Translation of Abbreviations in International Relations (IR)

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ABSTRACT

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Abbreviation, as an old phenomenon in linguistics, is an inherent part of the technical texts and daily communications and as time goes on, making and using abbreviations is rapidly growing. The widespread usage of abbreviations has brought these linguistic formations into the field of translation. The present study aims to investigate differences in translation strategies of abbreviation when they appear in texts produced in different discourses and genres that need to be translated following social norms and conventions of the target language. To analyze abbreviations, their linguistic structures have been thoroughly discussed and they were analyzed according to the taxonomy proposed by Mattiello (2013). Fairclough’s (1995) model of CDA has been adopted to show that translation, as it deals with language, is a social practice and social conventions and norms govern the translation strategies of abbreviations adopted by translators. In this regard, a corpus of 300 abbreviations was circulated. 150 abbreviations were collected from 5 translated books from English to Persian in the field of IR and their translation strategies were compared to 150 abbreviations that were translated in news texts concerning the same genre. The result indicated that while abbreviations in Persian scientific books were mostly borrowed, abbreviations in Persian news texts were translated by descriptive strategy. This implies that translation practice is inconsistent with the social norms and conventions of the target language society and it is the genre and discourse of the text that determines how a text must be translated.

KEYWORDS

Abbreviations, Acronyms, conventions, CDA, Discourse, Genre

1. Introduction

Abbreviation, a word-formation process in which words and phrases are shortened, is an old phenomenon and an inseparable part of the language. Although abbreviations are not new in languages, there is a strong disagreement among linguists about the structure of abbreviations and there is a lack of comprehensive study regarding their formations. Multiplication of abbreviations in language from technical texts to daily communications brings them into the sphere of translation and causes some challenges for translators to interpret these formations correctly and choose a proper strategy to translate them. Translators should consider many factors in choosing the strategy, from their types of formation and underlying phrases to social and conventional rules of the society that are in operation in producing a text. Thus, translators should pay attention to both micro and macro structures of a text in which abbreviations appear.

2. Literature Review

Although usage of abbreviation has been disseminated in the past two centuries, from a linguistic point of view is an old and universal phenomenon in linguistics that can be found in all languages, even dead ones (Zerkina & Kostina & pitina, 2015). Good examples are Greek manuscripts, Roman, Arabic and Old Persian. There were three types of abbreviations in Roman: Shortened form of words and syllables, Substitution of one letter with another and using “arbitrary signs” (Partington, 1838, p.5) and there are some abbreviations in the Quran, such as کهیعص (19:1), which are secrets of the Quran and no one can decode it. In Sassanid Empire, there were six words in Old Persian (e.g: DHYUV→ DH) with eight abbreviated forms (Zahedi& Sharifi, 1390, p.9).
These words were used only in written language due to the limitation of space in inscriptions, seals and coins (ibid). Also, in Hebrew, proper names were initialized, but these formations were not proliferated and recorded in dictionaries until the nineteenth century when there was a need for suitable technical terms and “advances in computer and technology” created the need for new concepts to refer to new devices (Mattiello, 2013, p. 64). Abbreviations were taken into account by lexicographers in 1873. In 1880, a collection of abbreviations, The Use and Abuse of Abbreviations by H. R. Boss, was published anonymously and Handbook of English Abbreviations written by Fallows was published in 1883 (Haymon, 1957). World Wars had a considerable role in the proliferation of military abbreviations in languages, especially in English, since these formations were used as codes among military forces to convey their messages safely. Abbreviations have proliferated in English more than other languages since it is grammatically flexible and its morphological structure is monosyllabic (Belda-Medina, 2001). Abbreviations are now part of the ordinary vocabulary of languages and the process is the result of the principle of economy in language and the principle of least effort which dominates all the linguistic aspects of utterances (Jam, 1395; Sharifi& Zahedi, 1390).

Linguistically, an abbreviation is not, as some people consider it, ‘damage of language’ or artificially created structure; rather, it is, as Zerkina et al. state, a “regular process stipulated by changes” for communicating because of the development of the society (2015, pp. 137−8). In their paper, Zerkina et al. refer to the theory of equivalence which regards abbreviations as “lexical units that do not require any classification”, but they themselves believe that these formations are not identical to words and they just “correlate with words” and needs to be classified (2015, p. 139).

In contrast to the proliferation of abbreviations in languages, their formation, compared to other word-formation processes, has received scant attention in the discipline and most of the investigations have focused on the product rather than arguing the process (Mattiello, 2013; Kriedler, 1979). Kriedler (1979) has pointed to this problem about thirty years ago, but the lack of comprehensive studies on abbreviation is still the main issue in linguistics. Another problem concerning abbreviations is that linguists rest these formations at which level of language. Some linguists categorize them as a type of word-formation processes, while others exclude them from such regular processes, reasoning that abbreviations “do not conform to canonical word-formation rules” and they are unpredictable (Mattiello, 2013, p. 97). Merchant (1969), considering word-formation processes as being morpheme-based, introduces abbreviations as one of “non-morphemic word-formation processes” and his argument is supported by Štekauer (1998) and Steinmetz and Kipfer (2006) (as cited in Fandrych, 2008). Fandrych herself accepts this viewpoint and mentions that the acronym is one of the non-morphemic word-formation processes and explains that in non-morphemic word-formation processes, at least, there is an “element which is not a morpheme” (2008, p. 107). Mattiello (2013) describes abbreviations under the term extra-grammatical morphology rather than word-formation process. It is essential to elaborate on what she means by this term since, by classifying abbreviations as extra-grammatical, she introduces a new level to linguistics. She regards abbreviations as extra-grammatical structures since she believes that abbreviations are not regular, cannot be predicted and do not add a new meaning to their underlying phrases or words. Plag (2003) and Bat-El (2000) oppose these viewpoints and believe that abbreviation is a type of word-formation process since their patterns can be systematically analyzed and they are regular (as cited in Mattiello, 2013). Kreidler (1979) and Zerkina et al. (2015) are also among those linguists who consider abbreviations as part of word-formation processes.

Several divergent accounts of abbreviation and its classifications have been proposed, creating numerous controversies in linguistics. Al-Hamly & Farghal (2013) name the whole process as English Reduced Lexical Forms (RLF)s and categorize them into three main types: abbreviations and acronyms, clipping and blending. They and Jam (1395) clarify that the pronunciation of abbreviations and acronyms differentiates them from one another. While abbreviations are pronounced letter by letter, acronyms are pronounced as words. This is how Jam (1395) classifies abbreviations. He, based on their pronunciations, divides them into two types: abbreviations and acronyms. Plag (2003) explains some other differences between acronyms and abbreviations (or initialisms): more constraints are at work in the formation of acronyms and only letters of initialisms are separated with dots, but Mattiello has found out that the tendency is to write initialisms without dots (p. 127, as cited in Mattiello, 2013). Kreidler (1979), naming the shortened forms as acronyms, explains that there are two types of acronyms: letter-recitation and letter-sounding. Letter-recitation acronyms are those which contain a letter from each major word of the underlying phrases. “The Letter-sounding type of acronym has to conform to the phonotactic norms of the language” (p. 25). Mattiello (2013) puts clipplings and alphabetisms under the label abbreviation and alphabetisms include acronyms and initialisms.

There are various classifications of abbreviations in linguistics and the above-mentioned ones are a few of them which reveal linguists’ divergent perspectives about these formations.

In this paper, abbreviations will be recognized and defined based on the extra-grammatical taxonomy proposed by Mattiello (2013). She takes the term abbreviation as an umbrella term for clipping and alphabetism. Alphabetsim itself includes acronym and initialism. She thoroughly goes through her taxonomy in her book.
Mattiello (2013) defines clipping as “a process which abbreviates a word to one of its parts, with a consequent loss of phonetic material” (p. 68). She believes that clipped words do not change semantically. She classifies clipping into four major types, i.e. fore-clipping, mid-clipping, edge-clipping and back-clipping. She also introduces two other types based on the addition of a suffix and randomly deleted letters.

1. Fore-clipping: “deletes the initial part of the word, thus preserving the final portion” (p.74). Examples are: sniff → niff, confess → fess, android → droid (Mattiello, 2013, p. 75).
2. Mid-clipping: “deletes the middle part of the word, thus preserving both extremities” (ibid). It is the rarest type of clipping and is unclear since the base word is not continuant in clipped form. E.g.: procurator → proctor, anorexia → ana (ibid)
3. Back-clipping: “deletes the final part of the word, thus preserving the initial portion” (p. 72). Dressler (2005) states that back-clipping is the most common one since it preserves the first part of the word which is the most transparent part of each word (as cited in Matteillo, 2013). Examples are fanatic → fan, talcum → talc, administrator → admin, holidays → hols, hyperactive → hyper, Promotion → promo.
4. Edge clipping: “deletes the initial and final portion of the word, thus preserving the medial portion” (p.75). influenza → flu, inquisitive → quiz (Stockwell and Minkova, 2001, p. 10, as cited in Mattiello, 2013).
5. Random clipping: “retains some scattered letters, specifically, consonants, from the base word (p.76): limited → Ltd, please → pls, people → ppl
6. Suffixed clipping: In some clipped words, one part is deleted and a suffix (-ie/-y, -o,-er/-ers) is substituted the omitted part. This type of clipping is common when there is a close relationship between speakers. aggravation/aggression → agro, barbecue→ Barbie, Amanda → Mandy, . combination→ combo, bedroom→ bedder, collections→ collekkers

Mattiello (2013, p. 76) points another type of clipping, i.e. clipped compound but does not consider it as the main type of clipping, since in this type, the base word is a compound word, not a single one and it may cause a confusing similarity between clipping and blending.

According to Mattiello (2013), alphabetism includes acronym and initialism and she defines acronyms and initialisms as words made by “initial letters of a phrase, title, compound or list” (p. 82).

She provides one definition for both, since distinguish a clear-cut boundary between acronyms and initialisms as two different structures. The main distinction between acronyms and initialism is that initialisms are pronounced letter by letter while acronyms are pronounced as full words (Mattiello, 2013). She further asserts that initialisms, like acronyms, can also be pronounced as full words if their formations conform to phonetic rules.

Since there is no clear-cut distinction between acronym and initialisms, Mattiello (2013) classifies both of them into almost similar types as they illustrate below:

1. Non-elliptic alphabetism: “retains the initial letters of all the words contained in the source phrase” (p. 87): REACT→ Remote Electronically Activated Control Technology(acronym), URL→ Uniform Resource Locator(initialism)
2. Elliptic alphabetism: “do not retain all the initial letters of the word contained in the source phrase” (ibid). Mainly the omitted letters belong to grammatical words (prepositions, conjunctions, articles and auxiliary verbs): PETA→ people for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (acronym), MAE→ Master of Arts in Education (initialism).
3. Extended alphabetism: “composed of more than one initial letter for each word” (p. 89) . AMESLAN→ American Sign Language.
4. Recursive Alphabetism: “one word of the source phrase coincides with the acronym itself” (p. ibid) . mung→ mung until no good
5. Alphabetism with vowel addition: a vowel is added to alphabetisms in order to make them pronounceable. SLRF→ Second Language Research Forum (it is pronounced as /slər/).
6. Inverted letter alphabetism: the sequence of initial letters of the base word is changed. (MISHAP→ Missiles High-Speed Assembly Program)
7. Semantically-irrelevant acrostics: acrostics whose orthoepic formations are unintentionally similar to an existing word, but they are not semantically related to that word (acrostics are ‘acronyms whose reading/pronunciation coincides with a homophone word in the English language’ (Conti and Mattiello, 2008, p. 563, as cited in Mattiello, 2013, p. 90)
SLEEP→ Scanning Low Energy Electron Probe
8. Alphabetism with symbols, coordinators, prepositions or numerals
9. Semantically-relevant acrostics: “ combinations that intentionally give rise to homophones” (p. 90) : BASIC→ Beginners’ all-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code
Mattiello (2013) explains that both acronyms and initialisms can be elliptic, non-elliptic and semantically irrelevant, but only acronyms can be extended, recursive, inverted and semantically relevant.

As abbreviations have been proliferated in languages and are an inseparable part of any text, they need to be translated alongside all the verbal features of the texts. This is problematic since the translator, as the first step, needs to interpret them and their meaning may be ambiguous when the abbreviation denotes more than one underlying phrase. In such cases, the translator can decode them by noticing the text’s genre or scientific area. The second step is to translate the underlying phrases of abbreviations into the target language and the third one is to choose a strategy to encode the abbreviations in the target language. The translator should decide whether to borrow them or try to form new abbreviations in the target text.

In many cases, the translation of abbreviations may not result in new formations (translation of UNESCO from English into Spanish) (Gonzalez, 1991). This happens mostly between languages that belong to the same proto-language (Al-Hamly & Farghal, 2013). For instance, in the case of translating UNESCO into Spanish, both ST and TT are Indo-European languages and due to their similar alphabetical systems, translation results in abbreviations with alphabetically similar underlying phrases. But when it comes to languages with different origins, like Persian and Arabic, translating abbreviations from English into these languages may require a kind of coinage or other strategies.

Sometimes, the type of abbreviations can help the translator to choose the proper strategy. According to Gonzalez (1991), abbreviated names of international organizations that are widely known in the target language are generally translated, but when it comes to more specific terms, the abbreviations are borrowed to the target language.

Although translating abbreviations has become a crucial issue nowadays, little literature has been published on abbreviations' different translation strategies. Among those few articles is the work by Zerkina et al. (2015). They propose four strategies for translating abbreviations: “transference of foreign abbreviation with the equivalent abbreviation”, “borrowing of a foreign abbreviation”, “transliteration”, “transcription” and “descriptive translation” (p. 553). It is important to mention that these strategies can be applied by considering different text features which abbreviations are to be translated as parts of it.

According to Fairclough (2016) ‘texts are multi-functional’, i.e., texts are ‘forms of actions’, representative of things and presentation of identities (p. 187). The multi-functionality of texts is because they can be simultaneously analyzed at different levels. When it comes to translation, the translator needs to analyze these layers and functions to provide a translation that is not contradictory with the addressees’ expectations and even target text social conventions. As for translating abbreviations, it is impossible to translate them out of their co-texts and contexts without analyzing the genre of the text and the properties of that genre in both source and target languages, since, without these considerations, the result will be unreadable or incomprehensible translations. Textual analysis will give the translator full awareness of the text properties to choose the proper strategy for translating abbreviations in the text. This means that macro-structures of the text determine translation strategies of the micro-structures, such as abbreviations.

In textual analysis, three functions, i.e. genres, discourses and styles, must be identified and connected to each other (Fairclough, 2016).

As was mentioned, in translating abbreviations, micro-structures (abbreviations) need to be seen as parts of macro-structures (texts), i.e., abbreviations are to be analyzed in texts they appeared in. Thus, a comprehensive model is required to enable the translators (or researchers) to analyze these macro-structures in order to provide acceptable translations of the texts. Critical discourse analysis (CDA), which analyses the language at the discourse level, could be one of the theories of language that can be applied in this sense.

Both linguists and social theorists use the term discourse in their analyses. In adapting the linguistic view of discourse, Fairclough defines it as “spoken or written language use” (1995, p. 92). He uses the term to view language as social practice and this view of language indicates that language, on the one hand, is an action and constitutes dimensions such as social identity and social relation on the other hand. What is crucial in critical discourse analysis (CDA), which has its root in critical theory of language, is that both sides of the language, i.e. being “socially shaped” and “constitutive” (ibid) must be taken into account and it should not be analyzed one-sidedly. So, in his viewpoint, texts are the results of discourse or language use as social practice; in other words, texts are produced under conditions of the society (Janks, 1997).

Fairclough calls the process of production or consumption of a text, discursive event or discursive practice and maintains that a discursive event, which is defined as an “instance of language use” (p. 95), is linked to the norms and conventions of the discourse. This implies that texts are produced in discursive events and their production is ruled or governed by the existing norms and conventions of the discourse and the linkage between discursive events and conventions, as a whole, is called orders.
of discourse. Thus, according to Fairclough (1995), a text is produced through a discursive practice and forms a discursive event which is linked to orders of discourse which itself is based on the rules and conventions of the society. This linkage is a logical reason for what is happened in the production of news texts in English and Persian. In English, the inclusion of abbreviations is a normal part of text production, since shortening is generally a conventional rule of language use (discourse), so it is normal to encounter abbreviations both in news texts and academic books. On the contrary, dealing with abbreviations in Persian news texts is unconventional since abbreviating phrases is not a conventional process in the Persian language and by doing so, the readers need to decode the abbreviations which is in contrast with the nature of the production of the news texts in websites, i.e., conveying information in a short time.

The relationship and boundary between norms and discursive events are complicated and discursive events are difficult to be categorized, since text production usually involves combining more than one type of discourse (Fairclough, 1995). Due to this complexity, Fairclough (1995) only differentiates between discourse and genre, i.e. "uses of language associated with a particular social activity" (p.96).

By CDA, Fairclough (1995) investigates the relationship between a text and its production (discursive practice) and social and cultural relations and conventions that affect the discursive practice. He considers this relationship obscure because the relationship between social structures, power relations, and discourse is not clear to those involved (Bourdieu, 1977, as cited in Fairclough, 1995).

To analyze this obscure relationship in discursive events, Fairclough (1995) proposes a “three-dimensional framework” (p. 94) in which any discursive event has three aspects: 1) text which is produced through 2) discursive practice which is part of 3) social practice, just like below:

![Diagram of the three-dimensional framework](image)

In this model, discourse practice is a mediator between a text and social practice (Fairclough, 1995).

In Fairclough's model of CDA, each of the three layers needs to be analyzed respectively. One begins with the text analysis to provide some assumptions about the social discourses that affect text production (Janks, 1997). Fairclough (1995) utilizes Halliday's model to analyze the first layer which is text. Analysis of discourse practice involves investigating "socio-cognitive aspects of text production and interpretation" and social practice is analyzed in terms of ideology, power relations and culture (p.94).

3. Methodology
The present study is a comparative applied type of research that delves into the differences in translation strategies of abbreviations in International Relations, as academic discipline and news texts. The corpus of this study is comprised of 150 abbreviations of each genre (total of 300). The researcher has tried to compile a corpus in which both genres are quantitatively equal in order to avoid any fluctuation in the comparison of strategies. As for collecting abbreviations of IR as discipline, five books, which were translated in the past twenty years, along with their source texts, were found in the digital library of Allameh Tabataba’i University, Faculty of Law and Political Sciences (the years of translations were important, since it is not rational to compare outdated translations with newly translated news texts):
There were two procedures involved in this study, one for collecting abbreviations from the books and one for collecting abbreviations from the news texts. At first, the books were found in the library and were checked with their source texts to ensure they contained abbreviations. Then, the main texts of the books were compared with their sources and abbreviations were identified and listed based on the taxonomy provided by Mattiello (2013) (figures, tables, footnotes and other peripheral parts of the books are excluded in this study). Then, the strategies of translations were categorized and noted in front of each one. It should be noted that Zerkina et al. (2015) model of translation was not used as the framework, rather it was just used to name the processes and the researcher herself added omission to the strategies.

### 4. Results and findings

In the tables below, every strategy with its total percentage of occurrence for the both type of text is listed:

**Table No.1: translation strategies of abbreviations in scientific books:**

| Strategy         | Percentage |
|------------------|------------|
| Descriptive translation | 31.3       |
| Borrowing        | 50         |
| Transliteration  | 6          |
| Transcription    | 5.3        |
| Transference     | 9.33       |
| Omission         | 2.6        |

**Table No.2: translation strategies of abbreviations in news texts:**

| Strategy         | Percentage |
|------------------|------------|
| Descriptive translation | 51.3       |
| Borrowing        | 2.6        |
| Transliteration  | 5.3        |
| Transcription    | 2.0        |
| Transference     | 2.6        |
The study yielded the following findings: While in the Persian scientific books, the most applied strategy is borrowing, in news texts, it is a descriptive translation that dominates the translation of English news texts into Persian. After borrowing and descriptive translation, the highlighted point is the quantity of omission in these two genres. As with the news texts, about 25 percent of abbreviations were omitted during the process of translation, while in scientific books, it is the least used strategy with the percentage of 2.6. This is the order of discourse that determine the strategies in any genre and text. As with the scientific books, the order is that abbreviations are parts of the key concepts and needs to be rendered accurately. News texts may be omitted along with the other parts of the source text, since not all the information is to be translated into news texts. Only necessary parts. The least used strategy in translation of abbreviations in news texts is a transcription with a percentage of 2, because source language abbreviations are substituted with non-correlative abbreviations in this process and the appearance of abbreviations in news texts is contrary to the norms regarding the translation of news texts into the Persian language. After omission and descriptive translation, transliteration is the most used strategy in the translation of news texts (eg. INSTEX is translated into اینستیکس). This strategy accelerates the process of translation, which is crucial in translating news texts because there is no need to find the underlying phrase in the process of translation. In scientific books, descriptive translation is the most used strategy after borrowing (31.3 percent compared to 50 percent). This happens because when abbreviations appear for the first time in the books, some of them are translated by descriptive strategy to let the reader comprehend them correctly for reading the rest of the books. These abbreviations are confusing or have more than one related underlying phrases. Transference strategy is used more in translation of scientific books (9.33 percent) than in the translation of news texts (2.6 percent), since Persian language have some technical abbreviations in the field of international relations that are equivalent to the source language abbreviations, but few abbreviations exist in news texts in Persian language to be equivalent to the source language abbreviations. This study also shows that the process of translation is not detached from the analysis of style, discourse and genre that are interrelated. If translation is a social practice, then readers, as a part of society, are social agents whose views and expectations affects adopting strategies by translators. If we consider production and consumption of a text as discursive events, then two discursive events are at work in the process of translating a text containing abbreviations. One is consumption, in which the translator comprehends the abbreviations, and production, in which the translator chooses the proper strategy for translating abbreviations and it goes without saying that the norms and conventions of society govern discursive events. Thus, society's norms and conventions determine the proper strategy for translating abbreviations in scientific books and news texts based on their genres. This analysis reveals the fact that how a genre of the text can affect translators’ decision-making.

5. Conclusion
The aim of this study was to investigate to what extent translation strategies of abbreviations are different when the texts belong to the same area with two different discourses. As was discussed before, Fairclough (1995) considers language as a social practice governed by society’s norms and conventions. If language is a social practice, then translation directly related to language is a social practice. This means that translators are social agents who act as part of society and do their jobs according to the norms and conventions of society. This investigation was done to observe how much translations are affected by these norms. It is normal to deal with abbreviations in any genres and discourses in English since abbreviations are drastically proliferated in this language. Translating these formations into other languages is another story. Abbreviations have not been proliferated in all the languages as much as English. Moreover, in some languages such as Persian, it is not conventional to encounter a shortened phrase in all the areas and genres. One of these areas is news translation. While composing a news text containing abbreviation is normal, either to the writer or to the addressees, it is not conventional to encounter a news text bombarded with abbreviations, since the text will lose its goal, which is informative. This is because native speakers of English are familiar with abbreviations and do not need to decode the text, but native speakers of Persian have to spend some time decoding them. That is why most of the abbreviations in news texts are translated into Persian with a descriptive translation strategy. When it comes to the scientific case, the case is completely different, since the addressees of a translated scientific text are experts of their field and they are familiar with the terminology of the field, since most of their books and the concepts of their major have brought in the field through the process of translation. Thus, when the translator is to translate a scientific book, they mostly borrow the abbreviated forms since it is considered as a convenient way of translating a scientific book.
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Appendix

Data collected from the scientific books:

| Abbreviation | Persian Equivalent | Type of abbreviation | Translation Strategy |
|--------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| IR           | روابط بین الملل     | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| CFP          | CFP               | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| DDIR         | داده              | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| GUT          | نظریه کلان یکپارچگی | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| COPDAB       | COPDAB            | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| NSS          | NSS               | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| ANZUS        | انزوس            | Non-elliptic initialism | Transliteration |
| JTC          | ----              | Non-elliptic initialism | Omission |
| WMD          | WMD               | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| OPEC         | اوبیک            | Non-elliptic initialism | Transliteration |
| IRBM         | موشک‌های قاره‌پیما | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| MNC          | MNC               | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| EWAMS        | EWAMS             | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| CNN          | CNN               | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| FPA          | FPA               | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing | Descriptive translation | Transference | Omission |
|------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|--------------|----------|
| WEIS                   | WEIS      | Borrowing               | Non-elliptic initialism | Non-elliptic initialism |
| FPA                    | تحلیل سیاست خارجی | Descriptive translation | Non-elliptic initialism | Non-elliptic initialism |
| ACP                    | ACP       | Borrowing               | Elliptic initialism | Elliptic initialism |
| GUTT                   | گات       | Transference            | Non-elliptic initialism | Non-elliptic initialism |
| OECD                   | OECD      | Borrowing               | Non-elliptic initialism | Non-elliptic initialism |
| IPC                    | IPC       | Borrowing               | Non-elliptic initialism | Non-elliptic initialism |
| NEIO                   | NEIO      | Borrowing               | Non-elliptic initialism | Non-elliptic initialism |
| UNCTAD                 | UNCTAD    | Borrowing               | Non-elliptic initialism | Non-elliptic initialism |
| GSP                    | GSP       | Borrowing               | Non-elliptic initialism | Non-elliptic initialism |
| USSR                   | معاهده منع آزمایش اتمی | Descriptive translation | Non-elliptic initialism | Non-elliptic initialism |
| ECDC                   | ECDC      | Borrowing               | Non-elliptic initialism | Non-elliptic initialism |
| ASEAN                  | آسه.آن  | Transliteration         | Non-elliptic initialism | Non-elliptic initialism |
| IMF                    | صندوق بین المللی پول | Descriptive translation | Non-elliptic initialism | Non-elliptic initialism |
| KEDS                   | KEDS      | Borrowing               | Non-elliptic initialism | Non-elliptic initialism |
| ITO                    | ITO       | Borrowing               | Non-elliptic initialism | Non-elliptic initialism |
| BIS                    | BIS       | Borrowing               | Non-elliptic initialism | Non-elliptic initialism |
| FPA                    | تحلیل سیاست خارجی | Descriptive translation | Non-elliptic initialism | Non-elliptic initialism |
| NATO                   | پیمان انتلانتیک شمالی | Descriptive translation | Non-elliptic initialism | Non-elliptic initialism |
| NATO                   | ناتو     | Transliteration         | Non-elliptic initialism | Non-elliptic initialism |
| NATO                   | ****     | Omission                | Non-elliptic initialism | Non-elliptic initialism |
| ASW                    | کلاهک جنگ پیکانهای | Descriptive translation | Non-elliptic initialism | Non-elliptic initialism |
| MIRVs                  | موشک‌های ضد موشک بالستیک | Descriptive translation | Non-elliptic initialism | Non-elliptic initialism |
| ABM                    | تسليحات ضد ماهوراهای | Descriptive translation | Non-elliptic initialism | Non-elliptic initialism |
| DON                    | DON       | Borrowing               | Non-elliptic initialism | Non-elliptic initialism |
| FPDM                   | تصمیم گیری سیاست خارجی | Descriptive translation | Non-elliptic initialism | Non-elliptic initialism |
| SOP                    | SOP       | Borrowing               | Non-elliptic initialism | Non-elliptic initialism |
| MBFR                   | MBFR      | Borrowing               | Non-elliptic initialism | Non-elliptic initialism |
| CFF                    | CFF       | Borrowing               | Non-elliptic initialism | Non-elliptic initialism |
| IMF                    | IMF       | Borrowing               | Non-elliptic initialism | Non-elliptic initialism |
| Abbreviation | Description | Type             | Translation Method |
|--------------|-------------|------------------|--------------------|
| CSCE         | کنفرانس امنیت و همکاری در اروپا | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| ECC          | ECC         | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| UN           | UN          | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| UNESCO       | یونسکو      | Non-elliptic initialism | Transliteration |
| SALT         | مذاکرات اعراب و اسرائیل | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| SDR          | SDR         | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| ONUC         | ONUC        | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| ENDC         | ENDC        | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| CCD          | کمیته خلع سلاح | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| EFF          | تسهیلات صندوق توسعه | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| CWS          | معاهده منع سلاح‌های شیمیایی | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| EMU          | ----------- | Non-elliptic initialism | Omission |
| UNIMOG       | ماموریت کنگو | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| GDP          | GDP         | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| IAEA         | IAEA        | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| GEF          | سازمان تسهیل جهانی محيط زیست | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| HIPC         | HIPC        | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| CFC          | CFC         | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| VERA         | محدودیت‌های صادرات اختیاری | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| VERS         | VERS        | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| RAND         | رند        | Non-elliptic initialism | Transcription |
| IRA          | ارتش آزادی بخش ایرلند | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| ETA          | اتا         | Non-elliptic initialism | Transcription |
| GNP          | تولید ناخالص ملی | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| UNPD         | UNPD        | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| AIDS         | ایدز        | Non-elliptic initialism | Transcription |
| SARS         | سارس        | Non-elliptic initialism | Transcription |
| KGB          | KGB         | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| KGB          | کاگ ب       | Non-elliptic initialism | Transference |
| NATO         | ناتو        | Non-elliptic initialism | Transliteration |
| Acronym | Name | Type of Initialism | Description |
|---------|------|--------------------|-------------|
| MTV | شبکه «ام.تی.وی» | Non-elliptic initialism | Transcription |
| GSP | GSP | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| FIR | اطلاعات پروازی منطقه | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| CNN | سی ان ان | Non-elliptic initialism | Transcription |
| MTV | MTV | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| RIV/AIDS | «ایدز» | Non-elliptic initialism | Transliteration |
| GDP | تولید ناخالص ملی | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| BBC | BBC | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| USSR | شوروی | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| USSR | اتحاد جماهیر شوروی | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| GSM | GSM | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| GPS | GPS | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| OECD | OECD | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| MCA | ام سي اي | Non-elliptic initialism | Transcription |
| NHK | ان اچ كي | Non-elliptic initialism | Transcription |
| ABC | اي بي سي | Non-elliptic initialism | Transcription |
| NGO | سمن | Non-elliptic initialism | Transference |
| NGO | سازمان غير دولتی | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| WTO | WTO | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| GCG | GCG | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| GCG | گروه محاجی غنا | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| UNESCO | پونسکو | Non-elliptic initialism | Transliteration |
| NGO | سمن | Non-elliptic initialism | Transference |
| UN | سازمان ملل | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| OWI | دفتر اطلاعات جنگ | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| OSS | ------ | Non-elliptic initialism | Omission |
| VOA | صداي امريكا | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| VOA | VOA | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| USIA | ------ | Non-elliptic initialism | Omission |
| USIA | USIA | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| Abbreviation | Translation | Type of Abbreviation | Source |
|--------------|-------------|----------------------|--------|
| CIA          | CIA         | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| CSECE        | CSECE       | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| GDP          | تولید ناخالص داخلی | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| SEAT         | SEAT        | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| CSCE         | CSCE        | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| CSCE         | کنفرانس امنیت و همکاری | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| NATO         | NATO        | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| W3C          | W3C         | Alphabetism with numeral | Borrowing |
| WIPO         | WIPO        | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| IBRD         | بانک بینالمللی ترمیم و توسعه | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| GATT         | گات | Non-elliptic initialism | Transliteration |
| EEC          | جامعه اقتصادی اروپا | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| ASEAN        | انجمن ملل جنوب شرقی آسیا | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| IMO          | سازمان بین‌المللی دریایی | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| UNIDO        | سازمان توسیع صنعتی ملل متحد | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| BSE          | BSE         | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| ECOSOC       | شورای اقتصادی و اجتماعی ملل متحد | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| CFSP         | CFSP        | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| WTO          | WTO         | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| COPA         | COPA        | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| ETUC         | ETUC        | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| IBRD         | بانک جهانی | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| DESA         | دیوان امور اقتصادی و اجتماعی ملل متحد | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| DESA         | DESA        | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| UNMOVIC      | UNMOVIC     | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| PISA         | PISA        | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| TRAFFIC      | TRAFFIC     | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| UNIIMOG      | UNIIMOG     | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
Data collected from news texts:

| Abbreviation | Persian equivalent | Type of abbreviation | Translation Strategy |
|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| CAIR         | شورای روابط آمریکایی-اسلامی | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| AFP          | ----               | Non-elliptic initialism | Omission             |
| LHR          | فرودگاه هنتر و لندن | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| IED          | دستگاه انحراف بدنه | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| GOP          | جزب جمهوریخواه | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| NATO         | ----               | Non-elliptic initialism | Omission             |
| ICBM         | موشک بالستیک فارسی-ایرانی | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| SDF          | نیروهای دموکراتیک سوریه | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| NE           | ----               | Non-elliptic initialism | Omission             |
| SPD          | ----               | Non-elliptic initialism | Omission             |
| NPD          | جنبش دموکراتیک ملی | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| AUMF         | اجازه کاربرد نیروی نظامی عليه تروریست ها | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| NRA          | انجمان ملی سلاح | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| ECHR         | کنوانسیون اروپایی حقوق بشر | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| CAATSA       | قانون مفاهمه با اقادات بین‌المللی کنترل ایران | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| SACH         | ----               | Non-elliptic initialism | Omission             |
| INF          | پیمان منع موشک‌های هسته‌ای میان‌ربر | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| ITV          | ----               | Non-elliptic initialism | Omission             |
| FSKN         | ----               | Non-elliptic initialism | Omission             |
| Abbreviation | Meaning | Type of Translation | Notes |
|--------------|---------|--------------------|-------|
| PLA | ارتش آزادی خلق | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| USARPAC | ----- | Back-clipping | Omission |
| IPO | ----- | Non-elliptic initialism | Omission |
| MEP | عضو پارلمان اروپا | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| AEB | ----- | Non-elliptic initialism | Omission |
| AIQIS | ----- | Non-elliptic initialism | Omission |
| NDS | ریاست عمومی امنیت ملی | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| JASTA | قانون عدالت علیه حامیان تروریسم | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| DNC | کمیته ملی دموکرات | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| MI5 | ام آی 5 | Alphabetism with numeral | Transcription |
| MI6 | ام آی 6 | Alphabetism with numeral | Transcription |
| SIS | سازمان اطلاعات مخفی بریتانیا | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| FBI | اف بی آی | Non-elliptic initialism | Transcription |
| JASTA | قانون عدالت علیه حامیان تروریسم | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| DNC | کمیته ملی دموکرات | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| MI5 | ام آی 5 | Alphabetism with numeral | Transcription |
| MI6 | ام آی 6 | Alphabetism with numeral | Transcription |
| SIS | سازمان اطلاعات مخفی بریتانیا | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| FBI | اف بی آی | Non-elliptic initialism | Transcription |
| MI5 | ام آی 5 | Alphabetism with numeral | Transcription |
| MI6 | ام آی 6 | Alphabetism with numeral | Transcription |
| SIS | سازمان اطلاعات مخفی بریتانیا | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| FBI | اف بی آی | Non-elliptic initialism | Transcription |
| MI5 | ام آی 5 | Alphabetism with numeral | Transcription |
| MI6 | ام آی 6 | Alphabetism with numeral | Transcription |
| SIS | سازمان اطلاعات مخفی بریتانیا | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| FBI | اف بی آی | Non-elliptic initialism | Transcription |
| MI5 | ام آی 5 | Alphabetism with numeral | Transcription |
| MI6 | ام آی 6 | Alphabetism with numeral | Transcription |
| SIS | سازمان اطلاعات مخفی بریتانیا | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| FBI | اف بی آی | Non-elliptic initialism | Transcription |
| MI5 | ام آی 5 | Alphabetism with numeral | Transcription |
| MI6 | ام آی 6 | Alphabetism with numeral | Transcription |
| SIS | سازمان اطلاعات مخفی بریتانیا | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| FBI | اف بی آی | Non-elliptic initialism | Transcription |
| MI5 | ام آی 5 | Alphabetism with numeral | Transcription |
| MI6 | ام آی 6 | Alphabetism with numeral | Transcription |
| SIS | سازمان اطلاعات مخفی بریتانیا | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| FBI | اف بی آی | Non-elliptic initialism | Transcription |
| MI5 | ام آی 5 | Alphabetism with numeral | Transcription |
| MI6 | ام آی 6 | Alphabetism with numeral | Transcription |
| SIS | سازمان اطلاعات مخفی بریتانیا | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| FBI | اف بی آی | Non-elliptic initialism | Transcription |
| MI5 | ام آی 5 | Alphabetism with numeral | Transcription |
| MI6 | ام آی 6 | Alphabetism with numeral | Transcription |
| SIS | سازمان اطلاعات مخفی بریتانیا | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| FBI | اف بی آی | Non-elliptic initialism | Transcription |
| MI5 | ام آی 5 | Alphabetism with numeral | Transcription |
| MI6 | ام آی 6 | Alphabetism with numeral | Transcription |
| SIS | سازمان اطلاعات مخفی بریتانیا | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| FBI | اف بی آی | Non-elliptic initialism | Transcription |
| MI5 | ام آی 5 | Alphabetism with numeral | Transcription |
| MI6 | ام آی 6 | Alphabetism with numeral | Transcription |
| SIS | سازمان اطلاعات مخفی بریتانیا | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| Term | Abbreviation | Initialism Type | Description |
|------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|
| AFP  |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| MSF  |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| HRC  |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Omission |
| INSTEX |             | Non-elliptic initialism & back-clipping | Transliteration |
| DHS  |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Omission |
| F-35 |             | Alphabetism with numeral | Transcription |
| ICBM |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Omission |
| S-400 |             | Alphabetism with numeral | Transcription |
| FBI  |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Omission |
| IAEA |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| SATMA |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Transliteration |
| STFI |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Omission |
| NSC  |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| CFR  |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| PPS  |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Omission |
| WTO  |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| RQ-4 |             | Alphabetism with numeral | Transcription |
| USS  |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| YPG  |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Omission |
| SPV  |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| UNHQ |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| KCNA |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Omission |
| NDAA |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| USMCA |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| BAMS-D |         | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| TOC  |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| MQ-4C |          | Alphabetism with numeral | Transcription |
| WTO  |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Omission |
| YPG  |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Transference |
| NATO |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Transliteration |
| S-300PT |          | Alphabetism with numeral | Transcription |
| TEL  |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| SNCF |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| TGV  |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| ASEAN |            | Non-elliptic initialism | Transliteration |
| CFSP |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| UNAMA |            | Non-elliptic initialism | Transference |
| DOD  |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Transliteration |
| DW   |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Omission |
| R&D  |             | Alphabetism with symbol | Transcription |
| CDU  |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| SPD  |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| SDF  |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Omission |
| DOD  |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Omission |
| INSTEX |           | Non-elliptic initialism | Borrowing |
| JCPOA |             | Non-elliptic initialism | Transference |
| Abbreviation | Description |
|--------------|-------------|
| Dec | دسامبر |
| NTC | دولت وفاق ملی لیبی |
| NPT | آژانس امنیت ملی آمریکا |
| NSM | نیروی سیاسی در شبه قاره هند |
| ABM | ای پی تی |
| NPT | ان پی تی |
| NSM | ان پی تی |
| ABM | ان پی تی |
| NPT | ان پی تی |
| NSM | ان پی تی |
| ABM | ان پی تی |
| NPT | ان پی تی |
| NSM | ان پی تی |
| ABM | ان پی تی |
| NPT | ان پی تی |
| NSM | ان پی تی |
| ABM | ان پی تی |
| NPT | ان پی تی |
| NSM | ان پی تی |
| ABM | ان پی تی |
| NPT | ان پی تی |
| NSM | ان پی تی |
| ABM | ان پی تی |
| NPT | ان پی تی |
| NSM | ان پی تی |
| ABM | ان پی تی |
| NPT | ان پی تی |
| NSM | ان پی تی |
| ABM | ان پی تی |
| NPT | ان پی تی |
| NSM | ان پی تی |
| ABM | ان پی تی |
| NPT | ان پی تی |
| NSM | ان پی تی |
| ABM | ان پی تی |
| NPT | ان پی تی |
| NSM | ان پی تی |
| ABM | ان پی تی |
| NPT | ان پی تی |
| NSM | ان پی تی |
| ABM | ان پی تی |
| Abbreviation | Description | Type of Initialism | Translation Type |
|--------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------|
| SPIEF        | نشست بین الالی اقتصادی سنت پترزبورگ | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| AOC          |            | Non-elliptic initialism | Omission |
| DNC          | کمیته ملی دموکراتیک | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| MAS          | جنبش برای سوسیالیسم | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| CNN          |            | Non-elliptic initialism | Transcription |
| OMB          | مدیریت بودجه کاخ سفید | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| ECB          | بانک مرکزی اروپا | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |
| DFID         | اداره توسعه بین الالی بریتانیا | Non-elliptic initialism | Descriptive translation |