

СЕКЦИЯ 5

ОСОБЕННОСТИ РАЗВИТИЯ СОВРЕМЕННОЙ ЛИНГВО-КУЛЬТУРНОЙ СРЕДЫ

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THE LANGUAGE OF COVID-19 PERIOD (IN ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN)

Язык короновирусного периода (английский и русский)

Throughout the history of mankind, dramatic events have brought about new ways of expressing those crises. The speed of the linguistic change we're seeing with Covid-19 is unprecedented. For lexicographers it is fascinating to observe the growth of words in such a short period of time. The subject of the work is to compare the emergence of the words related to the pandemic of COVID-19 in the English and the Russian language.

The objects of the study are 1) to examine the linguistic phenomenon of COVID-19 on the material of the English and Russian languages; 2) to define its differences and similarities. The study collected data from different sources about language use in the realities of the pandemic. The material was analyzed using the method of analysis, classification and description of the material.

Coronavirus has led to a boom of new words and phrases, both in English and in other languages. The World Health Organization coined the term COVID-19, a shortening of Coronavirus disease 2019, in February of 2020. It went from being coined to being added to the dictionary in just 34 days. No word in the history of the English language had done that faster.

In May 2021 the group of Russian and foreign scientists from Institute for Linguistic Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences issued «Dictionary of Russian During the Coronavirus Age» which involves 3500 new and up-to-date words.

Coronavirus has radically changed our ways of living. This new vocabulary appeared to speak about coronavirus-related issues – from the influence the virus had on our working environment, to the impact of the lockdown and quarantine measures and even a way to make fun of the world around us. The rise of neologisms and lexical innovations, metaphors and synonyms, we have seen in the past 2 years points at the fact that linguistic creativity is an essential part of any language.

The analysis of different articles related to the uptake of Covid-19 related words in English and Russian showed some common peculiarities.

First of all, the processes of neologization and intensive language creativity turned out to be synchronous in one way or another for these two languages. But, for the first time in history, such massive epidemic arose in the era of the Internet and digital technologies, which, in turn, influences the development of languages.

The lexemes «coronavirus» and «covid-19» are productive stems for the word-formation. Some of the newly popular terms are connected with the socially distanced nature of human contact nowadays. The terms related to social isolation existed long before the COVID-19 pandemic, but they've become much more common in 2020.

Secondly, the unique language situation is determined not only the quantitative intensity of the Covid-19 vocabulary, but also the incredible rate of language development. Nowadays words evolve very quickly, and their meanings are changed almost at the snap of a finger. The lexeme «covid-19» is also used in different collocations and idioms. «Dictionary of Russian During the Coronavirus Age» even includes the additional dictionary of Russian anti-proverbs which appeared in the language during the year of 2020.

Thirdly, this unprecedented linguistic process is characterized by physiological factors. Words of a more personal nature appeared in both languages which help people communicate their fears about the biggest health crisis ever seen in generations.

Globalisation and the introduction of neologisms has accelerated in recent years as technology has advanced more rapidly than ever. The COVID-19 outbreak has resulted in many new words and phrases being used. This new vocabulary helps us cope with the changes that all of sudden became part of our everyday lives.

We don't know which of these neologisms will stay with us and which ones will fade into oblivion as soon as we get effective treatments and the pandemic is over. We'll only find this out with time.