

MODERN TRENDS IN ABBREVIATION IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Abstract: This article offers a thorough examination of contemporary English and Uzbek abbreviation trends. The study focuses on the linguistic purposes of abbreviations, their structural forms, and their employment in modern communication. The impact of technology advancement, digital communication, and globalization is given particular attention. According to the study, English serves as the main source of models for abbreviations, which are then adopted and modified inside the Uzbek language system. The results show that abbreviation is a reflection of social and cultural change in addition to being a language phenomena.

Key words: abbreviation, acronym, initialism, clipping, blending, shortening, English language, Uzbek language.

Introduction

One of the main factors influencing linguistic evolution is language economics. Speakers have an innate tendency to communicate with little effort while yet being clear. One of the most effective applications of this idea is abbreviation. According to Cannon, abbreviations are essential tools that increase communicative efficiency and reduce redundancy [4, p.12]. Abbreviations are become incredibly common in modern English, especially in the scientific, technological, and digital fields. The demand for shorter language forms has increased due to the quick development of communication technologies. Crystal emphasizes that the emergence of the internet has led to the creation of entirely new forms of abbreviated communication [5, p.89].

The Uzbek language has experienced substantial linguistic change, particularly in the years following the independence. The development of Uzbek abbreviation systems has been driven by the impact of globalization and increased exposure to English. These days, media, education, and daily communication all make use of abbreviations.

Additionally, word-formation processes and abbreviation are strongly related. As Bauer notes, abbreviation should be considered an integral part of the broader system of lexical innovation [3, p.102].

This study aims to categorize different forms of abbreviations, analyze current trends in English and Uzbek, and investigate their sociolinguistic and functional significance.

Methods

The current work uses the mix of linguistic research techniques. The comparative analysis was applied to determine similarities and differences between English and Uzbek abbreviatory systems. The descriptive approach was used to describe and categorize forms of abbreviations. The structural analysis helped to analyze how abbreviations are formed. The contextual analysis was also applied to investigate use in occasions communication. The linguistic theory grounded in existing literature on linguistics.

Plag emphasizes that processes of word-formation, such as the abbreviation, rely on regular systemic rules, and are not constructed randomly [9, p.121]. Equally, Aronoff and

Fudeman hold that morphological processes represent the underlying cognitive mechanism [2, p.45].

The research relies on the theoretical material and recent examples in the field of spoken and written communication.

Results

An English abbreviation system is highly developed and productive, which is an important part of modern communication. Abbreviation is regarded as one of the most effective word-formation mechanisms because it enables speakers to express complex data in less and more economical way. Bauer argues that abbreviation is actively involved in lexical growth and is indicative of the law of linguistic economy [3, p.102].

The fact that abbreviations in English are formed in a structural diversity demonstrates that they are not arbitrary constructions but consist of certain patterns and laws. According to Plag, abbreviation is a systematic operation that follows morphological and phonological restrictions [9, p.122]. The analysis demonstrates that modern English is consists of several main types of abbreviations.

Acronyms

Acronyms are short words that consist of the first letters of a multi-word phrase and sound like one word. They are found particularly in the scientific, technical, and institutional use. Examples include:

NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration).

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

Acronyms are treated as independent lexical units and they tend to be completely absorbed into the language. Speakers in most situations may not even know their original expanded forms. An example is the word laser (Light Amplification by the Stimulated Emission of Radiation), which is now completely lexicalized and is no longer understood as an abbreviation.

According to Cannon, such use of acronym is especially fruitful in technical fields like science, technology, and government organizations, where long terms of language must be abbreviated to be useful [4, p.78]. Also, Crystal identifies that acronyms make professional communication more efficient as they decrease repetition and complexity [5, p.210].

Initialisms

Initialisms are related to acronyms in the sense that they are constituted by the first letters of a phrase, but contrary to acronyms, they are to be pronounced in letters. For example, USA (United States of America), BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation).

Formal, official and institutional communication heavily rely on initialisms. They are common especially in media, government, and academic circles. Quirk et al. state that initialism is one of the main characteristics of present-day written English, particularly in formal style [10, p.158].

In contrast to acronyms, initialisms usually never lose touch to the original, and speakers usually know what they signify. Besides, they have less chances to get completely lexicalized than acronyms.

Clipping

Clipping is the shortening of a longer word in meaning without its alteration or grammatical type. It is considered to be one of the most widespread abbreviations in the colloquial language. For example, advertisement → ad, laboratory → lab.

Clipping is especially common in an informal language and is common in oral communication often employed by younger people. On the one hand, Plag reminds that it is a characteristic of modern English to be concise and informal [9, p.133].

There are various types of clipping:

Fore-clipping: deleting the word head: telephone → phone.

Back-clipping: deleting the end of the word: examination → exam.

Middle clipping: the elimination of the middle part: influenza → flu.

Adams also notes that clipped forms usually do coexist with the full forms, but they can also gradually replace them in daily use because of convenience [1, p.59].

Blending

Blending is a meaning-making procedure that involves uniting elements of two (or more) words to form a novel lexical entity. It is abbreviated and imaginative. Examples include: brunch (breakfast + lunch), smog (smoke + fog).

Blends are common mostly in modern English and usually used to characterize new concepts, mainly in popular culture and in the media. As Bauer argues, blending is an indicator of both volatility and creativity in the creation of an English vocabulary [3, p.234]. Blending is not the same with compounding as words are not combined full-scale, but the particles. People usually relate it to casual and innovative use of language.

Graphical Abbreviations

Graphical abbreviations represent abridged forms which are mainly used in writing. They do not necessarily sound as abbreviations in the oral speech but are extended in the oral language. For example, Dr. (Doctor), etc. (et cetera).

These short forms prove to be more common in academic writing, official documents, and printed texts. According to Quirk, graphical abbreviations are significant in terms of written speech being extremely economical and repetition-free [10, p.158].

Crystal also mentions that these abbreviations belong to standard writing systems and that these abbreviations tend to be standardized across the various types of the English language [5, p.216].

Abbreviation in the Uzbek language has grown a lot in decades. This happened after independence. When there were changes in society, politics, economy and technology new words started appearing. The influence of globalization and Uzbekistan's integration into communication sped up the creation of abbreviations. An Uzbek linguist, Sh. Rahmatullayev says that Uzbek language gets words not just from within but also from borrowing and abbreviation. These changes show what people need to communicate today [11, 85 b.]. Another linguist, A. Hojiyev notes that abbreviations in Uzbek are becoming more common and organized. This is especially true in technical areas [12, 112 b.],

Institutional Abbreviations

Institutional abbreviations are a standard type of abbreviation in Uzbek. They are used a lot in government, education and media. Some examples are:

O'zMU (O'zbekiston Milliy Universiteti)

TATU (Toshkent Axborot Texnologiyalari Universiteti)

OAV (ommaviy axborot vositalari)

These abbreviations work like fixed words which can be used in both writing and speaking. They help make language shorter by replacing names of institutions.

According to O'Grady institutional abbreviations are typical in organizational communication. This is where being clear and brief is very important.

Uzbek linguists also say that such abbreviations often become widely known and used across society. They are used a lot, in life. People use them to talk about institutions [12, 115 b.].

Borrowed Abbreviations

Borrowed abbreviations are becoming really common in Uzbek. This is because English is used around the world so many abbreviations are just used as they are without being translated. For example, IT which stands for Information Technology. GDP, which stands for Gross Domestic Product. SMM, which stands for Social Media Marketing. These borrowed abbreviations are especially common in areas like economics and technology and business. They show how much global communication and international terminology are influencing the language.

O'Grady says that this usually happens in areas where new ideas are coming up faster than the language can create its words for them. In Uzbek language studies this is seen as a part of making the language more modern.

At the time some scholars think that too many borrowed abbreviations are being used and they think it would be better to create Uzbek equivalents [12, 118 b.].

Phonetic Adaptation

When Uzbek people use borrowed abbreviations they often change them to fit the way the language sounds. For example: IT is often said as ayti when people talk. SMS is often said as es-em-es. This shows that borrowed words are not just added to the language they are actually changed to fit in.

Aronoff and Fudeman say that this is because of how the sounds and structure of the language work when different languages meet [2, p.97]. Uzbek language scholars also say that changing the pronunciation helps people use words more naturally in everyday talk [11, 92 b.].

Informal Abbreviations

Informal abbreviations are used a lot in everyday conversations especially when people are texting or using the internet. For example, in Uzbek “rax”, which's short for “rahmat”. “bln”, which is short for “bilan”. “kk”, which is short for “kerak”.

These are typical of the way young people talk and they are influenced by how fast and easy they are to use. They are not usually used in writing. According to Crystal informal abbreviations are a part of modern communication especially, on the internet. Uzbek researchers also say that these forms show how young people are simplifying and making their language more expressive [12, 120 b.].

Abbreviations in Digital Communication

The use of abbreviations has changed dramatically because of the digital communication. The appearance of the internet, social media, and instant messaging have formed new linguistic rules.

Crystal presents so-called netspeak that can be defined as a mixture of spoken and written language [4, p.51]. The priorities of this new type of communication are speed, brevity and expressiveness. Examples in English:

LOL (laugh out loud)

OMG (oh my God)

BTW (by the way)

Examples in Uzbek: ok, rax, gy (gap yo'q)

Digital abbreviations can be characterized by inventive spelling, abbreviation vowels, and language mixed. This effect will denote the dynamic character of contemporary communication.

Crystal states that digital environments promote linguistic innovativeness and experimentation, in particular, among younger users [3, p.214].

Discussion

Both the English and Uzbek abbreviation systems have similarities and distinctions, according to the comparative investigation. English has a very sophisticated and useful system of abbreviations. Additionally, it generates new forms and exports them all over the world. In contrast, Uzbek, which is undergoing rapid development, embraces these forms. The prevalence of English abbreviations in Uzbek, particularly in technical and professional domains, is one significant development. This illustrates English's standing in the world.

The use of informal abbreviations in digital communication is another trend. Similar tendencies can be seen in both languages, such as code-switching, mixing, and shortening. However, by modifying acquired forms to fit its phonetic and grammatical system, Uzbek preserves its linguistic identity. Marchand emphasizes that such processes are natural in language evolution [7, p.45].

Conclusion

In conclusion, abbreviation is a highly productive and dynamic process in modern linguistics, reflecting the principle of language economy by enabling efficient yet clear communication. In English, it has developed into a structured system, including acronyms, initialisms, clippings, blends and graphical forms, widely used across fields such as science, technology, media and daily interaction.

In contrast, Uzbek abbreviation is still developing but has expanded rapidly due to globalization, technological growth, and English influence. Uzbek effectively borrows and adapts foreign abbreviations while maintaining its linguistic identity.

Comparative analysis shows both languages share trends such as increased use of shortened forms in digital communication and a preference for brevity and informality. However, English remains the primary source of new abbreviations, while Uzbek plays a more adaptive role. Overall, abbreviation reflects broader social, cultural and technological changes, as well as factors like age, profession, and communication context.

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