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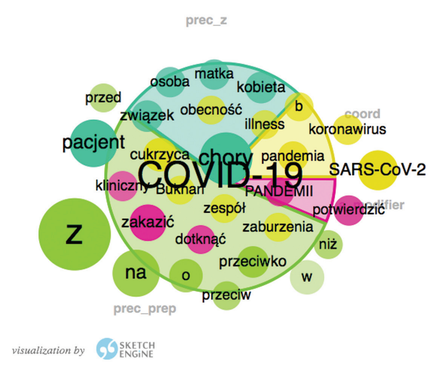
"COVID-19 TREATMENT IN THE PATIENT" VS. "LET'S NOT IGNORE THE INFECTION OF THE CORONA"



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1. Theoretical background

- a dialogic relation between discourse and social reality (Bazerman 1988; Gee 1999),
- various media producing different text-types may contribute to the construction of certain concepts and to the development of particular attitudes and values

2. The aim

- to examine and then juxtapose the two discourses as used by medical professionals and lay people respectively about the same disease event in particular cases described

3. Literature review:

discourse about or metaphors related to COVID-19 in English (Buuren et al. 2020; Chaiuk and Dunaievska 2020; Parvin et al. preprint; Semino 2021; Wicke and Bolognesi 2020; Xue et al. 2020) and in Polish (Cierpich-Kozieł 2020);
linguistic studies of past pandemics (Wallis and Nerlich 2005, Catenaccio 2006 on SARS pandemic in 2003; Briggs (2011) on West Nile Virus; Olowokure et al. (2012) on A(H1N1) virus; Larrieu et al. 2013 on dengue; Seltzer 2015 and Hodalska 2016 on Ebola; Loiacono 2015 and Wallis 2015 on communication in pandemic in general); historically, Basetto (2015) about medical discourses in Early Modern English plague writings;

4. Data and methods

- scientific articles related to COVID-19 derived from Polish medical journals for professionals (36 articles, 106,790 words, collected between Nov. 2020-Mar. 2021)
- entries from Internet forums (*GoWork*, *Mikołów*) on which the issues connected with COVID-19 are discussed (117,497 words, published between 2020-21)
- qualitative discourse analysis complemented with insights from a computer-aided analysis of the corpora, referring to cognitively and functionally based grammar of discourse (Duszak 1987; Halliday 1994; Smith 2003; Gardner and Alsop 2016), paying attention to such linguistic resources as patient/disease references, sentence construction, narrative character, etc.

5. Results and discussion

5.1. COVID-19 discourse on internet forums

Keywords
4. koronawirus 261; 5. covid 222; 10. pandemia 135; 11. Pfizer 62; 15. węch 105 [olfaction]

a) small stories:

· justification stories – to prove that the corona exists

And I assure you that it exists, right now I am infected and have been struggling with it for five days now??? [*A zapewniam Cie ze istniej, akurat jestem zarazona I już 5 dzien się z nim uzeram????*] (GoWork *People who…*)

· experts' stories – if you have gone through it, you are in a sense an expert

Hi, since 17.11 I have had a confirmed covid case. Below I present the course of my disease. [*Witam, od 17.11 mam potwierdzony covid. Później przedstawiam mój przebieg choroby*] (GoWork *People who…*)

· case stories of lived experience

Once while driving my car, I had to stop and walk, but still I had a feeling that I would trip. It's been a month now and I still have light dizziness yet under control. I'm 41. [*Raz mnie wzielo jak jechalem samochodem. Musialem sie zatrzymac i pochodzic ale i tak mialem wrazenie ze sie przewroce. Juz mija miesiac i dalej mam lekkie zawroty ale pod kontrola. Mam 41 lat.*] (GoWork *People who…*)

b) looking for advice

Did you die for it??????????? Do you know anyone who suffered from it??????????????? [*Umarlas na to???????????? Znasz kogos kto na to zachorowal?????????????????*] (GoWork1)

c) metaphors – itemising

Yesterday I got the test result and it was negative; yet I feel awful, I still have 37,4, additionally diarrhoea, headache, backache [*Ja wczoraj odebrałam test i wyszedł negatywny, a czuje się fatalnie, ciagle mam 37,4, do tego biegunka , czeste oddawanie moczu , ból głowy , ból pleców*] (GoWork *People who…*)

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5.2. COVID-19 discourse in professional medical publications

Keywords
1. COVID-19 1177; 2.SARS-CoV-2 518; 14 pandemia 189

a) professional stories

The authors present the case of a 27-year-old patient with cardiovascular complications after undergoing severe acute respiratory syndrome-related coronavirus 2 infection. The first symptoms included muscle aches and somnolence, severe sore throat, and enlargement of submandibular and cervical lymph nodes, followed by dyspnoea and chest pain with body temperature 37.5°C. [*Zaprezentowano opis przypadku 27-letniego pacjenta z powikłaniami sercowo-naczyniowymi po przebytym zakażeniu SARS-CoV-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome-related coronavirus 2). Pierwsze objawy obejmowały bóle mięśni i senność, silny ból gardła, powiększenie podżuchwowych i szyjnych węzłów chłonnych, a następnie duszność i ból w klatce piersiowej z temperaturą ciała 37,5°C.*] FC

b) impersonality

Additionally, acute renal damage was diagnosed in a puerpera. [*Ponadto stwierdzono u położnicy ostre uszkodzenie nerek*] (GP2)

c) metaphors

· disease as process

– *COVID course* [*przebieg COVID*] (PPN2)
– *a big numer of them develops virus lung inflammation* [*duża część z nich rozwija wirusowe zapalenie płuc*] (PPM 1)

· sense of motion, travel

– *SARS-CoV-2 uses to intracecullar trails to spread in the body* [*SARS-CoV-2 wykorzystuje podczas rozprzestrzeniania się w organizmie szlaki wewnątrzkomórkowe*] (PTN1)

· patients as containers

– *possible COVID-19 treatment in patients* [*ewentualnego leczenia COVID-19 u pacjentów*] (PPN3)

5.3. Common metaphor

· disease as thing

– *10% of patients with COVID-19* [*10% pacjentów z COVID*] (PPN2)
– *You have, you had COVID and you are talking about coming back to work.. laughter* [*Masz, miałaśc ovida a ty mówisz o powrocie do pracy..smiech*] (GoWork *People who…*)

· WAR

– *I know personally people who had COVID, 2 acquaintances lost the battle* [*Znam osobiście osoby które przeszły Covid,2 znajomych przegrało.*] (GoWork *vaccination*)
– *He says that that what he went through was a battle for survival. Somebody who who did not go through this cannot say anything.* [*Mówi, że to co przeżył to była walka o przetrwanie. Ktoś kto nie przeżył tego może nie zrozumieć.*] (GoWork *People who…*)
– *lack of data regarding the direct SARS-CoV-2 invasion* [*brak danych o bezpośredniej inwazji wirusa SARS-CoV-2*] (PPN1)

6. Conclusions

6.1. computer-mediated discourse of forums concerning COVID-19

– narratives of various sorts and functions
– examples as evidence for the existence of COVID-19
– questions – or rather being more direct
– no rational status of scientific expertise but rather expression of emotions and personal stance

6.2. scientific discourse of articles concerning COVID-19

– scientific narratives
– no emotionality
– rational status of scientific expertise

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