

How the pandemic has been reflected in Slavic languages. Corona and COVID-neologisms in Slavic languages (based on Polish, Czech and Russian)

The experience of living in COVID19 pandemic on lockdown was reflected in new vocabulary. In every Slavic language, new words and expressions emerged. Some of these words are attested in mainstream newspapers and probably will be included soon in dictionaries. Other words are occasional in mems or social media.

The main negative figure of this story is *coronavirus*. Virus as a protein agent, is located on the border between living creature and inanimate substance. In the most Slavic languages the nouns *virus* and *koronavirus* are inanimate with the case ending homonymy accusative = nominative in singular. Only in Polish *wirus* is animate and has accusative = genitive: *wirusa*. The unique animate treating of *wirus* in Polish does makes it is easier to personify virus as an enemy in war rhetoric.

The English word *corona* continues Latin meaning of stellar corona (glowing outer atmosphere) whereas the name for king's head adornment sound differently: *crown*. The difference between meanings '(stellar) corona' and 'crown' has been preserved in some Slavic languages, the first meaning is expressed by the word *korona*, the second by different phonetically related words: Czech *koruna*, Serbian and Croatian *kruna*. In Polish, East Slavic languages and Bulgarian the word *korona* means 'crown' (Russian and Ukranian *korona* were borrowed from Polish). The homonymy between 'crown' and 'corona' in Polish makes it easier to build metaphor and personify of the disease.

Compounds containing *korona* or *Covid* in Slavic languages

Korona and *kovid*-compounds differ to their structure. In Polish the whole word *korona* is usually contained in a new word. In Czech the stem is often mutilated to *koro-* or create a morphologic node, as in *koronositel* 'COVID hotbed'. In Russian the stem *kovid* seems to be a more popular base for neologisms than *korona*, in Czech both: *korona* and *covid/kovid* are popular, in Polish *korona* makes out the vast majority of neologisms.

The neologisms can be classified according to lexical field, to different aspects of life during the pandemic. Some of these fields are listed below:

Virus, disease, health service and fight with the pandemy

Polish: *koronatest* 'test for CoViD', *koronabus* – 'a bus for COVID testing', *koronapanika* 'c. panic'

Russian: *kovidnyj/nekovidnyj* – adjective 'covid related', , *koronakrizis* – 'c. crisis', *kovidlo* – an original neologism taming the disease, created after *strašidlo* 'monster' or *povidlo* 'plum jam', *koronavir'e* 'pandemic'

Czech: *koronáč/koronáče/koronáček* – 'coll. coronavirus', *koronosič/koronositel* 'patient infected with COVID', *korocentrum* - 'CoVid hotbed', *odkoronavirovat/otcovidovat se* 'to disinfect', *koronastan* – 'public stand for COVID testing', *koronárka/covidárium* – 'separate part of hospital for Covid patients', *kovidovač* – 'mean against infection', *kovidoza/koronoviroza/kovidek/covidek* - 'COVID', *zakovidat se* 'to get infected with COVID', *covid'ák/kovid'ák* – 'a person infected with COVID', *virouška* – 'antivirus mask' (from *rouška* 'mask/dressing')

Social distancing, everyday life under lockdown, nad its inconvenience

Polish: *koronaferie/koronawakacje* ‘c. holidays’, *koronaparty/koronaimprza* ‘illegal friendly meeting or (ironic:) staying home on quarantine’, – ‘illegal friendly meeting’, *korontanna*, *koronalia* – ‘quarantine’, *koronnaoszust* ‘c. traudster – person who uses pandemy for trauds, eg. offering an expensive wonder drug’, *koronabajki* ‘c. tales – negation of pandemy (conspiracy theory)’, *koronalans* ‘c. promotion – using pandemic to show themselves in a good light’,

Russian: *karantinkuly* – compound of *karantin* ‘quarantine’ and *kakikuly* ‘holidays’, *karantini* ‘alcoholic drink during pandemy (engl. *quarantini*)’, *udalenka* and *distancionka* ‘home office work’, *zomit'sja* ‘to use zoom platform in distance work’, *koronapsixoz* – ‘c. psychosis’, *koronaskeptiki* – ‘c. sceptic’, *plandemija* ‘presenting pandemy outbreak as a planned conspiracy’.

Czech: *koroizolace* – ‘isolation during pandemy’, *velikoronoce/koronoce/kovidonoce* – ‘Easter during quarantine’, *koronostalgie* – ‘longing for the tomes before pandemy’, *koronadoba* – ‘times of the pandemy’, *koronit* – ‘to spend time during pademy’, *koronákup* – ‘c. shopping – provisions for pandemy’, *koronašpek/koro(na)sádlo* – ‘lit. c. fat – putting on weight under quarantine’, *koronavous* – ‘c moustache – grown during quarantine’, *koroháro* – ‘c. hair - grown during quarantine’, *koronahled* ‘c. look – viewing everything from the point of the pandemic scare’, *alkoronik* – ‘alcoholic during a pandemy’, *koronafest/koronakce* – a public event with limited access during pandemy’, *koronuda* – ‘c. boredom’, *plandemija* ‘presenting pandemy outbreak as a planned conspiracy’.

Using pandemy as an alleged reason for own profits in politics or economy

This aspect of pandemic can be represented by Polish word *koronawybory* ‘c. election’. The presidential election by mail was planned for May the 10th 2020 in Poland, but the project was withdrawn after social protests. Other words from the same lexical fiel are .

koronapolityka – ‘c. politics’, *koronaprezydent* ‘c. president’, *koronabunt* ‘c. rebellion - protest’, *koronademokracja* – ‘c. democracy’.

In Ukrainian even a compound *koronamajdan* has been created as an expression of rebellion against ineffectual administration.

Corona-vocabulary in Slavic languages express the feeling of tiredness and hope, common to the whole world. The brave new world following pandemic has often been called "the new normal": Pl. *nowa normalność* / Ru. *nova normalita* / Cz. *novaja normalnost*’.

Sources of our corona words survey were:

- For Polish: the monitor corpus frazeo.pl.
- For Russian: Facebook groups “Slovo goda” and “Neologism goda”.
- For Czech:- monitor web dictionary of colloquial neologisms: cestina20.cz.

The frequency of quoted words was partially screened in WebCorp (<http://www.webcorp.org.uk>).