

ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

THE ANALYSIS OF THE COVID-19 RELATED ANGLICISMS IN THE BOSNIAN LANGUAGE – THE STUDY OF PANDEMIJA, INFEKCIJA, LOKDAUN, KARANTIN, KLASER, SOCIJALNA DISTANCA, AND VAKCINA

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ABSTRACT

The prevalence of English as a global language has been mirrored in various domains of life. The latest testimony to its pervasive influence on other languages is finely portrayed through the case of coronavirus that blindsided the world recently. The disease has led to certain English words being used so often that they have become an integral part of everyday vocabulary in many languages and thus in the Bosnian language. The present quantitative research paper considers the frequency of usage and knowledge of the original form and meaning of English words related to the current pandemic used as Anglicisms in the Bosnian language. Respondents of different demographic backgrounds have reported infrequent use of these Anglicisms during and before the pandemic. Moreover, it has been reported that their knowledge of the English written form of these Anglicisms is more significant than their knowledge of their Bosnian translations/synonyms. The results indicated that Covid-19-related Anglicisms are characteristic of speakers of all ages, genders, and English-proficiency backgrounds.

Keywords: language, anglicisms, Coronavirus, pandemic, the Bosnian Language



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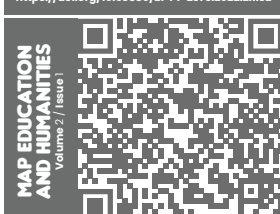
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Introduction

Since the Covid-19¹ pandemic² emerged, the world has faced colossal changes. Usual ways of working, studying, or trading have been replaced by new ones, mostly remotely or home-based, which is a shift that seems to have been successfully accepted and integrated into society. Such alterations have been traced in languages as well. New, or not earlier used, words and expressions related to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, such as *lockdown*, *vaccine*, or *social distance*, have become an integral part of the everyday vocabulary of languages worldwide, and new neologisms are being coined as fast as ever before. The Bosnian language, as well, is not an exception. The global disease has promoted certain English words in the Bosnian language into well-accepted, commonly used, and well-understood internationalisms that everyone understands.

The authors of this paper have noticed English-originated words explored in this study as being used frequently in the media (television programs and online and printed press) and everyday speech among the general population in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Therefore, the present research paper aims at investigating Covid-19-related Anglicisms (*pandemic*, *virus*, *vaccine*, *cluster*, *quarantine*, *infection*, *social distance*) in the Bosnian language, taking into primary consideration their frequency of usage, knowledge of their original form, and their translation into the Bosnian language. Some of the words are not necessarily new pandemic terms since they were used in the Bosnian language before the outburst of the pandemic, but it is generally believed that their popularization began with the pandemic as they were reintroduced for specific communicative/social context (Al-Salman & Haider, 2021).

Thus, drawing on the quantitative analysis of the most popular English-originated terms related to the still ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the present study seeks to emphasize the importance of research about Anglicisms, considering contemporary issues in the field of contacts between languages. Through such an approach, the study attempts to confirm the assumption that there is a tendency of frequent occurrences of Anglicisms in the Bosnian language from various domains,

especially pandemic-related ones, and that Bosnian speakers show a significant level of knowledge and understanding of Anglicisms, as well as a positive attitude towards them. In previous research in the Bosnian language, Anglicisms have been analyzed in the field of music (Kajtažović, 2012), media (Džanić, 2019; Šehović, 2009), politics (Ajšić, 2014), IT technology (Sadiković, 2017). The present study contributes to the overall research on Anglicisms in the Bosnian language and opens up additional questions for analysis in future research.

Given the nature of the study's corpus, which consists of words belonging to the medical field or social sciences in general, it should be emphasized that the term "*Covid-19 terminology*" will not be used, for such a term indicates specialized jargon. Instead, the term "*Covid-19 related terms*" or "*Covid-19 related Anglicisms*" will be used to emphasize the contemporary nature of the analyzed words being used in this context.

Literature review

The inventory of words of one language consists of original words originated in the historical development of language and culture, and loanwords, taken from other languages, which are most often the result of scientific, technological, economic, political, and cultural connections between different nations (Rupenović, 2017). The modern large-scale processes in globalization make these connections more accessible and more prominent. These tectonic movements have also promoted specific values, occupations, and languages globally. Such promotion occurred with the English language as well.

Today, the role of the English language in a global scene is undeniable (Bećirović et al, 2021). Being the most widespread communication tool across the globe, English touches upon all segments of people's daily lives (Crystal, 2003). However, besides the usage of English for international communication, people also use English elements in their native languages. Usually, they do so to name new concepts, to sound pragmatically and economically more convincing, or to appear more sophisticated, educated or to build their image (Onysko & Winter-Froemel, 2011; Knospe, 2015; Bećirović & Akbarov, 2015). This leads to the so-called linguistic borrowing through

- 1 Covid-19 (written either in capital letters – *COVID*, or in lower case – *covid*, or with the first capital and other lower – *Covid*, as will be written here as well)
- 2 For a detailed account of the origin and use of the name Coronavirus (Covid-19) in different languages, see the paper *COVID-19: a metaphor-based neologism and its translation into Arabic* by Haddad Haddad & Montero-Martinez (2020).

which languages adopt new words and enrich and change their own. Words or expressions borrowed or taken from the English language are in Linguistics called Anglicisms (Merriam-Webster, n.d.).

Goerlach (2003) defines Anglicism as “a word or idiom that is recognizably English in its form (spelling, pronunciation, morphology, or at least one of the three), but is accepted as an item in the vocabulary of the receptor language” (p. 1). The above definition is the starting point for most authors investigating this topic (Bojčić et al., 2012; Gottlieb & Furiassi, 2015; Wang & Yuan, 2020). It is generally accepted that Anglicism is any English or English-like word that has become domesticated as such in another language. As in many languages, several consequential studies approaching the topic from different perspectives have been conducted in the Bosnian language. Thus, Anglicisms in the media, politics, music, and everyday life have been recognized and studied extensively. Research of text samples from dailies that contain Anglicisms was executed by Lesjak (2013), Šehović (2007), and Šijerkić and Milak (2018). Thus, according to Lesjak (2013), there are many unadapted, original English words in the language of the Croatian media. Journalists use these words to make their articles sound more modern and attractive, and readers read such articles with greater interest, as English is the most popular language of this time. Šehović (2009) made her research on a media-based corpus, specifically on “female magazines” that write about fashion, film, and music and which contain increased use of Anglicisms. Moreover, Anglicisms in the Bosnian press were also investigated by Šijerkić and Milak (2018). Analyzing leading Bosnian electronic newspapers, the authors found out that the written news use many English words that are officially not part of the Bosnian language, concluding that “people who write news adopt English words and spell them in the way they are pronounced in the Bosnian language” (p. 36). Furthermore, Ajšić (2014) investigated Anglicisms in political discourse, while Adilović (2017) focused on Anglicisms in the legal profession. On the other hand, Kajtazović (2012) investigated Anglicisms’ appearance in the scope of music. Aiming to show that there are currently a large number of loanwords in the field of music, the author states that borrowing from the English language in the field of music is on an upward trajectory. In addition to the above, Anglicisms in the Bosnian language were also researched by Hadžić (2010), Dubravac (2016), Sadiković (2017), Skopljak and Dubravac (2019), Džanić (2019).

The topic of anglicisms was also explored through attitudes towards them. Research has shown that attitudes towards Anglicisms can be both positive and negative. The study results confirm the findings of positive attitudes towards Anglicisms on the one hand (e.g., Čirić-Duvnjak, 2013; Prantl, 2018; Šehović, 2009) and do not confirm the findings of negative attitudes on the other hand (e.g., Jódar Sánchez & Tuomainen, 2014, Schreiber, 2006, as cited in Gerwens, 2017). However, in the analysis of attitudes towards Anglicisms, it is essential to emphasize the functionalist attitude advocated by many authors (e.g., Čoralić & Šehić, 2014; Skopljak & Dubravac, 2019), which accentuates that attitudes do not have to be exclusively positive or negative, but that their analysis should look whether they are useful for the language, whether they enrich it or their use impoverishes the borrowing language.

However, research on Coronavirus disease-related terms or Corona-Anglicisms is new in this linguistic research as the pandemic itself is a recent phenomenon. However, the topic is highly relevant primarily because the globally widespread pandemic forced many daily routines, such as business, education, or trade, into an online mode, through the Internet and modern technologies (Bećirović et al, 2022). Consequently, given that the technologies and the Internet are mainly in English, it can easily be assumed that the English terms and expressions are used and exchanged as never before. In this regard, Roig-Marin (2020) names new terms related to the Coronavirus as *coroneologisms* or *coronacoinages*, referring to new lexical formations and blends such as *covidiot* (anyone who ignores health advice and cause risk), *covidials* and *coronials* (referring to babies born in the late 2020s), or *covidivores* (divorces during the present pandemic). There is also a newly introduced term *covidisms* that refers to all new words coined in the pandemic (Thorne, 2020), but not only new words and coinages are the source of Covid-19 vocabulary. Apart from the novel ones, plenty of previously existing Anglicisms in many languages have become associated with the pandemic once it started and, thus, catapulted into common usage. Such Anglicisms are *lockdown*, *social distance*, *infection*, and so on.

As stated in the introduction, the Anglicisms under the present research’s consideration have been used previously in the Bosnian language but have not been exclusively linked to this very context or the topic. However, some interesting investigations have already been conducted in various other languages delving into more detail in this particular topic. For example, in the article “Anglicisms

and Italian Equivalents in the Era of Covid- 19: A Corpus-Based Study of Lockdown, (Capuzzo, 2020), the author tackles this topic, but only through the analysis of Anglicism *lockdown*. By following Italian dailies, the author intended to check the frequency and the way of the usage of this Anglicism in comparison with its Italian equivalent and found that this Anglicism is used primarily concerning the pandemic, referring to all connotations it has in the pandemic situation, such as movement limitations and physical distancing. Apart from that work, other authors explored the topic. For example, in his paper “The linguistic landscape of the coronavirus crisis in foreign language didactics by using the example of German”, Kuše (2021) found that the pandemic has contributed to the enrichment of the vocabulary and changed linguistic landscape. Moreover, an interesting and comprehensible overview of Covid-19 neologisms was done recently by Al-Salman and Haider (2021) who investigated ten word-formation processes caused by Covid-19-related terms. Taking into consideration coinages, affixation, compounding, blending, clipping, backformation, borrowing, abbreviation, acronyms, and folk etymology the authors concluded that at all these levels Covid-19 has brought significant linguistic changes (p. 35).

Additionally, by analyzing books, social media and news, Nabila and Abdulrahman also found that 19 new English words were created during COVID-19 (2021). In addition, some authors (Lawson, 2020; Mahdawi, 2020; Thorne, 2020) have been creating news and blogs commenting on the same topic, and even an MA thesis has been written on the topic (Schiavon, 2021). Nevertheless, this topic is still in its infancy and is underrepresented apart from these works. To the authors’ best knowledge, such investigations have not been conducted yet in the Bosnian nor in the regional languages, and thus the present research is the first of such kind here, which showcases its enormous significance.

Taking into consideration that the present study includes 8 Anglicisms related to Covid-19 pandemic (those are *pandemic-pandemija*, *infection-infekcija*, *lockdown-lokdaun*, *quarantine-karantin*, *cluster-klaster*, *social distance-socijalna distanca*, and *vaccine-vakcina*), precise definitions of all of them need to be provided for the later analyses of their meanings, which is set as one of the study’s goals. Table 1 below presents definitions found in the Merriam Webster (Merriam-webster, n.d.) dictionary.

Table 1.
Definitions of Covid-19-related Anglicisms

Anglicism		Definition (Merriam-Webster)
Original	Orthographically adapted	
Pandemic	pandemija	-an outbreak of a disease that occurs over a wide geographic area (such as multiple countries or continents) and typically affects a significant proportion of the population
Infection	infekcija	-the state produced by the establishment of one or more pathogenic agents (such as a bacteria, protozoans, or viruses) in or on the body of a suitable host
Lockdown	lokdaun	-a temporary condition imposed by governmental authorities (as during the outbreak of an epidemic disease) in which people are required to stay in their homes and refrain from or limit activities outside the home involving public contact (such as dining out or attending large gatherings)
Quarantine	karantin	-the period of time during which a person or animal that has a disease or that might have a disease is kept away from others to prevent the disease from spreading
Cluster	klaster	-a larger than expected number of cases of disease (such as leukemia) occurring in a particular locality, group of people, or period of time
Social distance	socijalna distanca	-the avoidance of close contact with other people during the outbreak of a contagious disease in order to minimize exposure and reduce the transmission of infection
Vaccine	vakcina	-a preparation that is administered (as by injection) to stimulate the body’s immune response against a specific infectious agent or disease
Isolation	izolacija	

Moreover, to draw a comparison between English and Bosnian translations of these words, the Bosnian dictionary “Rječnik bosanskog jezika” (Halilović, Palić & Šehović, 2010) was consulted. Definitions of the terms from this dictionary are presented in Table 2 below.

Based on these provided definitions, the responses of the research participants will be compared and analyzed, and therefore it was crucial to present them here, as they will be used as a yardstick for the research. Moreover, alongside the selected definitions, another interesting display will be mentioned in the discussion part.

Table 2.
Bosnian translation of Covid-19-related Anglicisms

Word	Definition from the Bosnian dictionary and English translation	
Pandemija	-vrlo raširena epidemija	-a very widespread epidemic
Infekcija	-prodor zaraznih mikroorganizama u organizam, bolest nastala tim putem, zaraza	-penetration of infectious microorganisms into the organ, a disease caused in this way, infection
Lokdaun	-No entry	-
Karantin	-odvajanje, izolacija bolesnih osoba, životinja ili biljaka, boravak sportista na nekom izoliranom mjestu	-separation, isolation of sick persons, animals or plants, stay of athletes in an isolated place
Klaster	-No entry	-
Socijalna/o	-koji se odnosi na zajednicu, društvo, društveni	-relating to community, society, social
Distanca	-prostorna ili vremenska udaljenost, odmaknutost od nečega, nepristupačnost, rezervisanost, namjerno se ne zbližavati	-spatial or temporal distance, remoteness from something, inaccessibility, reticence, intentionally not getting closer
Vakcina	-sredstvo od umrtvljenih mikroorganizama koje se unosi u organizam da stvori otpornost na određenu vrstu bolesti	-a means of killing microorganisms brought into the body to create resistance to a certain type of disease
Izolacija	-odvojenost, odijeljenost od drugih ljudi, odvajanje bolesnika od zdravih osoba	-separation, separation from other people, separation of the sick from healthy people

Methodology

Participants

A hundred and eleven (111) participants, both males (65, 58.6%) and females (46, 41.4%), all from Bosnia and Herzegovina, took part in the present research. Among the participants, 52 (46.8%), were aged 15-19, 20 (18.0%) aged 20-25, 12 (10.8%) aged 26-30, 17 (15.3%) aged 31-35, and 10 (9.0%) aged above 36. The majority of the participants, precisely 88.3 %, indicated that they could use the English language in speaking and writing, while 11.7 % reported that they could not. Table 3 summarizes participant information.

Table 3.
Descriptive analysis of the participants

	Age					Gender		English proficiency	
	15-19	20-25	26-30	31-35	36 and more	Male	Female	Yes	No
N	52	20	12	17	10	65	46	98	13
%	46.8	18.0	10.8	15.3	9.0	58.6	41.4	88.3	11.7

Instruments

This quantitative study was conducted using a survey method, i.e. a questionnaire. The advantages of quantitative research are that it is “systematic, rigorous, focused, and tightly controlled, involving precise measurement and producing reliable and replicable data” (Dörnyei 2007: 34). The questionnaire consisted of 4 parts: the first part contained demographic characteristics of the participants, which included gender and age, together with an indication of their ability to use the English language in speaking and writing (self-reported proficiency);

the second part consisted of the statements on attitudes towards the English language in general while the third part consisted of the statements on attitudes towards Anglicisms in the Bosnian language; the fourth part contained questions on Anglicisms being investigated in the paper: how often do participants use them, do they know their original English written form and meaning/translation in the Bosnian language, and do they think those Anglicisms were used in the Bosnian language before the pandemic.

The questionnaire was constructed by the authors. Anglicisms were chosen based on the authors' observations of public conversations and media accounts (on-line dailies *Klix.ba*, *RadioSarajevo.ba*, *AlJazeeraBalkans.ba*) on the ongoing pandemic. The proposed Anglicisms were selected by the authors' assumptions that those Anglicisms are uncommonly used in the Bosnian language since the pandemic broke out. The web-based questionnaire was sent directly to the participants' email addresses or their private phone numbers via Viber message and was accessed through the URL.

The initial idea for the investigation is an article on the analysis of Anglicism *lockdown* in the Italian language (Capuzzo, 2020). Based on this, the authors came up with the idea to expand the number of words and consider the most commonly used words from the beginning of the pandemic, mainly concerning words closely related to the pandemic. Since the scope of the authors' research includes both linguistic and extralinguistic types of research, the idea was to analyze several parameters, such as attitudes towards English, knowledge of the original form of English, and their translation and frequency of their use. Finally, reliability and validity tests were performed before the questionnaire was delivered to the respondents.

Procedure

Given the apparent influence of the English language on languages worldwide, and thus on the Bosnian language, the present research aims to investigate the (non)obviousness of the vast influx of English terms/Anglicisms in the Bosnian language. An emphasis is put on the Covid-19-related Anglicisms since it is supposed that the terms related to this pandemic have significantly seized a vast population of Bosnians and Herzegovinians. The aim is to check whether the frequency of usage and knowledge of Anglicisms' original form and meaning is determined by the participants' knowledge and usage of the English language.

Based on the abovementioned aims of the present research, the following research questions are proposed:

RQ1: To what extent do Bosnians use Covid-19-related Anglicisms and do they know their original English form and Bosnian translation?

RQ2: Is there any statistically significant difference between Bosnians' knowledge of the original English written form and translation/explanation of Covid-19-related Anglicisms based on their age, gender, and English language proficiency?

To answer the stated research questions, the following research hypotheses are set:

H1: Bosnian speakers will report a frequent usage of Covid-19-related Anglicisms and a significant level of knowledge of their original English form and Bosnian translation.

H2: There will not be a statistically significant difference between Bosnians' knowledge of the original English written form and translation/explanation of Covid-19-related Anglicisms based on their age, gender, and English language proficiency.

Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS, v. 26) was used to analyze the collected data. The frequencies, means, and standard deviation analyses were obtained for the initial procedures of comparing the data while a one-way Anova was used to test the hypothesized assumptions of differences between the participants' characteristics and certain study goals.

Results

The first research question was concerned with the descriptive analysis of the usage of Covid-19-related Anglicisms, on the knowledge of their original English form and Bosnian translation, and the report of their usage before the Coronavirus pandemic. As for the knowledge of the original English form and Bosnian translation of those Anglicisms, the participants' written responses were checked and graded as either correct (1) or incorrect (2), while for the frequency of usage now and before the pandemic, they were given a three-point Likert scale answer option for each Anglicism. The frequency of their usage now was reported as *always* (1), *sometimes* (2), or *never* (3), while the frequency of their usage before the pandemic was

reported as yes, it was used before (1), no, it was not (2), or yes, but much less (3).

Hence, as displayed in Table 4, the most correctly written Anglicisms in the original English written form were *infekcija* ($M=1.07$, $SD=.26$) and *lokdaun* ($M=1.07$, $SD=.46$) with 103 correct and only eight incorrect reports, while the least correctly written were *klaster* ($M=1.50$, $SD=.50$) with only 56 correct reports and *karantin* ($M=1.49$, $SD=.46$) with only 57 correctly written reports. On the other hand, there are significantly fewer accurate translations into Bosnian or synonyms in Bosnian of these anglicisms. Thus, *socijalna distanca* ($M=1.66$, $SD=.47$) was reported with the most considerable number of accurate reports (79 correct and 32

incorrect), while the smallest number of accurate reports, only 38, was reported for *lokdaun* ($M=1.07$, $SD=.26$). Additionally, while more correct reports in the knowledge of the original English form than for the knowledge of translation were reported for Anglicisms *pandemija*, *infekcija*, *lokdaun*, *socijalna distanca*, *izolacija*, and *vakcina*, Anglicisms *karantin* and *klaster* had an almost equal number of correct answers in both the knowledge of the original English form and the knowledge of translation. Moreover, the biggest difference in the number of correct reports of the knowledge of the original form than for the knowledge of translation is found with Anglicism *lokdaun*. While in the knowledge of the original form, it had 103 correct reports, in the knowledge of the translation, it had only 38.

Table 4.

Descriptive analysis of the knowledge of the original form and translation of Anglicisms and frequency of their usage

	Knowledge of the original form		Knowledge of the translation		Frequency of usage			Was it used before the Covid-19 pandemic		
	Correct	Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect	Always	Sometimes	Never	Yes	No	Yes but much less
Pandemija	91	20	59	52	37	69	5	35	15	61
Mean		1.18		1.47		1.71				2.23
SD		.38		.50		.54				.90
Infekcija	103	8	77	34	49	56	6	85	6	20
Mean		1.07		1.31		1.61				1.41
SD		.46		.46		.59				.78
Lokdaun	103	8	38	73	20	69	22	11	67	33
Mean		1.07		1.66		2.02				2.20
SD		.26		.47		.61				.60
Karantin	57	54	55	56	33	67	11	31	42	38
Mean		1.49		1.50		1.80				2.06
SD		.50		.50		.60				.78
Klaster	56	55	47	64	10	43	58	14	69	28
Mean		1.50		1.58		2.43				2.13
SD		.50		.49		.65				.60
Socijalna distanca	98	13	79	32	29	64	18	25	53	33
Mean		1.12		1.29		1.90				2.07
SD		.32		.45		.64				.72
Izolacija	75	36	58	53	39	67	5	57	17	37
Mean		1.32		1.48		1.69				1.82
SD		.47		.50		.55				.90
Vakcina	87	24	45	66	61	49	1	90	6	15
Mean		1.22		1.59		1.46				1.32
SD		.41		.49		.51				.70

Furthermore, regarding the frequency of usage of these Anglicisms, it was reported that they are not used that much frequently. The most used Anglicism is *vakcina* ($M=1.46$, $SD=.51$) for which 61 respondents reported that they use it always and 49 that they use it sometimes. Contrary, the least used Anglicism is *klaster* ($M=2.43$, $SD=.65$) for which only 10 respondents reported that they use it always, 43 that they use it sometimes, and 58 that they never use it. At the same time, the same or an approximate number of respondents reported that these Anglicisms were used even before the pandemic. Thus, 90 respondents reported that *vakcina* was used before the pandemic while only 14 respondents reported that *klaster* was used before the pandemic.

Taken together, these results indicate that Bosnians know the original English written form of Covid-19 related Anglicisms more than their translation or their synonyms in the Bosnian language and that they do not use these Anglicisms much frequently and that for some of these Anglicisms they agree that they were used before

the pandemic but for some other, they do not agree. A detailed representation of the abovementioned characteristics is displayed in Table 4.

Finally, the second research question aimed to explore whether independent variables of the participants' age, gender, and English language proficiency significantly affect their knowledge of the original form and the translation or meaning of Covid-19-related Anglicisms. Firstly, a one-way ANOVA was conducted to test whether these two characteristics are affected by gender differences. There was not a significant effect of gender on the knowledge of the original form of these Anglicisms at the $p<.05$ level [$F(1, .195) = 3.016$, $p = 0.085$] since males ($M = 1.28$, $SD = .25$) and females ($M = 1.20$, $SD = .24$) reported almost equal number of correctly written Anglicisms. Additionally, there was not a significant effect of gender on the knowledge of the translation of the same Anglicisms at the $p<.05$ level [$F(1, .214) = 2.411$, $p = 0.123$] since males ($M = 1.52$, $SD = .30$) and females ($M = 1.43$, $SD = .28$) again reported almost equal mean scores.

Table 5.

A One-way ANOVA of the knowledge of the original form and translation of Anglicisms based on gender

Gender	Knowledge of the original form		Knowledge of the translation	
	M	SD	M	SD
Male	1.28	.25	1.52	.30
Female	1.20	.24	1.43	.28
Sig.	.086		.123	

Table 6.

A One-way ANOVA of the knowledge of the original form and translation of Anglicisms based on EL proficiency

Self-reported EL Proficiency	Knowledge of the original form		Knowledge of the translation	
	M	SD	M	SD
Yes	1.23	.25	1.49	.30
No	1.37	.28	1.44	.29
Sig.	.073		.594	

Furthermore, a one-way ANOVA was conducted to check the knowledge of the original form and the translation of Anglicisms are affected by the participants' English language proficiency. There was not a significant effect of the participants' English language proficiency on the knowledge of the original form of Anglicisms at the $p < .05$ level [$F(1, .212) = 3.279, p = 0.073$] where those who reported that they can use English in the spoken and written form ($M = 1.23, SD = .25$) and those who reported that they are not able to use English in the spoken and written form ($M = 1.37, SD = .28$) reported almost equal mean scores. Additionally, there was not a significant effect of the participants' English language proficiency on the knowledge of the translation of the same Anglicisms at the $p < .05$ level [$F(1, .026) = .286, p = 0.594$] since almost equal mean scores were reported by those who reported that they can use English in the spoken and written form ($M = 1.49, SD = .30$) and those who reported that they can not ($M = 1.44, SD = .29$). (Table 6)

Finally, a one-way ANOVA showed that combined dependent variables related to the knowledge of the original English written form of Anglicisms were not significantly affected by the participants' age at the $p < .05$ level [$F(4, .065) = .983, p = 0.420$] since the mean scores for the participants aged 15-19 ($M = 1.25, SD = .26$), 20-25 ($M = 1.19, SD = .20$), 26-30 ($M = 1.31, SD = .29$), 31-35 ($M = 1.18, SD = .18$), and 36 and more ($M = 1.34, SD = .37$) were quite similar. It is furtherly worth mentioning that the participants aged 31-35 reported the highest knowledge while the participants who are more than 36 age reported the lowest knowledge. Also, an insignificant effect of the participants' age was shown on the combined dependent variable of the knowledge of translation of Anglicisms at the $p < .05$ level [$F(4, .154) = 1.759, p = 0.143$] since here again the participants of all ages [15-19 ($M = 1.56, SD = .30$), 20-25 ($M = 1.41, SD = .27$), 26-30 ($M = 1.46, SD = .35$), 31-35 ($M = 1.46, SD = .29$), and 36 and more ($M = 1.34, SD = .21$)] reported similar mean scores. Table 7 below contains a numerical representation of the reported results.

Table 7.

A One-way ANOVA of the knowledge of the original form and translation of Anglicisms based on age

Age	Knowledge of the original form		Knowledge of the translation	
	M	SD	M	SD
15-19	1.25	.26	1.56	.30
20-25	1.19	.20	1.41	.27
26-30	1.31	.29	1.46	.35
31-35	1.18	.18	1.46	.29
36 and more	1.34	.37	1.34	.21
<i>p</i>	.420		.143	

Discussion

The present study was designed to examine the presence of, attitudes towards, and knowledge about the core Covid-19 vocabulary in the form of adapted loanwords in the Bosnian language. The investigation of Anglicisms in the present study has pointed out some essential aspects.

Thus, the first research hypothesis stating that Bosnian speakers will report a frequent usage of Covid-19-related Anglicisms and a significant level of knowledge of their original English written form and Bosnian translation was partially confirmed since the participants reported a pretty high knowledge of these two forms of

Anglicisms and partially rejected because the participants did not report a frequent usage of them. As for the knowledge of the original English form, more correctly written forms are obtained (where the Anglicisms *infekcija* and *lokdaun* were reported as the best known and the Anglicisms *klaster* and *karantin* as the least known), than for the knowledge of their translations or synonyms (where the Anglicism *socijalna distanca* was reported as the best known and the Anglicism *lokdaun* as the least known). Thus, the original English form of these words is known to the respondents more than their translations. As for the frequency of usage of these Anglicisms, they are in general reported as not so frequently used, but the

but the Anglicism *vakcina* was reported to be the most frequently used now and before the pandemic while the Anglicism *klaster* was reported as the most infrequently used, both now and before the pandemic.

As for the individual analysis of this part of the research, the focus will firstly be on Anglicisms *lokdaun* (lockdown) and *klaster* (cluster). Namely, these two words are the only ones that we analyze that are not included in the dictionary of the Bosnian language, so it was expected that they are less used and less known in the original English form and translation. However, the results indicate that only the Anglicism *klaster* (cluster) fits into this premise because it is marked as the least used during the pandemic and before it and is also the least accurately written in the original English written form. On the other hand, the Anglicism *lokdaun* (lockdown) had the most accurately written answers for the original English written form, while the translation form had the least accurately written options. Regarding the frequency of use of this Anglicism, most respondents believe that it was not used before the pandemic and that it is not so often used at the pandemic. So, while the Anglicism *klaster* (cluster) shows a logical sequence of the expected result, which is that one does not know the word that is not used and which is not in the dictionary, in the case of the Anglicism *lokdaun* (lockdown), this logic is not valid because, although it is not used often and although it is not in the dictionary of the Bosnian language, yet its original English written form is familiar to respondents.

There is no precise Bosnian equivalent for these two terms. It could be said “curfew” instead of “lockdown”, but that would only refer to people’s freedom of movement. However, “lockdown” includes the complete dismissal of everyday life and refers to a total break of all activities outside of one’s own home. The same is true with the word cluster. Although the words *group* or *team* could replace this word in its meaning, there is no similar word in the Bosnian language for this context, but this is not the case in some other languages. In the pilot study of this type of research, Capuzzo (2020) found out that in the case of an Anglicism *lockdown* in the Italian language, the term is used more than all its existing equivalents, with an explanation that this term is a precise technical and semantically “all-inclusive” term (p. 24). Furthermore, the author (Capuzzo, 2020) indicates that existing Italian equivalents were used instead as descriptive terms since *lockdown* had not been assimilated into Italian by then. The popularity of the term “lockdown” is

recognized as common also in Germany, where it is named as the “Anglicism of the Year 2020”. (www.ga.de). It is furthermore interesting how this word is at the same base for other derivatives related to it. Thus, according to Thorne (2020), the words *lockdowners* – individuals coping with life in conditions of isolation and *unlockdown* – the process of relaxing or ending social and physical restrictions or the period following their ending, were formed.

Furthermore, in the case of Anglicism *infekcija* (infection), we have stated that it is Anglicism whose original English written form is best known. Its use during the pandemic is every day (43.8% of respondents always use it), as was its use before the pandemic (75.9% of respondents used it before the pandemic). As for its translation, which also exists in the dictionary (*zaraza*), two-thirds of the respondents wrote it correctly, while one-third wrote an orthographically adapted form (*infekcija*). However, although there is a word “zaraza” for this term in the Bosnian dictionary, it is noticeable that this (medical) term is often used in speech, so it is not surprising that there is an excellent knowledge of its original English form. For example, we can often hear that “*rana se inficirala*” (the wound has become infected) and that we have “*infektivno odjeljenje*” (infectious ward) in hospitals (<http://www.kbze.ba>), and *infektivno oboljenje* (infectious disease) as a term (Vuković, 2015). Thus, knowledge of the original form of this Anglicism is understandable due to its frequent use, but its frequent use is not understandable and is not justified due to the existence of a synonym in the Bosnian language.

As for the construction *socijalna distanca* (social distance), the results showed that most of the correct answers are in the form of translations or explanations for this Anglicism. It is among the most accurate in the original English written form, but in the case of use, respondents do not use it often, nor was it used often even before the pandemic. Several observations need to be emphasized in the case of this Anglicism or this two-word linguistic construction. Firstly, unlike the English dictionary in which this construction is included and translated as a whole and whose translation indicates that it is “the avoidance of close contact with other people during the outbreak of a contagious disease to minimize exposure and reduce the transmission of infection” (Merriam-Webster, n.d.), in the Bosnian dictionary these two words are separated and not brought together in this construction or even in this meaning. Because of this, it is understandable why the respondents emphasized that they do not use this construction often, nor have they used it before.

Furthermore, with the appearance of the pandemic and these expressions (Dautbašić & Bećirović, 2022), criticisms of the correctness of the use of these constructions began. Specifically, some authors (Hensley, 2020; Banks, 2020; Tangermann, 2020; Anderson, 2020) point out that instead of the word *social*, *physical* should rather be used here because pandemic implicates physical distance, and people since they are social beings, should not be at a social distance, so in this regard, such vocabulary should not be used. Following such indications by linguists, the World Health Organization has officially changed the term to "physical distance" (Anderson, 2020). So, with the appearance of the pandemic, this loanword also spread among the B&H population, but its use is not so frequent. Knowledge of its written English form and its meaning or what it indicates is at a satisfactory level.

Regarding the analysis of other Anglicisms, it is important to note that the word *vaccine*, which is a purely professional medical term and is often used in everyday Bosnian language and was used according to respondents even before the pandemic, was in many cases correctly spelled in English form and that in a fairly large number of cases (slightly less than half of the respondents) a correct translation or synonym was written for it. This is especially true when considering its translation or explanation, such as in Table 2 above, that it is a means of killing microorganisms brought into the body to create resistance to a specific type of disease.

All in all, the results obtained indicate that knowledge of the original English written form of these Anglicisms is on a higher level than knowledge of their translation, meaning, or explanation. The reason for this may be their daily use in society, in the media, and everyday communications (Mašić et al., 2020) without mentioning or using their synonyms. In addition, their use is not so frequent, but it is noticeable that they are used more with the appearance of a pandemic.

Finally, the second hypothesis, which predicted that there would not be a statistically significant difference between Bosnians' knowledge of the original English written form and translation/explanation of Covid-19-related Anglicisms based on their age, gender, and their English language proficiency, was confirmed as the variance in the reported knowledge of these two forms of Anglicisms was found insignificant between the observed participants' characteristics.

Given the nature of the Anglicisms we

have researched and their more frequent use with the onset of the pandemic, the results showing no difference between genders regarding their knowledge seem expected and justified. Even when it comes to using these Anglicisms during and before the pandemic, males and females do not differ. Therefore, their equally high knowledge of the original English written form of these Anglicisms and their poor knowledge of their translations or synonyms show that these terms are equally characteristic of both genders. Even though differences in the use and knowledge of Anglicisms have been found in some research papers, they mainly relate to the type of domains of certain Anglicisms because, according to Haas (1979), males seem to be more interested in sports, politics, and business, whereas females prefer to talk about social life, health, and lifestyle. Moreover, magazines and news portals that use English words usually target female (fashion, beauty, relationships) or male (film, sports, male fashion) readers. Similarly, Heidar et al. (2017) reported that there is a relationship between the gender of their research participants and the adoption of loanwords as females showed a tendency to employ more loanwords than males in such fields as education, food, household, and clothing while males employed more loanwords in other domains including sport, profession, and I-Tech. In this regard, differences in knowledge of Anglicisms from these domains are characteristic of those who use them more. However, the Anglicisms that are the subject of this research do not fall into any of the domains that males or females prefer, so their knowledge does not differ either.

Moreover, the insignificant difference between those who use English in speech and writing (Delić & Bećirović, 2018) and those who do not use it when it comes to knowledge of the original English written form and translation of these Anglicisms indicates that even the degree of English language proficiency does not affect knowledge of these Anglicisms. However, the level of English proficiency of the respondents was self-reported as they indicated whether they could use English in speech and writing or not, and this was not necessarily their official assessment of English proficiency. Furthermore, most respondents assessed that they could use English, which is not a normally distributed difference for the analysis compared to the rest of the respondents. Regarding previous research on this topic, knowledge of English, or educational background in general, is taken to measure the use and knowledge of English. For example, Bernard (2008), Truslove (2020), and Kirvaldize (2017) generally state that the level of

education and knowledge of English is the path to better knowledge and use of English loanwords. Thus, judging by the results of this research, the difference in knowledge of English is not a prerequisite for knowledge of Covid-related English in a certain number of the Bosnian population.

Finally, additional confirmation that these Anglicisms are universal, at least during the pandemic, is the statistically insignificant difference in their knowledge between respondents of different ages. According to the results, respondents from adolescence to over 36 years of age showed the same level of knowledge of both forms of Covid-related Anglicism, contrary to the findings of previous research on this topic. Although previous research that took into account age (e.g., Luján-García, 2015; Prantl, 2018; Rautert, 2015) was mainly based on the use of Anglicisms and not their knowledge, here we can link the degree of use with knowledge because it is expected that one follows from the other. Thus, the mentioned researchers generally agree that the younger population, and especially teenagers, use and introduce more Anglicisms into the language than the older population. The younger population, according to them, tends to be one of the most important transmitters of a considerable extent of Anglicisms, especially in colloquial speech. The same is with the Bosnian language (Skopljak & Dubravac, 2019) and for languages in the region (Mišić-Ilić, 2014). Thus, one of the reasons for these results may be that these Anglicisms concern all ages. Through daily news and restrictions on movement, the global pandemic imposed this vocabulary on everyone, and young and old alike could hear and see words such as lockdown, infections, etc., often in the form of an adapted loanword and in the original English form. Furthermore, younger respondents in schools and colleges received daily notices and instructions containing some of these words, and those a little older in places where they work also received the exact instructions. These instructions were often of the same content and were available to everyone (Delić & Bećirović, 2016). Based on this assumption, it becomes clear why respondents of different ages showed the same knowledge of the original English written form and the translations of the listed Anglicisms.

Conclusion

Based on the present research findings and the similar ones in the last two years of the pandemic crisis, it can be concluded that linguistic creativity and adaptability are a crucial part of languages. The newly coined neologisms and

previously existing but not specifically used words and phrases have proven that language flexibility can help people engage with the world. Based on the current research, it should be emphasized that the terms analyzed here, such as *vaccine* or *infection*, are not new and are not previously non-existing words. However, their reuse has shown that social changes, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, not only bring new words and terms but also re-promote some older words that have gained new use and meaning in this context.

It seems that some Anglicisms in the present study are exclusive in their use and that they solely refer to Covid-19 disease. Still, their use during and before the pandemic and their knowledge of their English written form and translation into Bosnian show that these Anglicisms are not used in the Bosnian population and are not known to the same extent. Knowledge of their English written form is generally greater than knowledge of translations or synonyms in the Bosnian language. It is not affected by the participants' differences in gender, age, and English language proficiency, while their use during and before the pandemic varies from Anglicism to Anglicism.

To conclude, the research of Covid-19-inspired Anglicisms has been shown as a relevant research topic in linguistics today. For further research, similar analyses into these Anglicisms among the participants of different demographic and educational backgrounds are recommended. Also, examining these Anglicisms through the characteristics used here can be done when/if the pandemic ends to see if they will be used and known to the same extent as at the time of the pandemic.

Conflict of interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interests.

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