

MILITARY-MARKED ABBREVIATIONS IN MODERN UKRAINIAN MEDIA DISCOURSE

ABREVIATURAS COM MARCAÇÃO MILITAR NO DISCURSO MÍDIA UCRANIANO MODERNO

Article received on: 9/2/2025

Article accepted on: 12/1/2025

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The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest

Abstract

The article comprehensively studies abbreviations, different in terms of their creation and meaning, found in Ukrainian media texts on military topics. Compound abbreviated words are inventoried in terms of derivational features and described in the context of external factors that became a prerequisite for the use of these derived units. It was found that in the information space of the active phase of the Russian-Ukrainian war, abbreviations function to denote: 1) persons with military professional activities, 2) military units, formations, bodies, etc., the main task of which is reconnaissance operations, countering disinformation, exposing fakes, debunking narratives imposed by Russia, etc.; 3) aircraft and various types of military equipment;

Resumo

O artigo estuda de forma abrangente as abreviações, diferentes em termos de criação e significado, encontradas em textos da mídia ucraniana sobre temas militares. As palavras abreviadas compostas são inventariadas em termos de características derivacionais e descritas no contexto de fatores externos que se tornaram um pré-requisito para o uso dessas unidades derivadas. Verificou-se que, no espaço informativo da fase ativa da guerra russo-ucraniana, as abreviações funcionam para designar: 1) pessoas com atividades profissionais militares; 2) unidades militares, formações, órgãos, etc., cuja principal tarefa é realizar operações de reconhecimento, combater a desinformação, expor falsificações,



4) artillery systems, guns, other means of detecting and destroying enemy targets; 5) objective actions and processes. Complexly abbreviated linguistic units are characterized with a projection onto syntactic connections, semantic relations and morphological characteristics of words that structure compound compounds. Attention is focused on derivatives that combine only the first or both truncated parts of compound units, as well as sound and letter acronyms, partly accompanied by proper names and digital identifiers. Within the framework of derivative words of the initial variety, graphobarbarisms formed in Latin are considered. It is found that abbreviations perform two functions - nominative-informative and nominative-factological. Among the important features of complexly abbreviated units is their participation in the ability to continue the derivational chain and serve as the basis for the creation of new nominations. The functioning of derivatives of the abbreviation pattern is motivated by the fact that they contribute to the economical use of media space, usually without creating difficulties in understanding the information presented in the heading or article.

Keywords: Word Formation. Derivative. Abbreviation. Acronym. Noun. Adjective. Phrase. Language of Mass Communication. Modern Ukrainian Language. Media Linguistics.

desmascarar narrativas impostas pela Rússia, etc.; 3) aeronaves e vários tipos de equipamento militar; 4) sistemas de artilharia, armas, outros meios de detecção e destruição de alvos inimigos; 5) ações e processos objetivos. As unidades linguísticas abreviadas de forma complexa são caracterizadas por uma projeção sobre conexões sintáticas, relações semânticas e características morfológicas das palavras que estruturam os compostos. A atenção é focada em derivados que combinam apenas a primeira ou ambas as partes truncadas de unidades compostas, bem como acrônimos sonoros e alfabéticos, parcialmente acompanhados por nomes próprios e identificadores digitais. No âmbito das palavras derivadas da variedade inicial, são considerados os grafobarbarismos formados em latim. Verifica-se que as abreviações desempenham duas funções: nominativa-informativa e nominativa-factológica. Entre as características importantes das unidades complexamente abreviadas está sua participação na capacidade de continuar a cadeia derivacional e servir de base para a criação de novas nomeações. O funcionamento dos derivados do padrão de abreviação é motivado pelo fato de que eles contribuem para o uso econômico do espaço da mídia, geralmente sem criar dificuldades na compreensão das informações apresentadas no título ou artigo.

Palavras-chave: Formação de Palavras. Derivado. Abreviação. Acrônimo. Substantivo. Adjetivo. Frase. Linguagem da Comunicação de Massa. Língua Ucrâniana Moderna. Linguística da Mídia.

1 INTRODUCTION

The multi-vector nature of modern Ukrainian linguistics is illustrated by a significant number of works devoted to issues of various language styles and genres. In this source palette, media texts occupy a prominent place, among which a large part are publications on military topics, which is due to active military operations in Ukraine. The specified external factor became a prerequisite for the active use of vocabulary to denote everything related to the military sphere, as well as military operations and processes. Among such nominations, language units that have undergone activation and new words

are attested, which in modern linguistics have been partially analyzed with a projection on the Russian-Ukrainian war. In particular, I. Kozynets characterized neologisms that arose during the war period, focused significant attention on occasionalisms observed in the oral communication of Ukrainians, clarified the lexical meaning, features of creation and emotional-evaluative potential of these language units, emphasized their situational nature (Kozynets, 2023). The sphere of scientific interests included secondary nominations of the enemy, a significant part of which are deaestheticized models (Kostusiak, Navalna, & Mezhov, 2023), as well as call signs of Ukrainian military personnel, described in the functional-semantic aspect (Navalna, et al., 2025). The object of the study was the lexemes actualized in newspaper journalism, denoting the end of military actions. The lexemes of the specified semantic group were analyzed in the cognitive and modal-pragmatic dimensions (Kostusiak, 2025). In linguistic studies, the psycholinguistic aspect of the study of media texts of the active phase of the war initiated by Russia has been reflected (Mezhov, Kostusiak, & Navalna, 2024). The list of these and a number of other studies shows that scientists, building their research on the material of media texts of the Great War period, usually focus on the semantic parameters of language units, the word-forming potential of which is characterized to a lesser extent. Among the frequently used nominations that require description in the field of derivation, complex abbreviated words have been identified, the functioning of which is associated with the economy of newspaper space, as well as with recognition and clarity due to the activity of use in oral and written speech of information consumers.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

The issues of the so-called military linguistics were studied by Abdul et al. (2023), Albota (2023, November 9), Demyanchuk (2024), Disler (2008), Faber and León-Araúz (2019), Georgieva (2015), Millar (2015), Okongor (2015).

The problem was addressed by Struk et al. (2022), who found out the peculiarities of the creation of military vocabulary and terminology and outlined the patterns of their translation. The authors concluded that most often military designations are transmitted in English through borrowing, in which case the full name is translated and an abbreviation is built on its basis. The lowest productivity is inherent in sound-letter

transliterated and transcribed language units. Some complex abbreviated words are analyzed in the monograph “The Russian-Ukrainian War in the Lens of Language” (Kostusiak, & Navalna, 2025). Some abbreviations common in the texts of the period of the armed Russian-Ukrainian confrontation were characterized by Kulikova et al. (2024). Kuts (2022) outlined the semantics of acronyms attested in English media and focused on the features of their translation into Ukrainian. The limited number of scientific works, the active use of abbreviations in the media space of wartime and the need for their comprehensive study testify to the relevance of the chosen topic. The purpose of the article is to determine the word-formation and structural-semantic features of complexly abbreviated words attested in media texts on military topics; to describe derivatives that have undergone morphological adaptation; to study initial abbreviations in the context of homonymy.

3 MATERIALS AND METHODS

The most famous Ukrainian media sources were used as the research material, in particular military texts, from which sentence structures containing abbreviations with different features of creation and meaning were selected. Preference was given to the newest publications covering the years 2023–2025. The volume of processed sentences is over 500 units.

The following methods are aimed at achieving the formulated goal:

1. Descriptive, used to clarify the content and formal features of abbreviations, to inventory them in view of the features of creation, to characterize them in the context of external factors that became a prerequisite for the activation of the specified derivative units. The descriptive method made it possible to distinguish five semantic groups of complexly abbreviated words. Focusing on the derivational features of selected linguistic units became a prerequisite for the selection of abbreviations formed from the truncated part of the first word or truncated parts of two compound words, as well as acronyms, in the modeling of which the initial letters or sounds participate. The specified method contributed to the description of complexly abbreviated words in the context of external factors, in particular the active phase of the Russian-Ukrainian war.

2. Structural, the use of which made it possible to emphasize the peculiarities of the structure of abbreviations. In particular, to find out that complex abbreviated words contain two parts in their structure, while acronyms are graphically expressed by three, four, five and six letters, among which only capital letters or a combination of capital and lowercase letters occur. In addition, attention is focused on two-component, separately written acronyms that serve as a means of expressing one concept.
3. Component, involved in order to reveal the meaning of the analyzed derivatives and their grouping. The mentioned method provided the detection of narrower lexical meanings of abbreviations, semantically equivalent to word compounds that play the role of a creative basis. It was found that the accompanying proper names and digital identifiers are aimed at specifying the meaning.
4. Functional, aimed at studying abbreviations in the context of the contextual environment and homonymous expression. This aspect of describing complex abbreviated words made it possible to distinguish between two functions performed by them - nominative-informative and nominative-factual. In addition, using the functional method, it was found that homonymous forms of abbreviations sometimes create difficulties in understanding, first of all, the content of the titles. However, in most cases, acronyms, due to their active functioning in military publications, do not require additional explanations; they are recognizable by readers.
5. A comprehensive analysis aimed at studying complex abbreviated words in syntactic, morphological and word-formation aspects. Focusing on the syntactic features of the forming language units made it possible to distinguish two-word and multi-word word combinations, the components of which are connected by attributive relations and a control or coordination link. The inclusion of morphological criteria in the description contributed to the determination of the linguistic part of the forming compounds, among which nouns are attested as main and dependent words and adjectives that function only as subordinate language units. The emphasis on the word-formation parameters of complex abbreviated words became a prerequisite for the isolation of abbreviation derivatives, which can serve as the basis for other derived language units.

4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Abbreviation is traditionally qualified as one of the varieties of the morphological method of derivation, in the process of which words are shortened “to the root, to several syllables, to individual letters” (Klymenko, 2014). In media texts on military topics, nominations with different lexical and semantic parameters are attested, which have the status of complexly shortened words. Among them, a significant part is made up of linguistic units to designate one or a set of persons. In particular, we trace the continuity of the use of tokens indicating persons by official duties of company commander, regiment commander, brigade commander, battalion commander, on which attention is focused in the work “Russian-Ukrainian War in the Lens of Language” (Kostusiak, & Navalna, 2025), for example: “Солдат на місці бачить краще”: мудрість молодого **компроти**, що цінує досвід бійців вище за статуту (“A soldier on the spot sees better”: the wisdom of a young **company commander** who values the experience of soldiers above the statutes) (headline) (<https://armyinform.com.ua>, May 9, 2025); “Перемелюємо ворога”: **комполку** ЗСУ розповів про втрати РФ у Курській області (“We’re grinding down the enemy”: Ukrainian Armed Forces **regiment commander** talks about Russian losses in Kursk region) (headline) (<https://glavred.net>, March 22, 2025); Ліквідовано ворожого **комбрига** – Сили оборони уразили пункт управління російських військ (Епету **brigade commander** eliminated – defense forces hit Russian troops command post) (headline) (<https://armyinform.com.ua>, August 11, 2025); **Комбат** з Третьої штурмової Фокін розповів, як змінилась війна з 2022 року (headline) (Third assault **battalion commander** Fokin reveals how the war has changed since 2022) (<https://nv.ua>, March 25, 2025); Біля звільненого села на Сумщині ЗСУ у стрілецькому бою ліквідували російського **комбата** (Ukrainian Armed Forces eliminate Russian **battalion commander** in firefight near liberated village in Sumy region) (headline) (<https://nv.ua>, June 18, 2025).

In addition to them, other nominations function in media texts of the period of the Russian-Ukrainian war, formed as a result of the reduction of the first part of the word in the form of the nominative case and a subordinate noun with a possessive semantic shade in the genitive case, cf.: *командир взводу* and *комвзводу* (platoon commander), *командир відділення* and *комвідділення* (detachment commander), *начальник штабу*

and *начштабу* (chief of staff), for example: *Ми їдемо на полювання: комвзводу ЗСУ «Відьма» розповіла про бої за Бахмут* (headline) (<https://www.rbc.ua>, February 13, 2023); *На Куп'янському напрямку служить комвідділення Луцького батальйону ТрО «Чуйка»* (headline) (<https://konkurent.ua>, August 22, 2023); *Начштабу «Азов» повідомив ДБР про військові злочини одного з генералів* (headline) (<https://shtab.novyny.live>, June 24, 2024); *ЗСУ прокоментували призначення Гладкого начштабу командування Сил безпілотних систем* (headline) (<https://shtab.novyny.live>, August 31, 2024). The two-word substantive-attributive phrase forms the complex abbreviated nomination of *артрозвідник* (artillery reconnaissance officer), the first component of which is a truncated form of a subordinate adjective: *Українські артрозвідники знищили російський ЗРК «Бук-М2» разом з боєкомплектom* (Ukrainian artillery reconnaissance officers destroyed a Russian Buk-M2 air defense missile system along with its ammunition) (headline) (<https://weu02.tv>, September 6, 2025).

Words that are close in semantic parameters tend to the previously characterized linguistic units, in the structure of which both truncated parts of the constituent units are attested, cf.: *командир дивізії and комдив* (division commander): *Комдив збрехав генералу Юсупову про нібито бої на околиці Ямполівки та прорив військових РФ у Торське, однак це не відповідає дійсності* (headline). *За даними ГРУ, щоб не зазнати розправи за завдані Силами оборони України втрати російських підрозділів, комдив мотострільців війська РФ збрехав генералу Юсупову про нібито бої на околиці Ямполівки та прорив військових РФ у Торське, однак це не відповідає дійсності* (<https://www.unian.ua>, August 19, 2024). The commonality of the analyzed words lies in their stylistic neutrality, the implementation of the nominative-informative function and the trimorphemic structure, after the base of which there is a materially expressed or zero ending. It is noteworthy that lexemes such as *комвзводу*, *начштабу*, *комвідділення*, although they contain the inflection *у* and *я*, inherited from the formative variable words, respectively, but in speech they acquire invariability. In contrast, lexemes such as *комдив* (division commander) are inflected in the modern Ukrainian language according to the model of nouns of the second declension of the hard group. It is important to emphasize that the word *командир* (commander) together with the subordinate substantive is capable of modeling other nominations of persons by

military professional activity, which can potentially participate in the formation of abbreviations, however, in the compiled corpus of factual material such complex abbreviated words are not represented: *командир підрозділу, командир частини, командир з'єднання, командир загону, командир судна, командир ескадрильї* (commander of the unit, commander of the formation, commander of the detachment, commander of the ship, commander of the squadron). Such compounds, without being reduced, function in the mass media: *Командир підрозділу «Кракен» із позивним «Альфа» в інтерв'ю РБК-Україна також розповів про історію створення, та бойові традиції одного з найвідоміших українських підрозділів* (The **commander** of the Kraken **unit** with the call sign "Alpha" in an interview with RBC-Ukraine also spoke about the history of the creation and combat traditions of one of the most famous Ukrainian units (<https://tsn.ua>, August 1, 2025); *“Не можна голитися чи фотографуватися”*: *командир ескадрильї розповів про прикмети пілотів* (<https://www.unian.ua>, October 15, 2024).

The analyzed words can play the role of a formative basis for derived adjectives to a limited extent. This primarily concerns suffixal derivatives with the suffix *-ськ комбатівський*: *Виявилося: ворожі САУ підібралися ближче й відкрили вогонь. Довелося «пірнати» у найближчий бліндаж – комбатівський, де вже сиділо чоловік сім* (<https://www.ukrinform.ua>, April 9, 2025).

With the meaning of a set of persons involved in military affairs, representatives of certain units, formations, bodies, the main task of which is intelligence operations, countering disinformation, exposing fakes, debunking narratives imposed by Russia, etc., a number of complexly abbreviated words function, including letter and sound acronyms formed from compounds that differ in composition, frequency of language affiliation, syntactic connections and semantic relations. The derivative *автобат*, the constituent units of which are parts of the components of the substantive-attributive compound *автомобільний батальйон* (automobile battalion), shows affinity with the previously analyzed words: *У районі мису Фіолент розташовані кілька військових частин, зокрема дивізіон 12-го зенітно-ракетного полку, 475 Центр РЕБ, радіолокаційна рота, автобат тощо* (<https://www.ukrinform.ua>, August 1, 2025).

Among the recognizable ones in the media sphere is the abbreviation ЗСУ – Armed Forces of Ukraine: *За добу відбулось 180 боєзіткнень: у Генштабі ЗСУ*

повідомили про ситуацію на фронті (180 clashes took place during the day: the General Staff of the Armed Forces reported on the situation at the front) (headline) (<https://armyinform.com.ua>, September 4, 2025). Sometimes this designation is represented by two letters ЗС, accompanied by the proper name Ukraine, however, the name of the military formation formatted in this way does not constitute a pattern and does not comply with established norms, for example: *Як відомо перед ракетним ударом Повітряні сили ЗС України попереджали про ворожий розвідувальний дрон на Чернігівщині та загрозу застосування ворогом балістичного озброєння* (headline) (<https://weukraine.tv>, September 4, 2025). Structurally close to the analyzed abbreviation is НГУ, a derivative of which is the phrase *Національна гвардія України* (National Guard of Ukraine): *Під час операції було евакуйовано морпіха, трьох бійців НГУ та медпрацівника лікарні, який допомагав у переховуванні військовослужбовців* (headline) (<https://zn.ua>, September 5, 2025).

The three-letter abbreviation ВМС is transformationally connected with the attributive-substantive compound *Військово-морські сили* (naval forces). The role of the forming elements is performed by the initial letters of the root morphemes of the complex adjective, combined with the first letter of the noun: *Загин ВМС вивів з окупації чотирьох військових, які переховувались три роки* (headline) (<https://zn.ua>, September 5, 2025). The analyzed acronym belongs to a small group of complex abbreviated words that can serve as a derivational basis for other derived units: *Атака на «зерновий коридор» ФАБ-500: ВМСівці вчасно вийшли і знешкодили* (headline) (<https://tsn.ua>, May 1, 2025).

Abbreviations attested in newspaper journalism include СБС, ССО, ЦСО, which correspond to the abbreviations *Сили безпілотних систем*, *Сили спеціальних операцій*, *Центр спеціальних операцій* (Unmanned Systems Forces, Special Operations Forces, and Special Operations Center): *15 серпня 2025 року до складу СБС доєднався 20-й окремий полк безпілотних систем К 2* (headline) (<https://www.pravda.com.ua>, September 5, 2025); *ССО знищили РЛС росіян на аеродромі Саки в окупованому Криму* (headline) (<https://nv.ua>, September 1, 2025) in the given headline sentence, another acronym РЛС is used, the semantic equivalent of which is radar system; we will dwell in more detail on the peculiarities of creating abbreviations of this semantic variety later; *Зеленський привітав спецпризначенців ЦСО «А» із річницею створення підрозділу* (headline)

(<https://www.ukrinform.ua>, June 23, 2024). We would like to add that the use of the acronym ЦСО in the headline section may create difficulties for the reader, since this abbreviation is used to denote other concepts, in particular *Центру сервісного обслуговування* (the Service Center), for example: *Оплата послуг ЦСО* (headline) (<https://cso.com.ua/payment.html>). Of course, the context and content of the article, at the beginning of which a compound is often used, which served as the derivational basis of the letter acronym, specify its content. During the Great War, the abbreviation ГУР – *Головне управління розвідки* (Main Intelligence Directorate) was activated. The significant frequency of its use and the absence of a homonym counterpart do not create obstacles to understanding and adequate perception of the content of the publication: *ГУР прокоментували ураження російським дроном українського корабля: Працюємо над протидією* (headline) (<https://www.ukrinform.ua>, September 4, 2025).

The complex abbreviations activated in the Ukrainian media include the letter acronym ВСП, which is used mainly in descriptions of events related to offenses. It is formed from the phrase *військова служба правопорядку* (military service of law and order), in which the adjective and the supporting noun service are in a coordinating relationship, while the subordinate noun law and order is characterized by a controlling relationship. Despite this, the dependent words also show a certain commonality – they have inherent attributive semantic relations. Despite the high frequency of use, at the beginning of the article the abbreviation ВСП is usually accompanied by its semantic three-word equivalent, while in headline constructions the acronym functions without this phrase, for example: *Представники військової служби правопорядку (ВСП) спільно з поліцейськими виявили та затримали військовослужбовця, який перебував у СЗЧ з 2023 року* (<https://seanews.in.ua>, 03.07.2025); *Конфлікт у 59 бригаді: в ВСП розкрили результати перевірки* (headline) (<https://www.unian.ua>, July 26, 2024); *ВСП: Майже всіх військових, котрі повернулись із СЗЧ, направили з резерву у військові частини* (headline) (<https://www.pravda.com.ua>, January 10, 2025). We would like to add that the media space has witnessed the homonymous equivalent of the analyzed acronym *відокремлений структурний підрозділ* (separate structural unit), derivationally connected to the compound. It is often used alongside the name of an educational institution: *Діти ветеранів, які навчаються за контрактом у коледжах або університетах Рівненщини, можуть отримати компенсацію за навчання. ...*

*Заклади освіти Рівненщини, які беруть участь у проєкті: ВСП «Рівненський технічний фаховий коледж НУВГП», ВСП «Рівненський автотранспортний фаховий коледж НУВГП», ВСП «Рівненський економіко-технологічний фаховий коледж НУВГП», ВСП «Рівненський фаховий коледж НУБіП України», ВСП «Березнівський лісотехнічний фаховий коледж НУВГП»... (https://gorkolbuh.wixsite.com). In the mass media, the plural derived noun **ВСПівці** is used, formed from the acronym ВСП to denote a special law enforcement formation. The role of the word-forming formant in it is performed by the suffix -ц, which is attached to the abbreviation base with the affix ів. It is noteworthy that the abbreviation part is capitalized, while the word-forming formants and materially expressed inflection are lowercase: **ВСПівці** зупинили автомобіль, яким військовослужбовці намагалися виїхати за межі Донецької області (https://tsn.ua, April 17, 2025).*

The equivalent of the compound *Територіальний центр комплектування та соціальної підтримки* (Territorial Center for Procurement and Social Support) is the two-component abbreviation **ТЦК** and **СП**: *3 1 вересня усі представники **ТЦК та СП**, які працюють у групах оповіщення, будуть зобов'язані носити нагрудні бодікамери (https://armyinform.com.ua, September 4, 2025). The uniqueness of this acronym lies in the presence of its abbreviated version, **ТЦК**, which quantitatively dominates in media sources compared to the standardized designation: *Відео з бодікамер **ТЦК** буде зберігатися 30 днів: як працює нововведення (headline) (https://www.rbc.ua, September 3, 2025). Unlike the previously analyzed abbreviations, the scope of which is mainly stylistically neutral contexts and a nominative-informative function, the complex abbreviated word **ТЦК** is sometimes attested in contexts with words of an unusual thematic group for the context, colloquial lexemes, stylistically colored units that give statements an emotional and evaluative coloring or perform a pragmatic role programmed by the journalist: «Полювання» на вулицях: що вирішив суд щодо скандальної затримки чоловіка працівниками **ТЦК** в Луцьку (headline) (https://www.volyn.com.ua, September 4, 2025).**

While the derivational basis for the creation of the previously analyzed acronyms was word compounds structured by two nouns and an adjective, the abbreviation **ЦПД** is connected with three nouns - *Центр протидії дезінформації* (Center for Countering Disinformation). The base word Center is subordinate to the noun counteraction in the

genitive case, on which the noun disinformation in the dative case depends: *У ЦПД прокоментували повідомлення про «новий наступ РФ»* (headline) (<https://gazeta.ua>, September 4, 2025); *У ЦПД спростували інформацію щодо масової втечі молоді з України* (headline) (<https://gazeta.ua>, 28.08.2025). Analyzing the above-mentioned complex abbreviation in the context of homonymy, we note that in the media sphere we encounter its other meaning, and accordingly, the subject matter of the texts is usually not related to war. For example, the acronym ЦПД used in the following headings semantically corresponds to the compound *цивільно-правовий договір* (civil law contract): *Що обрати: трудовий договір, ЦПД чи ФОП?* (<https://www.accountor.com>, November 1, 2023); *Трудовий договір та ЦПД: у чому різниця? утворено від сполуки цивільно-правовий договір* (<https://medoc.ua>, September 6, 2023).

The same pattern of creation is revealed by the acronym ЦНС, structured with the initial letters of the three-word compound *Центр національного спротиву* (Center of National Resistance). It is mainly used in headlines and is also used in articles, but usually the full name is given in the first sentence: *Окупанти розпочали «перевиховання» вчителів історії на ТОТ України – ЦНС* (headline). *На тимчасово окупованих територіях України російські окупанти розпочали кампанію з «перевиховання» вчителів історії. Про це повідомляє Центр національного спротиву (ЦНС)* (<https://unn.ua>, September 3, 2025)

In the corpus of factual material, four-letter acronyms with different spellings of letters function: they are attested either with only capital letters or with a combination of capital and lowercase letters. In particular, the acronym ОСУВ, formed from the compound *оперативно-стратегічне угруповання військ* (operational-strategic grouping of troops), according to pronunciation belongs to the group of phonetic and is represented in writing only with capital letters: *На Новопавлівському напрямку знижується активність ворога – ОСУВ Дніпро* (headline). *На Новопавлівському напрямку на Донеччині та на межі з Дніпропетровською областю спостерігається зменшення ворожих атак. Про це в ефірі телеканалу «Ми-Україна» повідомив речник ОСУВ «Дніпро» Олексій Бельський* (<https://weukraine.tv>, September 4, 2025); *В ОСУВ «Хортиця» розповіли про ситуацію на Дніпропетровщині* (headline). *Речник ОСУВ «Хортиця» уточнив, що зараз триває*

наступ на Лиманському напрямку, РФ збільшила тиск на Куп'янському напрямку, а також на Харківщині у районі міста Вовчанськ (<https://weukraine.tv>, July 5, 2025). The specificity of the functioning of the analyzed abbreviation is its use, usually with a subordinate proper name: “Дніпро”, “Хортиця”, “Таврія”, etc.

The peculiarity of the spelling, in particular the presence of uppercase and lowercase letters, distinguishes the two-component acronym *ОБр ТрО* – *окрема бригада територіальної оборони* (separate brigade of territorial defense). Such a design is aimed at expressing the semantics of the indicated complex abbreviated words and avoiding their ambiguity. The modeling of the first part of the abbreviation is associated with the initial sound of the subordinate adjective *окрема* and the first and second sounds of the supporting noun *бригада* (brigade). The peculiarity of the formation of the second part of the complex abbreviated linguistic unit is that it includes only consonant sounds – the first and third in the formative adjective *територіальна* and the initial vowel of the noun *оборона*. Such a design is aimed at expressing the semantics of the complex abbreviated two-component word *ОБр ТрО* and avoiding its ambiguity: *Відомо, що кожна війна як починається з логістики, так нею і завершується. Тому виконують свої обов'язки бійці взводу матеріально-технічного забезпечення одного з батальйонів 125 ОБр ТрО ЗСУ фактично в режимі 24/7* (<https://golos.te.ua>, March 10, 2025). More details about the abbreviation *ТрО*, its equivalent *тероборона*, which under certain conditions undergoes semantic transposition and acquires an emotional and expressive coloring, and its derivatives are given in the monograph “The Russian-Ukrainian War in the Lens of Language” (Kostusiak, & Navalna, 2025). Incidentally, we would like to add that the acronym *ОБр* (*окрема бригада* (separate brigade)) can be supplemented by other letters corresponding to attributive components such as *механізована, мотопіхотна, штурмова* (mechanized, motorized infantry, assault), as well as numerical indicators, which allows them to perform a nominative-factological function, for example: *Наші не вдовама». У Києві пройшла акція на підтримку полонених та зниклих безвісти 32-ї ОБр* (headline) (<https://susplne.media>, February 28, 2025); *Для 14 ОБр збирають кошти на необхідні засоби РЕБ* (headline) (<https://www.volynnews.com>, February 25, 2025); *Ворог намагається з північних районів просуватися до центру міста: 24-та ОБр ім. Короля Данила про Часів Яр* (headline) (<https://espresso.tv>, February 25, 2025); *«Погладшав на 20 куль» – бійці 155-ї ОБр нашігували свинцем*

неуважного окупанта (headline) (<https://armyinform.com.ua>, February 4, 2025); *Сирський направив начальника ВСП з'ясувати обставини втрат у 59 ОМПБр* (headline) (<https://www.rbc.ua>, July 15, 2024); *Росіяни залучили БМП без бапти для штурму позицій 3-ї ОШБр біля Новоєгорівки* (headline) (<https://mil.in.ua>, January 1, 2025); *Оператори БнЛА 5-ї ОШБр ліквідували ворожу піхоту* (headline) (<https://sprotyv.info>, February 27, 2025).

Since the active phase of the Russian-Ukrainian war continues in Ukraine, it is quite justified that abbreviations for aircraft and various types of military equipment, partly accompanied by digital identifiers, are used in the media space: *У небі над Україною помітили винищувач МіГ 29, який раніше міг належати Повітряним силам Азербайджану* (<https://nv.ua>, September 6, 2025) the acronym *МіГ* is associated with the founders of the design bureau A. Mikoyan and M. Gurevich; *Невидимі герої ночі: як оператори БнЛА знищують ворога і рятують побратимів* (headline) (<https://uatv.ua>, September 5, 2025) the complex abbreviated nomination *БнЛА* (UAV) is formed from the phrase *безпілотний літальний апарат* (unmanned aerial vehicle); *Російська БМП потужно вибухає після удару дронів 33-ї ОМБр* (headline) (<https://sensor.net>, September 5, 2025) – the abbreviation *БМП* is derivationally linked to the *бойова машина піхоти* (combat vehicle). Among them are graphobarbarisms – names written in Latin, which are used to form compound words from the names: *Вчора ворог атакував Миколаївщину FPV-дронами, а вночі обстріляв із РСЗВ* (headline) (<https://inshe.tv>, September 6, 2025); *Ворог атакував два райони Дніпропетровської області: били FPV-дронами та артилерією* (headline) (<https://dp.informator.ua>, September 6, 2025). It is quite justified that the acronym *FPV*, formed from the English compound *First Person View*, remains unchanged, while the second part of the juxtaposition – the substantive *дрон* (drone) – corresponds to modern paradigmatic norms of nouns. Usually, the acronyms of the analyzed group function in stylistically neutral contexts about events at the front, although sometimes, in combination with colloquial units, they model emotionally colored and ironically marked contexts: *Затрофеїли нову техніку кацапів: на Донеччині українські військові показали російську БМП 3* (headline) (<https://www.5.ua>, August 18, 2024). The initial abbreviation *ДРЛО* requires a separate comment, in sentences it is often subordinated to the noun *літак* (plane). It refers to long-range radar detection (*дальнього радіолокаційного виявлення*) aircraft.

For its modeling, the initial letter of the adjective *дальнього* (long-range) and four letters of the second word were used - the first two to denote consonants and the syllable radar, structured by consonants and vowels –ло- *радіолокаційного*: *Два збиті літаки ДРЛО А-50 і втрачений Ту-22М3* (headline) (<https://cripo.com.ua>, January 7, 2025). Some names of vehicles show a relationship to abbreviation formation. In the sentence *Україна почала встановлювати на БЕКи старі радянські авіаційні ракети* (headline) (<https://www.unian.ua>, May 17, 2024), this is the meaning of the acronym БЕК, which has undergone morphological development: it is about the acquisition of the variability inherent in Ukrainian nouns, realized through the use of endings.

In Ukrainian journalism, complex abbreviations serve as means of marking artillery systems, guns, and other means of detecting and destroying enemy targets. Derivatives of this semantic group include the abbreviation РСЗВ – *реактивна система залпового вогню* (multiple launch rocket system): *Вчора, 5 вересня, о 14:07 ворог здійснив обстріл з РСЗВ Галицинівської громади. Внаслідок чого с. Лунареве пошкоджено три дачні будинки. Постраждалих немає. Вночі, 6 вересня, ворог двічі здійснив обстріл з РСЗВ Широківської громади. Станом на зараз інформації щодо пошкоджень та постраждалих немає* (<https://inshe.tv>, September 6, 2025). The selected acronym is modeled by a phrase structured by two nouns and two adjectives. The linguistic unit dependent on the supporting substantive system are in attributive relations with it, although they are connected not only by a connection of agreement, but also by control. The phrase, built according to the scheme adjective + adjective + noun, serves as the derivational basis of the acronym АЗГ – *автоматична зенітна гармата* (automatic anti-aircraft gun), which in the media is usually used with a digital or alphanumeric identifier and performs a nominative-factological function: *На позиціях російських окупантів стояв радянський зенітно-артилерійський комплекс С-60. На ньому була встановлена АЗГ-57 (автоматична зенітна гармата), розроблена ще у середині 1940-х років* (<https://2day.kh.ua>, October 20, 2023); *Якщо спробувати якось підсумувати все та зробити якісь висновки, то одне можемо сказати точно, що АЗГ С-60 дійсно варта уваги, не зважаючи на свій вік* (<https://vikna.if.ua>, February 5, 2023). In media sources on military topics, the synonymous terms САУ and артустановка demonstrate continuity of use. The acronym САУ is formed from the initial sounds of the three-word substantive-attributive compound *самохідна*

артилерійська установка (self-propelled artillery unit): *Німеччина почала виготовляти самохідні артилерійські установки (САУ) RCH 155 для України* (<https://suspilne.media>, January 3, 2023).

The functioning of the analyzed abbreviation without and with the accompanying alphanumeric model identifier underlies the distinction between the nominative-factual and nominative-informative functions of these linguistic units, respectively. Unlike the analyzed acronym, the role of the derivational basis of the complexly abbreviated linguistic unit *артустановка* is served by the two-word compound *артилерійська установка*, in which the adjective base has been truncated: *При цьому детонація БК виявилася настільки потужною, що від будівлі, у якій знаходилася ворожа артустановка, практично нічого не залишилось* (<https://armyinform.com.ua>, September 2, 2025). The given sentence uses the letter acronym БК, which is often used in media sources, the equivalent of which is the phrase combat kit and the complex abbreviation *боєкомплект* (ammunition allowance): *Спецпризначенці ГУР разом із іншими силовими структурами брали участь в операції з доставлення бійцям Маріупольського гарнізону боєкомплекту й провізії* (<https://fakty.com.ua>, September 7, 2025). The economical use of newspaper space is ensured by the abbreviations ЗРК and ОТРК, formed respectively from the word combinations *зенітний ракетний комплекс* (anti-aircraft missile system) and *оперативно-тактичний ракетний комплекс* (operational-tactical missile system), in which dependent adjectives are combined with the main word complex by a coordinating conjunction and attributive semantic relations: *Багатофункціональну ЗРК, призначену для ураження літаків, крилатих ракет, вертольотів та інших повітряних цілей, було знищено разом з боєкомплексом* (<https://weukraine.tv>, September 6, 2025); *Зв'язування даних західної розвідки, інформації із супутників, хвиль дронів, хибних цілей і ОТРК призвело до того, що навіть на базах за лінією мін і загороджень Чорноморському флоту стало смертельно небезпечно* (<https://cripo.com.ua>, January 7, 2025). Often, the given acronyms are accompanied by a proper name: *Сили безпілотних систем уразили російські ЗРК «Бук» та «Стрілу 10»* (<https://www.ukrinform.ua>, July 11, 2025); *Розрахунком ОТРК «Іскандер» ЗС Росії було завдано високоточного удару по транспортних машинах з пусковими установками БпЛА противника* (<https://24tv.ua>, September 4, 2025). In Ukrainian media texts on military topics, the

acronym АЗУ is attested, the creative basis of which is the phrase *авіаційний засіб ураження* (aviation means of destruction). In accordance with current norms, the analyzed abbreviation retains the masculine gender inherent in the supporting noun: “Вищезгаданий АЗУ загалом співставний з уже відомими та неодноразово застосованими по Дніпру крилатими керованими ракетами Х 59/69”, – йдеться в повідомленні (<https://d1.ua>, June 26, 2025). The names of ammunition include the lexeme *авіабомба*, formed from the subordinate phrase *авіаційна бомба* (aircraft bomb), the first word of which was truncated: *На Донеччині війська РФ скинули авіабомби на лікарню у Костянтинівці та на будівлі в Іллінівці, загинули двоє людей* (<https://www.ukrinform.ua>, September 4, 2025). In modern Ukrainian linguistics, the initial component *avia* is given a different status. In particular, Yermolenko et al. (2001) call it a prefixoid and qualify it as the initial element of a word that performs the role of a word-forming prefix. Karpilovska includes language units with the first part *avia-* to the group of composites, and the ending *-a*, according to the researcher, “performs the function of a connecting vowel-ligation” (Karpilovska, 2024). In our opinion, words with *avia-* including *авіабомба*, do not belong to composites; their inherent method is not stemming, but abbreviation. There are at least two arguments in favor of such reasoning: first, the component *avia-* arose on the basis of the truncation of a significant part of the word *авіаційний*, and second, the belonging of the ending sound “a” to vowels does not give grounds to consider it a connecting (interfix).

In the Ukrainian media space, the above-mentioned initial complex abbreviated word РЛС is attested, specialized in the implementation of nominative-informative and nominative-factual functions; its creative counterpart is *радіолокаційна станція* (radar station), for example: *ЗСУ вивели з ладу російську РЛС в Анапі* (headline). *Результатом удару ЗСУ по військовій частині на півдні Анапі стало пошкодження РЛС 39Н6 «Каста-2Е2», яка контролювала повітряний простір Півдня Росії* (<https://wheel-news.com>, September 7, 2025).

Ukrainian media sources often use acronyms to denote various objectified actions and processes. A group of actively used complex abbreviated language units of this variety is formed by the letter abbreviation СЗЧ as a semantic equivalent of the three-component phrase *самовільне залишення частини* (unauthorized abandonment of a unit). It is usually used in contexts about Ukrainian servicemen who were punished for

leaving a military unit without authorization, or who are returning to service after a certain break: *«Подав заяву про вихід із громадянства України й не повинен захищати країну»: на Чернігівщині чоловіка засудили за СЗЧ* (headline) (<https://suspilne.media>, May 14, 2025); *Хтось, звичайно, повертався, тому що люди йдуть в СЗЧ не лише тому, що банально дезертирують, а тому що вдома можуть бути якісь проблеми* (<https://pravda.com.ua>, September 5, 2025). Recently, the analyzed acronym has been activated in publications dedicated to the draft law on strengthening liability for the specified offenses: *Кримінальна відповідальність за СЗЧ повертається: Рада підтримала законопроект* (headline) (<https://glavcom.ua>, September 4, 2025); *СЗЧ і не тільки. У Києві розпочалася акція проти більш жорстких покарань для військових* (headline) (<https://www.rbc.ua>, September 5, 2025). The uniqueness of the abbreviation SZCH is expressed in its ability to serve as a derivative to designate persons who have voluntarily left their place of service. The process of linguistic adaptation of this derivative is evidenced by its non-uniform spelling and partly by its creation, which does not comply with the norms of the modern Ukrainian language, cf.: *СЗЧивець* *запевняв, що самовільно залишивши місце служби через життєві обставини* (<https://tsn.ua>, April 1, 2025); *СЗЧівці* *втекли з позиції на власному авто: деталі* (headline) (<https://tsn.ua>, April 17, 2025); *СЗЧівці* *або дезертири можуть добровільно звернутися до слідчого чи прокурора з наміром повернутися до військової частини для продовження служби* (<https://tsn.ua>, April 17, 2025) і *Після остаточного прийняття закону суди не зможуть застосовувати пом'якшувальні норми для дезертирів чи СЗЧ-шників* (<https://pravohub.com.ua>); *Коли рік тому кількість СЗЧ-шників почала лавиноподібно зростати, Рада декриміналізувала СЗЧ* (<https://pravda.com.ua>, September 5, 2025). Comparing both models, we will clarify that only the lexeme *СЗЧивець* and its plural form *СЗЧівці* comply with the rules of Ukrainian derivation. The suffixes -ець and -ц, which are attached using the morpheme-filler -ів., respectively, participate in their formation. At the same time, similar to the previously described noun *ВСПівці*, the derivatives *СЗЧивець* and *СЗЧівці* have not undergone complete linguistic adaptation, since they contain capital letters inherited from the abbreviation in their structure. Although we can speak of the morphological assimilation of these words to the Ukrainian language, which is expressed not only by their numerical but also by their case paradigm. The indicated linguistic units are inflected

according to the model of nouns of the second declension of the soft group: **СЗівця**, який два роки перебував «у бігах», затримали: що знайшли у нього вдома (headline) (<https://seanews.in.ua>, July 3, 2025); **Військові правоохоронці (ВСП) запобігли втечі СЗівців**, які на авто намагалися втекти з фронту (<https://tsn.ua>, April 17, 2025); **Що буде з СЗівцями**, які не повернуться на службу до 1 січня – в ДБР попередили (headline) (<https://tsn.ua>, December 3, 2024).

5 CONCLUSION

Thus, in the Ukrainian information space, temporally defined by the period of the great war, complex abbreviated words have been attested to denote: 1) persons with military professional activities, 2) military units, formations, bodies, etc., the main task of which is intelligence operations, countering disinformation, exposing fakes, debunking narratives imposed by Russia, etc.; 3) aircraft and various types of military equipment; 4) artillery systems, guns, other means of detecting and destroying enemy targets; 5) objectified actions and processes. The derivational base of abbreviations that function in military texts is usually word compounds that are in a coordination or control relationship and attributive semantic relations. From the morphological side, the role of creative language units is performed by nouns and adjectives. The pull of factual material, compiled on the basis of media texts about military operations in Ukraine, confirmed the presence of complexly abbreviated substantives that combine only the first or both truncated parts of compound words, as well as initial sound and letter acronyms, partly accompanied by proper names and digital identifiers. Initial abbreviations include graphobarbarisms formed in Latin alphabet. Complexly abbreviated linguistic units are related by their implementation of nominative-informative and nominative-factological functions. Important features of abbreviations include their participation in the ability to continue the derivational chain and serve as the basis for the creation of new nominations. The functioning of complexly abbreviated words is motivated by the fact that they contribute to the economical use of media space, usually without creating difficulties in understanding the information presented in the heading or article.

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Authors' Contribution

All authors contributed equally to the development of this article.

Data availability

All datasets relevant to this study's findings are fully available within the article.

How to cite this article (APA)

Kostusiak, N., Navalna, M., Prosianyk, O., Kochukova, N., Skliarenko, O., & Savenko, O. (2026). MILITARY-MARKED ABBREVIATIONS IN MODERN UKRAINIAN MEDIA DISCOURSE. *Veredas Do Direito*, 23(3), e234673. <https://doi.org/10.18623/rvd.v23.n3.4673>