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## **ABBREVIATION AS A LANGUAGE PHENOMENON**

*The article deals with abbreviations, the reasons for their penetration to the language and speech, their nature and types. It also focuses on abbreviations as one of the ways of expanding vocabulary.*

**Keywords:** abbreviations, language, vocabulary.

*В статье рассматриваются аббревиатуры, причины их проникновения в язык и речь, их сущность и виды. Также уделяется внимание аббревиатурам как одному из способов расширения словарного запаса.*

**Ключевые слова:** сокращения, язык, лексика.

Abbreviation is a morphological word formation, in which a certain part of the sound composition of the original word is omitted. This method appeared in English approximately in the second half of the 18th century.

In English literature of various genres there can be found a large number of abbreviations. Individual words and phrases are abbreviated.

A large number of factors, mainly social, contributed to the process of the reducing of words and phrases. This is, first of all, scientific and technological progress, which has acutely increased the need for a short name of different organizations, establishments, objects, materials; the invention of the telegraph, which demanded the economy of language resources; development of the mass media, which made it possible for a large number of people to memorize abbreviations. Later, such words became entrenched in everyday life [1, p. 182].

Lately, the desire to create new words by reducing existing ones has increased considerably. The increase in the number of contractions can be explained by the fact that complex words and phrases can often be inconvenient, and, accordingly, there is a tendency to convey them in a brief way, for example: laser – light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation – quantum generator (amplifier of the optical range or amplification of light by induced emission of radiation (laser) [2, p. 275].

Abbreviation saturation is a peculiar feature of the specialized literature, reflecting only one of the key methods of informational message optimization. But the variety of the ways of formation of abbreviations in English often lead to difficulties in their interpretation in Russian, especially when the authors do not decipher the abbreviations included in their publications in any way, being sure that they are well-known to the reader [3; 4; 5]. Working with them, it is necessary to keep in mind that due to the lack of international and national standards for abbreviations, many English abbreviations do not have equivalents in Russian. An increase in the number of abbreviations is, to a big extent, a natural phenomenon. Many scientists attribute its prevalence to an ever-accelerating pace of modern life. At first, the explanation seems to be quite logical, profound and correct. But this approach, no doubt, has its drawbacks. It is quite one-sided and restricted, since it does not consider the linguistic side of the issue. Still, it should be mentioned that in the English language abbreviations are widely spread mainly as a form of assimilation of borrowed words, due to which these foreign words approach in their sound appearance to native English with their distinctive monosyllables. Titles and names are often used in newspapers and magazines in abbreviated form. Often these abbreviations may be unfamiliar to a wide range of readers and their meaning is immediately deciphered in the note or message itself [6, p. 39]. However, there are so many abbreviations of that kind that newspaper readers have become used to and which therefore do not need clarification or additional explanation. Multiple abbreviations are

characteristic of the newspaper information style of modern English (as well as in other languages).

There exist a few reasons for reductions. They are often not purely linguistic. Mainly they are social. Numerous scientists (especially in the 20–30s of the XX century) put forward such phenomena as wars, revolutions, religious and military conflicts, the progress of science and technology, the development of the telegraph, the emergence of joint-stock enterprises, etc. as the reasons for the formation of reductions. Nowadays the development of the Internet and social networks are the main reason for the emergence of new abbreviations (especially, the language of texting while sending messages through Facebook, BK, Instagram, e-mails, etc). So, these are extralinguistic factors which, undoubtedly, greatly influence the development of the language as a whole and the phenomenon of appearing new abbreviations in particular. The impact of such factors on the process of language development is a much larger and more difficult problem that has long attracted the attention of linguists. The most important thing in this problem is the nature of the mechanism by which language as an instrument of communication on the basis of its internal laws of development, using the possibilities inherent in it, reacts to the constantly changing needs and requirements of society, due to its progress. It is quite evident that the emergence of new concepts requires the emergence of separate new lexical units, but changes in the lexical system of the language can only be discussed with the massive and constant use of lexical units of a new type [7, p. 138].

It can be noted that serious social shifts as well as scientific and technological progress influence the emergence of neologisms, including abbreviations, indirectly: they give rise to the need for mass nomination (the formation of new names), in the improvement of existing linguistic forms in order to satisfy the needs of communication in completely new conditions. This described in the new textbooks for English as a foreign language [8–25].

It is absolutely natural that in such periods a huge number of neologisms appear, including terms, jargon, and abbreviations. The number of neologisms-acronyms in such conditions increases significantly. Thus, the conclusion that major social shifts are considered the main cause of contractions does not seem entirely convincing; the listed phenomena only take part in the formation of such conditions of speech communication, which contribute to a more energetic manifestation of abbreviation. Other scientists point out the conditions for the formation of different abbreviated units in the language. They include, for instance, context, common language skills of communicants, language habit, frequency of use in written and oral speech, “stereotype” (or a pattern) of the producing unit. More often, the appearance of various abbreviated lexical units is explained in

a number of recent works regarding the issue of abbreviation, by the so-called «principle of least effort» or «the law of economy of speech means.» In relation to this, «economical use of language» can be considered as one of the methods of concentration (condensation) of information. The advantage of this approach is the fact that «saving efforts», «saving speech means» in this case do not appear as property of the language, but as an important condition for the concentration of information in order to increase the efficiency of communication. With this formulation of the issue, the key – communicative – function of the language becomes the main one [26, p. 112].

The importance of a deep study of the listed problems connected with abbreviations demands profound linguistic research for a more complete understanding of the phenomenon of abbreviation.

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