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USE OF LEXICAL UNITS '*CORONAVIRUS'* AND '*COVID-19'* IN ECONOMIC DISCOURSE

The commonly used dictionary states "coronavirus is any of a group of RNA viruses that cause a variety of respiratory, gastrointestinal, and neurological diseases in humans and other animals" [1]. As for the second meaning of *'coronavirus'* given by an everyday-use dictionary, it is defined as: "an illness caused by a coronavirus, especially: COVID-19" [2].

The medical meanings of *'coronavirus'* are provided by a special terminological dictionary as "1: coronavirus is any of a family (Coronaviridae) of large single-stranded RNA viruses that have a lipid envelope studded with club-shaped spike proteins, infect birds and many mammals including humans, and include the causative agents of MERS, SARS, and COVID-19"; "2: an illness caused by a coronavirus, especially: COVID-19" [3]. The descriptions of meanings for the word *'coronavirus'* in non-terminological sources show that the lexical unit *coronavirus* has come to the general use with the precise medical definitions, which have not changed for a common reader. The same process has taken place with the word *'COVID-19'* in its both meanings [4], [5]. It means that a wide circle of people, whose profession is far from medicine, is interested in this problem and carefully selects information. The comparison of the definitions researched above has drawn us to the conclusion that both lexical units in their two meanings have entered the everyday language as a result of determinologization.

According to Fiona McPherson, the senior editor of the Oxford English Dictionary (OED), back in December 2019 the word *'coronavirus'* appeared only 0.03 times per million tokens (tokens are the smallest units of language collected and tracked in the OED corpus [6]. The lexical unit *'Covid-19'* was only coined in February 2020, when the WHO (World Health Organization) announced the official name of the virus [7]. However, in April 2020, the figures for both *'Covid-19'* and *'coronavirus'* skyrocketed to about 1,750 per million tokens. Thus, we can observe that two terms entered everyday use at roughly the same frequency. The special coronavirus-related updates give us a glimpse into how language can quickly change in the face of unprecedented social and economic disruption. For example, one of the effects of the pandemic is that it has brought previously obscure medical terms to the forefront of everyday speech [6].

Speaking of *Covid Economics*, launched in late March 2020, it is a free online publication of CEPR (The Center for Economic and Policy Research). *Covid Economics* was created to spread fast the research on the rapidly growing Covid-19 epidemic. Along with VoxEU (CEPR's policy portal), which presents brief analyzes of epidemic and other economic issues, *Covid Economics* offers more formal investigations based on clear theories and empirical evidence.

The Covid-19 breakthrough is challenging in all areas of the economy, including, but not limited to, health care, industrial organization, macroeconomics, finance, history, development, political economy, and public finance, both theory and empirical evidence. The publication welcomes presentations in all these areas and seeks to have a wide geographical coverage.

Covid Economics is special in three aspects. It presents real-time research. Submitted articles are evaluated quickly, within five days, and appear online immediately. Secondly, articles are checked by editors for quality and relevance. Verification differs from judging in the sense that the decision to print or decline is made without the possibility of revision and re-submission. Thirdly, papers are pre-printed versions, it means that copyrighted authors can submit approved reviews later.

As people and economies around the world are exhausted by the effects of the new coronavirus (COVID-19), one thing is clear: at present, the facts come at a high price. The value of reliable data has never been more evident than during the months after the appearance of COVID-19 in China in late 2019 and its rapid spread around the world.

While studying the economic dictionaries, we found out that the words *'coronavirus'* and *'COVID-19'* were not presented there. This indicates that these lexical units have not obtained enough economic significance to be placed in dictionaries of Economics. However, we have come across many illustrations of 'coronavirus' and 'COVID-19' in the economic environment created by the issues of *Covid Economics*.

At first, let us consider some examples of the use of the word *'COVID-19'*: "We investigate the impact of 2020 COVID-19 rental eviction moratoria on household well-being" [8, 30] "Using a sample of 125 countries, we evaluate the effect of the pre-Covid-19 fiscal space on the size of the fiscal stimulus packages in response to the virus" [8, 76]. "We find that the increased gender gap in the household division of labor during the first wave of COVID-19 pandemic persisted during the second wave" [9, 65]. "This paper investigates whether international exposure played a role in how companies were impacted and which strategies they used in response to the COVID-19 crisis" [9, 35]. "The tests are based on a unique firm-level data set covering 4,433 enterprises in 133 countries, collected by the International Trade Centre under the COVID-19 Business Impact Survey" [9, 35]. "We study the household consumption responses to Japan's COVID-19 unconditional cash transfer program" [9, 6]. "We derive an analytic expression describing how health costs and death counts of the Covid-19 pandemic change over time as vaccination proceeds" [9, 86]. "We provide perspective on the possible global economic and financial effects from COVID-19 by examining the handful of similar major health crises in the 21st century" [10, 60]. "Our baseline survey was administered on October 16th, 2019 among graduate students in Wuhan prior to the COVID-19 outbreak" [10, 110]. "Universal adoption will likely slow the spread of the Covid-19 virus by reducing transmission from asymptomatic individuals" [10, 151]. As we see, the quotations involve the word *'COVID-19'* in its general meaning.

We are also interested in finding examples with the word *'coronavirus'* and its combinations and analyze them according to their meanings. "The coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic has impacted the world economy in various ways" [8, 147]. "Using past coronavirus outbreaks as an instrumental variable, we show that countries with

past experience were able to contain the virus in a smart way, reducing transmission and deaths while also experiencing higher economic growth in 2020" [8, 99]. "Relative to a baseline in which only the infected and at-risk populations mitigate the spread of coronavirus, we estimate that total benefits of suppression policies are between $605.9 billion and $841.1 billion from early March 2020 to August 1, 2020" [11, 133]. "The spread of the novel coronavirus worldwide in 2020 forced governments to impose strict containment measures in the first wave of the pandemic" [9, 36]. "To address possible endogeneity concerns and estimate the effect of "smart" types of containment, we employ a two-stageleast-squares approach, where past experience in containing coronavirus epidemics is used as an instrument for death rates" [8, 102]. "In this paper, we offer a cost-benefit analysis (CBA) for the legal orders implemented across the United States to address the first wave of the coronavirus" [11, 134]. "To calculate total costs of coronavirus suppression, we take a "top down" approach by multiplying the incremental daily costs to GDP of enforcing suppression policies by the duration of suppression policies, measured in days, that were enforced between March 2020 and August 1, 2020" [11, 137]. "The most consequential benefit of government coronavirus suppression orders is likely preventing deaths from COVID-19" [11, 137]. "These subjects believe that they have a higher exposure risk to the Coronavirus than those elsewhere" [10, 112]. "Our study proceeds as follows: the second section provides additional background on the Coronavirus setting in China" [10, 115].

The current study shows that the words *'Covid-19'* and *'coronavirus'* are always widely used in any economic context in their common meanings. The facts of their use in economic environment confirm that both lexical units have not changed their everyday meanings under the influence of the economic field yet, that is, they have not received any new meanings in the economic discourse.

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