The Use of Acronomy in the Net Communication

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Abstract
The present study is devoted to tackling the use of acronomy in the net communication. Acronomy is a term that refers to initialisms which are produced as single words (Crystal, 2003:124).The first section of the silrdy sheds light on the impossibility for one to exploit the internet service unless that one is competent in the English language. While the second one is to present the notion of acronomy as a sort of linguistic abbreviation which must not be pronounced as series of letters but as a word (Enarsson, 2006: 3). The second section itself is subdivided into three subsections the first of which is to manifest acronomy as a form of jargon through which the cultural identity of the communicator may be identified. The second is to show how such a linguistic variety, acronomy, may be manipulate to save effort and time for the originator and the receiver of the communication. The third subsection introduces acronomy as a register; a variety of language that is resorted to in a particular situation. It is a distinctive medium of the net communication. At last, the conclusion sums up the findings of the study.

"1.1 Internet and English Language"

Internet is considered the latest in a long succession of communication technologies. The   importance of internet grows rapidly in all fields of human life. This, implies that it becomes more and more important to know how to use and exploit internet service, and as a part of this, to read   write English. This necessitates the idea that should be competent in using English to keep pace with   the development of the world. Thus, people who are ignorant in English might find themselves in an awkward position of using internet. (Korpela, 2003:7)

In general, it is easy to learn to use internet service but one will find himself isolated on the internet if he is not familiar with English language. This reflects the fact that knowledge or lack of knowledge in English represents one of the most severe factors that causes polarization. Being in the age of information, people are continually in a constant need of new words to satisfy their daily needs.

To Quirk et al. (1985: 1530), describing any new word should be concerned with the processes of word-formation that are productive at present time. English has acquired new words by borrowing words from other languages it has been in contact with. A part from borrowing is to give a new meaning to old words thereby get a new word with a different meaning as in the word 'cool', originally meaning, 'chilly' which is now used as another word for " outstanding ". Another way to create completely new

words is through certain regular and predictable processes such as compounding, clipping, backformation, derivation, blending and acronym (Enarsson, 2006: 2). Such processes, to Haspelmath(2002:25), represent apart of the language productivity in communication.

Creative capacity means producing and understanding indefinite number of words that are sequenced according to certain grammatical rules. It is also used in a more restricted sense referring to the language user's production of a specific feature or pattern. A pattern is productive if it is repeatedly used in the language to produce further instances of the same kind (Crystal, 2003: 347).

Being used in the internet, English is expected to be learned by all those who exploit internet service. To Fasold (2006:55-6), "the foremost task of any language leaner,... is to figure out how to segment and analyze the wall of talking -noise around them into meaningful parts". The ability to express meaning is an indispensable aspect of a language. Studying meaning in a language is connected to the study of the grammatical structure of words and sentences in that language. (Trask, 1999:47-8).

Moreover, Quirk et al. (1985: 1532) state that:

> **the ordinary user of English who is neither a poet nor an experimental scientist must be seen as having a fairly passive role in word-formation ... truth this does not mean that it is of no practical concern or interest to ordinary user of the language. If the ordinary user is rarely called onto construct words, he is prone to analyze them and inclined to expect that complex items are composed of a relatively small number of basic ones.**

This implies the idea that each language has its own rules and processes for creating new words. Studying word - formation should not stop at the station of the existing, listed dictionary words since new ones are continually being added and dictionaries are always revised and updated. In other words, not all of the words that one can produce and interpret are listed in the lexicon, because the number of the possible words is infinite. Such an infinite number of words in a language, according to Hudson (2000: 73), make up its lexicon that is a dictionary which enables one. to find morphemes in many ways. Such morphemes are interpretable in their context even if they are never recoded in a dictionary. The forms of morphemes may be simple or extremely complex. one's Knowledge of the mental rules and categories that enable language user to produce and interpret them make up the subject of morphology.

Morphology is concerned with the systematic scrutiny of the form and meaning of the word. It is necessary for this form –meaning cove ration to occur systematically in group of words. Having just two words with parcial form - meaning resemblance may be merely accidental. Thus, one would not say that the word "hear" is morphologically structured and related to "ear". Conceivably, "h" could mean 'ouse", so "hear" means "using one's ear ", i.e. "hear ". But this is the only pair of this kind in the sense that there is no "heye" "use one's eye". (Haspelmath, 2002: l-2)

In addition, morphology is not limited to the internal structure of morphemes but also studies the combination of morphemes to yield new words. To Quirk et al. (1985: 1580), such a combination of morphemes may be achieved through abbreviations which represent the essence of lexicalization. The meaning of the combination is not recovered from the constituents but from its individuality as a whole. Acronymy is one of the productive processes in which abbreviation is involved in English word - formation. English acronyms are highly resorted to in the net communication nowadays.

" 1.2 Acronymy"

Acronymy is a term that refers to the words which are formed from the initial letters of a set of other words, for example, NATO meaning "North Atlantic Treaty Organization" NASA standing for "National Aeronautics and space Administration" LASER which refers to "light wave amplification by estimr-rlated emission of radiation "RADAR means radio detecting and ranging and SCUBA referring to "self contained underwater breathing apparent". To be acronymys, such abbreviations, to Enarsson (2006: 3), must be pronounced not as series of letters by as a word.

Acronymys that are pronounced as a sequence of letters are called "alphabetisms", for instance, C.O.D /si:eudi:/. Such acronyms are like ordinary abbreviations here most peripheral to word formation. The use of capitals does not reflect the idea that the abbreviated items are proper nouns, i.e. there are certain letters representing full words like C.O, C.O.D, U.F.D, EEC, F.C. which respectively standing for '(in) care of,', 'cash on delivery', 'unidentified flying object', 'European Economic community', on the other hand, there are some letters representing constituents in a compound or just parts of a word as in GHQ, ID,TB, that respectively referring to "general head quarters", "identification
card" and "tuberculosis" (Quirk et al., 1985: 1582).

"1.2.1 Acronymy and culture"

Language, in general, is the main means where by one conducts his or her life. lts use in context of communication is bound up with culture in multiple and complex ways. People use words to refer to common experience. They express facts, ideas or events that are communicable because those words refer to a stock of knowledge about the world that other people share. But such a social group do not only express experience, they also create experience through the use of language. They give meaning to the language through the medium they select to communicate with each other, for example, writing a letter or sending and e-mail messages, reading the newspaper or interpreting a graph or a chat etc. (Kramsch, 1998: 3).

Living in the age of rapidly changed concepts, inventions, products and organizations, people feel themselves in a constant need for new vocabulary. Such newness in life needs new terms. The trend toward reducing the new terms or acronyms and then throwing away the original words has been spread far beyond the world of technical and other specialized jargons (Miller, 2007:3). To Kramsch (1989: 7), language, from which acronymy is a part, is a system of signs which has a cultural value. Speakers identify themselves and others through the use of language, i.e. they view their language as a symbol of their social identity. People may use an excess of acronymy in their writing and speech to reinforce their image as knowledgeable

members of the group, and hide their insecurities about their true worthiness. So it is to be expected that the group members will feel comfortable communicating in their jargon that is a subset of a language.

Moreover, if acronymys, as a form of jargon, are used knowingly in the presence of an outsider, the speaker or writer may try to exclude or intimidate the outsider or perhaps simply to impress the outsider, with his or her own membership in the group. This reflects the idea that acronyms are sometimes culture-specific. In other words the originator should not expect that acronyms are well-known or familiar to all members of other societies.

"1.2.2 Acronymy and communication

Practically speaking, the use of an acronymy standing for a long term or phrase represents a communicative strategy for saving effort and time for both the originator and the recipient of the communication. For example , it is difficult to predict that one would argue against using the acronymy
"DNA" instead of writing or saying "deoxyribo nucleic acid" in popular media discussions of murder case evidence. Another practical move is the simultaneous invention of a term and its acronymy so that the acronym itself carries a meaning evocative of the full term. (Miller, 20A7:6)

Even when defined initially in a document or article, acronyms may slow receivers down and frustrate them in their attempt to understand even the main points if those receivers are not familiar with such acronyms; see (1.2.1). Lacking semantic content, a new acronym must be encountered many times before it is likely to become a comfortable part of an individual's vocabulary. To be understood and used communicatively, such abstract concepts need a process of parsing a symbol or sound into meaningful idea. Thus when those acronyms are pushed to further level of abstraction that leaves behind intrinsic semantic content of communication gets left behind too (Enarsson, 2006: 5).

To achieve successful communication, the originator should save using acronyms for terms repeated many times in tire text. For a term likely to be new or unfamiliar to most of the receivers, one should avoid using an acronym if the term, according to Miller (2007:10), is used fewer than six or eight times in ten pages of a text. Also if the term is likely to be new to the receiver, one should define it more than once. Such a process of definition or re -mentioning should be done whenever the originator introduces other acronyms or time has passed. other people share. But such a social group do not only express experience, they also create experience through the use of language. They give meaning to the language through the medium they select to communicate with each other, for example, writing a letter or sending an e-mail messages, reading the newspaper or interpreting a graph or a chat etc. (Kramsch, 1998: 3).

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Buehler (1986, cited in Miller, 2007 3) states that there are three important requirements for technical communication that are: completeness, conciseness and fidelity. The acronym is an example of tension between the need for completeness and the desire for conciseness , presumably in the achievement of fidelity. However, the reason for completeness is also ethical and that of conciseness is practical. Therefore if the writer has to choose between completeness and conciseness, he should choose completeness, since an ethical reason should outrank a practical one.

Having certain instant messages, it is discovered that the following acronyms are most commonly used with their counterparts:

1. BRB — Be right back
2. CTRN — Can't talk right now
3. IMO — In my opinion
4. HTH — Hope this (or that) helps
5. IAM — ln a meeting
6. WFM — Works for me
7. BFO — Blinding flash of the obvious
8. DHTB — Don't have the bandwidth
9. IHMB — I hate my boss
10. SLAP — Sound like a plan
1l- AKA — Also known as
12. ATM — Automated teller machine
13- COP — Cash On Delivery
I4. CPA — Certified Public Accountant
l5. DOA — Dead On Arrival
I6. IRS — Internal Revenue Service
17. VIP — Very Important person
18. VP — Vice - president
19. UPS — United Parcel service
20 .AFK — Away From Keyboard
21. BAK — Back At Keyboard
22. BFN — Bye For Now
23. CU — See You
24.LTNS — Long time, no see
25. GAL — Get A Life

26. TSWC	Tell Someone who cares
27. GFET	Griming from Ear To Ear
28.AAMOF	As A Matter Of Fact
29.AFAIK	As Far AS I Know
30. DAMHIKT	Don't Ask Me How Know This
31. BTW	By The Way
32. DGT	Don't Go There
33. DQYDJ	Don't Quit Your Day Job
34. TMI	Too Much Information
35. FMDIDGAD	Frankly My Dear, I Don't give A Damn
36. FYSBIGTBABN	Fasten Your Seat Belts, it's going to be a bumpy night
37. GMDTS	Give My Daughter The Shot

Some of the above mentioned acronyms may be adopted for more specific meanings within the context of a particular company or industry or other social members. For example, the acronym "UPS" has another meaning which is "Uninterruptible Power Supply", and the same is with "CPA" which also means "Command Processor Assembly". Such a case of having the same abbreviations standing for more than one term or phrase is not good even if the context provides differentiation. It is a case that creates some sort of confusion to the receiver. (Enarsson, 2006: 7)

As far as internet terminology is concerned, Bill Earles's dictionary,2005 on line, provides the following acronyms:

1. Acl	Access control List
2. ADO	Active Data Objects -
3. API	Application Programme Interface
4.ARPA	Advanced Research Projects Agency
5.ASCII	American Standard Code for information Exchange
6. ASDL	Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line
7. ASP	Active Service Page
8. BPS	Bits Per Second
9. BBS	Bulletin Board System
10. BITNET	Because [t's Time Network

"1.2.3 Acronymy and Style"

To achieve meaningful communication, one has to recognize the structure and content of what is being written or said. The writer or speaker has to package the message in accordance with what the reader or listener does or does not know sequencing every thing in a coherent way. Consequently, the writer has to adopt a more explicit communication.(Yule, 1996: 83)

Ancient scholars believe that each one has a unique style of his or her own. Style is the personal use of language, the self conscious process of composing a text to achieve an aim. Some people, particularly those who are internet users have certain strategy in using unique set of linguistic items and structures expressed in a special way that is recognized as a personal style. Such a style represents "the qualities that

result from a particular kind of diction, figures, and sentence designs". Klaus (cited in Love and Payne, 1969: 52-3)

The use of acronyms represents an inevitable part in-the internet users' style. It is a style that is seen as "a means by which one personality moves others" or "means by which a human being gains contact with others; it is personality clothed in words, character embodied in speech.".(Lucas, 1965: 38-9)

Using acronyms as a stylistic mechanism in the internet communication, the user is seen as manipulating or exploiting language not only in its 'interpersonal function' i.e. participating in social interaction, but also in its 'textual function', composing a well-formed and appropriate text, and also in its 'ideational function', introducing thought and idea that the user is either lax or economic, (see I.2.2).

To Flaubert (in Murry, 1976:2), style is the writer's individual way of seeing and expressing things in certain situations. Style is the writer himself. To Fasold (2006:190),'Each situation makes its own communication Demands-informational, social, referential, Expressive and people use the features of their language which meet the communicative demands of the situation. The set of language features phonological, lexical, syntactic, and pragmatic which are normally used to meet the demands of a particular communicative situation is the resister of that situation.

Being highly common and depended upon in the internet communication, acronyms represent the 'register', a variety of language that is typical of a particular situation, of the internet exploiters.

To Crystal (2003: 425), using the distinctive features of a certain linguistic variety outside its original situation reflects the impression that a new variety has arrived in the language. Several of the net speak distinctive forms can be encountered in the everyday communication. A great deal of the lexicon of netspeak has entered the general vocabulary to be part of the speakers' style. The following examples may explain such a phenomenon.
- Let's go offline for a while: Let's talk privately.
- He started flaming me for no reason at all : shouting at me.
- I'll ping you later: get in touch to see if you're around.
- I need more bandwidth to handle that point: I can't take it all in at one.
- Are you wired: ready to handle this.
- Get with the program: keep up.

As with all slang, some of these usages may have a short linguistic life. To examine the linguistic properties of the netstyle is, Crystal adds (ibid),hard to ignore the fact that netstyle is not simply a new variety of English, but it represents a completely new medium in comparison with speech and writing in its 'distinctiveness' and 'generality'.

1.2.3. Acronyms and E-Learning""
It has become a fact that technological revolution has far-reaching effects on the aims of language teaching methods and research. Electronic developments and computer science have deeply changed the way in which language studied and seen. In other words, all areas of English language study have been profoundly influenced by the

technological developments. The new technology sheds light upon sociolinguistic studies of dialect variation. For further information, see Crystal(2003: 446).

To Kaplan(2002: 498), it is possible for the teacher to exploit the development of technology in assisting language learning process through what is called " Computer-Assisted Language Learning", henceforth, "CALL". It is a term that refers to " the search for and study of applications of computer in language teaching and learning.". To him(ibid), the teacher can design CALL tasks that develop language learners' competence and performance depending on task goals, learners activity, specifics of software design, and the number and roles of learners. Underwood(1984: 18) defines CALL according to certain qualifications, the first of which is 'language learning potential 'that refers to the significant roles the CALL activity play in the language learning in highlighting linguistic features in the input for learners to achieve the ' input enhancement'. If that CALL activity does not keep pace with Krashen's features of input, that are comprehensibility and simplicity, learners have to interrupt the normal interaction. Schmidt, unlike Krashen that sees language acquisition as unconscious process, states that what might be learned or acquired is what learners consciously notice. Schmidt's view is applicable to all aspects of language, lexicon, phonology, grammatical form, from which acronyms represent a part, pragmatics, etc., Kaplan(2002:499). This implies the fact that the teacher has to focus on interaction using CALL activity through which acronyms are used among learners to acquire such forms that facilitate knowledge interaction.

The second qualification that Underwood states is 'learners fit' which means the appropriate fit of CALL material to learners' linguistic ability level and individual characteristics. If the language of a CALL task is already known to the learner, psychologically speaking, the task presents no opportunity for development, but language that is beyond learners' grasp relative to their ability is equally ineffective. Task choice, to MacIntyre et al.,(1998: 545), depends on the learners' willingness to communicate, age, and learning style. Kaplan(2002:500-501) states that the CALL task should be both positive and practical where the former refers to its effects beyond its language learning potential. Classroom language learning tasks teach more than language; they should aim at developing metacognitive strategies. While the latter means how easily learners and teachers can implement the CALL task within the particular constraints of a class or language program.

The third qualification that Underwood uses is the 'authenticity'. It is the degree of correspondence between the a CALL task and the language use that learners are likely to engage in outside the classroom. Being necessary in communication to satisfy learners' daily needs, acronyms must be manipulated in the E-mail or chat communication to keep time and efforts. Current theory of communicative language ability as situation specific implies that development of ability in language for particular purpose requires practices in using language for those purposes.

To Crystal(2003:433), electronic conversations, as a way of information exchange, are " unusual, compared to face-to-face interaction- but they are conversations". It is useful for learners to know how to communicate using E-mail, that can be the most rapid and economical way of sending and receiving information, or chat that represents a single stimulus which can elicit several responses, scattered during certain period of time if the message of a particular topic is sent to a site. The use of acronyms in such a sort of electronic communication helps learners to express the content or meaning of the message with a less number of forms.   .

Conclusion

Net technology plays a significant role in influencing the character of the linguistic varieties. Abbreviation from which acronomy is a part represents the most noticeable means of the electronic communication. Resorting to the abbreviated forms reflects the desire for linguistic economy. Abbreviation contributes highly to make one's style concise. It also helps to convey a sense of social identity; to use an abbreviated form is to be familiar or known to the social group to which that abbreviated form belongs. To Crystal (2003: 425), electronic communication is affected by the size and shape of the screen, and the organization of the available visual space into functional areas just like newspaper language that is influenced by the size and shape of the page. The phenomenon of using acronomy in the netspeak provides a perfect example of the spontaneous and rapid communicative possibility.

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