

# The Richness of English Language During Covid-19 Pandemic: Selected Words and Expressions That Can Be Taught to EFL Students at the Colleges of Health Science and Colleges of Nursing in KSA and Kuwait

Musaad Alrahaili<sup>1</sup>, Maye A. Al-Otaibi<sup>2</sup> & Abdullah M. Al-Otaibi<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Taibah University, KSA

<sup>2</sup> PAAET, L.C. Kuwait

Correspondence: Abdullah M. Al-Otaibi, PAAET, L.C. Kuwait.

Received: March 13, 2022

Accepted: April 11, 2022

Online Published: April 26, 2022

doi: 10.5539/elt.v15n5p84

URL: <https://doi.org/10.5539/elt.v15n5p84>

## Abstract

The COVID-19 crisis has made the years 2020 and 2021 an unpolitical and spiritual crisis. It has affected virtually everybody in the world and introduced a new normal. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, people have been hooked on consuming news media to follow the development of this unprecedented disease. Subsequently, a new language with vocabulary, expressions, and metaphors has appeared in various languages, including English and Arabic. Dictionaries have added new words in English and revised others; they are now fully integrated into our everyday vocabularies. COVID-19 has changed the English language in many ways: it has brought previously obscure medical words to the forefront of everyday speech, made terms related to social isolation more common, and witnessed a shift in meaning in other terms. As linguists, researchers, and teachers gradually return to their classrooms next term (Spring, 2022) we undertook this study to identify 57 English terms, expressions, and metaphors that emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic, either in English-speaking countries or Arabic-speaking countries where English is a first or second language. We deemed the new terminologies necessary for EFL learners in the Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC) countries. It can serve the purpose of making a list of these words and expressions to be taught to our EFL students at colleges of nursing and health science in Kuwait or Saudi Arabia or any other equivalent colleges in the Arab World. The terms and expressions came from articles, magazines, and English and Arabic dictionaries published during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Keywords:** lexical innovations, language change, word-formation processes terms, words, expressions, metaphors, English, Arabic, COVID-19, EFL students

## 1. Introduction

COVID-19 is a quickly spreading virus that has had an incredible impact on the world and has considerably contributed to the development of a distinct language, starting from November 2019 and continuing to the present. The goal of this research is to construct and publish a list of selected English words and expressions that fall within the medical, economic, social, and political lexemes. The COVID-19 lexicon is a set of terms used to communicate medical and health-related information. The focus of this investigation is on a few terms and expressions, as well as the meanings and extent of pandemic lexemes' use throughout sampled English variations written and reported in news. With regard to COVID-19, this study is grounded by several scholars' frameworks (Aitchison, 2001; Liberman, 2020; Yule, 2006) that explain why and how a language evolves and develops, especially during crises. It supports the idea that difficult times like wars or social crises lead to vocabulary innovation. Data were gathered from a variety of sources, including articles from various backgrounds, such as news, social media and Arabic and English dictionaries. The comprehensive search through different resources which listed hundreds of pandemic words of a high frequency of use on the pandemic lexemes drawn from different sources that date from January 2020 to December 2021. The current investigation focused on 57 words and their definitions, which were used mostly by linguists and public health professionals.

The pandemic demonstrates that people's valid experiences and the desire to confront them through language communication methods created the way for different English variants to extend people's vocabulary. Furthermore, it informs policymaking by various agencies, particularly in the medical health sector, so communication during a social crisis is responsive to various contextual processes (Kreuz, 2020). However, considering the seriousness and long-term implications of COVID-19, the turbulence of language during the pandemic and the addition of COVID-19-related terminology to the vocabulary of first and second language types are enormous. The mastery of these expressions by EFL students may enhance their communication knowledge in any similar crisis. However, the acquisition of these new terms and expressions by EFL learners has not received much scholarly attention. Thus, in this study, we intended to compile a list of some of the new words and expressions that can be taught to EFL students at the colleges of health science and nursing in Arab countries. The ultimate goal is to list and compile the most related terms and expressions that have come into use during the COVID-19 pandemic. For the purposes of this study, we opted to include terms that are "once" phrases that were reintroduced during the coronavirus crisis for diverse social/communicative roles, as defined by Crystal's (2008).

As researchers and teachers, we asked ourselves this question: will the words and terms of COVID-19 continue to spread and circulate? Or will their circulation decline if vaccines prove effective and the number of infections and deaths decreases significantly? We strongly believe these words will remain in everyone's memory and will be transmitted by young people in the future to their children and become part of the linguistic heritage. So, this current generation will remember for a long time the events of COVID-19, its controversies, its thoughts, its repercussions, and the world being turned upside down without any war.

## 2. Methodology and Data Sources

The study collected data from different sources, including Merriam-Webster Dictionary (2020) and Oxford English Dictionary (2020) as well as "COVID-19 Terminology Dictionary" (Arab Organization for Education, Culture, and Science, 2020), Kupolati et al. (2021), and Mweri (2021), about language use in the realities of the pandemic. The study has selected several English words, phrases, and metaphors that have been used during the pandemic and have their equivalent meaning in Arabic. These words and phrases were gathered from social media, daily newspapers, English and Arabic dictionaries, and other writing concerning COVID-19 from the day recognized until the time of writing.

## 3. Review of Literature

Many articles deal with the mechanism of linguistic development in general and in times of qualitative crises, whether societal, political, economic, or scientific. Various authors (Lanozzi, 2020; Osman, 2020; Abu Hamour, 2020; Al-Salman & Haider, 2021; Kupolati et al., 2021; Mweri, 2021; Nauman & Islam, 2020) have studied the prominent innovations and linguistic additions in the English-speaking countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Currently, scientists in Europe are talking about the fifth wave of COVID-19 (the omicron variant). Given COVID-19's seriousness and long-term consequences, recording language's abrupt transformation during the pandemic and the inclusion of COVID-19-related terminology to the vocabulary of first and second language English speakers are invaluable. From "covidiot" to "quarantine" and "Zoom bombing," many new words and phrases have become common in how people talk about the impact of COVID-19 on their everyday lives. These new phrases, according to Michael Iannozzi, a linguist at Western University in London, ON, Canada, "represent what people are feeling" during the pandemic and help people live with their "new normal" (Lanozzi, 2020). We tried to review most of the lexical innovations related to COVID-19.

### 3.1 *Old Words in a New Light*

"What's fascinating about the year 2020 up to now is that so many of these words have gone from being words that we had maybe heard of and we might have used very occasionally, but they've now gone to basically inform almost every single conversation that we have," said Fiona McPherson, a words editor at Oxford English Dictionary. She said that in her more than 20 years with the Oxford English Dictionary, "I can't think of anything that has been similar" (Herrera, 2020).

The sheer breadth of words that were popularized during the year 2020—everything from medical jargon to social media-friendly shorthand—was particularly unusual (McPherson, 2020). According to Osman (2020) language grows and changes through time, but we rarely get to see a linguistic change in real time. There are many new words that were invented in the COVID-19 crisis, and they are now fully integrated into our everyday vocabularies. And they are truly invented to describe something that has never been experienced before.

It is true to say that each era has its own unique slang (Osman, S., 2020). Abu Hamour (2020) argues that Coronavirus hasn't gone away, and people will keep following the social distancing guidelines and still wear a face covering when they go to a shop or mosque or a university or even use a train bus or taxi. Furthermore, people witnessed the ways the year 2020 has changed the way everyone talks and how it has changed the English language. These changes associated with COVID-19 can be matched or compared to similar crises or events that happened before this date and have resulted in new English words being added to English dictionaries (Ibid., 2020). Natural language does, in fact, change significantly and continuously, switching, copying, and adding. Evolution may occur at one of the four linguistic levels of language, such as acoustic, pure, synthetic, or semantic (Osman, 2020).

### 3.2 Lexemes, Neologisms, and Word Formation

Many new and newly common unusual words came into use because of the COVID-19 pandemic, which began in the Chinese city of Wuhan at the end of 2019. Regarding the importance of these new lexical innovations, many writers tracked all different types of lexemes, neologisms, and word formation either in English or other languages (Abu Hamour, 2020; Al-Salman & Haider, 2021; Arab Organization for Education, Culture, and Science, 2020; Kupolati et al., 2021; Mweri, 2021; Nauman & Islam, 2020; Oxford English Dictionary, 2020). COVID-19's appearance and spread have dramatically affected the societal norm, resulting in the new normal (Kupolati et al., 2021). New policies are implemented on a daily basis, causing the standard of living to rise (Haleem et al., 2020). This circumstance (Vitenu-Sackey & Barfi, 2021) has resulted in the introduction of new terminology into the world's languages (Tan et al., 2020). The Oxford English Dictionary has already begun to document innovative and conventional words that have seen semantic extensions during the pandemic (Paton, 2020). Mweri (2021) discussed the coining of new words through a word-formation process such as blending and acronym creating through old words requiring new meaning (semantic shift) or old words gaining currency due to an emerging and trending situation. He mentioned 21 word formation processes as an example of neologisms. A study by Hamdan & Al-Salman (2021) looked at the trending role of neologisms during the pandemic and found that the use of neologisms in social media applications has acquired pace and zest. Email, username, Internet, save, copy, paste, delete, and other newly invented ICTs and social media terminology are among their lists. Through various word formation processes, words like attachment, screenshot, hashtag, selfie, Snapchat, and share have been integrated into the Arabic language's morpho-phonemic and syntactic systems.

### 3.3 The Role of Technology in Promoting the New Language During the Pandemic Era

In years 2020 and 2021, digital technologies play a more conspicuous role than ever due to the halt to in-person activity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Everything has gone online, and people have gotten used to vocabulary that used to be limited in use (e.g. *quarantine* and *pandemic*) or known to few (*coronavirus*, *super-spreader*, personal protective equipment [PPE], or working from home [WFH]). *Self-isolation lockdown* or *social distancing* (which should be better called *physical distancing*) are needed to get through these difficult times. Many novel vocabulary forms, usually blends, have been documented in short works on coroneologisms, which is itself a new term. According to Thorne (2020), the present epidemic has resulted in the creation of over 1,000 new words, including nonspecialized and technical vocabulary (cited in Roig-Marín, 2021). In many cases, according to Sarhan (2020), the work has turned into "telework," replacing meetings with electronic conferences and Zoom meeting (Cited in Abu Hamour, 2020). The medical names that specialists deal with have come into common circulation, such as ventilators. Curfews and amber alert have also become known amongst even children, and the "Friday lockdown" is the subject of discussion as everyone waits for the hour of "lifting the ban" to pray (Abu Hamour, 2020). The COVID-19 pandemic was able to introduce many unusual or noncirculating terms into the daily conversation of young and old. Distance learning, perhaps one of the most common phrases for young people, has become the platform of learning. WhatsApp groups, Teams, and Zoom programs are the new tools for students. The measures that accompanied the government's blanket bans introduced new words, such as the introduction of individual and marital systems and defense orders that became part of daily conversation and life (Ibid., 2020).

The creation and spread of COVID-19-inspired terminology has been rapid and widespread around the world. In a variety of disciplines, including health, economics, tourism, trade, industry, transportation, and psychology, the coronavirus has become the exclusive topic of discussion. The abbreviations and/or acronyms for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), and MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome), among others, are examples of lexical innovations linked with health pandemics. In addition, the COVID-19 issue has caused people worldwide to express their fears about the same enemy and, as a result, to adopt the same language, uniting them against COVID-19. As a result of the health emergency, there appears to have been a global rapprochement, as evidenced by the widespread use of coronavirus terminology (Al-Salman

& Haider, 2021). This is because we live in a digitally linked society with cutting-edge technology that was not readily available when other health hazards arose.

### *3.4 COVID-19 Arabic Terminology Dictionary*

The rapid spread of the COVID-19 worldwide and the announcement by the World Health Organization (WHO) of the emerging coronavirus were accompanied by many terms and words added to the linguistic inventory and social and family relations. As a result, the Arab Organization for Education, Culture, and Science has published the first trilingual scientific dictionary (in Arabic, English and French) with 185 terms and expressions related to the COVID-19 pandemic entitled the COVID-19 Terminology Dictionary (2020). It is a good reference for those who want to know the realities of this terrible epidemic spreading all over the world. The dictionary, which required a collective effort in the selection, scientific identification, and Arabization of terminology and vocabulary, includes everything related to HIV scientifically, medically, psychologically, and socially, in addition to its history, how it is created and spread, the way it is combated, and its relationship with the environment and the human body and psychology (Abu Hamour, 2020).

### *3.5 COVID-19's Impact on Lexical Developments in Pakistan*

The study examines the impact of COVID-19 on the lexical aspects of English in Pakistan using a corpus-based approach. It is a comparative analysis of the usage of 58 keywords collected from November 20, 2019, to June 17, 2020, including the top collocated words as determined by the Oxford English Dictionary (2020). According to the findings, the use of some new phrases and acronyms has increased exponentially (e.g., self-quarantine, nCoV, SARS). After COVID-19, many hitherto unheard of words were widely utilized in media discourse (e.g., self-isolation, social-distancing). Furthermore, the usage of such terminology in Pakistan differs from that in other parts of the world (Nauman & Islam, 2020).

### *3.6 English Lexicographers and COVID-19 Words*

People's lifestyles have changed as a result of the coronavirus, and this has been accompanied by changes in language. According to Becker (2020), the Texas Medical Centre has prepared a glossary of terminology to help people understand the coronavirus pandemic. The difficulties and implications of COVID-19 have necessitated the invention of new vocabulary to characterize the virus's mutations and how various sectors will adapt to related changes to life. Lexicographers are equally eager to coin new terminology as advancements in specialized and general-purpose dictionaries, much as pharmaceutical companies have been racing to register a vaccine. Merriam-Webster (2020), for example, released an unannounced update for disease-related words and added a few new COVID-19-related entries, such as the COVID-19 index case. Other terms, such as community spread, contactless delivery, herd immunity, presumptive positive case, PPE, person under investigation, shelter in place, super-spreader, and WFH, have been changed to fit the COVID-19 context. Similarly, the Oxford English Dictionary was updated with new phrases that have become well-known in the wake of the pandemic (Oxford English Dictionary, 2020). The term COVID-19, for example, was just coined in February 2020 and has become prevalent in world conversation. The terms coronavirus outbreak, rise in cases, peaked, facemasks, test positive, self-isolation, lockdown, closures, and other collocations with the word coronavirus have also increased considerably. The COVID-19 pandemic's vocabulary is rapidly evolving, which is in line with the virus's societal pressures (Kreuz, 2020). New entries to dictionaries are generally added in phases, but the COVID-19 epidemic prompted a rapid increase of vocabulary invention. Some of the new terminology, such as COVID-19 and nCoV, are neologisms par excellence. Other words have modified definitions, such as coronavirus (a broad term for a virus family that includes COVID-19), social-distancing, and self-isolating. Some of the new terms are reintroduced versions of previous ones. Such words were not invented specifically for the coronavirus pandemic, although they were recently popularized following the virus's outbreak. Words and terminology are likely to undergo linguistic alterations of changed definitions as a result of important changes in our lives and owing to contact between languages (Burrige & Bergs, 2016). In the context of COVID-19, an elbow bump, which used to be a form of celebration equivalent to a high five, has become a greeting to avoid shaking hands (Hollett, 2020). Thorne's (2020) groundbreaking work on COVID-19-inspired terminology is a great resource for lexicographers and lexicologists. He prepared a vast glossary of terminology brought on by the pandemic. Coinages conveying notions in regular use, such as slang, nicknames, descriptions of new realities and security measures, demographic terms, jargon, clichés, catchphrases, were included in his lists Thorne (2020) provided as extensive list of lexical innovations. Smizing is defined as "smiling with the eyes" because of wearing a facemask. "Infits" are clothing worn in solitary confinement. "Yoba-dobbing" is defined as reporting someone's antisocial behaviour to authorities. "Mockdown" is defined as "a word trending in November 2020 and again in January 2021 implying a poorly enforced and/or generally disregarded lockdown."

Finally, COVID-19, like all other difficult circumstances throughout history, has contributed to the development of new concepts and vocabulary for describing those obstacles, which have become part of our everyday discourse. Neologisms, which are the consequence of linguistic change, are primarily the result of the following set of word formation processes, according to historical linguistics, including a) affixation, b) compounding, c) blending, d) clipping, e) backformation, f) borrowing, g) abbreviation, h) acronyms, and i) folk etymology. There are also dual word formation processes, including a) compounding + affixation, b) blending + affixation, and c) clipping + compounding (Bizhkenova et al., 2017; Hacken & Thomas, 2013; Liu & Liu, 2014; Ratih & Gusdian, 2018). Josef Essberger, founder of English Club.com, created a COVID-19-related vocabulary page for his website for those just learning English as well as their instructors, knowing they would be asking, amid the flood of pandemic-related verbiage, what these newly encountered words meant.' He called it "language in the making." (English club, 2020)

#### 4. Results and Discussion

The main focus of this research is to select and compile 57 words and expressions from various sources that can be taught to EFL students in Arab universities based on the following criteria:

- 1) Words and expressions that existed long before the current and are much more common now
- 2) Words and expressions that have seen shift in meaning during the COVID-19 pandemic
- 3) Words deemed necessary to students and can be taught as a supplement list to some ESP courses at specific colleges at KSA and Public Authority of Applied Education and Training (PAAET), Kuwait, and other Arab countries

The study collected data from different sources about language use in the realities of the pandemic. The list contains a number of English words and phrases that have been used during the pandemic with their equivalent meaning in Arabic. This list has been named Alrahaili and Alotaibis' shortlist of COVID-19 English glossary words for EFL students. These words and phrases were gathered from social media, daily newspapers, English and Arabic dictionaries, and other sources on the issue of COVID-19. The researchers included the equivalent definition in Arabic and the definition of each word in English and the norms of these definitions.

Table 1. Alrahaili and Alotaibi's Shortlist of COVID-19 English Glossary for EFL Students

Alrahaili and Alotaibi's Shortlist of COVID-19 English Glossary for EFL Students.				
No.	English	Arabic	The definition	Old/New
1	Aerosols droplets	قطرات الهباء الجوي	Aerosols are particles less than 50 micrometres in diameter. They can stay airborne for an extended period of time before settling on a surface or landing on a nearby person.	Technical terms
2	Anosmia	فقد حاسة الشم	Loss of your sense of smell. COVID-19 has been linked to anosmia.	Old/New
3	Asymptomatic	عديم الاعراض	If one has a disease without detectable symptoms, they are considered asymptomatic.	Old/New
4	CDC	مراكز السيطرة على الامراض والحماية منها	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Old
5	Cohort study	دراسة جماعية	Cohort studies have aided researchers in learning about how the virus affects people, what health problems are risk factors for severe illness, and what steps can assist prevent the virus from spreading during the COVID-19 pandemic.	Old/New
6	Contact tracing	تتبع مخالطة المرضى	The term contact tracing, according to the WHO, involves tracing people who have been in close liaison with persons infected with a virus and are at a higher risk of becoming infected themselves and are in the process of likely infecting others.	Old/New
7	Contact tracing	تتبع الاتصال	The procedure for determining who has lately been in touch with those who have been diagnosed with an infectious disease.	Just newly relevant after long histories as specialized terms
8	Coronacation	الاعلاق بسبب كورونا	Coronavirus-compelled staycations due to cancelled classes, shifts, and the like.	New
9	Coronnials	مواليد جانحة كورونا	The new generation of pandemic babies.	New normal

10	COVID-19	كوفيد-19	SARS-CoV-2 is a novel infectious disease caused by the coronavirus.	New
11	COVID-19	كوفيد-19	“CO” stands for corona, “VI” for virus, and “D” for disease. The number 19 for the year 2019 in which the outbreak occurred.	New
12	Covidiots	الغير مباليين بمرض كوفيد-19	To describe those ignoring social distancing rules	New normal
13	Devastation	التحطيم	The term devastation which has the denotation of great destruction or damage, economic, social, etc.	New normal
14	Doomscrolling	تصفح الاخبار السيئة بالهاتف	When you skim worrying news on your smartphone	Old/New
15	Elbow bump	السلام بالكوع	A gesture in which two people bump their elbows together, especially as an alternative to a handshake	Old/New
16	Epidemic	وباء	Epidemic disease affects many people at the same time by spreading from person to person in a locality where the disease is not permanently prevalent.	Old/New
17	Epidemiological savant	علماء الأوبئة	A person of profound or extensive learning related to epidemiology.	Old/New
18	Flattening the curve	تسطيح منحنى الإصابات	This refers to the slowing of a virus' spread so that fewer people may seek treatment at once.	Old/Gained more currency in their usage during COVID-19
19	Frontline workers	الصفوف الامامية	Frontline soldiers are a compound noun denoting the military line or part of an army that is closest to the enemy. Following the analogy of frontline soldiers, nurses and paramedics and essentially all health workers around the world are now frontline workers against COVID-19.	Undergone semantic shift in its usage under the COVID-19 vocabulary.
20	Hamsterkauf	الشراء بسبب الذعر	A German word meaning panic buying	Old/New
21	Herd immunity	حصانة القطيع	It is one of the terms that is currently in use in the COVID-19 vocabulary and can mean group immunity or the ability to resist the spread of a contagious disease because a population has a sufficiently high number of people immune to the disease.	Moved from the field of medical jargon to ordinary register.
22	Home schooling	التدريس المنزلي	It is the education of children at home by their parents.	Has become a more common term.
23	Immunity	مناعة	Immunity is the ability to resist illness when exposed to a disease	Old
24	Incubation period	فترة الحضانة	The term incubation refers to the time from the moment someone is exposed to an infectious agent until the time they exhibit symptoms of the disease.	Moved from the field of medical jargon to ordinary register.
25	Infodemic	معلومات عن الوباء	Too much information, including false or misleading information, in a digital or physical environment during a disease outbreak	Old/New
26	Intubation	عملية زراعة الانبوب عن طريق الفم	A pipe known as an endotracheal tube is inserted through the mouth and into the airway so that a patient can be placed on a ventilator to help them breath during anesthesia, sedation, or severe illness such as COVID-19.	Moved from the field of medical jargon to ordinary register.
27	Isolation	عزل	Isolation is a noun that specifically refers to the act of completely separating a person suffering from a contagious or infectious disease from others.	Moved from the field of medical jargon to ordinary register due to the existing situation.
28	Lockdown	اغلاق	The term lockdown underwent some form of semantic shift and has been used in relation to mass quarantines and not in the traditional sense of the word.	Old/New
29	Maskne	حساسية الكمام	A play on mask and acne, this has become the go-to word to describe the skin irritation that can arise from consistent mask wearing	Old/New

30	Moronavirus	فيروس مورونا	It is a form of quarantine shaming. to criticize someone for not following health and safety guidelines	New
31	<b>Mortality rate</b>	معدل الوفيات	The number of deaths in a given population over a specified period of time.	Old/New
32	New normal	التأقلم مع الأشياء الجديدة	It describes new ways of doing things and about how we live, work, and interact with others. Because most viral diseases including COVID-19 have no cure to date, people have to learn to adapt their lifestyles to live with the virus. When a previously unfamiliar or a typical situation becomes standard, usual, or expected, then we talk of a new normal.	Old/New
33	Omicron	فايروس الاوميكرون (متحور كورونا الجديد)	The SARS-CoV-omicron variant is a variant of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.	New
34	Pandemic	جائحة	Global outbreak of a disease emanating from a new virus. As compared to an epidemic, a pandemic depends on geographic spread describes a disease that affects a whole country or the entire world.	Old/New
35	Panic shopping	التسوق المدفوع بالذعر	The action of buying large quantities of a particular product or commodity due to sudden fears of a forthcoming shortage or price rise.	New. Packed with cultural meaning
36	PCR (The polymerase chain reaction test)	فحص فايروس كورونا-19	PCR is a test for COVID-19 that analyses your upper respiratory specimen looking for a genetic material from a specific organism, such as a virus.	Old/New
37	Plateau	استقرار الحالة	A plateau is seen as a period or state where there is little or no growth or where there is decline in a disease or a situation so as to stop it from progressing.	Sematic shift
38	Quaranteam	الأشخاص التي تراهم في المحجر فقط	The very limited group of people you see during self-isolation	New
39	Quarantine	حجر صحي	The term quarantine refers to a strict isolation regime forced on people to put to a stop the spread of a disease.	Moved from the field of medical jargon to ordinary register due to the existing situation.
40	Quarantine pod	أماكن عزل صحية	After long histories as specialized terms	New to the popular vernacular
41	Relaxing restrictions	تخفيف القيود	Relaxing can mean reducing tension or anxiety, whereas restrictions mean the limitation or control of someone or something, or the state of being restricted.	New. Phased approach to avoid new waves.
42	Respirator	قناع للتنفس	A respirator is a mask-like device worn over the mouth, or nose and mouth, by medical staff to prevent the inhalation of toxic compounds or the like.	Moved from the field of medical jargon to ordinary register.
43	<b>Respiratory system</b>	الجهاز التنفسي	COVID-19 is a respiratory disease,	Old
44	Screening	مسح للمرضى	Screening is the speculative identification of undetected disease in an otherwise healthy or asymptomatic population.	Moved from the field of medical jargon to ordinary register.
45	Smizing	الابتسام خلف الكمامة	To smile with eyes; to show emotions through the eyes while wearing a mask	Old/New
46	Super-spreader event	واقع الانتشار السريع	It is an event in which an infectious disease is spread much more than usual, whereas an unusually contagious organism infected with a disease is known as a super-spreader.	Technical terms
47	Symptomatic	اعراض	If someone has symptoms associated with a certain disease or condition, they are considered symptomatic.	Old/New
48	Syndromic surveillance	مراقبة الاعراض	The term refers to ways of detecting individual and population health indicators that are discernible before confirming diagnoses.	Has gained prominence during the COVID-19 period.
49	Systemic racism	العنصرية المنهجية	Systems and structures that have procedures or processes that disadvantages to African Americans.	Packed with cultural meaning

50	Vaccine	تطعيم	Medicines that aid in the preparation of our immune systems to fight infections caused by specific disorders. A number of vaccinations to treat COVID-19 are currently being researched. Some have now been given permission to be used.	Old
51	Ventilators	جهاز التنفس	A ventilator enables mechanical ventilation, which moves air into and out of the lungs and, in the process, delivers breaths to a patient who physically cannot breathe or is breathing insufficiently.	Moved from the field of medical jargon to ordinary register.
52	Voluntary isolation	عزل تطوعي	It happens when an individual separates himself or herself from others if they suspect they are infected, although it may not mean they are actually infected.	Moved from the field of medical jargon to ordinary register due to the existing COVID-19 situation.
53	Voluntary quarantine	حجر تطوعي	Voluntary quarantine occurs when someone is not coerced into quarantining but does so on their own volition out of an abundance of caution. It is also called self-quarantine. This a strategy that helps stop the disease from spreading.	Moved from the field of medical jargon to ordinary register due to the existing COVID-19 situation.
54	WHO	منظمة الصحة العالمية	The World Health Organization (WHO) was established in 1948 with the goal of assisting countries in improving citizens' health through research, funding, public health campaigns, and a variety of other programmes and projects.	Old
55	Zoombombing	اختراق التواصل الاجتماعي (منطلق)	The act of someone taking part in a video conference to which they have not been invited.	The harassing in video conference intrusion into a private
56	Zoom fatigue	الإرهاق من الجلوس خلف الأجهزة	The exhaustion that sets in while living life over Zoom	New normal
57	Zoonosis	الأمراض الحيوانية المنشأ	Spreading from an animal to a human	Old/New

## 5. Conclusion

Finally, the aim of this small-scale study is to shed light on some specific phrases and terms that arose during the COVID-19 crisis that can be taught to EFL students in various universities in the Arab World. Educating ourselves on social and science responses will help us understand the situation and explain it to others. This brief glossary will help lecturers and students brush up on the ever-changing lexicon we need to get along in the COVID-19 world. It also informs policymakers and curriculum designers that during a social crisis, communication language is responsive to several contextual processes. All the words and expressions selected for this study are for the purpose of teaching and learning. The study focused on terms and expressions without going into detail on the different dimensions of the word formation processes or neologisms and lexemes. The selection of these expressions and words covered some terms that existed long before this current pandemic and have become more common now as well as some medical terms that have become part of everyday speech.

## References

- Abu Hamour, M. (2020). "Terminology" produced by Corona. Will it become part of the linguistic heritage? ALGhad News, 29 December. Retrieved from <https://alghad.com/%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B7%D9%84%D8%AD%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A3%D9%81%D8%B1%D8%B2%D8%AA%D9%87%D8%A7-%D9%83%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%88%D9%86%D8%A7-%D9%81%D9%87%D9%84-%D8%AA%D8%B5%D8%A8%D8%AD-%D8%AC%D8%B2%D8%A1%D8%A7/>
- Aitchison, J. (2001). *Language change: Progress or decay?* Cambridge university press. <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511809866>
- Akmajian, A., Farmer, A. K., Bickmore, L., Demers, R. A., & Harnish, R. M. (2017). *Linguistics: An introduction to language and communication*. MIT press.
- ALECSO (2020). *Covid-19 Terminology Dictionary*. Retrieved from <https://www.alecso.org/nsite/en/publications>
- Al-Salman, S., & Haider, A. S. (2021). Jordanian University Students' Views on Emergency Online Learning during COVID-19. *Online Learning*, 25(1), 286-302. <https://doi.org/10.24059/olj.v25i1.2470>



- Bakhmat, L., Panchenko, V., & Nosah, O. (2021). *Language Changes, Lessons of COVID-19 and Coroneologisms*. <https://doi.org/10.32342/2523-4463-2021-1-21-13>
- Becker, Alexandra. (2020). *COVID-19 crisis catalogue: A glossary of terms*. Texas Medical Center. Retrieved from <https://www.tmc.edu/news/2020/05/covid-19-crisis-catalog-a-glossary-of-terms/>
- Bizhkenova, A. E., Sultanbekova, S., & Koshekova, A. (2017). Neologisms in present-day German: Investigation into productivity of word formation types. *Journal of Fundamental and Applied Sciences*, 9(7S), 982-996.
- Burridge, K., & Bergs, A. (2016). *Understanding language change*. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315463018>
- Crystal, D. (2011). *A dictionary of linguistics and phonetics*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Crystal, David. (2008). *A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics* (6th ed.). London: Blackwell Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1002/9781444302776>
- Dictionary, M. W. (2021). Coronavirus and the New Words We Added to the Dictionary in March 2020. *Электронные данные*. Retrieved from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/new-dictionary-words-coronaviruscovid-19>
- Dictionary, O. E. (2020). *Updates to the OED*. Retrieved from <https://public.oed.com/updates/>
- Dolcourt, J. (2021). *Coronavirus glossary: Every COVID-19 related term you need to know*. [online] CNET. Retrieved from <https://www.cnet.com/how-to/coronavirus-glossary-every-covid-19-related-term-you-need-to-know/>
- English Club. (2020). *Coronavirus COVID-19 Vocabulary*. Retrieved from <https://www.englishclub.com/vocabulary/coronavirus-covid19.php>
- Haider, A. S., & Al-Salman, S. (2020). Dataset of Jordanian university students' psychological health impacted by using e-learning tools during COVID-19. *Data in brief*, 32, 106104. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2020.106104>
- Hamdan, H., & Al-Salman, S. (2021). The Use of Arabic Neologisms in Social Media Applications. *International Journal of Arabic-English Studies (IJAES)*, 21(1), 45-60. <https://doi.org/10.33806/ijaes2000.21.1.3>
- Herrera, T. (2020). *The 20 phrases that defined 2020*. INDIA FORBES, 22. Retrieved from <https://www.forbesindia.com/article/global-news/the-20-phrases-that-defined-2020/65149/1>
- Hollett, V. (2020). *New English words and language change with COVID-19*. Simple English Videos. Retrieved from <https://www.simpleenglishvideos.com/new-english-words-and-language-change-with-covid-19/>
- Kreuz, R. J. (2020). *How COVID-19 is changing the English language*. Retrieved from How COVID-19 is changing the English language| PBS NewsHour.
- Kupolati, O., Adebileje, A., & Adeleke, A. (2021). "Someone has been coronated" Nigerian English lexical innovations in the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Cogent Arts & Humanities*, 8(1), 1947559. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311983.2021.1947559>
- Lalić-Krstin, G., & Silaški, N. (2018). From Brexit to Bregret: An account of some Brexit-induced neologisms in English. *English today*, 34(2), 3-8. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0266078417000530>
- Lawson, R. (2020). Coronavirus has led to an explosion of new words and phrases—and that helps us cope. *The Conversation*, 28. Retrieved from <https://theconversation.com/coronavirus-has-led-to-an-explosion-of-new-words-and-phrases-and-that-helps-us-cope-136909>
- Liu, W., & Liu, W. (2014). Analysis on the word-formation of English netspeak neologism. *Journal of Arts and Humanities*, 3(12), 22-30. Retrieved from <https://www.theartsjournal.org/index.php/site/article/download/624/336>
- Mweri, J. (2021). Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) effects on language use: An analysis of neologisms. *Linguistics and Literature Studies*, 9(1), 36-47. <https://doi.org/10.13189/lls.2021.090105>
- Nauman Ahmed, H., & Islam, M. (2020). Influence of COVID-19 on the Lexical Features of English in Pakistan. *Linguistics and Literature Review*. <https://doi.org/10.32350/llr.v6i2.954>

- Osman, S. (2020). The language of coronavirus: Linguistic innovations and lexical Richness during Crises. Arab Centre for Research and studies, Cairo (2020, JUNE 16). Retrieved from <https://www.acrseg.org/41641>
- Ratih, E., & Gusdian, R. I. (2018). Word formation processes in English new words of Oxford English dictionary (OED) online. *Celtic: A Journal of Culture, English Language Teaching, Literature and Linguistics*, 5(2), 24-35. <https://doi.org/10.22219/celtic.v5i2.7617>
- Roig-Marín, A. (2021). English-based coroneologisms: A short survey of our Covid-19-related vocabulary. *English Today*, 37(4), 193-195. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0266078420000255>
- ten Hacken, P., & Thomas, C. (2013). *Word formation, meaning and lexicalization*, 1-27. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9780748689613-003>
- Thontteh, E., & Olanrele, O. (2020). *Covid-19 and the 'new normal': Implications for the Nigeria real estate sector*.
- Thorne, T. (2020). #CORONASPEAK—the language of Covid-19 goes viral. *Language and innovation*. Retrieved from <https://language-and-innovation.com/2020/04/15/coronaspeak-part-2-the-language-of-covid-19-goes-viral/>
- Urbano, C. M. S. (2021). *Coronalexicon: A cross-lingual analysis of the language of the pandemic across English varieties*. [https://animorepository.dlsu.edu.ph/etdm\\_deal/1/](https://animorepository.dlsu.edu.ph/etdm_deal/1/)
- Vitenu-Sackey, P. A., & Barfi, R. (2021). The impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the Global economy: emphasis on poverty alleviation and economic growth. *The Economics and Finance Letters*, 8(1), 32-43. <https://doi.org/10.18488/journal.29.2021.81.32.43>
- Yule, G. (2018). *The Study of Language*. Online available: [www.studocu.com](http://www.studocu.com) › Inglese-i › riassunti › view 2018

### Copyrights

Copyright for this article is retained by the author(s), with first publication rights granted to the journal.

This is an open-access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).