Language and New Words and Phrases Related to Coronavirus Among Saudi Arabian Students: Awareness, Knowledge, and Use

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Abstract—This study investigates the awareness of Saudi Arabian students on the knowledge and use of new words and phrases that are related to coronavirus disease such as "self-isolation", "self-quarantine", "social distancing", "confirmed cases", "slowing down the rate" and "ahead to the curve". These new lexes were transmitted directly to the ordinary people undertaking processes such as "wash your hands", "stay home", and "save lives" or words that worldly defined the disease as epidemic then pandemic with the ultimate use nowadays of vaccination. Besides, the paper aims at studying gender differences between Saudi males and females' knowledge and use of the newly coined words and phrases. To find out how students have been affected by the disease on their knowledge and use of their language, the researchers designed a questionnaire consisting of 25 items estimating the students' recognition of the impact of this phenomenon on language and the students' awareness. The results reveal that the students' awareness of knowledge and use of the new words and phrases varied as it was basically revealed in their response to the 25 items. It provides evidence that Saudi students have the ability to recognize the impact of coronavirus on their language.

Index Terms—coronavirus, new words and phrases, Saudi Arabian students, words related to covid-19

I. INTRODUCTION

On January 20, 2020, people around the world were looking at Wuhan, which had recently acquired much more attention. Now, with the official confirmation of the coronavirus as an epidemic, life has changed, and so has the ordinary man. People have shifted their speech events from focusing on everyday communication to coronavirus-related speech events (Li, 2020). Language changes, too, with linguistic features appearing as the result of the new global event that has had a significant influence on our lives and the way we communicate. The outbreak of the coronavirus epidemic has caused worldwide concern. The change has occurred not only in everyday language but also in the mass media and on networking sites as well. Within this short period of time, language expressions have been overwhelmingly centred around coronavirus (Lew & Kosem, 2020). Language is used to report and describe the development of newly coined words and expressions. It is real, then, to assert the fact that, due to the health crisis the world is experiencing, the coronavirus disease has cognitive and communicative dimensions which determine the words' use in discourse (Haddad & Mart ñez, 2020).

Countries in the Arab world are not linguistically distant from this change the world has witnessed, as Saudi Arabian speakers have been linguistically involved; the new linguistic features related to coronavirus have become a part of their everyday lives as well. In addition, many social media portals have been designed to announce government health policies, with regular updates on the progress of the epidemic, providing people with specific information on how to prevent the spread of the virus and how to fight it. To the researchers, it is noteworthy that this was the first step for people to confront—gaining access to new technical words related to the Coronavirus, or COVID-19, as it was later named and extensively referred to.

On March 8, 2020, the Saudi government ordered the lockdown of every association, as well as governmental establishments such as schools, universities, and organizations, both public and private. Since then, language use has completely changed. Words and information relating to the virus were exposed first in foreign languages—English, for instance—and then they were spread thoroughly through relevant public services in Arabic. The news on social media and web networking sites fully exposed unfamiliar words, and then those words began to appear on official websites. This new lexis was transmitted directly to ordinary people. All these words were new to countries in the Arab world and to the people of Saudi Arabia in particular.

It is reasonable to assume that panic and anxiety are normal reactions of people exposed to an epidemic like COVID-19 (Zhang, 2020). To alleviate their anxiety, people were driven by the pandemic to social media (Wiederhold, 2020). Once the World Health Organization (henceforth: WHO) announced that the coronavirus epidemic was a pandemic, words and phrases associated with coronavirus have become increasingly familiar in the context of the current global

crisis—terms such as "self-isolation," "social distancing", confirmed cases" and "slowing down". Being affected by the pressure of using these words in Arabic, and estimating the knowledge of these newly coined expressions among the students, in particular, was the main aim of this study. The researchers have collected some of the new words and phrases related to the coronavirus pandemic appearing between March and September of 2020, as listed in the 2020 Oxford English Dictionary (henceforth: OED), which had formed a questionnaire to investigate students' knowledge and use of these phrases and whether they aligned with challenging English words or if they preferred the Arabic medium of interaction to increase individual awareness and cultural confidence.

A. Aim of the Study

Words and phrases that are associated with coronavirus have become increasingly familiar in the context of the current global crisis. These include "self-isolation," "social distancing,"slowing down", and "confirmed cases". Such words and phrases continually update to cope with the new linguistic development of the lexis. In this paper, the researchers attempted to investigate the most familiar common words and phrases that have recently become a part of the linguistic repertoire of the Arab world countries—specifically examining how frequently they have been used among university students in relation to the new health crises. Estimating students' knowledge and usage of these words and phrases, the researchers intend to examine the aim of the study. These words and phrases were collected from the period of March to September of 2020. As Russell (2020) states, "Before 2020, coronavirus was relatively rare outside medical and scientific discourse. While COVID-19 was only coined in February; both now dominate the global discourse". Additionally, the researchers sought to juxtapose the gender differences between men and women in the general knowledge and use of these newly coined expressions.

B. Importance of the Study

People's discourse has been changed drastically since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. "... the pandemic will still change language, broadly construed – just not among adults" (McWholter 2020). Millions of people who speak lesser-known languages do not have a single source on the COVID-19 language yet. This research is designed to facilitate access to the neo-coined linguistic features—these words and phrases—among a Saudi Arabian context to examine the status of the speech Saudi Arabians have come to use following the lockdown of Wuhan, the centre of the virus outbreak, and the subsequent lockdown of the other countries around the world. It is significant because it will shed light on the linguistic features of the speech of the 2020 generation. In addition, it highlights the process of reviving lexical terms that were not used publicly before the pandemic. Due to this crisis, the world has experienced words that were once restricted to specific medical resources but are now a part of everyday interactions.

C. Limitation of the Study

The words and phrases the researchers introduced to the students are the most frequently used in Saudi Arabia. The results, then, will conform to this group of students and these items.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Many countries instituted lockdowns and self-isolation measures. Lockdowns varied in force. In Wuhan, citizens were banned from crossing borders; schools, universities, and non-essential shops were closed; public transport ground to a halt; and only one or two household members could go out to make purchases (Langton, 2020).

As coronavirus information has become widespread, people have exploded with fear because of the false information they receive from social media portals (Tan, 2020); whether the information is fake news or not, it often pays little attention to accuracy or credibility.

English has been used as a medium to reveal the effects of the use of the newly coined words and expressions by the public. People, social media portals, and health organizations have shed light on the importance of information about coronavirus by using the English language. To raise awareness among people in different areas around the world, countries started to use similar words and phrases to discuss the new forms of the illness in order to communicate with the public efficiently. Supported by the WHO, as they were in contact with the national authorities, English's use in these expressions has become prevalent across social media platforms. Coronavirus has led to an explosion of new words and phrases that have entered the linguistic repertoire of a large number of people in a short amount of time, which helps us make sense of the changes that have suddenly become part of our everyday lives (Piller, Zhang, & Li, 2020).

COVID-19 has opened a path for scholars to re-examine the role of language. New words and phrases—both in English and in other languages—have become part of people's everyday lives, according to Lawson (2020), who uncovers the changes languages have undertaken. Words and phrases such as "self-isolation," "social distancing," "hangers," and "flatten the curve" have been added to the OED in the three months between December 2019 and March 2020. Such words and phrases have become increasingly familiar in the context of the current global crisis and have shown linguistic developments. Before that—in the late spring and again in July—dictionary editors released special updates, citing a need to document the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the English language (as cited in Kreuz, 2020). Most coronavirus-related words are older, more obscure words and phrases that have now been catapulted into

common usage—specimens such as "reproduction number" and "social distance." They have also documented the creation of new word combinations based on previously existing vocabulary. The OED (2020) summarizes recent trends using English data in their article. This corpus was updated each month. "coronavirus," "COVID-19," and other words denoting the virus and the disease began to appear more frequently, of course, but the most striking change has been the considerable increase in the frequency of the words "coronavirus" and "COVID-19" themselves, (Paton, 2020). Before 2020, "coronavirus" was relatively rare outside the realm of medical and scientific discourse. "COVID-19" was only coined in February, when the WHO announced the official name of the virus. In April, however, the figures for both "COVID-19" and "coronavirus" were then being used at roughly the same frequency, as shown in the chart below:

Frequency of the words "*coronavirus*" and "*COVID-19*" in the Oxford Corpus, December 2019 to March 2020
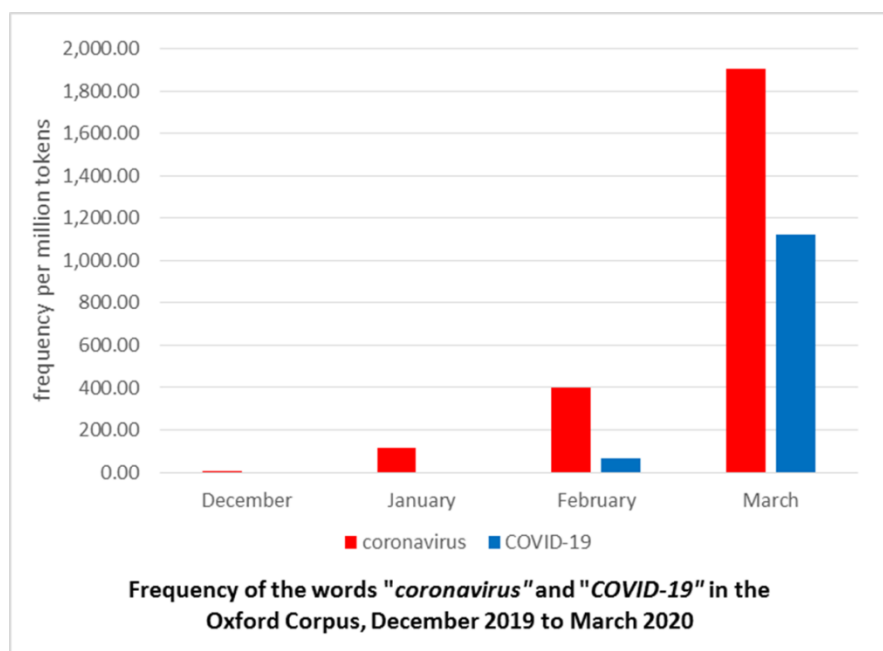
Chart (1) illustrates the extent to which the use of the word "coronavirus" has overwhelmingly increased (as cited in OED Team, 2020).

Robert Lawson, as cited in Ro (2020), claims that the speed of the linguistic change experienced with COVID-19 is unprecedented. He attributes this to multiple factors, such as the dizzying pace at which the virus has spread its dominance across media and other platforms that enable global interconnectivity. "Wash your hands" is not enough to combat this pandemic, and other expressions may also be added in the future. Before the pandemic, "COVID-19, "qurantine," "wash your hands," and "all of us are at risk" are statements that were either unknown or unlikely to have been taken seriously. The pandemic has led to many terms that are helpful when used in their everyday lives. In her 2020 article "Language in the time of the coronavirus crisis–UK case study," Scott claims that language has changed because of the coronavirus crisis, and so have some of the ways in which new usages are created. These changes include:

- *Framing* shapes all communication. It is commonly present in the imperatives issued by governments across the world to stay home and stay safe to protect health services.

- *Tricolons* refer to the use of triplets for rhetorical effect, but, in this case, the three elements do not form a natural category. "Stay at home" and "save lives" go hand in hand because isolation helps to prevent transmission. However, this does not go hand in hand with "protect and save the health service."

- *Metonymy*, a form of Newspeak, is a figure of speech that allows us to communicate one thing by referring to something closely associated with it. Newspeak refers to the control of language in order to control thought. For instance, staying "ahead of the curve" can be designed and established by slowing down the rate of transmission through "self-isolation."

III. METHODS

This study aims at investigating the issue of the new words and phrases that have become widespread following the outbreak of COVID-19. Furthermore, it investigates Saudi Arabian university students' knowledge and use of these words and phrases. It also seeks to juxtapose the gender differences between men and women in the general knowledge and use of these new words and phrases.

A. Data Collection

To achieve the goal of this study, a questionnaire consisting of 25 items was applied to estimate students' awareness, knowledge, and usage of the new words and phrases that have emerged due to the pandemic. The questionnaire, which was given to 50 students—15 male and 35 female—was divided into two sections. The first section concerns personal information such as the participant's age, gender, and level of education. The second section of the questionnaire consists of 25 items with the invitation to respond with one of the following options: strongly agree/SA (5), agree/A (4), disagree/D (3) strongly disagree/SD (2), and never (1), making up a five-point Likert-type scale. In order to ensure the validity of the questionnaire, three experts were requested to read it. Based on the feedback received from the experts, the items were modified and finalized. The data was analyzed by employing descriptive statistics to calculate and analyze the frequency and percentages to display the rates of use and knowledge, along with gender differences, among students who were voluntarily involved as participants in this study.

B. Data Analysis

The study is based on analyzing a select set of words and phrases such as "virus," "coronavirus," "epidemic," "pandemic," "new coronavirus," "flatten the curve," "stay at home," and "work from home," which have become familiar to many people since the global outbreak of coronavirus. As a result, the analysis involves how frequently students use the words and how familiar the coronavirus-related words and phrases are to the students. To seek and understand social phenomena naturally (Creswell, 2009), the researchers follow the approach of Milroy and Milroy (1985), as it is one of the best ways to study language changes. To specify how language passes from one state to another reflects the change in linguistic structure and social reality. The data was categorized into four dimensions according to the two main topics, and then a quantitative analysis was used, taking into consideration the gender differences.

IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, the researchers analyze the data according to the two main topics: awareness of (1) knowledge and (2) usage, considering gender differences.

A. Men and Women's Knowledge and Use of Coronavirus Words and Phrases

The data reflecting how familiar participants were with coronavirus words and phrases and how frequently the words and phrases have been used were divided into four dimensions, as highlighted below:

1. Male and Female Students' Knowledge of Coronavirus Words and Phrases

How familiar the coronavirus words and phrases are to male and female students can be seen with the illustration of the findings, uncovering the means and the standard deviation, as shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1
FEMALE STUDENTS' KNOWLEDGE OF CORONAVIRUS WORDS AND PHRASES

No.	Frequency and percentage	Strongly agree/ agree	Agree	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Never
1.	*F*	10	24	0	0	1
	%	28.57143	68.57143	0	0	2.857143
2.	*F*	0	17	7	8	3
	%	0	48.57143	20	22.85714	8.571429
3.	*F*	4	8	0	3	0
	%	34.28571	42.85714	0	22.85714	0
4.	*F*	8	15	0	12	0
	%	22.85714	42.85714	0	34.28571	0
5.	F	0	12	0	19	4
	%	0	34.28571	0	54.28571	11.42857
	F	14	17	0	0	4
6.	%	40	48.57143	0	0	11.42857

TABLE 2
MALE STUDENTS' KNOWLEDGE OF CORONAVIRUS WORDS AND PHRASES

No.	Frequency And percentage	Strongly agree/ agree	Agree	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Never
1	F	10	4	0	0	1
	%	66.66667	26.66667	0	0	6.666667
2.	F	0	7	0	3	5
	%	0	46.66667	0	20	33.33333
3.	F	4	8	0	3	0
	%	34.28571	42.85714	0	22.85714	0
4.	F	5	6	4	0	0
	%	33.33333	40	26.66667	0	0
5.	F	0	4	4	0	7
	%	0	26.66667	26.66667	0	46.66667
6.	F	8	7	0	0	0
	%	53.33333	46.66667	0	0	0

The participants' familiarity with the coronavirus-related event can be seen in items 1 and 3. They positively agree (68.5% of female students agree and 66% of male students strongly agree, respectively), as seen in Tables 1 and 2. Interestingly, their responses to item 53% strongly agree with the male students, and 48.5% of the female students agree that "COVID-19" was first originated as a newly coined word in 2020, with only 11% of female students who showed a negative response. Despite the fact they did agree with it a new word, they did not know the exact time WHO announced the term "COVID-19" (Item 2); they disagree that the term "COVID-19" had been coined in February. The researchers believe that the participants had no idea about the time WHO announced the term because the lockdown in Saudi Arabia was announced in March of 2020. Earlier, they were not familiar with the term. In item 5, male and female respondents' attitude towards the differences between "epidemic" and "pandemic' is noticeably evident. To Abdul Rahim (2020), the term "pandemic" replaced "epidemic" with a frequency of "pandemic" 10 times greater than the total frequency of "epidemic".

2. Awareness of the Impact of COVID-19 on Language

With the announcement of COVID-19 as a pandemic, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia went into a series of lockdowns. Insights about these issues showed people's shifting perceptions and concerns. It is abundantly clear that "coronavirus" has infected our vocabulary. People have grown increasingly aware of corresponding news (as seen in Item 12). 70% (i.e. 25% strongly agree and 45% agree) agree of female students and 66.6% of male students (i.e. 46.6% strongly agree and 20 % agree) that people have shifted their speech events from everyday communication to pandemic-related events, as words and phrases about the coronavirus have become the most frequently used. As shown in Tables 3 and 4, these results confirm that Saudi students have been linguistically involved and consciously aware of the speech events of the 2020s. Items 8, 9, and 10 all received positive responses. This gives insights that language is increasingly becoming a reflection of social activities.

TABLE 3
AWARENESS OF THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON LANGUAGE (FEMALE STUDENTS)

No.	Frequency And percentage	Strongly agree/ agree	Agree	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Never
7.	F	9	11	0	10	5
	%	25.71429	31.42857	0	28.57143	14.28571
8.	F	11	13	11	0	0
	%	31.42857	37.14286	31.42857	0	0
9	F	14	11	9	1	0
	%	40	31.42857	25.71429	2.857143	0
10	F	13	10	4	4	4
	%	37.14286	28.57143	11.42857	11.42857	11.42857
11	F	13	12	10	0	0
	%	37.14286	34.28571	28.57143	0	0
12	F	9	16	0	0	10
	%	25.71429	45.71429	0	0	28.57143

TABLE 4
AWARENESS OF THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON LANGUAGE (MALE STUDENTS)

No.	Frequency And percentage	Strongly agree/agree	Agree	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Never
7.	F	4	4	0	4	3
	%	26.66667	26.66667	0	26.66667	20
8.	F	8	3	0	4	0
	%	53.33333	20	0	26.66667	0
9	F	10	3	0	2	0
	%	66.66667	20	0	13.33333	0
10	F	9	2	0	3	1
	%	60	13.33333	0	20	6.666667
11	F	8	4	3	0	0
	%	53.33333	26.66667	20	0	0
12	F	7	3	0	5	0
	%	46.66667	20	0	33.33333	0

3. The Impact of Social Media and Networking Sites on the Knowledge and Use of Words and Phrases Related to the Coronavirus Disease

Social media and networking sites have positively affected knowledge and use of terms related to coronavirus. With the WHO announcement of the coronavirus as a pandemic, participants have agreed that, since then, they have started to follow social media to learn more and more about the new disease. 90% (51.4% strongly agree and 48.5% agree) positively responded that social media portals have been designed to spread government health organization policies. Additionally, the majority, too, ultimately agreed that they followed the information and policies introduced by the Saudi Health Organization to avoid fake news, as shown in item 13. This shows the awareness of the participants and how anxious they were about following the new coronavirus speech events; its frequency is much higher than before. The progress of the epidemic-related expressions and terms is regularly updated, providing people with specific information on preventing the spread of the virus and how to fight it. Whether or not they were following the updated news, men and women positively agreed to follow social media portals to find the new terms, as shown in item 14.

TABLE 5
THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND NETWORKING SITES ON THE KNOWLEDGE AND USE OF WORDS AND PHRASES RELATED TO THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

No.	Frequency And percentage	Strongly agree/agree	Agree	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Never
	Female students					
13	F	18	17	0	0	0
	%	51.42857	48.57143	0	0	0
14	F	22	13	0	0	0
	%	62.85714	37.14286	0	0	0
No	Male students					
	Frequency And percentage	Strongly agree/agree	Agree	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Never
13	F	10	5	0	0	0
	%	66.66667	33.33333	0	0	0
14	F	11	4	0	0	0
	%	73.33333	26.66667	0	0	0

4. Male and Female Students' Use of Coronavirus Words and Phrases

Saudi Arabian speakers have experienced an impact corresponding to the new linguistic uses of words and phrases related to coronavirus speech events. Words such as "self-quarantine" and "self-isolate" are used with new meanings due to COVID-19, as positively shown by participants (Items 15, 18, and 19).

TABLE 6
FEMALE STUDENTS' USE OF CORONAVIRUS WORDS AND PHRASES

No.	Frequency And percentage	Strongly agree/agree	Agree	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Never
15.	F	10	10	7	8	0
	%	28.57143	28.57143	20	22.85714	0
16	F	7	9	0	8	11
	%	20	25.71429	0	22.85714	31.42857
17	F	10	15	0	10	0
	%	28.57143	42.85714	0	28.57143	0
18	F	8	17	0	10	0
	%	22.85714	48.57143	0	28.57143	0
19	F	10	12	0	4	8
	%	28.57143	34.28571	0	11.42857	22.85714
20	F	4	11	4	4	11
	%	11.42857	31.42857	11.42857	11.42857	31.42857

As shown in Table 6, the respondents positively responded to using confirmed cases to the newly infected persons. 25.7% of the female group confirmed using the words with their new meaning, in contrast to 22.8% who negatively responded to the new given usage of the word "confirmed". Male and female respondents both agreed that words and phrases such as "self-quarantine," "self-isolation," "social distancing," "slowing down the rate," "stay home," "wash your hands," and "save lives" have been widely used due to the spread of the pandemic (Items 20-25). They agreed that these terms have, indeed, become a part of their everyday speech. The researchers believe that the participants' knowledge about "self-quarantine," "self-isolate." and other words and phrases have increased the use of these items due to the increase in the number of cases of them being used with new meanings (Items 15-19). The use of words and phrases can be attributed to the fact that these words and phrases have become increasingly important to people's lives and speech. As Abdul Rahim (2020) asserts, words and phrases related to the pandemic have emerged, and the increase in the use of other equally interesting words and phrases reflects the changes that took place throughout the last few months.

B. Gender's Correlation to Knowledge and Use of Coronavirus Words and Phrases

As the world has witnessed, there has been a significant change in life due to the rapid spread of the coronavirus disease, reflected in people's use and knowledge of this new phenomenon's corresponding vocabulary. The way male and female respondents perceive this knowledge separately and the extent to which this disease has impacted language have been discussed below.

It has been noticed that there is a significant difference in knowledge between men and women. In item 2, female students gave negative responses. 44.85% of the female group asserted, they did not know the exact time "COVID-19" was announced by WHO, contrary to male students, where only 20% showed ignorance of the state. This suggested that said frequency of using the word was not high at the beginning of the spread of the disease. In item 5, female participants showed high knowledge of the difference between pandemic and epidemic. 54.2% of the female students disagree to acknowledge that the two words have the same related meaning. Contrary to this, men's response was neutral (46.6%). 26.6% confirmed their knowledge, and 26.6% showed their disagreement to be familiar with the new announcement made by the WHO, as shown in table 7.

TABLE 7
DIFFERENCE IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TWO CONCEPTS, PANDEMIC AND EPIDEMIC, BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE STUDENTS

Item No. 5	Frequency And percentage	Strongly agree	Agree	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Never
Female students	%	0	34.28571	0	54.28571	11.42857
Male students	%	0	26.66667	26.66667	0	46.66667

TABLE 8
DIFFERENCE IN AWARENESS BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE STUDENTS

Item No. 9	Frequency And percentage	Strongly agree	Agree	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Never
Female students	%	40	31. 428	25.7140	2.857	0
Male students	%	66.666	20.00	0	13.333	0

With the increase in numbers of confirmed cases, people have begun to have awareness about the news state, as shown in item 9 in Table 8. While the general majority (71.42% of women and 86.66% of men in total for 'agree' and 'strongly agree') agreed that people have shifted their speech events from everyday communication to pandemic-related events, 28.56% (i.e., 'strongly disagree' along with 'disagree') of female participants showed their non-awareness of the

emergence of this new phenomenon, which is a curious result. This may be accounted for by the fact that women use fewer words and phrases, so they become less frequent.

TABLE 9
DIFFERENCES IN THE IMPACT OF THE NEW WORDS AND PHRASES ON LANGUAGE

Item 16: You use "confirmed" for the newly infected person	Frequency And percentage	Strongly agree	Agree	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Never
Female students	%	20	25.71429	0	22.85714	31.42857
Male students	%	46.66667	33.33333	0	20	0

As shown in Table 9, even though female responses were lower than male responses in Item 16, most of the participants were able to recognize the impact of the new words and phrases on language. 79.99% of the male respondents replied positively to item 16, while female students faced considerable difficulty recognizing the mutual relationship between the words "confirmed" and "infected" concerning the coronavirus disease. 45.7% has shown positive knowledge, while 22.8% negatively responded, and 31.4% were neutral.

TABLE 10
DIFFERENCES IN THE USE OF WORDS AND PHRASES

Item 20: You use "Self-isolation" before the pandemic	Frequency And percentage	Strongly agree	Agree	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Never
Female students	%	11.42857	31.42857	11.42857	11.42857	31.42857
Male students	%	13.33333	13.33333	40	6.666667	26.66667

In Table 10, there was a significant difference between male and female responses. Female participants' ability to recognize "self-isolation" as was not used before the pandemic indicates their awareness. This phrase is a newly coined neologism, which appeared amidst the new event. 42.84% of women agreed that it is a new phrase, and 22.84% disagreed. On the other hand, 26.33% of men agreed, while 46% responded negatively to this phrase.

TABLE 11
DIFFERENCES IN THE USE OF WORDS AND PHRASES

Item 21: You use "social distancing" after the pandemic	Frequency And percentage	Strongly agree	Agree	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Never
Female students	%	28.57143	28.57143	11.42857	14.28571	17.14286
Male students	%	46.66667	53.33333	0	0	0

In Table 11, the highest score was 98.99% ('strongly agree' and 'agree') for men and 57.14% for women, which was low in score compared to the men's score. In determining the use of the phrase "social distancing" after the pandemic, the result indicates how frequently the phrase is used to male respondents as they responded positively while the female responses showed that they have were divided between 'agree' (57.14%), 'disagree' (25.26%), and 'neutral' (17.14%).

V. CONCLUSION

The results of this study provide evidence of the students' awareness, knowledge and use of words and phrases related to coronavirus. The results are corroborated with the objectives of this study. The researchers conclude that, due to the frequent use of these now-familiar words and phrases in the everyday speech of Saudi Arabians, this may have played a positive role in the students' responses regarding comprehension and awareness of the impact of this phenomenon on their language. The responses of both men and women show the profound effect that COVID-19 has had on the linguistic features of the language they use today.

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