



## STRUCTURAL AND SEMANTIC FEATURES OF ABBREVIATIONS

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### ABSTRACT

The military sphere is no longer the only engine of these phenomena, but it is still characterized by an extremely wide use of abbreviations, a variety of their types and a high rate of renewal. It cannot be otherwise. The rapid improvement of military equipment and weapons, the transformation of the armed forces into one of the most important social institutions entails the emergence of a large number of new concepts and lexical units expressing them: terms, nomenclature names, jargon, etc. Under the influence of various linguistic and extralinguistic factors, the development of new units of the nomination proceeds in parallel with the abbreviation of many of them. The author of this article identifies structural types and models of abbreviations-terms, defines semantic models of abbreviations, establishes the productivity of structural and semantic types and models of abbreviations.

### KEYWORDS

Military equipment, abbreviation, lexico-semantic, linguistic, structural-semantic, acronyms, monomorphic, monemes, nominative units, anti-aircraft, artillery, extralinguistic data.

### INTRODUCTION



The appearance of abbreviations in the English language can be attributed to the 15th century, thanks to literary monuments that testify to the widespread use of abbreviations at that time. Emphasizing the unity and interdependence of external and internal factors in the development of the language and their inseparable connection with social life, L.L. Nelyubin points to the regularity of the emergence of the abbreviation "out of the objective and legitimate needs of society" [13, p. 19]. At present, the wide scale and intensity of the abbreviation process, which consists in a significant increase in the number of abbreviations and the frequency of their use in publications on scientific, technical, military and socio-political topics, put it among the actual objects of linguistics.

The formation of new abbreviations is determined by the development of both various fields of activity and society as a whole. Studies of modern languages demonstrate a particularly close connection between abbreviations and special vocabulary, despite their widespread use in all spheres of human activity. Specialists willingly replace cumbersome words and phrases with abbreviated lexical units. In particular, this also applies to military vocabulary, which is replenished due to intensive abbreviations. However, abbreviations in some cases can go beyond the narrow scope of use and become commonly used (radar, laser, etc.)

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Domestic and foreign researchers consider various groups of reasons for creating

abbreviations. So, quite often, extralingual (external) and intralingual factors of their appearance are distinguished.

The influence of extralingual causes on language development is a problem that attracts the attention of linguists. The most significant here is "the nature of the mechanism by which language, as an instrument of communication, uses the possibilities available to it on the basis of internal laws, responds to changes in the needs of society due to its progress" [4, p. 36-56].

A change in the social situation entails a natural renewal of the language. The increase in the number of abbreviations is often associated with major social changes (war, revolution), scientific and technological progress, the development of intercultural ties, which cause the need for mass nomination of a number of newly formed phenomena, i.e. contribute to the manifestation of the abbreviation method of word formation. Thus, the development of lexico-grammatical classes can be directly related to the development of society itself and its progress.

External causes, as a rule, contribute to the implementation of intralinguistic changes (secondary nomination processes, semantic innovations and transformations, development of additional connotations) [7, p. 78].

The emergence of abbreviation is also associated with the structure of specific languages. According to the scientist M. Schlauch, abbreviated units in English are less common than in German or Russian, i.e. in languages with developed inflection. This is due to the fact that endings often carry a significant semantic load.



The rate of emergence of new abbreviation nominations in modern English is incredibly high. Abbreviations penetrate deeper into the vocabulary of the language, which makes them not random words, but full-fledged lexical units registered in dictionaries of abbreviations. The modern language situation is such that traditional lexicographic sources are not able to cover all the abbreviation nominations generated by native speakers. The most complete and frequently updated list of abbreviations describing a particular area of human activity can be found in electronic dictionaries. They are able to provide the most complete and up-to-date list of current abbreviations due to the participation of users in replenishing the dictionary with new nominations. Thus, these sources make it possible to observe not only the development of abbreviation as a word-formation method in modern linguistic conditions, but also to analyze the linguistic activity of members of the language community [2, p. 24].

Changes in the lexical system of a language can only be discussed with the massive and regular use of new types of lexical units. A huge number of abbreviations do not remain on the periphery of the vocabulary, but go beyond a certain sphere of use and become the property of the entire language community. Thus, we can conclude that abbreviation occupies a significant place in modern English, both in terms of its use and in terms of its study.

From the point of view of word formation, abbreviation is a topical subject of research, since the question of whether to consider it one of the

ways to form new words is still being discussed [3, p. 25]. Since abbreviations as a new type of words enriched the system of lexemes of the language, but, however, did not lead to the emergence of any non-lexical, typologically new units, nor did they lead to the complication of the language structure.

Due to the fact that each language has a limited number of root elements and affixes, today, together with traditional methods of word formation (word production and word formation), such methods of vocabulary replenishment as semantic word formation, borrowing and abbreviation play an increasingly important role. According to the definition, abbreviations are nouns that consist of truncated segments of words that are part of a synonymous phrase, the supporting component of which cannot be a whole, untruncated word. In this case, the special advantage of abbreviation is the creation of new root words and root elements. It should also be noted that word formation by abbreviation is possible in conjunction with other ways of replenishing the vocabulary. In addition, the language resorts to abbreviations only when they are linguistically more appropriate than in other ways.

Since the abbreviation actively interacts with other ways of word formation. Consider the ways of forming new words using traditional word-formation methods:

- word production: RAF (Royal Air Force) - Rafer - "a soldier of the British Air Force"; RAND (Research and Development Corporation) - RANDster - "an employee of the RAND



Corporation"; morphologically complicated cases are possible, for example: UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) - Unescan - "belonging to UNESCO";

- collocations: MATS (military Air Transport Service) + man - MATSman
- "military aviation transport service";
- conversions: RAF (Royal Air Force) - to raff - "subject to attack from the air"; X (Post Exchange) - to PX - "buy something in a military trade service store.

In addition, abbreviation is often combined with another way of word formation. With the help of the joint action of abbreviation and suffixation, for example, the words are formed: blackie (blacksmith - black + i.e.) - "blacksmith", brickie (bricklayer > brick + fie) - "mason", postie (postman > po'st + ie) - "postman". In these cases, special abbreviated morphemes appear (- black- - brick-, - post-), only formally coinciding with the root morphemes that already existed in English - black-, -brick -, - post-.

Linguists have developed rules for compiling complex abbreviated lexical units from standard abbreviated 11 components. The most successful initial abbreviations are beginning to be used as "samples" to create new abbreviations, which also contributes to the typification of abbreviations. The most important impetus for the development of abbreviation was the discovery and widespread use of correlative acronyms - initial abbreviations that have the phonetic structure of ordinary words.

Abbreviation as word formation is a complex and rather extensive phenomenon. The relevance of

abbreviation lies in the need to name new concepts and objects. The expediency is the creation of extremely economical and semantically capacious nominative units.

The abbreviation method of word formation is the most subjective and, perhaps, the most artificial among all known methods. This is due to numerous features of abbreviation: trial and error when creating names, variability and occasionality, intensity of diachronic changes, susceptibility to regulation, weak national fixation and free permeability, etc. [1, p. 48- 56].

Abbreviations and abbreviations are considered productive ways of word formation, both in modern English and in Russian. Compound words, which are formed by adding the initial parts or syllables of words, as well as alphabetic abbreviations, as a more convenient form of complex terms for written communication, have received predominant distribution. In general, abbreviations and abbreviations are more widespread in English than in Russian.

The undeniable fact that abbreviation and abbreviation are the most productive in recent decades and regular ways of forming lexical units means the language's desire to save language efforts, and also indicates its rationalization.

Numerous neologisms testify to the continuous emergence of new abbreviations. A striking example of the successful functioning of abbreviations and abbreviations in modern English is the well-known expression O.K. There are many versions of the origin of this abbreviation. She is credited with both American and European ancestry. For example, it can be the



initial letters of the German Oberst Kommandant - senior commander. According to the French, OK is a military abbreviation for "Killed", which was used in reports during the war period. The entry meant "killed". An American scientist, an English teacher at Columbia University, Allen Walker Reed, seriously began to study the origin of OK, having studied 12 versions. One of them was associated with Orrin Kendall crackers, which were given to soldiers during the American Civil War. According to another version, this abbreviation is the term of telegraph operators Open Key ("public key").

According to Allen, this abbreviation first appeared in a satirical article about bad spelling in the Boston Morning Post in 1839 and it was written in the form of Oll Korrekt (and not all correct). In 1840, OK was used as the initials of Old Kinderhook (pseudonym of Martin van Buren, 8th President of the United States). His campaign slogan was "Vote OK". Other linguists believe that the abbreviation has an older origin: for example, it may belong to the Indians. Okeh means yes.

Abbreviation influenced the creation of a non-affixal word-formation method, i.e. reduction of the stem in an abbreviated way, regardless of the boundary of morphemes (non-morphemic truncation of a lexical unit). The non-affixal way of forming words applies only to nouns. The derived word has a stylistic coloring (usually reduced) and a special expressiveness in speech. Most often, this method is used in oral speech. To date, this relatively new way of word formation has become widespread in American English and has reached a high degree of productivity. A word is identified as

an abbreviated word as long as its full form exists in the language, from which it was formed. Otherwise, it begins to function as a regular, not abbreviated lexical unit.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The process of transition of abbreviations in general and military abbreviations in particular from a relatively narrow sphere of professional use into the literary language has a "transient" character. A special role in this belongs to the mass media, which, due to the relevance of various military problems, draw the attention of society to specific military realities, often having no less specific reflection in the language through various types of abbreviations. The formation and death of abbreviations in the language occurs at different speeds, often quite rapidly, since "abbreviations have a high degree of instability, mobility in terms of expression". This process is largely facilitated by a kind of natural selection among abbreviations, competition between them, caused by the peculiarities of the abbreviation process, as a result of which several options for reducing the original units can coexist in the language.

An important role in solving the problem of abbreviation is played by the relationship between sound and meaning. The main factor in this is the position of the connection of the abbreviation with the phenomenon of reality through the corresponding full names. V.P. Voloshin found out that the meaning of the original phrase is assigned both to the abbreviation as a whole, and to each of its components - a sound or sound combination that can be distinguished as part of the



abbreviation. These components of the original phrase are called "decoding". As a result, the abbreviation becomes understandable only thanks to "decoding", except for special cases (Voloshin, 2005). With this question it is worth referring to the conclusion of K.A. Levkovskaya, who found that the relationship between sound and meaning in complex abbreviated words is of a completely different nature than in ordinary words of the language: it is not carried out directly, but rather through the appropriate decoding (Levkovskaya, 2005).

However, if an abbreviated word is widely used and exists more or less long in the language, a direct connection between sound and meaning can gradually be established, and the abbreviation does not need to be deciphered for understanding.

We can conclude that the problem of the connection between the sound and meaning of abbreviations is one of the main, most complex and controversial problems in the study of abbreviations. Either the recognition of abbreviations as full-fledged words, or their assignment to "lexico-semantic variants" of full forms that do not have their own meaning depends on its decision, which will not allow them to be considered words in full.

Studying the question of the fundamental difference between an abbreviation and a phrase, E.P. Voloshin notes that acronyms and sound-letter abbreviations are not complex abbreviated words, in contrast to the structural-semantic variety of compound words, but are monemes, i.e. simple, monomorphic words. The decomposition

of their morphological composition, characteristic of such cases of analysis, is impossible without the involvement of extralinguistic data. Despite the fact that E.P. Voloshin does not name a direct connection between the sound and meaning of abbreviations, the very fact of recognizing them as monemes suggests that this connection has the same character in them as in simple, monomorphemic ones [5, p. 12]. At the same time, V.V. Borisov points out that it is not clear why the comparison of the abbreviation with the original phrase is characterized by E.P. Voloshin as "involving extralinguistic data", since it is obvious that the comparison of various lexical units is one of the methods of linguistic analysis [4, p. 28].

It is also worth noting that the language does not always include two forms: the original, i.e. full name and abbreviated, i.e. abbreviation. There are cases when, along with the abbreviation, there may not be a full form, due to the fact that in some cases the lexical abbreviation may eventually become an independent word, i.e. main way of expressing this concept. Referring abbreviations to lexical units, we must recognize the unity of sound and meaning, while the meaning is not associated with individual sounds (phonemes) that make up this abbreviation, but with a special way, organized sound range, which is the abbreviation.

In this connection, we can conclude that, in general, the process of formation of abbreviations (abbreviation) can be characterized as the replacement of any stable language expression (word, phrase) in oral or written speech with a shorter expression based on the material of the



first expression and with maintaining a common semantic content. The meaning of the abbreviation process is to rationalize the use of the material elements of the language for communicative purposes, that is, its sound and graphic shell.

### CONCLUSION

Thus, abbreviation word formation within the framework of military vocabulary is one of the main tools of language economy. One of the reasons for the spread of this method of word formation is the progress in the field of military equipment. Denoting cumbersome terms with capacious abbreviations facilitates the maintenance of written documentation, and also saves time on negotiations and briefings. However, it significantly complicates the task of the translator. For example, the abbreviation "AAA" to a simple layman may remind the size of AA batteries, but for a military translator it is nothing more than Anti-aircraft artillery. The main tool of work in this case is a dictionary of military abbreviations, where includes all the already established abbreviations and where they are regularly added new.

Finally, we can conclude that the facts of the language show the involvement of the abbreviation in the system of word-formation means. And entering the word-formation system, on the one hand, it cannot but be exposed to the action of stable, established elements of this system, and on the other hand, it cannot but exert its influence on them.

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