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LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF CORONA AND COVID-19 RELATED WORDS IN THE MACEDONIAN STANDARD LANGUAGE

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Abstract: Given that the world is still affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and new words related to it are still penetrating the Macedonian language, this qualitative study examines these novel words from a linguistic point of view, stressing their meaning, formation, the word group they belong to and the emerging implications for all language levels. The sample consists of plenty of corona and COVID-19 related terms excerpted from an immense number of electronic journalistic articles published in 2021 and 2022. Processing data and reaching conclusions rests upon the method of interpretative analysis. The results indicate that the pandemic as a global phenomenon has had a huge impact on the Macedonian language as newborn words, mainly nouns and semi-compound nouns, have been introduced. Consequently, multifold implications have arisen on all language levels. In addition, the existing classification of neologisms has been enriched with new categories of neologisms due to the emergence of these recently formed words. Finally, the new corona and COVID-19 related words in the Macedonian language challenge Macedonian linguists particularly with respect to the interpretation of their meaning as well as their potential inclusion in the upcoming editions of the Macedonian monolingual dictionary.

Keywords: *Linguistic analysis; Macedonian language; CORONA and COVID-19 related terms.*

1. Introduction

Language is the most sophisticated means for exchanging information, thoughts and ideas among people and language and society are mutually connected considering that language reflects social occurrences. As a crucial part of society, each language is constantly changing, primarily, in order to meet the needs of its speakers. Thus, some words are not active anymore and become a part of the passive lexicon; the meaning of other words is either narrowed or extended; completely novel words emerge etc. (Koneski, 1987; Minova-Gjurkova, 2003). The new words are perceived as a way of enriching the language and, in this regard, Koneski's (1967: 21) attitude towards the growth of the Macedonian language should be stressed out. Namely, he states that the Macedonian language has to develop, primarily, by means of the existing word formation suffixes in our

language, i.e. “to find out each healthy and living beads of our accumulated word treasure” and then by borrowing words, when there is no domestic equivalent. It is a well-known fact that new words appear when new phenomena emerge, as they need to have denotations. In most cases, these words enter directly the Macedonian language via the scientific and journalistic discourse, and they are used in the form they have in the foreign languages (e.g. English), later they are used in the everyday language, i.e. in the so-called general language and afterwards their status remains unknown (Minova-Gjurkova, 2003; Janusheva & Stojanoska, 2021). Numerous factors affect the process of whether the new words become part of the general lexis and whether at the end they become regular lexical units in the dictionaries because some of these words exist until the phenomena live and, subsequently, after that, they become a part of the passive lexicon. These new words are known as meteors (Minova-Gjurkova, 2003; Janusheva & Jurukovska, 2015; Janusheva, 2020; Janusheva & Stojanovska, 2021). A number of *CORONA* and *COVID-19* associated words that appear in 2019 and 2020 have been already addressed (Janusheva, 2020; Janusheva & Stojanoska, 2021). However, due to the fact that the virus and disease are still present worldwide, showing a lot of variants and specific features, it is important to gain an insight into the latest words that emerged during 2021 and continue to come out in 2022. In fact, it is of paramount importance to analyze these words, in terms of their meaning, formation, the word group they belong to and the arising implications for all levels of the Macedonian language. Thus, this study brings out four research question: 1. What meanings do the novel words have given that a lot of them are not present in the actual Macedonian monolingual dictionary, and are, in fact, foreign words? 2. What are the ways of their formation? 3. What word groups do they belong to? 3. What are the implications for all of the Macedonian language levels (orthography, morphology, word formation and syntax)? Hence, by providing answers to these questions, the research contributes to the Macedonian lexicography, particularly in terms of composing a new dictionary, as well as to the Macedonian orthography, morphology, lexicology, and syntax, as far as the correct versions of these words in everyday spoken or written discourse is concerned. This endeavor draws on the classification offered by Janusheva and Jurukovska (2015) and presents new types of neologisms. At the same time, this study could be very beneficial for the languages that have similar system as Macedonian, encouraging linguists to examine the linguistic aspects of the corona and Covid-19 related terms in their own languages and present new insights regarding the neologisms phenomena.

2. Broader research context

It is hard to determine how the notion ‘new word’ should be understood. Various domestic and foreign language dictionaries give their own definitions of this term (Monolingual dictionary of the Macedonian language, 2003–2014; Vujaklija, 1980; Belchev, 2002; Digital dictionary of the Macedonian language, Merriam-Webster and Collins online dictionary, Croatian language portal,

Serbian online dictionary), which do not fully clarify its complex nature and comprehension. Although the definitions in all these sources differ in nuances, the conclusion is that they define a new word as a word, which has a new meaning or as an already existing word, which has developed a new meaning. Furthermore, these dictionaries indirectly highlight the ways neologisms are created, for instance, by borrowing words, by employing the word formation processes in the language itself etc. (Minova-Gjurkova, 2003; Janusheva & Jurukovska, 2015; Janusheva, 2020; Janusheva & Stojanoska 2021). In addition, the new words are subject of interest of many domestic and foreign researchers (Gerasim, 1990; Rey, 1995; Niska, 1998; Minova-Gjurkova, 2003; Simoska, 2007; Spasojevikj, 2011; Arnold, 2012; Konoplekina, 2013; Zhakhanova & Luchkova 2013; Janusheva, 2015; Janusheva, 2020; Janusheva, 2021; Kovalenko, 2021). Their explanations of what words should be treated as ‘new words’ differ slightly as well. Nevertheless, they define the term more precisely and stress out three main criteria that a word should meet in order to be treated as a new word: a) the word is most frequently used in the everyday spoken and written practice (general lexicon); 2. the word is not present in the dictionaries; 3. the word has to be in use approximately from 15 to 20 years and after that it becomes a part of the general lexicon. Moreover, they offer various new words classifications, principally based on the meaning and word formation. For instance, Janusheva & Jurukovska (2015) propose the following classification: a) semantic neologisms (already existing words that had gained a new meaning); b) neologisms coinages (formed from already existing new words with Macedonian language means); c) neologisms coinages (formed from already existing new words with combination of domestic and foreign language elements); d) neologisms loan words (international words with Latin and Greek origin); e) neologisms loan words from other foreign language, mainly from the English, accepting the new concept or idea); f) potential neologisms used in the spoken practice and journalistic discourse; g) neologisms dialect words; h) neologisms coinages – author neologisms (typical for the language of prose and poetry). However, the appearance of the terms *CORONA* and *COVID-19* and other closely related terms enrich this classification, suggesting that neologisms can be acronyms and compound nouns in which one of the components is an actualized word from the passive lexicon *korona* (*crown*) and the other one is domestic or loan word borrowed long time ago (Janusheva, 2020).

3. Methods

The present qualitative study examines these recently introduced words from a linguistic point of view – the accent is put on their meaning and formation, the word group they belong to and the implications of their presence and usage on all language levels. The sample consists of a large number of *CORONA* and *COVID-19* related terms excerpted from numerous electronic journalistic articles published in RNM. Data processing and reaching conclusions rest upon the interpretative/inductive analysis (Dey, 1993; Merriam, 2002; Thomas, 2006; Creswell, 2009; Morse, 2011; Kahlke, 2014; Harding & Whitehead, 2016).

4. Analysis, results, and discussion

What follows in the sections below is a linguistic analysis of the above mentioned aspects, as well as a presentation and discussion of the results obtained. It seems that the CORONA and COVID-19 related words in the Macedonian language and their derivations impose a new view regarding the understanding of neologisms. Since the beginning of the pandemic up until now, an immense number of words keep emerging on a daily basis. In these contemporary times, we can even keep track of the exact date of their appearance, which is something that has never happened before.

The name of the virus

Korona (corona) > The WHO has already defined the word *korona-virus (Coronavirus)* as “a large family of viruses that can cause various diseases, such as Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS-CoV) and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS-CoV)”. This is a proof that this virus is well known in the medical world and beyond, especially in the countries where these diseases spread, a long way before the pandemic outbreak in 2019. This definition is confirmed by Merriam-Webster online dictionary, according to which “the word was introduced by a group of virologists in a short article “Coronaviruses” in the “News and Views” section of *Nature* (vol. 220, no. 5168, November 16, 1968, p. 650)”. According to these eight virologists, these viruses are members of a previously unrecognized group which should be called the coronaviruses, to recall the characteristic appearance by which these viruses are identified on the microscope.” Hence, it is obvious that coronaviruses cause the two diseases mentioned above.

With respect to the Macedonian context, as Janusheva (2020) reports, the words *korona (corona)* and *virus (virus)* are not recently produced words, since both of them have been present in the Macedonian dictionaries for a long time (The three volume dictionary, 1986 and the Monolingual dictionary 2003–2014, *korona* meaning *crown*). Yet, the word *korona-virus (coronavirus)* in its current meaning is a new word, which upgrades the current classification with a new type of neologism (it is a compound noun in which one of the components is an actualized passive lexicon form, and the other one borrowed a long time ago, Janusheva, 2020). Examples of this type of neologisms: *korona-sezona (corona season)*, *korona-trend (corona trend)*, *korona-kriza (corona crisis)*, *korona-kreacija (corona creation)*, *korona-semafor (corona traffic light)*, *korona-test (corona test)*, *korona-panika (corona panic)*, *korona-dijalozi (corona dialogs)*, *korona-hibernacija (corona hibernation)*. As for the compound noun *korona-upisi (corona enrolments)*, it is formed by an actualized passive lexicon word *korona (crown)* and the domestic word *upisi (enrolments)*. Examples of this type of neologisms: *korona-uredba (corona statute)*, *korona-povratnik (corona recidivist)*, *korona-izbori (corona elections)*, *korona-zharishte (corona focus)*, *korona-bran (corona wave)*. Regarding the compound noun *korona-klaster*

(*corona cluster*), this is a new type of neologism which complements the mentioned classification showing that this compound is formed with the word *korona* (*corona*) and the transcribed English word *klaster* (*cluster*) which is not yet accepted in the Macedonian language dictionary. Its meaning in the English language dictionaries, such as Merriam-Webster's Dictionary is "a number of similar things that occur together such as a larger than expected number of cases of disease (such as leukemia) occurring in a particular locality, group of people, or period of time." Regarding the implications, these words in the press are used with capital or small first letter and both as solid compounds following the English orthography or as two separate words.

However, according to the Macedonian orthography, considering that the two nouns in the compound are complementing each other, all these examples should be written with a hyphen and with a small first letter (unless the word is placed at the beginning of a sentence). The analyzed material indicates that there are compounds formed with the component *post* from Latin origin, the word *korona* (*corona*) and another noun (domestic or loan word), i.e. *postkorona period* (*post corona period*), thus adding two new groups of neologisms to the above mentioned classification. Such words should also be written with a small first letter, unless the word is placed at the beginning of a sentence. Although there is no explicit rule in the Macedonian orthography, considering the similar rules, it can be said that the part *post* and noun *korona* (*corona*) make a compound noun *postkorona* (*post corona*), which should be written as a solid compound (without hyphen) and then this solid compound serves as the first component that attaches meaning to the second component, i.e. *period*. The solid compound and second component act as two nouns that supplement each other. Hence, they should be written with a hyphen.

The name of the disease

KOVID-19 (*COVID-19*) > The novel *korona-virus* (*coronavirus*) causes the disease named COVID-19. Like the term *korona-virus* (*coronavirus*), the term COVID-19 is also a neologism, in fact, an acronym formed with the first syllable of the word *korona* (*corona*), the first syllable of the word *virus* and the first letter from the word *disease*. In the Macedonian language, the term has been transcribed as KOVID-19. This is in line with Janusheva's (2020) classification of neologisms, according to which acronyms can be neologisms too. However, the word KOVID-19 enhances the way acronyms are created in Macedonian language (Janusheva, 2020) because it is the first acronym containing a number. Given that in many sources this word is cited only as *kovid* (*covid*) (with a small or a capital first letter, with and without the number), obviously this acronym begins to be perceived as a common noun and becomes a part of the general lexicon (Janusheva, 2020). Yet, this is not an entirely new phenomenon, taking into consideration that other acronyms have become common nouns. Such is the case, for instance, with the acronym LASER, now used as a common noun *laser*.

What is a new and almost unbelievable aspect is the short period of time it took the acronym KOVID-19 to be understood as a common noun. This indicates that among the very factors that enable an acronym to be perceived as a common noun is its frequent usage. Furthermore, COVID-19 as a common noun is recognized as a masculine noun, although it is a disease and the term *bolest* (disease) in the Macedonian language is of feminine gender (feminine nouns end in the vowel -a, and rarely in consonant), implying an analogy with masculine nouns (masculine nouns end in a consonant and rarely in a vowel).

Bearing in mind the classification of neologisms, this word also expresses three neologisms types. The first contains words created with the first part of the acronym comprehended as a common noun and a loan word. Examples: *kovid-stres* (covid stress), *kovid-koordinatori* (covid coordinators), *kovid-mapa* (covid map), *kovid-centar* (covid centre), *kovid-status* (covid status), *kovid-bilans* (covid balance), *kovid-lista* (covid list), *kovid-rekord* (covid record), *kovid-pacienti* (covid patients), *kovid-pandemija* (covid pandemic), *kovid-menadzer* (covid manager), *kovid-kriza* (covid crisis), *kovid-cunami* (covid cunami), *kovid-test* (covid test), *kovid-sertifikat* (covid certificate), *kovid-analiza* (covid analysis). The second type, reveals neologisms formed with the first part of the acronym understood as a common noun and transcribed English words. Examples: *kovid-klaster* (covid cluster) and *kovid-pik* (covid peak). The third type presents neologisms made with an acronym comprehended as a common noun and a domestic word, such as: *kovid-uchilishte* (covid school), *kovid-nadomest* (covid allowance), *kovid-bolnica* (covid hospital), *kovid-sluchai* (covid cases), *kovid-zaraza* (covid infection), *kovid-grad* (covid city). As the compounds with first component *korona* (corona), all of these neologisms should be written with small first letter, unless they are used at the beginning of the sentence and with hyphen, since the two components accompany each other. Like the examples with the term *korona* (corona), there are compounds build with the component *post* (post) from Latin, the noun *kovid* (covid) and another noun (domestic or loan word) (e.g. *postkovid-period* (postcovid period)). Thus, the abovementioned classification (Janusheva & Jurukovska, 2015) extends with two more neologisms types. The explanation for its orthography is the same as in the case of the term *postkorona-period* (post corona period). These results demonstrate compound nouns enrichment since all of the listed words are semi-compound nouns.

Further analysis points out to the different meaning of the two leading words (korona refers to the virus, and covid to the disease), thus proving semantic imprecision or vagueness on the syntactic level. For example, the sentence *Pandemijata na korona-virusot...* [*The pandemic of the coronavirus...*] is improper because, according to the Macedonian monolingual dictionary, the term *pandemic* refers to the disease and not to the virus, thus the correct form is *Pandemijata na KOVID-19...* [*The pandemic of COVID-19...*]. Another inaccuracy can be noticed in the sentence *Toj e pozitiven na virusot kovid-19* [*He tested positive for the virus covid-19*] and the example *...zarazeni od KOVID-19* [*...infected by COVID-19*].

Most recently, in January 2022, a new word emerged: ...*strategijata nula-kovid...* (...*the zero covid strategy...*), which suggests a new neologism type regarding the classification of the neologisms, made of the noun *nula* (*zero*) and the acronym *kovid* (*covid*) comprehended as a common noun whose orthography should be discussed further. Lately, another new word recurs in the press, i.e. *super-imunitet/superimunitet/super imunitet* (*super immunity*), as a solid compound noun which contains the part *super* which amends the second component *imunitet* (*immunity*). Apparently, this semantic neologism consists of two already existing components, but it acquires a new meaning: immunity gained after being ill with COVID-19 and after fajzer (Pfizer) and moderna (Moderna) vaccines appliance (29.1.2022, dw.com). Based on the discussion above, it is very likely that the words *corona* and *covid* will be included in the new Macedonian monolingual dictionary.

The names of the variants of the korona-virus (coronavirus)

Alfa (*Alpha*), *beta* (*Beta*), *gama* (*Gamma*), *delta* (*Delta*), *deltakron* (*Deltacron*), *mi* (*Mi*)/*mu* (*Mu*), *lambda* (*Lambda*), *omikron* (*Omicron*) are all terms used to refer to the new variants of the *korona-virus* (*coronavirus*). In the written practice all of them are written differently (either with a small or a capital first letter, followed by the word *variant* (*version*) or without it. If followed by the word *variant* (*version*), the press reports them with or without hyphen. According to the Macedonian orthography, they should be represented with a hyphen and with a small first letter unless they are placed at the beginning of the sentence. With reference to the word order, examples like *alfa-varijanta/verzija* (*alfa variant/version*) suggest the English word order, and although accepted, it is more naturally and more in the spirit of the Macedonian language to have the reverse word order, i.e. *varijantata alfa* (*the variant alfa*). Furthermore, in the context of the variants, the press highlights the same mistake as the one discussed before, treating the variants as variants of the disease and not of the virus. Examples: *Omikron varijantata na Kovid-19 prodolzhuva da se shiri niz svetot* [*The Omicron variant of Kovid-19 keeps spreading worldwide*] (22.11.2021, aa.com.tr); *Hibrid od varijantite delta i omikron na Kovid-19...* [*Hybrid of the variants delta and omicron of Kovid-19*] (9.1.2022, tocka.com.mk)).

As to the term *deltakron* (*deltacron*) in terms of its formation, it is evidently formed in English by blending and in Macedonian has been borrowed. Blending is a way of making novel words in the English language by joining the beginning of one word and the end of another, but in this case the entire word *delta* has been used and the end of the word *omicron* > *kron* (*cron*) > *deltakron* (*deltacron*). Most recently scientists found out a new subvariant of the variant *omikron* (*omicron*) > *stelt omikron* (*stealth omicron*) or *omikron stelt* (*omicron stealth*). The English word *stealth* (which means *hidden*) has been transcribed as *stelt*, in Macedonian. Since this term, according to Merriam-Webster's dictionary is an adjective, or a noun, its orthography deserves further discussion, depending on whether the Macedonian language accepts *stealth* as a noun or an adjective. Finally, the question of whether

the names of the variants of the coronavirus should be included in the next edition of the Macedonian monolingual dictionary is a matter open to debates.

The names of the companies and vaccines

As for the vaccines denotations, they are certainly denominated by the name of the company that produces them and all of the names are recently produced words. There are no impreciseness in the press regarding the orthography of the companies' names, as they are all written correctly with a capital first letter. The names of the vaccines, however, are presented mostly with a capital first letter although there are examples in which they are written with a small first letter as well. The data we analyzed from various sources suggest that *Sinovak* (*Sinovac*) is the name of the vaccine produced by the company "Sinovak"; *Sinofarm* (*Sinopharm*) is the name of the vaccine produced by the company "Sinopharm" within the Beijing institute of biological product; *Sputnik V* (*Sputnik V*) and *Sputnik lajt* (*Sputnik light*) are the names of the vaccines produced by the Russian Gamaleya institute; *Fajzer* (*Pfizer*) is the name of the vaccine produced by the American pharmaceutical company "Pfizer" and the German biotechnological company "BioNtech". Clearly, the names of the vaccines are, in fact, the names of the companies. However, there is a difference between *Vakcinata na "Sinovak"...* [*The vaccine of "Sinovac"...*], which refers to the vaccine of the the company named "Sinovac" and *Vakcinata sinovak...* [*The vaccine sinovac...*], which refers to the vaccine named *sinovac* and this difference is not articulated properly in the Macedonian press. The Macedonian orthography prescribes the use of the capital letter in the names of the companies, and the use of the small letter in the names of the vaccines, unless the word refers to the beginning of a sentence. As for the company *BioNtech*, the Macedonian press makes use of the Macedonian, English and German pronunciations of the word such as *Biontek*, *BioNtek*, *BioNtek* and *Bajontek*, *BajoNtek*, *BajoNtek* (*Biontech*, *BioNtech*, *BioNtech* and *Bajontech*, *BajoNtech* and *BajoNtech*). The company web states its name as the Biopharmaceutical New Technologies Company, thus suggesting that the form *BioNtech* is an acronym formed from the first two syllables of the word *Biopahrmaceutical*, the *N* from *New*, and the first syllable of the word *technologies*. The pronunciation *Biontek* or *Bajontek* deserves further elaboration as well as the orthography of this company's name. Presumably, in Macedonian, this word does not include a combination of capital and small letters, because such combinations are quite unusual in the Macedonian language. With regard to the word order, although the word order *fajzer vakcini* [*Pfizer vaccines*], *sinovak vakcini* [*sinovac vaccines*] etc. is accepted in the Macedonian language, still this word order is typical of the English language. In the Macedonian language, the reverse word order is more natural (e.g. *vakcinite fajzer* [*vaccines Pfizer*]).

There is also a dilemma as to how to write the name of the British-Swedish pharmaceutical and biotechnology company which in cooperation with the University of Oxford developed the vaccine with the same name. In the press, the

company and vaccine are referred as *AstraZeneka* (*AstraZeneca*), *Astrazeneka* (*Astrazeneca*), *Astra Zeneka* (*Astra Zeneca*). Its orthography is not settled yet and that is why many variants of this name exist. According to Wikipedia the company is founded as a result of a merger between the Swedish Astra AB and the British Zeneca Group. Hence, it would be in the spirit of the Macedonian language to write *Astra i Zeneka* (*Astra and Zeneka*), because, as stated before, combinations of small and capital letters within one word is unexpected in Macedonian. The previous discussion regarding the capital or small letter use, the meaning and the word order applies also to the term *Moderna*, which refers to the company *Moderna*, which has produced the vaccine named *moderna* (*Moderna*). Another vaccine is *turkovak* (*Turcovac*) developed by the Turkish Ministry of Health and Erciyes University. The issue of whether the names of the vaccines and companies should be included in the new edition of the Macedonian monolingual dictionary, just like in the case of the variants' names, deserves further deliberation.

The names of the medicines

Ivermektin (*ivermectin*), *molnupiravir* (*molnupiravir*), *pakslovid* (*paxlovid*), *sotrovimab* (*sotrovimab*), *favalavir* (*favilavir*), *hlorokin* (*chloroquine*), *remdesivir* (*remdesivir*), *evisheld* (*evisheld*, known as *AZD7442* and *evusheld*), *MIR-19* (*MIR-19*), *EXO-CD24* (*EXO-CD24*) (an acronym which is a combination of the molecular name CD-24 and the first two syllables of the word exosome), *favipivir* (*favipivir*), *favipiravir* (*favipiravir*) > All these are terms, i.e. recently discovered words used to refer to medicines against COVID-19. The words *artesanat* (*artesunate*), *imatinib* (*imatinib*) and *influximab* (*influximab*) are also used to refer to medicines used for treatment of parasites, cancers and autoimmune diseases as well as for treatment of COVID-19. In the Macedonian press, the first letter of the words is sometimes capitalized but not always. According to the Macedonian orthography, they are common nouns written with a small first letter, unless they mark at the beginning of a sentence. In this context, we have also witnessed the use of a new name of a medicine, namely *zapnometinib* or *ATR-002*, where *ATR* refers to the name of the company Atriva Therapeutics. The presence of these terms in the next edition of the Macedonian monolingual dictionary is not under consideration, because as common nouns, they belong to the medical jargon and such terms are rarely included in a general dictionary.

The names of other corona and covid related new terms

Buster (*booster*) > According to Merriam-Webster online dictionary, this term refers to “a substance or a dose used to increase the effects of a drug or immunizing agent.” Undoubtedly, this word is transcribed from the English word, but it has not been accepted in the Macedonian language yet. It has the same meaning as the Macedonian word *zasiluvach* (*intensificator*), therefore the domestic word should be used. In the spoken or written practice, it is present independently or followed by the noun *doza* (*dosage*, without or with hyphen), meaning an additional

vaccine dosage, mostly Pfizer's. For example ...*buster-doza na vakcinite protiv kovid-19*... [...*buster dosage of the vaccines against covid-19*...] and ...*buster-doza na vakcinite protiv korona-virusot*... (...*buster dosage of the vaccines against covid-19*...). If used independently it is a noun, followed by the word dosage it is a compound noun, which belong to new neologism type made from a transcribed word yet not accepted as a first component and a loan words. In light of Koneski's (1967) stance of using foreign words only when lacking a domestic one, this word reasonably should not be part of the Macedonian monolingual further edition.

Dumskroling (doomscrolling) > This term is being considered for inclusion in the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, but it is still 'watched' because it hasn't met all the criteria for entry yet. It refers to "the tendency to continue to surf or scroll through bad news, even though that news is saddening, disheartening, or depressing. Many people find themselves reading continuously bad news about COVID-19 without the ability to stop or step back." The term has been noted in the following sentence: *Ushte polosha verzija e t.n. pojava na dumskroling*... [*The worse phenomenon is the presence of the doomscrolling*...] (Prlja, 25.10.2021, mkd.mk).

Flurona > This term refers to the presence of the flu virus and the coronavirus, i.e. when a person is infected by the virus of flu and the coronavirus at the same time. This word is made of the first syllable of the word *flu* and the slang name for *coronavirus* – *rona*, which is represented in the Cambridge online dictionary as short for *coronavirus* and it is also used to refer to the disease *COVID-19*. Examples: *Spored Newsweek, prvot sluchaj na "flurona" e zabelezhan*... [*According to the Newsweek, the first case of "flurona" is noticed*...] (4.1.2022, kanal5.com.mk). Considering the frequent usage as a factor, which determines the status of a neologism, this word's presence in the next edition of the Macedonian monolingual, for the time being, remains rather uncertain.

Infodemija [Infodemic] > The word has been recorded in the Cambridge online dictionary as a noun and, according to Wikipedia, it is coined by David Rothkopf from the two syllables of the word *information* and the two syllables of the word *epidemija (epidemic)*. The term refers to the fast spread of true and false information, as for example a disease. It is coined in 2003 in regard to SARS and refers to a situation where "a few facts, mixed with fear, speculation and rumor, amplified and relayed swiftly worldwide by modern information technologies or different and often non-confirmed information in relation to a crisis, controversy or event that are spreading fast and without control." The use of the term is illustrated in the following sentence *Shto e infodemija i kako da se borime protiv nea* [*What is infodemia and how to struggle it*] (Huremovikj, 6.10.2021, balkansmedia.org). Given that nowadays worldwide, there is countless false information contributing to peoples' confusion, the presence of this term in the Macedonian monolingual forthcoming edition is expected.

Karantini (quarantini) > This word is not yet evidenced in the tree abovementioned English dictionaries nor in the Macedonian dictionaries.

According to the article in which it appears, it is related to each cocktail made with available ingredients and drunk at home alone. Visibly, in forming this word, an analogy with martini occurs ...*Sè zapochna kako shega vo SAD, koga na socijalnite mrezi se pojavija iljadnici hashtazi #quarantini...* [Everything begins as a joke in the USA, when there appear thousands of hash tags #quarantini...] (9.12.2021, artkujna.mk). Given its infrequent use, this word's presence in the Macedonian monolingual dictionary is not an option at this point. For now, it has a status of a meteor word.

Karantinira (to be quarantined) > This word appeared at the end of December 2020 and surely it is a new word (Janusheva, 2020). From then to date, this verb has been noticed only in one article and therefore, it could be treated as a neologism meteor.

Komorbiditet/i (comorbidity/ies) > According to Collins' online dictionary, it means "the occurrences of more than one illness or condition at the same time", whereas in Cambridge online dictionary it is explained as "the fact that people who have a disease or condition also have one or more other diseases or conditions." Obviously, it is a part of the medical jargon and is not a new word. However, in the Macedonian language, its use has become very frequent in the context of the coronavirus death cases when patients' death is a result of having corona and other condition/s. Considering the medical background of the term, it is hardly believable that it would be included in the next edition of the Macedonian monolingual dictionary.

Maskni (maskne) > This new noun is evidenced in the Collins online dictionary referring to acnes caused by wearing protection masks for COVID-19. The use of this word is illustrated in the following sentence ...*struchni soveti kako da se spravite so aknite narecheni "maskni" [...expert advice on how to handle the acnes called "masknes"]* (14.1.2022, srekja.mk). This case confirms the infiltration of the English word formation process – blending, in the Macedonian language (the first syllable of the word *maska (mask)* – *mas-* and the second syllable of the word *akni (acne)* – *-ni* are taken into consideration). According to Belchev (2002), *mask* originates from the French and *akna* from the Greek, in the example plural *akni*. Its presence in the next edition of the Macedonian monolingual dictionary is questionable and most likely depends on the frequency of its usage.

Nocebo-efekt (Nocebo effect) > The term originates from the Latin word *nocere* meaning *to harm*. According to Merriam-Webster online dictionary, it is a noun meaning "a harmless substance or treatment that when taken by or administered to a patient is associated with harmful side effects or worsening of symptoms due to negative expectations or the psychological condition of the patient." For example, the press' articles state that people feel side effects of a drug although they have never get the drug itself. Given that *efekt* is a noun and accepting *nocebo* as a noun leads to understanding this novel word as a semi-compound noun, with the same specific feature as the compounds created with

the components *corona* and *COVID-19*. Although referred in the press with small or capital first letter, like the other semi-compound nouns mentioned before, it should be written with small first letter unless it is placed at the beginning of the sentence and with a hyphen, since the two nouns supplement each other.

Obeznost (obesity) > This word does not exist in the Macedonian language dictionaries. Clearly, it comes from the English word *obesity* (a condition characterized by the excessive accumulation and storage of fat in the body) and it is coined from the two syllables of the word *obese* and the Macedonian suffix *(n)ost*. This hybrid novel word exploits Macedonian language means. However, its use should be further discussed since the Macedonian language already has its own words *debel (obese)* and *debelina (obesity)* (e.g. ...*kaj odredeni obezni lugje debelinata ja podobruva zdravstvenata sostojba* [...in some obesity people, the obese improves their health condition]). Its inclusion in the Macedonian monolingual dictionary is out of question.

Reinfekcija (reinfection) > This word is created from the Latin prefix *re-* and the Latin loan word *infection*, and it refers to people who are infected with the virus again or for a second time. The term has not been registered in the Macedonian dictionaries so far, apparently, as it is a part of the medical terminology. This is not a new word, yet recently its usage has been obtaining momentum. Hence, its further inclusion in the Macedonian monolingual dictionary is possible. In the press, the term is sometimes used to refer to the disease in the sentence ...*vo sluchaj na reinfekcija so KOVID-19...* (27.8.2021, slobodnaevropa.mk) [...in case of reinfection with KOVID-19...], but this usage of the term is not accurate.

Zumbombing (zombombing) > According to many news articles, Zoom violated the users' privacy rights by sharing personal data with Facebook, Google and LinkedIn allowing hackers to interrupt the meetings that occurs via Zoom (e.g. *Zum kje plati... vo praktika narecheno Zumbombing* [Zoom will pay... in practice called Zombombing] (2.8.2021, kanal5.com.mk)). Collins online dictionary states that this word, which was proposed for inclusion in the Dictionary on 27.3.2020, has the status "pending investigation", meaning that it is not part of the English dictionaries yet. Nonetheless, the future status of this novel word in the Macedonian language is difficult to predict.

Asimptomatischen/asimptomatski (asymptomatic) > This adjective is coined from the prefix *a* meaning without, the word *symptom* and the Macedonian suffixes *-ich(en)* or *-ski*. So far, the term is present only in the Digital Macedonian language online dictionary and manifestly belongs to the medical terminology. Given that *a* means without, grasping its meaning is easy: not been symptomatic/without symptoms, e.g. *Asimptomatski nositeli na virusot* [Asymptomatic carriers of the virus]. Considering the fact that the word *symptom* in the Macedonian monolingual dictionary is linked with a disease and not a virus, it seems that *asymptomatic* means without symptoms of a disease (having the disease, but not showing symptoms). Thus, the previous example illustrates an imprecise usage of the term. Due to its recurrent usage, its incorporation in the Macedonian monolingual dictionary is very possible.

Infodemichen (Infodemic) > This adjective is first introduced by WHO as a presence of “too much information, including the false one in the digital and physical environments during a disease outbreak”, which leads to “risk taking behaviors that can harm health.” A similar definition is given in the Cambridge online dictionary. Its formation relates to the blending process (the first syllables of the word *information* and the second syllable of the word *epidemic*). In view of the reasons mentioned regarding the word *infodemija*, its entry in the next edition of the Macedonian monolingual online dictionary is prospective.

Virulenten (virulent) > This adjective is present in the Digital Macedonian language online dictionary and is a medical term whose meaning is ‘spreading quickly’. Merriam-Webster’s, Collins’ and Cambridge online dictionaries definitions stress the component ‘extremely harmful’ and ‘violent effects’. The following sentence highlights the usage of this term *Delta sojot e mnogu virulenten...* [*Delta variant is very virulent*] (9.8.2021, press24.mk). Because of its broader meaning in the English language dictionaries, its meaning in the Macedonian language asks for an extension. Given that it is a medical term, its registration in the next edition of the Macedonian monolingual dictionary is debatable and it depends most likely on its written or spoken language usage.

5. Conclusion

As seen, plenty of new corona and covid related words (nouns, solid compound nouns, semi compound nouns, adjectives) are registered in the Macedonian language from the beginning of the pandemic until the present moment. Surely, they enrich the Macedonian language, especially its lexis, yet since this upgrading is done mainly by borrowing from the English language, the English influence is so strong that besides the words, the Macedonians borrow their English language word order and orthography as well. Additionally, the blending process as a way of creating new words which is typical of English, up till now was not present in the Macedonian language as a word formation method. However, the above said displays that in the formation of the three adjectives, the Macedonian suffix *-(ich)en* is present and this is in line with Koneski’s stance on the Macedonian language development with its own means, in spite of the fact that they are hybrid words. In reference to their presence in the new edition of the Macedonian monolingual dictionary, except for the words *korona* and *kovid*, which show a great potential to be its part given that the words *sida (AIDS)* and *rak (cancer)* are already recorded, the status of the other words discussed in this paper, up until now remains unknown and unpredictable. Our research results confirm the fact that it is almost impossible to predict the future of neologisms as each neologism has a unique development path and status in any given language.

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