

MOST COMMON NEOLOGISMS WHICH EMERGED DURING AND IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19



Morphology

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Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the world, and this has been reflected in the language we use. As people grapple with the challenges of the pandemic, new words and phrases have emerged to describe the unique experiences of this time. In this study, apart from the most frequent neologisms, will also be discussed two of the most common neologisms which have emerged during and in the wake of COVID-19: “*Social distancing*” and “*Zoom fatigue*”.

INTRODUCTION

The pandemic induced by COVID-19 has resulted in a profound adjustment to the way in which we conduct our lives. It has also led in the production of a large number of new words and phrases, which are now a part of our everyday lexicon. These new words and phrases are generally referred to as neologisms. These neologisms are a reflection of the adaptable quality of our language, since they have evolved as a result of the pandemic’s particular challenges, and they show how our language is constantly growing in reaction to new situations.

Throughout the course of the COVID-19 epidemic and in its immediate aftermath, a great number of neologisms appeared. The following are some of the most frequent ones: *covidiot*, *quarantine*, *zoom-bombing*, *coronacation*, *maskne*, *infodemic*, *lockdown*, *social distancing* and *zoom fatigue*.

Covidiot

The phrase “Covidiot” is a term that originated during the COVID-19 pandemic to refer to a person who disobeys public health norms and regulations and engages in risky activity that may enhance the transmission of the virus. This term is a neologism that came about during the pandemic. This slur, which combines the terms “COVID-19” and “idiot,” is frequently used to criticize persons who participate in risky conduct. It is a combination of the words “idiot” and “COVID-19.” On social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook, where users use it to condemn those who do not follow public health rules, such as wearing a mask, social distancing, or avoiding large gatherings, the term has gained broad usage in recent years. People who refuse to get vaccinated against COVID-19 are also occasionally referred to by this phrase. The word has

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been the subject of debate, with some individuals contending that it is insensitive and disparaging towards those who may have valid reasons for not following public health guidelines and others saying that it is inappropriate and insensitive towards persons who do not follow public health norms. Others contend that the term is helpful in drawing attention to risky conduct and promoting public health, and they use it in both of these ways. It is essential to point out that despite the fact that the name “Covidiot” has gained widespread acceptance, it is not an official term that is used by organizations concerned with public health or by medical professionals. Instead than relying on pejorative terminology that can further separate people during a public health crisis, appropriate guidelines and regulations for public health should be followed based on official sources of information. This is preferable to the alternative.

Quarantine

Another term that came into use as a result of the pandemic is “quarantine.” The process of isolating oneself or a group of people who may have been exposed to the virus in order to prevent the spread of the disease is referred to as quarantine. Quarantine can be done on an individual or group level. The practice of quarantine, which dates back centuries and is intended to stop the spread of contagious diseases, came to widespread public attention during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Quarantini” is a phrase that originated during the COVID-19 pandemic to refer to a drink that people brew at home when they are in quarantine or self-isolation, “Quarantini” is a neologism that was created during the pandemic. The word is a portmanteau created by combining the words “quarantine” and “martini,” and it is frequently used in a satirical context to depict the occurrence of individuals resorting to drink as a way to cope with the stress and isolation brought on by the pandemic.

The cocktail known as the Quarantini can be prepared with a wide number of components, but it almost always contains some mixture of alcohol, juice, and/or soda, and it is often garnished with either fruit or herbs. The rise in popularity of the phrase “Quarantini” has resulted in an increase in the number of recipes and how-to guides that can be found online for preparing the cocktail at home.

Even if the term is frequently used in a comedic context, it is essential to keep in mind that drinking excessive amounts of alcohol can have detrimental consequences on both physical and mental health. It can also weaken the immune system, which makes people more susceptible to diseases like COVID-19. People have been encouraged by organizations concerned with public health to cut back on their intake of alcohol during the epidemic and to seek out alternative ways to deal with stress and anxiety, including as engaging in physical activity, practicing meditation, or keeping in touch online with friends and family.

In general, despite the fact that the term “Quarantini” may be a humorous method to deal with the stress and isolation brought on by the pandemic, it is essential to give good coping

mechanisms a higher priority and to adhere to public health rules in order to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Zoom-Bombing

The term “Zoom-bombing” refers to the act of disrupting a virtual meeting or webinar, which is generally hosted on the video conferencing platform Zoom, by hacking into the meeting or entering the meeting without being invited and then distributing content that is deemed to be improper or obscene. During the COVID-19 epidemic, when more individuals began using video conferencing for work, school, and socializing, a new phrase evolved to describe this phenomenon.

People started using Zoom for virtual events without taking the appropriate safety procedures, which led to a large increase in the number of incidents of zoom bombing in the early days of the epidemic. This resulted in multiple cases of Zoom-bombing that received a lot of media attention, including incidents in which hackers disrupted virtual classes with racist or pornographic content or in which outsiders joined corporate meetings and revealed confidential information.

Zoom and other video conferencing services have developed many security features in order to counteract the practice of “Zoom-bombing.” These security features include requiring passwords and waiting rooms for meetings, allowing hosts to select who can share their screen or unmute themselves, and enabling two-factor authentication. Additionally, users are reminded to maintain their Zoom software up to date, to refrain from publishing meeting links on public forums, and to notify the proper authorities of any instances of Zoom-bombing that they experience.

In general, the term “Zoom-bombing” brings to light the significance of cybersecurity and privacy in this day and age of virtual communication. It also serves as a useful reminder that in-person events and online gatherings, such as webinars and meetings, can be just as susceptible to being targeted by bad actors.

Coronacation

The phrase “Coronacation” is a neologism that originated during the COVID-19 pandemic to denote a vacation or period of time off work or school that is taken during the pandemic. The term is used to indicate time off work or school taken during the epidemic. The word is a portmanteau of the words “coronavirus” and “vacation,” and it represents the peculiar nature of taking time off during a pandemic.

A coronation vacation can take many different forms, such as remaining at home and resting, going on an excursion to nearby attractions and engaging in outdoor activities, or going on a family vacation that involves traveling by car or camping. People were looking for new ways to enjoy leisure time while still preserving social distance and other public health norms, which led

to the rise in use of the term “social isolation,” which was coined during this time. People were also looking for ways to take a break from the strains caused by the pandemic.

In light of the fact that a great number of people have been laid off from their jobs or have been unable to take time off due to the epidemic, the term has been condemned by some as being insensitive or tone-deaf. In addition, there have been fears that traveling during the pandemic or gathering with other people could result in an enhanced spread of the virus.

As the epidemic persists, it is essential for individuals to place a high priority on their own health and safety and to adhere to the recommendations provided by the public health community when they are on vacation or traveling. This includes things like washing your hands frequently, practicing social distance, wearing masks, and getting vaccinated when you are eligible to do so. During the pandemic, taking a Coronacation can be a good way to refuel and enjoy some time off, but it is essential to do so in a sensible and risk-free manner in order to avoid spreading the virus.

Maskne

During the course of the pandemic, another neologism known as “maskne” came into use. The word refers to the outbreaks of acne that can occur as a direct consequence of applying face masks for extended periods of time. The skin might get irritated and break out in acne as a result of the constant pressure and friction caused by the mask as it is worn, which led to the creation of this new phrase.

The term “maskne” is a neologism that originated during the COVID-19 pandemic to characterize acne or skin irritation that can arise as a result of wearing a mask for extended periods of time. The term was initially used to refer to people who were infected with COVID-19. The word is a portmanteau of the words “mask” and “acne,” and it represents the singular nature of the epidemic, in which an increasing number of individuals are covering their faces with masks in order to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Maskne can manifest itself in a variety of ways, including the development of acne, redness, irritation, or dryness in the areas of the face that are concealed by a mask. The condition is brought on by a confluence of variables, including friction brought on by the mask pressing against the skin, heat and moisture being held in place by the mask, and an accumulation of bacteria and oils on the surface of the skin.

Experts recommend washing the face with a gentle cleanser before and after wearing a mask, avoiding wearing makeup or other cosmetics that can clog pores under a mask, using a moisturizer to prevent dryness, and selecting a mask made of breathable materials like cotton. These steps can help reduce the risk of developing maskne, which is a form of acne caused by wearing a face mask.

Maskne is a very small issue when compared to the risks of COVID-19; nonetheless, it can still be a source of aggravation and pain for individuals who are compelled to wear masks for extended periods of time. These individuals may also be more susceptible to developing COVID-19 as a result of their prolonged exposure to masks. People can limit the danger of acquiring maskism and continue to protect themselves and others from the spread of COVID-19 if they adopt proper skincare and hygiene routines. These behaviors include washing their hands frequently and using antibacterial soap.

Infodemic

The term “infodemic” is a made-up word that describes a situation in which there is an excessive amount of information that is frequently incorrect or deceptive around a certain subject or event. In February of 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) came up with the name “Pandemic of Misinformation” to characterize the spread of false information and rumors around the COVID-19 pandemic.

Finally, during the course of the pandemic, the term “infodemic” has surfaced as a means of describing the propagation of false information and fabricated news relating to COVID-19. The word calls attention to the significance of correct information as well as the role that the media and social networks play in preventing the proliferation of false information.

One of the numerous ways in which an infodemic can be harmful to society is that it can cause confusion, worry, and fear among the general population. Infodemics have been connected to a variety of negative effects during the COVID-19 pandemic. These results include the propagation of conspiracy theories, stigma against particular populations, and the rejection of public health guidelines and recommendations.

Experts advise using credible news outlets or official government websites as reliable sources of information, as well as fact-checking information before posting it on social media or any other platform. This is one strategy that may be utilized to counteract the spread of infodemics. In addition, individuals can contribute to the fight against infodemics by avoiding the dissemination of rumors or material that has not been confirmed and by pushing information that is factual and trustworthy to their friends and family members.

Overall, the term “infodemic” emphasizes the significance of having information that is accurate and dependable during times of crisis, as well as the necessity of battling misinformation and disinformation in order to preserve the public's health and safety.

Lockdown

The term “lockdown” is another neologism that has become a part of our daily vocabulary during the pandemic. Lockdown refers to the restriction of movement and activity in a given area

to prevent the spread of the virus. Governments around the world imposed lockdowns as a response to the pandemic, resulting in significant changes to our daily routines.

Social Distancing

During the COVID-19 epidemic, one of the neologisms that was used the most frequently was “social distancing.” This word refers to the practice of keeping a minimum physical distance of six feet between individuals in order to reduce the risk of the virus spreading from one person to another. Although social distance was not a novel idea before the pandemic, the word “social distance” became increasingly common throughout the outbreak. The dissemination of this information has become a crucial component of public health messaging, which has resulted in a reduction in the incidence of COVID-19.

In the wake of the epidemic, the word “social distancing” has emerged as one of the most common phrases. It is the strategy of keeping a safe distance from other people in order to lessen the likelihood of the virus being passed from one person to another. This involves avoiding gatherings of a large number of people, keeping a distance of at least six feet from other people, and covering one’s face while one is out in public. The practice of maintaining a social distance has become an integral component of many people’s day-to-day lives, which has had a significant influence on the ways in which we interact with one another. The idea of maintaining a social distance has also been utilized in various other aspects of modern life. For instance, “digital distancing,” which is the practice of restricting one’s exposure to digital media in order to alleviate feelings of stress and anxiety, is becoming increasingly popular among a lot of people right now. This includes reducing the amount of time spent on social media platforms, taking breaks away from screens, and participating in activities that do not include the use of technology.

Zoom Fatigue

“Zoom fatigue” is yet another widespread neologism that has surfaced as a result of the pandemic. This is a reference to the tiredness and frustration that a lot of individuals experience after spending an excessive amount of time on video conferencing systems such as Zoom.

During the course of the epidemic, the term “Zoom” has also entered the vernacular in a significant way. During the lockdowns, the video conferencing software Zoom emerged as an important instrument for maintaining remote business and educational and social connections. The concept of “Zoom fatigue” was coined to describe the feeling of being mentally and physically drained after participating in extended video conferencing sessions.

This is because participating in a video conference demands a high level of sustained concentration and attention, which can be mentally and emotionally taxing for certain people. Due to the absence of physical cues and body language, participating in a video conference can be more taxing on the participant than having a conversation in person. Many people are shifting away from using Zoom in favor of other methods of communication, such as phone conversations,

text messages, and emails, in order to stave off the effects of Zoom weariness. In addition, individuals are taking pauses from video conferencing in order to participate in activities that do not require screens in any way. Last but not least, in an effort to lessen the amount of fatigue they experience, some people are capping the amount of time they spend participating in video conferences.

CONCLUSION

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, two frequent neologisms have emerged: “Social distancing” and “Zoom fatigue.” Many people find that maintaining a social distance is an essential component of their day-to-day lives, and this reality has had a significant influence on the ways in which we engage in conversation with one another. In addition, a condition known as Zoom weariness is becoming increasingly prevalent as a consequence of the widespread use of various video conferencing tools by a large number of people. People are resorting to different modes of communication and taking breaks from their devices in order to address the difficulties that are now plaguing society.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to the development of a significant number of neologisms that represent the one-of-a-kind difficulties brought about by the pandemic. These newly coined phrases have worked their way into our everyday vocabulary, and they are a testament to the adaptable quality of our language in the face of shifting conditions. These neologisms reflect the huge impact that the pandemic has had on our day-to-day lives as well as the manner that we communicate, ranging from social distancing and quarantine to zoom and infodemic.

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