
**Structural Differences in Abbreviation Usage in Simultaneous
Interpretation (Acronyms)**

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ABSTRACT: *This article examines the structural differences in the usage of abbreviations and acronyms during simultaneous interpretation from English to Russian within political discourse. By analyzing interpreter strategies and considering linguistic structures, cultural contexts, and real-time constraints, the study reveals distinct approaches to handling English acronyms. The findings highlight variations in usage frequency, adaptation strategies, and the influence of political context. This research enhances understanding of linguistic strategies in simultaneous interpretation, offering insights for improving interpreter training and enhancing cross-linguistic political communication.*

Keywords: *Simultaneous interpretation, Abbreviation usage, Acronyms, English-Russian translation, Political discourse, Interpretation strategies, Linguistic structure, Cultural context, Real-time translation, Interpreter training, Cross-linguistic communication, Translation challenges, Terminology management.*

INTRODUCTION

Simultaneous interpretation is a complex task requiring interpreters to convert spoken language into another language in real-time. Political discourse, with its dense use of specialized terminology and acronyms, presents unique challenges. Acronyms in political speeches often represent institutions, policies, agreements, and other key concepts, making accurate translation crucial for maintaining the integrity of the discourse. This study explores how English

acronyms are managed in simultaneous interpretation into Russian, examining the structural differences and strategies employed by interpreters.

Abbreviations and Acronyms in Political Discourse

Acronyms play a significant role in political discourse, serving as concise representations of lengthy or complex terms and concepts. They enhance brevity and efficiency in communication, making speeches more accessible and impactful. In political contexts, acronyms often represent key institutions, policies, agreements, and initiatives. Political speeches and documents often contain complex and technical terms that can be cumbersome to repeatedly mention in full. Acronyms allow speakers to refer to these terms succinctly, saving time and making the communication more efficient. For instance, using "NATO" instead of "North Atlantic Treaty Organization" reduces the cognitive load on both the speaker and the audience. Acronyms are typically easier to remember than long phrases or names. This memorability is crucial in politics, where key messages need to be retained by the audience. Acronyms like "EU" (European Union) or "UN" (United Nations) are instantly recognizable and remembered, facilitating easier recall of the associated concepts. Acronyms help standardize terminology in international political discourse. Organizations, policies, and agreements often have different names in different languages, but acronyms can provide a common reference point that transcends linguistic barriers. This standardization is vital in ensuring clear and consistent communication across different countries and languages. Acronyms often carry symbolic weight, representing the identity and authority of institutions and initiatives. For example, "NASA" (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) not only denotes the organization but also symbolizes space exploration and scientific achievement. In politics, acronyms can evoke specific connotations and values, influencing public perception and sentiment.

Structural Differences in Abbreviation Usage

The structural differences between English and Russian significantly affect how acronyms are handled in interpretation, posing unique challenges for

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interpreters. These differences can be attributed to linguistic patterns, phonetic structures, and cultural contexts that influence the translation process. English acronyms often follow straightforward phonetic or initialism patterns. In initialisms, the first letters of each word in a phrase are combined to form the acronym. For example: NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization), GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation), UN (United Nations). These acronyms are typically easy to pronounce and remember, making them efficient for communication. The phonetic simplicity of English acronyms often allows them to be easily integrated into spoken and written discourse without modification. This straightforward approach is a significant advantage in political speeches, where clarity and brevity are paramount.

In contrast, Russian often requires transliteration for English acronyms, where the English acronym is phonetically adapted into the Russian alphabet. Transliteration ensures that the sound of the acronym is preserved as much as possible, making it recognizable to Russian speakers. However, this process can be complex due to differences in phonetic and orthographic systems between the two languages. Examples include: NATO becomes НАТО (pronounced the same way as in English), GDP becomes ВВП (валовой внутренний продукт). Transliteration is particularly useful for acronyms that are already familiar to Russian audiences or have no direct equivalent in Russian. It maintains the original sound and appearance of the acronym, facilitating easier recognition and understanding.

In cases where transliteration is not practical or the acronym is not widely known, interpreters may use descriptive translation. This approach involves translating the meaning of the acronym into Russian terms, providing a clear explanation of what the acronym stands for. Descriptive translation is essential for acronyms that contain culturally specific or highly technical information that may not be immediately understood by Russian audiences. Examples include: EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) might be translated as Агентство по охране окружающей среды США to convey the full meaning and function of the agency,

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FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) might be translated as Федеральное бюро расследований. Descriptive translation ensures that the audience fully comprehends the concept behind the acronym, even if the acronym itself is not used.

Examples of Translation Strategies

Interpreters employ various strategies to manage the translation of acronyms in simultaneous interpretation. These strategies include Direct Transfer, Transliteration, Descriptive Translation, Combining Strategies.

Acronyms are formed from the initial letters of words and pronounced as a word:

e.g. ASEAN ['æsiæn] (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)- АСЕАН ['æsiæn] (Ассоциация государств Юго-Восточной Азии)

Due to ASEAN's policy of "non-interference in the internal affairs of member nations" it has failed to condemn human rights abuses by some of its members. - Из-за политики АСЕАН "невмешательства во внутренние дела стран-членов" организация не осудила нарушения прав человека некоторыми из своих членов. In this case, the strategy of transliteration was applied in the translation of the abbreviation from English to Russian. Transliteration involves converting the letters of a word from one alphabet into the corresponding letters of another alphabet, while attempting to maintain the original pronunciation as closely as possible.

However, there is another accepted version of translation such as borrowing. *e.g. ASEAN countries are working towards greater economic integration.- Страны АСЕАН работают над усилением экономической интеграции.* Yet, whether it is translated into Russian as ASEAN or АСЕАН the pronunciation remains same ['æsiæn].

There are additional instances in which acronyms can be translated into Russian through the use of both borrowing and transliteration/transcription strategies.

e.g. OPEC ['oʊ pek] (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries)-

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ОПЕК/ОПЕС [o'pek] (Организа́ция стран — экспортёров не́фти)

Did you know that Venezuela has more proven oil reserves than any other OPEC member country? - Знаете ли вы, что Венесуэла имеет больше подтверждённых запасов нефти, чем любая другая страна-член ОПЕК?

Or, *OPEC members agreed to cut oil production.*- Члены ОПЕС согласились сократить добычу нефти.

e.g. NATO ['nei.tou] (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) - НАТО/НАТО ['na.to] (Организа́ция Североатланти́ческого догово́ра, Североатланти́ческий альянс)

NATO has increased its military presence in Eastern Europe.- НАТО ['na.to] увеличило своё военное присутствие в Восточной Европе.

Conclusion

The study reveals that simultaneous interpreters employ a range of strategies to manage English acronyms in Russian political discourse. The choice of strategy depends on factors such as linguistic structure, cultural familiarity, and real-time constraints. Understanding these strategies can enhance interpreter training programs, providing interpreters with the tools and techniques needed to handle acronyms effectively. Improved training and awareness can lead to higher quality interpretations, facilitating better cross-linguistic political communication. Further research could explore these dynamics in other language pairs and discourse contexts, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of simultaneous interpretation practices.

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