

DOI: 10.33184/dokbsu-2023.3.12

## The main reasons for the appearance of abbreviations in medical texts

L. R. Sakaeva<sup>1,2\*</sup>, L. V. Bazarova<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Kazan Federal University*

*1/55 Pushkin Street, 420111 Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan, Russia.*

<sup>2</sup>*Kazan Federal University, Naberezhnye Chelny branch*

*68/19 Mira Avenue, 423812 Naberezhnye Chelny, Republic of Tatarstan, Russia.*

*\*Email: liliyasakaeva@rambler.ru*

Currently, the English language is determined by a high degree of use of abbreviated vocabulary and a developed system of abbreviation models in modern English, including the field of medical texts. Studying the features of the appearance and translation of such abbreviations allows us to determine areas for further improvement of translation practices, in particular in the field of medical subject-matter.

**Keywords:** terminology, language, medical communication, medical text, abbreviation.

The basis for medical abbreviations was the Latin language. Despite the apparent retreat of Latin from medical terminology in the twentieth century, medical professionals also used international Latin-Greek terms when communicating in national languages.

Although English has largely become a new language in medical communication, the privileged terminological position of Latin still remains unchanged. Strictly speaking, there are three most important bodies of terminology in which it plays a major role: anatomical; terminology of clinical medicine; pharmaceutical Latin [1].

Genitive nouns and graded adjectives are also found, although there is a tendency to simplify them by shortening or bypassing indirect endings (for example, in case reports, instead of the condition *post bronchitidem*, doctors write *bronchitis, status post*) [2].

It is important to mention cases of abbreviation of terms of Latin origin presented in the English version, while others use English professional terminology in its original Latin formulation, e.g. *salpintis, nephrolithiasis, deep cystic colitis*, etc.

Since medical terms in European languages are based primarily on Latin nomenclature, it is not surprising that words of Latin origin are also subject to processes of abbreviation. Thus, in anatomy you can sometimes find abbreviation terms derived from the Latin language, for example. SFI – inferior frontal sulcus, CA – anterior commissure. However, this happens

quite rarely, since preference should be given to the English IFS – Inferior frontal sulcus and AC – anterior commissure, etc. [2].

In clinical writing, in addition to the obvious use of vernacular, traditional Latin terms are still widely present. Such texts are also replete with abbreviations (for example, tracheo-bronchiales [2]).

The third area in which Latin has survived to a truly significant degree is in pharmacology and especially in prescription writing. It is equally true in both Great Britain and Russia that in order to master this important part of professional activity at the required level, the doctor must master specific Latin vocabulary, as well as a sample of the grammatical structure of texts associated with prescriptions.

Latin recipe abbreviations are traditionally written in small italic letters with periods between them. In most cases, they involve the administration of drugs (for example, s.i.d. – once a day, b.d. or b.i.d. – twice a day, t.i.d. – three times a day, q.i.d. or 4 i.d., or q.d. or q.d.s. – four times a day, sl – sublingual, p.v. – vaginally) [2].

Regardless of whether you are dealing with a translation, they naturally remain the same as in the original. Latin abbreviations are a common source of translation problems. Finding their full form is often problematic. To make matters worse, such abbreviations not only appear independently (in a recipe signature, for example), but can also be part of a compound.

Thus, the constant increase in the volume of semantic information in communication requires cutting off its physical form. In the case of a medical abbreviation, this truncation can become a problem both for understanding the lexical item and for its translation.

The emergence of abbreviation as a method of word formation is one of the most striking examples of the dependence of language on the history of society. However, with the development of the “grammaticality” of abbreviations, the power of influence on them from internal, linguistic factors also rapidly increases. They begin to change according to the norm of the language, which directly represents the generally accepted use of linguistic means, namely sounds, intonation, stress, words, as well as syntactic structures.

The main properties of a language norm include:

Firstly, objectivity, since the norm is formed in the language in the process of its development, and is not invented by anyone.

Secondly, stability, this property allows the norm not to change for a long time depending on various influences, since if norms were easily influenced, then the connection between generations of native speakers would be sharply disrupted.

Thirdly, historical variability, which is associated with the development of language under the influence of colloquial speech, as well as the influence on the language of various social groups of the population, as well as borrowings [3].

The basis of the abbreviation is the content structure, which contains a certain array of information that allows communication with its help for special purposes.

The first characteristic ensures the communication process and is a grammatical structure consisting of lexical units related in meaning, while exceeding the volume of a sentence. This is a certain building material that already contains certain features that are important for the perception of the message.

The second characteristic is the social context in which the abbreviation is used, that is, certain formal structures can only be used in their corresponding social context. A message intended for a specific professional field will lose all meaning in another field that is not identical to it, although they were created using a single linguistic material [4].

Initially, abbreviations existed as abbreviations of the initial type, intended to label something and shorten communication in writing. However, since the nineteenth century, abbreviation has become an important word-formation device, used to replace complex lexical constructions that have created some kind of abstract meaning. The actual abbreviations have become part of the terminology.

In the twenty-first century, the abbreviation is experiencing a new change, which is associated with the communication of people on social networks, where abbreviations are both part of the economy of lexical means and special slang of various online subcultures.

The spread of lexical units created using abbreviations is facilitated today by both social networks and the media.

The widespread popularity of abbreviations is undoubtedly due to the historical tradition of the language of medicine, as well as the space and time savings they provide, so necessary in many medical emergencies.

In addition, abbreviation allows healthcare professionals to encode the true meaning of their statements, making the content inaccessible to the patient, which is sometimes appropriate for ethical reasons.

It should also be emphasized that questions regarding only abbreviations and acronyms were compared with questions regarding all other terminological issues taken into account together: special medical terminology, synonymy, equivalence, ambiguity, polysemy, etc. [5].

Thus, at present, abbreviations have become distributed within a whole spectrum of different areas of both linguistic and extralinguistic areas.

Abbreviation, on the one hand, becomes a process of implementing speech activity, on the other hand, it becomes a means of communication. In this regard, it has:

- relevance in the communication process;
- semantic homogeneity;
- social orientation;
- attachment to a specific communication context;
- ideological affiliation;
- correlation with the culture of a particular social community;
- correlation with a certain historical period.

From the point of view of word formation, the following methods can be distinguished:

- abbreviation;
- initialism;
- truncation;
- syllabic abbreviation;
- Latin abbreviation.

Internet discourse has now become another direction in which abbreviations are used as a medium for active, effective manipulation. Today, much attention is paid to oral and visual communication, which carry messages created on the basis of language, but combining both verbal and nonverbal components with the aim of a complex impact. It was in these messages that abbreviations acquired a special meaning of some new cultural code.

### **Literature**

1. Solntsev E.M. General and specific problems of translating medical texts. 2010. No. 9. P. 131–141.
2. Montalt V. Medical translation step by step: Learning by drafting. N.Y. 2014. P. 327–333.
3. Stepanova M. D. Lexicology of modern English. 2015. P. 273–280.
4. Kosareva O. G. Abbreviation in the language of the modern press (based on the material of French, English and Russian languages). Tver. 2003. P. 11–16.
5. Fischbach H. Translation and Medicine. Philadelphia. 1988. P. 189–197.