

Functions of Abbreviations in Digital Discourse: Compression and Expression (Comparative Analysis of English and Uzbek Languages)

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Abstract

This article examines the functions of abbreviations in the digital discourse of English and Uzbek languages from the perspective of their compressive and expressive potential. The research material consists of examples from social networks and messaging platforms reflecting the features of modern internet communication. The study employs contextual, comparative, and quantitative analysis methods.

The results show that abbreviations in both languages primarily perform a compressive function, ensuring linguistic economy and faster communication. At the same time, they possess expressive potential, enabling the transmission of emotions and evaluative meanings. Differences between English and Uzbek digital discourse have been identified: English abbreviations are characterized by greater standardization and stability, whereas Uzbek abbreviations demonstrate variability and strong influence from the English language.

The findings confirm the significance of abbreviations as an important tool of modern digital communication and as a reflection of processes of linguistic globalization.

Keywords: abbreviations, digital discourse, compressive function, expressive function, pragmatic function, internet communication, comparative analysis, English language, Uzbek language, linguistic economy.

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Introduction

Digital communication in modern conditions is characterized by a high speed of information exchange and a tendency toward linguistic economy. In this regard, abbreviations play an important role, allowing a significant reduction of utterance length while preserving meaning. However, their function is not limited to compression: they also serve as a means of expressing emotions, evaluations, and communicative intentions.

The aim of this study is to analyze the functions of abbreviations in the digital discourse of English and Uzbek languages, focusing on their compressive and expressive potential.

Materials and Methods

The research material consists of examples from digital communication (Telegram, Instagram, social media comments). In total, about 150 abbreviations were analyzed (80 in English and 70 in Uzbek).

The following methods were used:

- contextual analysis
- comparative analysis
- quantitative analysis

Analysis of Abbreviations in English Digital Discourse

The analysis shows that abbreviations in English are widely used and perform several functions.

1. Compressive Function of Abbreviations

The compressive function refers to the ability of abbreviations to condense information by replacing long phrases or names with shorter forms without significant loss of meaning. Thanks to this function:

- the volume of text is reduced;
- time and effort are saved;
- communication becomes more convenient;
- information is transmitted more compactly.

The compressive function involves replacing multi-word expressions with shortened forms, ensuring linguistic economy and compact communication.

Examples:

- **BTW** (by the way)
- **IDK** (I don't know)
- **TBH** (to be honest)
- **NVM** (never mind)

2. Expressive Function of Abbreviations

The expressive function enhances the emotional and stylistic impact of speech and conveys the speaker's evaluative attitude toward information. Abbreviations may create stylistic effects, attract attention, and increase expressiveness.

Unlike the compressive function, which focuses on linguistic economy, the expressive function is associated with emotional and stylistic emphasis.

Some abbreviations convey emotions:

- **LOL** — laughing out loud (laughter)
- **OMG** — oh my God (surprise)
- **FR** — for real

3. Pragmatic Function of Abbreviations

The pragmatic function is related to their impact on the addressee and their use in specific communicative situations to achieve a communicative goal.

Abbreviations help to:

- make messages more efficient and easier to understand;
- demonstrate belonging to a professional or social group;
- create an impression of competence;
- influence the audience's perception and behavior.

Examples in professional contexts:

- **IT (Information Technology)** — information technologies
- **CEO (Chief Executive Officer)** — chief executive officer
- **PR (Public Relations)** — public relations
- **GDP (Gross Domestic Product)** — gross domestic product

Examples:

- She works in IT.
- The CEO announced a new strategy.
- The company hired a PR specialist.
- The country's GDP grew by 5%.

Conclusion: English shows a high degree of abbreviation standardization.

Analysis of Abbreviations in Uzbek Digital Discourse

In Uzbek digital discourse, abbreviations are less stable but actively developing.

1. Compression

- blm (bilmayman) -I don't know
- kp (ko'p) -much
- ilt (iltimos) -please
- xp (xo'p) -ok
- kk (kerak) -need

- mk (maktab) -school

Examples:

blm: *Ertaga dars bo'ladimi? Blm, o'qituvchidan so'rash kerak.*

kp: *Bugun uyga kp vazifa berishdi.*

ilt: *Ilt, menga bu faylni yuborib yuboring.*

xp: *Soat 3 da uchrashamizmi? Xp, bo'ladi.*

kk: *Bu mavzuni yaxshiroq tushunish uchun yana mashq qilish kk.*

mk: *Bugun mk da ota-onalar yig'ilishi bo'ladi.*

These abbreviations are typical of informal online communication and are used to speed up interaction.

2. Expression

- LOL, wow used in Uzbek text

Examples:

- LOL, bu juda kulgili!
- Wow, rasm juda chiroyli!
- Wow, bu ajoyib yangilik!

In chat:

- LOL 😂 I don't believe it!
- WOW 😍 so cool!

3. Hybrid Forms

- ok gap yo'q
- rahmat bro

Conclusion: Uzbek discourse is characterized by variability and strong English influence.

Comparative Analysis

Similarities:

- used for time saving
- express emotions
- informal character

Differences:

- English is standardized
- Uzbek is more variable
- Uzbek shows strong English influence

Conclusion

The analysis shows that abbreviations play an important role in digital discourse, performing both compressive and expressive functions. In

English, they are stable and highly frequent, whereas in Uzbek they are still in the stage of active development.

The results confirm that abbreviations are an important tool of modern digital communication and reflect processes of globalization and linguistic interaction.

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