

## Analysis of Acronym and Abbreviations in IJAL Journal

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**Abstract:** *The purpose of this research were to find out as well as identify the acronym and abbreviations in IJAL Journal, Vol. 7 no. 3 and Vol 8 no. 1. This research used qualitative research design. The data in this research were 50 articles taken from IJAL Journal Vol. 7 No. 3 and Vol. 8 No. 1. 35 of acronyms and 131 abbreviations were found in the current volume. The findings of the acronyms did not occur in any other types but the abbreviations did. There were 109 initials abbreviations and 26 shortening abbreviations. It was considered that acronym and abbreviation were similar but also different. The function of acronym and abbreviation used in article were to minimize the space which was provided to explain the paper to the readers, also, for the same sentences were not allowed to be repeated in writing an article. Therefore, it was suggested to the English learners that they should pay more awareness about kinds of acronym and abbreviations, especially for them who want to learn about word formation.*

**Keywords:** *Word Formation, Acronym, Abbreviation, IJAL Journal.*

### ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menemukan dan mengidentifikasi akronim dan abreviasi pada Jurnal IJAL, volum 7 nomor 3 dan volum 8 nomor 1, serta mengidentifikasi jenis akronim dan abreviasi yang terdapat dalam Jurnal IJAL, volum 7 nomor 1 dan volum 8 nomor 1. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif. Data yang digunakan pada penelitian ini sebanyak 50 artikel yang di ambil dari Jurnal IJAL, volum 7 nomor 3 dan volum 8 nomor 1. Dari penelitian ini, ditemukan 35 akronim dan 131 abreviasi, yang terbagi menjadi 109 ‘initialism abbreviations’ dan 26 ‘shortening abbreviations’. Hal ini dianggap bahwa akronim dan abreviasi adalah serupa namun juga memiliki perbedaan. Abreviasi tidak menghasilkan bunyi seperti sebuah kata, akan tetapi terbaca huruf demi huruf. Akronim dan abreviasi yang digunakan dalam penulisan artikel berfungsi meminimalkan ruang yang di sediakan untuk menjelaskan makalah kepada pembaca, hal ini juga di karenakan kalimat yang sama tidak di izinkan untuk di tulis ulang dalam sebuah artikel. Pada akhirnya, penelitian ini di sarankan untuk; 1) pelajar bahasa Inggris,

mereka harus memperhatikan jenis akronim dan abreviasi, terutama bagi mereka yang ingin belajar tentang pembentukan kata.

**Kata kunci:** Struktur kata, Akronim, Abreviasi, Jurnal IJAL.

## INTRODUCTION

Writing a scientific paper is one of the demands in the globalization era. Educators, especially teachers and lecturers, are required to produce scientific papers that should be published in reputable journals. The ability of writing a scientific paper needs to be followed to understand morphology, especially an acronym and abbreviation. In this case, the researchers used *IJAL* Journal as an object to be analyzed because *IJAL* Journal is one of reputable journal in nowadays and have been indexed by *Scopus* in Indonesia.

It is important to study morphology when people learn a foreign language. In linguistics, morphology is the study of words, how they are formed, and their relations to other words in the same language. Formal differences among the words several is a variety of the purposes from the creation a new lexical items to show grammatical structure. The most primary division is between inflection and word formation. Plag (2003:13) said that word-formation can thus be defined as the study of the ways in which new words are built on bases of other words. The word-formation process of the morphological process is the process of forming new words with one of word formation that should be constructed from acronym and abbreviation. Acronyms and abbreviations are the element of languages. There is no clear sign when they started to use but nowadays they cannot separate from any of the modern languages. Abbreviations and acronyms help people to shorten often longer word formation into a smaller form often counting few letters. For example, United State of America can be abbreviated to USA, leaving out to the preposition. Acronyms are part of abbreviation and acronym is an abbreviation formed from the initial components in phrase or a word.

In order to conduct this study, the writer gathers some related theories. Review of related theories consists of morphology, morpheme, word-formation, acronym, and abbreviation.

### 1. Morphology

Morphology is the branch of linguistics in charge of studying the smallest meaningful units of language (i.e., morpheme), their

different form, the internal structure of words, and the process (Zapata, 2007:1). While according to Haspelmath (16:2002), Morphology is the study of systematic covariation in the form and meaning words. In addition, Plag (2003:35) defines that Morphology is the area of grammar concerned with the structure of words and with relationship between involving the morphemes that compose word is technically.

## 2. Morpheme

Morphemes can be defined as the smallest meaningful constituents of a linguistic expression (Haspelmath, 31:2002). According to Carstairs (2002:31) many morphemes have two or more different pronunciation called allomorph. It means that morphemes have been defined as a pairing between sound and meaning. Meanwhile, Plag (2003:10) said that these smaller parts of words, generally called “morphemes”. A morpheme may exist of a word, like the –ed of looked, that cannot be divided into smaller meaningful parts. In addition, Allan (2001:108) explains that morpheme is the smallest unit of syntactic analysis with semantic specification. Morpheme is used to assign to the smallest imperceptible unit of semantic idea of grammatical which word is made up, for example: *‘friends’ (consist of two morphemes: friend and –s which indicates plural form), ‘helpful’ (consist of two morphemes: help and –ful which indicates adjective form), ‘cooks’ (consist of two morphemes: cook and –s which indicates simple present that the subject is singular).*

## 3. Word Formation

### a. Definition of Word Formation

Word Formation is a morphological and sometimes grammatical process that aimed at producing words in language. Crystal (2003:523-524) explains that word formation “as the whole process of morphological variation in the constitution of words.

### b. Word Formation Process

Word Formation is a morphological and sometimes grammatical process that aimed at producing words in a language. Here are the word formation processes:

#### 1) Acronym

Cannon (2011:107) views that acronym is a word formed from the initial letter or letters of each of the successive parts of major parts of a compound term. Cannon (2011:116) also said that an acronym is a word formed from the first letters of the words in a compound term. The value of acronym and

abbreviation in writing the article is also a writing style. Although acronym generally consist of all capital letters, through may consist of all lowercase letters or a combination. While according to Finegan (2007:48), acronyms are shortenings, built from the initial letters in a phrase or name. Acronyms are marked as single word, for example: NASA, AIDS. According to Zapata (2007:7-8), acronym is the process whereby a new word is formed from the initial letters of the constituent words of a phrase or sentence. Moreover, Adams in Danks (2003:99) points out that acronyms may include other than initial letters to make them more word-like, for example *radar* (*radio detecting and ranging*), yet the same time may also omit some non-lexical words in the source phrase. It measures that when the acronyms are pronounced as words, they may consist of initial letters, non initial letters, mixture of initial letters, and non-initial letters.

## 2) Abbreviation

Cannon (2011:111) explains that abbreviation is spelled more often today without periods than with them suggest that it now a more direct part of the vocabulary, for example *dept.* (*departement*), *oz* (*ounce*), *Mr.* (*Mister*), *Dr.* (*Doctor*), and *Jr.* (*Junior*). Abbreviations can used:

### a) Certain Stylistic

- *e.g., i.e., etc., et.al*

### b) Place names and address

- *St. (Saint), Ste. (Sainte), Mt. (Mount)*

The abbreviations NE, NW, SE, and SW (indicating section of cities) and those denoting ordinal numbers (“-st,” “-nd,” “-rd,” “and,” “-th”) may be used in addresses:

1234 Massachusetts Avenue NW

Washington, D.C. 20007

719 East 42<sup>th</sup> Street

New York, New York 10123

Abbreviation is most regularly construct by taking initial letters of multi-word sequences to compose a new word. Cannon (2011:116) explains that abbreviations is a shortened form of a word or phrase. While Plag (2003:126) says that abbreviations are similiar in nature to blends because both blends and abbreviations are amalgamations of parts of different words, this is the table of te example:

BA	→	Bachelor of Arts
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DC	→	District of Columbia
EC	→	European Community

It showed that abbreviation is most commonly formed by taking initial letters from two different words.

Kridalaksana (2007:159) said that abbreviation is a process of putting off one or some parts of lexeme or a combination of lexemes so it becomes a new word form. Despite abbreviation is largely a convention of written language, sometimes abbreviation carry over into spoken language, for example:

*Written Abbreviations*

Cm – centimeter(s)

Dr. – Doctor

*Spoken-Written Abbreviations*

A.M. – Antre Meridiem (in the morning)

VIP – Very Important Person

There are two kinds of abbreviations:

a) Initialism Abbreviations

Initialism abbreviation is the shortened that take a first letter from the words and Initialism abbreviation is the shortened that pronounced letter by letter.

b) Shortening Abbreviation

Shortening abbreviation is the shortened which make a word to be short and simple.

#### 4. The differences between Acronym and Abbreviation

The difference between an abbreviation and an acronym is that an abbreviation is the articulated form of the original word whereas the acronym is a form of new word. For example: UNESCO, Laser, Radar are some of the acronyms whereas UK, USA, CBI are the abbreviations. An acronym Radar means Radio detection and ranging. This is totally a new description of the original word Radar. An abbreviation UK stands for United Kingdom, which is just the description of the old word only. Therefore one can say that all acronyms can be abbreviations, but all abbreviations cannot be acronyms. Another difference between an abbreviation and an acronym is that an abbreviation contains periods in between for example I.D, Mr., I.Q etc. Whereas an acronym has no periods in between, it is a short description. An abbreviation is just a short compact version of the word whereas an acronym consists of words giving concepts or catchy phrases. For example dept. is the short form of department whereas TEAM denotes together everyone

achieves more. An acronym is a combination of different letters denoting different words whereas an abbreviation is a concise form with one word and few letters. Acronyms can be of several types such as letter type; example laser, syllable type; example sysadmin and a hybrid of two; example WaSP, whereas abbreviations consist of short words. It can vary sometimes like ‘sgt’ for sergeant.

## METHOD

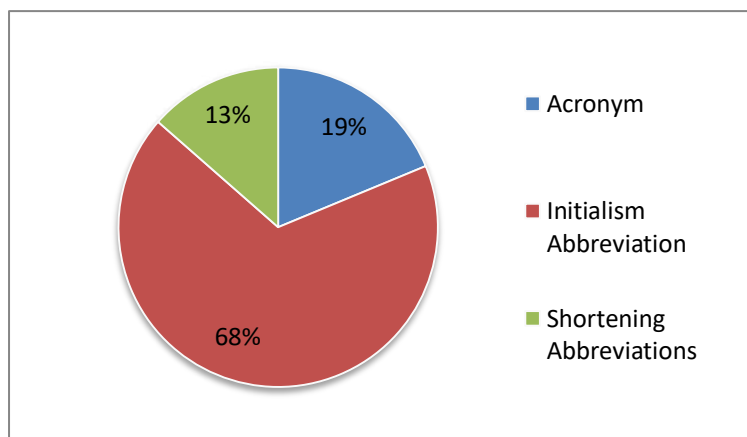
In this research, the researchers used descriptive qualitative research which is defined as a study of data in the form of written oral words that is descriptively analysed. Qualitative research does not spotlight on numerals or statistics but gives most attention on how deep the researchers’ knowledge toward the interaction among concept which is being learned. Qualitative research focuses on the constructed reality of the research participants.

It can be terminated that qualitative research does not require numerals or statistic such as quantitative. The data are able to be found in literature book, diary, newspaper, or document. The writer uses qualitative method because the research problem are to analyze the acronym and abbreviations in *IJAL Journal*.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The data of this research consist of 35 acronyms and 131 abbreviations which were divided into 109 initials abbreviations and 26 shortening abbreviations. There were 50 articles that have been analyzed; 25 articles in volume 7 and 25 articles in volume 8. The finding are provided in the following table.

### The Frequency of Acronym and Abbreviation in IJAL Journal



### 1. The Construct of Acronym and Abbreviation in IJAL Journal

From the data that have been analyzed, the researcher found 166 words which are divided into acronym, initialism abbreviation and shortening abbreviation. The following are the examples of acronym, initialism abbreviation and shortening abbreviation.

#### Kinds of Acronym in IJAL Journal

No	Kind of Acronym	Description
1	Capital from the first of each words	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AIFIS (American Institute for Indonesian Studies)</li> <li>• BALLI (Beliefs about Language Learning Inventory)</li> <li>• BLUE (Best Linear Unbiased Estimated)</li> </ul>
2	Acronym without capital preposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASEAN (Association of South East Asia Nations)</li> <li>• NAFTA (The North American Free Trade Agreement)</li> <li>• NASA (National Aeronautic and Space Administration)</li> </ul>

The table above shows some of the data found by the researcher in order to give some illustration to the readers. Meanwhile, the entire data found in this study are provided in the appendices. It was found that there were two kinds of acronyms. First, the word that shortened in capital letter from the front letter, and it is readable, and the second is the word that shortened to capital letter but the preposition is not capitalized.

#### Kinds of Initialism Abbreviation in IJAL Journal

No	Kind of Initialism Abbreviation	Description
1.	Capitalized Abbreviation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AEC (Asean Economic Community)</li> <li>• ABL (Activity Based Learning)</li> <li>• EFL (English as a Foreign Language)</li> </ul>
2	Mixed Letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AfL (Assessment for Learning)</li> <li>• AoL (Assessment of Learning)</li> <li>• CDs (Complete Discs)</li> </ul>
3	Small letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• et.al., (et alii)</li> <li>• e.g., (exempli gratia)</li> <li>• etc., (et cetera)</li> </ul>
4	One letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• p. (page)</li> <li>• A (Average)</li> </ul>
5	Letter mix with numeral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L1 (First Language)</li> <li>• L2 (Second Language)</li> </ul>

The table above showed some data found by the researcher in order to give some illustrations to the readers. It was found that there were five kinds of initials abbreviation; the first, the words that abbreviating to the capital letter, the second is that the abbreviation mixed letter (capital mixed with small letter), especially when the words contain a preposition, or a plurality of “s”, the third is the word that abbreviated using small letter, the fourth is a word that abbreviated into one letter, and the last is the letter mixed with numeral.

#### Kinds of Shortening Abbreviation in IJAL Journal

No	Kind of Shortening Abbreviation	Description
1	Shorten from the first letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ad (Adding)</li> <li>• Cont. (Continued)</li> <li>• Rec. (Recording)</li> </ul>
2	Shorten from mix letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. (Doctor)</li> <li>• Mr. (Mister)</li> <li>• Ms. (Miss)</li> </ul>

The table above shows some of the data found by the researcher in order to give some illustration to the readers. Meanwhile, the entire



data found in this study are provided in the appendices. It was found that there were two kinds of shortening abbreviations. First, the word that shortened from the front letter, and the second is the word that shortened in mix letter.

Acronyms and abbreviations have been around almost as long as there have been written language. The main reason we use acronyms, including abbreviations, is for remembering the sentences easily by making them shorter. Thus, acronym and abbreviation are similar but also has a different. An acronym is a form of new word whereas an abbreviation is the articulated form of the original word. Another differences between an acronym and abbreviation is that an acronym has no periods in between whereas an abbreviation contains periods in between, for example I.D, Mr., I.Q, etc. An acronym consist of words giving concepts or catchy phrases whereas an abbreviation is just a short compact version of the word. For example TEAM denotes together everyone achieves more whereas dept. is the short form of department. An acronym is a combination of different letters denoting different words whereas an abbreviation is a concise form with one word and few letters.

To be more understandable, an acronym and abbreviations in the table that the writer classified has the characteristics mentioned above:

a. Acronym

- 1) Acronym can be written include other than initial letters to make them more word-like. For example radar (*radio detective and ranging*). Here, the acronym is formed from two of front letter *radio*, the first letter of a word *detective*, the first letter of a word *and*, and the first letter of a word *ranging*. This initial letters is formed to be readable and pronounce as new word (not spelling letter by letter). The other example is LASER which means *Light Amplification by the Stimulated Emission of Radiation*. Here, not all of the first letter are shortened to be an acronym, so LASER can be pronounce as new word.
- 2) Acronym can be fully written in capital letters which is shortened from the first letter of a word, but still readable and pronounce as a new word. For example is WICA which means *Warncke Informal Comprehension Assessment*, AIFIS which means *American Institute for Indonesian Studies*, and COCA which means *Corpus of Temporary America*.
- 3) Acronym can be fully written in capital letters which is shortened from the first letter of a word, but the preposition is

not in. For example TAACO (*Tool for the Automatic Analysis of Cohesion*). Here the preposition “for” and “the” are not shortened to be an initial letter of the acronym construction. Another example is PIRLS (*Progress in International Reading Literacy*), PISA (*Program for International Student Assessment*), TESOL (*Teaching English to Speakers of Other Language*), and TOEFL (*Test of English as a Foreign Language*).

- b. Abbreviation is divided into two types:
- 1) Initialism abbreviation (the shortened that take a first letter from the words and pronounced letter by letter)
    - a) Initialism abbreviation can be fully written in capital letters which is shortened from the first letter of a word. Example: AEC (Asean Economic Community), OTJ (Overall teacher judgement), UK (United Kingdom), US (United States), and UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). They all are shortened from the first letter of a word.
    - b) Initialism abbreviation can be written in capital letters which is shortened from the first letter of a word, but the first letter of the preposition being erased. The example is USA which meaning *United States of America*. Here the preposition ‘of’ is not shortened to be an initial letter. Another example is an EFL (*English as a Foreign Language*), ESL (*English as a Second Language*), ELF (*English as a Lingua Franca*) and ESP (*English for Special Purpose*). Those kinds of preposition are not taken to be an abbreviation’s initial letter.
    - c) Initialism abbreviation can be written in Mix Letter which is the capital letter is for shortened the first letter of a word and the small letter is for shortened the first letter of preposition. The example is :AfL which meaning *Assessment for Learning*, AoL (*Assessment of Learning*), MoE (*Ministry of Education*), and ToC (*Test of Competence*). The preposition of those words are initialism with the small letters.
    - d) Small letter of ‘s’ is used for plural. For example, CDs are used to abbreviate Compact Discs, which is plural. The other example is IDs which meaning Individual Differences.

- e) Initialism abbreviation can be written in one letter of the first letter of a word, like A which meaning *Average* and p. which meaning *page*.
  - f) Initialism abbreviation can be written in a capital letter mix with a numeral. The example are L1 and L2 which is L1 means *First Language* and L2 means *Second Language*.
  - g) Initialism abbreviation can be written with borrowing a phrase like etc., which is mean *et cetera*, et.al., means *et alii*, e.g., means *exempli gratia*, and i.e., means *id est*.
- 2) Shortening Abbreviation (shortened which make a word to be short and simple)
- a) Shortening abbreviation can be shortened from the front letter of a word. The example is Rec. which means *Recording*. Here, a word of Rec. is shortened from three of front letter *Recording*. The other example is *Adding* that shortened to be ad. And *Example* that shortened to be Ex.
  - b) Shortening abbreviation can be shortened by some letter of a word randomly. The example is DI which means *deleting*. The *deleting* is shortened using letter 'd' and 'i' which is not consecutively from the first letter to the next letter of a word *deleting*. Another example is Md which means *Modifying*, Dr. which means *Doctor*, Mr. which means *Mister*, Ms which means *Miss*, Sp which means *Simplifying*, and Std. which means *Standard*.

It concludes that there are some differences found between acronym and abbreviations. Eventhough they look similar, but they are different. It can be seen from their characteristics.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the result of the study and analysis in this previous chapter, the writer concluded that there are 35 acronyms and 131 abbreviations found in IJAL Journal Vol. 7 No.3 and Vol. 8 No. 1 in 2018. The findings of the acronyms did not happen any other types but the abbreviations did. Abbreviation is divided into 2 types; 1) Initialism Abbreviation, and 2) Shortening Abbreviation. There are 26 shortening abbreviations, and 109 initialism abbreviations. It is found that the Initialism abbreviations is the most dominant one out of fifty (50) articles than the other abbreviations and acronyms. It was considered that an acronym and abbreviation are similiar but also has differences. Abbreviations are not pronounced like a word, yet they are spelled like pronouncing a letter. For

English students, the use of acronym and abbreviation can help them to remember the sentences in a short and simple way. Meanwhile, the use of acronym and abbreviation can help them to understand the word that they were never heard before.

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