

A COMPARATIVE LEXICOGRAPHIC STUDY OF ABBREVIATIONS IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH

Nuftillayev Bekzod

Master's student, Department of Uzbek Linguistics
Karshi State UniversityEmail: nuftillayevbekzod01@gmail.com
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Abstract. This article investigates the lexicographic features of abbreviations in Uzbek and English through a comparative analysis of “O‘zbek tilining izohli lug‘ati” and Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary. The study focuses on the ways abbreviations are represented, interpreted, and organized in both dictionaries from a lexicographic perspective. Particular attention is paid to semantic explanation, pronunciation, stylistic labeling, grammatical information, and usage examples. The research applies comparative, descriptive, and lexicographic analysis methods to examine abbreviation entries selected from both dictionaries. The findings demonstrate that English monolingual dictionaries provide more detailed lexicographic information, including phonetic transcription, contextual usage, and stylistic notes. In contrast, Uzbek explanatory dictionaries mainly emphasize semantic interpretation and official usage of abbreviations. The study also shows that English dictionaries actively include modern internet and technological abbreviations such as “FAQ” “LOL” and “ASAP” while Uzbek dictionaries primarily contain institutional and governmental abbreviations. Furthermore, the article highlights the importance of developing standardized lexicographic principles for abbreviations in Uzbek lexicography. The results of the study contribute to comparative lexicography and demonstrate the growing significance of abbreviations in modern linguistic communication.

Keywords: abbreviation, acronym, lexicography, dictionary, semantic interpretation, Uzbek language, English language, comparative analysis.

Introduction. In modern linguistics, abbreviations have become one of the most actively used lexical units due to the rapid development of science, technology, media, and digital communication. They provide linguistic economy by shortening long expressions and increasing communicative efficiency in both written and spoken discourse. As abbreviations continue to expand in various fields such as education, medicine, politics, and information technology, their lexicographic representation in dictionaries has gained increasing scholarly attention. Dictionaries play an important role in recording, interpreting, and standardizing lexical units; therefore, the study of abbreviations from a lexicographic perspective is highly significant. Although abbreviations are widely used in both Uzbek and English, their treatment in dictionaries differs according to the lexicographic traditions and linguistic systems of each language. English monolingual dictionaries usually provide detailed information such as pronunciation, stylistic labeling, grammatical category, and usage examples, while Uzbek explanatory dictionaries mainly focus on semantic interpretation and official usage. Therefore, this study aims to comparatively analyze the lexicographic features of abbreviations in O‘zbek tilining izohli lug‘ati and Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary from semantic and structural perspectives.

Literature review. The study of abbreviations and their lexicographic representation has become an important area in modern linguistics, especially during the last decade. Scholars have investigated abbreviations from semantic, structural, communicative, and lexicographic perspectives, emphasizing their growing role in scientific, technological, and digital communication. Among foreign scholars, David Crystal explains that abbreviations are one of the most productive lexical phenomena in modern English because they provide linguistic



economy and communicative efficiency (Crystal, 2019). According to Crystal, modern dictionaries increasingly include abbreviations due to their active usage in global communication and internet discourse. Howard Jackson argues that abbreviations require systematic lexicographic treatment in dictionaries (Jackson, 2016). Jackson states that dictionary entries should contain semantic explanation, pronunciation, grammatical labeling, and contextual usage examples to ensure accurate interpretation of abbreviations. Similarly, Henri Béjoint emphasizes the role of modern lexicography in representing newly emerging lexical units, including acronyms and internet abbreviations (Béjoint, 2018). He notes that electronic dictionaries have significantly improved abbreviation representation by enabling faster lexical updates and richer contextual information. B. T. Sue Atkins and Michael Rundell discuss the importance of corpus-based lexicography in modern dictionary-making (Atkins & Rundell, 2015). Their studies highlight that abbreviations should be described not only semantically but also pragmatically and stylistically within authentic communicative contexts. In recent linguistic research, Ciosici, Sommer, and Assent investigated abbreviation disambiguation and concluded that many abbreviations possess multiple meanings depending on context (Ciosici, Sommer & Assent, 2019). Their study demonstrated the importance of semantic clarification in modern lexicography.

Uzbek scholars have also contributed significantly to the development of lexicography and abbreviation studies. Khurramova analyzed the practical significance of abbreviations in lexicographic sources and emphasized that abbreviations have become essential lexical units in modern communication (Khurramova, 2023). The researcher notes that explanatory dictionaries should provide systematic semantic interpretation of abbreviations. Sharipova studied abbreviation phenomena in Uzbek linguistics and explained that abbreviations function as tools of linguistic economy and communicative simplification (Sharipova, 2024). The study also discusses the structural and semantic formation of abbreviations in Uzbek. Khudoyberdiyeva examined the lexicographic and etymological description of terms in Uzbek explanatory dictionaries (Khudoyberdiyeva, 2023). According to the researcher, lexicographic interpretation plays an important role in revealing semantic development and lexical adaptation in Uzbek linguistics. Ergashova investigated the lexicography and terminological system of the Uzbek language and emphasized the importance of explanatory and terminological dictionaries in preserving linguistic standards (Ergashova, 2023). The author also highlighted the role of electronic lexicography in representing modern lexical units and abbreviations. Although many scholars have investigated abbreviations and lexicography separately, comparative studies focusing on the lexicographic representation of abbreviations in Uzbek and English dictionaries remain limited. Therefore, this study aims to compare the lexicographic treatment of abbreviations in “O‘zbek tilining izohli lug‘ati” and “Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary” from semantic and structural perspectives.

Research methodology. This study applies qualitative and comparative research methods to investigate the lexicographic features of abbreviations in Uzbek and English. The research is based on the comparative analysis of abbreviation entries selected from O‘zbek tilining izohli lug‘ati and Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary. The study uses several linguistic methods, including descriptive analysis, comparative analysis, semantic analysis, and lexicographic analysis. The descriptive method was used to identify the structural and semantic characteristics of abbreviations in both dictionaries. The comparative method helped determine similarities and differences in lexicographic representation between Uzbek and English abbreviation entries. The research materials consist of abbreviations selected from educational, governmental, technological, and internet-related lexical units. Particular attention was paid to:

- semantic interpretation;
- pronunciation;
- grammatical labeling;



- stylistic marking;
- dictionary entry organization;
- usage examples.

Examples such as “BMT”, “OTM”, “UNESCO”, “NASA”, “FAQ” and “LOL” were comparatively analyzed from lexicographic perspectives. The study also examined how abbreviations are alphabetically arranged and semantically explained in both dictionaries. Furthermore, modern scholarly sources related to lexicography and abbreviation studies published during the last 10 –15 years were reviewed to support the theoretical framework of the research. The findings obtained through these methods formed the basis for the comparative evaluation presented in the study.

Results and discussion. The comparative analysis of “O‘zbek tilining izohli lug‘ati” and “Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary” revealed several important lexicographic similarities and differences in the representation of abbreviations. The study demonstrates that both dictionaries include abbreviations as independent lexical entries; however, the amount and type of lexicographic information provided differ significantly.

One of the major similarities is that both dictionaries arrange abbreviations alphabetically and provide their expanded forms. For example, in the Uzbek explanatory dictionary, abbreviations such as:

- **BMT** – Birlashgan Millatlar Tashkiloti;
- **OTM** – Oliy ta’lim muassasasi;
- **MCHJ** – Mas’uliyati cheklangan jamiyat;

are presented through their official semantic explanations. Similarly, the Cambridge dictionary includes abbreviations such as:

- **UNESCO** – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;
- **NASA** – National Aeronautics and Space Administration;
- **EU** – European Union.

However, English dictionary entries contain more detailed lexicographic information compared to Uzbek dictionary entries. For instance, the Cambridge dictionary provides phonetic transcription:

- **NASA** /'næsə/;
- **FAQ** /efer'kju:/;
- **UNESCO** /ju:'neskəʊ/.

In contrast, pronunciation is generally absent in the Uzbek explanatory dictionary. Uzbek abbreviation entries mainly focus on semantic interpretation and official usage.

Another important difference concerns grammatical and stylistic labeling. In Cambridge dictionary entries, abbreviations are often marked according to their stylistic or communicative function. For example:

- **ASAP** – “as soon as possible,” labeled as informal;
- **BTW** – “by the way,” commonly used in internet communication;
- **LOL** – “laughing out loud,” identified as online slang.

Such stylistic markers help users understand communicative context and pragmatic usage. Meanwhile, Uzbek dictionary entries rarely contain stylistic or contextual information. Most entries focus on institutional and formal abbreviations rather than colloquial or internet abbreviations. The analysis also showed that English lexicography actively incorporates abbreviations related to technology and social media. Examples found in Cambridge dictionary include:

- **AI** – Artificial Intelligence;
- **IT** – Information Technology;
- **CEO** – Chief Executive Officer;
- **VIP** – Very Important Person;



- **DIY** – Do It Yourself.

These entries are usually accompanied by example sentences demonstrating contextual usage. For instance: “The company’s CEO announced new technological reforms.” Or “AI is transforming modern communication.” Such contextual examples are largely absent in Uzbek explanatory dictionary entries. Furthermore, several abbreviations in English demonstrate polysemantic characteristics. For example:

- **IT** may refer to Information Technology or function as a grammatical pronoun;
- **PC** may mean personal computer or politically correct.

This semantic ambiguity requires detailed lexicographic clarification. Cambridge dictionary resolves this issue by separating meanings into different entries with contextual labels. Uzbek lexicography currently demonstrates fewer examples of polysemantic abbreviations due to the dominance of official institutional shortenings.

The study also identified differences in acronym pronunciation. In English, many abbreviations function as independent lexicalized units pronounced as ordinary words, such as:

- NASA;
- UNESCO;
- NATO.

These forms are treated as complete lexical items in English dictionaries. In Uzbek, however, abbreviations are more frequently pronounced letter by letter, especially institutional abbreviations such as:

- BMT;
- OTM;
- IIV.

This distinction reflects phonological and lexical differences between the two languages.

Electronic lexicography also plays an important role in abbreviation representation. Cambridge online dictionary frequently updates newly emerging abbreviations connected with internet discourse and digital communication. Examples include:

- DM – Direct Message;
- FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions;
- FOMO – Fear of Missing Out;
- OTP – One-Time Password.

Uzbek explanatory dictionaries currently include fewer digital-era abbreviations, which indicates that Uzbek lexicography is still adapting to rapidly changing communicative realities. Another notable observation concerns dictionary entry structure. Cambridge dictionary entries generally contain:

- abbreviation;
- phonetic transcription;
- grammatical category;
- semantic definition;
- example sentence;
- stylistic marker.

For example: **CEO** /,si:i:'əʊ/ “the person with the highest rank in a company.”

Meanwhile, Uzbek explanatory dictionary entries are usually shorter and primarily consist of:

- abbreviation;
- expanded form;
- official semantic explanation.

For example: **BMT** – Birlashgan Millatlar Tashkiloti. The findings suggest that English lexicography adopts a more communicative and user-oriented approach, while Uzbek lexicography remains more formal and semantically centered.



Overall, the comparative analysis demonstrates that abbreviations occupy an increasingly important position in both Uzbek and English lexical systems. However, English dictionaries provide broader lexicographic coverage, particularly regarding pronunciation, stylistic usage, internet communication, and contextual examples. Uzbek lexicography, although developing rapidly, still focuses mainly on official and institutional abbreviation forms. Therefore, the study highlights the necessity of expanding modern abbreviation representation in Uzbek explanatory dictionaries according to contemporary communicative needs.

Conclusion. In conclusion, abbreviations have become an essential part of modern communication in both Uzbek and English due to the rapid development of science, technology, media, and digital interaction. The comparative analysis of O'zbek tilining izohli lug'ati and Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary demonstrates that abbreviations are represented differently according to the lexicographic traditions and linguistic systems of each language. The findings reveal that English lexicography provides more detailed and user-oriented dictionary entries, including pronunciation, stylistic labeling, grammatical information, and contextual usage examples. In contrast, Uzbek lexicography mainly focuses on semantic interpretation and official usage of abbreviations. The study also shows that English dictionaries actively incorporate modern internet and technological abbreviations, while Uzbek explanatory dictionaries primarily contain institutional and governmental abbreviations. Furthermore, the research highlights the growing importance of electronic lexicography in updating abbreviation entries and reflecting ongoing lexical changes. Therefore, the study emphasizes the necessity of developing more comprehensive and standardized approaches to abbreviation representation in Uzbek dictionaries. The results of the research contribute to comparative lexicography and may serve as a theoretical basis for future studies on abbreviation semantics, digital lexicography, and bilingual dictionary compilation.

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