Specific short terms in the pilot communication

Proper translation of professional terms is the basis of professional aviation documents; it is an important means of intercultural communication in aviation environment. The important aspects of aviation terminology are viewed in the article: term-formation by abbreviating, structural types of abbreviations and ways of aviation terms translation.

The research, which has been conducted on the basis of selection of aviation terms, the analysis of professional documents and dictionaries shows, that one of the most widespread ways of term-formation in aviation is abbreviation. An abbreviation is a short way of writing a word or group of words. Sometimes it is just a part of a full word. An acronym is a kind of abbreviation. It is a word formed from the initial or first letters of a group of other words.

Commonly used abbreviations in aviation are listed below and normally spoken using the constituent letters, rather than the spelling alphabet, except that those indicated by normally spoken as complete words. For example, ACC — Area control centre; ADF — Automatic direction-finding equipment; DME — Distance measuring equipment; ETA — Estimated time of arrival, LORAN — long-range air navigation system; MNPS — Minimum navigation performance specifications.

The ICAO Document 8400 “Procedures for Air Navigation Services. ICAO abbreviations and codes” contains abbreviations and codes approved by the Council of ICAO for worldwide use in the international aeronautical telecommunication service and in aeronautical information documents, as appropriate, uniform abbreviated phraseology for use in pre-flight information bulletins and data link communications, with the status of Procedures for Air Navigation Services. The principles applied in the formulation of ICAO abbreviations are:

- allocation of more than one signification to a single abbreviation should be avoided except where it can be reasonably determined that no instances of misinterpretation would arise;
- allocation of more than one abbreviation to the same signification should be avoided even though a different use is prescribed;
- abbreviations should make use of the root word or words and should be derived from words common to the working languages except that where it is impracticable to apply this principle to best advantage, the abbreviation should follow the English text;
- the use of a singular or plural form for the signification of an abbreviation should be selected on the basis of the more common use;
- an abbreviation may represent grammatical variants of the basic signification where such application can be made without risk of confusion and the desired grammatical form can be determined from the context of the message.
The construction and use of abbreviations is various. Letters’ abbreviations are widely used in aviation terminology as text coding and technical terms. Text abbreviations are used at frequent repetition of the term with the purpose of creating of the more compressed and logical text. In this case abbreviations are created by the initial letters of the term: act of unlawful interference – AUI – акт незаконного втручання; screening checkpoint – SCP – контрольно-пропускный пункт; component test memo – CTM – перевірка знань льотного екіпажу.

Another way of abbreviations in aviation is coding of the information. Such abbreviations either keep initial letters or consonants of a certain term, for example: A1 – відділ авіаційного штабу, начальник відділу or A1 – перший клас; B – Боїнг (літак); AN – Антонов (літак); Arr – arrival – прибуття; clb – climb – набирати висоту.

By the usage the abbreviations can be differentiated into several directions of aviation, such as: names of organizations, departments, commissions: ICAO – International Civil Aviation Organization – Міжнародна Організація цивільної авіації; NASA – National Aeronautics and Space Administration – Національна адміністрація з повітряної навігації та простору; CAA – Civil Aviation Authority – Повноважний орган цивільної авіації. Some international English abbreviations are often pronounced in the same phonetic form as in English pronunciation. For example, ICAO is pronounced as [ai’keo] in Ukrainian as well as in English.

Also, there are well-known aviation abbreviations, which are widely used at flight operations and air traffic control: RVSM – Reduced vertical separation minimum – скорочений мінімум вертикального ешелонування; AIP – Aeronautical information publication – збірник аеронавігаційної інформації.

Technical acronyms are the most difficult part of aviation abbreviations, which takes a considerable part of professional texts. Aeronautical fixed telecommunications network (AFTN) – Мережа для координації з питань виконання польотів і обслуговування повітряного руху – uses internationally recognized aviation acronyms, especially in reports about aircraft movement.

For example, FPL – flight plan – план польоту; ARR – Arrival – прибуття; DEP – Departure – відправлення; SID – Standard Instrument Departure – стандартна схема вильоту. Besides, some general English phrases are used in aviation context, such as: ISO – instead – замість; ADZ – advise – порада; TKS – thanks – дякую.

The acronyms and abbreviations of commercial sphere of aviation have its specific features. Mainly they concern commercial aspects of flight: transportation of passengers and cargo.

The examples of the usage of such terms are: ALL IN – all inclusive – все враховано; C – cargo – вантаж; AWB – Airway Bill – авіаційна вантажна накладна; DGR – Dangerous Goods – небезпечний вантаж; HEA – Heavy Cargo – важкий вантаж; ALI – Live Animals – живі тварини.

It is known that the translation of ICAO documents and other professional organizations is connected with considerable difficulties, taking into account the correspondence of the aviation terminology and the terminology of the language of
translation. It is necessary to point out the main ways of translation of aviation abbreviations and acronyms, namely:

1. the translation by the corresponding acronym, which can be found in the language of the translation as its equivalent, for example, FL – ЕП (flight level – ешелон польоту);
2. the translation by the corresponding professional expression, for example, GA – general aviation – авіація загального призначення;
3. the translation by the way of transcoding: AFIL – air-filed flight plan – АФІЛ – план польоту, переданий з боту літака; INSERFA – uncertainty phase – ІНСЕРФА – стадія непевності (при аварійній ситуації);
4. the translation by the description if there is no corresponding equivalent in the language of the translation: INAD – особа, якій відмовлено у в’їзді до держави відповідними повноважними органами;
5. the translation by the creation of a new abbreviation: RWY – run-way – ЗПС – злітно-посадочна смуга;
6. the direct translation of the abbreviation: the aircraft types – B737–200; engine types – RTM322.

So, due to the increasing of air traffic the necessity of high safety standards is taking place in the world aviation. The research of the professional aviation English terminology is based on the studying of the appropriate ways of term-formation, usage of abbreviations and acronyms. Aviation terminology is still developing; that is why it is more effective to apply all ways of professional translation for full and adequate understanding in the process of pilot-controller’s communication.

Therefore, we think that further researches can be conducted in the aspect of standardization of English and Ukrainian aviation terminology and the development of aviation term system.