

**PECULIARITIES OF ABRIDGED LEXICAL UNITS
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Scopul lucrării este de a familiariza studenții și profesorii filologi cu un fenomen social-lingvistic extraordinar – de abreviere în masă a unităților lexicale. Acest fenomen necesită a fi reflectat mai detaliat în procesul de studii, însoțit de analiza motivației extralingvistice ce a determinat formarea a peste 500 000 de abreviații în ultimii 50 de ani. Abrevierea unităților lexicale și sintactice a fost folosită din timpurile străvechi. Însă, în sec.XX-XXI, în rezultatul accelerării progresului societății umane în toate domeniile de activitate, volumul de informație a crescut. Sunt folosite metode noi de cercetare și studiere a vocabularului, de procesare a informației abundente care se transmite prin diferite mijloace vorbitorilor de limbă. În a doua jumătate a secolului XX și la începutul secolului XXI acronimele, inițialismele și prescurtările de cuvinte au pătruns în toate sferile activității umane. Problemele sociale, politice, de ordin național și internațional, tot ce este legat de existența omului sunt afectate de acest fenomen sociolingvistic. Importanța abrevierilor în procesul de comunicare este incontestabilă. Începând cu anul 1961, realitatea lingvistică impune necesitatea publicării dicționarelor specializate, consacrate unei noi avalanșe de neologisme, resuscitate și perfecționate – abrevierile, în general, acronimele și inițialismele în special, fapt confirmat și de denumirea dicționarelor: „Acronyms and Initialism Dictionary”. În jumătatea a doua a secolului XX formarea a sute de mii de acronime, inițialisme și prescurtări a condiționat apariția regulată a dicționarelor specializate în acest domeniu. În articol se întreprinde o analiză a acestui proces lexicografic și social-lingvistic ce ține de cursul teoretic „Lexicologia limbii engleze contemporane”. Vertiginos s-a mărit numărul lexemelor prescurtate, abreviate și fuzionate, inclusiv al celor potențiale, create în limba engleză, care ating cifra impunătoare de peste jumătate de milion. În unele stiluri funcționale acronimele sunt regulat și intenționat folosite cu o conotație stilistică. Acronimele folosite în denumirile unor instituții, organizații, societăți etc. pot fi create cu scopul de a atrage atenția și a produce un impact emoțional asupra vorbitorilor de limbă. Denumirea abreviată a unei organizații, instituții, mișcări social-politice poate contribui la succesul și prosperitatea ei. Este evident caracterul subiectiv în crearea abrevierilor și prescurtărilor noi în politică, economie, în diverse activități sociale. Apar tot mai multe unități lexicale abreviate sau prescurtate la modă. Pentru consumatori este important ca așa unități metalingvistice să fie joviale, eufonice, asociate cu forme și nume bine cunoscute. De menționat că multe abrevieri sunt activ împrumutate sau traduse din engleză în alte limbi (NATO, UNESCO, FORTRAN, laser, radar, VIP, SIDA etc.). Există și abrevieri create în Moldova (AȘM, UnAȘM, ASEM, USEM, ULIM, TOPAZ, MOLDTELECOM etc.).

Social-Linguistic Lexicological Phenomenon. The language is the most mobile and flexible of social factors reflecting the current development of the society. The linguistic change and innovation are extremely rapid; the creation of new lexical units is so impetuous, that the speaker often has to violate ingeniously the established and recognized norms, which seemed to be the pillars of the human language. Various types of abridgements, which were considered as minor word building means, now surpass quantitatively many other classic procedures of renovation of the vocabulary. The rapid progress of humankind in the field of science and technology impose the creation of new notions and linguistic forms to describe them. The abundance of advertising messages, literary works, and various kinds of information, is flooding the language, the speakers try to single them out and distinguish their meanings, imposed by the expressivity of style and freshness of the vocabulary, attracting the information consumer, enhance his or her interest by the novelty of ideas and linguistic forms. Advertising is manifesting itself as being inventive and creative, using all possible lexical innovations. Modern languages are subject to two contrary tendencies: improvement of means of speech, where linguists are engaged in the standardization of the elements of word-building of a given language, supporting the ways of diversification and renovation of suggestive and emotional possibilities of language expressivity. The second tendency is the principle of discourse economy, a linguistic phenomenon which implies the reduction of linguistic units to the minimal space and time dimensions of the presented text, pragmatic exigency characteristic to modern times. The existing level of political and economic development requires the use of more compact lexical units to express a greater volume of information. There is a constant stream of curtailed or abridged specific metalinguistic units, easy to use, having a pragmatic character, helping to express as much information in as little space and time possible. Abbreviations, shortenings and blendings

are used to codify linguistic information in order to optimize communication. The accelerating development of science and technology, economy, business, etc. brought to the creation of hundreds of thousands of compact linguistic signs in order to cope with the huge amount of information to be communicated. The abridged units have become an efficient means of stocking and communicating a considerable volume of information in a concise way without any meaning losses. This compression of the expression plane has become extremely economical. All the languages have started to use borrowed or native compact units. An international vocabulary is continuously being replenished (most of the units at the moment are coming from English) in the majority of the existing languages, including abbreviated and curtailed ones, in order to improve communication.

Thus, the well known example, instead of "Machine Aided Notification Dissemination and Retrieval of Information" the mass media names an apparatus with the name of MANDARIN, which being decoded expresses its main characteristic features. A new linguistic sign appears which in the period of pragmatism and economy is saving space and time. The influence at the state level, of some political, economic, military, business, market economy structures, linguistic organizations, has the result of including in the informational communication of a large number of specific metalinguistic units, laconic, easy to use, of pragmatic character, helping to express as much information in as little space and time possible. The new units have a maximum suppressed volume of their linguistic sign. We should make an attempt to find new facts to better understand the given linguistic phenomenon. They have made their way from the periphery of the language and have become one of the most productive means of word-building in various fields of human life, being part of specialized metalinguistic systems. The question asked by linguists is whether the acronym presents an independent linguistic sign or a compressed form of the component parts, still preserving their semantic plane. The classical linguists affirm that any change on the expression plane influence the change of the semantic structure and vice versa. A. Martiné affirms that any reduction of the form of a lexeme "est le signe de son emploi très fréquent dans le discours" [6, p.187].

The neology of abridged units. How long newly coined words or sub-meanings of existing lexemes should be considered as neologisms? This is a sociolinguistic factor. It depends on the tempo of development of this or that speaking community. The huge number of new technical terms in most fields of science and technology are assimilated. People get familiar with them much more rapidly in highly developed societies, where people have the knowledge and economic means to learn and use the latest inventions, wonders of the new technologies, scientific discoveries, machine and devices to be used in everyday activity. Thus, in the result of computerization such terms as e-mail, internet, modem, CD-ROM, world-web, DOS, UNIX, Windows, telnet, etc. for most people in highly developed countries like the USA, Great Britain, and so on, were considered to be neologisms for a short period of time at the end of the XXth century. The higher the tempo of development of a given country and society the shorter the period of time this or that term or sub-meaning of an existing word is considered to be a neologism. The slower the tempo of development of a speaking community the longer is the period of time a given word or meaning is assimilated and considered as a neologism. Such terms as television, TV set, radio, radio set, intervision, etc. were considered to be neologisms for a longer period of time even in countries with an advanced rhythm of development of science and technology, economy, culture, education, etc., because at that period of time the tempo of development was relatively slower in comparison with that of the end of the XXth century or beginning of the XXIst century. Besides, inside the speaking communities there are people with different possibilities and opportunities. Thus, in Republic of Moldova the terms e-mail, internet, modem, CD-ROM, world-web, zip, VCD, DVD, CDR, Netscape, CMC, etc. are considered as neologisms by a considerable number of people. But gradually more and more people get familiarized them. In some parts of the world you may find people who have never used a computer or even a simple phone, or TV set. It is not so simple of lexical units to cease to be neologisms, just as soon as they appear in dictionaries. The social linguistic factor is always there and should be taken into consideration. The innovations in the human society are a step towards progress and have the right to exist in case they are applied rationally in time and space and reflected in every day activity. To create new words and new meanings to the existing lexical units is a natural manifestation of linguistic competence of people, capable in a given situation to put forward new names referring to new realities. The speaker realizes this capacity using different resources of word building offered by the linguistic system. The language is the most mobile and the most flexible of social factors reflecting the development of a given society. The speed of linguistic change of lexical units, creation of neologisms is extremely rapid in highly developed societies. The process of formation of neologisms as new lexical units or in the framework of already existing words, using various linguistic

means, follows the existing laws. At the moment we observe a competition among the existing word-building forms, where various forms of abbreviations become the most productive means of formation of neologisms. The rapid evolution of science and technology cause the creation of new notions and ideas and forms to express them. The abundance of advertising messages, literary works, science fiction, informational technology, and many other fields of human activity contribute to the rapid growth of the word-stock. The speakers try to single out all the new lexical units, distinguish their meanings, imposed by the expressivity of style and freshness of the vocabulary, attracting the consumer of information, enhance his or her interest by the novelty of ideas and linguistic forms. Advertising is permanently manifesting itself as being inventive and creative, using all possible lexical specific units. At the same time modern languages are subject to two contrary tendencies: improvement of means of speech, where linguists are engaged in the standardization of the elements of word-building of a given language, supporting the ways of diversification and renovation of suggestive and emotional possibilities of language expressivity. The second tendency is the principle of discourse economy, a linguistic phenomenon which implies the reduction of linguistic units to the minimal space and time dimensions of the presented text, pragmatic exigency characteristic to modern times. Linguists started to look for procedures that would satisfy the two exigencies of formal contraction of form and condensation of the semantic content of the language. Attention is paid, first of all, to abbreviations, and all the cases of acronymisation. Some linguists consider them as completely different linguistic categories. Many points of view have been expressed lately in linguistic publications concerning the massive use of acronyms in written and oral communication. Scientists still wonder about their linguistic nature, their dissemination and function in all the languages of the world. Let's give some examples of various points of view of scientists in the field expressing their attitude towards the linguistic elements under discussion. Among them we can find purists, defending the classic language, and, linguists approving language innovations. Thus, Lopatnicova M. is against continuous intensive change of the vocabulary, stating the fact that the arbitrary formation of neologisms contradicts the essential function of the language as a means of communication [4]. Let's present some points of view of F.de Saussure's supporters on acronyms: "Un signe sans signifié ne peut être qu'un de set extérieur au système la langue! L'acronyme sur le plan sémantique dévie doublement du modèle du signe linguistique créé par le grand savant: d'une part son signifié ne correspond pas concept ou une image mentale stable dans la langue; d'autre part on ne peut définir sa valeur dans un système de signes" [4, p.24-25]. Structural semantics cannot approach it with the techniques and methods it has at the disposal. Some counterarguments of compromisers suggest to treat lexicology only from a practical point of view: "Sauf l'économie discursive grâce à ce qu'ils n'utilisent la me matière linguistique s'évite le surplus, la surproduction des unités lexicales encombrerait le tissu de la langue, leur mémorisation et leur emploi correcte dans processus de la communication et comme conclusion logique l'opinion l'acronymisation c'est un procédé avec une finalité bien déterminée même qui transgressent toutes théories linguistiques créées depuis des siècles". St. Ullmann also affirms that acronyms do not express notions, have no meaning, their function is not one of signification but one of identification, still he considers them as a means of linguistic communication [4, p.24-25]. P. Guiraud thinks that acronyms have nothing in common with abbreviations. The possibility and function of their mechanisms are radically opposite to the known linguistic units [4, p.24-25]. A. Martinet explains the problem in the following way: «La réduction de présentation formelle c'est une des causes de sa haute fréquence dans la parole (principe pragmatique) [6, p.187]. H. Marcuse thinks that "Ayant le sens truqué, alourdi mais une fois devenu vocable officiel, référence constamment dans l'usage général (national ou même international) et sanctionné les interlocuteurs... il perd toute valeur cognitive... sert simplement à foui l'information: SOS, NATO, USA" [5, p.119]. Important is that each created neologism should possess its form and meaning. Thus, some linguists consider the acronym a spontaneous and arbitrary creation which lacks semantic motivation. In this connection C.Hagège affirms: "Les hommes opère avec leur langue, la réinventent, la transforment, créant des catégories nouvelles se répartissent conformément à une certaine hiérarchie transgressant souvent les établies par la linguistique classique. Pour les formations en cause ça sera: Autant d'acronymes, autant d'étymons" [Ibidem]. Some scientist call them image-words, lexical units used to astonish and shock the reader. For example: ADAM – an acronym which has developed four homonyms. Coming across ADAM in the text the reader would intuitively evoke the name found in the Bible. In reality the present term ADAM covers in modern communication realities of the world economy. This example will deny the affirmations that the acronym can be viewed as a comparison, where we usually look for common or different qualities and characteristic features. The acronym can be considered with certain reserve as a kind of substitute used

for a well determined purpose. There are interminable debates among linguists concerning acronyms. One of the conclusions is that acronyms are not words in the classical point of view. They are a new kind of linguistic element as part of something new to change the theories of the past and introduce new ideas of well-known modern linguists. In acronyms the volume of the linguistic message is reduced to a simple unit. Each component of the acronym represents a certain lexical unit. But to a closer inspection we discover that acronyms gradually acquire characteristic features of usual lexical units: they may be polysemantic and homonymous, the same unit can be transformed from noun into adjective or even verb. Thus, LASER as a noun, laser beam (adjective), to lase (verb.). As an international term LASER is used in many languages as a simple lexical unit and not as a combination of initial letters of five words. Plenty of similar examples can be adduced. All the neologisms should be understood by the speaker as representing an extra linguistic reality, trying to define, in a certain way, the denoted object. Acronyms do not possess a motivation in the classical sense of the word. Its motivation is completely arbitrary, formal, determined by the possibility of combining certain letters in a euphonic ensemble denoting a certain referent. It is a referent of a well centered activity by a collective choosing a syntagm ensuring the denomination of a new created unit, proceed the research of the appellation, maximum reduced, as a form and possessing an extra-linguistic expressivity. This is a minute work of reduction, dislocation, suppression, etc. which allows the formation of a new communication element. The realization of a linguistic sign in the act of speech is the denomination of a reality which connects the significant to an extra-linguistic object or phenomenon recognized by the speakers. As neologisms are constantly being formed motivated by extra-linguistic causes we find out that the same acronym can serve different referents not only in one language, but also we can find homonymous referents in other languages as well. Acronymisation is created by specialists in order to reduce some lexical elements to a single unit, denoting an object, a political organization, and important extra-linguistic phenomena in the society. The new unit should possess certain qualities like euphony to attract the attention of the listeners; easily assimilated morphologically and syntactically, to be easily memorized, to possess expressivity to impress people in order to be easily kept in mind. One more point of view of some linguists is that acronymisation now is gradually isolating itself from abbreviation, which is the result of lexical, individual and personal creativity. The term abbreviation is used by some linguists to denote initialisms and all other possible forms of shortening of lexical units. Some linguists use the term abbreviation, which include both types of initialisms: those which can be read like a word and those which can not.

The stylistic expressive function of abridged lexical units. The rapid evolution of science and technology impose the creation of new notions and linguistic forms to describe them. The abundance of advertising messages, literary works, and various kinds of information is flooding the language, the speakers bravely try to single them out and distinguish their meanings, imposed by the expressivity of style and freshness of the vocabulary, attracting the information consumer, enhance his or her interest by the novelty of ideas and linguistic forms. Advertising is permanently manifesting itself as being inventive and creative, using all possible lexical innovations. At the same time modern languages are subject to two contrary tendencies: improvement of means of speech, where linguists are engaged in the standardization of the elements of word-building of a given language, supporting the ways of diversification and renovation of suggestive and emotional possibilities of language expressivity. The second tendency is the principle of discourse economy, a linguistic phenomenon which implies the reduction of linguistic units to the minimal space and time dimensions of the presented text, pragmatic exigency characteristic to modern times. Linguists have started to look for procedures that would satisfy the two exigencies of formal contraction of form and condensation of the semantic content of the language. We have already mentioned that the existing level of political and economic development requires the use of more compact lexical units to express a greater volume of information. There is a constant stream of curtailed or abridged specific metalinguistic units, easy to use, having a pragmatic character, helping to express as much information in as little space and time possible. Abbreviations (including acronyms and initialisms) and many other possible compound formations of theirs, alongside shortenings and blendings, are used to codify linguistic information in order to optimize communication. The accelerating development of science and technology, economy, business, etc. brought to the creation of hundreds of thousands of compact linguistic signs in order to cope with the huge amount of information to be communicated. Abbreviations, blendings and other abridged units have become an efficient means of efficient of communication and economical stocking of an impressing amount of information. The entire world started to actively use compact units in all the fields of activity. Borrowings from Latin get English names of the corresponding lexemes and may be pronounced with Latin words, English words or both English and Latin depending on the functional style of

the given register: e.g. (*exempli gratia*) - for example, a.m. - in formal register *ante meridiem* is used corresponding to the colloquial variant in the morning, the same in the case of p.m. – *post meridiem* / in the afternoon. Many initial abbreviations are read like separate words usually named acronyms (radar, laser, NATO), some of them may be read both way (VAT: Value added tax) – [vət] or [vi ei ti]). Very often we find hybrids of shortenings and abbreviations: CoSIRA (Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas). Blending or fusion, combining two or more shortened words or mixed forms of clipped and unclipped units. Other terms used are portmanteau word and telescoping. In modern English the number of fusions has radically increased. For example: smog (smoke + fog), brunch (breakfast + lunch), positron (positive + electron), and motel (motor-car + hotel), ballute (balloon + parachute), dawk (dove + hawk) There are other kinds of blends where the degree of blending is less obvious (glasphalt) and cases where the blending is very difficult to recognize the shortened elements of the lexical units: arcology = architectural ecology. People get used to them and start using only the abridged variant [7]. The evolution of acronyms and other abridged units in various functional styles often is accompanied by a metasemiotic usage of the codified combination of initialisms or other abridged units. In various sophisticated contexts they gradually start to acquire a stylistic connotation. Names of institutions, organizations, etc. may be chosen in order to sound more attractive and produce a strong emotional effect on people. The name of an organization, institution, or social-political movement can bring success and prosperity or, if the acronym is not attractive enough, it may be the cause of failure. That is why the subjective character in creating new abbreviations is increasing in the fields of politics, economy and in various social life activities. That is why more and more “elegant”, “fashionable” and “super” compressed units come into being. It is for the information of consumers that it is important to have something jovial, euphonic, recognizable in form, related to some well-known names, that would make the new appellation more superior, attractive, interesting and people would get eager to know more of the object or phenomenon in question. Do all the abridged units possess both denotational and connotational meanings, equivalent to the original component units? Do they lose or gain anything? In English we find the Latin origin e.g. (*exempli gratia*) and its equivalent *for example*. The Latin abbreviation e.g. in English is a stylistic synonym of *for example*. At the first sight one could think that abbreviations are void of denotational and connotational meanings. A closer inspection of the material does not support this possible point of view. There are plenty of acronyms homonymous to the existing units. They may be intentionally chosen in order to compress information and form certain metasemiotic associations. Having analyzed the existing dictionaries we have found out that homonymy of abbreviations, and especially of acronyms, is incredibly high. Some of them have more than a hundred homonymous lexical units (see PET) and may be used to provoke positive or some other connotations. Acronyms like *radar - radio detecting and ranging; laser - light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation* are used now as integrated lexemes in many languages of the world. Among acronyms there are quite a number of homonyms of proper and common names. They may function as personified metaphors, sometimes producing a humorous effect or making it sound as something very important. Thus, for example: ICARUS - Industrial Computer Applications, Retrieval and Utility Systems, HERMES - Higher Education Resource Materials: Evaluation and Services, EDGAR - Electronic Gathering, Analysis and Retrieval System (US). We have observed that the intentional use of this or that name is found in many cases, i.e. while abbreviating a certain combination of words, some of the elements are left aside in order to have an acronym identical to a given name. See, for instance, EDGAR. In case of DAISY (1. Dairy Information System (Reading University-GB), 2. Decision-Aiding Information System (University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Finance and Commerce - US). DAISY(Daisy) – Druckindustrie – Abrechnungs - und Informations -System;) [2] both in English and German the letters SY do not represent two different words; they are part of the word system. We find many acronymic names, which do not always consist of pure initial letters. In order to get an attractive appellation the authors contribute to the creation of a desired attractive and fashionable term that would be metasemiotically charged. The decoding of many proper noun homonymous abbreviations demonstrates the fact that they, in their turn, possess two or more homonymous meanings: ADAM - Advanced Data Management System (MITRE Corp. - US), Aid in Design and Evaluation of Data Management (IBM-US), Automatic Data Management System (US), Automatic Document Abstracting Method (Ohio State University - US), EMIE - Education Management Information Exchange (GB), Educational Media Institute Evaluation Project. Many acronyms have homonyms both in English and other foreign languages as well. Thus, MIDAS – has 11 homonyms in English and one in Polish [12]. Analysing acronyms like ORACLE, ORION, ADAM, AESOP, ARISTOTLE, AFRICA, BABILON, BEATRICE. CALLISTO.

CARL, CASTLE, CLEOPATRA, LOLITA, LORA. LOUISA, MINERVA, MINERVE, OLIVIA, CLARA, PATRICIA, SAM, EROS, ESOPE, EUCLIDE, FABIUS, FRANCIS, FRED, FREDDY, COSA NOSTRA, COSMOS, PARIS, LEEDS, ODESSA, PATRIC, PATRICIA, PEAR, PEARL, PENELOPE, PLATON, POTOMAC. RAPIDS, SINBAD, SIRIUS, SMART, SOCRATE, SOCRATES; SOFIA, SOKRATES, SOKRATUS, SOLAR, MARS, ORION, ASTRA, SPARTAN, DAISY; DAVID; DAVIS, DEVIL, DRAGON, EARL we observe well-known names found in the Bible, World Literature and World History, Natural Sciences, etc. Most people are familiar with all these appellations and the metasemiotic impact on them would be considerable. The use of common names homonymous equivalent acronyms can also be used to achieve a certain degree of expressivity and interest: CAR, INTIME, INFORMAL, INFER, INCLUDE, IMPRESS, IMPACT, HOST, HEN, IDEA, GOLD. MIDDLE, RAPID, SIMPLE, LION, TIGER, TIME, WISE, WISEDOM, EAGLE, PADRE, PAPA, KISS, JOVIAL, LAMP, KIWI, MAGIC, MEDIC, MAID, MALL, MANA, MASTER, MIRACL, MIRROR, MISS, NAME, ANTIDOTE, ANTILOPE, ART, ATLAS, AUDIT, CAPTAIN, CORRECT, PAPA, SAFARI, SALT, FAME, MANIAC. Cf. some examples with homonyms in Romanian: COPAC, COPACEL, APA, (18 homonyms) [1, 11, 12]. Many acronyms and initialisms have come to the point of not just representing a combination of words they gradually developed features of independent lexical units with new global meanings. Thus, for example, LASER -well known as *Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation* (there also such homonymous combinations as: *Learning Achievement through Saturated Educational Resources; London and South Eastern Library Region; Learning Achievement through Saturated Educational Resources*) may be used as a noun, adjective, verb: to lase - print some materials by using a laser printer; a laser aircraft - an aircraft with a laser engine, laser - in the meaning of quantum/laser amplifier, etc. [1]. We should reiterate the fact that in connection with the globalization and internationalization of metalinguistic systems many abridged lexical units become part of many languages of the world, where as a rule they are not viewed as abbreviations, in many cases they are used as simple lexemes, in many cases the meaning is modified. Here we can give examples like LASER, which in other languages is having semantic structures quite different from the original English one. As a rule *laser* is used as a simple lexical unit and it is used to form a multitude of word-combinations: *to lase* (генерировать когерентное оптическое излучение), also *laser printing*; laser - лазер, квантовый усилитель [1]. We could conclude that acronyms, like other abridged units, have been used in various functional styles often is accompanied by metasemiotic connotations. In various sophisticated contexts the abridged units gradually start to acquire a certain stylistic connotation. Names of institutions, organizations, etc. may be chosen in order to sound more attractive and produce a strong emotional impact on people. The name of an organization, institution, or social-political movement can bring success and prosperity or, if the acronym is not attractive enough, it may be the cause of failure. That is why the subjective character in creating new abbreviations is increasing in the fields of politics, economy, science and technology and in various social life activities. That is why more and more "elegant", "fashionable" and "super" compressed units come into being. It is for the information of consumers that is important to have something jovial, euphonic, recognizable in form, related to some well-known names, that would make the new appellation more superior, attractive, interesting and people would get eager to know more of the object, product or phenomenon in question.

Double compression abbreviations is a very good example of discourse economy: saving time, space and money. Practically *laser* in all the above given word combinations may be and is often re-abridged. Thus, in "Acronyms and Initialisms Dictionary", Michigan, 1998 we find: LIF - Laser Interference Filter; LFL - Laser Flash Lamp; LID - Laser Intrusion Detection; LIED - Laser Initiating Explosion Devise. In other dictionaries we can find some more (14): LMI - Laser Microfilming, Inc., LVIS - Laser View data Information Service. Thus, the acronym *laser* here is further compressed as a component part of new abbreviated lexical units [23]. More than 500 word combinations in the English technical terminology can appear in their abbreviated variants with the initial letter of LASER in them. In the field of lexicography we should pay special attention to the constantly changing terminology to avoid the confusion of scientific terminology in the publication of lexicographic dictionaries, regularly making a revision in order to actualize the neologisms, modifying the definitions, to respect exigency towards the proposed neologisms. We can sum up that the creation of abbreviated units and their metalanguage, the compiling of numerous dictionaries in the domain are part of a continuous social and linguistic phenomenon. Their creation and existence are due to the important function they have in communication. The increased productivity of all possible abbreviations and shortenings is caused by the accelerating tempo of development of the human society and the need to express the constantly

growing volume of information. We attest in dictionaries more than 500 new combinations with “laser”, many of them having equivalents in other foreign languages, the new terms can be abbreviated to initialisms, including acronyms, in various publications.

The same picture we find in Russian and many other languages, where the acronym LASER has turned into a simple word *laser* used mostly in technical terminology (borrowed from English) and in some local metalinguistic units. Analyzing the long list of the French examples we can observe that like in many other languages, the acronym or acronymic abbreviation LASER has developed a rich semantic structure and high combinability. 188 examples given above prove the fact that *laser* is mainly used attributively in numerous word-combinations connected with the domain of science and technology, the number of terms in the field of physics is prevailing. Only a limited number of specialists have a good idea of the term LASER being decoded as *Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation*. Even in English for most of the speakers, *laser* is considered a simple lexical unit being used in many word combinations. The same happens to other abbreviated words like *smog*, *positron*, etc. In other languages this kind of lexemes are often not classified as abbreviations, blendings, curtailings, etc. with certain meanings to be decoded. The necessity of simplification in the process of language communication and economic issues encourages the creation of as many simpler signs to be used in the main semiotic system. The very high tempo of development of science, technology, culture, etc., causes the corresponding tempo of development of the language, of new terminological systems, which then spread together with the export of respective goods and ideas from the highly developed countries to the developing ones. The advantage of English or French abridged units consists in the fact that they circulate social, cultural, civilization information on the international scale. The languages of developing countries possess relatively smaller word-stocks corresponding to their level of development and they readily borrow a multitude of words from languages, the speaking communities of which are among the dominant societies in the world from the political, economic, scientific, technical, military, cultural point of view.

The structures of acronyms. In case of initialisms we would expect them to correspond to their name – each word of the abridged combination to be represented by the initial letter of the component units, like in UNESCO, NATO, LAD (Library Administration Division). But in reality in many acronyms we find deviation from initial representation letters. In order, that the final unit should be read or pronounced like a specific name or ordinary word additional letters or syllables are added. Thus, in *radar* (Radio Detection and Ranging) we find *radio* represented by the syllable *Ra*, otherwise it would not be an acronym and be read like a word. In some cases some words would not be represented at all from the same reason: in LAMA - *Library Administration and Management Association* the conjunction is omitted, otherwise it would sound like LAAMA and would not be identical to the ordinary word *lama* existing in the language. The same phenomenon we observe in the acronym DOCTOR representing two homonyms: *Dictionary Operation and Control for Thesaurus Organization, Display Oriented Communication Tool for Online Retrieval* – the auxiliary words are omitted for the same reason, just to get a nice homonymous equivalent to the ordinary lexeme ‘doctor’. Various blendings are also read like words: *motel* (*motor car hotel*), *smog* (*smoke and fog*), *proton* (*positive electron*), *sitcom* (*situation comedy*) and are usually analyzed in a separate subgroup of abridged words: blendings (fusions, portmanteau words). We have already mentioned the case of double compression of abbreviations, like in case of *laser* there many other examples. Thus, in FACES (FORTRAN Automatic Code Evaluation System), FOS (FORTRAN Operating System), **FRUGAL** (Frugal) – (**FORTRAN** Rules Used as General Applications) we discover that F is the abbreviation of FORTRAN/Fortran which is a blending of *formulation translation*. While in case of INFOR (Information Network and File Organization; Information-Oriented Language; Information Processing and Operational Research; Institute for Nyttिंगgorade and Forsknings Results; Interactive FORTRAN) - in the last combination FORTRAN is represented not by F, but by FOR. All possible hybrids are found in the language: *CoSIRA* (*Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas*). In **PIPs** (Project Information Packages) – the plural number was preserved in “Packages”. While in **PLANES** (Programmed Language-based Enquiry System) *Language-based* is reduced only to LAN – a clipping. We can conclude that most of the acronyms are usually created to resemble a certain already existing linguistic unit in the language, for the reader to identify it and get some metasemiotic connotations in it, making it more attractive. The word acronym itself has a homonymous lexical unit: **ACRONYMS** - *A Convenient Reduction of Nomenclature Yielding Mnemonic Syllables*. Like in the case of terminology acronyms are formed in mass by various individuals or group of people and they have to make their way into the accepted language, Many potential acronyms with time get out of usage and only those

which are regularly used and indispensable for communication become part of the language. Acronyms are usually limited to reduced specific metalinguistic units, and lots of homonyms are created (people usually ignore the fact or they are unaware of the fact that similar combinations are already existing in other fields of activity in the given language). The example with ABC demonstrates the fact that the same form of an acronym can exist in a number of languages. Thus, the acronym CDC [sidisi] has 19 homonyms, including: Carribean Documentation Centre (TT- Trinidad and Tobago); Comisión de documentación Científico (AR argentina); Comition de Documentai Cientifico (ES); EMIS-12 homonyms: Ecosystems of Machius Information Sisbur, etc... TIS... 12 homonyms; NIS, TIS, ART – 8 each. Compressing the contracted forms is a good example of discourse economy/saving of time and space like in the examples taken from "Acronyms and Initialisms Dictionary", Michigan, 1998: LIF: Laser Interference Filter; LFL: Laser Flash Lamp; LID: Laser Intrusion Detection; LIED: Laser Initiating Explosion Devise. The word *laser* here practically is used as a component part of a new acronym [12].

Compounding of abridged and unabbreviated ones is attested. in mass media and other sources where we often find combinations of abridged units with other words: A-bomb, AIDS cure, B-movie, CCAT ("See-cat": Cambridge College of Art and Technology), NY kiddy porn, an AIDS-Africa link, Metro-Montreal QPF contingent patrols (Metropolitan Montreal Quebec Police Force contingent patrols). Combining forms may precede or follow abbreviations: a pseudo-BBC agent; UFOlogy (the study of Unidentified Flying Objects) [11]. **Symbols** are also to be mentioned as having to do with abridged expression of existing lexical units. Thus, the symbols used in various fields of mathematics have been used for a long time. Practically in most fields of human activity one can find a great number of systems of symbols, which correspond to particular lexical units in different languages: +; =; x; -, %, etc. See also \$ - Dollar; € - Euro, etc. The numerals practically have the same function: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and I, II, III, IV, V, VI correspond to different words in various languages.

Blendings, Portmanteau words or Fusions - combine two or more clipped words or mixed forms of shortened and unabridged units. An older term for the result of this technique is portmanteau word, which was coined by Lewis Carroll in Alice Through the Looking Glass in 1872 to explain some of the words he made up in the nonsense poem 'Jabberwocky': '*slithy*' means 'lithe and slimy'... there are two meanings packed into one word. Though many of Carroll's inventions have not survived, and some of them have become part of the language: *galumph* (gallop + triumph), and *chortle* (chuckle + snort). His term *mimsy* (flimsy + miserable) already existed in the language, but his re-definition of it certainly affected the sense. Some of the earliest blends date back to before Lewis Carroll: *anecdottage* (anecdote combined with dotage to suggest a garrulous old age, was first recorded in 1823, while *squirl*, a blend of squiggle and whirl to describe a flourish, as in handwriting, was recorded in 1843. In modern English the number of fusions has radically increased: *smog* (smoke+fog), *brunch* (breakfast+lunch), *positron* (positive+electron), *motel* (motor-car+hotel), *fantabulous* (fantastic+fabulous) in the meaning of excellent (superlative), *televangelist* (television +evangelist) - an evangelist who conducts regular religious services on television; *netizen* (Internet +citizen) - a person who spends an excessive amount of time in the Internet.

Shortening or clipping is a widely spread means of word building. In most cases the shortened variants of the words coexist with the original unclipped ones: lab – laboratory, doc (Dr) – doctor, phone – telephone, math (maths) – mathematics. All the types of clippings (initial, mid and final) are regularly used to create shortened lexical units: *rep* (*resentative*), *sub*(*marine*), *prep*(*are*), *phys*(*ical*) *ed*(*ucation*); (*tele*)*phone*, (*cara*)*van*, (*tele*)*scope*, (*ham*)*burger*; (*re*)*f*ridge(*rator*), (*in*)*flu*(*enza*). **Back-formation** of words is based on shortening the initial form: *editor* – *to edit*, *burglar* – *to burgle*, *beggar* – *to beg*, *destruction* – *to destruct*, *housekeeping* – *housekeep/housekept*, *baby-sitter* – *to baby-sit*, *sightseeing* – *sightsee/sightsaw*.

Homonymous combinations. Thus, LB may correspond to: laser beacon, laser beam, laser blanking, laser bomb, laser bonding, laser burst [1]. Let's take some more examples: CALM - the letter C in the first meaning (COBOL Automatic Language Modifier) represents the acronym COBOL (COmmon Business Oriented Language) consisting of 1 shortening and 3 initialisms. There is a long list of acronyms with the initialism of FORTRAN - the blending of 2 clippings from *FOR*mula *TRAN*slator: BEEF (*Business and Engineering Enriched FORTRAN*), FACES (*FORTRAN Automatic Code Evaluation System*), FACTS (*FORTRAN Analytical Cross Reference Tabulation System*), FRUGAL (*FORTRAN Rules Used as General Applications Language*). *Frugal* as a simple lexeme means thrifty, economical. See also FLAP, FOCUS. In many cases we have a shortening of FORTRAN and initialisms or clippings of other units: FORCE

(*FORTRAN Conversational Environment*), FORMS (*FORTRAN-Oriented Information Management System*), FORMAT (FORTRAN Matrix Abstraction Techniques), **INFOR** (Interactive FORTRAN). Many acronyms have come to the point of not just representing a combination of words they gradually developed features of independent lexical units with new global meanings. Thus, LASER - well known as *Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation* (there also such homonymous combinations as: *Learning Achievement through Saturated Educational Resources; London and South East Region; Learning Achievement through Saturated Educational Resources; London and South*) may be used as a noun, adjective, verb: *to lase* - print some materials by using a laser printer; a laser aircraft - an aircraft with a laser engine, laser - in the meaning of quantum/laser amplifier, etc. [1]. The intentional use of this or that name is found in many cases, i.e. while abbreviating a certain combination of words, some of the elements are left aside in order to have an acronym identical to a given name.

In conclusion we would like to summarize some points of view expressed in this work. The formation of abbreviated units and their metalanguage, the compiling of numerous dictionaries in the domain are due to the important function they have in communication. The increased productivity of abbreviations and shortenings is caused by the accelerating tempo of development of the human society and the need to express the constantly growing volume of information. The acronyms and other abridged units have an impressive development in all the fields of activity and gradually come into usage in all the languages of the world. The higher the level of development, more sophisticated compressed units are created and used. The evolution of acronyms in various functional styles very often is accompanied by a metasemiotic usage of codified combination of initialisms. In various sophisticated contexts the abridged units gradually start to acquire a certain stylistic connotation. Names of institutions, organizations, etc. are chosen to sound more attractive and produce an emotional impact on people. The name of an organization, institution, or social-political movement can bring success and prosperity or, if the acronym is not attractive enough, it may be the cause of failure. The subjective character in creating new abbreviations is increasing in the fields of science, politics, economy and various social life activities. That is why more and more "elegant", "fashionable" and "super" compressed units come into being. It is for the information of consumers that it is important to have something jovial, euphonic, recognizable in form, related to some well-known names, that would make the new appellation more superior, attractive, interesting and people would get eager to know more of the object or phenomenon in question. The evolution of abridged units in various functional styles is often metasemiotically conditioned. In advertising, names of companies, organizations, associations, programs, projects may intentionally correspond to well-known historical persons, constellations, continents, cities, deities, social-political movements, etc, which would make the appellation more attractive and bring success and prosperity. If the acronym is unattractive, representing a metaphorically pejorative name may bring less popularity and success or even less profit. The subjective character in the formation of metaphorical acronyms, expressing ameliorative connotations, used in advertising, economy, politics, science, military field, social activity, etc.

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