



## Lingual Expressions in the Covid-19-Related Ecolexicons in Indonesian Online-Media Coverage

Khusnul Khotimah<sup>a b 1</sup> , Kisyani Laksono<sup>a</sup> , Suhartono Suhartono<sup>a</sup> , Udjang Pairin<sup>a</sup> ,  
Darni Darni<sup>a</sup> 

<sup>a</sup> Universitas Negeri Surabaya, Indonesia  
<sup>b</sup> Universitas Trunojoyo Madura, Indonesia

### APA Citation:

Khotimah, K., Laksono, K., Suhartono, S., Pairin, U & Dami, D. (2021). Lingual expressions in the covid-19-related ecolexicons in Indonesian online-media coverage. *Journal of Language and Linguistic Studies*, 17(1), 309-326. Doi: 10.52462/jlls.19

Submission Date: 07/01/2021

Acceptance Date: 14/03/2021

---

### Abstract

Language may represent everything related to COVID-19 and, at the same time, being a tool to recognize and prevent the virus. This current research applied the ecolinguistic theory and a qualitative descriptive approach, aiming at researching new terms or lexicons related to the COVID-19 pandemic that existed in Indonesian online mass media. The technique used to collect the data was observation. The results showed that COVID-19 news triggered the emergence of exciting language dynamics. COVID-19 was depicted through dynamic forms of language. Reality coding also occurred dynamically. It was found out that the new health ecolexicons were in the forms of English terms (e.g., lockdown, swab test), synonym forms (e.g., *isolasi*, *karantina*), Indonesian abbreviations (e.g., PPE, KLB), and English abbreviations (e.g., WFH, PCR), and acronym forms (e.g., COVID-19, Sars-Cov-2). The identified ecolexicons could be grouped into physical/biological reality, social reality, and symbolic/ideological reality.

**Keywords:** lingual expressions, reality coding, health ecolexicons, COVID-19

---

## 1. Introduction

After being declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO), the coronavirus outbreak that was first detected in the Chinese city of Wuhan at the end of 2019 has continued to spread globally among the people. In the midst of that, new lexicons are tucked into a trend among language users. Many new lexicons related to the COVID-19 pandemic have sprung up and circulated globally, including in Indonesian mass media. The lexicons are used to describe different situations. However, if the lexicons are understood and interpreted differently, the meaning of the lexicons will be incorrect. Therefore, it is important that language users well understand the new lexicons.

The forms of new lexicons related to COVID-19 include acronyms, abbreviations, synonyms, English terms, etc, as confirmed by the results of Oktavia's research (2020) revealing the variety of language terms during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some examples of popular new lexicons are

---

<sup>1</sup> Corresponding author.

E-mail address: [khusnul.khotimah@trunojoyo.ac.id](mailto:khusnul.khotimah@trunojoyo.ac.id)

lockdown, swab test, rapid test, social distancing, physical distancing, suspect, local transmission, imported case, panic buying, new normal, flattening the curve, *isolasi, karantina, klaster, protokol, wabah, pandemi, disinfektan, antiseptik*, PPE, KLB, PSBB, ODP, PDP, ODR, OTG, WFH, SFH, PCR, COVID-19, Sars-Cov-2, Fasyankes, and so on.

Studies on language concerning COVID-19 need to be done to reveal the dynamics and complexities of human life due to the pandemic. COVID-19 is known as a very vicious virus and often ends in death. The pandemic of COVID-19 has changed all aspects of social life. Changes in social context result in changes in the texts, which are realized in linguistic features. Changes occur in language metafunctions, which specifically include changes in the coding of natural experiences (experiential function), logical (logical function), social (interpersonal function), and verbal (textual function). Operationally, this change is realized by vocabulary and grammar (lexicogrammar). Changes in linguistic coding of COVID-19, on the other hand, generate changes in the social context which specifically affect the context of the situation, culture, and ideology (Halliday, 1994; Martin, 2012).

From a linguistic perspective, this is interesting because new terms in everyday language arise. Health lexicons, which were usually only used and uttered by doctors and other health workers, are now commonly used by common people. In this case, there is a shift in the labeling of social status. The phenomenon of language and environmental issues in linguistics is included in ecolinguistic studies. The health ecolexicons need to be explained to the public to avoid misunderstanding, especially during the pandemic outbreak. Here, media, which always reports on the latest pandemic conditions in Indonesia, plays a significant role in using and spreading these new terms.

This current research describes the lingual expressions of the COVID-19-related ecolexicons in various Indonesian online media. Online media are chosen because almost all people from various circles have used online media to get information every day. Moreover, they can be accessed quickly, anytime, and anywhere.

## 2. Theoretical Review

### 2.1. Language metafunctions

Language has three main functions, namely, ideational functions, interpersonal functions, and textual functions. These three functions are called metafunctions and represent different realities. Under the ideational function, language is used to express physical-biological reality with regard to the interpretation and representation of experiences. Under the interpersonal function, language is used to express social reality and is concerned with the interactions between speaker/writer and listener/reader. Under the textual function, language is used to express semiotic reality or symbolic reality and is concerned with the way the text is created in context (Matthiessen, 1995; Martin, 1992). These three functions do not stand independently but are a single metafunction.

Language is a construction of physical/biological, social, and symbolic realities, collectively becoming a working place for ideational, interpersonal, and textual functions. In physical/biological reality, language is used to report content or intent as a result of observations made by speakers/writers. What is reported is whatever is in and around the speaker/writer. In social reality, language is used to perform the role played by speakers/writers towards listeners/readers. This role is reflected by the fact that a language is a tool for establishing and simultaneously strengthening social relationships. In semiotic/symbolic reality, language expresses the content (the results of these observations) through lingual forms (texts) in accordance with the purpose of the expression.

## 2.2. *Ecolinguistics*

The concept of ecolinguistics in this study uses an idea put forward by Alexander and Stibbe (2011). They define ecolinguistics as a study of the use of language that bridges the relationship between humans, other organisms, and the physical environment, which is normatively oriented towards preserving relationships and life sustainability. Halliday (in Fill, 2001) believes that language and environment are two things that influence each other. Changes in language, both in the lexicon and grammar areas, cannot be separated from changes in the people's natural and social (cultural) environment.

It is interesting to note that ecolinguistics, which was previously an umbrella term for various approaches to linguistic theory (Bundsgaard and Steffensen, 2000), turns out to have its theoretical framework, namely dialectical linguistic theory or dialectical ecolinguistics. The novelty of this theoretical framework lies in the use of the concept of social praxis as a language environment, which refers to three dimensions, namely the ideological dimension, the sociological dimension, and the biological dimension.

Lindo and Jeppe (2000) define ideological dimension as the relationship of the individual with his mental, cognitive and psychological systems reflected in his pattern of language use, linguistic repertoire with their meanings, and behavior content. The sociological dimension is the dimension or measure of how a person organizes relationships between others to build, establish and maintain harmonious individual relationships collectively, such as a sense of mutual affection for each other, including mutual love within family members, and mutual respect in a community. The biological dimension relates to life with nature and its contents, including species of flora, fauna, rocks, micro-, and macro-organisms.

## 2.3. *Ecolexicons*

Language changes can occur at the lexicon level, which is influenced by the ideological, social, and biological dimensions (Lindo and Bundsgaard, 2000). The sociological dimension is related to discourse, dialogue, and social discourse activities to realize this ideology. In this sociological dimension, language is a meaningful practical social form. The biological dimension relates to diverse ecosystems so that each one has a name. The names are verbally included in the richness of vocabulary called lexicons. Lexicons related to ecology are called ecolexicons.

Everything related to the lexicon is closely related to the objects and events faced, bound in their state in space and time. However, words that symbolize space and time concepts get dynamism in the mind or acts (Alisjahbana, 1977). The concept of ecolexicon refers to the richness of words mapped based on their environment or field of knowledge. The richness of words in this current research deals with health lexicons.

For a more precise understanding, Kridalaksana (2008) explains the concept of the lexicon as follows: (1) a lexicon contains meaning and usage; (2) a lexicon is the richness of vocabulary; (3) a lexicon is structured similarly to a dictionary. Based on ecology, lexicons are divided into biotic lexicons and abiotic lexicons. Biotic lexicons are lexicons related to living things, and abiotic lexicons are words related to inanimate objects that influence living things. In this study, the lexicons found were classified into the abiotic group.

Lexicons can also be categorized into two forms: (1) active vocabulary, which is vocabulary that is massively used by individuals in communication, and (2) passive vocabulary, which is vocabulary that is rarely used and not much known – not even known to the speaker. Based on this statement, it can be said that the dynamic concepts symbolize the words in mind. Human responses and actions can create

new concepts, which have no objects or events other than what is in the human mind or response. Ecolexicons in this study are vocabularies related to ecology, the science of the environment. Though there are several types of ecology, this current research discusses metaphorical ecology that includes nature and human social life.

### 3. Method

This study applied a qualitative descriptive approach. Data were collected using the observation method with techniques of reading and note-taking, literature study, documentation method, and screen capture or screenshots.

The data source was COVID-19 news in Indonesian online mass media, taken from five online news websites with the highest number of visitors (clicks and views). They were CNN Indonesia.com, kompas.com, kumparan.com, Suara.com, and Idntimes.com. The data were in the forms of health lexicons that appeared on COVID-19 pandemic coverage. There were 38 lexicons analyzed: lockdown, swab test, rapid test, social distancing, physical distancing, suspect, local transmission, imported case, Contact Tracing, panic buying, Thermo gun, Herdy immunity, new normal, flattening the curve, *isolasi*, *karantina*, *klaster*, *protokol*, *wabah*, *pandemi*, *disinfektan*, *antiseptik*, APD, KLB, PSBB, ODP, PDP, ODR, OTG, WFH, SFH, PCR, Covid-19, Sars-Cov-2, vaksin, Fasyankes). The research was conducted for six months, from June to November 2020.

### 4. Results

COVID-19 makes people think hard so that lingual forms and dynamic language use emerge, basically leading to the coding of reality. Language has three main functions: ideational functions, interpersonal functions, and textual functions (Halliday, M.A.K., 1994). These three functions are called metafunctions, indicating different realities. The lingual expression of reality coding is evident in the health ecolexicons such as in English terms (e.g., lockdown, swab test), Indonesian synonym forms (e.g., *isolasi*, *karantina*, *klaster*), Indonesian abbreviations (e.g., APD, KLB, PSBB), English abbreviations (e.g., WFH, SFH, PCR), and Indonesian and English acronyms (e.g., COVID-19, Sars-Cov-2, Fasyankes). The following are the results of the analysis on health ecolexicons in Indonesian online mass media:

**Table 1.** Lingual Expressions of Coding Reality in COVID-19-related Ecolexicons in Indonesian online Mass Media

No	Lingual Expressions					Coding Reality		
	English terms	synonyms	acronyms	Indonesian abbreviations	English abbreviations	Physical reality (biological dimension)	Social reality (sociological dimension)	Symbolic reality (ideological dimension)
1	<i>New normal</i>	Isolasi	COVID-19	ODP	WFH	APD	<i>Social distancing</i>	COVID-19
2	<i>Social distancing</i>	Disinfektan	SARS-Cov-2	PDP	SFH	Positif	<i>Physical distancing</i>	SARS-Cov-2
3	<i>Physical distancing</i>	Karantina	Masker N95	OTG	PCR	ODP	PSBB	vaksin

	<i>ng</i>							
4	<i>Lockdown</i>	Positif	Fasyankes	OTR		PDP	Pandemi	Fasyankes
5	<i>Swab test</i>	Wabah		KLB		OTG	Protokol	WFH
6	<i>Rapid test</i>	Pandemi		PSBB		ODR	Isolasi	SFH
7	<i>Suspect</i>	Antiseptik		APD		<i>Imported case</i>		PCR
8	<i>Hand sanitizer</i>	Protokol				<i>Rapid test</i>		
9	<i>Local transmission</i>	Klaster				<i>Contact Tracing</i>		
10	<i>Imported case</i>					Klaster		
11	<i>Thermogun</i>							
12	<i>Panic buying</i>							
13	<i>Herd immunity</i>							
14	<i>Flattening the curve</i>							
15	<i>Contact Tracing</i>							

The health ecolexicons in the COVID-19 coverage are grouped into domains, including the domain of the tools used (e.g., APD), the domain of action (e.g., PSBB, KLB), the domain of the COVID-19 context (e.g., pandemi, epidemi, pasien positif, pasien negatif, karantina, isolasi, *physical distancing*, *social distancing*, *lockdown*, *suspect*, *imported case*, *local transmission*), the domain of the infected person's status (e.g., PDP, ODP, OTG), the domain of the virus name (e.g., COVID-19, SARS-Cov-2, MERS COV), and the domain of the name of the organization (e.g., WHO, WFH), etc. The following is a discussion of lingual expressions of the coding of the reality of health ecolexicons in each dimension.

#### 4.1. Language is used to express physical reality (biological dimension)

Under the ideational metafunction, language expresses physical-biological reality and is concerned with the interpretation and representation of experiences. The biological dimension is related to the natural environment and coexists with nature and all of its contents, including the species of flora, fauna, rocks, micro-and macro-organisms. This language metafunction aims to convey facts and explain real events experienced by other people. It is also used to report what the speakers/writers

observe around them. The COVID-19-related ecolixicons that fall into the biological dimension are as follows:

(1) Domain of tool used, APD



Figure 1. Screenshot of Data

APD stands for *Alat Pelindung Diri*. It is an old vocabulary that is reappearing. The abbreviated form of APD comes from English “PPE” (Personal Protective Equipment). Etymologically, this vocabulary has appeared since 1977. This vocabulary reappears and is now used by many people in talking about a certain phenomenon during the pandemic. APD is used by medical personnel in treating COVID-19 patients to prevent themselves from contracting the virus. This personal protective equipment consists of a mask, hazmat shirt, eye protection, head protection, foot protection (waterproof boots), and gloves.

The variety of abbreviated languages in terms of COVID-19 can be classified into two forms: English and Indonesian abbreviations. Abbreviations are words that are composed of a combination of letters, namely by shortening or abbreviating the word from a particular combination of letters. Besides APD, the Indonesian abbreviations related to COVID-19 can also be found in the lexicons of ODP (*Orang Dalam Pengawasan*), PDP (*Pasien Dalam Pengawasan*), OTG (*Orang Tanpa Gejala*), PSBB (*Pembatasan Sosial Berskala Besar*), and so on.

The lexicon of APD is used to reveal the physical-biological reality resulting from the interpretation and representation of experiences in dealing with COVID-19, which aims to convey facts and explain a real event experienced by medical personnel. One of the reasons for the many medical personnel exposed to COVID-19 is the lack of standardized personal protective equipment. This has led many industries to take the initiative to make standardized APD for medical personnel to deal with the coronavirus.

(2) *Positif, ODP, PDP, OTG*

Figure 2. Screenshot of Data

The data above is taken from the COVID-19 monitoring data. Positive means a person infected by COVID-19. ODP (*Orang Dalam Pemantauan*) is a person who has mild symptoms of body heat or respiratory tract and has visited an area exposed to COVID-19 and is being monitored by medical personnel. PDP (*Pasien Dalam Pemantauan*) is someone who has severe symptoms of exposure to COVID-19. OTG (*Orang Tanpa Gejala*) is a person who has no symptoms but still has a risk of catching it from a confirmed COVID-19 person. The data were used to convey facts and information and explain a real event that occurred in the city of Cimahi.

The lexicons of *positif* (positive), ODP, PDP, and OTG are lingual expressions in the form of Indonesian abbreviations that refer to people exposed to the coronavirus and are at risk of contracting the virus. Abbreviations are words that are composed of a combination of letters, namely by shortening or abbreviating the word from a certain combination of letters.

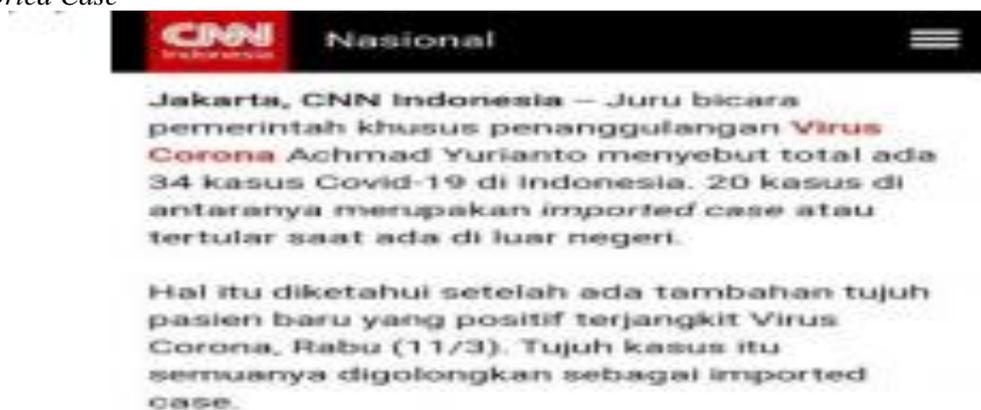
(3) *Imported Case*

Figure 3. Screenshot of Data

The imported case is an English term that falls into an ideational function because it represents data in the form of facts and describes a real event experienced by other people. Imported cases are infection cases due to traveling from abroad. Referring to the data above, 20 cases of COVID-19 were imported cases or contracted while abroad.

The use of English terms in reporting the COVID-19 pandemic is more dominant because the English lexicon is considered to have a high and practical value than the Indonesian one. The use of

English vocabulary also aims to show a modern impression, bringing out the novelty of the language term. Other English terms related to COVID-19 used by Indonesian online media include: Contact Tracing, New normal, Social distancing, Physical distancing, Lockdown, Swab test, Rapid test, Suspect, Handsinitizer, Local transmission, Thermo gun, Panic buying, Herd immunity, and Flattening the curve and so on.

#### (4) Contact Tracing

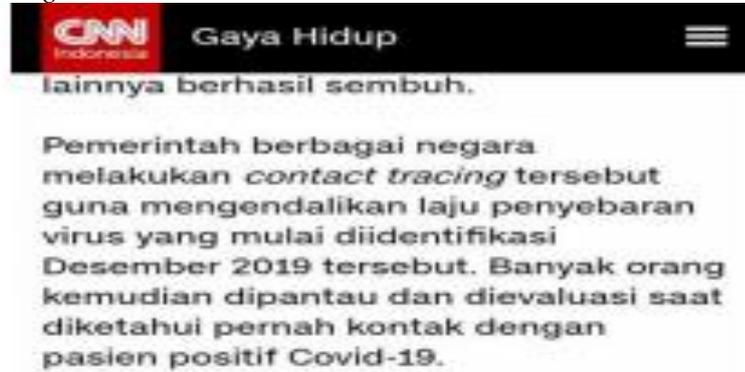


Figure 4. Screenshot of Data

Contact tracing is a term that aims to convey facts and explain real events experienced by other people. It is aimed at controlling the spread of COVID-19. It is done by tracing the contact and controlling the movement of potentially infected people because they have been in contact with a confirmed COVID-19 patient.

The English term is used because this disease is spreading worldwide in various countries. Based on this data, governments of different countries carry out contact tracing by monitoring many people who have had contact with positive Covid patients to reduce the spread of the virus.

#### (5) Rapid Test

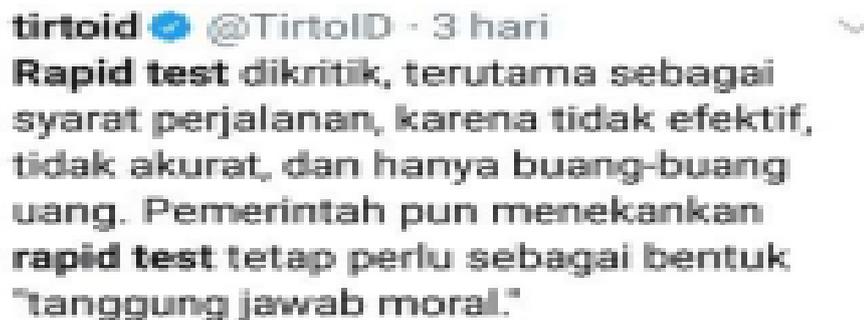


Figure 5. Screenshot of Data

The word 'rapid test' refers to the initial stage of screening someone suspected of having COVID-19. A person who is suspected of having contracted this virus must do a rapid test first. If the results are reactive, further tests must be carried out. The use of the term also emphasizes the disclosure of physical-biological reality and is related to the interpretation and representation of experiences. It reports what happens to patients, whatever is in and around the patient.

A rapid test is the first method used to determine whether human antibodies are reactive or not. Sampling in the rapid test is done by taking blood from both the fingertip and the human elbow's inner vein. A rapid test is mandatory for migrants from outside the region, especially from the red zone.

Based on the data, the Rapid test here is physically positioned as a tool to test the status of a patient, whether negative, reactive, or positive for the coronavirus. Not as a process but as a representation of biological, physical reality testing. Rapid tests still need to be done as a condition of travel as a form of moral responsibility.

#### 4.2. Language used to express social reality (sociological dimension)

A language is a communication tool conveyed by a person to another with a specific purpose and meaning, which functions primarily as a means of related social communication. Besides, language can be conveyed to the general public to obtain specific goals and objectives. Language is used to perform a role played by speakers/writers towards listeners/readers. This role is evident in the fact that language is a tool for social relations. Language is not static because it will continue to develop according to specific circumstances and situations. Therefore, language is very likely to have diversity.

Under the interpersonal metafunction, language is used to express social reality and is related to the interactions between speakers/writers and listeners/readers. The sociological dimension is a dimension or measure of how a person organizes relationships between others to build, establish, and maintain harmonious individual relationships collectively. This metafunction can be used to persuade, appeal to, and affect the interlocutor or listener. It can also be used to control, supervise, and regulate people's social behavior to believe that the information conveyed is accurate and can be accounted for. The COVID-19-related ecolixicons that fall into the sociological dimension are:

##### (1) Social Distancing, Physical Distancing



Figure 6. Screenshot of Data

Social distancing is a lexicon used to regulate and control people's behavior to keep their distance from other people, aimed at preventing the transmission of COVID-19 and plaguing the COVID-19 distribution curve. Social distancing is a practice in public health to prevent sick people from making contact with healthy people to reduce disease transmission. This action can be done by avoiding meetings with many people (huddled) or by avoiding public/crowded places. In Indonesia, the term social distancing is known as *Pembatasan Sosial*, which has been stipulated in Law Number 6 of 2018 concerning Health Quarantine, namely in Article 59. Social restrictions are defined as limiting certain activities of residents in an area suspected of being infected with the disease to prevent the spread of the disease or contamination.

Physical distancing is an expression used to control and regulate people's behavior to maintain physical distance when outside or inside the house, avoid crowds and public transportation. The government requests that people continue to carry out social interactions as usual. However, it can be

done in other ways that do not require direct physical presence, such as utilizing information technology and using social media.

Based on the data, two lexicons - Social distancing and Physical distancing - are used to express social reality regarding the regulation of social interactions during a pandemic. It is advisable to adhere to health protocols to reduce the spread of the virus. In this position, the two lexicons play a role in organizing relationships between people to collectively build, establish, and maintain harmonious individual relationships. This metafunction can be used to appeal to and have an effect on the interlocutors or listeners. It can also be used as a controller, supervisor, and regulator of social behavior to believe in the importance of applying distance restrictions to break the chain of transmission of COVID-19.

### (2) PSBB

PSBB stands for *Pembatasan Sosial Berskala Besar* (Large-Scale Social Restrictions). Humans are social creatures who cannot carry out their own lives and depend on one another. Social activities require a person to have physical contact and crowding. In a certain situation, social activities are suppressed to minimize higher risks so that each individual is required to be independent in carrying out his life, not crowding, and maintaining a safe distance from the people around him.

PSBB aims to prevent the spread of disease outbreaks that are happening between people in a particular area. PSBB includes at least: (a) closing schools and workplaces; (b) limiting religious activities; and/or (c) restricting activities in public places or facilities.

PSBB is used as a way for a person to organize relationships between people. This metafunction can be used to appeal to and affect the interlocutor or listener and can be used as a controller, supervisor, and regulator of social behavior in society.

### (3) Pandemi



Figure 7. Screenshot of Data

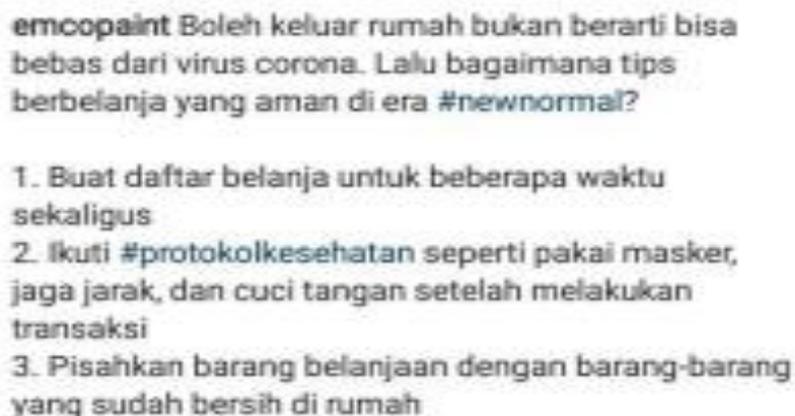
*Pandemi* (pandemic) is a term for an infectious disease that can threaten many people in the world at the same time. The use of the term "*pandemi*" is almost the same as an epidemic, namely the spread of the virus that occurs widely and evenly. However, *pandemi* is international in nature, namely the use of a term that is intended for all countries that have the same health problems. A pandemic is a disease that spreads globally over a wide geographical area.

The data in the screenshot can be classified as a function of the language of the request due to a request from doctors to the public not to hold babies and young children during this coronavirus pandemic. This ecollexicon was chosen by the government, it can be seen from the fact that language is

a tool to establish and at the same time strengthen social relations during a pandemic. In this case, maintaining the relationship with the baby.

The lingual expression of the ecollexicon "pandemic", is a synonymous form of disease spread. A synonym is a form of a term that is considered to have the same meaning as the terms found. Some of the various forms of language found include "isolasi", "epidemi", "protokol", "karantina", and so on.

#### (4) Protokol Kesehatan



emcopaint Boleh keluar rumah bukan berarti bisa bebas dari virus corona. Lalu bagaimana tips berbelanja yang aman di era #newnormal?

1. Buat daftar belanja untuk beberapa waktu sekaligus
2. Ikuti #protokolkesehatan seperti pakai masker, jaga jarak, dan cuci tangan setelah melakukan transaksi
3. Pisahkan barang belanjaan dengan barang-barang yang sudah bersih di rumah

**Figure 8.** Screenshot of Data

*Protokol kesehatan* (health protocol) is an effort to anticipate the spread of COVID-19. Various health protocols are established and must be implemented according to government regulations. Health protocols are categorized into interpersonal functions because they are the appeal to the public to comply with established protocols.

The use of the term *protokol* is tailored to the needs and circumstances, considering that the essence of the protocol is the same, namely as terms and regulations. The proliferation of viruses has an impact on all aspects of life. A person carrying out activities during a pandemic must follow the existing health protocols. The health protocol is used as a condition and as a rule that must be obeyed to minimize the level of more virus transmission.

The data above shows that the lexicon "*protokol*" is used as a controller, supervisor, and regulator of activities during a pandemic. The lexicon "*protokol*" is a synonym of "rules of the game". For example, the rules for shopping during the pandemic and the new normal must follow health protocols, which include wearing a mask, maintaining distance from other people, washing hands after making transactions, and so on.

#### 4.3. Language is used to express the reality of symbols (ideological dimension)

In the textual function, language is used to express the reality of symbols and is concerned with the way the text is created in context. Language is a series of sound systems or symbols obtained from human speech tools. These sounds have meanings that are generally used by a group of humans (speakers) to communicate (give birth to thoughts and feelings) to others. In semiotic/symbolic reality, language expresses the contents of the results of these observations through lingual forms (text) in accordance with the purpose of the disclosure.

Regarding the ideological dimension, the data that fall into this category are as follows:

## (1) COVID-19



Figure 9. Screenshot of Data

COVID-19 is a disease that originates from the coronavirus or SARS-Cov-2. Various texts relating to this virus have attracted the attention of lexicographers. The word has dominated the global discourse. The word COVID-19 stands for coronavirus disease 2019. This acronym is widely used in almost all languages and levels of society in the world, including in Indonesia. The lexicon COVID-19 is now being used to refer to two realities at once: for the disease as well as for the virus. In English, abbreviations for COVID-19 appear, including Covid, C-19, CV-19, and CV, and are used to refer to both viruses and diseases. From the texts related to COVID-19, various terms (words/phrases) emerge such as SARS-COV-2 (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus) and MERS COV (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus). They are groups of viruses that cause cold coughs and acute respiratory infections.

The acronym of COVID-19 was designed to make it easier for the wider community to pronounce and interpret quickly. It was aimed at disseminating the related information by not using technical medical language. An acronym is used to facilitate writing and is easily remembered. Besides COVID-19, various forms of acronym also emerge, such as SARS-Cov-2, MERS COV, and Fasyankes.

## (2) SARS-Cov-2



Figure 10. Screenshot of Data

SARS-Cov-2 or Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome-Coronavirus-2 is the official name for COVID-19 given by the International Virus Taxonomy Committee for the Wuhan coronavirus. It is the new coronavirus that gives birth to the COVID-19 disease. The lexicon "SARS-Cov-2" is included in this metafunction because the virus is a new virus discovered by research. With the keyword SARS-Cov-2, the public can find out that there are other names that are commonly used by many people besides COVID-19.

SARS-Cov-2 is a type of acronym that combines letters and numbers. SARS-Cov-2 is better known as the coronavirus which is a new type of virus that is transmitted to humans and infections of the respiratory tract. Like COVID-19, the use of the acronym is to facilitate writing remembering. SARS-Cov-2 is the name of the virus while COVID-19 is a global outbreak caused by the SARS-Cov-2 virus. In semiotic/symbolic reality, the SARS-Cov-2 lexicon is used to express the results of observations through lingual forms in accordance with the purpose of disclosure, namely in the form of a virus more commonly known as COVID-19.

(3) *Vaksin*

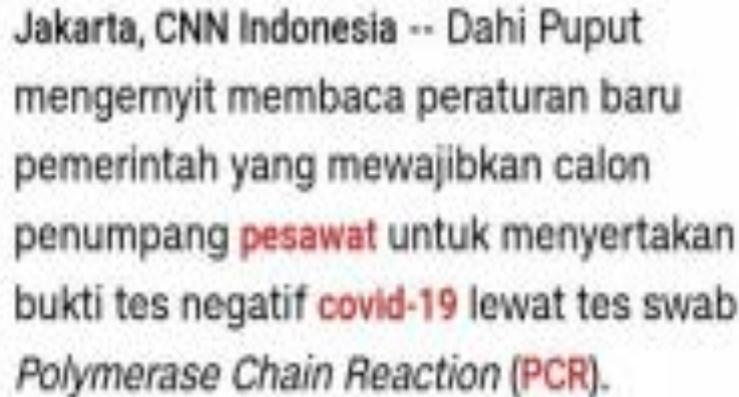


**Figure 11.** Screenshot of Data

*Vaksin* (vaccines) are antigenic substances that are used to generate immunity against a disease or virus. Vaccines are included in this metafunction because, with the keyword "vaccine", the public can dig up information related to the COVID-19 vaccine which is globally discussed.

The data shows that vaccine testing is accelerated and has passed trials. It is just that further development is still needed regarding some of the vaccines that are tested. The lexicon "*vaksin*" is a symbolic reality. Language expresses content (observations) through lingual forms (text) in accordance with the purpose of the disclosure. In this case, the lexicon "*vaksin*" is used to reveal that the corona will soon be resolved with the discovery of a vaccine that is accelerated by the trial.

## (4) WFH, SFH, dan PCR



Jakarta, CNN Indonesia -- Dahi Puput mengernyit membaca peraturan baru pemerintah yang mewajibkan calon penumpang pesawat untuk menyertakan bukti tes negatif covid-19 lewat tes swab Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR).

**Figure 12.** Screenshot of Data

The lexicon WFH (Work From Home), SFH (Study From Home), and PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) are abbreviated forms in English. As previously explained, the various abbreviated languages in the COVID-19 ecollexicon can be classified into two forms, namely abbreviations in English and Indonesian.

WFH stands for Work From Home. This term was first used as a noun (1995) and as a verb (2001) and continues to follow the development of language use related to the pandemic. The term WFH is an abbreviation of English. The implementation of WFH during a pandemic is to prevent excessive transmission. Basically, work is an activity carried out by people, most of which require distance. This underlies consideration of the spread of the virus on each trip. WFH was carried out as a follow-up to regional quarantine. Each employee is required to complete the workload obligations from their respective homes with the work procedures of each respective company.

SFH stands for Study From Home. WFH and SFH are several ways that are used to reduce the virus transmission rate. The health protocol system in SFH is broadly the same as that of WFH. SFH requires all students to learn from their homes. This is done because the potential transmission of the virus to children is quite high. The educational system has completely changed. SFH requires students to be able to learn without having to face the teacher and be at home. The learning process continues as it should, but the methods and models used are different. Overall face-to-face learning transforms into online.

PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) is a laboratory examination to detect the presence of a virus in the human body. The term PCR during the pandemic was used to detect genetic material in each cell in the form of DNA or RNA. PCR in the spread of the virus is a follow-up to the swab test.

These lexicons aim to acquire knowledge, explore, and learn the ins and outs of information related to COVID-19. Its main role is as a means of communication to obtain information. The presence of information is a human need that is indispensable in modern life, especially in this pandemic era. The public is thirsty for information that can provide a complete understanding of COVID-19.

## 5. Discussion

Using language in the form of lexicons related to COVID-19 shows a process of understanding the health context or domain. Formerly, only health workers can understand the lexicons. Language in this position is group identity, namely the language with the most prominent distinguishing characteristics. Through language, each social group feels like a different unit from other groups. Language diversity

is influenced by specific fields or groups that make it more interesting and varied in certain fields. Some people will use variations of language that people do not know, such as the use of language in the health sector. As concrete evidence, everyone now can understand and know COVID-19-related lexicons, and they are used in daily interactions by rural or urban communities.

This is confirmed by Junieles and Nafarin's (2020) research, which describes the health register for the COVID-19 pandemic era. Based on the results of the analysis, the form of registers found can be classified into three parts, namely lingual, limited environment, and open. Furthermore, based on their metafunction, the registers found can be grouped into four parts, namely instrumental, regulatory, representational, and heuristic functions. This research proves that the lexicons in the context of COVID-19 are a health register used in the health sector and used by certain people in that field. However, in practice, the register is now open and used by the general public during this pandemic. Of course, it is hoped that there will be no misunderstanding in using the registered language in everyday use in the wider community.

This shows that the process of change in social labeling or social status has shifted indirectly because to find out a person's social status or one's profession is seen from the domain of the conversation or the problem being discussed (Abiog & David, 2020). But now different things in this context occur. The use of COVID-19-related ecollexicons cannot distinguish a person's actual social status or profession because the public really understands and master the lexicons in communicating in today's real-world or in cyberspace (social media).

The development of the Indonesian language is not only determined by language experts or critics but also influenced by its users in various sectors. Language experts and critics can indeed become references in certain sectors of life such as in education. However, because language is also used in sectors that require practical use of language, language development is not determined linearly and theoretically as taught by linguists (Erton, 2020). One of the sectors of life that influence the development of language in mass media. The mass media use language primarily to construct reality. Empirical reality is constructed into symbolic reality, more specifically, into media reality. The reality built by the media rests not only on journalistic principles but also on vision and ideology (Fanani et al., 2020a, Fanani et al., 2020b). The mass media is not only a disseminator of information but also a "window on events and experience, a mirror of events in society and the world, implying a faithful reflection, gatekeeper, guide, forum, and interlocutor" (Mc Quail, 2000). Apart from being ideological, journalistic work is also sociological, namely news relating to all things happening globally, as described by journalistic experts (Sumadiria, 2005). Thus, in essence, the news's language in the media is a symbolic representation, which in this case represents the symbolic reality of ideology through the health lexicon in the context of the COVID-19.

In symbolic reality, the acronym "COVID-19" expresses the content (results of observations) through lingual forms (text), which are in accordance with the purpose of the disclosure. In this case, the mention of COVID-19 also has an impact on the birth of an ideology of racism. The ideological impact of racism is marked by the existence of a news writing style that links the COVID-19 outbreak with certain interests, bringing down or discriminating against certain parties. Racism sentiment is manifested in the form of stigmatization of the mass media by naming the COVID-19 virus with the 'Wuhan virus or Chinese virus'. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus conveyed his caution in choosing the name COVID-19. This is of course to avoid references to specific geographic locations, animal species, or groups of humans. For example, in the popular weekly magazine in Germany, *Der Spiegel* displays a cover of an Asian male-like figure in protective clothing and a mask while looking at his phone. The title reads "Made in China: When Globalization Becomes a Deadline Danger" (<https://engnews24h.com>).

The new lexicons that have begun to emerge in society should be balanced with the overall outreach from the government, to avoid misconceptions in society. Different educational statuses in society resulted in a different absorption of foreign vocabulary. Not everyone will easily understand it. This is important so that how COVID-19 becomes a collective vigilance for all aspects of society.

## 6. Conclusion

Language is not static because the language will continue to develop according to specific circumstances and situations, which allows the language to have diversity. COVID-19 triggered the emergence of an interesting dynamic language. Language's function and role as a tool for establishing social interaction, expressing emotions, controlling reality, recording facts, thinking tools, and indicating identity show its own uniqueness and characteristics. Everything related to COVID-19 is described through dynamic language forms. Reality coding also occurs dynamically.

The lingual expression of the health eolexicons has got the forms of synonyms, acronyms, foreign terms, and Indonesian and English abbreviated forms. The coding of reality refers to the coding of physical/biological, social, and symbolic realities. The three reality codings are represented in the language metafunctions. The health lexicons of the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesian online media function more to convey facts related to the actual conditions that occur. However, some of the lexicons that emerged seemed new and unfamiliar. However, some have been heard before.

Finally, from the findings and discussion above, it can be concluded that new words related to COVID-19 will continue to emerge as this pandemic continues. The mass media played a major role in the development and "socialization" of new or old lexicons which were previously only understood by certain circles to become "public" lexicons.

## 7. Ethics Committee Approval

The author(s) confirm(s) that the study does not need ethics committee approval according to the research integrity rules in their country (Date of Confirmation: March 5, 2021).

## References

- Abiog, Evalyn Bonquin & David, Rowena B. (2020). More than words: A documentation and a morphological analysis of an indigenous language in the Philippines, *Journal of Language and Linguistic Studies*, 16(4).
- Butt, D., Fahey, R., Feez, S., Spinks, S., Yalop, C. (2000). *Using Functional Grammar*, 2nd Ed. Sydney: National Centre for English Language Teaching and Research, Macquarie University.
- Cogle, J. R., Wilver, N. L., Day, T. N., Summers, B. J., Okey, S. A., & Carlton, C. N. (2020). Interpretation bias modification versus progressive muscle relaxation for a social anxiety disorder: a web-based controlled trial. *Behavior Therapy*, 51(1), 99-112.
- Chaer, Abdul. (2007). *Leksikologi & Leksikografi Indonesia*. Jakarta: PT Renika Cipta, pp.21-23
- Chen, Shibo. (2016). *Language and Ecology: a Content Analysis of Ecolinguistics as an Emerging Research Field*. Elsevier. Ampersand 3. pp 108-116
- Erton, İsmail. (2020). Linguistic and cognitive aspects of translation and interpretation skills. *Journal of Language and Linguistic Studies*, 16(4).

- Fanani, A., Setiawan, S., Purwati, O., Maisarah, M., & Qoyyimah, U (2020a). Donald Trump 's grammar of persuasion in his speech. *Heliyon*, 6, 1-7. <http://doi: 10.1016/j.heliyon.2019.e03082>
- Fanani, A., Setiawan, S., Purwati, O., & Maisarah, M. (2020b). ISIS' grammar of persuasion of hatred in the article 'The Kafir's blood is halal for you, so shed it' published in the Rumiya magazine, *Heliyon*, 6(7). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2020.e04448>
- Fill, Alwin dan Peter Muhlhausler (Eds). (2001). *The Ecolinguistics Reader: Language, Ecology, and Environment*. London and New York: Continuum.
- Halliday, M.A.K. (1994). Introduction to Functional Grammar, 2nd Ed. London: Edward Arnold.
- Halliday, M.A.K., & Hasan, R. (1985). Language, Context, and Text: Aspects of language in a social-semiotic perspective. Victoria: Deakin University Press.
- Haugen, Einer. (1952). The Analysis of Linguistic Borrowing. *Language*, 26(2), 211- 231.
- Junieles, R. & Sarifah F. A. N. (2020). Register Kesehatan Era Pandemi Covid-19 Dalam Komunikasi Di Berbagai Media Online. *Jurnal Tabasa*, 1(1). Agustus 2020
- Kemendes RI, (2020), Tentang Novel Coronavirus (Ncov), <http://www.kemendes.go.id>, accessed on 2 May 2020.
- Kridalaksana, Harimurti. (2007). *Pembentukan Kata dalam Bahasa Indonesia*. Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama.
- Kridalaksana, Harimurti. (2008). *Kamus Linguistik*. Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama.
- Martin, J.R. (1985). *Factual Writing: Exploring and Challenging Reality*. Geelong, Victoria: Deakin University Press.
- Martin, J. R. (1992). English Text: System and Structure. Philadelphia/ Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company.
- Matthiessen, C.M.I.M. (1992). *Lexicogrammatical Cartography: English System (Draft)*. Sydney: University of Sydney.
- Matthiessen, C. (1995). *Lexicogrammatical Cartography: English System*. Tokyo: International Language Sciences Publishers.
- Saussure, F.D. (1988b). "Nature of the Linguistic Sign". In Lodge, D. (Eds.), *Modern Criticism and Theory*. London: Longman.
- Oktavia, W. & Hayati, N. (2020). Pola karakteristik ragam bahasa istilah pada masa pandemi COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019). *Tabasa: jurnal bahasa, sastra indonesia, dan pengajarannya*, 1(1).
- Oktavia, W. & Faris, M. (2019). Variasi Bahasa Jargon Dakwah Komunitas Mahasiswa Ukmi (Unit Kegiatan Mahasiswa Islam) Nurul Ilmi. *Imajeri*, 1(2), 62-69.
- Oktavia, W. (2018). Variasi Jargon Chatting Whatsapp Grup Mahasiswa Tadris Bahasa Indonesia. *Kata*, 2(2), 317-325.
- Oktavia, W. (2019). Semantik Ragam Makna pada Judul Film Azab di Indosiar. *Caraka*, 5(2), 133-140.
- Rana, W., Mukhtar, S., & Mukhtar, S. (2020). Mental Health of Medical Workers in Pakistan during the Pandemic COVID-19 Outbreak. *Asian Journal of Psychiatry*, 102080.

Stibbe, A., (2014). Ecolinguistics and Erasure: restoring the natural world to consciousness. In: C. Hart and P. Cap, eds. *Contemporary critical discourse studies*. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 583–602.

#### **AUTHORS BIODATA**

**Khusnul Khotimah** is a lecturer at Universitas Trunojoyo Madura. Her research interest is Pragmatics, Ecolinguistics, and Sociolinguistics.

**Kisyani Laksono** is a professor of linguistics at Universitas Negeri Surabaya. Her research interest includes Ecolinguistics and Sociolinguistics. Her mail id is kisyani@unesa.ac.id

**Suhartono Suhartono** is a professor of linguistics Universitas Negeri Surabaya. His research interest includes Semantics, Pragmatics, and Sociolinguistics. His mail id is suhartono@unesa.ac.id

**Udjang Pairin** is a professor of linguistics at Universitas Negeri Surabaya. His research interest includes Semantics, Pragmatics, and Sociolinguistics

**Darni Darni** is a professor of linguistics at Universitas Negeri Surabaya. Her research interest includes Sociolinguistics and pragmalinguistics