

Linguistic Analysis Of Shortened Lexical Forms And Abbreviations

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Abstract: Linguistics is an independent science that studies the language of mankind, studies the emergence and development of language, language and thought, the relationship between language and society, the role of language in society, its internal structure - the classification of language, the methods of its analysis and the like. In this article, the abbreviations that are considered to be the part of linguistics, the concepts of abbreviation, the rules of their legalization, as well as the aspects of difference and similarity, are discussed.

Keywords: Linguistics, science, term, linguistics, shortened words, abbreviation, scientists, source, concept, speech process, difference.

Introduction: Linguistics, as a well-established and independent branch of science, deals with the comprehensive study of human language in all its aspects. In modern academic discourse, the term linguistics is widely used to refer to a discipline that explores not only the origin and historical formation of language but also the processes of its development, change, and functional evolution throughout human history. This field further investigates the relationship between language and cognitive processes, revealing how language influences human thinking and how thought, in turn, shapes linguistic expression.

From a social perspective, linguistics studies the interaction between language and society, emphasizing the central role of language as the primary means of communication. Language is regarded as a complex and structured system consisting of phonetic, lexical and grammatical components that work together to express human emotions, intentions, knowledge, and communicative purposes. As a social phenomenon, it organizes human interaction and serves as an indispensable tool for transmitting cultural, scientific and social information from generation to generation.

Within the broader field of linguistics, special attention is given to the study of shortened lexical forms and abbreviations. These linguistic units have been the

focus of research for many decades and continue to attract interest in contemporary linguistic studies. Numerous prominent scholars—such as O. Jespersen, G. Cannon, L. Bloomfield, N.N. Alekseeva, V.P. Korovushkin, L.B. Tkacheva, V.V. Borisov, I.V. Arnold, M.T. Iriskulov and A. Khodjiev—have made substantial contributions to defining, classifying and interpreting shortened words and abbreviations. Their research has laid the groundwork for understanding how such units operate within the lexicon of different languages.

Although the terms shortened words and abbreviations are frequently used interchangeably in everyday usage due to their close semantic proximity, academic sources treat them as distinct concepts. Each of these terms possesses unique structural, morphological and functional characteristics, which necessitate their separate investigation within linguistic studies.

When defined independently, linguistic literature describes shortened words as lexical items derived by reducing or compressing longer word combinations. These newly formed units may include only the initial letters of multi-word expressions, certain essential segments, or combinations of letters and syllables taken from the original components. The purpose of such reduction is often to achieve brevity, convenience and linguistic economy, especially in written communication. Examples illustrating the formation of

shortened words include:

LC - Land Cadastre

UN - United Nations

DIA - Department of Internal Affairs

Initially, shortened words emerged within written texts, particularly in official documentation, administrative communication and scientific writing, where compactness and efficiency are highly valued. Over time, however, many of these units transitioned into oral speech as well, becoming widely used in everyday communication due to their practicality.

In linguistic studies, shortened words -most of which function as nouns -are known to be formed through several structural mechanisms. These include the combination of initial letters, the use of selected syllables, the extraction of main lexical components, and mixed methods. Each technique reflects specific tendencies in linguistic economy and lexical creativity.

Shortened words initially emerged in written communication as a means of ensuring brevity, clarity and structural compactness. Their appearance was motivated by the need to optimize written discourse, particularly in official documents, administrative correspondence, academic works and technical instructions where excessive verbosity could hinder comprehension. Over time, however, these shortened lexical forms gradually entered spoken language as well. As they became widely recognized and socially accepted, they began to function as convenient linguistic tools that facilitated rapid and efficient communication.

As noted in linguistic literature, shortened words -most of which belong to the class of nouns -are formed according to several structural models:

1.Initial-letter formation.

This method involves using the first letters of each component of a multi-word expression. Examples include SSE (State Standard of Education) and NTRC (National Television-Radio Company). In many linguistic sources, initial-letter shortenings are equated with abbreviations due to their structural similarity.

2.Syllable-letter formation.

In this type, the first syllable of the initial word and the first letters of the subsequent words are combined. For instance, UzNU stands for Uzbekistan National University, while UzLA refers to Uzbek Literature and Art. This method preserves both phonetic and semantic elements of the original expression.

3.Main-part extraction.

Here, key lexical segments are selected from the components of the word combination-for example,

Biofac (Faculty of Biology) and Philfac (Faculty of Philology). These forms often retain the most informative morphemes, resulting in compact yet recognizable lexical units.

4.Initial-syllable+full-word formation.

In such cases, only the first syllable of the first component is shortened, while the remaining words remain unchanged. For example, UzGasOil illustrates this hybrid structure where partial reduction and full preservation are combined.

5.Mixed formation.

This method relies on combining letters, syllables and selected fragments in various proportions. Words like Uzbektelecom and Uzteleradiocompany demonstrate how mixed methods produce structurally flexible shortened forms.

Shortened words serve as names for various entities, such as international organizations (UN, UNESCO), states and political units (UAE, RF, USA), political parties and military associations (UzLiDP, NATO), scientific and educational institutions (UzASc, UzWLSU, BSU), ministries, agencies, enterprises and industrial facilities (MHE, STC, Uzmashholding, UzGasOil), as well as equipment and engineering structures (ECM, HES). These units can be borrowed from other languages— UNESCO, FIFA, FIDE, NATO—or formed using the internal resources of a particular language. A considerable portion of Uzbek abbreviations originates from Russian multi-word expressions, such as BMT – OOH, DAN – ГАН, OAV – СМН.

In contrast to shortened words, the term abbreviation is derived from the Italian abbreviatura and the Latin abbreviatio, both conveying the meaning “shortening” or “reduction.” In linguistic terminology, abbreviation refers specifically to lexical units created through the reduction of multi-word expressions. Abbreviations are classified into several types:

a) Alphabetical abbreviations, where the components of the word combination are represented by their initial letters, which are pronounced individually. For instance, Uzbek OTM (o-te-em) stands for Higher Educational Institution, and MDH (em-de-he) refers to the Commonwealth of Independent States.

b) Complex abbreviations, in which initial letters are supplemented by meaningful segments or morphemes. Examples include O‘zRes. (The Republic of Uzbekistan) and Filfac (Faculty of Philology).

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, shortened words in linguistics represent a broad semantic and structural category formed through several specific methods, including the use of initial letters, syllables, word fragments, or mixed

techniques. They function across various spheres such as international organizations, governmental institutions, political entities, scientific establishments, and technical fields. Abbreviations, as a particular type of shortened words, are primarily created by combining the initial letters of multi-word expressions and serve as compact, standardized linguistic units. Examples such as OTM, BMT, EHM demonstrate the productivity and functionality of this form of word formation. Overall, both shortened words and abbreviations contribute to efficiency, clarity, and linguistic economy in modern communication.

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