



Students Comprehension To The New Terminology of Covid-19

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Corresponding Author(s):

Aminnudin Saimon

Kulliyyah of Languages and Management, International Islamic University Malaysia, Malaysia.: Email: deanamin@iium.edu.my

Aminnudin Saimon¹ , Nazatul Aineena Abdul Latif² , Nazihah Abd Rahim³ , Ainul Insyirah Mohd Yusoff⁴ , Nur Syazani Hanis Mohammad⁵

Abstract: The COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated the creation and widespread use of new terminology to communicate critical information effectively. This study aims to explore the introduction of these new terms during COVID-19 press conferences and evaluate the level of understanding among university students in Malaysia. Utilizing a quantitative research design, the study employed a survey method, distributing questionnaires to 200 students from four public universities—IUM, UKM, UM, and UPSI—selected through stratified random sampling. The findings reveal that students from IUM exhibited the highest comprehension of COVID-19 terminology, followed by UPSI, UKM, and UM. Specifically, terms such as "R-Naught," "Surveillance Activities," and "Triaging" were identified as the least understood across all institutions. Despite these gaps, the overall comprehension of new COVID-19 terms among the students was found to be strong. The study concludes that while students generally have a good grasp of the new terminology, there is a need for greater emphasis on explaining less familiar terms. The implications of this research suggest that enhancing public understanding of such terminology is crucial for effective communication during a pandemic, and this effort contributes to the enrichment of the Malay language lexicon by incorporating contemporary terms into everyday usage.

Keywords: New Terminology, COVID-19, Comprehension Level, Press Conference, Malay Language

1. Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly influenced the lexicon of languages worldwide, including Malay, as new terminology emerged to address the unprecedented global health crisis. The Ministry of Health (MOH) and Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (DBP) in Malaysia have played crucial roles in introducing and standardizing these new terms. However, the rapid influx of foreign terms, especially from English, into the Malay language has presented challenges. While these borrowed terms often provide a more precise and concise means of communication, they also raise concerns about understanding and proper usage, particularly among students.

Comprehending new lexical terms involves more than just knowing their pronunciation and meaning; it requires an understanding of how they are used in context. Despite their widespread use in media and official communications, there is growing evidence that students are struggling to fully grasp the meanings of these new COVID-19-related terms. This aligns with the observations of scholars like Mohamad, Malek, and Abd. Razak (2020), who highlighted that many new terms have been adapted from foreign languages to fit the Malay linguistic framework. Although some terms are entirely original to Malay, their rapid introduction has led to confusion among users, particularly when these terms are frequently used in official briefings.

This study aims to address the gap in understanding how well these new terms are comprehended by students. Previous research has primarily focused on the formation and acceptance of terminology (e.g., Radzi, 2011; Azuan Mat Dehan, Azuwan Yaakob, and Zakaria, 2014; Fage-Butler and Jensen, 2015), with little attention given to the comprehension of newly coined terms in Malay. Understanding these terms is crucial for vocabulary development and intellectual growth, particularly in the context of a global crisis like COVID-19.

In light of this, the research seeks to achieve two main objectives: first, to identify the new terminology that has emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic, and second, to assess how well students comprehend these new terms. To guide this exploration, the study poses two key questions: What are the new terminologies introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, and how well do students understand these terms? These questions are central to understanding the broader impact of language evolution during a global crisis and the implications for language learning and communication in times of rapid change.

^{1,2,3,4,5} Kulliyyah of Languages and Management, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) Pagoh, Johor, Malaysia

2. Literature Review

2.1. Concept Of Terminology

The concept of terminology in health sciences involves analyzing the usage of terms in various textual corpora, focusing on their frequency and contextual relevance. Mohamad et al. (2020) conducted a study using text analysis methods with a medical text corpus. The findings revealed that complex terms are used less frequently in newspapers compared to common words. This suggests that newspapers tend to use more accessible language, often providing additional context or explanations for complex terms. The study also highlighted the importance of terminology in enriching the Malay language, particularly in supporting its development as a language of science. However, research focusing on the common usage of terms in the Malay language remains limited, with most studies concentrating on term formation and acceptance. The phenomenon of integrating foreign terms into Malay, especially in science and technology, indicates a trend where terms are often coined through the adaptation of foreign concepts to meet current needs.

Kasdan et al. (2020) analyzed the creation of terms related to COVID-19, using data from press statements by the Ministry of Health Malaysia (MOH). The study found that 67% of the terms used by MOH had been standardized by Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (DBP), while the remaining terms, though new, adhered to guidelines for term formation. From a linguistic perspective, the pandemic has rapidly expanded the Malay vocabulary. New terms such as "social imprisonment," "droplet," "PPE," "PKP," and "level at the top of the curve" have emerged, leading to potential confusion among users. This diversity in terminology highlights the need for careful consideration to ensure that terms are understandable and usable by the general public, particularly when they pertain to public health.

Kasdan, Haroon, Pa, and Idrus (2017) further explored the systematic formation of Malay terms, noting that while some terms may appear to have been formed spontaneously, there is often an underlying pattern or system. The Malay community historically coined terms based on their interactions with nature, a tradition that continues today. For example, terms for fauna and flora were formed based on observations of the natural world, and this method has been extended to create terms in engineering, science, and technology. The study aimed to demonstrate the partial patterns in Malay language terminology, showing how these patterns reflect the cognitive processes and cultural wisdom of Malay speakers. The analysis of 1,087 terms in engineering and science revealed that term formation, while seemingly random, often follows a systematic and regular pattern.

In another study, Mohamad (2017) examined the formation of new terms that have emerged in the community, particularly those found in local online newspapers. Using the General Guidelines for the Establishment of Malay Language Terms, the study identified 64 terms across various fields. The findings revealed that 30% of the terms were fully formed in Malay, 56% were borrowed from foreign languages, and 14% were a combination of Malay and foreign languages. This study underscores the ongoing evolution of the Malay language, driven by the need to accommodate new concepts and ideas, particularly in response to global events such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Methodology

This study employs a survey method to infer conclusions using quantitative data collected through questionnaires. The data gathered from text content analysis and the questionnaire will be analyzed and presented in tables, allowing conclusions to be drawn based on the study's objectives. The data was collected using a questionnaire distributed randomly through the WhatsApp application, targeting students from four public universities in four different states: International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) Pagoh campus in Johor, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) in Bangi, Selangor, University of Malaya (UM) in Kuala Lumpur, and Universiti Perguruan Sultan Idris (UPSI) in Tanjung Malim, Perak.

A total of 200 respondents, representing various races and both genders, were randomly selected. This random sampling ensures that every individual has an equal opportunity to participate, allowing the results to reflect a broad spectrum of knowledge regarding the new terms introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic. The rationale behind selecting public universities from different states was to ensure that the data collected met the study's requirements. Given the official nature of the COVID-19 terminology, it was assumed that the respondents, regardless of their location, would have a high level of awareness of these terms, as they were frequently used in daily life and in official communications.

Data collection was further supported by press conferences, which began on March 23, 2020, to inform the public about the latest developments related to COVID-19. These press conferences featured speakers such as the Prime Minister (Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin), the Director-General of Health (Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah), and the Minister of Defence (Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri Yaakob).

The primary instrument used in this study was the questionnaire, designed to obtain quantitative data from respondents. The questionnaire was aligned with the Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Dictionary to ensure that the terms included were officially recognized. Additionally, the researcher analyzed speeches delivered by the Prime Minister of Malaysia and the Director of the Ministry of Health to identify new terms frequently used when announcing updates on the COVID-19 situation in Malaysia. The questionnaire was modified to align with the study's objectives and is divided into two sections. The first section covers demographic information, including

gender, age, and university affiliation. The second section lists 23 new terms introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic. A detailed explanation of the questionnaire is provided in Appendix 1.

4. Results And Analysis

4.1. Demographics Respondents

Table 1 describes the demographics of respondents consisting of gender, age, and university. Table 1 shows that this study involved 200 respondents consisting of 62 male respondents equivalent to 31%, meanwhile female respondents amounted to 138 people equivalent to 69%. Through pie chart 1 above, it can be concluded that the majority of respondents who answered the questionnaire were female. This is because the number of female students in Malaysian universities is more than male students.

Table 1: Respondent Gender

Vol.	Gender	Student	Percentage
1.	Male	62	31
2.	Female	138	69
	Total	200	100
Vol.	Ages	Students	Percentage
1	18 - 20 years old	32	16
2	21 - 23 years old	142	71
3	24 - 26 years old	26	13
Vol.	University	Students	Percentage (%)
1.	Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia	50	25
2.	Universiti Malaya	50	25
3.	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia	50	25
4.	Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris	50	25
	Total	200	100

Source: by the author

Table 1 shows the percentage of the age of respondents ranging from age 18 to 26 years. A total of 32 students equivalent to 16% of respondents aged between 18 years to 20 years. Next, respondents aged 21 to 23 years have recorded a percentage of 71% equivalent to 142 respondents. Respondents aged 24 to 26 years, recorded a percentage of 13% equivalent to 26 respondents.

Based on Table 1, this study uses a total of 200 respondents from public universities, namely Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia (IIUM) Pagoh campus, Universiti Malaya (UM), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), and Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI) has answered this questionnaire. Pie chart 3 above shows, that the number of respondents from each university is the same which is 25% equivalent to 50 students from the university.

4.2. Identify the new terminology of COVID-19

A total of 23 new terms in COVID-19 obtained from the press conference were successfully identified during the data collection process. These terms were obtained from a press conference conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, namely through a press conference of the Director of the Ministry of Health Malaysia. Next, Table 5 shows the new terms of COVID-19 and also attached the meaning of those terms. Table 5 shows terms and definitions in the Malay Language due to this research seeking student comprehension towards the new terms of COVID-19 in the Malay language.

Table 2: The New Terminology of COVID-19

No	COVID-19 new terms	Definition
1.	R-Naught	Kebolehjangkitan sesuatu virus pada permulaan sesuatu wabak di dalam masyarakat.
	<i>R-Naught</i>	<i>The contagion of a virus at the beginning of an epidemic in a community.</i>
2.	Pandemik	Wabak yang sudah menular ke kawasan atau wilayah yang lebih luas malah ke pelbagai benua dan ke seluruh dunia.
	<i>Pandemic</i>	<i>An epidemic that has spread to a region and even to various continents and around the world.</i>
3.	Kluster	Kejadian apabila berlakunya banyak kes jangkitan di sesuatu kawasan atau daripada sesuatu kumpulan.
	<i>Cluster</i>	<i>Occurrence when there are many cases of infection in an area or from a group.</i>
4.	Subkluster	Kelompok kecil yang berada di dalam kumpulan besar di sesuatu kawasan.
	<i>Subcluster</i>	<i>Small groups that are in large groups in an area.</i>
5.	Meratakan lengkungan	Mengelak peningkatan mendadak jumlah kes positif Covid-19 serta penularan jangkitan.
	<i>Flatten the curve</i>	<i>Prevent a sharp increase in the number of Covid-19 positive cases as well as the spread of infection.</i>
6.	Penjejakan kontak	Mengenal pasti mereka yang telah terdedah kepada mereka yang dijangkiti bagi mendapat maklumat lanjut tentang kontak atau pendedahan berkenaan.
	<i>Contact tracking</i>	<i>Identify those who have been exposed to those who are infected for more information about the contact or exposure.</i>

7.	Kuarantin sendiri	Individu yang pernah berhubung dengan kes positif tetapi tidak dikenal pasti sebagai kontak rapat. Tidak dikenakan HSO & tidak dipakaikan gelang. Perlu kuarantin diri & pantau status kesihatan selama 14 hari. <i>Individuals who have been in contact with a positive case but have not been identified as close contacts. Not wearing HSO & not wearing bracelets. They need to quarantine themselves & monitor health status for 14 days.</i>
8.	Self-quarantine Aktiviti surveilan	Aktiviti surveilan bertindak sebagai sistem amaran awal (early warning) dan pengesanan awal (early detection) bagi jangkitan COVID-19 di Malaysia. <i>Surveillance activities act as an early warning and early detection system for COVID-19 infection in Malaysia.</i>
9.	Triaging	Penilaian dan penyaringan pesakit mengikut keperluan rawatan kecemasan dan evakuasi kes. <i>Triaging</i> <i>Evaluation and screening of patients according to the needs of emergency treatment and case evacuation.</i>
10.	Operasi pematuhan	Pasukan petugas operasi pematuhan terdiri daripada 14 agensi kerajaan yang diberi kuasa oleh Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) untuk pelaksanaan pematuhan PKPB. <i>Compliance operation</i> <i>The compliance operations task force consists of 14 government agencies authorized by the Ministry of Health Malaysia (MOH) for the implementation of PKPB compliance.</i>
11.	Penjarakan sosial	Meningkatkan jarak fizikal antara manusia bagi mengelak jangkitan virus, melebihi satu meter, malah hingga dua meter di sesetengah negara. <i>Social distancing</i> <i>Increase the physical distance between humans to prevent viral infections, more than one meter, even up to two meters in some countries.</i>
12.	Perintah kawalan pergerakan	Arahan atau peraturan yang dikenakan oleh kerajaan sesebuah negara bagi membataskan pergerakan dan mengurangkan sosialisasi untuk mengekang penyebaran Covid-19. <i>Movement control order</i> <i>Order or regulations imposed by the government of a country to restrict movement and reduce socialization to curb the spread of Covid-19.</i>
13.	Penutup hidung dan mulut	Topeng yang mempunyai 3 lapisan untuk melindungi hidung dan mulut daripada penularan COVID-19. <i>Face mask</i> <i>The mask has 3 layers to protect the nose and mouth from COVID-19 transmission.</i>
14.	Pensanitasi tangan	Bahan yang berupa cecair atau gel yang digunakan untuk membersihkan bahan pencemaran seperti kuman (bakteria, virus, kulat dan lain-lain) penyebab penyakit. <i>Hand sanitizer</i> <i>Substances in the form of liquids or gels are used to clean contaminants such as germs (bacteria, viruses, fungi, etc.) that cause disease.</i>
15.	Kuarantin	Suatu pendekatan dalam perubatan di mana manusia, haiwan ataupun tumbuhan diasingkan untuk tempoh tertentu mencegah dan mengehadkan penularan penyakit. <i>Quarantine</i> <i>An approach in medicine in which humans, animals, or plants are isolated for a certain time to prevent and limit the spread of disease.</i>
16.	Vaksin	Suatu persediaan biologi yang menyediakan pelalian aktif untuk penyakit tertentu. <i>Vaccine</i> <i>A biological preparation that provides active immunization for certain diseases.</i>
17.	Norma baharu	Amalan yang sebelum ini bukan amalan biasa akan menjadi kelaziman atau amalan biasa. <i>New norms</i> <i>Practices that were previously not common practice will become commonplace or common practice.</i>
18.	Penyebarkan senyap	Seseorang yang tidak mengalami gejala sesuatu penyakit tetapi menjangkiti orang lain. <i>Silent Spreader</i> <i>A person who does not experience symptoms of a disease but infects others.</i>
19.	Perintah kawalan diperketat (PKPD)	PKPD termasuk: <i>Enhanced movement control order (EMCO)</i> <i>EMCO included:</i> - semua penduduk dan pelawat di dalam kawasan dilarang keluar dari rumah mereka semasa perintah itu; <i>all residents and visitors in the area are prohibited from leaving their homes during the order;</i> - bukan penduduk dan pelawat dari luar kawasan tidak dibenarkan masuk ke kawasan yang tertakluk kepada perintah itu; <i>non-residents and visitors from outside the area are not allowed to enter the area subject to the order;</i> - semua perniagaan ditutup; <i>all businesses closed;</i> - bekalan makanan yang mencukupi akan diberikan oleh pihak berkuasa semasa 14 hari untuk semua penduduk; <i>adequate food supply will be provided by the authorities during 14 days for all residents;</i> - pangkalan perubatan akan ditubuhkan di kawasan itu; <i>a medical base will be established in the area;</i> - semua jalan ke kawasan itu disekat. <i>all roads to the area are blocked.</i>
20.	Perebak utama	Keadaan di mana seorang individu berupaya menjangkiti ramai orang. <i>Superspreader</i> <i>Conditions in which one individual is capable of infecting many people.</i>
21.	Barisan hadapan	Pasukan polis, doktor, tentera dan lain-lain lagi yang mengawal dan melindungi masyarakat daripada dijangkiti penyakit berjangkit. <i>Frontliner</i> <i>Police forces, doctors, soldiers, and others control and protect the community from being</i>

infected with infectious diseases.

22. Peralatan Perlindungan Diri
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
Segala bentuk pakaian dan peralatan tambahan yang direkacipta untuk memberi perlindungan daripada bahaya.
All forms of clothing and additional equipment designed to protect from danger.
23. S.O.P Covid (standard operating procedure)
SOP dalam bahasa Melayu disebut Prosedur Operasi Standard. SOP bermaksud peraturan atau prosedur yang disusun oleh KKM, di mana semua peraturan perlu dipatuhi oleh masyarakat.
SOP in the Malay language is called Prosedur Operasi Standard. SOP means rules or procedures compiled by the MOH, where all rules must be followed by the community

Source: by the author

4.3. Student Comprehension Towards The New Terminology of COVID-19

Based on objectives, the second objective is to seek the level of students' comprehension of the term COVID-19 which is often used during press conferences by the Director of the Ministry of Health Malaysia. Table 6 is an indicator of the level of comprehension of students from selected Universities. Table 3 also shows the total student comprehension of the selected COVID-19 terms.

Table 3: Total of Student Comprehension

COVID-19 terms	IIUM		UPSI		UM		UKM		Total	
	know	unknow	know	unknow	know	unknow	know	unknow	know	unknow
R-Naught	4	46	9	41	14	36	15	35	42	158
<i>R-Naught</i>										
Pandemik	50	-	50	-	50	-	50	-	200	0
<i>pandemic</i>										
Kluster	50	-	50	-	50	-	50	-	200	0
<i>cluster</i>										
Subkluster	46	4	44	6	32	18	42	8	164	36
<i>sub-cluster</i>										
Meratakan	42	8	40	10	28	22	36	14	146	54
Lengkungan										
<i>Flatten the curve</i>										
Penjejakan Kontak	49	1	44	6	46	4	47	3	186	14
<i>Contact tracing</i>										
Kuarantin Kendiri	48	2	50	-	49	1	49	1	196	4
<i>Self-quarantine</i>										
Aktiviti Survelan	21	29	20	30	22	28	20	30	83	117
<i>Surveillance activities</i>										
Triaging	11	39	5	45	3	47	5	45	24	176
<i>Triaging</i>										
Operasi Pematuhan	48	2	48	2	45	5	49	1	190	10
<i>Compliance operations</i>										
Penjarakan Sosial	50	-	50	-	50	-	49	1	199	1
<i>Social distancing</i>										
Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan	50	-	50	-	50	-	50	-	200	0
<i>Movement Control Order</i>										
Penutup Hidung & Mulut	50	-	50	-	50	-	50	-	200	0
<i>face mask</i>										
Pensanitasi Tangan	49	1	50	-	46	4	50	-	195	5
<i>Hand sanitizer</i>										
Kuarantin	50	-	50	-	50	-	50	-	200	0
<i>Quarantine</i>										
Vaksin	50	-	50	-	50	-	50	-	200	0
<i>Vaccine</i>										
Norma Baharu	50	-	50	-	50	-	50	-	200	0
<i>New norms</i>										
Penyebar Senyap	42	8	45	5	48	2	39	11	174	26
<i>Silent Spreader</i>										
Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Diperketat	50	-	50	-	49	1	50	-	199	1
<i>Enhance Movement Control Order</i>										
Perebak Utama	48	2	48	2	49	1	48	2	193	7
<i>Superspreader</i>										

Barisan Hadapan <i>Frontliner</i>	50	-	50	-	50	-	50	-	200	0
Peralatan Perlindungan Diri <i>Personal Protective Equipment (P.P.E)</i>	46	4	45	5	27	23	46	4	164	36
Prosedur Operasi Standard <i>Standard Operating Procedure (S.O.P)</i>	47	3	50	-	50	-	50	-	197	3
Jumlah Total	1001	149	998	152	958	192	995	155	3952	648

Source: by the author

Based on Table 3, the data shows students' comprehension of the new COVID-19 terms. Students from IIUM demonstrated the highest comprehension, with a total of 1001 points, followed by students from UKM, UPSI, and lastly, UM. Some COVID-19 terms, such as "triaging," "Aktiviti Survelan," and "R-Naught," were not well understood by the students. These terms are particularly challenging to grasp due to their novelty and the fact that explanations of these terms are not yet widely known.

a. Triaging

Triaging is defined as the assessment and screening of patients based on the urgency of emergency treatment and the need for evacuation. This term became prominent during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, it appears to be confusing for students, as evidenced by the questionnaire results. According to Table 3, "triaging" recorded the highest number of students who did not know its meaning, with 176 out of 200 students being unfamiliar with the term. This could be due to the term's infrequent use in everyday communication. Notably, UM recorded the highest number of students unfamiliar with the term, with 47 students, followed by UPSI and UKM with 45 students each, and IIUM with 39 students.

b. R-Naught

R-Naught, or the basic reproduction number, refers to the transmission potential of a virus at the onset of an epidemic in a community. This term gained popularity during the COVID-19 pandemic and is also used in the context of other diseases (Mohamad et al., 2020). The term "R-Naught" also confused many students. As shown in Table 3, 158 students did not know the meaning of "R-Naught," compared to 42 students who did. IIUM recorded the highest number of students unfamiliar with the term, with 46 students, while UKM had the lowest number, with 35 students. UPSI and UM recorded 41 and 36 students, respectively, who were not familiar with the term.

c. Surveillance Activities

Surveillance activities are defined as an early warning system and early detection mechanism for COVID-19 infection in Malaysia. The study's findings suggest that students' understanding of the term "surveillance activities" is relatively balanced, with only a slight difference between those who knew and those who did not. According to Table 3, 117 students were unfamiliar with the term. This lack of familiarity may be due to the term's infrequent use or its use under different names, which might sound awkward in Malay. UPSI and UKM had the highest number of students (30 each) who were unfamiliar with the term, followed by IIUM and UM with 29 and 28 students, respectively.

d. Subcluster and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Subclusters refer to smaller groups within larger groups in a specific area, while PPE refers to all forms of clothing and equipment designed to protect against hazards. The findings indicate that approximately 60% of students understood these terms, while the remaining 40% had limited understanding. As shown in Table 3, IIUM students had the highest comprehension with 46 students, followed by UPSI with 44 students, UKM with 42, and UM with 32. A total of 164 students across the four universities understood these terms.

e. Flatten the Curve

"Flatten the curve" refers to efforts to prevent a sharp increase in COVID-19 cases and the spread of the infection. In Malaysia, frontline workers have been working tirelessly to flatten the curve. The study found that students' knowledge of this term was relatively weak, with more than 50 students unfamiliar with it. According to Table 3, UM students had the highest number of students who did not know the meaning of "flatten the curve," with 22 students. This could be because the term is less commonly used in Malay, leading students to prefer using it in other languages. Nevertheless, 146 students across the four universities knew the meaning of this term.

f. Silent Spreader

In corpus data, a "silent spreader" refers to someone who does not exhibit any symptoms of a disease but unknowingly spreads it to others. This term is widely used in English across various media platforms. As shown in Table 3, the majority of students (174 out of 200) were familiar with the term. UM had the highest number of

students (48) who knew the term, followed by UPSI (45), IIUM (42), and UKM (39). The influence of English seems to play a significant role in students' understanding of this term.

g. Contact Tracking

Contact tracking involves identifying individuals who have been exposed to an infected person to gather information about their contact or exposure. According to Table 3, students exhibited a high level of understanding of this term, possibly due to its widespread use in both social and mass media. IIUM students had the highest comprehension with 49 students, followed by UKM with 47, UM with 46, and UPSI with 44. A total of 186 students understood this term, with only 14 students unfamiliar with it.

h. Compliance Operation

Compliance operations refer to a task force comprising 14 government agencies authorized by the Ministry of Health Malaysia (MOH) to enforce compliance with the Movement Control Order (MCO). Table 3 shows that students' knowledge of this term was very high, with only 10 out of 200 students unfamiliar with it. The majority of students had a strong understanding of this term, with 49 UKM students, 48 IIUM and UPSI students, and 45 UM students knowing its meaning.

i. Hand Sanitizer, Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), Self-Quarantine, and Superspreader

"Hand s=Sanitizer" refers to substances used to clean pollutants such as germs, bacteria, viruses, fungi, and other disease-causing agents. The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in Malay is known as "Prosedur Operasi Standard," which refers to the rules or procedures compiled by MOH that must be followed by the community. "Self-quarantine" refers to individuals who have been in contact with a positive case but have not been identified as close contacts. Lastly, a "superspreader" is an individual capable of infecting many people. These terms are commonly used in daily communication. The study found that students had an outstanding level of knowledge of these terms, with approximately 98% of students being familiar with them. For instance, 100% of students from UPSI and UKM knew the term "hand sanitizer," and 100% of students from UPSI and UM understood the term "SOP." Similarly, the term "superspreader" was known by 48 students each from IIUM, UPSI, and UKM.

j. Enhanced Movement Control Order (EMCO) and Social Distancing

EMCO refers to a strict lockdown measure where all residents and visitors in the affected area are prohibited from leaving their homes, and non-residents are barred from entering the area. "Social distancing" refers to increasing the physical distance between individuals to prevent viral infection, typically by more than one meter, and up to two meters in some countries. According to Table 3, students' knowledge of these terms was excellent, with only one student out of 200 unfamiliar with them. This high level of comprehension may be attributed to the widespread use and dissemination of these terms in Malay, as well as their presence in advertising and posters, making them easily recognizable and memorable to students.

k. Movement Control Order (MCO), Face Mask, The New Norm, The Frontliner, Vaccines, and Quarantine

The study found that students from all four universities had a thorough understanding of the terms "Movement Control Order (MCO)," "Face Mask," "The New Norm," "The Frontliner," "Vaccines," and "Quarantine." This widespread understanding is likely due to the frequent use and dissemination of these terms compared to others. As noted by Kasdan et al. (2020) and Mohamad et al. (2020), terms that are commonly used and widely disseminated are more likely to be understood by the public. Table 3 shows that 100% of students were familiar with these terms.

Based on the final findings of the study, the study found that students had a lower level of familiarity with terms such as "R-Naught" (158), "Surveillance Activities" (117), and "Triaging" (176) compared to terms like "Frontliner," "Quarantine," "Face Mask," and "Vaccines." Many students preferred using English terms over their Malay equivalents, such as "mask," "sanitiser," "close contact," and "flatten the curve." Since the pandemic is still relatively new, the formation of these terms will require time and in-depth research. Additionally, students tend to learn new COVID-19 terms through everyday conversation or the widespread usage of mass media and social media. Therefore, this study suggests that more research on terminology is needed to expand and enhance the Malay vocabulary, standardizing terms across all fields.

5. Discussion

Based on the analysis and results, the findings show that students generally understand COVID-19-related terms. The data indicates that their comprehension is quite good, according to the studies conducted. However, some terms, such as "surveillance activities" and "triaging," are not well understood or recognized by students. This is likely due to the infrequent use of these terms or their lack of exposure in everyday language.

Frequent usage of new terms will facilitate students' understanding and learning. This is particularly true for terms related to COVID-19, which emerged as the virus spread worldwide. Understanding and comprehending these terms is essential for grasping the linguistic phenomenon that accompanies such global events. The evolution of language, driven by advancements in technology, science, multimedia, and other fields, enriches and enhances the Malay language, making it competitive with other languages. Using terms adapted to the Malay language

strengthens it, allowing it to express a wide range of concepts across various disciplines. The impact of the new COVID-19 terms on the Malay language can be summarized as follows:

a. New Terms of COVID-19 Will Contribute to Malay Language Development

The emergence of new terms during the COVID-19 pandemic contributes to the expansion of the Malay language's vocabulary, demonstrating its relevance in modern times. The urgent need to develop new vocabulary during the pandemic has led to the creation of terms like "Aktiviti Survelan" and "Meratakan Lengkungan." These additions also benefit various fields, such as science and technology. The development of new terms reflects the advancement and civilization of the language's users.

b. Making It Easier to Understand the Meaning of New Terms for Malaysians

The introduction of new COVID-19 terms also makes it easier for the Malaysian community to understand information presented during press conferences and in daily life. Malaysian society comprises not only teenagers but also older generations living in rural areas. Therefore, new terms like "Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan" and "Penutup Hidung Dan Mulut" help convey information clearly across all generations, ensuring compliance with necessary instructions during the pandemic.

c. Impact on the Identity of the Malay Language

The emergence of new terms has a potential negative impact on the Malay language. Some people prefer using English terms in daily conversation, even when Malay equivalents exist. For example, "hand sanitiser," "face mask," and "front liners" are more commonly used than their Malay counterparts "pensanitasi tangan," "penutup hidung dan muka," and "barisan hadapan." This tendency could lead to a loss of identity in the Malay language.

d. Malaysian Society Does Not Fully Understand the Use of New Terms

Another challenge with the introduction of new terms is that some members of the community do not fully understand them. For instance, the terms "R-naught" and "triaging" received the highest ratings in the category of terms that students did not understand. This lack of understanding is likely due to insufficient exposure to these new terms. Consequently, some Malaysians may ignore these terms or be less concerned about their meanings.

6. Conclusion

Terminology development is a crucial aspect of language planning, ensuring that the intellectual rigor of the Malay language is preserved as a language of knowledge and communication standards. This study successfully identified 23 terms related to the COVID-19 pandemic from press conferences and examined students' understanding of these terms. In the context of COVID-19 terminology, it is essential that the new terms issued by MOH and DBP are well understood by the public to ensure that information is conveyed effectively and accurately.

7. Limitations And Future Recommendations

There are a few limitations in this research. The respondents were limited to university students aged 18 to 26 years from four selected universities: International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), University Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), University Malaya (UM), and University Perguruan Sultan Idris (UPSI). The sample size was limited to 200 students, with 50 students selected from each university. The selected respondents were students majoring in Malay language courses at these universities. The data collection period was two weeks.

The data used in this research were terms mentioned in COVID-19 press conferences chaired by Tan Sri Dr. Mohd. Hisham Abdullah, the Director-General of the Ministry of Health Malaysia. These terms were later aligned with the Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka standards. Each term used in the press conferences was matched with the terms issued by Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka.

Future research could address some of the weaknesses identified in this study, particularly in terms of understanding the meaning of COVID-19-related terminology. It is recommended that future studies focus on the comprehension and understanding of COVID-19 terms. Understanding the meaning of these terms will reflect a deeper comprehension of the pandemic and its associated language.

Another recommendation is for researchers to engage more deeply in the field of terminology. Extensive research in this area would enrich the Malay language lexicon. Such studies would indirectly enhance and make the Malay language more competitive, enabling it to express diverse concepts in various fields. Increased research would also help the public better understand the terms used to express concepts related to technology, science, medicine, and other areas.

Finally, it is recommended that studies related to the Malay language be intensified to ensure that it remains relevant and effective in expressing various modern terms. Research should continue to ensure the Malay language thrives and remains competitive in expressing new terms associated with modernization.

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About the Authors

Aminuddin Saimon (PhD.): Assistant Professor at International Islamic University Malaysia, Pagoh Campus. He has expertise in Semantics, Pragmatics and Linguistics. Many papers were published especially in *Dewan Bahasa & Pustaka* magazine, *ILS Journal*, *BITARA* and *Pendeta Journal*.

Nazatul Aineena Abdul Latif: Student degree of Malay for Communication at International Islamic University Malaysia. Now, she is in the third year of her studies. Many achievements during her studies such as being one of the community members for MLCOM, Bureau of International & Culture, Bureau of Entrepreneur Division of KLMSS, tutor for Malay For International Students, IT community and more.

Nazihah Abd Rahim: Student degree in Malay for Communication at International Islamic University Malaysia. Now, she is in the third year of her studies. Many achievements during her studies such as being one of the community members for MLCOM, Bureau of Intercultural, Bureau of Anjung Melayu and more.

Ainul Insyirah Mohd Yusoff: Student degree of Malay for Communication at International Islamic University Malaysia. Now, she is in the third year of her studies. Many achievements during her studies such as being one of the community members for MLCOM, Vice President of Ikatan Mahasiswa Anak Melaka, Bureau of Anjung Melayu and more.

Nur Syazani Hanis Mohammad: Student degree in Malay for Communication at International Islamic University Malaysia. Now, she is in the third year of her studies. Many achievements during her studies such as being one of the community members for MLCOM, a committee of HARMONI MALAYSIA, the Bureau of Entrepreneur Division of KLMSS and more.

Appendix

Questionnaire design part A shows the respondent's background, and the second one which is part B shows the respondent comprehension towards the new terms of COVID-19.

Part	ITEMS
A:	1. Gender
Demographic	2. Age
	3. University
B: Objectives	Analysing students' comprehension of the new terms of COVID-19.
	List of terms:-
	• R-Naught (<i>R-Naught</i>) • Pandemik (<i>pandemic</i>) • Kluster (<i>cluster</i>) • Subkluster (<i>sub-cluster</i>) • Meratakan lengkungan (<i>flatten the curve</i>) • Penjejakan kontak (<i>contact tracing</i>) • Kuarantin sendiri (<i>self-quarantine</i>) • Aktiviti surveilan (<i>surveillance activities</i>) • Triaging (<i>Triaging</i>) • Operasi pemantauan (<i>compliance operations</i>) • Penjarakan sosial (<i>social distancing</i>) • Perintah kawalan pergerakan (<i>Movement control order</i>) • Penutup hidung dan mulut (<i>face mask</i>) • Pensanitasi tangan (<i>hand sanitizer</i>) • Kuarantin (<i>Quarantine</i>) • Vaksin (<i>vaccine</i>) • Norma baharu (<i>new norms</i>) • Penyebar senyap (<i>Silent spreader</i>) • Perintah kawalan diperketat (<i>Enhanced movement control order</i>) • Perebak utama (<i>superspreader</i>) • Barisan hadapan (<i>frontliner</i>) • Peralatan Perlindungan Diri (<i>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</i>) • S.O.P Covid (<i>standard operating procedure</i>)