

The background of the slide is a dark blue color with several stylized, glowing virus particles scattered across it. These particles are depicted as spherical shapes with numerous small, protruding spikes or filaments, resembling coronaviruses. The particles vary in size and focus, with some appearing sharp and bright, while others are blurred and dimmer in the background.

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How the pandemic has been reflected
in Slavic languages:
Corona and COVID neologisms
in Polish, Czech, and Russian

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Language does not only denote reality but expresses the human experience.

The experience of the Covid-19 pandemic, fear, solitude and loneliness during the lockdown, difficulties and inconveniences in every day life are reflected in new vocabulary of many languages, including Slavic.

The presented survey, restricted to Polish, Czech, and Russian, is a part of a broader research covering different Slavic languages. The article about Covid vocabulary in Slavic languages written by Marek Łaziński and Agnieszka Będkowska Kopczyk (responsible for South-Slavic) will be published in Brill's *Encyclopedia of Slavic Languages and Linguistics*.

The main sources of the research

For Russian:

- Facebook groups “Slovo goda” and “Neologism goda”
- Poguljancy i sididomcy... (interview with Ksenia Turkova - Argumenty i fakty):
 - https://aif.ru/society/education/pogulyancy_i_sididomcy_kak_pandemiya_z_arazila_nashu_rech_i_ischeznet_li_mat?
- V. E. Zamal'dinov: «Virusnye» novoobrazovanija v sovremennoj mediakommunikacii. „Russkaja reč” 6-7/2020, 19-27.

For Polish:

- Monitor corpus frazeo.pl
- Wpływ pandemii koronawirusa na język (interview with Marek Łaziński - University of Warsaw)
 - <https://cwid.uw.edu.pl/wplyw-pandemii-koronawirusa-na-jezyk>

For Czech:

- Monitor web dictionary of colloquial neologisms: cestina20.cz. (For English see: <https://www.english-corpora.org/corona>).

- We focus on neologisms in every day language, first of all new derivatives and compounds, further neosemanticisms and metaphors.
- We do not consider:
 - the specialized medical terminology moved to public discourse , e.g., Rus. *nulevoj pacient*, Pol. *pacjent zero* ,*patient zero* ’, Rus. *immunitet tolpy*, Cz. *stádní imunita* ,herd immunity’.
 - or neologisms used only occasionally in social media, as *koronapierdolec*.

Koronapierdolec – corona daft/nut/freak

KORONOPIERDOLEC

Przyczyny: pierdolec koronowy przenoszony jest drogą medialną i został uwolniony celowo ze szczujni telewizyjno – internetowo – prasowych celem zainfekowania 90% społeczeństwa, stanowi narzędzie służące osiągnięciu globalnych celów polityczno – totalitarnych

Definicja: koronopierdolec psychiczny jest pierwszym zdefiniowanym wirusem koronowym umysłu – SARS.Co.V-3, wywołującym stan ciężkiego psychicznego ocipienia – COVID-20

Podatność: chorują przede wszystkim nosiciele pozbawieni podstawowej wiedzy o świecie, mechanizmach manipulacji oraz szczególnie podatni na całodobową koronową propagandę



Neologisms will be classified according to a lexical field covering different aspects of life during the pandemic

1. Virus, disease, health service, eg. Rus. *kovidka*, Cz. *koronáč*, Pol. *korona*
2. Social distancing, everyday life under lockdown, eg. Rus. *sididomcy*, *poguljancy*, Pol. *koronalia*, Cz. *koroizolace*
3. Economic losses and anti-crisis measures, eg. Rus. *koronaobligacii*, Pol. *koronaobligacje*, Cz. *koronerv*
4. Other inconvenience and risks caused by the pandemic, eg. Rus./Pol./Cz. *koronapanika*, Cz. *koro(na)sádlo*
5. Pandemic denial or using it as an alleged reason for own profits in politics or economy, eg. Rus. *antimasočnik*, Pol. *antymaseczkowiec*, Cz. *antirouškař*

Only the fields 2 and 5 will be presented in details. Some neologisms are universal, as *covidiot*.

Formal differences in structure of derivatives

- In Russian the stem *kovid* seems to be a more popular base for neologisms than *korona*.
- In Polish, an absolute majority of neologisms has the base *korona*, word with a broad homonymy and relative high frequency.
- In Polish the word *korona* is usually entirely contained in a new word. In Czech the stem is often mutilated to *koro-* in *koroizolace*, or creates a morphologic node, in *velikoronoce*.
- In Slovak adjectives *koronavírusový*, *koronový* are used more frequently than in Polish and Czech.

The beginning of *coronavirus* - *corona*

- *Koronaw(v)irus* is an integral English borrowing. According to the rules of Slavic word-formation, the word include an interfix -o- **koronovirus*.
- *Corona/korona* in coronvirus preserves rhe meaning of stellar corona. The of king's head adornment is named differently in many Slavic languages, as in English *crown*: Cz. *koruna*, Serb./Cr./Slov. *kruna*. The homonymy of two meanings is preserved in Polish and Russian.
- The homonymy between 'crown' and 'corona' in Polish makes it easier to build a metaphor of the disease ruling our world, as in many crown-like images and mems.

The cover of Polish weekly “Polityka” with the photo of president Andrzej Duda and the headline ‘Coronation – a way to win the election’



The end of *coronavirus* – *virus*

The word *virus* is animate only in Polish (*wirus*), and sometimes in Ukrainian. It makes it easy to personify a virus as an enemy and use it in the war rhetoric.

An example of a further personification of the virus in Polish is the compound *koronaświrus* that makes use of the phonetic resemblance between the lexemes *wirus* ‘a virus’ and *świrus* ‘a nut/freak’.

Formal structure of *korona* and *kovid* compounds

- *Coronavirus* (*koronawirus*) came into Slavic languages as an integral English borrowing. A regular compound built in Slavic languages according to word-formation rules would include an interfix -o- (e.g., **koronovirus*).
- In Russian the stem *kovid* seems to be a more popular base for neologisms than *korona*
- In Czech both stems *korona* and *covid/kovid* are popular in compounds. *Korona* is often mutilated to *koro-* or create a morphologic node, as in *koroizolace* ‘isolation during the coronavirus pandemic’.
- In Polish *korona* makes out the vast majority of neologisms. Mutilation *koro-* is not possible.

Social distancing, everyday life under lockdown

- **Russian:** *karantinkuly* ‘obligatory lockdown during the coronavirus outbreak’, *karantini* ‘an alcoholic drink during the pandemic’, *sididomcy* ‘people following recommendations of staying home’, *poguljancy* ‘people leaving home and walking on the streets’, *udalenka* and *distancionka* ‘home office work’, *zumiťsja* ‘to use zoom platform in remote work’, *zumbi* ‘a person using Zoom’
- **Polish:** *koronaferie*, *koronawakacje* ‘obligatory lockdown during the coronavirus outbreak’, *koronalia* ‘an (illegal) event or party during the coronavirus quarantine or (ironic:) obligatory staying home in quarantine’, *koronaparty*, *koronaimpreza* – ‘an (illegal) social event or party during the coronavirus pandemic’, *koronashopping* ‘corona shopping; buying groceries in bulk’, *koronaświr/koronaświrus* ‘a person who responds to the coronavirus pandemic with panic’
- **Czech:** *koroizolace* ‘isolation during the coronavirus pandemic’, *koronáce* ‘school lockdown during pandemic’, *velikoronoce/korononoce/ kovidonoce* ‘Easter during the coronavirus quarantine’, *koronostalgie* ‘nostalgia of the times before the pandemic’, *koronadoba* ‘times of the pandemic’, *koronákaza* ‘the coronavirus pandemic’, *koronášup* ‘the second wave of pandemic’, *koronit* ‘to spend time during the pandemic’, *koronákup* ‘buying groceries in bulk’

Pandemic denial or using it as an alleged reason for own profits in politics or economy

- **Russian:** *plandemija* ‘presenting the pandemic outbreak as a planned conspiracy’, *antimasočnik* ‘person refusing to wear a mask’, *ikonovirus*
- **Polish:** *koronabajki* ‘negation of the pandemic by conspiracy theories’, *plandemia* ‘presenting the pandemic outbreak as a planned conspiracy’, *antymaseczkowiec* ‘person refusing to wear a mask’, *koronalans* ‘using the pandemic to promote oneself’, *koronapolityka* – ‘coronavirus politics’, *koronawybory* ‘coronavirus election; the presidential election planned for 10 May 2020’, *koronademokracja* (iron.) ‘the negative impact of Covid-19 measures on democracy’
- **Czech:** *koronafašismus* ‘the negative impact of Covid-19 measures on freedom; (lit.) corona fascism’, *virokracie* ‘power of the virus’, *pandemagog* ‘a pandemic demagogue’, *antirouškař* ‘person refusing to wear a mask’
- **Ukrainian:** *koronamajdan* ‘a rebellion against the ineffectual administration in Ukraine’, *antimasočnik* ‘person refusing to wear a mask’

Virus in allusions and metaphors

Korona-Putin and LGBT virus

The first example is an article entitled Koronaputin ‘Corona-Putin’ about Putin’s plans to introduce amendments to Russian Constitution which enable his next term as president.

Po vsej planete šagaet novyj virus, a po territorii Rossijskoj Federacii šagajut novye popravki k Konstitucii (Radio Svoboda).

The text is a travesty of the Communism Manifesto “A spectre is haunting Europe – the spectre of communism”.

„LGBT virus” in Polish right wings propaganda

A chief education officer of Łódź province in Poland said two weeks before school start in autumn, that “LGBT virus” was be more dangerous for children than pandemic:

„No jesteśmy na etapie wirusa, ale myślę, że ten wirus LGBT, wirus ideologii jest znacznie groźniejszym, bo to jest wirus dehumanizacji społeczeństwa.”

„Yes, we are at the stage of a virus, but I think that this LGBT virus, the virus of ideology, is much more dangerous, because it is a virus of dehumanization of society.’

The “LGBT virus” is one of rhetorical schemes of Poland’s right wing’s propaganda against LGBT people.

New normality

The new world order following the Covid-19 pandemic has often been called “the new normality” or “new reality”:

- Russian *novaja normal'nost'*, *novaja real'nost'*
- Polish *nowa normalność*
- Czech *nová normalita*

We do not know how will the new normality look like. But it will be reflected again in new vocabulary in Slavic languages.

Thank you and
Stay well
Bud'te zdrávi
Будьте здоровы
Bądźcie zdrowi