

THE PECULARITIES OF TRANSLATION OF ENGLISH ABBREVIATIONS

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At present time abbreviations enlarge their quantity, especially in mass media. Everywhere more and more of new organizations, structures and notions appear. Thus, the relevance of our research comprises that there is a tendency to abbreviate the means of information transmission, as well as to reduce the time of its transmission. According to N. V. Basko, the main idea of the shortening of the lingual units is to transmit the maximal number of information for the minimal period of time [1, p. 80].

The purpose of our research consists in the revealing the basic types of abbreviations in mass media and the analysis of the difficulties while their translation.

Material and methods. English abbreviations used in British mass media, namely, in the Guardian (online newspaper) are the material of our research. The methods applied during our research include descriptive and comparative, analysis and synthesis.

Findings and their discussion. As stated above, abbreviations save our time and this is a huge advantage, however, there are some drawbacks that they may provide. First and foremost, every language has its own system of abbreviation and its peculiarities. So, to translate it correctly we should pay attention to the context and the domain of terms in the foreign language.

Let us consider another problem concerning abbreviation features. The rapid assortment of the correct variant in the target language comprises a lot of complications. There are two reasons of this difficulty we may face. The first one is that a translator must know the organization, for instance, that is mentioned. It is connected with non-expanded new abbreviations encountered in certain types of texts. The second one is to give the correct definition of the abbreviation. It is much easier to explain the estimated meaning of abbreviation than to give the analogy even in your native language.

To begin with, we made an analysis of the online newspaper “the Guardian. International edition” and emphasized the following types of abbreviation published in mass media:

I. The exterior politics nowadays is the most stirring topic in the whole world, that’s why the focus on the wars and various military conflicts hits the headlines of all newspapers. Thus, *military abbreviations* comprise the essential part in mass media. They can be divided into the names of armament (ADA – air defense artillery, DEW – distant early warning, BCT – Basic combat training, DZ – drop zone, IRBM – intermediate range ballistic missile), military organizations (DIA – Defense Intelligence Agency, GAO – General Accounting

Office, NATO – North Atlantic Treaty Organization), military posts and ranks (CS – Chief of Staff, BOR – British other ranks, ADC – aide-de-camp).

Some examples of usage of these abbreviations:

– “GAO, a congressional investigative organization, looked at five recent fraud cases at San Diego naval bases, covering more than \$660,000 in spending” [2].

– “To try and give their respective countries the best chance of early detection, a system of DEW stations, air bases and “occasional” runways was constructed on both sides of the Arctic Ocean and down the length of Greenland” [2].

II. Besides, we should highlight an enormous group of abbreviations meaning *international organizations*, because they comprise the majority of English abbreviations (GA – General Assembly, ECME – Economic Commission for the Middle East, the ECCHR - European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights, UN – United Nations, SC – Security Council of the United Nations, IAEA – International Atomic Energy Agency). This type of abbreviations has a wide distribution and is commonly spread.

Some examples of usage of these abbreviations:

– “These charges send an important message to survivors of Assad’s system of torture,” said Wolfgang Kaleck of the ECCHR. “We will continue working to ensure that the main perpetrators of state torture under Assad are brought to justice – in Germany or elsewhere” [2].

– “UN summit: Macron says US and Iran must resume nuclear talks – as it happened” [2].

Decoding these shortenings doesn’t cause any difficulties while translation, as they became a habitual unit in the terminology of newspapers.

III. Another type of widely spread word reductions is *abbreviations from state organizations*. This type encounters in the articles on economic and political subjects. However, such organizations not so well-known as those stated above. Let’s consider some instances of the most internationally known state institutions: Cabei - Central American Bank for Economic Integration, CIA – Central Intelligence Agency, AMA – Australian Medical Association, AAUN – American Association for the United Nations, etc.

Examples of their usage:

– “But the AMA president, Dr Steve Hambleton, said anything that prevented people getting to the GP was a concern” [2].

– “The Cabei, the largest investor, has simply stopped loan payments rather than seek a formal break in contract” [2].

IV. At present time jurisprudence holds the significant place in almost all spheres of the contemporary human’s life. It ceased to be a field-specific domain, that’s why *legal abbreviations* as well as the groups of abbreviations above became common to find in English mass media (ICC – International

Criminal Court, FBI – Federal Bureau of Investigation, LCIA – The London Court of International Arbitration, CFR – Code of Federal Regulations, etc.)

Here are some examples of usage of these abbreviations:

– “*There has been no concerted international effort because Syria is not a party to the treaty that established the international criminal court, and Russia and China have vetoed efforts to mandate the ICC to set up a special tribunal for Syria*” [2].

– “*The clash over the supply deal is to be heard by LCIA, a dispute resolution forum provided for in the Rusal shareholders' agreement*” [2].

The identification of the abbreviation is merely the part of the difficulties a translator may face and solve. He also must know how to translate it correctly. So then, we are to distinguish several means of abbreviation translation. According to L. S. Barkhudarov [3], he considers the following methods of its translation:

1. Transliteration and transcription – the transmission of the spelling and the pronunciation of the word by graphic units of the target language. Examples of transliteration – NATO, UNICEF and ones of the transcription – CNN, BBC.

2. Loan translation – literal, word-for-word translation of every element of a phrase (UN, USA, EU, etc.)

3. Descriptive translation – there is no equivalent of the combination of words in the target language.

4. Free translation – with the help of the analogy of the word combination (US government, US diplomat, the UK).

Conclusion. The analysis of the articles in the newspaper “The Guardian. International edition” showed that the prevailing amount surely comprises the abbreviations from the definitions of international organizations. However, we should take into account that politics integrates all the domains of our modern society, so that such groups as state organizations, military and legal notions encounter more and more often. The articles on the topic of law are the most difficult, as the abbreviations in such texts are not so well-known. To summarize, the principal peculiarities of abbreviation translation are:

- the correct identification of the abbreviation shown in the text;
- the choice of the right method of translation of the abbreviation.

1. Basko N.V. Active processes of word formation in Russian at the beginning of this century / N.V. Basko // The questions of philology. – №3-4 (48). – 2014. – P. 79-87.
2. The Guardian. International edition [Electronic resource]. – Order of access: <https://www.theguardian.com/international>. – Date of access: 29.10.2019.
3. Barkhudarov L.S. The language and the translation / L.S. Barkhudarov // International relations. – Moscow. – 1975. – 240 p.