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**THE IMPACT OF THE GLOBAL COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON RELATED
COLLOCATIONS: A DICTIONARY AND CORPUS-BASED STUDY**

Bachelor’s thesis

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PREFACE

The impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic on human's life can hardly be overestimated. It has affected all possible spheres of human activity and has had a significant influence on linguistics. The English language is compelled to absorb new meanings of current realities and reflects them in the most recent word collocations and phrases. The research problem of the current study is thus to reveal what impact the global coronavirus pandemic has had on the meaning of collocations used in relation to the pandemic. The study aims to determine what specific collocations exist to describe various pandemics and what they mean, to analyze how frequent the usage of collocations related to the pandemic is, and to identify whether collocations used in relation to different diseases and viruses have acquired new meaning or their meaning was changed due to the impact of the global pandemic.

The structure of the research paper is as follows: the Introduction, Chapter I, Chapter II and the Conclusion. The Introduction provides an overview of articles and literature related to the topic, includes justification of the choice of the research topic, and presents the research aims and the hypothesis. Chapter I "Collocations, Word-Meaning and Semantic Change" is the theoretical part of the thesis, which provides information about collocations in English, their placement in lexicology, definitions and types of collocations. Chapter II "Linguistic Analysis of the COVID-19 Pandemic-Related Collocations" is dedicated to practical linguistic analysis of the pandemic-related collocations and phrases based on dictionary and corpora study. The Conclusion presents summary of the results and outcomes obtained in the research and comments on the hypothesis.

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INTRODUCTION

Different Causes for Language Change

Change is an imminent fact for any language and all languages are subjected to change over time. The only language which is not exposed to changes is a dead language. The English language is not an exception in this regard as it has been constantly changing since its origin. These changes have been influenced by variety of reasons, such as political factors, social factors, new technology, cultural and moral factors as well as appearance of new diseases (PBS 2005, para. 3).

- *Political Cause*

Political factor is mainly caused by migration, foreign invasion and colonization. Unstable political situation in some developing countries and job search provoke more migration in nowadays. When people migrate to a new country and learn another language, they bring along accents and mother tongue background into their new language of communication. This linguistic heritage they transmit to the future generations. Besides the language change caused by migration politics itself influence people and language they speak through the public debates (Aitcheson 1991, p. 133).

- *Social Cause*

Social life is very interconnected with political and economic spheres. Vocabulary and phrases people use depend not only upon the age, gender and education of individuals but also upon political situation in the country and in the world in general. Society is forced to adopt changing reality and change the language they speak accordingly (ibid., p. 135).

- *New Technology*

New technologies appear every day especially in the internet sphere. New words and expressions which denote new technological processes and inventions enter the Oxford English Dictionary. Some of this new term remain in language for a longer time but other like for example “*floppy disk*” are not used in conversations anymore. Instant text messaging in social media also provoke appearance of language change and abbreviation (ibid., p. 137).

- *Cultural and Moral Cause*

Living in a multicultural world requires understanding of various cultures and moral standards and transmitting the meaning of cultural values into language we speak. All people use different words and their combinations, depending not only on age, education level, origin but also culture, religion and moral standards (ibid., p. 138).

- *New Diseases*

Emergence of new diseases in different periods of history have always provoked appearance of a new medical vocabulary, for example, Acquire Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) or Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) (ibid, p. 139).

Types of Language Change

There are different types of language change. Aitcheson (1991, p. 17) argues that *phonological change* or, according to Aitcheson, *sound change*, *syntactic change*, *lexical change* along with *semantic* or *meaning change* are the main types of language change.

- *Phonological change or sound change*

The process of phonological change is strongly connected with the practice of usage which causes the phonological change or the sound change. As we all know Received Pronunciation (RP) is a standard but rarely it is heard as people's speech progressively changes over the years and people tend to pick up accents very quickly.

- *Syntactic change*

Although English syntax is changing very slowly Modern English grammar is very different from Old English. Such examples as the only one "you" form of the third singular person or only one form for the second singular and plural forms in Modern English.

- *Lexical change*

Lexical change is characterized by the vocabulary that people used today. As we may see the vocabulary or words in general of Modern English differ from what was used in Old English.

- *Semantic or meaning change*

Semantic or meaning change is closely connected to lexical change. It is one of the most frequent types of language change. It demonstrates not only how vocabulary and words change over time but also the meaning behind the words Aitcheson (1991, pp. 17-25).

Social Changes Cause Linguistic Changes

It is an acknowledged fact that big social changes undoubtedly cause big linguistic changes. The global coronavirus pandemic provides ample evidence of that. Covid-19 has influenced not only lives of billions of people but also their language. A new social phenomenon requires a relevant vocabulary describing the global problem to the full extent. This relatively new vocabulary includes epidemiological and medical terms, acronyms, neologisms, phrases and collocations.

The OED lexicographers are constantly updating the dictionary with new entries which reflect the language development. Among new entries are such collocations as: *social distancing*, *self-isolation*, *flatten the curve*, *shelter-in-place*, *elbow bump*, *working from home (WFH)*, *personal protective equipment (PPE)*, *self-quarantined* (Paton 2020, para. 1).

The OED lexicographers constantly keep track of coronavirus-related vocabulary. All found linguistic changes are reflected in the OED language corpora. The analysis based on corpus monitor shows that frequency of usage coronavirus-related collocations has grown in comparison to previous months. The Oxford Corpus shows that certain words are used in relation to coronavirus more frequently. The table provides the information about top collocates of coronavirus during three months. The most frequently used collocations are: “coronavirus outbreak, novel coronavirus, spread of coronavirus, fight the coronavirus” (OED Editorial 2020, para. 3).

The whole world is speaking about current situation mostly in English. Many people around the globe no matter what language they speak have to adopt new words or find the equivalent in their own language in order to be able to discuss coronavirus related issues. The human’s knowledge about the coronavirus is increasing; new side effects and the way of its treatment are being discovered. The terminology, special terms and medical terms related to this disease are constantly increasing and updated, and the OED is fixing these changes in its updates (ibid., para. 2).

Although the present study focuses on the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic impact on collocations used in relation to the pandemics in previous times in the English language, the increased frequency of usage of the coronavirus related collocations around the world in many different languages is evident. For example, in France lexicographers recorded about 170 additional entries in the French language reflecting the current reality, in the German

language, more than 1200 new words related to the global coronavirus pandemic have been compiled in various dictionaries.

The hypothesis of this particular study suggests that existing collocations used for describing situations of crises and diseases have acquired a different or completely new meaning. The research task of this study is to analyze what particular changes COVID-19 pandemic–related collocations have developed as a result of the global coronavirus pandemic.

CHAPTER I. COLLOCATIONS, WORD MEANING AND SEMANTIC CHANGE

1.1 Definitions and Types of Collocations

1.1.1 Definitions of Collocations

There are various definitions describing the notion of *collocation*. As cited in McCarthy (2017) the term *collocation* was used first time in linguistics by J.R. Firth in the 1950-s. It was derived from Latin, which stands for “*put together*”. In other words, a collocation is a tendency of certain words or word combinations to appear together. One more definition is “the way words combine in predictable way” (McCarthy 2017, p. 48).

McCarthy defines a collocation, as “a combination of two or more words which frequently occur together” (McCarthy 2017, p. 6).

The OED defines a collocation as a “combination of words in a language that happens very often and more frequently than would happen by chance” (OED Editorial 2021, para. 1).

The Online Cambridge Dictionary defines collocation as “a word or phrase that is often used with another word or phrase, in a way that sounds correct to people who have spoken the language all their lives but might not be expected from the meaning” (OCD 2021, para. 1).

Lewis (2000) argues that all collocations are idioms and phrasal verbs to a certain extent as they tend to appear in a particular combination of words and permit little or no change displaying some resemblance between collocations, idioms and phrasal words.

Collocation is the natural way in which words co-occur. It is necessary to mention that as said before collocation is “the way words naturally co-occur and not just any words. Firth (1950) argues that collocation is a mode of meaning. According to Firth (1950), lexical meaning of a word is realized through multiple meanings on various levels. He also thinks that the meaning of a collocation is determined by its lexical meaning on the syntagmatic level. Syntagmatic and paradigmatic relation between lexical units can be shown schematically by two axes – a horizontal and vertical. The paradigmatic axis is vertical and includes all the words that belong to the same class and are interchangeable in a certain grammatical and lexical context. The horizontal axis is syntagmatic and refers to the ability of a word to connect with the others. For example, in a sentence *Mary drank beer*, *beer* is in a paradigmatic relation to *wine*, *juice*, *Coke* while in syntagmatic with *drank* and *Mary*.

Therefore, a collocation is a result of lexical relations along the syntagmatic axis (McCarthy 2017, p. 49).

1.1.2 Types of Collocations

From the various definitions of collocations, it is clear that collocation is “the way words occur together”, although, not all words occur together naturally. The fact that the definition is very broad is obvious. There are different types of collocations but the most regularly found together are following groups:

- Adjective + Noun
- Verb + Noun
- Noun + Noun
- Verb + Adverb
- Adverb + Adjective
- Verb + Adjective + Noun
- Noun + Verb
- Multi-word prepositional phrase
- Phrasal verb
- Adjective + Preposition
- Compound noun
- Binomial
- Trinomial

The linguistic analysis of the Coronavirus Corpus data and the recently increased frequency of usage coronavirus-related collocations might incentivize adding new significant terms to the dictionary. For example, the collocation *face covering* has its history which dates back to 1732. Since that time, it has been used in a general sense. But a quick analysis of the coronavirus corpus data shows that recent usage of the collocation *face covering* is less frequent. Instead more frequently is used the noun *covering* in the same sense. The investigation shows that the term experiences changes in its form and meaning development (OED Editorial 2020, para. 6).

2.1. Semantic Change and its Impact on Collocation's Meaning Development

2.2.1. Traditional Classifications of Semantic Change

Semantics is the branch of linguistics which refers to the study of the meaning of words. This study is divided into two main areas: logical semantics and lexical semantics. Logical semantics is mostly interested in senses, references and presupposition while lexical semantics studies word meanings and how they are related. The main claim of cognitive linguistics postulates that words do not have fixed meanings but rather evoke different meanings depending on the context in which they are used. The meanings of words, or semantics, have been changing constantly since the first language began to be used as a tool of communication. Although there have been a great number of reasons that have contributed to semantic changes, some of them have played a more significant role than others (Traugott 2017, para. 3).

Traugott (2017) argues that traditional classifications to semantic change usually are centered on meaning changes results: "Traditional approaches to semantic change typically focus on outcomes of meaning change and list types of change such as metaphoric and metonymic extension, broadening and narrowing, and the development of positive and negative meanings. Examples are usually considered out of context and are lexical members of nominal and adjectival word classes." (ibid, para. 3).

Traditionally, semantic change has been studied from different perspectives. There are many different approaches to semantic change classifications and the following classifications are mostly commonly known (Hollmann 2004, p. 528).

The first traditional classification of semantic changes is based on the final result of meaning change. Meaning change in this case is divided into two categories: positive and negative. The change resulting in more positive meaning is called *melioration* while change resulting in more negative meaning – *pejoration* (ibid, p. 528).

The French linguist Michel Bréal, arguing about traditional classifications of semantic changes, presents his understanding of this process saying that: "The so-called pejorative tendency is the result of a very human disposition which prompts us to veil, to attenuate, to disguise ideas which are disagreeable, wounding or repulsive [...]. There is nothing in it all save a feeling of consideration, a precaution against unnecessary shocks, a precaution

which whether sincere or feigned is not long efficient, since the hearer seeks out things behind the word, and at once identifies them” (Bréal 1897, pp. 100–101).

The second traditional classification of semantic changes is based on understanding of the meaning in terms of a broader meaning which is called *broadening* or a narrower meaning – *narrowing*. For example, “dog” can be used to refer not to any old dog, but to some specific large and strong breeds. Bréal (1897, p. 529) maintains that

It is interesting in this connection to compare English to Dutch, where this is still the case: to a Dutchman the word “dog” summons up an image of a Great Dane or perhaps the kind of dog featured in the film Turner and Hooch (Dogue de Bordeaux); to talk about dogs in general he would use the word “hond”. (The English cognate hound has gone in the opposite direction: it now describes some particular breeds used in hunting.) The development the English word “dog” has undergone the process of generalisation, widening or broadening. (As is so often the case in linguistics and other sciences, several different terms are around for what is essentially the same thing.) The opposite of generalisation is specialisation (also known as narrowing). In Middle English, any young person could be called a girl; the restriction to female young persons is a development that occurred in the Early Modern period.

The third traditional classification of semantic changes contains semantic changes that may be classified as whether it results from a *metaphor* or *metonymy*. “In metaphorical meaning changes, speakers perceive some sort of similarity between one concept and another concept. Metonymy, like metaphor, involves some sort of connection between concepts, but in this case there is no similarity between them, but they are closely linked in some other way, for example because one is part of, or contains, the other.” (ibid: 530).

1.2.2. Collocation Meaning Development

The vocabulary of any language including English is complicated and consists not only of individual words but also of multi-words expressions such as idioms, phrasal verbs, and collocations. As it has been mentioned before a collocation is predictable combination of two or more words together. Collocations can be much longer than two words and may consist of many words. For example: *seriously affect the political situation* = adverb + verb + article + adjective + noun. Each component in this case separately also has its own meaning. Lewis (2000:51).

Lewis (2000) argues that if we define collocation as the way two or more words occur together it is clearly seen that the definition is very wide, and many different items will suit this definition. Below are some examples of collocations that can be easily recognised as group of words very often found together:

1. *a difficult decision* (adjective + noun)
2. *submit a report* (verb + noun)

3. *radio station* (noun + noun)
4. *examine thoroughly* (verb + adverb)
5. *extremely inconvenient* (adverb + adjective)
6. *revise the original plan* (verb + adjective + noun)
7. *the fog closed in* (noun + verb)
8. *to put in another way* (discourse maker)
9. *a few years ago* (multi-word professional phrase)
10. *turn in* (phrasal verb)
11. *aware of* (adjective + preposition)
12. *fire escape* (compound noun)
13. *backwards and forwards* (binomial)
14. *hook, line and sinker* (trinomial)
15. *on the other hand* (fixed phrase)
16. *a sort of ...* (incomplete fixed phrase)
17. *Not half?* (fixed expression)
18. *See you later/ tomorrow/ on Monday* (semi-fixed expression)
19. *Too many cooks ...* (part of a proverb)
20. *To be or not to be ...* (part of a quotation)

The collocations listed above are well-known and frequently used in everyday life. Although, their meaning is clear in most of the cases and rear experience much shifting in the meaning there could be individual cases where semantics of these word combinations many vary from the original meaning. For example, when a speaker is adding additional sometimes opposite meaning with his emotions or gestures the original meaning of these collocations changes.

Fixed phrase is a category which means something different from their literal definition. It can include phrases, idioms where words and word order is fixed and cannot be changed.

CHAPTER II. LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC-RELATED COLLOCATIONS

The empirical study of COVID-19 related collocations is based on qualitative as well as quantitative methods of research. The qualitative research is based on comparative analysis of dictionary data coming from the Oxford English Dictionary – the most comprehensive and complete recording of the English language and its history. The quantitative research is based on the Coronavirus Corpus analysis – a specific record which aims to reflect the impact of coronavirus on social, cultural and economic life.

The object of the study is the COVID-19 pandemic-related collocations that have appeared in the Oxford English Dictionaries and in the Coronavirus Corpus. The current size of the corpus is about 1.5 billion words and it is still growing. All data have been collected from the online sources, where information is available in comparison with different time periods and countries.

The period under review covers entries that were made in April 2020. The reason for paying such close attention to this date is a significant update of the OED which comes outside the usual quarterly publication cycle. This extraordinary update consists of phrases, word combinations and collocations describing the development of the language during the global COVID-19 pandemic.

2.1. Oxford English Dictionaries Data

Recent global social events have rapidly found their reflection in everyday language. It is an uncommon experience for OED lexicographers, who constantly monitor language change and update its development on a quarterly basis, to observe such an impetuous increase in usage frequency of some words describing the situation and related to global pandemic in a such short period of time. The spread of the disease accordingly heralded implementation of a new vocabulary which includes specific epidemiological and medical terms, new acronyms, phrases and collocations (Paton 2020, para. 1).

One of the most frequently used words in these days recorded by lexicographers is a shortening of *coronavirus disease 2019* – *COVID 19*. It was introduced to the world community by World Health Organization (WHO) and obtained its official name on 11 February 2020, previously known as “2019 novel coronavirus”. It is important to distinguish between the disease and the virus causing it. The disease in this case is the coronavirus

disease and the virus – “severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)” (WHO 2020, para. 1).

Covid-19 opens the OED list of new word entries updated in April 2020, stating that the coronavirus disease 2019 is “an acute disease in humans caused by a coronavirus, which is characterized mainly by fever and cough and is capable of progressing to pneumonia, respiratory and renal failure, blood coagulation abnormalities, and death, esp. in the elderly and people with underlying health conditions.” The entry also provides a short description of the origins of this disease informing that “coronavirus disease 2019 was originally identified in China in December 2019 and became pandemic in 2020” (OED Editorial 2020, para. 1).

The actual history of coronaviruses began in 1965 when a British virologists David Arthur John Tyrrell and Malcolm Laurin Bynoe discovered the first human coronavirus named B814 while investigating viruses which provoke common colds. In 1967, David A. J. Tyrrell conducted the first human and chicken coronaviruses comparative study which led to invention of the name *coronavirus* in 1968 (Lippincott 2005, para. 2).

Another term on the OED list of new word entries during the pandemic is the verb *self-isolate* – “to isolate oneself from others deliberately; (now) esp. to undertake self-imposed isolation for a period of time, typically in one’s own home, in order to avoid catching or transmitting an infectious disease, or as one of a number of public health measures designed to inhibit its spread” (OED 2020: para1). However, from quotations given by the entry we may observe that this term has been known since 1925 and was often used in the past in relation to the countries which have decided to detach from other countries whether politically, economically or socially or people for many reasons but obviously different reasons that we consider today (ibid, para. 2).

Along with the previous term come closely related words with mostly the same meaning but different parts of speech: adjectives *self-isolated* -“of a person or group: in self-imposed isolation from others; (now) esp. that has undertaken self-imposed isolation for a period of time, typically at home, in order to avoid catching or transmitting an infectious disease, or as one of a number of public health measures designed to inhibit its spread” and *self-isolating* - “that adheres to or promotes self-isolation; (of a person, group, or population) undertaking self-imposed isolation for a period of time, now esp. in order to avoid catching or transmitting an infectious disease, or as one of a number of public health measures designed

to inhibit its spread” (OED 2020, para. 1). The noun *self-isolation* also has a separate entry meaning “the action, fact, or process of deliberately isolating oneself; an instance of this. Now: esp. self-imposed isolation undertaken in order to avoid catching or transmitting an infectious disease, or as one of a number of public health measures designed to inhibit its spread. Frequently in in self-isolation.” (OED 2020, para. 7).

Paton (2020) argues that *self-isolation* was recorded in 1834 and *self-isolating* recorded in 1841 are used today expressing intention of a person to isolate in order to prevent transmission and spreading of now used to describe self-imposed isolation to prevent catching or transmitting a communicative disease, while in 1800s it was mostly used referring to states which practiced detachment in their foreign policy (OED Public 2020, para. 4).

Another example of a term that has been known since 1876 and has become frequently used recently is a noun *self-quarantine* standing for “isolation undertaken by an individual or group in order to avoid transmitting an infectious disease, (now) esp. as one of a number of public health measures designed to inhibit its spread; (also) such isolation undertaken in order to avoid catching an infectious disease” together with the verb *self-quarantine* – “to isolate oneself in a house, hotel, or other location, in order to avoid transmitting an infectious disease, (now) esp. as one of a number of public health measures designed to inhibit its spread; (also) to undertake such isolation in order to avoid catching an infectious disease; to go into self-quarantine” and adjective *self-quarantined* – “of a person or group: that has undertaken isolation in a house, hotel, or other location in order to avoid transmitting an infectious disease, (now) esp. as one of a number of public health measures designed to inhibit its spread; (also) that has undertaken such isolation in order to avoid catching an infectious disease”. All three entries provide cross reference to synonymic *self-isolation*, *self-isolate*, *self-isolated* accordingly (OED 2020, paras. 8, 9, 10).

The phrase *shelter-in-place* has been known since 1976 as an instruction to people to find a safe place in the position they are currently situated until the situation is clear and resolved during the case of nuclear or terrorist attack.

According to Paton (2020), during the global COVID-19 pandemic this term obtained one more meaning as it has been adopted as a recommendation to remain indoors in order to protect people from disease spreading. “Originally during an emergency in which there is imminent threat to life: to find a place of safety in one’s present location or immediate

surroundings and stay there until an all-clear is given. Later also: to remain indoors (typically at home) at all times, with only limited specified exceptions, esp. as part of preventative public health measure intended to inhibit the spread of an infectious disease. Also (and in earliest use) transitive: to request or advise (an individual or group) to do this” (ibid., para. 11).

The noun *social-distancing* has two meanings: the first one is “the action or practice of maintaining a degree of remoteness or emotional separation from another person or social group” and the second one – “The action or practice of maintaining a certain physical distance from, or limiting physical contact with, another person or people (esp. family and friends), esp. in order to avoid catching or transmitting an infectious disease, or as one of a number of public health measures designed to inhibit its spread” (ibid: para 12). It was first used in 1957 and originally reflected to an attitude rather than a physical condition meaning a social alienation or a strong desire to distance from others. Nowadays the phrase has acquired different meaning and refers to attempt of keeping physical distance as much as it is possible in order to avoid infection spreading (OED Public 2020, para. 4).

The phrase *to flatten the curve* originally was used in relation to electronic edition and in 2010 to minimise transmission. In 2020 its meaning was related to medicine and specification epidemiology meaning “to take measures designed to reduce the rate at which infection spreads during an epidemic, with the aim of lowering the peak daily number of new cases and extending the period over which new cases occur”. (ibid., para. 13).

Elbow bump – “a gesture (usually of greeting or farewell) in which two people lightly tap their elbows together as an alternative to a handshake or embrace, esp. in order to reduce the risk of spreading or catching an infectious disease” (ibid: para 4). “*Gene Banks of the Duke basketball team speaks of the hand slap, high five, elbow bump and other varieties of shakin*” (Miami News 1981: para 1). In 1981 elbow bump together with a hand slap or high five were widely used as great possibility to pass good mood and cheer up friend or a colleague and never as a way to avoid touching greetings (ibid., para. 4).

Roger (2020) argues that even though knowledge about coronavirus is increasing and many languages around the world rapidly adopt new collocations describing current situation still there are many phrases and collocations that are used now with a slightly different meaning from what has been used before. The main reason for that is lack of new words and word

combinations fully describing new phenomena and failure of already existing ones to describe situation to the full extend.

2.2. Coronavirus Corpus Data

Analysis of the Coronavirus Corpus data is one of the ways of monitoring language development. The Coronavirus Corpus contains about 1.5 billion words and phrases and is designed to keep track of the influence of the coronavirus pandemic on linguistics. The corpus allows to see the frequency of usage the global COVID-19- related words, phrases and collocations.

Below in the table are presented top 20 collocates of “coronavirus” from April to July 2020.

Nr.	Noun	April	July
1	coronavirus	outbreak	outbreak
2	coronavirus	novel	pandemic
3	coronavirus	spread	spread
4	coronavirus	case	case
5	coronavirus	spread	novel
6	coronavirus	epidemic	positive
7	coronavirus	impact	crisis
8	coronavirus	COVID-19	test
9	coronavirus	fear	impact
10	coronavirus	deadly	new
11	coronavirus	confirm	infect
12	coronavirus	test	fight
13	coronavirus	originate	fear
14	coronavirus	infection	response
15	coronavirus	infect	patient
16	coronavirus	concern	cause
17	coronavirus	patient	death
18	coronavirus	concern	disease
19	coronavirus	patient	spreading
20	coronavirus	symptom	concern

As can be seen from the table, collocates occur in different patterns, but mostly frequently used collocates of *coronavirus* are: coronavirus outbreak, novel coronavirus, spread of coronavirus, fight of the coronavirus. This frequency of coronavirus related collocations shows that despite the fact that the phenomena is relatively new, it is spoken about everywhere and there is already a tendency of certain words to occur together.

Further is analyzed the frequency of usage of collocations which consist of the following grammatical combinations: noun + noun, adjective + noun and verb + noun based.

Noun + Noun

In the table below are presented the most frequently used collocations with the word *Coronavirus + noun*.

Table 1. List of collocations The Coronavirus + Noun (sorted by frequency)

No.	The Coronavirus + Noun	MI
1	spread	3.70
2	outbreak	4.19
3	pandemic	3.51
4	disease	3.24
5	epidemic	3.21
6	infection	3.19
7	lockdown	3.17
8	battle	3.16.
9	fight	3.15
10	fallout	3.15
11	combat	3.14
12	test	3.09
13	threat	3.07
14	vaccine	3.05
15	situation	3.01

As can be seen from Table 1, the most frequently used *The Coronavirus + Noun* collocations are: *the coronavirus pandemic*, *the coronavirus outbreak* and *the coronavirus spread* which

indicate the origin of the virus. Other frequently collocated nouns are: *fight, battle and combat*, describing all the efforts that are put to prevent this disease.

Adjective + Noun

Table 2. List of collocations Adjective + Coronavirus (sorted by frequency)

No.	Adjective + Coronavirus	MI
1	fast-spreading	4.66
2	novel	3.51
3	new	3.50
4	global	3.49
5	spreading	3.19
6	current	3.12
7	contagious	3.11
8	deadly	3.09
9	human	3.07
10	Chinese	3.01

The most frequently used adjective, as is seen from Table 2, is *fast-spreading*, which describes the character of this virus. The word *novel* is the second most frequently used adjective, which means “new” and was often exploited before the coronavirus received its actual name (English Club 2019).

Verb + Noun

Table 3.1 contains information about the verbs which are frequently used with the noun *Coronavirus*. In Table 3.2 is provided information about verbs that collocate with the noun *virus*. Comparison of collocations from these two tables will provide a better understanding of linguistic changes influenced by the pandemic.

Table 3.1 List of collocations Verb + Coronavirus (sorted by frequency)

No.	Verb + Coronavirus	MI
1	spread	3.71
2	fight	3.51
3	combat	3.50
4	catch	3.49
5	get	3.39
6	stop	3.27
7	prevent	3.25
8	control	3.21
9	slow	3.17
10	defeat	3.11

Table 3.2 List of collocations Verb + virus (sorted by frequency)

No.	Verb + virus	MI
1	spread	3.63
2	catch	3.61
3	get rid	3.58
4	carry	3.44
5	fight	3.39
6	destroy	3.27
7	prevent	3.23
8	eliminate	2.98
9	defeat	2.69
10	stop	2.04

Comparison of collocations presented in Table 3.1 and Table 3.2 shows that the list of collocations Verb + Coronavirus and the list of collocations Verb + Virus have almost the same frequency and nouns *virus* and *coronavirus* have almost the same verb collocates.

Covid19 + noun

Table 4. List of collocations The Coronavirus + Noun (sorted by frequency)

No.	Covid-19 + Noun	MI
1	spread	3.70
2	outbreak	4.19
3	pandemic	3.51
4	disease	3.24
5	epidemic	3.21
6	infection	3.19
7	lockdown	3.17
8	battle	3.16.
9	fight	3.15
10	fallout	3.15
11	combat	3.14
12	test	3.09
13	threat	3.07
14	vaccine	3.05
15	situation	3.01

The tables above demonstrate the extent to which the word *coronavirus* has become overwhelmingly frequent. It collocates with nouns, verbs, adjectives. Most frequently used collocates of *coronavirus* are: *coronavirus outbreak*, *novel coronavirus*, *spread of coronavirus*, *fight of the coronavirus*. From the results of the research it can be concluded that the word *coronavirus* and its collocates have become overwhelmingly frequent in the English language and the meanings of certain collocations have also shifted.

CONCLUSION

It is evident that the global pandemic has had a significant influence on the English language, which has absorbed new meanings of current realities and reflects them in the most recent word collocations. Many words and collocations used to describe the current state of affairs have existed in the language before but were not in common usage. With the spread of the coronavirus disease such expressions have been widely disseminated in the English and other languages.

The investigation shows that many of these expressions have already existed in the English language and are related to the spread of other diseases or war times back in history but during the global coronavirus pandemic not so well-known or widely used medical terms and word collocations became frequently used in everyday speech around the whole world.

The increased frequency of usage of the coronavirus related collocations around the world has been so high during the COVID-19 global pandemic that it is hard to deny the fact that the words *coronavirus* and *COVID-19* themselves dominate global discourse. During the unprecedented years of health and language changes, different languages have adsorbed a record number of new words. The French language has emerged 170 additional entries reflecting the current reality, in the German language more than 1200 new words related to the global coronavirus pandemic have been compiled by lexicographers.

As the purpose of this research is to identify whether the global COVID-19 related collocations have acquired new meaning or their meaning has been changed due to the coronavirus pandemic impact, it is necessary to admit that collocations used to describe different pandemics and diseases back in history have not undergone significant changes in their meaning but, as the matter of fact, their meaning has become broader.

These particular findings support the hypothesis of this study that collocations and phrases related to pandemics and diseases before have changed their meaning due to the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The particular changes that have been identified during the study are semantic changes. Existing collocations used for describing situations of crises and diseases have not acquired a different or completely new meaning but their meaning has been changed due to the process of broadening.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has had quite a significant impact on the meaning of collocations and phrases used for describing situations of diseases and pandemics, shifting

their meaning, giving it a broader usage and confirming the fact that semantic change is one of the main types of language development.

RESÜMEE

Käesoleva töö nimetus on *The Impact of the Global COVID-19 Pandemic on Related Collocations: a Dictionary and Corpus-Based Study (Globaalse COVID-19 pandeemia mõju sellega seotud kollokatsioonidele: sõnaraamatu ja korpusepõhine uuring)*. Uuringu eesmärk on välja selgida, millised konkreetsed kollokatsioonid eksisteerivad erinevate pandeemiate kirjeldamiseks ja mida need tähendavad, analüüsida pandeemiaga seotud kollokatsioonide kasutamise sagedust ning tuvastada, kas erinevate haiguste ja viirustega seoses kasutatavad kollokatsioonid on saanud uue tähenduse või kas nende tähendus on muutunud ülemaailmse pandeemia mõju tõttu.

Käesolev töö on jagatud järgmisteks osadeks: Sissejuhatus, I peatükk, II peatükk ja Kokkuvõte. Sissejuhatuses antakse ülevaade teemaga seotud artiklitest ja kirjandusest, põhjendatakse teema valikut ning esitatakse uurimiseesmärgid ja hüpotees. I peatükk “Collocations, Word-Meaning and Semantic Change” on lõputöö teoreetiline osa, mis annab teavet ingliskeelsete kollokatsioonide, nende paigutuse leksikoloogias, definitsioonide ja kollokatsioonide tüüpide kohta. II peatükk “COVID-19 pandeemiaga seotud kollokatsioonide keeleline analüüs” on pühendatud pandeemiaga seotud kollokatsioonide praktilisele keelelisele analüüsile, mis põhineb sõnastiku ja korpuse uuringul. Kokkuvõtte esitab kokkuvõtte uurimistöö tulemustest.

Saadud tulemuste põhjal võib väita, et erinevate haiguste ja viirustega seotud kollokatsioonide tähendus on muutunud ning osa neist on COVID-19 ülemaailmse pandeemia mõju tõttu omandanud laiema tähenduse. Ülemaailmne COVID-19 pandeemia on oluliselt mõjutanud haigusolukordade ja pandeemiate kirjeldamisel kasutatavate kollokatsioonide tähendust, andes sellele laiemat kasutust ja kinnitades tõsiasja, et semantiline muutus on keelearengu üks peamisi liike.

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