

AGRICULTURE ABBREVIATIONS IN ROMANIAN LANGUAGE

Dana Camelia Diaconu

Valahia University of Targoviste, Department of History and Letters

E-mail: diaconudanacamelia@yahoo.com

Abstract

Following the model of international languages (Russian, French, English, German), in the last decades the number of abbreviation compounds have risen, that brings a contribution to the internalizing of Romanian language, following the French one in the lexical field. Nowadays, the abbreviation phenomenon has developed greatly, and this is evident by the number of initialisms and their frequency especially in specialized languages.

Keywords: *abbreviation compounds, initialisms, specialized languages, agriculture language, common language.*

1. THE MEANING OF THE TERM ABBREVIATION

Our everyday language accepted as *abbreviation* the meaning of shorting a word or a group of words, for easing the lecture or speech. Combined words have as a particular feature the presence in their compound of one or more abbreviations (letters, initial letters or fragments of words, of compound elements or even some parts of the word's structure, for example prefixes), which can combine either among them or with some other full words (or compound elements). They have, as a starting point, compound nouns or syntactic groups whose meaning they take up and which is then running as abbreviations: **AI** (Inseminarea artificială / Artificial Insemination), **ACP** (Program de Conservare Agricolă / Agricultural Conservation Program), **ARP** (Programul de Reducere a Suprafețelor Cultivate / Planted Areas Reduction Program), **CARD** (Centrul pentru Agricultură Și Dezvoltare Rurală / Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development), etc.

In linguistics, the term abbreviation is explained broadly by a „representation of a unit or of a series of units”¹ It is considered an abbreviation²: the reduction of a syntactic group or of a compound word to a single element. Following the model of international languages (Russian, French, English, German), in the last decades the number of abbreviation compounds have risen, that brings a contribution to the internalizing of Romanian language, following the French one in the lexical field.

These compounds mainly appear in commercial and technical language and they are considered by Iorgu Iordan³: „linguistic products created from the needs of saving time and money”, as well as they appear in the political and administrative fields. The method for their

creation has two related and concomitant aspects: the abbreviation of the words or terms which form the base and the combining of the abbreviations. The formation process has a selective and conventional feature; an important role is played by the fantasy of those who create the new compound.

Nowadays, the abbreviation phenomenon has developed greatly, and this is evident by the number of initialisms and their frequency. „The avalanche of such formations, takes us to a rejection reaction, which is at least anachronistic, because this phenomenon is our international century feature, especially for the last decades. Considered by many critics as a plague of the century this phenomenon is a necessary one justified by graphical time and space economy which is obtained and is so precious in the speed century. Of course its development exceeds the objective necessity area becoming a fashion, which is still international.”⁴

This type of lexical creations is important because of „their increasing rate in our current vocabulary and their contribution of internalizing Romanian vocabulary (by taking up some of foreign words formation models).”⁵ It seems that those signs of democracy have brought a diversity of options which is visible in written press and which is linguistically reflecting the vocabulary level, our society being the witness of a linguistic „assault”.

In the formation of a new word, when we start from many words, we left behind some linking elements (like prepositions, conjunctions and articles), but sometimes from phonetic reasons in the compound appears the initial letter of a prepositions or a conjunction. The other terms can be either all abbreviated or just some of them, every abbreviation representing the first part of a word: initial letter, initial syllable, a bigger or a smaller fragment of a syllable.

¹ J. Dubois, apud. G. Beldescu, *Ortografia actuală a limbii române*, p. 110.

² G. Beldescu, *Ortografia actuală a limbii române*, p. 110.

³ Iorgu Iordan, apud., Adriana Stoichițoiu-Ichim, *Abrevierile în româna actuală: modă sau necesitate?*, p. 205.

⁴ Mioara Avram, *Abrevieri în actualitate*, p. 4.

⁵ Adriana Stoichițoiu-Ichim, *op. cit.*, p. 203.

2. FOREIGN INFLUENCES IN ROMANIAN LANGUAGE

The abbreviation compounds lent from a foreign language are not special from those created in Romanian language, and they are preponderant to the scientific language. As the compounds' paper shows⁶ „the loanwords which had as correspondences some Romanian translations of other words or identical initials and are placed in the compound abbreviation's order may appear as created in Romanian.” As for those of scientific terminology, it is considered that all the terms of the initial letters are in the abbreviation during their forming and serve as the starting point, for example: **PNDR** (Programul Național de Dezvoltare Rurală / National Rural Development Program), **POR** (Program Operațional Regional / Regional Operational Program), **POS** (Program Operațional Sectorial / Sectoral Operational Program), **POSDRU** (Program Operațional Sectorial de Dezvoltare Resurse Umane / Sectoral Operational Programme for Human Resources Development), **APDRP** (Agenția de Plăți pentru Dezvoltare Rurală și Pescuit / Payment Agency for Rural Development and Fisheries), **APIA** (Agenția de Plăți și Intervenții în Agricultură / Agency for Payments and Intervention in Agriculture), **ARS** (Autoritatea Română pentru Silvicultură / Romanian Authority for Forestry), **DGDR** (Direcția Generală Dezvoltare Rurală / General Directorate for Rural Development), **DGRSCDF** (Direcția Generală de Regim Silvic și Cinegetic și Dezvoltare Forestieră / General Directorate of Forestry and Hunting and Forestry Development), etc. The role of a certain occidental language varies in time, but both French and English are considered as influences, in actual Romanian language are many loan words of international initialisms which are created with elements of a foreign language, especially English, not regarding and considering the origin country. As Iorgu Iordan underlined⁷, „the formation model was initially the French one and after that the Russian one” and now we must search for it in different languages as: German, Italian, English and especially French⁸.

The initialism is a type of abbreviation, a group of initial letters used as an abbreviation for a name or expression, each letter being pronounced separately. The key difference between an acronym and an initialism is that an acronym forms a new word, while an initialism does not.

This method of abbreviations is very productive (especially the initial letters compounds), the inventory was increased with some Romanian formations as well as some loanwords: „The abbreviation of a word or a succession of words or terms of a compound word may

constitute an exclusive question of writing, without the possibility of being used in speech, or may function in both language fields”⁹.

3. ABBREVIATIONS IN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL WORKS

In the scientific and technical works in order to save space, the specialists are using abbreviations, whose codes are revealed to the reader. We encountered many opinions about the formation methods of abbreviations, all considered as effects of foreign influences: the truncation, the initialism, and the acronym.

The initialisms are those formed by initial letters for initialisms. They are considered written language formations, but they can be used either in speech. They are formed by initial letters of a syntactic group more or less developed; they confer a denominative function and a linguistic economy. The initialisms, as other types of abbreviations, are conditioned by the frequency of the syntactic abbreviated group and the initialism transparency. They are often used in science as well as in media, television and advertising.

In the scientific language, here the one regarding Agriculture, they allow a rapid communication among specialists: **ANIF** (Administrația Națională pentru Îmbunătățiri Funciare / National Administration for Land Improvement), **ANPA** (Agenția Națională pentru Pescuit și Acvacultură / National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture), **ANZM** (Agenția Națională a Zonei Montane / National Agency of Mountain Area), **APDRP** (Agenția de Plăți pentru Dezvoltare Rurală și Pescuit / Paying Agency for Rural Development and Fisheries), **APIA** (Agenția de Plăți și Intervenție pentru Agricultură / Agency for Payments and Intervention in Agriculture), **ARS** (Autoritatea Română pentru Silvicultură / Romanian Forestry Authority), etc.

Some initialisms come from older loans; they are international, and at the beginning the order of the initial letters was the one of the origin language, the readers being already familiarized with those, nowadays the order of the letters is as in the adopting language, here Romanian language: **FEDR** (Fondul European de Dezvoltare Regională / European Regional Development Fund), **FEADR** (Fondul European Agricol pentru Dezvoltare Rurală / European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development), **FEGA** (Fondul European de Garantare Agricolă / European Agricultural Guarantee Fund), **FEP** (Fondul European de Pescuit / European Fisheries Fund), **FIDA** (Fondul Internațional de Dezvoltare Agricolă / International Fund for Agricultural Development), **FEGA** (Fondul European pentru Garantare în Agricultură / European Agricultural Guarantee Fund), etc.

⁶ Fulvia Ciobanu, Finuța Hasan, *Formarea cuvintelor în limba română. Compunerea*, p. 152.

⁷ Iorgu Iordan, apud. A. Stoichițoiu-Ichim, *op. cit.*, p. 206.

⁸ F. Ciobanu, F. Hasan, *op. cit.*, p. 164.

⁹ G. Beldescu, *Ortografia actuală a limbii române*, p. 112.

4. CONCLUSIONS

In the recent international loans, the succession of the initial letters copies the order from the origin language (in this case English), they are not only easy to use, but they are also productive, these derivatives forms are used in specialized discourse, as well as in everyday language. The transposition of the initialisms from one language to another has some specific problems determined by their nature: the possibility of storage in the target language of their original form and the possibility of their development in the target language in an explicit manner.

There are a lot of initialisms known only by few specialists or even only by their author. They have a cryptic feature and confer or attest a certain esoteric of terminology. The descriptive precision, the flexibility, the relatively easy formation and, in so many cases, their international feature, determine a frequent utilization of initialisms in specialized discourse.

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