

SHORTENINGS IN A COMPUTER VOCABULARY OF MODERN ENGLISH

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ABSTRACT. *The problem of abbreviations that enlarge the vocabulary of a language in computer technology as one of the productive ways of word-formation in modern English is analyzed. The factors that influence the emergence of new shortenings in the computer vocabulary and that enhance the values of the existing units are defined. It goes about the types of shortenings in the computer vocabulary of modern English and their structural features. Found that most surveyed shortenings that were in the computer vocabulary in the last ten years, became neologisms. On the basis of the English novel D. Brown «Digital Fortress» the features of the use of different types of shortenings in the work are analyzed.*

Key words: *word-formation, shortenings, abbreviations, telescopes, computer vocabulary.*

СКОРОЧЕННЯ В КОМП'ЮТЕРНІЙ ЛЕКСИЦІ СУЧАСНОЇ АНГЛІЙСЬКОЇ МОВИ

АНОТАЦІЯ. *У статті висвітлено проблему одного з продуктивних способів словотворення в сучасній англійській мові – скорочень, що поповнюють лексичний склад мови у галузі комп'ютерних технологій. Мова йде про чинники, що впливають на появу нових скорочень комп'ютерної лексики та на розширення значень уже існуючих одиниць. Аналізуються види скорочень комп'ютерної лексики в сучасній англійській мові та характеризуються їх структурні особливості. Виявлено, що більшість досліджених скорочень, які з'явилися у комп'ютерній лексиці протягом останніх десяти років, стали неологізмами. На основі англомовного роману Д. Брауна «Цифрова фортеця» проаналізовано особливості вживання різних типів скорочень в творі.*

Ключові слова: *словотворення, скорочення, абрєвіатури, телескопізми, комп'ютерна лексика.*

СОКРАЩЕНИЯ В КОМПЬЮТЕРНОЙ ЛЕКСИКЕ СОВРЕМЕННОГО АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА

АННОТАЦИЯ. *В статье освещена проблема одного из продуктивных способов словообразования в современном английском языке –*

сокращений, которые пополняют словарный состав языка в области компьютерных технологий. Речь идет о факторах, влияющих на появление новых сокращений компьютерной лексики и на расширение значений уже существующих единиц. Анализируются виды сокращений компьютерной лексики в современном английском языке и характеризуются их структурные особенности. Выявлено, что большинство исследованных сокращений, которые появились в компьютерной лексике в течение последних десяти лет, стали неологизмами. На основе англоязычного романа Д. Брауна «Цифровая крепость» проанализированы особенности использования различных типов сокращений в произведении.

Ключевые слова: *словообразование, сокращения, аббревиатуры, телескопизмы, компьютерная лексика.*

Introduction

Vocabulary of the English language, like any other, is in a state of continuous change. One of the patterns of vocabulary's development is to enlarge it with new words. Enlarging occurs in two ways: by borrowing from other languages, and through the formation of new words, i.e. through word formation. Word-formation process occurs continuously, reflecting the changes in the world, responding to the needs of native speakers. Wars, revolutions, the progress of science and technology, the development of the telegraph, the emergence of joint-stock enterprises type, the trade union movement, the development of sports associations and parliamentary forms of government etc. cause the process of shortening. It is known that the shortening of the lexical units is used to save linguistic means and convey meaning concisely.

Technical revolution corrects our life, and consequently modifies our speech. A computer with its vocabulary has entered our houses. Words which were used only by programmers not long ago, now are used extensively by teenagers etc. There is an active process of term-expansion and structural (morphological) changes of words in the computing language. Research of the shortenings of computing lexical units in modern English is considered to be an urgent problem today.

Analysis of the latest research and publications. Problems of the English word-formation are highlighted in the scientific works by I. V. Arnold, R. S. Ginzburg, O. D. Meshkov, N. N. Rayevska, A. I. Smirnitskyand others. The works of foreign linguists W. Adams,

L. Bauer, O. Jespersen, G. Marchanda are also of great interest. Using a variety of methods and approaches based on a detailed study of a large factual material, they provide a comprehensive description of the English word-formation. The problem of the shortening process is analyzed in the works by such modern scholars as E. N. Bortnychuk, A. M. Illina, B. V. Maksymchuk, O. D. Meshkov, M. O. Soltys, V. T. Sulym, L. P. Vitalishyn etc.

The article aims to analyze the use of shortenings in a computer vocabulary of modern English.

Presentation of the research

The 20th century is named the age of the Internet. This invention was possible due to the strike development of computer technologies. Together with the rapid progress of computer sciences proper terminology is developed and formed. The main difference between computer technology language and everyday speech is that the semantic field of computer vocabulary that includes a large number of terms that have a complex structure and sometimes are not very convenient for use, so the reduction as a means of word formation is developing very quickly in this area. But the simplification and saving of the linguistic resources is not the only cause of the shortenings, as well as there were attempts to codify the language by its speakers by using shortenings. Thus there is an enlargement of the computer terms' language, that is, the formation of new words is caused not only by external factors but also internal.

The process of shortening is very inherent to English in whole and to the computer vocabulary in particular. Following the opinion of P. M. Karashuk the concept of *derivation* is defined as on the one hand a constant process of formation of new words in the language, and another term means a branch of science that deals with the study of the lexical units' formation (Bortnychuk, 1988). According to A. M. Illin there are the following productive ways of a word-formation in the derivation system of Modern English: affixation, conversion, word-formation and shortening. This scholar defines shortening as the process of reducing the number of phonemes or morphemes in the available words or phrases in the language without changing their lexical and grammatical meaning. As a result a new version of nominative unit or output unit occurs (Yenikyeyeva, 2006).

We've stated shortening to be the most productive way in computing, Internet and programming. Most of investigated shortenings have appeared among the computer terms during the last ten years proved to be the neologisms (the most popular, which are used every day are the shortenings such as: *WWW* (World Wide Web), *http* (hypertext transfer protocol), *PDA* (personal digital assistant), *CD* (compact disc), *ROM* (Read-Only Memory), *RAM* (Random Access Memory), *USB* (Universal Serial Bus), etc.

All computer shortenings can be divided into several semantic groups that represent: 1) proper names (*MS*, *EPOX*, *ABBY*); 2) trade names and industrial (*3D Max*, *WORM*, *CD-ROM*, *CD-RW*, *RAM*, *DVD*, *USB*); 3) programming and communication via the Internet (*URL*, *ICQ*, *LOL*, *PLS*, *IDK*, *ATB*).

According to E. N. Bortnychuk, A. M. Illina, O. D. Meshkov etc. there are some structural types of shortened lexical units. Based on the novel D. Brown *Digital Fortress* we have attempted to classify the shortenings of the computer vocabulary according to these classification.

Clipping – the formation of new words from a syllable (rarer, two) of the original word (e.g. *esc* – Escape; *info* – Information; *cam* – Camera; *alt* – alternative; *animat* (artificial autonomous agent) is made from 'animate'; *applet* (applied software) – from 'application', *asynch* (transfer mode, used in digital communications) – from 'asynchronous').

In addition to commands which begin with the Ctrl character, Jed also uses the ESC key for a number of commands (Brown, 1998: 13).

Susan held her breath and lowered her finger on the ENTR key. The computer beeped once (Brown, 1998: 17).

The cam zoomed in on him, unstable-in and out of focus (Brown, 1998: 67).

These keyboard shortenings are reduced only in writing, in everyday speech they are pronounced as the full original word.

Alphabetic or initial abbreviations– words formed with the first letters of the phrase components, such as *DVD* – Digital Video Disc; *CD* – Compact Disc, *RAM* – Random Access Memory, *ARM* – Advanced RISC Machine, *LDP* – Linux Documentation Project; *ROM* – Read-only memory; *WAP* – Wireless Application Protocol; *IP* – Internet Protocol, *ID* – Identity document; *GIF* – Graphics Interchange Format; *JPEG* – Joint Photographic Experts Group.

Mostly abbreviations are used in the scientific texts and in the written communications in a network of Internet (so-called *chat rooms* – synchronous form of written electronic communication). Example: *PC* – Personal Computer; *CLS* – Clear Screen; *pine* – Pine Is Nearly Elm (program); *semi* – Semi-Colon (point of comma) *Net* – Internet; *jock* – jockey (programmer who wrote the program).

A distinctive feature of the abbreviations in the computer vocabulary is the shortening not only the terms but also phrases and whole sentences which are frequently used in a colloquial speech.

Alphabetic or initial abbreviations are represented in four types: one-letter shortenings: *B* – *byte*; two-letter shortenings: *GB* – *gigabyte*; three-letter shortenings: *ISO* – International Organization for Standardization, the group that developed the OSI protocols; four-five-letter shortenings: *MIME* – Multi-purpose Internet Mail Extensions; *ASCII* – American (National) Standard Code for Information Interchange.

According to our estimation of productivity alphabetic or initial abbreviations proved to be richer sources than clipping. In spite of their multitude, abbreviations possess some oddity and blurred etymology.

When run as root, it shows the link-level Ethernet addresses in addition to the IP addresses and parameters (Brown, 1998: 11).

For PC-based operating systems, vendors include kernels that work on most machine configurations and require minimal (if any) customization (Brown, 1998: 11).

The CD and DVD drives are the file system devices beyond the hard disk that are most commonly mounted (Brown, 1998: 45)

When a computer is turned on, it first executes boot code that is stored in ROM (Brown, 1998: 55).

The concept of layered components that make up an operating system also originated with UNIX (Brown, 1998: 98).

A. M. Illina defined one more type of shortenings – telescopes. Such lexical units primarily are formed by means of shortening, which operates with the composition and affixation.

Prefix *cyber-* which is associated with computers, is often used in the sense of related to the Internet: *cybercrash*, *cybercommuter*, *cybersurf*, *cyberattack*, *cyberthreat*.

Cyberthreats are on the rise daily (Brown, 1998: 18).

He was one of the new breed of cyberfreaks with E-mail friends in every nation ... (Brown, 1998: 56).

Prefix *e-* is also associated with the computers and the Internet. Example:

In reality, intercepting E-mail as it zipped across the Internet was child's play for the NSA's techno-gurus (Brown, 1998: 18).

Activate your Docebo E-Learning platform and start training your Team online (Brown, 1998: 19).

In the world of computer technology there is also prefix *giga-* (in the sense of *billion*), which gives the words meaning *extra large, huge, huge number* and is an effective word-formative element. Example:

Today the masseuse is gone and is the gigabucks (Brown, 1998: 46).

It is now not uncommon to see 32- and 64-node SMP systems with many gigabytes of memory (Brown, 1998: 67).

Prefix *info-* is widely used for the formation of the new computer neologisms (abbreviation of the word *information*): *infostructure* – information structure, *infowar* – the information war, *infoworld* – world of information.

One of his subordinates was talking into what had to be a communications device, no doubt calling for reinforcements, but ... (Brown, 1998: 39).

«My informant doesn't know what caused the fight, only ... (Brown, 1998: 46).

Prefixes *techno-* *ma tele-* have become the high-productive affixes in the process of word-formation. Например:

During the 1980s, the NSA witnessed a revolution in telecommunications that ... (Brown, 1998: 91).

Unfortunately, Aringarosa had learned, in an age of religious cynicism, cults, and televangelists, ... (Brown, 1998: 100).

The age of the technostrike has arrived (Brown, 1998: 245).

In reality, intercepting E-mail as it zipped across the Internet was child's play for the NSA's techno-gurus (Brown, 1998: 254).

It should be noted that a prefix *sys-* (*system*) is also widely used in the novel.

Chartrukian palmed the key he'd just taken from the Syssecurity lab (Brown, 1998: 92).

Soshi thrust the paper into Jabba's hands. «I pulled this from the sysactivity probe (Brown, 1998: 184)

Older versions of UNIX defined the select function in systime (Brown, 1998: 243).

Frankenword is a word formed by combining two (or more) parts of other words. This term was coined in the mid-nineties in the context of ‘observation of the growing number of neologisms formed by cannibalizing chunks of existing words’ (Yenikyeyeva, 2006). The term was subsequently adopted in linguistics, where such words are often referred to as blends, from the idea of ‘blending’ or ‘mixing’ words together. Blends appeared in all aspects of informative intercourse, with terms like *Internet* (Inter’national+net) – global net, *wordglobflation* (glob(al) + (in)flation), *netiquette* (Internet+e’tiquette’) – the rules of good Internet behavior, *emoticon* (‘emot’ion+icon) – combinations of symbols, that people attach to their messages in order to express feelings.

All three types of shortening is widely represented in modern English and belong to the rather productive ways of word-formation.

All shortenings used in the process of virtual communication can be divided into several main groups. First, the shortenings of the lexical expressions that are used as the introductory words to express opinion, comments etc: *BOT* (back on topic); *BTW* (by the way). Second, the shortenings with the verb in the imperative form: *RBTL* (read between the lines); *RML* (read my lips). The third group includes set-phrases: *CUL8R* (see you later); *TIE* (take it easy). The next group of shortenings includes various significant word-combinations of words with a high frequency of use: *ASAP* (as soon as possible); *HTH* (Hope this help); *ISP* (Internet service provider); *L8R* (later); *B4* (before); *HAND* (Have A Nice Day); *LMK* (Let Me Know); *MLNW* (Make Love Not War); *NSD* (Never Say Die). The fifth group includes standard shortenings-comments of the chat’s participants: *BRB* (be right back). Finally, the sixth group includes the shortenings of the words’ combinations that express the speaker’s attitude to the subject of speaking, but do not affect the content of the statement: *SH* (shit happens); *ONNA* (Oh no, not again).

Also, many shortenings are characterized not only verbal but also visual range, most of the figures are used to form shortenings: *2L8* (Too Late); *4* (For); *B4N* (Bye For Now); *BBL8R* (Be Back Later); *L33T* (Elite); *NE1* (Anyone); *W8* (Wait); *W8N* (Waiting) etc.

Conclusions and recommendations for further research

Thus, analyzing D. Brown’s novel *Digital Fortress* we have concluded that the author often uses shortenings as a way of new words’ formation. As for the initial shortenings it was stated that many of

them have the same graphical form in the novel, but are different in the context. That causes the difficulties in understanding their meaning. The author also promotes the phenomenon of telescopes, actively using affixes to form new concepts in a computer vocabulary.

There are many prospects of further investigation of this theme. It touches upon the problem of active penetration of computer vocabulary into the general vocabulary of the English language. And due to this there is an influence of processes that are going on in computer vocabulary upon the general processes of the English language development.

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