



A Lexical-Pragmatic Analysis of COVID-19 Neologism in English and Kurdish

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Kavi Shakir Mohammed

College of Basic Education, English Department, Salahaddin University-Erbil
kavi.muhammad@su.edu.krd

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Abstract

In the last two years, a worrying health phenomenon faced the whole world. This was due to the wide and quick spread of Coronavirus, COVID-19. It had its own effect on people's life including language, linguistic changes and more specifically neologism and the interpretation of certain word meanings. This paper is an attempt to study the lexical pragmatic processes of narrowing and broadening including neologism of English and Kurdish-related words to COVID-19 from a relevance-theoretic perspective. Furthermore, it tries to know whether the processes of Lexical Pragmatics are the same in both languages with reference to the English selected words and their Kurdish counterpart. These aims are achieved by answering the following questions: first, how lexical-pragmatic processes are used within COVID-19-related lexicon? Second, to what extent the processes of lexical pragmatic processes of the selected items are equivalently the same in both languages? Accordingly, the paper is an analytic-qualitative one and the researcher selected and analyzed words from English and their counterpart in Kurdish, as well, to inspire neologism from a pragmatic point of view. The data is taken from 12 WHO's Director-General statements and updates on the COVID-19 pandemic meanwhile the Kurdish counterparts were taken from 22 official declarations and statements, related to COVID-19, issued by both Ministry of Health and Ministry of Interior of Kurdistan Regional Government. The analysis shows that lexical pragmatics is an applicable approach in studying and analyzing the encoded meaning of the words and expressions used by the speaker through which the importance of relevance theory is highlighted in realizing the embedded meaning without relying on other Grice's maxims. Furthermore, it is concluded that the contextual knowledge shared by the speaker and hearer is a good resource for generating ad hoc concepts. Moreover, both processes of lexical narrowing and broadening- neologism are studied in which the narrowed lexical items are more frequently detected than broadening in both languages.

Keywords: Lexical pragmatics; Relevance Theory; Narrowing; Broadening; Neologism; COVID-19.

1. Introduction

The sudden outbreak of COVID-19 has created new words and reintroduced some others. In addition to the linguistic changes, sociolinguistic changes, as well, have been part of our daily life. Here neologism, as mentioned in the title, can refer to an already existing words or expressions that design a new interpretation or it can study novel words and expressions due to certain factors like: innovation, specific period or occasion, etc.

The idea of neologism has been tackled from different angles, however, what makes this paper different from others is the researcher's attempt, as one of the aims, to investigate neologism of COVID-19 related words and concepts from a pragmatic perspective – in the frame of Relevance Theory and more specifically the lexical pragmatic processes of narrowing and broadening of English and Kurdish related words and concepts.

Lexical pragmatics is raised as an area to solve problems with lexical semantics for in many cases a word or lexeme may not restrict to a given meaning only however, its meaning can be



limited or extended to other different things which can be deduced and interpreted according to the context it is used. Therefore, lexical pragmatics deals with the method through which linguistically specified word meanings are changed (converted) in use.

According to Blutner (1998:1) lexical pragmatics (henceforth LP) is "a research field that tries to give a systematic and explanatory account of pragmatic phenomena that are connected with the semantic under specification of lexical items". The main idea of lexical pragmatics was initiated in a paper entitled *Conversational implicature and the lexicon* by McCawley in 1978.

The idea of lexical pragmatics has been derived from Relevance Theory (henceforth RT) in which the latter is mainly concerned with establishing an appropriate theory of communication beyond Grice's Maxims. Furthermore, it studies "the borderline between semantics and pragmatics as co-extensive with the borderline between (linguistic) decoding and (pragmatic) inference. It sees encoded sentence meanings typically fragmentary and incomplete, and as having to undergo inferential enrichment or elaboration in order to yield fully propositional forms." (Wilson, 2019:1)

This paper is mainly concerned with investigating the lexical pragmatic processes of narrowing and broadening including neologism of English and Kurdish related concepts to COVID-19 from a relevance - theoretic point of view. Furthermore, it tries to know whether the process of lexical pragmatics is the same in both languages. Accordingly, this study is limited to the analysis of some selected statements and press briefings of World Health Organization (WHO) - general director- within the early stage of spreading COVID-19 pandemic while the Kurdish samples are taken from official statements issued by both Ministries of Health and Interior of Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) during the spread out of the pandemic in Kurdistan Region of Iraq in 2020 in relation with COVID-19 neologism. Hence forth, a qualitative-analytic method is followed in studying the data and achieving the aims. Accordingly, two questions are set to be answered: first: How lexical-pragmatic processes are used within COVID-19 related lexicon? Second: To what extent the processes of lexical pragmatic of the selected items are equivalently the same in both languages.

2. Theoretical Background

2.1 The notion of 'Pragmatics' and 'Lexical Pragmatics'

Pragmatics has been defined from different angles by Yule (1996:3) to cover almost all its areas. Firstly, it is the study of meaning when communicated by a speaker/ writer and comprehended by the listener/ reader. Accordingly, it is the 'study of speaker meaning'. Secondly, Pragmatics is the 'study of contextual meaning'. This is so when it considers the interpretation of people intension in a specific context and its effects on what is uttered. Here the words are perceived in accordance with the context where the focus is mainly on the way the speaker structures what (s)he wants to say according to the person (s)he is talking to, where, when, and the situation it is used in. Thirdly, pragmatics is the study of 'how more gets communicated than is said'. Here, there is an investigation of how a listener can read between the lines about the speaker's speech to reach at the intended meaning. This definition leads to think of the conditions that determines the choice between what is said and unsaid. Here, the idea of 'distance' can be the main answer. By this, the fourth definition of pragmatics can be formulated as the study of 'the expression of relative distance' whether it is 'physical, social, or conceptual, implies shared experience' and will assist the listener to know how much can be said to the speaker. All these definitions, in a way or another, will assist in the interpretation of what is so called Lexical Pragmatics.

Levinson (1983: 226) believes that it is of great importance to recognize who says, what says and in what occasion. Therefore, one can notice that while communication, speakers mainly intend to use words that are frequently used in a way that differs from their encoded literal



meanings according to the circumstance of its use. Thus, the words may be used vaguely, hyperbolically, metaphorically, etc. which, in return, will be a way to create and form new ones.

Lexical pragmatics investigates the meaning communicated (conveyed) by a word underdetermined by its semantics, and the task of connecting the encoded and communicated meaning of words. In another way, Ying Lee (2010) thinks that “due to complication of word interpretations and pragmatic felicities, lexical pragmatics is considerably sophisticated”: that is to say, lexical pragmatics examines “the processes by which linguistically specified word meanings are modified in use” (Blutner, 1998, p.115; Wilson & Carston, 2007, p.1560).

LP is, fairly, a new research area that has developed quickly since 1990s through a group of linguistic and psychological publications. J.D. MaCawley was the one who lay the first stone of its principal idea in (1978) by stating that “a lexical item and a syntactically complex equivalent of it may make different contributions to the interpretation of a sentence without making different contributions to its semantic structure” (257). Furthermore, he adds that the resulted difference is “systematic and predictable”. LP represents substantial departures from Grice’s theory of Cooperative principle (CP) and maxims. LP studies the processes by which lexically specific encoded meanings (literal meanings) are modified in use. The processes are lexical narrowing and lexical broadening where the latter is subdivided to neologisms, approximation, metaphor and hyperbole. (Wilson, 2003: 344).

Blutner states that lexical pragmatics is a particular account of the division of labor between lexical semantics and pragmatics. It connects the notion of semantic under specification in lexicon with a theory of pragmatic strengthening (i.e. Conversational implicature). The procedures have been gone through a bidirectional type of optimality theory that links expressive and interpretive optimality (2004:490-91).

In another way, lexical pragmatics can be regarded as an area where its function is to give a word with meaning in a specific saying, opinion, or communicative situation. In fact, lexical pragmatics tries to account for pragmatic phenomena related to the semantic under specification of lexical items. It is an area of modern pragmatics for the latest developments of Relevance Theory (Carston 2002; Wilson & Sperber 2002) where they have played a great role in the development of the especially in regarding the lexical-pragmatic processes on explicit communication. Thus, the ‘linguistically codified concept does not only give rise to certain implicatures, but it can also be pragmatically enriched in order to get a full-fledged propositional form (or explicature)’ (Bataller, 2004:56).

2.2 Lexical Semantics Vs Lexical Pragmatics

The difference between Semantics and Pragmatics is a principal topic in philosophy of language, as well as areas of linguistics and cognitive science. Semantics does not concern with any implied meaning; however, it studies the meaning of words in a language and the meaning within the sentence and/or even without the context. Meanwhile, Pragmatics studies the meaning of the same words and grammar used semantically, but in a context. Accordingly, Birner, (2013) states that there are two “different possible ways of drawing the boundary between semantics and pragmatics - either on the ground of context- dependence, with context- independent meaning being semantics and context- dependent meaning being pragmatics, or on the grounds of truth conditions, with truth-conditional meaning being semantics and non- truth-conditional meaning being pragmatics”. (35)

Since both semantics and pragmatics can deal with lexical words, phrases, and expressions, it is essential to draw a distinction between lexical semantics and lexical pragmatics as well and recognize the borderline between them to cope with the main concern of the paper.

Lexical semantics (LS), on one hand, deals with the “meanings of the smallest parts of linguistic expressions that are assumed to bear meaning. Assumptions about the meanings of



lexical units are justified empirically only in so far as they make correct predications about the meanings of larger constituents.” (Blutner, 2002: 4)

While lexical pragmatics, on the other hand, explores the implementation of the semantics-pragmatics difference at the level of individual words or phrases rather than the speech as a whole (Wilson, 2004:344). Accordingly, LP, as a part of Relevance theory (modern pragmatics), deals with the process through which certain word meanings are modified in use due to the frequent changes and adjustments in the meaning of words. Therefore, such words express a meaning which is different from their literal coded sense (Wilson and Carston, 2007: 2).

Blutner (1998:19) declares that LP is recognized as that area of pragmatics that aroused as reaction to some specific problems of LS. He proposes, from a Gricean perspective, the use of conversational implicatures as a method to overcome the differences between "(formal) meaning and natural language interpretation" that exemplify the divergence between "the classical theory and the natural language demands come into mind" (Ibid :20). Accordingly, he regards the notion of conversational implicature as an important precondition to develop LP. Grice (1989) cited in (Blutner, 1998) defines conversational implicatures as " those non-truth-functional aspects of an utterance interpretation" communicated since the participants are observe the CP and conversational maxims. On the extreme side, Sperber & Wilson (1986) suggest only one maxim, i.e., relevance.

Based on the above discussion, the overlapping between the goals of LS and LP seem clear and complementary. LS aims at explaining the relations between words and the concepts they encode, while LP aims at explaining the fact that the concept communicated by using a word often differs from the concept encoded in the words (Wilson, 2003). To achieve LP's aim, Relevance Theory (RT) is regarded as the best mean. RT implies that most meanings encoded by words have to be contextually specified because speakers frequently tend to use words in ways that vary from their literal meanings (encoded meaning). This use may be vague, metaphorical, hyperbolic or in other creative forms (Carston, 2002), for example:

2.1 She's got a *personality*!

The semantic analysis of the example above tells nothing new, for all human beings have personality but pragmatically the word of *personality* has a narrower and deeper communicated meaning: That is to say: *she has got a distinctive, effective and independent personality* (Rebollar's 2013).

2.3 Meaning Adjustment and Ad hoc Concept in Lexical Pragmatics

LP mutual meaning adjustment can be expressed when the pragmatic meanings of words are fixed in contexts because their decoded meaning (intension of the proposition) is different from their lexically encoded meaning (what is said). Therefore, the pragmatic interpretation of a speech depends mainly on the linguistically encoded concepts, contextual information and the pragmatic expectations as well. Accordingly, an ad hoc concept is built up from the outputs of a speech. In LP, ad hoc concept, is introduced by Barsalou, psychologist, in 1993 and then by Glucksberg, psycholinguist, and his colleagues, in 2001 in addition to other pragmatists working in the field of relevance theory. Ad hoc concept is referred to as the occasion-specific sense, more specifically, it is the lexical interpretation or the communicated concept meaning.

The output of an ad hoc concept construction, as suggested by Glucksberg and his colleagues, is a meaning that may be either more specific or more general than the linguistically specified meaning, or what is psychologically called 'ostensive stimulus' (Wilson, 2003: 347)

With reference to COVID-19 related words and expressions, examples as 'corona/coronavirus' and 'quarantine' are mutually adjusted and constructed as ad hoc concepts for the former is more specific than its linguistically specified meaning while the latter is more general than its linguistically- specified meaning.



Therefore, it is necessary to engage relevance theory in lexical pragmatic processes of meaning mutual adjustment because it focuses on the relevance property and the importance of contextual specification to decode and interpret the communicated meanings of the lexically encoded words represented by the lexical pragmatic processes of narrowing and broadening.

2.4 Lexical Pragmatics in Relevance Theory

As a psychological model of understanding the cognitive interpretation of language, Relevance Theory was introduced and developed by Dan Sperber and Deirdre Wilson in 1986 and then published in 1995. The main idea of the theory is that the linguistic encoded of a word or speech is no more than an indication to the actual interpretation or utterance meaning. Therefore, the interpretation is not decoded but must be inferred by a pragmatic process. Wilson states that RT is based on a definition of relevance and its two general principles: Cognitive and Communicative principles of relevance (2003: 352-3).

Thus, relevance is defined as feature of words or expressions to cognitive processes. From a psychological perspective, it is the mutual adjustment between the external ostensive stimuli as sights and sounds and internal mental representations like thoughts, memories or conclusions of inferences. For that reason, it is derived from “an exceptionless generalization” about human psychology rather than a rule or instruction that needs to be known. The perceptual and inferential systems are allocated cognitively to the most relevant information available regardless to Grice’s CP and the maxims upheld by rational communicators (Wilson, 2003: 352-3).

Cognitive principle, as the first general principle of relevance theory, suggests that human cognitive system tries to devote attention and process resources in order to maximize the relevance of the inputs it processes. As a result, the perceptual mechanisms tend automatically to pick out potentially relevant contextual assumptions, and the inferential systems tend spontaneously to process them in the most productive way (Sperber and Wilson, 1995: 260-66). Therefore, communicators should be able to predict the addressee’s stimuli attended to, the addressee’s contextual assumptions used in processing them and the conclusions (s)he is likely to draw (Wilson, 2003: 353).

The communicative principle, on the other hand, proposes that utterances create general expectations of relevance. The hearer has to make an expectation relevant enough to be worth processing and the most relevant utterance compatible with the speaker’s abilities and preferences. This indicates that the hearer takes the linguistically- encoded meaning: (s)he enriches it at the explicit level then completes at the implicit and stops at the level where (s)he reaches an interpretation that meets relevance expectations (Sperber & Wilson 1995: 266-71). This is achieved via the following:

- (1) *Relevance-theoretic Comprehension Procedure*: this entails that the hearer takes the least effort path to compute cognitive effects. Accordingly, (s)he takes into account the possible interpretations and stops when a satisfied expectations of relevance are achieved.
- (2) *Presumption of Optimal Relevance*: this entails that the ostensive stimulus(input) is relevant enough to be worth the addressee’s effort to process it and it is the most relevant one compatible with the communicator’s abilities and preferences (Sperber & Wilson 1995: 275).

The process of LP mutual adjustment involved in these two general principles is the central however, the hearer is just as likely to reason backwards from an expected cognitive effect to the context and content that would warrant it.

It is worth mentioning that there are positive cognitive effects when the input is relevant: when there is a connection between the linguistically encoded concept/input and the



contextual information. Accordingly, contextual implication, drawn from both the input and context together rather than anyone of them alone, can be regarded as the most important type of cognitive effects. That is why the main claim of the relevance-based account of pragmatic processing is achieved between the speaker and the addressee in a way that the addressees take the fact that the speaker has spoken an utterance with a certain semantic meaning as a clue to his intentions, and the hearer has to derive a warranted inference about the speaker's intended meaning based on the contextual information.

2.5 Lexical Pragmatic Processes

There are certain processes for the pragmatic analysis of lexeme through which they are mainly divided into Narrowing and Broadening where the latter is subdivided to include some other related parts namely: neologism, metaphor extension, hyperbole, category extension and approximation.

2.5.1 Narrowing

It is the process through which the linguistically specified meaning of a word is narrowed: that is to say, the communicated sense is more specified than the encoded one. This can be clarified through the most repeated example of 'drink'. Here, the literal meaning of this word is narrowed to mean 'alcoholic drink' rather than any other drinking liquid: all the other possible meanings are left out (Wilson 2003:343). Therefore, narrowing may take place to different degrees, and in different directions. For example:

2.2 I'm not drinking tonight.

The speaker's intension, in the example above, does not convey that (s)he will not drink any liquid but (s)he will not drink any alcohol. (Al- Bazazz, 2016: 204)

Similarly, Birner (2013: 87) has mentioned that a word like 'corn' has shifted from its more general meaning of 'grain' to denote the most important grain in a particular culture. Other examples are mentioned by Yule (1996: 190) like: a word like 'mete' was used for any kind of food but in its modern form 'meat' is restricted only to some specific types. Moreover, a word like 'wife' was used to refer to any woman, but it has been narrowed in its application to mean 'married women' only.

It is worth mentioning that the process of 'lexical narrowing' is not limited to specific words only, but rather it can be implemented to involve different parts of speech like verbs, adjectives, nouns...etc.

Kolaiti and Wilson (2012:29-30) tackle the narrowing process of the adjective-noun combinations and they consider the combinations of (*red+ noun*) and assign *red* various default interpretations for each combination and predict that this will "be automatically preferred in the absence of contextual counter-indications"(Ibid). Accordingly, the meaning of *red* is narrowed in different directions in, for example, *red eyes*, *red apple*, *red hair*, etc. based on the variety of shape and the color distribution on the described objects.

This process is beneficial in that it eases drawing out the meaning narrowed and leaving out all the other possible meanings a side depending on the strongest interpretation. Wilson (2003 :355) states that "narrowing increases implications". The encoded meaning is narrowed by the hearer "to a point where it yields enough true implications to satisfy the general expectation of relevance raised by the utterance" and this leads to reach the end of optimal analysis journey of searching. One by one the Relevant cognitive effects are processed in a way that all the unrelated effects are left out. The hearer follows a way of a minimum effort and ignores the other paths when certain possible narrowed interpretations are available.

The LP mutual adjustment occurs only when there is an obvious violation of the quality maxim. the hearer, firstly, tests the literal interpretation and then considers a figurative analysis depending on the relevance maxim. Thus, Lexical narrowing is an LP process that works out on this base. The literal meaning of a word, or a phrase is narrowed in order to



make a slightly different sense. In more technical terms, the literal CONCEPT is processed to create an ad hoc CONCEPT*. The hearer should cognitively get it to be cooperative with the speaker. To give a more practically explanation of the LP process of lexical narrowing, the word *temperature* in example below can be taken into account (Wilson, 2003: 353).

2.3 Peter: Mary, we have to visit my aunt in hospital.

Mary: I have a *temperature*.

There is a rejection, in Peter's interpretation to Mary's reply, depending on the base of relevant anticipation. He cognitively fixes the literal meaning of *temperature* with the contextual knowledge: Mary has a fever and cannot make a visit. This is one of general expectations or cognitive effects, in this context, of relevance. That is to say, it is the best relevant analysis that combines his effort of processing, and it is in harmony with his abilities and preferences (Rebollar, 2013).

2.5.2 Broadening

It is the second lexical pragmatic process of meaning adjustment where a word is communicated in a more general or broader sense than the encoded one. This is so through the expansion or the generalization of a specific case (Campbell, 1998: 267 and Blutner, 1998). Thus, there are cases in which the meaning is understood and interpreted in broader sense than the grammatical one. However, in almost all the cases the context is the key to understand and interpret the intended meaning of a word or expression that have passed through this process.

It is worth mentioning that Broadening comprises other sub processes including *neologism*, *metaphorical extensions*, *hyperbole*, *categorical extensions*, and *approximations*. They differ mostly in the point to which the linguistically specified denotation is expanded. A brief account of each is given below.

2.5.2.1 Neologism

Neologism mainly is a process where a new lexical item comes into use or when an element receives a new meaning in a language. According to Katie (2001:265) neologism studies the newly invented (novel) words in a language. similarly, Busman (1996:324) notices that neologism embraces any newly formed linguistic expression (word or phrase) that is realized by the least part, if not all the language community, to represent new object or situation, whether in technology, industry, politics, culture or science. Cited in (Warambo, Odero and Sulh, 2017: 31)

In the current paper, it is not necessarily to include novel COVID- 19 terms solely however, following Crystal's 2008 definition 'nonce' are words that have been reintroduced. Here, during Corona virus, COVID-19, crisis for different social communicative functions some words in both languages, English and Kurdish, are reintroduced or shifted their meaning to cope with the outbreak.

Wilson (2003 :346) and Rebollar (2013) consider neologism and word coinage as a sort of lexical broadening which can be a fruitful source for the field of LP. This is because the coinage of novel words demands identifying new analysis to them which undoubtedly would be ad hoc concepts attained from the mutual adjustment of content, context, and the cognitive effects. That is, the linguistically encoded meaning acquires a more general and broader denotation. One way of coining neologisms is the word-class conversion. In this regard, Wilson (2003 :346) mentions practical research showing cases of neologism and word coinage done, for example, by Clark & Clark (1979) and Clark & Gerrig (1983). Generally, certain proper or common nouns are converted to compound verbs or adjectives carrying literal contents related to these nouns. Pragmatically, there is not a significant difficulty in understanding these neologisms. Examples of these cases are given below (Wilson, 2003):

2.4 She *wristed* the ball over the net.



2.5 They have a lifestyle which is very *San Francisco*.

In the first example, 2.4, and [12], a new verb is formed by converting the common noun *wrist* and expressing further meaning that is slightly different from the linguistically encoded one in the noun. Linguistically, proper nouns, as well, are manipulated in the coinage of neologisms. The proper noun of American city *San Francisco*, in example 2.5 is syntactic class-converted which functions as an adjective.

Acronym is another common way to coin neologism where a word is formed as a kind of abbreviation via taking the initial letters of a phrase. Therefore, acronyms are more “space saving, eye-catching, and interesting than the completed group words” (Li-na, 2016: 293). The initials taken of a certain phrase constitute a new lexical item and are pronounced as a single word (Crystal, 2008: 1) such as NATO referring to ‘North Atlantic Treaty Organization’, *WHO* referring to *World Health Organization*, etc. In this paper, *COVID-19* itself is a new acronym in the present days that is analyzed in section 4.

The appropriate information in a context and the interpretation of the lexically encoded meaning will mainly speed and ease the understanding of neologisms. This assures that “lexical-pragmatic processes apply ‘on-line’ in a flexible, creative and context dependent way”. Furthermore, they may play a part in what is said as well as what is embedded (Carston 2002; Wilson & Sperber 2002 cited in Wilson, 2003: 346).

2.5.2.2 Metaphor Extension

Metaphor is defined as “a figure of speech based on a perceived similarity between distinct objects or actions” (Trask, 1994:43). Hence, metaphors are taken figuratively rather than literally. Metaphorical change usually includes a word with a concrete meaning used in a more abstract sense, without losing the word’s original sense, for example:

2.6 He is a *lion*.

Here, what comes into the hearer's mind is the person who is compared to a lion in the sense of being brave/ courageous rather than as the animal itself. (Al Bazzaz, 2016:205)

2.5.2.3 Hyperbole

It is another sub form that comes to cover a further degree of broadening. It causes a much more “deviation from the encoded meaning by means of the exaggeration used in the way the idea expressed to make an item sound much better, bigger and or worse than it is” (Kachula, 2013:17). For example:

2.7 His parent will *kill* him when they come back.

Here, the parents are going to punish the boy for the thing he does. Therefore, there is an exaggeration in using the verb ‘kill’ to mean ‘punishment’: the figurative language used with ‘kill’ does not denote the real action of killing however represents a kind of serious punishment.

2.5.2.4 Category Extension

As another variety of broadening, Category extension, means “extending a word with a relatively precise meaning to a range of items that clearly fall outside its linguistically-specified denotation, but that share some contextually relevant properties with items inside the denotation.” (Glucksberg 2001: 38-52)

2.8 (Handing someone a tissue): Here’s a Kleenex.

2.9 (Handing someone a paper napkin): Here’s a Kleenex.

The word ‘Kleenex’ in 2.8 and 2.9 are cases of ‘category extension’. ‘The tissue’ mentioned in 2.8 is not a Kleenex, however, it will do just as well. The ‘paper napkin’ mentioned in 2.9 is not even a tissue but is the best available thing to a tissue and will do almost as well. The use of main category name like *Kleenex* to denote a more general or broader category ‘disposable tissue’ involving items from less main brands. (Glucksberg 2001: 38-52)



2.5.2.5 Approximation

As a sub form of broadening, a word with a quite literal sense is rather extended to involve items that fall outside its linguistically specified meaning. (Wilson and Carston, 2007 :9). For example:

2.10 The hotel is *near* the river.

Here, the word ‘near’ does not express the precise distance between ‘the hotel’ and ‘the river’. It is worth mentioning that, in certain cases, both of broadening and narrowing come together in the point that they imply the same means of meaning formation, happens in some cases leading to narrowing the encoded meaning, and in other cases to a broadening. Regardless of the above-mentioned point, the difference between them lies in the fact that in narrowing, literalness is in some sense kept while with broadening, literalness is not kept. However, these two lexical pragmatic processes of meaning adjustment are not two functionally distinct types of language use. (Sperber & Wilson, 2008)

3. Methodology

This paper is intended to investigate the lexical-pragmatic processes of narrowing and broadening including neologism of English and their Kurdish counterpart in relation to COVID-19 selected words from a relevance - theoretic point of view. Furthermore, it tries to know whether the processes of lexical pragmatic are the same in both languages with reference to the selected items of analyses in the selected texts. The researcher has picked the English COVID-19 related words randomly, from 12 selected statements and remarks at the media briefings on COVID-19 issued by WHO General Director between 30/1/2020 to 10/4/2020 from the early spread of Corona virus COVID-19, the period when the disease has been globally spread and recognized as a pandemic: the first wave period. Meanwhile, the Kurdish counterpart of the selected English lexical items were chosen from almost 22 official statements and announcements issued during the spread of the pandemic in Kurdistan region by Ministries of Health and Interior- Kurdistan Regional Government between 1/3/2020 to 13/6/2020. The selected items are pragmatically analyzed according to the lexical pragmatic processes, then compared to their counterparts in Kurdish language to know whether or not each of the selected items pass through the same process. While analysis, the researcher limits herself to narrowing and broadening (neologism only), to know how they work with COVID-19 related words and how neologism is formed.

The paper is an analytic -qualitative one and has adopted the lexical pragmatic process as a model of analysis. The model consists of two major processes namely narrowing and broadening. The latter has some subcategories however the researcher investigates neologism only due to the limited scope of the paper. These selected words are analyzed according to the processes they have passed through and how each may change or adjust its meaning.

4. Data Analysis and Discussion

Several English words, that are mainly used within the outbreak of COVID-19, are picked randomly, checked for their meaning in the glossaries of English online dictionaries like Marriam- Webster (2020), Oxford English Dictionary (2020) and webmd.com and then compared to their counter parts in Kurdish Language.

4.1 Analysis of Lexical Narrowing in English and Kurdish

There are several linguistically encoded concepts narrowed to be interpreted in the context of COVID-19. These expressions may come in the form of a word or a phrase with a more general and comprehensive meaning. They are used by the speakers referring to this disease or some attributes related to it. They are mutually adjusted with the contextual information

and the evoked cognitive effects to yield the intended ad hoc CONCEPT. The selected expressions, in this paper, are pointed out below:

کۆرۆنا - ڤایرۆسی کۆرۆنا Corona and Coronavirus

Corona is the informal label of Coronavirus. (Marriam-Webster, 2020)

Coronavirus is “A type of virus that looks like a corona (crown) when viewed under a microscope. There are many different coronaviruses most cause mild respiratory infections like the common cold, but others can cause serious illness. The strain of coronavirus that is causing the COVID-19 pandemic is called SARS-CoV-2.”(WebMD, 2020)

The word *Corona* is narrowed to be interpreted as COVID-19 that becomes an ad hoc concept to Corona which is a large family of virus and can be classified into many types according to their biological and pathological characteristics. COVID-19 is only one disease caused by only one member of coronavirus family. When this word is compared to its counterpart in Kurdish language one can find that the word *Corona* is used as it is in English with Kurdish orthography (korona: - کۆرۆنا) thusly, it has been narrowed to mean a verity of the virus and ignoring all the other sub verities that are related to it.

Moreover, the word *Coronavirus*, (ڤایرۆسی کۆرۆنا - va:iroso: korona:), the composition of ‘corona + virus’, is narrower than both however it is wider than COVID-19. Depending on the current context and the hearer's expectations, *Coronavirus* refers to the present-day disease as intended by the speakers.

In the case of Kurdish Language, this term is borrowed from English therefore, it is similarly narrowed when used in Kurdish contexts related to COVID-19. The following are different examples:

4.1 The rules of *Corona*. (WHO, 2020)

4.2 We have never before seen a pandemic sparked by a *coronavirus*. This is the first pandemic caused by a *coronavirus*. (WHO, 2020)

4.3 [...] بۆپشکینی تاقیگهیی بۆ ڤایرۆسی کۆرۆنا بۆ دنیابوون له ههبوون و نهبوونی ڤایرۆسی کۆرۆنا (وهزارهتی تهندرستی، 2020)

... for Laboratory tests of *coronavirus* to ensure the presence and absence of *coronavirus*.....

(Ministry of Health, 2020)]

4.4 [دوایین ناماری تووشبوون به کۆرۆنا له ههریمی کوردستان، عێراق و جیهان (وهزارهتی تهندرستی، 2020)]

Latest statistics of *corona* cases in the Kurdistan Region, Iraq and the world (Ministry of Health, 2020)]

4.5 [تاکو ئیستا 204 کەس له ههریمی کوردستان تووشی کۆرۆنا بوون ... (وهزارهتی تهندرستی)]

So far, in Kurdistan Region, 204 people are infected with *corona*... (Ministry of Health, 2020)]

ڤایرۆس Virus

It is defined as “any of a large group of submicroscopic infectious agents that are usually regarded as nonliving extremely complex molecules, that typically contain a protein coat surrounding an RNA or DNA core of genetic material but no semipermeable membrane, that are capable of growth and multiplication only in living cells, and that cause various important diseases in humans, animals, and plants” (Marriam-Webster, 2020)

Accordingly, ‘virus’ is a very wider term in origin than used in the context of COVID-19. It includes all the various types of viruses causing different diseases. However, the term is used for many times in its narrower sense indicating specifically COVID-19, as in:

4.6 ..., this is a *virus* with serious impact on public health, the economy (WHO, 2020)

4.7 Now that the *virus* has a foothold in so many countries, the threat of a pandemic has become very real. (WHO, 2020)

Similarly in Kurdish language, in certain contexts, related to COVID-19, the word (ڤایرۆس - va:iros) is used to mean *Corona virus COVID-19*. This is so because the word is originally

borrowed from English Language and integrated into Kurdish Language for English language is the dominant language used in the scientific fields like Medicine. Therefore, many of the words used in science are frequently borrowed from English and used in Kurdish language as they are. Accordingly, the word (ڤایروس - va:iros) is used to refer to a variety of virus i.e.: Coronavirus, COVID-19 and ignoring almost the other forms, for example:

4.8 ئەم چەند ئامۆژگارییه باشتەرین ڕینگەن بۆ پاراستنی خۆتان و خانەوادەکانتان لە تووشبوون بە ڤایروسە که. (وهزارهتی تەندروستی، 2020)

These tips (guidance) are the best way to protect yourself and your family to avoid from the *virus* infection. (Ministry of Health, 2020)]

بەتا Epidemic and Pandemic

Epidemic is a word of Greek origin meaning 'upon or above people'. It refers to the rapid spread of disease to a large number of people in a given population within a short period of time (Marriam-Webster, 2020). While the term *pandemic* is "an outbreak of a disease that occurs over a wide geographic area and affects an exceptionally high proportion of the population" (Marriam-Webster, 2020). The difference between them is a matter of degree for the former is a local spread of a disease where many people are affected by while a *pandemic* is a global disease spread in an entire country, continent or the whole globe. Therefore, both are used and narrowed to the more occasion-specific sense of COVID-19. Generally, they refer to any disease involved in their definitions, but the LP process of mutual adjustment makes it easy for the hearers to lexically interpret them as COVID-19 no other diseases. For example:

4.9 This is an uneven *epidemic* at the global level. (WHO, 2020)

4.10 We have therefore made the assessment that COVID-19 can be characterized as a *pandemic*. (WHO, 2020)

In Kurdish language, the word (پەتا:- pata) is almost used interchangeably to mean both words simultaneously. They have been narrowed in a sense to mean COVID-19 especially during the outbreak of the pandemic.

4.11 [...] تێمه‌کانی تەندروستی و دامودەزگا پەيوه‌ن‌دیده‌ره‌کان له حکومه‌تی هه‌رێمی کوردستان به‌رده‌وامن له ڕیکاری پێویست بۆ خۆپارێزی و دۆزینه‌وه‌ی گومانلیکراوان و ئاماده‌کاریه‌کانی کۆنتڕۆڵکردنی ئەم پەتایه‌ له هه‌رێمی کوردستان. (وهزارهتی تەندروستی، 2020)

.... Health teams and associated institutions of KRG continue to take the necessary actions to prevent, identify suspects and control this *epidemic* in the Kurdistan Region (Ministry of Health, 2020).]

4.12 [سوپاسی پابه‌ندبووتان ده‌که‌ین بۆ ڕێنماییه‌ خۆپارێزییه‌کان، جێبه‌جێکردنی ڕێنماییه‌کان زامنی زالبوونمانه‌ به‌ سه‌ر ئەم پەتا جیهانییه‌. (وهزارهتی تەندروستی، 2020)

Thank you for your adherence to the preventative (precautionary) measures. Following the guidelines is the guarantee of overcoming such a global *pandemic*. (Ministry of Health, 2020)]

تەشەنه Outbreak

This term is narrowed in two ways: Firstly, it refers to "a sudden rise in the incidence of a disease" (Merriam-webster, 2020) that is to say, in the field of medicine rather than any other field of life for example, **outbreak of war*. Secondly and more specifically, it denotes COVID-19 not any other disease, as in:

4.13 The speed with which China detected the *outbreak*, isolated the virus, sequenced the genome and shared it with WHO and the world are very impressive, and beyond words. (WHO, 2020)

4.14 Let me be clear: this declaration is not a vote of no confidence in China's capacity to control the *outbreak*. (WHO, 2020)

Narrowing is to shift the meaning of an item from general to specific one. Therefore, (tas'ana-ته‌شه‌نه), as the most commonly used word in Kurdish Language to mean 'outbreak', is narrowed when mentioned in COVID-19 related contexts, as in:

4.15 [ژماره کان نیشاندهریکی مه ترسیداره، تکایه ئاگاداری خۆتان بن نهیه نه دهرهوهی مأل و بهرکهوتی کهسی تر مه به با کاره ساتی ته شه نه کردنی کۆرۆنا روونه دات. (وهزارهتی تهن دروستی، 2020)

The figures are a dangerous indicator, please be careful, stay at home and do not come into contact with others to avoid coronavirus *outbreak*. (Ministry of Health, 2020)]

نه خۆشی *Disease*

“a condition of the living animal or plant body or of one of its parts that impairs normal functioning and is typically manifested by distinguishing signs and symptoms” (Marriam-Webster, 2020).

The literal meaning of disease is lexically narrowed to be interpreted as COVID-19 as in:

4.16 We've advised countries on how to prevent the spread of *disease* and care for those who are sick. (WHO, 2020)

4.17 Every case we find and treat limits the expansion of the *disease*. (WHO, 2020)

In Kurdish language, the word (نەخۆشی: *naxos'i*) is used as a counterpart and has passed through the same process of narrowing similarly to its English equivalent. For example:

4.18 [.... تیمه تهن دروستیه کان چاودێریان ده کهن بۆ چاره سه ری پێویست له کاتی بوونی ههر نیشانه یه کی نه خۆشی و گومانلیکردن. (وهزارهتی تهن دروستی، 2020)

... health teams monitor them for necessary treatment in case of having any suspicion and symptoms of the *disease*. (Ministry of Health, 2020)]

حاله *Case*

This word is widely used in contexts to mean differently however, in COVID-19 related contexts, in both English and Kurdish languages, the word is used repeatedly, in a narrow sense to mean 'patients infected with COVID-19'. In Kurdish language the word (*há:lat*-حالهت), which is borrowed from Arabic language and integrated into Kurdish language, is used to mean 'case' and in some situations, specially while speaking, the word 'case' with Kurdish orthography 'کەیس - *kays*' is used to indicate 'COVID-19 affected cases'. In a general sense it has been used to show an overall description of the pandemic and more specifically to indicate the number of people who have been infected by the pandemic and used with words as: *reported*, *confirmed*, *suspected*. They are respectively equivalent to (تۆمارکراو، *toma:rkra:w-*, *چەسپینراو*-*c'aspenra:w*, *گومانناوی*-*guma:na:wi-*), in different parts of speech, for example:

4.19 Although these numbers are still relatively small compared to the number of *cases* in China, we must all act together now to limit further spread. (WHO, 2020)

4.20 Even if you cannot stop transmission, you can slow it down and protect health facilities, old age homes and other vital areas- but only if you test all *suspected cases*. (WHO, 2020)

4.21 In total, there are now 7834 *confirmed cases*, including 7736 in China, representing almost 99% of all *reported cases* worldwide. 170 people have lost their lives to this outbreak, all of them in China. (WHO, 2020)

4.22 [.... له کاتی ئیستادا کۆی گشتی هه لگرا نی فایرۆسی کۆرۆنا ی نوێ COVID-19 بریتیه له (8) *حالهت*. (وهزارهتی تهن دروستی، 2020) ... in total, (8) *cases* for now are infected with new corona virus COVID-19. (Ministry of Health, 2020)]

4.23 [تاوه کو ئه ورۆ (13706) هاوالاتی "ئه وانه ی که له دهره وه ی و لات گه رانه ته وه وه ئه وانه ی بهرکه و ته ی نه خۆشه چه سپینراوه کان" که ره تین کراون، (وهزارهتی تهن دروستی، 2020)



To date, 13706 citizens "those who were returned outside the country and those who were contacts of the *confirmed cases*" have been quarantined, ... (Ministry of Health, 2020)]

4.24 [...] تیمهکانی تهندرستی و داموده زگا په یوه نهدیداره کان له حکومهتی ههریمی کوردستان بهرده وامن له ریکاری پیویست بۆ خۆپاریزی و دۆزینه وهی گومانلیکراوان و تاماده کاریهکانی کۆنترۆلکردنی ئەم پهتایه له ههریمی کوردستان. (وهزارهتی تهندرستی، 2020)

.... Health teams and associated institutions of KRG continue to take the necessary actions to prevent, identify *suspects* and control this epidemic in the Kurdistan Region (Ministry of Health, 2020)]

4.25 [دهره نجامی 24 کاتژمیری پابردوو: (2) گیان له دهستان، (171) توشبووی نوێ تۆمارکرا. (وهزارهتی تهندرستی، 2020)

Results of the last 24 hours: 2 deaths and 171 new *reported cases*. (Ministry of Health, 2020)].

توشبوو، چاکبوو، گیان له دهستان *Infected, Recovered and Death*

All the people who were infected ‘tu:s`bu: - توشبوو-’ with COVID- 19 have been finally either recovered or dead. Therefore, the words ‘recovered - چاکبوو / - c`a:bu - ’ and ‘death - مردوو - mrdu:/ - gia:n la dastda:n گیان له دهستان’ have been also widely used in COVID-19 related contexts in both languages to show the overall statistics of the pandemic.

These words are lexically narrowed the decoded meaning in the selected contexts of COVID-19 only however the original interpretation of these words are used much more widely with any other disease rather than being restricted solay to COVID-19. For example:

4.26 Third, don’t smoke. Smoking can increase your risk of developing severe disease if you become *infected* with COVID-19. (WHO, 2020)

4.27 Of the 80,000 reported cases in China, more than 70% have *recovered* and been discharged. (WHO, 2020)

4.28 There is now a total of 92,943 reported cases of COVID-19 globally, and 3,160 *deaths*. (WHO, 2020)

4.29 [توشبووی نوێی فایرۆسی کۆرۆنا له سلیمانی تۆمارکران. (وهزارهتی تهندرستی، 2020)

New *infected* cases of coronavirus are reported in Sulaimani. (Ministry of Health , 2020)]

4.30 کۆی گشتی هه لگرای فایرۆسی کۆرۆنای نوێ COVID-19 له ههریمی کوردستان (13) حالته له تیویاندا (1) مردن ههیه... (وهزارهتی تهندرستی، 2020)

In Kurdistan Region, the total number of novel coronavirus COVID-19 infected cases is 13 including 1 *death*... (Ministry of Health, 2020)]

4.31 [پاریزگای سلیمانی (104) پۆزه تیف و (2) گیان له دهستان. (وهزارهتی تهندرستی، 2020)

Sulaimani Province recorded 104 positive cases and 2 *deaths*. (Ministry of Health, 2020)]

4.32 [کۆی گشتی چاکبووهکان گهیشه (6) شهش نهخۆش. (وهزارهتی تهندرستی، 2020)

The total number of *recovered* patients reached 6. (Ministry of Health, 2020)]

4.33 [...] په کیکیتیر له نهخۆشی توشبوو به فایرۆسی کۆرۆنا به تهواوی چاکبووهوه، (وهزارهتی تهندرستی، 2020)

... Another *infected* patient with coronavirus has *recovered* completely, (Ministry of Health, 2020)].

نیشانهکان *Symptoms*

The lexical meaning of the word is ‘apparent signs of the disease’. Like other COVID-19 terminologies, this word has become popular and an ad hoc concept to COVID-19 pandemic and leaving all other diseases for almost all of the diseases have symptoms and signs. Accordingly, the word has passed through narrowing process. Similarly, in Kurdish language, the word is narrowed and its equivalent is ‘ni:s`a:naka:n نیشانهکان’.

4.34 This service will provide the latest news and information on COVID-19, including details on *symptoms* and how to protect yourself. (WHO, 2020)

4.35 [...] وه تیمه تهندرستییهکان چاودێریان دهکهن بۆ چارهسهری پیویست له کاتی بوونی ههر نیشانهیهکی نهخۆشی و گومانلیککردن. (وهزارهتی تهندرستی، 2020)

Health teams monitor them for appropriate treatment in case of having any *symptoms* of the disease or suspicion. (Ministry of Health, 2020)]

4.36 [... هه ردوو تووشوو نیشانه یان هه یه... (وه زاره تی تهن دروستی، 2020)

... both cases have *symptoms*, ... (Ministry of Health, 2020)]

نه خۆش Patient

“an individual awaiting or under medical care and treatment” (Marriam- Webster, 2020)

The lexical meaning of this noun, in both English and Kurdish language, has been narrowed in the selected texts to include patients of COVID-19 pandemic regardless to any other disease. For example:

4.37 Every health facility should be ready to cope with large numbers of *patients* and ensure the safety of staff and *patients*. (WHO, 2020)

4.38 [... هاوکات له هه ریمی کوردستان تا ئیستا نه خۆش له نه خۆشخانه کان، بهرکه وتوووه کان له که ره تینه کان هه ر ماوه، ... (وه زاره تی تهن دروستی، 2020)

... meanwhile, in the Kurdistan Region, *patients* in hospitals and contacts in quarantines are still remained, ... (Ministry of Health, 2020)]

4.39 [به رده وام ده بین له کاری پتویست بۆ ریکاره کان خۆپاریزو دۆزینه وهی گومانلیکراوان و به ریکه گرتن له بلاووونه وه و به دواداچوونی چاره سه ریه کان نه خۆشه کان. (وه زاره تی تهن دروستی، 2020)

We will continue to take the necessary preventive measures, identify suspects, prevent the virus spread and follow up on the treatment of *patients*. (Ministry of Health, 2020)]

به رکه وته Contact

This word has different meanings however, in the context of COVID-19 meaning adjustment it means a person who has been close to or in a direct contact with someone infected with the virus for a period of time. Accordingly, the word is narrowed and has become an ad hoc concept to the Kurdish equivalent ‘*barkawta* - به رکه وته’ , for example:

4.40 Find, isolate, test and treat every case and trace every *contact*. (WHO, 2020)

4.41 [... ئه وه یتریان پیاویکی ته مه ن (64) ساله و دانیشتووی ناحیه ی ئاشتی یه سه ر به قه زای کۆیه که به رکه وتوووی نه خۆشه که ی دویتی یه. (وه زاره تی تهن دروستی، 2020)

...the other is a 64-year-old man from Ashti sub-district of Koya district, who is a *contact* of yesterday's patient. (Ministry of Health ,2020)]

بیکوته، فاکسین Vaccine

“A kind of medicine that prevents disease by training your body’s immune system to fight a germ that it’s never come into contact with before” (webmd.com, 2022)

This definition shows that as a biological product it can be given to healthy people to keep them away from infectious diseases however after the wide spread of COVID-19 pandemic, the noun ‘vaccine’ has been widely used and interpreted in a narrower sense to mean the specific COVID-19 vaccine, in a way that it has been adjusted as an ad hoc word in both English and Kurdish language as indicated in the following examples:

4.42 The first *vaccine* could be ready in 18 months, so we have to do everything today using the available weapons to fight this virus, while preparing for the long-term. (WHO, 2020)]

4.43 [له ئیستادا هه یج بیکوته یه ک بۆ رینگری له فایرۆسه که نییه. (وه زاره تی تهن دروستی، 2020)

Currently, there is no *vaccine* to prevent the virus. (Ministry of Health, 2020)]

In Kurdish language different words are used as synonyms. Firstly, and the most commonly known and used by people, as an ad hoc concept, is the word ‘vaccine’. It has been borrowed from English and integrated into Kurdish language (فاکسین - *va:ksi:n*) and narrowed at the

same time to include COVID-19 vaccine. Secondly, the word (پیکوته - *pekuta*) is another Kurdish equivalent to the word 'vaccine' and has been narrowed to indicate COVID-19 vaccination.

ریکار *Measure*

This word is also used repeatedly, at the protection level as a mean to contain and control the spread of the pandemic. In the selected samples, the general meaning is narrowed to refer to the concerns of COVID-19. The Kurdish equivalent of the word is 'r'eka:r-ریکار' and used to mean all the different measures used to protect people from the pandemic and prevent its spread as in the example below:

4.44 We are grateful for the *measures* being taken in Iran, Italy and the Republic of Korea to slow the virus and control their epidemics. (WHO, 2020)

4.45 [تیمه کانی تندرستی و داموده زگا په یوه ندیداره کان له حکومه تی هه ریمی کوردستان به رده وامن له ریکاری پیویست بۆ خۆباریزی ... (وه زاره تی تندرستی 2020,)]

Health teams and relevant institutions in the KRG continue to take necessary *measures* for prevention. (Ministry of Health, 2020)]

ماسک، ده مامک *Mask*

This word is used in different fields of life and for different purposes, but it has been narrowed in two ways: first to limit its use in the medical field and more specifically to mean the medical face mask used as a part of protection kit to avoid the spread of COVID-19 and or reduce the transmission of infection. In Kurdish language the two words 'ماسک - *ma:sk*' which is borrowed from English and integrated into Kurdish, and 'ده مامک - *dama:mk*' are equivalently used and both have been narrowed as well in the frame of the pandemic. For example:

4.46 ..., both the patient and their care-giver should wear a medical *mask* when they are together in the same room. (WHO, 2020)

4.47 [... داوا ده که یه هاو لاتیان پابه ند بن به رینماییه کانی تندرستی و دوور که و ته وه له شوینی قه له بالغ و دانانی ماسک و ده ستکیش، وه له کانی پیویستدا په یوه ندی به هیللی گهرمی ژماره (122). (وه زاره تی تندرستی، 2020).]

... we ask citizens to comply with health guidelines, avoid crowded places, wear *masks* and gloves, and if necessary, contact the hotline 122 (Ministry of Health, 2020)].

4.48 [پیویسته کلینیکس و ده مامک و ده ستکیش و ماده ی پاکز که ره وه له ژوره که دا هه بیت. (وه زاره تی تندرستی، 2020)]

There should be napkins, *masks*, gloves and sanitizers in the room. (Ministry of Health, 2020)]

پشکنین، تیتست *Test*

This is another linguistic item that has been narrowed to adjust its meaning with COVID-19 related contexts in both languages: English and Kurdish. The word is used in different fields however its meaning has been limited to the medical field and more specifically to fit COVID-19 test. The infected and or suspected cases including anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms or is a contact of a COVID-19 patient has to be tested and the test result is either 'positive' 'pozati:v-پۆزه تیف' or 'negative' 'negati:v-نێگه تیف'. The former is used to mean the infected cases of the disease while the reverse is for the latter. Both of them have been used widely during the pandemic in both languages and they have been narrowed to adjust its meaning with COVID-19 cases. The Kurdish equivalents of these two items are borrowed from English and integrated into Kurdish as it is however with Kurdish orthography. For example:

4.49 In areas with community spread, *testing* every suspected case and tracing their contacts becomes more challenging. (WHO, 2020)

4.50 [پارێزگای ههولێر (6) پۆزهتیڤ: ...یهکیان نیشانهی نهخۆشیهکهی ههبووه و پشکنینی بۆ کراوه و پۆزهتیڤ دهرچوووه... (وهزارهتی تهندرۆستی، 2020)

Erbil Governorate has (6) *positive* cases, one had symptoms and *tested positive*, ... (Ministry of Health, 2020)]

4.51 [له ماوهی 24 کاتژمێری پابردوو (98) پشکنین ئەنجامدرا که گشت دهرنجامهکان نینگهتیڤ بوون. (وهزارهتی تهندرۆستی، 2020)]
- In the past 24 hours, 98 *tests* were conducted, all the results were *negative*. (Ministry of Health, 2020)]

بلاوبوونهوه Spread

This word, like the other words mentioned above, has been repeatedly used and narrowed to indicate the concerns of COVID-19, for example:

4.52 WHO has been assessing this outbreak around the clock and we are deeply concerned both by the alarming levels of *spread* and severity, and by the alarming levels of inaction. (WHO, 2020)

In Kurdish language ‘بلاوبوونهوه’ - bl`a:wbu:nawa’ is used as an equivalent and it is narrowed to mean the context of COVID-19, as in:□

4.53 [بهدهوام دهبين له کارى پيويست بۆ پیکارهکانى خۆپارێزو دۆزینهوهی گومانلیکراوان و به پیکهگرتن له بلاوبوونهوه و بهدواداچوونی چارهسهریهکانى نهخۆشهکان. (وهزارهتی تهندرۆستی، 2020)

We will continue to take the necessary preventive measures, identify suspects, prevent the *spread* of the virus and follow up on the treatment of patients. (Ministry of Health, 2020)]

4.2 Analysis of Lexical Broadening: Neologisms in English and Kurdish Language.

Along with the outbreak of the pandemic, there has been a widespread adaptation of coronavirus terminology. certain new items come into existence and inspired terms have been spread fast globally in which almost all the discourses have become one and the only talk covering all life sectors not only health. Therefore, COVID-19 crisis has led people to use the same language and fight against their enemy which is the unknown killer virus. This rapt widespread was due to the outbreak of the pandemic all over the world, digital connection of the different parts of the world and the highly developed technology.

It is worth mentioning that while researching, the researcher could find some web pages and online dictionaries that added lists of new lexical items with their definition related to COVID-19 to help their users reach them easily when needed for example: The Oxford English Dictionary has been updated with new items, that have been quite familiar in relation with coronavirus global crisis. Similarly, Merriam Webster’s has made an update for words related to the disease by adding a glossary some new COVID-19-related entries.

The following are some of the novel COVID-19 related words that are taken from the selected texts of analysis. These words are not the only new ones however for the limits of the paper and the availability of their counterparts in Kurdish, some words and phrases are mentioned here:

فایرۆسی *Novel Coronavirus*, فایرۆسی *کۆرۆنا Coronavirus*, کۆفید *COVID*, کۆفید *COVID-19*, کۆرۆنا *Corona*, کۆرۆنا *نوی*

The words and phrases mentioned above are the most frequently used items from 2020 to the present time. They have been used interchangeably, in both English and Kurdish languages, as names of the pandemic ‘corona virus COVID-19’.

With reference to COVID-19, Oxford English Dictionary (2020) mentions that COVID -19 is completely a new term which was first introduced by WHO on 11 February 2020. It is an acronym consisting of three linguistic items: *Corona Virus Disease* as well as the year in which the disease emerged in '2019'. The other less formal and less frequently used abbreviation is COVID, as in the following examples:

4.54 Every day, *COVID-19* seems to reach a new and tragic milestone. (WHO, 2020)

4.55 [نیشانهکانی کۆڤید-19 چین؟ (بلاوکراوهکانی وهزارهتی تهندرستی 2020)

What are the symptoms of *COVID-19*? (Ministry of Health , 2020)]

The other mentioned terms are of two edges because firstly they were newly introduced words to common people all over the world indicating a deadly disease and consequently belonged to broadening: neologism, however due to their frequent use and their rapid widespread in which they have been ad hoc concepts of COVID-19, their meaning have been narrowed to indicate COVID-19 only not any other disease as mentioned in the process of narrowing.

4.56 For all of these reasons, I am declaring a public health emergency of international concern over the global outbreak of *novel coronavirus*. (WHO, 2020)

4.57 [له میانهی پیکارهکانی خۆپاریزی و پینگهگرتن له بلاوبوونوهوی ڤایرۆسی کۆرۆنای نوێ..... (وهزارهتی تهندرستی , 2020)

During the preventive measures and avoiding the spread of the *novel coronavirus*... (Ministry of Health , 2020)]

له نهخۆشخانه خهوتیرا *Hospitalized*

The verb *hospitalized* is a new word formed from its noun *hospital* during the outbreak of the pandemic to be interpreted as the action of clinical treatment given to people who are infected with COVID-19 and hence a new word is introduced to be considered as neologism. The expression ' له نهخۆشخانه خهوتیرا - la naxos`xa:na xawenra:' is the Kurdish most equivalent item which has been mainly associated with COVID-19, as in:

4.58 WHO guidelines have been developed for health workers taking care of *hospitalized* adults

... (WHO, 2020)

4.59 [...] (78) تووشبوی دۆین و (4) گیانلهدهستدانی ئەمڕۆ و (2) گیانلهدهستدانی نهخۆشانی پێشوو که له نهخۆشخانه خهوتیرابوون. (وهزارهتی تهندرستی , 2020).

... (78) cases of yesterday, 4 deaths today and 2 deaths of previously *hospitalized* patients... (Ministry of Health , 2020)].

قهدهغهی هاتووچۆ- راگرتنی هاتووچۆ *Lock-down*

It is a preventative measure taken especially at the initial period of the outbreak to contain and control the transmission of the pandemic in a way that individuals are restricted from certain places, to avoid contact with others, and therefore are advised to stay home.

This neologism is frequently used at the initial stage of the pandemic. Linguistically, it is a compound noun consisting of 'lock' and 'down' and has been an ad hoc term in almost all the world during the outbreak of COVID-19, as in:

4.60 We call on all countries who have introduced so-called "*lockdown*" measures to use this time to attack the virus. (WHO, 2020)

4.61 Many countries have put in place very restrictive measures of physical distancing. These include closing borders, declaration of a national state of emergency, *lockdowns* of cities or entire countries, and closing schools and businesses. (WHO, 2020)

The Kurdish counterpart is 'قهدهغهی هاتووچۆ - q`adaghayi: ha:tu:c`o' and 'ra:grtni: ha:tu:c`o- هاتووچۆ - راگرتنی هاتووچۆ', however they are not regarded as neologism, newly added words to Kurdish language, as they were previously existed and used in the language. This indicates

that it is not necessarily to have one to one equivalent between English and Kurdish counterpart in respect of newly added words.

4.62 [قهدهغه ی هاتووچۆی تهواو یان سنوردار له پرووی شوین و کاتهوه ... (وهزارهتی ناوخوا، 2020)

Full or partial *lockdown* in terms of place and time... (Ministry of Interior, 2020)]

4.63 [پاگرتنی هاتووچۆ به شیوهیهکی تهواو له نیوان گشت پارێزگاکانی ههولێر و سلێمانی و دهۆک و ههلهبجه و ئیداره سه سه به خوکانی راپه رین

و گهرمیان و ... (وهزارهتی ناوخوا، 2020).

A Full *lockdown* among the Governorates of Erbil, Sulaimani, Duhok, Halabja, and the autonomous administrations of Rapareen and Garmyan, etc. (Ministry of Interior, 2020)]

که رهتین *Quarantine*

It is one of the most common terms used within the preventative measures of COVID-19 all over the world. Likewise most of the languages, the word '*quarantine* - که رهتین - karanti:n' is borrowed from English and integrated into Kurdish language. It is defined as "a restraint upon the activities or communication of persons or the transport of goods designed to prevent the spread of disease or pests." (Marriam-Webster, 2020). The word is not totally a new lexical item being added to the language, however, within the outbreak of COVID-19 it is reintroduced and reused by people due to its rapid spread in different means of mass media and social media as well. Therefore, the word is used when A is separated from others for 14 days in a specific place or at home because of being a contact with B who is infected with corona virus COVID-19. In this case, it is not a condition that A has tested positive, has symptoms or even affected by the virus. In Kurdish language the word refers to the action of separating people and the place as well.

4.64 Isolate the sick and *quarantine* their contacts. (WHO, 2020)

4.65 [ژماره ی هاوڵاتیان که له که رهتینه کان بوون (2918) که سن... که له ئیستادا ته نه ا (1128) هاوڵاتی له که رهتین ماونه ته وه و ... (وهزارهتی

ته ندروستی، 2020)

The number of citizens who were in *quarantine* is 2918, ... that currently, only 1128 citizens remain in *quarantine* and ... (Ministry of Health, 2020)]

4.66 [... هه موویان به رکه وته ی قوتایه توشبووه که ی گه روه ی و وڵاتی ئیترانه که ینشتر که رهتین کرابوو... (وهزارهتی ته ندروستی، 2020).

... all are contacts of the infected student who came back from Iran and was previously *quarantined*... (Ministry of Health, 2020)].

پیشینه ی گه شت *Travel History*

This expression is mainly used when anyone travels to or visits a foreign country and gets a visa stamp on his/her passport. However, during the spread out of COVID-19, especially in its initial stages, this expression became more frequent in use and reintroduced to mean investigating individuals came or traveled to areas infected with COVID-19 for most of the cases came from them. Accordingly taking into account the travel history of arrivals has been an important preventative measure to contain and control the spread out of the pandemic. For example:

4.67 The vast majority of cases outside China have a *travel history* to Wuhan or contact with someone with a *travel history* to Wuhan. (WHO, 2020)

The Kurdish equivalent to this expression is '*pes'i:nai: gas't*' which was something new, specially to common people, and has been used in official letters while reporting cases and statistics on COVID-19 pandemic, for example:

4.68 [... ژۆربه ی ژۆریان به رکه وته ی توشبووه کانی هه ردوو پرسه ی ماته مینی گه ره کی کارێزانی شاری هه ولێرن و دووی دیکه پیشینه ی

گه شتیان هه بووه. (وهزارهتی ته ندروستی، 2020)

... Most of the cases are contacts of both condolence ceremony in Karizan county of Erbil and two others had *travel history*. (Ministry of Health, 2020)]

دوورکه و تنه وهی کۆمه لایه تی *Social distancing*

This expression is not a totally new one however, it has been in use since 19th century to indicate “the degree of acceptance or rejection of social interaction between individuals and especially those belonging to different social groups...” (Merriam-Webster, 2022). Within the spread out of the pandemic, this expression is introduced to people as one of the most important public health measures all over the world to keep individuals safe from the threat of contagious diseases infection especially COVID-19. Therefore, social distancing is the process of keeping distance between yourself and other people in which this may include avoiding groups and gatherings of people and maintaining distance from others when possible. It is one of the main strategies to save lives, avoid COVID-19 infection and to flatten the curve as well. This technique is followed in a way that it has been a routine of our daily life, for example:

4.69 our message to countries continues to be: you must take a comprehensive approach. Not testing alone. Not contact tracing alone. Not quarantine alone. Not *social distancing* alone. Do it all. (WHO, 2020)

the protective measures set by Kurdistan Regional Government come to ensure keeping social distancing between the self and others, therefore the expression ‘دوورکه و تنه وهی کۆمه لایه تی’ - *du:rkawtnawai: komal`a:yati:*’ is used as a Kurdish counterpart to the English one. It is frequently mentioned as an essential and insisting request. For example:

4.70 [یاسای دوورکه و تنه وهی کۆمه لایه تی په پیره و بکه و مه و دای نیوان تۆ و ده و روبه رت به لانی کهم 2 مه تر بیت. (وه زاره تی تهن دروستی (2020,

Follow the *social distancing* rules and keep a distance of at least 2 meters between you and your surroundings. (Ministry of Health, 2020)]

پاکه ره وهی کحولی *Hand hygiene*

This phrase is one of the key strategies and preventative kits to slow down the spread of COVID-19 and to keep one protected against this disease and many others. It is not a totally new word/expression however it has been widely spreading during the pandemic in a way that it has been adjusted as an ad hoc concept with COVID-19.

4.71 Public health measures such as *hand hygiene*, respiratory etiquette and social distancing; ... (WHO, 2020)

The Kurdish equivalent to such expression is ‘پاکه ره وهی کحولی’ - *pa:kkarawai: k’huli:*’ and is used in texts like:

4.72 [زوو زوو دهسته کانت بشۆ بۆ ماوهی 20 چرکه یا خود پاکه ره وه کحولییه کان به کار به یته. (وه زاره تی تهن دروستی، 2020)] Wash your hands frequently for 20 seconds or use *hand hygiene*. (Ministry of Health, 2020)]

In the current paper, the neologism concerned COVID-19 related words and concepts analyzed from a lexical pragmatic process shows the speed and the increasing volume of word innovation from a lexical pragmatic perspective. In respect with the general sense of neologism, there are different views. Crystal (2020:1) states that “there are already some initial collocations of English COVID neologisms online, and the numbers are rising.”. Ro (2020:1), on the other hand, believes that *Covid-19* is the only newly added word to the dictionary for most of the other words have been found many years ago like *social distancing*. The findings of the present paper show that, aside from the linguistic change and novelty of words and expressions, the lexical pragmatic analysis of the selected words and phrases show the role of the global and societal changes. In this vein, one can realize that, for example, the word COVID-19 was first introduced officially by WHO in February 2020 however it has



gained unprecedented strength and frequency in a way that it has recorded the top and the most popular 2020 lexical innovations. Moreover, one can draw out, from the findings, that the lexical pragmatic dimensions of some COVID-19 related words and concepts explore its importance in adjusting the actual encoded meaning of words and expressions for example: as a way to save lives one can wear mask, gloves, use hand hygiene, keep social distancing, lesson contacts, ...these terms in a way or another have been a routine of people's everyday life all over the world.

As the pandemic spreads widely and rapidly all over the world, this makes it necessary to have a unified coronavirus related terminology to assist the international community fight against this deadly virus, the terms were mostly existed and then reintroduced in English in which most of the languages have integrated the terms to their own as they are with the language's orthography for this, Kurdish language was not out of this unification and integration as in certain examples of COVID-19 کۆڤید، COVID، Virus ڤایرۆس، Corona کۆرۆنا، Vaccine ڤاکسین، Mask ماسک، Test تیسست،

positive پۆزه تیڤ، negative نینگه تیڤ، Quarantine کهرهنتین. The integration of these words and many others that are not mentioned shows on one hand, the extent to which Kurdish language is more enriched via borrowing these words and adding to its language and on the other hand, helped each community to follow the latest developments and updates on coronavirus cases worldwide.

Moreover, the findings indicate that there is not necessarily a one to one equivalent between the newly added words in the two languages for there are cases where the word is reintroduced in English but not in its counterpart Kurdish as the case with the word 'lockdown' and its equivalents 'پاگرتنی هاتووچو' and 'قه دهغه ی هاتووچو'

5. Conclusions

Based on the literature review and the analysis of the selected texts of the study, the following conclusions are drawn:

1. To study the pragmatic phenomena behind manipulating lexical processes, LP is an applicable approach in this respect. The mental process of mutual adjustment of lexically encoded meaning, contextual knowledge, and cognitive effects or implications can make hearers perceive what is embedded easily.
2. The relevant-theoretic approach has an important role in imposing LP goal in identifying the embedded additional meaning or conversational implicatures without relying on other Grice's maxims.
3. The temporal and special nature of contexts motivate an exceed use of neologisms and lexical narrowing. This indicates that the contextual knowledge shared by a speaker and hearer can be considered as a fertile resource for generating additional or slightly different ad hoc CONCEPTS* from certain literal CONCEPTS. As a result, it economizes the linguistic repertoire of a language.
4. Both processes of lexical narrowing and broadening: neologism, are manipulated in the sample but with obvious degrees of diversity in both languages. The narrowed lexical concepts are more frequently noted than neologisms because the coinage of new lexical items is a more restricted process than investing an already existing lexical item to new senses different from those of the lexical root.
5. The lexical pragmatic processes, in both languages, are the same however in term of the selected words and phrases sometimes, it is not necessarily for a Kurdish counterpart of an English word to be passed through the same process of lexical narrowing and broadening.



6. As the language of science is unified in almost all over the world and is mainly English therefore many new linguistic items used in Kurdish language are borrowed from English and integrated into Kurdish.

7. Most of the words and terms are not necessarily new; they have already been there, but they were reintroduced within COVID-19 contexts.

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شیکردنه وهیه کی پراگماتیکی فهرهنگی بو چه مکه نوئیه کانی کۆفید-19 له زمانه کانی ئینگلیزی و کوردی دا

که فی شاکر محمد

کۆلیژی پهروه دهی بنه رته، به شی زمانی ئینگلیزی، زانکۆی سه لاهه دین-هه ولیر

kavi.muhammad@su.edu.krd

پوخته

هه مو جیهان له دوو سالی رابردوو دوو چاری دیاردیه کی تهندرستی مه ترسیدار بووه ته وه و ئەمەش به هۆی بڵاوبوونه وهی به رفراوان و خیرای فایرۆسی کۆرۆنا بوو ناسراو به "کۆفید-19" که کاریگه ری خو ی هه بوو له سه ر لایه نه جیاوازه کانی ژینی خه لک، له ئیوانیشیاندا زامان و گۆرانکاریه زمانه وانیه کان، وه به تابه تریش شیکردنه وهی مانای چهن د ووشه یه کی دیاریکراو. ئەم توێژینه وه یه هه ولێکه بو لیکۆلینه وه له پرۆسه کانی پراگماتیکی فهرهنگی بو ته سککردنه وه و فراوانکردنی مانای ده سه واژه کان، له وان هه ووشه ی په یوه ننداره کان به زمانه کانی ئینگلیزی و کوردی سه باره ت به کۆفید-19 له پراوانگه ی تیۆری په یوه سه ته وه. سه ره پای ئەم هه ش، ئەم توێژینه وه یه هه ول ددهات بزائیت ئایا پرۆسه کانی پراگماتیکی فهرهنگی له هه ردوو زمانه که دا له چوارچۆیه ی ووشه ئینگلیزیه هه لبژێردراوه کان و هاوته کوردیه که ایا و هه ک یه کن یاخو نا. ئەم ئامانجان هه وه لمدانه وهی ئەم دوو پرسیاره ی خواره وه به دی ده ئیتریت: یه که م، چۆن پراگماتیکی فهرهنگی به کارده هئیریت له ده سه واژه په یوه ننداره کان به کۆفید-19؟ دووه م: تا چ راده یه ک ریکاره کانی پرۆسه کانی پراگماتیکی فهرهنگی بابه ته هه لبژێردراوه کان له هه ردوو زمانه که دا وه ک یه کن؟ به م ییبه توێژینه وه که توێژینه وه یه کی چۆنایه تی شیکاریه و توێژه ر ووشه کانی له زمانی ئینگلیزی هه لبژێردوو ووشه ی شیکاری بو کردوو له گه ل هاوتا کوردیه کانیان به هه مان شیوه، بو ئەوه ی له روانگه ی پراگماتیکیه وه ئیلهام به خه ش بیت بو نوێگه ریه کان. داتا کانی توێژینه وه که له (12) به یاننامه و راگه یاندرای په رپۆه به ری گه شی ریکنراوی ته ندرستی جیهانی سه باره ت به کۆفید-19 وه رگیراوه، هاوکات هاوتا کوردیه کانیان له (22) راگه به ندراوو به یاننامه ی فه رمی تابه ت به کۆفید-19 وه رگیراوان که له لایه ن وه زا ره ته کانی ته ندرستی و ناوخۆی حکومه تی هه ری می کوردستان ده رچوو. ئەنجامی ئەم شیکردنه وه یه ده رده خات که پراگماتیکی فهرهنگی ریبازیک شایه نی کاریکردنه له توێژینه وه و شیکردنه وهی مانای کۆدکراوی ووشه و ده رپینه کان که به کارهاتوو له لایه ن قسه که ر که له ریگه یه وه گرنگی تیۆری په یوه سه ت له به ده سه ئه ئینانی مانای به رجه سه کراوا به بن پشت به سه تن به بنه ماکانی تری "گرایس" وه. جگه له مه ش، ده رنه نجامه کان و نیشان ده دن که وا ئەو زانیاریه کۆتیه کتیه که له لایه ن قسه که رو گوئیگه وه هاوبه شن سه رچاوه یه کی باشن بو دروستکردنی چه مکه تابه ته کان. سه ره پای ئەوه، په ره سه ندی هه ردوو پرۆسه ی ته سککردنه وه و فراوانبوونه وهی ووشه ی لیکۆلراوه ته وه به لاهم به ریژه ی جیاواز و به م ئەنجامه گه یشتوو که توخمه ووشه ی ته سه که کان زیاترن له توخمه ووشه ی فراوانکروه کان له هه ردوو زماندا.

ووشه گرنکه کان: پراگماتیکی فهرهنگی، تیۆری په یوه سه ت، ته سککردنه وه، فراوانکردن، نوێکاری، کۆفید-1

التحليل البراغماتي للمفاهيم المستجدة عن كوفيد-19 في اللغتين الانجليزية والكردية

که فی شاکر محمد

کلیه تریه الاساسیه، قسم اللغة الانجليزية، جامعة صلاح الدين-اربييل

kavi.muhammad@su.edu.krd

ملخص

لقد واجه العالم بأسره ظاهرة صحية مقلقة في العامين المنصرمين وكان هذا بسبب الانتشار الواسع والسريع لفيروس كورونا المسمى بكوفيد-19 الذي كان له تأثيره الخاص على مختلف مناحي حياة الناس، ومن ضمنها اللغة والتغييرات اللغوية وبشكل أكثر تحديداً استحداث وتفسير معاني كلمات معينة. هذه الورقة البحثية هي محاولة لدراسة العمليات البراغماتية المعجمية لتضييق وتوسيع معاني العبارات بما في ذلك الكلمات ذات الصلة باللغتين الإنجليزية والكردية حول كوفيد-19 من منظور نظرية الصلة. علاوة على ذلك، تحاول هذه الورقة البحثية أيضاً معرفة ما إذا كانت عمليات البراغماتية المعجمية هي نفسها في كلتا اللغتين في نطاق الكلمات الإنجليزية المختارة ونظيرتها الكردية. يتم تحقيق هذه الأهداف من خلال الإجابة على السؤالين الآتيين: أولاً، كيف تُستخدم العمليات البراغماتية المعجمية في القاموس المرتبط بـ"كوفيد-19"؟ ثانياً، إلى أي مدى تتساوى إجراءات العمليات المعجمية البراغماتية للعناصر المختارة في كلتا اللغتين؟ وبناءً على ذلك، فإن الورقة هي بحث نوعي تحليلي واختار الباحث كلمات من اللغة الإنجليزية وحللها مع نظيراتها باللغة الكردية أيضاً وذلك لإلهام المستجدين من وجهة نظر براغماتية. معطيات البحث مأخوذة من 12 بيانات وتحديثات للمدير العام لمنظمة الصحة العالمية حول جائحة كوفيد-19، بينما تم أخذ نظيراتها الكوردية من 22 إعلاناً وبياناتاً رسمياً بشأن كوفيد-19 صدرت عن وزارتي الصحة والداخلية لحكومة إقليم كردستان. يوضح التحليل أن البراغماتية المعجمية هو نهج قابل للتطبيق في دراسة وتحليل المعنى المشفر للكلمات والتعبيرات المستخدمة من قبل المتحدث والتي من خلالها يتم إبراز أهمية نظرية الصلة في تحقيق المعنى المتجسد دون الاعتماد على مبادئ غرايس الأخرى. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، فقد تم الاستنتاج بأن المعرفة السياقية التي يتقاسمها المتحدث والمستمع هي مورد جيد لتوليد المفاهيم المخصصة. هذا فضلاً عن أنه تم دراسة استحداث كلتا عمليتي التضييق والتوسيع المعجمي ولكن بدرجات متفاوتة، وقد تم التوصل إلى أن العناصر المعجمية الضيقة هي أكثر تواتراً من العناصر المعجمية الموسعة في كلتا اللغتين.

الكلمات الاساسية: البراغماتية المعجمية، نظرية الصلة، التضييق، التوسيع، الحداثة، كوفيد-19.