

АББРЕВИАТУРА КАК СРЕДСТВО СОЗДАНИЯ СЛОВ

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Постоянные языковые структурные изменения приводят к созданию новых слов и выражений. Одна из причин использования сокращений заключается в стремлении к лингвистической экономии. Данная статья рассматривает основные типы аббревиатур: сокращения (усечения), инициализмы, акронимы, слова-гибриды.

Ключевые слова: аббревиация, акроним, инициализм, слова-гибриды, усечение, апокопа, аферезис, синкопа.

Brevity is the soul of wit.

W. Shakespeare

Functional language development is caused by natural evolutionary process. Scientific and technical progress gave a powerful impulse to enrich word structure of modern languages. In this context, abbreviation as a way of word formation is of great importance. Shortening words and word combinations as well as word composition are the main sources of renewing English vocabulary.

New terms have been formed in different spheres such as banking, public relations, marketing, business, advertising and IT. The necessity of coining specific units is known to be called forth by expansion of cognitive human activity. Moreover, vocabulary should reflect all changes taking place in social life, industries and other sectors of mankind development. Most of modern lexical units turn out to be bulky and inconvenient in using.

Abbreviations help provide unusual expressions with more concise and compressive form retaining the complete lexical meaning of them and saving time of receiving information by the addressee.

One of the reasons and prerequisites for emerging and spreading abbreviations is considered the law of linguistic means economy along with such factors as scientific and technological progress, social transformations and development of multinational cultural and economic contacts.

The universal trend towards saving linguistic means is to serve the needs of human communication by using semantically concise but smaller in form and size signs to express versatility of objective world with its complicated connections between things and phenomena. In the long run, linguistic economy leads to compressing the ways of expressing the statement idea and results in eliminating redundant information elements.

The gist of this process is generalized perception of the content of the new linguistic units and emphasizing communicative language function. Heightening value of linguistic units may result in language development as a main means of communication taking into account the enhanced information volume. Abbreviation increases the speed of information entry from the writer or speaker to reader or listener. Apart from this, it has also the function of information concentration.

It should be noted that abbreviations are widely used in newspaper publications

as they carry out one of the main tasks of mass media, i. e. to transfer the most important information in a newspaper or magazine article. Moreover, media publications are aimed to inform readers about the most topical problems of modern life, exert influence upon public conscience by persuasion and to form both individual and public opinion. Expressiveness is one of the main features of journalistic style as a journalist doesn't only strive to inform but he tries to make a deep impression as well; he may avoid traditional ways, forms, word combinations, and apply more significant linguistic means of information transmission.

On the one hand, emotional appeal of publication can draw reader's attention to certain events; on the other hand, the style of the article can impress, urge or influence the reader by using expressive way of reflecting the observance, feelings, emotional assessments, and effects.

As stated above, a particular place among the means of word formation belongs to abbreviation. First, it performs compressive function, i. e. it serves for creating shorter nomination than relative expression. Second, apart from implying saving language tools, abbreviations are more colourful expressive forms of well-known concepts and have an assessment function.

A great number of brief units may be divided into two groups: graphic and lexical. Graphic abbreviations are mainly employed in writing and expressed as correlated full forms in oral speech:

agst – *against*; org – *organized*; DP, dp – *data processing*; WMD – *weapons of mass destruction*.

A lot of common widely used units are difficult to translate as the same graphic form may refer to several words:

m (66 meanings) – *million, metre, mile, main, male, malfunction, manpower, manual*; op – *opera, operation, operator, optical, optimus*; Sen. – *Senate; Senator; Senior*.

Meanwhile, some graphic abbreviations are associated with a certain word:

Cmdr, com, Comdr – *commander*.

Graphical abbreviations are special for written speech taking into account effort and space economy in writing.

The most popular group of graphical abbreviations is of Latin origin.

e. g. – *example gratia* – *for example*, a. m. – *ante meridiem* – *in the morning*, p. m. – *post meridiem* – *in the afternoon*, i. d. – *id est* – *that is*, A. D. – *Anno Domini* – *of our era, in the year of our Lord*, B.C. – *Before Christ*, etc. – *et cetera* – *and the rest, and so forth*, et al. – *et alii* – *and others*, ad lib – *ad libitum* – *at pleasure*, cf – *conferre* – *compare*.

Some other groups may also attract attention.

1) days of the week, names of months: Sat. – *Saturday*, Sun. – *Sunday*, Jan. – *January*, Mar. – *March*;

2) names of counties in UK and states in US: Berks – *Berkshire*, Yorks – *Yorkshire*, Ala – *Alabama*, Alas – *Alaska*.

3) names of address, ranks, scientific degrees: Mr. – *mister*, Mrs. – *missis*, Ms. – *miss*, col. – *colonel*, B.A. – *Bachelor of Arts*, M.A. – *Master of Arts*;

4) units of time, length, weight: hr – *hour*, ft – *foot/feet*, mg – *milligram*.

Contractions are characterized by omitting some letters from the middle of the word: Dr – *doctor*, St – *saint or street*, Rd – *road*.

Initialisms are considered to be the border between graphical and lexical abbreviations. When they appear in the language, they as a rule have full forms of pronunciation (J.V. – *joint venture*). Although they may acquire the shortened form of pronouncing and become closer to lexical abbreviations (BBC). Doubling the initial letters shows plural forms: pp – *pages*, ll – *lines*, cc – *chapters*.

The main types of lexical abbreviated units are initialisms, acronyms, clippings and mixed kinds of abbreviations. Blends or portmanteaus are of particular importance in word formation.

Initialisms and acronyms (from the Greek words *akros* – topmost, extreme and *onoma* – name) use the initial letters of a phrase or name. They may be pronounced by spelling each letter separately as a string of letters (BBC – *British Broadcasting Corporation*, DJ – *Department of Justice*, CIA – *Central Intelligence Agency*, EU – *European Union*, OECD – *Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development*, HIV – *human immunodeficiency virus*, SMS – *short message service*), or as a word (acronyms: OPEC – *Organisation of Petroleum-Exporting Countries*, SALT – *Strategic Arms Limitation Talks*, FIFA – *Federation Internationale de Football Associations /Fr./ = International Federation of Football Associations*, SNAFU – *situation normal, all fouled up*, laser – *light amplification by stimulated emissions of radiation*).

The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) records the first printed use of the word *initialism* as occurring in 1899, but it did not come into general use until 1965, well after *acronym* had become common.

By 1943, the term *acronym* (the original definition was *a word made from the initial letters or syllables of other words*) had been used in English to recognize abbreviations that were pronounced as words. For example, the army offense of being *absent without official leave* was abbreviated to "A.W.O.L." in reports, but when pronounced as a word, it became an acronym.

According to pronunciation acronyms may be divided into several groups:

Pronounced as

1. a word, containing initial letters: AIDS – *acquired immune deficiency syndrome*; scuba – *self-contained underwater breathing apparatus*; UNICEF – *United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund*.

2. a word, containing non-initial letters: Interpol – *International Police, International Criminal Police Organization*; Nabisco – *National Biscuit Company*.

3. a word, containing a mixture of initial or non-initial letters: radar – *radio detection and ranging*; COBOL – *Common Business-Oriented Language*.

4. a word or as a string of letters: FAQ – *frequently asked questions*; SAT – *Scholastic Achievement (or Aptitude) Test(s) (US) or Standard Assessment Test(s) (UK)*.

5. a combination of spelling out and a word: CD-ROM – *Compact Disc read only memory*; JPEG – *Joint Photographic Experts Group*; SFMOMA – *San Francisco Museum of Modern Art*.

Reduction of a word to one of its parts is called *clipping*. These words are connected with special professions, and authors use them rather frequently in newspaper headlines (maths – *mathematics*, showbiz – *show business*, Big Bro – *Big Brother*, celeb – *celebrity*, circs – *circumstances*, Wimbo – *Wimbledon*, limo – *limousine*, comfo – *comfortable*).

They may be spelt with a full stop (cont. – *continued*, etc. - *etcetera*) or without a full stop when they form words (hippo – *hippopotamus*, gym – *gymnasium*, bus – *omnibus*, pub – *public house*, zoo – *zoological garden*, pop music – *popular music*, zanth – *chrysanthemum*, copter – *helicopter*, robe - *wardrobe*, rep – *representative*, info – *information*, ceil – *ceiling*, cig - *cigarettes*).

Different types of clippings are very popular:

1. Apocope, or cutting off, or back clipping (the beginning of the word is retained as in ad – *advertisement*, doc – *doctor*, gym – *gymnastics*, *gymnasium*; memo – *memorandum*, exam – *examination*, vac – *vacation*, mike - *microphone*).

2. Aph(a)eresis, or taking away, or fore-clipping (omission at the beginning of a word, the final part is retained as in chute – *parachute*, coon – *raccoon*, gator – *alligator*, phone – *telephone*, copter – *helicopter*, varsity - *university*).

3. Syncope, or middle clipping (the middle of the word is clipped as in mart – *market*, maths – *mathematics*).

4. A combination of apocope with apheresis, i. e. the beginning and the end of the word are clipped as in flu – *influenza*, fridge – *refrigerator*, jams or jammies – *pajamas/pyjamas*, tec - *detective*).

5. Complex clipping (the border between a clipping and a blend is not always clear; there may be compounds made of clippings as sci-fi – *scientific fiction*, sitcom – *situation comedy*; or compounds one part of which remained intact as op art – *optical art*, org man – *organization man*, A-bomb – *atomic bomb*, flexi-time – *flexible time*, V-Day – *Victory Day*).

Blend is «a word formed by combining parts of two other words» (MED: 133) like brunch – *breakfast + lunch*).

Portmanteau is described as a word «made by combining the sound and meaning of two other words» (MED: 1096): smog – *smoke + fog*). There are many examples of these forms of words: comsat – *communication satellite*, motel – *motor + hotel*, Gen. Sec. – *General Secretary*, the word Pakistan was made up of elements taken from the names of the five western provinces: the initials of the words Panjab, Afghania, Kashmir, Singh, and the final Part of Baluchistan, fanzine – *fan + magazine* – (portmanteau of fan(atic) and magazine or -zine) – a magazine, esp. one produced by amateurs, for fans of science fiction, popular music, a sport, or other topical subject.

The word *portmanteau* was first used in this context by L.Carroll in the book *Through the Looking-Glass* (1871), in which Humpty Dumpty explained to Alice the coinage of the unusual words where slithy means ‘*lith*’ and ‘*slimy*’, mimsy from ‘*miserable*’ and ‘*flimsy*’, chortle means ‘*chuckle*’ and ‘*snort*’. Humpty Dumpty described the practice of combining words in various ways by telling Alice, «You see it’s like a portmanteau – there are two meanings packed up into one word.»

While shortening the words in popular paper headlines some vowels are left out, the words being similar to the initialisms. For example, SGT may get 8 YRS for his crime. (SGT – *sergeant*, YRS – *years*). “SGT. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band” or SGT. for short is the name of the song and album by The Beatles (1967).

A phrase that is composed from an existing word is called bac(k)ronym as in book – *Box Of Organized Knowledge* or in Wiki (*from Wiki a Hawaiian word meaning fast or quick, listed in the online Oxford English Dictionary in 2007. Ward Cunningham, the developer of the first wiki software, WikiWikiWeb, originally described it as "the simplest online database that could possibly work"*) *What I Know Is ...*

It should be mentioned that the words Wikipedia and Wiktionary are vivid examples of portmanteaus.

Sometimes jocular distortions occurred. Elementary education can be referred to as the three R’s: *reading, (w)riting and (a)rithmetics*. Jeep – *initials of general purpose - a small military motor vehicle*, OK – *all correct – illiterate misinterpretation of the initials*.

The following short units from dictionaries and articles illustrate a wide spread of abbreviations in different spheres of life.

Information Technologies

SMS – *short message service – a method of sending a text message to a mobile phone;*

PDF – *Portable Document Format – a file format used to represent documents in a manner independent of application software, hardware, and operating systems;*

NBIC – *Nanotechnology, Biotechnology, Information technology and Cognitive science – currently the most popular term for emerging and converging technologies, and was introduced through the publication of Converging Technologies for Improving Human Performance, a report sponsored in part by the U.S. National Science Foundation in 2002.*

SIM – *A subscriber identity module or subscriber identification module -man integrated circuit that securely stores the international mobile subscriber identity (IMSI) and the related key used to identify and authenticate subscribers on mobile.*

HTML – *HyperText Markup Language – the main markup language for creating web pages and other information that can be displayed in a web browser.*

PIN – *a personal identification number – a secret numeric password shared between a user and a system that can be used to authenticate the user to the system.*

BBC – *British Broadcasting Corporation – a British public service broadcasting statutory corporation founded in 1922. Its main responsibility is to provide impartial public service broadcasting in the United Kingdom.*

Politics:

UNO – *The United Nations Organisation – an intergovernmental organization whose aims include promoting cooperation in international law, international security, economic development, social progress, human rights, civil liberties, political freedoms, democracy, and the achievement of lasting world peace. The*

UN was founded in 1945 after World War II to replace the League of Nations, to stop wars between countries, and to provide a platform for dialogue. It contains multiple subsidiary organizations to carry out its missions. At its founding, the UN had 51 member states; there are now 193.

NATO – The North Atlantic Treaty Organization also called the (North) Atlantic Alliance – an intergovernmental military alliance based on the North Atlantic Treaty which was signed on 4 April 1949. The organization constitutes a system of collective defence. NATO's headquarters are in Brussels, Belgium, one of the 28 member states across North America and Europe, the newest of which, Albania and Croatia, joined in April 2009. An additional 22 countries participate in NATO's "Partnership for Peace", with 15 other countries involved in institutionalized dialogue programs.

GOP – Grand Old Party – The Republican Party - of the two major contemporary political parties in the United States (the other being the Democratic Party) was founded by anti-slavery activists in 1854, it dominated politics nationally for most of the period from 1860 to 1932. There were 18 Republican presidents, the first being Abraham Lincoln, serving from 1861 to 1865, and the most recent being George W. Bush, serving from 2001 to 2009.

800 lb. gorilla - 800 pound gorilla - an American English expression for a person or organization so powerful that it can act without regard to the rights of others or the law. The phrase is rooted in a riddle: "Where does an 800 lb. gorilla sit?"

The answer: "Anywhere it wants to."

Now, President Obama has made clear he is boycotting his planned meeting with Putin because of human rights issues and Syria. The 800-lb gorilla he did not mention is Edward Snowden, now in temporary Russian exile (E.Margolis, August 10, 2013)

Economy

MEDC – More Economically Developed Country – a developed country or "more developed country" (MDC), is a sovereign state that has a highly developed economy and advanced technological infrastructure; the criteria for evaluating the degree of economic development are gross domestic product (GDP – the total value of goods and services produced by a country in a year), the per capita income, level of industrialization, amount of widespread infrastructure and general standard of living.

LEDC – Less Economically Developed Country - a Least Developed Country (LDC) is a country which, according to the United Nations, exhibits the lowest indicators of socioeconomic development, with the lowest Human Development Index ratings of all countries in the world. The concept of LDCs originated in the late 1960s and the first group of LDCs was listed by the UN in its resolution of 18 November 1971

GNP – Gross National Product – the total value of goods and services produced by a country in one year, including profits made in foreign countries.

SUV – Sport Utility Vehicle – a vehicle similar to a station wagon or estate car, usually equipped with four-wheel drive for on- or off-road ability.

RMS – *Royal Mail Service, Railway Mail Service, Royal Mail Ship (sometimes Steam-ship, Steamer)*, usually seen in its abbreviated form RMS, is the ship prefix used for seagoing vessels that carry mail under contract by Royal Mail.

lb - *the pound or pound-mass - a unit of mass used in the systems of measurement. A number of different definitions have been used, the most common today being the international pound which is legally defined as exactly 0.45359237 kilograms. The unit is descended from the Roman libra (hence the abbreviation "lb"); the name pound is a Germanic adaptation of the Latin phrase libra pondo, 'a pound by weight'.*

Culture

Nabucco – *Nebuchadnezzar – Italian opera (1841) by Giuseppe Verdi.*

Biopic – *biographical motion picture – a film that dramatizes the life of an actual person or people.*

BAFTA – *British Academy of Film and Television Arts - an independent charity that supports, develops and promotes the art forms of the moving image – film, television and games. In addition to its annual awards ceremonies, BAFTA has an international, year-round programme of learning events and initiatives offering access to talent through workshops, master classes, scholarships, lectures and mentoring schemes in the UK and the USA.*

E.T. – *The Extra-Terrestrial (1982) - Movie Info: Both a classic movie for kids and a remarkable portrait of childhood, E.T. is a sci-fi adventure that captures that strange moment in youth when the world is a place of mysterious possibilities (some wonderful, some awful), and the universe seems somehow separate from the one inhabited by grown-ups. Henry Thomas plays Elliott, a young boy living with his single mother (Dee Wallace), his older brother Michael (Robert MacNaughton), and his younger sister Gertie (Drew Barrymore).*

E.T. – *Entertainment Tonight ... - the most watched entertainment news program in the world to get the latest Celebrity Gossip, Hollywood News.*

Xmas – *Christmas.*

Education

GRE – *Graduate Record Examination – a standardized test that is an admissions requirement for many graduate schools in the United States.*

GCSE – *General Certificate of Secondary Education – an academic qualification awarded in a specified subject, generally taken in a number of subjects by students aged 14-16 in secondary education in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.*

Oxbridge - *a portmanteau of the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom, and the term refers to them collectively, implying superior social status. In William Thackeray's novel Pendennis, published in 1849, the main character attended the fictional Boniface College, Oxbridge. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, this is the first recorded instance of the word. Thackeray's Pendennis also introduced the term Camford as another combination of the university names. Other words have been derived from the term Oxbridge: Doxbridge, an annual inter-collegiate sports tournament between some of the colleges of Durham, Oxford, and Cambridge, Woxbridge is the name of the*

annual Woxbridge conference between the business schools of Warwick, Oxford and Cambridge, Loxbridge refers to London, Oxford, and Cambridge.

Conclusion

The formation of shortenings has both advantages and disadvantages. Misunderstandings are possible due to the overabundance of shortened words, and sometimes the meanings of abbreviations cannot be deduced from the main forms. B. Garner stated «that effective communication takes two – the writer and the reader. Abbreviations are often conveniences for writers but inconveniences for readers.» [Garner 2009: 3-4].

Nevertheless, a flow of colloquial abbreviations through the Internet and mobile phones is sure to contribute to increasing popularity of communication services. Abbreviations will continue to play a significant part in establishing and improving international communication through diversity of education in the era of globalization.

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ИСТОЧНИКИ ИЛЛЮСТРАТИВНОГО МАТЕРИАЛА

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ABBREVIATION AS A MEANS OF WORD FORMATION

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Constantly changing languages produce new words and expressions. One of the reasons for using abbreviated word forms is the desire for linguistic economy. The paper reviews the main types of abbreviations such as shortenings or clippings, contractions, initialisms, acronyms and portmanteaus or blends, and gives interesting examples from different styles of modern English.

Keywords: *abbreviation, acronym, initialism, portmanteau(blend), clipping, apocope, apheresis, syncope, coining specific units.*

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