Language of COVID-19: Language Absorption in the Pandemic Vocabulary from English to Arabic

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Abstract: The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact not only on public health but also on language dynamics, including the Arabic language. Arabic has witnessed a rapid expansion of its vocabulary in relation to COVID-19. The objective of this research is to demonstrate the newly added vocabulary and examine how these terms have been assimilated from English into Arabic. The study employs a qualitative approach, utilizing the "Dictionary of COVID-19 Terms (English-French-Arabic)" as its primary resource. The data analysed in this study consist of entries pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic found within the aforementioned dictionary. The analysis incorporates content analysis, as well as phonological and morphological analysis. The findings of this investigation reveal the presence of four distinct absorption strategies employed in the dictionary: adoption, adaptation, translation, and creation. Among these strategies, the translation strategy is found to dominate the process of absorbing English terms into Arabic, accounting for approximately 68% of the observed cases. This research ultimately concludes that language is an ever-evolving entity, constantly adapting alongside the societal and cultural developments it reflects.

1. Introduction

The global outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) has not only impacted public health but has also had significant implications for language. The pandemic has led to a surge in vocabulary development across various languages, including Arabic. This proliferation of new terminology in Arabic can be attributed to the absorption of English, which serves as an international language for disseminating COVID-19-related information worldwide, as argued by Muhammad Alif Haji Sismat (2021). The incorporation of Arabic vocabulary into the "Dictionary of COVID-19 Terms (English-French-Arabic)" involves the utilization of diverse strategies to accommodate the influx of new terms within this specialized lexicon.

Current research on language absorption encompasses three main trends. Firstly, it investigates the assimilation of languages into other languages, as evidenced by studies conducted by Zaidan et al. (2014), Edi Suwatno (2018a, 2018b), and Bengt-Arne Wickström (2021). For instance, Zaidan et al. (2014) examine the absorption of Arabic into Malay, which resulted in the incorporation of 1791 Arabic words into the Council's Dictionary. In contrast, Suwatno (2018a:167) elucidates that the absorption of Javanese into Indonesian primarily involves phonological changes due to the distinct sound systems of the two

languages. Secondly, language absorption is explored in the context of specific strategies, as demonstrated by Linda Aprillianti (2018) and Abu Sufyan et al. (2020). Phonological alterations commonly occur during the absorption of words, as highlighted by Aprillianti (2018:109), who notes changes in vowels and consonants during the language absorption process, including vowel assimilation, vowel sound omission, and vowel sound combination. Similarly, Muslihah (2018:73) identifies eight phonological processes involved in the absorption of English words into Japanese. The third trend focuses on issues encountered during the language absorption process, as addressed in studies by I Made Sudiana (2019) and Asisda Wahyu Asri Putradi (2016). These issues extend beyond the sound system and also encompass challenges related to the writing system of the absorbed language (Sudiana, 2019:57–58). However, it is noteworthy that current research predominantly focuses on language absorption using specific strategies, while the exploration of the specific theme of COVID-19 language absorption remains understudied.

This research makes a significant scholarly contribution by examining language absorption strategies, with a particular focus on Arabic, within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic as documented in the "Dictionary of COVID-19 (English-French-Arabic)". The principal objective of this study encompasses two key facets: firstly, to explicate the strategies deployed for absorbing Arabic terms into English within the lexicon pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic, and secondly, to undertake a comparative analysis of word forms and classes between the Arabic and English vocabularies. The study contends that language absorption not only serves to enrich the linguistic repertoire but also has the potential to engender semantic distortions, resulting in a shift in meaning from the source language. Additionally, language absorption often entails the simplification of words, which may compromise the inherent value of the language as it is translated into other linguistic systems. Consequently, language absorption acts as a catalyst for modifying vocabulary and, by extension, the language itself.

2. Literature review
2.1 COVID-19 pandemic vocabulary
The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) originated in Wuhan, China in December 2019, as reported by Alvan Muhammad Hibatullah Santoso (2022). Subsequently, the global spread of the COVID-19 outbreak occurred in early 2020, following the World Health Organization's official declaration of the disease as a global pandemic on March 11, 2020, as documented by Muhammad Mudzakkir et al. (2021:56–57). Rahayu Oktavia Asy'ari (2020) notes that the term "COVID-19" was coined by the World Health Organization to specifically refer to this strain of the coronavirus. COVID-19 represents a novel variant of the coronavirus capable of transmission between individuals, as well as through objects and the air. Its primary target is the respiratory system, as elucidated by Kevin Rivalna Akbar et al. (2021:66). The rapid transmission of this virus has contributed to its widespread dissemination. It can survive on inanimate objects for up to nine days and, when contracted by an individual, it can lead to a spectrum of symptoms, ranging from

mild respiratory issues resembling a common cold to severe conditions such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), as outlined by Nawal El Zuhby (2021:13–14).

The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic has brought about profound and extensive changes in various aspects of societal life, as argued by Irwan Abdullah (2020:488) and Na'imah et al. (2023). One domain significantly impacted is the healthcare sector, which faced notable challenges such as limited medical equipment supplies and a shortage of healthcare professionals, as comprehensively discussed by Yıldırım et al. (2022:1110). Furthermore, the pandemic triggered significant transformations in work patterns and educational systems, as examined by Hossain (2021) and Muassomah and Irwan Abdullah (2021:840-841). The widespread adoption of remote work arrangements by numerous companies, coupled with the shift to online educational platforms, resulted in various consequences, including a surge in unemployment (Mrinal Gupta et al., 2020) and barriers to accessing education (Muassomah et al., 2022). The closure of places of worship, as emphasized by Maghboeba Mosavel et al. (2022:2), necessitated individuals to conduct their religious rituals within the privacy of their own residences. Moreover, as elucidated by Eszter Füzéki et al. (2020:1-2), the thorough and extensive enforcement of social distancing measures played a crucial role in restricting human movement, leading to noteworthy achievements in mitigating the detrimental consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has served as a catalyst for a linguistic transition, introducing a new vocabulary and metaphors that impacts the daily speech of approximately eight billion individuals worldwide (Piller et al. 2020; Kanash and Hamdan 2023)). Since the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak, the lexicon employed in everyday conversations has undergone significant transformations, exerting notable influences on both statistical and semantic aspects of lexical processing, as explored by Kleinman et al. (2022:1-2). Novel terminologies and expressions have emerged, unfamiliar to individuals in various countries worldwide, parallel to the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic, as examined by Jonathan Dunn et al. (2020). This newfound vocabulary possesses three distinctive characteristics, namely synonyms, abbreviations, and acronyms, as identified by Wahyu Oktavia and Nur Hayati (2020). Furthermore, the utilization of English terms when communicating COVID-19-related information has been found to impact public trust levels, as indicated by Janet Geipel et al. (2022). Linguistic comprehension plays a pivotal role in social participation during epidemiological crises, and language accessibility assumes a crucial role in enhancing the responses of affected individuals, as highlighted by Stephanie Rudwick et al. (2021:242–243). Thus, language emerges as a key contributor towards achieving sustainable health and well-being objectives.

2.2 Language absorption

The concept of language absorption in linguistics refers to the developmental process whereby regional or foreign languages are assimilated and designated as native languages, as discussed by Syihaabul Hudaa (2019:1–3). Similarly, loanwords represent foreign terms that are integrated into a language and widely

accepted by its users, as explored by Winci Firdaus (2011:223). Word absorption can also be understood as a production process in which a language adopts patterns observed in other languages, as defined by Junanah (2010:106–107). In a similar vein, Charles F. Hockett (1965) characterizes word absorption as the changes and evolutions that occur within a language as a result of influences from other languages. Furthermore, absorption occurs as a consequence of language contact among individuals in various sociocultural contexts and relationships, as highlighted by Tatu Siti Rohbiah (2017:326).

Language absorption is marked by identifiable patterns, including adoption, adaptation, translation, and creation., as outlined by Balai Bahasa (2010). Adoption signifies the direct assimilation of linguistic elements from another language without alterations. Adaptation, on the other hand, involves the incorporation of a term's form and meaning from another language through adjustments in spelling to align with the target language. Translation encompasses the rendering of a language into another while maintaining the original structure and grammatical components Meanwhile, creation entails the process of identifying appropriate word equivalents regardless of the original language's form or structure (Bahasa 2010). On the other hand, Ayu Putri Ashilah (2020:1-2) posits two absorption patterns, namely term-matching and grammar patterns. The process of word absorption encompasses comprehensive assimilation, resulting in changes in consonants and vowels (Zaidan et al. 2014). The absorption of words entails modifications in phonological and foreign phonemic systems, as they are replaced with native phonemic systems, reflecting the distinct phonetic systems of each language (Abd Kasim Achmad 2018; Nor Hazila Mat Lazim et al. 2018). Hala Sharkas (2022:59) expounds that during translation, there is a tendency for content to be omitted, including narratives, quotations, and paragraphs. Additionally, Mahmoud Abdel-Fattah (2022:151) contends that every translation attempt carries the potential for distorting the original author's intended meaning, and in some cases, it may lead to the loss of the original meaning altogether. Translation also serves as a medium for effectively conveying the translator's perspectives and ideologies, influencing the translation of the target text's ideology (Jihad M. Hamdan et al. 2021:80; Dalia A.M. Abdelwahab 2022).

The phenomenon of language absorption has become increasingly prevalent with the global outbreak of COVID-19. Vocabulary related to COVID-19 emerged in English and has been assimilated into other languages, including Arabic and Indonesian, through the utilization of synonyms and borrowing of words (Darsita Suparno et al., 2021:72–73). The degree of word borrowing is particularly high for specific lexical items or estimated frequency across language families (Hannah Haynie et al., 2014:1–2). In the context of Arabic, Itsnaini Muslimati Alwi and Nur Aini (2021:161) elucidate that the absorption process of COVID-19-related terms in Arabic from foreign languages can occur through derivation, Arabization, and translation. Similarly, Desya Asrota Aina (2021) states that the vocabulary in Arabic that emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic can be categorized into five forms from a morphological perspective: Arabization, derivation, pluralization, compound words, and hybrids. Aina adds that from a semantic standpoint, there

exist relations of synonymous, antonymous, and idiomatic meanings. Fitriyah (2022:199-200) demonstrates that the absorption of BBC Arabic is predominantly characterized by direct borrowing, involving adaptations in phonology and morphology. Conversely, Olimat (2020:268) illustrates that the Jordanian community employs different euphemistic techniques in COVID-19-related conversations, experiencing a shift from Arabic to English. Thus, the stylistic choices in word absorption tend to follow the author's linguistic preferences, emphasizing the aesthetic value of the source language (Mike Nurjana, 2017:101).

2.3 Arabic and English

Arabic, a significant Semitic language with a global speaker base of 422 million people, boasts a rich and extensive historical legacy. In its nascent stage, Arabic served as a spoken language among nomadic tribes, facilitating communication and trade (Brian Bishop 1998; Miftahur Rohim 2013). Over time, it evolved into a language of literature, encompassing various literary forms and religious practices (Fatima Rabrusun 2019). It acquired the status of the official language of Islam and became synonymous with the Quran, the holy book of the Islamic faith. The dissemination of Arabic across the world began in the seventh century CE through the expansion of Islamic influence and power (Muhlis Muhammad Abdullah 2019). Additionally, Arabic emerged as a pivotal language for scientific and cultural endeavors within the Islamic world. It witnessed a profusion of works in diverse disciplines such as scientific research, literature, philosophy, mathematics, medicine, and astronomy, among others. These works were subsequently translated into Latin, serving as reference material during the Renaissance in Europe (Bishop 1998). Arabic exhibits distinctive characteristics, including its letter characters, writing styles, and varied derivations, setting it apart from other languages (Maman Lesmana 2021). Consequently, Arabic assumes a crucial role in shaping global language, knowledge, and culture.

Meanwhile, the history of the English language traces back to the fifth century CE, when Germanic tribes such as the Saxons and Angles began migrating to England (Steven Barish 1988). Subsequently, English underwent rapid development with the Norman conquest in the eleventh century CE (M. Subiyati 1995). It began to emerge as the dominant language among the educated class following the civil war in the 15th century CE. English then spread worldwide through English colonization in various countries, including the United States, Canada, Australia, India, and others (Richard Hogg and David Denison 2006). In tandem with the growth of trade and economy in England, English gained popularity and became an international language (David Nunan 2001). In the 20th century CE, advancements in technology and information, such as radio, television, and the internet, further expanded the use of the English language globally (David Crystal 2018; Natalia G. Popova and Thomas A. Beavitt 2017). To this day, English stands as the most widely used international language, serving as the lingua franca in business, technology, politics, academia, and it is the most widely learned language worldwide (David Crystal 2003; Dmitry N. Tychinin and Alexander A. Kamnev 2013).

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the linguistic landscape, particularly in the realm of English language with the emergence of new terms and expressions (Piller et al., 2020). The utilization of English in relation to COVID-19 is supported by several compelling reasons. Firstly, as the most commonly used international language, English ensures that pandemic-related information is easily accessible and comprehensible to people worldwide (Rudwick et al., 2021). Secondly, many international organizations and governmental bodies adopt English as their official language, ensuring consistency and accuracy in the dissemination of information (Ni Putu Tarisa, 2021). Thirdly, the use of English on social media platforms and information-sharing platforms such as Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, Telegram, WhatsApp, among others, facilitates widespread access to COVID-19-related information by the general public (Emily Chen et al., 2020; Siti Mazidah Mohamad, 2020; Shu Feng Tsao et al., 2021). Hence, the employment of English proves highly effective in communicating various aspects of COVID-19-related information.

3. Method

This investigation encompasses a qualitative study that relies on literature in the form of an electronic dictionary. The primary focus of this research is a specialized dictionary known as the "Dictionary of COVID-19 Terms (English-French-Arabic)," which encompasses languages relevant to the COVID-19 pandemic. Published in May 2020 by L'Organisation Arabe pour l'éducation, la culture et les sciences (alecso), the dictionary operates under the direction of Mr. Mohamed Ould Amar (Bureau of Coordination of Arabization, 2020). It features a wide range of entries in English, French, and Arabic, making it a valuable multilingual resource. The PDF version of this dictionary is accessible via the following link: http://www.alecso.org/nsite/images/pdf/6-5-2020.pdf.

Within this study, the research scope is limited to the examination of Arabic and English vocabulary present in the "Dictionary of COVID-19 Terms (English-French-Arabic)," comprising a total of 188 entries. The data collection process involved a careful analysis and documentation of each Arabic term associated with the COVID-19 pandemic as presented in the dictionary. Subsequently, these data, comprising specific Arabic vocabulary related to COVID-19, were categorized based on four distinct patterns of language absorption: adoption, adaptation, translation, and creation.

Table 1. Language absorption distribution

No.	Absorption Strategy	Number of Words	Percentage
1	Adoption	3	2,00
2	Adaptation	12	6,00
3	Translation	127	68,00
4	Creation	46	24,00
Total		188	100,00

The data collected in this study underwent content analysis, as well as phonological and morphological analyses. The content analysis entailed examining the frequency and percentage of words in the dictionary, based on the utilization of absorption patterns. This approach served as a valid procedure, employing the dictionary as the unit of analysis to assess the assimilation of Arabic words from English, in accordance with their classification of absorption patterns. Furthermore, the data were scrutinized for each word to ascertain the extent of its assimilation, encompassing aspects such as spelling, form, word class, and quantity. The phonological analysis focused on scrutinizing the sounds and spellings associated with the assimilation of Arabic words from English. In a similar vein, the morphological analysis involved an examination of the forms, word classes, and word counts within both languages. The obtained data were subsequently visually represented through graphs, providing a visualization of the mapping results derived from the content analysis. Additionally, the findings were presented in tables, organized according to the absorption patterns, and supplemented with descriptive explanations for each table. This comprehensive approach facilitated an overview of words that were fully borrowed, as well as those that underwent modifications during the assimilation process.

4. Results

This study explores the language absorption strategies employed during the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing specifically on the dictionary "Dictionary of COVID-19 Terms (English-French-Arabic)." The research investigates the assimilation of Arabic words from English and categorizes the language absorption into four strategies: 1) adoption, 2) adaptation, 3) translation, and 4) creation. These strategies are visually presented in Figure 1 below.
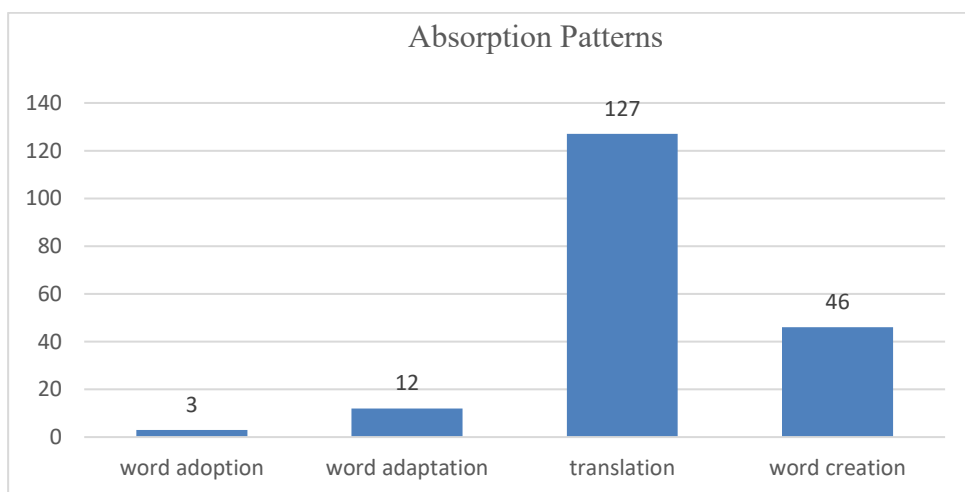

Figure 1. Absorption patterns in the dictionary

Figure 1 illustrates the distribution of the 188 words from the analysed dictionary

across four distinct absorption patterns. The findings presented in Figure 1 and Table 1 reveal that the adoption strategy accounts for 2% or 3 words, while the adaptation strategy encompasses approximately 6% or 12 words. Moreover, the translation method is employed for approximately 68% or 127 words, and the creation method is observed in approximately 24% or 46 words.

4.1 Absorption by adoption

The direct adoption of English vocabulary related to COVID-19 into Arabic, without any modifications to the spelling or form, is one of the strategies observed in the absorption process. This is evident from the data presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Word absorption by adoption

Entry number	English	Arabic
107	N95 respirator	منفاس N95
105	mRNA-1273 vaccine	لقاح mRNA-1273
53	FFP2 mask	قناع FFP2

Table 2 presents an overview of the word absorption strategy known as adoption, where English words are directly incorporated into Arabic without any alterations. Examples of this include the terms "N95," "mRNA-1273," and "FFP2," which maintain their original spelling and form when translated into Arabic. These terms refer to specific types of masks that adhere to international standards and are commonly utilized in settings such as nursing homes and by the elderly population. Given their significance in combating the COVID-19 pandemic, it is crucial to preserve the integrity of these labels, brand names, and object names without distorting their words and meanings.

4.2 Absorption by adaptation

The subsequent approach employed for absorbing COVID-19-related vocabulary from English into Arabic is adaptation. In this process, Arabic has comprehensively embraced both the form and meaning of English words while employing Arabic scripts. The specific instances of this adaptation strategy as identified in the dictionary are presented in the table below.

Table 3. Word absorption by adaptation

Entry number	English	Arabic
11	BCG vaccine	لقاح بي سي جي
12	Blood plasma	بلازما الدم
17	Chloroquine	كلوروكين
29	Coronavirus	فيروس كورونا
31	COVID-19	كوفيد-19
142	Remdesivir	ريمديسيفير
90	Jennerization	تجنير
181	Virus	فيروس

Table 3 presents a collection of Arabic vocabulary samples extracted from the
"Dictionary of COVID-19 Terms (English-French-Arabic)" that exemplify direct
word absorption. For instance, the term "بي سي جي" (no. 11) is an adopted variation
of the English word "BCG" and refers to a specific type of vaccine that does not
prevent the transmission of the virus but can aid in alleviating and treating
individuals who have been infected. In the case of Arabic word absorption, the form
and meaning of the English words are retained, although their spelling is modified
to align with Arabic conventions. Notably, terms such as كورونا (corona), فيروس
(virus), كوفيد (COVID), كلوروكين (chloroquine), among others, are transcribed in
accordance with Arabic lettering and orthographic conventions.

4.3 Absorption by translation
The new vocabulary form in Arabic related to COVID-19 absorbed through
translation from English where the word in English is searched for the equivalent
of the word in Arabic (Bahasa 2010), as shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Word absorption by translation

Entry number	English	Arabic
1	Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS)	متلازمة الضائقة التنفسية الحادة
3	Apex	ذروة
5	Artificial respiration	تنفس اصطناعي
6	Asphyxia	اختناق
19	Close contact	مخالطة مباشرة
20	Cluster	عنقود
33	Diagnosis	تشخيص
42	Endemic	متوطن
51	False negative	سلبي كاذب
64	Hand hygiene	نظافة اليدين
65	Hand washing	غسل اليدين
73	Home isolation	عزل منزلي
80	Immunity	مناعة
85	Infectious	عدوائي
88	Isolation	عزل
93	Lockdown	إغلاق
99	Mask	قناع
102	Mitigation	تخفيف
116	Outbreak	تفشّن
155	Social distancing	ابعاد اجتماعي
175	Vaccine	لقاح
176	Ventilator	منفسة
186	World Health Organization	منظمة الصحة العالمية

The examples presented in Table 4 demonstrate the absorption strategy of translation. In this approach, Arabic speakers take English concepts and seek equivalent words in Arabic. The translation process can be categorized into two distinct groups. Firstly, there are translations that involve adjustments in word count. For instance, the term "acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS)" (no. 1) consists of four words in English, which are translated into the Arabic phrase "متلازمة الضائقة التنفسية الحادة" (*mutala:zimah al-ḏa:iqah al-tanaffusiyyah al-ha:ddah*), also comprising four words. Similarly, the word "mask" (no. 99) is a single word in English and is translated into the Arabic word "قناع" (*qina:ᶜ*), which is also a single word. This approach is applied to the other examples presented in Table 4.

In the second category, the translation aims to preserve the part of speech as much as possible when transitioning from English to Arabic. For instance, the word "mitigation" (no. 102) is a noun in English and is translated into the Arabic term "تخفيف" (*takhfi:f*), which is a noun as well. Similarly, the word "ventilator" (no. 176), a noun in English, is translated into the Arabic word "منفسة" (*munaffisah*), which is also a noun. Furthermore, the word "artificial respiration" (no. 5) serves as both a noun and an adjective in English, and its Arabic translation is "تنفس اصطناعي" (*tanaffus iṣtina:ᶜi:*), comprising a noun and an adjective. The term "social distancing" (no. 155), also functioning as a noun and an adjective in English, is translated into "ابعاد اجتماعي" (*ibᶜa:d ijtima:ᶜi:*), which maintains the noun and adjective forms in Arabic. Likewise, the term "hand hygiene" (no. 64) encompasses both a noun and an adjective in English, and its Arabic translation is "نظافة اليدين" (*naTHa:fah al-yadaini*), utilizing an *iḏa:fa* construction, which retains both noun and adjective characteristics. Hence, the process of absorption through translation involves considering the form, number of words, and part of speech of the source language.

4.4 Word absorption by creation

The absorption of language can also occur through the method of creation, whereby Arabic speakers derive equivalent words in Arabic for basic concepts from the source language, in this case, English. Unlike the translation method, the creation method does not require strict similarity between the words. The original word, which may be expressed in one or more words, can be condensed into a single word in the target language (Bahasa 2010), and vice versa. Table 5 presents several examples of this strategy.

Table 5. Word absorption by creation

Entry number	English	Arabic
39	Dyspnea	ضيق النفس
55	Fomite	أداة العدوى
57	Gasometry	قياس الغاز
79	Hypoxemia	نقص تأكسج الدم
106	Myalgia	ألم عضلي
135	quarantine	حجر صحي

148	SARS-CoV-2	فيروس كورونا المرتبط بالمتلازمة التنفسية الحادة النوع 2
158	Stay-at-home order	أمر بالبقاء في المنزل
164	Suspected patient	مريض متشبه به
186	Xerostomia	جفاف الفم

Table 5 presents instances of the creation strategy in language absorption. This strategy, known as creation, involves absorbing a word that does not correspond to the physical form of the original word. For instance, the word "hypoxemia" (no. 79) in English, comprising a single word, is translated into three words in Arabic, "نقص تأكسج الدم" (*naqṣu taʔaksuji al-dami*). Similarly, the phrase "suspected patient" (no. 164) in English, consisting of two words, is translated into four words in Arabic, "مريض متشبه به" (*mari:ḏ mutashabbih bihi*). Likewise, the word "gasometry" is a single word in English but translated into two words in Arabic, "قياس الغاز" (*qiya:s al-qhazi*). Moreover, the word "quarantine" (no. 135) in English, which is a single word, is translated into "حجر صحي" (*hijr ṣihhi:*), consisting of two words in Arabic.

5. Discussion

The absorption of COVID-19-related Arabic vocabulary from English, as presented in the "Dictionary of COVID-19 Terms (English-French-Arabic)," reveals a distinct pattern of absorption. Translation emerges as the predominant strategy, accounting for 89% of the words in the dictionary. This indicates that absorption occurs easily through the identification of equivalent words in the source language with appropriate adjustments, ensuring the preservation of form and meaning. These findings align with the research conducted by Alwi and Aini (2021), which examined the process of Arabic absorption in relation to COVID-19 from foreign languages, including derivation, Arabization, and translation. Aina (2021) further expands on this, identifying five forms of Arabic absorption in the context of COVID-19, including Arabization, derivation, pluralization, compound words, and hybridization. The strategy of word translation encompasses various approaches, such as literal translation strategies, which involve common words, naturalization, omission, description, and collocation (Nurjana 2017). It is important to consider language equality when examining translation from a linguistic standpoint (Muhammad Aprianto Budie Nugroho 2018). Additionally, word translation involves multiple strategies, including transfer, naturalization, cultural equivalents, functional equivalents, descriptive equivalents, synonyms, overarching equivalents, shifting, modulation, reduction, and expansion (Nurhayati 2020). Hence, it is evident that the practice of absorption through translation is prevalent across different languages.

The process of language absorption between different languages often leads to a distortion of meaning, as observed by Abdel-Fattah (2022). There is a noticeable shift or alteration in meaning from the source language to the target language. This change can be attributed to variations in the intended or perceived meaning of

words, as discussed by Val Hamilton (2014). Moreover, language absorption often involves a simplification process that may result in the loss of certain linguistic aspects when translated or absorbed into another language (Bahasa 2010). The act of language absorption itself highlights the absence or omission of certain linguistic elements, as highlighted by Siti Hariti Sastriyani (2007). Achmad (2018) also suggests that language absorption entails a certain degree of loss, wherein the absorbed language may not fully capture the inherent value of the original language. Rohbiah (2017) provides evidence that around 40% of absorbed words retain the meaning of the original language, while the remaining 60% undergo modifications, such as in the case of Indonesian, which possesses distinct phonemic characteristics compared to other languages, as described by Hari Dwiharyono and Suyanto (2022). In essence, the transfer of languages from one to another is not a direct parallel process, as each language carries its own unique characteristics that distinguish it, as emphasized by Einar Haugen (1966).

To date, research on language absorption has primarily focused on the phonological modifications achieved through processes of liquidation, as discussed by Mat Lazim et al. (2018). I Made Suweta (2020) further explores word absorption through the identification of ten processes, including prothesis, epenthesis, paragogue, apharaesis, syncope, apathope, metathesis, dissimilation, assimilation, and contraction. Rahmad (2018) presents findings on foreign word absorption in advertising language, revealing three strategies employed: speech adjustment, writing adjustment, and a combination of speech and writing adjustment. Notably, Arabic adaptation within the context of the *aqiqah* language is frequently observed, and hybrid and translational means of absorption are absent, as noted by Husniah Ramadhani Pulungan et al. (2019). Departing from previous trends in language absorption research, this study adopts a comprehensive approach that combines content analysis with critical examination of each word within the dictionary. Furthermore, it not only maps the number of words based on the four language absorption strategies (adoption, adaptation, translation, and creation) but also scrutinizes the absorption process itself.

The study on language absorption related to COVID-19 further reinforces the notion that language is a dynamic and evolving tool of communication that reflects social and cultural developments. Language possesses remarkable adaptability to absorb and assimilate new vocabulary that emerges over time (Hockett 1965). The process of language absorption not only facilitates socio-cultural transformations but also entails the transfer of values embedded in the adopted language (Hamdan et al., 2021). Moreover, language plays a pivotal role in bridging people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds (Rohbiah 2017). This often leads to intriguing and creative language blends. As evidenced in this research, there are significant adaptations and creations in the adoption and translation of COVID-19-related language into Arabic. Thus, language serves not only as a means of communication and information dissemination but also as a reflection of human change and development.

This study highlights the significance of textualizing language as a means to capture its dynamic nature and responsiveness to evolving circumstances. In this

context, textualization of language refers to its capacity to adapt to social, cultural, and contextual changes within society. When language remains static, it becomes incapable of accommodating societal dynamics and hampers its communicative function. The evolution of language's capacity to absorb elements or social aspects empowers individuals in addressing prevalent issues. Therefore, it is crucial for language research centers to conduct meticulous studies and analyses on the dynamic aspects of language, enabling language to function effectively within ever-changing circumstances.

6. Conclusion

The present study provides a comprehensive analysis of the vocabulary absorption in Arabic from English specifically related to the COVID-19 pandemic, as documented in the "Dictionary of COVID-19 (English-French-Arabic)". The findings reveal four primary absorption strategies employed in this process. Firstly, there is direct adoption, wherein words are absorbed in both form and meaning without alterations. Secondly, adaptation occurs, where the form of the words is adjusted to align with Arabic spelling while maintaining their original meaning. The third strategy involves word absorption through translation, wherein English words related to COVID-19 are translated into Arabic based on their form and meaning. Lastly, there is creation, which refers to the absorption of words that deviate from the form of the source language (English) but are adapted to the characteristics of the target language (Arabic). These findings suggest that the identified absorption strategies can serve as a valuable reference for similar studies in the field.

Linguistically, this research contributes to showcasing the richness of vocabulary and the expressive power of language. The study of language absorption, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, highlights the impact of significant global events on language development, including Arabic. COVID-19 has not only emerged as a public health concern but has also profoundly influenced various aspects of human life, including language as a means of interaction and communication. Therefore, it can be inferred that languages worldwide are constantly evolving and dynamic in response to social developments.

However, it is important to acknowledge the limitations of this study, which focused solely on the examination of COVID-19-related vocabularies in the "Dictionary of COVID-19 (English-French-Arabic)". As a result, the collected data may be limited and incomplete, potentially impacting the scope of identified absorption strategies. To address this limitation, future research should encompass a broader range of documents beyond dictionaries, such as Arabic news sources, to obtain a more comprehensive and diverse dataset. This approach would enable the discovery of a wider array of vocabularies in different forms and meanings, enriching the analysis and understanding of language absorption processes.

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