford English Dictionary (OED) Online: New words list April 2020, New words list July 2020
- 2) Merriam Webster Dictionary Online: Coronavirus and the New Words We Added to the Dictionary in March 2020
- 3) Dictionary.com: New Words We Created Because Of Coronavirus
- 4) Bangkok Post Online: Covid-19 Terminology

5) Language and innovation.com: #CORONASPEAK – the language of Covid-19 goes viral – 2

To obtain data for the study, a number of new words were collected and checked to determine whether they were present in dictionaries or not. If they were not found or had recently been added to the dictionaries in 2020, they were considered to be new words. Two comprehensive English dictionaries were chosen as the criteria in finding new words, namely Merriam-Webster Dictionary and Oxford English Dictionary, which can be accessed through www.merriam-webster.com and www.oed.com respectively. These dictionaries represent the two main varieties of English; Merriam-Webster is an American English dictionary, while the Oxford English Dictionary is a British English dictionary. More importantly, most of the entries in both dictionaries include not only a definition, but also the history of each word, i.e., the year in which that word first appeared or entered the English language.

Results

In order to answer the research question, this section presents the frequency of word formation processes found in the data and a detailed analysis of each process.

According to the framework of the study, the total number of the new words included in the word lists is 150 words and they could be classified into major six processes, namely 1) blending, 2)

compounding, 3) multiple processes, 4) clipping, 5) acronyms and abbreviations and 6) affixation.

Table 2: The Frequency of Word Formation Processes in Neologisms of COVID-19

Word Formation Process	Frequency of Usage	Percentage(%)
1. Blending	62	41.33%
2. Compounding	42	28.00%
3. Multiple Processes	19	12.68%
4. Clipping	14	9.33%
5. Acronyms and Abbreviations	8	5.33%
6. Affixation	5	3.33%
Total	150	100.00%

The table given above shows the frequency of each of the six processes used to create COVID-19 related neologisms.

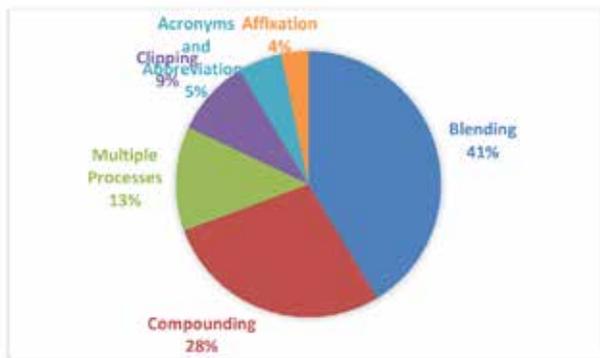


Figure 1 The occurrence frequency of each type of word formation processes

The diagram above shows the productivity of word formation processes in creating COVID-19 related neologisms. The percentages of the six processes found exhibit that the most productive process occurs to be blending, making 41% out of 150 analyzed words. Then, this is followed by compounding (28%) and multiple processes (13%) respectively. Meanwhile, clipping is considered as next rank with the percentage 9%. Finally, acronyms and abbreviations and affixation have the least number of occurrences in the data set. However, the researcher found no instances of conversion, borrowing, backformation, coinage, and reduplication at all in this data.

The next section gives a detailed analysis of the six processes. For each process, its specific characteristics of formation are described and some examples are provided.

Blending

In this study, there were four patterns found in creating new words by joining different parts of two words. The first pattern was the whole first word was blended with the final part of the second word, such as drivecation (drive and vacation). The second pattern was the initial part of the first word was blended with the final part of the second word, such as lockstalgia (lockdown and nostalgia). The third pattern was the initial part of the first word was blended with the whole second word, such as elbump (elbow and bump). The last pattern was the final parts of two words were blended together to form a new word, such as ronavation (corona and renova-



tion).

Compounding

Based on the findings of the study, compound words related to COVID-19 could be divided into the three main categories: noun, verb, and adjective compounds. For noun compounds, there were two patterns found in this study: noun and noun (e.g. coronaphobia), and adjective and noun (e.g. upperwear). For verb compounds, there were two patterns found in this study: noun and verb (e.g. doomscrolling), and verb and verb (e.g. Zoom and chill). Finally, for adjective compounds, there was one pattern found in this study: noun and adjective (e.g. coronacranky).

Multiple Processes

Based on the findings of the study, new words created by multiple processes were formed through two word formation processes. The pairing between acronyms and blending contributed to the most frequently used pattern. For example, the word covidiot (covid and idiot), the word covid here was derived from an acronym that stands for coronavirus disease 2019, then the first part of the acronym covid was blended with the final part of the word idiot to form the new word. The next most common patterns found in multiple processes were acronyms and compounding, blending and compounding, and borrowing and blending respectively.

Clipping

In this study, there were two patterns found in creating new words by the clipping process. The first pattern was clipping of the

initial and the final parts, such as rona (coronavirus) and sanny (hand sanitizer). And the second pattern was clipping of the final part, such as corona-fi (corona fiction) and coronalit (corona literature). The first pattern where both the initial and the final parts of original words were clipped was more common in forming new words related to COVID-19.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

In this study, new words were formed from both the acronyms and abbreviations processes. For example, the abbreviation WFA was created by taking the initial letters of each word in the phrase Work From Anywhere, and pronouncing each letter individually. Another example is the acronym word COVID-19 which was formed by combining the initial letters of the full name Corona Virus Disease together with the number 19 from 2019, and pronouncing them as a word. Based on the findings of the study, abbreviations related to COVID-19 were more common than acronyms.

Affixation

In this study, new words were formed by the addition of both prefix and suffix.

For example, the word unlockdown was derived by adding the prefix -un (meaning 'not') to the word lockdown. Another example is the word masklessness which was derived by adding two derivational suffixes -less (meaning 'without') and -ness (to change the word from an adjective to a noun) to the word mask respectively. Between these two affixes, new words related to COVID-19 were



created by using suffixes more than prefixes.

Discussion

From the research results, among the six types, the three most common processes in creating the neologisms of COVID-19 were blending, compounding and multiple processes.

Regarding the blending and compounding processes, there are four key reasons why they are frequently used to create new words related to COVID-19:

Firstly, the similarity between the processes of blending and compounding is that they both are the combination of two or more different words together to create a new word. A resulting word created from these processes is then meaningful because it covers all the meanings of its original parts to convey an intended message. For example, the combination of the words corona and viva via the compounding process generated the new word coronaviva. The word corona was often used to combine with another verb or noun to form a new word referring to activities or entities initiated in the time of COVID-19. The word viva refers to a university oral examination for an academic qualification. Therefore, the new word coronaviva means an oral examination or dissertation defense taken online during the COVID-19 lockdown. Due to such combined senses of its original parts, a word derived from blending or compounding can fully describe a particular situation related to COVID-19.

Secondly, the overall meaning of a new word formed from

blending or compounding can be deducible from the meanings of its constituents. For example, the meaning of the new word upperwear (upper + wear), which is formed from compounding, is quite clear and transparent. That is, the word upper is an adjective that is used to describe things that are situated above or higher than something else. The word wear refers to the act of wearing or clothing that suits a certain time or place. Therefore, the word upperwear refers directly to dressing up the upper half of the body as only that is suitable and visible clothing in a video conference. Since the original words are combined to convey their meanings straightforwardly, people can easily recognize the new word and accurately guess its meaning.

Thirdly, the processes of blending and compounding are two of the simplest ways to form new words (Dika, 2021). They also help reduce the number of words used in expressing an intended idea or message. By combining two or more words together, people are able to communicate effectively and clearly by using just one word. For example, the new word Zoombie (Zoom + zombie) is formed by blending two distinct words into one. The first word is Zoom which is now used as a general term when referring to virtual meetings that replace face-to-face interactions resulted by the pandemic conditions. The second word is zombie which refers to a living dead person who is devoid of personality, thought or emotions. Therefore, the word Zoombie refers to employees who feel very tired and look lifeless after a day full of meetings on Zoom. Appar-



ently, the processes of combining two or more words together can easily be formed and help create a new meaningful word that can express concepts or ideas in a short and concise manner.

Fourthly, according to the results of the study, for many of the new words created by the two processes, one of their components refers directly to a pandemic situation. For example, in the word quaranteam (quarantine + team) which is created from blending, the first component of the word quaran- refers to a preventive isolation measure for people in response to COVID-19. The second component of the word is team meaning a group of people who cooperate together in work or activity. Therefore, the new word quaranteam refers to a social bubble individuals created while in quarantine at home. As seen, since a part of a new word is used to describe a pandemic situation, the new word can clearly describe people's lives during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As for the multiple processes, many of the new words found in this study were created by two different processes, and the most frequent processes were blending and compounding. Therefore, the new words formed by the multiple processes were meaningful taking the meanings of their original parts and their overall meanings were transparent. Moreover, a part of many new words in this study was relevant directly to the incidence of coronavirus or COVID-19. For example, the word COVID, which was formed from the acronym process, is often combined with another word in blending or compounding. This is illustrated in the word covid cop (COVID-19 + cop),

which is created by the acronym and compounding processes to describe someone who makes a judgmental face at people who slack off on preventive measures of COVID-19, e.g., not wearing a mask in public places. Another example is covidiot (COVID-19 + idiot), which is created by the acronym and blending processes to refer to someone who ignores public health measures against the spread of COVID-19. As shown in the above examples, the multiple processes were used to make new words more meaningful and relevant to the new situation under the condition of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Conclusions and Research Recommendations

In conclusion, the main concern of the study is to investigate the way of creating new words from the analysis of word formation processes using the theoretical frameworks proposed by O'Grady et al. (2005) and Yule (2006). The findings indicated that the most productive word formation processes are blending, followed by compounding and multiple processes. People use these processes to create new useful words for addressing their new challenges and experiences during the current COVID-19 crisis, as well as for helping them in communicating in a new reality. The invention of new words also aids in the expression of their opinions and feelings. Besides, many of the new words within the COVID-19 context are play on words that are commonly used in everyday life. In this sense, people can mostly guess and easily understand the intended



meaning of the newly-formed words.

For further studies, a larger amount of data would be required for more reliable and accurate conclusions, or other morphology theories would be included in order to make the analysis more complete. Also, this research only focuses on the characteristics of neologisms, examines the types of word formation processes, and determines the frequency of the processes involved in creating neologisms in the context of COVID-19. In fact, each presence of new words could have a major impact on a language. The researcher suggests further study to enrich the knowledge about the concept of new words in more various aspects; for example, the occurrence of new words connected with other social phenomena – e.g., major social crises or world events such as geophysical disasters, financial crises, national security threats, international wars, etc. in order to provide a better picture of the development of new words in diverse situations.

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