

The Benefit of Acronyms and Abbreviations in English and Arabic: An Analytical Study

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Abstract. *This paper shows the role of acronyms and abbreviations in communication across various domains, including education, business, government, and popular culture. It explores the origins, evolution, and functions of acronyms, elucidating their capacity to condense complex concepts, streamline communication, and foster community identity. Using a multidisciplinary approach drawn from linguistics, psychology and sociology, the study examines the cognitive processes involved in understanding acronyms and their impact on memory and decision-making. It also explores the problems posed by ambiguity, repetition and cultural context of acronyms and highlights the importance of context and clarity for clear communication. This is achieved by combining theoretical conclusions. Experimental data, where this article examines the impact of abbreviations on language and identity, in specific social and professional contexts, as well as in their practical application by the author examining the process of creating and using abbreviations, examining the mechanisms of their impact, as well as assessing how to strengthen internal and external relationships. In addition to the above, the study examined how acronyms are used in the political, marketing and branding fields, with a special focus on their ability to be easily remembered and attract attention. By analyzing the broader cultural and societal implications of acronym usage, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of language evolution, social cohesion, and communication strategies in the digital age.*

Key words: *Acronyms, abbreviations, communication, popular culture, and language evolution.*

1. Aims of the study:

Acronyms help people simplify longer word structures into a shorter form, usually a list of several letters. Ignore prepositions. An acronym is part of an abbreviation, which is an abbreviation made up of the beginning parts of a phrase or word, the second aim is to show the importance of knowing about acronyms and how it can be useful for the speakers to use it in conversation or in a formal dealings such as business, medical and even in the government dealings .Investigate the evolution of acronyms over time, considering changes in usage patterns, cultural influences, and the adaptation of acronyms in emerging technologies and industries.

It also aims to explore and highlight the significance of acronyms in various contexts, examining their role in communication, efficiency, and comprehension across different fields or industries.

2. Introduction:

"Acronyms are shortenings, built from the initial letters in a phrase or name," states Finegan (2007:48). Acronyms are indicated as single words, such as AIDS and NASA."Acronym is the process whereby a new word is formed from the initial letters of the constituent words of a phrase or sentence," claims Zapata (2007:7-8).

Moreover, according to Adams in Danks (2003:99), acronyms have the ability to eliminate certain non-lexical elements from the original phrase and incorporate additional letters to create a more word-like structure. For instance, the acronym "Radar" stands for "Radio Detection and Ranging." It determines if the pronunciation of a word formed by the initial letters, non-initial letters, or a combination of both, qualifies as an acronym.

Prior to the era of Christianity, acronyms were in use in Rome. For example, SPQR (Senatus Populusque Romanus) was the official abbreviation for the Roman Empire and the Republic that preceded it. American and European businessmen started using acronyms in the mid to late 19th century. These included shortening company names on barrel and crate sides, railroad car sides (like "Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad" → "RF&P"), ticker tape and newspaper stock listings (like "American Telephone and Telegraph Company" → AT&T). From the 1890s to the 1920s, some well-known commercial instances are "Sunoco" ("Sun Oil Company"), "Esso" (from "S.O.", from "Standard Oil"), and "Nabisco" ("National Biscuit Company"). Pronouncing acronyms as words in English may have originated in the 20th century.

According to Pujiyanti et al (N.D.), abbreviations date back almost as far as the days of written language. The primary objective of acronyms, which also encompass abbreviations, is to enhance memorability by condensing a sentence. An abbreviation is the spoken or written version of a term, while an acronym is a newly formed word. An additional distinction between an acronym and an abbreviation is that the former lacks periods while the latter does, as in the cases of I.D., Mr., I.Q., and so on.

This study investigates the changes in class and meaning that certain native and borrowed acronyms in Arabic have experienced, as well as the level of productivity of the derived forms. The most prominent acronym its original denotative sense was the "Islamic State in Iraq and Syria" refer in Arabic (داعش) (داعش) and also (و اع) it refers to وكالة الانباء العراقية (Iraqi News Agency).

3. Definitions of the basic terms:-

When learning a foreign language, morphology is an important subject to research. The study of words, their formation, and their relationships to other words in the same language is known as morphology in linguistics.

Plag (2003) described the word-formation process as the investigation of how words are derived from other words. Word-formation, also called the morphological process, is the process by which new words are formed via the combination of abbreviations and acronyms. As defined by Cannon (2011:107), an acronym is a term that is comprised of the initial letters of the constituent parts that are then arranged in a consecutive order in a compound term. Additionally, an acronym is a term derived from the initial letters of several complex sentences, as (ibid:116) explains. (Brinton and Brinton and 2000:109) points out that acronyms are the product of an extreme type of contraction. The first letter of each word in the acronym is pronounced as a separate word, as in the following case: WASP < A (Anglo)-S(axon) P(rotestant) W(hite) Note that the formation of acronyms is not strictly orderly; words can be omitted or only the first two letters of a word can be used as long as the result.

A is the term that corresponds to the English pronunciation. Capital letters are used to write acronyms that are derived from proper names.

The fact that acronyms are now more often written without periods than with them suggests that they are becoming a more immediate part of the language. Examples of such abbreviations are dept. (department), oz. (ounce), sir (Mr.), dr. (doctor), and Jr. (junior).

According to (Kuiper and Allan 1996:184), an acronym is a word formed from the first letters or syllables of a phrase. An example of a United Nations agency is the United Nations Educational and Cultural Organization. This led to the birth of the acronym "UNESCO". There are two types of acronyms. Some initials actually form possible words, such as UNESCO. Others do not, such as the

United States Central Intelligence Agency which is often called CIA. It is pronounced by pronouncing each letter individually.³

rather than being pronounced 'keeya' or 'seeya'. The only words that are truly novel are acronyms pronounced as words. Simple beginning sets that are kept in memory make up other acronyms. Acronyms don't have a history, just like any other lexical object. Thus, you usually have to do some research to find out what that is.

Acronyms are new words created by combining the first letters of several other words together. These can continue to be essentially "alphabetizes," like "compact disk" (cd) and "video cassette recorder" (vcr), where the pronunciation is just a series of letters. Abbreviations such as NATO, NASA and UNESCO are often pronounced as single words. The capital letters in these examples have not changed, but many acronyms such as Laser (for "Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation"), Radar (for "Radio Detection and Ranging"), Scuba (for "Self-Contained Emission of Radiation"), Scuba (for "Self-Contained Emission of Radiation") and Zip (for "Zone Improvement Program") have lost these and become generic terms. There may even be a debate about the scandal, which allegedly began with "a normal situation screwed up", but there is disagreement about the use of the word "dirty" in that sentence. (Ure 1996:68).

This study provides a detailed analysis of some examples of Arabic acronyms. Several conclusions can be drawn from the analysis. First, globalization, exposure to and interaction with English (mostly through social media and television channels broadcast in English or in some cases in English and French) can be blamed for the emergence of Arabic acronyms. Second, acronyms made with the English translation were eventually phased out of use; previously, they were combined with acronyms made with Arabic terms. It appears that acronymization has become an acknowledged process in word creation because Arabic speakers are the ones who have developed these recently recognized acronyms, at least in the previous 10 years. These abbreviations are usually not translations from other languages. Thirdly, the English language has influenced the use of abbreviations as a word-formation strategy, since news is now more often published in this language. Finally, Arabic abbreviations have limitations. Atakini (2017): 12.

4. The characteristics of acronyms:

They can more easily and quickly recall the sentences if they employ acronyms. They can comprehend terms they have never heard of in the interim by using acronyms.

To gain a deeper understanding of acronyms, it is necessary to be aware of the following features, per Pujiyanti et al. N.D.: Acronyms can be written with characters other than their initials to give them a more wordlike appearance. Radar is one example (radio detection and ranging). Here, the acronym is created by joining the first letter of each of the following words: detective, and, ranging, and two front letters of radio. These first letters are not spelled letter by letter; rather, they are formed to be read and pronounced as new words. The second cartoon is LASER, which describes the process of light amplification via stimulated emission of radiation. Here, the term LASER is first pronounced as a new term because some of the first letters have not been reduced.

b) An acronym is a word that is reduced from its initial letter and can be written entirely in capital letters while still being pronounced and readable as a separate word. For instance, AIFIS (American Institute for Indonesian Studies), COCA (Corpus of Temporary America), and WICA (Warncke Informal Comprehension Assessment) are a few examples.

c) An acronym is a word that is abbreviated to its first letter; it can be written in capital letters in its entirety, but the preposition is Page | 18 not in. Use the Device for the Automated Analysis of Cohesion, or TAACO, for example. The prepositions "for" and "the" are not abbreviated to represent the first letter of the acronym in this instance. A few other examples are the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language), TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages), PISA (Program for International Student Assessment), and PIRLS (Progress in International Reading Literacy).

5. Acronyms vs. Abbreviation

5.1. Acronyms:-

Acronyms are abbreviations that are derived from the initials of multiple words. Words like NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Agency), UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Culture Organization), and UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) are written with the same exactness as their pronunciation suggests. The term "snafu," which was coined by soldiers during World War II and is politely defined as "situation normal, all fouled up," demonstrates the inventiveness of word coiners, as do the terms "laser" (light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation), "scuba" (self-contained underwater breathing apparatus), and "RAM" (random access memory). The terms AIDS, which stands for acquired immune deficiency syndrome, and HIV, which stands for human immunodeficiency virus, were coined more recently (1980s). On acronyms, acronyms may be constructed. In computers, "read-only memory" is abbreviated as ROM, "programmable read-only memory" as PROM, and "erasable programmable read-only memory" as EPROM. When an acronym is difficult to say as a word, it can be created by sounding out each letter, as in the cases of NFL (National Football League) and UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles). (Fromkin & Associates, 2003:69)

5.2. Abbreviation

Today, abbreviations are spelled more frequently without periods than with them, according to Cannon (2011:111), suggesting that they are becoming a more direct part of language. Examples of this include dept. (department), oz (ounce), Mr. (Mister), Dr. (Doctor), and Jr. (Junior). Some grammatical abbreviations that are commonly used are: a) e.g., i.e., etc., et al.

b) Prenomen locality with their addresses or elevations: Mount (Mount), Ste. (Sainte), and St. (Saint). Addresses like 1234 Massachusetts Avenue NW in Washington, D.C. and 2000 719 East 42th Street in New York, New York are capable of utilizing the abbreviations NE, NW, SE, and SW (which are associated with cities) as well as the numerical abbreviations "-st," "nd," "rd," "and," and "th." The most common approach to creating an acronym is to utilize the first letter of each word in a multiple word sequence to create a new word. Cannon (2011:116) describes an acronym as being a abbreviated version of a word or phrase. While combinations of components that are abbreviated and combined are both types of composition, Plag (2003:126) notes that abbreviations and blends are similar in essence. Kridalaksana (2007:159) defines abbreviation as the act of forming a new word form by deleting a word, parts of a word, or a word combination. Abbreviations can occasionally be used in spoken language, however they are more frequently used in written language. As an illustration:

1. Written acronyms: -cm stands for centimeter, while dr. stands for doctor.
2. Abbreviations, either written or spoken.

A.M. is dedicated to the Antre Meridiem, or tomorrow, and VIP is dedicated to the Very Important Person.

Two varieties of abbreviations are recognized:

- a) Initial abbreviations: a word is abbreviated if it begins with the first letter; if each letter is spoken separately in the first instance, the term is abbreviated.
- b) Shorter abbreviations: Shorter abbreviations can result in a shorter, simpler word.

Abbreviation is divided into two types:

According to (Pujiyanti et al., N.D.)

1. An initialism is a abbreviated version of a name that is composed of the first letter of each phrase separately.
 - a) The initialism is a shortened term that is made up of upper-case letters, the first letter of each word is considered the starting point for the first letter. Example: AEC is the Asean Economic Community, OTJ is for the Overall evaluation of teachers, UK is an abbreviated form of the United Kingdom, US

is short for the United States, and UNDP is the United Nations Development Programme. All of them are derived from the first letter of a term that describes them.

b) Initial abbreviations are an abbreviated version of a word that is printed in capital letters, the first letter of each word is incorporated into the abbreviations, but the first letter of any prepositions is discarded. The example is the United States of America, which is an abbreviated version of the United States of America. In this instance, the term "of" is not written out as it's traditionally done. Another example is EFL (English as a Foreign Language), ESL (English as a Second Language), ELF (English as a Lingua Franca), and ESP (English for Special Purpose). These prepositions of this type are not considered the first letter of an abbreviation; however, they are still significant.

c) The initial abbreviations are typically written with a combination of letters, a capital letter that is shorter than the first letter of the word, and the lowercase letter is intended to abbreviate the first letter of the position. Examples include: AFL, which means "assessment for learning", America Online ("Learning Assessment"), the Ministry of Education (Ministry of education), and Tok ("proficiency test"). The position in these words is the initialization of a lowercase letter.

The letter's' in lower case is used to represent multiple quantities. For instance, CDs are employed as a means of abbreviating the plural form of Compact Discs. Another example is ID, which promotes Individual Differences.

e) An initialism, abbreviated as an acronym, is composed of the first letter of each word in a phrase or title, such as "average" or "Page", and is represented with a single letter. Initialisms, which are abbreviated forms of words, can consist of capital letters and numbers. The sample consists of two languages, specifically L1 and L2. L1 is exclusively devoted to the primary language, while L2 is exclusively devoted to the secondary language. Initialisms can be reduced by emulating phrases such as etc., which advocates et cetera, etc., which advocates et alii, e.g., which advocates exempli gratia, and i.e., which advocates id est.

2. Abbreviation is the process of creating an abbreviated version of a term which results in a word that is concise and simple.

a) Abbreviations are derived from the first letter of the word. The abbreviated form of the word "Rac" is "Rac." attempts to "write". Here, the word "Rec." is used. Is employed. Is an abbreviated version of the first three letters of the word "record". Another example is the abbreviated term "ad", which is intended to abbreviate "addition". Similarly, the term "ex" is used to represent the word "example".

b) Abbreviations can be abbreviated by taking random letters from a term. The term "DI" is used to represent the process of deleting. The abbreviations "d" and "i" are employed to abbreviate the term "deleting", although they are not consecutive letters that begin with the first letter of the word. Another example is Md., which advocates modifying, Dr., which advocates Doctor, Mr., which advocates Mister, Ms., and Std., which is for Standard.

6. The differences between acronyms and abbreviations:

Pujianti's team considered the distinction between an abbreviated term and a full term, they emphasized that an abbreviated terminology is typically the spoken version of a term that is originally written, whereas a full terminology is a new phrase that was invented on the spot. For example, UNESCO, Laser, and Radar are all examples of abbreviations, the UK, USA, and CBI are all examples of acronyms. The term "Radar" is derived from the phrase "radio detection and range," which illustrates the transition from a long phrase to a concise description.

The condensed term UK, which stands for the United Kingdom, functions as an acronym that summarizes the entity it represents. This distinction demonstrates that while acronyms are a subset of abbreviations, not all abbreviations are necessarily used as acronyms.

Another differentiating characteristic of an abbreviated name is its typographic presentation, which is typically different than that of an acronym, such as I.D., Mr., and I.Q. Abbreviations are shortened forms of words, while acronyms are composed of initials that create words that represent intriguing

ideas or memorable statements. For exemplification, "dept." shortens the namesake of the department, while "TEAM" increases to include all of the members, this will lead to a greater overall success.

An acronym is a string of characters that stands for several words, while an abbreviation is a short version that consists of just one word and a few letters. While abbreviations are short words, acronyms can be of many different forms, such as letter type (e.g., laser), syllable type (e.g., sysadmin), or a hybrid of two (e.g., WaSP). It can change from time to time, such as "Sgt." for sergeant. Acronyms and abbreviations are the families of abbreviations, according to (Deliani 2018: 11–16). Both are within the loose definition of abbreviation, which is a few words shortened by producing the beginning letter of each component or word. They have some similarities and differences, though. Any word can be made shorter and easier to remember by using acronyms and abbreviations. Acronyms and abbreviations differ and are very similar in terms of their phonotactic patterns or sounds.

Based on the morphology (formation patterns) and phonotactic structure (phonology/sound) of words, acronyms are analogous to the legitimate word's formation and sound patterns. This study emphasizes acronyms and abbreviations from a sound standpoint.

The Indonesian phonotactic pattern, or Indonesian sound patterns, are always adhered to by acronyms. Examples of such acronyms are UI, which stands for "Universitas Indonesia," NIP, which stands for "Nomor Induk Pegawai," LIPI, which stands for "Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia," or KUHAP, which stands for "Kitab Undang-Undang Hukum Acara Pidana," or Indonesia Law of Criminal Procedure. Some examples of abbreviations are L (liter), SD (Sekolah Dasar/Primary School), SMP (Sekolah Menengah Pertama/Junior High School), KKN (Kuliah Kerja Nyata/Community Service Program), and PGRI (Persatuan Guru Republik Indonesia/ Teachers Association of the Republic of Indonesia). These are shorter versions of words whose phonemic sounds do not follow the Indonesian phonotactic pattern.

It follows that there are certain differences between abbreviations and acronyms. Despite their similar appearances, they are not the same. It is evident from their qualities.

7. Acronyms in Arabic language

Compared to other languages like English, acronyms in Arabic have just lately become common, occurring roughly in the last three decades, according to Altakhaineh (2017: 5). Arabic acronymization emerged in two primary stages, which evolved concurrently until one of them was rendered obsolete: in the first stage, acronyms were created by translating Arabic terms into English instead of using the Arabic originals. Below are some examples of this type of case:

("Islamic Resistance Movement")

According to the Birzeit University Archive, the movement was initiated on December 14, 1987, although it was not referred to by its name in the media until November 25, 1988. This acronym indicates that the establishment of the party or organization and the subsequent adoption of the associated acronym take place at a later stage in life. There are three potential causes for this:

The acronym required a significant amount of time to gain widespread usage due to the following factors:

- a) In the 1980s, a significant number of individuals did not possess a television or radio, resulting in a delay for the general public to associate the acronym with the corresponding organization.
- b) The phenomenon itself had limited awareness during that period, necessitating time for individuals to comprehend its underlying concept.
- c) The extent of publicity received by the organization and the media's role in disseminating awareness of the acronym directly impact its level of usage. In this instance, our recommendation would be to utilize the acronym and the whole sentence as a single unit in Arabic at first. However, due to its extensive use in the media, the abbreviation may eventually be acknowledged as a distinct entity that can substitute the referent's full name. For instance, (حماس) started to appear in the media

more frequently in 1993. This could be because that year was notable in that حماس Members refused to recognize the Israeli-Palestinian peace process that led to the 1993 Oslo Accords.

The last ten years (2005-2015) have seen a significant increase in the creation of attested acronyms in Arabic, particularly in the wake of the 2011 Arab Spring. The organizations these acronyms represent were founded in late 2011 and 2014, respectively, and were not included in the Arabia corpus. As a result, they were gathered via well-known media websites like Aljazeera.

“Lebanese Resistance Regiments”

"Lebanese Resistance Regiments" are the resistance group in Lebanon. This movement was started in Lebanon in 1974, and in 1975 it developed an equipped organization. One of the main players in the 1975 Lebanese civil war was the (حركة امل). Thus, the media at that time was drawn to the acronym امل. In the arabic corpus, this abbreviation appeared 28 times out of 100,000 words. It is evident that a period of time elapsed between the movement's founding and the first documented usage of the acronym (امل حركة) in 1978. It will become clear throughout the study that this period of time shortens with time, contingent on media coverage of the trend and the degree to which acronymization is accepted as a reality in Arabic. However, some could contend that (حركة امل) is not the original Arabic acronym. Since 1968, the acronym fatih has been in use, and it can be considered a unique type of acronym (Birzeit University Archive, 2015). In arabic corpus, this abbreviation appears 1.44 times for every 100,000 words.

8. Conclusion:-

In conclusion, the research paper underscores the significance of acronyms and abbreviations in enhancing communication efficiency, fostering clarity, and streamlining complex information. Acronyms serve as powerful tools for concise expression, ultimately contributing to improved understanding across various fields and disciplines.

Through this study, research was carried out in the field of the historical development of abbreviations, clarifying the degree of their adaptation to the changing linguistic landscape in societies. It additionally addresses potential issues with the use of abbreviations moreover suggests ways to enhance their effectiveness. The comprehensive analysis provides a helpful resource for both educators and communicators as well as policy inventor. It navigates the complex web of language and information exchange. Additionally, the article discusses case studies from different fields of study and demonstrates how abbreviations can enhance the collaboration between disciplines and the exchange of knowledge. The investigation delves into the psychological component of considerate acronyms and evince their effects on cognitive qualifications and memory. This study increases the linguistic knowledge and facilitates the practical application of acronyms in order to improve communication by taking multiple perspectives. Additionally, the article's in-depth study demonstrates that acronyms are versatile linguistic tools that have a significant impact on intercommunication and comprehension in an evolving landscape of information.

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