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Bachelor's thesis

**ABBREVIATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA (based on X (formerly
Twitter) and Instagram)**

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ABBREVIATION IN CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH DISCOURSE

АНОТАЦІЯ

Бакалаврська робота присвячена дослідженню скорочень та неологізмів у сучасному англійському дискурсі, з особливим акцентом на їх використання в текстах соціальних медіа, таких як Twitter (X) та Instagram. У роботі здійснено аналіз лексичних та синтаксичних особливостей скорочень, їх структурних моделей та семантичних характеристик. За допомогою описового, порівняльного та статистичного методів було виявлено, як скорочення та неологізми змінюють стиль та тон онлайн-комунікації, зокрема у новинах та заголовках.

Дослідження також звертає увагу на роль скорочень у збереженні ефективності та зручності комунікації в умовах обмеження символів та швидкості інформаційного обміну на платформах соціальних медіа.

Виявлено, що скорочення активно сприяють формуванню цифрового діалекту, характерного для соціальних мереж, а також допомагають створювати загальні культурні референції серед користувачів. Дослідження дає ґрунтовне розуміння розвитку англійських скорочень та їх місця у сучасній мові, а також впливу на стандартизацію і класифікацію термінів в цифровій комунікації.

Ключові слова: скорочення, неологізми, англійська мова, соціальні мережі, новини, цифровий діалект, лексико-семантичні особливості, соціально-культурні референції.

ABSTRACT

The bachelor thesis is dedicated to the study of abbreviations and neologisms in contemporary English discourse, with a particular focus on their usage in social media texts, such as those on Twitter (X) and Instagram. The research provides an analysis of the lexical and syntactic features of abbreviations, their structural models, and semantic characteristics.

Using descriptive, comparative, and statistical methods, the study reveals how abbreviations and neologisms shape the style and tone of online communication, particularly in news and headlines.

The work also emphasizes the role of abbreviations in maintaining communication efficiency and convenience in the context of character limits and the rapid exchange of information on social media platforms. It is found that abbreviations actively contribute to the formation of a digital dialect typical of social networks and help establish shared cultural references among users.

This study offers a thorough understanding of the development of English abbreviations and their place in contemporary language, as well as their impact on the standardization and classification of terms in digital communication.

Key words: abbreviations, neologisms, English language, social media, news, digital dialect, lexical-semantic features, socio-cultural references.

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INTRODUCTION

The phenomenon of abbreviation is a significant aspect of language development, particularly in contemporary English discourse. In recent decades, the widespread adoption of digital communication platforms, such as social media and text messaging, has contributed to the rapid proliferation of abbreviations. This linguistic trend is driven by various factors, including the need for brevity, efficiency, and expressiveness in both formal and informal communication.

Abbreviation as a linguistic process encompasses a variety of methods for reducing the length of words and phrases without compromising their core meaning. These methods include acronyms, initialisms, clipping, blending, contractions, and others. The study of abbreviations in modern English is of particular interest due to their prevalent use across diverse communication channels, from everyday online interactions to professional and journalistic texts.

The development of social media platforms such as Twitter (now X) and Instagram has had a profound impact on the formation, dissemination, and standardization of abbreviations. These platforms, characterized by their rapid exchange of information and character limitations, have fostered the creation of numerous neologisms and novel abbreviations, which subsequently permeate broader discourse communities.

In recent years, the interest in the study of abbreviations in contemporary English discourse has significantly increased. Numerous scholars, both in Ukraine and abroad, have been actively engaged in research on this topic including D. Beheka [18], L. Boychenko [1], N. Hlushchuk [2], O. Hrashchenko [3], I. Karamysheva [4], D. Kveselevych and V. Sasina [6], N. Korzun [7], R. Mykulchyk [8], I. Mishchynska [9], O. Selivanova [10], M. Serdiuk [11; 12], V. Slabkin [13], D. Sheremet [15], L. Bauer [17], M. Bieswanger [19], V. Cook and D. Ryan [20], D. Crystal [23; 24], etc.

The **relevance** of this research lies in the increasing need:

- to systematize and classify the abbreviations used within contemporary English discourse, particularly on social media platforms;

- to analyze the lexical and syntactic features of these abbreviations, as well as their structural and semantic properties;
- to explore the emergence and integration of neologisms resulting from abbreviatory processes.

The **aim** of this study is to investigate the usage and characteristics of abbreviations in contemporary English discourse, with a focus on social media platforms such as Twitter (X) and Instagram.

To achieve this goal, the following **tasks** have been established:

1. To examine theoretical works and establish a terminological framework for the study of abbreviations in modern English, including the principles of their classification and usage;
2. To identify the types of abbreviations and their structural models within contemporary English discourse;
3. To analyze the lexical and syntactic features of abbreviations in social media texts and news reports;
4. To explore the emergence of neologisms on platforms like Twitter (X) and Instagram;
5. To investigate the role of abbreviations in social media news reporting and the ways in which they influence headline construction and message dissemination;
6. To compile a dictionary of abbreviated lexical units used in Instagram and Twitter (X).

The **research material** consists of 300 abbreviations collected from social media platforms Instagram and Twitter (X). These data provide the data on the structural, lexical, and semantic characteristics of abbreviations, as well as their contextual usage.

The **object** of the research is the abbreviation phenomenon within contemporary English discourse.

The **subject** of the research is the lexical, structural, and syntactic features of abbreviations used in social media communication and news reporting.

The following **research methods** are employed in this study: descriptive method for examining the functioning of abbreviations within various contexts; comparative method for analyzing similarities and differences between different types of abbreviations; statistical method for quantifying the frequency and distribution of specific abbreviations and neologisms.

The **theoretical value** of the study lies in contributing to a deeper understanding of contemporary trends in abbreviation formation and usage within English discourse, particularly in digital environments.

The **practical value** of the research results may be applied in lexicographic work, the development of linguistic corpora, and the study of language evolution influenced by technological advancements.

This research opens potential avenues for further exploration, including the sociolinguistic aspects of abbreviation adoption, the impact of abbreviations on language standardization, and their role in shaping communication patterns within diverse discourse communities.

1. THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE STUDY OF ABBREVIATIONS IN MODERN ENGLISH

1.1. Word abbreviations as a way of word formation

The current state of languages is characterized by globalization processes that have led to the emergence of a special kind of designations for objects, concepts and notions, along with increased requirements for language economy, resulting in a large layer of abbreviated vocabulary. The interest in the specifics of creating abbreviated nominations in different languages and in the peculiarities of their use in different types and genres of language is due to the fact that the abbreviation is one of the word-formation methods that meet the pragmatic attitudes of our time. Lymar argues that since the early 21st century, English has undergone a “neological boom”, reflecting the ongoing evolution and modernization of the language. She further explains that abbreviations, or shortenings, function as a form of word formation, leading to the creation of new shortened forms that help establish new or updated lexical items, including the names of political parties, public organizations, institutions, and more [36, p. 256].

There is a considerable body of contemporary research dedicated to lexical abbreviations in various languages, including English (S. Laszlo, K. Federmeier [33]; M. Hilpert, D. Saavedra, J. Rains [28]). Scholars investigate the nature and causes of abbreviation formation (D. Crystal [23], H. Foster [27]), define their status within lexicology (L. Bauer [17]), and identify the peculiarities of abbreviation usage in different domains (D. Beheka [18], I. Karamysheva [4], I. Mishchynska [9]). Various approaches to analyzing the process of abbreviation and the resulting units do not yield a consensus on the fundamental characteristics of abbreviated forms. In this context, we will examine the existing definitions of abbreviations in English and identify their features.

One of the first linguists to address the issue of defining abbreviation was the Swedish scholar K. Sunden. The scholar was the first to discuss the reduction of linguistic units within the field of philology. Sunden, while exploring the general reasons behind the emergence of abbreviated lexical units, distinguishes between: a)

a semiological or functional factor, which is related to the necessity of conveying the speaker's emotions; and b) a practical usage factor, which pertains to the more economical means of conveying a message. The scholar also highlights the important process of analogy in the borrowing of foreign words [39].

Scholars note that the core of language evolution is the economy of speech effort. The constant contradiction between the needs of human communication and the desire to minimize mental and physical exertion can be regarded as a driving force behind linguistic changes. Here, as in several other cases, human behavior is governed by the law of least effort, according to which individuals expend their energy only to the extent necessary to achieve a specific goal [31].

In his study "Meaning and Change of Meaning", G. Stern identifies several key factors for defining abbreviations and distinguishing them from other lexical items in the language [38]:

1) phonetic causes: these factors lead to the emergence of forms such as "shun" from "attention";

2) graphic causes: these factors are evident in cases like "auto" from "automobile" and "gent" from "gentleman";

3) functional causes. Here, euphemisms play a particularly significant role in what Stern refers to as euphemistic shortening. However, he addresses functional causes only superficially, and although he considers them an important distinguishing characteristic of abbreviations, he does not provide examples to illustrate this point;

4) economic causes: an example of this type of cause is the lexical item "fall", which is derived from the phrase "fall of the leaf" through truncation.

The history of the development and evolution of the abbreviation system proves that abbreviation is a really effective and productive process of creating new language units. This is done by shortening (cutting) the base of a word, resulting in new words with an incomplete, reduced base (or bases), which are generally called "abbreviations" in the English language tradition.

M. Bieswanger defines an abbreviation as a term encompassing all strategies that produce lexical forms consisting of fewer characters than the full version of a

word or a combination of words. Opting for these shorter forms may lead to some loss of clarity; however, they offer the advantage of economizing space and reducing the time required for writing [19, p. 474].

In the English explanatory dictionary Merriam-Webster, an abbreviation is defined as “a shortened form of a written word or phrase used in place of the whole” [38]. This definition emphasizes the characteristic of being “written”. However, an analysis of definitions of abbreviation reveals that it can be manifested in both written and spoken forms.

In the Collins dictionary, the concept of usage form is not specified: “An abbreviation is a short form of a word or phrase, made by leaving out some of the letters or by using only the first letter of each word” [45]. It is evident that there is a differentiation between regular abbreviations and acronyms, even though the term “acronym” itself is not included in the definition. This indicates a lack of clarity regarding the boundaries between the aforementioned terms.

The Cambridge Dictionary provides the simplest and most universal explanation of this term: an abbreviation is “a short form of a word or phrase” [44]. Similar definitions can be found in the Macmillan dictionary: an abbreviation is a short form of a word or phrase [47, p. 5], and in the Oxford thesaurus: an abbreviation is a shortened form of a word, such as Dr for Doctor or PTO for please turn over; the act of abbreviating [49, p. 3]. As for the “acronym”, there are two main approaches to defining this concept. According to the first, acronyms are any words composed of the first letters or parts of words in an abbreviated phrase; according to the second, acronyms are only those that are pronounced as whole words, not as a sequence of letter names.

Over time, the term “acronym” has come to refer to abbreviations pronounced as words. However, in English, “abbreviation” and “acronym” are not synonymous. The Cambridge Dictionary defines an acronym as “an abbreviation consisting of the first letters of each word in the name of something, pronounced as a single word” [44]. Although acronyms are often considered any abbreviation formed from initial letters, authoritative English references emphasize that acronyms are specifically

those abbreviations pronounced or written as single words, rather than by spelling out each letter.

In the process of language development, abbreviations can be transformed into acronyms, especially if they are well-known and widely used, but it is worth noting that “all acronyms can be abbreviations, but not all abbreviations can be acronyms” [37, p. 14]. In other words, an acronym in English-language academic literature is a subcategory of abbreviations. Shortening is a morphological method of word formation, the essence of which is that some part of the sound composition of the original word is omitted. Actually, the term “contraction” refers to both the resulting unit itself and the process of reducing the sound or graphic length of the correlate, which can be 1) a set of morphemes; 2) a word; 3) a phrase; 4) a set of words.

In English, most of the abbreviations are for multi-syllabic loanwords, which can lose any part in the process of abbreviation. However, the most productive way to abbreviate a word is to retain the initial syllable of the word and omit the final syllables (*veterinarian* → *vet*).

Any fragments of a word, regardless of morphemic boundaries, can be abbreviated. Contractions have certain pronunciation features. Abbreviated words in English are usually read according to the rules for reading regular (unabbreviated) words of a similar syllable-letter structure: *gym*, *phone*, etc.

In English, there is also the phenomenon of simultaneously omitting both the initial and final elements of a word. The resulting lexical units effectively acquire the characteristics of independent words, allowing them to participate in further word formation – such as forming prefixal and suffixal derivatives, or transitioning to different parts of speech. Ukrainian researchers and scholars employ various approaches to defining and correlating the concepts of “abbreviation”, “acronym”, and “contraction”.

To better understand the meaning of the term “abbreviation”, it is worth considering the definition provided by one of the leading domestic linguists, O. Selivanova, in the “Linguistic Encyclopedia”. The researcher notes that abbreviation in linguistics is viewed as a word-formation process and serves as a method of

creating words based on a system of morphemes and their means of connection. Thus, an abbreviation is “usually a noun formed by shortening a simple word or components of a compound word, or elements of a source phrase, to the level of sounds or letters, syllables, or other fragments of words” [10, p. 3].

Thus, it can be seen that O. Selivanova’s definition is close to the generalized interpretation of an abbreviation in English. It should be noted that the approaches to the interpretation of the concept of “abbreviation” differed significantly several decades ago.

The first ever academic explanatory “Dictionary of the Ukrainian Language” explains an abbreviation as “a word that is a contraction of two or more words; a letter abbreviation of several words; common abbreviations of words in writing, e.g., etc., see, etc., cf.” [43, p. 5]. Similar definitions to the previous ones are found in the Newest English-Ukrainian, Ukrainian-English Dictionary: an abbreviation is “1) an abbreviation (of a text); 2) an abbreviation, acronym”. Thus, reference books provide different interpretations of the term “abbreviation” [42].

While some scholars define it strictly as lexical items formed from the initial letters of original words, others adopt a broader interpretation. Additionally, some studies assign a more universal meaning to the term “abbreviation” compared to “acronym.” According to the dictionary compiled by S. Yermolenko and other Ukrainian researchers, an abbreviation is a compound word created from the first letters or other segments of words that constitute a name or concept [41, p. 45]. Accordingly, acronyms are explained as linguistic units formed usually from the initial letters, elements or whole words that make up the original phrase, and acquire the phonetic structure and corresponding spelling of the word [41, p. 75].

According to linguists, “abbreviation” is still a broader concept than “abbreviation” or “acronym” and is characterized as a method of word formation, the essence of which is to cut off a part of the base that either coincides with the word or is a phrase united by a common meaning. Linguists D. Hanych and I. Oliynyk define an abbreviation as “an abbreviated compound word (noun) formed from the initial

sounds, names of initial letters or initial parts of words on the basis of which the abbreviation is created” [40, p. 7–8].

When trying to determine the correlation between the terms, we see that abbreviations are often identified with shortenings. The very concept of “abbreviation” (as a process and as a result) can also be denoted by several terms: truncation, truncated word, shortened word, shortening, etc. Thus, abbreviation is the truncation of a word to one of its parts.

After reviewing all the definitions discussed above, in our work we understand an abbreviation as is a lexical unit derived from truncation. This definition includes acronyms, compound words, blended lexemes, and assimilated units, which can be expressed both graphically and phonetically.

1.2. The typology of abbreviations

All types of abbreviations can be conventionally classified according to the type of their formation. However, the structure of abbreviations is not universal and depends on the writing system within which they are used. Thus, the following writing systems are distinguished: 1) phonography, in which signs are associated with sounds; 2) logography, in which signs are associated with words; 3) semasiography, which is a generalized term for symbolic systems that convey meaning without being directly tied to natural language (“semasiography” is also defined as musical sign writing) [30].

Phonographic writing systems can also be divided into syllabography and alphabetic writing. Syllabic systems are based on syllables, which are analogous to the building blocks of a spoken utterance. Alphabetic systems, which are the basis of languages such as English, are associated with a combination of vowels and consonants. A writing system in which each character corresponds to a specific speech sound and each sound to a character is called “transparent” [20, p. 7]. A system such as the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) is close to complete transparency.

Researchers of the system of abbreviated lexical items have been trying to classify them for several centuries. However, there is still no single classification. One of the reasons is that abbreviations or acronyms can be considered a unique phenomenon compared to many other lexical items because of the range of correspondence between the written form and its lexical and phonological referents.

Alpo Honkapohja presents a typology of abbreviations based on the linguistic research of abbreviations spanning from their early use in antiquity to their eventual decline, with various taxonomies documented in paleographical handbooks from 1745 to 2007. He distinguishes between abbreviations that have Latin origins but have become established in the English language, and those that originated specifically in English [30]:

1) suspension (truncation or curtailment) – shortening a word by omitting a number of characters at the end: *professor* → *Prof.*; abbreviations by initial letters: *Chief Executive Officer* → *CEO*; pluralization by duplicating letters: *lines* → *ll.*; removal of the last letters from syllables in a word: *mathematics* → *math*;

2) contraction proper – omission of letters from the middle of the word: *verbum* → *vr̄b*; combination of the first and last letters: *pater* → *pr*; complex contraction – omission of vowel letters in the word: *discipulus* → *dscpls*.

3) sigil – transmitting content by encrypting it in special and astrological symbols, sometimes without clear lexical references, which were often used in medieval works of scientific and magical content. For instance, Medieval astrologers used distinct glyphs to denote planets and zodiac signs. For instance, the Sun was represented by a circle with a central dot (☉), while Aries, the first zodiac sign, was symbolized by a stylized ram's horns (♈). These symbols conveyed complex astrological concepts succinctly;

4) signs of abbreviation, including brevigraphs – specialized scribal abbreviations that replace common letter combinations, particularly at the beginning or end of words, with unique symbols or modified letter forms. These abbreviations were prevalent in medieval and early modern manuscripts, serving to expedite writing and conserve space. For example, ampersand (&), derived from the Latin

word “et” meaning “and”. The ampersand combines the letters “e” and “t” into a single symbol. It is commonly used in abbreviations such as “&c” for “etcetera”;

5) abbreviations using superscript letters, known as “abréviations par lettres supérieures” in French, involve placing part of the abbreviated word – often the final letter – above the baseline in a reduced font size. This typographical practice was historically common in various languages to denote contractions or abbreviations, for example: *h^o* → ‘*hoc*’.

6) abbreviations by special signs – symbols that are used, among other things, to indicate monetary units (*liter* → *L*, *pound* → *£*, *euro* → *€*, etc.), as well as weights and measures; this type of abbreviation is almost identical to sigil. These symbols serve as concise representations of specific terms or units, streamlining communication and documentation;

7) elision, prevalent in English since the early modern period, involves omitting sounds, syllables, or letters to facilitate smoother and faster speech. This process often employs apostrophes to indicate missing elements. For instance, “going to” is colloquially pronounced as “gonna”, where the ‘o’ is elided. Similarly, “fish and chips” becomes “fish 'n' chips”;

8) other types – monogrammatic letters, ligatures, etc. – are formed by adding graphical elements to letters to change their meanings, combining several musical symbols, etc. [30]. A. Honkapohja’s typology is one of the first standardized classifications and is partially applied in paleography (the historical-philological discipline that studies the history of writing). Some of the terms are outdated; therefore, more modern classifications may use different names for the aforementioned abbreviation methods.

According to López Rúa, abbreviations can be categorized into simple and complex forms. Simple abbreviations are primarily confined to the written medium and include standard abbreviations such as “Dr.” for “Doctor” or “Mr.” for “Mister”. In contrast, complex abbreviations manifest in both written and spoken forms and encompass blends, clippings, and initialisms. Initialisms are further subdivided into acronyms and alphabetisms. Acronyms are pronounced as words, exemplified by

“NATO” for “North Atlantic Treaty Organization”, while alphabetisms are articulated as individual letters, such as “BBC” for “British Broadcasting Corporation”. Some abbreviations exhibit flexibility in pronunciation and representation; for instance, “VAT” or “Vat” denotes “Value Added Tax”, and hybrid forms like “CD-ROM” (“compact disc read-only memory”) combine both pronunciation styles [34, p. 214].

Clippings involve shortening longer words without altering their meanings, such as “admin” from “administration”. Blends result from merging parts of two or more words, like “brunch”, derived from “breakfast” and “lunch”. This classification manifests the diverse mechanisms through which abbreviations are formed and used in language.

L. Bauer identifies four primary categories of word truncation: back clipping, fore-clipping, middle clipping, and complex clipping. Back clipping involves retaining the initial segment of a word while omitting the latter part; examples include transforming “telephone” into “phone” and “advertisement” into “ad”. Fore-clipping entails keeping the final portion of a word, as seen in “chute” from “parachute” and “plane” from “airplane”. Middle clipping retains the central segment of a word, resulting in forms like “flu” from “influenza” and “tec” from “detective”. Complex clipping combines elements from multiple words, such as “op art” derived from “optical art” [17, p. 28–30].

In English, according to the lexicographic corpus “Top Acronyms and Abbreviations Dictionary” (available at <http://www.allacronyms.com>), all truncated lexical units are divided into several categories. Each of these categories of truncated lexical units differs in diachrony, lexical components, sources of origin, etc. [25].

The first category, anacronyms, includes acronyms that have fallen out of use. An example is the lexeme *radar* – radio detection and ranging. They are often presented in the text as lowercase letters. This group by its quantitative composition is not as extensive as the following category – alphabetisms, representing initial abbreviations: *EU* [i:ju:] – European Union. These lexical units are pronounced according to the alphabetic pronunciation of these or those letters [25].

Backronyms include acronyms that have become a word in the process of speech, conforming to the norms of reading and pronunciation, often related to the semantics of the whole word, attributing an added meaning [25]. For example, the *FORD* automobile company positioned itself as “First on Race Day”.

Euphonious acronyms are lexical units in which a combination of words is embellished by discarding unsound elements (often service words) [25]: *laser* – “Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation”.

Immigrant acronyms are abbreviations formed by adopting foreign phrases into English. For instance, the French expression “Répondez s'il vous plaît” becomes *RSVP* in English [25].

Initialisms consist of letters where each represents a separate word, and each letter is pronounced individually [25]. Examples include *FBI* for “Federal Bureau of Investigation” and *ATM* for “Automated Teller Machine”.

Hybrid acronyms combine elements of both letter-based and syllabic abbreviations [15]. An example is *GIF* for “Graphics Interchange Format”.

Nested acronyms occur when one letter within the acronym represents another acronym [25]. For example, *AIM* stands for “AOL Instant Messenger”, where “AOL” itself is an acronym for “America Online”.

Recursive acronyms refer to themselves in their definition. An example is *WINE*, which originally stood for “Wine Is Not an Emulator”, emphasizing that it is not an emulator but a compatibility layer for running Windows applications on Unix-like operating systems [25].

Syllabic acronyms are formed by combining parts of words or syllables to create a new term. For instance, *radar* comes from “Radio Detection and Ranging”, and *laser* from “Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation”.

Three-letter acronyms (TLAs) are abbreviations consisting of three letters, each representing a word [25]. Examples include *CPU* for “Central Processing Unit” and *TVA* for “Tennessee Valley Authority”.

Obsolete acronyms are those that are no longer in common use [25]. *FUBAR*, meaning “Fouled Up Beyond All Recognition”, is an example that has fallen out of regular usage.

Redundant acronyms involve unnecessary repetition [25], such as *ATM machine*, where *ATM* already stands for “Automated Teller Machine”.

Given the absence of a single typology of contractions, we propose to consider also the variants of contractions that are traditionally considered by home researchers. First of all, it should be noted that it is generally accepted to classify all abbreviations, according to their sound and lexical and grammatical characteristics, into graphic, lexical and syntactic [5]. Graphic abbreviations are used only in writing and are not reproduced in speech, as they do not have their own special sound form. They may include various punctuation marks (period, hyphen, slash, etc.).

Unlike graphic abbreviations, lexical abbreviations are units of language that have not only a sound but also a clearly defined meaning. They can be considered as established units of language. Lexical abbreviations can be used in both oral and written language [2, p. 87]. Mixed lexical abbreviations become either semi-alphabetisms or semi-acronyms when translated. A mixed type includes a lexeme in which one of the components is an initial and the other is a full word. Truncations can be considered the most heterogeneous and significant class of lexical contractions.

Syntactic contractions are represented by elliptical linguistic units characterized by the deletion of one of the components, while the other component does not change its morphemic structure, it only “condenses” the semantics of the entire phrase.

L. V. Kravchuk categorizes abbreviations into several types:

1. Initial-type abbreviations, formed from the first letters of words in a phrase, which can be further divided into:
 - Phonetic abbreviations, pronounced as regular words with stress on the first syllable, such as *ASAP* (as soon as possible), *UFO* (unidentified flying object), and *UEFA* (Union of European Football Associations).

- Alphabetic abbreviations, where each letter is pronounced separately, often with stress on the last syllable, for instance, *BST* (British Summer Time) and *CAB* (Citizens Advice Bureau).
- 2. Component-type abbreviations, constructed from the initial syllables of words within a phrase, such as *net. con.* (from Latin *Nemine contradicente*, meaning “without objection”) and *libs* (short for liberals, referring to members of the Liberal Party).
- 3. Mixed-type abbreviations, which combine elements of the first two categories, such as *Rt. Hon* (Right Honorable).
- 4. Abbreviations combining initial letters with full words, where part of the phrase remains unchanged while other elements are abbreviated, examples include *H-bomb*, *H-bag*, and *X-card*.
- 5. Hybrid abbreviations, formed by taking the beginning of one word and the end of another, or just the ending of the second word, such as *motel* (from *motorists' hotel*) [32, p. 64].

For our research, it is important to choose a classification that most fully covers the types of abbreviations that can be found in texts of a socio-political orientation.

The most complete and convenient classification is that provided by D. Kveselevych and V. Sasina. As noted earlier, the researchers consider two separate groups of abbreviations: word base clippings (truncations) and abbreviations (letter abbreviations) [6, p. 94].

Researchers distinguish *clippings* of four types (apocope, apheresis, syncope, mixed contractions).

1) Abbreviation of the end of a word (apocope): *examination* → *exam*, *gasoline* → *gas*. In English-language sources, this type of abbreviation can be found as truncation.

2) Shortening the beginning of a word (apheresis): *acute* → *cute*, *estate* → *state*, *telephone* → *phone*. Abbreviations can also be formed by omitting an unstressed vowel at the beginning of a word with an apostrophe, which is also a

variant of apheresis: *it is* → *'tis*, *them* → *'em*, *because* → *'cause*. In English-language sources, this type of abbreviation can be named as clipping.

3) A contraction that occurs within a word or phrase (syncope): *business* → *biz*, *refrigerator* → *fridge*, *operational* → *opnl*. In English-language sources, this type of abbreviation can be termed as contraction.

4) Mix clipping, i.e., a combination of apocope, apheresis, and syncope: *avant-garde* → *van*, *electric train* → *lecky*, *influenza* → *flu*.

Abbreviations (initial shortenings) fall into five types (acronyms, alphabetic abbreviations, mixed abbreviations, graphic abbreviations, Latin abbreviations) [2, p. 89].

1) Acronyms. They consist of the initial letters or sounds of the words of the phrase. This type of abbreviation is pronounced as whole words, not as a sequence of letter names. An abbreviation can be called an acronym if it has a sufficient number of vowel sounds and is easy to read and pronounce. Acronyms are common abbreviations in texts on social and political topics and are often used to abbreviate the names of organizations, government agencies, and important documents and programs: *UNESCO* – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *COVID* – Coronavirus Disease, *OPEC* – Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.

2) Alphabetic abbreviations. Researchers also refer to this type of abbreviation as initial abbreviations, initialisms, or alphabetisms. This category is formed by the first letters of words in a shortened phrase, but the abbreviation itself does not sound like a new word. This type of abbreviation includes traditional abbreviations of country names or other proper nouns (e.g., Central Intelligence Agency → *CIA*, United Nations → *UN*, World Trade Organization → *WTO*). Each letter in an initial abbreviation is pronounced separately. Such abbreviations are often used situationally for convenience, thematic presentations, or in the context of specific studies, etc. Initial abbreviations are often confused with acronyms due to their shared principle of abbreviation, overlooking the fact that acronyms tend to form new words more frequently.

3) Mixed abbreviations. These typically include abbreviations where the first part is usually a letter or a number, and the other part is a word: *B2B* – Business to Business, *G8* – Group of Eight, *C3PO* – Character 3 Protocol, *D-day* – Designated day for a military operation. This type of abbreviation can be referred to as half-shortenings, which is a characteristic subcategory of English abbreviations, given its prevalence. Additionally, mixed abbreviations also include those formed with both initial letters and syllables.

4) Graphic abbreviations are a type of abbreviation that is used only when writing: *hr.* – hour, *lbs.* – pounds, *No.* – number.

5) Latin abbreviations: *e.g.* – exempli gratia, *i.e.* – id est, *etc.* – et cetera, *et al.* – et alii, *a.m.* – ante meridiem, *p.m.* – post meridiem, *cf.* – confer, *N.B.* – nota bene, *vs.* – versus.

A separate sub-item in the classification of D. Kveselyevych and V. Sasina is telescopic words (or blending), which are widely used in all spheres of public life [6]. Telescoping is the equivalent of “merging” (portmanteau) or “blending” in English, the essence of which is to combine several words: *affluenza* (affluence + influenza), *biopic* (biography + picture), *Brexit* (Britain + exit), *celebutante* (celebrity + debutante), *cosplay* (costume + roleplay), *emoticon* (emotion + icon), etc. It is a way of creating simple words that often denote complex phenomena due to the specificity of their structure.

The types of abbreviations and acronyms are not limited to those listed. We have considered those types of abbreviations that are the most common in terms of their form.

Conclusions to Part 1

The mechanism of abbreviation is an integral part of dynamic language development. It is a major linguistic tool for the realization of efficiency and economy of expression, particularly within the conditions of globalization and increasing need for concise expression. Abbreviations, acronyms, and other forms of shorthand language are prevalent in a variety of domains, reflecting the economic,

practical, and cultural requirements of modern society. While there is some variation in the way scholars define and classify these types of language, the general consensus leans towards the functionality of abbreviating complex ideas and facilitating communication at a faster pace. As a word-formation process, abbreviation is a byproduct of linguistic creativity and a response to the evolving needs of human communication. Whether in writing or speech, abbreviations continue to develop, providing an essential bridge between form and language and the speed of modern discourse.

The typology of abbreviations is heterogeneous and multidimensional, and there are several systems of classification based on linguistic, graphical, and syntactic criteria. The complexity and flexibility of abbreviation forms testify to the dynamic character of language, which evolves based on the requirements of communication, especially specialized communication, such as socio-political discourse. Despite the lack of a single, universally accepted classification, abbreviations are clearly useful tools for the conveyance of meaning in written and verbal communication. That they may be divided into various categories, such as acronyms, initialisms, and clippings, testifies to their structural heterogeneity and the multiple ways that language may be abbreviated.

2. ABBREVIATIONS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

2.1 The types and usage of English abbreviations on social media and in text messaging

Social media platforms, such as Instagram and Twitter (X), have redefined the way individuals communicate. The fast-paced nature of these platforms necessitates brevity, and as a result, abbreviations have emerged as essential tools for digital communication. These abbreviations, whether word base clippings, letter abbreviations, or neologisms, have become central features of online discourse. This section explores the lexical and syntactic features of English abbreviations commonly found on Instagram and Twitter (X). It will discuss both traditional and innovative forms of abbreviation, focusing on word base clippings, letter abbreviations, and telescopic words, following the classification proposed by D. Kveselevych and V. Sasina [6].

2.1.1 Lexical and syntactic features of English abbreviations

Word base clippings, or truncations, are a prevalent feature of social media communication. These abbreviations are formed by shortening words, often to maintain conciseness within character-limited posts or captions. On Instagram and Twitter (X), these forms are not only frequent but also serve to create an informal, conversational tone (see Table 1 in the Appendix). Clippings are classified into four types: apocope, apheresis, syncope, and mixed contractions.

Apocope refers to the omission of the final part of a word, and it is frequently used in informal online settings. Truncating words in this manner, users can convey their message more efficiently while preserving the core meaning. Common examples of apocope that we have attested during our investigation include: ad (advertisement), bio (biography), bro (brother), comp (computer), fam (family), fav (favorite), Feb (February), inc (include), info (information), Jan (January), pic. (picture), sis (sister), sync. (synchronize).

“Bro”, abbreviated from “brother”, is widely used on Twitter (X) and Instagram in a casual, friendly context, for example: *“Bro, you gotta check out this new game! #mustplay”* [52].

The abbreviation “fam” (from “family”) is a term of endearment used among close friends or relatives, often used to describe a group of people with shared interests, for instance: *“I’m sorry for whatever happened to you, because fam is EVERYTHING! No family is perfect and you walk in love and grace through their dysfunction, but pulling away from them isn’t the answer”* [52].

“Ad” comes from “advertisement” and it appears in Instagram posts, particularly in the context of sponsored content or promotional material, for example: *“New workout plan just dropped! Check the link in bio for more details. ad #sponsored”* [53].

Another common abbreviated word is “info” from “information”, e.g.: *“Drop your email for more info on the latest AI tools! #AI #info”* [52]. It is a convenient abbreviation used at both platforms when users share data, news, or details. Syntactically, apocope retains the original grammatical function of the word.

Aphesis involves the omission of the initial part of a word. This form of abbreviation is commonly used on Instagram and Twitter (X). Shortening words through apheresis, users can convey messages with greater speed and brevity while maintaining clarity and relevance, e.g.: 'cause (because), phone (telephone), net (internet), round (around), lone (alone), scape (landscape), mid (amid), bove (above), etc.

The term “net” (from “Internet”) is frequently used when discussing online activity or social media on both platforms. For instance, a Twitter user writes: *“Spending way too much time on the net today. #netlife”* [57].

Another common instance of apheresis is “cause” (short for “‘cause”, which itself is a contraction of “because”). This abbreviation is popular in casual speech, especially when expressing reasons concisely, for example: *“Can’t go out tonight cause I’m stuck with homework”*.

The word “phone” (from “telephone”) is extensively used across social media platforms, referring primarily to mobile devices. Its shortened form appears frequently in hashtags, posts, and promotional content. For instance: “*Just got my new phone and it's amazing! #techreview*” [58].

In terms of syntax, these clipped forms do not alter the grammatical function of the original words. The prevalence of such abbreviations in social media discourse demonstrates the adaptability of language to evolving communication needs.

Syncope involves the removal of sounds within a word. On Instagram and Twitter (X), syncope contributes to the creation of informal, easy-to-type words that fit the character constraints of digital platforms. A notable example of syncope is “vibe” (from “vibration”), which is widely used to describe a feeling or atmosphere. Particularly on Instagram, it serves as both a noun and a verb. For example: “*Loving the cozy vibe of this place*” [55].

The word “congrats” (shortened from “congratulations”) is another common instance of syncope, frequently used in celebratory posts or comments. For instance: “*Congrats on your graduation! So proud of you!*” [53]

Similarly, “specs” (from “specifications”) is often employed when discussing product features or attributes, particularly in posts related to technology or gadgets. For example: “*@techreviewer: Check out the latest phone specs – camera quality is insane!*” [60]

The abbreviation “fridge” (from “refrigerator”) is commonly used in both casual conversation and advertisements. It frequently appears in posts about home appliances or cooking. For example: “*@foodlover: Just stocked the fridge with fresh groceries!*” [56].

Mixed contractions combine elements of apocope, apheresis, and syncope to form highly abbreviated words. These contractions are particularly popular in the informal, meme-heavy discourse found on social media. The examples of mixed contractions found in our research sample include the following:

“Flu”, from “influenza”, is a common abbreviation used to refer to sickness, often used in hashtags related to health or illness: “*a few days ago, i caught the flu (again) 🤒*” [58].

The contraction “blog” (from “weblog”) is used to describe online writing platforms, and it has become especially prevalent on both Instagram and Twitter, particularly in discussions about content creation: “*Just published a new blog post on travel tips! ✈️ #TravelBlog #ContentCreator*” [61]

The unit “lecky” (from “electric train”) is often used in informal contexts when discussing modes of transportation or technology, for example, the user of the Twitter writes: “*Took the lecky to work today. So smooth and eco-friendly!*” [61]

“Van”, derived from “avant-garde”, has found its place in arts and culture discussions, often referring to cutting-edge ideas or movements: “*Loving this new van art exhibit – truly pushing boundaries! #VanArt #Innovation*” [62]

Abbreviations formed from initial letters – commonly acronyms and initialisms – are essential tools for concise communication on Instagram and X. These abbreviations help to convey complex ideas quickly and efficiently. On both platforms, acronyms and initialisms are used to refer to organizations, movements, or common expressions (see Table 2 in the Appendix).

Acronyms are formed by taking the initial letters of words in a phrase and pronouncing them as a single word. On Instagram and X, acronyms are often used to represent widespread cultural phenomena, expressions, or organizations.

The acronym YOLO (you only live once) is a popular acronym that reflects a lifestyle of living in the moment, is commonly used on both platforms: “*Booked my flight to Bali last minute. I'm feeling like YOLO right now! #LivingMyBestLife*” [51]

FOMO (fear of missing out) is widely used to describe feelings of anxiety or exclusion, especially in posts related to social events and experiences, for example: “*Missed the concert last night because of work The FOMO is REAL! #WishIWasThere*” [62].

LOL (laughing out loud) is one of the most widely recognized acronyms, used to express laughter or amusement in posts and comments: “*Just watched that new comedy show on Netflix and I can't stop laughing! #LOL #Hilarious*” [57]

RIP stands for “rest in peace”, for example: “*Very sad day. RIP to a true legend and the sweetest guy! Youll live on forever in our hearts Michael 💔*” [54].

POV stands for “point of view”. It is commonly used on Instagram and Twitter (X) to describe a specific perspective or viewpoint, often in a creative or humorous context. In many cases, it is used to introduce a situation or scenario from a particular perspective, typically to make the content more relatable or engaging, for example: “*POV: You're the only one awake at 2 a.m. scrolling through Instagram*” [57].

Acronyms like these retain their function as nouns or expressions, fitting into the syntactic structure of sentences without altering the grammatical flow.

Alphabetic abbreviations are formed from the initial letters of a phrase but are pronounced letter by letter, rather than as a single word. On Instagram and Twitter (X), initialisms are commonly used to refer to organizations, communication tools, or common expressions.

OMG (oh my God) is widely used on Instagram and Twitter to express surprise or excitement: “*OMG! Breathtaking look*” [53].

DM (direct message) is a frequently used term when referring to private messaging between users, for example: “*If you have any questions about the event, feel free to DM me!*” [52]

CEO (Chief Executive Officer) is commonly seen in posts related to business or entrepreneurship, particularly when discussing corporate leadership, for instance: “*RIGHT: NPR CEO Katherine Maher believes her "number one challenge" is the First Amendment*” [66]

They are written using both uppercase and lowercase letters by the influencers, like, Ilysm (I love you so much) or Imy (I miss you), for example: “*this artwork for great big beautiful life oh alice and hayden ilysm*” [63]

“*Btw, did you check out that new restaurant I recommended?*” [63]

Mixed abbreviations combine initial letters and words or numbers to form hybrid terms. These abbreviations are prevalent in discussions on both platforms, particularly in business, politics, and popular culture. The examples that we have found on Instagram and Twitter (X) include:

B2B (Business to Business) is frequently used in posts about marketing and commerce, for example: *“Looking for new B2B partnerships to expand our reach in the tech industry!”* [53]

D-Day (Designated Day) is used in various contexts, especially in historical discussions or event planning, e.g.: *“Can’t believe D-Day is almost here! The wedding countdown is down to hours”* [52].

C3PO (Character 3 Protocol) refers to the popular Star Wars character and is often used in memes or pop culture references: *“When you feel like C3PO trying to understand human emotions... ”* [52]

Mixed abbreviations combine the convenience of initialisms with the specificity of individual words, creating highly efficient forms for conveying meaning.

Graphic abbreviations are those that are used primarily in writing. These abbreviations are often found in contexts where visual brevity is required, such as in captions or hashtags:

- hrs (hours), used when discussing time in both Instagram posts and Twitter threads: *“Only 3 more hrs until the concert starts! Can't wait!”* [53]
- lbs (pounds), frequently seen in fitness-related posts or tweets about weight: *“Just lost 5 lbs this week! Feeling stronger every day”* [52].
- ppl (people), commonly used in both informal posts and hashtags: *“#GoodVibesOnly – can’t wait to meet more positive ppl at the conference”* [52].

Graphic abbreviations are specifically designed for written communication in digital formats.

Telescopic words, or blends, are another form of abbreviation commonly found on Instagram and Twitter (X). These words are formed by merging parts of

two or more words to create new, more concise terms. The most common terms include brunch, chillax, cosplay, ginormous, smog, vlog, etc. (See Table 3 in the Appendix).

The word “brunch” (breakfast + lunch) has become a widely used term in both social media and real-world discussions about meals, for example: “*Brunch with the crew today ☺ So many mimosas, I think I’m still feeling it! #BrunchGoals #MimosaTime*” [62]

“Smog” (smoke + fog) is commonly used when discussing pollution or environmental issues, for example: “*The smog is so thick today! Please stay indoors if you can, air quality is at a hazardous level*” [52].

“Vlog” comes from “video + blog” and refers to video content and is often used by content creators on both platforms, for example: “*Just uploaded my latest vlog! Come check out the behind-the-scenes of my trip to Bali #TravelVlog #IslandVibes*” [63]

The blend “ginormous” (gigantic + enormous) has become a popular way to express something that is unusually large, often in a playful or exaggerated way on social media. For example: “*Yeah. Like I was letting anyone NEAR my suddenly ginormous brown raspberries*” [53].

Blended words, or telescopic words, allow for the efficient expression of complex ideas, and they often function as nouns or verbs in digital discourse.

2.1.2 Neologisms on Twitter (X) and Instagram

There are numerous abbreviations utilized in online communication, including instant messaging platforms, chat rooms, online forums, and social networking sites. It's important to note that while some of these abbreviations are widely recognized by average Internet users, others are specific to certain sub-cultures or online communities. There are no strict rules regarding the use of uppercase or lowercase letters, with both forms being acceptable, although lowercase is often preferred as it can facilitate faster typing.

In terms of meaning, neologism abbreviations are diverse and can be categorized into several groups based on their intended message and context. For our study, we follow the classification system proposed by H. Dixon, who identifies eight distinct categories of Internet abbreviations. These categories will be examined in detail, with relevant examples drawn from our research materials.

As per Dixon's classification, the semantic categories of Internet neologism abbreviations in online communication include: 1) greetings; 2) relationships; 3) mood or reaction; 4) negative descriptions; 5) affection; 6) closings; 7) disclaimers; and 8) timing [26, p. 30].

Neologism abbreviations that express **greetings** are commonly employed by Internet users. In this section, we will analyze the meaning and usage of the most prevalent greetings abbreviations found in the research material. These abbreviations are integral to online communication, enabling users to quickly initiate conversations in a friendly and efficient manner.

“HUD” is an abbreviation for the phrase “How you doing?” which, although grammatically incorrect, is widely used in informal online communication. This abbreviation is formed as an initialism, where each letter stands for a part of the phrase. Notably, the letter “U” in the abbreviation represents the phonetic sound of the word “you”, making it a more casual, text-friendly version of the original phrase, “*Good bro, HUD?*” [52]

“RUOK” is an initialism derived from the phrase “Are you ok?”, where the word “you” is substituted with the letter “U”, which mimics the phonetic sound of the word. This abbreviation is commonly used in informal online communication to quickly inquire about someone's well-being in a casual and efficient manner. For example: “*How's it going Imek? Ruok?*” [52]

The abbreviations denoting **relationships** include the following acronyms: BF – the abbreviation stands for “boyfriend” or “best friend”, GF is an initialism of the lexeme “girlfriend”, and BFF is an initialism of the phrase “best friend forever”, for example: “*He's my bff:P*” [52].

The category of neologism abbreviations related to **mood or reactions** is extensive and predominantly consists of acronyms that convey various human emotions and attitudes. These emotions span a wide spectrum, from joy and laughter to apathy, sorrow, and even aggression: OMG – “Oh my God!”, WTF – “what the f*ck”, ROTFLOL – “rolling on the floor laughing out loud”, LMAO – “laughing my ass off”, LOL – “laugh out loud”, DC – “I don’t care”. For example: “*I memorized Holy Grail really well. I can recite it right now and have you ROTFLOL” [53].*

Abbreviations representing **negative descriptions** include the following: BS – “bullshit”, FOS – “full of shit”, POS – “piece of shit”, for instance: “*If you would clean that POS off the floor, that would really be a demonstration of POS. Hell, I'd promote you!*” [63]

The group of neologism abbreviations denoting **affection** is relatively small and includes the following terms, which express the human emotion of deep fondness: ILY – “I love you”, LYLAB – “Love you like a brother”, LYLAS – “Love you like a sister”, XOXO – “hugs and kisses”, for example: “*I can't wait to see you tonight babe! Xoxo” [52]. The abbreviation XOXO is the only abbreviation in this group having the form of the emoticon.*

The group of **closings** consists of abbreviations for words and phrases used to signal the conclusion of a conversation. The following abbreviations have been identified in the research material: TTYL – “talk to you later”, CU – “see you”, BBR – “be right back”, for example: “*CU later, man” [52].*

The **disclaimers** include the following neologism abbreviations: AFAICR – “as far as I can recall / remember”, AFAICS - “as far as I can see”, AFAICT – “as far as I can tell”, AFAIK - “as far as I know”, AFAIR – “as far as I remember”, AFAIU – “as far as I understand”, AFAIUI – “as far as I understand it”, for example: “*She's staying in a medical foster home. And AFAIU, she is doing very well” [53].*

The group of neologism abbreviations denoting **timing** is extensive and primarily includes acronyms that express time-related concepts and attitudes toward it. Some of the abbreviations identified in the research material consist of combinations of letters and numbers: B4 – “before”, ATM – “at the moment”,

ATEOTD – “at the end of the day”, ASAP – “as soon as possible”, JAS – “just a second”, l8r – “later”, for instance: *“Do you think it makes sense for him to get back to work ASAP?”* [57]

The group of neologism abbreviations denoting **wishes** includes the following acronyms: TC – “take care”, WB – “welcome back”, GL – “good luck”, HAND – “have a nice day”, HF – “have fun”, for example: *“Alright, HF. They're so excited”* [63].

The group of neologism abbreviations denoting **politeness** includes expressions of gratitude, apologies, and other courteous forms of communication. Some examples from the research material include: TY – “thank you”, Sry – “sorry”, plz – “please”, KTHX – “OK, thanks”, for example: *“can i curse in my language plz?”*

Abbreviations expressing **opinion** are not very numerous and are actualized in the following acronyms: TBH – “to be honest”, IMHO – “in my humble opinion”. For instance: *“IMHO, that is awesome!”* [53].

Curses and offenses are represented by abbreviations aimed at insulting or hurting the feelings of other users. These abbreviations are often used to express anger, frustration, or disrespect and include offensive terms such as ESAD – “eat shit and die”, FU – “f*ck you”, FOAD – “f*ck off and die”, GFY – “go f*ck yourself”, STFU – “shut the f*ck up”, URS – “you really suck”, for example: *“...you, your friends, your political party, and all your multiple personalities can go find yourselves squarely atop your own wrinkly impotent acorns. gfy”* [52].

The following units represent neologisms that refer to a **person**, their occupation, physical appearance, or character: NIFOC – “naked in front of computer”, NSOH – “no sense of humor”, ppl – “People”, IANAL – “I am not a lawyer”, newb, n00b – “an inexperienced user of a system or game, or an annoying person”, MFW – “my face when (usually accompanied by an image)”, M8 – “Mate”, for instance: *“mfw Gerrard scored a goal against the us after 4 minutes”* [52].

Internet neologism abbreviations serve the same function as traditional abbreviations, helping to save time, space, and effort; however, their meanings can

vary depending on the context. Regarding the future of online abbreviations in spoken language, opinions differ among various groups, and it remains unclear which trends will dominate moving forward. As for written communication, abbreviations are not a recent development. They have been in use for many years and are likely to continue being used. As David Crystal suggests, we can either create our own collection of online abbreviations [24], adapt to emerging trends in form, meaning, and usage, or simply stick to the most widely recognized ones.

2.2 Abbreviations in social media news reports

Social media news reports refer to news-related content shared and disseminated through social media platforms like Twitter (X), Instagram, Facebook, and others. These reports are often concise and formatted to fit the platform's specific style, making use of hashtags, mentions, and multimedia (images, videos, or links) to enhance engagement and reach a larger audience. Unlike traditional news reports, social media news reports may come from a variety of sources, including journalists, news outlets, influencers, or even regular users. The content often focuses on current events, trending topics, or viral stories that generate significant user interest. They can be presented in a mix of formats, such as: short text updates or status posts, live broadcasts or video updates, images with accompanying captions, interactive posts like polls or questions.

2.2.1 The use of abbreviations in news headlines

Abbreviations in news headlines are a prevalent and distinctive characteristic of contemporary media discourse, particularly within the sphere of social media news reports. As digital communication platforms such as Twitter (X) and Instagram continue to expand their influence, the linguistic conventions governing news spreading have undergone significant transformations. One of the most notable aspects of this evolution is the increasing reliance on abbreviations to convey information rapidly and effectively. In the context of social media, where character

limits and audience engagement are critical considerations, the use of abbreviations has emerged as a highly effective linguistic strategy.

The primary motivation behind the employment of abbreviations in social media news headlines is the necessity for brevity. Platforms like Twitter (X), with its traditional character limit of 280 characters, require content creators to condense their messages while preserving the intended meaning. Abbreviations facilitate this process by allowing for the transmission of complex ideas within a limited textual space. Even on platforms such as Instagram, where longer captions are permissible, the inclination toward abbreviated forms persists, particularly in headlines or attention-grabbing statements designed to draw readers to the full content.

Additionally, the fast-paced nature of digital communication further reinforces the usage of abbreviations in headlines. Social media users often encounter a continuous stream of information, and the ability to process content rapidly is essential. Abbreviations provide a linguistic mechanism through which news providers can capture attention almost instantaneously. Presenting familiar abbreviated forms, such as “COVID” (Coronavirus Disease), “UN” (United Nations), or “NASA” (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), headlines become more accessible and appealing to the average reader, for example: *“The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in India launched a dedicated Twitter handle, @CovidnewsbyMIB, to provide authentic information and updates on COVID-19”* [65]. The simplification achieved through abbreviations is not merely a stylistic choice but a practical response to the demands of the digital age.

Furthermore, abbreviations contribute to enhancing clarity in headlines by prioritizing essential information and eliminating redundant or less significant elements. The exclusion of auxiliary verbs, articles, and conjunctions is a common practice in headlines across various media platforms. However, this phenomenon is particularly prominent in social media discourse, where the emphasis on conciseness is heightened. For instance, a headline like *“NASA implemented stringent safety measures to ensure the health of its astronauts and staff”* [65] conveys a complex

event by omitting unnecessary words, thus allowing the most relevant details to occupy the limited space available.

The employment of abbreviations in news headlines also reflects the cultural and technological shifts associated with social media platforms. Digital media operates within an environment characterized by immediacy, interactivity, and high user engagement. To meet these expectations, news providers frequently employ abbreviations as a means of enhancing the accessibility and shareability of their content. A headline that includes familiar abbreviations is more likely to be noticed, understood, and shared by users. This principle is particularly applicable to trending topics, where abbreviations become part of the lexicon associated with particular events or phenomena.

Moreover, abbreviations in social media news headlines serve as linguistic markers of immediacy and relevance. The temporally sensitive nature of news dissemination requires headlines to be not only informative but also compelling and current. On platforms such as Twitter (X), where breaking news is frequently reported and shared in real time, abbreviations contribute to creating a sense of urgency. Acronyms and initialisms are often used to communicate breaking news or developments succinctly, thereby attracting the attention of users scrolling through vast amounts of content. For example, abbreviations such as “WTI” (West Texas Intermediate) and “UNGA” (United Nations General Assembly) are commonly employed in financial or political news reports to convey essential information rapidly, for example: “*UNGA demands a ceasefire in Gaza*” [65].

The practice of abbreviation is not limited to established acronyms or initialisms; rather, it also encompasses creative, emergent forms shaped by the conventions of digital communication. News outlets and individual users alike frequently devise new abbreviations to suit the context-specific demands of social media discourse. This phenomenon is particularly evident in the context of hashtags, which function as both organizational tools and promotional devices. Abbreviating lengthy or multi-word expressions, users can create concise hashtags that enhance discoverability and facilitate engagement. For instance, abbreviations like “BLM”

(Black Lives Matter) and “COP26” (26th Conference of the Parties) have achieved widespread recognition, serving as efficient linguistic labels for complex socio-political issues, for example: “*BLM* activists rally in DC today to demand justice for victims of police brutality. The fight for racial equality continues. #BLM #JusticeForAll #Protest” [65].

Additionally, the use of abbreviations in headlines can be understood as part of a trend toward the economization of language. In the digital era, efficiency in communication is prioritized over formal precision, particularly when the intended audience consists of users accustomed to rapid, fragmented exchanges of information. Abbreviations fulfill this requirement by streamlining content, allowing for more information to be conveyed within restrictive parameters. This tendency is particularly evident in headlines that incorporate numerical abbreviations, such as “G20” (Group of Twenty) or “4G/5G” (Fourth/Fifth Generation mobile networks). These forms not only simplify the headline but also render it more visually appealing and memorable, for instance: “*G20* summit kicks off today with leaders discussing global economic recovery and climate change solutions. #G20 #GlobalEconomy #ClimateAction” [65].

Moreover, the frequent use of abbreviations in social media headlines is closely connected to the phenomenon of virality. Given that social media platforms prioritize user interaction and engagement, content creators often tailor their headlines to maximize their potential reach. Abbreviations, particularly those that are recognizable and widely understood, can contribute to this goal by enhancing the shareability of posts. A headline featuring a familiar abbreviation is more likely to be reposted, retweeted, or shared across multiple platforms, thereby increasing its visibility and influence. Consequently, the strategic use of abbreviations in headlines can be seen as part of a larger effort to optimize content for digital spread.

Despite their practical advantages, the widespread use of abbreviations in news headlines also presents certain challenges. A potential drawback is the risk of ambiguity or misinterpretation, particularly when abbreviations are employed without adequate contextualization. While familiar abbreviations such as “EU” (European

Union) or “WHO” (World Health Organization) are likely to be understood by most audiences, less common or newly coined forms may cause confusion. Furthermore, the use of abbreviations may contribute to a perceived reduction in linguistic richness or clarity, especially when employed excessively or inappropriately.

Nevertheless, the advantages of using abbreviations in social media news headlines appear to outweigh the potential drawbacks. From a linguistic standpoint, abbreviations are a natural evolution of language usage, shaped by the technological and communicative demands of the digital age. The phenomenon can be seen as an adaptation to the constraints of character limits, attention spans, and the competitive nature of online news spreading. Rather than diminishing linguistic expression, abbreviations enhance the efficiency and accessibility of communication, thereby aligning with the overarching goals of social media platforms.

Moreover, the use of abbreviations in news headlines reflects broader societal trends toward minimalism and rapid information consumption. In a media sphere where users are inundated with content, the ability to capture attention quickly is essential. Abbreviations, by their very nature, contribute to this goal by providing a streamlined alternative to lengthy phrases or complex terminology. Additionally, they often convey a sense of modernity and familiarity, particularly when associated with trending topics or popular movements. This trend is evident in the widespread adoption of abbreviations such as “AI” (Artificial Intelligence), “NFT” (Non-Fungible Token), and “LGBTQ+” (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and others), for example: “*LGBTQ+ rights take center stage at today’s global human rights conference. Advocates push for more inclusive policies*” [59].

The strategic use of abbreviations in social media news headlines also demonstrates a high degree of linguistic creativity and adaptability. As online platforms continue to evolve, so too do the linguistic practices associated with them. Abbreviations frequently emerge as a response to new technological developments, cultural phenomena, or socio-political events. For instance, during the COVID-19 pandemic, abbreviations such as “PPE” (Personal Protective Equipment), “WFH” (Work From Home), and “CDC” (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

became integral components of online discourse, for instance: “*WFH culture is here to stay! Companies adapt to hybrid models as employees demand more flexibility. #WFH #RemoteWork #WorkFromHome*” [59]. This process of abbreviation creation is ongoing, reflecting the fluid nature of digital communication.

Furthermore, the influence of abbreviations in social media news headlines extends beyond the platforms themselves, as traditional news outlets often adopt similar linguistic strategies to appeal to online audiences. Headlines published on official news websites or shared through social media accounts frequently incorporate abbreviations to enhance their accessibility and engagement potential. This convergence between digital and traditional media highlights the impact of social media conventions on contemporary journalistic practices.

The integration of abbreviations into news headlines also contributes to the formation of in-group language within specific online communities. Certain abbreviations gain prominence among particular demographics or interest groups, thereby functioning as markers of identity and affiliation. For example, abbreviations such as “FOMO” (Fear of Missing Out), “TBT” (Throwback Thursday), and “IMO” (In My Opinion) are often used by younger audiences on platforms like Instagram and Twitter (X), e.g.: “*TBT to last year’s epic concert! Can’t wait for the next one*” [65]. This linguistic phenomenon reflects the tendency of online communities to develop unique communicative norms and practices that distinguish them from mainstream discourse.

The process of abbreviation formation in social media news headlines is also influenced by factors related to branding and marketing. News outlets and individual content creators alike are conscious of the need to optimize their headlines for discoverability and engagement. Abbreviations, particularly those that are easily recognizable or that convey a sense of novelty, can contribute significantly to the overall appeal of a headline. For instance, acronyms like “IPO” (Initial Public Offering) and “DIY” (Do It Yourself) are commonly employed in headlines related to business or lifestyle topics, enhancing their relevance and shareability, for example:

“Exciting news! Tech startup XYZ just filed for its IPO today. What does this mean for the future of the industry? #IPO #StockMarket #Tech” [59].

Moreover, abbreviations can serve as tools for enhancing coherence and cohesion within news discourse. Given that social media users often encounter information in fragmented or decontextualized forms, the consistent use of abbreviations can help to establish thematic connections across various posts or articles. For example, abbreviations related to major political or social events, such as “COP28” (28th Conference of the Parties) or “G7” (Group of Seven), function as linguistic anchors that link disparate pieces of content, for example: *“World leaders gather at COP28 to tackle climate change and set new global sustainability goals #COP28 #ClimateAction #Sustainability” [59].* This cohesion is particularly valuable for users who seek to follow ongoing developments over extended periods of time.

The evolving nature of social media platforms themselves also plays a role in shaping the use of abbreviations in news headlines. As technological advancements continue to alter the ways in which users interact with content, linguistic practices must adapt accordingly. The introduction of new features, such as Twitter’s (X) expanded character limits or Instagram’s enhanced storytelling capabilities, has influenced the degree to which abbreviations are employed.

2.2.2 Types of abbreviations in social media news reports

The use of abbreviations in social media news reports encompasses a diverse range of linguistic strategies aimed at enhancing readability, condensing information, and promoting rapid comprehension. Given the fast-paced nature of platforms such as Twitter (X) and Instagram, abbreviations play a crucial role in allowing journalists, influencers, and casual users to communicate effectively within the constraints of limited character counts. The various types of abbreviations commonly employed in social media news discourse include initialisms, acronyms, clipped forms, numerals and symbols, and even emojis. Each subtype serves distinct purposes and contributes

uniquely to the broader communication strategies observed within social media news reporting.

Initialisms are one of the most prevalent forms of abbreviation found in social media news reports. They are created by taking the initial letters of words within a phrase and representing them as a series of capitalized letters. Unlike acronyms, initialisms are typically pronounced letter-by-letter rather than as a single word. Initialisms are particularly advantageous in social media news reports, as they enable the rapid identification of organizations, governmental bodies, or frequently referenced terms without requiring lengthy explanations.

For instance, established media outlets frequently employ initialisms such as “CNN” (Cable News Network), “BBC” (British Broadcasting Corporation), and “FBI” (Federal Bureau of Investigation) in their headlines to ensure clarity and conciseness. Similarly, commonly used political and social entities like “UN” (United Nations), “EU” (European Union), and “NATO” (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) are frequently represented by their respective initialisms, for example: “*The FBI has confirmed that it is looking into the massive data breach that exposed personal information from millions of users*” [65]. The prevalence of such abbreviations reflects their utility in news discourse, particularly when addressing complex global issues or referencing well-known institutions.

Furthermore, initialisms are often integrated into hashtags to enhance searchability and categorization. For example, hashtags like “#FBIInvestigation” or “#UNClimateSummit” are frequently employed to draw attention to ongoing events or official statements. Incorporating initialisms within hashtags, users can quickly engage with trending topics and contribute to broader discussions without sacrificing coherence or clarity. The accessibility provided by initialisms is particularly valuable within platforms like Twitter (X), where character limitations necessitate linguistic economy.

Acronyms differ from initialisms in that they are pronounced as single words rather than as individual letters. This subtype of abbreviation is particularly prominent in social media news reports, where commonly used terms or phrases are

reduced to more manageable forms to facilitate ease of communication. Acronyms have become an essential feature of modern digital discourse, especially when dealing with technical or institutional terminology.

High-profile acronyms such as “COVID-19” (Coronavirus Disease 2019), “CEO” (Chief Executive Officer), “IMF” (International Monetary Fund), etc. are regularly featured in news reports shared across social media platforms. The use of acronyms allows for efficient communication of otherwise lengthy names or titles, enhancing both accessibility and retention, for example: “*The IMF has predicted a global economic slowdown in 2023, citing rising inflation and geopolitical tensions*” [59].

Moreover, acronyms frequently serve as linguistic markers that signal membership within specific online communities or interest groups. For example, acronyms such as “LGBTQ+” (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and others) and “NFT” (Non-Fungible Token) are often employed within news reports related to social justice or digital art, respectively, for instance: “*Major digital artist @CryptoArtCreator just sold a one-of-a-kind NFT for over \$5 million, breaking records in the world of online art sales*” [65]. Their adoption and widespread usage show the adaptability of social media discourse to contemporary social and technological trends.

Acronyms also play a significant role in shaping the perception of events or issues by providing succinct, memorable labels that capture the essence of complex phenomena. For instance, acronyms like “BREXIT” (British Exit from the European Union) or “GREXIT” (Greek Exit from the European Union) have become shorthand references to entire socio-political processes, demonstrating the capacity of acronyms to function as powerful rhetorical tools, for example: “*Amid growing economic concerns, some experts are warning that a potential GREXIT could have serious repercussions for the stability of the Eurozone*” [65].

Clipping represents another type of abbreviation commonly employed in social media news reports. Unlike initialisms or acronyms, clipped forms retain a recognizable portion of the original word, allowing readers to understand the

intended meaning without difficulty. Typical examples of clipped forms include words such as “info” (information), “ad” (advertisement), “doc” (document), and “vid” (video). These shortened words are particularly useful on platforms like Twitter (X), where character limits demand conciseness, for example: *“Just got the latest doc on climate change policy from the UN! It highlights urgent actions needed for 2025. #ClimateChange #UNDoc #Sustainability”* [65].

Furthermore, clipping is not restricted to individual words; it can also be applied to longer phrases, particularly when they have become conventionalized through repeated use. For instance, the abbreviation “app” (application) has largely supplanted the full form across various social media platforms, reflecting both its efficiency and widespread acceptance, for example: *“New app update just dropped! Check out the latest features for better user experience. #TechNews #AppUpdate #Innovation”* [59]. As digital communication continues to evolve, the use of clipped forms is likely to remain a defining characteristic of online news discourse.

In addition to more conventional abbreviations, social media news reports often incorporate numerals and symbols as part of their linguistic strategies. This form of abbreviation is particularly effective for simplifying complex concepts or denoting specific events. The use of numbers in hashtags, for example, is a common practice intended to enhance discoverability and facilitate categorization. Hashtags such as “#COVID19,” “#COP28” (28th Conference of the Parties), and “#Biden2024” are illustrative of how numerals are employed to provide succinct references to ongoing events, conferences, or election campaigns, for example: *“Early polls show Biden leading in key swing states ahead of the 2024 election. #Biden2024 #Election2024 #USPolitics”* [65]. In these cases, the use of numbers allows for greater precision while simultaneously promoting engagement across multiple posts or articles.

In social media news reports, numerals and symbols are frequently employed to convey urgency, relevance, or sentiment in a concise manner. For instance, terms like *“Tesla’s \$TSLA Hits Record High ”* or *“Breaking: #WW3 Trends After Major Conflict”* [65] illustrate how these elements help capture immediate attention and

enhance the emotional tone of the message. The use of symbols like “ ” alongside “\$TSLA” amplifies the excitement surrounding Tesla’s stock performance, while the hashtag “#WW3” manifests the gravity and global significance of the news, all within the constraints of a short social media post. These techniques allow news outlets to engage their audience quickly while maintaining clarity and impact. Incorporating non-verbal elements into text-based discourse, users are able to convey meaning more effectively while adhering to platform-specific constraints.

Though not strictly classified as abbreviations in the traditional sense, emojis have emerged as powerful tools for condensing complex ideas or emotions into simple visual representations. The use of emojis in social media news reports is particularly significant due to their ability to convey sentiment, highlight key points, and enhance audience engagement. For instance, emojis such as “ ” (used to indicate something trending or exciting), “⚠️” (used to signify caution or urgency), and “ ” (used to represent statistical data or reports) are frequently incorporated into headlines to supplement textual information. The strategic deployment of emojis can help draw attention to specific posts, thereby enhancing their visibility and shareability.

In social media news reports, emojis are frequently integrated with abbreviations to form hybrid expressions that efficiently convey complex messages while keeping them engaging. For example, in a report discussing the release of new research, an emoji like “ ” can be paired with a hashtag such as “#Science” to visually underscore the topic’s focus. Similarly, in news coverage about environmental concerns, the use of the “⚠️” emoji alongside a hashtag like “#ClimateCrisis” helps to emphasize visually the urgency and importance of the issue. These combinations not only aid in quick comprehension but also capture the reader’s attention through visual elements, enhancing both the tone and the reach of the report.

Moreover, the use of emojis in social media news reports reflects trends in digital communication that prioritize multimodality and interactivity. As emojis

continue to gain cultural significance, their integration into news discourse is likely to expand, contributing to the ongoing evolution of abbreviation usage.

2.2.3 Neologisms in news reports

The dissemination of neologisms, or new terms and expressions, has been a characteristic of contemporary social media language, especially in the field of news coverage. Twitter (X) and Instagram, with their premium on brevity, immediacy, and cultural cache, have been fertile ground for the quick creation and propagation of neologisms. This phenomenon has greatly influenced the manner in which information is communicated, interpreted, and shared, particularly in news stories trying to remain up-to-date in an increasingly digitized world.

Social media news is full of neologisms that are often the result of cultural development, technological innovation, and changing social norms. The speed at which language is evolving on these sites is attested to in the constant creation of new abbreviations, slang, and compound words. Not only do they reflect current discourse, but also impact the wider linguistic environment by creating new words and expressions that are rapidly absorbed into common usage.

A significant source of neologism creation within social media news reports is the need to succinctly describe emerging trends, technological innovations, and cultural phenomena. For instance, abbreviations such as “AI” (Artificial Intelligence) have become commonplace in news headlines discussing technological developments, for example: *“You will never be able to replicate Ghibli, no matter how “good” you think your AI generated trash looks, for it fundamentally lacks all that makes a shot great; emotion, depth, the heart and soul only visible in the labour of an artist who wanted to create **this* specific frame*” [59].*

Additionally, social media platforms themselves contribute to the generation of neologisms that quickly enter mainstream discourse. For example, “tweet” (referring to a post on Twitter) and “retweet” (sharing another user’s post) were once platform-specific terms but have since become widely understood even beyond the confines of

social media. The transformation of these terms from niche jargon to widely recognized expressions demonstrate how digital communication reshapes language.

Moreover, neologisms often emerge as abbreviations created to describe cultural trends or social phenomena. The blend like “stan” (“stalker” and “fan”, originating from Eminem’s song “Stan”) and acronym “FOMO” (Fear Of Missing Out) have become part of mainstream media discourse, frequently appearing in headlines and articles discussing popular culture or societal trends, for example: *“sorry but ppl are never gonna make me hate chappell roan she’s been loud about the issues she cares about, there’s no reason to assume that’s stopping, and she’s not wrong to say that ppl need to find their own convictions and stop taking every cue from celebs and stan culture”* [65]. This process illustrates how language evolves to accommodate new concepts and experiences, particularly those associated with the digital age.

The internet’s capacity for generating viral content has further accelerated the development of neologisms within social media news reports. Memes, in particular, serve as powerful vehicles for the dissemination of new words and expressions. As memes spread rapidly across platforms, the terminology associated with them often becomes embedded within broader linguistic usage.

For instance, the abbreviation “sus” (short for “suspicious”) gained widespread popularity following its use in the online multiplayer game *Among Us*, for example: *“In 2024, @instagram blocked sus accounts from following teens & rolled out features to prevent screenshotting ephemeral DMs. A major step in fighting sextortion”* [65]. Its adoption into mainstream discourse was accelerated by social media platforms where memes and viral trends circulate quickly. News reports referencing this term often employ it in both serious and humorous contexts, reflecting its versatility and adaptability.

Similarly, phrases such as “cancel culture” and “woke” have evolved from internet discourse into widely recognized concepts frequently discussed in news reports. These terms often undergo semantic shifts as they gain traction across various platforms, further highlighting the fluidity of language in digital spaces.

The interplay between memes and neologisms also demonstrates the democratization of language creation, wherein users collectively shape linguistic trends through participation, remixing, and creative expression. News outlets often draw upon these trends to produce engaging, culturally relevant content that resonates with their target audiences.

Neologisms are not only shaped by technological and cultural trends but also by social and political movements that gain visibility through social media platforms. Abbreviations tied to specific causes or movements often serve as powerful symbols of solidarity and activism.

For instance, the #MeToo movement brought widespread attention to issues of harassment and assault, prompting the creation of new abbreviations such as “GBV” (Gender-Based Violence) and “SA” (Sexual Assault), for example: *“We need more Queens like Mangwabe so we can reduce GBV stats. That courage to leave the table when respect is no longer served”* [64]. These terms have become integral to discussions surrounding gender equality and human rights, both on social media and in mainstream news reports.

Similarly, abbreviations such as “BLM” (Black Lives Matter) and “ACAB” (All Cops Are Bastards) have become widely recognized symbols within social justice discourse. Their usage in news reports reflects broader societal conversations surrounding race, policing, and systemic injustice, for example: *“Another day, another example of police brutality. ACAB. We need justice for all, not just a few. #EndPoliceViolence #BLM”* [59]. As these movements gain traction, the neologisms associated with them become essential components of news coverage, particularly on platforms that prioritize immediacy and cultural relevance.

The propagation of these kinds of abbreviations also illustrates the value of accessibility in internet communication. Condensing complex issues into abbreviated forms, social networking sites facilitate the spread of information between various groups of individuals. This economy of language comes in handy where simplicity and timeliness are crucial, such as breaking news or calls to action that demand urgency.

The natural creation of neologisms in social media news headlines is a reflection of the general linguistic development taking place in online communication. In adopting the new terms and abbreviations, social media sites are driving the vibrant growth of the English language. The phenomenon also illustrates the adaptive character of language, which is constantly changing to address the demands of speakers who are confronted with new cultural, social, and technological contexts.

In addition, the popularity of neologisms mirrors the open and interactive process of language creation in the internet era. As opposed to conventional ways of linguistic innovation, which stem from scholarship or literature, most modern neologisms are produced in the course of interactive communication and collective creativity.

The flexibility afforded by social media platforms allows language to evolve in real-time, responding to emerging trends and adapting to new modes of communication. This fluidity enhances the relevance of social media news reports, ensuring that they remain attuned to the rapidly changing the linguistic sphere of the internet.

Conclusions to Part 2

The examination of personal social media communication on platforms such as Instagram and Twitter (X) has demonstrated that abbreviations serve as powerful sociolinguistic markers that simultaneously reflect and shape the digital discourse community. The classification of abbreviations into word base clippings (apocope, apheresis, syncope, and mixed contractions), letter abbreviations (acronyms, initialisms, alphabetic abbreviations, mixed and graphic abbreviations), and telescopic words has revealed a highly structured system of linguistic economy that users employ intuitively.

The strategic deployment of platform-specific abbreviations serves as a form of linguistic gatekeeping that distinguishes between in-group and out-group participants in digital spaces. This sociolinguistic function explains why certain abbreviations persist even when character limitations are removed or relaxed.

The semantic categorization of neologism abbreviations according to Dixon's classification (greetings, relationships, mood/reaction, negative descriptions, affection, closings, disclaimers, timing, wishes, politeness, opinion, curses/offenses, and person references) has revealed that the distribution of these categories is not uniform but rather reflects the specific communicative priorities of social media users. The predominance of abbreviations related to mood/reaction and greetings underscores the highly interactive and emotionally expressive nature of social media communication.

The analysis of news discourse on social media has provided particularly significant outcomes regarding the functional adaptation of abbreviations to different communicative contexts. Abbreviations in personal communication often prioritize informality and group cohesion, while those in news headlines serve distinctly journalistic purposes: enhancing immediacy, emphasizing relevance, facilitating information density, and optimizing content for audience engagement. The prevalence of initialisms and acronyms in news contexts, compared to the wider variety of abbreviation types in personal communication, reflects these different functional priorities.

The research into neologisms in news has evidenced the reciprocal dependence between conventional media and user-generated content. Social movements and cultural events create new words using bottom-up processes, while news media appropriate and routinize the lexical innovations and push their expansion to mainstream usage.

The multimodal nature of abbreviation in social media deserves particular attention, as evidenced by the increasing integration of emojis, numerals, and symbols alongside traditional alphabetic abbreviations. This hybridization of communicative resources represents a significant evolution in written language, where visual elements are strategically deployed to enhance, complement, or sometimes replace verbal content. The prevalence of these multimodal abbreviations in news contexts suggests a shift toward more visually oriented information processing even in traditionally text-dominated domains.

The data suggests a pattern where new abbreviations emerge in response to technological or cultural developments, undergo a period of meaning negotiation and stabilization, achieve widespread adoption, and eventually either become conventionalized or fade from usage as communicative needs evolve.

These conclusions extend our understanding of abbreviations beyond structural taxonomies to encompass their dynamic role in shaping digital discourse communities, facilitating information transfer across platforms, and negotiating the complex boundary between efficiency and expressivity in computer-mediated communication.

GENERAL CONCLUSION

This research has examined the linguocognitive and linguocultural features of English abbreviations in social media communication, with a particular focus on their structural, semantic, and functional properties. The analysis of abbreviations in various contexts, including personal communications and news reports on platforms such as Twitter (X) and Instagram, has revealed several significant patterns and trends.

The study of English abbreviations on social media demonstrates that they constitute a complex linguistic phenomenon that serves multiple communicative functions. The compiled dictionary for this research comprises 300 lexical units, which are commonly used on social media. Our investigation has identified three primary categories of abbreviations prevalent in social media discourse: truncations (word base clippings), letter abbreviations, and telescopic words (blends). Within these categories, several subcategories have been observed and analyzed.

Truncations, which account for a considerable portion of the abbreviations studied (28% of the total sample), can be further classified into apocope (63.1% of all truncations), apheresis (20.24%), syncope (13.1%), and mixed contractions (3.57%). These forms of abbreviation are particularly prevalent in informal online communications where brevity and efficiency are prioritized.

Letter abbreviations (42% of the total sample) represent another significant category encompassing acronyms and initialisms that are widely employed across various contexts on social media. These abbreviations serve to condense complex phrases or organizational names into more manageable forms, thereby enhancing the efficiency of communication within character-limited platforms.

Telescopic words, or blends (30% of the total sample), constitute a creative category of abbreviations that merge elements of two or more words to form new lexical items. These linguistic innovations reflect the dynamic nature of language evolution in digital spaces, where users continuously develop new expressions to describe emerging concepts, technologies, and cultural phenomena.

The research has also examined the semantic categories of neologism abbreviations in online communication, following Dixon's classification. These categories include greetings, relationships, mood or reaction, negative descriptions, affection, closings, disclaimers, timing, wishes, politeness, opinion, curses and offenses, and person references. The distribution and frequency of these categories reflect the diverse communicative needs and social functions of online interactions.

In the context of news reports on social media, abbreviations serve specific purposes related to the dissemination of information in concise, engaging formats. The analysis of news headlines has revealed that abbreviations contribute to enhancing clarity, immediacy, and relevance in reporting, particularly within the character-limited environment of platforms like Twitter (X).

The study has also identified various types of abbreviations used in social media news reports, including initialisms, acronyms, clipped forms, numerals and symbols, and emojis. Each of these types serves distinct communicative functions while contributing to the overall effectiveness of news dissemination in digital spaces.

Furthermore, the research has explored the role of neologisms in news reports, highlighting how new abbreviations emerge in response to cultural developments, technological innovations, and changing social norms. These neologisms not only reflect current discourse but also impact the broader linguistic landscape by introducing new terms and expressions that rapidly enter common usage.

The results of this research enhance our understanding of how language develops in new communicative environments and technological constraints. The prevalence of abbreviations on social media indicates the dynamic development of language in the digital age, where efficiency, creativity, and cultural connectedness are the driving forces of linguistic innovation.

Thus, this study has provided a comprehensive analysis of English abbreviations used in social media language, covering their structural properties, semantic characteristics, and functional roles. The findings highlight the importance of abbreviations as linguistic tools enabling effective, interactive communication in the high-speed, character-limited environment of social media web pages. With

changing digital communication, the ongoing study of how abbreviations emerge and are employed will be crucial in changing linguistic aspects in internet settings.

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SUMMARY

Бакалаврська робота присвячена дослідженню абрєвіації в сучасному англійському дискурсі. У роботі здійснено ґрунтовний аналіз лексичних, структурних та синтаксичних особливостей абрєвіатур, що використовуються в соціальних мережах, зокрема Twitter (X) та Instagram, а також у новинних повідомленнях.

В основі роботи лежить комплексний методологічний підхід із застосуванням описового, порівняльного та статистичного методів дослідження. За допомогою описового методу досліджено функціонування абрєвіатур у різних контекстах; порівняльний метод застосовано для аналізу подібностей і відмінностей між різними типами абрєвіатур; статистичний метод використано для кількісного аналізу частоти та розподілу конкретних абрєвіатур і неологізмів.

Дослідження показало, що феномен абрєвіації є важливим аспектом розвитку мови, особливо в сучасному англійському дискурсі. Широке використання цифрових комунікаційних платформ, таких як соціальні мережі та обмін текстовими повідомленнями, сприяло швидкому поширенню абрєвіатур. Ця лінгвістична тенденція зумовлена різними факторами, включаючи потребу в лаконічності, ефективності та виразності як у формальному, так і в неформальному спілкуванні.

У роботі проаналізовано різні методи абрєвіації, включаючи акроніми, ініціалізми, усічення, тощо. Встановлено, що розвиток соціальних мереж, зокрема Twitter (X) та Instagram, мав значний вплив на формування, поширення та стандартизацію абрєвіатур.

Дослідження виявило, що абрєвіатури не лише сприяють ефективності комунікації, але й відіграють важливу роль у формуванні унікального цифрового діалекту. Через використання скорочених слів та креативних неологізмів, він відображає активний розвиток онлайн-комунікації, де на перше місце виходить швидке та ефективне спілкування.

Аналіз неологізмів у соціальних мережах показав, що аббревіатури є маркерами культурної ідентичності та трендів. Такі новоутворення є високо контекстно-залежними та свідчать про креативність і адаптивність користувачів у створенні мови, яка резонує зі спільним досвідом онлайн-спільнот.

Окрему увагу в дослідженні приділено використанню аббревіатур у новинних повідомленнях у соціальних мережах. Встановлено, що аббревіатури сприяють створенню яскравих, влучних заголовків, які відповідають обмеженням символів у цифрових медіа та швидкому темпу споживання інформації. Ця стратегія не лише підвищує читабельність та переконливість новинних повідомлень, але й вказує на загальний соціальний зсув у бік мінімалізму та миттєвого споживання інформації.

Загалом результати дослідження вказують на еволюційну роль аббревіатур як інструментів ефективної, виразної та адаптивної комунікації в цифровому середовищі. Ця робота сприяє глибшому розумінню лінгвістичних, структурних та соціальних сил, які формують сучасне використання мови, та пропонує корисні висновки для подальших досліджень у галузі соціолінгвістики, лексикографії та мовних змін.

APPENDICES
ABBREVIATION IN CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH DISCOURSE (on Twitter
(X) and Instagram)

Table 1**Truncations**

No.	Truncated Word	Full Form
Apocope		
1.	ad	advertisement
2.	admin	administrator
3.	app	application
4.	auto	automobile
5.	bike	bicycle
6.	bio	biography
7.	bro	brother
8.	cell	cellular phone
9.	com	commercial
10.	comp	computer
11.	deli	delicatessen
12.	deliv	delivery
13.	demo	demonstration
14.	dipl	diploma
15.	disco	discotheque
16.	doc	document

17.	eco	ecological
18.	exam	examination
19.	event	eventuality
20.	fab	fabulous
21.	fam	family
22.	fav	favorite
23.	fax	facsimile
24.	Feb	February
25.	inc	include
26.	info	information
27.	Jan	January
28.	lab	laboratory
29.	mac	Macintosh
30.	math	mathematics
31.	memo	memorandum
32.	mid	middle
33.	mod	modern
34.	mod	modification
35.	mono	monochrome
36.	perm	permanent
37.	pic.	picture
38.	prop	property

39.	psycho	psychopath
40.	pro	professional
41.	psych	psychology
42.	ref	referee
43.	rep	representative
44.	sci-fi	science fiction
45.	sec	second
46.	semi	semiconductor
47.	sis	sister
48.	sync.	synchronize
49.	tech	technology
50.	temp	temperature
51.	vet	veterinarian
52.	vid	video
53.	uni	university
	Apheresis	
54.	bove	above
55.	burger	hamburger
56.	bus	omnibus
57.	'cause	because
58.	chute	parachute
59.	copter	helicopter

60.	cute	acute
61.	gator	alligator
62.	kini	bikini
63.	limo	limousine
64.	lone	alone
65.	mid	amid
66.	morrow	tomorrow
67.	net	internet
68.	phone	telephone
69.	round	around
70.	scape	landscape
Syncope		
71.	biz	business
72.	congrats	congratulations
73.	fave	favourite
74.	fridge	refrigerator
75.	ma'am	madam
76.	opnl	operational
77.	ppl	people
78.	plz	please
79.	specs	specifications
80.	sry	sorry

81.	vibe	vibration
	Mixed contractions	
82.	flu	influenza
83.	lecky	electric train
84.	van	avant-garde

Table 2**Abbreviations**

No.	Abbreviated Word	Full Form
1.	AFAICR	as far as I can recall / remember
2.	AFAICS	as far as I can see
3.	AFAIK	as far as I know
4.	AFAICT	as far as I can tell
5.	AFAIR	as far as I remember
6.	AFAIU	as far as I understand
7.	AFK	Away from keyboard
8.	AI	Artificial Intelligence
9.	AKA	Also Known As
10.	API	Application Programming Interface
11.	AMA	Ask Me Anything
12.	ATEOTD	at the end of the day
13.	ASAP	as soon as possible
14.	ASL	Age, Sex, Location
15.	ATM	at the moment
16.	BF	best friend
17.	BFF	best friend forever
18.	B2B	Business to Business
19.	B2C	Business to Consumer

20.	BLM	Black Lives Matter
21.	BR	BeReal (app)
22.	BRB	Be right back
23.	BTW	By The Way
24.	BS	bullshit
25.	B4	before
26.	CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
27.	C3PO	Character 3 Protocol
28.	CEO	Chief Executive Officer
29.	CMV	Change My View
30.	CRM	Customer Relationship Management
31.	COP26	26th Conference of the Parties
32.	CTA	Call to Action
33.	CU	See you
34.	D2C	Direct-to-Consumer
35.	D-Day	Designated Day
36.	DC	I don't care
37.	DIY	Do It Yourself
38.	DM	direct message
39.	ELI5	Explain Like I'm 5
40.	ETA	Estimated Time of Arrival
41.	EU	European Union

42.	FB	Facebook
43.	FBF	Flashback Friday
44.	FF	Follow Friday
45.	FOMO	fear of missing out
46.	FOS	full of shit
47.	FR	For Real
48.	FTR	For The Record
49.	FTW	For The Win
50.	FUD	Fear, Uncertainty & Doubt
51.	FWIW	For What It's Worth
52.	FYI	For Your Information
53.	FYP	For You Page (TikTok)
54.	G2G	Got to Go
55.	GF	girlfriend
56.	GL	good luck
57.	G7	Group of Seven
58.	G20	Group of Twenty
59.	GRWM	Get Ready With Me
60.	HAND	have a nice day
61.	HF	have fun
62.	HMU	Hit Me Up
63.	hrs	hours

64.	H/T	Hat Tip / Heard Through
65.	HUD	How you doing
66.	IANAL	I am not a lawyer
67.	ICYMI	In Case You Missed It
68.	IDC	I don't care
69.	IDK	I don't know
70.	IG	Instagram
71.	IIRC	If I Remember Correctly
72.	ILY	I love you
73.	Ilysm	I love you so much
74.	IKR	I Know, Right?
75.	IM	Instant Message
76.	IMHO	in my humble opinion
77.	IMO	In My Opinion
78.	IMU	I miss you
79.	Imy	I miss you
80.	IPO	Initial Public Offering
81.	IRL	In Real Life
82.	ISO	In Search Of
83.	IYKYK	If You Know You Know
84.	JAS	just a second
85.	JIC	Just In Case

86.	JK	Just Kidding
87.	JSYK	Just So You Know
88.	KPI	Key Performance Indicator
89.	KTHX	OK, thanks
90.	lbs	pounds
91.	LDR	Long-Distance Relationship
92.	LGBTQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer
93.	LI	LinkedIn
94.	l8r	later
95.	LMAO	laughing my ass off
96.	LMK	Let Me Know
97.	LOL	laughing out loud
98.	LYLAB	Love you like a brother
99.	LYLAS	Love you like a sister
100.	MFW	my face when
101.	M8	mate
102.	NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
103.	NFT	Non-Fungible Token
104.	ppl	people
105.	OMG	oh my God
106.	POS	piece of shit

107.	POV	point of view
108.	PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
109.	RIP	rest in peace
110.	ROTFLOL	rolling on the floor laughing out loud
111.	RUOK	Are you ok?
112.	TBH	to be hones
113.	TBT	Throwback Thursday
114.	TC	Take care
115.	TTYL	talk to you later
116.	TY	thank you
117.	UN	United Nations
118.	UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
119.	WB	welcome back
120.	WFH	Work From Home
121.	WHO	World Health Organization
122.	WTF	what the f*ck
123.	WTI	West Texas Intermediate
124.	XOXO	hugs and kisses
125.	YOLO	you only live once
126.	4G/5G	Fourth/Fifth Generation mobile networks

Table 3**Telescopic words (blends)**

No.	Telescopic Word	Full Form
1.	adorkable	adorable + dork
2.	affluenza	affluence + influenza
3.	animatronics	animate + electronics
4.	blog	web + log
5.	bodacious	bold + audacious
6.	Brangelina	Brad + Angelina
7.	BREXIT	British + Exit
8.	bromance	brother + romance
9.	brunch	breakfast + lunch
10.	brunchies	brunch + munchies
11.	carjack	car + hijack
12.	chillax	chill + relax
13.	chillhop	chill + hip-hop
14.	chilluminate	chill + illuminate
15.	chortle	chuckle + snort
16.	chugger	charity + mugger
17.	cloudware	cloud + software
18.	corpocracy	corporate + democracy
19.	cosplay	costume + play

20.	COVID	coronavirus disease
21.	crowdsource	crowd + source
22.	cybercrime	cyber + crime
23.	cyborg	cybernetic + organism
24.	dramedy	drama + comedy
25.	edutainment	education + entertainment
26.	electrocute	electricity + execute
27.	eliminati	eliminate + illuminati
28.	finsta	fake + Instagram
29.	flexitarian	flexible + vegetarian
30.	framily	friends + family
31.	frankenfood	Frankenstein + food
32.	frappuccino	frappe + cappuccino
33.	frenemy	friend + enemy
34.	ginormous	gigantic + enormous
35.	glamping	glamorous + camping
36.	glampground	glamorous + campground
37.	glamrock	glamour + rock
38.	gitter	glow + flitter
39.	globesity	Global + obesity
40.	GREXIT	Greek + Exit
41.	guesstimate	guess + estimate
42.	hangry	hungry + angry

43.	infomercial	information + commercial
44.	infotainment	information + entertainment
45.	inscape	inside + escape
46.	jorts	jeans + shorts
47.	labradoodle	Labrador + poodle
48.	listicle	list + article
49.	livestream	live + stream
50.	malware	malicious + software
51.	mansplain	man + explain
52.	meme	memory + gene
53.	mermaid	mermaid + man
54.	mobilegeddon	mobile + Armageddon
55.	mockumentary	mock + documentary
56.	motel	motor + hotel
57.	netbook	internet + notebook
58.	netiquette	Internet + etiquette
59.	netizen (internet user)	Internet + citizen
60.	netpreneur	Internet + entrepreneur
61.	pescatarian	pesce (fish) + vegetarian
62.	pizzetta	pizza + small
63.	podcast	iPod + broadcast
64.	romcom	romantic comedy
65.	smog	smoke + fog

66.	sexcapade	sex + escapade
67.	sexting	Sex + texting
68.	sheeple	sheep + people
69.	shopaholic	shop + alcoholic
70.	sitcom	situation + comedy
71.	slanguage	slang + language
72.	smangling	smashing + banging
73.	snark	snide + remark
74.	solopreneur	solo + entrepreneur
75.	spork	spoon + fork
76.	surfari	surf + safari
77.	staycation	stay + vacation
78.	stagflation	stagnation + inflation
79.	swolemate	swole + soulmate
80.	technorati	technology + literati
81.	teleplay	television + play
82.	telethon	television + marathon
83.	textationship	text + relationship
84.	tragicomedy	tragic + comedy
85.	veganaise	vegan + mayonnaise
86.	vlog	video + blog
87.	voluntourism	volunteer + tourism
88.	webinar	web + seminar

89.	webzine	web + magazine
90.	workaholic	work + alcoholic