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Abstract: *Abbreviations constitute a significantly salient part of any scientific discipline and hence scientific language of our modern age. Only recently the world has witnessed an unprecedented expansion of learning and science and that a hell of countless and a whole system of naming or nomenclature is needed to produce the proper naming taxonomy. Hence, many words and terms have been utilized to express the newly emerging concepts. Many of them are compound phrases and high-frequency terms, and if we use them as they are, our speech and writing become very lengthy and boring. That is why people prefer the short forms (abbreviations) for frequently used compound phrases.*

Keywords: *abbreviation, scientific names, nomenclature, expansion of learning.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The foremost rationale behind the creation and use of abbreviations is to save time and reduce the volume of speech and writing to facilitate engineers' communication. The other intention is the explicitness, fluency, and beauty of our speech and writing. Any method, which can help us to achieve these goals, is acceptable. Abbreviations contribute to faster writing, reading, speaking, and better understanding of technical and scientific articles, reports, and lectures. They can save time and money by reducing the time and cost of writing, typing, editing, and composition resetting costs. They also reduce the space required for texts, tables, and diagrams. Therefore, they are very good tools to enhance any live and dynamic language.

The words of the English and other European languages comprise a few special characters implying distinct technical meanings, such as for wavelength or for phase. In these languages, abbreviations play a similar role, but each of them implies the meaning of a "phrase" instead of a "word." Thus, they can be considered as the elements of that language and are treated like the original words. Sometimes, the short form of a phrase is more common than that of its original form because they are very proper and effective tools for communication. In most languages, especially in English, coining abbreviations is a common practice and most of the high-frequency compound terms are used in short forms. For this reason, the abbreviations of a language are considered as "a language within that language", and from the socio-linguistic point of view, they are comparable with a "dialect." Therefore, utilization of abbreviations is inevitable and it is a wise decision to take action for their standardization.

2. ACRONYM

An acronym is a pronounceable word formed from the first letter or first few letters of each word in a phrase or title. Sometimes the newly-combined letters create a new word that takes the place in everyday language. Using this shortened form of a word or phrase can speed up communication. Here is a list of common acronyms, listed by category.

Some of these acronyms are very widely used, making them some of the most popular to appear in the English language.

- RADAR - **R**adio **d**etecting and **r**anging
- LASER - **L**ight **a**mplification by the **s**timulated **e**mission of **r**adiation.
- NATO - The **N**orth **A**tlantic **T**reaty **O**rganization.
- UNICEF - The **U**nited **N**ations **I**nternational **C**hildren's **E**mergency **F**und.

- SCUBA - Self-contained underwater breathing apparatus.
- WASP - White Anglo Saxon Protestant.

According to *Wikipedia* there are no universal standards of the multiple names for such abbreviations and of their orthographic styling. In English and most other languages, such abbreviations historically had limited use, but they became much more common in the 20th century. Acronyms are a type of word formation process, and they are viewed as a subtype of blending.

Certainly an abbreviation is any type of shortened form, such as words with the middle omitted (for example, *Rd* for *road* or *Dr* for *Doctor*), an acronym is a word formed from the first letter or first few letters of each word in a phrase (such as *sonar*, created from *sound navigation and ranging*). Attestations for *Akronym* in German are known from 1921, and for *acronym* in English from 1940.

The distinction is not well-maintained. According to *Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of English Usage*: "A number of commentators ... believe that acronyms can be differentiated from other abbreviations in being pronounceable as words. Dictionaries, however, do not make this distinction because writers in general do not. ... *Initialism*, an older word than *acronym*, seems to be too little known to the general public to serve as the customary term standing in contrast with *acronym* in a narrow sense." About the use of *acronym* to only mean those pronounced as words, *Fowler's Modern English Usage* (3rd ed.) states: "The limitations of the term being not widely known to the general public, *acronym* is also often applied to abbreviations that are familiar but are not pronounceable as words. ... Such terms are also called *initialisms*."

There is no special term for abbreviations whose pronunciation involves the combination of letter names and words or word-like pronunciations of strings of letters, such as *JPEG* /'dʒeɪpeɪdʒ/ and *MS-DOS* /,ɛməs'dɒs/. There is also some disagreement as to what to call abbreviations that some speakers pronounce as letters and others pronounce as a word. For example, the terms *URL* and *IRA* can be pronounced as individual letters: /,ju:,ɑ:r'el/ and /,ɑɪ,ɑ:r'ei/, respectively; or as a single word: /'z:rl/ and /'ɑɪərə/, respectively.

3. ACRONYMS VIEWED FROM A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Like metonymy, acronymy is a linguistic process that has existed throughout history but for which there was little to no naming, conscious attention, or systematic analysis until relatively recent times. Like metonymy, it became much more common in the 20th century than it had formerly been. Ancient examples of acronymy (regardless of whether there was metalanguage at the time to describe it) include the following:

(i) Acronyms were used in Rome before the Christian era. For example, the official name for the Roman Empire, and the Republic before it, was abbreviated as *SPQR* (*Senatus Populusque Romanus*). Inscriptions dating from antiquity, both on stone and on coins, use a lot of abbreviations and acronyms to save room and work. For example, Roman first names, of which there was only a small set, were almost always abbreviated. Common terms were abbreviated too, such as writing just "F" for *filius*, meaning "son of", a very common part of memorial inscriptions mentioning people. Grammatical markers were abbreviated or left out entirely if they could be inferred from the rest of the text.

4. ABBREVIATIONS: HISTORICAL REVIEW

Abbreviations have a long history, created so that spelling out a whole word could be avoided. This might be done to save time and space, and also to provide secrecy. Shortened words were used and initial letters were commonly used to represent words in specific applications. In classical Greece and Rome, the reduction of words to single letters was common. In Roman inscriptions, "Words were commonly abbreviated by using the initial letter or letters of words, and most inscriptions have at least one abbreviation." However, "some could have more than one meaning, depending on their context. (For example, *A* can be an abbreviation for many words, such as *ager*, *amicus*, *annus*, *as*, *Aulus*, *Aurelius*, *aurum* and *avus*.)

Abbreviations in English were frequently used from its earliest days. Manuscripts of copies of the old English poem *Beowulf* used many abbreviations, for example 7 or & for *and*, and y for *since*, so that

"not much space is wasted". The standardisation of English in the 15th through 17th centuries included such a growth in the use of abbreviations. At first, abbreviations were sometimes represented with various suspension signs, not only periods. For example, sequences like <er> were replaced with <Ϸ>, as in <mastϷ> for *master* and <exacϷbate> for *exacerbate*. While this may seem trivial, it was symptomatic of an attempt by people manually reproducing academic texts to reduce the copy time. An example from the Oxford University Register, 1503:

MastϷ subwardenϷ y Ϸmēde me to you. And wherϷ y wrot to you the last wyke that y trouyde itt good to differrϷ thelectionϷ ovϷ to quīdenaϷ tinitatis y have be thought me synϷ that itt woll be thenϷ a bowte mydsomϷ.

The Early Modern English period, between the 15th and 17th centuries, had abbreviations like *y^e* for *p^e*, used for the word *the*: "hence, by later misunderstanding, Ye Olde Tea Shoppe."

During the growth of philological linguistic theory in academic Britain, abbreviating became very fashionable. The use of abbreviation for the names of J. R. R. Tolkien and his friend C. S. Lewis, and other members of the Oxford literary group known as the Inklings, are sometimes cited as symptomatic of this. Likewise, a century earlier in Boston, a fad of abbreviation started that swept the United States, with the globally popular term OK generally credited as a remnant of its influence.

After World War II, the British greatly reduced the use of the full stop and other punctuation points after abbreviations in at least semi-formal writing, while the Americans more readily kept such use until more recently, and still maintain it more than Britons. The classic example, considered by their American counterparts quite curious, was the maintenance of the internal comma in a British organization of secret agents called the "Special Operations, Executive"—"S.O.,E"—which is not found in histories written after about 1960.

But before that, many Britons were more scrupulous at maintaining the French form. In French, the period only follows an abbreviation if the last letter in the abbreviation is *not* the last letter of its antecedent: "M." is the abbreviation for "monsieur" while "Mme" is that for "madame". Like many other cross-channel linguistic acquisitions, many Britons readily took this up and followed this rule themselves, while the Americans took a simpler rule and applied it rigorously.

Over the years, however, the lack of convention in some style guides has made it difficult to determine which two-word abbreviations should be abbreviated with periods and which should not. The U.S. media tend to use periods in two-word abbreviations like United States (U.S.), but not personal computer (PC) or television (TV). Many British publications have gradually done away with the use of periods in abbreviations.

Minimization of punctuation in typewritten material became economically desirable in the 1960s and 1970s for the many users of carbon-film ribbons since a period or comma consumed the same length of non-reusable expensive ribbon as did a capital letter.

Widespread use of electronic communication through mobile phones and the Internet during the 1990s allowed for a marked rise in colloquial abbreviation. This was due largely to increasing popularity of textual communication services such as instant- and text messaging. SMS, for instance, supports message lengths of 160 characters at most (using the GSM 03.38 character set). This brevity gave rise to an informal abbreviation scheme sometimes called Textese, with which 10% or more of the words in a typical SMS message are abbreviated.^[9] More recently Twitter, a popular social networking service, began driving abbreviation use with 140 character message limits.

5. MODERN ENGLISH STYLE

In modern English, there are several conventions for abbreviations, and the choice may be confusing. The only rule universally accepted is that one should be *consistent*, and to make this easier, publishers express their preferences in a style guide. Questions which arise include those in the following subsections.

If the original word was capitalized then the first letter of its abbreviation should retain the capital, for example Lev. for *Leviticus*. When a word is abbreviated to more than a single letter and was originally

spelled with lower case letters then there is no need for capitalization. However, when abbreviating a phrase where only the first letter of each word is taken, then all letters should be capitalized, as in YTD for *year-to-date*, PCB for *printed circuit board* and FYI for *for your information*. However, see the following section regarding abbreviations that have become common vocabulary: these are no longer written with capital letters.

Example	Category	Short form	Source
Doctor	Contraction	Dr	D—r
Professor	Abbreviation	Prof.	Prof...
The Reverend	Abbreviation	Rev.	Rev...
The Reverend	Contraction	Revd	Rev—d
The Right Honourable	Contraction and Abbreviation	Rt Hon.	R—t Hon...

In American English, the period is usually included regardless of whether or not it is a contraction, e.g. *Dr.* or *Mrs.*. In some cases, periods are optional, as in either *US* or *U.S.* for *United States*, *EU* or *E.U.* for *European Union*, and *UN* or *U.N.* for *United Nations*. There are some house styles, however—American ones included—that remove the periods from almost all abbreviations. For example:

- The U.S. Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices advises that periods should not be used with abbreviations on road signs, except for cardinal directions as part of a destination name. (For example, "*Northwest Blvd*", "*W. Jefferson*", and "*PED XING*" all follow this recommendation.)
- AMA style, used in many medical journals, uses no periods in abbreviations or acronyms, with almost no exceptions. Thus eg, ie, vs, et al., Dr, Mr, MRI, ICU, and hundreds of others contain no periods. The only exceptions are "No." (to avoid the appearance of "No"); initials within persons' names (such as "George R. Smith"); and "St." within persons' names when the person prefers it (such as "Emily R. St. Clair") (but not in city names such as *St Louis* or *St Paul*). (AMA style also forgoes italic on terms long since naturalized into English from Latin, New Latin, other languages, or ISV; thus, no italic for eg, ie, vs, et al., in vivo, in vitro, or in situ.)

6. CONCLUSION

Acronyms that were originally capitalized (with or without periods) but have since entered the vocabulary as generic words are no longer written with capital letters nor with any periods. Examples are sonar, radar, lidar, laser, snafu, and scuba.

Today, spaces are generally not used between single-letter abbreviations of words in the same phrase, so one almost never encounters "U. S."

When an abbreviation appears at the end of a sentence, only one period is used: *The capital of the United States is Washington, D.C*

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