

LEXICAL UNITS SIMILAR TO ACRONYMS

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It is common knowledge that language develops together with society. Just like society, language cannot remain motionless or at rest. Language is constantly changing. These changes express the laws of language development. However, these changes can vary in scale and duration. One of the most noticeable trends in the development of languages at the present stage is the trend towards abbreviation.

The active trend towards the widespread use of abbreviated lexical units of various kinds, which has been quite clearly evident in many languages in recent decades, is obvious and does not require special proof. Abbreviated words have become firmly established in modern languages. Their number is extremely large, they make up a significant part of the vocabulary, and they penetrate almost all layers of vocabulary and are widely used both in oral and - especially - in written speech.

The emergence of a huge number of abbreviated lexical units in modern languages is undoubtedly one of the consequences of the vigorously ongoing scientific and technological revolution, which has generated a mass of new special concepts that need to be given names and consolidated in the language. It is no coincidence that a particularly high percentage of abbreviations is noted in the terminology of the most rapidly developing branches of science and technology - astronautics and aviation, radio electronics, rocketry, nuclear physics, etc. The most typical representative of a small but very common group of lexical units similar to acronyms is the word *jeep*. The main difference between this group of lexical units and "standard" acronyms is the fact that they acquire their "acronymic" form not through a one-time, one-act process, but as a result of the transformation of the sound-letter abbreviation.

The word *jeep*, according to numerous sources [5], arose on the basis of the abbreviation *GP* ['dʒi: 'pi:] < general purpose. Frequent use of the abbreviation *GP*, along with the action of some other factors, led to its phonetic, as well as lexical and grammatical modification. The example of the word *jeep* clearly shows the adaptation of the "material shell" (phonetic and graphic form) of the abbreviation to some common models of the phonetic structure of an ordinary word. From the point of view of its phonetic structure, the word *jeep* fits perfectly into a series of words with a similar sound-letter composition: *keep* [ki:p], *deep* [di:p], *seep* [si:p], *weep* [wi:p]. Thus, here, as in the case of acronyms, we can talk about the pressure of the language system, meaning the typical phonetic structures of words.

The history of the development of the system of meanings of the word *jeep* is of interest. Its original and basic meaning is "a small general-purpose truck used in the armed forces." Based on this basic meaning, a fairly developed system of meanings arose. Of the large number of meanings and shades of meaning that the word *jeep* has in modern use, the following meanings are usually indicated in dictionaries: [1]

1) A 1/4-ton general-purpose truck of the army type.

- 2) In general, any car, especially small ones.
- 3) A recruit.
- 4) A general-purpose flight simulator.
- 5) An escort aircraft carrier.
- 6) A small floating car.

In addition, the word *jeep* can be used in the meanings of "a soldier's girlfriend", "a person in the Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve", etc. As M. Berger points out, "in the (American) army, "jeep" means a certain model of car or a recruit, and in individual garrisons it has many other meanings." [4] However, generally speaking, the numerous private (and local) meanings of the word *jeep* do not go beyond the general meaning: "(any) small general-purpose vehicle" or "a person who does not have special training"; for example, a "recruit" is a soldier who has not yet received a specialty, that is, figuratively speaking, "a general-purpose soldier. The meaning "(any) small general-purpose vehicle" is easily distinguished, for example, in the following phrases with *jeep*:

aquatic jeep - "small high-speed general-purpose boat";

aerial jeep (airborne jeep, flying jeep) – «a small general-purpose aircraft»;

space jeep - «a small spacecraft (for example, for transportation from a spacecraft to the surface of the Moon)»;

jeep of the deep – «an ultra-small (single-seat) submarine».

Having become widespread and established in the language, the word *jeep* (meaning «a small truck») gives derivatives of two types.

Firstly, these are derivative words formed using traditional methods of word formation characteristic of the English language:

a) using affixes: *jeep* «a jeep driver», *jeepable* «allowing transportation on jeeps»;

b) by compounding: *jeep-mounted* «mounted on a jeep», *jeephead* (by analogy with railhead, truckhead, airhead - in turn formed by analogy with bridgehead) «point of loading and unloading of jeeps»;

c) by conversion: *to jeep* «to go (to transport) in a jeep».

The word *jeep* can act as a productive base in secondary meanings; for example, from *jeep* meaning «new recruit» *jeepville* «new recruit camp» is formed

Secondly, the word *jeep* acts as a special kind of model for a whole series of new words with the same general meaning «a small general-purpose vehicle». The formation of this group of words combines the influence of the model and elements of one of the methods of abbreviation – telescoping.

beep < baby jeep – «ultra-small jeep»;

fleep < flexible-wing jeep – «small general-purpose aircraft with flexible wings»;

fleep < flying jeep – «small general-purpose aircraft»;

seep < sea-going jeep – «floating jeep»;

veep < VHF (very high frequency radio)-equipped, jeep – «jeep with ultra-short-wave radio station».

peep < ? + jeep – «ultra-small jeep».

Note that in this series of words the «model identifier» - *jeep* is quite clearly distinguished. It is interesting to note that being a widespread word, *jeep* served as the basis for the creation of the acronym-homonym *JEEP* < Joint Establishment (for Nuclear Energy Research) Experimental

Pile – “experimental reactor of the joint administration of research in the field of nuclear energy” [6]. The intentionality of the creation of this acronym-homonym is emphasized in the structural plan by the omission of a number of words in the correlate - (for Nuclear Energy Research), - as well as by the lexical-semantic moment - the fact that the reactor designated by this acronym is small-sized. The widespread prevalence of the basic concept expressed by the word jeep led to the fact that this word - in its basic meaning - was borrowed by many languages: Uzbek *jip*, German *der Jeep*, French *la jeep*, Italian *la jeep*, Spanish *el jeep*, Swedish. *jeep*, etc.

Undoubtedly, under the influence of jeep, the abbreviation *VP* [vi: 'pi:] < vice president "vice president" was given the form *veep* [vi:p] in English.

Other formations similar to acronyms, which arose on the basis of sound-letter abbreviations, and sometimes conventional (code) designations, include:

Absie < ABS - "the name of the American broadcasting station during the Second World War"

Duck < DUCW - "floating car";

Elsie < LC < landing craft - "landing craft";

lice < LCIs < landing craft, infantry – «infantry landing craft»;

Nancy < NC «seaplane sample»;

Purp < PRP < War Production Board's Production Requirements Plan – «war production board production requirements plan»;

Tipsy < TPS AN/TPS-ID – «radar station sample»;

Sea Bees < Cbs < Construction Battalions – «marine engineering and construction units».

Lexical units of this kind are not exclusive to modern English; similar formations are found, for example, in Russian. “быки” < ВК < боекомплекты, “пешка” < Пе-2 (aircraft marking), “Раиса” < RS < реактивный снаряд, “папаша” < PPSH < пистолет- пулемёт Шпагина, etc.

These lexical units reflect general tendencies that are also characteristic of acronymy: the desire to use typical phonetic structures of words and the desire to providing motivation, and the latter brings them closer to the phenomena of folk etymology.

The process of acronymy allows us to create new words, using, in particular, these inexhaustible potential possibilities.

And we emphasize that in the phenomena of abbreviation and acronymy only some of the inexhaustible possibilities of language are manifested. The potential possibilities of language are numerous and extensive, and as the language develops they will not narrow, but, on the contrary, expand.

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