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The Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic and Lockdown on Female University Employees: A Sociolinguistic Case Study

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Abstract

The Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown measures have had a profound impact on individuals and societies worldwide. In Jordan, the government implemented a national lockdown to prevent the spread of Covid-19, which significantly affected the lifestyle of Jordanians. This study aimed to assess the perceptions of female employees at Al alBayt University (AABU) and Yarmouk University (YU) regarding Covid-19 and the lockdown. The study utilized a quantitative approach, with a sample of female employees from both universities voluntarily participating in a 25-item online questionnaire (N=142). The questionnaire explored their perceptions of Covid-19 and the lockdown, and data analysis was conducted using a 2-university location (AABU and YU) x 3-marital status (single, married, and previously married) x 3-age group (< 25- 35, 36- 45, and 46 >), and 2-dwellings (city and village) t-test and ANOVA. The data analysis revealed significant main effects of Covid-19 on women's lives, including socioeconomic and linguistic impacts.

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1. Introduction

The Covid-19 pandemic is a health crisis that unexpectedly changed the globe at individual, national, and international levels. This crisis necessitates scholars from most if not all, scientific fields to study its various impacts: academic, cultural, economic (commercial and industrial), educational, linguistic, medical, psychological, social, etc.

This study investigates the linguistic and socioeconomic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown on female employees of Al alBait University (AABU) and Yarmouk University (YU). It also examines whether Covid-19 and the lockdown have been influenced by independent demographic factors: place of occupation, marital status, age group, and place of residence.

The significance of this study is that it reports AABU and YU female employees' perceptions of global medical as well as social scenarios such as the Covid-19 pandemic and its consequent lockdown. It is beneficial not only for academics in a linguistic discipline but also for the broader Jordanian community organizations. The results of this study will give awareness to public social organizations on the influence of Covid-19 and its consequent lockdown on university-working females. The results will also provide university administrations with information on how online-duty schedules affect female employees in various aspects, such as social, medical, and personal. Specifically, the analysis of the data gathered in this study will benefit:

- Academics: This study provides scholars of sociolinguistics with preliminary findings of various possible impacts of the global crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic, on the linguistic behavior of female university employees in the Jordanian context.
- The community: Through the results, the Jordanian community will realize the impact of Covid-19 and the lockdown on female employees. This may not only increase the sense of social responsibility but also spread awareness on how to deal with the pandemic and alleviate its negative impact. In this regard, the Jordanian community may improve a lifelong communication approach to mitigate contracting Covid-19 and accommodate

new lifestyle strategies and working environment.

- The university administration: This study provides the university administration with comprehensive insights into the impact of Covid-19 and the consequent lockdown on female university employees and how their performance might be affected during online-duty work. The analysis of data gathered will help the university administration promote collaboration in two ways: among the employees and between the employees and members working in various social organizations, such as schoolteachers, health care workers, and the Family Protection Department.

The main objective baseline of the current study is directed toward assessing the perceptions of female employees of AABU and YU about the Covid-19 pandemic and its consequent lockdown. It particularly aims to statistically measure the extent of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown by evaluating the linguistic and socioeconomic aspects of the target participants' lifestyles. Analyzing the data, the study attempts to initiate a debate among social organizations, such as schoolteachers, officers of the Family Protection Department, healthcare workers, AABU and YU administrations on the one hand, and female employees on another.

The cornerstone of this research is to investigate the extent of the impact of Covid-19 and its lockdown on Al alBait University and Yarmouk University female employees. With this in mind, it is expected that the Covid-19 pandemic and its lockdown will have two types of impact variables that are significantly effective in influencing AABU and YU female employees: linguistic and socioeconomic. It is also hypothesized that the demographic factors (place of occupation, marital status, age, and place of residence) have a key influence on the extent of the Covid-19 impact on the female employees of AABU and YU. Accordingly, the study seeks to answer the following questions:

1. To what extent do Covid-19 and its lockdown affect AABU and YU female employees?
2. Do Covid-19 and its lockdown affect AABU and YU female employees linguistically and/or socioeconomically?

3. Do demographic factors (place of occupation, marital status, age, and place of residence) affect the extent of Covid-19 and its lockdown impact on AABU and YU female employees?

2. Theoretical Framework

2.1. A Concise Profile of the Covid-19 Pandemic

The Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19) originally emerged in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China, in December 2019. It is medically identified as a low respiratory infection with the most common mild symptoms, including fever, cough, tiredness, and loss of taste and/or smell. Patients with Covid-19 may also develop moderate to severe complications, including sore throat, headache, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, loss of speech or mobility, confusion, and chest pain. Covid-19 was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) due to a variety of reasons: a. diagnosing it as an infectious, contagious disease that affected the globe in a short period of time since its first emergence in China, b. transmitting between humans in case of close contact, and c. a quickly rising number of confirmed cases and high mortality rate among patients with Covid-19. Globally, as of October 5, 2021, there have been over 235 million confirmed cases of Covid-19, including around 5 million death incidents, reported to WHO (World Health Organization, 2021). Predominantly, Covid-19 has had a serious influence on various individual, national, and international levels. It has catastrophically changed individuals' lifestyles, national cultural practices, and international policies.

2.2. Jordanian Profile of the Covid-19 Pandemic and Lockdown

Once Covid-19 was first identified in Irbid City, North Jordan, in March 2020 (Yusef et al., 2020), a Royal Decree was issued to activate the National Defense Law of 1992, under which the Prime Minister announced strict measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Accordingly, the Jordanian government literally locked down the entire country for a few months to alleviate the accelerated transmission of Covid-19. Complete border closure and seizing all forms of public transportation were implemented as robust measures to control the dissemination of

Covid-19 infection. Other preventive measures included suspending face-to-face education in both Ministry-of-Education Kindergartens and schools as well as Ministry-of-High-Education institutions, colleges, and universities; suspending all operations in public and private institutions, isolation of infected people and their close contacts; implementing social distancing; and employing good hygiene practices such as handwashing, using face masks and disposable gloves (Olaimat et al., 2020).

To raise the awareness of the public on Covid-19's means of transmission and preventive measures, the Jordanian government effectively utilized various media channels, such as social media, national TV channels, press advertisements, and smartphone applications (Khatatbeh, 2020). Equivalently, public politicians and religious figures, educators, and opinion leaders were actively committed to educating the public about the medical importance of social distancing and infection preventive measures (Alqutob et al., 2020).

As a final note, in the Jordanian scenario of Covid-19, not only the aforementioned factors were crucial in mitigating the spread of this pandemic nationwide, but also demographic characteristics, public commitment, and official firmness in implementing preventive measures were considered effective weapons against Covid-19 (Khatatbeh, 2020).

2.3. Linguistic and Socioeconomic Impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic and Lockdown

The Covid-19 pandemic has influenced various, if not all, aspects of individuals' lives and governments' national as well as international policies. One and foremost aspect is the socioeconomic implications of the pandemic and its lockdown upon individuals and private, regional, and international organizations at large. Economists report that the Coronavirus disrupted global supply chains, stopped international travel and migration, and introduced a new climate of uncertainty among people all over the world (Dong, 2021).

Economically speaking, according to a study by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (2020), the Covid-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc, particularly on women in the Arab region. During the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown, women, especially those who are in households, are expected to become

impoverished by losing their jobs and/or unwillingly accept unfair work conditions. They are also expected to be severely affected by the disease's impact on food security and nutrition which may not always be equitable. Added to the economic burden is the urgent need to access and/or acquire a personal computer (PC) during distance learning and/or online working from home, which was limited or even not possible by many females due to its high cost (UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, 2020).

The Executive Director of the National Association for Family Empowerment highlighted that the economic insecurity for women in Jordan is a pre-Covid issue, which has been revealed in depth during the pandemic (Al-Shoubaki, 2021). To stay home with their school children during remote learning, many Jordanian female employees have quit their jobs during the lockdown and given up their financial rights. According to the Department of Statistics in Jordan, by the third quarter of 2020, the rate of female unemployment has increased by 6.1% since the outbreak (Al-Shoubaki, 2021).

The covid-19 pandemic and lockdown have negatively influenced not only the economic status of Jordanian females but also their social security. Statistic reports revealed that domestic violence against females in Jordan dramatically increased in the first half of 2020, during which seven women were murdered (Arab Women Organization of Jordan, 2020) as they were locked in with their offenders. The Family Protection Department of Jordan's Ministry of Social Development released figures showing that the Social Service Office handled over ten-thousand cases of domestic violence in Jordan during the first half of 2020 (Al-Shoubaki, 2021). A consultant to the Women Helping Women Network reported that domestic violence against women in Jordan increased by 33% during the pandemic (Al-Shoubaki, 2021). Fortunately, the Arab Women Organization of Jordan (2020) has provided a variety of social services to women in Jordan, including psychosocial support, awareness raising, and legal counseling. Uniquely, many Arab female writers revealed their experience of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown by writing, which eventually has the role of "healing, empowering, and self-revealing in these women's responses

to the crisis as they try to overcome pain and isolation, create meanings and opportunities, and build communications and coalitions" (Al-Doghmi & Salah, 2021, p. 237).

Another aspect that is affected by Covid-19 is the linguistic discipline. It is linguistically premature to determine the direct and/or indirect influence of Covid-19 on the linguistic repertoire of Arabic speakers. However, the linguistic influence of this pandemic on Jordanian Arabic, in particular Arabic language in various Arab contexts, as well as language at large, has heretofore been investigated by many researchers (Banikalef, 2020; Essam & Abdo, 2021; Olimat, 2020; Zyout & Al-Ghazo, 2021).

Internally, Jordanians frequently use euphemism as well as dysphemism when referring to Covid-19. They adopt these two linguistic strategies in social contexts to provide a better understanding of Covid-19 effects (Olimat, 2020). In his study about euphemism and dysphemism in Jordanian contexts during the Covid-19 pandemic, Olimat (2020) concluded that Jordanians adhered to using euphemism more frequently when referring to Covid-19; however, they also use dysphemism language to reduce the negative effects of the disease. The most frequent words Jordanians used when referring to Covid-19 in euphemistic contexts were "Corona", "Coronavirus", and "the disease" (كورونا، كورونا، المرض respectively), whereas the words "pandemic", "crisis", and "affliction" (وباء، أزمة، بلاء respectively) were mostly used in dysphemistic contexts (Olimat, 2020). On a similar token, the most common hashtags utilized by Jordanian Facebookers during the lockdown were `#خليك_بالبيت` and `#خليك_بالدار` (both of them are equivalent to #stay_home). These hashtags were used in sharing Facebookers' diaries and tips for home activities (Zyout & Al-Ghazo, 2021).

Examining the socio-cultural-religious influence of Covid-19 on Jordanian online wedding invitation cards, Banikalef (2020, p. 177) found that "the cultural norms and religious background profoundly rooted in Jordanians can strongly affect their linguistic behaviors during their social practices". As social distancing has become a pattern of the cultural norms during the Covid-19 pandemic, Jordanian online wedding invitation cards shared on social media composed of seven main

moves instead of five: “opening, identifying the inviter, stating the bride and groom’s first names, stay home, stay safe notes, and stating the date of the ceremony, and closing” (Banikalef, 2020, p. 177). The two moves, “stay home, [and] stay safe notes”, were add-on supplementary components of the Jordanian online wedding invitation cards shared on social media during the Covid-19 pandemic.

On a more general international level, Lailiyah et al. (2023) differentiate between the language of women and that of men in realizing complaining speech acts of Covid-19 survivors in Indonesia. Analyzing the speech of 36 Covid-19 survivors from gender and education perspectives, Lailiyah et al. (2023) concluded that women tend to be politer in complaining than their speech counterparts, men, who tend to use more aggressive complaining strategies. They also surprisingly find that undergraduate women realize their complaints more rudely than their non-undergraduate counterparts. This result is contrary to that of Nurbayani and Dede (2022), who investigated the effect of Covid-19 on 22 white-collar female and male workers in Indonesia from a semantic perspective. Their

study reveals that men expressed more extensive statements about Covid-19: as they used adverbs with adjectives indicating that such a pandemic requires “a proper [linguistic] adaptation” (p. 73). Such semantic analysis divulges the meaning of various signs or linguistic symbols, which in turn demonstrate an indefinite generalization.

Finally, on account of the fact that the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown on the socioeconomic and linguistic behavior of Jordanians is immensely noticeable, statistical results will be presented in the next section to determine and evaluate the potential impacts of Covid-19 and lockdown on AABU and YU female employees.

3. Methodology

2.1. Participants

Female employees of AABU and YU were invited to voluntarily complete the questionnaire via a mobile messaging application. A number of 200 invitations were sent in September 2021, and 142 were confirmed, received, and answered by the target employees.

Table 1

Distribution of Participants by Place of Occupation

University	Frequency	Percent
Al al-Bayt University	44	31
Yarmouk University	98	69
Total	142	100

As detailed in Table 1, around one-third of the participants (31%) work at AABU compared to

the larger group of them (69%) who work at YU.

Table 2

Distribution of Participants by Marital Status

Marital Status	Frequency	Percent
Single	12	8.5
Married	122	85.9
Divorced/Widow	8	5.6
Total	142	100

As detailed in Table 2, the majority of the target participants (85.9%) are married. This may benefit the current research as, compared to single females, married female employees have more social responsibilities towards their own

families and in-laws and are closely engaged in family financial planning. Furthermore, the social reliance on women enhances their social responsibilities as housewives and/or caregivers, especially in times of crisis.

Table 3
Distribution of Participants by Age Group

Age Group	Frequency	Percent
25 or less – 35	32	22.5
36- 45	84	59.2
46- 55 or more	26	18.3
Total	142	100

As detailed in Table 3, over half of the participants (59.2%) are aged between 36 and 45, and the smallest age group ranges from 46 to 55 or more.

3.2. Instruments

An online structured questionnaire using Microsoft Forms (Office 365, Microsoft Platform) was constructed to collect data. The participants were asked to answer a 25-item multiple-choice, five-Likert scale questionnaire distributed in three parts. Part one covers demographic information (place of occupation, marital status, age group, and place of residence). Part two and Part three cover two dimensions: linguistic and socioeconomic aspects of their lifestyle during the pandemic and its consequent lockdown.

3.3. Data Analysis

Data were analyzed using SPSS version 25. Descriptive statistical analysis was used to describe the 25-questionnaire-items of the two dimensions: linguistic and socioeconomic. A 2-university location (AABU and YU) x 3 marital status (single, married, and previously married-divorced/widow) x 3 age groups (< 25- 35, 36-45, and 46 >), and 2 dwellings (city and village) t-test and ANOVA were used to describe the categorical demographic data. A series of t-tests and analysis of variance (ANOVA) tests were used to analyze the data.

The arrangement of the answer option is on a five-Likert scale of which the total number of

responses for each sentiment level (strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, strongly disagree) is calculated. As response scores range from 1 to 5, indicating strongly agree to strongly disagree respectively, they were reversed so that the highest number (5) describes the highest degree of opinion (strongly agree) and therefore indicates the most influencing factor of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown on the female employees of AABU and YU.

4. Results

4.1. Reliability and Validity

It is crucial to any research in any paradigm to develop reliability and validity and to ensure that data are measurable, effective, representative, and reproducible. Reliability “refers to the stability of the measuring instrument used and its consistency over time” (Sürücü & Maslakçı, 2020, p. 2707). On account of this quantitative research, reliability evaluates the quality and accuracy of the questionnaire as the instrument utilized in the current study to collect data. Cronbach’s Alpha Coefficient is used to test the reliability of the quantitative method used: the questionnaire. Cronbach’s Alpha score values between 0.5 and 0.6 indicate weak internal consistency reliability, 0.6 and 0.7 indicate acceptable internal consistency, 0.7 and 0.9 has internal consistency, and higher than 0.9 has high internal consistency (Sürücü & Maslakçı, 2020). Following is Cronbach’s Alpha score for both parts 2 and 3 of the questionnaire.

Table 4
Reliability Coefficient (Internal Consistency)

Variable	Items	Cronbach’s alpha
Socioeconomic impact	1-13	0.767
Linguistic impact	14-25	0.724
Overall	1-25	0.716

Validity is “determined by the meaningful and appropriate interpretation of the data obtained from the measuring instrument as a result of the analyses” (Sürücü & Maslakçı, 2020, p. 2696). The validity test demonstrates that identifiable results are in correspondence with the requirements of the research method (Mohajan, 2017). It is subdivided into different types, among which are the following: content validity, construct validity, criterion-related validity, predictive validity, face validity, and

concurrent validity (Mohajan, 2017; Sürücü & Maslakçı, 2020). The most consistent validity tests that are related to the current research are content validity and construct validity.

Content validity tests, factor loading, and KMO indicated the validity of the current research method. Following are the statistical results of the KMO and Bartlett test (Table 5) and factor loading of parts 2 and 3 of the questionnaire (Table 6 and Table 7, respectively).

Table 5
KMO and Bartlett's Test

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.		.716
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	1201.464
	df	300
	Sig.	.000

Table 6
Content Validity: Factor Loading for Socioeconomic Factor

	Item	Factor Loading
1	My family has been affected by my occupation during remote online work	.699
2	I am worried about the near future	.548
3	The economic situation of my family has been affected by the low income during the pandemic	.624
4	The epidemiological situation has increased our economic burdens (purchasing medicines, nutritional supplements, food, ...)	.621
5	My personal purchases have decreased during the pandemic (clothes, cosmetics, bags, ...)	.502
6	The epidemic situation made me search for another source of income for me/ my family.	.632
7	Wearing a mask has become part of the Jordanian culture	.637
8	Our local community habits of saluting (salaam) have changed	.674
9	Avoiding crowded places and gatherings has become a social necessity	.612
10	Personal and home sterilization has become part of my daily/weekly/periodical routine	.602
11	I have already contracted Corona Covid-19	.713
12	I received one of the Covid-19 vaccines (either one or two doses)	.568
13	One of my close family members has previously contracted Coronavirus	.715

As noted in Table 6, the results showed that the items “I have already contracted Corona Covid-19” and “One of my close family members has previously contracted Coronavirus” had the highest values of factor loading. In contrast, the lowest value is for the item “My personal purchases have decreased during the pandemic (clothes, cosmetics, bags ...)”. This

value (.502) is not distinctively high as the minimum acceptable rate of factor loading is (0.5.00). Having this in mind, this result may indicate that the personal purchases of female employees either remained constant and were not economically affected by the Covid-19 pandemic or that the level of their personal purchases is conventionally at its lowest.

Table 7
Content Validity: Factor Loading for Linguistic Variable

	Item	Factor Loading
14	I use the term novel coronavirus to describe Covid-19	.711
15	I use the term pandemic to describe Covid-19.	.595
16	I use the term ban/curfew a lot	.732
17	Know the meaning of the term social distancing	.686

18	I know that the negative result of the Covid-19 test means that the person is not infected	.782
19	I know that the positive result of the Covid-19 test means that the person is infected	.836
20	I use the term plague to refer to Covid-19	.561
21	I know the meaning of the term quarantine	.674
22	My number of Arabic words and phrases increased after the spread of Covid-19	.569
23	Covid-19 influenced my educational level because I used to help my children/siblings with their online education during the pandemic.	.672
24	I am interested in reading medical reports published on social media platforms, scientific journals, or newspapers regarding Covid-19.	.671
25	My reading time has increased since the pandemic began.	.692

As noted in Table 7, the results showed that the items “I know that the negative result of Covid-19 test means that the person is not infected” and “I know that the positive result of Covid-19 test means that the person is infected” have the highest values of factor loading. This entails that the female employees of AABU and YU are linguistically aware of the meaning of Covid-19 results’ wordings: neither a negative result is bad news, nor a positive result is good.

4.2. Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive statistics (Table 8) show a concise view of the quantitative study data in a measurable and statistical pattern. In this section, descriptive statistics, including the mean and standard deviation of the socioeconomic and linguistic variables, will be presented. Then, demographic factors will be extensively analyzed as a means to examine the potential impact of the socioeconomic and linguistic variables on the target participants.

Table 8
Descriptive Statistics of Socioeconomic Factor

No.	Item	Mean	Std. Deviation	Level according to average
1.	My family has been affected by my occupation during remote online work	4.06	0.59	High
2.	I am worried about the near future	4.08	0.64	High
3.	The economic situation of my family has been affected by the low income during the pandemic	4.18	0.66	High
4.	The epidemiological situation has increased our economic burdens (purchasing medicines, nutritional supplements, food, ...)	4.20	0.66	High
5.	My personal purchases have decreased during the pandemic (clothes, cosmetics, bags, ...)	4.32	0.66	High
6.	The epidemic situation made me search for another source of income for me/ my family.	4.00	0.70	High
7.	Wearing a mask has become part of the Jordanian culture	4.31	0.60	High
8.	Our local community habits of saluting (salaam) have changed	4.35	0.57	High
9.	Avoiding crowded places and gatherings has become a social necessity	4.32	0.63	High
10.	Personal and home sterilization has become part of my daily/weekly/periodical routine	4.37	0.58	High
11.	I have already contracted Corona Covid-19	4.44	0.57	High
12.	I received one of the Covid-19 vaccines (either one or two doses)	4.62	0.53	High
13.	One of my close family members has previously contracted Corona Covid-19	4.44	0.56	High
Overall Average (Socioeconomic Factor)		4.28	0.315	High

Table 8 presents the mean and standard deviation of items related to the socioeconomic variable. It statistically reports that a fair portion

of the target participants and/or their close family members were medically affected by Covid-19 being contracted Covid-19 and/or

getting vaccinated against Coronavirus. As reported in Table 8, items related to this are 11,

12, and 13, with high mean scores of 4.44, 4.62, and 4.44, respectively.

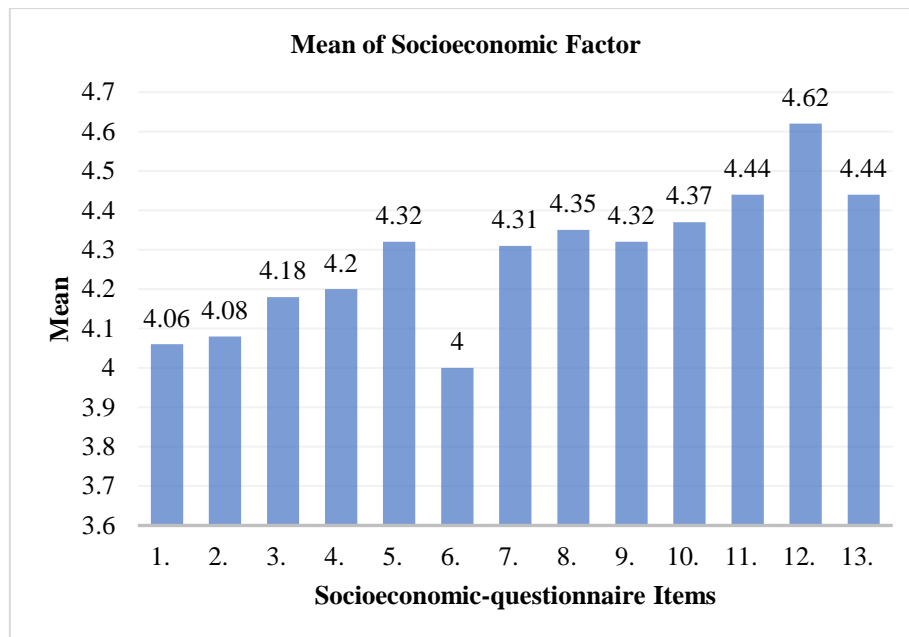


Figure 1
Mean Scores of Socioeconomic Factor

Figure 1 distinctly shows that the lowest mean score, albeit still statistically high, is recorded in item 6: (The epidemic situation made me search for another source of income for me/my family). This result stresses the fact that either

the university-job security level is high or that the monthly salary offered by AABU and YU was still sufficient even after deducting the transportation allowance during the lockdown.

Table 9
Descriptive Statistics of the Linguistic Factor

No.	Item	Mean	Std. Deviation	Level according to average
1.	I use the term novel coronavirus to describe Covid-19	2.49	1.15	Average
2.	I use the term pandemic to describe Covid-19.	3.50	1.16	Average
3.	I use the term ban/curfew a lot	3.81	1.02	High
4.	Know the meaning of the term social distancing	4.49	0.69	High
5.	I know that the negative result of the Covid-19 test means that the person is not infected	4.51	0.82	High
6.	I know that the positive result of the Covid-19 test means that the person is infected	4.63	0.65	High
7.	I use the term plague to refer to Covid-19	1.99	1.04	Low
8.	I know the meaning of the term quarantine	4.56	0.64	High
9.	My number of Arabic words and phrases increased after the spread of Covid-19	3.21	1.04	Average
10.	Covid-19 influenced my educational level because I used to help my children/siblings with their online education during the pandemic.	3.71	1.07	High
11.	I am interested in reading medical reports published on social media platforms, scientific journals, or newspapers regarding Covid-19.	3.68	1.01	High
12.	My reading time has increased since the pandemic began.	3.34	1.08	Average
Overall Average (Linguistic factor)		3.6594	.48082	High

Table 9 shows statistics with high data distribution for linguistic knowledge of negative and positive results for the PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test, a diagnostic

test for Covid-19, with mean scores of 4.51, 4.63, and 4.56 for items 5, 6, and 8, respectively.

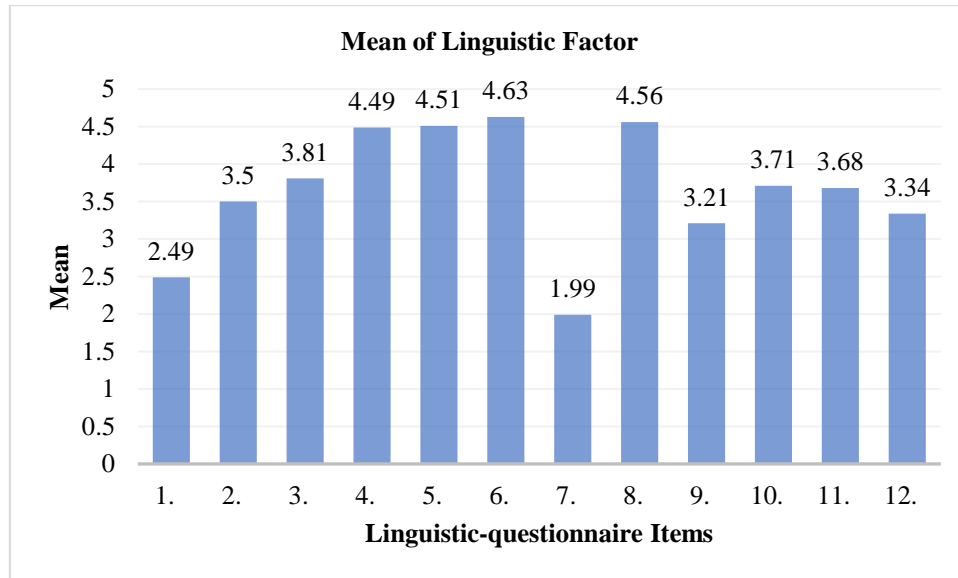


Figure 2
Mean Scores of Linguistic Factor

As detailed in Figure 2, the lowest mean score (1.99) is recorded in item 7 (I use the term plague to refer to Covid-19). Figure 2 distinctively shows the variance of results related to the linguistic impact of Covid-19 on the target participants. Building on this, it may indicate that the linguistic knowledge of the participants was moderately affected by Covid-19.

4.3. Dependent and Independent Variables Tests

In this section, the researchers seek to answer the study questions as to whether the demographic factors (place of occupation, marital status, age, and place of residence) on the one hand and the socioeconomic and

linguistic factors, on the other hand, influence the extent of Covid-19 and its lockdown impact on AABU and YU female employees. Based on this, two statistical measures, t-test, and ANOVA, were applied, with the outcome results displayed in detail in Tables 10 to 19.

4.3.1. Linguistic and Socioeconomic Factors

To determine whether Covid-19 and the lockdown influence AABU and YU linguistically and socioeconomically, two one-sample t-tests were conducted. As detailed in Table 10, there is no average level of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown impact on AABU and YU female employees at the level of significance ($p \leq 0.05$) for socioeconomic factors and linguistic factors.

Table 10
Descriptive Statistics of Linguistic and Socioeconomic Factors: One-Sample Statistics

One-Sample Statistics				
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Socioeconomic factor	142	4.2839	.31529	.02646
Linguistic impact	142	3.6594	.48082	.04035

4.3.2. Place of Occupation

To determine whether the dependent variable, the socioeconomic factor, is affected by place

of occupation, group statistics, and independent sample t-tests were conducted. As detailed in Table 11, there are no statistically significant

differences between the averages of the answers of the study sample participants at the level of significance ($p \leq 0.05$) between AABU

and YU in the socioeconomic factor among female employees.

Table 11

Descriptive Statistics of Socioeconomic Factors by Place of Occupation: Group Statistics

Group Statistics					
	Place of occupation	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Socioeconomic factor	Al al-Bayt University	44	4.2575	.31754	.04787
	Yarmouk University	98	4.2958	.31518	.03184

To determine whether the dependent variable, the linguistic factor, is affected by place of occupation, group statistics, and independent sample t-tests were conducted. As detailed in Table 12, there are no statistically significant

differences between the average of the answers of the study sample at the level of significance ($p \leq 0.05$) between Al al-Bayt University and Yarmouk University in the linguistic factors among female employees.

Table 12

Descriptive Statistics of Linguistic Factor by Place of Occupation: Group Statistics

Group Statistics					
	Place of occupation	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Linguistic factor	Al al-Bayt University	44	3.6216	.45033	.06789
	Yarmouk University	98	3.6764	.49519	.05002

4.3.3. Place of Residence

To determine whether the dependent variable, the socioeconomic factor, is affected by place of residence, group statistics, and independent sample t-tests were conducted. As detailed in

Table 13, there are no statistically significant differences between the average of the study participants' answers at the level of significance ($p \leq 0.05$) between village and city in the socioeconomic factor among female employees.

Table 13

Descriptive Statistics of Socioeconomic Factors by Place of Residence: Group Statistics

Group Statistics					
	Place of residence	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Socioeconomic factor	Village	37	4.3043	.31280	.05142
	City	105	4.2768	.31734	.03097

To determine whether the dependent variable, the linguistic factor, is affected by place of residence, group statistics, and independent sample t-tests were conducted. As detailed in Table 14, there are no statistically significant

differences between the average of study participants' answers at the level of significance ($p \leq 0.05$) between village and city in the linguistic factor among female employees.

Table 14

Descriptive Statistics of Linguistic Factor by Place of Residence: Group Statistics

Group Statistics					
	Place of residence	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Linguistic impact	Village	37	3.6662	.45054	.07407
	City	105	3.6570	.49310	.04812

4.3.4. Marital Status

To determine whether the dependent variable, the socioeconomic factor, is affected by marital

status, ANOVA was conducted. As detailed in Table 15, there are no statistically significant differences between the average of the

participants' answers at the level of significance ($p \leq 0.05$) for socioeconomic

factors among AABU and YU female employees due to marital status.

Table 15
Descriptive Statistics for Socioeconomic Factor by Marital Status: ANOVA Test

ANOVA					
Socioeconomic factor					
	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	.305	2	.152	1.546	.217
Within Groups	13.711	139	.099		
Total	14.016	141			

To determine whether the dependent variable, the linguistic factor, is affected by marital status, ANOVA was conducted. As detailed in Table 16, there are no statistically significant differences between the average of the

participants' answers at the level of significance ($p \leq 0.05$) for linguistic factors among AABU and YU female employees due to marital status.

Table 16
Descriptive Statistics for Linguistic Factor by Marital Status: ANOVA Test

ANOVA					
Linguistic factor					
	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	.332	2	.166	.715	.491
Within Groups	32.265	139	.232		
Total	32.597	141			

4.3.5. Age Group

To determine whether the dependent variable, socioeconomic factor, is affected by the age group, ANOVA was conducted. As detailed in Table 17, there are no statistically significant

differences between the average of the participants' answers at the level of significance ($p \leq 0.05$) for socioeconomic factors among AABU and YU female employees due to the age group.

Table 17
Descriptive Statistics of Socioeconomic Factor by Age Group: ANOVA Test

ANOVA					
Socioeconomic factor					
	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	.023	2	.012	.115	.892
Within Groups	13.993	139	.101		
Total	14.016	141			

To determine whether the dependent variable, the linguistic factor, is affected by the age group, ANOVA was conducted. As detailed in Table 18, there are no statistically significant differences between the average of the

participants' answers at the level of significance ($p \leq 0.05$) for linguistic factors among AABU and YU female employees due to the age group.

Table 18
Descriptive Statistics of Linguistic Factor by Age Group: ANOVA Test

ANOVA					
Linguistic factor					
	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	.178	2	.089	.381	.684
Within Groups	32.419	139	.233		
Total	32.597	141			

Least but not last, to sum up the extent of both socioeconomic factor and linguistic impact of Covid-19 and its consequent lockdown on female university employees, a t-test was conducted. As detailed in Table 19, there are

no statistically significant differences between the average of the participants' answers at the level of significance ($p \leq 0.05$) for socioeconomic factors and linguistic factors among AABU and YU female employees.

Table 19
One-Sample Test

	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Socio-economic factor	48.527	141	.42	1.28394	1.2316	1.3363
Linguistic impact	16.343	141	.12	.65944	.5797	.7392

5. Discussion

While the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and its resulting quarantine and lockdown regulations have been widely discussed in many recent studies, this study adopts a different approach of analysis in which it focuses on a previously marginalized group of people, public university female employees in this case, whom many studies have so far ignored in terms of the pandemic and lockdown impact on them. Furthermore, a vast number of factors have been analyzed medically, scientifically, socially, and psychologically, while others are neglected, especially in their relationship with female subjects. Therefore, this study has embraced the belief that women are being affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown socioeconomically and linguistically likewise. While different demographic variables will render any impact on women different, the current study has chosen to investigate the socioeconomic and linguistic impacts of the pandemic and its lockdown on a specific group of female employees, those who work in public universities such as AABU and YU in Jordan.

Regarding the aforementioned objectives and the related hypotheses and research questions of the current study that assume the existence of two types of impact factors impacting AABU and YU female employees, linguistic and socioeconomic, the study finds it necessary to measure a number of demographic factors such as age, marital status, place of occupation, and place of residence to show the extent of difference and variation in the sampled women's responses.

By utilizing a questionnaire as a main research tool, the study finds it an appropriate tool to survey these female participants in terms of accumulating as many responses as possible to generate an accurate representation of the female employees in the study; because they belong to two different public institutions and are located in two different large cities of the country, Al Mafraq and Irbid.

Describing the statistics of the socioeconomic factor, the current study shows a high level to average the potential impact of this factor upon the target participants, as shown in Table 8. The participants showed the highest level of this variable in relation to how the epidemic situation made them search for another source of income at the individual and family levels. However, the statistics show the target female participants expressed hesitation when it comes to receiving the appropriate number of doses of Covid-19 vaccines. This result reveals a crucial fact about how the economic status of the female employees at the two universities has been severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown; hence new sources of income were sought to meet their different financial needs. It is worth mentioning that public university salaries were also affected, especially when the administrations decided to deduct some allowances, such as transportation, during the lockdown. This result is compatible with the statement announced by the Executive Director of the National Association for Family Empowerment mentioned in Al-Shoubaki (2021) that financial insecurity for Jordanian women is a pre-Covid-19 issue that has widely been revealed during the pandemic.

On the other hand, an examination of the descriptive statistics of the linguistic factor shows a significant variation in the target female participants' responses to the items related to their linguistic knowledge. As displayed in Table 9, the participants show the highest level of this variable in relation to their understanding that the negative result of the Covid-19 PCR test signifies pleasant news stipulating that the person is not infected. This result shows how the participants' terminology was affected by the pandemic as negative, though it connotes an unfavorable status, which comes to mean a favorable status which is that the person is not diagnosed with Covid-19. It is worth mentioning that these participants, as women draw a parallel juxtaposition of the PCR test with the more familiar pregnancy test, in which negative typically means unfavorable news: not pregnant. On another aspect of the highest level of linguistic knowledge of Covid-19-related terminologies, the participants reveal that a new linguistic lexicon (quarantine) has entered their linguistic repertoire as a result of the pandemic. Regarding the term (plague), the female participants reveal that they are unlikely to use it to refer to the Covid-19 pandemic. This result shows how most of the women participants come from the relevantly newest generations, which did not experience a pandemic or a plague before. This result is compatible with that of Lailiyah et al. (2023), which asserts the conservativeness and prestige of women's language as compared to that of men.

Just as importantly, it is worth mentioning that female university employees at both universities have not shown any significant differences in the impact of the pandemic and its consequent lockdown. This entails that both have been influenced by the same, or similar, extent of Covid-19 and the lockdown's impact, which allows for more generalization that may take place when examining the pandemic and lockdown's impact upon female employees working in any part of the world.

Overall, this study was motivated by the lack of empirical sociolinguistic studies conducted on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown on female university employees working in public universities worldwide. However, this specific study has considered two public universities in Jordan as a specific

case study for which the findings can be representative of other public universities in the region and worldwide. It is generally concluded that the pandemic and its lockdown have resulted in a variety of linguistic and socioeconomic effects that offer insightful perceptions of the interaction between language and the context in which it is used. Precisely speaking, it is concluded that Covid-19 and the lockdown have a pervasive impact on AABU and YU female employees at linguistic and socioeconomic levels.

Having collaborative debate among social organizations and female employees would enable decision-makers in Jordan to adopt a new approach in regard to female employees' duty work conditions and would also open a connection line between different sectors to collect and analyze data to allow a clear understanding of female employees' demands, and needs, and to develop a high-quality framework that helps them deal with the pandemic and its consequent lockdown, online duty work, and dealing with the online education of their children. It is also recommended that future researchers investigate domestic violence during the lockdown in the Jordanian context.

Finally, to propose a deeper understanding of the linguistic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on both the Arabic language and its native speakers, further qualitative interpretive research, as well as quantitative descriptive research, are warranted to examine borrowing and translating Covid-19-related terminology into the Arabic language.

Regarding the benefits of the current study mentioned earlier in the Introduction, more general recommendations for future research on Covid-19 include:

- 1) The influence of the epidemic and lockdown on mental health: While this study concentrated on the socioeconomic and linguistic effects of the pandemic and lockdown, it is recommended to investigate their impact on mental health as well. Examining the prevalence of anxiety, sadness, and other mental health issues among female public university staff during the pandemic and lockdown could be part of this.

- 2) The function of social support: More research might look into how social support from family, friends, and colleagues affects people's resilience and coping methods during a pandemic.
- 3) The pandemic's influence on work-life balance: The epidemic and lockdown have blurred the lines between work and home life, potentially affecting the work-life balance of university-female employees. Future research could look into how the pandemic and lockdown impacted their capacity to manage job and home responsibilities, such as childcare and eldercare.
- 4) Access to technology: Due to the epidemic and lockdown, many employees have been compelled to work from home, which necessitates the use of technology such as computers, the internet, and video conferencing tools. More research might be conducted to investigate how their access to technology has affected their work productivity, job happiness, and overall well-being.
- 5) The pandemic and intersectionality: The study looked at how the pandemic and lockdown affected university-female-employees in Jordan. Additional research should look into how race, ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation interact with gender to impact people's experiences during the pandemic and lockdown.

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