

STRUCTURAL AND SEMANTIC FEATURES OF NEOLOGISMS OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC PERIOD (CASE STUDY OF "THE SUN")



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

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 pandemic period.

Materials, course and methods of research

Data source and methodology

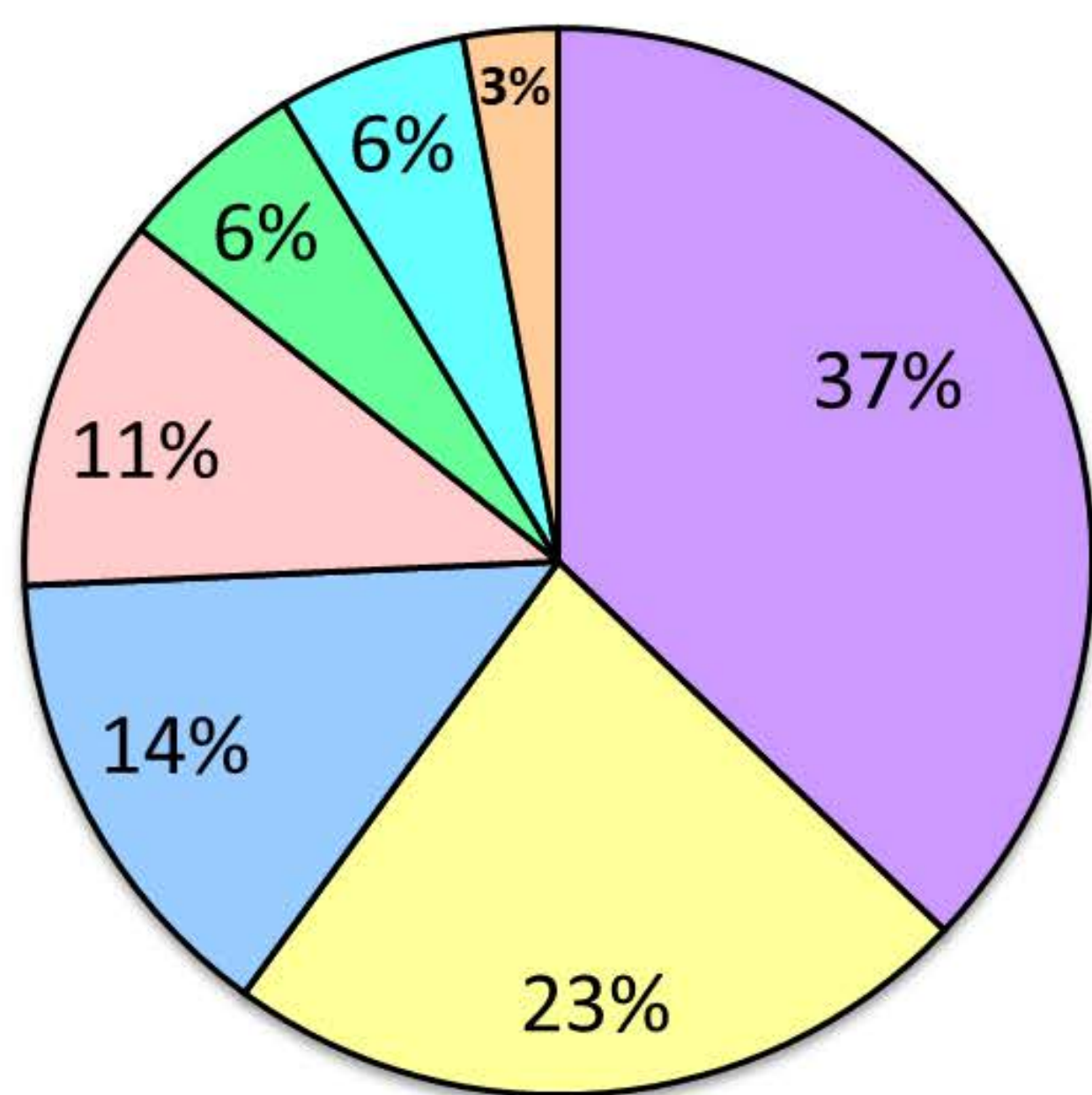
In this paper, we take a corpus approach to neology to analyse types of neologisms, their structure, ways of formation and functions.

The data used in this work comes from 638 journalistic texts of "The Sun" tabloid. On-site version offers access to time-stamped (May-July 2020) and digitally retrievable linguistic information.

A text-mining software (Wordsmith 8.0.0.47) was used to identify neologisms' frequency and functions. The overall number of neologisms found equals 37 (853 instances).

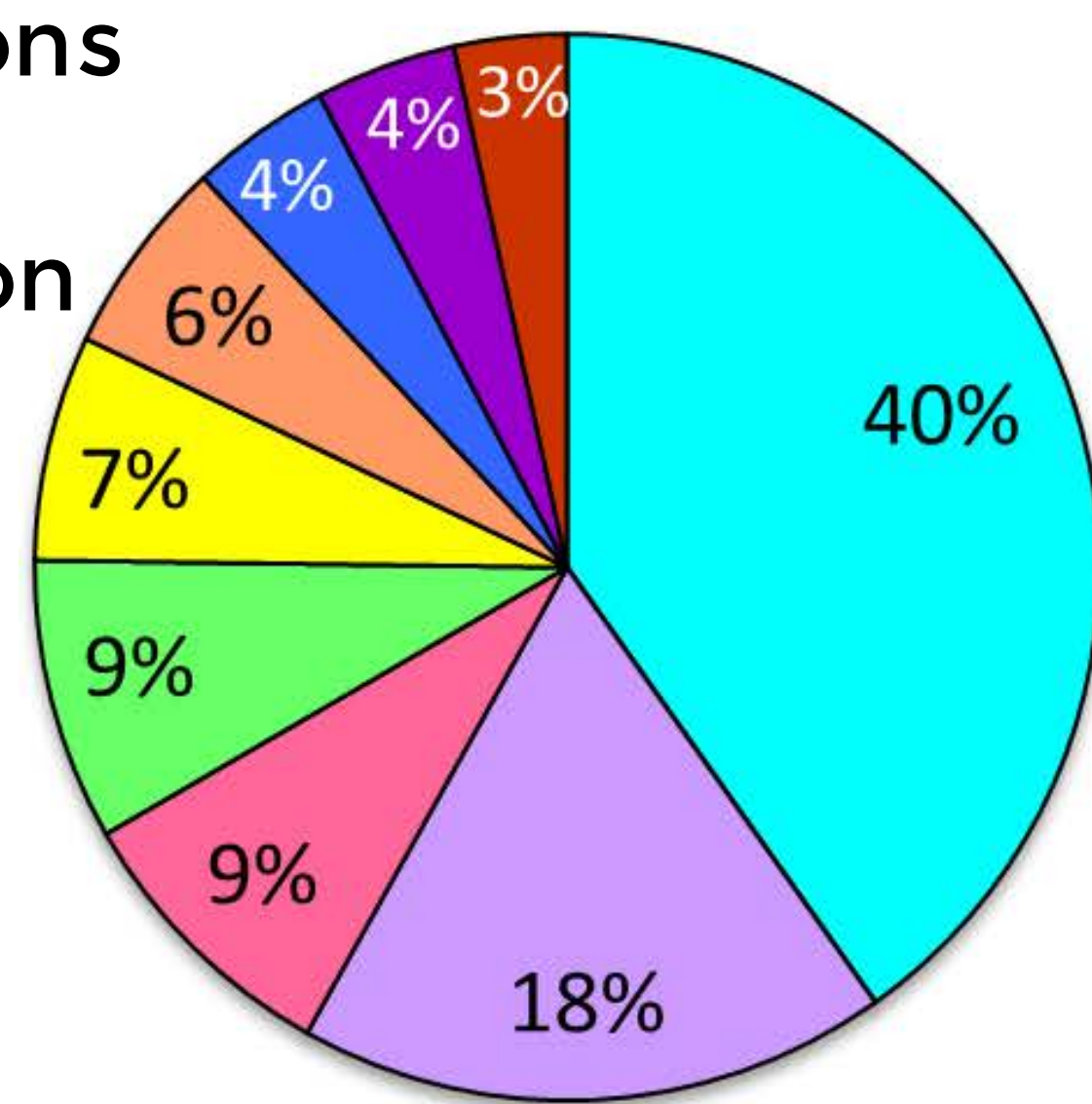
Research methods:

- **descriptive method** was used to identify the neologisms status and check their meaning in dictionaries;
- **statistical analysis** based on corpus study provided the possibility to trace the levels of language and frequencies of neologisms;
- **structural-semantic analysis** was applied to detect productive patterns for the neologisms' word-forming and functioning.



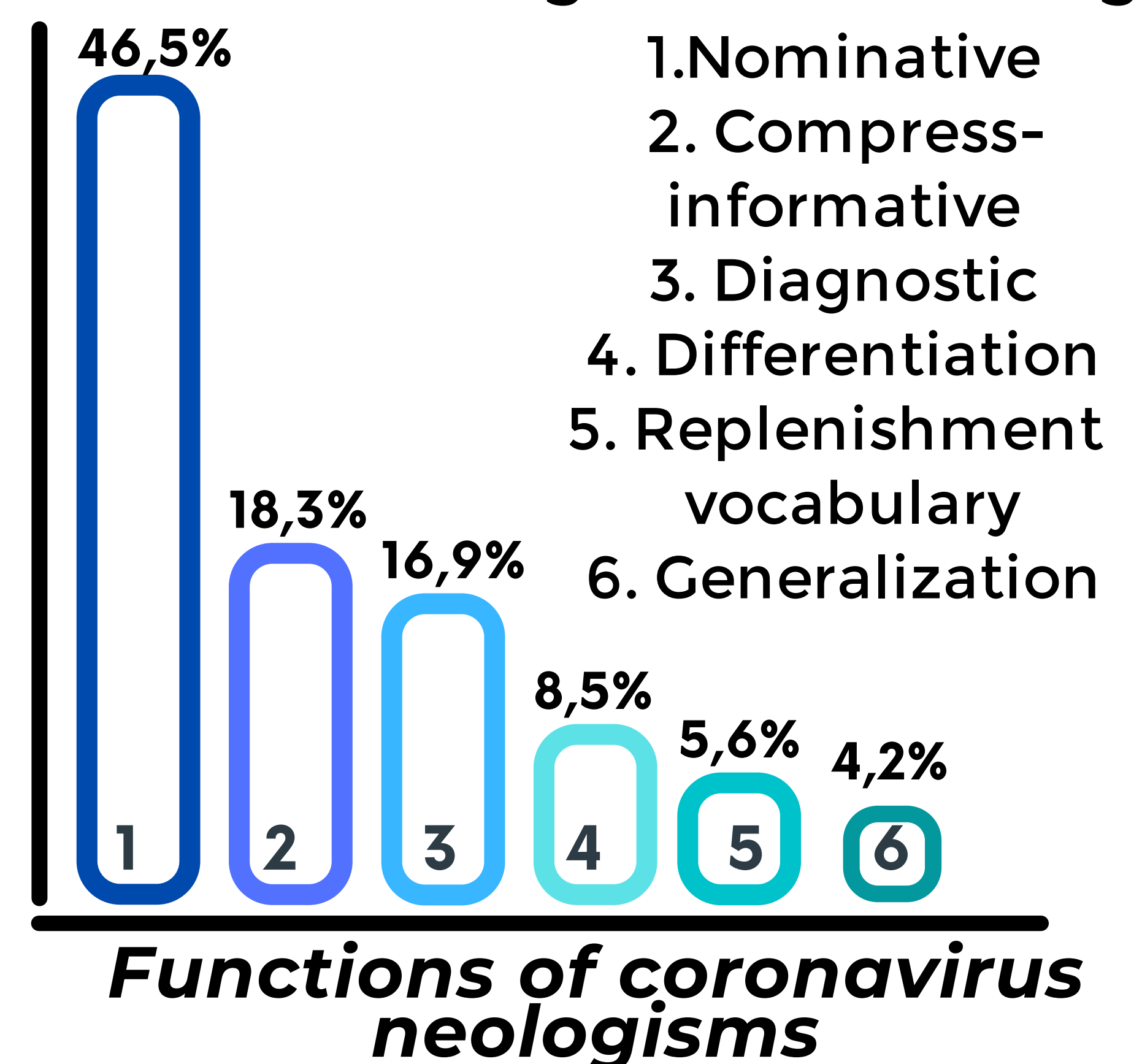
Methods of word-formation of coronavirus neologisms

- Affixation
- Telescopy
- Compounding
- Multicomponent combinations
- Conversion
- Abbreviation
- Analogy



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

- Coronavirus
- UK News
- Politics
- Health News
- Travel
- Sport
- World News
- Money
- Showbiz



Functions of coronavirus neologisms

1. Nominative
2. Compress-informative
3. Diagnostic
4. Differentiation
5. Replenishment vocabulary
6. Generalization

Results and conclusions:

Our findings show that although the real-world events, ideas or phenomena may be new, language mechanisms to nominate them still remain traditional.

Neologisms mainly occurred in "Coronavirus" domain, but also in other domains, like "UK News", "Politics", etc. which proves that the pandemics has impacted and changed our lives. There is certain correlation between the word-formation models, semantics and functions of neologisms.

Given the findings of this research, we can conclude that the active use of the neologisms today reflects the broad socio-economic changes caused by the Covid-19 pandemics.

Scientific novelty:

Unlike other types of neologisms' analysis, corpus approach was not used to study neologisms of the coronavirus pandemic period at the semantic and functional-pragmatic levels. The logical extension of our work would be to look at the bigger corpus at a larger time scale to trace the dynamics of language changes.