On Hungarian Coroneologisms
and their Italian Translation

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Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic is a global public health crisis that has radically changed us and the world and has a profound impact on every area of life. Its impact goes far beyond the health sector, affecting all aspects of society and our lives, including our vocabulary. Since its outbreak, it has led to the explosion of hundreds and hundreds of newly coined words, terminologies, and phrases in the world's different languages and these neologisms play a significant role throughout the course of the pandemic. The objective of this paper is to analyze the Hungarian neologisms emerging during the COVID-19 pandemic, to identify the main tendencies in their formation, and to investigate – among Italian university students in the Hungarian language – the understanding processes of the Hungarian coroneologisms coined during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to describe the relating difficulties (if any) as well as to illustrate the possible strategies adopted in the translation from Hungarian into Italian. The coroneologisms included in the experiment are retrieved from the trilingual domain-specific *Hungarian/Italian/English dictionary of the COVID-19 pandemic* created with Lexonomy, and they are also analyzed from the word-formation point of view.

Keywords: blending; compounding; coroneologisms; COVID-19 pandemic; Hungarian language; Italian language; language learning and teaching; translation strategies

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Introduction

The COVID-19-inspired neologisms or *coronacoinages* are sometimes also referred to as *coroneologism* (cf. among others Шукунда (Shukunda) 2020, published online: April 20, 2020; he also uses the term in Russian (cf. *коронеологизм*, in the paper in the plural genitive case: *коронеологизмов*) or Roig-Marín 2020, published online by Cambridge University Press: August 3, 2020). Before the publication of the above-mentioned two papers, the term had already appeared in online newspaper articles, such as "Coroneologisms are going viral" (*Economic Times*, April 9, 2020). In the Hungarian context, it was Veszelszki who used the term *koroneologizmus* for the first time, which is the Hungarian equivalent of the English term (2020: 9). Introducing virolinguistics, "a new linguistic discipline that

investigates the virus language (virolect) based on the Hungarian linguistic material", Istók and Lőrincz highlight that the term *coroneologism* "points not only to the content of the lexemes but also to a popular type of word formation applied in their case, the *portmanteau* (*corona+neologism*)". They also propose an alternative way to discuss *virus language neologisms* and introduce the term *virologism* (Greek *virus+logos*) "which is shorter than the above-mentioned 'coroneologism': Its advantage is that it can possibly stay in use to denote lexemes of the virus language that have lost their neological character (which is being perceived as novel)" (2021, 93, 97). *Coroneologism* is used in a broad sense in the present paper as a term for any type of lexical innovation inspired by the pandemic.

It is difficult to give a unique definition to the concept of neologism (Minya 2003, 13) since the related scientific literature is abundant in definitions and categorizations of different types (Cf. Szathmári, Keszler, Minya 2013, Grossmann and Rainer, De Mauro, Fábián, Ungerer, Minya 2011, Renner-Maniez-Arnaud, Sólyom 2019, 2014). In the Hungarian context, reference is often made to the following definition by Szathmáry (1961: 487): "Neologisms are those words, expressions, shades of meaning, linguistic forms with which the language is constantly enriched, in parallel with the evolution of social relations and thoughts." According to Minya (2011: 15), rare use and novelty should also be considered criteria for neologisms. In recent years, Sólyom's definition (2014: 19) has also received wide acceptance: "Neologism is a linguistic phenomenon that manifests itself with a new structure to which in a given situation the speaker and/or listener attributes a new meaning and/or a new style compared to their previous experiences, knowledge, and expectations".

Hungarian neologisms have been systematically collected and analyzed by Minya (2019, 2014, 2011, 2007, and 2003) who classifies them according to seven criteria: 1) intentionality; 2) purpose; 3) frequency; 4) form of communication; 5) semantic content; 6) way of formation; 7) grammatical category. To these categories, he added one more: 8) orthography. Based on their patterns of word formation, Minya distinguishes eleven categories of neologisms: 1) neologisms by compounding; 2) neologisms by derivation; 3) neologisms by backformation; 4) neologisms by backformation and derivation; 5) neologisms by abbreviation; 6) neologisms by abbreviation and derivation; 7) acronyms; 8) neologisms by blending and contamination; 9) neologisms by intended alteration; 10) neologisms in syntagmatic form; and 11) neologisms by semantic expansion (2011, 27–41). Commonly, the coroneologisms analyzed in this paper arise out of "necessity" and manifest practical purposes (cf. Minya 2003, 16).

The strategies used during the translation of neologisms and new expressions may be of different kinds depending on the typology of the source word or expression. In this paper, I refer to the classification suggested by Zachar (2013), who distinguishes seven translation strategies: (1) usage of a neologism of the target language; (2) usage of an equivalent word or expression, which is not considered a neologism in the target language; (3) explaining translation; (4) paraphrase; (5) generalization; (6) domestication, and (7) omission.

Corpus construction

The coroneologisms included in this study are in the trilingual domain-specific *Hungarian/Italian/English Dictionary of the COVID-19 Pandemic* (hereinafter referred to as the *Dictionary*). The number of entries already exceeds 4,000 (as of July 2022). For the compilation and expansion of the *Dictionary*, which is an ongoing process, I use a specialized "coronacorpus" extracted from the Web using Sketch Engine (Tokens: 8,506,486; Words: 6,813,807; Sentences: 438,021). This is not the only source; I also analyze the Hungarian corpus of news articles obtained from examining a list of RSS feed, the Timestamped JSI web corpus 2014-2021 Hungarian (Tokens: 1,092,798,428; Words: 903,862,798; Sentences: 52,130,146). Given the above-mentioned figures and the wide coverage of Hungarian language sources, I conclude that the size of these corpora can be suitable for analyzing the phenomena and trends in the Hungarian online press. On the other hand, my "coronacorpus" is useful in detecting the Hungarian coroneologisms and occasionalisms used not only in newspaper articles and standard Hungarian texts (everyday, neutral, unmarked) but also on other websites (government websites, homepages, school/university websites, etc.), blogs, and social networks (Facebook, Instagram, etc.). In this way, colloquial language (slang, informal, familiar) and formal language (scientific, specialized, academic, literary) will also be represented in the glossary.

Hungarian coroneologisms formed by compounding

Concerning the Hungarian COVID-19-related vocabulary and expressions, the analyses of the entries contained in the *Dictionary* confirm that the most frequently occurring word formation process is compounding. In the relevant literature, Hungarian compounds are usually defined as the combination of two or more words to form a new word (cf. Kiefer 1998: 182; 2000: 521). In fact, in *koronavírus-világjárvány* 'coronavirus pandemic', the merged words are four: *korona* 'crown, corona', *vírus* 'virus', *világ* 'world' and *járvány* 'epidemic': [*korona+vírus*]+[*világ+-járvány*] 'coronavirus pandemic'.

In Kiefer's view, in Hungarian, there are three different types of nominal compounds: endocentric, exocentric, and coordinative compounds. In the endocentric compounds, one of the components is the head, in the exocentric compounds there is no head, and in the coordinative compounds, there is more than one head. "The vast majority of productive compounds are endocentric and right-headed".[1] The head of the compounds is a noun, a verb, or an adjective, while the non-head is either a noun or an adjective. The head is a verb in back-formations only. The components of the compounds receive no morphological marking (cf. Kiefer 2016, 3309–3310).

About 4,250 entries in the *Dictionary* are compounds. Compound stems may

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undergo further derivational processes, and this is the case with over 180 entries. Statistically, it means that compounding involves about 77% of the terms related to the pandemic. The most frequent components of these combinations are *adenovírus* 'adenovirus', *antigén* 'antigen', *beteg* 'patient', *COVID, COVID19, COVID-19, fertőtlenít* 'to disinfect', *fertőzés* 'infection', *járvány* 'epidemic', *kampány* 'campaign', *karantén* 'quarantine', *korona* 'corona' and *koronavírus* 'coronavirus', *kovid* 'COVID', *maszk* 'mask', *olt* 'to vaccinate', *oltás* 'vaccination, inoculation', *oltóanyag* 'vaccine', *SARS-CoV* and *SARS-CoV-2*, *vakcina* 'vaccine' and *vírus* 'virus'. They can occur in the final head position and also in the non-final non-head position. E.g. the word *járvány* 'epidemic' occurs 21 times in the final head position, mainly in compounds that refer to the name and to the worldwide spread of the disease (*COVID-járvány* 'COVID epidemic', *COVID-világjárvány* 'COVID pandemic', *Covid19-világjárvány* 'COVID-19 pandemic', *Covid19-koronavírus-járvány* 'COVID-19 coronavirus epidemic', *Covid19-járvány* 'COVID-19 epidemic', *koronajárvány* 'corona epidemic', *koronavírusjárvány* 'coronavirus epidemic', *koronavírus-világjárvány* 'coronavirus pandemic', *tömegjárvány* 'mass epidemic', *tüdőgyulladás-járvány* 'epidemic of pneumonia', *tüdőgyulladásos-járvány* 'epidemic of pneumonia', *újkoronavírus-járvány* 'new coronavirus epidemic', *világjárvány* 'pandemic', *vírusjárvány* 'virus epidemic'). Other occurrences are in *deltajárvány* 'delta epidemic', *humánjárvány* 'human epidemic', *infojárvány* 'infodemic', *kamujárvány* 'epidemic of bullshit', *omikronjárvány* 'omicron epidemic', *összeesküvés-járvány* 'conspiracy epidemic') and over 180 times in the non-final non-head position (*járványcsúcs* 'epidemic peak', *járványgörbe* 'epidemic curve', *koronavírusjárvány-helyzet* 'coronavirus epidemic situation', *omikron-járványhullám* 'Omicron epidemic wave' etc.). Usually, the semantic transparency of these compounds is rather high, e.g., students in the Hungarian language do not need to put much effort into understanding their meanings.

In addition, in Kiefer's view (2016: 3310), "[n]ominal compounds are recursive, and all compounds have a binary structure," which means that in the case of productive compounds, compounding always concerns only two components, but one of the components may already be a compound, e.g. *kézfertőtlenítőszeradagoló* 'dispenser of hand sanitizing product(/liquid)' is the combination of the component *kézfertőtlenítőszer* and the component *adagoló: kéz+fertőtlenítő* 'hand-sanitizer > [*kéz+fertőtlenítő*]+*szer* 'hand-sanitizing product' > [*kéz+fertőtlenítő+szer*]+*adagoló* 'hand-sanitizing product dispenser'.

Compounds can take further derivational and inflectional affixes (cf. Kiefer 2016: 3310). In the *Dictionary*, numerous compound stems with further derivation contain the following components: *COVID* (e.g. *COVID-gyanú* 'suspicion of COVID' > *COVID-gyanús* 'COVID-suspicious'), *fertőzés* 'infection' [e.g., *fertőzésvédelem* 'infection protection' > *fertőzésvédelmi (törvény)* 'infection protection (act)'], *járvány* 'epidemic' [e.g. *járványmatematikai* 'epidemiological mathematics' > *járványmatematikai (modell)* 'epidemiological mathematical model'], *karantén* 'quarantine' (e.g. *karanténmentes* 'free of quarantine' > *karanténmentesség* 'quarantine exemption'), *koronavírus* 'coronavirus' [e.g. *koronahalálozás* 'coronavirus mortality' > *koronahalálozási (ráta)* 'coronavirus mortality (rate)', *korona-*

vírus-szűrés 'coronavirus screening' > *koronavírus-szűrési (program)* 'coronavirus screening (program)'].

The *Dictionary* contains examples of another, non-typical compounding pattern. In the following combinations, the respective last components are not independent lexical items, but rather semiwords (e.g. *-beli, -féle, -fajta, -né, -szerű, al-, fő-, -rét* etc., cf. Gerstner 2006: 52): *maszknélküli* 'without a mask', *COVID-ellenes* 'anti-COVID', *COVID-elleni* 'anti-COVID', *Covid19-ellenes* 'anti-COVID-19', *Covid19-elleni* 'anti-COVID-19', *fertőzésellenes* 'anti-infection', *járványellenes* 'anti-epidemic, *karanténellenes* 'anti-quarantine', *koronavírus-ellenes/koronavírusellenes* 'anti-coronavirus', *koronavírus-elleni* 'anti-coronavirus', *maszkellenes* 'anti-mask', *maszkhasználat-ellenes* 'against mask usage', *oltásellenes* 'anti-vaccination, no vax, anti-vax, antivax', *sebészmaszkellenes* 'against a surgical mask', *vakcinaellenes* 'anti-vaccination, no vax, anti-vax, antivax', *védőoltás-ellenes* 'anti-vaccination, no vax, anti-vax, antivax', *védőoltásellenes* 'anti-vaccination, no vax, anti-vax, antivax', *vakcinaféle* 'type of vaccine', *karanténfajta* 'type of quarantine', *koronavírus-fajta* 'type of coronavirus', *oltásfajta* 'type of vaccination', *vakcinafajta* 'type of vaccine', *védőoltásfajta* 'type of vaccine', *járványforma* 'type of epidemic', *Covid19-frontvonalbeli* 'in the COVID-19 frontline', *karanténbeli* 'in quarantine', *COVID-körüli* 'around COVID'.

Finally, there are also a few examples of exocentric compounds such as *anti-COVID (gyógyszer)* 'anti-COVID (drug)', *nem-COVID (ellátás)* 'non-COVID (treatment)', *pre-COVID (időszak)* 'pre-COVID (era/period)', *poszt-COVID (terápia)* 'post-COVID (therapy), etc. These are loanwords adapted from English.

Hungarian coroneologisms formed by derivation

The other word formation processes present in the *Dictionary* are (i) derivation in about 200 entries; (ii) affixation of preverbs to verbs in more than 30 entries and (iii) preverbal verbs with further derivation in about 80 entries; (iv) semantic expansion (changes in lexical meaning) and (v) blending in about 45 cases.

Derivation is the second most frequent word formation process in Hungarian. In the *Dictionary*, there are different patterns of derivation, depending on the grammatical category of the input and the output words (nominal, adjectival, verbal derivation). Derivation may either change the category of the input word or the category may remain the same.

Derivation is highly productive with the following high-frequency COVID-19-related words and results in large word-families: *beteg* 'ill', *fertőzés* 'infection', *immunizál* 'to immunize', *járvány* 'epidemic', *karantén* 'quarantine', *maszk* 'mask', *olt* 'to vaccinate', *teszt* 'test', and *vakcina* 'vaccine'. The more frequent these words are, the more derivational suffixes they can take. Not all of the output words are to be considered neologisms, but some of them are. However, many of these words show an increasing trend in the corpus from the outbreak of the pandemic (e.g. *karanténozás* 'quarantining', etc.). The following are a few examples taken from the *Dictionary*: e.g. *karanténezett* 'quarantined' (N>V>NV); *koronátlan* 'without

coronavirus, not infected with COVID-19' (N>Adj); *koronáz* 'to infect someone with coronavirus' (N>V); *könyöközik* 'to do an elbow bump' (N>V); *maszkos* 'someone wearing a protective face mask' (N>Adj); etc. Compounds may also undergo further derivational processes, such as simple words (Kiefer 2016: 3314), e.g. *járványhelyzeti* 'of the epidemiological situation' (N>Adj); *koronavírusos (komplikációk)* 'coronavirus complications' (N>Adj); *maszkellenesség* 'the condition of being an antimasker', etc.

Hungarian coroneologisms formed by the affixation of pre-verbs with or without further derivation

The affixation of preverbs is also rather productive in the formation of the Hungarian coroneologisms, the most frequent COVID-19 related verbs which take different preverbs are *immunizál* 'to immunize', e.g. *átimmunizálódik* 'to get immunized', *karanténoz* 'to quarantine', e.g. *bekaranténozik* 'to get quarantined', *elkaranténosodik* 'to get quarantined', *elkaranténozgat* 'to stay in quarantine leisurely'; *kovidol* 'to do COVID', e.g. *bekovidol* 'to get infected with COVID'; *olt* 'to vaccinate', e.g. *agyonoltott* 'over vaccinated' (*agyon-* means 'over', 'too much', 'to death'), *átolt* 'to comprehensively vaccinate', *átoltottság* 'vaccination coverage', *beolt* 'to vaccinate', *elolt* 'to administer vaccine doses', *ráoltás* 'vaccination over infection'; *fertőz* 'to infect', e.g. *felülfertőzés* 'superinfection', körbefertőz 'to infect people around someone', *lefertőz* 'to infect', *megfertőz* 'to infect'; *koronáz* 'to infect with COVID-19', e.g. *megkoronáz* 'to infect with COVID, to 'coronafy' and *vakcinál* 'to vaccinate', e.g. *bevakcinál* 'to get vaccinated', etc.

Hungarian coroneologisms formed by semantic expansion

The ongoing pandemic has also had a significant impact on the meaning of several previously already existing words. In fact, the meaning of a word can change and shift over time due to (i) extra-linguistic causes and (ii) linguistic causes. Extra-linguistic changes include historical, economic, socio-political, cultural, scientific, technological, etc. changes, among which are major events such as pandemics. There are several types of semantic change: 1) narrowing; 2) widening; 3) pejoration; and 4) amelioration of meaning (Ullmann, 1962, 192–210; Riemer 2010, 369–422).

Before the outbreak of the pandemic with the expressions *biztonsági távolság* 'safety distance' or *távolságtartás* 'distancing', we used to refer to vehicles while driving. Nowadays, the same gained another meaning, and more frequently they are used in relation to the pandemic, referring to the interpersonal safety distance of at least one meter to avoid a COVID infection.

The term *görbe* 'curve' was already used in the medical and scientific fields with the meaning of 'statistical chart or curve', e.g. *lázgörbe* 'fever curve', *hőmérsékleti görbe* 'temperature curve', etc. Nowadays, when we hear the same word *görbe*,

the first thing we think about is the pandemic or epidemiological curve as well as the necessity to flatten the curve. Just like in many other languages, in Hungarian the usage of the phrase *a (járvány)görbe (el)laposítása* 'the flattening of the curve' has exponentially increased.

During the pandemic, the meaning of *elszigetelés* 'isolation', *izoláció* 'isolation', and *önelszigetelés* 'self-isolation' seems to have gained new and contradictory connotations. On the one hand, these have a more positive connotation because of the good intention implied: isolation or self-isolation is seen as a preventative and, therefore, helpful measure. On the other hand, it also has negative connotations, as it may provoke loneliness, stress, frustration, depression, etc. It may also have a positive or negative impact on relationships and family well-being.

Similarly, the word *karantén* 'quarantine' also gained a huge amount of attention and an exponential increase in usage with a semantic extension and shift. It underwent derivation and produced a large word family, and it is the first or second component of many compounds and blended words too (e.g. *kultúrkarantén* 'culture in quarantine', *könyvkarantén* 'book quarantine', *szállodakarantén* 'hotel quarantine', *hatósági karantén* 'official quarantine', *házi karantén* 'domestic quarantine', *szobakarantén* 'room quarantine', *karanténkenyér* 'bread in quarantine', and a lot more).

As a consequence of the pandemic, the usage of the adjective *pozitív* 'positive' also changed in a significant and rather unpredictable way. Again, just like in many other languages, the term was already in use in the medical field in relation to diagnostic tests with positive or negative results. A positive result confirms the presence of the substance, the disease, or the condition for which the test was performed. This means that, in medical contexts, *pozitív* has to be understood as something negative, bad, not benign, and, therefore, unfavorable to the subject. With the COVID-19 pandemic, the frequency of this adjective, with this particular meaning, increased considerably not only in the medical field but, what is more important, also in everyday language [e.g. *pozitív COVID-19 teszt* 'positive COVID-19 test'; *pozitív eredményű teszt* 'test with positive result'; *pozitív antigen teszt* 'positive antigen test'; *pozitív eset* 'positive case'; *(COVID)-pozitív vagyok* 'I am positive for COVID'; etc.] and currently the term evokes an infection with COVID-19, a very negative and alarming condition.

During the first waves of the pandemic, contact tracing represented an essential public health measure to stop COVID-19 transmission. In the Hungarian corpus, the words *kontakt* 'contact, relationship' and *kontaktus* 'personal contact' had a very low frequency before the pandemic. Immediately afterward, they gained new meanings, mainly through compounding, and they produced a small word family and entered everyday discourse referring to possible contact with a newly detected COVID-19 case: *kontaktszemély* 'contact person, a contact of a COVID-19 case', *kontaktkutatás* 'contact tracing', *kontaktmentes* 'without contact', *közösségi kontakt* 'community contact', *utcai kontakt* 'street contact', *kontaktáló* 'who is in contact with others', *kontaktszám* 'number of contacts', *szoros kontaktus* 'close contact', etc. Consequently, the word *kontakt* has a negative connotation as it implies exposure to the virus and a possible risk of infection.

In the pre-pandemic period, the Hungarian word *maszk* 'mask' was usually used in minimal proportions and with different meanings [e.g. (i) 'a covering for the face that hides the person wearing it', such as in the following example: "The robbers wore masks to hide their identities"; 'face mask' in cosmetics, 'masks' used by actors; 'anesthesia mask' in medicine; etc.]. After the outbreak of the pandemic, due to the mandatory wearing of face masks, the use of the Hungarian word *maszk* became widespread, and its productivity literally exploded. Now, due to the semantic shift, the primary meaning of the term is 'protective face mask to prevent the spread of COVID-19'.

The Hungarian verb *felvesz* has many different meanings, such as 'to pick up'; 'to withdraw'; 'to record'; 'to engage'; etc., but before the COVID-19 pandemic, it was only used in a very circumscriptive way in combination with vaccines. With the start of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Hungary, the usage of this verb associated with the vaccination began to show an increasing trend in everyday language (e.g. *felveszi a vakcinát/oltást/védőoltást* 'take the vaccine'. The phenomenon seems to be analogy-based, cf. *felveszi a magyar állampolgárságot* 'to get the Hungarian citizenship'; *felveszi az utolsó kenetet* 'to get the last rites'; *felveszi a kereszténységet* 'to adopt Christianity').

The semantic shift is also present in other cases, such as *teszt* 'test' and derivates; *törzs* 'trunk', 'tribe', 'fuselage'; *csúcs* 'peak' (*a járvány csúcsa* 'the peak of the pandemic'). The first case of COVID-19 recorded in Hungary dates back to 4 March, 2020, and it was announced by Prime Minister Viktor Orbán as the head of the Operational Force responsible for the Prevention of the COVID-19 Pandemic (*Koronavírus-járvány Elleni Védekezésért Felelős Operatív Törzs*) that was established by the government on 31 January 2020. The expression *operatív törzs* 'operational force' already existed in the Hungarian language, in particular in the press language, but its use was minimal. After establishing the above-mentioned Force, it became widely known and used in the common language. The term was also used in zoology and botany, with the meaning of 'strain', which is also rather widespread today in relation to the pandemic (cf. *COVID-törzs* 'COVID-19 strain'; *vírustörzs* 'virus strain').

Csúcs 'peak' is already not only the pointed top of a mountain, the peak of one's career, or a record (sport); usually, it refers to the 'peak of the pandemic', and it is both positive and negative. It is negative, as it implies a record number of newly reported cases, but it is also positive and awaited as it gives hope that the worst of the pandemic wave is done with. After *görbe* 'curve' and *csúcs* 'peak', one should also mention the Hungarian word *plató* that had the following meanings: 'platform', 'plateau/table', 'truck', and 'a serving tray'. During the pandemic, its meaning 'the flattest, linear part of a graph/curve' became widespread: *plató szakasz* 'plateau stage', *plató fázis* 'plateau phase', *platón van* 'to be in plateau stage', *a járvány platózik* 'the pandemic reached a plateau', *járványplató* 'pandemic plateau'.

The last example of semantic change and semantic shift is the term *has* 'belly'. In expressions such as *hasra fordított (betegek)* '(patients) turned onto their stomachs', *hasra fordítva (kezelik a betegeket)* 'patients are treated turned onto their stomachs', *hasra fordított gépi lélegeztetés* 'mechanical ventilation lying on

the stomach'), *has* 'belly' has a very negative connotation as it refers to the most seriously ill patients.

Hungarian coroneologisms formed by blending

Hungarian coroneologisms by blending (*portmanteau*[2] words inspired by the pandemic) are formed by deleting parts (clipping) from the first, from the second, or both original components/source words. The fragments that make up the whole blend are known as splinters (cf. Renner, Maniez, Arnaud 2012, 2). Lehrer (2007: 115) describes blends as "compounds consisting of a whole word and a splinter (part of a morpheme) or two splinters." The possible schemes are (i) a full word+a splinter; (ii) a splinter+a full word; (iii) two splinters; (iv) zero splinters/overlap and sometimes it is possible to find also (v) embedded splinters (cf. Lehrer 2003, 371).

The first components of the *portmanteau* words included in the *Dictionary* are *covid*, *karantén* and *korona*. The most productive scheme is [a splinter followed by a full word]. Usually, *karantén* loses its last syllable *-tén* or the last two sounds/letters *-én*, e.g. *karant̲a̲nya* 'quarantine mother', from *karantén* and *anya* 'mother'; *karantÉlmény* 'quarantine experience', from *karantén* and *élmény* 'experience'; *kaRANdi* 'quarantine rendezvous', from *karantén* and *randi* (diminutive of *randevú*) 'rendezvouz'; *karanTanya* 'quarantine ranch', from *karantén* and *tanya* 'ranch'; *karanTárs* 'quarantine mate', from *karantén* and *társ* 'mate'; *karanTea* 'quarantine tea', from *karantén* and *tea* 'tea'; *karanTÉboly* 'quarantine madness', from *karantén* and *téboly* 'madness'; *karanTÉl* 'quarantine winter', from *karantén* and *tél* 'winter'; *karanTesi* 'quarantine qym', from *karantén* and *tesi* (slang, from *testnevelés* 'physical education') 'gym'; *karanTÉvé* 'quarantine TV', from *karantén* and *tévé* 'tv'; *karanTinder* 'quarantine Tinder', from *karantén* and *Tinder*; *karanTorna* 'quarantine gymnastic', from *karantén* and *torna* 'gymnastic'; *karanTréning* 'quarantine training', from *karantén* and *tréning* 'training'; *coVIcc* 'covid joke' from *covid* and *vicc* 'joke'; *koroNátha* 'corona flu', from *korona* and *nátha* 'flu'; *koroNeologizmus* 'coroneologism, from *korona* and *neologizmus* 'neologism'. In these examples, I consider the second component a full word, even if there is overlapping (1, 2, or 3 sounds/letters) between the components (indicated with capital letters). The first component loses material (there is clipping) and ends with the same sound/letter or sequence of sounds/letters as the second component (full word) begins with.

Three *portmanteau* words of the same type (splinter+full word) received further derivation: *karanTÉma* 'quarantine theme', from *karantén* and *téma* 'theme' > *karantémázgat* 'to talk about things in quarantine"; *karanTÉnyek* 'quarantine facts', from *karantén* and *tények* (plural) 'facts' > *karanténykedés* 'acting in quarantine' > *karanténykedik* 'to act in quarantine'; *karanTündér* 'quarantine fairy', from *karan-*

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2 Blends are sometimes referred to as "portmanteau" words. This term is attributed to Lewis Carroll (Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There, 1871). Carroll describes it as follows: "'[t]hat'll do very well,' said Alice: 'and "slithy"?' 'Well, "slithy" means "lithe and slimy." "Lithe" is the same as "active." You see it's like a portmanteau – there are two meanings packed up into one word'" (Carroll (1871) 2000: 137).

tén and *tündér* 'fairy' > *karantündéring*. This last neologism refers to the female figure designed by Panni Czikkely for the cover of Veszelszki's *Karanténszótár*.

The scheme [a full word followed by a splinter] is only present once in the *Dictionary*: *kajantén* 'food prepared during quarantine', from *kaja* 'food' (slang) and *karantén* 'quarantine'. Overlapping is almost complete. The only difference is between the *j* in *kaja* and the *r* in *karantén*, and this phenomenon increases its efficiency and fortune.

Another group contains those *portmanteau* words that have a complete overlap of one or more sounds/letters, often of a full syllable, but the components do not lose material. This means that the parts in capital letters have to be counted twice, as they belong to both source words: *coviDinka* or *kovidinka* 'someone irresponsible during the pandemic' from *covid (kovid)* and *dinka* 'fool' (slang); *covIDióta* or *kovIDióta* 'covidiot' (someone who doubts the existence of COVID-19 and, therefore, ignoring the necessary precautions); *karantÉNek* 'quarantine song', from *karantén* and *ének* 'song'; *karanTÉNfergés* 'quarantine idling, from *karantén* and *ténfergés* 'idling'; *koroNApló* 'corona diary' (a diary written during and about the pandemic), from *korona* and *napló* 'diary'; and *kovIDők* 'covid times', from *covid* and *idők* (plural) 'times'.

The last blended structure *karantini* in Hungarian corresponds to two different neologisms: i) *karanTini* (splinter+full word with overlapping sound/letter) from *karantén* and *tini* (slang, diminutive of *tinédzser* 'teen') 'quarenteen' and ii) *karanTini* (splinter+splinter with overlapping sound/letter) from *karantén* and *Martini* 'a cocktail consumed during quarantine or social distancing'. The ambiguity between the full Hungarian word *tini* 'teen' and the splinter *tini* obtained from the truncation of *Martini* could potentially lead to difficulties in interpretation because speakers/readers could not always easily identify the second source component. This means that the linguistic context has a crucial role as it determines the meaning of the blended word. This is also a good example for drawing attention to the importance of preserving adequate transparency of these new formations.

The second component of all the above-mentioned *portmanteau* words has also greater semantic weight than the first one, and so it can be considered the head of the new word. It is also evident that, in Hungarian, non-overlapping blends are almost completely absent (except *karantanya*).

Considering the intentions of language users and the creators of these blends, it is possible to confirm what Lehrer claims: they are usually amusing and "involve word play, such as puns and allusions, as well as the puzzle of novelty" (2007: 370). The decoding of these neologisms represents small challenges for the interlocutors, readers, or listeners, small moments of fun and satisfaction when they manage to figure out the "intended meaning" of the blended word. On the one hand, the new words and expressions that have dominated the pandemic-related speeches since the outbreak of the pandemic have an informative function and, on the other hand, they have also become more and more popular and widespread because they allow people to become an accomplice in a certain sense; to protect each other, to share warnings, to comment on events, to express and share feelings like anxieties, fears, worries, anger, or exasperation with others. With their

help, and this is the case with these blended words too, people can also make jokes or make fun of this shared lexicon. On a social network, these blended coroneologisms are considered creative, fashionable, trendy, and, therefore, catch the users' attention.

Strategies used during the translation of Hungarian coroneologisms into Italian

For the experiment, twenty coroneologisms (*elgyőrfipalisodott; fotelvirologus; karantárs; karantea; karantéboly; karantorna; kenyérszűz; koronababa; korona- válások; koronás; koronátlan; koronka; maszknemviselő; maszkos; maszkosan; maszktalan; maszktalanság; megkoronáz; megkoronázódik; nyunyóka*) were chosen and – in the form of a questionnaire – they were submitted for translation to the students in the Hungarian language at the University of Naples L'Orientale in March 2022. In a subsequent moment, a constructive discussion was realized with them about the difficulties encountered during the translation procedure and about the suggested translation solutions. The students could explain what they understood on their own and then could better understand the denotative and connotative meaning of the coroneologisms and the strategies used.

The first of Zachar's translation strategies is the usage of a neologism of the target language. A good example of this scheme is the translation of the Hungarian coroneologism *nyunyóka*. Its frequency has seen explosive growth due to the pandemic. A *nyunyóka* can be anything that is safe for a baby or toddler to have at sleep time. It is a sort of comfort or transitional item – a blanket or stuffed animal or other comfort objects of affection that a baby or toddler brings to bed, and that provides comfort and soothing. Before the outbreak of the pandemic, the term *nyunyóka* was uncommon and only used in baby talk, and then, due to the massive media impact of Chief Medical Officer Cecília Müller's discourse during the press conference of the Operational Force, this neologism entered the common language and became widely known and used. This term has only been present in the Hungarian online press since 13 May 2020[3], when the Chief Medical Officer used it in her discourse concerning the personal hygiene habits that people should teach kids and the necessity to frequently wash comfort objects.[4] Müller shared these tips instead of the daily COVID-19 numbers, mortality and recovery rates,

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3 Cf. Timestamped JSI web corpus 2014-2021 Hungarian, https://www.sketchengine.eu/jozef-ste-fan-institute-newsfeed-corpus/.

4 From Müller's discourse (https://index.indavideo.hu/video/Csenjuk_el_a_gyermek_nyunyokajat): "Tudjuk jól, hogy a piciknél van valamiféle ragaszkodás: itt nemcsak a cumikra gondolok, hanem kis pelenkára, vagy nyunyókára, amit ő otthonról hoz és nagyon szereti. Próbáljuk meg ezeket otthon gyakran tisztítani, elcsenni ameddig alszik a gyermek és ezeket kimosni és vasalással még egy hőkezelésnek alávetni, ami szintén fertőtlenítő hatású." ("We know very well that little babies have some kind of attachment. Here, I am thinking not only of pacifiers, but also of the little diaper or to any comfort object he or she brings from home (to the nursery) and loves it very much. Let us try to clean them frequently at home, grab it while the child is asleep, wash it out and subject it to another heat treatment with ironing, which also has a disinfectant effect" – autors´ translation.)

current active cases, recoveries, etc. that people were actually expecting. The result of the search query using Google is a list of 24,900 pages (On 25 June 2022).

The noun *nyunyóka* may undergo further derivation and become a verb (*nyunyókázik*) or a deverbal noun (*nyunyókázás*). Most probably the onomatopoeic word may bring to mind the ideas of *nyugalom* 'calm', *szunyóka* 'a nap' as well as *nyúl* or *nyuszi* (diminutive) 'rabbit'. In psychology, this type of item is called a *transitional object* (Hun. *átmeneti tárgy*, It. *oggetto transizionale*).

In relation to this coroneologism, the students involved in the survey gave different solutions, a few of them did not answer as they had difficulty in understanding the meaning of the source word, others opted for *oggetto transizionale* 'transitional object', and still others for *peluche* 'stuffed animal' or *dudù*. Italian *dudù* comes from the French *doudou* and may be considered the equivalent of the Hungarian term. In the written version of Italian baby talk, both *doudou* and *dudù* (adapted to the Italian orthography) are used and need to be considered as neologisms that appeared already before the outbreak of the pandemic.

A second example of Zachar's first strategy is given by the translation of the Hungarian coroneologism *fotelvirológus* 'armchair virologist'. The students managed to understand the meaning of the term and provided two different solutions.

The first is *virologo da poltrona*, a very rare expression in Italian [e.g., i) *Non conosco le risposte a queste domande e mi asterrò dal partecipare alla tendenza molto popolare di diventare un epidemiologo o un virologo da poltrona, ma so che queste domande e molte altre esistono.* (16/08/ 2020); ii) *Gli eventi in Ucraina stanno trasformando il virologo da poltrona di ieri nell'Alessandro Magno di oggi.* (24/02/2022)].

The second possibility is the usage of the Italian coroneologism *virologo da tastiera* 'keyboard virologist' which seems a more suitable solution as it follows a productive pattern [X+da tastiera] e.g. *economista da tastiera, calciatore da tastiera, esperto da tastiera,* etc.

The same strategy (usage of a neologism in the target language) may be used during the translation of coroneologisms such as *elkaranténosodik* > It. *quarantenizzarsi* 'to become quarantined', *karanténosítás* > It. *il quarantenare / il quarantenizzare* 'quarantinisation'; *karanténozott* > It. *quarantenizzato* 'quarantined'.

The second strategy mentioned by Zachar is the usage of an equivalent word or expression, which is not considered a neologism in the target language. The equivalents of four *portmanteau* words fall into this category: *karantárs* > It. *compagno di quarantena/isolamento; karantéboly* > It. *delirio da quarantena; karantea* > It. *tè in quarantena, tè consumato durante la quarantena; karantorna* > It. *ginnastica in/da/durante quarantena*.

The neologisms in the third category require explaining translations in Italian: e.g. *maszkos* > It. *con la mascherina; maszkosan* > It. *indossando la mascherina*. The Hungarian word *maszkos* could be translated into Italian as *mascherato* because due to the pandemic it has undergone semantic expansion and is now used to refer – in addition to the range of meanings indicated in the dictionaries [wearing a mask as a disguise, wearing a mask at a carnival or masquerade or

something hidden behind a false mask; cf. *1. a. Con il volto coperto da una maschera, o anche da un fazzoletto o sim., per non farsi riconoscere: due banditi m.; i tre rapinatori erano mascherati. b. Che ha al viso una maschera, o è vestito da maschera, per divertimento, per uno spettacolo, per prendere parte a una festa di carnevale* […] 2. *fig. Dissimulato sotto false apparenze.* (https://www.treccani.it/vocabolario/mascherato/)] – also to the condition of wearing a protective face mask against COVID-19.

The meaning of the new compound *maszknemviselő [maszk* 'mask'+*nem* 'non, not'+*viselő* 'wearing'] in Italian can only be expressed if we provide an explaining translation, e.g. *persona che non indossa la mascherina* 'a person who doesn't wear a mask'. The same can be stated for the other derivates of *maszk* 'mask': *maszktalan* 'not wearing a protective face mask' > It. *privo di mascherina*; *maszktalanság* 'the condition of not wearing protective face masks' > It. *condizione di stare senza mascherina*[5].

The compound *kenyérszűz* [*kenyér* 'bread'+*szűz* 'virgin'] registered by Veszelszki in her *Karanténszótár* (2020: 42) refers to someone who began to bake bread at home only during the pandemic. Students suggested an explaining type of translation, e.g. *persona che non ha mai fatto il pane in casa prima della pandemia,* even if someone also suggested a kind of neologism: *vergine di pane* in analogy with *vergine di baci* 'virgin of kisses' and a few other occurrences, vulgarisms with a sexual sense. Examples that refer to the same trend taken from the Italian online press: *Gli italiani in tempo di lockdown fanno i panettieri* 'Italians during the lockdown become bakers' (https://www.worldnotix.net/2020/03/26/farina-e-lievito-introvabili-nei-supermercati-gli-italiani-in-tempo-di-lockdown-fanno-i-panettieri/ March 26, 2020); *Coronavirus, durante il lockdown italiani panettieri, pasticceri e pizzaioli* 'Coronavirus, during the lockdown Italians are bakers, pastry chefs, and pizza chefs' (https://qds.it/coronavirus-durante-il-lockdown-italiani-panettieri-pasticceri-e-pizzaioli/ 6 June 2020).

The compound *koronaválás(ok)* 'divorces resulting from the stress caused by the pandemic' is the Hungarian equivalent of the English *covidivorce*. Students managed to recognize without effort the two components and understand the meaning of the new word, most probably also because they were already familiar with the English term. As an equivalent, they suggested *divorzi ai tempi del coronavirus*.

The fourth strategy mentioned by Zachar is the usage of a paraphrase. This is the case during the translation of the Hungarian coroneologism *elgyőrfipalisodott* (Veszelszky 2020, 23). The term derives from the name of Pál Győrfi, a paramedic, a spokesman for the Hungarian National Ambulance Service who became very popular during the pandemic and well-known for his *maradj otthon* 'stay at home' *message* in the Hungarian media. The new term *elgyőrfipalisodott* refers to someone who is under the influence of Pál Győrfi and, therefore, encourages people to

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5 Cf. Ennek fényében nem meglepő, hogy szombaton, a maszktalanság első napján sokan meg is szabadultak a maszkoktól. (2021/07/05), in the Italian online press, we can find the following examples: primo giorno senza obbligo di mascherina // via le mascherine // assenza di mascherina.

stay at home and draws attention to the importance of preventative measures. According to the students involved in the survey, in Italian, an equivalent paraphrase could be *chi risponde a ogni situazione di panico con "rimanete a casa"*. The difficulty of the students is more than understandable because they are required to know who Győrfi Pál is, and why he is popular in Hungary, and then they have to overcome cultural differences and transfer that knowledge and meaning to the target culture.

Regarding the translation of the other coroneologisms derived from *koronavírus* that loses the second component by backformation, students suggested both neologisms present in the target language and explaining translations: (i) *koronás* 'covidated, infected by COVID' > It. *coviddato, (un) contagiato da coronavirus, persona affetta da coronavirus; koronátlan* 'corona-free, free from corona(virus) infection' > It. *non contagiato (da coronavirus); megkoronáz* 'to covidise' > It. *incovid(d)are, infettare (qn) con il COVID; megkoronázódik* 'to get covidised' > It. *incovid(d)arsi, prendere il COVID, prendersi il COVID, infettarsi con il COVID; koronka* (diminutive of *korona(vírus), -ka* is a diminutive suffix in Hungarian, cf. Veszelszki 2020, 48) > It. *covidino*.

Finally, students used one more translation strategy, that is, translation with the usage of a universally known neologism and/or with an explaining type of translation. In Hungarian, a certain number of coroneologisms are calque translations from English, e.g. *koronababa* from *coronababy*. In Italian, it is possible to use the same loanword *coronababy* or an explanation, such as *bambino nato durante la pandemia da COVID-19* 'a baby born during the COVID-19 pandemic', *bambino nato ai tempi del coronavirus* 'a baby born during the era of coronavirus'.

Conclusion

The lexical creativity boosted by the COVID-19 pandemic is exceptional. It resulted in a great number of neologisms entering the everyday language, and it has created a specialized discourse. Some of these coroneologisms might disappear after some time while others might survive. To document the development of the Hungarian language, its creativity, and innovation potential, it is very useful to identify the new terms, the new topics inspired by each phase and wave, and to analyze word frequencies and trends in the Hungarian press language and coronalexicon during this global emergency.

The present paper describes the results of the research in detail not only from a strictly linguistic point of view but also from that of language teaching and learning. During the teaching activities, students in the Hungarian language also work on authentic texts usually taken from the Hungarian online press, and, therefore, they are exposed to a certain number of neologisms and gain awareness of them in their original context. Through the analyses, understanding, and translation of these new terms into Italian, the students can understand how language changes.

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