







Review**Evaluation of the Content of National News Reflected on the Internet about Covid-19 Pandemic**

Nazmiye Ekinci¹ , Emin Aksan² , Merve Özzeybek Taş³ 

¹Department of Healthcare Management, Izmir Kavram Vocational School, Izmir, Turkey ²Department of Medical Documentation and Secretariat, İstanbul Kültür University, Istanbul, Turkey ³Department of Healthcare Management, Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University, Ankara, Turkey

Abstract: The coronavirus, which started in China and spreads almost all over the world, and whose source is not known exactly, but is regarded as illegally sold, can have a fatal effect on humans. Today, the number of people caught with coronavirus (Covid-19) is rapidly increasing. In order to eliminate this disease caused by the coronavirus, quarantine applications are carried out in many countries, curfews, curfews out of the country or out of the city, wear a mask, etc. Health professionals work day and night. However, the vaccine of the coronavirus has still not been found. In response to this situation, the World Health Organization has declared the Covid-19 epidemic as a pandemic. This study was carried out with the aim of evaluating the national news published in digital media regarding the coronavirus, which is declared as a pandemic worldwide. For this purpose, the keywords "Coronavirus, Koronavirüs, Covid-19, Pandemi, Covid 19, Kovid-19" were entered into the Google search engine. January 1, 2020-May 1, 2020 during the ten newspaper archives can be accessed on the number of the highest circulation national news website in Turkey, 150 news content was evaluated. In the study, content analysis, one of the qualitative research techniques, was used to analyze the data. As a result of the research, it has been determined that the most handled issues regarding Covid-19 in the news sites of the related newspapers are general information about Covid-19, about the current situation in Turkey coronavirus, the effects of coronavirus and that the coronavirus in the world, respectively. It has been determined that the least discussed issues in the news sites of the related newspapers are: the statements of the World Health Organization (WHO) regarding the coronavirus, the criticisms about the corona virus, post-pandemic life and coronavirus data presented in famous individuals.

Keywords: Covid-19; pandemic; epidemic; coronavirus; news; content analysis

Address of Correspondence: Nazmiye Ekinci- nazmiye.ekinci@kavram.edu.tr , 0000-0002-7007-4123, Tel: 444-9-134/7289, Department of Healthcare Management, Izmir Kavram Vocational School, Oğuzlar Mahallesi 1251/2. Sokak. No:8, Izmir, Turkey, Emin Aksan , 0000-0001-7790-8234, Merve Özzeybek Taş , 0000-0002-8328-8315

1. Introduction

Humanity had to fight various diseases for centuries. When it comes to the 21st century, it has seen that countries have to struggle with many diseases despite the developments in medicine and the advancement of technology. The Covid-19 outbreak (coronavirus) is one of these diseases. According to the Ministry of Health General Directorate of Public Health (2020), the coronavirus is a disease that started in China (December 31, 2019) and whose source is not fully known but is still sold as illegal.

As the beginning of March 2020 slowed down the pandemic in China, Covid-19 incidents and related deaths started to increase rapidly in Iran, South Korea and Italy. As of March 2020, cases have been reported in over 100 countries worldwide. Covid-19 first cases were detected in Turkey on March 11, 2020 (Ministry of Health General Directorate of Public Health, 2020). Table 1 represents information about the Covid-19 pandemic in some countries.

Table 1. The number of Covid-19 cases by countries (21.05.2020)

	Countries	Total Cases	Total Deaths	The Mortality rates by Case Numbers (%)	Total Recovered
1	USA	1.588.383	95.066	6	369.625
2	Russia	317.554	3.099	1	92.681
3	Brazil	310.921	20.082	6,5	125.960
4	Spain	280.117	27.940	10	196.958
5	UK	253.032	36.151	14,3	10.517
6	Italy	228.006	32.486	14,2	134.560
7	France	181.951	28.242	15,5	63.976
8	Germany	179.021	8.309	4,6	158.087
9	Turkey	153.548	4.249	2,8	114.990
10	Iran	129.341	7.249	5,6	100.564

As cited in: Eriş, H. and Ayhan, Z. (2020). Covid-19 perceptions and attitudes of health workers in Turkey. *Journal of Critical Reviews*, 7 (12), 1142-1150.

Countries have begun to take various precautions due to the rapid increase in the number of individuals caught with coronavirus, the virus has a lethal effect on individuals, and the vaccine is still not available today. In addition, the coronavirus has been declared a pandemic by WHO. The word "pandemic" usually refers to a common epidemic of infectious diseases across an entire country or simultaneously across one or more continents (Honigsbaum, 2009; Qiu et al., 2016, 2017). Today, the phenomenon of pandemic has not become just a personal, biological problem but also political, economic, social and technological problem (Eriş and Ayhan, 2020). Many scientists working in various fields state that different approaches from the past will emerge and be adopted in many fields with the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic (Yılmaz, 2020).

This study was carried out with the aim of evaluating national news on digital media related to Covid-19 pandemics. In this direction, firstly, the summary and introduction sections are included in the study, and then the research section is included in the material and method section. By analyzing the content in the material method section of the study, the distribution of the news in the digital media regarding the Covid-19 pandemic according to the topics and sources, etc. are included. Then, findings, discussion and conclusion are included.

2. Materials and Methods

Research January 01 in Turkey 2020-01 May 2020 was carried out on the date of circulation of newspaper archives can be achieved the highest number of national news websites. Thus, 150 news have been evaluated considering the headlines of the news. In the study, content analysis, one of the qualitative research techniques, was used to analyze the data. In Table 2, the websites and keywords where the news on coronavirus are examined are given:

Table 2. National websites and keywords reviewed in the research

Websites	Sabah, Hürriyet, Sözcü, Milliyet, Türkiye, Posta, Akşam, Yeni Şafak, Takvim ve Korkusuz
Keywords	"Koronavirüsü", "Koronavirüs", "Covid-19", "Pandemi", "Covid-19", "Kovid 19"

Table 2 shows the keywords searched in the Google search engine and the limitations of the research in the study. In addition, the websites included in the research were preferred because they are the top ten newspapers with the highest triage in gazetetirajlari.com.

3. Results

The news obtained from the websites of the related newspapers has been examined in terms of the publication date of the news, the source of the news, the title of the news, etc. The news examined were handled by the researchers according to their subject matter in Table 3.

Table 3. Distribution of all news reviewed in the research by topic

Subject of the News	Number of News	Percentage of News (%)
General information	25	17
Current status of the coronavirus in Turkey	22	15
Effects of coronavirus	18	12
Coronavirus in the world	18	12
Symptoms of the coronavirus	10	7
Measures taken	9	6
Vaccine studies	7	5
Information about pandemic	8	5
Success of health workers	6	4
Treatment processes of coronavirus	5	3
Pandemic hospital	5	3
The sacrifices made by healthcare professionals	3	2
Social assistance fees	3	2
Other (Treatment costs related to coronavirus, second wave, social isolation)	3	2
Life after a pandemic	2	1
Statements of the WHO for corona	2	1
Coronavirus in famous individuals	2	1
Reviews of the data presented	2	1
Total	150	100

In Table 3, the news on newspaper websites examined in the research are mostly published the subjects of general information about the coronavirus, the current state of the coronavirus in Turkey, the effects of coronavirus and coronavirus in the world.

If the distribution of all the news examined in the research according to their sources is examined, it was determined the news was published mostly in Sözcü (40%), Milliyet (23%) and Sabah (17%) newspapers, respectively.

In the literature, it was found that the national news examined were published in digital media mostly in March 20 (68 news, 45% of all news) and April (82 news, 55% of all news). The reason of this is considered as the first case of Covid-19 in Turkey has been emerged on March 11, 2020. It is determined that the news about the Covid-19 pandemic in the world on March 2020 has been published mostly about the subjects of coronavirus (19%), general information of Covid-19 (19%), the effects of the coronavirus (15%) and coronavirus current situation in Turkey (12%) respectively. The order of the most published news in April is seen about the subjects of: coronavirus current situation in Turkey (17%), general information of Covid-19 (15%), coronavirus effects (10%) and coronavirus symptoms (10%). It was determined that the news about the Covid-19 pandemic, published in March, were mostly received from Sözcü (45%), Milliyet (25%) and Sabah (17%) websites and the news published in April were mostly received from the websites of Sözcü (36%), Milliyet (21%) and Sabah (18%).

In this research, the most published news related to coronavirus has been examined in all three newspapers with Covid-19 pandemics. According to this in the newspaper website of Sözcü, the most published news regarding to subject respectively is coronavirus effects (15%), general information about coronavirus (13%), the world coronavirus (12%) and the current status of coronavirus in Turkey (12%). In the Milliyet newspaper website it is general information about coronavirus (24%), the current status of coronavirus in Turkey (21%), the world coronavirus (18%) and the effect coronavirus (9%). And the Sabah newspaper website is respectively coronavirus effects (19%), the world coronavirus (15%), coronavirus symptoms (12%) and current status of coronavirus in Turkey (8%).

4. Discussion

In the literature, it has been determined that there are studies related to Covid-19 pandemics since 2020 (Bostan et al., 2020; Çetintepe, 2020). However, no study analyzing the news on the websites of the related newspapers for Covid-19 pandemics has been found. Therefore, this research is thought to be the first in terms of revealing the analysis of national news in digital media regarding the Covid-19 pandemic.

Conclusion

The following results were reached in this study: In digital media, it was determined that the most addressed issues relating to Covid-19 is: general information, the current status of the coronavirus in Turkey, the coronavirus in the world and the effects of the coronavirus. It was determined that the news related to the subject were published mostly on the websites of Sözcü, Milliyet, Sabah newspapers and

published most in April. It has been determined that the most discussed issues related to the Covid-19 pandemic in March and April of 2020 were similar. It can be said that the news distributions according to the newspapers were also similar. This study is thought to be beneficial in terms of guiding future studies. For the content analysis studies on Covid-19 pandemics in the future, researchers may be advised to examine a longer period of time or turn to the effects of the coronavirus.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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