

*Structural and semantic features of  
neologisms of the coronavirus  
pandemic period  
(case study of “The Sun”)*

**Work completed:**

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*The purpose* of the work is to determine the role of lexical innovation in shaping Covid perception in British tabloids.

*Objectives* of the study:

-  - defining functional and stylistic features of the tabloid "The Sun" as a hybrid journalistic product;
-  - identifying key newly-formed lexemes of the coronavirus pandemic period;
-  - determining structural and functional features of neologisms of the coronavirus pandemic period on the basis of publications of the tabloid "The Sun".

*The object* of the research is modern English neology used to nominate new real-world events, ideas or phenomena.

*The subject* of the research is the structure, functions and semantic features of neologisms of the coronavirus pandemics period.

*The research material* is the publicistic texts of the tabloid "The Sun", which contained neologisms of the above mentioned period, total amount *638 articles*.



2nd May 2020  
**CORONAPHOBIA** Two-thirds of Brits fear going back out even if lockdown lifted, poll reveals  
Compared to how they felt before the lockdown, just one in six said they would feel "comfortable" going to such an event, in a sign the Government's 'stay at home' message has worked.





# “Neologism”

is a relatively recent or isolated term, word, or phrase that may be in the process of entering common use, but that has not yet been fully accepted into mainstream language.

The main analysis of the study consisted in determining the features of the use of

*37 neologisms* of the coronavirus pandemics

in

*853 cases*

from

*638 journalistic texts* of the tabloid "The Sun"



**Tabloid**

**THE  
Sun**



First published as a broadsheet on 15 September 1964 previously known as “Daily Herald”. 1970s and late 1990s supported the Liberals and from 2000 have been supporting the Conservatives.



The e-version of “The Sun” is read daily by 7.302.000, 57% – men and 43% – women.



One of the most popular daily tabloids.



Main topics: politics, economics, health, culture, celebrity life, travel, sports.



# **Analysis and formation of statistic tables of neologisms**

**Methods of  
word-formation**

**Functions in  
publicistic texts**

**Use frequency  
under the topics  
of “The Sun”**



# Statistical analysis

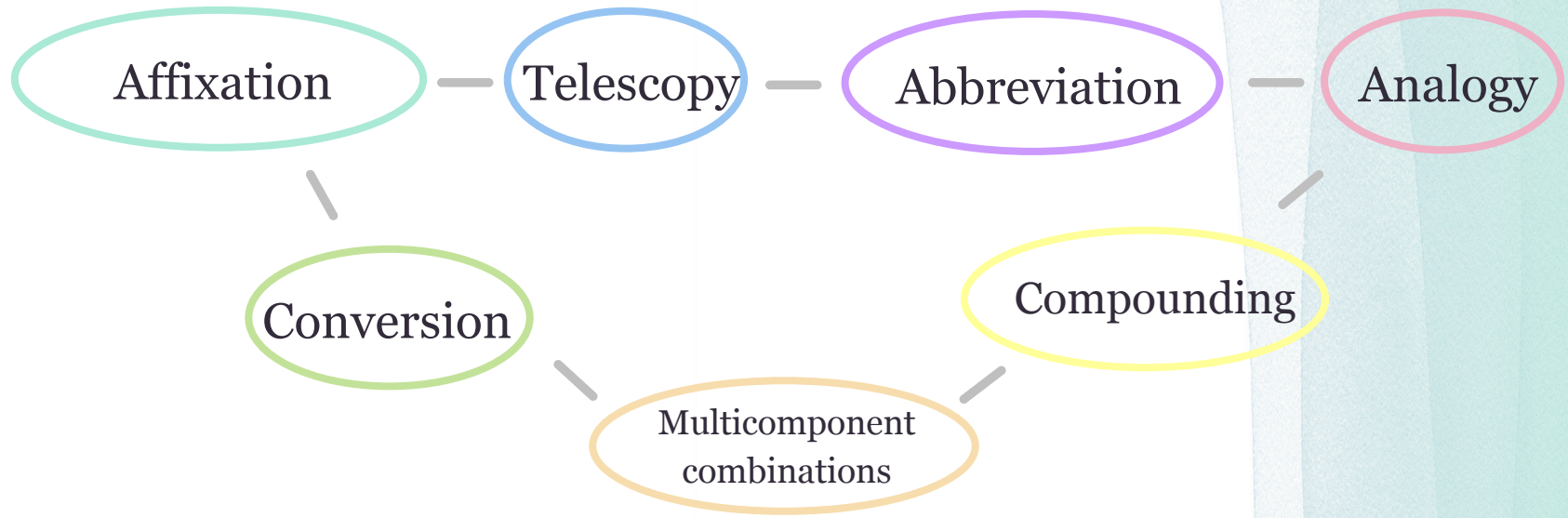
by a text-mining software Wordsmith 8.0.0.47

- 37 neologisms
- 853 instances
- 638 journalistic texts
- May-July 2020

		Concordance			
N	Concordance	Set	Tag	Word #	
1	"Donald Trump is Over" dance party without social distancing. The crowds moved from the park	DISTANCING		1 624	
2	own - for medium risk areas - must observe social distancing and the "rule of six". There's also a 10pm	DISTANCING		3 852	
3	obviously a few Covid rules in terms of our distancing, hand washing and hygiene like wiping down	DISTANCING		4 683	
4	outside the hotel and outside it's social distancing. • "We are still doing a good job of making it	DISTANCING		5 609	
5	the Six Nations. Unable to guarantee social distancing from punters at their usual	DISTANCING		13 476	
6	and Co to help him enforce the strict social distancing rules they will have to live by. When England	DISTANCING		13 636	
7	let their guard down and the mix of social distancing and alcohol is not a good one despite the best	DISTANCING		17 604	
8	outdoor gatherings to 500 people, and social distancing must be observed. But the crowd were seen	DISTANCING		19 091	
9	socialising indoors and not following social distancing guidelines. "A lot of these cases are in younger	DISTANCING		22 552	
10	them wear masks, none of them care about social distancing, it's mayhem." Local media reports	DISTANCING		25 659	
11	"We let them sit us wherever, expecting social distancing, but they don't have it," one tourist said. "As a	DISTANCING		25 943	
12	who failed to wear masks and respect social distancing rules. And a curry house in West Yorkshire has	DISTANCING		30 543	
13	was over, many appearing to forget all social distancing advice to make the most of their brief summer	DISTANCING		33 103	
14	A Scottish rule where children can ditch physical distancing while playing a sports match outside C.	DISTANCING		35 406	
15	the protesters who were brazenly flouting social distancing rules. "Thousands of #covidots are celebrating	DISTANCING		37 476	
16	football pitch by his house. Coronavirus social distancing rules and restrictions on playing sport are still	DISTANCING		37 660	
17	I, saw three people arrested for violating social distancing rules. A MAN who flouted coronavirus laws by	DISTANCING		38 188	
18	Dr Hilary, we all adhere to the rules on social distancing, so even a brief embrace was impossible. I found	DISTANCING		38 997	
19	no law breaking and no willful disregard to social distancing. This was simply a group of patriots doing our	DISTANCING		39 855	
20	the price" for weeks of people breaking social distancing rules. Accountant Vina Chaudhry, 34, told the Sun	DISTANCING		41 615	
21	can some people be so stupid and breach social distancing rules that are put in place to help keep us safe.	DISTANCING		41 656	
22	to a language barrier - with messages on social distancing not being understood. Leicester Mayor Sir Peter	DISTANCING		43 258	
23	across London's Met Police have currently tested positive f.				
24	ronavirus rules after one of their players tested positive and another showed symptoms. Saturday's League On	POSITIVE		14 350	
25	d been "notified this morning that he is Covid-19 positive" — yet Oxford claim he still travelled with the te	POSITIVE		14 406	
26	h Covid symptoms then returned home after testing positive. She has been suspended by the SNP and the Met are	POSITIVE		14 539	
27	game off. "There are rumours Crewe knew about the positive test this morning and we are not happy about that	POSITIVE		14 645	
28	train to Parliament before her results came back positive Nicola Sturgeon has urged her pal to quit over he	POSITIVE		15 483	
29	rate - which is the share of tests that return a positive result - has risen to 11 per cent in Spain and 5.	POSITIVE		19 671	
30	rea. It said that a further 133 people had tested positive for coronavirus, representing the highest daily f	POSITIVE		23 008	
31	avirus tests at the airport, and anyone who tests positive will be forced to quarantine for two weeks in the	POSITIVE		23 962	
32	re several examples of travellers who have tested positive for Covid-19 who had not self-quarantined on thei	POSITIVE		24 696	
33	ay quarantine list after a spike in the number of positive cases. The Scottish government has announced that	POSITIVE		24 728	
34	es. Premier League clubs have already recorded 14 positive coronavirus tests this week — and that is before	POSITIVE		33 230	
35	data to us. We need a good understanding whenever positive and negative tests come through." Mr Johnson than	POSITIVE		42 083	
36	usually high" number of children under 18 tested positive for the bug. And Mr Hancock said that while non-e	POSITIVE		42 156	
37	lon owner Indy Burmi said: "We are trying to stay positive and we understand why this is happening but the G	POSITIVE		42 987	
38	22 kes designer Fred Perry polo shirts, has had five positive cases of Covid-19 out of a 50-strong workforce. S	POSITIVE		43 106	
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# Methods of word-formation of coronavirus neologisms



## Examples 1

1.

**Corona + speak** → **coronaspeak**: “**Coronaspeak** can help the public make sense of the crisis, but may also increase levels of stress and confusion if people can’t keep up”

*Affixation*

2.

**Covid + idiot** → **covidiot**: “Many are now blaming **covidiots** for their “punishment” - saying they are “paying the price” for weeks of people breaking social distancing rules”.

*Telescopy*

3.

“IF you’ve officially joined the **#WFH** club and have set up your laptop on the kitchen table, rejoice as there’s now a way to keep your keyboard super clean”

*Abbreviation*



## Examples 2

4. “I hope to finish my **ronavation** before the lockdown is over”.

5. “In fact, there's so much misinformation around that the World Health Organization has called it an “**infodemic**”.

6. “Firms, jobs and young people’s life chances will go to the wall as we stumble through one “**whack-a-mole**” fiasco after another until a vaccine is found”.

7. “Hackers have recently “**Zoom-bombed**” users and students utilizing the video conferencing app, as millions remain isolated at home because of the coronavirus outbreak”;

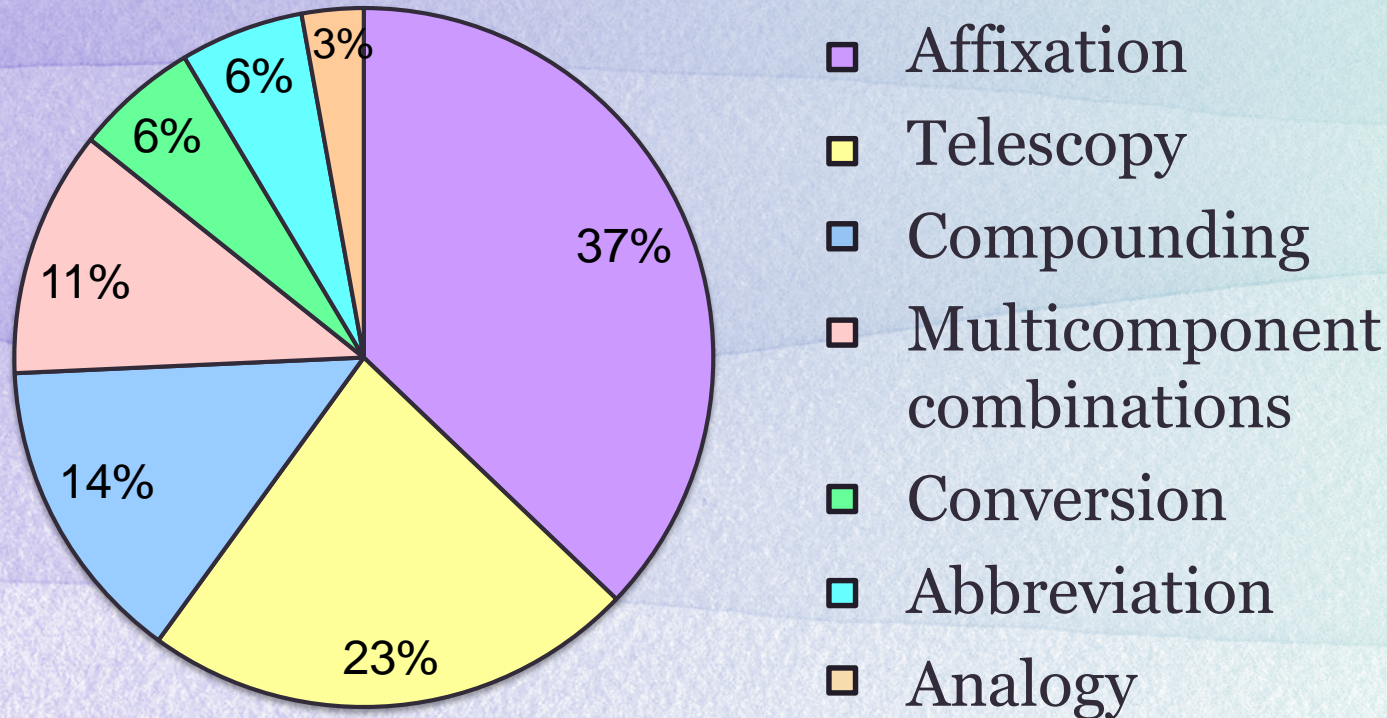
*Analogy*

*Compounding*

*Multicomponent combinations*

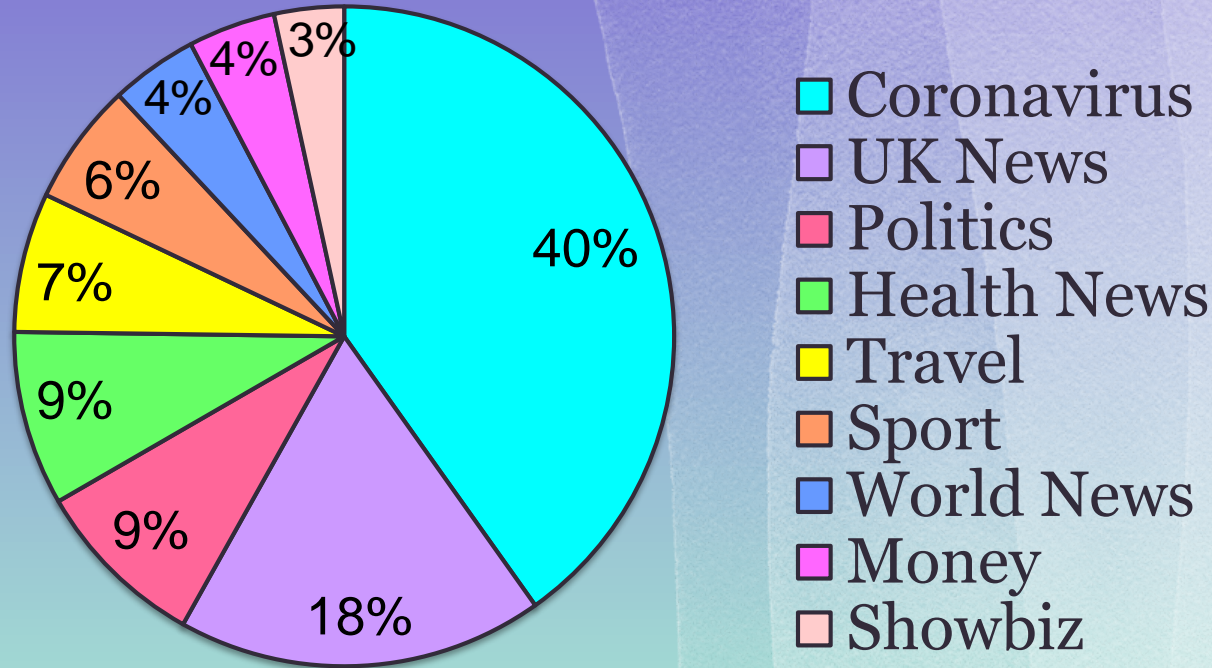
*Conversion*

# The statistics of use frequency for methods of word-formation of coronavirus neologisms





# Use frequency of *Covid-19* period neologisms in the topics of "The Sun"



### CORONAVIRUS

If you do so, you should still socially distance from those you do not live with, and avoid physical contact.

Coronaphobia – also known as FOGO (Fear Of Going Out) – has soared with the easing of lockdown, with one study finding 54 percent of people were worried about returning to their job.

### SPORT

FOUR Arsenal stars have become the latest Premier League Covidiots to break the government's lockdown rules.

WFH hasn't been possible this morning I've lost several hours of paid work when I am just starting to get my business going again.

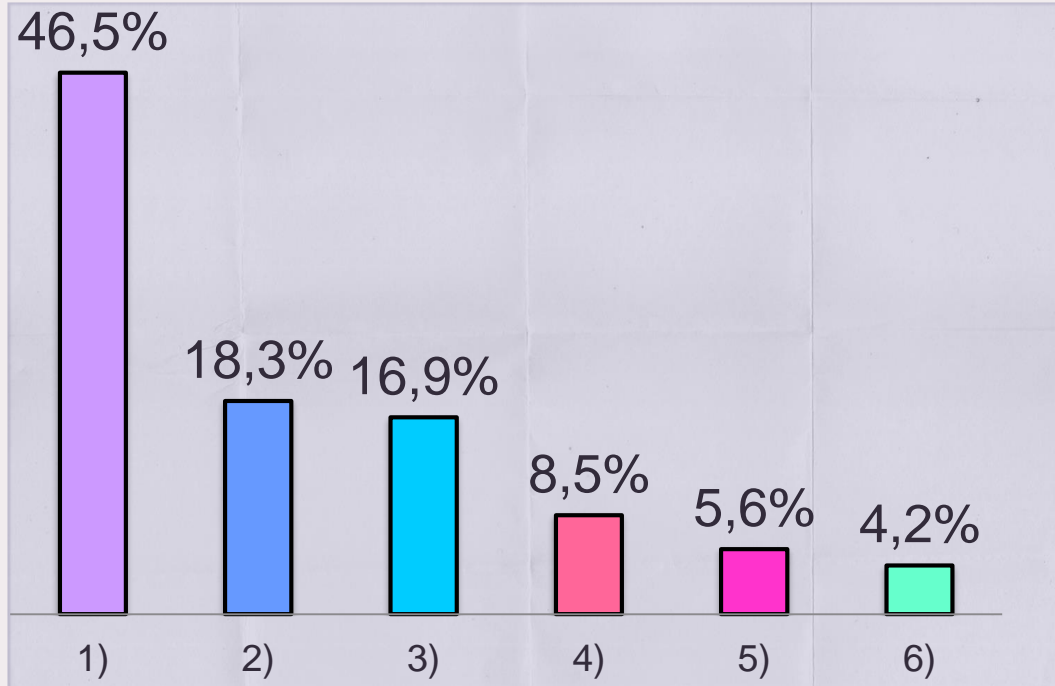


UK News

Money



# Functions of coronavirus neologisms



- 1) Nominative**
- 2) Compress-informative**
- 3) Diagnostic**
- 4) Differentiation**
- 5) Vocabulary replenishment**
- 6) Generalization**

# Conclusion

**Coronavirus pandemic has given rise to the special level of the words and expressions connected with it.**

**The case study of neologisms' use in the tabloid “The Sun” has shown that the language immediately reacts to any social-economic changes with the appearance of new vocabulary material.**

**Practical application of this study would be to compile a dictionary that can be used, for example, when working with printed and electronic texts of the pandemic period.**





*Thank you*  
**for your attention**



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