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**Discursive Construction of the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Media**

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## Zásady pro vypracování

The MA thesis deals with the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and its representation in the discourse of selected English-language newspapers. The first part of the thesis provides the theoretical background for the analysis: it focuses on media discourse and medical discourse as well as explains the main tenets of Critical Discourse Analysis and its relevance to the analysis of the news articles collected for the purpose of the study. The second part of the thesis provides an analysis of selected discursive strategies in the articles and explains their function. The study aims to demonstrate the effect that the choice of specific discursive strategies may have on the perception of the pandemic by the general public.

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## **ANNOTATION**

COVID-19 affected the lives of many people as this unknown virus became very fast a pandemic. As a result, all mass media were interested in communicating news concerning this pandemic. The mass media have a crucial role in communicating events as truthfully as possible; nevertheless, many mass media communicate messages with a hidden ideology to spread fear and uncertainty, usually using narrative techniques which might be imperceptible at first sight. Therefore, this thesis aims to analyse two British newspapers to find out whether these narrative techniques are employed and what possible impact they could have on their readers.

## **KEY WORDS**

COVID-19, pandemic, narrative, news, newspapers, discourse, critical discourse analysis

## **ANOTACE**

COVID-19 ovlivnil životy mnoha lidí, když se z neznámého virusu velmi rychle stala pandemie ohrožující celý svět. Toto vedlo k zaměření pozornosti a vysílání zpráv všemi hromadnými sdělovacími prostředky. Ty mají významnou roli v předávání zpráv lidem takovým způsobem, aby co nejvíce odpovídaly pravdě. Nicméně, ne vždy tomu tak je, neboť sdělovací prostředky šíří zprávy se skrytou ideologií jím vlastní, která ve svém důsledku způsobuje strach a nejistotu. Toto se děje většinou skrze narativní techniky, které nemusí být na první pohled znát. Tudíž, tato práce si dává za cíl tyto techniky zanalyzovat ve dvou britských novinách za účelem zjistit, jaké techniky se využívají a jaký potencionální dopad na čtenáře mohou mít.

## **KLÍČOVÁ SLOVA**

COVID-19, pandemie, narativ, zprávy, noviny, diskurz, kritická analýza diskurzu

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## INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the lives of many people around the world. During the initial stage, people were left in uncertainty, not knowing the causes or the consequences the pandemic would bring, as only little was known about the virus. In order to inform as many people as possible and provide them with valid information that would clarify the facts about the virus, along with health and safety information, the mass media took an important role in communicating information connected to the virus. Yet with great power comes great responsibility. Different types of mass media presented the pandemic differently, using different strategies, affecting the perception of the pandemic differently, spreading both (mis)information and fear.

In the time of health or national emergencies, such as a pandemic or war, the mass media play a key role. Because of their popularity and accessibility, the mass media are usually the first media that communicate information connected to that event, shaping recipients' perception through the content, the tone, and the amount of news. This also applies to COVID-19. Public understanding of the risks connected to the unknown disease, along with the acceptance of measures put in place to prevent the spread of the virus, was crucial for handling the situation (Mach et al. 2021, 2). Therefore, the way the mass media construct news and information about any disaster, in this case COVID-19, influences final recipients' understanding of the situation and its severity, and it shapes their attitudes and judgements. To communicate messages effectively, the mass media often adopt so-called "storytelling". Storytelling is efficient in retelling stories in a memorable way that arouses emotions as it relies on personal experience (Jones et al. 2021, 60, 66). Therefore, the understanding of the message that is communicated by the mass media depends on the way the story is constructed and retold, who is mentioned in the story, how the events are labelled, or which processes and circumstances are acknowledged. As a result, all these choices influence the way the story is perceived and understood.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, online newspapers became one of the most crucial sources of information about the outbreak as the reduced mobility forced many individuals to stay at home and left them dependent on the Internet. Besides, during the pandemic, online news articles had an enormous advantage in speed as they could be updated almost immediately. Therefore, people were always informed about pressing events straight away. As a result, online news articles became an integral part of everyday

life during the pandemic with the power to change people's perception of the situation, as well as their well-being. Against this background, this thesis aims to identify narrative techniques in two popular UK newspapers with the use of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) in order to identify storytelling in the selected news articles dealing with COVID-19. The analysis focuses on the news articles published at the beginning of the pandemic, that is from March until April 2020.

This thesis is structured into two parts: theoretical and empirical. The theoretical part aims to introduce the key terms that are needed for one to comprehend the analysis presented in the empirical part. First, the thesis introduces media discourse, explaining the terms *news*, *online news*, and *newspapers*, and their importance in the world. Further in this part, the explanation of ideology and its connectedness to the mass media is explained, too, since newspapers and ideologies are interconnected. Secondly, the terms *discourse* and *Critical Discourse Analysis* create a substantial part of this thesis; therefore, the subsequent portion of the theoretical part is devoted to these issues. Here, the narrative techniques are more explained elaborately as they are fundamental for the analysis shown in the empirical part. Lastly, pandemic discourse is examined to demonstrate the way the mass media communicated similar events to people in the past. The notion of COVID-19 as such is also discussed in this part. The empirical chapter aims to answer the research questions asked and to identify the narrative techniques deployed by the UK newspapers in their coverage of COVID-19. The analysis is based on a selection of sixty articles in which *transitivity*, *nominalisation*, *evaluation*, and *naming practices* have been sought. All the findings are then discussed and commented on, and, lastly, the outcomes are presented and summarized in the final part.

# 1. MEDIA DISCOURSE

Nowadays, most print media publish news along with online news simultaneously. Online news is used extensively by many newspapers as online news has become an integral part of everyday life, and its impact is unquestionable. It is due to the technological change that happened a few years ago that allowed people to access news easier. Accessibility is crucial since everyone can read news from everywhere and anytime, not depending on printed media anymore. This is a very important aspect as online newspapers can react to the events faster and, therefore, readers can read the news almost immediately. As this thesis deals with online news published by well-known newspapers in the UK, the key terms connected to newspaper discourse are presented in this chapter, namely the notion of *news* and *online news*, *newspapers*, and *ideology*.

## 1.2 NEWS DISCOURSE

One characteristic of media news is that it represents some type of discourse (van Dijk 1988, 1). As van Dijk claims, “the application of discourse analysis in mass communication research is relatively new” (1988, 3). Although this claim was made four decades ago, the truth is that news discourse, among others, is still one of the newer disciplines. As van Dijk points out, the discourse approach in mass media has been accepted; nevertheless, the studies are still limited (2015, 109), although its importance is palpable. News stories never truly reflect events as they are, and the possibilities of how to present news are unlimited. The awareness of news discourse is thus essential to recognise and critically analyse hidden political and ideological beliefs (Jones et al. 2021, 292).

Newspaper discourse refers to an interaction that is oriented to a reader who is not present. Thus, newspaper discourse differs from other types of institutional discourse in a way that recipients have almost no ability to contribute to the communicative process and content. Although recipients are passive in absorbing text, they are very active in interpreting it based on their experience (Trčková 2014, 31-33). News production is a complex process using linguistic features and devices to achieve the main aim – to bring a story in a way reader believes it happened in the real world (Broersma 2010,17).

However, as stated by Alan Bell, journalism is not about writing news articles, but it is about writing stories (Jones et al 2021, 66). It means, as Matheson points out, the news does not always reflect the world as it is, as it does not construct the truthful picture of the event. More precisely, discourse analysts claim that “news makes sense within a social context,” trying to introduce news in a way that touches the readers (Matheson 2007, 15). The way we understand the world is conditioned by our understanding of the society we live in, as well as the medium we are exposed to. Thus, this gives newspapers social power to control the minds of recipients to a certain degree (van Dijk 1996, 10). The way the news is written, the selection of events, and the sources used in news articles, are all part of the newspaper discourse and the way the social power, or ideology, is applied (Trčková 2014, 34). Therefore, it is important to understand the way the story is written in order to be able to understand the world.

### 1.2.1 THE NOTION OF NEWS

The term “news” itself has several meanings and interpretations. Therefore, at first, it seems to be appropriate to narrow down the definition. For example, as van Dijk suggests, news can be interpreted as random information about a person or a thing, as well as a TV or radio programme type in which news items are presented (1988, 4). Nevertheless, for the purposes of the thesis, the definition by Reah is used. According to her, the news is “information about recent events that are of interest to a sufficiently large group, or that may affect the lives of a sufficiently large group.” (2002, 61). To reach a wider audience, the news is presented through a medium such as TV, radio, newspapers, or the Internet. Although there are many other sources where people can learn about current events, print media remained the most popular source of information for decades (Tanikawa 2017, 3519).

Nevertheless, news articles should not be considered as a depiction of the events only. As stated by Bell, journalism is not about writing news articles but about writing stories (2021, 61, 66). Therefore, it can be concluded that news articles are classified as narratives. According to Reah, a story is “an account of imaginary or past events”, giving news stories the status of fictional accounts (2002, 3). It might be due to the fact that the news retells past events by the usage of language, which creates a narrative sequence. However, this sequence does not have to be necessarily related to past events and it may

be fictional (2002, 106) as it is not in the human capacity to put events in memorable stories. In addition, every news article almost always has a political orientation (Jones et al. 2021, 66). In fact, narratives in media “play an important part in reproducing socio-cultural rules, norms, and practices” and thus, through news articles, people can understand the world they live in (Ibid.).

### 1.2.2 NEWS ARTICLES AS NARRATIVE

As already mentioned, news articles are more often perceived as stories. Every news article is written in an attempt to amaze, educate, inspire, inform or persuade (Jones et al. 2021, 66). As a result, news articles mostly describe events that are current and pressing, yet not showing the history, or what preceded the events themselves, which results in only limited knowledge about the world. Thus, each article contains a beginning, a middle and an end, providing readers with information about events and characters, along with some action and drama which is rising and falling throughout the story. In other words, news articles should be dramatized as it is the basis for the narrative. Therefore, the aim of the news articles is not to describe events but to rewrite them so that it is interesting for the readers (Borchers 2022, 111-112).

It makes narratives far more effective than any other messages as the vivid presentation of events can “transport audience into the storyline”, providing readers with meaningful context, often offer a richer experience, and cause an emotional connection (Vafeiadis et al. 2020, 4364-4366). Using narrative in news articles is comparable to a “window into the human soul” as news articles, written in that way, are perceived as a true reflection of real experiences. Such a glimpse of authenticity makes news articles more credible so that readers are more likely to be more interested (Ibid.). Yet, the way stories are told determine how the readers understand them. Therefore, the use of language gives authors enormous power to evaluate and judge events. There is also a power to control the content, meaning what is mentioned and what is not, how it is told and who figures in the story (Jones et al. 2021, 66).

As a result, narrative stories are an effective tool in terms of changing attitudes and opinions of people (Vafeiadis et al. 2020, 4364-4366) as a supposedly neutral news article can construct such social practices that go hand in hand with power and ideologies in

a world in which readers are only consumers whose well-being is dependent on the content they choose (Jones et al. 2021, 66).

### 1.2.3 THE NOTION OF NEWSPAPERS

Newspapers are classified as a part of mass communications. The characteristics of mass communications are that the mass media communicate information to a mass of people simultaneously, they are easily accessible, and they lack immediate feedback (Paxson 2010, 2-3). For centuries, newspapers informed people about important events of the day (Tanikawa 2017, 3519); therefore, the term 'newspaper' can be defined as a publication, usually distributed daily or weekly, that informs people about news, opinions, advertisements, TV programmes or book reviews (Rapeepat So-In 2002, 17). All these parts of newspapers have some information at their disposal. For the purpose of this thesis, newspaper news is crucial. As defined by van Dijk, newspaper news is understood as news discourse about political, social, or cultural events (1988, 5) that should be presented neutrally, without making the writer's point of view apparent (Paxson 2010, 104). However, the content of newspapers needs to be selected as everything that is happening around the world is an event, meaning that everything is news. Thus, there is a need to select events that are more appealing and interesting to the reader because there is not enough space to include everything that happens over the last 24 hours (Reah 2002, 4). Also, Richardson suggests the impossibility of selecting and composing news without focusing on the intended audience (2007, 1). However, the exclusion of news may affect the way readers see and understand the world. It is because the selection is made by editors, which makes readers unaware of the omitted items (Reah 2002, 4). News is then nothing more than "the end-product of a complex process which begins with a systematic sorting and selecting of events according to a socially constructed set of categories" (Richardson 2007, 77). In other words, news is a product that should be appealing to final consumers in order to make a profit. As Richardson further points out, there are many types of consumers with different types of preferences. Therefore, to satisfy their needs, many types of newspapers with different content are issued, which makes newspapers an attractive business as it is based on consumer behaviour (2007, 77-78).

### *1.2.3.1 TYPES OF NEWSPAPERS*

Changing and modifying the content of news articles led to issuing more types of newspapers. Although there are many types of newspapers, there is a basic distinction of newspaper types: “hard news” and “soft news”, also known as, respectively, “quality papers” and “popular papers” (Johansson 24, 2007). The terminology cannot be specifically dated, yet the idea was used widely in the United States by journalists such as Wilbur Schramm, the first scholar who reflected on the division of newspapers based on their audience. Later on, it was Tuchman (1973) who fixed the terminology for these terms and popularized it (Reineman et al. 2011, 223). Since then, the terms have been used by many scholars and journalists.

#### *1.2.3.1.1 HARD NEWS*

Quality papers, also known as broadsheet newspapers, represent hard news. Hard news is the most influential and educational newspaper due to the type of news it contains. Quality papers focus mainly on so-called “serious news” (Johansson 24, 2007). Serious news is defined as news that discusses political, economic, or scientific topics, as well as breaking events, including current issues such as crime coverage (Reineman et al. 2011, 224). Reading hard news requires sufficient background knowledge for a complete comprehension of the given text; therefore, it is suitable for more educated and affluent readers (Johansson 24, 2007).

#### *1.2.3.1.2 SOFT NEWS*

On the other hand, popular papers, mostly known as tabloids, represent soft news. Newspapers that present soft news are more personality centred and are not under the time pressure to publish news immediately as their focus is on “timeless” stories. This means that soft news focuses primarily on reports about celebrities, sports, and entertainment stories (Reineman et al. 2011, 224), thus, such reports are sometimes labelled as “non-serious newspapers”. They are mainly competing for readers who are



economically inactive and work manually (Johansson, 24, 2007). From this description, it is evident that newspapers representing soft news abandoned the idea to inform readers about political issues daily (Conboy 2006, 10). Nevertheless, this does not mean that they do not present such news at all. Reineman suggests that soft news can inform about events such as crimes, disasters, or current topics. However, the language used in it differs drastically from that found in hard news due to the softening of news (Reineman et al. 2011, 224). As Conboy suggests, tabloids prefer to use more companionable language when informing about events that concern major issues (2006, 10). The language is described as more personal and familiar, and less distant (Reineman et al. 2011, 224), which may be linked to so-called “tabloidization”. Tabloidization is a process of shifting boundaries of journalism where language, content, ethics, and journalistic techniques differ from popular news to reach large audiences and increase profits (Conboy 2006, 207).

#### 1.2.4 ONLINE NEWS

Print media were the most valued and used source of information until the 1990s. Nevertheless, the rise of the Internet and the rise of the World Wide Web put print media, especially newspapers, at threat. With this in mind, many newspapers migrated to the Web to keep up with the times. In the end, it has resulted in the rapid growth of popularity as the news has become more available (Garrison 2005, 6). As a result, online sites serve as supplements to the primary news products, i.e., newspapers (Salwen et al. 2005, 72), meaning that newspapers use online news to inform people about events in more detail. Although print media and online news coexist, online news is the biggest source of information today, whereas print media are slowly declining in popularity (Newman et al. 2017, 10). The reason is the great advantage of online news to bring news about events faster with almost immediate updates (Hasan 2009, 6). Also, with the lower cost requirements, many people prefer to search for online news, which brings us to the question about print media and their sustainability.

## 1.2.5 PARTS OF NEWS ARTICLES

As is known, a news article, either printed or online, consists of several elements that create the whole story into a coherent text, namely headlines, article text, images and image captions (Oostdijk et al. 2020, 4343). Given the purpose of this thesis and the analysis of selected news articles, it is important to explain two more elements, namely headlines and visuals.

### 1.2.5.1 HEADLINES

Besides the text itself, which informs readers about current events, news articles, either printed or online, contain one unique element: a headline. Headlines are placed above the text and are written in a larger font to grab attention. Nonetheless, there is a big drawback connected to headlines. Headlines usually have limited space on the page; therefore, they must be shorter, yet they still need to attract readers' attention. Nevertheless, it brings the risk of confusion as the limitation in size causes headlines not to reflect what the text is truly about (Reah 2002, 13).

Headlines fulfil many functions that are interconnected. The first important function is to summarize what the text is about. The truth is that headlines deliver information that should be in alliance with the rest of the text (Reah 2002, 25). As Reah clarifies, headlines should contain messages on what happened, where it happened, who was involved and under what circumstances the event happened (2002, 25). Basically, it should summarize the news story and give a gist of the text. However, headlines are not always capable of bringing such information. Nonetheless, as Crystal and Davy (1969) point out, headlines must contain such a message that is clear and not intriguing in order to attract the interest of the potential reader whose eyes move quickly down a page and select the content when something grasps his or her attention (Bednarek 2012, 157). This goes hand in hand with another important task of news headlines: to attract the attention of the reader.

In fact, a headline is the first text readers see and sometimes also the only text from the news articles. With the competitive environment where newspapers have to compete for readers, a range of creative language devices are employed to catch their attention and make news more interesting (Reah 2002, 32). Headlines create this impact through puns,

wordplays, colours, emotions, and colloquialisms (Johansson 2007, 23), as well as through other visual aspects (besides the font type and colour of the headline), for example, pictures. However, pictures themselves do not give a truthful meaning to the text but add extra meaning to headlines (Reah 2002, 23). This is where the distinction between popular and quality papers must be done since the devices mentioned above can be mainly found in popular newspapers, trying to appeal to the reader's emotions (Johansson 2007, 1).

#### *1.2.5.2 VISUALS*

The rapid growth of popularity of online newspapers has increased its importance, as well as demands on the content published. As Garrison points out, online news media content producers need skills that were not needed decades ago: skills that comprise the ability to work with text, images, audio, and video (2005, 42). The online medium enables publishing videos or graphs which have an immediate effect and attract attention. Images lead to a better understanding of the text, suggesting to recipients that the content of the image represents the content of the text. Also, the recipient's response to images is immediate and arouses emotions (Dogra 2014, 114-115).

These images are usually sold to newspapers by big companies called "stock images". Newspapers do not have to pay their photographers, and thus, relying on stock images, they can choose an image within minutes. As a result, the images used in news articles are not specially produced for any stories. Instead, images closely related to the news article or that seem to match the topic are selected. Nevertheless, it may be problematic since these images are designed to spread certain ideas, assumptions, and values that may not fit into the story. Thus, it can be concluded that images selected from stock images not only capture people and activities but also reinforce cultural and social stereotypes about these people and activities. In other words, these images represent social portraiture in which they communicate social ideas about how some people should act (Jones et al. 2021, 148).

Without significant surprise, online newspapers use images, along with other visual tools, to attract recipients and evoke emotions. In fact, the presence of images or photographs leads to an increased interest in the subject matter and the news article itself. Such visuals can help to decide whether the news article will be read (Rössler 2011, 429). Also, the

support of visuals can evoke emotions even after a certain period of time, when the topic is recalled (Seo 2020, 177) and therefore, it goes without saying that images can play an important role in shaping readers' view of the world.

### 1.3 MEDIA AND IDEOLOGY

It is believed that media texts present a coherent way of understanding the world. In other words, these texts attempt to define the world and give us models of proper behaviour and attitudes. Ideology is then defined as “a system of meaning that helps define and explain the world and that makes value judgments about the world” (Croteau 2003, 152). Simply put, ideology is compared to a reflection of a real world; nevertheless, the definition of the real world and its reflection is not so straightforward and might be problematic.

#### 1.3.1 IDEOLOGY

The term “ideology” can be traced back to Marxist origins where ideology was seen as a concept of “false consciousness”. According to Croteau, “ideology was perceived as a powerful mechanism of social control” that gave the ruling class the power over the working class, whose beliefs served the interest of others. Breaking free from the ideology and moving beyond their false ideas represented the new way of thinking that opposed the ruling class and their ideology (2003, 164). Ideology is then seen as a process of gaining power and the enforcement of interests (2003, 165).

Nowadays, the term “ideology”, in the broader sense, is being used not only in politics but also in the social sciences or media. Ideologies are defined as systems of ideas that are shared by social groups. Throughout the periods of time, many social groups spread their ideologies, such as feminists, communists, racists, or militarists. These members of society stand for several ideas that were fundamental for their beliefs about the world and their understanding of events; therefore, the definition could be that “ideologies are the fundamental beliefs of a group and its members” (van Dijk 2000, 6). Such a definition allows the polarization between US and THEM as there are many social groups with different ideologies which emerge into conflicts (2000, 8). Ideologies require discourse

and language use to be represented. Ideologies are then manifested by conversations between people, watching television, reading textbooks, or newspapers (2000, 9).

### 1.3.2 MEDIA AND IDEOLOGY

By this manifestation, the mass media are often understood and seen as forms of communication of certain ideological beliefs and neglect of others (Croteau 2003, 160). Even Fowler challenges the idea that newspapers, both quality and popular, present “hard facts”. Instead, he claims that “news is a practice, a product of the social and political world on which it reports” (1991, xi). In fact, nowadays, it is a well-known fact that politicians use news media for the dissemination of certain ideologies. It is caused by the belief that all types of the mass media are ideological, selling ideologies worldwide (Croteau 2003, 160, 161).

There are two views on the way of communicating ideology in the mass media. The first one is presented by Fairclough, who claims that the mass media tend to paraphrase the ideologies of those in power, for example, politicians, and thus ensure that their perspectives are dominant ideologies (1989, 51). This view can be perceived as an attempt at creating a kind of norm, an image of what is “normal” and “abnormal” (Croteau 2003, 163). On the other hand, Croteau points out that not all mass media communicate accordingly as they produce texts both with the dominant ideology and at least partially opposing point of view. Only then does the final understanding of the message depend on the popularization of the ideology and the way they are perceived by recipients (2003, 161). It emerges from the statement that the mass media are not biased. Newspapers only present news in such a way that every recipient can interpret it differently (Fowler 1991, 120). Nevertheless, this refers only to one point of view.

Also, media professionals refuse the argument that the media purposely spread the ideologies of those in power. Instead, they argue that the production of the images reflects the norms of the public and mirrors events and things as they are in real-life (Croteau 2003, 164). Such norms and beliefs are labelled as “common sense” – things that everybody knows or should know as it is the basis of society. These common senses are social constructions and are part of hegemony. Social constructions define what is the norm in the society, for example, the position of men and women or the superiority of one race over another (2003, 166,167). As Fowler points out and opposes what media

professionals are resisting, this is exactly ideology in the language: "...ideology in the language of news fulfils ... a background function of reproducing the beliefs and paradigms of the community" (1991, 124). In fact, the sociologist Stuart Hall (1982) proved how much the mass media fit into this definition. He claims that the media produce images of the world, giving events particular meanings. According to him, the mass media do not reflect the world, but they re-present it, thus they define reality (Croteau 2003, 168). Put it differently, the mass media actively select, present, and shape the events to make things meaningful, which gives them the power that is connected to ideology for giving the meaning to events suggests that there is more than one definition of the event and the world we live in (Ibid.).

To conclude, the mass media are believed to work with the dominant assumptions that everyone is familiar with, and which are in accordance with social constructions. They tend to reproduce events and stories based on these beliefs and do not fully reflect the world as it is, which makes the mass media an ideological tool in shaping beliefs and truths (Croteau 2003, 168). By accepting social constructions, recipients also accept ideologies. Nonetheless, as many theorists claim, not all people will accept these social constructions; therefore, they will not accept ideologies (Croteau 2003, 167), and such challenging of ideologies will lead to cultural changes.

## 2. CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

Derived from Critical Linguistics, Critical Discourse Analysis is an important research tool that intends to recognize social inequality in the discourse and to see the hidden ideology behind it. For many scholars, Critical Discourse Analysis has become an invaluable tool for recognizing already mentioned inequalities, such as manipulation or power in different types of discourse; nevertheless, mainly in the mass media and politics. Further in this chapter, the terms “discourse” and “Critical Discourse Analysis” will be introduced in order to understand their importance in the context, and especially in the context of the mass media.

### 2.2 DISCOURSE

The term discourse is a broad concept that is hard to define. According to Richardson, discourse is a trendy word that is oftentimes overused, or even misused (2007, 21). The problem is that in many texts, the term discourse is used unsystematically. Therefore, the concept has been used in different contexts meaning different things or, sometimes, meaning almost nothing (Jorgensen 2002, 1). This claim is acknowledged also by Bednarek and Caple. They suggest that discourse has been used in different fields such as linguistics, literary studies, anthropology, semiotics, sociology, psychology or speech communication, and that therefore, the word itself is difficult to explain as there are many different accounts of what it might be due to the different fields it occurs in (2017, 7).

Among the many definitions of discourse, we also find van Dijk’s claim that discourse can be understood as “text and talk” (1997, 3). It is also worth noting that in the past, only the written form was the subject of scholarly interest; nevertheless, with time, the spoken form began to attract attention and nowadays, all communication forms are of interest to discourse analysts. Text is then used for both written and spoken language in which part of the text can take the form of visual images and sound effects (Fairclough 1995, 17). Therefore, part of the discourse may subsume, for example, maps, images or photographs as well.

Following van Dijk's definition, Bednarek and Caple suggest that discourse can be understood as "a unit of language in use" (2017, 8). It is believed that language has some meaning, and it is supposed to do something in the context of its usage (Richardson, 2007, 24). In other words, people make sense of discourse mainly by using guesswork, which is based on the social knowledge they have (Richardson 2007, 23) as any language does not capture reality in its natural form. However, through discourse, people can communicate and exchange ideas which subsequently leads to constructing reality (MacDonald 2003, 11). Therefore, discourse is a combination of language and context within which the language is used. To summarize, as Jorgensen and Phillips claim, discourse is "a particular way of talking about and understanding the world or its aspects" (2002, 1).

In that sense, it is also important to define the word "context". In the study of discourse, context can have two meanings. The first meaning of context is called "verbal context" and refers to the preceding or following words, sentences, or speech acts and turns within discourse. The context mentioned in this sense focuses on text only, and it is understood as a representation of what traditional linguistics do (van Dijk 2009, 2). Another meaning suggests that context is understood as a "social situation". Van Dijk explains that context, namely in terms of the properties of the communicative situation, is relevant by speakers and recipients of the discourse (2009, 4). The definition above therefore suggests the usage of "social context" rather than "verbal context".

When discourse is analysed, the process is called discourse analysis. According to Fairclough, discourse analysis "attempts to show systematic links between texts, discourse practices, and sociocultural practices" (1995, 17). Discourse analysis stands for approaches, both theoretical and methodological, to language and its use (Richardson 2007, 24), and its aim is to explicitly describe units of language use (van Dijk 1988, 24). In other words, it analyses the way people use the language and the ways they convey the message.

### 2.3 CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

Derived from Critical Linguistics (CL), Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is a growing body of research that adopts the functionalist definition of discourse (Richardson 2007, 26). Although there is a belief that CDA approaches discourse as language in use, it must



not be understood as a tool that only comments on discourse, although it works with the analysis of a piece of text (Fairclough 2010, 8, 10). In fact, the interest of CDA lies in the social conditions of discourse. To distinguish CDA from other discourses, the term “critical” has been added (van Dijk 2008, vii) where critical, in that sense, is perceived as a critique of the society and what is wrong with it (Fairclough 2010, 7). When it comes to defining the term, many publications and scholars define CDA differently. Nevertheless, there is one definition that underlines and summarizes the key points of CDA. The term was defined by van Dijk (2001, 352) as follows:

“Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is a type of discourse analytical research that primarily studies the way social power abuse, dominance, and inequality are enacted, reproduced, and resisted by text and talk in the social and political context. With such dissident research, critical discourse analysts take explicit position, and thus want to understand, expose, and ultimately resist social inequality.”

Put differently, it can be assumed that the primary focus of CDA is on the relation between language and pattern of behaviour in society and how the relation produces power relations or inequalities in producing social wrongs and their effects within society (Fairclough 2010, 8). From this, it can be understood that language is “a medium of domination and social force” (Wodak 2001, 2). As Wodak adds, besides the language itself, the reference to the context must be considered, too, as CDA refers to extralinguistic realms such as culture, society or ideology (2001, 16). Nevertheless, van Dijk suggests that CDA mainly focuses on social problems or political issues, and there is little interest in current paradigms or fashions (2001, 353).

As suggested, language is a tool of power that enables those in power to control society through the usage of ideologies and to give false assumptions about the world or explain it inadequately (Fairclough 2010, 8). Most people have power only over their everyday communication; otherwise, they are the passive consumer of any other communication. Nevertheless, among these people, there are those with power who are capable of controlling public discourse and people’s minds (van Dijk 2001, 355-356). This demonstration of power happens mainly through the discourse used in media as it is the power of media and those involved to represent events and the world as it is desired for the moment.

CDA then aims to analyse such texts and language in order to identify the causes of social wrongs and inequalities, interpret them and propose a remedy for these social wrongs (Fairclough 2010, 8). As Fairclough suggests, it is this effort to propose changes that make CDA a normative critique, not only a descriptive one, and that sets CDA apart from other approaches (2010, 11) that only comment on text and language.

In order to achieve its stated aims, CDA follows several requirements and principles. While some of them have already been introduced, others have not been mentioned yet. Fairclough and Wodak (1997, 271-80) summarize the main principles as follows:

- CDA addresses social problems
- Power relations are discursive
- Discourse constitutes society and culture
- Discourse does ideological work
- Discourse is historical
- The link between text and society is mediated
- Discourse analysis is interpretative and explanatory
- Discourse is a form of social action

(van Dijk 2001, 353).

Simply put, CDA studies both power in discourse and over discourse; therefore, it is not interested in language itself but in the linguistic character of cultural and social processes and structures. Culture and society represent discourse, but at the same time, they are shaped by discourse, meaning that “every single instance of language use reproduces or transforms society and culture, including power relations” (Richardson 2007, 26-27). It follows from this that language use is ideological and can be understood only in relation to its context. Thus, discourse analysis aims to interpret text and talk in terms of ideology, power relations and social conditions (Richardson 2007, 26-27).

To be able to identify social wrongs, CDA relies on a systematic methodology (Richardson 2007, 27). Nevertheless, the term “methodology” is very broad since CDA does not have any specific direction of research. In fact, according to van Dijk, CDA “does not have a unitary theoretical framework” (2001, 353). The explanation can be that CDA is becoming mainstream, being used by many scholars, programmes of study and

researchers who give CDA new directions. Along with that, the view on its methodology and the theoretical basis has changed (Fairclough 2010, 10). It gave rise to many types of CDA that can be theoretically or analytically diverse, meaning that critical analysis of news reports in the press is very different from the analysis of conversation (van Dijk 2001, 353). Nevertheless, even though there are many methods for studying relations between the context and the language (although some of them do not have to be used in works that do not have to count as CDA, Fairclough 2010, 11), van Dijk claims that with the common principles and perspectives, along with the general aims of CDA, there are frameworks that are not unitary but are closely related. As he suggests, most kinds of CDA will have, for example, the same focus on the ways the specific discourse structures reproduce social dominance (van Dijk 2001, 354). It means that even though there are many theories and methods, most of them follows the same paradigm.

## 2.4 MAJOR APPROACHES

Within CDA, there are several significant approaches. Richardson mentions, for example, Fairclough's approach to CDA, van Dijk's socio-cognitive model, and the discourse-historic method of the Vienna School (2007, 37). These approaches are best known and have great credibility. In this thesis, Fairclough's and van Dijk's approaches will be described in more detail.

### 2.4.1 FAIRCLOUGH'S APPROACH

According to Fairclough (1995), CDA is "the analysis of relationships between concrete language use and the wider social-cultural structures" (Richardson 2007, 37). CDA is characterized as the analysis that deals not only with the functions and forms of the text but also with the relations out of the text itself. At first, CDA analyses the way the text relates to the way it is produced and consumed, and then it examines its relations within the wider society (Richardson 2007, 37).

Fairclough's approach to Critical Discourse Analysis consists of three basic properties: in his view, CDA is relational, dialectical, and transdisciplinary (Fairclough 2010, 3). In other words, the primary focus of CDA does not lie in dealing with individuals, but rather,

it focuses on social relations that are, in a sense, very complex. As Fairclough explains, discourse consists of a complex set of relations of communication, describing not only the relations of who talks or writes but also relations between communicative events such as newspapers and language, discourses, and genres. Furthermore, there are also relations, for example, between discourse and power relations or institutions and in the end, only throughout these relations can discourse be analysed. All these relations are dialectal, and objects are different from each other, yet they are not fully separated. Fairclough provides an example of discourse and power. Power, in a sense, is a discourse, meaning that discourse can use power. Without power, discourse itself is not the source of power, yet power has the ability to use physical force and violence without discourse. From this, it is understandable that these two elements are different and yet flow into each other; therefore, discourse cannot be analysed in isolation, but only with its dialectical relations with others, and thus the analysis is transdisciplinary (2010, 4).

In order to analyse any type of discourse or text, Fairclough introduced the so-called three-dimensional framework. According to him, every communicative event consists of text, discursive practices and social practices and underlines the need for awareness of processes related to text production, distribution, and consumption (Fairclough 1995, 9).

Text, also known as “description”, is the part of the framework in which formal properties of the text are analysed (Fairclough 1989, 26), mainly vocabulary, grammar, and textual structures. However, the analysis of texts should be done at various levels. From the perspective of CDA, looking at and analysing linguistic forms, as well as content, is not sufficient. Although all elements such as vocabulary or grammar are of importance, in this approach, they do not carry much significance on their own. Instead, it is their function at the moment of use that is principal as “every aspect of textual content is the result of a choice” (Richardson 2007, 38-39).

Discursive practices, known as “interpretation”, are a stage that combines and tries to interpret what is in the text along with the relationship between the text, those who produced it and its final receivers (Fairclough 1989, 141). At this point, in other words, the analysis is more about discourse analysis than textual analysis. Discursive practices then aim to analyse the text and the way it relates to the social conditions of production and its final consumption (Richardson 2007, 39).

Social practices, or “explanation”, are the final stage of the framework. According to Fairclough, this stage aims to “portray a discourse as part of social process, as social

practice, showing how it is determined by social structures, and what reproductive effect discourse can have on those structures” (Fairclough 1989, 163). The explanation can provide valuable insights into what has been foregrounded, backgrounded, or the ideological analysis (Fairclough 1995, 6). Social practices thereby expose the power beyond the text within its context and in relation to the discourse participants.

All three parts intertwine and cannot stand on their own. Therefore, for the analysis to be successful, this three-dimensional framework needs to be followed.

#### 2.4.2 VAN DIJK’S APPROACH

Another approach is that of van Dijk. In contrast with Fairclough’s approach, this examination emphasizes the fundamental importance of the study of cognition; therefore, it is called the socio-cognitive approach. However, the name of this approach should not be constructed as signifying only social and cognitive analysis. In fact, the complexity of problems CDA deals with requires more approaches such as the historical or cultural and thus, none of them cannot be omitted in this approach, either (van Dijk 2001, 97). Nevertheless, in terms of social problems, it is the detailed cognitive and social study that will ensure reaching descriptive, explanatory, and critical adequacy (2001, 97).

Van Dijk’s theory relies on three basic pillars: discourse, cognition, and society, called the Discourse-Cognition-Society triangle. This approach aims to reach social equality and justice, along with an effort to find power abuse; thus, it is problem-oriented rather than discipline-oriented (van Dijk 2009, 62). Van Dijk claims that relations between discourse and society are cognitively mediated, and thus “are of different nature, and can only be related through the mental representations of language users as individuals and as social members” (van Dijk 2009, 63). In other words, mental representations stand for both microstructural interactions (face-to-face) and more global, political, or societal interactions (van Dijk 2001, 97). The main idea behind the approach is that cognitive mediation is fundamental as the only observable aspect of the analysis, in contrast to linguistic structures that are not observable at all (van Dijk 2009, 63), although their importance is still remarkable. However, these structures cannot be isolated.

Society, in that sense, is crucial for the spread and control of ideologies and power over others. Van Dijk’s approach is mainly interested in the macro-level of social groups and

organizations that have the power to control, either directly or indirectly, public discourse. On the other hand, the micro-level of everyday interaction of social members is not excluded and is analysed, too (van Dijk 2009, 70).

In this approach, cognition involves not only social cognition, but personal as well, altogether with beliefs, goals, evaluations, and emotions. Cognition deals with the mind, memory, our personal experiences, and cognitive processes in the production and comprehension of discourse. Also, the knowledge of the world, as well as ideologies and attitudes shared between social groups, are of interest here. Personal experiences are represented as mental models, leading to a common mental model which allows cooperation, interaction, and communication, or, differently, discourse (van Dijk 2009, 66-67). These mental processes, as can be concluded, are shaped by ideologies related to the structures of groups or organizations (van Dijk 2001, 113). As can be seen, cognition, society and discourse are interrelated, and all must be taken into account to achieve the set aims.

Although Fairclough's and van Dijk's approaches differ, they both aim to reveal inequalities that are happening through the consolidation of power and ideologies.

## 2.5 CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS AND MEDIA DISCOURSE

Every language and text can be analysed with the use of CDA. However, it is media discourse that attracts more and more attention as all available communication forms, especially television and newspapers, play an important role in shaping and constructing society (Matheson 2005, 1).

According to Fairclough, media discourse is a series of complex, sometimes contradictory, processes that are, in a way, ideological. Media texts then function as a tool of social control over people (1995, 47). In the case of newspapers, people are consumers of events and do not have the ability to communicate meaning to editors. Therefore, they must rely on their knowledge and beliefs of the world to understand the text and its meaning. Yet, at the same time, news articles tend to shape their knowledge and beliefs, hence newspapers exert enormous power (Richardson 2007, 45). It is logical since news articles are represented in the lives of many people to a great extent. Many news articles are issued every hour, bringing breaking news and informing people about all types of

events (van Dijk 1988, 110); therefore, people's understanding and knowledge of the world is logically shaped by media. Such understanding then relies on the sources from which the information is obtained. However, news production is usually limited by the sources, including those that are legitimized or official, e.g., government or local authorities. Voices of ordinary people are usually not heard for their low credibility. As a result, such a heavy reliance on official sources causes a lack of diversity and strengthens the link between those in power and newspapers (Trčková 2014, 33).

In a cultural framework, news articles are considered as a form of social, institutional practice. It is thanks to the development of CDA that the study of media text and talk can be more explicit and systematic (van Dijk 1988, 176). In this way, a critical analysis of the media allows analysts to assess and describe the sharing of meaning between media and final consumers with the focus on how meaning is expressed differently in different media (Matheson 2005, 1). Also, CDA is interested in the analysis and critique of the presence of ideologies and power, and the way they are presented and reproduced in the news (Richardson 2007, 29).

This practice is not done through particular media texts but rather through "each instance of language use" (Matheson 2005, 2). The theory of discourse suggests that the process is complex and requires the use of more than one strategy. Discourse analysis is interested in graphical, semantic, stylistic, pragmatic and many other strategies (van Dijk 1988, 110). The text itself does not determine the process of interpretation; nevertheless, it constrains some potential interpretations. To make a sense out of a text, the text has to be coherent with the connections between the parts of the text and between text and the world (Trčková 2014, 33). Language use in terms of structure is also of importance. Language as a structure shapes the understanding of the world, and this interest in language's central role in everyday life along with the way the language functions in shaping people's minds and experience is the key issue in the analysis of media discourse (Matheson, 2005, 4).

### 2.5.1 MEDIA STORYTELLING

One way in which media and news articles communicate the message in media discourse is through storytelling. Storytelling is a universal activity that organises events into memorable stories that plays an important role in retelling socio-cultural practices, norms, or rules (Jones et al. 2021, 61, 66). Storytelling in media narratives has two levels of

telling the stories: literal and symbolic. The literal level retells stories of events and people, and the symbolic level promotes some ideological positions. Because storytelling has its literal level, many people are familiar with it as it reflects a form of communication they know and use. As a result, people believe news articles in their natural form. Nevertheless, supposedly neutral news constructs social practices which are just supported by ideologies and power and hence newspapers have enormous power over the content and people (Jones et al. 2021, 66, 67).

As stated by Bell (1991), journalism is not about writing news articles, but it is about writing stories; hence every news article is written in an attempt to amaze, educate, inspire, inform or persuade (Jones et al. 2021, 169). Although newspapers are seen as representations of news events, one event can be described differently by different newspapers, and thus it creates many versions of one event (Ibid.) Following that, every news article almost always has a political orientation that is, however, almost never explicitly stated as newspapers should be unbiased. Yet, with certain agendas, newspapers usually frame the ideology connected to the agenda into the news articles through lexicogrammatical resources such as transitivity, nominalization, evaluation, and naming practices (Ibid.).

#### *2.5.1.1 TRANSITIVITY*

According to Richardson, transitivity “describes the relationships between participants and the roles they play in the processes described in reporting” (2007, 54). Transitivity is, therefore, concerned with the way the actions are represented in the text, meaning what action happened, who does the action and to whom. Transitivity is understood as the representation of reality (Toolan 2001, 222), and it is all about lexical choices. In fact, journalism is all about choices. Every text that is written could have been written differently as there is a range of choices on how to represent participants in the event or the event itself (Richardson 2007, 54). As stated by Simpson (1993), three main components can be changed in the text, namely “the participants” realised by noun phrases, “the process” expressed by verb phrases, and “the circumstances” associated with the process, realised by adverbials or prepositional phrases (Richardson 2007, 54).

In the context of transitivity, participants are an important component. Toolan claims that transitivity names those who are included in a story along with those who are not, as well



as those who are active participants and those who are passive. In this sense, we can distinguish between agent and patient. The agent can be a person or entity and usually stands in the subject position. The patient can also be a person or entity; nevertheless, it is in the object position (Toolan 2001, 222).

Another component deals with the process itself. Processes are expressed by verbs and in English, there are six main types of verbs. The first one is classified as “the verbal process”, and it expresses the human consciousness into a spoken form, for example, saying or meaning (Halliday 2004, 170). The second process is called “the mental” one, and it represents clauses of sense, meaning the processes happening in the consciousness (Halliday 2004, 197). The third type, “the relational”, relates participants to their origin and identity. The fourth process is classified as “the material”, and it shows the changes in the flow of events. They are classified as clauses of doing and happening (Halliday 2004, 179). The fifth one, “the behavioural process”, is the combination of the mental and material processes of physiological and psychological behaviour, for example, sleeping or laughing. The last one, “the existential process”, concerns existence itself and is usually expressed by the verb “be” (Halliday 2004, 171).

Connected to the process expressed by verb phrases, the construction of the process needs to be considered; therefore, active and passive sentences are the subject of analysis as well (Richardson 2007, 55). Passive sentences put more emphasis on some elements of the sentence and can change the perception of the whole message (Jones et al. 2021, 170). Passive sentences change the sentence construction in a way in which the verb takes a passive form, and the object comes before the subject. The subject can be omitted, leaving readers unsure of the agent of the action. In news articles, the transformation of active sentences into passive ones is very frequent as it “removes a sense of specificity and precision from the clause” (Richardson 2007, 55).

Besides the process and participants, circumstances are another crucial element of the analysis as they have the power to easily extenuate, incriminate, or underline the point of view and may influence the public’s evaluation of the event (Toolan 2001, 222). It can be achieved by another contextualisation, adding adverbial or prepositional phrases, or through “the structuring or framing of a process’ meaning relations” (Richardson 2007, 57). In other words, it depends on the structure of the sentence and the importance of individual elements in the sentence.

### *2.5.1.2 NOMINALIZATION*

Nominalization is classified as one of the most crucial linguistic devices in news articles that can give an ideological slant (Jones et al. 2021, 170). As suggested by Toolan, nominalization is a transformation in which a verb or an adjective is transformed into a noun or a noun phrase, changing the verb or adjective into a “thing” that can further function as a participant in other processes. As a result, it “de-narrativizes” a process, which becomes only background to a thing, and successfully hides important details. Theoretically, any reader can decode the event as it should be; however, it needs time and effort. Nevertheless, if the events of the same issue are filled in newspapers over months, such ability decreases as it is easier for newspapers to enforce and reinforce a particular view of the world (Toolan 2001, 224).

As stated, nominalization has the power to give an ideological slant. It is mainly through the usage of economic language in newspapers where information needs to be expressed with a few words only. Based on that, the central action of the event is expressed in a nominal form which may result in the actor of the event being excluded from the text. In this way, the event is not specific or concrete, but rather general and abstract, leaving readers in doubt (Sušinskienė 2012, 142). As Jones et al. suggest, nominalization is a tool that serves to “contrive implicit or explicit transfers of responsibility”, and it leaves a question about who is to blame (2021, 394). Thus, it serves ideological purposes.

### *2.5.1.3 EVALUATION*

Evaluation is the expression of opinion through language and, as suggested by Toolan, it can occur anywhere in the narrative, at any point of telling the event (2001, 151). The term expresses the writer’s attitude towards something, namely feelings about the entities or propositions that are talked about (Bednarek 2006, 3). Therefore, evaluation is closely connected to subjectivity. Subjectivity is defined as being concerned with self-expression, meaning that it expresses the writer’s attitudes, emotions, feelings or judgements (Bednarek 2006, 20). Evaluation refers to the lexical and grammatical choices that can be used to express the opinion about events, people or things, and hence interpret the world we live in (Jones et al. 2021, 170) altogether with setting values that form our beliefs (Bednarek 2006, 4). For this reason, evaluation is regarded as a very important component

of the analysis, indicating the point of the narrative, its importance or morality (Bednarek 2006, 24). In news articles, the range of evaluation choices is implemented in order to tell the story in a way newspapers want it to be understood. To achieve this aim, adjectives, nouns, and noun phrases can be used to describe people, actions or events (Jones et al. 2021, 170). Monika Bednarek developed an approach to evaluation as she believes that there are different parameters by which the world can be evaluated (2006, 41). In her model, there are six parameters. The first one is “comprehensibility”, and it represents expressions that evaluate the human understanding of the situation. The second one is “Emotivity”. Emotivity is the most problematic parameter as it is highly subjective since it focuses on the writer’s evaluation of events as good or bad. Emotivity can be therefore positive or negative. “Expectedness”, as another parameter, describes whether events were expected or unexpected. Then, “importance” evaluates prominence and relevance. “Possibility/Necessity” suggests what might be possible and what is necessary. Thus, the usage of modal verbs is very frequent here. Lastly, “reliability” evaluates events that are certain and likely to happen, hence whether the event is true or false (Bednarek 2006, 45-52).

#### *2.5.1.4 NAMING PRACTICES*

Naming practices are concerned with the description of people or events, namely they focus on what names and words were used in order to refer to people or events (Jones et al. 2021, 293). Naming practices aim to find out whether names are the only reference of things or whether they carry broader meaning, namely ideas and beliefs. Although there are scholars who disagree with the view that names carry some information about ideas, there are many of them who believe that names consist of several layers of meaning, including, for example, lexical meaning or emotive meaning (Prieto-Ramos 2020, 637). Moreover, names are regarded as semiotic signs that can bring to mind any association, either good or bad. Consequently, it can be assumed that names, considered to be signs, are ideologically loaded, representing different kinds of interests (Prieto-Ramos 2020, 637). Thus, it can be concluded that naming practices truly reflects ideas and beliefs and can shape or influence the perception of things.

### 3. PANDEMIC DISCOURSE

The thesis deals with the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic that has completely changed the way people were used to living. In this chapter, it is necessary to explain the term “pandemic”, along with its representation in news articles over time. Throughout time, many infections have affected the human population, yet COVID-19 has had the worst impact in decades. It can also be indicated by the fact that COVID-19 was the first virus that was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization. This had an impact on the mass media as well, since COVID-19 became omnipresent not only in the population but also in the mass media, and how people perceived the severity of the situation depended on how those mass media present COVID-19.

#### 3.2 DEFINING ‘PANDEMIC’

A pandemic is defined as a large-scale outbreak of infectious disease covering a wide geographic area that is highly mortal, causing economic, social, and political challenges (Madhav 2017, 315). Nevertheless, a pandemic does not happen immediately as different conditions precede it, among them an endemic, an outbreak, and an epidemic. Explained by Grennan, an endemic is a stable and predictable condition in which the rate of people who are infected is observable and does not spread uncontrollably. Usually, it is observable in one country or continent, and it can be, for example, malaria or dengue. However, if the rate of people increases unexpectedly, it is no longer an endemic but rather an outbreak. An outbreak, as he further explains, is characterized by a higher number of infected people in a relatively small area. However, an outbreak can also happen with only one infected person; nevertheless, the infection must occur in a place it was not spotted before, i.e., an *Escherichia coli* outbreak from lettuce or ground beef. Lastly, an epidemic is basically an outbreak that spread over a larger territory, for example, Ebola that spread to many African countries. Then, if an epidemic spread all around the world, it can be classified as a pandemic. The examples of a pandemic from the past are Spanish influenza (1918), severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS – 2009), or AIDS (Grennan 2019, 910).

The risk of a pandemic is higher these days than in the past due to many factors, among them the rise of domesticated animals and livestock and its trading in the live animal markets, especially in Asia, or the possibility and ability of movement driven by travel or trade (Madhav 2017, 319).

### 3.3 THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In December 2019, an unknown coronavirus, which was recognized lately as the severe acute respiratory syndrome 2 (SARS-CoV-2), broke out from the city of Wuhan, Hubei Province in China. Named the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), this virus is causing health complications, such as fever, cough, or respiratory difficulties. Although some symptoms are unique, some of them are very well known. In fact, all viruses recognized as coronaviruses can cause respiratory disease along with cold, as recognized from the previous outbreaks such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) that first emerged in 2002 or Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) from 2012 (Mayo Clinic 2022).

COVID-19 and the first human cases were recognized in Wuhan in the wholesale food market. It was supposed that the virus had natural animal origins, namely in the bat population, and was transmitted through food that was sold on the market. Therefore, the marketplace was immediately closed. Although there are still many voices to this day believing the virus was artificially created, there is no evidence that would prove this hypothesis. As a matter of fact, even SARS was closely associated with bat origin; therefore, there is nothing unique about it. Besides, all coronaviruses may infect some animal species first and then humans. SARS firstly infected cats and then humans. Similarly, MERS infected camels first, and only then humans (WHO 2020); therefore, no clue would suggest that the virus was spread deliberately.

Although COVID-19 was spreading from the beginning of December 2019, the awareness of the new virus started in the middle of January 2020. The virus started to spread very rapidly, and soon, the whole world faced a new crisis. However, it was not until March 11 that the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 a pandemic. It was Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the WHO Director-General, who pointed out that this was the first time when the pandemic was caused by a coronavirus. He explained that “the number of cases of COVID-19 outside China has increased 13-

fold in the past two weeks,” which was causing significant worries (WHO 2022). Also, he suggested that the number of countries that were hit by the virus had increased, which just underlined the danger of the virus and raised concerns. Even though the data were alarming, the inaction of some countries was even more disconcerting. Thus, Ghebreyesus called on countries to take urgent and aggressive action to stop the spread of the virus as he pointed out that “all countries can still change the course of this pandemic” (WHO 2020).

Nevertheless, the situation did not improve as COVID-19 is still a very infectious disease and, also, very unpredictable. As declared by the WHO, the transmission happens through small liquid particles when breathing, sneezing, singing, or coughing. Therefore, the proximity to a person is very risky since basically anyone can be sick with COVID-19, having different symptoms, from mild ones to severe ones. As an example, mild symptoms are classified as fever, cough, tiredness or loss of taste or smell, along with rash, aches or sore throat with a headache. On the other hand, severe symptoms can cause breathing difficulties, chest pain or loss of mobility. Although most people infected by the virus do not have to be hospitalized since they have mild symptoms, some people can become seriously ill or even die. Among them are mainly those who have some underlying medical conditions or are elderly, and thus they need to be hospitalized (WHO 2022). Many hospitals were not prepared for the number of patients, and so many countries undertook the actions mentioned by the WHO to ensure the health care is not overwhelmed.

To protect people and lower the number of cases, the WHO recommended keeping social distancing so that people would not get in touch with others much. Also, anyone with even mild symptoms had to undergo quarantine, that is, in other words, they had to isolate themselves to protect other people. To prevent transmission of the virus, wearing face masks was compulsory both indoors and outdoors (Cucinotta and Vanelli 2020, 157). Another step in preventing the health system from being overwhelmed was a lockdown (Buelens 2021, 5). Lockdown, according to the Cambridge Dictionary, means “an emergency in which people are not allowed to move freely, because of a dangerous disease”. Although the outcomes of lockdowns were significant, COVID-19 resulted in an economic collapse since many restrictions affected workers in many fields, from agriculture and tourism to education and manufacturing (Buelens 2021, 5). The length of lockdowns usually lasted from a week to even months and had a significant impact on

people's well-being and mental health as everyday life had changed rapidly within minutes (Scopelliti et al. 2021, 2).

### 3.3.1 COVID-19 IN THE UK

The very first case in the United Kingdom was reported at the end of January 2020, and the very first known transmission from person to person was registered at the end of February 2020. From then on, the number of positive cases rapidly grew, and the UK Government had to make radical moves to protect people and flatten the curve of positive cases (Flynn et al. 2020, 673). Many restrictions were approved as a part of the legislation, which gave the Government the power to act in accordance with guidelines established by the WHO.

The UK Government ordered to close all non-essential shops or enforced social distancing under the threat of a fine. Followingly, to ensure that people stayed at home, the United Kingdom went to a strict lockdown on 23 March 2020, in which all schools and businesses were closed, and people were allowed to go outside only to buy essentials or to go for a short walk. Due to many positive cases that the United Kingdom faced, the hospitals soon ran out of beds. Thus, the National Health Service (NHS) decided to postpone non-emergency operations. During April, the weather caused numerous breaches, and the number of deaths rose, from hundreds of deaths per day in March to thousands of deaths in April (Oatt 2020). The first lockdown lasted for several months, yet it did not meet the outcomes as COVID-19 was still omnipresent. So, the United Kingdom went to a strict lockdown repeatedly. Such restrictions of immobility and liberty led to the poor mental health of many inhabitants of the UK, along with deep economic hardship. The Government offered financial aid to those affected by regulations during the first wave, mainly individuals and small businesses. In July, when the situation was relatively under control, the UK Government decided to ease the restrictions. After three months of the strict lockdown, schools and all businesses, including cinemas, restaurants and bars, were re-opened. Yet with colder weather and new variants of COVID-19, the restrictions were deployed again during the second wave of COVID-19, beginning in October 2020, (Zhou and Kan 2021, 1-7) as well as in the following year.

### 3.4 THE MEDIA IN THE UK

The mass media play an important role in the time of any disaster, not only a pandemic or a massive outbreak, as the demand for valid information is high. According to Génèreux et al., the accessibility of information is undeniable; nevertheless, it comes with enormous power over the content and spread of fear, for fear among the public is ever-present during any disaster. Therefore, it is the nature of information provided by newspapers and the way it is delivered to people that is central to understanding the essence of the matter (Génèreux et al. 2020, 1179).

In the UK, the mass media are very popular, and people have been reading them for centuries, not only during crises. In England, the public had access to printed news in the 16th century, although the publication of printed news was rather occasional. The regularity in publishing did not occur until the following century; nevertheless, it was immediately followed by The Printing Act, which determined that every work needed to be licensed in order to be published, and thus newspapers “were not free of government control” (Goff 2007, 1-2). However, the circulation and the popularity of newspapers was growing even in the following centuries, so with the increasing numbers of copies, almost everyone was within the reach of newspapers (Goff 2007, 3-4). Therefore, newspapers became a popular medium through which people could read about current events. There were many types of newspapers, mainly diverted by their political orientation which also led to the distribution of readers. Since then, newspapers have been stratified into broadsheets, read predominantly by the middle class, and tabloids, read mainly by the working class (Firmstone 2018, 2).

In terms of popularity, nothing has changed even today as newspapers remain very popular. Yet, the influence of the Government and different parties over the content is still present; therefore, newspapers are still driven by one’s ideology. In terms of circulation, it has been slowly falling due to online news availability (Firmstone 2018, 1) as, during the COVID-19 pandemic, many people had to stay at home, and thus online news was preferred due to its accessibility. Since the time newspapers are available, the UK has faced many crises. Nevertheless, newspapers did not always communicate the event truthfully and accordingly, which is also true of any other media in the world.



### 3.5 DISASTER COMMUNICATION AND THE MEDIA

The news media have the possibility to choose whether they will play a positive or a negative role in producing news about any crisis. In that sense, it is a rather negative role that is represented as news media are driven by what sells and, unfortunately, what causes unnecessary fear (Berry et al. 2009, 36). The bad news is perpetually presented in the news media, exceeding the amount of news about neutral or positive information (Haskins and Miller 1984, 3); therefore, it is hard to avoid it. However, people prefer to read about negative news such as natural disasters, crime, war, or terrorism. Nevertheless, all negative information tends to have a negative impact on the mood, state of mind and happiness of people who read such news. Long term exposure to negative news can thus cause significant harm (Hoog 2020, 157).

Notwithstanding, the importance of providing factual news without spreading dread is significant. For that reason, the quality of scientific sources is crucial when communicating health crises (Mach et al. 2021, 2). Yet, news media usually do not communicate science effectively, which causes public misinformation or misunderstanding (Généreux et al. 2020, 1180). The reason is that the mass media usually use inadequate sources (not only) during pandemics, which may cause either overstating the disease risks along with unnecessary fear or understating the disease risks and undermining the rules that are needed for efficient protection, as seen during the SARS outbreak in 2003. Furthermore, during the SARS outbreak, as well as the Ebola outbreak, the mass media did not keep people informed even though the threat of the virus was still visible (Mach et al 2021, 2).

On this account, Walter Lippmann, a very respected journalist, pointed out that due to the deadlines, news articles are not able to meet one hundred per cent correctness (DeFleur 2016, 66). Therefore, news cannot be classified as truthful given the way news media gather and process events, but, instead, as misleading, and deeply flawed, creating false notions about the events or the world itself (Ibid.). From that point, it is only one step to produce disinformation. Disinformation attempts to confuse or even manipulate people by providing them with dishonest information in well organized and resourced manner (Ireton and Posetti 2018, 8). Such news conveys the reports about death tolls or charts of a growing number of cases instead of providing people with opinions of experts and authorities (Généreux et al. 2020, 1180). On top of that, negative messages have the

power to divide communities in order to raise violence (Sen 2011, 95); thus, reading news articles during a pandemic can be more harmful than useful. One example of disaster communication, especially during a public health crisis, can be seen in the need for racial focus. Many viruses and outbreaks are usually linked to a specific group of people or countries. This connection that is promoted by news media then creates a strong emotional and political response, causing violence or false assumptions about the place and people who live there. An example of such labelling can be the Ebola outbreak that is linked to Africa and that creates an abyss between different cultures (Itefaq et al. 2022, 2). As seen, it is a combination of the lack of time to search for adequate information as well as the way news is presented that creates disaster communication at times when valid information is needed the most.

### 3.6 THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND THE MEDIA

This was true especially during the COVID-19 outbreak, as the role of the mass media was critical since many people clung to them as the only source of information providing information about the virus (Scopelliti 2021, 1). Therefore, the WHO noted that communication strategies during a pandemic are critical and should be strengthened to meet the requirements of the community. In other words, news should be evidence-based and should inform people about the key facts (Généreux et al. 2020, 1179). As summarized by Adekunle and Adnan, the awareness of people about the virus and their attitudes towards it depend on how the mass media manage and spread health information (2016, 1). Yet, news media had the enormous power to either bring valid information or spread fear and uncertainty. As pointed out, the sense of fear can have a more dramatic impact than the outbreak as fear spreads faster and further than the virus itself (Hyer and Covello 2005, viii).

As stated by Généreux et al., extreme fear can have an adverse psychological and behavioural response (2020, 1180). As Généreux et al add, releasing news that was based on rumours or was concerned with the pandemic, and the panic around its origin, helped to spread fear rapidly. During the COVID-19 pandemic, there was much news that had such an impact and left people in uncertainty or fear. Reporting news stories about conspiracy theories related to the origin of the virus (COVID-19), reports about panic buying and empty shelves in stores along with the reports about face masks as scarce

goods, or alerting to contact restriction, movement restriction or restriction of daily activities was on a daily basis (Généreux et al. 2020, 1180), which resulted in endless newsfeeds showing dangerous the virus was. Besides, according to Su, news media also published information about positive cases and death rates every day. So, the mass media contributed to the mental health problems of many people, such as anxiety, depression or even suicide. Since all media were concerned with the pandemic and all news articles dealt with the virus and its consequences, spreading the fear and the anxiety or stress through the information that was oftentimes misinformation in nature had an adverse effect on many people (Su 2021, 1).

Another crucial point concerning with the treatment of the pandemic by the news media was the labelling of the pandemic. Not surprisingly, the virus got many labels, among them, for example, the “Chinese Virus”, which resulted in hatred directed towards Chinese people. Many people avoided contact with people who were from China or with people whose appearance suggested it to protect themselves against the virus (Généreux et al. 2020, 1180). In the worst scenario, Asian people faced, because of their origin, verbal violence or even some aggression. With such a heavy racist context that the mass media set against people of Asian origin by the labelling, many of them were discriminated against and were put in danger (Ittefaq et al. 2022, 1-3).

These are only some examples of the results of communication failures brought about by the news media, causing serious consequences during a pandemic crisis, namely fear, anxiety and riots against minorities.

## 4. THE ANALYSIS: REPRESENTATION OF COVID-19 IN SELECTED ONLINE NEWSPAPERS

The empirical part of the thesis offers an analysis of the representation of the COVID-19 pandemic in two UK newspapers and their online news articles. The study aims to identify narrative techniques which the news articles used to inform readers about the event. The narrative techniques were mentioned in a detailed way in chapter two, and they will be presented here, too. The techniques mentioned by Jones et al. (2021) include: *transitivity, nominalization, naming practices, and evaluation*. These four techniques are said to be the principal means for retelling stories as newspapers use them in order to adjust events according to their agendas; that is to inspire, amaze, educate, or persuade readers.

### 4.2 RESEARCH FOCUS AND BACKGROUND

The study seeks to answer the following research questions:

- 1) ***What narrative techniques do online UK media outlets employ in their representation of the Covid-19 pandemic?***
- 2) ***What differences can be identified between the representation of the Covid-19 pandemic found in the broadsheets and the tabloids?***

To address these issues, two different types of newspapers were selected, tabloids and broadsheets. The selection was made purposely in order to see and identify the different strategies and lexical choices the two different types of newspapers employed while informing the public about the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yet, there is a wide range of UK tabloids and broadsheets online. In fact, according to the data collected, there are thousands of news websites in the UK, and therefore, the selection had to be made. Based on the chart with “Top 10 Most Popular News Websites UK 2021” issued by the website Ugwire, two online newspapers were selected,

namely *The Guardian*, representing hard news, and *The Sun*, representing soft news. Both online newspapers are among the ten most-read news websites in the UK. During the second stage of the selection, in addition to popularity, the accessibility of online news articles was crucial as both websites are free of charge and are not restricted by location. Put it differently, they can be read by anyone from anywhere, and so they target a wider audience.

According to the website [mediabiasfactcheck.com](http://mediabiasfactcheck.com), which focuses on the correctness of media and news across the Internet, *The Guardian* was established in 1821 and it focuses mainly on politics, sports, culture or lifestyle. Since 2011, the American and Australian versions of this newspaper have been available (however, these are not included in this analysis). Although some news articles are classified as misleading, the news articles issued by *The Guardian* are described as mostly “factual”. *The Sun*, on the other hand, was established in 1964 and it focuses mainly on celebrities, gossip, and current events. The news articles released by *The Sun* are classified as “misleading”. In conclusion, although some news articles do not reflect the truth accurately, their popularity among people is ranked as very high, and hence these two online newspapers will serve the purposes of the analysis perfectly as, during the pandemic, they gained even more popularity. Although the description of both newspapers gives some hint as to the possible conclusions of the analysis, it might be interesting to see whether there will be any differences while comparing news articles concerning the pandemic as this was a unique event.

### 4.3 CORPUS

As for the corpus itself, the number of articles dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic exceeds the scope of a single analysis since the pandemic has been of interest to all media since its beginning. As the pandemic is still omnipresent, the number of articles is rising every day and both online news websites, *The Guardian* and *The Sun*, return thousands of results regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the results had to be narrowed to have data that can be further analysed in the practical part of this thesis. The very first mention of COVID-19 appeared in UK media at the beginning of January 2020 when the WHO informed about the unknown virus from Wuhan, China. Although the virus spread uncontrollably, it was not until March 11 of the same year that the WHO declared the

outbreak as a pandemic. From then on, the cycle of restrictions and related events began, such as lockdowns, the obligation to wear face masks, and maintaining social distancing. People faced the unknown virus, and with all the restrictions changing every day, the fear was palpable. Since the desire to stay informed is part of human nature, many people followed and read (not only) online news to keep up with the situation. Hence, the importance of online newspapers and the way the situation was communicated through them at the beginning of the pandemic was crucial for people's understanding of the new circumstances as well as their well-being.

Although *The Guardian* and *The Sun* have informed about the COVID-19 outbreak since January 2020, for the purpose of this study, the span of articles from March to April was chosen as the period was a novel and crucial stage of the pandemic. From each website, 31 news articles mentioning the COVID-19 pandemic were selected for the analysis. Yet, not all the articles found in the COVID-19 archives in both online sources were classified as suitable. For example, there are many news articles in *The Sun* involving news about celebrities having Covid-19, along with the news articles focusing on the tips on how to manage quarantine with the household members. These were excluded from the corpus. The main focus tended to be on the news articles concerning the COVID-19 outbreak and its consequences in general, namely on the crucial events that could affect the everyday life of all people in the UK. In the same way, *The Guardian* has its Australian and American versions, yet the news articles are interconnected and can be found on the UK website to a large extent. To keep the balance between these two online sources, only news articles focusing on the situation in the UK or Europe were taken into account. Thus, the corpus comprises 62 news articles. Each article is labelled with the letter of the name of either newspaper, followed by a respective number of the article. For clarity, it needs to be explained that the numbers were selected from 1 to 31 irrespective of the publication date of the news article. Therefore, the articles are labelled as follows: S01 or G25, meaning *The Sun*, news article number one, or *The Guardian*, news article number twenty-five, for a better orientation during the analysis.

## 4.4 METHOD

The principal pillar of the study relies on the use of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). The main reason for choosing CDA is that it approaches texts critically. CDA also offers a broad spectrum of tools that enables researchers to analyse any text and its meaning from the text.

As Richardson states, CDA is an approach that does not follow identical guidelines all the time. Instead, it adapts to the context in which the texts are written to achieve stated objectives and aims (2007, 45). To rephrase it, CDA offers many tools with which the text can be analysed. It is up to the researcher who chooses appropriate tools based on the selected texts and stated aims. As the study aims to analyse news articles from selected newspapers and the narrative techniques that are employed there, the analysis relies mainly on the qualitative perspective. Qualitative analysis is defined as an analysis that works with selected texts within a social context and data collection derived from these texts. Based on the data collected, some interpretations are made, and hence, it is also classified as an interpretive analysis (van Dijk, 252, 2006). To conclude, qualitative analysis enables researchers to understand what has been said or written (Wodak, 25, 2002). In other words, it relies on texts and their interpretation in a social context and helps to better understand the text, the techniques used in the text, and possibly the ideology behind the text.

## 4.5 FINDINGS

In Section 4.5, all the outcomes from the analysis will be presented. The amount of data was great, and thus only some illustrative examples are provided and discussed in detail. For more examples, please, see Appendix 2.

### 4.5.1 VISUALS

The usage of pictures of any kind is an integral part of many newspapers. Online newspapers, as already mentioned, have a huge advantage in producing videos, graphs or

pools as well. As David Ingram points out, “pictures are worth a thousand words,” drawing attention to the article itself (2012). It is said that a news article without any picture will be boring and hard to read. Pictures, on the other hand, can help readers to visualize the event and give an idea of what a scene looks like (Ingram 2012). Therefore, it is assumed that many pictures, along with other visuals, will be found on *The Guardian* website as well as on *The Sun* website.

<b>VISUALS</b> <b>[pictures (P), videos (V), charts (CH), maps (M), banners (B)]</b>		
<b>No. of the article</b>	<b><i>The Guardian</i></b>	<b><i>The Sun</i></b>
(G/S) 1	4P, 1CH	5P, 2M
(G/S) 2	1P, 1M	1M
(G/S) 3	1P, 1V, 1M	4P, 1M
(G/S) 4	2P,2M	6P, 1M, 1CH
(G/S) 5	1V, 1M	3P, 1M, 2CH
(G/S) 6	1V, 1CH	5P
(G/S) 7	1P	2P, 1M, 2CH
(G/S) 8	2P, 1M	1P, 1V, 1M, 1CH
(G/S) 9	1P,1CH	2P, 1M, 1B
(G/S) 10	1P, 1M	16P, 1M, 1CH, 1B
(G/S) 11	1P, 1V	8P, 1M, 2CH, 1B
(G/S) 12	1P	2P, 1M, 2CH, 1B
(G/S) 13	1P, 1V, 1M	2P, 1CH, 1B
(G/S) 14	1P, 1V	2M, 2CH, 1B
(G/S) 15	1P, 1V, 1CH	1P, 1M, 1B
(G/S) 16	1P, 1CH	1P, 1M, 2CH, 1B
(G/S) 17	1P, 1V, 1CH	1M, 3CH, 1B
(G/S) 18	1P	2P, 1M, 1CH, 1B
(G/S) 19	1P, 2CH	1P, 1M, 4CH, 1B
(G/S) 20	1P	4P, 1M, 4CH, 1B
(G/S) 21	1P, 2V, 1M	2P, 1B
(G/S) 22	1P, 1CH	1M, 1CH, 1B
(G/S) 23	1P, 2CH	2P, 2CH, 1B
(G/S) 24	2P	1P, 1B



(G/S) 25	1V, 1CH	3P, 1M, 1CH, 1B
(G/S) 26	1V	1P, 1B
(G/S) 27	1P	1P, 1M, 1B
(G/S) 28	2P, 1V, 1CH	3P, 1B
(G/S) 29	1P, 1CH	1P, 1M, 3CH, 1B
(G/S) 30	1P, 1V	2P, 2CH, 1B
(G/S) 31	1P	10P, 1M, 1B
<i>Total</i>	<b>61</b> (34P, 14V, 2M, 11CH)	<b>177</b> (91P, 1V, 25M, 37CH, 23B)

Figure 1: Visuals in the corpus

As can be seen in Figure 1, both online newspapers use visuals to depict the event even more vividly and make it attractive for the reader. Both newspapers have in common the usage of a picture at the top of the article itself, letting the picture be the first thing, along with the headline, that readers see. These images are also visible on the front pages of both websites, as well as in the history of all articles. Thus, readers can choose whether they will read the article also based on the type of image provided.

Yet, there is a big abyss between the respective numbers of pictures used in both datasets. *The Guardian*, as seen in Figure 1, uses only a limited number of pictures in the news articles. As already mentioned, the image is usually spotted at the top of the article, supplementing the headline. Only a few news articles, such as articles number 1, 8, 24, and 28, used more than one picture. There are also articles where no pictures are presented; however, a video is available instead. The screenshot from the video can be found at the top of the article. Thus, it can be claimed that all articles are complemented by visual materials. Videos are also very frequently used by *The Guardian*, serving the purpose of explaining the origin of COVID-19 and, also, providing recordings of the government's briefings aimed to inform readers. On the other hand, *The Sun* provides readers with more pictures, three times more than *The Guardian*. These pictures form a substantial part of each article and overall, they have a greater impact on readers' emotions since they are omnipresent and depict the dark side of the pandemic. In some cases, the usage of these pictures may seem exaggerated as they form a larger part of the article than the text itself. Besides, in some cases, it is speculative whether the pictures

capture the moment during the pandemic as the pictures are taken from the stock images and could be even a year old. As for the videos, there is only one video available concerning the WHO spokesman who speaks about the incubation period and possible consequences if the period is not adhered to.

As for the stock images, both newspapers do not use their own photographs much. Many pictures are from different Internet sources, for example, Reuters, Getty Images or PA. In one sense, it gives them the opportunity to be more effective in selecting the appropriate content, yet most of the time, it does not necessarily show the reality. Many pictures are capturing the situation in hospitals; nevertheless, it cannot be claimed whether the situation captures the COVID-19 pandemic or a different event. In the same way, the pictures of people not adhering to social distancing are presented. However, in comparison to *The Guardian*, it is *The Sun* that provides more of these ambiguous pictures. In addition, *The Sun* also created banners to inform the public about current restrictions and recommendations, which enabled them to inform about current restrictions effectively. On the other hand, it could also be seen as another stimulus arousing negative emotions.



Figure 2: Photographs used by *The Guardian*



Figure 3: Photographs used by *The Sun*

It is also *The Sun* that offers more charts, graphs and maps, indicating how the COVID-19 outbreak is spreading, how many people are infected or how many people have died. They usually have the same aspects as they differ only in numbers because the charts and maps were uploaded on the website daily. *The Guardian* operates with similar charts and maps, showing how many people are infected or dead, nevertheless, on a much smaller scale. Also, the maps are designed very differently, namely in terms of colours. *The Guardian* uses neutral colours, usually grey with light pink or blue, by which the grey colour is understood as a neutral colour or even non-aggressive (Taylor 2019). On the other hand, *The Sun* uses dark colours, mainly black and red. Both colours are believed to grab attention and evoke immediate emotions (Taylor 2019). *The Sun* also highlights more the numbers of cases or deaths using bright colours to create a dramatic effect and evoke fear. *The Guardian* also uses the red colour, yet not to such a great extent (see Figure 4).

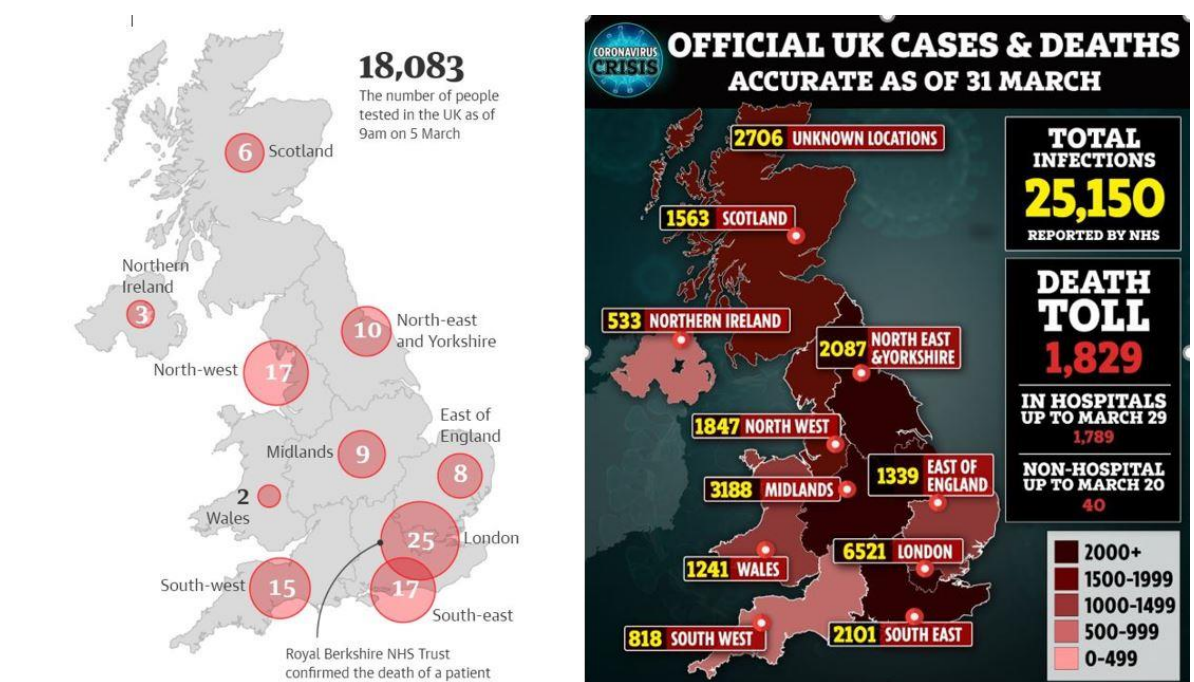


Figure 5: An example of a map in *The Guardian* vs *The Sun*

To conclude, *The Sun* used more visuals which created half of the content of each article. In comparison to *The Guardian*, it seems more likely the visuals intend to evoke negative feelings, mainly fear, through the enormous number of charts and maps showing the death rate and rising numbers of infected people not only in the UK but also in the whole world. Also, this is done through the choice of colours that attracts attention and evoke negative emotions. Although *The Guardian* uses charts and maps as well to show the numbers of positive cases and deaths, the nature of the maps and charts seems more informative as there is always only one map or chart per article, usually with some additional explanation, and the colours used there are rather neutral; although the red colour, which attracts attention and evoke fear, is found there too.

#### 4.5.2 NAMING PRACTICES

Since the beginning of the pandemic, many names were given to the unknown disease, later known as COVID-19. As is the case with any crisis, more and more people tend to rely on mass media, including newspapers that provide current information about what is happening. Such news can reassure people or disturb them, based not only on the content

but also on the usage of linguistic devices. As Fairclough states, the real power is not seen in the single text. This text itself is insignificant on its own. Yet, the power lies in the language and the repetition (1989,54). As already mentioned, there is always an ideology behind any newspaper, and one of the ways how to identify the ideology can be done through the identification of naming practices. Based on that, Fowler (1991) claims that categorization by vocabulary is a crucial part of newspapers due to the ideology it reproduces (Ruiz and Bataller 2013, 441). During the COVID-19 pandemic, the WHO announced official names for COVID-19, namely “COVID-19” for the disease and “SARS-CoV-2” for the virus. These names were supposed to be used in order not to spread fear. Yet, as mentioned, the naming practices, along with repetition, provides newspapers with the power to identify and evaluate objects or people, either positively or negatively. During the COVID-19 outbreak, *The Guardian* and *The Sun* used different names, especially to refer to COVID-19.

Naming Practices – COVID-19	
Newspaper	Examples
<i>The Guardian</i>	disease, outbreak, virus, COVID-19, pandemic, coronavirus, epidemic
<i>The Sun</i>	(killer) virus, (deadly) bug, outbreak, epidemic, coronavirus, disease, crisis, COVID-19, coronavirus

Figure 6: Naming practices - COVID-19

As Figure 5 indicates, there is mostly an agreement as regards references to COVID-19 in both newspapers. Yet, slight differences can be seen in the news articles published by *The Sun* in which the words “bug” and “crisis” are also used, yet the labelling of the disease is in many ways similar to that found in *The Guardian*. Nevertheless, the frequency of the words varies greatly. For example, the word “**pandemic**” is used more frequently in *The Guardian*. The examples that follow illustrate the use of this word:

Thousands of British holidaymakers could find themselves stranded abroad, as flight cancellations, travel restrictions and lockdowns due to **the global coronavirus pandemic** complicate their journeys home. (G10)

Britain's death toll from **the global pandemic** rose to 3,605 on Friday... (G17)

A grandson is urging people to “pick up the phone” and speak to loved ones and vulnerable people in self-isolation after his 82-year-old grandfather killed himself during **the coronavirus pandemic**. (G31)

There is also an example of the word “pandemic” in *The Sun*, yet such occurrences were not so common:

WHO warned coronavirus immunity passports could make **the pandemic** worse as patients who had recovered once could ignore health advice - increasing the deadly bug's spread. (S26)

Figure 4 shows only names for COVID-19; nevertheless, there is also an abyss in the usage of adjectives to label not only the disease, as will be seen further in the analysis. *The Guardian* does not use as many adjectives connected to COVID-19 as *The Sun*, yet some adjectives occur and recur more frequently, such as *global*, as can be seen from the examples above. The word “global” here suggests that the pandemic is a problem that the whole world faces. The word “pandemic” does not necessarily mean that the virus spreads around the world as it can be wrongly understood, but it can occur in a smaller geographical area, affecting only a few countries. Therefore, the adjective *global* underlines the seriousness of this problem.

On the other hand, *The Sun* uses more often the word “**epidemic**” than “pandemic”, as illustrated by the following examples:

Professor Whitty warned the UK will experience a number of deaths as the outbreak takes hold. He said: "It's much more likely than not that we're going to deal with **a significant epidemic**." (S3)

Countries around Europe have been forced to introduce draconian measures to try to stop **the epidemic** taking hold. (S11)

In contrast with a pandemic, an epidemic is declared when the disease spreads within a region or a community of people. In this sense, the term might be misleading as it usually collocates with “seasonal flu” and indicates something that has no permanent commonness. Yet the articles were written at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic,

so not much was known about it at that time. Interestingly, since 11 March 2020, when the WHO declared COVID-19 as a pandemic, there has been no sign of the usage of the word “epidemic” in *The Sun* anymore. Either way, both examples (“epidemic” and “pandemic”) are used with a negative connotation and indicate a threat along with people’s vulnerability.

On the other hand, both newspapers used quite frequently the word “outbreak”. Surprisingly, the term “outbreak” usually precedes the terms “epidemic” and “pandemic”; thus, it was expected the term “outbreak” will not be used by the newspapers so often since COVID-19 was declared as a “pandemic”. Yet the word “**outbreak**” is used very frequently. There are some examples from both newspapers:

Governments across Europe have warned their citizens that **the coronavirus outbreak** could lead to months of serious disruption, as figures for deaths and infections rose sharply again on Monday and new measures were announced restricting large gatherings. (G4)

The UK has recorded its biggest daily rise in the number of deaths so far in **the coronavirus outbreak**. (G16)

Britain’s political leaders joined NHS staff and members of the public in a nationwide silence for key workers who have died in **the coronavirus outbreak**. (G28)

Professor Whitty warned the UK will experience a number of deaths as **the outbreak** takes hold. (S3)

Since **the coronavirus outbreak** began in the UK in February, tens of thousands of people have needed hospital treatment. (S22)

TWO MILLION NHS operations have been cancelled due to **the coronavirus outbreak**, sparking fears of a second healthcare crisis. (S27)

Interestingly, the word “**outbreak**” is usually preceded by the word “**coronavirus**”. Although the word is well known for many years, with the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic, the word started to be perceived differently. According to Trish Laub, the word “coronavirus” evokes fear and unpleasant feelings such as panic (2020), and hence it can be said that the word has a bad connotation. In the time of the pandemic, it might seem pointless to specify the outbreak since the whole world was aware of the situation and no other diseases emerged at the time. Therefore, the word seems to remind readers about the danger and thus, evoke negative emotions. Also, the word “outbreak”, according to the Cambridge Dictionary, has a negative connotation as it indicates a sudden increase of

something unpleasant, usually connected to a war or a disease. Thus, “the coronavirus outbreak” has hence a very strong negative connotation and evokes fear. It is also quite frequent in the articles published by *The Guardian*.

As for *The Sun*, the most frequent word describing COVID-19 was “**bug**”, as it can be found in most of the articles analysed. The word “bug” can be interpreted as an insect of any kind. Nevertheless, by the Medical Dictionary, the word “bug” has a quite different meaning, as it is described as an acute illness of an unknown origin, and the word is defined as a slang word.

Lisa said that ignoring the signs of **the bug**, which has killed more than 7,800 worldwide, could be "fatal." (S9)

But eerie pictures show cities usually brimming with workers on a Friday night completely deserted as the war against **the killer bug** ramped up. (S10)

Tens of thousands of people in Britain will be infected by **the killer bug** in the coming weeks, health officials warned. (S16)

That plan suggested one way of beating **the deadly bug** was by allowing 60 per cent of Brits to get infected to build 'herd immunity'. (S19)

WHO warned coronavirus immunity passports could make the pandemic worse as patients who had recovered once could ignore health advice - increasing the **deadly bug's** spread. (S26)

It might be added that slang is defined as informal language, which is used within a group of people who are familiar with the words. In fact, the word *bug* is used by many health professionals who are also called “bug doctors” (Lettau, 2000, 735). Nevertheless, according to the Longman Dictionary, the bug is known by the public as there are many collocations in contemporary English and the word is among 3000 top words. Clearly, *The Sun* used the word to attract readers’ attention. Note should also be taken of the adjectives “**killer**” and “**deadly**”. They function as synonyms here and give COVID-19 the ability to kill or be fatal. It only underlines the potential danger of the disease as it is depicted as a fatal threat.

As for the official names suggested by the WHO, neither of the two newspapers used the proper name of the virus. Nevertheless, both newspapers used the label suggested for the disease, that is “COVID-19”. From the analysis can be concluded that *The Guardian* used



it more frequently. Also, the terms “coronavirus”, “virus”, “crisis”, or “disease” were used to label COVID-19 quite frequently. Overall, it can be concluded that *The Guardian* uses neutral medical terms in order to label COVID-19 that are formal most of the time. Yet, in many cases, the usage of words such as coronavirus evokes negative emotions, along with fear. In the same way, *the Sun* uses slang words that create the idea of a threat which leads to negative emotions as well.

#### 4.5.3 EVALUATION

Evaluation in newspapers is realised through the lexical choices that the author of the news article uses to inform about the event. Yet, as pointed out by Bednarek, evaluation analysis is quite problematic as it is very subjective, and everyone can evaluate the emotive meaning differently (2006, 46). For this reason, it depends on the analyst and their stance.

Evaluation, according to Jones et al., should explain the significance and implications of the events, as well as actions that are depicted in the story (2021, 62). As seen from the examples that follow, both newspapers use quite similar evaluation tools to assess the pandemic, using adjectives or adverbials.

New coronavirus infections spiked **dramatically** across Europe on Sunday, with Italy reporting hundreds of new cases and five more deaths. (G1)

The adverb “**dramatically**” can have both positive and negative connotations in English. Yet, in this context, it has rather a negative meaning as the word suggests “to a large extent”, which is, in the case of a pandemic, a piece of unpleasant news. *The Sun* uses “dramatic” as well, yet in the adjective form.

The **dramatic** step is set to be taken in around ten days’ time as the killer bug threatens to explode in the UK. (S5)

The steps mentioned in this example are described as “**dramatic**”, which implies steps that will evoke emotions. Again, the whole situation and context suggest that the connotation of this word is rather negative and that these dramatic steps are not pleasing.

Boris Johnson's spokesman echoed Whitty's concerns over slowing the virus, warning that it was now likely to **spread significantly**. (G3)

By the use of an adverb "**significantly**", the author here suggests that the spread will be notable and that probably the number of cases will be large. *The Sun* used an adjective form in order to describe the epidemic:

It's much more likely than not that we're going to deal with a **significant** epidemic. (S2)

Although the word "**significant**" can mean "great" or "important", in this case, the word "epidemic" has a negative meaning, signalling that "the significant epidemic" will not be great. The meaning can be understood as "notable" or "serious", which would underline the negativity of the statement. More examples are provided below:

In what appeared to be a warning that the **draconian** steps taken in Italy could be seen in the UK. (G11)

The word "**draconian**" has a very negative connotation. According to dictionaries, "draconian" suggests very harsh and severe measures and thus, it can only evoke negative emotions.

The UK will be **severely** short of beds, it finds. (G19)

"**Severely**" evaluates the situation as extremely bad, or even critical, which gives the clause a negative slant.

The next few months are going to be **extraordinarily difficult** for the NHS and colleagues. (S8)

In this example, "**extraordinarily**" could be perceived as a positive word, yet altogether with the adjective "difficult", the connotation seems rather negative. It implies that the

next few months will be more difficult than usual, implying that there were already difficult times, yet not so much. Basically, the evaluative device suggests that there are no good times ahead.

Flights are also **not expected to resume** from the UK until mid-June at the earliest. (S28)

The evaluative device above suggests that something cannot be foreseen, with an implication of uncertainty.

According to Bednarek, all these highlighted examples represent powerful devices in terms of evaluation as they evaluate news stories as unexpected. These lexical choices, such as “extraordinary”, “dramatic”, or “unexpectedly” express newsworthiness of the news value and underline the importance of the unexpected (2006, 79). As seen in these examples, such unexpectedness has usually a negative connotation, that may influence readers. On the other hand, there is also expectedness that is seen as a type of intensifier of positive or negative evaluations and is expressed by conjunctions “but” or “although”. Expectedness can also be expressed by lexical devices such as “familiar”, “normal”, or “would” (2006, 81-84). These examples are more frequent in *The Sun*, they are not particularly frequent in either newspaper.

Modal verbs are part of evaluation as well, and the usage of some of them indicates some possibility or even speculation. Consider the following examples:

Up to 10,000 people may already have coronavirus in Britain and many families **should expect** to lose loved ones before their time, Boris Johnson warned on Thursday as he set out measures less stringent than those taken by other countries. (G6)

Amid growing expectations that official guidance from trusts and NHS England **could tighten** as the number of sufferers being treated in hospitals rises. (G15)

The public **should wear** homemade masks when they venture outdoors to help reduce the spread of coronavirus, according to scientists who claim Britain’s masks policy does too little to prevent infections. (G24)

The total number of fatalities is **likely to be** much higher than the current official toll. (G26)

At least four of the new cases involve patients infected within the UK as health experts warn a 'significant pandemic' **could be** just weeks away. (S2)

Professor Doyle said "in theory" medical staff in this category as well as others **could infect** patients with the killer bug. (S13)

We are certainly heading that way and we are **likely to see** the same numbers of deaths as Italy. (S17)

Professor Karol Sikora warned this **crisis could spark** an additional 50,000 cancer deaths. (S27)

As can be seen, *The Guardian* uses more frequently the modal verb “**should**”, and *The Sun* uses “**could**” instead. In general, the broadsheets use quite frequently the modal verb “could”, nevertheless tabloids do not use should much. As Bednarek points out, the modal verb “could” is used in informal language that is more typical of tabloids (2006, 118). “Could” suggests some possibility, and it describes something that may happen. As seen from these examples, these are only speculations, and there is no guarantee it will happen. Such news might evoke negative emotions and fear. “Should”, on the other hand, suggests something that is more probable, something that is likely to happen.

In fact, “**likely to**” is another lexical device that indicates the reliability of a statement or a situation. “Likely to” is used by both newspapers; nevertheless, the occurrence is higher in *The Sun*. Throughout the articles, there are even more evaluators, such as “may”, “will”, or “can”, which are used by both newspapers as well. Overall, *The Sun* uses these lexical devices more often, resulting in many speculations and predictions.

The choice of lexical expressions can be analysed through the parameter of emotivity, which enables the researcher to analyse the writer’s evaluation of events or things as good or bad. Nevertheless, emotivity is the most subjective category of evaluation as the interpretation of emotive words is a complex phenomenon (Bednarek 2006, 45-46). Connected to the COVID-19 pandemic, the words connected with dying were classified as words that evokes bad or negative emotions.

The Iranian figures represent 11 more **deaths** than reported on Saturday and 385 new cases of infections. (G1)

The word “**deaths**” is frequently used by both newspapers. This word has a negative connotation and hence evokes a bad or negative emotional reaction; nevertheless, it does not mean that the writer evaluates it as such since the nature of the pandemic caused many deaths and therefore should be a part of reporting (Bednarek 2006, 46). Nevertheless, throughout the articles, another expression is used by both newspapers, although not to such an extent as the word “deaths”:

The total number of **fatalities** is likely to be much higher than the current official toll... (G26)

The word “**fatalities**” is defined by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary as “deaths resulting from any kind of disaster”. The word indicates a negative state, the result of a disaster, and thus it has a negative connotation. In comparison to *The Guardian*, *The Sun* uses more emotive words in connection to COVID-19.

As already seen in the section dealing with naming practices, *The Sun* uses many adjectives to describe the virus. The examples are, for example, “**the killer bug/virus**” (*S*: 1, 10, 13, 15, 16, 29), or “**the deadly bug**” (*S*: 1, 8, 10, 13, 16, 26). These adjectives are frequently used, and their aim is to modify nouns in a negative way, thus these words are considered to be emotive words. The modification expresses the attitude of *The Sun* towards the virus as similar examples are not to be found in *The Guardian*. *The Sun* also uses the word “**war**” in order to describe the situation, as seen in the examples below:

But **erie** pictures show cities usually brimming with workers on a Friday night completely deserted as the **war** against the killer bug ramped up. (*S10*)

...

Even traffic in the capital appeared to have vanished as Boris' **wartime plans** came into effect - with Regent Street completely car-free. (*S10*)

Such reference evaluates the situation as bad or negative, suggesting a violent intervention. “**War**” is understood as a conflict or fighting that might evoke fear. War is feared by all, and thus, such comparison and the choice of lexical devices may trigger the same fear. The adjective “**erie**” also suggests some negativity as it is used when something is sinister or hair-raising.

In the news articles, COVID-19 is usually classified as a threat. The word “**threat**” has a negative meaning that indicates that something will cause bad consequences for somebody.

The dramatic step is set to be taken in around ten days’ time as the killer bug **threatens** to explode in the UK. (S5)

In the example shown above, the verb “threaten” is used, and this lexical choice suggests that COVID-19 is seen as a cause of something bad. Therefore, the verb has a bad connotation as it creates the idea that COVID-19, here even labelled as “the killer bug”, intends to do bad things and creates negative emotions.

For the foreseeable future, we are going to have to find ways to go about our lives with this virus as a constant **threat**. (S23)

... the government escalated its response to **the threat** from Italy... (G3)

The first of the two examples shown above (S23), uses a simile to point out the severity of the virus. The second example, (G3), directly names the virus as “**the threat**” and suggests that the virus is very dangerous. All these examples show negative emotivity, which may dramatize events and evoke fear.

Overall, it is difficult to decide which words should be classified as the evaluation of emotivity as the analysis is very subjective, and the words that may be perceived as emotively negative might not have been written with this intention. Nevertheless, as the analysis indicates, many words suggest some form of other evaluation, and in conclusion, it may be said that both newspapers use lexical devices to express evaluation.

#### 4.5.4 TRANSITIVITY

The next part of the analysis focuses on transitivity which helps to identify the agent of the action and the processes connected to it, as well as the circumstances connected to the

action. In the time of the pandemic, it seems more than important to examine how COVID-19 was perceived by different types of newspapers, as it influences the way people understand the situation or how it will affect their perception of the time. There is quite a difference between *The Guardian* and *The Sun*. Comparing these two newspapers, *The Sun* uses COVID-19 in the subject position more often than *The Guardian*. According to Hall, the subject position has the power over the discourse, meaning that it can reproduce it (1997, 56), and through the subject, the whole story is departed. Also, it has to be pointed out that these sentences are usually the very first sentence after the headline. Besides, the sentences are bolded on the website, to attract more attention, and thus, it can be concluded that readers will read them. There are some examples:

**CORONAVIRUS could shut down** entire cities to stop it spreading.  
(S1)

From the sentence above, it can be seen that the coronavirus is the agent of the action. The sentence contains the material process, meaning an act of some action. In this sentence, it is **the coronavirus** that could shut down cities in order not to spread anymore. As can be seen, it is only a prediction expressed by the modal verb “**could**”. Yet, the doer, i.e., the coronavirus, cannot be the one that closes the entire city. The decision would be made by the Government, leaving the coronavirus only as the cause of the closure. Thus, figurative language was used here to give the coronavirus human abilities in order to dramatize the news and to create the idea that the coronavirus is to be blamed. Another example follows:

**CORONAVIRUS can spread just by talking** to someone. (S7)

Similarly, this sentence depicts **the coronavirus** is as the agent in the subject position. The verb “**spread**” is classified as the behavioural process. The circumstances under which coronavirus can spread are described as ‘just by talking’, which may evoke threat and fear of the virus and its ability to infect people very easily. The sentence itself is very powerful as it presents coronavirus as omnipresent.

**Covid-19 has killed** at least 3,645 people in Britain. (S17)

In this example, COVID-19 is the agent, and the verb suggests the act of doing, in this case, killing; therefore, it is classified as the material process. The patients, and thus receivers of the action expressed by the verb ‘kill’, are 3,645 people. As further specified, these deaths happened in Britain; however, it does not necessarily mean that all of the victims are British. In this case, “at least” indicates that the number could be even higher. There are more examples of COVID-19 depicted as a killer in *The Sun*:

...**coronavirus had killed** another 40 people outside hospital... (S16)

or

**CORONAVIRUS could kill** at least 15million people around the world. (S4)

As seen in the articles one and seven, to emphasise the word “**coronavirus**”, capital letters were used. In this case, capitalisation can also underline the subject position of the sentence and highlight the agent and evoke negative feelings as the word “coronavirus” does not have a positive connotation. In all these examples, COVID-19 is the agent, and the reader could easily blame COVID-19 only. Another interesting point is that *The Sun* uses figurative language in order to make the coronavirus more threatening as it has human abilities to, for example, kill somebody or close something. Figurative language is a tool that is used in narratives because it attracts readers’ attention, and it can also evoke emotion.

In an analysis of the news articles published by *The Guardian*, a different type of language used to describe the situation can be recognised. For example, in comparison to news article number 17 issued by *The Sun*, *The Guardian* wrote:

**There have been 422 deaths from coronavirus** in the UK to 24 March. (G13)

As seen, the sentence does not start with the subject, but with “**there have been**”, indicating the clause is existential. Only then comes the subject “**422 deaths**” followed by the specification of the place and time. The word “deaths” is further described by “from coronavirus” and suggests that people died of COVID-19. Although the message includes the same information about the number of people who died or the place where they died, the message is delivered differently, and so the impact is different. In



the first example (S17), COVID-19 is the “killer”, and there is no other explanation for deaths. The postmodifier “**from coronavirus**”, as the second example suggests (G13), indicates that the deaths were caused by COVID-19, yet not so directly. It could suggest that not all the deaths were caused by coronavirus only as there could be other underlying health conditions. Thus, these deaths could be explained as a result of coronavirus, one aspect of many. This is also claimed by the Office for National Statistics in the United Kingdom which admits that not all deaths are necessarily caused by COVID-19. Nevertheless, the moment the patient was infected by the virus, the cause of death was automatically recorded as COVID-19 (2021). Nevertheless, this is not explicitly stated, and readers of both newspapers could understand that all deaths were caused by COVID-19, and so many deaths could trigger fear in many readers.

Another example of how *The Guardian* communicates information differently is seen in news article number 12. In comparison to article number 1 published by *The Sun*, *The Guardian* explains a similar situation but uses different strategies. *The Sun* informed about the possible closure of cities, and *the Guardian* described the possibility of closing non-essential shops. Although the context differs, the situation is described in a very similar way:

**The UK government** is **considering** forcing the closure of all non-essential shops in an escalation of measures to try to slow the spread of coronavirus. (G12)

In this example, it is not the coronavirus that could close the non-essential shops, but the UK Government. “**The UK Government**” stands in the subject position, and therefore it is the doer of the action. The mental process is expressed here by the verb “**consider**”, and it is the Government that is considering the closing of shops to slow the spread of coronavirus. Thus, the decision depended on the Government, not on the coronavirus, which is expressed here as the reason for the consideration. Although the news itself does not carry positive information as the situation is serious, the mention of the Government as the doer does not create a false belief.

Yet, not to give a false idea about *The Guardian*, there is also the usage of “coronavirus” in the subject position. Nevertheless, compared to *the Sun*, such occurrences are infrequent.

**Coronavirus is spreading** faster in London than any other part of the country. (G8)

“**Coronavirus**” is in the subject position, and the verb “**is spreading**” shows the behavioural process; thus, it indicates the usage of figurative language as well. This sentence is similar to those that can be found in *The Sun* and may have a similar effect on readers in the sense of evoking negative emotions.

In the same way, *The Sun* does not use “coronavirus” as the doer of the action constantly, as seen from the examples below:

**The Government** last night **made it clear** those tests will not be available for the public to buy. (S13)

Talking to the nation, **Prof Powis** said: “**We** can beat this virus, **we** can reduce the number of deaths but only if **we** do what we are asked.” (S19)

In article number 13, the first part of the sentence begins with “**the Government**” as the agent. The idiom “**make it clear**” functions as a verb and suggests that the Government explained the situation more explicitly. The idiom itself suggests a kind of enforcement, and its connotation may have a negative impact on readers. The second part of the sentence operates with the tests as the doer in the relational process. Overall, the statement suggests that the Government communicated that the tests are not available to the public. The usage of the idiom creates the idea of forcefulness and makes the Government a powerful subject.

Article number 19 provides a quotation to what professor Powis, a national medical director of NHS for England, said. The direct quotation introduced by the verb “**said**” can be classified as the verbal process. To comment on this clause, “the prof” is an informal form of the noun “professor”, which underlines the fact that *The Sun* uses informal language. In the quotation, the subject is “**we**”, yet it is not further specified who it is supposed to be. Nevertheless, from the last clause, it can be understood that there is a distinction between “we” and “they”. Although not explicitly stated, the passive voice suggests that there is someone who says what to do, and therefore, it is not clear who is

included and excluded from the reference of the pronoun “we” and who is about to take the responsibility to beat the virus.

#### 4.5.5 PASSIVIZATION

Passivization is a term that is closely connected to transitivity as it indicates the usage of passive voice sentences. According to Jones et al., when newspapers communicate key events, the sentences are usually written through a material process clause, meaning that the clause has the subject (the agent) and the object (the participant) (2021, 392). As they continue, there are other possibilities of process clauses that can be used as seen from the analysis above, yet, in general, such sentence structures suggest that they use the active voice. Nevertheless, newspapers can also use a different structure, i.e., the passive voice (2021, 392). According to Jones et al., when using the passive voice, the object position (the affected participants) is brought to the front position, and the subject position (the doer of the action) is usually deleted. Such reformulation of the sentence provides less information, so the reader does not know who the doer of the action is. On the other hand, it highlights the most affected participants by bringing them to the front part of the sentence (2021, 392). In the articles concerning COVID-19, the process of passivization can be found quite frequently, as illustrated below:

Three new cases **were confirmed** in Scotland. (G3)

...new measures **were announced** restricting large gatherings. (G4)

These two sentences are similar as both do not mention the agent. Therefore, it is only up to the reader to understand who the doer from the context is. The first sentence (G3) may suggest that the information is not important as it draws the reader’s attention to the number of cases. Numbers are an inseparable part of the news. Numbers emphasize the message, and it is supposed that people will be willing to trust such news more (Koetsenruijter 2011, 74). This article is from the beginning of the pandemic, and so back then, even three cases were significant. Therefore, the initial position adds to the importance of the statement and evokes fear. The second news article (G4) is written in the same way. In this sentence, however, it can be assumed that the restrictions were announced by the Government.

Another example of omitting the Government from the sentence can be seen in the example that follows:

People **have been warned** against any congregation in groups, even outdoors. (G12)

In this case, the agent is not mentioned either, yet it can be concluded that the warning was made by the Government since all the restrictions were implemented by them. Yet the interpretation is up to every reader as this is only speculation since the sentence contains less information due to the process of passivization. The verb “**warned**”, that is the material process, suggest some kind of threat, and thus the omission of the doer leaves everyone in uncertainty.

Another example of the usage of passivization can be seen in connection with the restriction of medical care. During the pandemic, there were many patients with worse health conditions caused by the virus, and thus, many non-essential operations were cancelled to free up beds in the hospitals for these patients. *The Guardian* informed about this situation as follows:

Millions of operations **are being postponed**, patients urgently **discharged** from hospital and private operators **called in** to help the NHS cope with the coronavirus crisis. (G9)

This sentence shows more than one process of passivization. In all cases, we are not sure who is the doer of the actions, namely “**postponing the operations**”, “**discharging people from the hospital**”, and “**calling private operators**”. From the context, it can be assumed that the agents are doctors who decide about these events, yet it is not explicitly stated, and hence it is up to readers’ interpretation.

... Hospitals in England **have been told** to postpone all non-urgent elective operations from 15 April at the latest, for a period of at least three months. (G9)

Yet, further in the text, readers are informed that hospitals in England were told to make the decisions connected to the events described above. Nevertheless, it is still not clear who gave them the instructions to do so, at least not from the sentence. The passive voice

was used in order to emphasise the hospitals as the participants since the message is more important than who the doer is. Nevertheless, it still creates uncertainty. In this example, the word “hospitals” suggests the usage of figurative language, as hospitals are buildings, and they cannot receive any messages on their own. Here, it is assumed that everyone understands that it is about the hospital management and staff working there, and hence no further explanation is needed.

Both newspapers wrote about this issue in April as well, since the number of COVID-19 patients was accelerated. There is an example from a news article published by *The Sun*:

(S27) **More than two million operations have been put** on hold after **non-urgent surgery was cancelled** for at least three months, The Sunday People have revealed.

As can be seen, even *The Sun* uses the passive voice in order to communicate some information. In this case, the agent of the first clause is not mentioned. The same applies to the second clause. The first clause highlights the number of operations that were put on hold, which has an enormous impact on the reader since numbers are incredibly great, and hence it immediately attracts their attention. On the other hand, *The Guardian* informed about the same event, the difference being that they used the active voice:

**Doctors have postponed** more than 2m operations after **non-emergency surgery was cancelled** for at least three months to free up beds for coronavirus patients. (G27)

As shown above, the message conveyed in the news article is the same, yet it is written differently and has a different impact on readers. As already mentioned, this clause is written in the active voice, therefore, readers are familiar with the doer of the action, who are, in this case, doctors. In this clause, the emphasis falls on the agent, and the outcome is that the message is clearer and more comprehensible in contrast with article number 27 published by *The Sun*. Nevertheless, it can have a negative impact that the doctors are to blame.

The information about surgeries that had to be cancelled has almost the same structure in both newspapers. Both clauses are written in the passive voice, although *The Guardian* used the active voice in the first clause. Therefore, this sequence suggests that the agent of the first clause is the same in the second clause, and the active voice is not, therefore, needed in the second clause. Besides, the difference here is in the use of the adjectives “**urgent**” and “**emergency**”. Although they are synonyms, “emergency surgery” means a situation that requires immediate action in order to save a person. “Urgent surgery” is also a situation that requires action, yet not so immediate. Emergency has, therefore, a stronger emotional effect.

As seen from the examples above, *The Guardian* uses the passive voice quite frequently; however, the process of passivization can also be found in the news articles published by *The Sun*. In what follows, only selected examples are presented:

Older people **will have to be protected**. (S23)

The usage of the passive voice enables newspapers to inform about events without revealing much information, as seen from the example. First of all, there is no agent in the sentence, which poses a question about who will protect older people. It might be the Government, but it can also be British citizens. Although it may be clear from the context that older people should be protected from people who are infected by the virus, this information is also not explicitly written in the sentence, and thus, it allows readers to come up with more interpretations. Readers do not know under which circumstances older people should be protected, hence this sentence provides almost no particular information, only evoke emotions as older people are vulnerable, and it is hard to decode what circumstances make them even more vulnerable.

Over the weekend, 16million people in the country's north **were placed under lockdown** to try and contain the spread of Covid-19. (S6)

In example (S6), the first information mentioned is the adverbial of time, suggesting when the event happened. It might be the most important information as it was put in the front

position. Then, the number of people affected by the action is presented. Again, numbers have a great power to visualize the event even more and, also, to attract readers' attention. It is not clear who is the agent of the action, and thus, there is no one to be connected to the action that is expressed by the material process clause.

Countries around Europe **have been forced to introduce** draconian measures to try to stop the epidemic taking hold. (S11)

Here, both the usage of the passive voice and the omission of the agent seem to justify the actions that European countries undertook. The material process clause here suggests that the agent did something to someone. Although it is quite clear that the situation was caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the measures were proposed by the countries. Nevertheless, readers of this article would easily blame COVID-19 rather than European countries and their governments since, as understood from the clause, they are not responsible for the decisions made because they were forced to do so.

Tens of thousands of people in Britain **will be infected** by the killer bug in the coming weeks, health officials warned. (S16)

This sentence is written in the passive voice, yet the agent is not deleted unlike the previous examples. The agent is included here by the usage of the preposition “**by**”; therefore, the agent depicted here is “the killer bug”. Again, there is a sense of personification, yet the most important part of the sentence is “tens of thousands of people” since it is in the front position. This is another example of the usage of numbers to evoke fear and underline the severity of the situation and the possible threat.

All these examples have one thing in common, the agent is deleted or not directly mentioned. As Billing suggests, this is a powerful ideological tool since there is no one to be connected to the action, which leads to the mystification of the agent (2019, 10), and leaves readers in uncertainty. Such readers can create their assumptions, which in turn may lead to misinterpretation or even the spread of misinformation. As seen from the analysis, both newspapers use the passive voice quite frequently to convey less information and to bewilder their readers to some extent.

#### 4.5.6 NOMINALIZATION

Nominalization is another crucial tool frequently used in news articles and it is also closely interconnected with transitivity and passivization. Nominalization is a process in which verbs or adjectives are transformed into nouns, turning the processes into entities. Altogether with passivization, the usage of nominalization may be ideological, for it shadows the agent of the event. Besides, nominalization is connected to language economy, meaning less information is included in the news articles (Billing 2019, 4-6). Both newspapers analysed in this study used nominalisation quite frequently.

Among the nouns that were nominalised, the most frequent one was the word “deaths”. Throughout the news articles, there are many mentions of the development of the pandemic related to the rising numbers of cases and **deaths**. The word “death” comes from the verb “to die” and has a very negative connotation. The word “death(s)” indicates the act of dying, meaning the end of a person's life or any other living thing. There are some examples that can be found in *The Sun*:

More 12million people would die in China alone, with 1.1million **deaths** in the United States. (S4)

This sentence provides a contrast between the usage of the verb “to die” and the noun “deaths”. It is not an activity anymore but rather an entity. It also shows the economy of language since no extra information is provided (Billing, 2019, 11).

In the 16 days since, the toll in Italy has risen to 5,476, including 651 new **deaths** on Sunday alone. (S10)

For example, the government last night released a graph comparing **the number of deaths** in the UK, Italy, Spain, France and a number of other countries since each country recorded its 50th **death**. (S17)

There has also also been a steady rise in **the number of deaths** from 117 on April 25 to 188 on April 28, and the country has already been planning for a second wave of killer coronavirus. (S30)



The problem with the word “**deaths**” or “**number of deaths**” is that it does not reveal much information about who died, or under which circumstances they died. The word “deaths” is therefore a very general term that is usually connected to numbers in order to provide readers with information about growing mortality. In this case, the word “deaths”, along with the verb dying, have, in general, a bad connotation; nevertheless, the usage of the word “deaths” gives a more concrete and direct picture of the situation, and it may evoke fear even more as death is something everyone is feared of.

**There** have been 422 **deaths** from coronavirus in the UK to 24 March.  
(G13)

In this example, it may seem that “**there**” is a subject of the clause; nevertheless, the real subject of the clause is the word “**deaths**”. “There” serves only as a dummy subject, which is defined by linguists as a formal element that helps produce grammatical sentences (Al, 2005, 21). In this clause, it does not carry any meaning. The dummy subject “there”, altogether with the verb “be”, suggests that the clause is classified as the existential process clause. The word “death” is used as the subject and, as the consequence of nominalization, does not reveal much about who died or under what circumstances. Although the word “deaths” is specified by the postmodifier “from coronavirus”, as stated above, it is misleading since all deaths did not have to be necessarily caused by COVID-19. Thus, the word itself is not revealing much information. And yet, it has a very strong negative connotation. Altogether with the number of people who died used as pre-modifier, it evokes negative emotions.

**One of the deaths**, for example, took place on 15 March. (G16)

This example shows how the usage of nominalization provides only limited knowledge about the situation. Here, “**one of the deaths**” does not reveal anything about the dead person. As to Billing claims, the process of nominalization creates a gap with the loss of information along the way (2019, 12). This example can also suggest that there are so many deaths that any further references would be pointless and hence dead people became only numbers.

Another example of the process of nominalization frequently used in both newspapers was the word “**outbreak**”. Yet, as Billing points out, in some cases, nominalization is

perceived as a process that is normal and that is why some newspapers do not need to use it purposely. Some nouns are very common and thus may not be necessary to describe the process of nominalization (2019, 16). Interestingly enough, the word “outbreak” is known as a noun describing an abrupt occurrence of something, usually associated with diseases or even with wars. Nevertheless, the noun originated from the verb form “break out”. However, in these two newspapers, the noun is preferred, as shown in the following examples:

Since the coronavirus **outbreak** began in the UK in February, tens of thousands of people have needed hospital treatment. (S22)

As the disease continued its rapid spread and governments introduced emergency measures to halt the progress of the escalating epidemic, **outbreaks** worsened in Iran and South Korea. (G1)

As can be noted, the usage of nominalization allows using fewer words, as, without it, the clauses had to be transformed into more complex ones. Nevertheless, in this case, the noun “outbreak” is so commonly used that in these examples, as Billing suggests, might not be any hidden intention behind the process of nominalization.

As mentioned, nominalization is closely related to passivization, which turns actions (verbs) into things (noun) and enables the writer to hide the agent of the action. It is a very powerful ideological tool and is common in narration, as seen in the following example:

**Contact tracing** will also be introduced at a “large scale”. (G25)

Nominalization of the verb “**to trace**” into the noun “**tracing**” causes the deletion of the agent as the nominalized noun takes the subject position. Also, with the use of the passive voice, it is not clear who will introduce it. Similarly, article number 28 informs about testing in care homes:

**Testing** in care homes has also been criticised as all residents with symptoms have still not been getting checked... (G28)

Another example can be seen in the articles published by *The Sun*:

Speaking at a press conference last night, Prime Minister Boris Johnson warned Brits that tougher **restrictions** on movement would have to be brought in if they didn't follow the government's social distancing guidelines. (S10)

The **suspension** of breast, cervical, and bowel screening has also lead to another 400 missed cancers a week. (S27)

All the above examples do not mention the agent of the actions, and all sentences are economical with the facts, as put by Jones et al. (2021, 394). For example, news article number 28 does not mention the entity responsible for the testing or criticising the testing. Similarly, article number 10 does not explicitly state who imposes the restrictions. It seems, in both cases, that there is the tendency to hide information about who is responsible for these actions, such as testing or placing restrictions. Generally, it this information may be known to the reader; nevertheless, it is not understood from the sentences in which such information is backgrounded.

To conclude, both *The Guardian* and *The Sun* used nominalisation quite often to overshadow some information and to change the process into a condition or thing in order to use it as the agent or participant (Jones et al., 2021, 394). Therefore, both newspapers seem to use such narrative techniques which help to hide ideological or political ideas.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The study reported in this thesis aimed to demonstrate how two British newspapers, namely *The Guardian* (representing broadsheets) and *The Sun* (representing tabloids), used narrative devices to provide coverage of the pandemic caused by COVID-19. Since the focus was on qualitative analysis, the conclusion about which newspaper used the narrative techniques more frequently is not made. Instead, the analysis focused on the usage of such narrative devices as “transitivity”, “naming practices”, “evaluation”, and “nominalization”, to reveal how the two newspapers presented the news about COVID-19 and to determine whether there were any significant differences.

At first, the analysis focused on the usage of visuals, namely pictures, maps, and graphs. Here, it has to be pointed out that both newspapers used pictures, graphs, and maps on their websites and, therefore, they visualized the events so that they could be more comprehensible to readers. Yet, the way the visuals were used differed significantly. From the analysis, it can be concluded that *The Sun* used more visuals than *The Guardian*, or even overused them. Both newspapers did not use their own photographs as they posted photographs from photo banks available on the internet. It means that most of the pictures might not correspond to the current situation and might be misleading. *The Sun* used many graphs and maps that depicted the number of cases or deaths. These graphs highlighted numbers and used colours that generally evoke fear; therefore, compared to *The Guardian*, the purpose of these visuals was not only to inform about the data but to evoke negative emotions about the situation. *The Guardian* used graphs and maps too, yet not that often. Besides, the way the data were presented was not so disturbing, and the purpose was rather informative, compared to *The Sun*.

In terms of naming practices, the analysis focused on the usage of different names for COVID-19, as there was the official suggestion from the WHO about what labels were supposed to be used. Nevertheless, this guidance was not followed by the newspapers. *The Guardian* used mainly words such as “pandemic”, “outbreak”, and “coronavirus” (or virus only) when naming COVID-19. *The Sun* used the words “outbreak” and “bug” more frequently. Furthermore, the word “bug” is classified as a slang word, that is a part of informal language. Both newspapers used the word “coronavirus” as a modifier, usually for the words “outbreak” and “pandemic”, in order to specify it. Nevertheless, such a modifier also evokes unnecessary negative emotions.

As can be seen, the connotation of the word “coronavirus” has changed from a rather neutral word to a very negative one. Thus, the modification seems to intend to evoke emotions.

On the other hand, a difference was seen in the usage of different modifiers. *The Sun*, except for the usage of informal language, used modifiers such as “killer” or “deadly”, which evoked more negative emotions. Such usage was not identified on *The Guardian* website. To conclude, both newspapers used similar expressions, yet *The Sun* used more informal language to attract attention and evoke negative emotions.

Evaluation is closely connected to naming practice as it is about the writers’ stance, and their usage of lexical devices that, in a way, evaluate the event or participants. As was concluded, both newspapers used evaluation, yet differently. *The Sun*, for example, used more modal verbs, e.g., “could”. As earlier research suggests, the modal verb “could” is frequently used in tabloids, and this analysis corroborates this statement. “Could” is a modal verb that indicates some hypothesis about the course of future events. However, it also suggests some uncertainty which may arouse nervousness and speculations. *The Guardian*, on the other hand, used the modal verb “should”. The modal verb “should” suggests that something is more probable and thus less speculative. In terms of the evaluation of emotive words, the messages concerning the COVID-19 pandemic did not reveal much positive news; therefore, the core of information was usually negative. On top of that, there were many words with a negative connotation used in both newspapers, which only underlined the mood of information. Also, both newspapers used lexical words conveying the idea of “unexpectedness” which increases newsworthiness. Such lexical choices attract attention and make the news worth reading.

In terms of transitivity, an interesting observation was made during the analysis. *The Sun* frequently used “COVID-19” as the agent of the actions. COVID-19 was many times personalised so that it was easier to imagine the culprit, and hence to background other participants. Again, it might seem informal, yet it is a powerful way to attract readers’ attention and create a false image of the event. *The Guardian* did not use “COVID-19” as the agent very frequently. In their articles, COVID-19 is in the object position, or is described as a circumstance. Nevertheless, both newspapers used the process of passivization that enabled them to background the agent of the sentence and to draw readers’ attention to different parts of the clause. That goes hand in hand with

nominalization, in which verbal processes are transformed into nouns that then serve as the subject of clauses. Both newspapers used these processes that are qualified as ideological since the agent is not known, and hence, readers can create false assumptions about the event. It is also connected to the limitation of information, which leads to uncertainty and disinformation. The analysis suggests that both newspapers used techniques which were in some way similar, and in some different.

To recapitulate, all the narrative techniques selected for analysis were found in the news articles under scrutiny. These techniques help newspapers to create an ideological slant and spread negativity and fear, as became apparent many times during the analysis. As observed, *The Sun* used more informal language with a high frequency of slang words, idioms or figurative language. The expressions used evoked negative emotions and had a direct impact on readers, which could be noted in the sections dealing with visualisation, naming practices and evaluation. *The Guardian*, on the other hand, used formal language with more or less neutral words, yet many of the analysed examples suggested an ideological slant as well, which was predicted prior to the analysis. Overall, it may be concluded that both newspapers deploy narrative techniques in order to influence readers and their perception of the pandemic; however, *The Sun* uses language which is more striking, and which evokes stronger negative emotions.

## RESUMÉ

COVID-19 je virové onemocnění, které se prvně vyskytlo v lidské populaci na konci roku 2019 v Číně, v provincii Wu-Chan, kde se vir začal šířit na trhu s jídlem. Posléze se vir začal šířit do ostatních států, až se nakonec rozšířil do celého světa. V březnu 2020 byl tedy Světovou zdravotnickou organizací vyhlášen stav globální pandemie, neboť se vir nejen rychle šířil, ale zanechával za sebou i spoustu zkázy v podobě počtu obětí. Situace byla velmi nejistá a potřeba po informacích tíživá.

V období jakékoli události jsou velmi důležité hromadné sdělovací prostředky, které vždy jako první informují a zprostředkovávají informace ohledně vývoje dané situace. Tyto prostředky mají tedy velkou zodpovědnost vůči lidem přinášet věrohodné, ověřené a kvalitní zprávy, na které se diváci, potažmo čtenáři či posluchači mohou spolehnout. Mnohdy jsou totiž tyto prostředky jediný zdroj informací, který se k lidem dostane. Toto však nese velké úskalí, neboť každý sdělovací prostředek jedná v souladu s jistou ideologií, která je v oné mediální společnosti vytvořena, či v níž se věří. Tato ideologie pak zapříčiňuje to, že zprávy nejsou zcela v souladu s tím, co se v reálném světě děje, neboť některé informace mohou být vynechány, nebo může být použit takový jazyk, který tuto ideologii podtrhuje, což způsobuje vyvolání strachu a paniky. K docílení tohoto cíle se mimo jiné využívají i narativní techniky, jejichž použití nemusí být na první pohled postřehnutelné, nicméně v konečném důsledku pak šíří onen strach, paniku, či nejistotu.

Tato diplomová práce se zabývá online novinovým diskurzem ve Velké Británii. Byly zvoleny jedny ze dvou nejčtenějších plátek, *The Guardian* a *The Sun* a cílem bylo zjistit, jakým způsobem tyto novinové online stránky využívají narativních technik při psaní článků o COVID-19, a jakým způsobem to může ovlivnit čtenáře.

Diplomová práce je standardně rozdělena do dvou částí: teoretická a praktická. Teoretická část si dává za cíl seznámit čtenáře s pojmy, které se úzce pojí s analýzou. Aby tak docílila, nejprve vymezuje pojmy jako noviny či novinové (online) články. Následně se v této kapitole probírá ideologie z pohledu novin a jak skrze noviny je ovlivňováno smýšlení lidí o daných událostech. Následně jsou zde vymezeny pojmy jako diskurz a kritická analýza diskurzu, které dávají nahlédnout k procesu analyzování textů v širším hledisku. Část této kapitoly se věnuje i narativním technikám, které jsou analyzovány v praktické části, jmenovitě pak „transitivity“, „naming practices“, „nominalization“ a „evaluation“. V neposlední řadě je zde vymezen pandemický diskurz, kde se předně

vymezuji různé pojmy spojené s pandemií, tak jako vznik COVIDU-19. Následně se zde rozebírá nešťastná komunikace sdělovacích prostředků jak v minulosti, tak i v přítomnosti, a jsou zde popsány následky oné nesprávné komunikace.

Praktická část se následně zaměřuje na analyzování narativních prvků v člancích dvou zvolených online novinových plátek, jmenovitě *The Sun* za bulvární listy a *The Guardian* za nebulvární. Tyto noviny byly zvoleny na základě oblíbenosti, neboť se řadí mezi deset nejčtenějších novin ve Velké Británii. Zároveň byla důležitá dostupnost článků, neboť oba portály nabízejí svým čtenářům neomezený přístup ke všem článkům, mohou být tak čteny kdekoli a kdykoli, aniž by se za to muselo platit.

„Naming practices“ se zabývá tím, jaké názvy jsou pro určité věci či osoby dány. V tomto případě se analýza zaměřila na pojmenovávání virusu COVID-19. Dle oficiálních stanov WHO se měl tento virus pojmenovávat jako COVID-19, případně jako SARS-COV-2. Nicméně toto nebylo dodržováno z žádných těchto novin. Oba plátky používaly především slova jako pandemie nebo epidemie, případně ohnisko. *The Sun*, mimo jiné, používal i výraz jako „bug“, který je považován za slangový, a tedy klasifikován jako součást nespisovného jazyka. I přes některé podobnosti, mezi těmito dvěma plátky byl znatelný rozdíl především v používání jazyka či přídavných jmen, což se prolíná skrze „evaluation“. *The Sun* používal mnohem více přídavných jmen k pojmenování tohoto virusu, a to zejména „smrtící“ či „vraždící“, což ve svém důsledku evokovalo nepříjemné pocity a obavy, ne-li až strach. Na druhou stranu, *The Guardian* se těmito slovním spojení vyhýbal a volil výrazy spíše neutrální.

„Evaluation“ je technika vyjadřující postoj novin k dané problematice. Skrze výběr slov tak může daný plátek hodnotit události či účastníky oné události. Nicméně, jak bylo zmíněno Monikou Bednarek (2006), v mnohých aspektech je evaluace velmi subjektivní, a tudíž se nemusí zcela shodovat s analýzou jiných. V tomto případě byly analyzovány různé prvky. První, který tvořil asi největší část analýzy, se odkazoval na využívání modálních sloves. *The Sun* využíval hojně modální sloveso „could“, což se dá přeložit jako „mohlo by“, zatímco *The Guardian* používal modální sloveso „should“, což se dá přeložit jako „mělo by“. Zde je citelný rozdíl, neboť modální sloveso „could“ vyjadřuje menší pravděpodobnost, jde zde spíše o spekulace či jakési odhadování, jakým směrem by se věci mohly vyvíjet. „Should“, na druhou stranu, ukazuje větší míru pravděpodobnosti, téměř nevyhnutelnosti. V tomto ohledu si tedy *The Sun* hraje se spekulacemi a tím nechává čtenáře ve větší nejistotě než *The Guardian*. V ohledu využívání citově zabarvených slov, oba plátky hojně využívají slova negativně zabarvená.



Jak bylo zjištěno, v kontextu COVIDU-19 to akorát umocňuje strach a nepříjemné pocity. Nicméně, jak již bylo zmíněno, *The Sun* využívá více přídavných jmen, které popisují negativně COVID-19, což v *The Guardian* není tak časté. Oba plátky taky zároveň používají slova, která dávají pocit neočekávanosti, což je důležitým faktorem pro přitáhnutí pozornosti čtenáře. Tyto slova, jako například „nečekaný“ tvoří důležitou složku pro kvalitu oněch článků.

V případě „transitivity“, tedy v ohledu na to, kdo je vyobrazen jako aktér akce, a kdo jako ten, kdo onu akci přijímá, je zde markantní rozdíl. *The Sun* využívá dost často COVID-19 v pozici předmětu. V tomto případě je tedy aktérem akce právě COVID-19 a tím se praví aktéři události dostávají do pozadí. Toto je nejčastěji využíváno v titulcích a přímo pod titulky, nicméně hojně se to dá nalézt i v člancích samotných. Takto vykonstruovaná věta dává veškerou vinu tomu, kdo se nachází v této pozici, tedy v pozici předmětu, a tudíž lidé mohou snadno podlehnout myšlence, že COVID-19 je třeba vinit za, například, zavírání měst. *The Guardian* používal COVID-19 spíše na podmětové pozici, případně ho zmiňoval jako okolnost, nicméně minimálně na předmětové pozici. Tudíž *The Guardian* zmiňoval aktéry jako vládu nebo obyvatele a tím nikterak nezamlčoval pravé aktéry.

V souvislosti s „transitivity“ se pojí termín „passivization“, což je proces, který přetváří aktivní věty ve věty pasivní. To znamená, že věty jsou napsané tak, že není znám aktér události vůbec, což zanechává ve čtenářích pochybnosti a nejistotu. Navíc to dává možnost zviditelnit části věty, které noviny chtějí, aby byly prvně viděny. Tento akt pasivizace používaly oba plátky hojně, což má silně ideologický základ. S tím je také spojen termín „nominalization“, který byl také hojně k vidění v obou plátcích. „Nominalization“ přetváří slovesa či přídavná jména na podstatná, čímž se mění struktura věty, tím pádem i předmětu a podmětu a nechává čtenáře v nejistotě. Jde totiž o to, že jakmile se změní sloveso na podstatné jméno, pravý předmět, či aktér, je upozaděn, tudíž se opět klade důraz na jinou část věty, čímž se čtenáři podsouvá kontext zprávy zcela jinak, a tudíž může být i zcela jinak pochopen. Toto se hojně děje v obou plátcích.

Jako poslední, ač se to zcela netýká narativních technik, se analýza zabývala využíváním vizuálů v člancích, a to zejména fotek, grafů a map. Jejich doplnění textu má totiž dvě funkce; prvně pomoci udělat čtenáři lepší obraz o událostech, o kterých se píše, a za druhé evokovat emoce. Bylo zjištěno, že *The Sun* využívá mnohem více těchto vizuálů, až trojnásobně. Co bylo také zjištěno je fakt, že tento plátek používá nejčastěji tmavé barvy pro své grafy a mapy, což vyvolává dle psychologů negativní emoce. Na druhou stranu,

*The Guardian* využívá barvy pro své grafy více uklidňující, které neevokují negativní pocity. Z pohledu fotek, *The Sun* využívá přemíru fotografií, někdy jich je v článku k nalezení více než samotného textu. *The Guardian* povětšinou využívá pouze jednu fotku na článek, avšak doplňuje to i videi ze zasedání vlády či obdobně. Oba plátky využívají jiné portály s fotkami, za které platí, proto se dá jen stěží určit, jak moc fotografie vyobrazují reálné události, které by se k tématu daly vztáhnout.

Celkově by se dalo říci, že jak *The Sun*, tak *The Guardian* využívají ve svých článcích narativní prvky, jejichž důsledkem je vyvolání negativních emocí a strachu, spekulací a nejistoty. Co se však dá z analýzy jasně stanovit je, že *The Sun* využívá mnohem častěji neformální jazyk s mnoho slangovými výrazy, velmi často taky více využívá „evaluation“ a celkově vyobrazuje COVID-19 jako aktéra všech událostí, což může vyvolat více emocí a mít větší negativní dopad na čtenáře, nežli na čtenáře *The Guardian*.

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## APPENDIX 1: ARTICLE HEADLINES

The articles in <i>The Guardian</i>		
Date of publication	Code	Headline
1 March 2020	G1	New coronavirus cases jump sharply in Europe, with Italy worst hit
3 March 2020	G2	Covid-19: government advises UK public to carry on as normal
6 March 2020	G3	Coronavirus: first UK death confirmed as cases surge to 116
9 March 2020	G4	Coronavirus: Europeans warned to expect months of disruption
11 March 2020	G5	UK coronavirus cases jump to 456 and eighth Briton dies
12 March 2020	G6	Coronavirus: as many as 10,000 in Britain may already have it, says PM
14 March 2020	G7	Coronavirus death toll in UK doubles in 24 hours
16 March 2020	G8	Coronavirus spreading fastest in UK in London
17 March 2020	G9	NHS to postpone millions of operations to tackle coronavirus
20 March 2020	G10	Anger grows among Britons on holiday as lockdowns block returns
22 March 2020	G11	UK could face Italy-style lockdown, warns Boris Johnson
23 March 2020	G12	UK government considers forcing non-essential shops to close
25 March 2020	G13	Who is dying from coronavirus and in which NHS trusts?
29 March 2020	G14	Boris Johnson to warn UK: tougher lockdown may be necessary
30 March 2020	G15	UK hospitals tightening restrictions on visits - even to dying patients
1 April 2020	G16	UK records biggest daily rise in coronavirus deaths
2 April 2020	G17	Coronavirus: London hospital almost runs out of oxygen for Covid-19 patients
4 April 2020	G18	Britons urged to stay at home despite warm weekend weather
8 April 2020	G19	Coronavirus: UK will have Europe's worst death toll, says study
14 April 2020	G20	Coronavirus distancing may need to continue until 2022, say experts
15 April 2020	G21	UK government has no exit plan for Covid-19 lockdown, say sources
18 April 2020	G22	Remains of NHS workers who died of coronavirus lost for days
19 April 2020	G23	Don't bet on vaccine to protect us from Covid-19, says world health expert

21 April 2020	G24	Scientists join calls for UK public to wear homemade face masks outdoors
22 April 2020	G25	UK has reached peak of coronavirus outbreak, says Matt Hancock
25 April 2020	G26	Number of people to die of Covid-19 in UK hospitals passes 20,000
26 April 2020	G27	More than 2m operations cancelled as NHS fights Covid-19
28 April 2020	G28	Britain holds minute's silence in tribute to coronavirus dead
29 April 2020	G29	UK minister admits main coronavirus focus was NHS rather than care homes
30 April 2020	G30	Remdesivir: the antiviral drug is being touted as a possible coronavirus treatment – but will it work?
30 April 2020	G31	Warning over 'hidden effect of coronavirus' after grandfather's suicide

The articles in <i>The Sun</i>		
Date of publication	Code	Headline
1 March 2020	S1	Coronavirus could shut down entire CITIES and vaccine for killer bug is months away, Health Secretary Matt Hancock warns
2 March 2020	S2	Coronavirus victims in UK hits 51 as killer bug becomes 'increasingly serious' in Britain
5 March 2020	S3	Coronavirus cases in UK leap to 87 as medical chief warns 'significant epidemic likely' and Brits 'will die'
6 March 2020	S4	Coronavirus could kill 15MILLION in BEST-case scenario and wipe \$2.3trillion off global economy, study predicts
9 March 2020	S5	Brits will be told within 10-14 days to stay at home if they have a fever as UK failing to contain coronavirus
10 March 2020	S6	Italy doctors to decide who gets bed based on survival chances as they battle 'tsunami' of patients in coronavirus 'war'
13 March 2020	S7	Coronavirus can spread just by 'TALKING to someone' & is 'much worse than Ebola'
16 March 2020	S8	Coronavirus cases could double every 5 days – as UK on 'cusp of major growth in infections'

17 2020	March	S9	Family of grandad, 78, killed by coronavirus warn ‘take this seriously’ after bug was mistaken for chest infection
21 2020	March	S10	Cities turn into eerie ghost towns after all pubs, bars and restaurants shutdown in coronavirus crisis
23 2020	March	S11	Coronavirus leaves bodies in the street in Italy but oblivious Brits STILL ignoring advice to head out in their droves
26 2020	March	S12	Coronavirus kills one Brit every 13 minutes as death toll soars to 578 with pandemic claiming 113 lives in one day
27 2020	March	S13	NHS staff infecting patients with coronavirus as they show no symptoms and aren’t being tested, admits health official
30 2020	March	S14	Hero NHS doctor reveals she’s ‘forced to play God’ as she battles to save coronavirus patients
31 2020	March	S15	Boy, 13, dies after testing positive for coronavirus in UK’s youngest death as family says teen was completely healthy
1 April 2020		S16	Coronavirus may have already infected more than 1.7m Brits according to new NHS figures
3 April 2020		S17	UK’s coronavirus death toll is HIGHER than Italy’s was at the same stage of their outbreak, certain figures suggest
6 April 2020		S18	Britain won’t meet ventilator target in time for ‘coronavirus peak in 10 days’
7 April 2020		S19	UK could be worst hit by coronavirus in Europe with 66,000 deaths by July, scientists warn
8 April 2020		S20	Lockdown to be extended into May with coronavirus peak ‘still ten days away’
12 April 2020		S21	Nurses can REFUSE to treat coronavirus patients if they don’t have enough protective gear, union says
13 April 2020		S22	One in seven coronavirus patients in UK hospitals will die – and the rate goes up to HALF for people in intensive care
19 April 2020		S23	Vaccine may NOT protect us against coronavirus with threat of killer bug to last for ‘foreseeable future’
21 April 2020		S24	Coronavirus pandemic is so terrifying even die-hard anti-vaxxer mums are desperate for a vaccine
22 April 2020		S25	Coronavirus is killing some patients by slowly reducing oxygen levels without them noticing any problem

25 April 2020	S26	WHO warns there is ‘no proof’ of coronavirus immunity as medics say ‘immunity passports’ could risk second wave
26 April 2020	S27	Two million NHS operations cancelled during coronavirus crisis could spark second health crisis
28 April 2020	S28	Brits will be banned from holiday destinations across Europe because of fears over our coronavirus response
29 April 2020	S29	London’s coronavirus death rate is 15 times worse than Berlin’s, data shows
29 April 2020	S30	Coronavirus is ‘just as deadly as Ebola as 40% admitted to hospital die’, expert warns
30 April 2020	S31	Coronavirus saved 11,000 lives in Europe in one month as lockdowns massively cut air pollution, scientists say

## APPENDIX 2: NARRATIVE STRATEGIES

### NAMING PRACTICES

Naming practices in <i>The Guardian</i>	
G1	As <b>the disease</b> continued its rapid spread and governments introduced emergency measures to halt the progress of the escalating <b>epidemic, outbreaks</b> worsened in Iran and South Korea.
G3	“We will continue to try to contain this <b>virus</b> . However it’s now highly likely that <b>the virus</b> is going to spread in a significant way,”
G4	Governments across Europe have warned their citizens that the <b>coronavirus outbreak</b> could lead to months of serious disruption, as figures for deaths and infections rose sharply again on Monday and new measures were announced restricting large gatherings.
G6	Due to the lack of immunity, this <b>disease</b> is more dangerous,”
G8	<b>Coronavirus</b> is spreading faster in London than any other part of the country.
G10	Thousands of British holidaymakers could find themselves stranded abroad, as flight cancellations, travel restrictions and lockdowns due to <b>the global coronavirus pandemic</b> complicate their journeys home.
G11	As the official number of people in the UK to die after testing positive for <b>the Covid-19 virus</b> rose by 48 to reach 281.  “We will look back in due course, sadly, and see the true number of people who have died from <b>coronavirus</b> ,” she (Jenny Harries) said.
G12	James Daunt had said the bookstore chain was “no different to a supermarket or a pharmacy” and would stay open during the <b>coronavirus shutdown</b> .
G13	On Sunday the NHS suggested an 18-year-old had died from <b>coronavirus</b> but it has since emerged they tested positive for the <b>disease</b> but died from an unrelated condition.
G14	Boris Johnson will warn every household in Britain that the <b>coronavirus outbreak</b> is likely to worsen

G14	A poll for the Observer shows the majority of the British public want even stricter measures put in place to combat the spread of <b>the virus</b> and believe that the government was too slow in responding to <b>the pandemic</b> .
G15	The relatives of one of the latest people to die from <b>Covid-19</b> in Stockport said on Monday they were unable to see their loved one...
G16	The UK has recorded its biggest daily rise in the number of deaths so far in the <b>coronavirus outbreak</b> .
G17	...that no way of easing the lockdown while controlling the <b>virus</b> had yet been found.  Britain's death toll from the <b>global pandemic</b> rose to 3,605 on Friday, among 38,168 people who have tested positive for <b>Covid-19</b> .
G19	The flirtation in government with the idea of "herd immunity" as a way out of the <b>epidemic</b> meant there was a delay in implementing physical distancing until 23 March
G21	the country is "probably reaching the peak" of the <b>epidemic</b> .
G22	But in the age of the <b>coronavirus pandemic</b> , for the deceased who have no official next of kin, laying them to rest has been fraught with bureaucracy – and Robertson spent a tormenting six days locating her uncle's body.
G24	Prof David Heymann, of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, who chairs an independent advisory group to the WHO emergencies programme that is managing the <b>Covid-19 pandemic</b> .
G25	The UK has reached the <b>peak of the coronavirus epidemic</b> , cabinet ministers have confirmed, despite warnings that the <b>disease</b> may still be rampant in care homes.
G26	The Department of Health and Social Care said: "As of 5pm on 24 April, of those hospitalised in the UK who tested positive for <b>coronavirus</b> , 20,319 have sadly died."  Asked about the comment on Saturday, Powis said: "When [we] made that comment a number of weeks ago, what we were emphasising is that this is a new virus, a <b>global pandemic</b> , a once-in-a-century <b>global health crisis</b> . And this was going to be a huge challenge not just for the UK, but for every country."

G28	<p>Britain's political leaders joined NHS staff and members of the public in a nationwide silence for key workers who have died in the <b>coronavirus outbreak</b>.</p> <p>Boris Johnson, on his second day back in work after recovering from <b>Covid-19</b>.</p>
G29	As the <b>outbreak</b> continues to worsen in care homes...
G30	Remdesivir has been revived with the <b>outbreak of Covid-19</b> .
G31	A grandson is urging people to "pick up the phone" and speak to loved ones and vulnerable people in self-isolation after his 82-year-old grandfather killed himself during <b>the coronavirus pandemic</b> .

Naming practices in <i>The Sun</i>	
S1	In France the Government has banned gatherings of more than 5,000 people to try and stop the spread of the <b>killer virus</b> . Mr Hancock today refused to rule out cutting off entire cities like Wuhan in China where the <b>bug</b> originated.
S3	Professor Whitty warned the UK will experience a number of deaths as the <b>outbreak</b> takes hold. He said: "It's much more likely than not that we're going to deal with a <b>significant epidemic</b> ."
S4	The best case scenario outlined in the study would mean Britain would lose at least \$5billion US dollars (just short of £4billion) in the first year of the <b>COVID-19 outbreak</b> .
S6	The whole country has today been put under lockdown as authorities desperately fight to stem the spread of <b>the deadly bug</b> .
S7	Meanwhile, the UK's chief scientific adviser said it is hoped the Government's approach to tackling <b>coronavirus</b> will create a "herd immunity" to the <b>disease</b> .
S9	Lisa said that ignoring the signs of <b>the bug</b> , which has killed more than 7,800 worldwide, could be "fatal."
S10	<p>But eerie pictures show cities usually brimming with workers on a Friday night completely deserted as the war against <b>the killer bug</b> ramped up.</p> <p>Mr Johnson last night ordered pubs, restaurants and leisure centres across the UK to close "as soon as possible" amid the spiralling <b>COVID-19 crisis</b>.</p>

	1.4million Brits could be told to self-isolate on Monday due to the <b>bug</b> .
S11	<p>The <b>outbreak</b> has now claimed at least 281 lives in the UK, exceeding the 233 that had died in Italy as of March 7.</p> <p>Countries around Europe have been forced to introduce draconian measures to try to stop the <b>epidemic</b> taking hold.</p>
S12	NHS bosses also launched an urgent review of protective kit for front-line staff amid fears they are spreading <b>the virus</b> . Dr Katherine Henderson, head of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine, said a lack of proper kit meant <b>the bug</b> was inevitably being spread around hospitals.
S13	It is a finger-prick test that detects antibodies to the virus in the blood and is able to determine if someone has or has already had <b>Covid-19</b> .
S14	Among those killed <b>by the bug</b> was Jayne Lowry, an animal care assistant for the RSPCA who died four days after her 26th birthday. The tragedy came a week after Chloe Middleton, 21, from High Wycombe, Bucks, became the the UK's youngest <b>coronavirus victim</b> with no existing medical issues. Meanwhile a woman whose parents died at the weekend after getting <b>Covid-19</b> says people must respect the lockdown.
S16	<p><b>Coronavirus</b> is likely to peak over Easter — causing the worst holiday disruption since World War Two. Tens of thousands of people in Britain will be infected by <b>the killer bug</b> in the coming weeks, health officials warned.</p> <p>The number of people tested for the <b>deadly disease</b> in the UK has also now passed 150,000.</p>
S17	Meanwhile, the Department of Health has confirmed 163,194 people have been tested for <b>coronavirus</b> - with 10,657 tests carried out in England alone for the first time since the <b>outbreak</b> began. Among the deaths announced was comedy legend Eddie Large, 78, who died after contracting the <b>disease</b> in hospital. Boris Johnson spoke of the UK's "sad, sad day" as the death toll took a sharp rise - as he promised to ramp up testing for the <b>killer bug</b> .
S19	Most European nations introduced strict social distancing measures to try to curb the <b>spread of the virus</b> at the beginning of March. That plan suggested one way of beating <b>the deadly bug</b> was by allowing 60 per cent of Brits to get infected to build 'herd immunity'.



S22	Since <b>the coronavirus outbreak</b> began in the UK in February, tens of thousands of people have needed hospital treatment.
S23	A VACCINE may not protect us from <b>coronavirus</b> as the threat of the <b>killer bug</b> could last for the "foreseeable future", experts have warned.
S24	"We're all being affected by this <b>virus</b> , schools closing, young people in hospital, and they [campaigners] still say it's a hoax," she added. Scientists and pharmaceutical companies across the world are vying to seek a cure for <b>the deadly disease</b> , while committed anti-vaxxers are gearing up for a fight against any potential new vaccine.
S26	WHO warned coronavirus immunity passports could make the <b>pandemic</b> worse as patients who had recovered once could ignore health advice - increasing the <b>deadly bug's</b> spread.
S27	TWO MILLION NHS operations have been cancelled due to <b>the coronavirus outbreak</b> , sparking fears of a second healthcare crisis.
S28	... the UK was too slow to react to <b>coronavirus</b> , leading to soaring numbers of cases.
S29	"Places like London and New York are different and <b>the coronavirus</b> really took hold in England because of the way it arrived. In Germany <b>the virus</b> has spread differently.
S31	the researchers wrote.: " <b>The Covid-19 crisis</b> has brought about untold human suffering, and its side-effects should not be celebrated,"

## NOMINALIZATION

Nominalization in <i>The Guardian</i>	
G1	As the disease continued <b>its rapid spread</b> and governments introduced emergency measures to halt the progress of the escalating epidemic, <b>outbreaks</b> worsened in Iran and South Korea.
G3	A woman in her 70s was confirmed <b>as the first coronavirus death</b> in the UK on Thursday as Downing Street warned that it was now highly likely that the virus would spread in “a significant way”.
G4	<p>Governments across Europe have warned their citizens that the coronavirus <b>outbreak</b> could lead to months of serious disruption, as figures for <b>deaths</b> and infections rose sharply again on Monday and new measures were announced restricting <b>large gatherings</b>.</p> <p>Spahn asked people to make hard <b>choices</b> to help avoid the risk of <b>overburdening</b> the country’s health service.</p>
G5	<p>... after the UK saw the biggest single-day <b>increase</b> in cases and the death toll rose to eight.</p> <p>The prime minister will chair a <b>meeting</b> of the government’s Cobra emergency committee at lunchtime on Thursday, and is expected to <u>rubber-stamp</u> a <b>decision</b> to move to “<b>delay</b>”.</p> <p>The move comes after the health secretary, Matt Hancock, was pressed by MPs from both sides of the House of Commons over the government’s <b>handling</b> of the <b>outbreak</b>.</p> <p>The woman was cremated in Bali at the family’s request. Her husband is under <b>observation</b> in hospital and her children are in <b>quarantine</b>, according to local reports.</p>
G6	<p>the prime minister said both measures remained under <b>consideration</b>.</p> <p>France became the latest countries to announce the <b>closure</b> of all schools.</p> <p>however, the former health secretary Jeremy Hunt criticised the government for not doing more, saying that countries that had closed schools and “acted</p>

	earlier on social distancing” had seen success in <b>halting the spread of the virus.</b>
G7	All 10 individuals were in the at-risk groups. I understand this <b>increase</b> in the number of <b>deaths</b> linked to Covid-19 will be <b>a cause</b> for <b>concern</b> for many.
G9	Hospitals in England have been told <b>to postpone</b> all non-urgent elective operations from 15 April at the latest, for a period of at least three months.  <b>Scrapping elective surgery</b> will allow time for staff to be retrained and operating theatres and recovery facilities to be adapted for patients with Covid-19, as well as freeing up beds.  It’s important to be clear that over the next few weeks, until there is a <b>national decision...</b>
G10	Thousands of British holidaymakers could find themselves stranded abroad, as flight <b>cancellations</b> , travel <b>restrictions</b> and lockdowns due to the global coronavirus pandemic complicate their journeys home.
G11	The public must stop congregating in public or face new coronavirus <b>enforcement</b> measures within 24 hours  But amid growing unease among his own <b>supporters</b> over Downing Street’s <b>communications</b> with the public In what appeared to be a <b>warning</b> that the draconian steps taken in Italy could be seen in the UK. It followed <b>appeals</b> for stronger steps from across the political spectrum, with London mayor Sadiq Khan and northern Ireland’s first minister Arlene Foster both endorsing stricter <b>enforcement</b> of the guidelines  School leaders urged parents to “only leave your child at school if you have no <b>choice</b> ” before the first day of <b>attendance</b> being limited to key workers’ families.  While some councils have announced <b>the closure</b> of playgrounds and even parks, Johnson said they should remain open for now, saying this was based on scientific advice.

G12	<p>Many European countries and US states have forced <b>the closure</b> of all shops, with the <b>exception</b> of those deemed essential, such as supermarkets, other food retailers and pharmacies.</p>
G13	<p>There have been 422 <b>deaths</b> from coronavirus in the UK to 24 March.</p>
G14	<p>Boris Johnson will warn every household in Britain that the coronavirus <b>outbreak</b> is likely to worsen and that he is prepared to tighten the nation's lockdown, after the UK suffered the biggest daily <b>increase</b> in its death toll.</p> <p>Ministers remain under pressure over the <b>preparedness</b> of the NHS. It has prioritised the <b>testing</b> and <b>approval</b> of new protective equipment amid continued <b>complaints</b> from NHS and care workers that they do not have access to the right <b>protection</b></p>
G15	<p>Amid growing <b>expectations</b> that official <b>guidance</b> from trusts and NHS England could tighten as the number of <b>sufferers</b> being treated in hospitals rises</p> <p>“We were all sat on the bed in our house when we got the <b>call</b>, the whole family.”</p>
G16	<p>The UK has recorded its biggest daily <b>rise</b> in the number of <b>deaths</b> so far in the coronavirus <b>outbreak</b>.</p> <p>One of the <b>deaths</b>, for example, took place on 15 March.</p>
G18	<p>Britons have been urged not to let this weekend's warm weather coax them out of their homes, to reduce the <b>spread</b> of coronavirus, as a leading government adviser said the UK had “painted itself into a corner” with no clear exit strategy from the <b>outbreak</b>.</p> <p>This <b>reminder</b> came as Prof Graham Medley, a <b>pandemic modeller</b> advising the government, said a prolonged lockdown risked causing more <b>harm</b> than the virus itself.</p> <p>We will have done three weeks of this lockdown, so there's a big <b>decision</b> coming up on 13 April</p>

	In Cornwall, the local authority has <b>urged</b> hotels and letting agents to adhere to the government’s Covid-19 <b>closure</b> orders ahead of the Easter holidays
G19	<p>... based on a steep climb in daily <b>deaths</b> early in the <b>outbreak</b>.</p> <p>... an average taken from a large estimate range of between 14,572 and 219,211 <b>deaths</b>, indicating the <b>uncertainties</b> around it.</p> <p>In March, modellers relied on by the UK government, led by the team at Imperial College London, said <b>deaths</b> could reach 260,000 in the UK with no <b>restrictions</b> on movement, but they hoped to get <b>deaths</b> down to 20,000 through the lockdown strategy.</p> <p>The flirtation in government with the idea of “herd immunity” as a way out of the epidemic meant there was a <b>delay</b> in implementing physical distancing until 23 March, when there were already 54 daily deaths.</p>
G20	The UK government’s experts have said it is “too early” to talk about leaving lockdown, when it is not clear that the <b>spread</b> of coronavirus has slowed.
G21	<p>With signs of the curve flattening, health experts said it was essential for the government to start preparing better for <b>leaving</b> the lockdown with the help of public health academics.</p> <p>King, who was adviser from 2000 to 2007, said it appeared that there was a plateau in new infections but that the failure to record deaths outside hospitals meant “we really haven’t a clue where we are” and <b>comparisons</b> with other countries were “beginning to look really awful”.</p>
G22	“My uncle died in the <b>service</b> of the NHS
G23	<p>Humanity will have to live with the <b>threat</b> of coronavirus “for the foreseeable future” and adapt accordingly because there is no <b>guarantee</b> that a vaccine can be successfully developed, one of the world’s leading experts on the disease has warned.</p> <p>International <b>cooperation</b> and <b>supporting</b> health care systems of the poorest countries has to be a top priority in terms of the lessons we need to learn.”</p>

	<p>On Saturday it emerged that doctors and nurses treating Covid-19 face <b>shortages</b> of protective full-length gowns for weeks to come, as anger mounts over <b>failures</b> to stockpile them.</p>
G24	<p>Prof Sian Griffiths, who led the Hong Kong government’s <b>investigation</b> into the 2003 Sars epidemic, said Britain should adopt the same <b>approach</b> as the US, where people are advised to make their own “cloth face <b>coverings</b>” and wear them in public spaces.</p>
G25	<p><b>Contact tracing</b> will also be introduced at a “large scale”</p> <p>... but as they have not received a <b>reply</b> after contacting the government, I wanted to ensure that the Cabinet Office was aware of them.</p>
G26	<p>“As the <b>deaths</b> caused by this terrible virus pass another tragic and terrible milestone, the entire nation is grieving.”</p> <p>Revised <b>restrictions</b> that came into force on Saturday across Wales stipulate people must exercise as close as possible to home.</p>
G27	<p>According to NHS England, <b>postponing the planned operations</b>, which typically cost £1bn per month, has released 12,000 beds for patients who have fallen ill after contracting the virus.</p> <p>The <b>disruption</b> to operations will have consequences for scores of patients, ranging from those with cancer, whose tumours may grow while they are waiting for surgery, to those who are less able to exercise and become unfit in the run-up to physically demanding operations.</p>
G28	<p>Britain’s political <b>leaders</b> joined NHS staff and members of the public in a nationwide silence for key workers who have died in the coronavirus <b>outbreak</b>.</p>
G29	<p>A cabinet minister has acknowledged the government focused more on the NHS than care homes in the early stages of the <b>outbreak</b>, as the UK prepares to <b>publish</b> daily death figures for the community as well as hospitals.</p> <p>As the <b>outbreak</b> continues to worsen in care homes, <a href="#">George Eustice</a>, the environment secretary, defended the government’s <b>handling</b> of the crisis for older people, while acknowledging its <b>approach</b> had not been “perfect”.</p>

	<p>But in the case of care homes we've always recognised there was more <b>vulnerability</b> there and that residents were more susceptible to this virus.</p> <p><b>Testing</b> in care homes has also been criticised as all residents with symptoms have still not been getting checked despite the government's <b>promise</b> two weeks ago that this would be rolled out.</p>
G30	<p>"This isn't necessarily bad in and of itself, but without further <b>explanation</b> it's hard to understand why the study made the <b>choices</b> that it did,..."</p> <p>They concluded their <b>findings</b> would require <b>confirmation</b> from larger studies.</p> <p>That said, this National Institute study has more than four times as many patients involved in the clinical trial, giving it greater power to determine the <b>effectiveness</b> of remdesivir.</p>
G31	<p>He hoped the funds would help raise <b>awareness</b> about mental health issues, particularly during the current crisis.</p>

Nominalization in <i>The Sun</i>	
S2	<p><b>Washing hands</b> five to ten times day could stunt the <b>speed</b> of the coronavirus <b>spread</b> by more than 30 per cent</p>
S3	<p>The 34 new cases represent the biggest 24-hour hike in the virus as its <b>spread</b> appears to be accelerating.</p>
S4	<p>More 12million people would die in China alone, with 1.1million <b>deaths</b> in the United States.</p>
S5	<p>He added it was "absolutely critical" to take the right <b>decisions</b> at the right time, and warned <b>acting</b> too soon could prove "counterproductive".</p>
S6	<p>ITALIAN doctors face being forced to make "life-or-death" <b>decisions</b> about who to treat as they battle a "tsunami" of coronavirus patients.</p>
S7	<p>Prof Piot also said that the "top priority" is <b>protecting</b> the elderly and those with underlying health conditions.</p> <p>"We should really make sure that the staff there know everything about <b>protecting</b> the elderly.</p>

	<p>Official <b>advice</b> said an ideal room for <b>isolation</b> is a single bedroom with en-suite facilities.</p> <p>His comments come after former health secretary Jeremy Hunt questioned the Government's <b>decision</b> not to cancel large <b>gatherings</b> after Prime Minister Boris Johnson warned many more families would "lose loved ones before their time".</p>
S8	<p>He said: "At the early stages in an <b>outbreak</b>, the numbers are quite small so actually the precision with which you can predict exactly where you are is low.</p> <p><b>Developing</b> these symptoms does not necessarily mean you have the illness and they are similar to other illnesses, such as the common cold or flu.</p> <p>Britain's chief medical adviser Chris Whitty said Britain will continue to scale up testing after the World Health Organisation said doing so was critical in the <b>fight</b> against the epidemic.</p>
S9	<p>She said: "Our dad had COPD so when he started with a <b>cough</b> and <b>breathing difficulties</b> it was diagnosed as a chest infection.</p> <p>Lisa said that <b>ignoring the signs of the bug</b>, which has killed more than 7,800 worldwide, could be "fatal."</p>
S10	<p>The <b>outbreak</b> has now claimed at least 281 lives in the UK, exceeding the 233 that had died in Italy as of March 7.</p> <p>In the 16 days since, the toll in Italy has risen to 5,476, including 651 new <b>deaths</b> on Sunday alone.</p> <p>Speaking at <u>a press conference</u> last night, Prime Minister Boris Johnson warned Brits that tougher <b>restrictions</b> on movement would have to be brought in if they didn't follow the government's social distancing guidelines.</p>
S11	<p>The government has asked people to work remotely and avoid <b>going out</b> if at all possible.</p> <p>Italy has now seen more <b>deaths</b> from the pandemic than any other nation, while Sunday saw its number of confirmed cases rise by 5,560 to 59,138.</p>



	<p>"They've had to build a tent outside the hospital [and] there are <b>burials</b> about every 30 minutes in the cemetery," he said.</p>
S13	<p>She added that <b>testing</b> for Covid-19 should be available next month and it will give NHS staff on the frontline answers on whether they are infected.</p> <p>Katherine Henderson, president of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine, said: "The <b>nervousness</b> is real that we become part of the problem, as well as part of the solution."</p>
S14	<p>The current figures do not give a true <b>reading</b> of the scale of coronavirus in Britain since a lag in death count means the stats are about three weeks behind.</p> <p>It comes after Monday's figure marks the first time the daily <b>increase in deaths</b> has fallen for two consecutive days and has dropped from 260 on Saturday, the worst day in the crisis so far.</p>
S15	<p>And new analysis, published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases, has showed an <b>increase</b> in risk for coronavirus once a person reaches middle age.</p> <p>The latest figures from the Department of Health reveal 381 people have died in 24 hours after a rise of 180 <b>deaths</b> in the same time period yesterday.</p>
S16	<p>Coronavirus is likely to peak over Easter — causing the worst holiday <b>disruption</b> since World War Two.</p>
S17	<p>For example, the government last night released a graph comparing the number of deaths in the UK, Italy, Spain, France and a number of other countries since each country recorded its 50th <b>death</b>.</p> <p>The figures for both countries have been posted on the John Hopkins University website but their governments have been accused of <b>hiding</b> the true numbers of deaths.</p> <p>"When I've looked at the data, it's my <b>judgement</b> that I think we will have one of the higher mortality rates.</p>

S19	<p><b>Modelling</b> by researchers at the University of Washington has predicted that approximately 151,680 people are likely to die from Covid-19 across the continent.</p> <p>The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington's School of Medicine were able to make their <b>predictions</b> about the UK's death toll using local and international data on case numbers as well as age mortality breakdowns from Italy, China and the US.</p>
S20	<p>Mr Raab will today give a firm <b>indication</b> that Brits can expect to be locked down for weeks longer and will again urge them to stay indoors as much as possible.</p> <p>Commons Health Committee chairman Jeremy Hunt said it was a "reasonable <b>assumption</b>" that at least another month is needed.</p>
S22	<p>ONE in seven people who end up in hospital with coronavirus in the UK will die from the <b>illness</b>, according to the latest statistics.</p> <p>Since the coronavirus <b>outbreak</b> began in the UK in February, tens of thousands of people have needed hospital <b>treatment</b>.</p> <p>It's not an accurate <b>reflection</b> of the overall mortality rate, as it only accounts for those in hospital and not those who have been infected and are recovering at home.</p>
S23	<p>A VACCINE may not protect us from coronavirus as the <b>threat</b> of the killer bug could last for the "foreseeable future", experts have warned.</p> <p>"Some viruses are very, very difficult when it comes to vaccine <b>development</b> - so for the foreseeable future, we are going to have to find ways to go about our lives with this virus as a constant <b>threat</b>.</p> <p>"In addition hospital capacity for <b>dealing with cases</b> will have to be ensured. That is going to be the new normal for us all."</p> <p>The professor's <b>warning</b> comes as scientists have said they are close to finding a vaccine.</p>

	Experts have said mass <b>testing</b> and <b>developing</b> a vaccine were the keys to getting out of lockdown.
S24	<p>But the pandemic's <b>rising death toll</b> across the world is starting to change her mind.</p> <p>Scientists and pharmaceutical companies across the world are vying to seek a <b>cure</b> for the deadly disease, while committed anti-vaxxers are gearing up for a <b>fight</b> against any potential new vaccine.</p> <p>"My mother has a lung disease, so if she gets Covid-19 there is no <b>fighting</b>.</p> <p>Surveys also reveal a reverse in <b>beliefs</b>.</p> <p>Since the pioneering work of Edward Jenner in the late 18th century on <b>developing</b> vaccines for smallpox, people have protested against the <b>treatment</b> for a variety of reasons.</p>
S25	These patients breathe deeper and faster due to the low oxygen levels which can cause more damage to the lungs.
S26	"And we think we will be able to get there but as of today, the scientists are not confident enough in <b>understanding the progress</b> of the disease after people have got through it like I have."
S27	<p>Another <b>fear</b> is the number of suspected cancer sufferers being referred for urgent appointments have dropped by 75 per cent.</p> <p>The <b>suspension</b> of breast, cervical, and bowel screening has also lead to another 400 missed cancers a week.</p>
S28	<p>Similar <b>restrictions</b> on certain nationalities of tourists have been suggested by <a href="#">Austria</a>, who want to allow tourists from countries with low coronavirus numbers, such as Germany.</p> <p>A new <b>proposal</b> by the Association of Czech Travel Agencies suggests a <b>treaty</b> with countries that have low cases of coronavirus to be able to enter the</p>

	<p>country without being subject to a 14-day quarantine, such as Croatia and Slovakia.</p> <p>We are a country that will be open to all, not only because we are the best tourist destination, but because competing destinations are in great <b>difficulty</b>.</p>
S29	<p>Speaking on LBC, Professor Newton said: "People have made the <b>assumption</b> that because they have lots of tests, they had fewer <b>deaths</b> and that's just not the case.</p> <p>While some say that is just a case of good luck, it may be that by <b>identifying</b> cases early, Germany has been able to track chains of infection and prevent coronavirus hitting those most vulnerable.</p> <p>There has also also been a steady <b>rise</b> in the number of <b>deaths</b> from 117 on April 25 to 188 on April 28, and the country has already been planning for a second wave of killer coronavirus.</p>
S30	<p>Prof Semple praised the majority of Brits for <b>sticking</b> to the lockdown.</p>
S31	<p>The study also found a 10 per cent <b>reduction</b> in the average level of particulate matter <b>pollution</b> across Europe.</p> <p>These <b>decreases</b> had resulted in an estimated 11,000 avoided <b>deaths</b> related to air pollution across Europe, including approximately 1,752 in the UK — the second-highest number in the study behind Germany (2,083).</p> <p>the researchers wrote: "The Covid-19 crisis has brought about untold human <b>suffering</b>, and its side-effects should not be celebrated."</p> <p>"The major public health benefits of reduced coal and oil burning, over just one month are, however, a striking <b>demonstration</b> of the benefit to public health and quality of life if European decision-makers prioritise clean air, clean energy and clean transport in their plans to recover from the crisis, and reduce coal and oil <b>consumption</b> in a rapid and sustainable way."</p>

## EVALUATION

Evaluation <i>The Guardian</i>	
G1	<p>New coronavirus infections spiked <b>dramatically</b> across Europe on Sunday, with Italy reporting hundreds of new cases and five more deaths.</p> <p>As the disease continued its <b>rapid</b> spread and governments introduced emergency measures to halt the progress of the <b>escalating</b> epidemic, outbreaks worsened in Iran and <b>South Korea</b>.</p> <p>The escalating figures came as the head of the World Health Organization, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, warned individuals in higher-risk groups to avoid crowds and other places of <b>elevated infection risk (emotivity)</b></p> <p>The Iranian figures represent 11 more <b>deaths</b> than reported on Saturday and 385 new cases of infections.</p> <p>People <b>should</b> follow our health <b>officials'</b> advice.”</p> <p>In Italy, a top health official has warned of a “<b>tsunami</b>” effect on its hospital system after confirmed cases there rose to almost 1,700</p> <p>“The situation is, <b>frankly</b>, an emergency from the point of view of health system organisation,” Massimo Galli, a professor and director of infectious diseases at Milan’s Sacco hospital, <b>told Corriere della Sera</b> on Sunday.</p> <p>Elsewhere, the US, Australia and Thailand have reported their first <b>deaths</b>, while two frontline doctors in China <b>died</b> and more countries <b>banned</b> large gatherings and imposed travel <b>restrictions</b>.</p> <p>More than 50 people in a nursing facility in the state are <b>ill</b> and being tested for the virus.</p>

G2	<p>The health secretary, <b>Matt Hancock</b>, has urged members of the public to carry on as normal “for now”, despite the prime minister saying there <b>could</b> be a “very <b>significant expansion</b>” of the number of cases of coronavirus in the UK.</p> <p>Under the “reasonable <b>worst-case scenario</b>” plotted by scientists...</p> <p>If the rest of the world <b>gives up on containing it</b> then there’s no way that one country, even an island like the UK, will be able to resist</p> <p>And anyway, with an <b>infectious disease</b>, home is often the best place.</p>
G3	<p>A woman in her 70s was confirmed as the <b>first coronavirus death</b> in the UK on Thursday as Downing Street <b>warned</b> that it was now <b>highly likely</b> that the virus would spread in “a <b>significant way</b>”.</p> <p>Boris Johnson said that “our sympathies are very much with the <b>victim</b> and their family”.</p> <p>... the government escalated its response to the <b>threat</b> from Italy...</p> <p>These “<b>unknowns</b>” are causing particular concern because they became infected while in the UK and had no obvious links to other cases.</p> <p>Boris Johnson’s spokesman echoed Whitty’s concerns over slowing the virus, warning that it was now <b>likely to spread significantly</b>.</p> <p>The UK’s competition watchdog <b>threatened</b> to prosecute retailers and traders who take advantage of public concern about the coronavirus outbreak by hiking prices or making <b>fake claims</b>.</p>
G4	<p>Governments across <b>Europe</b> have warned their citizens that the coronavirus outbreak could lead to months of <b>serious disruption</b>, as figures for <b>deaths</b> and infections rose sharply again on Monday and new measures were announced <b>restricting</b> large gatherings.</p> <p>the prime minister, told people to “stay at home,” as he <b>banned</b> all public gatherings</p>

	<p>Spahn asked people to make <b>hard choices</b> to help avoid the risk of <b>overburdening</b> the country’s health service.</p> <p>Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the <b>head</b> of the World Health Organization, said that with the virus spreading in so many countries, the <b>threat</b> of a pandemic had become “very real” as he called for <b>aggressive</b> measures” to counter it.</p> <p>Spahn added that he was opposed to shutting schools and kindergartens because that would leave tens of thousands of medical staff unable to go to work, which would have a <b>hugely detrimental effect</b> on the health system.</p> <p>In the UK, meanwhile, Boris Johnson and senior advisers defended the government’s response to the <b>crisis</b>.</p> <p>Prime minister Giuseppe Conte cited Winston Churchill as evidence that great nations persevere when the going gets tough. “These days, I have been thinking about the old speeches of Churchill – <b>it is our darkest hour</b> but we will make it,” Conte told La Repubblica newspaper.</p>
G5	<p>Boris Johnson is <b>poised</b> to move Britain to a <b>critical new phase</b> of the coronavirus action plan on Thursday.</p> <p>The effectiveness of these actions will <b>need to be</b> balanced against their impact on society.”</p> <p>Downing Street has involved <b>experts</b> in behavioural psychology in deciding the government’s response – <b>but</b> the health secretary insisted the response was being guided by the best medical advice.</p> <p>The health secretary replied that the WHO’s decision to declare Covid-19 a pandemic, “has a <b>significant</b> impact on the way that countries around the world will now take forward their plans.”</p> <p>Two patients in Dudley and Nuneaton, who were both over 70 <b>with underlying health conditions, died</b> after contracting Covid-19, health officials said.</p>

	<p>A man <b>in poor health</b> who had been a passenger on the Diamond Princess cruise ship became the first UK victim of the virus when he <b>died</b> in Japan last month.</p> <p>Public Health Wales reported that <b>cases</b> in the country had increase by four to 19.</p>
G6	<p>Up to 10,000 people may already have coronavirus in Britain and many families <b>should</b> expect to lose loved ones before their time, <b>Boris Johnson</b> warned on Thursday as he set out measures less stringent than those taken by other countries.</p> <p>Medical, scientific and public health experts criticised the steps outlined to tackle what the prime minister described as the “<b>worst</b> public health crisis for a generation”</p> <p>Schools are to remain open and large gatherings such as sports events and concerts will go ahead, amid concerns that moving too soon with stricter measures could bring public fatigue, <b>though</b> the prime minister said both measures remained under consideration.</p> <p>Johnson’s moves came as the stock market in London <b>suffered its blackest day since 1987</b>, with <b>panic</b> selling – triggered by Donald Trump’s surprise <b>ban</b> on travel between the US and the Schengen zone – surpassing the worst seen in the 2008-09 financial crisis.</p> <p>Chris Whitty, the chief medical officer, said that <b>worst-case scenario</b> planning projected that 80% of the country would contract the virus, with a 1% mortality rate. This equates to more than 500,000 <b>deaths</b>.</p> <p>Speaking at a sombre press conference in Downing Street, the prime minister said measures to tackle “the <b>worst</b> public health crisis for a generation” <b>could</b> “cause severe <b>disruption</b>” to everyday life for months.</p> <p>... as it spreads <b>undiagnosed</b>.</p> <p>Experts also criticised the measures as too limited to have a major effect and <b>inadequate</b>, given the scale of the <b>looming</b> threat to health.</p>



G8	<p>“So to relieve the pressure on the London health system and to slow the spread in London, it is important that Londoners now pay special attention to what we are saying about avoiding non-essential contact and to take <b>particularly</b> seriously the advice about working from home and avoiding <b>confined</b> spaces such as pubs and restaurants.”</p> <p>No. Some have suggested that frequent flying of people in a richer borough in London or recent ski holidays to Italy may have increased the incidence in Kensington and Chelsea, but this is <b>speculation (comprehensibility)</b>.</p> <p>That’s the <b>key</b> bedrock of getting this under control</p>
G9	<p>Millions of operations are being postponed, patients urgently discharged from hospital and private operators called in to help the <b>NHS</b> cope with the coronavirus <b>crisis</b>.</p> <p>NHS England <b>hopes</b> the measures <b>will</b> free up 30,000 hospital beds – about 30% of the 100,000 total – which <b>can</b> be used for patients left <b>seriously unwell</b> with Covid-19.</p> <p>“It’s <b>important</b> to be clear that over the next few weeks, until there is a national decision, both NHS and private planned care will continue in independent providers.</p>
G10	<p>Thousands of British holidaymakers <b>could</b> find themselves <b>stranded</b> abroad, as flight cancellations, travel <b>restrictions</b> and lockdowns due to the global coronavirus pandemic complicate their journeys home.</p> <p>As many as 100,000 tourists may still be in Spain, despite a near-total lockdown and government orders that all hotels <b>be shut down</b> within the week.</p> <p>Many are <b>furious</b> that the British embassy in Lima has alerted them to commercial flights at “rip-off” prices.</p> <p>Ffred Ffransis, who has a heart condition, said he was concerned about being <b>stranded</b> in the high altitude of Cusco, which sits at 3,400 metres above sea level. “I planned to be here for a few days rather a few weeks,” he said.</p>

	<p>“The (UK) government have been <b>hopeless</b> and it’s a sign of things to come,” he said.</p> <p>He described the Avianca flight offer as an “absolute <b>swindle</b>”.</p>
G11	<p>The public <b>must</b> stop congregating in public or face new coronavirus enforcement measures within 24 hours.</p> <p>In what appeared to be a warning that the <b>draconian</b> steps taken in Italy could be seen in the UK.</p> <p>Britons were “either <b>confused</b> by the government’s social distancing measures or choose to ignore them”.</p> <p>As the official number of people in the UK <b>to die</b> after testing positive for the Covid-19 virus rose by 48 to reach 281.</p> <p>School <b>leaders</b> urged parents to “only leave your child at school if you have no choice” before the first day of attendance being limited to <b>key</b> workers’ families.</p>
G12	<p>The UK government is considering <b>forcing</b> the closure of all non-essential shops in an escalation of measures to try to slow the spread of coronavirus.</p>
G13	<p>To date, the deaths have largely been among older people. The first fatalities reported were of older patients in their 80s and 90s. <b>However</b>, victims of the virus are getting younger.</p> <p>Also, <b>deaths</b> are no longer <b>solely</b> among people with underlying health conditions, as the NHS is reporting vulnerable patients are also among the dead. <b>It is not clear</b> which patients had an underlying condition and which were classed as “vulnerable” from the NHS England figures.</p> <p>All data has been gathered from NHS England and matched to news reports where <b>clear dates were not given in the notice of death</b>.</p>
G14	<p>Boris Johnson <b>will</b> warn every household in Britain that the coronavirus outbreak is <b>likely</b> to worsen and that he is prepared to <b>tighten the nation’s lockdown</b>, after the UK suffered the <b>biggest daily increase in its death toll</b>.</p>

	<p>The latest Opinium poll suggested 57% of the public think the lockdown measures should go even further, while a third (33%) think there should be a <b>ban</b> placed on all public transport.</p>
G15	<p>Amid growing expectations that official guidance from trusts and NHS England <b>could</b> tighten as the number of <b>sufferers</b> being treated in hospitals rises.</p>
G16	<p>The UK hospital <b>death toll</b> rose by 563 to 2,352 on Wednesday, an increase of 31% on the total of 1,789 <b>deaths</b> reported the day before.</p> <p>However, the figures are not <b>an accurate picture</b> of the deaths within 24 hours, as a number of deaths announced in Wednesday’s release occurred earlier in March.</p> <p>Responding to <b>criticism</b> of the UK’s low testing numbers, No 10 said a “<b>clear instruction</b>” had been issued to hospitals to test as many staff as possible, with trusts allowed to decide how to split tests between workers and patients.</p>
G17	<p>The warning highlights how the dramatic recent increase in hospitals’ <b>use of ventilators</b> and in particular CPAP machines, which dispense ventilation through a face mask, has brought with it those two main risks of a <b>sudden</b> and potentially very serious oxygen shortage.</p>
G18	<p>Britons have been urged not to let this weekend’s warm weather <b>coax</b> them out of their homes, to reduce the spread of coronavirus, as a leading government adviser said the UK had “painted itself into a corner” with <b>no clear</b> exit strategy from the outbreak.</p> <p>Medley, a professor of infectious disease modelling at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, reportedly told <b>the Times</b> that Britain must consider allowing people to catch the virus in <b>the least deadly way</b> possible.</p>
G19	<p>World-leading disease data analysts have projected that the UK will become the country <b>worst hit by the coronavirus</b> pandemic in Europe, accounting for more than 40% of total deaths across the continent.</p> <p>The IHME modelling forecasts that by 4 August the UK will see a total of 66,314 deaths – an average taken from a large estimate range of between 14,572 and 219,211 deaths, indicating the <b>uncertainties</b> around it.</p>

	<p>The same <b>grim</b> picture applies to intensive care beds.</p> <p>The UK <b>will</b> be <b>severely</b> short of beds, it finds.</p>
G20	<p>The overall numbers of cases in the next five years, and the level of distancing required, were found to depend crucially on the overall current levels of infection and whether all those who are infected gain immunity and, if so, for how long. The authors cautioned that these are big <b>unknowns</b> and that a precise prediction of the long-term dynamics is <b>not possible</b>.</p>
G21	<p>Ministers and their advisers <b>do not yet have a plan</b> for how to leave the UK’s coronavirus lockdown, according to multiple government sources, despite the chief medical officer saying the country is “<b>probably</b> reaching the peak” of the epidemic.</p> <p>The UK government’s <b>experts</b> have said it is “too early” to talk about leaving lockdown, when <b>it is not clear</b> that the spread of coronavirus has slowed.</p> <p>Pankhania expressed scepticism that contact tracing voluntarily through an app would be <b>good enough</b>.</p> <p>The government has so far refused to release the list of its <b>key</b> advisers for security reasons.</p> <p>King, who was adviser from 2000 to 2007, said it <b>appeared</b> that there was a plateau in new infections but that the failure to record deaths outside hospitals meant “we really haven’t a clue where we are” and comparisons with other countries were “beginning to look really awful”.</p>
G22	<p>They <b>broke down</b> the door of his flat that same evening only to find him <b>dead</b>.</p> <p>Her uncle, <b>NHS</b> nurse Donald “Dondee” Suelto, had <b>died alone</b> in his London flat of suspected coronavirus.</p> <p>Suelto is not the only one whose remains have been lost in the <b>chaos</b> of the pandemic.</p>
G23	<p>Humanity <b>will have to</b> live with the <b>threat</b> of coronavirus “for the foreseeable future” and adapt accordingly because there is no <b>guarantee</b> that a vaccine</p>

	<p>can be successfully developed, one of the world’s leading experts on the disease has warned.</p> <p>In a <b>clear criticism</b> of US President Donald Trump who announced last week he was putting on hold funding to the World Health Organisation (WHO) Hunt added: “Surely the lesson of coronavirus is cure not <b>kill</b>...It certainly does not mean cutting their funding (to the WHO).</p>
G24	<p>The public <b>should</b> wear homemade masks when they venture outdoors to help reduce the spread of coronavirus, according to scientists who claim Britain’s masks policy does <b>too little</b> to prevent infections.</p> <p>The government’s scientific advisory group for emergencies (Sage) met on Tuesday to review the evidence on wearing face masks. The Guardian understands that the group is split on the best policy to adopt because the evidence is <b>so weak</b>.</p> <p>World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines state that while masks <b>can</b> help prevent people from passing on coronavirus, they are <b>inadequate protection</b> on their own from contracting it.</p>
G25	<p>The UK health secretary has been <b>increasingly under</b> fire for the level of testing, which has fallen behind other European countries, and for a lack of personal protective equipment for NHS and care home staff.</p> <p>Hancock said the expansion of testing capacity was ahead of schedule but demand had been “<b>lower than expected</b>”.</p>
G26	<p>Powis said it was “a very sad day for the nation” and that the current <b>crisis</b> was “not something we are going to get over in the next few weeks”.</p> <p>The total number of <b>fatalities</b> is <b>likely</b> to be much higher than the current official toll, largely because <b>deaths</b> in care homes are not included in the government’s daily update.</p>
G28	<p>Britain’s political <b>leaders</b> joined <b>NHS</b> staff and members of the public in a nationwide silence for <b>key</b> workers who have died in the coronavirus outbreak.</p> <p>The Society of Occupational Medicine, whose members include more than 1,700 doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and technicians, has said the goal should be zero work-caused <b>fatalities</b>.</p>

G29	<p>As the outbreak continues to worsen in care homes, George Eustice, the environment secretary, defended the government’s handling of the crisis for older people, while acknowledging its approach had not been “<b>perfect</b>”.</p> <p>The <b>death toll</b> from coronavirus in care homes will be announced daily from Wednesday after figures this week revealed a <b>sharp rise</b> of more than 4,300 deaths in a fortnight in England and Wales and care operators said they were at the centre of the <b>crisis</b>.</p>
G30	<p>a drug called remdesivir is among a handful which scientists and the World Health Organization <b>consider most promising</b>.</p> <p>... said data from one clinical trial “shows that remdesivir has a <b>clear-cut, significant, positive</b> effect in diminishing the time to recovery”.</p>
G31	<p>A grandson is urging people to “pick up the phone” and speak to loved ones and vulnerable people in self-isolation after his 82-year-old grandfather <b>killed</b> himself during the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>Police have recorded early signs of an increase in <b>suicides</b> and attempted suicides during lockdown.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Evaluation</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Sun</i></p>	
S1	<p>Matt Hancock also admitted a vaccine to treat the <b>deadly bug</b> was months away and the Government would publish <b>doomsday plans</b> this week.</p> <p>It comes as doctors <b>battle</b> a "<b>nightmare scenario</b>" after a man became the first to catch coronavirus within Britain.</p> <p>In France the Government has <b>banned</b> gatherings of more than 5,000 people to try and stop the spread of <b>the killer virus</b>.</p> <p>Health officials are <b>desperate</b> to trace those who were in touch with the man who had walked into a GP surgery in Haslemere, Surrey.</p>

S2	<p>It comes as companies Sony and Nike <b>shut down</b> their UK offices in London and Sunderland and ordered deep cleans of their buildings last night.</p> <p>At least four of the new cases involve patients infected within the UK as health experts warn a '<b>significant</b> pandemic' <b>could</b> be just weeks away.</p> <p>It's much more <b>likely</b> than not that we're going to deal with a <b>significant</b> epidemic.</p>
S3	<p><b>It is not known</b> what duties the employee had carried out after returning from Italy.</p> <p>Brits have been warned a <b>worst-case scenario could</b> see up to 80 per cent of the population catching the virus.</p>
S4	<p>Research by the Australian National University says a <b>worst case scenario</b> could see the global death toll reach 68million, with tens of thousands of people <b>dying</b> in Britain.</p> <p>The study suggests India and China would each lose millions of people, with more than 230,000 people <b>killed</b> in the United States.</p> <p>In the 'high-severity' forecast, the coronavirus outbreak would <b>cause a catastrophic death toll</b> of more than 68million people around the world, the researchers say.</p>
S5	<p>The <b>dramatic</b> step is set to be taken in around ten days' time as the <b>killer</b> bug <b>threatens</b> to explode in the UK.</p> <p><b>Officials</b> claim the stay at home measure <b>could slash</b> the peak number of cases by half and protect the NHS from being overwhelmed.</p> <p>They predict it will reduce the number of vulnerable Brits <b>killed</b> by the virus by up to 30 per cent — potentially saving thousands of lives.</p> <p>There is no hiding from the fact that the coronavirus outbreak will present <b>significant</b> challenges for the UK just as it does in other countries.</p>

	<p><b>Officials</b> are <b>expected</b> to tell pensioners to stay indoors and avoid busy places in the coming days.</p> <p>And the PM once again urged Brits not to <b>panic</b> buy.</p> <p>Brits need to <b>ditch</b> the pub to help beat the virus, according to a World Health Organisation boss.</p>
S6	<p>And <b>beleaguered</b> doctors have warned they are being “overwhelmed”.</p> <p>It also <b>expects</b> to pull together another 150 in the coming week – <b>but</b> it <b>may</b> not be enough.</p>
S7	<p>But because it [Covid-19] is a respiratory transmitted virus, that makes it so <b>worrisome</b>.</p> <p>The disease has an average <b>fatality</b> rate of 50 per cent - <b>but</b> in some outbreaks that has been as high as 90 per cent.</p>
S8	<p><b>Experts</b> said measures introduced to 'delay' the peak of the outbreak are also designed to reduce the number of people infected by the <b>killer</b> bug.</p> <p>The next few months are going to be <b>extraordinarily difficult</b> for the NHS and colleagues.</p> <p>All people should avoid gatherings and crowded places, while people who are vulnerable - including those are elderly - will <b>need</b> to undertake even more <b>drastic</b> measures.</p>
S10	<p>But <b>eerie</b> pictures show cities usually brimming with workers on a Friday night completely deserted as the <b>war</b> against the <b>killer</b> bug ramped up.</p> <p>London's Shaftsbury Avenue was missing the usual <b>hoardes</b> of theatre-lovers gathering outside the Apollo and famous other West End venues.</p> <p>Even traffic in the capital appeared to have vanished as Boris' <b>wartime plans</b> came into effect - with Regent Street completely car-free.</p>



	<p><b>Experts</b> say that older people and those with underlying health conditions are more susceptible to the <b>deadly</b> bug, which has infected at least 3,269 in the UK.</p>
S11	<p>Speaking at a <a href="#">press conference</a> last night, Prime Minister Boris Johnson <b>warned</b> Brits that <b>tougher restrictions</b> on movement <b>would have to</b> be brought in if they didn't follow the government's social distancing guidelines.</p>
S12	<p>Prof Doyle warned up to 30 per cent of infected cases <b>may</b> <a href="#">show no signs</a> — and people <b>could</b> be contagious up to five days before feeling unwell.</p>
S13	<p>Professor Doyle said "in theory" medical staff in this category as well as others <b>could</b> infect patients with the <b>killer</b> bug.</p> <p>She added that testing for Covid-19 <b>should</b> be available next month and it will give NHS staff on the frontline answers on whether they are infected.</p> <p>The Government last night made it <b>clear</b> those tests <b>will</b> not be available for the public to buy.</p> <p>The chief medical officer, Chris Whitty, explained the government would prioritise <b>key</b> workers - such as NHS staff - for the new antibody test.</p>
S14	<p>It comes after Monday's figure marks the first time the daily increase in <b>deaths</b> has fallen for two consecutive days and has dropped from 260 on Saturday, the <b>worst</b> day in the <b>crisis</b> so far.</p> <p>Among those <b>killed</b> by the bug was Jayne Lowry.</p> <p>The <b>tragedy</b> came a week after Chloe Middleton, 21, from High Wycombe, Bucks, became the UK's youngest coronavirus <b>victim</b> with no existing medical issues.</p>
S15	<p>The study revealed a very low death rate in those under the age of 20, <b>although</b> it found they are not at a lower risk of infection than older adults.</p>

	<p>His dad Mirko Di Nicolahas told newspaper he has since received a letter from North Middlesex Hospital confirming his son had tested positive for the <b>killer</b> virus.</p> <p>The latest <b>victims</b> were aged between 19 and 98</p>
S16	<p>Coronavirus is <b>likely</b> to peak over Easter — causing the <b>worst</b> holiday <b>disruption</b> since World War Two.</p> <p>Tens of thousands of people in Britain will be infected by the <b>killer</b> bug in the coming weeks, health officials warned.</p>
S17	<p>The rate of deaths each day also <b>appears</b> to be increasing more rapidly here, according to one set of data.</p> <p>The figures are <b>worrying</b>.</p> <p>We are <b>certainly</b> heading that way and we are <b>likely</b> to see the same numbers of deaths as Italy.</p>
S18	<p><b>Top</b> doctors and scientists have estimated the peak <b>could hit</b> over Easter weekend.</p> <p>The <b>key</b> issue here is timing. It's <b>vital</b> that we get the right support in the right place at the right time.</p>
S19	<p>And they are now warning that the UK is <b>likely</b> to suffer 66,300 coronavirus deaths by July - 44 pent of the total death toll in Europe and three times more than Italy.</p> <p>On the other hand, Britain is <b>likely</b> more than a week away from getting a handle on its death toll as intensive care capacity is overwhelmed, according to IHME Director Christopher Murray.</p>
S21	<p>The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) said as a "last resort" nurses <b>can refuse</b> to treat patients if they do not have the right Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).</p>
S23	<p>David Nabarro, professor of global health at Imperial College London and an envoy for the World Health Organisation on Covid-19, said we are going to</p>

	<p>have live with the "constant <b>threat</b>" of the virus as it can't be assumed a <a href="#">vaccine</a> will be developed soon.</p> <p>For the foreseeable future, we are going to <b>have to find</b> ways to go about our lives with this virus as a constant <b>threat</b>.</p>
S24	<p>But other <b>anti-vaxxers</b> are still gearing up for a fight against any potential new vaccine, as they <b>vow</b> to not be injected "with anything", say reports.</p> <p>The mum - who didn't want to share her surname for fear of a <b>backlash</b> from staunch anti-vaxxers - admitted, "I've definitely thought about it [the coronavirus vaccine]."</p>
S25	<p>The emergency doctor said that the patients <b>would</b> have <b>no idea</b> that they had the infection until they had arrived at the emergency room when they were "often already in critical condition".</p> <p><a href="#">Coronavirus</a> patients were not feeling the same pain and discomfort <b>usually</b> brought on by pneumonia including shortness of breath.</p>
S26	<p>WHO warned coronavirus immunity passports could make the pandemic worse as patients who had recovered once could ignore health advice - <b>increasing the <a href="#">deadly bug's</a> spread</b>.</p>
S27	<p>The cost of playing catch-up could be £3billion - based on last year's £12bn bill - and is <b>likely</b> to be higher as agency staff and the private sector will be called in to help.</p> <p>Prof Alderson added there is also a risk of <b>burn-out</b> from the staff who have been <b>battling</b> the virus.</p> <p>Professor Karol Sikora warned this <b>crisis could</b> spark an additional 50,000 cancer deaths.</p> <p>There are also fears people are needlessly <b>dying</b> from treatable emergencies because they are afraid to go to hospital over Covid-19 fears.</p>
S28	<p>However, British tourists are <b>likely</b> to be the among the last to be allowed to travel to several holiday destinations both in and outside Europe with</p>

	<p>governments claiming the UK was too slow to react to coronavirus, leading to soaring numbers of cases.</p> <p>Some parts of Spain <b>hope</b> to welcome tourists soon.</p> <p>Flights are also <b>not expected</b> to resume from the UK until mid-June at the earliest.</p> <p>The UK is <b>unlikely</b> to find themselves being <b>welcomed</b> back before the summer holidays though.</p>
S29	<p>According to one professor, the difference in mortality rates is down to London being "more connected with the rest of the world" - <b>but</b> another said this is <b>unlikely</b> to be the only reason.</p> <p>There has also also been a steady rise in the number of deaths from 117 on April 25 to 188 on April 28, and the country has already been <u>planning</u> for a second wave of <b>killer</b> coronavirus.</p>
S30	<p><b>Fat</b> Brits were 37 per cent more <b>likely</b> to die if admitted with coronavirus.</p>

## TRANSITIVITY

Transitivity <i>The Guardian</i>	
G1	<p>As the disease continued its rapid spread and governments introduced emergency measures to halt the progress of the escalating epidemic, outbreaks worsened in Iran and <b>South Korea</b>.</p> <p>After days of assurances that the virus was largely under control...</p>
G2	<p>The health secretary, <b>Matt Hancock</b>, has urged members of the public to carry on as normal “for now”, despite the prime minister saying there could be a “very significant expansion” of the number of cases of coronavirus in the UK.</p>
G3	<p>In a change of policy, some confirmed cases are now treated at home rather than in hospital.</p> <p>A woman in her 70s was confirmed as the first coronavirus death in the UK on Thursday as Downing Street warned that it was now highly likely that the virus would spread in “a significant way”.</p> <p>Three new cases were confirmed in Scotland.</p>
G4	<p>Major restrictions become more likely as deaths and infections spike across EU.</p> <p>Governments across <b>Europe</b> have warned their citizens that the coronavirus outbreak could lead to months of serious disruption, as figures for deaths and infections rose sharply again on Monday and new measures were announced restricting large gatherings.</p> <p>The prime minister rejected calls for harsher quarantine measures and a ban on mass gatherings, arguing that the best advice so far was still simply for people to wash their hands.</p>
G5	<p>Boris Johnson is poised to move Britain to a critical new phase of the coronavirus action plan on Thursday – from “contain” to “delay”, after the UK saw the biggest single-day increase in cases and the death toll rose to eight.</p>

	<p>The number of coronavirus patients in the UK rose by 87 to 460 - the biggest daily increase yet - as the death toll on British soil rose to eight and a 53-year-old British woman died in Bali.</p> <p>Their deaths were confirmed as the World Health Organisation declared coronavirus a global pandemic for the first time.</p> <p>There are currently no plans to test other ministers for the virus, despite the attendance of Dorries at No 10 reception last week.</p>
G6	<p>Up to 10,000 people may already have coronavirus in Britain and many families should expect to lose loved ones before their time, <b>Boris Johnson</b> warned on Thursday as he set out measures less stringent than those taken by other countries.</p> <p>Thursday’s press conference was told that Britain, where the death toll had risen to 10 and where there are 596 diagnosed cases, is believed to be four weeks behind Italy, which has seen 1,000 deaths and more than 15,000 infections. In the UK, the infection is expected to build to a peak in May or June.</p> <p>“It is going to spread further and I must level with you, I must level with the British public: many more families are going to lose loved ones before their time,” Johnson said, as two more fatalities from Covid-19 brought the death toll in Britain so far to 10.</p> <p>But Hunter said older people had been “left out on a limb” by ministers not setting out more detailed plans to protect their health.</p>
G7	<p>The coronavirus death toll in the UK has nearly doubled in just 24 hours, with the number of confirmed cases of the disease surging by hundreds overnight.</p> <p>Ten more patients, all of whom had underlying health conditions, have died after contracting the virus – bringing the total fatalities in the country so far from 11 to 21.</p> <p>No. Some have suggested that frequent flying of people in a richer borough in London or recent ski holidays to Italy may have increased the incidence in Kensington and Chelsea, but this is speculation.</p>

G8	<p>Coronavirus is spreading faster in London than any other part of the country.</p> <p>From tomorrow, expect the streets to be deserted.</p>
G9	<p>Millions of operations are being postponed, patients urgently discharged from hospital and private operators called in to help the NHS cope with the coronavirus crisis.</p> <p>The moves are intended to help the already overstretched health service manage the “intense pressure” that the growing epidemic will put on it by leaving large numbers of people struggling to breathe.</p> <p>Hospitals in England have been told to postpone all non-urgent elective operations from 15 April at the latest, for a period of at least three months.</p> <p>Postponing elective operations in this way will free up beds, space and staff to support this effort, strengthening their ability to provide critical care.</p>
G10	<p>Thousands of British holidaymakers could find themselves stranded abroad, as flight cancellations, travel restrictions and lockdowns due to the global coronavirus pandemic complicate their journeys home.</p> <p>In <b>Peru</b>, hundreds of Britons have been left stranded after the government imposed a state of emergency on Monday, enforcing a 15-day self-quarantine and, days later, a night-time curfew. No flights are allowed to enter or leave Peru without government permission.</p>
G11	<p>The public must stop congregating in public or face new coronavirus enforcement measures within 24 hours, <b>Boris Johnson</b> has said, amid growing concern that his previous attempts to encourage social distancing were being ignored.</p> <p>The call for greater action came as the spring weather brought a slew of social media posts showing crowds of people gathered close together in many places, including food markets and at park kiosks.</p>

	<p>One green space features often in such photos, Victoria Park in east London, announced late on Sunday it was closing its playgrounds, skate park and cafes until further notice due to “unprecedented numbers” of visitors.</p>
G12	<p>The UK government is considering forcing the closure of all non-essential shops in an escalation of measures to try to slow the spread of coronavirus.</p> <p>Some WH Smith employees said they felt their health was being put at risk by the chain’s refusal to close.</p> <p>People have been warned against any congregation in groups, even outdoors.</p>
G13	<p>UK victims are getting younger and London hospitals are those under the most pressure.</p> <p>There have been 422 deaths from coronavirus in the UK to 24 March. To date, the deaths have largely been among older people. ... However, victims of the virus are getting younger.</p>
G14	<p>the UK suffered the biggest daily increase in its death toll.</p> <p>But we are making the right preparations, and the more we all follow the rules, the fewer lives will be lost and the sooner life can return to normal.</p> <p>The stark warning came as health chiefs reiterated that Britain will do well to keep deaths below 20,000 and warned against complacency.</p> <p>It will be because every citizen of this country, the British public, has complied with the instructions that the government has given based on the best scientific evidence.”</p> <p>Officials said that Boris Johnson still had only mild symptoms, after revealing on Friday that he had contracted the virus.</p> <p>A poll for the <i>Observer</i> shows the majority of the British public want even stricter measures put in place to combat the spread of the virus and believe that the government was too slow in responding to the pandemic.</p>
G15	<p>Some hospitals are supplying iPads and phones to help visitors say goodbyes to loved ones dying from coronavirus.</p>



	<p>Hospitals trying to slow the spread of coronavirus are tightening restrictions on visits</p> <p>The number of sufferers being treated in hospitals rises.</p> <p>Trisha Conroy, the daughter of Frank Hammond, 83, from Hazel Grove who died in Stepping Hill hospital in Stockport on Thursday, said the family were not allowed to see him in his last moments but instead a caring nurse made sure to put him on the phone.</p> <p>Earlier in the outbreak families were offered the chance to be by a loved one’s side, but in some cases declined and <b>used a videolink</b> instead, in order to reduce the risk of infection.</p>
G16	<p>The UK has recorded its biggest daily rise in the number of deaths so far in the coronavirus outbreak.</p> <p>Wales recorded 29 new coronavirus-related deaths and there were a further 16 deaths in Scotland and two in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>One of the deaths, for example, took place on 15 March.</p> <p>The government has faced criticism about the lack of testing available for NHS staff.</p> <p>No 10 said a “clear instruction” had been issued to hospitals to test as many staff as possible, with trusts allowed to decide how to split tests between workers and patients.</p>
G18	<p>Britons have been urged not to let this weekend’s warm weather coax them out of their homes, to reduce the spread of coronavirus, as a leading government adviser said the UK had “painted itself into a corner” with no clear exit strategy from the outbreak.</p> <p>With swaths of the UK forecast to enjoy sunshine on Saturday and Sunday, the prime minister, Boris Johnson, and the health secretary, Matt Hancock, have said the public must resist the urge to flout physical distancing rules – a message that echoed by councils and police forces across the country.</p>

	<p>Medley, a professor of infectious disease modelling at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, reportedly told <b>the Times</b> that Britain must consider allowing people to catch the virus in the least deadly way possible.</p> <p>He also noted the effect of lockdown measures on people’s income and mental health, children’s education and levels of domestic violence, child abuse and food poverty.</p> <p>The government has put Britain into a widespread lockdown, closing pubs, restaurants and nearly all shops. It has also banned social gatherings and ordered people to stay at home unless it is absolutely essential to go out.</p> <p>Britain’s death toll from the global pandemic rose to 3,605 on Friday, among 38,168 people who have tested positive for Covid-19.</p>
G19	<p>World-leading disease data analysts have projected that the UK will become the country worst hit by the coronavirus pandemic in Europe, accounting for more than 40% of total deaths across the continent.</p> <p>The newly released data is disputed by scientists whose modelling of the likely shape of the UK epidemic is relied on by the government.</p> <p>In the early stages of the UK outbreak, deaths climbed steeply, which the IHME says is a major driver of predicted deaths.</p>
G20	<p>Scientists say one-time lockdown will not bring pandemic under control.</p> <p>Physical distancing measures may need to be in place intermittently until 2022, scientists have warned in an analysis that suggests there could be resurgences of Covid-19 for years to come.</p> <p>The paper, published in the journal <b>Science</b>, concludes that a one-time lockdown will not be sufficient to bring the pandemic under control and that secondary peaks could be larger than the current one without continued restrictions.</p> <p>It may be possible to relax distancing measures periodically while maintaining cases within a volume that health services can cope with, but the grave health</p>

	<p>risks of infection to some people will remain the same until a vaccine or highly effective treatments are available.</p> <p>If immunity is permanent, Covid-19 could disappear for five or more years after the first outbreak, the paper suggests.</p>
G21	<p>Ministers and their advisers do not yet have a plan for how to leave the UK’s coronavirus lockdown, according to multiple government sources, despite the chief medical officer saying the country is “probably reaching the peak” of the epidemic.</p> <p>The government is under pressure to outline some ideas about how the UK could leave its state of shutdown.</p> <p>However, senior Whitehall sources said the absence of <a href="#">Boris Johnson</a> from No 10 had delayed the coordination of a central exit strategy and described how different cabinet ministers were working out their own theories from within their departments.</p> <p>The UK government’s experts have said it is “too early” to talk about leaving lockdown, when it is not clear that the spread of coronavirus has slowed.</p>
G22	<p>NHS nurse Donald Suelto died alone in his London flat. It took his family six days to find out who had his body.</p> <p>“My uncle said to me: ‘I will catch the virus, because my patient coughed in front of me and I had no mask’.”</p> <p>Suelto is not the only one whose remains have been lost in the chaos of the pandemic.</p>
G23	<p>Humanity will have to live with the threat of coronavirus “for the foreseeable future” and adapt accordingly because there is no guarantee that a vaccine can be successfully developed, one of the world’s leading experts on the disease has warned.</p> <p>...the number of UK hospital deaths from the virus passed 15,000.</p>

	<p>In late March the government’s health advisers said that if UK deaths from <b>Coronavirus</b> could be kept below 20,000 by the end of the pandemic, it would be a “good result” for country.</p>
G24	<p>The public should wear homemade masks when they venture outdoors to help reduce the spread of coronavirus, according to scientists who claim Britain’s masks policy does too little to prevent infections.</p> <p>Ministers are deeply reluctant to recommend the use of even homemade masks amid concerns that people will rush to buy medical masks and leave the NHS facing even greater supply shortages.</p> <p>Greenhalgh, on the back of a review on face masks, said homemade versions could dramatically reduce the amount of droplets sprayed from people’s mouths, which can carry the virus if the person is infected.</p> <p>There is growing unease over the government’s reluctance to recommend the use of face masks.</p>
G25	<p>The UK has reached the peak of the coronavirus epidemic, cabinet ministers have confirmed, despite warnings that the disease may still be rampant in care homes.</p> <p>The number of coronavirus deaths at UK hospitals stands at 17,000.</p> <p>The UK health secretary has been increasingly under fire for the level of testing.</p>
G26	<p>Britain has the fifth-highest number of coronavirus deaths after US, Italy, Spain and France.</p> <p>More than 20,000 people have now died in UK hospitals after testing positive for coronavirus, a milestone described by the home secretary as “tragic and terrible”.</p> <p>Speaking at the daily Downing Street briefing on Saturday, Priti Patel said: “As the deaths caused by this terrible virus pass another tragic and terrible milestone, the entire nation is grieving.”</p> <p>The 711 people who were included in the government’s daily update of fatalities on Saturday were aged between 34 and 100 years old.</p>

	<p>Covid-19-related deaths in <b>Wales</b> continued to rise on Saturday, with the announcement that a further 23 people had died, taking the total to 774.</p>
G27	<p>Doctors have postponed more than 2m operations after non-emergency surgery was cancelled for at least three months to free up beds for coronavirus patients.</p> <p>The mounting backlog of procedures could cost the <b>NHS</b> £3bn to work through and may require many of the 20,000 doctors and nurses who have returned to the health service to stay on once the Covid-19 crisis has been brought under control.</p> <p>According to NHS England, postponing the planned operations, which typically cost £1bn per month, has released 12,000 beds for patients who have fallen ill after contracting the virus.</p> <p>The warning follows concerns raised by Cancer Research UK that the number of patients with suspected cancer who are being referred to hospital specialists has fallen dramatically.</p> <p>created while the number of Covid-19 patients rose sharply. A public information campaign is reminding people the NHS remains open for business. It is important that non-Covid-19 patients can still safely access care and treatment.”</p>
G28	<p>Britain’s political leaders joined <b>NHS</b> staff and members of the public in a nationwide silence for key workers who have died in the coronavirus outbreak.</p> <p>She issued an urgent call for protection of workers, saying the death toll must not be allowed to rise further.</p>
G29	<p>A cabinet minister has acknowledged the government focused more on the NHS than care homes in the early stages of the outbreak, as the UK prepares to publish <a href="#">daily death figures for the community</a> as well as hospitals.</p> <p>As the outbreak continues to worsen in care homes, <a href="#">George Eustice</a>, the environment secretary, defended the government’s handling of the crisis for older people, while acknowledging its approach had not been “perfect”.</p>

	<p>The death toll from coronavirus in care homes will be announced daily from Wednesday after figures this week revealed a sharp rise of more than 4,300 deaths in a fortnight in England and Wales and care operators said they were at the centre of the crisis.</p> <p>The government has been criticised for being slow to realise that coronavirus was spreading unchecked in care homes, with initial advice in mid-March only that unwell visitors should be banned.</p>
G30	<p>Currently remdesivir has not been approved by health authorities around the world, and given it was mainly being used for Ebola, supply is low.</p> <p>Scientists hope it will have a similar effect on Covid-19.</p>
G31	<p>A grandson is urging people to “pick up the phone” and speak to loved ones and vulnerable people in self-isolation after his 82-year-old grandfather killed himself during the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>Earlier this month, Prof Rory O’Connor, an expert leading the UK’s assessment of the coronavirus outbreak’s psychological impact, said people who feel trapped and lonely during the coronavirus lockdown must be swiftly identified and <u>given the help they need</u>.</p> <p>Police have recorded <u>early signs</u> of an increase in suicides and attempted suicides during lockdown.</p>

<p>Transitivity</p> <p><i>The Sun</i></p>	
S1	CORONAVIRUS could shut down entire cities to stop it spreading. (material)
S3	<p>The 34 new cases represent the biggest 24-hour hike in the virus as its spread appears to be accelerating.</p> <p>It's much more likely than not that we're going to deal with a significant epidemic.</p> <p>... coronavirus would hammer its box office takings.</p>

	<p>Kings College hospital confirmed last night that two recent patients have tested positive for the deadly bug.</p>
S4	<p>CORONAVIRUS could kill at least 15million people around the world in its first year, wiping \$2.3trillion off the global economy, a new study says.</p> <p>Britain - which has only seen one death so far - could see 64,000 deaths, while Germany could loose 79,000.</p> <p>the coronavirus outbreak would cause a catastrophic death toll of more than 68million people around the world, the researchers say.</p>
S5	<p>ANY Brit with a cold, cough, sniffle or fever will be told to stay at home for a week to help halt the spread of coronavirus.</p> <p>There is no hiding from the fact that the coronavirus outbreak will present significant challenges for the UK just as it does in other countries.</p>
S6	<p>Over the weekend, 16million people in the country's north were placed under lockdown to try and contain the spread of Covid-19.</p> <p>Giuseppe Conte said people would only be allowed to travel for work or family emergencies.</p>
S7	<p>CORONAVIRUS can spread just by talking to someone - and is "much worse than Ebola", says the man who helped discover the older disease.</p> <p>It [Covid-19] is a respiratory transmitted virus.</p>
S8	<p>CORONAVIRUS is spreading across the UK faster than experts first feared, the PM warned today.</p> <p>"Most people have a mild disease, but some do not," he warned.</p> <p>We know older people are at greater risk.</p> <p>As Covid-19 is a new virus, experts are still working to understand it.</p>
S10	<p>The measures will remain in place for at least a month to strengthen social distancing and protect Brits from the deadly virus.</p>

	<p>The government lockdown will be reviewed after the two-week shutdown ends.</p> <p>Brits ignored advice to stay in.</p>
S11	<p>THE coronavirus is leaving people collapsed in the streets of Italy - but oblivious Brits continue to ignore self-isolation advice and head out in their droves.</p> <p>The outbreak has now claimed at least 281 lives in the UK, exceeding the 233 that had died in Italy as of March 7.</p> <p>Prime Minister Boris Johnson warned Brits that tougher restrictions on movement would have to be brought in if they didn't follow the government's social distancing guidelines.</p> <p>Countries around Europe have been forced to introduce draconian measures to try to stop the epidemic taking hold.</p>
S12	<p>Officials admitted infected workers showing no symptoms may be passing it on because they lack correct equipment.</p>
S13	<p>NHS staff are infecting patients with coronavirus because they aren't being tested or showing symptoms, a health official has admitted.</p> <p>The Government last night made it clear those tests will not be available for the public to buy.</p>
S14	<p>At the moment, the death toll is based on fatalities reported by NHS trusts.</p> <p>More than 20,000 former NHS staff have already returned to front-line roles to help fight the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>Among those killed by the bug was Jayne Lowry, an animal care assistant for the RSPCA.</p>
S15	<p>The boy's family said he passed away on Monday morning without his mum or six siblings by his side due to the contagiousness of the disease.</p>



	<p>When someone has this infection, they're in isolation so how difficult it is for a mum to not be with her son at this time when he's sick.</p>
S16	<p>CORONAVIRUS may have already infected more than 1.7million Brits, new NHS figures suggest.</p> <p>Coronavirus is likely to peak over Easter.</p> <p>Tens of thousands of people in Britain will be infected by the killer bug in the coming weeks, health officials warned.</p> <p>Yesterday, the death rate had already doubled on the day before, as 381 more patients died.</p> <p>Yesterday, it was revealed coronavirus had killed another 40 people outside hospital up to March 20 - meaning the total number of deaths in the UK is at least 2,392.</p>
S17	<p>Covid-19 has killed at least 3,645 people in Britain.</p> <p>It comes as the UK's death toll overtook China and Iran's official tallies.</p> <p>The figures are worrying, in the end we will be at least as bad as Italy, whether we are worse or slightly better – we will see in a month or two.</p>
S19	<p>THE UK could see 66,000 coronavirus deaths, making it the worst hit nation in Europe, scientists have warned.</p> <p>Modelling by researchers at the University of Washington has predicted that approximately 151,680 people are likely to die from <a href="#">Covid-19</a> across the continent.</p> <p>As of today, 5,373 people have died from Covid-19 in Britain - far fewer than the 16,523 in Italy and 13,341 in Spain.</p> <p>On top of this the researchers claimed that Britain's outbreak will peak on April 17, while the outbreaks in <a href="#">Italy and Spain may be past their peak</a>.</p> <p>Talking to the nation, Prof Powis said: “We can beat this virus, we can reduce the number of deaths but only if we do what we are asked.”</p>

S20	<p>NURSES can refuse to treat coronavirus patients if they don't have adequate personal protective equipment, said a Union boss.</p> <p>The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) said as a "last resort" nurses can refuse to treat patients if they do not have the right Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).</p>
S21	<p>The true figure is expected to be below one per cent according to the scientists at Imperial College London who advise the Government on modelling.</p>
S23	<p>A VACCINE may not protect us from coronavirus as the threat of the killer bug could last for the "foreseeable future", experts have warned.</p> <p>Some viruses are very, very difficult when it comes to vaccine development - so for the foreseeable future, we are going to have to find ways to go about our lives with this virus as a constant threat.</p> <p>Older people will have to be protected.</p>
S24	<p>SOME hardcore anti-vaxxers are so worried about the killer coronavirus that they are keen for a protective vaccine.</p> <p>But the pandemic's rising death toll across the world is starting to change her mind.</p> <p><a href="#">Barmy anti-vaxxers</a> have been spreading wild conspiracy theories on Facebook linking the coronavirus to everything from Bill Gates to the New World Order - while questioning if it's even a pandemic at all.</p>
S26	<p>WHO warned coronavirus immunity passports could make the pandemic worse as patients who had recovered once could ignore health advice - increasing the <a href="#">deadly bug's</a> spread.</p>
S27	<p>TWO MILLION NHS operations have been cancelled due to the coronavirus outbreak, sparking fears of a second healthcare crisis.</p>

	<p>More than two million operations have been put on hold after non-urgent surgery was cancelled for at least three months, <a href="#">The Sunday People</a> have revealed.</p> <p>Thousands of cancers are being missed and could lead to an additional 50,000 deaths, the paper added.</p> <p>There are also fears people are needlessly dying from treatable emergencies because they are afraid to go to hospital over Covid-19 fears.</p>
S29	<p>The coronavirus has been different in Germany. It was in a different and younger population.</p> <p>The country has slowly been <a href="#">easing its lockdown</a> after faring much better than its European neighbours as a result of an aggressive policy of mass testing.</p> <p>That means one person with the virus infects one other on average and earlier this month, the rate was at 0.7.</p>
S30	<p>CORONAVIRUS is just “as dangerous” as Ebola, claims an expert behind the largest UK study of the disease.</p> <p>Prof Semple said: “Covid is a very serious disease.</p>
S31	<p>MORE 11,000 deaths in Europe have been avoided in the past month because of better air quality caused by the coronavirus lockdown, according to a study.</p> <p>the researchers wrote.: "The Covid-19 crisis has brought about untold human suffering, and its side-effects should not be celebrated,"</p>

## APPENDIX 3: NEWS ARTICLES

In Appendix 3, two examples of the news articles used in the analysis are provided, one for *The Guardian* and the second one for *The Sun*. As the amount of the corpus is large, more articles were not included. Nevertheless, concerning the rest of the news articles, the link to the website where the articles can be read is provided below.

### THE GUARDIAN

G8: Coronavirus spreading fastest in UK in London

**Latest details of the spread of Covid-19 in the UK capital, the government's response, and its impact on families and businesses**

- [Coronavirus – latest updates](#)
- [See all our coronavirus coverage](#)



Boris Johnson said Londoners should start keeping social distance from each other. Photograph: Justin Setterfield/Getty Images

[Lisa O'Carroll](#)

[@lisaocarroll](#)

Mon 16 Mar 2020 19.14 GMT



Hamlets, home to Canary Wharf but also to one of the most deprived communities in Britain, has recorded just nine.

### **What impact will it have on the capital?**

From tomorrow, expect the streets to be deserted. Many offices have already introduced an element of remote working, and although the government's announcement is not legally binding, it will carry a lot of weight with responsible employers.

### **Is London following a global pattern for capital cities?**

Yes and no. The concentration of cases in Italy, which has seen the most reported cases in Europe, remains in the north of the country. [In the US](#), Washington has the highest number of cases, followed closely by New York. [In Japan](#) the only cluster with more than 50 cases is in Osaka, where infections spread from events in a live music venue. A map released by the ministry of health on Monday showed that one of the biggest clusters in Tokyo (10 to 49 people) followed a New Year's Eve party.

### **Do we know how the virus travelled in London?**

No. Some have suggested that frequent flying of people in a richer borough in London or recent ski holidays to Italy may have increased the incidence in Kensington and Chelsea, but this is speculation.

The UK has stopped testing people who do not need hospitalisation. This has been very controversial as it prevents the behaviour mapping that we have seen in Japan.

Anthony Costello, a UK paediatrician and former director of the World Health Organization (WHO), has criticised this approach and said he had personally written to the chief medical officer, Professor Chris Whitty, asking for testing to continue in the community.

"You test the population like crazy, find out where the cases are, immediately quarantine them and do contact tracing and get them out of the community. This deals with family clusters. That's the key bedrock of getting this under control," Costello [told the Guardian](#).

S7: GRAVE SITUATION - Coronavirus can spread just by 'TALKING to someone' & is 'much worse than Ebola'

- [Gemma Mullin](#), Digital Health Reporter
- 17:11, 13 Mar 2020
- Updated: 17:13, 13 Mar 2020

**CORONAVIRUS can spread just by talking to someone - and is "much worse than Ebola", says the man who helped discover the older disease.**

Professor Peter Piot, director of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, has said that [Britain will be in the midst of a "serious epidemic" by Easter](#).

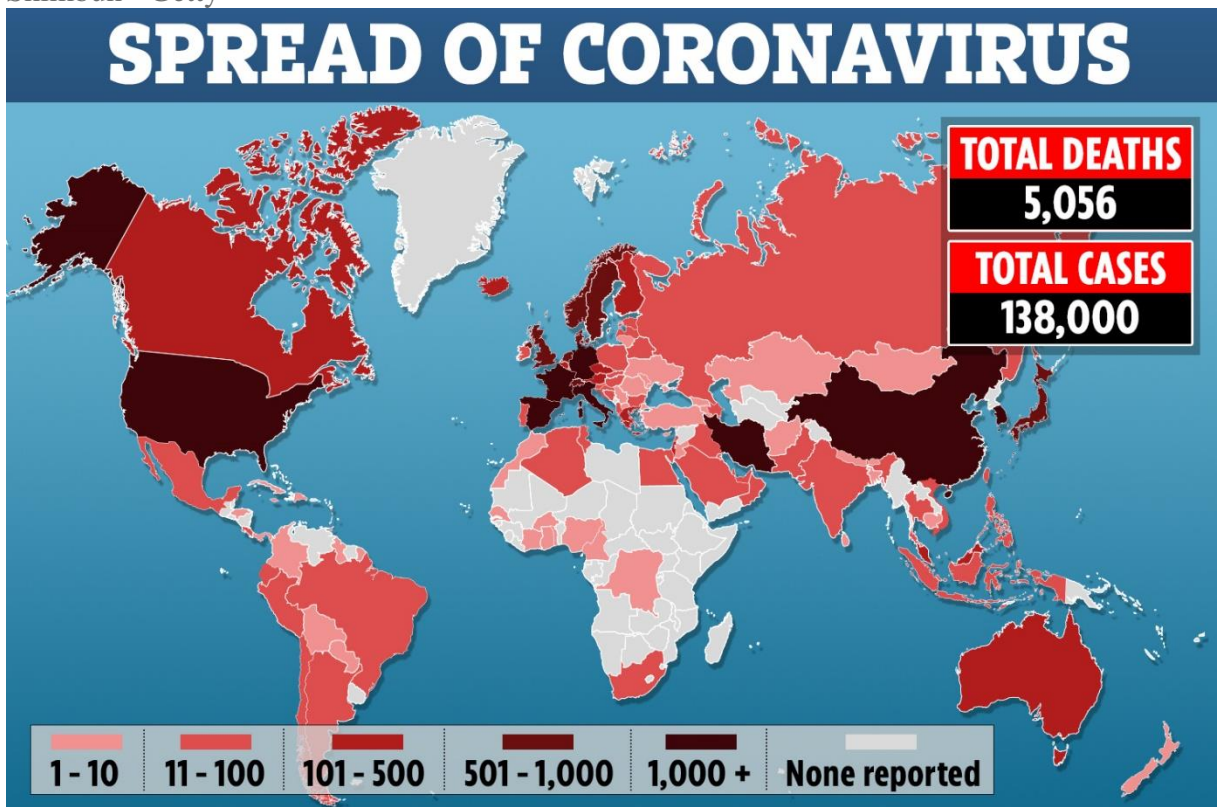
⚠ Read our [coronavirus live blog](#) for the latest news & updates



Coronavirus can spread just by talking to other people, a top microbiologist has warnedCredit: EPA



Prof Piot said coronavirus can spread just by talking to someone Credit: The Asahi Shimbun - Getty



The world-renowned microbiologist warned that the UK could expect to see a rise in cases - beyond the almost 800 already reported.



He told [Sky News](#): "This is much, much worse than Ebola.

"Ebola requires very close contact for transmission. People are very scared of it, but frankly, it is usually very contained. There are some exceptions.

"But because it [Covid-19] is a respiratory transmitted virus, that makes it so worrisome.

**It's very infectious because there's so much virus in your throat**

**Prof Peter Piot** [Director Of The London School Of Hygiene And Tropical Medicine](#)

"It's very infectious because there's so much virus in your throat.

"So this is literally something you can catch by talking to somebody, which is not the case with other viruses."

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It comes as:

- A total of 798 people have tested positive for coronavirus in the UK as of 9am on Friday, up from 590 at the same point on Thursday
- The Football Association announced the Premier League will be suspended until April 4
- All matches in Uefa competitions, including the Champions League and Europa League, will not take place next week, while England's cricket tour of Sri Lanka has been called off
- Disneyland closed its parks, including Disneyland Paris, until the end of the month and suspended new departures on its Disney cruises
- A London Underground tube driver tested positive, while London's St Patrick's Day parade and celebrations this Sunday have been cancelled
- The Foreign Office has advised against all but essential travel to the Spanish regions of Madrid, La Rioja and the municipalities of La Bastida, Vitoria and Miranda de Ebro

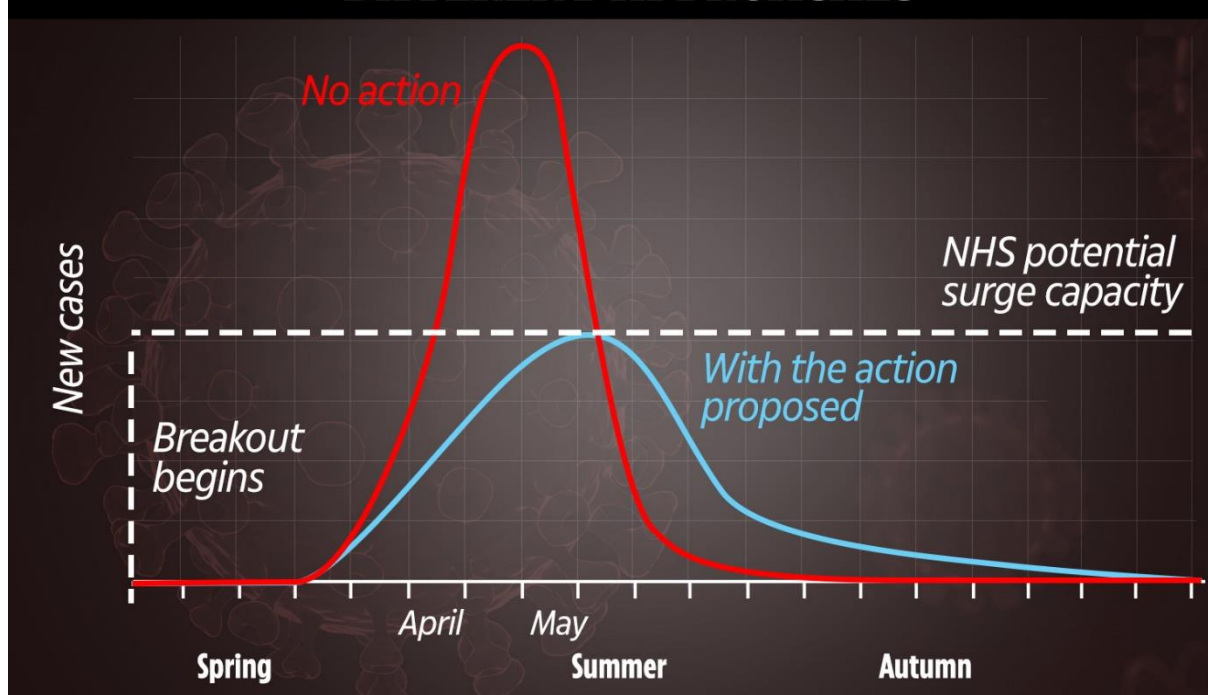
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Prof Piot helped to first identify Ebola in the 1970s while working at the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium.

The disease has an average fatality rate of 50 per cent - but in some outbreaks that has been as high as 90 per cent.

In comparison, the new coronavirus has a mortality rate of around 3.4 per cent, according to the World Health Organisation.

## PROFILE OF THE EPIDEMIC UNDER DIFFERENT APPROACHES



And it's [particularly lethal for older people](#).

A major study published in the [medical journal JAMA](#) analysed more than 72,000 Chinese patients who had contracted the virus.

They found the overall fatality rate was 2.3 per cent - but in adults over the age of 80, this rose to almost 15 per cent.

Prof Piot also said that the "top priority" is protecting the elderly and those with underlying health conditions.

He said: "I think we should think carefully about who to visit, who to admit as visitors even into homes for the elderly and care and nursing homes.

"We should really make sure that the staff there know everything about protecting the elderly.

"We need to also think about the contacts between grandparents and children. We don't know how risky that is, but that is what I would do."

### Carers guidance

It comes as the government issued new guidance for carers and care homes, urging them to review visiting policies and ask relatives or friends who are unwell to stay away.











Contractor work on sites should also be kept to a minimum.

Care homes are not expected to have dedicated isolation facilities but should isolate anyone who displays symptoms, possibly in their own room.

Official advice said an ideal room for isolation is a single bedroom with en-suite facilities.

New protective equipment, such as gloves, facemasks and aprons, should be used for each "episode of care" with anyone displaying symptoms, including bathing and anything involving bodily fluids.

Such items should be destroyed after use while all staff will also receive hand hygiene training.

<b>HAVE I GOT A COLD, FLU OR COVID-19?</b>			
<b>SYMPTOMS</b>	<b>CORONAVIRUS</b>	<b>COLD</b>	<b>FLU</b>
 <b>FEVER</b>	Common	Rare	Common
 <b>FATIGUE</b>	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common
 <b>COUGH</b>	Common (usually dry)	Mild	Common (usually dry)
 <b>SNEEZING</b>	No	Common	No
 <b>ACHES &amp; PAINS</b>	Sometimes	Common	Common
 <b>RUNNY OR STUFFY NOSE</b>	Rare	Common	Sometimes
 <b>SORE THROAT</b>	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
 <b>DIARRHOEA</b>	Rare	No	Sometimes for children
 <b>HEADACHES</b>	Sometimes	Rare	Common
 <b>SHORTNESS OF BREATH</b>	Sometimes	No	No

The NHS is working with local authorities to share resources with care homes and providers, including extra volunteers where needed.

Meanwhile, the UK's chief scientific adviser said it is hoped the Government's approach to tackling coronavirus will create a "herd immunity" to the disease.

Sir Patrick Vallance said some of the social distancing measures put in place by the Government, including self-isolating for seven days if symptoms develop, are "actually quite extreme".

His comments come after former health secretary Jeremy Hunt questioned the Government's decision not to cancel large gatherings after Prime Minister Boris Johnson warned many more families would "lose loved ones before their time".

## 'Herd immunity'

Sir Patrick told the BBC that the advice the Government is following is not looking to "suppress" the disease entirely but to [help create a "herd immunity in the UK"](#) while protecting the most vulnerable from it.

Asked if there is a fear that clamping down too hard on its spread could see it return, Sir Patrick said: "That is exactly the risk you would expect from previous epidemics.

"If you suppress something very, very hard, when you release those measures it bounces back and it bounces back at the wrong time.

**If you suppress something very, very hard, when you release those measures it bounces back and it bounces back at the wrong time**

**Sir Patrick Vallance**UK's Chief Scientific Adviser

"Our aim is to try and reduce the peak, broaden the peak, not suppress it completely; also, because the vast majority of people get a mild illness, to build up some kind of herd immunity so more people are immune to this disease and we reduce the transmission, at the same time we protect those who are most vulnerable to it.

"Those are the key things we need to do."

## LINKS TO OTHER ARTICLES

### THE GUARDIAN

G1: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/01/coronavirus-deaths-iran-rise-global-outbreak-worsens>

G2: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/03/covid-19-coronavirus-government-advises-uk-public-to-carry-on-as-normal>

G3: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/03/covid-19-coronavirus-government-advises-uk-public-to-carry-on-as-normal>

G4: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/09/coronavirus-six-die-in-prison-protest-linked-to-italian-clampdown>

G5: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/mar/11/uk-coronavirus-cases-jump-to-456-and-eighth-briton-dies>

G6: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/12/coronavirus-as-many-as-10000-in-britain-may-already-have-it-says-pm>

G7: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/14/coronavirus-death-toll-in-uk-doubles-in-just-24-hours>

G8: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/16/coronavirus-spreading-in-london-fastest-in-uk>

G9: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/mar/17/nhs-postpone-millions-operations-tackle-coronavirus>

G10: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/20/anger-grows-among-britons-on-holiday-as-lockdowns-block-returns>

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