REVIEW[1]
PandemicTerm - A MULTILINGUAL CONTEXTUALIZED GLOSSARY

Reference: *PandemicTerm - A Multilingual Contextualized Glossary,* Tomescu, Ana-Marina, Ilinca, Cristina-Elena, Boncescu, Silvia, 2025

Introduction

Global crises are defined as complex and multifaceted events that destabilize societies, economies, and ecosystems across national boundaries. Whether economic, environmental, health-related, or geopolitical in nature, such crises share several key characteristics: suddenness, uncertainty and threat (Coombs, 2019; Lerbinger, 2012; Ulmer et al., 2015). They often require unique and extreme measures (Ulmer et al., 2015) as well as coordinated international responses. In a world grappling with global crises, being able to communicate clearly and accurately contributes largely to effective crisis management and overall well-being. Clear communication plays a crucial role in helping people deal with fear, disruption and uncertainty, enabling them to make informed decisions and preventing misunderstandings that could have serious consequences.

Although challenging circumstances have always given rise to new ways of expressing emerging realities, the speed of the linguistic changes witnessed globally during the Covid-19 pandemic may be described as unprecedented. The world experienced dramatic changes that led to the emergence of a wave of new terminology. Some of the new words and expressions originated in scientific communities, while others were coined in real time by the public, media and policymakers. As Thorne (2020) points out, the "coronaspeak" evolved in three stages. First, it emerged through the way medical aspects of the pandemic were communicated in everyday language. Second, people began inventing words to speak about the unfamiliar experiences they were going through. Third, this new vocabulary was adopted into official discourse to ensure that the new rules and policies were correctly understood.

Scope and coverage

PandemicTerm - A Multilingual Contextualized Glossary was created as a collection of terms and expressions that became pervasive in the public discourse, health communication and policy making during one of the most disruptive global crises the world has ever experienced. This well-organized glossary brings together essential terminology that either emerged or gained prominence during the Covid – 19 pandemic, translated and

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contextualized in 4 languages - English, French, German and Romanian. This multilingual dimension helps bridge communication gaps and provides insight into the way different linguistic communities reacted to the Covid – 19 pandemic.

Accuracy and clarity

Terms such as *quarantine* / *quarantaine* / *Quarantäne* / *carantină* or *herd immunity* / *immunité collective* / *Herdenimmunität* / *imunitate de grup* are explained in a way that ensures clarity across linguistic and cultural boundaries. The glossary includes 91 entries, ranging from scientific and medical terminology (ageusia, anosmia) to policy and media-related terms (lockdown, physical distancing). Each definition is followed by a link to a source or reference to ensure medical accuracy and reliability, as well as by an example which illustrates how the term is used in context. More than simply offering literal translations, the glossary shows how these terms were actually used in public discourse, official communication, and media in different countries.

Usability and accessiblity

Two of the glossary's major strengths are its clarity and accessibilty. Each term - ranging from the commonly known *dose* or *antibody* to more specialized entries such as *genome sequencing* or *hemoptysis* - is clearly defined, making the glossry a valuable resource for translators, interpreters, journalists, language learners and public health professionals. It also serves as a useful tool for researchers analysing crisis communication, language evolution or public health terminology.

Conclusion

The glossary is a well-structured resource that demonstrates how languages shape and reflect crises, evolving and adapting to new realities and circumstances. Clearly designed for lay comprehension, without compromising scientific accuracy, *PandemicTerm - A Multilingual Contextualized Glossary* serves as a valuable tool for bridging the gap between public health specialists and non-expert audiences.

References

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