

Acronyms and Abbreviations in the Language of social media

Wisam Abd Mahdi Kadhim

Wisam.abmahdi@uomus.edu.iq

Al-Mustaqbal University College

Ghaith Saleh Mahdi

ghaith.saleh@uomus.edu.iq

Al-Mustaqbal University College

Zahraa Razaq Maktoof

Karbala University

g.25251229@gmail.com

Abstract

Language and human as the user of language will be never be one without other, because language and people are complementing each other. The phenomenon of using English abbreviation, acronym, and initialism will be found easily in the people's daily activities in especially some activities by network in facebook. This phenomenon occurs because people mostly use informal language in social media, because they just follow the other do something trendy on people in facebook, people use initialism mostly. Another form that people use are acronym and abbreviation

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Introduction

Abbreviations were perhaps originally intended to save materials and labor by using symbols for arduous entities repeated often in writing and, as in the art of shorthand, to aid in the speed of recording. As acronyms and initialisms became popular in the spoken word, abbreviations became an insider's language and even a marketing tool. Cleverly concocted, they took on the ability to instruct (in listening skills: EARS reminded you to Empathize, Ask, Reflect, and Summarize) or even describe (Mothers Against Drunk Driving told you they were MADD). With the technology of today, the labor-saving feature is muted, and conserving parchment or paper is overturned by the need to add pages of glossaries to documents. (Of course, a bigger waste of paper is using it for documents that no one can understand easily and clearly). (Jan 2008) Abbreviations are often an effort by the creators to say, "That for which this stand is important and needs a word of its own which can become known to all." However, many acronyms and initialisms are relatively short-lived, modified or superceded. Consider the attached list of 1933 U.S. Government "alphabet agencies." Two-thirds of them no longer exist. (Jan 2008)

Problem of the study

The present study deals with investigating the knowledge of students how they use of acronyms and abbreviations and how differentiate between them through their studies. The current study focuses on finding out how students use acronyms and abbreviation in the language of social media.

The procedures of the study

1. In the current study the analytical approach will be applied.
2. Survey the books, article to gather information to analyze them depending on how use the acronyms and abbreviation in the language of social media.

The Hypotheses of the study

1. It is hypothesized that there is meaningful discrepancy between the term acronyms and abbreviation and students should differentiate between them
2. Using acronyms and abbreviation in social media frequently

Aims of the study

1. This study aims to help students overcome the problems they face in using acronyms and abbreviations.
2. This study also sought to investigate the using of acronyms and abbreviation in the language of social media.

Limitation of the study

The present study is limited to two types of word formation processes acronyms and abbreviation, and it will also be limited to use these forms in the language of social media.

Section One

1.1 The Difference Between Acronyms vs. Abbreviations

As everybody knows abbreviations and acronyms are short forms of a word or phrase, chiefly in writing, to represent the complete form. An abbreviation is pronounced one letter at a time. (Suzan 2016)

An acronym is a set of letters that can be pronounce as a single word as a brief form of corporate name or term made up of a group of letters that are commonly written/or spoken as a word. It may consist of the initial full name the text. Abbreviations and acronyms are shortened forms of words or phrases. An abbreviation is typically a shortened form of words used to represent the whole (such as Dr. or Prof.) while an acronym contains a set of initial letters from a phrase that usually form another word (such as radar or scuba).

Abbreviations and acronyms are often interchanged, yet the two are quite distinct. The main point of reference is that abbreviations are merely a series of letters while acronyms form new words.

Each one allows writers to make large blocks of text easier to read. Beware that both abbreviations and acronyms are typically considered informal and should be carefully considered before including them in more formal writings. (Suzan 2016).

1.2. Abbreviations or Acronyms

There's a great deal of overlap between abbreviations and acronyms. It's worth pointing out that an acronym is a type of abbreviation because acronyms are shortened forms of words and phrases.

1.2.1 Abbreviations

Let's take a closer look at abbreviations. As we know, an abbreviation is a shortened form of a word or phrase, such as Mr. for Mister, or hr. for hour that is still said as the full word or words.

There are millions of common abbreviations used every day. Let's take a look at some of the popular ones we see and/or use almost daily.

- When you write your address, you likely write "St." or "Ave." instead of "Street" or "Avenue".
- When you record the date, you likely abbreviate both the days of the week (Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat., and Sun.) and the months of the year (Jan., Feb., Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.).
- Often, we use the abbreviation "Ex." for the word "example".
- Measurements are commonly reduced to abbreviations such as "cm" for "centimeters" or "in." for "inch".
- How about "vs."? That's another popular abbreviation, shortened from the word "versus".

Tightening "December" to "Dec." is an abbreviation because "Dec." is simply a written shorthand for the full word. It's not an acronym since "Dec." isn't said as a word.

You may have wondered why some abbreviations, like those for ounce (oz) and pound (lb) use letters that aren't part of the original word. In these cases the abbreviations are based on older forms of the word. [4]

1.2.2 Acronyms

An acronym, technically, must spell out another word. This is a good point of reference to help you distinguish between abbreviations and acronyms. Another good way to differentiate them is that acronyms don't just shorten words, they often simplify a long organization name, scientific term or idea.

Some acronyms create new words that are so commonly used, we forget they're actually a series of letters from a longer word or phrase. For example, when we go scuba diving, we rarely consider the fact that scuba is an acronym of self-contained underwater breathing apparatus. [4]

Then there are initialisms which cause some confusion. Would you consider "VIP" to be an acronym? Technically, it's an initialism. Initialisms are a series of initial letters of words or a phrase that form an abbreviation but aren't pronounced as a word. We enunciate each letter.

NBA is another initialism. How about when you text "rofl"? That's another initialism, as is "BLT". Many

consider initialisms to be a subset of acronyms- therefore whether you pronounce ASAP as a word or enunciate each letter, it's still an acronym-but be aware that others say it is another form of abbreviation. Like abbreviations, acronyms and initialisms are used daily and most people can interpret the meaning of common acronyms without much thought. [4]

1.3. Acronyms and other forms of abbreviation

Abbreviation: Arbitrary shortening of a word or words using more than one letter from each word (Television—TV, the German Elektrokardiogramm— EKG), by substituting letters with an apostrophe (received—rec'd), by cutting off letters from the end (General—Gen.) or from the middle (road—Rd.) and adding a period, or, in postal standards, by eliminating most vowels and some consonants (highway—Hwy, boulevard—Blvd). (Jan 2008)

Acronym: An abbreviation formed by combining the first letters (initials) or syllables of all or select words in a series, resulting in a new grouping of letters that can be pronounced as a word (North Atlantic Treaty Organization—NATO, Mobile Army Surgical Hospital—MASH, Hazardous Materials--HAZMAT). (Jan 2008)

Initialism (alphabetism): An acronym pronounced by reciting the individual letters (British Broadcasting Corporation--BBC, Digital Video Disc--DVD, Portable Document Format--PDF, Hypertext Markup Language—HTML,Magnetic Resonance Imaging—MRI, Automatic Teller Machine--ATM), oridiosyncratic pronunciation (N double A C P). (Jan 2008)

Acronym-initialism hybrids: Pronunciation includes a letter and acronym word(Joint Photographic Experts Group—JPEG, Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries— OPEC, Cable Satellite Public Affairs Network--C- SPAN). (Jan 2008)

Anacronym: Coined to describe acronyms whose original word string has been widely forgotten (Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus—scuba, Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation—laser, Radio Detecting and Ranging—radar, Geheime Staats-Polizei--Gestapo). (Jan 2008)

Pseudo-acronym: A catchall for variations and embellishments, such as creating an acronym from other acronyms (IT Acquisition Center—ITAC) or mixing abbreviations and acronyms (deoxyribonucleic acid--DNA) and ignoring words in a series just to make a pronounceable word (Princeton University Institute for the Science and Technology of Materials--PRISM) or pronouncing vowels that are not there (Guantanamo—GTMO, pronounced Gitmo) to coin a word. (Jan 2008)

Symbols: An acronym exchanged for a picture (fish for the Greek ichthys) or one that contains numerals (Y2K) for the purpose of branding (World Wide Web—www), trademarking (facsimile abbreviated to FACS and morphed into FAX, Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company—3M), or avoiding repetition (Command, Control and Communications—C3). (Jan 2008)

1.4 What is the purpose of using abbreviations and acronyms?

Acronyms and abbreviations exist in all areas of life from medicine to religion, but can complicate document translation, among other types of localization. But why do we tend to use acronyms and abbreviations so often? because it takes less time to say or write the first initial of each word or an abbreviated form of the full word than to spell out every single word. So, using acronyms and abbreviations in your everyday speech makes communication easier and faster (Joanna, 2019). In the olden days before “unlimited talk and text” data plans, text messages were expensive to send and receive and because they were limited to 160 characters per message, every character was precious. Texting using a standard telephone keypad was also a laborious process, requiring multiple key presses per character. So, mobile phone users adapted to clunky keypads and character limits by abbreviating common words and phrases. As texting became popular, a new language of acronyms and texting abbreviations evolved and became embedded in texting and internet culture. Despite our smartphones having full keyboards, texting abbreviations are still convenient shortcuts and remain a staple in communications worldwide. (Margarita, 2017)

Section Two

2.1 Conversational internet acronyms and slang

Most social media acronyms are less business-related and more casual and conversational. A lot of them have been around online for years, while others are a bit more recent. You'll often find these acronyms used in public posts that your followers make or share, or in their comments on your posts. (Jacqueline,2020) It's good to know what these social media abbreviations mean so you know what your audience is saying and provide them with a relevant response if needed. Some of these abbreviations are also used as hashtags, and you can take advantage of them for better visibility. (Jacqueline,2020)

1. AFAIK – As far as I know
2. AMA – Ask me anything. Often used by celebrities, influencers, industry experts and regular social media users as an open invite for questions.
3. BRB – Be right back
4. BTAIM – Be that as it may
5. BTS – Behind the scenes. Use this social media acronym when you're giving your followers a behind-the-scenes look at what your brand is doing.
6. BTW – By the way
7. DAE – Does anyone else...?
8. DYK – Did you know...?
9. ELI5 – Explain like I'm five. Often used in forums like Reddit when people are looking for the simplest explanation to more complex topics.
10. FBF – Flashback Friday. A theme in which people share old pictures or posts with their followers/
11. FBO – Facebook official. When you make a public announcement on Facebook about a live event such as a new relationship, a change of job, etc.
12. FF – Follow Friday. A trend that started out on Twitter and involves giving a shoutout to people that you think deserve more recognition and followers.

2.2 The usage of social networking textese brought a new style of spelling into the English language.

In modern period social media have tremendously affected the English language with the usage of immense amount of neologisms, abbreviations, acronyms, numeronyms, logograms and emoticons. Social media are making their presence felt as old words get new meanings, shortenings pass from written language to oral, causing ambiguity. Shortenings have a long history, nowadays, due to social media, the usage of the shortenings has rapidly increased and brought a new style of spelling into the English language. (Milana,2019)

The networking texting has already brought a new type of writing by omitting some letters, adding numbers next to the letters, logograms where punctuation marks gathering together mean a whole complete sentence. Even if older generation do not want to accept internet slang and try to avoid using them in texting, current period of time requires being engaged and use new type of textese. The present study shows that even in the country where English is non-native, people omit mostly vowels, adopt and apply short forms of words. (Milana,2019)

2.3 The Ultimate List of Social Media Acronyms and Abbreviations

Real talk: With all the social media acronyms being used right now, it can be hard to understand what's going on. For anyone not in the know, they're basically a different language. (Karin & Katie, 2021)

But if your brand is using social media for business, properly using social media acronyms and social media abbreviations might be part of an effective social strategy. In fact, it's one of the many social media trends your brand will want to understand. (Karin & Katie, 2021)

So don't worry if you thought YOLO was a frozen dessert. Or GOAT was literally, well, just a goat. (Karin & Katie, 2021)

To help you crack the social media acronym code, we've collected the top social media acronyms, initialisms, and abbreviations every marketer should know. They're broken into five categories:

- Network specific abbreviations
- Business specific social media acronyms and abbreviations
- Technical acronyms and abbreviations used on social media

- Gen Z social media acronyms and abbreviations
- Social media acronyms for emotions

Okay — it's time to level up your social vocabulary RN (right now). (Karin & Katie,2021)

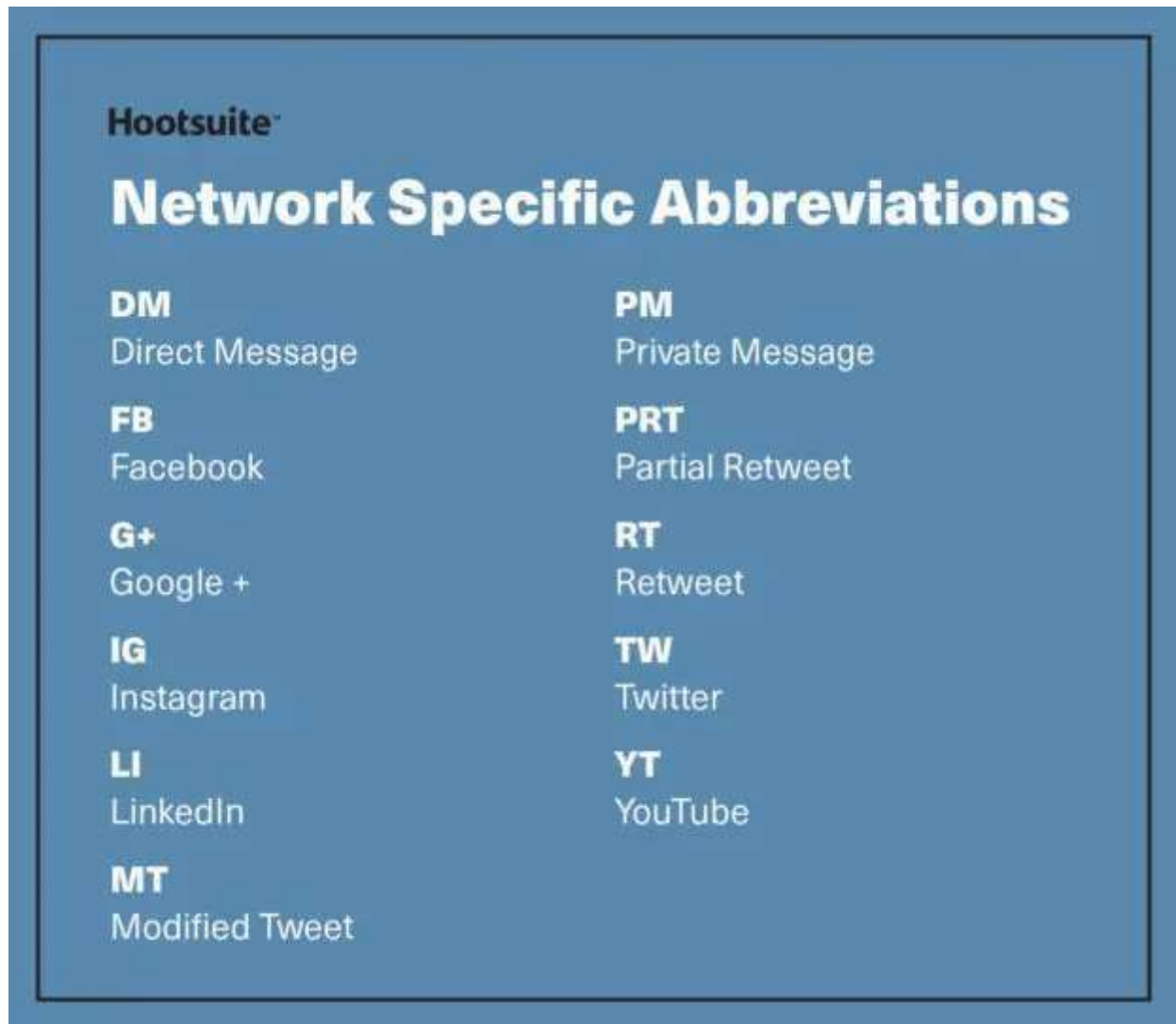


Figure (2.1): Network specific social media abbreviations

2.4 SOCIAL NETWORKS' ACRONYMS

The advent of social networks has been one of the most exciting events in the last two decades. Social network sites have grown rapidly in recent years across the world. These sites have quickly and deeply penetrated its users' everyday lives because of the increasing proliferation and affordability (Aggarwal, 2011 & Narasimha Murthy, 2014). Social networks offer new and innovative ways to communicate with others in a quick and easy manner. Consequently, individuals are using social media websites at increasing rates and visiting them quite frequently (Sponcil & Gitimu, 2013). (Reham, 2015)

The language used online is that of real people of great diversity, whose output is largely unedited by proofreaders or publishers. Therefore, grammar and spelling become problematic in online communication (Nazaryan and Gridchin, 2006). Tagliamonte and Denis (2008) suggest that this phenomenon simply represents contemporary slang, Crystal (2001:17-24) goes further to suggest that Netspeak, online language, is not a linguists vandalism but is best viewed as a new species of interaction, a genuine "third medium" (besides the written and oral forms of English), which is evolving its own systematic rules to suit new circumstances. (Reham, 2015).

NA is a phrase which is used in social network communication to mean "not available". This acronym is usually used with negative feelings; to say someone is not responding [EX 1] or some people are not carrying out their jobs [EX 2]. Also, it can be used to indicate the end of a love relationship [EX 3]. This may explain the absence of this acronym in the questionnaire. Participants do not find it preferable to use such an acronym.

EX 1 - 3 "missed calls NA"

EX 2 – "We need an action not just your voice, Chowkidaari ur usually NA". EX 3 – "In happy times Ur NA, our love should stop, I can't continue like that". EX1 Person1: "LOL!! My birthday party is tonight".

TY is put for "thank you". It's used in Twitter more than in any other social network. It's mostly used to express thanking someone or some people [EX 1]. However, sometimes it's used as an irony that everything is not in order because of someone, some people or something [EX 2].

EX 1 – "TY my funny, sweet friend for the cup BFF".

EX 2 – "my birthday was the worst ever, TY bad organizers". (Reham, 2015). Example for job advert

SAFETASK SECURITY

is looking for friendly, reliable

Security Guards

for malls, factories and office bldgs.

We are the world's best security co. You must:

- be 18 yrs. or older be avail. at w-e.
- be fit
- be comp. literate
- have a driving lic. spk. Engl. and Arab.

No exp. necessary. Hours 6 a.m.-3 p.m. You will work with a partner and have freq. contact with the public.

If interested, please phone Mr Hazem on 454-7986 for an appt.

2.5. Conclusion

Language and human as the user of language will be never be one without other, because language and people are complementing each other. The phenomenon of using English abbreviation, acronym, and initialism will be found easily in the people's daily activities in especially some activities by network in facebook. This phenomenon occurs because people mostly use informal language in social media, because they just follow the other do something trendy on people in facebook, people use initialism mostly. Another form that people use are acronym and abbreviation. (FENNY, 2017) The advent of social network communication has changed the way people speak and write English drastically. These electronic networks have allowed the users to conduct electronic communication in different styles that is formal and informal and use many types of electronic communication such chats, posts, tweets, comments and discussions. Electronic networks acronyms are one of the most remarkable features, which save time, space and energy. So, successful communication requires awareness of the pragmatic functions of the acronyms used in social network conversations. (Reham, 2015)

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