

STRUCTURAL-SEMANTIC FEATURES OF ABBREVIATIONS IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

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Abstract

This article highlights the intricate ways in which abbreviations function across different languages, emphasizing the importance of structural and semantic considerations in their formation and use. Further research could explore the evolution of abbreviations in digital communication and their impact on language change.

Keywords: linguistic, communication, semantic, abbreviations, dynamic, component.

Introduction

Abbreviations are a common linguistic phenomenon in many languages, serving as a means of reducing the length of commonly used expressions while maintaining their meaning. This article explores the structural and semantic features of abbreviations across different languages, examining how these features vary depending on linguistic and cultural contexts. By analyzing a range of examples from English, Russian, Chinese, and other languages, this study highlights the universal principles and unique characteristics of abbreviation formation and usage.

Abbreviations are an integral part of linguistic communication, providing efficiency and convenience in both written and spoken language. They can take various forms, including acronyms, initialisms, and clippings, each with distinct structural and semantic properties. Understanding the formation and usage of abbreviations across languages offers insights into linguistic economy, cultural influences, and communication strategies.

Structural Features of Abbreviations

The structure of abbreviations can vary significantly between languages. Key types include:

1. **Acronyms:** Formed from the initial letters of a phrase and pronounced as a word (e.g., NATO for North Atlantic Treaty Organization).
2. **Initialisms:** Similar to acronyms but pronounced as individual letters (e.g., BBC for British Broadcasting Corporation).
3. **Clippings:** Shortened forms of words (e.g., 'doc' from 'doctor').

Each type of abbreviation serves different functional purposes and follows specific linguistic rules.



English

In English, acronyms and initialisms are prevalent. Acronyms often transform into commonly accepted words (e.g., 'laser' from 'light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation'). Initialisms like 'FBI' retain their individual letter pronunciations.

Russian

Russian abbreviations frequently involve truncating parts of words and combining them (e.g., 'ВУЗ' (VUZ) from 'высшее учебное заведение' meaning 'higher educational institution'). This method reflects the language's morphological complexity.

Chinese

Chinese abbreviations often use the first characters of multi-character words or phrases. For instance, '北京大学' (Beijing Daxue) becomes '北大' (Beida). The use of characters rather than letters influences abbreviation strategies.

Semantic Features of Abbreviations

Semantically, abbreviations can simplify complex concepts or represent specific cultural and contextual meanings. Their interpretation depends on shared knowledge and usage frequency within a linguistic community.

Contextual Semantics

In some languages, abbreviations acquire additional meanings beyond their original forms. For example, 'PIN' (personal identification number) has become synonymous with security in digital transactions.

Cultural Influence

Cultural context significantly impacts abbreviation usage. In Japanese, abbreviations like 'OL' (office lady) reflect societal roles and perceptions, highlighting how language mirrors cultural norms.

Comparative Analysis

By comparing abbreviations across languages, we observe both universal tendencies and unique adaptations:

- **Universal Tendencies:** Efficiency in communication is a common goal, leading to similar structural forms like acronyms and initialisms across different languages.
- **Unique Adaptations:** Languages with non-alphabetic scripts, like Chinese, employ abbreviation strategies that differ fundamentally from alphabetic languages, reflecting their unique orthographic systems.



Conclusion

Abbreviations are a dynamic component of linguistic systems, shaped by structural rules and semantic needs. Their study across different languages reveals both shared principles of linguistic economy and distinct cultural influences. Understanding these features enhances our appreciation of language's adaptability and the interplay between form and meaning in communication.

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