

## CHANGES IN MEANING OF VARIOUS LANGUAGE REGISTERS IN THE TIME OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC (CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019)

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### ABSTRACT

The study, entitled Changes in the Meaning of the Register of Various Languages of Terms During the COVID-19 Pandemic (Corona Virus Disease 2019), aims to describe changes in the meaning of the register of various language terms during the COVID-19 pandemic. The research method used is the descriptive qualitative method. The data collection technique in this study used the note-taking technique. The instrument in this study was carried out by direct observation, without intermediaries in data collection. The subject used in this study is the register of various language terms during the COVID-19 pandemic. The object under study is the change in the meaning of the register of various language terms during the COVID-19 pandemic. The final result of this study is the discovery of widespread meaning changes (generalizations) in the register of various language terms during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Keywords:** Register, Covid-19, Language, Terms.

### PRELIMINARY

A language is a communication tool, a tool for working together, which is used by humans in line with the development of the arbitrary expansion of language functions, both orally and in writing. Language is also always closely related to the conditions of the times and the environment. The environment includes the social, regional, professional, and historical environments that influence its meaning and interpretation. The expansion of function is caused by human creativity and other causes. The expansion of the function will also result in a change in the meaning of each word. Change in meaning is a study that is included in the realm of semantics. Lyons (in Pateda, 2010: 82) reveals that semantics is the study of meaning, which includes changes in meaning in it.

The existence of Indonesian which is considered as a unified language, besides being influenced by the strength of its users, can also be supported by its ability to express new linguistic phenomena that are developing. One may succeed in creating

new vocabulary and terms. As the times and conditions develop, the meaning in words can also experience significant changes. For example, a change in meaning can be caused by increasing human needs. Synchronously, the meaning of a word or "*laksem*" will not change, but it can change diachronically over time. Chaer (2012: 310) reveals that the meaning of a word will remain the same in a short period of time, but in a long period of time, there is a possibility that the meaning of the word can change.

After the World Health Organization (WHO) announced a global pandemic, the COVID-19 outbreak was first detected in the Chinese city of Wuhan at the end of 2019. In addition, some words or terms are popular among language users. When it came out, there were many new terms for COVID-19 (Corona Virus Disease 2019) which had spread throughout the world, including in Indonesia. In addition, many new terms and terms have changed in meaning. Changes in meaning that occur in the pandemic era are included in the category of significant changes in meaning. The use of these terms is used to describe many different

situations. However, if the use of the term is understood and interpreted differently, then the meaning and the term will be inaccurate and different. Therefore, the language community needs to understand the terms that are often used to describe the development of the COVID-19 pandemic. The development of the Indonesian language during the pandemic greatly affected the existence of Indonesian as a language of unity. This is due to the existence of a new language phenomenon which is believed to be confusing for some people.

### RESEARCH METHODS

This research is qualitative descriptive research. Sugiyono (2014: 205) reveals that qualitative descriptive research is a procedure for solving a problem by describing the state of the object of research based on the facts that arise. Sources of qualitative research data are spoken or written words observed by researchers and objects observed in detail so that the meaning contained in the document or subject can be captured. The data obtained are presented not in the form of numbers or statistical data, but qualitative form expressed in words. Arikunto (2020: 22) revealed that the author conducted a content analysis, providing an overview of the research in the form of a description. The subject used in this study is the register of various language terms during the COVID-19 pandemic on the official website covid19.go.id and the online news newspaper Kompas.com. The object under study is the change in the meaning of the register of various language terms during the COVID-19 pandemic. The technique used in this research is the technique of observation and data collection. The data collection technique in this study used the note-taking technique. The instrument in this study was carried out by direct observation, without intermediaries in data collection. Data collection was carried out using online documentation from data that had been collected from data sources in the form of written data, photos, pictures, words about changes in the meaning of registers of various language terms during

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### RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From the data that has been collected, there are 10 registers of various languages that have changed meaning. Changes in the meaning of the register of various language terms during the COVID-19 pandemic changed broad meaning (generalization).

### Meaning Change

One of the semantic studies is meaning. The subject of semantic research is meaning. Wijana (2011: 3) reveals that linguistic forms such as morphemes, words, phrases, sentences, paragraphs, and discourses are based on mental concepts in the human mind called meaning. In addition, Chaer (2011: 30) reveals that meaning is a concept contained in a linguistic unit. Meaning is certainly attached to the change in meaning. Language is constantly evolving, and as it develops, the meaning of a word can change. In this study, the meaning changed in generalization. A broad change in meaning (generalization) is a symptom that appears or the process of changing its meaning from the specific to the general. There were 10 registers of language variety that experienced widespread changes in meaning (generalization).

**Table 1. Changes in Extensive Meaning (Generalization)**

NO	SAY	PREVIOUS MEANING	CAUSATIVE FACTOR	MEANING AFTER
1.	Confirmed	Justification	Social	People who are tested positive for COVID-19 based on the results of laboratory tests in the form of PCR.
2.	Close Contact	Have a close relationship with your partner	Social	The condition of a person who has contact with a person who is in the category of confirmed COVID-19, either physical contact or less than 1 meter for approximately 15 minutes.
3.	Suspect	Think	Social	A person who has symptoms of a respiratory tract infection (ARI), a temperature above 38 degrees, and has had physical contact with a person who has COVID-19.
4.	<i>Probable</i>	Possible	Social	People who fall into the category of the suspect and have symptoms of severe ARI.
5.	Traveler	People who travel long distances	Social	People who have traveled from areas with a high number of COVID-19 cases in the last 14 days.

6.	Discarded/Healed	Recover from illness	Social	A person with a suspect status, but the results of the PCR examination show negative results which were carried out 2 times in a row with a gap of 2 days or someone who has completed a 14-day quarantine period.
7.	Isolation	Separation	Social	A person who is asked to self-isolate for 14 days.
8.	Specimen	Group	Social	The person who examines the specimen referring to the swab test or PCR in sampling.
9.	Active Case	Ongoing problem	Social	People who are declared to be actively infected with COVID-19.
10.	Exposed	It's been exposed/revealed	Social	People infected with COVID-19.

From table 1 above, there are 10 registers of various languages that have changed in meaning caused by social factors, including 1. Confirmed; 2. Close Contact; 3. Suspect; 4. Probable; 5. Travelers; 6. Discarded; 7. Insulation; 8. Specimen; 9. Active Case; 10. Exposed.

In the KBBI, the word 'Confirmed' means 'Justification'. During the COVID-19



Figure 1. Confirmed

Then, for the word 'Close Contact' which has changed its meaning widely, in particular, 'Close Contact' is usually defined as a person who is in a close relationship

pandemic, the word 'Confirmed' underwent a broad change in meaning, which was defined as a person who was declared positive for COVID-19 infection based on the results of laboratory tests in the form of PCR. This is stated on the official website covid19.go.id.

with a partner. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the term changed its meaning to a person who was declared positive for COVID-19 infection based on the results of laboratory tests in the form of PCR. For example in the sentence contained in kompas.com news news "The Covid-19 case that is still endemic in Indonesia makes people more vulnerable to close contact with people who are infected with this disease".



**Figure 2. Close Contact**

The word 'suspect' originally meant 'thinking' in the KBBI, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the meaning has changed to become someone who has symptoms of a respiratory tract infection (ARI), a

temperature above 38 degrees, and has had physical contact with someone infected. This is stated on the official website covid19.go.id.

<b>Suspek</b>	<b>380,082</b>
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**Figure 3. Suspect**

The word 'Probable' originally meant 'Maybe' in the KBBI, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the meaning has changed to become a person who is in the

category of a suspect and has symptoms of severe ARI. This is stated on the official website covid19.go.id.

<b>Probable</b>	<b>-</b>
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**Figure 4. Probable**

The word 'Traveler' which originally meant a person who traveled long distances, during the COVID-19 pandemic has changed its meaning to become a person who travels from an area with a high

number of COVID-19 cases in the last 14 days. For example, in the news headline published in kompas.com media "Travelers in NTT Consider the Obligation of the PCR Test to be Too Burdening".

**Figure 5. Travelers**

Then, the word 'Discarded' which originally meant 'Discarded', during the COVID-19 pandemic it has changed its meaning to become a person with a suspect status, but the results of the PCR

examination showed negative results which were carried out 2 times in a row with a time lag 2 days or someone who has completed 14 days of quarantine. This is stated on the official website covid19.go.id.



**Figure 6. Discarded**

The word 'Isolation' which originally meant 'Separation' in the KBBI, later during the COVID-19 pandemic, changed its meaning to become someone who was asked to self-isolate for 14 days. For example, in the sentence contained in

kompas.com news news "However, for patients who are indicated (suspected) or confirmed positive for Covid-19 without symptoms who are advised to self-isolate by doctors, patients can conduct online health consultations with doctors regularly."



**Figure 7. Isolation**

Furthermore, the word 'Spesimen' which originally meant 'Group', during the COVID-19 pandemic has changed its meaning to become a person who examines

specimens which refers to the swab test or PCR in sampling. This is stated on the official website covid19.go.id.



**Figure 8. Specimen**

The word 'Active Case' is usually defined as an ongoing or ongoing problem. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the word changed meaning, expanding to a person

who was declared to be actively infected with COVID-19. This is stated on the official website covid19.go.id.



**Figure 9. Active Case**

And lastly, the word 'exposed' has the meaning 'It has been exposed/disclosed' in the KBBI. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the word has changed its meaning to become a person who has contracted COVID-19. For example, in the sentence in

kompas.com news news "Now, researchers have also found that people exposed to Covid-19 can also experience changes in the shape of their nails, where this condition is known as "nail covid".



**Figure 10. Exposed**

## CONCLUSION

From the results of the research and discussion above, it was found that there was a broad change in meaning (generalization) during the COVID-19 pandemic which was obtained from the official website covid19.go.id and the online news newspaper Kompas.com. The change in meaning is influenced by social factors due to the COVID-19 pandemic that emerged in 2019. The changes in meaning broadly include: 1) Confirmed; 2) Close Contact; 3) Suspect; 4) Probable; 5) Travelers; 6) Discarded/Healed; 7) Insulation; 8) Specimen; 9) Active Case; 10) Exposed. For future research, advanced researchers can investigate further about changes in word meaning across other domains and social networks with wider networks.

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