SEMANTIC APPROACH TO ABBREVIATION IN NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

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Studiul dat realizează o încercare întru a analiza și clasifica abrevierile, în dependență de modalitățile lor de formare. Am intenționat să examinăm trăsăturile lexicale, semantice și stilistice ale abrevierilor, în baza materialului selectat. Pe lângă aceasta, am realizat o analiză contrastivă a abrevierilor în publicistică. Principalul aspect la care ne-am referit este cel al dificultăților de traducere.

Abbreviations have appeared many years ago, in order to make life easier to understand in writing form. Due to advances in technology and in science, abbreviations spread their use all over the world. They have been used as long as phonetic script existed, in some senses actually being more common in early literacy, where spelling out a whole word was often avoided, initial letters commonly being used to represent words in specific application. By classical Greece and Rome, the reduction of words to single letters was still normal, but no longer the default.

Abbreviation is the word formation process in which a word or a phrase or shorted. Although abbreviation is largely a convention of written language, sometimes abbreviations carry over into spoken language. There are also linguistic causes of abbreviating words and word-groups, such as the demand of rhythm which is satisfied in English by monosyllabic words [2, p.120].

The shortening of words involves the shortening of both words and word groups. Distinction should be made between shortening of a word in written speech (graphical abbreviation) and in the sphere of oral intercourse (lexical abbreviation). But there is also a large number of abbreviations, which we mention below:

Graphical abbreviations are the result of the shortening of words and word-groups only in written speech while orally the corresponding full forms are used. They are used for the economy of space and effort writing. The oldest group of graphical abbreviations in English is of Latin origin. In Romanian this type of abbreviations in the spelling words are shorted while orally corresponding English equivalents are pronounced in the full form, e.g. for example, a.m. in the morning (ante merdien), No – number (numero), p.a.– a year (per annum), d – penny (dinarius), lb – pound (libra), i.e. (id est) etc. Some graphical abbreviations of Latin origin have different English equivalents in different context, e.g. p.m. can be pronounced “in the afternoon” (post meridiem) and “after death” (post mortem). We have several semantic groups of them:

- days of the week, e.g. Mon – Monday, Tue – Tuesday, etc.;
- names of months, e.g. Apr – April, Aug – August;

- names of countries in UK e.g. Yorks - Yorshire, Berks – Berkshir, etc.;
- names of states in USA, e.g. Ala – Alabama, Alas – Alaska, etc.;
- names of address, e.g. Mr., Mrs., Ms., Dr., etc;
- military ranks, e.g. Capt., captain, col. – colonel, sgt – sergeant, etc.;
- Scientific degrees, e.g. B.A. – Bachelor of Arts, D.M. – Doctor of Medicine. (Sometimes in scientific degrees we have abbreviations of Latin origin, e.g. M.B. Medicine Baccalaurus) [4, p.79].

Initialisms are the bordering case between graphical and lexical abbreviations. When they appear in the language, as a rule, to denote some new offices they are closer to graphical abbreviations because orally full forms are used, e.g. J.V. – joint venture. When they are used for some duration of time they acquire the shortened form of pronouncing and become closer to lexical abbreviations, e.g. *BBC* is a rule pronounced in the shortened form. In some cases the translation of initialisms is next to impossible without using special dictionaries. Initialisms are demoted in different ways. Some initialisms can form new words in which they act as root morphemes by different ways of word-building [4, p. 85]:

- Affixation , e.g. *AWALism, ex-rafer, ex-ROW,* etc.;
- Composition, e.g. *STOLport, USAFman* etc .;

Lexical abbreviations are classified according to the part of the word which is clipped. Mostly the end of the word is clipped, because the beginning of the word in most cases is the root and expresses the lexical meaning of the word. This type of abbreviation is called apocope. Here we can mention a group of words ending in "o", such as *disco (discotheque), expo (exposition), intro (introduction)* and many others. On the analogy with these words there developed in Modern English a number of words where "o" is added as a kind of a suffix to the shortened form of the word, e.g. *combo (combination)* etc. In other cases the beginning of the word is clipped. In such cases we have apheresis, e.g. *chute (parachute), versity (university), copter (helicopter), thuse (enthuse)* etc. Sometimes the middle of the word is clipped, e.g. *mart (market), fanzine (fan magazine) maths (mathematics)*. Such abbreviations are called syncope [1, p.50].

A syllabic abbreviation is an abbreviation formed from initial syllables of several words, such as *(Interpol*) for *International Police*, but should be distinguished from portmanteau words. They are usually written in lower case, sometimes starting with a capital letter, and are always pronounced as words rather than letter by letter.

Syllabic abbreviations are preferred by the U.S. Navy as it increases readability amidst the larger number of initialisms that would otherwise have to fit into the same acronyms. Hence *DESRON 6* is used (in the full capital

form) to mean "*Destroyer Squadron 6"* and *COMNAVAIRLANT* means "*Commander, Naval Air Forces, Atlantic"* [3, p.142].

Clipping is a type of word-building shortening of spoken words. Shortening consists in the reduction of a word to one of its parts, as a result of which the new form acquires some linguistic value of its own. The part retained does not change phonetically, hence the necessity of spelling changes, e.g., *double – dub, microphone – mike, tranquilizer – trank*. Notice that the short form or clipping represents the word in its entirety; however, that fragment does not have to be the salient part of the original word, neither prosodically nor semantically. Also, the clipping may not be used to refer to academic examinations or test, not to medical examinations or check-ups [3, p.46].

Acronyms are abbreviated words formed from the initial letters of word-combination; the abbreviated written form lends itself to be read as though, it were an ordinary English word and sounds like an English word According to Quirk there are two main types of acronyms, namely:

Acronyms which are pronounced as a word; e.g. *NATO/neitou/ The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, UNO United Nations Organization, SALT /solt/ – Strategic Arms Limitation Talks.*

Blending is the process whereby new words are formed by combining parts of two words, usually the beginning of one word and the end of another. For example, smog (smoke + fog), heliport (helicopter + airport), motel (motor + hotel), FORTRAN (formula translation) etc.

Truncation. This type of abbreviation consists only of the first part of a word. These are most often used when referring to proper titles such as months of the year or days of the week, and the full word is pronounced. E.g., Mon., Fri., Apr., Oct. [2, p. 95].

Each of the abbreviation mentioned above is important because they are different by their form or pronunciation, graphic image, semantics. For a translator/journalist to write coherently and correctly is vital, that is why this theory is very useful for those who work in this domain.

References:

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Recomandat
Svetlana CORCODEL, lector superior