Olga Verkhovtsova,

senior teacher,

National Aviation University, Kiev, Ukraine

[Anastasiia Tkachenko](https://www.facebook.com/anastasiia.tkachenko.92?__tn__=%2CdlC-R-R&eid=ARCiCq7PTc7q7M_k6T0NLbi0OPfsy0UsvpPDS9pdoxHS56MGz52qTcWN2HdV-mcXxe5_ej-HnoSFfjdi&hc_ref=ARR-JSB0DGit-Az_9Ixkap_v1vqlB6tVizt7gADdsD4slRKhW_IvZbD4xZec8ulCtAE) ,

student,

University College London, UK

**THE TENDENCY OF WORDS SHORTENING IN MODERN FRENCH**

The modern world of communication is the world of always hurrying people who want to convey the maximum amount of information with minimal costs. The need to save time brings to life a lot of abbreviations or shortening, which are becoming very typical for the French language of modern time.

Chatting via SMS and using the Internet has been part of our daily “diet” for a very long time. Tablets, phones, various social networks have replaced our live communication. People all the time seek to make their life easier and easier by combining many things: work, study, rest, etc. What exactly causes this communication? - Fast, productive, convenient, but not always clear. Social networks save us time and money. Correspondence with the use of messages allows us to keep in touch at any time: at work, school, at meetings, when there is no possibility to call. Does this communication reflect in vocabulary?

The purpose of our study is to find out the reason for shortening words among the French people, as well as to determine the level of understanding of commonly used abbreviations.

The linguistic phenomenon of cutting or shortening a word is called an apocope. [4, 50] The dictionary defines an apocope as a phonetic modification, which is sometimes used as a figure of speech, and is characterized by the abbreviation of the complete word, keeping only its first phonemes or syllables, for example « auto » for « automobile», « appart» for « appartement», «magnif» for« magnifique».

We should note that the apocope is the process itself (in the previous example, the fall of "-mobile", « ement», « ique»,) while the result of the apocope (here, "auto", « appart», «magnif» ) is an abbreviation. It corresponds to a precise meaning of the complete word when it has several homonyms. This contraction is often used in a familiar way to simplify the language. It can be used knowingly to verbalize a speech or to blur the message for a particular aesthetic purpose. It is close to elision, ellipse, and abbreviation and contributes to the formation of neologisms.

The linguistic phenomenon of apocope is present also in different languages. In English it manifests in common usage of peoples’ names: James - Jim; Benjamin –Ben. English abounds with example like “alko” for alcohol, “croc” for a crocodile, “footy” for football, “nopro” for no problem, “ ad” for advertising, etc. In Ukrainian and Russian it is not so frequent but it can be seen mostly in the language of young people: “універ” (університет), “ велик” (велосипед), “фізра” (фізкультура).

Apocope is quite typical for the French language, it is used on different language levels. Let’s consider the ways the words are shortened.

The last letter is sometimes replaced by the vowel "o" (for example in «apero», «dico», «resto», etc.). It should be noted that some of the examples belong to the colloquial language («coloc»), while others have become separate words ("auto"). In some cases, the apocope is so integrated into the language that it is not perceived as such by the speaker:

*Métro(metropolitain)- le resto (restaurant) – le labo (laboratoire) –  un dico (discotèque)– un ado(adolescent)   –   le frigo(frigidaire)    –  le vélo (vélocipède)  –  le porno (pornographie) – perso (personnel(lement) – intello (intellectuel) –  la géo (géographie)  –  la philo (philosophie)  –  l’apéro (apéritif)  –  une auto  (automobile)  –  un exo (un exercice)  –  la techno (musique électronique)  –  un facho (un fasciste)  –  un écolo (un écologiste) – un gaucho (gauchiste)  – un collabo (collaborateur)  –  hebdo (hebdomadaire)  –  McDo  (McDonald’s)*

In literature and in poetry, moreover, its use contributes to extending the phenomenon of connotation and symbolic resources:

*Et puis aux dire des gens de l’hosto il fallait une certaine expérience pour poser ce pont central.[2, 207]*

*Un travail de pro, ambulance bidon, papier administratif s falsifiés. [2, 190]*

We can also see it in Indila’s song “Dernière danse” [5]

*Je ne suis qu'un être sans importance
 Sans lui, je suis un peu paro
 Je déambule seule dans le metro*

A considerable number of apocopes is formed by simple eliminations of the second part of the word:

*Prof(professeur)  –  pub (publicité)  –  télé (télévision)  – taxi (taximètre) –   appart (appartement)  –   manif  (magnifique) –    foot  (football) –  exam (examen)  –   cet aprem  (cet aprèsmidi) –    cafet (cafeteria)  –tram (tramway) – bonne ap (bon appétit)   –  comme d’hab (comme d’habitude)   –   j’suis deg  –  c’est dégueu (dégueulasse) –fac (faculté) – 10 h du mat   –  bac (bacalauréat)  –  un ordi (ordinateur)  –  le ciné (cinématographe) les maths (mathématiques)  –  sympa (sympathique)  –  au tel (téléphone)  – un amphi  (amphithéâtre):*

*Mais je n’ai rien contre les pédés, bordels, arrête avec ca! Qu’est-ce qu’il y a d’autre dans ton rapport?[2,206]*

The apocope is very frequent in oral speech because the speakers tends not to pronounce the end of the words; in this sense, it is an original mechanism for creating new words and even neologisms.

From stylistic point of view we should distinguish

a) an integrated apocope: *radio* gives *radiodiffusion, radiographie, radiophonie, radiométrie*, etc;

b) apocope in spoken language: *champ* for *champagne, accro* for *accrocher;*

c) apocope in proper names: *Fred* for *Frédérique, Sarco* for *Sarcozy.*

Slang very often uses the apocope which allows a flexibility of the undeniable language in situations of communication where the principle of economy prevail.

*C'est une cata*  for *C'est une catastrophe* , *Un dej magnif*  for *un déjeuner magnifique.*

The studies suggest that apocope is mostly used by young people. They use SMS, e-mails to exchange information thus they appreciate laconism of expressions. The tendency to save up time while speaking is manifested in grammar structures as well: *t’as raison* for *tu as raison*.

It is easy to imagine two youngsters speaking in this way:

*- Salut ! T’ as vu le foot hier à la télé ?*

*- Ah oui, je l’ai vu à la cafet du resto U. Mais au moment de la pub, je suis parti parce que j’ai un exam et je dois réviser. D’ailleurs je te laisse parce que mon vélo est crevé et je dois prendre le tram.
- Bon, on se voit à la cafet comme d’hab?
- D’accord, à toute !*

 We can make a conclusion that in spite the fact that short words are the least informative and most predictable words rather than the most often used, they enter the everyday language which is typical for the vocabulary as the most flexible part of the language. People would tend to shorten words they use often, to save time in writing and speaking. It is a fast and comfortable way to carry information but we think they should not take over in order to preserve the beauty of the French language.

REFERENCES:

1. Кияк Т.Р. Лингвистические аспекты терминоведения. — Киев: УМКВО, 1989. – 321 с.

# Levy Mark. Et si c’étais vrais…— Paris: Edition Robert Laffont, S.A., 2000. – 251p.

1. Le Petit Robert. Dictionnaire alphabétique et analogique de la langue française par P.Robert. Paris: S.N.L., 2000. — 2171 p.
2. Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English. UK. Longman 1995. – 1668p.
3. Indila. Dernière danse.

 URL: <https://www.google.com/search?ei=GPm7XMS2D8T5qwG_g4> H4Cg&q=ma+derniere+danse (Last accessed 1.05.2019).