LEXICAL CODIFICATION BY MEANS OF ABBREVIATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF VIRTUAL COMMUNICATION ON THE BASIS OF GERMANIC LANGUAGES

Alexander Alekseev

Southern Federal University, Bolshaya Sadovaya 105, Rostov-on-Don, Russia

Abstract

The paper deals with the lexical codification by means of shortened lexical units in the process of texting and virtual communication in the Germanic languages. The focus of the work is the fact that the shortened lexical units in the process of texting represent speech acts. The paper depicts the value of expressive constructions as a case of speech act. In the paper, this issue is explored in the framework of virtual communications and the process of texting. Therefore, the emergence of a growing number of abbreviations (both in English and in German) is closely connected with the economy of speech efforts. The text of the paper illustrates the linguists' opinion about the use of abbreviated lexemes. There is also a comparison of units in English and German. The research of abbreviated lexemes in the virtual communication enables to illustrate the phenomenon of shortening in the texting process.

Key words: *abbreviation, codification, theory of speech acts, virtual communication, expressive constructions*

The phenomenon of virtual communication is under the influence of active extension of the study subject because of rapidly evolving technologies in the Internet, and the enormous role of communication leading to the processes of integration and globalization. Sender saving efforts during message reproduction are to provide brief, maximally reduced messages. However, even a superficial observation suggests that in today's Internet space coding of information by means of reduction of lexical units is actively carried out. It is uncontroversial that English plays the dominant role in a process of international communication.

The purpose of this article is to analyze the causes and ways of encoding information by means of lexical reductions in the virtual communication. This aim considers following tasks: 1) reasoning of lexical abbreviations in the virtual space as a speech act of communication; 2) identification of the expressive constructions as an important aspect of pragma linguistics manipulating during virtual communication; 3) comparison of reduced lexical units in English and German in the process of virtual communication.

Virtual communication (based on the technology of text messages by means of a texting) is an integral part of modern life. In present society more than 80 % communicants of mobile communication use the above-mentioned form of communication. The process of texting has extended with a huge speed worldwide. Texting is a process of text messages transfer by means of different mobile gadgets; it includes a number of the standard reductions that allow broadcasting the maximum quantity of sense by means of minimum symbols. Saving time and efforts, acquiring of the maximum impact on the recipient determined such prevalence of texting use in various spheres (for example, marketing, social advertizing, texting). In this article, we will try to cover the process of information coding in a discourse of virtual communication in terms of expressional constructions.

J. Searle and J. Austin were the first scientists who paid attention to existence of a class of expressional speech acts. The founders of a pragmalinguistics most fully and accurately analyzed speech acts, having allocated a special place for expressive constructions. This article will present their opinion about a place of expressive constructions in speech acts taxonomy, and we will compare opinions of other scientists dealing with pragmalinguistics issues on a subject of an expressional component. Then we will present the reduced lexical units allocated with an expressional orientation with examples from a discourse of virtual communication.

In 1986, J. Ostin did not isolate a class of expressive constructions in a separate group, establishing type of the concrete speech act in connection with sense of a performative verb predicate, at the same time the scientist included certain types of expressive constructions in classes of behabitives and commissives. In particular, the first of them includes the category of "CONGRATULATIONS" and "APOLOGIES", and the second unites "THREATS" and "STATEMENTS of CIRCUMSTANCES". In addition, the linguist included expression of the relations to any forthcoming or last agreements in expressional speech acts [Ostin, 1986].

U. Habermas had another point of view. In his classification, he did not allocate an expressives in a separate class; however, the linguist included this section in a class of regulatives, representatives and universals. Therefore, expressives represent statements that intended to self-expression of the communicant, to be exact, for expression of hope, feelings, etc. Regulatives include statements in which the communications between the recipient and the addressee realized by means of threat or caution. U. Habermas treated statements that display the institutional actions of the addressee recorded by certain social norms such as a greeting, congratulations, gratitude to universals [Habermas, 1984].

The linguist B. put the dependence on communicative intensity of the speaker in the center. According to the scientist's opinion, expressive constructions, on the one hand, lie part in acts which reflect the relations between the addressee and the recipient, lie part in acts of obligations (the addressee intends to take the responsibility for realizing specified in a pro-position) [Fraser, 1981]. In turn D. |Wunderlich in the taxonomy considered expressives both as to satisfactives (thanks and justifications), and as a class of commissives (threat) [Wunderlich, 1976].

The scientist E. Veygand defines expressive constructions as speech acts of emotions and feelings broadcasting. The linguist believes that expressives are not capable to create the separate class as they express the obvious state of current situation. At the same time, a major factor is the emotional state, which defines a form of the act and separates expressive constructions from the constatives having emotionally neutral coloring. E. Veygand ranks expressive to the declarative constructions; for them the formulation of feelings isn't the defining factor, the sincerity condition is not also realized, as a result these constructions pass into a class rudimentary phrases deprived of semantic filling, remaining necessary only for communication maintenance [Weigand, 1989].

The linguist V. V. Bogdanov, the founder of the famous taxonomy of the illocutionary acts, creates it by the principle of a dichotomy, and within a group of non- impulsive illocution, the group of expressives is separated as well as J. Searle did (broadcast of the addressee emotive condition). As opposed to expressives the linguist allocates a group of assertives [Bogdanov, 1990]. In reference to theory of speech acts, M. Ya. Glovinskaya analyzes speech verbs, defines etiquette group, correlated to verbs, which mean actions corresponding to expressional constructions [Glovinskaya, 1993].

Analyzing abbreviated English and German lexical units, we have come to the conclusion that the lexical units can be divided into 13 groups: "ACTION", "ABSTRACT CONCEPT", "FACIAL EXPRESSIONS", "GESTURE", "ACTION + ABSTRACT CONCEPT", "FACIAL EXPRESSIONS + ACTION", "FACIAL EXPRESSIONS + ABSTRACT CONCEPT", "FACIAL EXPRESSIONS + GESTURE", "GRATITUDE", "CONGRATULATIONS", "APOLOGY", "WELCOME", "FAREWELL". The latter five groups ("GRATITUDE", "CONGRATULATIONS", "APOLOGY", "WELCOME", "FAREWELL") are related to the etiquette forms, other groups which were selected in accordance with the fact that these categories characterize the reduced lexical items in full extent in the field of virtual communication. We identified these categories because formulating the emotional state of the recipient; they broadcast a different expression of this state.

Furthermore, we will show data that was collected in the framework of reduced lexical units research which reproduce an expressional orientation both in the English and in German languages in the ratio with a total amount of the reduced lexical units of the corresponding dictionaries. According to data of diagrams (1 and 2), a ratio of English acronyms to a total number of abbreviations and the ratio of the German acronyms to total number of abbreviations vary in 13%. That shows a similar role of the expressive constructions in the aspect of pragmalinguistics of the abbreviation lexical units used in the sphere of virtual communication.

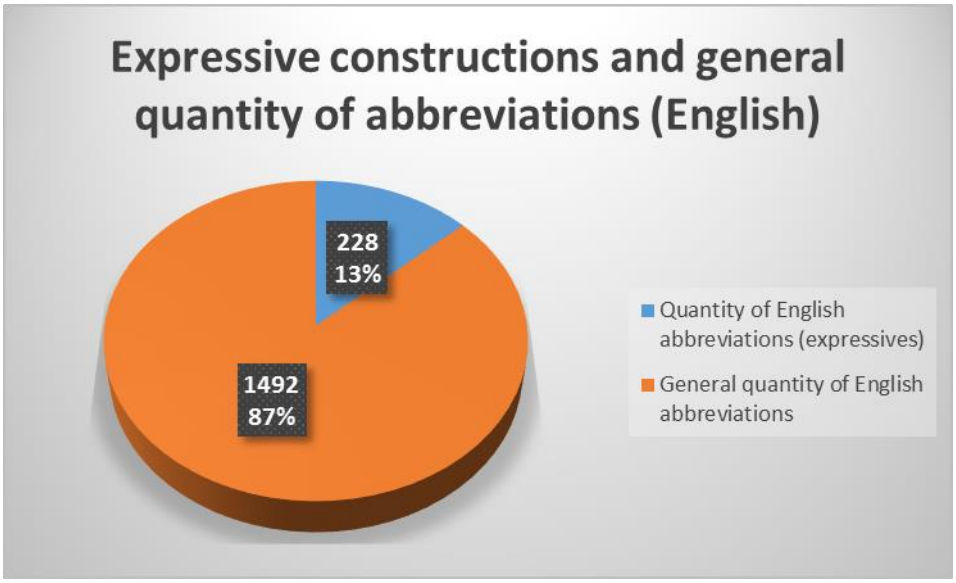


Diagram 1. Expressive constructions and general quantity of abbreviations (English)

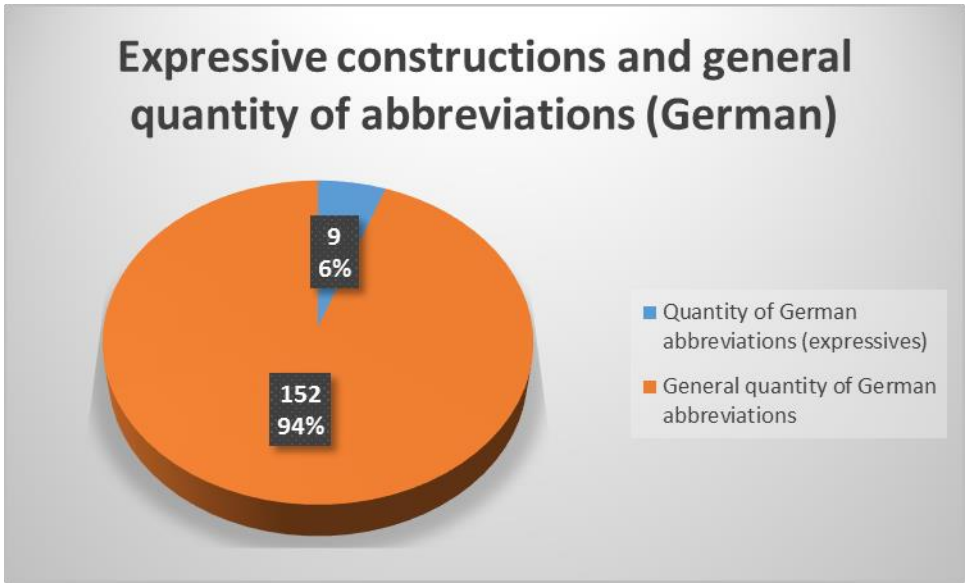


Diagram 2. Expressive constructions and general Q of abbreviations (German)

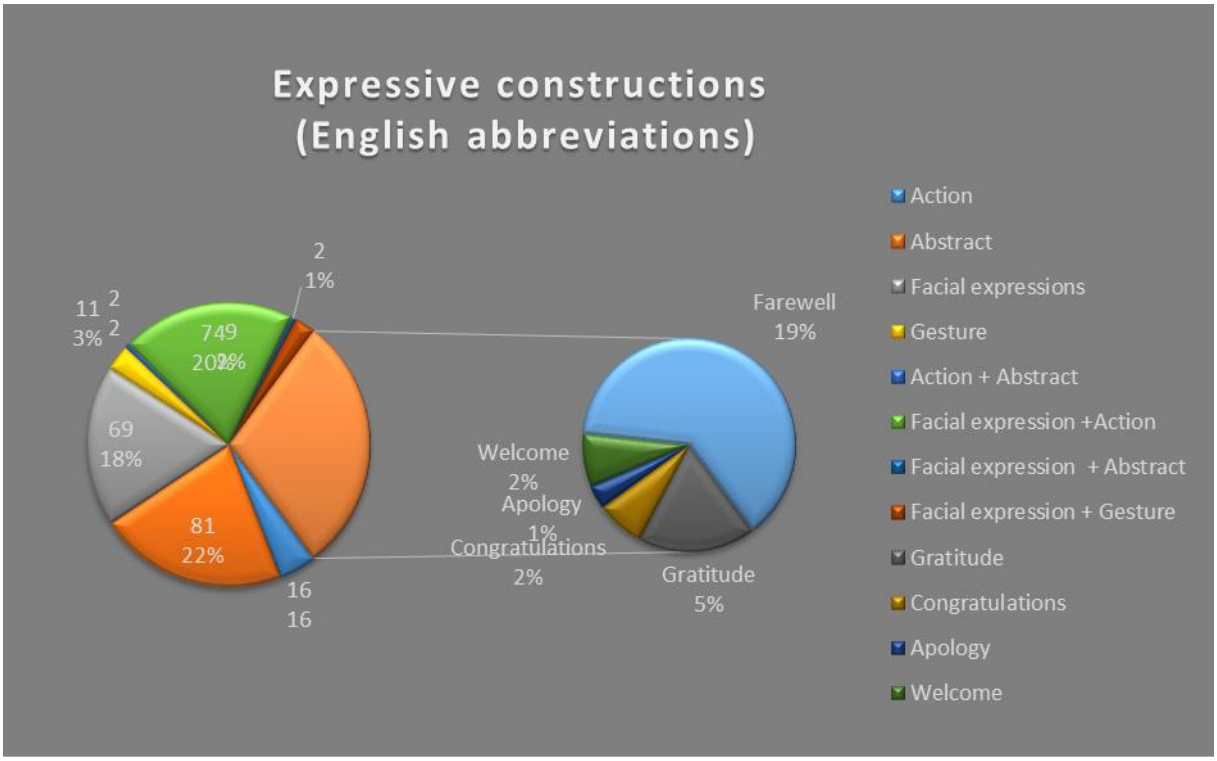


Diagram 3. Expressive constructions (English abbreviations)

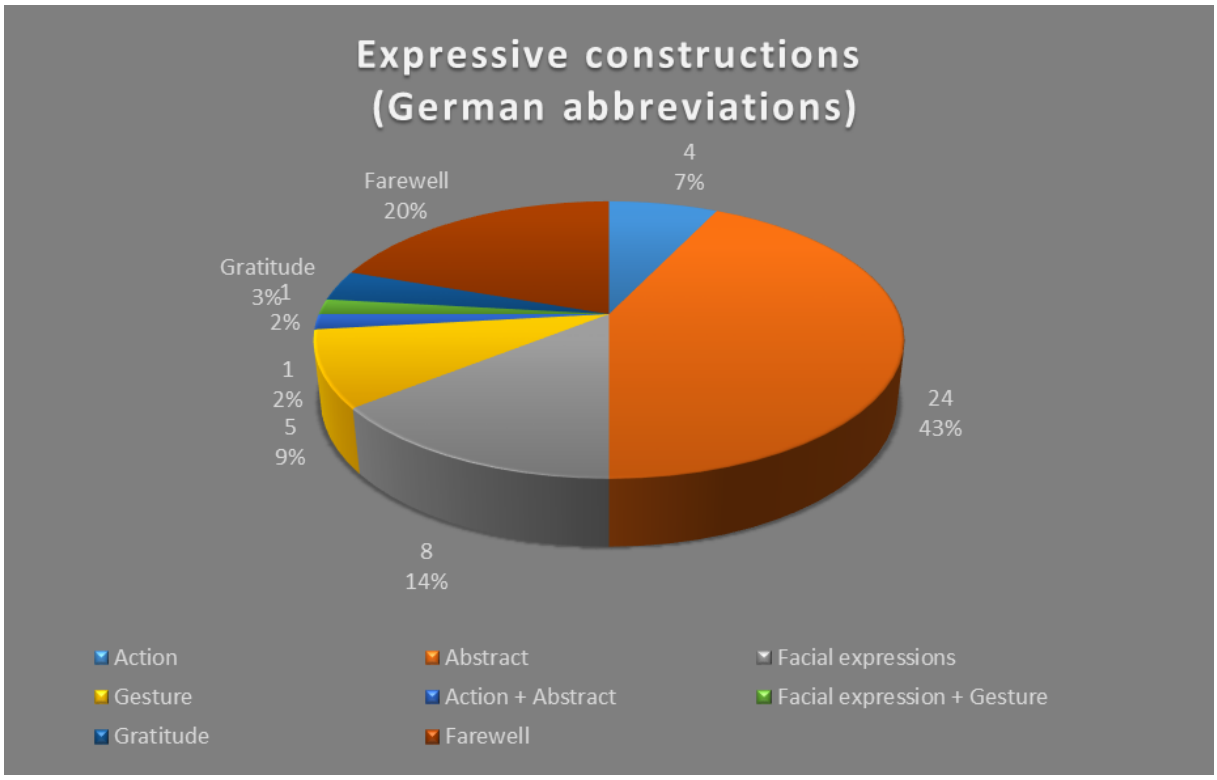


Diagram 4. Expressive constructions (German abbreviations)

According to the Diagrams 3 and 4, the most popular categories are "ABSTRACT CONCEPT" (22% in English and 43% in German), "facial expressions" (18% in English and 14% in German) and category of farewell (19% in English and 20% in German). However, in English there is also a category "facial expressions + ACTIONS" which gains 20% unlike German (only 2%). In addition, it should be noted here that priority category in a group of etiquette forms both in English, and in German, is the category "FAREWELL".

It is interesting that a group of etiquette forms (from the research of the above-stated classifications of scientists we saw that exactly this section is traditionally perceived by linguists as a basis of expressives) occupies 29% among the reduced lexical units of English and 23% among the reduced lexical units nominated by expressive construction with German that speaks about proximity of the above-stated German languages concerning this subject.

In this regard, we will begin research of expressive constructions with etiquette forms. For this purpose, we will present each category of this section separately, we will give examples in English and in German languages and we will show the use of the reduced lexical units to this subject in the context of virtual communication. The first category is the lexical units united by the scope of "GRATITUDE" (often with a respect shade). Here it is possible to consider the following combinations of the lexical units united in abbreviated forms *TA – Thanks Again, TGIF – Thank God It's Friday, THNX – Thanks, TYVM – Thank You Very Much, WRT – With Respect To, Div – Danke im Voraus (thank you in advance), Mfg – Mit freundlichen Grüßen (respectfully yours).*

"TGIF was a two-hour block of sitcoms shown Friday nights on ABC…"

*"**THNX 4 THE MMRS** (thanks for the memories)"*

This example in the name of a song represents a style of communication, typical for the Internet, with abbreviation use as a priority way of word formation. In German, it is possible to come across the following examples: *"Bin für jeden Hinweis dankbar. Div. Luna".* Besides, in the German language it is possible to meet a lexeme *mfg* rather often: *"Mfg, mit freundlichen Grüßen, Die Welt liegt uns zu Füßen" (Sincerely, The world is at our feet)*. This fragment was taken from a song of group Die Fantastischen Vier*"Mfg (mit Freundlichen Grüßen)". The* feature of the full text is practically lack of full, unreduced lexemes. So, the song contains about 100 abbreviations of initial type on which all sense is constructed.

In English, it is possible to find many acronyms meaning a greeting: *GM – Good Morning; GTSY – Glad To See You; LTNC – Long Time, No See; WB – Welcome Back.*

The following examples demonstrate the use of these acronyms:

*"**GM**, how did u sleep last nite?"*

*"**GTSY**, it's been a long time since we talked…"*

*"**WB** to the game! Are you ready for another match?"*

The following category "CONGRATULATION" includes a few reduced lexemes, such as *HB2U – Happy Birthday To You, HHTYAY –Happy Holidays To You And Yours, LLAP – Live Long And Prosper*. Web site www.slangit.com allow us to look at examples of the use of the previously mentioned units:*"**HB2U**, I hope it's a great one!"- "**HHTYAY**, have as a few Weekend!"* [SlangitDictionary,2016].

LLAP acronym example is interesting, the text below shows both area of the use of this lexeme, and process of its emergence and authorship: *"Leonard Nimoy is on twitter and he needs almost everyone of his tweets with **LLAP**. If you have to ask what that means, then you are not really a geek. Otherwise, you'd know that he played Spock on Star Trek and that acronym stands for "Live Long and Prosper"…"*.The reduced lexical unit *LOL* that is homoacronym is also remarkable. According to T.G. Nurgaleeva, homoacronym is the phenomenon of coincidence of the reduced units in its phonetic form with usual words. On the one hand, *LOL* is the standard abbreviation in the sphere of virtual communication meaning *Laugh out loud*, on the other hand it carries a directive orientation when

means such combinations of lexemes as *Lots Of Luck, Lots of Love*: *"Thanks for the message, I'm glad u r doing well! Sending u lol!"*

The smallest category in the section is the category of "APOLOGY". This group consists of such lexical units: *IMS – I Am Sorry, SFC – Sorry for Caps, SFT – Sorry for That, SP – Sorry for bad Spelling.* In a context the reduced lexical unit IMS can represented this way: *"Girl: Why you cheat on me?" – "Boy: IMS"*. The following lexical units belong to the category "FAREWELL"*: ATB – All The Best, B4N – Bye For Now, CU2 – See You, Too, CUL8R – See You Later, EOS – End Of Story, GN – Good Night, HLVB – Hasta La Vista, Baby, Aws – Auf Wiedersehen, Bb – Bis bald, bm – bis morgen, Bha – Bis heute Abend, gn8 – Gute Nacht.*

So as an example in English it is possible to give such lexical combinations as: *"I'll cu l8r after school"*. One more phrase, entering this category – *B4N – Bye For Now: "Good chattin' of with ya, B4N!"*. We observe the same principle, meeting lexical reductions in the sphere of virtual communication in German. For example, "Wünsche dir noch ne *GN (Gute Nacht)" (I wish you just a good night)* (the SMS message #27 - 10.02.2014 - 22:55:42). Other text is also submitted in the German case of virtual communication of MoCoDa (Mobile Communication Database): "Die zockt euch ab man. Ok *lass* morgen gemeinsam zocken. Gn8 (GuteNacht) "(Who gambles? OK, let's play together tomorrow. Good night) (the SMS message #8 - 20.06.2013 - 23:46:03). This way looks corpus where we found the most reduced lexical units in the German language [Mobile Communication Database (MoCoDa), 2016].

Investigating etiquette forms of expressional constructions, we decided to show that in the sphere of virtual communication it is quite possible to communicate only by means of the reduced lexical units expressed the expressive constructions: *GM – Good Morning, LTNC – Long Time, No See, HHTYAY – Happy Holidays To You And Yours, TYVM – Thank You Very Much, HHTYAY 2! THNX – Thanks, B4N – Bye For Now, CU2 – See You, Too.*

-GM

-LTNC, HHTYAY!

-TYVM, HHTYAY 2!

-THNX, B4N!

-CU2!

In the following part of the research, we will present the division of the reduced lexical units, belonging to the class of expressive constructions, on eight parts: "ACTION", "ABSTRACT CONCEPT", "facial expression", "GESTURES", "ACTION + ABSTRACT CONCEPT", "facial expression + ACTION", "facial expression + ABSTRACT CONCEPT", "facial expression + GESTURES". Apparently, four categories belong to intermediate concepts that is why at first we will investigate the first four categories presented in pure form.

The category "ABSTRACT CONCEPT" is the most numerous not only from all above presented groups, but also among etiquette forms. We will give the examples of the reduced lexical units from English and German languages related to this group: *AML – All My Love, EDP – Emotionally Disturbed Person, FTBOMH – From The Bottom Of My Heart, HOF – Hell Of Funny, ILN – It Looks Nice, ILU – I Love You, LU4E&A – Love You For Ever And Always, MP – My Pleasure, QT – Cutie, TBH – To Be Honest.* In German there are following lexical units: *axo – achso (so), Dn – Du nervst (I hate you), Hdgdl – habe dich ganz doll lieb (I love all of u very much), Ild – Ich liebe dich (I love you), Kzg – Kaum zu glauben (hard to believe), Ldüa – liebe dich überalles (i love u above all), Osuv– ohne Sinn und Verstand (I love u without a reason).*

In a context the English reduced lexical units are presented in a following way: *"…but if you find some discrepancy, read **FTBOMH** or just drop me an email and I'll try to explain it as best I can…"*. In the electronic urbandictionary.com we can find the following examples: *"okay, ilu bye bye"; "tbh, You seem super nice and awesome, we should talk more!)"*. In the German language, we can find the following examples: *"…**osuv** training (ohne sinn und verstand) , also so wie es in den neu zeit gyms*

*uswpraktiziert wird…"; "Aber nicht, dass Sie die nächste Nachricht an ihren Chef mit "**DN**" (Du nervst) beenden "(But, you have finished the following message to your boss with the words " I hate you ")*[UrbanDictionary, 2016].

The category "ACTIONS" will be the following category of expressive constructions, which we will present. In spite of the fact that the category is not numerous, it covers quite large number of lexical units in combination with other categories presented in a class of the expressives "facial expression", "ABSTRACT CONCEPT" which are on a research periphery. Therefore, the most used acronyms of these groups are:

AFOCL – Almost Fell Off Chair Laughing; BTC – Biting The Carpet, BWL – Bursting With Laughter; FDROTFL – Falling Down Rolling On The Floor Laughing; RAEBNC – Read And Enjoyed; But No Comment; ROFLTG – Rolling On the Floor Licking The Glue; Heudo – Heul' doch! (So cry); Kv – (Das) kannst (du) vergessen! (forget to think about it). In English such examples are: *"AWS, I **AFOCL** and it's AYF. AYCOOYM = as we speak, I Almost Fell off the Chair Laughing and it's All Your Fault. Are You Completely Out of Your Mind?*

In addition, we will present the use of the English reduced lexical unit in the sphere of virtual communication, in the German chat that once again confirms that phenomenon that in German language many English reduced lexical units are used. In the sphere of virtual communication, this phenomenon confirms process of globalization in linguistic world image of the different countries:

The German reduced lexical units we can meet in the sphere of virtual communication

*"**HEUDO**... es war Notwehr…" (it was self-defense).*

The category "GESTURES" forms the smallest group of the reduced lexical units in a class of expressive constructions to which such lexemes from English and German languages belong: *GBH – Great Big Hug, HB – Hug Back, HHIS – Hanging Head In Shame, LLTA – Lotsand Lots of Thunderous Applause, OMKP – On My Knees Praying, WTY – Waving To You, ddf – (Ich) drücke dich fest, Gvlg – Ganz viele liebe Grüße, Lg – Liebe Grüße.*

In the German language, the reduced lexical units referred to a category of expressive constructions in the sphere of virtual communication are expressed as follows *"es war soo geil nur neben dir zu stehn! das werd ich nie vergessen! hoffe ihr spielt mal wieder gegen unser saarland! war echt ne geile aktion! Top :-) gvlg Tessa" – "it was so amazing just to stand next to you! I will never forget it! I hope that you will play again against our Saarland! It was cool! Top :-) respectfully yours, Tessa"*. In English there are also abbreviations which can easily we can meet in texts of Sms, and also at forums, on-line chats, etc.: "*Ack, Ididntmeantoletyoudown. **HHIS**!"*.

The following category which we will consider is "facial expression" presented in the German and English languages of the sphere of virtual communication: *BFG – Big Fat Grin , CLAB – Crying Like A Baby , CNG – Chuckle And Grin , DMML – Don't Make Me Laugh , E2EG – Ear To Ear Grin, FCOL – For Crying Out Loud , HLOL – Hysterically Laughing Out Loud , ILIC – I Laughed I Cried , K – Kiss , KB – Kiss Back , L – Laugh , LHO – Laughing Head Off , LOLOL – Laughing Out Loud On-Line , MEG – Mega Evil Grin , POAHF – Put On A Happy Face , SETE – Smiling Ear To Ear, TRDMC – Tears Running Down My Cheeks , W – Wink.* German language has such examples *Bg – breites Grinsen (wide Grin), Fg – fieses Grinsen (ferocious grin), ggg – sehr breites Grinsen (very wide grin), Ikd – Ich küsse dich (I kiss you), X – Kuss (kiss). S*o, the English lexemes expressing category of "facial expression" in the course of texting and virtual communication appear in such examples, as: *"**FCOL**, can't you do anything right?"*. The German reduced lexical units in a context are represented by the following examples: *"**ikd** danke für user off the day me gafreu" (kisses, thank you for the great joy that will take the user).*

In addition, the intermediate categories, such as "ACTION + ABSTRACT CONCEPT ", "facial expression + ACTION", "facial expression + ABSTRACT CONCEPT", "facial expression + GESTURES" are represented in this class. The most numerous category is "facial expression + ACTION". Such reduced lexical units include: *GD&R – Grinning, Ducking & Running; GD&W – Grinning, Ducking & Weaving; GOTFIA – Groaning On The Floor In Agony; HLOLARAWCHAWMP*

– Hysterically Laughing Out Loud And Rolling Around While Clapping Hands And Wetting My Pants; LSHMBH – Laughing So Hard My Belly Hurts; ROFFNAR – Rolling On the Floor For No Apparent Reason; ROFLBTC – Rolling On the Floor Laughing Biting The Carpet; ROFLHOLCBF – Rolling On the Floor Laughing Hysterically Out Loud Collecting Bird Feathers; ROFLSTCIIHO – Rolling On The Floor Laughing Scaring The Cat If I Had One; ROTFLASTC – Rolling On The Floor Laughing And Scaring The Cat; SHLH – Sitting Here Laughing Hysterically. In German language there is *xD – lautes Lachen mit zusammen gekniffenen Augen (siehe Emoticon) - (laughter with narrowed eyes (see emoticon).*

These abbreviations we can meet in the following contexts

1) a: what's wrong with you?

b: ROFFNARs

2) "Wann hatten wir jetzt eig nochmal abgemacht:'D Habs vergessen aufzuschreiben ***xD****" - (When we are now once again agree with you: Everybody has forgotten to write down (laugh out loud)*

The second largest category is "facial expression + ACTION", as well as the previous category, contain more reduced English lexemes, than German. Therefore, we can present the following examples of these abbreviations: GBH&K – Great Big Hugs & Kisses (huge embraces and kisses); S&N – Smile and Nod (to smile and nod); X&O – Hugs and Kisses (embraces and kisses), in German we can meet a similar abbreviation of g+k – Gruß und Kuss (embraces and kisses). These reduced lexical units we can also meet in the text of the sphere of virtual communication and in texting: *"I´m sending you a* ***GBH & K!*** *Hope this will cheering you up even it's not James! <3…"; "Vielen Dank für die netten Bilder. Ich brauche sie zur Differenzierung* ***g-k****. Die meistens in dauch für Kita-Kinder schön „klar"! :-)" (Thank you for the nice pictures. I need you to distinguish between hugs and kisses. Most of it is absolutely clear even for the children after-school group)*

The smallest categories of this group are "ACTION + ABSTRACT CONCEPT" and "facial expression + ABSTRACT CONCEPT" which are presented by such reduced lexemes as SIMCA – Sitting In My Chair Amused (sitting on a chair to have fun) and takzhelbs – Laughing But Serious (ridiculously, but also it is serious); *SUFID – Screwing Up Face In Disgust (having writhed a face from disgust) respectively.* The variation of one of the reduced lexical units can be demonstrated in the following example: *"****SIMCMA*** *(sitting in my chair mildly amused) - the joy of being in 6th grade!"*

As is evident from the foregoing the German reduced lexical units, allocating this category, aren't presented, that it is possible to explain with a small number of these units both in German and in English.

Thus, the abbreviations of the German languages (English and German) expressed by expressive constructions carry out two main functions in the sphere of virtual communication and in a process of texting: expression of etiquette forms and emotive function of language. Therefore, in the researches, which are taking up questions of an illocution-interactive component of speech acts, the class of expressive constructions (etiquette speech actions) includes apologies, thanks, congratulations, greetings and farewells. Emotive function is expressed by means of the abbreviation, broadcasting actions in conjunction with a facial expression, gestures, and abstract concepts.

The reduced lexical units represented by expressive constructions carry out two main functions: expression of etiquette forms and emotive function of language. So, in the researches which are taking up questions of an illocution-interactive component of speech acts, the class of expressive constructions (etiquette speech actions) includes apologies, thanks, congratulations, etc. [Pospelova, 1992] On the other hand, we can observe expressions of action by means of the categories "Action", "Abstract Concept", "facial expression", "Gestures". The presented type of the illocutionary acts plays a huge role in texting and Sms and in a virtual discourse.

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