

## German Corona-related Neologisms and Their Lexicographic Representation

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### Summary

Between January 2020 and summer 2021, many new words and phrases contributed to the expansion of the German vocabulary in order to enable communication under the new conditions during the corona pandemic. This rapid expansion of vocabulary has most notably affected lexicography as a discipline of applied linguistics. General language dictionaries or terminological dictionaries have quickly reflected on how the German lexicon evolved during the corona pandemic: new entries were added, others were revised. This paper, however, focuses on the ways in which a German (specialized) neologism dictionary project, the "Neologismenwörterbuch" at the "Leibniz Institute for the German Language, Mannheim" published (online, see <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/start.jsp>) has chosen to capture and document lexicographic information in a timely manner.

Neologisms are (following the definition applied here) lexical units or senses/meanings which emerge in a language community over a specific period of time of language development, which diffuse, are generally accepted as language norms, and which the majority of speakers perceive as new for some time. Thus, the "Neologismenwörterbuch" used to record neologisms only retrospectively, that is after their lexicalization. As a consequence, users of the dictionary were often not able to obtain details on words that were particularly conspicuous at a particular time in a specific discourse, thus raising questions concerning their meaning, correct spelling, etc. This, however, did not imply that the lexicographers of the project had not already collected these words with some preliminary information in a list of candidates for inclusion in an internal database. Therefore, the project started to publish online an index of monitored words including lexical units that had emerged since 2011, for which only time will tell whether they will diffuse and manifest as language norms.

This list format was used since April 2020 to also issue a compilation of corona-related neologisms as part of the "Neologismenwörterbuch". In October 2021, this inventory included more than 1.800 Corona-related neologisms, and still, more than 700 candidates in an internal database awaited lexicographic description and inclusion into the online index (see <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp>). In this paper many examples are presented to illustrate how new words, new senses and new uses in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic are reflected in the dictionary.

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### 1. Introduction

Between January 2020 and summer 2021, many new words and phrases contributed to the expansion of the German vocabulary in order to enable communication under the new conditions during the corona pandemic. Medical and epidemiological vocabulary was integrated into the general language to a large extent. Suddenly, some lexemes from general language were used with very high frequency, while other words were used less often than before. All these processes of language change can be studied in various ways, for example in corpus linguistics with respect to the frequency or emergence of certain words in certain types of texts (e.g., press releases vs. posts in social media), in critical discourse analysis with respect to certain participants of the discourse (e.g., vocabulary of corona pandemic deniers)<sup>1)</sup>, or in conversation analysis (e.g., with respect to new verbal interactions in greetings and farewells). The rapid expansion of vocabulary has, however, most notably affected lexicography as a discipline of applied linguistics.

General language dictionaries or terminological dictionaries have quickly reflected on how the German lexicon evolved during the corona pandemic. For example, new entries have been added to "Digitales Wörterbuch der Deutschen Sprache", a comprehensive synchronic general language dictionary of German, such as Coronaparty<sup>2)</sup> 'a privately organized party held during the corona crisis, bypassing the coronavirus containment measures'. New senses were also recorded, such as the 'highest school-leaving certificate based exclusively on school achievements already achieved [...] without taking final examinations' attributed to the noun Durchschnittsabitur which has the older meaning 'university entrance qualification with a mediocre, average final grade point average'. Duden publishing house with its extensive monolingual online dictionary on contemporary German "Duden online" added new entries like Covid-19<sup>3)</sup> focusing on spelling variants (Covid-19 in general and mostly COVID-19 in technical language) and grammatical information (e.g. in the entry Coronavirus<sup>4)</sup>: in

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1) See Wengeler & Roth (2020) for several studies on the Corona discourse and also Weinert (2021).

2) <https://www.dwds.de/wb/Coronaparty>.

3) <https://www.duden.de/suchen/dudenonline/Covid-19>.

4) <https://www.duden.de/suchen/dudenonline/Coronavirus>.

terminology mostly neutral gender: das Coronavirus, in everyday conversation outside of terminology also masculine gender: der Coronavirus). Regarding technical lexical items, for example, the German "Bundessprachenamt" (Federal Language Bureau) published an online dictionary "Coronavirus Terminology in German, English, French, Dutch, Polish, Russian, Spanish" comprising 18.490 terms (e.g. akute respiratorische Erkrankung 'acute respiratory infection', Bewegungsprofil 'movement profil').

The following sections, however, will focus on the ways in which a German neologism dictionary project has chosen to capture and document lexicographic information in a timely manner. Some challenges, but also advantages arise from lexicographic practice "at the pulse of time". The "Neologismenwörterbuch" will be presented as an example which lends itself well to such a discussion because its subject (neologisms) itself is characterized as new, innovative, and constantly changing.

## 2. German Neologisms and Neologism Dictionaries

New words emerge in German all the time, but not all of them are neologisms. Being a morphologically productive language, many new compounds or derivations are used only once; these nonce words are not lexicalized. Neologisms, on the other hand, are (following the definition applied here) lexical units or senses/meanings which emerge in a language community over a specific period of time of language development, which diffuse, are generally accepted as language norms, and which the majority of speakers perceive as new for some time (cf. Herberg et al. 2004: XII). There are some indicators for the acceptance of a neologism in German: its increasing overall frequency, its distribution in many different text types/genres, and its use in many different discourses. Other indicators tell us how far the process of lexicalization of new words has developed (cf. Lemnitzer 2010: 69):

- pragmatic criteria: A neologism is no longer written in quotation marks, hedge words (e.g. sogenannt 'so-called') are not used any more, and distancing phrases (e.g. wie man heute sagt 'as we say today') are abandoned.
- grammatical criteria: The gender of nouns is invariable, a full conjugational paradigm for verbs has developed.
- word-formation criteria: A neologism is used as first and second component in an increasing number of compound nouns, a borrowed neologism is combined with indigenous lexemes in word-formation products.

According to the definition given above, some time (possibly a couple of years) has to pass, before a new word can be classified as a neologism, and it will only continue to be part of this word class for some time (possibly a couple of years), before it is no longer perceived as being new. This notion directly impacts the lexicographic description of these lexemes in neologism dictionaries, which are defined as specialized reference guides focusing on the description of meaning and usage of those lexemes in a specific language which became part of the vocabulary of that language at a certain time (cf. Barnhart & Barnhart 1990; Lemnitzer 2010; Wiegand 1990 for more details). There are some (neologism) dictionaries that only record neologisms retrospectively, that is after their lexicalization.

The "Neologismenwörterbuch" is a typical, corpus-based example of this type of dictionary, Quasthoff (2007) is another. Other neologism dictionaries, like "Die Wortwarte", record neologisms at their "moment of birth" (cf. Lemnitzer 2010: 67) before they are fully lexicalized, but nevertheless accepted parts of the lexicon.

Regarding the remarkably quick extension of the German lexicon during the Covid pandemic, that is, in a relatively short time span of less than two years, the second type of neologism dictionaries can continue expanding its list of entries according to its established criteria of lemma inclusion. The other, retrospective type of neologism dictionary, however, cannot react directly to the expansion of the lexicon, as lexicographers do not know yet, whether the new lexemes, phrases or senses/meanings will become generally established parts of the lexicon after some time.

### 3. User Needs and Lexicographic Responses

Many people around the world noticed new words emerging in their languages in the context of the Covid pandemic, including internationalisms like corona, covid-19, social distancing and many more specific to each language. Journalists, teachers, staff of medical or political institutions, etc. reacted to the general interest in these new lexical items and soon started to publish glossaries with definitions and/or some encyclopedic information. As early as March 2020<sup>5)</sup>, several daily newspapers (e.g. "Süddeutsche Zeitung", "Die Rheinpfalz"), news magazines (e.g. "Der Spiegel"), radio stations ("Bayerischer Rundfunk", "Deutschlandfunk"), and TV stations ("Tagesschau") in Germany offered corona glossaries with information on neologisms, medical terminology, etc. to their audience (cf. Möhrs 2020). Many of these are still available online, and some have been updated since then. In addition, several scientific organizations and other public institutions began to publish (online) terminological resources (e.g. "Corona-Glossar" by the "Helmholtz Association of Research Centres", or the above mentioned multilingual terminological Corona database by "Bundessprachenamt"). Finally, some private language users utilized social media to call for collaboration regarding the collection of corona words.<sup>6)</sup>

The first German dictionary project which reacted to the challenge to quickly offer information on those words from the medical and epidemiological contexts that were generally used suddenly was "Digitales Wörterbuch der Deutschen Sprache (DWDS)". By the middle of March 2020, the "DWDS-Themenglossar zur COVID-19-Pandemie" ('Thematic glossary on the covid-19 pandemic') was published<sup>7)</sup>, which has been updated since then continuously.<sup>8)</sup>

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5) In Germany, the first attested infection with the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 was registered on 27 January, 2020, and by the middle of March 2020, infections were registered in all federal states of Germany. General information on the Covid-19 pandemic in Germany can be found in Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (2021).

6) See, for example, the threads of a tweet by Nadja Hahn:

<https://twitter.com/nadjasnews/status/1334517401359015936> (December 2020) or by Lara Fritzsche:

<https://twitter.com/larafritzsche/status/1304330059935895552> (September 2020).

7) <https://www.dwds.de/themenglossar/Corona>.

8) At the same time, DWDS had included new corona-related entries to its comprehensive general language

Duden publishing house updated their online dictionary on contemporary German extensively in August 2020, after that, more Corona neologisms were added regularly.<sup>9)</sup>

In the following sections, more detailed information is given on how the "Neologismenwörterbuch" project at IDS Mannheim reacted to the unprecedented expansion of the German lexicon with new lexemes, phrases and meanings related to the corona pandemic.

#### 4. The "Neologismenwörterbuch"

##### 4.1 General Remarks

The "Neologismenwörterbuch" covers new words and new senses or meanings established since 1991. New entries are compiled continuously, and the reference guide is published online as part of the dictionary portal OWID ("Online-Wortschatz-Informationssystem Deutsch", 'Online information system on the German lexicon') of the "Leibniz Institute for the German Language" at Mannheim<sup>10)</sup>. In this dictionary project, the editorial interpretation (evaluation of print and online media) is combined with a quantitative corpus-linguistic method<sup>11)</sup> to extract candidates for inclusion into the dictionary (semi-)automatically. The "Neologismenwörterbuch" contains entries on

- single words, e.g., Spam ('unsolicited advertising sent electronically by computer to many Internet users simultaneously),
- multi-word expressions, e.g., Generation Facebook ('age group of young people for whom the Internet and, in particular, communication via social networks are a matter of course'), and
- new word formation elements (e.g., [...]holic, used to form nouns denoting someone who is very intensely involved with something, resembling an addiction to something).
- New senses of existing words in German are described as well, e.g., texten ('to text').

Since its first online publication in 2005 and for many years following, new and comprehensive entries were regularly uploaded to the dictionary by the end of each year. Full entries in the "Neologismenwörterbuch" comprise information on etymology, orthography, pronunciation, meaning, usage, grammar, word formation, encyclopedic information, illustrations, as well as frequency and emergence in the corpus. In 2020, a new type of a more concise type of entry was established for all those words that do not need more extensive information because, for example, no pragmatic restrictions apply to their use. As such, these offer details on grammar, orthography, meaning, word formation or etymology as

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dictionary of contemporary German and had updated several entries regarding the corona pandemic. For examples, see above.

9) According to a private communication by Kathrin Kunkel-Razum, editorial director of Duden dictionaries, in October 2021.

10) For the decades of 1991-2000 and 2001-2010, print dictionaries are also available (Herberg, Kinne & Steffens 2004; Steffens & al-Wadi 2015). The lexicographic concept for these volumes goes back to the late 1980s (cf. Heller, Herberg, Lange, Schnerrer & Steffens 1988; Kinne 1989) and 1990s (cf. Herberg 1997 and 1998).

11) For further information on the editorial and corpus-linguistic methods applied to detect potential neologisms for the "Neologismenwörterbuch" cf. Klosa & Lungen (2018).

well as the decade of emergence. These entries are uploaded in thematically-related groups monthly (e.g., April 2021: agriculture, July 2021: crime, September 2021: fashion).<sup>12)</sup> The latest inclusions covering terms used in agriculture, crime or fashion illustrate how new words often center around a specific new subject. By providing such thematically-related bundles of new items users get a compact overview of recent lexical-semantic developments within a specific area.

Today, different lists of lemma groups<sup>13)</sup> as well as a thematic search<sup>14)</sup> and other extended search options<sup>15)</sup> for both lemma types are available online. For example, any neologism dating back to a specific decade 1991-2000, 2001-2010, or 2011-2020, all new phrases, every new word formation element, or all neologisms assigned to the domain of sports, medicine, or fashion, etc. can easily be found.

While dictionary users thus already had a lot of options to access extensive information on neologisms that are accepted parts of the German lexicon in the "Neologismenwörterbuch", the dictionary - according to its definition of a neologism (see above) - did, however, not offer any information regarding new words that are not fully lexicalized yet. Therefore, users of the dictionary were often not able to obtain details on words that were particularly conspicuous at a particular time in a specific discourse, thus raising questions concerning their meaning, correct spelling, etc. This, however, did not imply that the lexicographers of the project had not already collected these words with some preliminary information in a list of candidates for inclusion in an internal database. As a consequence, the "Neologismenwörterbuch" project started to publish a list of monitored words ("Wörter unter Beobachtung"<sup>16)</sup>) in March 2020. All entries in this list are lexical units that had emerged since 2011, for which only time will tell whether they will diffuse and manifest as language norms. For each of these words, only a (preliminary, rough) explanation of meaning is given and usage is illustrated by one or two corpus citations, wherever relevant, there are hyperlinks to more encyclopedic information (e.g., in Wikipedia) and the date of recording the word is noted. When words from this inventory are described in either comprehensive or concise entries, they are removed from the list, which is updated quarterly.

By the middle of April 2020, the first corona-related neologisms were included in this online collection of monitored words to react quickly to the sudden demand for information on meaning and usage of new words in the context of the Covid pandemic. Around 30 entries on words such as Contacttracing ('contact tracing'), Coronababy ('child conceived during exit and contact restrictions in COVID-19 pandemic (in home quarantine)' and 'child of a COVID-19 patient'), or zoomen ('to communicate and work with the Zoom® video conferencing software') were published. Soon it became obvious that the number of Corona-related neologisms would exceed the number of other monitored words by far, so a separate list on the corona

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12) For an overview see <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/kurzartikel.jsp>.

13) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/wortartikel.jsp> for different lemma groups.

14) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/gruppen.jsp?grp=1> for thematic search option.

15) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/suche/index.jsp> for extended search options.

16) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/monitor.jsp>.

vocabulary<sup>17)</sup> was published at the end of April 2020 (with a little over 60 entries). Since then, this list (see Fig. 1 with the entry on No-Covid-Strategie, 'no Covid strategy', i.e. 'concept aimed at slowing down or containing the corona pandemic as completely as possible through appropriate measures (e.g., pushing the infection figures to zero and thus creating virus-free zones)') was updated every fortnight between April and June 2020 and from then on, on a monthly basis. In October 2021, the list included more than 1.800 Corona-related neologisms, and still, more than 700 candidates in an internal database awaited lexicographic description and inclusion into the online index.

Generally, (semi-)automatic retrieval of neologism candidates (see above) in "Deutsches Referenzkorpus - DeReKo" of IDS ('German Reference Corpus')<sup>18)</sup> was used to detect candidates for the list of new vocabulary around the corona pandemic. In addition, the IDS corpus tool "cOWIDplus Viewer"<sup>19)</sup> and its newer version "OWiDplusLIVE"<sup>20)</sup> were deployed, which give access to RSS-feeds of thirteen German online newspapers and magazines in weekly updates. The editorial collection of candidates through press reading and, for example, browsing the daily Twitter trends, was continued as well and a number of other glossaries and lists of Covid-related words (see above) was evaluated systematically. Last but not least, many dictionary users participated by sending their suggestions for new words to be included via an online form in the "Neologismenwörterbuch".<sup>21)</sup>

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17) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp#>.

18) See <https://www.ids-mannheim.de/digspra/kl/projekte/korpora/>.

19) See <https://www.owid.de/plus/cowidplusviewer2020/>.

20) See <https://www.owid.de/plus/live-2021/>.

21) See <https://www.owid.de/wb/neo/mail.html>.

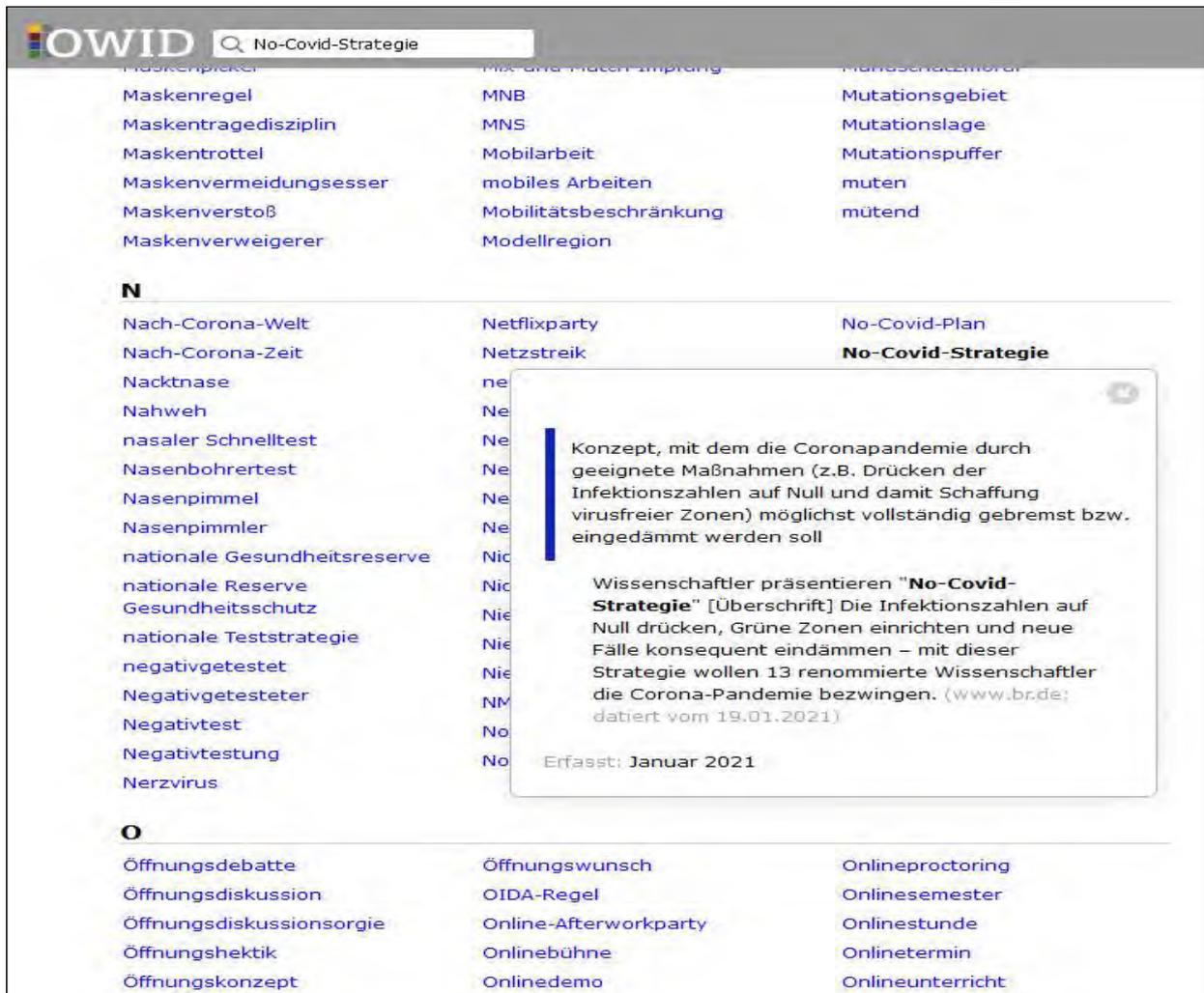


Figure 1: Extract from the dictionary index "Neuer Wortschatz rund um die Coronapandemie" ('New vocabulary around the corona pandemic') in the "Neologismenwörterbuch"

Dictionary users were informed on the expansion of the list via the IDS newsletter "IDS aktuell"<sup>22)</sup> (published quarterly). Progress on the compilation of the index is also recognizable by the date of recording given at the bottom of each entry (cf. Fig. 1: "Erfasst: Januar 2021", 'Added: January 2021'). Finally, users learn about the status of the list as work in progress by a very short introductory text on the website. For the first time in its history, the team working on the "Neologismenwörterbuch" also started to publish a number of shorter lexicological studies on the IDS web page<sup>23)</sup> concerning words and specific word groups with special significance within the corona discourse (e.g., Social Distancing, Maske 'face mask', Lockdown and Shutdown), in which readers are referred to the index of Covid-related

22) See <https://www.ids-mannheim.de/aktuell/presse/newsletter/>.

23) See <https://www.ids-mannheim.de/sprache-in-der-coronakrise/>.

vocabulary where appropriate. In the following section, some examples from this corona list are discussed to illustrate the lexicographic challenges from expanding the IDS neologism dictionary "at the pulse of time".

#### 4.2 News Words

In Germany, as soon as the first vaccine for SARS-CoV-2 was found and officially approved, the vaccination campaign started (in January 2021), with specific groups of people being prioritized over others for medical reasons. Nevertheless, some people were dissatisfied with this solution and experienced a feeling of resentment, called *Impfneid* ('vaccine envy') in German, which was recorded in the "Neologismenwörterbuch" as a typically coined neologism following the German compounding rules (verb *impf[en]* 'to vaccinate' + noun [der] *Neid* 'envy') in January 2021<sup>24</sup>). This feeling then led some people to try to be vaccinated before it was officially their turn. These people are referred to as *Impfdrängler*<sup>25</sup>) or *Impfvordrängler*<sup>26</sup>) ('vaccination tailgaters'), yet again typical new compounds which were recorded in the dictionary in January 2021 as well. Still, as Figure 2 illustrates both words were in use only a short period of time (January to May/June 2021), as by summer 2021 enough vaccines were available in Germany and prioritizing immunization was no longer necessary. Thus, both words seem to be short-lived lexemes which may probably not meet the criteria for neologisms to be included in the "Neologismenwörterbuch" in the end (see above), but which are a) justifiably part of a list of words still monitored and b) might well be candidates for a specialized dictionary on the Corona discourse, as the topic of vaccination is lexically very rich in German and characterized by quite different discourse participants (e.g. opponents and proponents of vaccination, experts and laypeople).

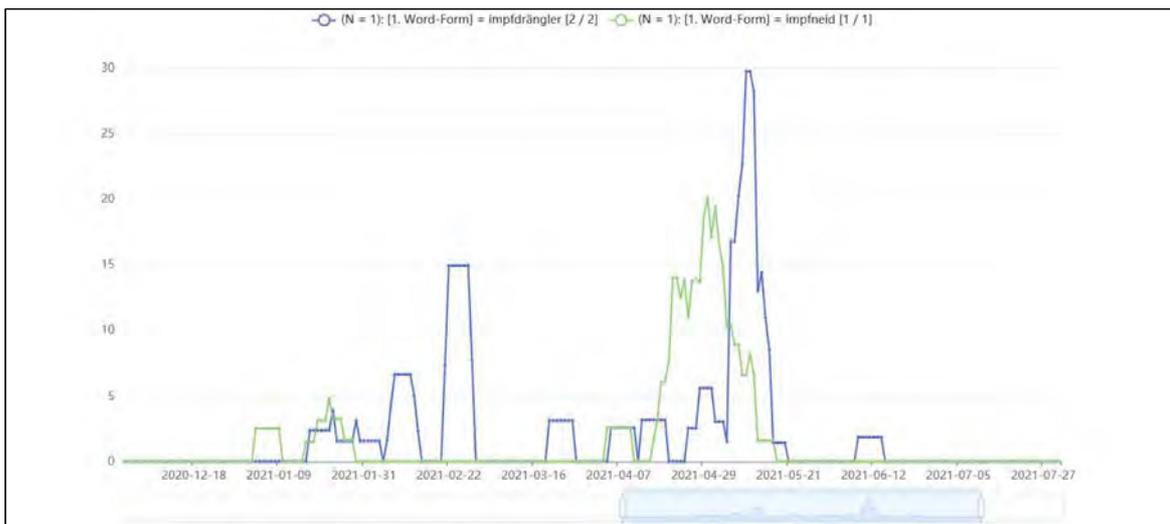


Figure 2: Relative frequency of *Impfdrängler* ('vaccination tailgater') and *Impfneid*

24) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp#impfneid>.  
 25) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp#impfdrängler>.  
 26) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp#impfvordrängler>.

('vaccination envy') in RSS-feeds of 13 German online newspapers and magazines between December 2020 and July 2021<sup>27)</sup>

#### 4.3 New Senses

New senses for long existing lexemes can be attributed to the corona discourse less often than new words and phrases. One example is the German abbreviation 3G, originally denoting the third generation of mobile telecommunication networks (also called UMTS). In the context of the Covid pandemic, however, this abbreviation refers to two different notions:

three circumstances that should be avoided during the COVID-19 pandemic to avoid an increase of infections: geschlossene Räume ('enclosed spaces'), Gedränge ('crowding') and Gespräche ohne Abstand ('conversations without distance'),

three groups of people with special health status who pose a low risk of infection in terms of contracting the SARS-CoV-2 virus: Getestete ('tested persons'), Geimpfte ('vaccinated persons'), Genesene ('persons recovered from COVID-19').

Both senses are illustrated in the entry on 3G<sup>28)</sup> in the "Neologismenwörterbuch" (recorded in June 2021). Since September 2021, the expression 2G<sup>29)</sup> is used to refer to only two groups, namely vaccinated or recovered persons. By now, both abbreviations are already part of numerous German compounds (cf. Fig. 3). Only the future will tell whether the new senses of 2G and 3G will possibly be used to a wider reference to methods of fighting an epidemic caused by any virus.

"Stay home"-Sticker	200er-Inzidenz	3G-Modell
"Stopp Corona"-App	200er-Notbremse	3G-Nachweis
"Wir bleiben zuhause"-Sticker	2G	3G-Regel
1-2-3-Regel	2G-Modell	4-Tage-R
15-km-Beschränkung	2G-Option	50-Neuinfektionen-Marke
15-km-Grenze	2G-Optionsmodell	501Y.V2
15-km-Radius	2G-Regel	50er-Inzidenz
15-km-Regel	2G-Regelung	50er-Marke
15-km-Regelung	30-Sekunden-Regel	7-Tage-R
15-Minuten-Regel	3G	

Figure 3: Extract from the list of neologisms around the corona pandemic in the "Neologismenwörterbuch" showing compounds with 2G and 3G<sup>30)</sup>

27) Source: "OWiDplusLIVE", see <https://www.owid.de/plus/live-2021/>.

28) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp#3g>.

29) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp#2g>.

30) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp#>.

#### 4.4 New Uses

Another interesting example is the word (der/das) Coronavirus (noun, masculine or neutral gender), which has been attested in German since the 1980s in the context of AIDS research. Since then, the use of the word shows strong conspicuities in that it does not continuously occur with approximately the same frequency or with a continuously increasing or decreasing tendency in the texts of the "German Reference Corpus - DeReKo", but it shows two prominent frequency peaks, namely in the years 2003 and 2013 (cf. Fig. 4). The significantly more frequent occurrence of Coronavirus in 2003 is due to the SARS infection wave discussed at that time, and the high in 2013 is due to quite a few known MERS cases at that time. Of course, a next, much more significant peak will show for the years 2020 and 2021. This word is thus a very good example of how current events of the day effect the frequency with which words are used. For the "Neologismenwörterbuch", however, the term Coronavirus itself is not a suitable candidate for inclusion as, on the one hand, it had been attested long before the beginning of the Corona pandemic and, on the other hand, the dictionary does not cover any periods earlier than 1991 (see above).

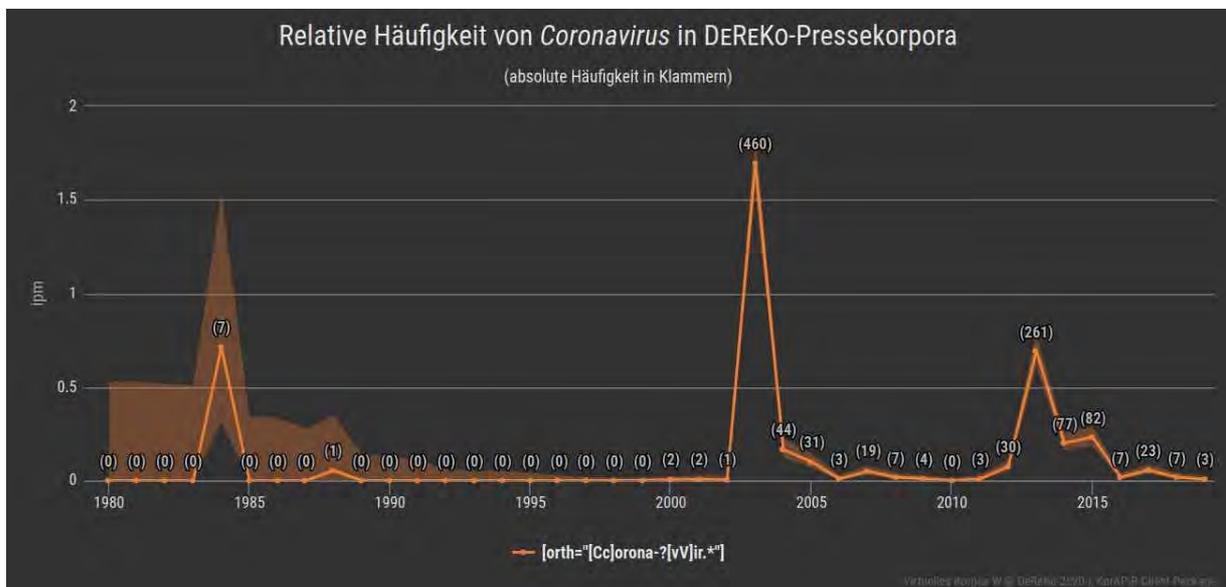


Figure 4: Relative frequency of Coronavirus in the "German Reference Corpus - DeReKo" between 1980 and 2019 (with absolute frequency numbers in brackets)<sup>31)</sup>

In contrast, the noun Corona as an abbreviation of Coronavirus, is documented in the "Neologismenwörterbuch" with a short entry<sup>32)</sup> with three different senses ('the SARS-CoV-2 virus', 'the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, i.e. COVID-19', 'the COVID-19 pandemic and the crisis caused hereby') and other lexicographic information. In this case, the editorial team

31) Graph by Mark Kupietz, project "Ausbau und Pflege der Korpora geschriebener Gegenwartssprache" at IDS Mannheim, see <https://www.ids-mannheim.de/digspra/kl/projekte/korpora/>.

32) See <https://www.owid.de/artikel/408108>.

argued that there is no need to monitor the word further because of its frequency and communicative relevance.

Finally, the entry of the noun (das) Homeoffice with its two senses 'work space at home' and 'working from home' illustrates, how new uses originating in the Corona pandemic led to the revision of existing entries in the "Neologismenwörterbuch". Homeoffice in both senses is widely used in German since the mid-1990s, but the aspect of using modern telecommunication channels to do so was added to the definitions in July 2020 and new phrases like im Homeoffice arbeiten ('to work from home') or the synonym Heimbüro now supplemented the entry due to their increased frequency in the corona pandemic.

Over all, the list of new words and expressions around the corona pandemic in the "Neologismenwörterbuch" contains predominantly single words entries (e.g. (das) Autokonzert<sup>33</sup>) 'live performance of an artist, music group, or the like, where the audience listens to the music over a special radio channel while sitting in their car') and not more than 10% are multi-word expressions (e.g. (die) Generation Corona<sup>34</sup>, 'age group of young people particularly affected by the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, who have poor prospects of a successful start to their working lives due to the crisis'). More than 90% of the new lexemes are nouns (e.g. (der) Maskomat<sup>35</sup>) 'vending machine (in front of a store) where individually packaged masks can be purchased'). Some adjectives (e.g. postpandemisch<sup>36</sup>) 'concerning the period after the COVID-19 pandemic') and (very few) verbs (e.g. teamsen<sup>37</sup>) 'to communicate, work, hold classes, etc. over the Internet using the Teams® video conferencing software') make up for the rest.

Most of the German corona vocabulary is formed following German word formation rules, i.e.

- compounding, e.g. Doppelmutante<sup>38</sup>) ('(presumably) highly contagious variant of SARS-CoV-2 virus with two genome alterations'), from doppelt 'double' + (die) Mutante 'mutant',
- derivation, e.g. downlocken<sup>39</sup>) ('to restrict economic and social activities (to contain an epidemic)'), derived from (der) Lockdown + suffix -en,
- abbreviation, e.g. Delta<sup>40</sup>) ('(presumably) highly contagious mutation of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which was detected for the first time in India'), from (die) Deltavariante.

Only 5-10 % of the list are English loanwords (e.g. (das) Weaning<sup>41</sup>), 'slow weaning of an intensive care patient from mechanical ventilation'). Compounding is the predominant word coining process (over 90%), while derivation or abbreviation are used only in a few cases (for examples see above).

While the relation between single word and multi-word entries in the

33) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp#autokonzert>.

34) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp#generation-corona>.

35) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp#maskomat>.

36) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp#postpandemisch>.

37) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp#teamsen>.

38) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp#doppelmutante>.

39) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp#downlocken>.

40) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp#delta>.

41) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp#weaning>.

"Neologismenwörterbuch" as a whole is roughly the same (90% : 10%) and the proportions of parts of speech are similar as well (nouns: 83%, verbs: 8%, adjectives: 3 %, other: 6 %), the "Neologismenwörterbuch" as such contains approximately 61% of words that are formed in German, while 39 % are loanwords. Those neologisms that are formed in German are compounds (70%), derivatives (21%), or abbreviations (9%). One reason for the deviation of the numbers for the corona-related neologisms in our list from the data of the "Neologismenwörterbuch" as a whole is that the Corona neologisms are still monitored. Thus, whole synonyms clusters are part of the inventory, for example:

- Coronateststation<sup>42)</sup>, Coronateststelle<sup>43)</sup>, Coronatestzentrum<sup>44)</sup>, COVID-19-Teststation<sup>45)</sup>, COVID-19-Teststelle<sup>46)</sup>, COVID-19-Testzentrum<sup>47)</sup>, all denoting a mobile walk-in or drive-in facility for people to be tested for a possible infection with the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, or
- Immunitätsausweis<sup>48)</sup>, Immunitätsnachweis<sup>49)</sup>, COVID-19-Ausweis<sup>50)</sup>, Covidpass<sup>51)</sup>, digitaler Impfpass<sup>52)</sup>, grüner Pass<sup>53)</sup>, all designating an official document confirming the immunity of a person with respect to the SARS-CoV-19 coronavirus.

At the moment, it remains unclear, which lexeme of each group will be the most dominant term after some time and thus the most eligible candidate to be entered into the reference guide, while the less frequent lexemes are only be treated inclusively under the corresponding qualified head word. For the lexicographic catalogue of monitored words of the "Neologismenwörterbuch", the general rule applies that semantically transparent compounds or derivatives are explained in the dictionary, rule of thumb that is also less strictly being applied for comprehensive and concise entries. The deviations in our data will be studied more closely in the future, when the development of usage and its manifestation can be examined in our corpus data in more detail.

## 5. Conclusion

Neologism dictionaries seem to be predestined to react quickly to recent and possibly rapid developments of the lexicon of a given language, as it is their objective to cover new lexemes and phrases, a phenomenon naturally associated with change. However, this can only be the case if the dictionary in question aims at documenting new words close to their moment of creation, taking into account the risk that some of the neologisms recorded may only be

42) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp#coronateststation>.

43) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp#coronateststelle>.

44) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp#coronatestzentrum>.

45) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp#covid-19-teststation>.

46) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp#covid-19-teststelle>.

47) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp#covid-19-testzentrum>.

48) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp#immunitaetsausweis>.

49) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp#immunitaetsnachweis>.

50) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp#covid-19-ausweis>.

51) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp#covidpass>.

52) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp#digitaler-impfpass>.

53) See <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp#gruener-pass>.

short-lived. In contrast, retrospective neologism lexicography runs the risk of offering details about new words at a time where the needs of users for this information has decreased and the words in question may not even be felt as being novel anymore. In a situation like the COVID-19 pandemic, where the lexicon of languages around the world (including German) has expanded to a large extent in a very short amount of time and the usage frequency of some words has changed perceptibly in contrast to former times, this question has been of even greater importance. In this study, the solution found for the "Neologismenwörterbuch" of IDS was demonstrated, i.e. by offering both types of information in one online reference work. On the one hand, fully described neologisms in comprehensive entries are being compiled for those words that emerged in German in a specific period of time of language development (the 1990s, the 2000s, the 2010s, the 2020s) and which have diffused and are now generally accepted, and on the other hand, some head words are still monitored and are being collected which only receive brief and essential semantic specifications.

Work in the "Neologismenwörterbuch" project exceeded lexicographic practice by additionally offering corpus-based, evidence-based research results on neologisms around the Covid pandemic to the general public. The editorial team regularly published short essays on specific word groups (between April 2020 and August 2021), and got into contact with dictionary users by e-mail correspondences based on an online word proposal form as part of the dictionary. The editors also gave a large number of interviews with newspapers, magazines, radio, and TV stations<sup>54)</sup> who followed the developments and the emerging of new coinings around the corona pandemic with great interest. Besides regular continuous editorial work all of these activities meant additional workload for a rather small team of lexicographers<sup>55)</sup>, but which helped raising the general awareness for our work and for the usefulness of reliable, up-to-date dictionaries, making it worth-while to immerse in lexicography "at the pulse of time".

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54) See <https://www.ids-mannheim.de/aktuell/presse/online-presse/> for the press review of IDS.

55) The editorial team of the "Neologismenwörterbuch" consists of approximately 1.5 full-time equivalents.

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## 독일어 코로나 관련 신어와 그 사전적 표상

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## [요약문]

2020년 1월부터 2021년 여름 사이 코로나 팬데믹이라는 새로운 상황에서 의사소통을 가능하게 하기 위해 수많은 새로운 단어들과 구문들이 독일어 어휘의 확장에 기여하였다. 이러한 어휘들의 급속한 확장은 응용 언어학의 한 분야인 사전 편찬에 두드러지게 영향을 미치고 있다. 일반 언어사전이나 용어사전들은 코로나 팬데믹 기간에 독일어사전이 어떻게 발전했는지 보여주었으며, 그것에 따라 많은 항목들을 추가하기도 했고, 수정하기도 했다. 이 글은 “만하임 라이프니츠 독일어 연구소”에서 발행한 독일어(전문) 신어 사전 프로젝트인 “Neologismenwörterbuch(이하 신어사전)”(온라인, <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/start-emerge> 참조)의 사전 정보를 적시에 포착하고 문서화하기 위해서 선택한 방법에 초점을 맞추고 있다.

이 글에서 논의되는 신어란 언어 발달의 특정 기간에 걸쳐 언어 공동체에서 출현하는 어휘 단위 또는 의미(senses/meanings)를 뜻한다. 이는 일반적인 언어 규범에 의해 수용되면서 대다수의 화자들에게 한 동안 새로운 것으로 인식된다. 따라서 “신어사전”에서는 신어가 어휘화한 후에야 소급하여 기록하는 데 사용되었다. 그 결과, 사전의 사용자들은 특정 담화에서 특정 시점에 특히 두드러진 단어에 대한 세부적인 정보를 즉시 얻지 못하게 되었고, 이에 따라 그 단어의 의미와 올바른 철자 등에 대한 의문이 제기되었다. 그러나 이것은 사전 프로젝트의 편찬자가 내부 데이터베이스에 포함된 후보 목록에서 일부 예비적인 정보와 함께 이러한 단어를 처음부터 수집하지 않았음을 의미하지는 않는다. 따라서 본 신어사전 프로젝트는 2011년부터 등장한 어휘 단위를 포함하여 모니터링한 단어들의 색인을 온라인으로 발행하기 시작하였다. 이것이 규범적 언어로 확산되어 나타날 것인지 여부는 시간이 지난 후에야 알 수 있을 것이다.

본 글의 목록 형식은 2020년 4월부터 “신어사전”의 일부인 코로나 관련 신어 편집본을 발행하는 데 사용되었다. 2021년 10월까지 이 목록에 포함된 코로나 관련 신어가 무려 1,800개 이상이었음에도 불구하고, 내부 데이터베이스에 있는 700여 개의 후보 단어가 사전적으로 기술되거나 온라인 색인에 포함되지 못한 채 대기하고 있다. ((<https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/listen/corona.jsp> 참조). 이 글은 코로나-19 전염병의 상황 속에 생긴 새로운 단어(new words), 새로운 의미(new senses) 및 새로운 용법(new uses)이 사전에 어떻게 반영되는지 설명하기 위해 수많은 사례들을 제시하고 있다.