CLASSIFICATION OF LEXICAL UNITS FOR "NATURAL DISASTERS" IN ENGLISH

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Abstract: *This article presents a comprehensive taxonomy for classifying lexical units relevant to natural disasters. The taxonomy was developed through an extensive review of existing disaster related vocabularies, taxonomies as well as in accordance with the decree at the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) and Munich Re insurance Company (Munich RE).*
Keywords: *natural disasters, CRED, Munich RE, biological, geophysical, meteorological, hydrological, climatological, extra-terrestrial*

The subject of defining disasters and judging them based on certain standards has sparked intense discussions among specialists in the field. For instance, Michael Barren and his colleagues propose an independent, extensive classification that considers not just natural disasters. This framework is founded on factors such as the nature and length of the crisis, the extent of the effects, the likelihood of the occurrence, and the capacity to manage the consequences. Other classifications look at factors like the event's magnitude or consequences, the varying scales (like individual, family, community, and region), or the speed of developing and its predictability. Therefore, a wide variety of classification methods have been introduced, and it would not be beneficial to analyze every single one in this context. Although some objections exist, there's a general agreement that a disaster is an incident or situation that greatly upsets regular socioeconomic procedures, inflicting harm and potential damages. Efforts to provide a numerical definition, such as in monetary loss or death toll, have not received unanimous approval. Nevertheless, disasters are distinct from minor incidents, as they necessitate remarkable responses in terms of resources and organization [1; 440]. Typically, a disaster is described as a situation wherein

the afflicted individual, group, or unit (be it local, regional, or national governments, public entities, social groups, etc.) surpasses their ability to cope, making it likely that external assistance will be necessary.

There are three worldwide sources of data on natural disasters. Two are data catalogues created by insurance companies: a private disaster database operating on an international scale, NatCatSERVICE of MunichRe and the Sigma of SwissRe's, a limited-access global natural and man-made disaster database. The OFDA/CRED International Disasters Database, on the other hand, is the most extensively used disaster data bank.

The phrase "natural disaster" is not really appropriate, as has long been recognised [2; 566]. For instance, even though the majority of earthquakes are wholly natural events, inadequate building design may be more to blame for seismic disasters than actual ground trembling. Thus, there is justification for considering earthquakes to be man-made calamities. Indeed, a "natural" disaster can be considered a convenient word that separates one class of events from another because vulnerability is a situation that mostly depends on human decision making and determines much of the impact of disasters.

A widely accepted classification system by The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) (2009) divides disasters caused by natural disasters into five major categories: geophysical, hydrological, biological meteorological, and climatological.

1) Geophysical phenomena encompass geological occurrences that have the potential to result in fatalities, injuries, health impacts, and property destruction, disruption of livelihoods and services, societal and economic disturbances, as well as harm to the environment. Factors relating to hydrometeorology play a significant role in influencing certain of these phenomena. *Earthquake, eruption, sinkhole, mass movements (dry)* are good illustrations of geophysical category.

2) Hydrological disasters are caused by water-related events. This category includes *floods, flash floods,* and *storm surges*. These events can lead to widespread flooding, property damage, and loss of life.
3) Biological disasters are caused by the spread of disease or the outbreak of epidemics. In particular, *pandemics, epidemics,* and *outbreaks of infectious diseases*. These events can have a significant impact on public health and the economy.
4) Meteorological disasters are caused by atmospheric conditions that are *hurricanes, tornadoes, blizzards,* and *droughts*. These events can result in severe damage to buildings, crops, and infrastructure.
5) Types of disasters related to atmospheric and weather conditions are called climatological disasters. These conditions seriously affect the natural weather formation process, causing serious damage and natural disasters, namely, *extreme temperature*, *drought*, *desertification*, and *wildfire.*

In some researchs, the category of geophysical is given as another name geological [3; 420]. There is also another type, in addition to the types of natural disasters that is mentioned above. Catastrophic events that occur outside the Earth's atmosphere are called space disasters. These events include *satellite malfunctions, floating space debris, spacecraft parts, harsh space conditions,* etc [4; 4]. Therefore, the updated categorization identifies two main types of disasters: natural and technological. Natural disasters are further classified into six groups: Biological, Geophysical, Meteorological, Hydrological, Climatological, and Extra-Terrestrial. Each group encompasses various main types of disasters, each with its own set of sub-types. This can be seen in dry mass movement such as *rockfall, landslide, avalanche, subsidence*.

On the whole, the classification of lexical units associated with natural disasters is a crucial task for effectively addressing these events and their impacts. The comprehensive taxonomy presented in this paper provides a systematic and flexible framework for organizing disaster related terminology in

the English language. By enabling the consistent identification and analysis of relevant vocabulary, this taxonomy can contribute to more informed decision making, enhanced risk communication, and improved overall disaster management capabilities.

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