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Covid-19 lexical innovation and morphological processes in the Jordanian context: Investigating the influence of English on neologism formation

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Abstract

This article examines neologisms infiltrating into the lexicon of Arabic after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. The data was based on four main resources: three Covid-19 discussion programmes broadcast by public and private TV stations in Jordan; the Jordan Ministry of Health's daily Covid-19 statistical reports; local news reports; and linguistic landscape items on the Covid-19 pandemic. The unit of analysis was defined as every Covid-19-related coinage used after the pandemic. The study results show that a wide range of calque, adapted and non-adapted loan words, and interlingual hybrids were used to create new COVID-19 vocabulary. The study concludes that English is not only used for reasons of social prestige in Jordanian social settings, but it is also perceived as a utilitarian tool, as evidenced in the current study wherein English was used in a variety of word-formation mechanisms to express novel concepts and items due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Key words

Arabic, Covid-19, English, lexicon, word-formation patterns

1. Introduction

The year 2019 marked the appearance of the Covid-19 disease in China, but its unexpected spread – unparalleled in scope – was ascertained in 2020 (see Balteiro, 2022). Since the identification of Covid-19 as a pandemic in 2020, a need has arisen for language users to adjust to medical (e.g. *new variants*, *vaccination*, and *herd immunity*), educational (e.g. *blended learning* and *learning loss*), and even social terms (e.g. *social distancing*) (see Roig–Marín, 2021). These recent developments necessitate the use of linguistic mechanisms to create new vocabulary not only for reasons of modernity but also for lexical and social needs. As far as the current study is concerned, a variety of Covid-19 morphological patterns in the Jordanian context emerge from the coronavirus breakout data. What is currently noticeable is the increasing use of Covid-19 loan-translations from the English language, and to a lesser degree interlingual hybrids, linguistic duplicates, and pure English words in social media.

The Jordanian Academy of Arabic places a strong focus on preserving the integrity of the Arabic language and aligning it with the requirements of the sciences and arts. Its efforts include reviving Arabic and Islamic heritage and creating dictionaries which accommodate to the needs of both local and international audiences. With the academy focusing on these initiatives, it aims at engendering a greater understanding and appreciation of the Arabic language inside Jordan and beyond its borders (Jordan Academy of Arabic, 2023). Although the Jordan Academy of Arabic “has been taking active steps to elevate the status of Arabic” and protect it from foreign influences (Alomoush, 2021a: 56), its response to create new words for new concepts and ideas is hardly existent and no efforts have been exerted in this respect since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic nationally and globally. It is to be noted that

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the Jordan Academy of Arabic, in response to the pandemic, has failed to manifest any linguistic initiative by way of generating neologisms pertaining to Covid-19, indigenous to the Jordanian context, derived from the standardized Covid-19 word-formation patterns. The onus of providing Arabic equivalents of non-adapted English loanwords, deemed indispensable by the mass media outlets and healthcare professionals working under the purview of the Ministry of Health, has been solely entrusted to them, resulting in loan-translations surfacing as a viable recourse. To examine the recent linguistic impact of English on Arabic, the current article introduces readers to the word-formation patterns used to express the meanings of new concepts in the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak.

2. Literature review

A great deal of research has been undertaken on the global emergence of neologisms related to Covid-19 (see Katherine, 2020; Muhammad et al., 2020; Khalfan et al., 2020; Roig–Marín, 2021). These studies have traced the origin of newly created words and word patterns in multiple languages. Scholars like Senapati and Nag (2022) and Akut (2020) specifically focused on English language studies and revealed different methods used for word formation. Such meticulous investigations produced essential insights into distinct word-formation strategies and linguistic discourse dynamics encompassing the unprecedented crisis brought forth by the pandemic.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, new and innovative terminologies have emerged in various languages worldwide. The need to convey and understand the virus, its impact and the measures implemented to control its spread has led to the emergence of new terminologies, jargon, and words. The use of specialized terminologies is driven by an urgent necessity demanding articulation through precise language. English has assumed a pivotal role in shaping and coining innovative terminologies across multiple languages globally, Arabic being one among many languages impacted by this trend. In the context of Covid-19, this literature review thoroughly examines how English has contributed to the creation of novel words in Arabic. The focus is on exploring the impact of such linguistic innovation. The article explores the different techniques used in Arabic to create new vocabulary, including direct and indirect borrowings. The focus is on word-formation patterns that are employed to develop innovative terminologies.

In their seminal paper titled “The Lexical Influence of English on European Languages: From Words to Phraseology”, Pulcini et al. (2012) provide a comprehensive typology of lexical borrowing, dividing it into two main types: direct and indirect. Direct borrowing involves adopting words from one language with minimal alterations to their morphological or semantic structure. The authors further categorize direct borrowing into three subtypes: non-adapted loanwords, adapted loanwords, and hybrid words that combine elements of both languages.

On the other hand, when it comes to indirect borrowing, the process of adopting words or phrases is much more complex. This typically involves translation or semantic shift. To help better understand this type of borrowing, three subtypes have been identified: calque, loan rendition, and loan creation. Calque involves a word-for-word translation of a word or phrase from one language into another while loan rendition denotes adapting the meaning of a word to fit the structure of the recipient language. In contrast, loan creation refers to creating entirely new words based on structural or semantic aspects of words or phrases in the source language (ibid).

The model proposed by Pulcini et al. (2012) for lexical borrowing has found broad acceptance in the field of linguistics. Researchers have utilized this framework to conduct detailed analyses of how English words have been integrated into other languages, including Arabic in Jordan (see Sunde, 2018). By following Pulcini et al.’s classification, we can conduct a comprehensive analysis of the varying forms of lexical borrowing operating between English and Arabic within the Jordanian context.

Loan translations, also referred to as calques, are a linguistic process where words or phrases are directly borrowed from one language and translated morpheme-by-morpheme into another language (Hoffer 2005). Simply put, it is the practice of adopting a foreign term verbatim in another language. For example, the Arabic word for “television” is *al-tale-faaz*, which is derived from the French word “television”. Loan translations have been extensively used in the Arabic language to create new terminologies in scientific fields and technical domains without losing their original meaning. This approach allows foreign concepts to integrate more easily into Arabic. As such, loan translations are preferred in Arabic for generating fresh lexicons that incorporate foreign concepts meaningfully while fostering comprehensibility (see Izwaini 2010). Recently, several Covid-19 related terminologies have

also been created in Arabic using loan translations to describe novel ideas such as “herd immunity” (*al-manā‘ah al-jamā‘iyah*) or “fake news” (*al-akhbār al-mzā‘ifah*) in ways that make sense within the context of modern-day issues that face society.

Extensive research in linguistics has been dedicated to understanding anglicism and hybrid loans – the fusion of two or more languages. This communication phenomenon involves combining distinctive features of each language code for a specific purpose. As Pieterse (2000) notes, it pertains to concurrent usage of multiple linguistic codes in a singular communicative event. The Arabic language has employed the art of anglicism to create new vocabulary that reflects the global nature of Covid-19. To describe pandemic-related concepts, Arabic has used hybrid loans to coin novel terminologies such as “coronavirus” which is a blend of the English word “corona” and the Arabic word for “virus”, resulting in *kūrūnā firūs*. Similarly, “social distancing” is translated into Arabic as *al-taba‘adu al-ijtima‘iyah*, combining the French term “distanciation” with its Arabic equivalent for “social” (*ijtima‘iyah*).

Within Jordan’s academic curriculum, English is extensively taught and widely spoken. The impact of this can be seen in the creation of new Covid-19 related words that are adopted from English with minimal modifications. For instance, “lockdown” is frequently used to describe public space closures and restricted movement within Jordan due to the pandemic. This demonstrates how closely connected the English language is to global terms related to pandemics such as Covid-19 even across different regions. Additionally, “social distancing”, a term used by Jordanian people and highlighted by the media, refers to maintaining a safe distance from others as a precaution against Covid-19; it is directly translated from English terminology. Healthcare personnel wear protective gear known as “PPE”, an abbreviation for “Personal Protective Equipment”, when treating patients, while PCR signifies the Covid-19 test and stands for “Polymerase Chain Reaction” – both shortened forms originated from English-language usage in Jordan.

The linguistic impact of English on Arabic amid the Covid-19 pandemic can be analysed using theoretical frameworks such as the lexical borrowing model and the Matrix Language Frame model. The former claims that when a gap is detected in the recipient language’s lexicon, words or phrases from the source language will be borrowed to fill it. This model fittingly explains how English loanwords have been adopted in Arabic, given that novel terminology is needed to articulate this unexplored situation. The Matrix Language Frame model proposes that when two languages come into contact, one language serves as the foundation (matrix language) and provides the grammatical structure for the other (embedded language) to assimilate new vocabulary. This framework has been effectively used to study the amalgamation of English and Arabic in creating Covid-19 related terms in Jordan. In this scenario, Arabic acts as the matrix language by contributing its grammatical framework for adopting English words.

3. Data

The data for this study, collected during August and September 2021, are based on three sources. The first is Covid-19 discussion programmes broadcast by public and private TV stations in Jordan, such as Jordan TV, AlMamlaka TV, and Roya TV. The second is daily Covid-19 statistical reports issued by the Jordan Ministry of Health. The third source is signs on Covid-19 initiated by public and private institutions.

The data were meticulously selected based on a robust set of criteria, which were designed to guarantee that the selected coinages provide a statistically and contextually representative sample of Covid-19 vocabulary in the Jordanian context. The first criterion is to glean data from a variety of sources. Another important step is to ensure that every source is comprehensive in its inclusion of Covid-19-related words. Indeed, Jordan TV, AlMamlaka TV, and Roya TV broadcast a diversity of programmes on the pandemic, such as *Nabd Albalad*, *Sawtalmamlaka*, and *Yasead Sabahak*, respectively broadcast by Roya TV, Almamlakah TV, and Jordan TV. In their pursuit of relevant Covid-19-related data, the researchers meticulously followed three programmes broadcast in August and September 2021. It is noteworthy that these programmes were accorded special attention, owing to their comprehensive and exhaustive coverage of the pandemic crisis. Moreover, we meticulously examined local news reports and linguistic landscape items, and diligently monitored the daily Covid-19 statistical reports released by the Jordan Ministry of Health, with the goal of encompassing all possible sources of relevant data. Readers seeking access to the TV programmes that we analysed may refer to the repositories that are readily available on the respective channels’ websites or on YouTube. These

archives contain the complete episodes or relevant clips that were scrutinized during our study and can serve as a valuable resource for those seeking to investigate Covid-19-related language usage in Jordanian media. To ensure the comprehensiveness of the data, Covid-19 signs were examined in the main building of the Jordan Ministry of Health and the buildings of the King Hussein Cancer Centre, deliberately selected for being widely visited by Jordanians (see Alomoush, 2021c).

The unit of analysis included every Covid-19-related coinage, be it a Covid-19-related expression or sentence translated from English into Arabic (loan translation), adapted and non-adapted loanwords, and hybrid loans. The coinages commonly used before the Covid-19 breakout were omitted from the data because they are irrelevant to the core questions of the study.

In order to identify the relevant data (i.e. Covid-19 words and expressions), we followed the three Covid-19 discussion programmes in the abovementioned TV channels, local news reports, daily Covid-19 statistical reports issued by the Jordan Ministry of Health (Jordan Ministry of Health, 2021), and examined all Covid-19 signs in official, commercial, and medical settings (see Table 1 for the typology used and frequency of loanwords). We prepared a list of new Covid-19 vocabulary, so duplicate data were removed from the list. This helped us to organize the data into different categories: calque, hybrid loans, and adapted and non-adapted loanwords. The data were collected during August and September 2021, during which 269 coinages were extracted from the above sources. If a coinage was repeated it was counted as once; for example, the English word “Covid-19” is regularly repeated in the Jordan Ministry of Health’s Covid-19 statistical reports and local news reports, but it was only considered once. However, if it was written in Arabic script or appeared in linguistic hybrids, it would be counted as a separate coinage in each case.

The classification of data into various categories forms the basis for their analysis. Linguists have used various typologies to classify lexical borrowings: for example, Katamba (2004) thinks that there are two major categories of lexical borrowing (i.e. loanwords and loan shifts). According to Haugen (1950: 215), meanwhile, loan shifts are subdivided into “loan translations” and “semantic loans”. Alomoush (2007) in his turn classifies loanwords into two main groups: completely assimilated lexical borrowings and foreign words. However, the researchers in this study are following a typology developed by Pulcini et al. (2012) to classify the data they collected on lexical borrowing related to Covid-19. This framework consists of four categories: (a) calque (loan translation, loan rendition, and loan creation); (b) hybrid loans; and (c) adapted and non-adapted loanwords. It gives strength to accurate categorization of the diverse types of lexical borrowing observed in the context of the study.

A very important source of information about the current study is our observations of the use of Covid-19 novel words by public and private agencies in the Jordanian context. Our familiarity with Jordan’s socio-cultural context in turn contributed to providing explanations for the use of the relevant morphological processes, as Jordanian attitudes and beliefs can be easily obtained from the observations recorded in the fieldwork (see Schilling, 2013).

4. Results

As Table 1 shows, loan translations (188/279, 67.38%) are the most frequently occurring lexical borrowings of all, followed by hybrid loans (39/279, 13.98%) and non-adapted loanwords (33/279, 11.83%). What is remarkable is that adapted loanwords are under-represented, with only six occurrences out of 279 (2.15%). This sharply contrasts with other studies (e.g., Alomoush, 2007) conducted in the Jordanian context.

Table 1. Absolute and relative frequency of occurrences of Covid-19 word-formation processes in the Jordanian context

No.	Word-formation patterns	No. of occurrences	%
Indirect borrowing			
1.	Calque		
	Loan translation	188	67.38%
	Loan rendition	5	1.79%
	Loan creation	8	2.87%
Direct borrowing			
2.	Hybrid loans	39	13.98%
3.	Loanwords		
	Adapted loanwords	6	2.15%
	Non-adapted loanwords	33	11.83%
4.	Total	279	100%

4.1 Indirect borrowing

4.1.1 Calque

4.1.1.1 Single-word, phrasal, and sentential translations (loan translation)

As Jordan is a predominantly monolingual Arabic-speaking country, which will help the public and private agencies in Jordan to better give information and provide advice to the public, most lexical borrowings have been categorized as examples of loan translations. It is noteworthy that many recent loan translations have been included in spoken and written Arabic. There are various types of loan translations:

1. Translation at the word level, as with:

- (a) *ʾl-muta ḥawir*
DEF ART-variant
'the variant'

ʾl-muta ḥawir is a loan translation of the English word "variant" in the context of Covid-19. The semantic content of *ʾl-muta ḥawir* in Arabic denotes a state of mutational modification or alteration. The use of the definite article (ʾl) at the beginning of the term lends it specificity to indicate the mutated form of the virus responsible for Covid-19. This word is commonly used in Jordan to allude to the heterogeneous strains of the virus.

- (b) *ʾl-ma ṭ ʾuum*
DEF ART-vaccine
'the vaccine'

The word *ʾl-ma ṭ ʾuum* is considered a loan translation of the English word "vaccine" and has gained currency in Arabic discourse to refer to Covid-19 vaccines. Etymologically, the Arabic word *ʾl-ma ṭ ʾuum* is derived from the verb *ta ʾama* which connotes the act of inoculating or vaccinating. Semantically, *ʾl-ma ṭ ʾuum* denotes "the vaccinated" or "the inoculated" in Arabic. The incorporation of the definite article (ʾl) in the initial position of the word makes it more specific, and in this case, it refers exclusively to the Covid-19 vaccine administered to confer immunity against Covid-19.

- (c) *ʾl-mu ṭ ʾm-yi:n*
DEF ART -vaccinated-PL
'the vaccinated'

2. Translation at the phrase level, as in:

- (d) *'l- 'zlah* *al- thatiyaah*
 DEF ART-isolation DEF ART-self-F
 'self-isolation'

'l- 'zlah al- thatiyaah is a prime example of a loan translation of a phrase in Arabic concerning the Covid-19 pandemic. In essence, this phrase refers to the act of self-isolation following suspicion or confirmation of Covid-19 infection, with the ultimate goal of preventing the transmission of the virus to others. The term "self-isolation" originated in English and has been adopted into Arabic, resulting in changes to its structure and semantics that align with the nuances of the Arabic language. This adaptation demonstrates how the appropriation of English terminologies can enhance the exchange of information and communication between people with various cultural and linguistic backgrounds amidst the current Covid-19 pandemic.

- (e) *mashat 'l-anf*
 swab DEF ART-nasal-F
 'nasal swab'

mashat 'l-anf is an instance of a loan translation of a phrase in Arabic that relates to Covid-19, which can be translated verbatim as 'nasal swab'. This expression is commonly used to describe the medical procedure of taking a sample from the inside of the nose using a swab to test for Covid-19. The phrase "nasal swab" originated in English and has been adopted into the Arabic language while ensuring adherence to its grammatical and semantic structures. This has enabled the Arabic version of the word to convey the same meaning as the original term. This loan translation is a notable illustration of how the assimilation of English terminologies that pertains to Covid-19 can assist in facilitating efficient communication and information-sharing across linguistic and cultural barriers.

- (f) *'l-muta ḥawir-āt* *'l-jadid-ah*
 DEF ART-mutation-PL DEF ART-new-F
 'the new mutations'

3. Translation at the sentence level

- (g) *yu-rjā* *'l-baq'* *ba 'aidan li tabqa'* *'aminan*
 PASS-please stay away to stay safe-Public
 'Please stay away to stay safe'.

In the context of Covid-19, one instance of a loan translation of a sentence in Arabic is *yu-rjā 'l-baq' ba 'aidan li tabqa' 'aminan*, which can be translated literally as 'stay away to stay safe'. This sentence is widely utilized in Jordan to urge individuals to maintain social distancing and keep a safe distance from others, thereby thwarting the spread of the Covid-19 virus. The sentence structure and word order of the Arabic phrase have been influenced by the English phrase "stay safe" and modified to fit the grammatical rules and syntactic structures of the Arabic language.

Based on the study data, single-word and phrasal translations are more frequent than sentential translations, which can be attributed to the assumption that whole sentence translations are more complex than the former translations, particularly when it comes to "the very low proficiency in English in the Jordanian community" (Alomoush, 2021 a:52). The most frequently used single-word and phrasal translations include *كمامة* 'mask', *اللقاحات*, 'vaccines', *التباعد الاجتماعي*, 'social distancing', *الحجر الصحي المنزلي*, 'home quarantine', and *شروط الحجر المنزلي*, 'home quarantine conditions.' Both types of the above lexical borrowing express concepts and objects necessary for the public to be aware of in order to stop the spread of Covid-19 in Jordan. That is why single-word and phrasal translations are widely used in social media and in the written domain. In the linguistic landscape of Jordan, loan shifts are used on guidance signs regarding the spread of Covid-19.

4.1.1.1.2 Whole reduplication

Linguistic reduplication is a process whereby a loan translation is wholly reduplicated into English, probably to ensure semantic precision and to show a sense of credibility. This means that the English word or expression is entirely duplicated into Arabic. Based on the survey data, this process takes two main forms:

1. Monoscript duplication, as in the case of:

- (h) *fāyruṣ Kūrūnā Covid-19*
Virus Corona (Covid-19)

2. Multiscript duplication, as in:

- (i) *maraḍ fāyruṣ Kūrūnā Covid-19*
disease Virus Corona (Covid-19)
(j) *fuhūṣāt 'l- 'js<ā>m 'l-mu ḍād-ah*
test-PL DEF ART<PL> body DEF ART-anti-F

3. Spoken duplication, as in:

- (k) *'l- 'ṣi:l originator*
DEF ART-originator (originator)
(l) *badi:l generic*
alternative (generic)

In accordance with what has been so far established, Arabic-English duplication is one of the key Covid-19 word-formation patterns in the Jordanian context (cf. Alomoush, 2021a). This kind of interlingual duplication may apply to single words or phrases, as shown in the illustrative examples above. It may contribute to the intensification of the meaning of words (see Plag, 2018: 137). This means that Arabic-English duplicates, or interlingual “reduplicative compounds” (see Plag, 2018: 137), are highly effective in increasing Jordanians’ public awareness regarding the spread of Covid-19, particularly when it comes to compensating for Jordanians’ low proficiency in English.

4.1.1.2 Loan rendition

The translation of a word or phrase from English to another language often involves the use of loan renditions, which involve replacing one part of the original item with a loosely equivalent term that fits better within the linguistic patterns of the recipient language. This adaptation process allows for effective communication while maintaining the intended meaning. Pulcini et al. (2012) define loan rendition as a linguistic term that refers to this type of translation process where morphological and phonological differences may occur between the translated and original parts. The Arabic term for “health quarantine” in the Covid-19 pandemic lexicon is حجر صحي (*hajar sahi*), which is an instance of loan rendition. Its components, *hajar* meaning ‘stone’ and *sahi* meaning ‘right’ in Arabic, are combined to communicate the idea of a quarantine for health purposes. Although “health quarantine” and its morphological and semantic equivalent in English have differences, they both serve the same function. Another example of loan rendition in Arabic within the context of Covid-19 can be observed in the phrase التباعد الاجتماعي (*al-taba'adu al-ijtima'iyyah*), which can be translated to “social distancing” in English. The combination of the terms *al-taba'adu* and *al-ijtima'iyyah* in Arabic creates a phrase used to describe physical distancing practices implemented during the pandemic. Although the literal meanings of these individual words signify “distance” and “social”, respectively, when combined, they convey a new meaning that is not present in either word independently. This phrase is classified as a loan rendition due to its composition structure which utilizes combining two distinct words into one term to express a unique concept related to COVID-19 virus transmission prevention.

4.1.1.3 Loan creation

A loan creation refers to a newly formed word or phrase in the recipient language that freely translates the original English term without adhering to its linguistic structure (ibid). An instance of loan creation

within the Covid-19 lexicon in the Jordanian context is *مكوفيد* (*mkūvid*). This is a loan creation in Arabic that refers to someone who has been infected with Covid-19. The Arabic word *كوفيد* (*kūvid*) is a loanword for Covid, while the prefix *م* (*m-*) is added to create a passive form ‘infected with Covid-19’. So, *مكوفيد* (*mkūvid*) is used to refer to someone who has been infected with Covid-19. Likewise, the adjective *mkūrin* ‘Covid-19 infected’ is derived from the word *corona*; as a verb, it has the form *kūran* ‘to contract Covid-19’.

In the Jordanian context, loans are frequently created, and observing these instances demonstrates how language is ever-changing and adaptable to new situations. Its exceptional versatility allows for the easy incorporation of novel concepts, exigencies and needs. Therefore, a surge of inventive language practice has been ignited. These novel words exhibit language users’ inventiveness and their ability to construct words that not only make sense semantically and syntactically but also reflect cultural norms. This linguistic creativity construes the impact of the virus on individuals worldwide, and the importance of clear, culturally relevant language in conveying complex ideas. Additionally, it should be noted that the coined terms in question have surpassed geographical boundaries and are likely to be understood across the Arab-speaking world. The wide-spread borrowings of vocabulary related to Covid-19 emphasize the critical role of language in conveying essential information accurately and promptly, particularly during emergencies.

4.2 Direct borrowing

4.2.1 Hybrid loans

Anglicism is a process whereby expressions or words are combined from different languages, here Arabic and English (see Alomoush, 2021b; Pieterse, 2000; Glick Schiller, 1999). Hybrid loans sometimes occur in Arabic written texts, as with *Covid-19 جائحة* ‘Covid-19 pandemic’. In terms of scripts, it takes two major forms:

1. Interlingual hybrids in Arabic script, as with:

- (m) *Lugāḥ-āt Kovid-19*
Vaccine-PL Covid-19
Covid-19 vaccines
- (n) *marad`l-Kovid-19*
disease DEF ART-Covid-19
‘the Covid-19 disease’

2. Interlingual hybrids in Arabic and Roman scripts, as with:

- (o) *jā`iḥat āt Kovid-19*
pandemic DEF ART-Covid 19
the Covid-19 pandemic
- (p) *faḥaṣ PCR*
test PCR
‘PCR Test’

Based on the examples provided above, anglicism is no doubt a word-formation process to fill lexical gaps in Arabic. In (1m), *لقاحات كوفيد-19* is a monoscript hybrid word formed from the combination of the Arabic word *لقاحات* ‘vaccines’ and the English acronym *19 كوفيد* ‘Covid-19’. In (2p), the interlingual multiscript hybrid, *PCR فحص*, is combined from the Arabic word *فحص* and the English acronym PCR.

4.2.2 Loanwords

4.2.2.1 Non-adapted loanwords

Words and expressions from one language may be incorporated into another without undergoing any changes in meaning, structure, or sound. This process does not necessarily require assimilation into the receiving language’s linguistic system and instead preserves use of foreign words as they are in their original form. In the Jordanian context, a plethora of foreign words from English have been borrowed,

particularly in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic. The word Covid-19 itself is the foreign word that occurs most frequently, usually in its original English form. Other common foreign words and expressions borrowed from English include “positive”, “influenza”, “negative”, “rapid test”, “strong positive”, “door to door”, “vaccine”, “back to back”, “originator”, “hospital”, “patent”, “generic” and “drive through”. In today’s globalized world, language borrowing has become a multidirectional process that involves the influence of various cultures and languages on each other. This trend is evident in the English language which has been affected by numerous foreign words and expressions. Jordanian society mirrors this effect with its adoption of foreign languages that reflects cultural exchange through communication. Language serves as an immensely powerful tool for promoting cross-cultural understanding and nurturing international connections.

4.2.2.2 Adapted loanwords

As a linguistic term, an adapted loanword concerns a lexical unit or multi-word phrase assimilated into the vocabulary of the recipient language after being borrowed from English. This assimilation process typically requires modifications of a phonological, orthographical or morphological nature to ensure seamless integration of the word or expression in question into the lexicon of the recipient language. (Pulcini et al., 2012). The following are adapted loanwords related to Covid-19 that have been observed by the researchers:

1. The word فيروس (*fīrūs*) serves as a prime example of such an adaptation, which is a phonological modification of the English word “virus” to better suit Arabic phonology.
2. The word كوفيد-19 (*kūfid-19*) is an adapted loanword from the English word “covid”. In Arabic, the adapted loanword *kūfid* is utilized to denote the Covid-19 virus.
3. The word ماسكات (*māskāt*) is an adapted loan word from the English plural word “masks”. The term “masks” has undergone modifications in its spelling and pronunciation to align with Arabic writing and phonology.

5. Discussion

This article has examined a wide range of neologisms that have been incorporated into the lexicon of Arabic, in order to account for how extensively English has impacted various areas of life in Jordan after the spread of Covid-19 nationally and globally. Although lexical borrowing is a long-established word-formation process in Jordan’s social settings, it has been extensively reinforced since the spread of Covid-19. Based on what has been so far analysed and discussed, loan translations constitute the overwhelming majority of the Covid-19 survey data, which may be attributed to the need to facilitate intercultural and interlingual communication (see Alhussami, 2020). Unlike other studies in the Jordanian context (see Alomoush, 2007), completely assimilated loanwords do not constitute the majority of the survey data.

Loan translation has become a significant factor in the emergence of new terminologies related to Covid-19. With the outbreak of the pandemic, experts identified the need for specialized medical vocabulary that accurately describes various aspects of this novel virus and its effects on human anatomy. Given the prominent role of English as a language for global communication, especially in science and technology, it has further facilitated incorporating Covid-19-related terms into other languages. The prevalence of loan translations in the Covid-19 vocabulary survey data is sizeable. This can be attributed to the ubiquitous use of this linguistic phenomenon in creating Covid-19 related terminology. Terms such as “social distancing”, “self-isolation” and “nasal swab” are English loans that have been borrowed into other languages, including Arabic. Research confirms that loan translations are the dominant form of translation in Covid-19 terminology. Vale and McKee’s (2022) study found that loan translations were the default mode of translating Covid-19 vocabulary survey data, demonstrating their ascendancy in this field. Loan translations are frequently employed for novel and intricate terminology associated with the virus, for they facilitate the conveyance of meaning. To sum up, the urgency of the Covid-19 pandemic and the need for swift and effective integration of new virus-related language has resulted in loan translations becoming a prominent feature within Covid-19 survey data.

One of the most striking conclusions of this study is that the Jordan Academy of Arabic does not take enough measures to keep up to date with the continuous infiltration of new English words expressing

new concepts and ideas. This is clear in the translation of medical terms published on the academy website (see Jordan Academy of Arabic, 2021) where Covid-19-related English terms have not yet been translated into Arabic. The academy may not have a consistent approach in updating its Arabic language resources to include new vocabulary and ideas derived from English or other languages. Additionally, the academy may fall short of collaborating with experts and scholars across various domains to standardize translations of technical terminologies used within their respective fields. To coin neologisms for new concepts and ideas, particularly after the coronavirus breakout, public and private agencies other than the Jordan Academy of Arabic tend to use different types of lexical borrowing (calque, hybrid loans, and loanwords). According to the observations in the Jordanian context presented here, Jordanian mass media resources, medical doctors, other specialists in the domain of medicine, and the Jordan Ministry of Health through Covid-19 statistical reports, tend to provide Arabic equivalents or hybrids for public consumption.

Inventive Arabic-English hybrid terms account for 13.78% (39/283) of occurrences (see Table 1). Nowadays, English continues to be essential in domains of technology, science, medicine, and industry (Alomoush, 2021c; Wang, 2004). The pandemic has prompted an uptick in the usage of hybrid loans in Arabic media and communication, which corroborates the hypothesis that blending Arabic and English is a routine practice. The importance of the English language in various domains has become even more crucial during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. In medicine, for example, English is crucial for disseminating up-to-date information and research on Covid-19 through scientific journals and conferences that primarily use it as their main means of communication (Rao, 2019). English reigns in the technology sector as the default language of international collaboration, especially in software development. This is because global cooperation and coordination are crucial to routine practices and success (Crystal, 2003). The growing appearance of English-related neologisms in written and spoken Arabic modes no doubt suggests the dominant position and status of English as the donor language in all areas of life, particularly after the Covid-19 outbreak.

Moreover, an intriguing correlation has been observed between the Covid-19 outbreak as a global phenomenon and the amplified use of English language in Jordan for social prestige purposes. The pandemic has highlighted the interdependence among nations, which in turn has led to greater cross-border communication and collaboration. This phenomenon can be credited for the momentous escalation of these interactions. Proficiency in English has become increasingly necessary for effective participation in and utilization of international networks. This trend is particularly true in Jordan where the younger generation associates English skills with higher social status and greater educational achievements. The perception of the English language as a symbol of modernity, progress and cosmopolitanism persists in Jordan. It is widely believed that English-language proficiency provides an edge to individuals seeking employment or enhanced social status. Consequently, there has been a growing trend towards attaining proficiency in the language among those aspiring to advance their careers and social mobility.

6. Study implications and limitations

The Covid-19 lexicon is abundant with single-word and phraseological translations, emphasizing the need for clear and easily understandable terminology during a global health crisis. Jordan, as an Arabic-speaking nation, requires accessible information in its native language to tackle this pressing issue effectively. Loan translations are frequently used to convey information about the virus and its containment strategies. So, linguistic adaptation helps cultivate comprehension and awareness with regard to the importance of providing precise and succinct information. The findings of the study also emphasize this role of language in promoting a clear understanding of the situation. The utilization of single-word and phraseological translations may appear to simplify communication. However, it is crucial to recognize the likelihood of ambiguity or misinterpretation arising from the complex nature of sentential translations. The findings of the study reveal the influence of global communication on local linguistic trends, delineating the pervasiveness of English-language assimilation in Arabic-based contexts across various domains. The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of English as a global language, particularly in science, medicine and technology. As a result of this need for clear communication, Arabic has incorporated English terms which have advanced not only linguistic understanding but also generated associations with contemporary advancement. This phenomenon highlights the importance of examining the relationship between language proficiency and social status

in light of the pandemic. Additionally, it demonstrates how proficiency in English impacts career prospects and upward mobility in Jordan. A deeper analysis is needed to fully understand these connections in Jordan.

The response of the Jordan Academy of Arabic to the pandemic reveals a limited ability to adapt quickly to new linguistic terminologies. This inadequacy is attributed, in part, to a lack of collaboration between the academy and experts from various fields, which has led to a shortage of standard translations for accurate dissemination of health information. To enhance communication about public health issues and share vital information, it is crucial to strengthen language institutions through better teamwork with specialized professionals across industries that continually update linguistic resources regularly. This study, while providing valuable insights, is not without its limitations. One primary limitation lies in the data collection period, which, if expanded in future investigations, could potentially yield a more comprehensive understanding of the evolving linguistic landscape in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Moreover, the exploration of derivation, a technique employed in generating novel vocabulary related to Covid-19 in Arabic, needs further attention, and could be systematically investigated and employed in future studies to better investigate its effectiveness in enhancing communication and comprehension. Moreover, expanding the scope of the study to include a broader range of domains would offer a better and representative assessment of the linguistic adaptation to the pandemic. Lastly, future studies could benefit from a longitudinal approach which allows researchers to track linguistic changes and developments over time, thus providing a more nuanced understanding of the interplay between language, culture, and global events.

7. Conclusion

This article has thoroughly discussed various types of lexical borrowing that have occurred in Jordan due to the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic. The use of loan translations has proven to be an effective and convenient way to share information about the deadly virus between English and Arabic speakers. Many English words and phrases have been adapted rigorously to align with complex Arabic linguistic patterns, resulting in an eclectic range of loan renditions, loan creations, and hybrid loans. This article amply discusses the ever-changing nature of language and how it adapts to diverse user needs. Borrowing words and phrases from other languages enhances the lexicon and provides unique ways to express ideas and concepts. Calque and other lexical borrowing practices have played a pivotal role in the evolution of Arabic and cultural exchange. By engaging in this practice, a language continuously evolves with time.

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Appendix: A Selected Sample of the Collected Data

Calque

- (Al-wiqayah al-shakhsiyyah) - Personal protection
- (Al-waba' al-'alami) - Global pandemic
- (Mawjah jadidah) - New wave
- (Markaz tat'iim) - Vaccination center
- (Al-marda al-muta'afun) - Recovered patients
- (Muraqabah al-hudud) - Border monitoring
- (Muraqabah al-hajr al-sihhi) - Quarantine monitoring
- (Al-luqah) – Vaccine
- (Qiyas darajat al-hararah) - Temperature check
- (Al-qufazat al-tibbiyah) - Medical glovess
- (Fahs mu'ashir al-oksijin) - Oxygen saturation test
- (Al-fahs al-sari') - Rapid test
- (Fatra al-hadanah) - Incubation period
- (Ghurfa al-tawari') - Emergency room
- (Al-amal 'an ba'd) - Remote work
- (Al-amal al-murin) - Flexible work
- (Al-ilaj) – Treatment
- (Al-'azl al-mu'aqqat) - Temporary isolation
- (Adwa mujtama'iyyah) - Community transmission
- (Al-'adwa 'an tariq al-lams) - Touch transmission
- (Al-'adwa al-mubashirah) - Direct transmission
- (Al-'adwa al-jawiyyah) - Airborne transmission
- (Al-tawari' al-sihhiyah) - Health emergency
- (Al-salamah al-'ammah) - Public safety
- (Al-da'm al-nafsi) - Psychological support
- (Hazr tajamat) - Gathering ban
- (Hazr al-safar) - Travel ban
- (Hazr al-tajawul al-layli) - Night-time curfew
- (Al-husas al-ghidha'iyyah) - Food rationing
- (Al-hajr al-manzili) - Home quarantine
- (Halat tawari') - State of emergency
- (Al-halat al-harajah)
- (Al-juhud al-wataniyyah) - National efforts
- (Jihaz qiyas al-oksijin) - Oxygen meter
- (Al-jihaz al-tanaffusi) - Respiratory system
- (Al-tahwiyah al-jayyidah) - Good ventilation
- Al-tahabb al-halq) - Sore throat
- (Taqqid al-tanaqul) - Movement restrictions
- (Tafashi al-marad) - Disease outbreak
- (Al-ta'leem 'an ba'd) - Distance learning
- (Ta'qim al-yadayn) - Hand disinfection
- (Al-tat'iim al-jama'i) - Mass vaccination
- (Tatbiq tatbiq al-ittisal) - Contact tracing app
- (Taht al-ishraf al-tibbi) - Under medical supervision
- (Al-tajarib al-siririyyah) - Clinical trials
- (Ta'jil al-fa'aliyat) - Event postponement
- (Inkhifad hasat al-shamm) - Loss of smell
- (Inkhifad hasat al-tadhwuq) - Loss of taste
- (Ilgha' al-rihalat) - Flight cancellations
- (Ighlaq al-madaris) - School closure
- (Ighlaq al-hudud) - Border closure
- (A'rad sha'iah) - Common symptoms

(Al-isabat al-mu'akkadah) - Confirmed cases
(Al-ishtibah bil-isabah) - Suspected case
(Al-irshadat al-sihhiyyah) - Health guidelines
(Ikhtibar al-kashf) - Detection test
(Ikhtibar al-hamid al-nawawi) - Nucleic acid test
(Al-ihtiyatat al-wiqa'iyyah) - Preventive precautions
(Al-ijra'at al-ihtiraziyyah) - Precautionary measures
(Luqah al-Kovid) - Covid vaccine
(al-taba'adu al-ijtima'iyyah) – social distancing
(al-'azl al-thatī) – self-isolation

Hybrid Loans

(Fahs PCR) - PCR test
(Aqn'ah N95) - N95 masks
Protokol al-fahs- test protocol
Ja'ihah Korona- Coronal pandemic
A'rad marad al-Kovid – Covid-19 symptoms
Khidmah al-delivery – delivery service
Mawqi' al-test – test location
(Al-ilaj bil-plazma) - Plasma therapy