

THE SPECIFIC CHARACTER OF THE INITIAL
SOUND-TYPE ABBREVIATIONS PHONOLOGICAL SYSTEM

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On the grounds of the basic system (BPS) of the Russian literary language, as outlined in (1), we endeavoured to find out whether system relations exist within the phonemes that are singled out in initial sound-type abbreviations (ISTA) as a particular lexical class of words, and if such relations exist, then, in what way do they differ from the relations observed in the BPS. The system of phonemes within the initial sound-type abbreviations are analyzed here not in isolation from, but in comparison with the BPS.

In the ISTA as the material shows, there is a peculiar phonological system of its own. M.Ya.Glovinskaya (2), substantiating the need to single out a subsystem of loan-words, defines three criteria which, in her opinion, may relate loan-words to a special phonological subsystem of the Modern Russian literary language:

1. The pronunciation of these words is such that it is impossible for the majority of words of the Russian literary language. Here "variation of the same phonemes according to positions is not the same in different words".

2. The pronunciation of the majority of loan-words is variable: "the same word is pronounced by different

people in different ways and also... one and the same person pronounces one and the same word in a different manner. Thus the behaviour of the phonemes in these words is defined not by the determinate regularity as in the basic system, but statistically".

3. "In the basic system regularities in the phonemes' behaviour essentially coincide with the rules of pronunciation... The phonetic regularities of the subsystem define only the phonemes' behaviour and do not coincide with the orthoepic rules" (2). It would seem that these criteria which belong mainly to the pronouncing system of the Russian literary language are not sufficient for substantiating the singling out of similar groups of words into special phonological subsystem. First of all, it is necessary to define the characteristics of the basic phonological system of the majority of the words of the Russian literary language. The BPS is characterized by its own peculiar contraposition of the same sound units to other ones in definite positions: accented and unaccented vowels-before hard and soft consonants, consonants before vowels and also before other consonants at the end of the word. The different possibilities for contraposing some sound units to others in definite positions allows to single out in the phonological system of the Russian literary language strong and

weak phonemes. The BPS has a quite definite number of weak and strong phonemes which are distributed strictly according to their positions. The ISTA phonological system is not only characterized by a contraposition of some sound units to others in definite positions which differs from the BPS and, accordingly, by different possibility to quality differently some or other sound units in the same position.

The specific character of the ISTA phonological system consists not only in the different distribution of the phonemes (as a rule, the same phonemes which are represented in the BPS) according to their positions, but also in the possibility (or otherwise) of contraposing some or other phonemes to each other in a definite position. The latter is connected both with the presence (or absence) in the system of the phonemes of abbreviations of a special type, and with the real representation (or lack of representation) of some or other phonemes in a definite position preset by the material.

In the phonological system of a sound type's initial abbreviations the following regularities may be noted which exist within consonant phonemes taken from the abbreviations of a given type and determined by system relationships:

1. The absence at the end of the word of a contraposition of consonants according to hardness-softness. In the ISTA in the end position there can be only hard consonants (this concerns both paired, according to voiceless-voiced features of noise sounds, and unpaired according to the same feature, sonorous sounds). For example: КЭАМ (концентрат амальски антраценового масла), ЛОИКФУН^Х (3) (Ленинградское общество исследователей культуры финно-угорских народностей), ОБМР (общая величина измерения расстояния до цели), ИМЭЛ^Х (Институт Маркса-Энгельса-

Ленина при ЦК КПСС), РИП (радиоэлектронный измерительный прибор), РУВ (ручной установщик взрывателей etc.

Hard sonorous sounds in the ISTA are phonologically qualified as weak by the hardness-softness of the phoneme and hard noise sounds as weak by the hardness-softness and voiceless-voiced features (in the BPS weak sounds by two features in consonant phonemes cannot be at the end position of the word; here denote weak by voiceless-voiced consonant phonemes which are opposed to each other by hardness-softness: ве/c₂/-ве/c₂'/, па/т₂/, orthogr. рад-па/т₂'/ etc.; the sonorous sounds in the BPS at the end of the word are opposed to each other by hardness-softness, thus both hard and soft consonants are possible: во/н/-во/н'/, мо/л/-мо/л'/, etc.;

2. The contraposition of consonants according to hardness-softness in a position before /e/. This position in the ISTA is strong: /с'e/ ПП^Х (Социалистическая еврейская рабочая партия, дорев.) - /се/В (Совет Экономической Взаимопомощи). In old Russian words in the positions before /e/ there is no contraposition of consonants by hardness-softness. Only the utilization of borrowed words allows to broaden the position of consonants before /e/, including in it hard consonants. For example /пе/р, /ме/р;

3. The absence of consonant contraposition according to hardness-softness before /н/. In the ISTA phonological system there is no combination of the "consonant (hard)+н/" type (phonetically /тн/, /нн/ etc. (4); Here the position of consonants before /н/ is not strong, just as in the BPS, but weak (like the position of consonants before /e/ at the junction of the inflexion in the BPS, where is no contrapositioning of consonants according to hardness-softness; here, from the view point of phonetics, there is a soft con-

sonant);

4. The absence of the contraposition of consonants by hardness-softness in positions before consonants. These consonants are phonologically qualified either as weak according to the hardness-softness criterion, or as weak by two criteria (hardness-softness and voiceless-voiced): before /м/ in the BPS both hard and soft consonants are represented: о/тм/ахнутья - /т'м/а, по/дм/анить - ве/дм/а, /см/отреть - ве/с'м/а, ра/зм/ахво/з'м/у, ко/рм/ - су/р'м/а, хо/лм/ - па/л'м/а, and in the ISTA in this position there are weak phonemes according to the hardness-softness criterion (phonetically hard consonants): ТМУП (Трест медицинских наглядных пособий), СМУ (сложные метеорологические условия), ЗМА (завод медицинской аппаратуры), ЛМОИ^х (Ленинградский молочно-огородный институт), etc.; before /т/, /с'/, /к/ in the ISTA phonological system there is a weak consonant phoneme /м₁/ according to the hardness-softness criterion: МТИЛП (Московский технологический институт лесной промышленности), МСИ^х (Московский санитарный институт), МКАД (Московская кольцевая автомобильная дорога); f.ex. in the BPS strong and weak consonant phonemes by the hardness-softness criterion are represented: ло/мт'/и - познако/м'т'/е, (о)ха/мс'/е - познако/м'с'/я, кро/мк/а - познако/м'к/а; before /т/, /ж/, /к/, /г/, /г'/, /б/, /б₁/, /ш₂/ in the phonological system represented is the weak consonant phoneme /н₁/ by hardness-softness: НГОВТ (Научно-техническое общество водного транспорта), МАНК (Международная ассоциация научного кино), НГИМИ (Новосибирский государственный институт мер и измерительных приборов), НБАД (Ночная бомбардировочная авиационная дивизия), ИНБИ (Ордена Ленина институт биохимии им. А.Н.Баха (АН СССР), РЯНШ (Русский язык в национальной школе /magazine/; in contrast to the BPS, where strong consonant

phonemes by hardness-softness are represented: ко/нт/ора - ко/н'т/о, и/нж/ир-ко/н'ж/е, ма/нк/а-ко/н'к/а, ко/нг'/ени-альный-де/н'г'/и, До/но/асс-го/н'б/а, и/но'/ирь- /о/ го/н'б₁/е, пу/нш₂/-ме/н'ш/е, before /т/, /к/, /к₁/, /м/, /м₁/ in the ISTA phonological system the weak consonant phoneme /р₁/ by hardness-softness is represented: АРТА^х (Артиллерийская радиотехническая академия), ВИРТ (Всесоюзный научно-исследовательский институт разведочной геофизики), РКИИГА (Рижский Краснознаменный институт инженеров гражданской авиации им. Ленинского комсомола), НИРММИ^х (Всесоюзный научно-исследовательский институт растительных масел и маргарина); e.g. the BPS, before these consonants /р/ and /р'/ are opposed to each other: рт/а-ко/р'т/о, ка/рг/а-се/р'г/а, ко/рк/а-Бо/р'к/а, ко/рк'/и-Бо/р'к/и, ко/рм/а-су/р'м/а, ко/рм'/ить-су/р'м/ить, before /п/, /п₁/, /б/, /в/, /в₁/, /т₁/, /д/, /д₁/, /с/, /з/, /з₁/, /к/, /г/, /м/, /м₁/, /н/, /н₁/ in the ISTA phonological system there is the weak consonant phoneme according to hardness-softness /л₁/ (from the view point of phonetics it is a hard consonant): СНИЛПЭ (студенческая научно-исследовательская лаборатория полупроводниковой электроники), УЛПИ (Ульяновский политехнический институт), ЛБАН (Львовская библиотека Академии наук УССР), ОЛЛВО (Орден Ленина Ленинградский военный округ), ЛВИМУ (Ленинградское высшее инженерное морское училище им. адмирала С.О.Макарова), ЛТИХП (Ленинградский технологический институт холодильной промышленности), ЛДОК (лесопильно-деревообрабатывающий комбинат), ЛДИС (лазерный доплеровский измеритель скорости), ЛНИЛСЭ (Ленинградская научно-исследовательская лаборатория судебных экспертиз), УЛЗУ (универсальное логическое запоминающее устройство), ЛЗИИ^х (Ленинградский заочный индустриальный институт), ЛКИП (лаборатория контрольно-измерительных приборов), ЛГОК^х (Лебединский горно-

обогатительный комбинат), ЛМОИ^х (Ленинградский молочно-огородный институт), УКНИАЛМИ^х (Украинский научно-исследовательский агролесомелиорационный институт - it is an abbreviation of the mixed type), ЦИЛНОТ (Центральная республиканская научно-исследовательская лаборатория научной организации труда), ЛНИИ^х (Ленинградский научно-исследовательский институт языкознания), e.g. the BPS, where the contraposition /л/-/л'/ is possible: по/лп/арты-пу/л'п/а, ко/лб/а-па/л'б/а, мо/лв/а-ма/л'в/а, мо/лв₁/е-ма/л'в'/е, по/лт'/ина-о/ ко/л'т/е, по/лд/ома-л'д/и, по/лд'/еревни-л'д'/ина etc.: before the consonants /т₁/, /к/, /к₁/, /г/, /г'/, /б/, /б₁/, /с'/ in the ISTA phonological system there are weak consonant phonemes by two criteria: /п₃/ before /т₁/, /к/, /к₁/, /ф₃/ before /г/, /г'/, /б/, /б₁/, /ф/: ОПТИ (отдел производственно-технической информации), ГУШКА^х (Главное управление политической пропаганды Красной Армии), ПКИАМ (проектно-конструкторский институт автоматизации и механизации); in the BPS before these consonants there are weak consonant phonemes by the voiceless-voiced criterion which are opposed according to hardness-softness: о/п₂т'/ереть-сн/п'з₂т'/е, ла/п₂к/а-сн/п₂к/а; ВТИЗ^х. (Всесоюзный трест строительного-технических изысканий - an abbreviation of mixed type), ВСЕГЕМ (Всесоюзный селекционно-генетический институт - an abbreviation of the mixed type), ВКАС (Военная Краснознаменная академия связи) represented in the BPS before these consonants are weak phonemes according to the voiceless-voiced criterion which are opposed to each other as to hardness-softness: /ф₂т'/ереть-сла/ф₂т/е, во/ф₂с'/е-сла/ф₂с'/я, ло/ф₂к/о-сла/ф₂к/а; ДТЭС (Днепропетровская гидростанция), ВОДГЕО (Всесоюзный научно-исследовательский институт водоснабжения, канализации, гидротехнических сооружений и инженерной гидро-

геологии - an abbreviation of the syllabic type), ДБАЭ (дальнебомбардировочная авиационная эскадрилья), ТБИЗ (Тбилисский инструментальный завод - an abbreviation of the mixed type), ТФАН^х (Туркменский филиал АН СССР); in the BPS before these consonants, there are weak consonant phonemes as to the voiceless-voiced criterion, which are opposed to each other as to hardness-softness: о/т₂г/адать-ну/т₂г/а, о/т₂г'/обать-ну/т₂г₁/е, о/т₂б/авить-сва/т₂б/а, о/т₂б'/ить-сва/т₂б'/е, о/т₂ф/ормовать-т₂ф/у.

All the above, it would seem to us, convincingly points to the existence of a phonological system of initial sound-type abbreviations, differing from the BPS.

(1). Русская грамматика: В 2-х т. М.: Наука. - 1980. - Т.1. Раздел "Фонология".

(2). Гловинская М.Я. Об одной фонологической подсистеме в современном русском языке // Развитие фонетики современного русского языка. - М.: Наука, - 1971. - С.55.

(3). Here and so forth^х denote "a) at present this organisation (institution etc.) does not exist, b) this name is substituted for another, c) at present this abbreviation is out of use"

Алексеев Д.И. Произношение сложно-сокращенных слов и буквенных аббревиатур // Вопросы культуры речи. - Вып.4. - 1963. - С.22-23.

(4) In the ISTA ГОМЗН (Государственные объединенные машиностроительные заводы) there is a composition /зн/ which is composed with the initial sound and the inflexion of the word заводы.