

THE REFLECTION FEATURES OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Gavhar Salomova

Uzbekistan Republic, Surkhandarya Region,

Termez city Surkhandarya Region in-service, Teachers Training Centre

E-mail: gavhar.salomova@mail.ru, +99890 327 88 00

Annotation. The article examines the reflection features of abbreviations and acronyms of the English language. It also analyzes some features associated with the spelling of the English language.

Key words: abbreviation, a short phrase, initial, reduction.

Introduction:

Language is main means carried out person's thinking, ideas, aims. Language supplies exchanging idea, serves for developing society. It is known that, abbreviation is wealth of language. Most of students and person learning English language, they would rather speak shortly as native speakers. Well, have we enough knowledge? Have we what information about Abbreviations and Acronyms, reduced forms? Abbreviations are form of the word and reduced phrases, head and end of letters not pronouncing form. Some words or phrases are usually shortened in simple text.

During World War I and after it the custom became very popular not only in English-speaking countries, but in other parts of the world as well, to call countries, governmental, social, military, industrial and trade organisations and officials not only by their full titles but by initial abbreviations derived from writing. Later the trend became even more pronounced, e. g. the USSR, the U.N., the U.N.O., MP. The tendency today is to omit full stops between the letters: GPO (General Post Office). Some abbreviations nevertheless appear in both forms: EPA and E.P.A. (Environment Protection Agency). Such words formed from the initial letter or letters of each of the successive parts of a phrasal term have two possible types of orthoepic correlation between written and spoken forms.

1. If the abbreviated written form lends itself to be read as though it were an ordinary English word and sounds like an English word, it will be read like one. The words thus formed are called a c r o n y m s

(from Gr across- 'end'+onym 'name'). This way of forming new words is becoming more and more popular in almost all fields of human activity, and especially in political and technical vocabulary: U.N.O., also UNO ['ju:nou] — United Nations Organisation, NATO — the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, SALT—Strategic Arms Limitation Talks. The last example shows that acronyms are often homonymous to ordinary words; sometimes intentionally chosen so as to create certain associations. Thus, for example, the National

Organisation for Women is called NOW. Typical of acronymic coinages in technical terminology are JATO, laser, maser and radar. JATO or jato means jet-assisted take-off; laser stands for light amplification by stimulated emission radiation; maser — for micro-wave amplification and stimulated emission radiation; radar — for radio detection and ranging, it denotes a system for ascertaining direction and ranging of aircraft, ships, coasts and other objects by means of electro-magnetic waves which they reflect. Acronyms became so popular that their number justified the publication of special dictionaries, such as D.D. Spencer's "Computer Acronym Handbook" (1974). We shall mention only one example from computer terminology — the rather ironic GIGO for garbage in, garbage out in reference to unreliable data fed into the computer that produces worthless output. Courtesy titles): Dr., Mrs., Mr.

Time and period designations: AM, PM, BC, AD.

Academic degrees: B.A., M.D., Ph.D.

Familiar acronyms: FBI, UN, RSVP.

Acronyms present a special interest because they exemplify the working of the lexical adaptive system. In meeting the needs of communication and fulfilling the laws of information theory requiring a maximum signal in the minimum time the lexical system undergoes modification in its basic structure: namely it forms new elements not by combining existing morphemes and proceeding from sound forms to their graphic representation but the other way round — coining new words from the initial letters of phrasal terms originating in texts.

2. The other subgroup consists of initial abbreviation with the alphabetical reading retained, i.e. pronounced as a series of letters. They also retain correlation with prototypes. The examples are well-known: B.B.C. ['bi:'bi:'si:] — the British Broadcasting Corporation; G.I. ['dʒi: 'ai] — for Government Issue, a widely spread metonymical name for American soldiers on the items of whose uniforms these letters are stamped. The last abbreviation was originally an Americanism but has been firmly established in British English as well. M.P. ['em'pi:] is mostly used as an initial abbreviation for Member of Parliament, also military police, whereas P.M. stands for Prime Minister.

Abbreviations are freely used in colloquial speech as seen from the following extract, in which CP. Snow describes the House of Commons gossip: They were swapping promises to speak for one another: one was bragging how two senior Ministers were "in the bag" to speak for him. Roger was safe, someone said, he'd give a hand. "What has the P.M. got in mind for Roger when we come back?" The familiar colloquial quality of the context is very definitely marked by the set expressions: in the bag, give a hand, get in mind, etc.

Other examples of initial abbreviations with the alphabetical reading retained are: S.O.S. ['es'ou'es]—Save Our Souls, a wireless code-signal of extreme distress, also

figuratively, any despairing cry for help; T.V. or TV I'tir'vi:] — television; Y.C.L. ['wai'sir'el] — the Young Communist League.

3. The term **ab b r e v i a t i o n** may be also used for a shortened form of a written word or phrase used in a text in place of the whole for economy of space and effort. Abbreviation is achieved by omission of letters from one or more parts of the whole, as for instance abbr for abbreviation, bldg for building, govt for government, wd for word, doz or dz for dozen, ltd for limited, B.A. for Bachelor of Arts, N.Y. for New York State. Sometimes the part or parts retained show some alteration, thus, oz denotes ounce and Xmas denotes Christmas. Doubling of initial letters shows plural forms as for instance pplp.p. for pages, ll for lines or cc for chapters. These are in fact not separate words but only graphic signs or symbols representing them. Consequently no orthoepic correlation exists in such cases and the unabbreviated word is pronounced: ll [lainz], pp ['peɪlɪz].

Abbr.-abbreviation

Acct.-account

Å angstrom

A or **amp** ampere

A1 first class

AA Alcoholics Anonymous; Automobile Association

ABC American Broadcasting Company

ab init. ab initio (Latin 'from the beginning')

ABM anti-ballistic missile

ABTA Association of British Travel Agents

AC alternating current (electricity)

ACAS Advisory, Conciliation, and Arbitration Service

AD anno Domini (Latin 'in the year of the Lord')

b. born

BA Bachelor of Arts; British Airways

B & B bed and breakfast

BBC British Broadcasting Corporation

BC before Christ

GCHQ Government Communications Headquarters

GEC General Electric Company

gen. genitive

ger. gerund

GeV gigavolts (one billion electric volts)

WWW World Wide Web

WYSIWYG what you see is what you get (computing)

X 10 (Roman numeral); a person or thing unknown

x in mathematics, an unknown quantity

yd yard

YMCA Young Men's Christian Association

YTS Youth Training Scheme

YWCA Young Women's Christian Association

A specific type of abbreviations having no parallel in Russian is represented by Latin abbreviations which sometimes are not read as Latin words but substituted by their English equivalents. A few of the most important cases are listed below: *ad lib* (Lat *ad libitum*) — at pleasure', *a.m.* (Lat *ante meridiem*) — in the morning', *cf.* (Lat *conferre*)

—compare; *cp.* (Lat *comparare*) — compare', *e.g.* (Lat *exempli gratia*)

—for example; *ib(id)* (Lat *ibidem*) — in the same place; *i.e.* (Lat *id est*)

—that is; *loc.cit.* (Lat *locus citato*) — in the passage cited; *ob.* (Lat *obiit*) —he (she) died;

q.v. (Lat *quod vide*) — which see; *p.m.* (Lat *post meridiem*) — in the afternoon; *viz* (Lat *videlicet*) — namely, sometimes read *viz.* Actual letters are also read in the following cases:

a.m. ['ei'em], *e.g.*, *i.e.*, *q.v.*, *p.m.*

A specifically English word pattern almost absent in the Russian language must be described in connection with initial abbreviations in which the first element is a letter and the second a complete word. The examples are: *A-bomb* for atomic bomb, *V-sign* — a sign made by holding the hand up with the first two fingers spread with the palm facing forward in the shape of a V used for expressing victory or the hope for it.

It will have been noted that all kinds of shortening are very productive in present-day English. They are especially numerous in colloquial speech, both familiar colloquial and professional slang. They display great combining activity and form bases for further word-formation and inflection.

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