

LANGUAGE CHANGE AND WORD FORMATION: A CORPUS-BASED STUDY OF FASHIONED VOCABULARY IN CORONA TIMES

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Received: 05 November, 2023 Revised: 24 November, 2023 Accepted: 29 November, 2023 Published: 06 December, 2023

ABSTRACT

This research paper is a corpus-based study of word formation during corona times. The paper is a Qualitative and Quantitative study founded on the framework of the Word-formation theory. The corona corpus' is used to retrieve the results of the 31 most popular coronavirus vocabulary used in daily conservations. Compounding is the most common word formation process involved in creating the language of coronavirus. The fashioned vocabulary of corona times from January 2020 to July 2020 includes Covid-19 with 1436951 frequencies along with other words such as Pandemic, mask, stay-at-home, lockdown, distancing, human-to-human, quarantine, isolation, sanitizer, transmission, work-from-home, and community-spread. The new jargon is used to talk about the pandemic, share experiences, spread awareness, or to make comments about strategies to face new situations all over the world.

Keywords: Coronavirus, Language Change, Word Formation, Fashioned Vocabulary, The Corona Corpus.

INTRODUCTION

The English language is an Indo-European language which is belonging to the West Germanic branch. It is the official language of Britain and the United States and other commonwealth countries. From four hundred years ago, it is spreading to different corners of the world and is highly accepted as a source of communication. It is growing at an unpredictable rate from the last five decades and producing a large number of non-native speakers through-out the world. Meanwhile the perception that only the native speakers of the English language can introduce changes in the English language also changed. Innovation is done by different non-speakers according to the demand of situations and society.

The other important factors that lead to change in a language are the world crises. The history of the world is full of drastic and severe crises in which the corona crisis is the most dominant one. COVID-19 is a novel deadly respiratory disease that originated from the seafood market, in Wuhan City, China. It is a zoonotic virus that is contagious between people as

well. Due to this reason, people are bound to keep distanced and remain at homes. Far up till now, it is the biggest crisis in the world's history. This pandemic has taken 714,462 lives while confirmed cases are 19,146,248 and 12,289,018 recovered all over the world. To talk about the coronavirus, to share experiences, to spread awareness, or to make comments about strategies to face new situations people all over the world invented new terminologies. The talk of the town or one can say the buzz topic is coronavirus or COVID-19. The word-formation took place using various processes including compounding, neologism, blending, acronyms, deviation, etc. People started to use the language of coronavirus in day-to-day conversation in all the languages in the whole world. This new jargon additionally assists individuals with articulating their stresses over the greatest wellbeing emergency we have found in ages. It unites individuals around a lot of aggregate social reference to focus on a sort of lexical "social paste". Without

the ordinary social contact, shared talk is a significant piece of helping individuals feel associated with each other.

Perhaps the greatest factor in the spread of coronavirus wording is the way that we're more carefully associated than any time in recent memory in a way we weren't during the SARS episode in 2002 or the Swine Flu flare-up in 2009. The moment gets to internet-based life is presently an indispensable piece of our lives and we share content with loved ones through an assortment of web-based life outlets. The size of our online associations implies that there are presently unmistakably more open doors for people to coin another term and offer it past their prompt nearby networks. During critical social or municipal change, semantic imagination not just mirrors the significant distractions of the time, yet besides shows how individuals accumulate to discuss new difficulties and settings. As coronavirus seethes on, understanding the language encompassing it will be always significant.

The English language is known as lingua franca and it has numerous new words, phrases, and terminologies in comparison to other languages. The important thing to explore is how the word-formation takes place? The study is done to see which word-formation processes are involved in the creation of corona language along with most frequent vocabulary usage in the period from January 2020 to June 2020. The data is retrieved from 'The corona corpora developed by English corpora (English corpora organization, 2020). The study is using word formation theory to explain word-formation processes. The model clarifies movement from the theoretical period of the naming procedure to the solid stage where naming units are created.

Research questions:

The study is focusing on the following questions:

Q1: What are the different word formation processes involved in the creation of the language of coronavirus?

Q2: Which is the most frequent corona language vocabulary put in practice in day-to-day conversation?

LITERATURE REVIEW

A language is a collection of different sentences. These sentences are constructed by the help of words so we can say that a word is considered as the basic unit of a sentence. Plag. I (2002) in his book 'Word-formation in English' defines the word as "The word as a unit in the writing system, the so-called orthographic word". The book is describing words and specifically on the internal structure of complex words. The complexity is in meanings due to differences in the meaning of the same words according to the specific culture, society, situation, and speakers. The author has described that how words are meaningful explaining at different levels for example word meaningful have three elements (mean, -ing, -full). These three elements of different words are defined and explained. This gives rise to the concept of word-formation and this particular book is concerned about word-formation in specific language i.e. English. Word-formation is the process of the formation of complex words. These complex words are decomposed into smaller meaningful units known as morphemes. The book also provides information about free morphemes, bound morphemes, root, stem, base, affixation, derivation, and compounding all leading to word-formation. Inflectional morphemes are taken part in word-formation. The set of bound morphemes contains what are called inflectional morphemes. They are not used to produce new words in the language but rather to indicate aspects of the grammatical function of a word. These include ('s, -s, Nouns), (-s, -ing, -ed, -en Verbs) and (-er, -est Adjectives) Yule (2010). These all are enlightened in detail with examples of words used in daily conversation. Also, there are relevant and helpful practice exercises at the end of every chapter to make better understanding. In the last different models are deliberated which are supportive in word-formation. Further rules regarding word-formation are also provided to clarify. This study is very supportive of my work due to its detailed explanations related to word and word formation. This study has focused on the main important point i.e. word and word-formation connected to my research.

Neologism plays an important role in the history of any pandemic or epidemic (Asif, Zhiyong, Iram, and Nisar, 2020). The emphasis of the research paper "Linguistic Analysis of Neologism Related to Coronavirus (COVID-19)" is to explore neologism

related to COVID-19. The researchers used Krishnamurthy (2010) model for analysis. The study concluded that nouns, verbs, and adjectives are mostly used on social media platforms to convey messages and feeling to the world. Various cultures and societies use different words of numerous languages to explain the new circumstances.

L. Kortvelyessy (2017) in 'An integrated theory of word-formation and word-interpretation. Research into sociolinguistics and psycholinguistics factors of formation and interpretation of novel complex words' discussed word-formation of novel complex words. This paper figure out the basic methodological principles of word-formation and their predictable meanings in the light of sociolinguistics and psycholinguistics. Many times it happens that words with similar spelling and forms have a different related meaning to it. It also has different word classes according to situation and context or a similar word is interpreted in different ways according to the understanding. The most important part of this paper is its emphasis on the selected sociolinguistics and psycholinguistics factors that affect meanings related to words and its understanding by a particular speech community. The researcher points out sociolinguistics factors and psycholinguistics factors such as age, education, profession, language background in bilinguals, and creative abilities of speakers respectively which have a direct influence on word-formation. This paper is supporting the onomasiological approach which is the main focus of my research study. The current paper and my study are both concentrating upon the word-formation according to the thinking patterns of a speech community.

Academia.T.M and Intezet.N (2014) research paper "word-formation types: Definition, identification, the classification" is related to this study because this paper has deliberated definitions, general formulae, and classification of word-formation. Paper is short and briefly explains general word-formation structures. The study is elucidating the German language. The similarity of this research with my study is the processes involved in word-formation. Below is a logical criteria WF patterns in modern German systems S. In the end researches define different terms related to word-formation such as general compounding, proper compounding, and subordinate compounding as certain types of word-

formation processes which have logical, formal and semantic properties. Not only theoretical tasks are not involved but certain empirical ones are working in these processes.

Word formation:

Word formation is a phenomenon of creating new words from the existing words (Kacken and Thomas, 2013). It will be productive if it is used appropriately to create new material (Bauer, 1983). A novel word is created within 98 minutes or 14.7 new words are created daily. The approximated estimation of English language words by January 2017 is 1041257.5 (Monitor, 2017).

The creation of English words involves processes such as Affixation, folk etymology, compounding, abbreviation, acronyms, borrowing, blending, clipping, and back-formation. Besides this, there are some double formation processes like Folk etymology + compounding, compounding + affixation, blending + affixation, and clipping + blending. In 2012 to 2014 Affixation was the most common process observed in the Oxford English dictionary (Ratih and Gusdian, 2018)

Borrowing is one of the most common features of word-formation. Borrowing is the taking over of word from other languages. Yule (2010). Different words became the part of English language over time. Most frequently borrowed words used in English are taken from Arabic language (alchemy, alcohol, and algebra), French (omelet, café, genre, crime, court, priest), German (schadenfreude, noodle, quartz, U-boat, wunderkind), Latin (mutatis mutandis, butter, chalk, cheese), Hindi (loot, jungle, thug, pajamas, shampoo) and many others. Borrowing has increased the vocabulary of the English language.

The lexical deviation is also an integral part of word-formation. It gives rise to neologism which is "creation of new words where existing rules (of word formation) are applied with generalization". The English language has a large number of words that are formed by neologism. Nowadays it is practiced normally in written and oral discourse.

METHODOLOGY

The foundation of this research draws on the theory of word-formation. The research is deductive as it explains on general word-formation process to the

specific word innovation in specific works produced in corona times. The list of 31 most common coronavirus words, phrases, and terminologies are taken from two resources including a research study (Asif, Zhiyong, Iram, and Nisar, 2020) and an article (Lawson, 2020).

The corpus-based study is based on computer technology which refers to Computational linguistics. Computational linguistics is a branch of linguistics deals with the application of computer techniques to analyze and synthesize language and speech. Corpus as a tool allows us to make microscopic and macroscopic studies of large electronic data. The corpus-based study is frequently used to analyze data according to previously defined theories of linguistics. On the other side, one also has the opportunity to derive theories from data and this kind of study is known as a corpus-derived study. The frequency of the words is determined by using the coronavirus corpus. This corpus was initially released by English corpora in May 2020 having 505 million words. Around 3 to 4 million words were added on a daily bases and now in August 2020, it may have 500 to 600 million words (English corpora organization, 2020).

Population:

All the corona vocabulary created by speakers in numerous languages is the population of the study.

Sample:

The corona vocabulary created by English language speakers is the sample of the study. It is collected using a convenient sampling technique.

ANALYSIS

The researcher has collected a list of the 31 most fashioned vocabulary in corona times from two research studies. The researcher has placed the word into 15 sets. The purpose behind creating sets is to check the highest frequent words of similar meaning from January 2020 to June 2020. The data of the study is retrieved from 'The corona corpus' which is created by the

English corpora organization in May 2020. It has large data from daily produced literature during corona times from January to the current times.

Table 1: Comparative frequencies and word-formation processes of coronavirus fashioned vocabulary.

S et n o.	List of the Corona language vocabula ry	Types of word- formatio n processe s	Frequency retrieved from 'The Coronavirus corpus' (English- corpora.org)	
			Frequ ency in every six month s 2020	Total freque ncy (Janu ary- June 2020)
0 1	Coronavir us	Compou nding	March (1706)	8376
	<i>Covid-19</i>	<i>Blending</i>	<i>March (15003 9)</i>	<i>14369 51</i>
	Corona	Back- formatio n	March (4542)	27580
0 2	Epidemic	Folk etymolog y	March (7008)	54108
	Pandemic	Folk etymolog y	March (69859)	75011 3

	Outbreak	Compounding	May (6)	42
03	Mask	Folk etymology	June (9537)	112827
	Facemask	Compounding	April (32)	229
04	Stay-home-stay-safe	Compounding	March (14)	55
	Stay-at-home	Compounding	April (4101)	30309
05	Lockdown	Compounding	April (37092)	321644
	Social distance	Compounding	March (1303)	10119
	Social distancing	Compounding	March (25544)	173282
	Distancing	Affixation (suffix -ing)	March (26828)	201343
06	Zoonotic	Affixation (suffix -otic)	March (197)	1802
	Human-to-human	Compounding	January (752)	2326

07	Quarantine	Folk etymology	March (23967)	180922
	Self-quarantine	Compounding	March (3151)	12376
08	Isolation	Affixation (suffix -ion)	March (10989)	77980
	Self-isolation	Compounding	March (5259)	16761
09	Sanitizer	Affixation (suffix -er)	March (3197)	20607
	Sanitize	Conversion (sanitary Adj to sanitize verb)	March (442)	3362
	Sanitization	Affixation (suffix -tion)	March (195)	1966
10	covidiot	Blending	March (41)	107
11	Transmission	Folk etymology	March (8193)	71789
12	<i>covideo</i>	Blending	April and May (2)	7

13	Zoom bombing	Compounding	April (80)	156
14	Work-from-home	Compounding	March (3939)	20588
	WFH	Acronym	April (227)	1586
15	Community-spread	Compounding	March (1250)	7866
	Communicable	Affixation (suffix -able)	March (498)	3367

A. Word processes:

Word formation is based on various word processes. These word processes are involved in creating new English language vocabulary. In corona pandemic speakers/writers have created new words/terminologies and used the existing one differently by applying the following word process:

Compounding:

It a word-formation process in which two single words combine to form a compound word. Compounding is the most frequent process that is observed in the corona vocabulary formation. Out of 31 words, 14 are created through compounding. In corona fashioned vocabulary, words such as coronavirus (corona + virus), outbreak (out + break), facemask (face + mask), and zombombing (zoom + bomb +ing) and phrases like stay-home-stay-safe (stay + home + stay + safe), stay-at-home (stay + at + home), social distance (social + distance), social distancing (social + distance + ing), human-to-human (human + to + human), self-quarantine (self + quarantine), self-isolation (self + isolation), work-from-home (work + from + home) and community-spread (community + spread) all comes under the heading of compounding.

Affixation: In this process, a new variety of words is created by adding prefixes, suffixes, infixes, or circumfixes to the root of the words. There are six words which are created by adding suffixes in the

root words e.g. Distancing (distance + -ing), Zoonotic (zoonosis + -otic), Isolation (Isolate + ion), sanitizer (sanitize + -er), sanitization (sanitize + -tion), and communicable (communicate + -able). Mostly their terminologies are seen in awareness messages.

Folk etymology:

Folk Etymology is a bit similar to the borrowing process. In comparison to the borrowing process where words are taken in their original form, folk etymology apply some changes for the better interpretation. Words like epidemic, pandemic, Quarantine, and transmission already exist in English vocabulary but the context is shifted from normal time to corona time. In the beginning, coronavirus was considered an epidemic (1603, infectious disease in a particular society e.g. Wuhan in China) but over time word pandemic (1666, widespread of infectious disease in the whole world) is used for it as it affected the whole world. Quarantine (to stay separate for 40 days) first appeared in the 14th century when the world was facing the Plague pandemic and now used for coronavirus. In 1611, transmission (the act of transmitting), was used for the first time, and in coronavirus context it is describing the transmission of coronavirus from one person to the other.

Blending: It is one of the types in which two different forms are blended to create one. Out of 31, only 3 words are formed by blending two separate forms. Covid-19 is blended from (coronavirus + disease + 19) from 2019. CO of Latin corona, 'VI' from virus, and 'D' from the disease. Covidiot is the result of (covid + iot) from idiot, a person who ignores warnings regarding the pandemic. Covieo is blended from (Covid + eo) from the video that means having fun by making online video parties chat, gossip, etc. to remain in contact with others. All these words are corona context related.

An acronym, back-formation, and conversion:

Acronyms are created from the initial alphabets of the set of other words. The compound phrase work-from-home is also expressed as WFH by combining W from work, F of from, and H from home.

Backformation is a reducing process in which a clip of a word is created by the process of backformation e.g. corona is formed from the compound word coronavirus.

The conversion is a kind of word-formation process

that changes the function of the words. The word sanitize is a verb that is converted from the word sanitary which is an adjective.

B. Frequency:

Frequency is defined as the number, percentage, or proportion of the items in the specific category in a set of data (Merriam-Webster). The frequency of the 31 popular corona words is retrieved from 'the corona corpus'. The frequency is determined by the making diachronic frequency comparison of the words of each set from the period January 2020 to June 2020. It is observed that which word from each set is frequently used in each month.

- Set 1 has three words, Coronavirus, Covid-19, and corona. Among them, Covid-19 has the highest frequency rate (150039) in March.
- In set 2 there are 3 words Epidemic, pandemic, and outbreak where Pandemic is frequently used in March with the frequency rate (69859).
- Set 3 has two words Mask and Facemask. Mask is frequently used in June with frequency (9537).
- Set 4 has two phrases, stay-home-stay-safe, and stay-at-home which shows stay-at-home is more frequently used in April with (4101) frequency.
- Set 5 has four words, lockdown, social distance, social distancing, and distancing, among them lockdown has (37092) frequency in April and Distancing has (26828) frequency in March.
- Zoonotic and human-to-human are in set 6 where human-to-human was more common (752) in January.
- Among quarantine and self-quarantine in set 7, the most frequent word is quarantine with the frequency of (23967) in March.
- Set 8 has isolation and self-isolation terminologies in which Isolation was more used with a frequency of (10989) in March.
- There are three words in Set 9, Sanitizer, sanitize, and sanitization. Among them, sanitizer is most frequently used in March having a frequency (3197).
- Sets 10,11,12,13 have one word each where covidiot and Transmission have high frequencies (41) and (8193) in March and covidio and zoombombing in April (7) and May (80) respectively.
- Set 14 has two terminologies Work-from-

home and WFH, where Work-from-home is more frequent than WFH with frequency (3939) in March.

- Last but not least Set 15 again has two words, community spread and communicable. In March community spread has (1250) frequency more than communicable.

The results show that the coronavirus vocabulary was frequently put in practice in March 2020. It is so because the pandemic has started to hit almost all the nations in the world. The total frequency of these 31 words and phrases represents that Covid-19 (1436951) is the most frequent word used in six months whereas the least common word is Co-video with frequency (7).

LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

The study has the following limitations and suggestions

- The study has only focused on the frequency of the fashioned vocabulary of corona times but there is still space to work on concordance, clusters, and N-grams.
- The study looked into the word-formation processes of limited words only while there is still a gap to work on hundreds of vocabulary words along with different parts of sentences.
- The study has used word-formation theory as methodology whereas one can have the space to use morphological theory to explore more.
- The results are taken from only one corpus whereas there is still a chance to find results from different corpora to make a comparative study.
- The study has only taken frequent words from corona times whereas one can make a comparison of pre-corona and post-corona time to find the changes in language usage.
- The study is conducted using 'The corona corpus' which is the collection of daily language usage data whereas there is still the possibility to work on academic, political, media, medical and business discourses.

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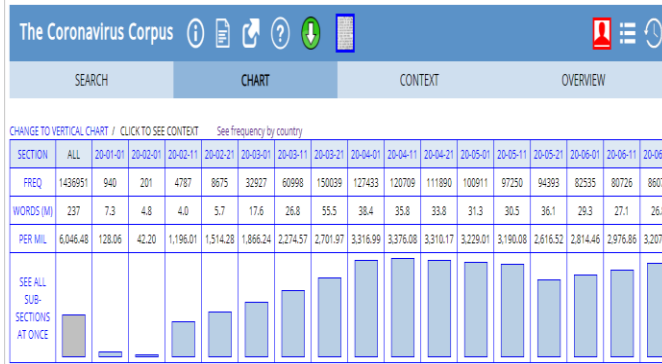
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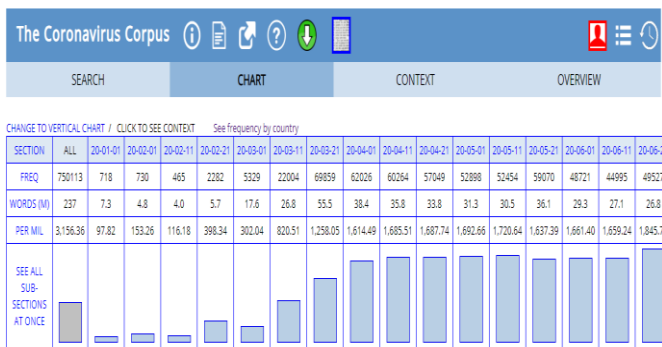
APPENDIX

The following are the results retrieved from ‘The Corona Corpus’ of the most frequent words from corona fashioned vocabulary.

COVID-19



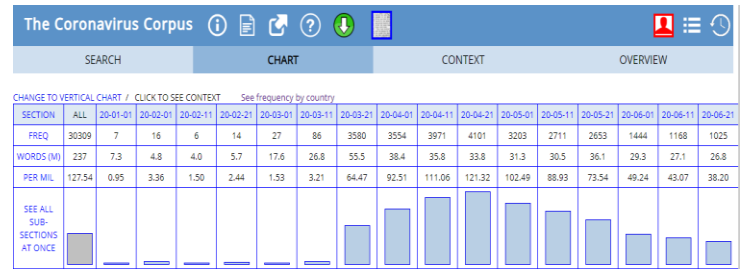
Pandemic



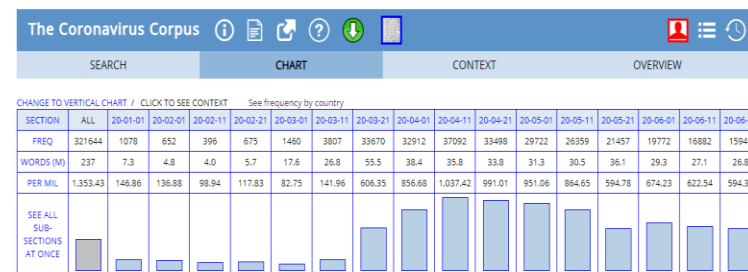
Mask



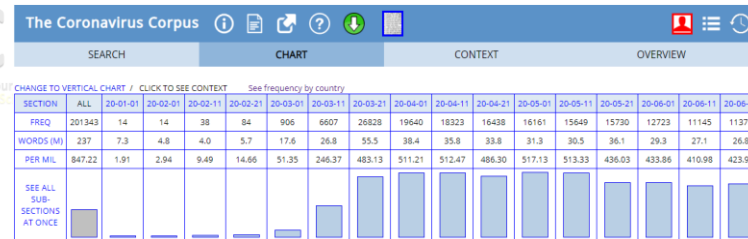
Stay-at-home



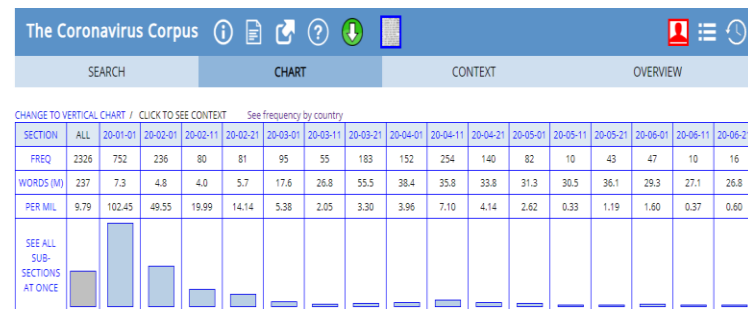
Lockdown



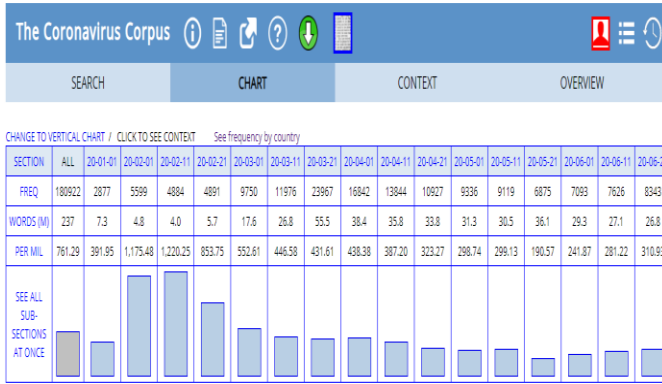
Distancing



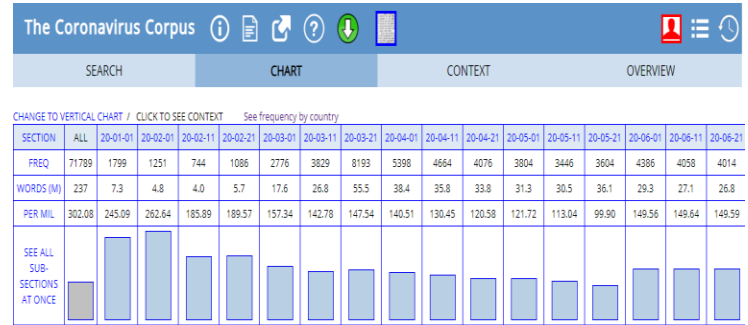
Human-to-human



Quarantine



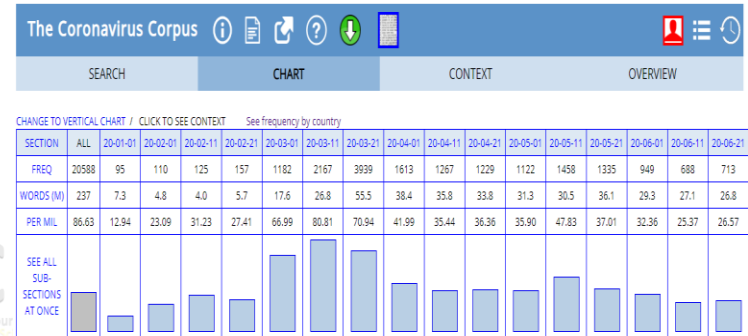
Transmission



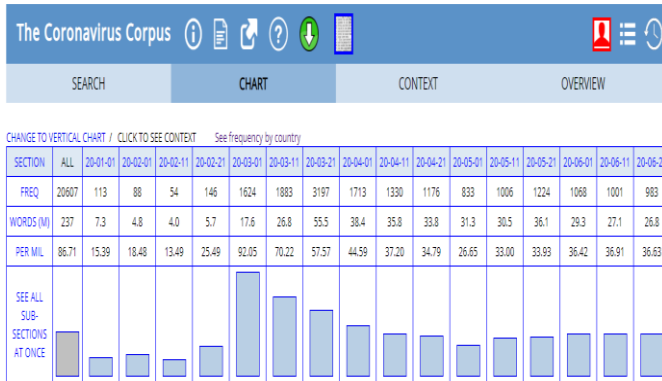
Isolation



Work-from-home



Sanitizer



Community-spread

