

Ewa Piotrowska-Oberda

*Holy Cross Academy n. a. Jan Kochanowski
ul. Kościuszki 13, Kielce, Polska
Tel.: (48-41) 344 23 20
E-mail: eoberda@Kielce.pl*

TRANSFER OF ENGLISH MLU IN THE FORM OF ACRONYM TO PSP

This article presents the relationship between multi-word lexical units (MLUs) and acronyms in view of internal and external borrowing. To reconstruct any regularity in transferring some multi-word lexical units as acronyms from and to language for general purposes (LGP) and language for special purposes (LSP) the word formation processes are taken into consideration.

*The quantitative and qualitative analysis covers 100 English acronyms transferred to Polish in *Businessman Magazine* between 1992–2002. The aim of this analysis is to determine which principles and processes allow for the integration of English acronyms with the Polish vocabulary.*

KEY WORDS: *multi-word lexical units, acronyms, compounding, borrowing*

Introduction

Since the end of the twentieth century the Polish companies acquired by foreign investors have been facing a massive transfer of knowledge in their business operations. The occurrence of new designation needs arises from business contacts with language or culture usually more advanced in technical and technological domains. As this transfer of know-how requires new designations in Polish as a target language the practical problem of a strategic nature appears, namely, in which ways the Polish lexical system has to adapt itself to the needs determined by its own structure and conceptualisation.

The adjustment of the newly borrowed terms cannot be discussed in isolation from such linguistic processes as compounding, abbreviating and borrowing. The English acronyms transferred to Polish for Special Purposes (PSP) are described in terms of spelling, pronunciation, word-formation, and semantic properties. Therefore this paper aims at investigating the relation between internal and external borrowing as well as the relation between multi-

word lexical units and their various forms of abbreviations. An attempt is likewise made to determine the underlying factors that have stimulated these processes and contributed to give the English terms borrowed to LSP its peculiar shape.

Multi-word lexical units in the light of compounding

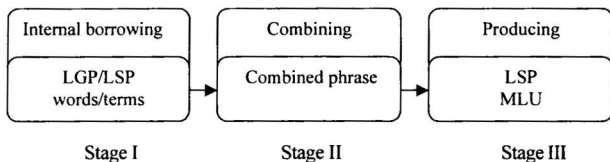
A multi-word lexical unit is composed of two or more words. Its meaning cannot be simply determined by the definitions of their component words. It can be found in dictionaries for special purposes. Since MLUs are found in the dictionaries it seems reasonable to assume that they should be distinguished from other phrases that do not need any separate entries in business lexicons. Multi-word lexical units are sometimes referred to as *set phrases* to distinguish them from *open phrases*. Fred Riggs (1993) distinguishes multi-word lexical units from lexeme, idiom, locution and conjuncts since those synonyms are equivocal. They are either a narrower or broader concept that includes single-word units¹.

¹ RIGGS, F. Social Science Terminology: Basic Problems and proposed Solutions. In *Terminology Application in Interdisciplinary Communication*. Amsterdam; Philadelphia, 1993, p. 199.

From the onomasiological point of view multi-word lexical units in LSP develop in response to the needs of naming, designation and lexical materialisation. These basic creative needs contribute to the appearance of the constantly evolving conceptual structures. The logical nature of the structures that have acquired the status of terms is that of a name that includes the designation of objects, properties, or actions. What is more, as logical names, the terms are often nouns, rarely adjectives or verbs. Since LSP aims at eliminating the ambiguities the words have in natural languages the structure of MLUs becomes

complex as a result of the process of compounding. They can, however, be decomposed into smaller units.

To understand the process of compounding in LSP and its relationship with LGP we should investigate the stages during which MLUs are created. The first stage involves an internal borrowing of a fully formed element from LGP to LSP². The second stage refers to combining the elements in full compliance with morphosyntactic rules. The third stage is that of producing in which a multiple-word lexical unit is formed. See drawing No 1 below.



Drawing No 1. Stages in the process of compounding to produce MLUs in LSP

The output of one stage gives the input to the next stage. Words or terms internally borrowed from LGP or LSP at the first stage become the input for the next stage. Then they are combined into lexical phrases which at the stage of production become multi-word lexical units fully incorporated into LSP.

Multi-word lexical units in the light of abbreviating

Although at the end of the process of compounding MLUs constitute the final product, they may be subject to further word-formation processes, namely, the process of abbreviating. The outcome of this process consists of numerous lexical units that show the novelty of a newly produced sign without any new semantic operation. The underlying procedure of abbreviating involves bor-

rowing a designation with a terminological function, which in case of acronyms is composed of initial letters of several words e. g.

- GIGO** = *Garbage In Garbage Out*
SWOT = *Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats*
WAIS = *Wide Area Information Servers.*

From the linguistic point of view acronyms form a special group of words that share certain characteristics enabling to differentiate them from blends or clippings. Blends consist of at least one of the elements that is fragmentary in comparison with its corresponding base form e. g. *brunch* derived from *breakfast* + *lunch*, *motel* from *motor* + *hotel*, *smog* from *smoke* + *fog*. Clippings, on the other hand, denote the subtraction of one or more syllables of a word that may occur at the beginning or

² See RAY, A. *Essays on Terminology*. Amsterdam; Philadelphia, 1993, p. 199. Internal borrowing is discussed in the context of neologism.

at the end of the word or both ends of the word e.g. *phone* from *telephone*, *photo* from *photograph*, *flu* from *influenza*.

With this traditional approach to the classification we can make this distinction almost clear. However, then the relation between word and phrase has to be further investigated. Shall we consider a lexical item consisting of three or more words as an acronym or as an initialism?

A shortening is any word that can be deduced from one or more longer words. A user of a shortening associates it with the base form i. e. its original full form. Roswitha Fischer (1998) states that in this case the word formation is transparent. In this sense the meaning can be deduced from its base. Acronyms then consist of several constituents or formatives that carry semantic information³.

To classify an item as an acronym or initialism requires clear criteria at each level of the language system. Garland Cannon (1989) insists that if pronunciation is taken into account then two-letter words tend to be spelled out whereas three or more-letter words may be pronounced either alphabetically or orthoepically⁴. To support this view Roswitha Fisher provides the example of *PEP* [pep], ['pi:'i:'pi:] – *personal equity plan*. Since there are only a few examples following alphabetic pronunciation, acronyms are mainly pronounced in an orthoepical manner⁵. This conclusion is definitely true, however, the English acronyms transferred into PSP seem to follow some other procedures.

David Crystal (1994) in *An Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Languages and Languages* defines acronym as a *word made up out of the initial letters of other words. Some are pronounced letter by*

letter (BBC, EEC); some are pronounced as whole words (NATO, UNESCO). This traditional dictionary definition is likewise provided with the explanation that in some other approaches to this subject matter acronyms as a linguistic term are *restricted to only those items which can be spelled out as whole words; items which have to be spelled out as sequence of letters are then given a separate classification as initialisms*.

Albert H. Marckwardt (1958), Valerie Adams (1973), Randolph Quirk, Sidney Greenbaum, Geoffrey Leech and Jan Svartvik (1985) consider sequences of letters pronounced orthoepically and alphabetically to be acronyms. A different approach to the classification of acronyms is expressed by Laurie Bauer (1983), Garland Cannon (1987), Chris B. McCully and Martin Holmes (1988) who regard combinations of letters pronounced only orthoepically as acronyms⁶. Therefore, depending on the preferred point of view, some linguists classify lexical items as acronyms, while others may classify the same items as initialisms. Needless to say, that this state creates confusion and perplexity.

As it is assumed that an acronym consists of initial letters of several words, originally there were some attempts to include blends within the scope of the definition of an acronym. According to Albert H. Marckwardt (1958) and S.V. Baum (1962), such lexemes as *motel* (*motor* + *hotel*) are included in their definition of an acronym⁷. However, while revising the example provided by Marckwardt (1958) Joey L. Dillard (1980) states that although some blends would belong to acronyms in a strict sense still the term *acronym* denotes the combination of initials of individual words and such cases

³ FISCHER, R. *Lexical Change in Present-Day English A Corpus-Based Study of the Motivation, Institutionalisation, and Productivity of Creative Neologisms*. Tübingen, 1995, p. 25.

⁴ CANNON, G. *Abbreviation and Acronyms in English Word-Formation*. In *American Speech* 64.2, 1989, p. 108–116.

⁵ FISCHER, footnote 3, p. 28.

⁶ MARCKWARDT, A. H. *American English*. New York, 1958, p. 95. ADAMS, V. *An Introduction to Modern English Word Formation*. London, 1973, p. 136. QUIRK, R. et al. *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*. London, 1985, p. 1581. BAUER, L. *English Word-Formation*. Cambridge, 1983, p. 237. CANNON, G. *Historical Change and English Word-Formation. Recent Vocabulary*. New York, 1987, p. 99. MCCULLY, C. B.; HOLMES, M. *Some Notes on the Structure of Acronyms*. In *Lingua* 74, 1988, p. 27.

⁷ MARCKWARDT, footnote 6, p. 96. BAUM, S. V. *The Acronym, Pure and Impure*. In *American Speech* 37, 1962, p. 49.

should be excluded from this category⁸. The similar view is expressed by Garland Cannon (1989), who insists that an acronym is a combination of two initial letters at most, and therefore blends like *motel* or *Autoland* (*Automatic landing*) should not be classified as acronyms⁹. Thus, since acronym is the outcome of shortening we should follow the accepted ways of abbreviating taking into account whether one free morpheme is abbreviated or more.

In the process of abbreviating a single word there are generally three basic types of abbreviation. The first type consists of the first letter of the word. When read aloud, the abbreviation is usually pronounced like the full word e. g. *Q*/'kju:/ standing for *quality*. The second type consists of the first few letters of the word. According to the pronunciation rules, this kind of abbreviations is usually articulated as the full word e. g. *ad* /'æd/ – *advertisement* – this process of shortening is known as clipping. The third type consists of the word with several letters missed out. When read aloud, the abbreviation is pronounced like the full word e. g. *Bar* /'bɑ:/ referring to the profession of *barrister*.

In the process of abbreviating more than one word there are two types of abbreviation used for a compound noun or a phrase. One type consists of the first letter of each word. Each letter is pronounced separately, with the main stress on the last letter e. g. *M. P.* [em'pi:] – *Member of Parliament*. The other type of abbreviation uses the first letter of each word to form a new word e. g. *scuba* ['sku:bə] – *self contained underwater breathing apparatus*.

In this paper the term *acronym* means an abbreviation consisting of the initials of multi-word lexical items. As a sequence of sounds it can be pronounced either letter by letter or as a whole word. It stands in opposition to the blends and clippings since the former consists of parts abbreviated from usually two words and the latter designates a shortening of one word.

Results of the research into the transfer of English acronyms into PSP 1992–2002.

Nowadays, in the globalisation of business acronyms perform an important function. Not only have they become an every day tool in managerial communication but they have become a part of the standardisation process as well. A great number of international corporations, while implementing their total quality management in the newly acquired business units, take advantage of word-formation processes to incorporate the same standard procedures, to unify the terminology and, thereby, to communicate more efficiently and avoid misunderstanding.

As a result of all this, more and more English terms created for theoretical or even abstract concepts are transferred to PSP. The reasons for this kind of external borrowing are indirectly connected with the acquisition of Polish companies and the application of new high technologies and management systems. At the same time, the specialised vocabulary seems to be less confined to the specialised domains than before. In reality it is quickly popularised by mass media to the general public. This fast transfer of know-how and terminology undoubtedly has an influence upon the shape of PSP.

In Poland businessmen tend to communicate by means of internationally recognised patterns within their specialised fields. For example, in such formal contexts as legal instruments, published journals, guidance materials, etc. new terms are commonly designated not only in English but also in local coding. This definitely leads to the occurrence of neologisms in PSP. Most of them are just literal translations of English terms. Since English MLUs usually consist of three or more words, businessmen take advantage of the principle of economy. They use the English abbreviated form more frequently than the Polish base form of the neologism. It seems to be contradictory to the generally

⁸ MARCKWARDT, footnote 6, rev. by Joey L. Dillard. New York, 1980, p. 106.

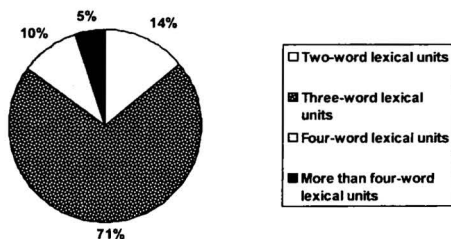
⁹ CANNON, footnote 4, p. 108.

accepted principles. Nevertheless, even not highly specialised business journals consist of many abbreviations, acronyms or literally translated MLUs the meaning of which is difficult to designate from the existing components. Therefore, it is due to the applied principles of economy and frequency that some abbreviations have been promoted to the status of an international acronym.

The analysis of the English acronyms transferred to Polish in the professional press *Businessman Magazine* (1992–2002) is subject to the principle of terminological correctness and acceptability. Determining the correctness of new business terms involves verifying lexicosemantic adequacy, conformity to morphosyntactic rules (derivation, compounding and abbreviating) and functionality

with respect to existing terminology to avoid contradictory or ambiguous data. To achieve this aim, a hundred multi-word lexical items have been randomly selected from *Businessman Magazine* and subject to the quantitative and qualitative analysis.

The analysed data show that the majority of acronyms consist of three-word lexical units i.e. 71%. The second position i.e. 14% is held by acronyms consisting of the initial letters of the two-word lexical units. The acronyms with the form base composed of the four-word lexical units occupy the third position i.e. 10%, whereas the acronyms composed of more than four-word lexical units show only 5% of the total number. See graph No 1 below.



Graph No1. *Quantitative analyses of the borrowed acronyms' base forms*

The English acronyms transferred to PSP are subject to being adapted at the language levels.

Most acronyms consist of capital letters even if the full base forms do not begin with capital letters e.g. *BSR - Business strategic review*, *GSS - Global service solution*. In some cases the shortenings of at least four-word lexical units consist of small letters. When they lose their capitals and acquire the spelling of small letters, they are regarded as ordinary words e.g. *laser - light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation* or *radar - radio detecting and ranging*.

Although the transferred acronyms originally appeared in writing, they are pronounced in compliance with phonological rules. Thus, following

the pronunciation principles of Polish it is possible to classify acronyms into some groups. In the first group there are acronyms pronounced orthographically as one word e.g. *radar* ['radar], *BOT* ['bot], *EVA* ['ewa], *ISO* ['iso], *VAT* ['wat], *SOM* ['som], *LIBID* ['libit], *LIBOR* ['libor], *GIGO* ['gigo]. In the second group there are acronyms pronounced alphabetically but with the stress on the last syllable e.g. *SMS* [esem'es] *HRM* [haer'em], *TQM* [teku'em]. Cannon (1989) states that these shortenings should be classified as alphabetisms¹⁰. However, we should notice that they seem to be pronounced like the full word rather than alphabetically. We

¹⁰ CANNON, footnote 4, p. 108–116.

cannot deny that it is impossible to pronounce these shortenings in a pure alphabetic manner with a stress on each letter e. g. *SMS* ['es'em'es] *HRM* ['ha'er'em], *TQM* ['te'ku'em]. The attention should be drawn to the fact that the former is frequently heard in connected speech, whereas the latter can be heard in isolation. Although the above examples might be classified as the pure acronyms or alphabetisms in English when borrowed into Polish they seem to be pronounced orthoepically. Thus, they can be classified as acronyms provided that the pronunciation criterion of connected speech is taken into account.

MLUs consist of components the realisation of which is done by the combined lexemes. At the level of lexemes subject to the process of compounding the main processes of affixation took place. Prefixes or suffixes were added to the base forms with or without a change of word-class. The morphological structure of the English MLUs transferred to PSP shows that the prefixation is limited only to four prefixes:

inter-	SLIP	Serial Line I nterface Protocol
re-	BRP	Business Process R eengineering
sub-	SIM	S ubscriber Identity Module
tele-	TVC	T elevision commercial

Suffixation as a morphological process appears to have been more productive in case of the analysed MLUs in comparison to prefixation. The analysis of one hundred MLUs displays the typical derivational and inflectional suffixes below:

Derivational suffixes:

<i>Adverb</i> →		<i>noun suffix</i>
-hood	ELM	Elaborated Likelihood Model
<i>Noun</i> →		<i>noun suffix</i>
-ary	GDR	Global Depositary Receipts
<i>Verb</i> →		<i>noun suffix</i>
-ing	APS	Advanced Planning and Scheduling
-ation	WAIS	Wide Area Information Servers
-ance	AA	Account Allowance
-ant	ACA	Association of Chartered Accountant

-er	ECR	Efficient Consumer Response
-ition	HDTV	High-Definition TV
-ion	PASS	Professional Approach to System Selection
-ment	DRP	Distribution Requirement Planning
<i>Adjective</i> →		<i>noun suffix</i>
-ity	CSR	Corporation Social Responsibility
-ness	BMS	Business Management System
<i>Noun</i> →		<i>adjective suffix</i>
-an	ADR	American Depositary Receipts
-al	DV	Digital Video
-ic	BSR	Business Strategic Review
<i>Verb</i> →		<i>adjective suffix</i>
-ive	EIS	Executive Information Systems
-ed	EVA	Economic Value Added

Inflectional suffixes:

<i>Adjective</i> →		<i>superlative suffix</i>
-est	EST	Earliest Start Time
<i>Noun</i> →		<i>plural {s}</i>
-s	HF	Hands Free

In management and technology multi-word lexical units follow a recognised pattern of noun phrases. Although the complexity of the base is related to the number of words, phrases or clauses, acronyms are nouns the underlying structure of which may become apparently vague in time. For example if we take an international lexical item *OK* (also spelled as *O. K. ok, okay*) we can face numerous theories that have been advanced to explain the origin of the word and the components of this multi-word lexical unit. According to some theories *OK* stands for *Old Kinderhook*, the name of a Democratic Party Organisation abbreviated as *O. K.*, or for *Orrin Kendall* the name of biscuit which the soldiers ate during the civil war, whereas according to the others *OK* stands for *Old Keokuk*, the name of a native American tribal chief who was said to have signed treaties with initials or for *oll korect*, as an incorrect spelling of *all correct*. Therefore, since some acronyms are a part of every

day vocabulary e. g. *radar, laser*, the analysis of the underlying structure of MLU's becomes important.

In order to examine the internal structures of multi-word lexical units the Immediate Constituent method has been employed. The IC analysis shows that adjectives, nouns, adverbs, function as modifiers of the head in both two- and three-word lexical units. In the analysed MLUs the head of the noun phrase is mainly premodified by adjectives e. g. *HP - High Price, HR - Human Resources, GDR - Global Depositary Receipts, or nouns e. g. IT - Information Technology, BIS - Business Intelligence System, BSA - Business Software Alliance, EEP - Exposure evaluation programs, IRC - Information Research Centre.*

Prepositional phrases or reduced finite clauses function as postmodifiers of the head only in three-word lexical units. In 4 out of 71 lexical items the head of the noun phrase is postmodified by prepositional phrases e. g. *MBF - Management by fear, MBL - Management by love, MBO - Management by objectives, MBW - Management by walking.* In two cases the head is postmodified by a non-finite clause, e. g. *OTH Opportunity to Hear, OTS - Opportunity to See.*

In the analysed acronyms the structure of 96 MLUs is that of the noun phrase. In the remaining 4 cases the verb phrase and the prepositional phrase constitute the underlying structure of the acronyms. Two of them have the verb phrase as their original base form that follows this type of lexical verb pattern V-V-V e. g. *BOO - Build-Operate-Own, BOT - Build-Operate-Transfer.* The other two consist of prepositional phrases. One of them is premodified by the adverb *just* e. g. *JIT - Just in Time*, whereas the other is a prepositional phrase without any premodification e. g. *OTC - Over the Counter.* What is interesting to notice is that when these phrases are transferred to Polish they lose their grammatical identity. They function as nouns and as such they are adapted to PSL.

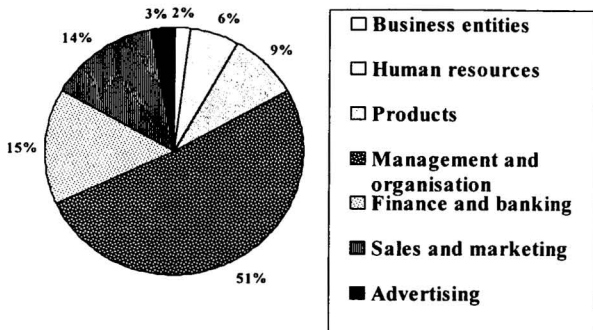
In the light of the process of compounding that creates new MLUs as well as the process of abbreviating that creates a new base form for the same designation, as MLUs acronyms constitute a se-

mantic whole. It is mainly due to the fact that these lexical expressions are compositional i. e. the meaning of a syntactically complex expression is determined by the meaning of its constituents and their grammatical relations. Nevertheless, it would be an oversimplification to think that the compositionality of a complex expression means simply adding up the meanings and references of its parts. In fact the essential aspect of multi-word lexical unit formation and acronymisation is that they incorporate a class of objects or phenomena conveyed by words or terms to form new meanings.

The semantic analyses of those expressions aims at classifying the English acronyms transferred to Polish into the semantic categories of business operations conducted in any enterprise. For all practical purposes we have distinguished such domains as *business entity, human resources, product, management and organisation, finance and banking, sales and marketing, advertising.* They constitute the semantic categories into which we have classified the English acronyms transferred to PSP in the process of borrowing.

The qualitative analysis of the English acronyms shows that the majority of the abbreviated terms i. e. 51% belong to management and organisation. In this group there is also computer-related terminology included on the grounds that computer systems are an important tool of management. At the level ranging from 10% to 15% there are terms incorporated into such semantic categories as *finance and banking* (15%), as well as *sales and marketing* (14%). The group below 10% covers *product* (9%), *human resources* (6%), *advertising* (3%) and *business entities* (2%). See graph No 2.

Not only the borrowed acronyms have their meaning properties, they also bear various meaning relations. Synonymy is one of central meaning relations noticed in e. g. *POP Point of Purchase* and *POS Point of Sale.* Homonymy is apparent in such English acronyms as *PPM = Personal planning meeting*, and *PPM = Pro Production Meeting*, as well as *MBO = Management buy out* and *MBO = Management by objectives.* The acronyms *COLA = Cost of Living Allowance*, *PASS = Professional Approach to System Selection*, *SLIP = Serial Li-*



Graph No 2. Acronyms divided according to business categories

ne Interface Protocol, SWOT= Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats have a homonym in the lexemes *cola*, *pass*, *slip* and *swot*. The lexeme *cola* is an element in the compound *Coca Cola*, which is a trademark. It is also the name of the product defined as a sweet dark-brown drink with lots of bubbles. The meanings of the lexemes *pass*, *slip* and *swot* are defined in the following way:

pass = (noun) 1. TEST a successful result in a test or a course, 2. DOCUMENT an official document that allows you to do something, 3. SPORT in sports when you throw or kick a ball to someone else, 4. PATH a narrow path between two mountain;

pass = (verb) 1. GO PAST to go past something or someone, 2. GO to go in a particular direction or to cause something to go in a particular direction, 3. GIVE to give something to someone, 4. TIME to spend time doing something, 5. PASS (the) TIME to spend time doing something, 6. EXAM to succeed at a test or an exam, or to decide that someone has been successful, 7. BE MORE THAN to be more than a particular level, 8. SPORTS in sports, to throw or kick a ball to someone else;

slip = (noun) 1. PAPER a small piece of paper, 2. FALL fall when you slide by accident

and fall or almost fall, 3. WOMEN'S CLOTHING a piece of clothing that a woman wears under a dress or skirt, 4. MISTAKE a small mistake, 5. give sb the slip informal- to escape from someone you do not want to be with, 6. a lip of the tongue-a mistake made by using a wrong word;

slip = (verb) FALL to slide by accident and fall or almost fall, 2. OUT OF POSITION to slide out of the correct position;

swot = (noun) someone who studies too much,

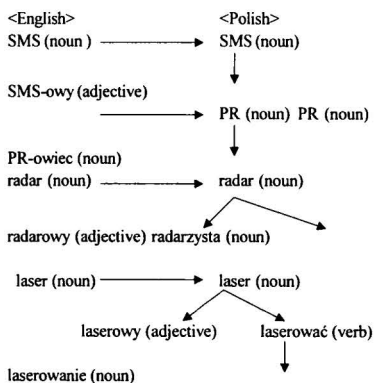
swot = (verb) to study a lot¹¹.

Another acronym DAR = Day after Recall has a homonym in the Polish lexeme *dar* which means gift. These acronyms are easy to remember on the account of the fact that their pronunciation as well as spelling is usually associated with the corresponding lexeme existing in LGP.

The English acronyms transferred to PSP are subject to language adaptation processes. Firstly, the acronyms borrowed from English for Special Processes (ESP) become assimilated at the graphic and phonetic levels. During this stage English letters and sounds are substituted by the Polish ones. Secondly, that there seems to be a procedure

¹¹ Cambridge Learner's Dictionary CD-ROM User's Guide. Cambridge, 2001.

leading to the syllabification of the letters constituting acronyms e.g. *SMS* is frequently pronounced as [esem'es], *QC* as [kju'si]. In the adaptation process this is a stage of integration of syllables in the acronym. Although this syllable integration procedure is distant from grammar, it should be added to morphology¹². It provides new bases for further morphological processes to operate. As a result of its application in the target language the acronyms become the base for derivational processes e. g.



and for compounding e.g. *wiązka laserowa* (noun), *radaroskop* (noun), *kontrola fotoradarowa* (noun).

The origin of the acronym *SMS* – *Short Message Service* goes back to the early nineties of the twentieth century. The first short message is generally believed to have been sent in December 1992 from a Personal Computer (PC) to a mobile phone on the Vodafone GSM network in the UK. This ability to send and receive text messages to and from mobile telephones has become extremely popular ever since. The success of the Short Messa-

ge Service originally directed at the professional market in Europe can be attributed to the fact that it has reached the worldwide common market. In February 1997 *Businessman Magazine* provided the explanation of the acronym *SMS* with the explanation that it is short message service i. e. *usługa elektronicznego przesyłania krótkich wiadomości*¹³.

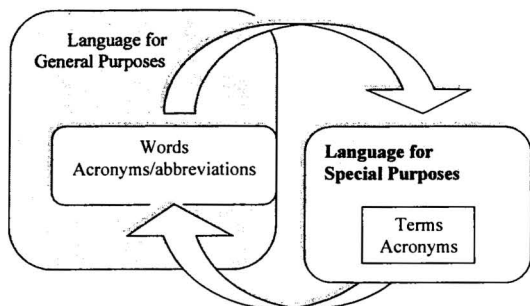
The term to denote the ability of transferring messages was created on the basis of a compounding process during which lexemes were selected from LGP, combined in the lexical phrase and introduced to LSP. The worldwide popularity of this communication system exceeded the professional context and contributed to the transfer of this acronym into LGP.

In Poland the history of *SMS* followed the path of relocating this acronym from LSP to LGP. Initially, it was used in the business environment. It became, however, popularised to such a degree that the process of syllabification took place very fast and this acronym started to be pronounced like the full word. Subsequently, *SMS* or *esemes* appears to be promptly integrated with the lexical system of PGP. Not only does it function the base of derivation i. e. *SMS-owy* or *esemesowy* (adjective), *SMS-ować* or *esemesować* (verb), *SMS-owanie* or *esemesowanie* (noun) but it also becomes a potential element for the process of compounding e.g. *Centrum SMS-owe* or *centrum esemesowe*. The existence of the two forms, the former in Standard Polish and the latter in advertising and colloquial speech, shows that the lexeme is on the way of full integration with the Polish language. It follows the adaptation path of such lexemes as *laser* and *radar*. See the drawing No 2. below.

Although the onomasiology of the term designating the concepts of one object definitely cannot illustrate the whole complexity of terminology and word-formation processes, it does illustrate the interactive character between words, terms and abbreviations.

¹² See REY, footnote 2, p 69.

¹³ *Businessman Magazine*, February 1997, Nr 2 (71), p. 35.



Drawing No 2. *Interactive relation between words, terms and acronyms and their underlying word-formation processes.*

Conclusions

In this article we have attempted to show relations between LGP and LSP in the context of word-formation processes. As it has been illustrated above this relationship is of an interactive character as both words and terms are used to create new lexical items, which, depending on common or specialised needs, may become elements of either general vocabulary or terminology.

In the process of external borrowing the transfer of multi-word lexical items with their abbreviated forms stimulates prompt adaptation and integration with the system of the target language. In comparison with their underlying structures acronyms are more efficient as they are easier to remember and produce. Therefore, several conclusions could be drawn from the results described above.

1. Both the principle of economy and the principle of frequency make acronyms more and more popular than their full form. This may lead to their further lexicalisation during which they become the base form for further word-formation processes.
2. The balance interrelation between those two principles determines the proportion of acronyms that may become either internally or externally borrowed components for being combined into lexical phrases to create new multi-word lexical units.
3. In the process of external borrowing English acronyms are subject to the procedure of syllabification of letters that facilitates their adaptation and integration with the Polish lexicon.

Ewa Piotrowska-Oberda

Jano Kochanovskio Šventojo Kryžiaus akademija

ANGLŲ KALBOS MLU PRITAIKYMAS
AKRONIMŲ FORMA SPECIALIEMS LENKŲ
KALBOS TIKSLAMS

Santrauka

Straipsnyje analizuojama, kaip anglų kalbos ke-
lių žodžių leksiniai vienetai (MLU – multi-words
lexical units) skolinami ir akronimų forma pritaiko-

mi lenkų kalboje specialiams tikslams. Anglų kal-
bos akronimai charakterizuojami visais kalbos lyg-
menimis, ypatingą dėmesį skiriant žodžių skolini-
mosi ir darybos procesams.

Kiekybinės ir kokybinės santrumpų analizės
tikslas – nustatyti vidinio ir išorinio skolinimosi
santykius bei ištirti kelių žodžių leksinių vienetų
ryšius su akronimais.

100 pasiskolintų anglų kalbos akronimų ir kelių
žodžių leksinių vienetų analizės rezultatai leido

padaryti išvadą, jog žodžių darybos procesai lemia akronimų leksikalizaciją, kuri savo ruožtu tampa išieities tašku tolesniems derivaciniams procesams. Vidinio ir išorinio skolinimosi atvejais subalansuota koreliacija tarp ekonomijos ir frekvencijos principų gali apibūdinti akronimų tapsmą kelių žodžių leksiniais vienetais. Atliekant daugialypę analizę

Ewa Piotrowska-Oberda
Akademia Świętokrzyska
im. Jana Kochanowskiego

TRANSFER ANGIELSKICH MLUS W FORMIE AKRONIMÓW DO PSP

Streszczenie

Artykul dotyczy procesu zapożyczenia angielskich wielowyrzowych jednostek leksykalnych (MLUs) i ich transferu w formie akronimów do języka polskiego dla celów specjalnych (PSP). Charakterystyka angielskich akronimów obejmuje wszystkie poziomy języka z uwzględnieniem procesów zapożyczenia i słowotwórstwa.

Celem przeprowadzonej analizy ilościowej i jakościowej skrótowców było określenie relacji pomiędzy zapożyczeniem wewnętrznym a zapożyczeniem zewnętrznym oraz zbadanie związków pomię-

taip pat pastebėta, jog išorinio skolinimosi procese anglų kalbos akronimai patiria žodžių silabizacijos procedūras, kurios paspartina skolinimų adaptaciją ir integraciją į lenkų kalbos žodžių lobyną.

REIKŠMINIAI ŽODŽIAI: kelių žodžių leksinis vienetas, akronimas, kompozicija, skolinimasis.

dzy wielowyrzowymi jednostkami leksykalnymi a akronimami.

Wyniki analizy stu zapożyczonych angielskich akronimów i ich wielowyrzowych jednostek leksykalnych pozwoliły na wyciągnięcie wniosku, iż procesy słowotwórcze prowadzą do leksykalizacji akronimów, podczas której stają się one formą wyjściową do dalszych procesów derywacyjnych. W zapożyczeniu wewnętrznym i zewnętrznym wyważona korelacja pomiędzy zasadą ekonomii a zasadą frekwencji może określić stopień kompozycji akronimów w nowe wielowyrzowe jednostki leksykalne. W oparciu o przeprowadzoną syntetyczną analizę zaobserwowano również, że w procesie zapożyczenia zewnętrznego angielskie akronimy podlegają procedurze sylabizacji liter, która przyspiesza adaptację i integrację zapożyczonych akronimów z zasobem słownictwa języka polskiego.

SŁOWA KLUCZE: wielowyrzowa jednostka leksykalna, akronim, kompozycja, zapożyczenie.

Gauta 2004 01 08

Priimta publikuoti 2004 02 11