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A MORPHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF ACRONYMS IN NIGERIAN ENGLISH

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Abstract

This study is of the view that in the linguistic landscape of Nigeria, the widespread usage of Acronyms has become a prominent feature of everyday communication. The aim of the study is to explore acronyms as an aspect of Nigerian English morphology with a view to comprehending and using them appropriately. The English language is enriched by the creation or generation of new words. Using sufficient data this study explores some processes of creating (acronyms) and their morphological patterns. The theoretical framework adopted for this study is lexical morphology proposed by Pesetsky (1971) and it centres on word formation rules which apply to a single component of the grammar, namely, the lexicon. Data were extracted from written text namely, Nigerian English Usage, Dictionary of Nigerian English and some Newspapers in Nigeria. The study reveals that the nature of acronyms in Nigerian English is that a typical acronym takes the first sound from each of several words and makes a new word from those initial sounds. Acronyms being pronounced like regular words must conform to the phonological patterns of Nigerian English. Another finding of this study is that acronyms share the same and similar processes of word formation in Nigerian context.

Keywords: Morphology, Acronyms, Nigeria, Word- Formation and English

Introduction

In the linguistic landscape of Nigeria, the widespread usage of acronyms has become a prominent feature of everyday communication. However, a comprehensive examination of the morphological aspects, origin, evolution, and sociolinguistic implications of these linguistic phenomena remains conspicuously absent. While existing research acknowledges their prevalence, there is a notable dearth of systematic investigation that delves into the intricate structures, contextual variations, and socio-cultural factors influencing the formation and adoption of acronyms within the Nigerian linguistic context.

Furthermore, the rapid advancement of technology and the pervasive influence of social media platforms have introduced new avenues for the creation and dissemination of these linguistic forms. The impact of these digital platforms on the evolution, propagation, and adaptation of acronyms in Nigeria remains largely unexplored. As in many situations, the English language is enriched by creation or generation of new

words. Hence the need for this study is to explore some newly created acronyms words namely; ASSU, INEC PIN etc. It attempts to study the processes and the patterns of acronyms, identify and discuss acronyms with copious examples.

The aim of this study is to explore Acronyms as aspects of English Morphology with a view to comprehend them better and use them appropriately. The objective of this research is to:

analyse the morphological patterns of acronyms in Nigerian English.

The proposed morphological analysis of acronyms in the Nigerian English holds substantial significance for multiple stakeholders and academic fields. The study contributions are expected to reverberate across linguistics, sociolinguistics, communication studies, and cultural analysis. It also aids in the creation of targeted educational resources.

English Language in Nigeria

Language is the pivot around which all humans activities revolve. This assertion is in

consonance with that of Fromkin and Rodman (1974;3) who said 'whatever else people do when they come together-whether they play, fight, make love or make automobiles, they talk. We live the world of language. We talk to our friends, our associates, our wives and husbands, our lovers, our teachers, our parents, our rivals and even our enemies. Our humanness finds its expression in our possession and use of language that has unique attributes of duality, cultural transmission, arbitrariness, productivity, discreteness more than anything else.

According to Sapir (1921) 'language is a purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions and desires by means of a system of voluntarily produced symbols'. Here, there are three terms up for discussion 'Human', 'non instinctive' and 'symbols'. He explains language as purely human which is only possessed by humans, It is what distinguishes human from animals, although animals have their communicative system which is not developed one and that is why language is species specific and species uniform. It is however, non-instinctive because it cannot be passed from parents to child. The symbols which are sounds and letters stand to communicate because in every language there are sounds representing our speeches. In this study, the definition by Sapir is relevant to the present study in the sense that the use of symbols such as 'PIN', 'ASUU', 'CAN', 'IPPIS', 'JAMB', 'NECO' e.t.c. will form the basis of the data analysis. This study will immensely benefit from his definition

The word 'English' has become an expression of the Nigerian political and cultural reality. This reality is a profound manifestation of changes in sociolinguistic strategies and language engineering. Although many researches have been carried out on the true status of Nigerian English, a good number of such works have focused on the controversies, debates, interferences, flaws

and the varieties of differentiation that seem to dominate Nigerian English. Brand (1975) and Prato (1968) for instance, deny the existence of Nigerian English. The scholars rather attribute features referred to as Nigerian English to deviations from standard British English. In the same vain, Jowitt (1991) explains that English words are couched nativised expressions to capture effectively our diverse socio-cultural orientations, sensibilities and philosophical views. This natural tendency of non- native English speakers to express feelings, thoughts and ideas using the English language medium brings about lexico-semantic differences which occur in what is known as transfer, analogy, coinage, semantic shift or extension, loan words and acronyms.

Furthermore, Bamgbose (1995) observes that the English language has been pidginized, nativised, acculturated and twisted to express unaccustomed concepts and modes of interactions, this is at the heart of the term 'domestication', which gave birth to Nigerian English. Scholars vary in their opinions as to whether the English used in Nigeria can be accorded full status as a variety of the English language so that we have Nigerian English (NE). The study of varieties of language, a branch of Sociolinguistics, has in general grown rapidly in recent decades.

Salami (1968) points out that although one finds some differences between certain usages by some Nigerians, for instance British usage, American usage, most of such differences are due to mistakes of some sorts. A notable case is 'equipment' which is widely used by Nigerians of all levels of education. Acronyms are words formed from the initial letters of a group of words. These words are not peculiar to a second language situation. They are a creative feature of language and are motivated by certain factors (Fischer 1998). Examples of acronyms in Nigerian English are: WAEC (West African Examinations Council), NOUN (National Open University of Nigeria), ASUU (Academic Staff

Union of Universities), NECO (National Examinations Council), etc.

Conceptualising Acronyms in English

Acronyms are morphological process of shortening which are derived from the initial letters in phrase or name. They are normally, pronounced as single words. For instance, NACA (naka), and INEC (ainek) are different from initialism or abbreviations which are pronounced as sequence of letters e.g. DNA or FGN. McCarthy (2002) classifies an acronym as 'kind of blends, where the component root or base is produced in compounds, sporadically however, we encounter a kind of compound where at least one component is produced. Furthermore, McCarthy (2002) continues, that blends made up of initial letters are known as acronyms such as 'NATO (North Atlantic Organization) 'RAM' (Random Access Memory). According to him the use of capitals in this kind of blends reflect the fact that the speakers are aware of their acronyms status. But if the conventional way of reading the string (of words) is by pronouncing the name of each letter in turn it is simply abbreviation. Therefore, it does not follow that always, that any string of capital letters represents an acronyms. But McCarthy (2002) conception could be complex by considering acronyms as part of a blend instead of separate entity, but the merit of his conception is in bringing out features of acronyms in English. It is relevant to the present study because acronyms were fully explained.

Plag (2003) is of the view that acronyms are most commonly formed by taking the initial letters of multi words sequences to make up a new word as shown below:

WHO – for World Health Organization

WAEC – for West African Examination Council

FAQ – for frequently Asked Question

However, Plag's (2003) conception is weak since of his four examples of acronyms as a candidate (FAQ) pronounced (FAK) and other

three which are pronounced as word but there are ingredients of what acronyms in English. There is a fact that acronym formation depends on orthography and not pronunciation, which means that it is in a sense an artificial process, external to the general phenomenon of lexeme formation. That notwithstanding, acronyms have been recognized by many linguists as one of the processes of word formation in English; for instance, for Quirk and Greenbaum (1975), 'acronyms are words formed from the initial letter (or larger parts) of words. They added that 'new acronyms are freely produced, particularly for the names of organisations. He adds that the names of organisations are often designed to have their acronyms represents some appropriate terms as in 'mothers against drunk driving' (MADD) and 'women against rape'. (WAR)

Acronyms as Fromkin and Rodman (1998) observe are the creative efforts of word coiners. For example, a new acronym that has recently been added to the English language is AIDS. However, another source of acronyms such as 'MORF' (Male or female) and FAQ (Frequently asked questions) is in widespread use of computer and internet. Thus, the definitions given by different scholars helped not only to identify the acronyms as a process of word-formation in English but also to have an insight into the classification and sources of such acronyms. Examples of acronyms include:

ASUU – For Academic Staff Union of University

AIDS- For Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

NECO- National Examination Council

JAMB- Joint Admission and Matriculation Board

NAN – For News Agency of Nigeria

ECOWAS – For Economic Organisation of West African State

FEC – For Federal Executive Council

FERMA- Federal Road Maintenance Agency

INEC – For Independent National
 Electorate Commission
NAPRI- National Animal Production
 Research Institute
NEMA – For National Emergency
 Management Agency
PIN – For Personal Identification Number
WHO – For World Health Organisation

Lexical Morphology

Lexical morphology is a theoretical model first proposed in Pesetsky (1971) and elaborated in Kiparsky (1982). Although is impossible to say that there is a single model of lexical morphology (also known as lexical phonology), all theories have in common that the word formation rules and phonological rules both apply in a single component of the grammar, viz the lexicon. It will present a brief outline of Kiparsky's (1982) model.

Siegel's (1974) level ordering Hypothesis and Kiparsky Mascar A3 theory of cyclic phonology; lie at the heart of the development of Kiparsky (1982) model of lexical morphology/phonology. Within cyclic phonology it is assumed that cyclicity is a stipulated property of rules and that cyclic application is a mode of application which is not an inherent property of the grammar. The basic idea of Kiparsky's (1982) study is that the cyclic application of phonological rules should follow from the organization of the lexicon. Kiparsky proposes the following model;

Level 1 morphology

Underived lexical items

Level 2 morphology

<-> V

Level n morphology
 phonology

<-> Level 1

V

<-> Level 2

phonology

<-> V

<-> Level n

phonology post lexical phonology

Each level is associated with a class of phonological rules for which it defines the domain of application. The rules of post lexical phonology on other hand are intrinsically noncyclic, since they apply after all word-formation and syntactic processes. Since the appearance of Kiparsky's work a number of different models of Lexical morphology/phonology have been proposed, making (slightly) different assumptions about the nature of phonological rules or morphological processes or the interaction between the two. One aspect of the theory, which particularly prone to variation is level ordering i.e Kiparsky (1985), Halle & Mohanan (1985), Booij & Rubach (1987)); The theory of Lexical Morphology/Phonology has not remained unchallenged. Halle & Vergnaud (1987) reject this model primarily on the basis of the existence of bracketing paradoxes and basically return to the SPE-model in which Morphology and Phonology are autonomous components of the grammar.

Method of Data Collection

Data in the form of sufficient examples of Nigerian English acronyms was collected for this study using written texts namely, Nigerian English Usage, Dictionary of Nigerian English and some Newspapers in Nigeria and author's intuition as a Nigerian. The data was carefully collected on acronyms to represent various morphological aspects of acronyms used in Nigerian context. Data will be collected by conducting text analysis both written on acronyms in Nigerian English. The data collected were analysed systematically.

The Morphological Analysis of Acronyms

An acronym is a word or name formed as a type of abbreviation formed from the initial components of the words of a longer content such as of a name or phrase: often with individual initial letters, as in NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization), NECO

(National Examination Council), ASUU (Academic Staff Union of University), INEC (Independent National Electorate Commission) or sometimes syllables as a mixture of the two as in RADAR (Radio Detective And Ranging) and sometimes with the letters of the acronym needing to be pronounced individually as with uses of IGP (Inspector General of Police), NDA (Nigerian Defense Academy). There are no universal standards for the multiple names for such abbreviations or for their orthographic styling. Acronyms result from a word formation process known as blending in which parts of two or more words are combined to form a new word.

Acronyms (acr-o 'tip, point' + 'name') are a special type of shortening. A typical acronym takes the first sound from each of several words and makes a new word from those initial sounds. If the resulting word is pronounced like any other word it is a true acronym. True acronyms are for example: ASCII (pronounced (ass-key)) (American Standard Code for Information Interchange), NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization, FOLDOC is a Free Online Dictionary of Computing, LASER stands for Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation. However, to make an acronym pronounceable, we take not just the initial sounds but for example, the first consonant and the first vowel together. Thus radar comes from radio detecting and ranging. Few of us realize that the now very common noun modem was similarly formed from modulator- demodulator. A similar formation is the name of the computer language FORTRAN (Formula Translation). The conventions on capitalisation vary. These are half-way between blends, clippings and acronyms. When an acronym becomes fully accepted as a word it often comes to be spelled with lower-case letters, like other words: modem, radar came to be treated that way as well as okay.

Initialism is an abbreviation consisting of initial letters of words. Initialism is a word made the first letters of each word in a phrase. Unlike acronyms, initialism cannot be spoken as words: they are spoken letter by letter. Examples of initialisms are:

DVD – Digital Versatile Disc

CD- Compact Disc

PIN – Personal Identification Number

NIN – National Identification Number

PVC – Permanent Voter's Card

OKAY – All correct

Acronyms flourished especially from the 20th century onwards; the distinction between abbreviation and acronym has been steadily eroded and acronym is commonly used for several types of abbreviation.

- **Pronounced as a word, containing only initial letters**

NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization: It stands as the name of organization of European army in charge of war.

NECO: National Examination Council: NECO is the body under education with responsibility of conducting last school leaving certificate to all final year secondary school students in Nigeria.

ASUU: Academic Staff Union of University: This is the body of academic staff of Nigerian Universities.

LASER: Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation: It is applied devices.

- **Pronounced as a word, containing a mixture of initial and non-initial letters**

UBEC: Universal Basic Education Commission: This is the education organization which handles issues of primary education in Nigeria. It has offices in the whole local governments of Nigeria with Education secretary as the head.

OPEC: Organisation of Petroleum Export Countries: It is the organization of oil

producing countries in which Nigeria is a member.

FOLDOC: Free Online Dictionary of Computing. Is a device of computer that uses Internet.

- **Pronounced as a string of letters, containing syllable-initial but not necessarily word-initial letters**

FMC: Federal Medical Center: FMC is a health center provided by Federal government to render services to the citizens apart from states own hospitals nationwide.

PCM: Paracetamol: It is a drug for curing headache.

- **Pronounced as a word or as a string of letters, depending on speaker or context**

FAQ: Frequently Asked Question: This is a device of asking questions.

IRA: Individual Retirement Account: Is an account of retired people under pension commission.

IPPIS: Integrated Personnel & Payroll Information System: This is an organization responsible for harmonising and payment of government workers.

- **Pronounced as a combination of spelling out of a word**

CD- ROM: Compact Disc Read-Only-Memory: It is a devices which replaces old radio tape and is use in computer and DVD.

JPEG: Joint Photographic Experts Group: This is the group of photographers who are professionals.

- **Pronounced only as a string of letters**

BBC: British Broadcasting Corporation: It is the radio station based in London headquarters of England with reporters worldwide.

NTA: Nigerian Television Authority: This is the national television station of Nigeria which is the largest television in Africa.

HOD: Head of Department: Is the administration officer in charge of department in the university.

VC: Vice Chancellor: This is the chief administration officer of the university.

VHF: Very High Frequency: Is the video devices that connects video with television.

- **Pronounced as a string of letters, but with a shortcut**

3D: Three Dimensions: Is the architecture devices use in building and designing.

EAA: Earn Academic Allowances: It is the allowances of excess work load of academic staff.

- **Pseudo-acronyms**, which consist of a sequence of characters that, when pronounced as intended invoke other longer words with less typing. This makes them gram grams.

CQ: Cee-cue for 'seek you' code used by radio operators.

IOU: i-o-u for 'I owe you' stands as the lending of money.

K9: Kay-nine for 'canine', used to designate police units utilizing dogs

AK47: Avtomat Kalashnikova: It is a weapon designed as gun.

- **Abbreviations whose last abbreviated word is often redundantly included anyway**

ATM machine: Automatic Teller Machine 'machine'. This is the electronic machine designed to withdraw money, check balance, transfer money and recharge airtime and other uses.

HIV virus: Human Immunodeficiency Virus 'virus': It is the disease that kills immune and eventually kills the patient.

LCD display: Liquid-crystal display 'display': It I the devices of electronic machine.

PIN number: Personal Identification Number 'number'. It is the number that identifies the owner of the particular devices.

It is usually some number which is secret to the users.

The Spelling and Pronunciation of Acronyms

The spelling and pronunciation of acronyms offer interesting perspectives on the formal properties of these words:

ASUU- Academic Staff Union of University

CAN- Christian Association of Nigeria

FAAN- Federal Government of Nigeria

4.2.3 The Orthographic and Phonetic Properties of Acronyms

For some acronyms there is more than one possibility: Spelling and Pronunciation of Acronyms

Spelling	Pronunciation	Example
in capitals	as individual letters	ABU, VC, CBN, EFCC,
in capitals	as regular word	NACA, INEC, UBEC
in lower case	as regular word	Naca, inec
in upper case		
letters	with dots	as individual letters H.O.D,

Disregarding the cases where the acronym can trigger the regular pronunciation of the acronym

(VC, NTA, and E.I) and ignoring the use or non-use of dots. Acronyms can be grouped into two: **orthographic** and **phonological** properties. They can be spelled either capital or lower-case letters and they can be pronounced either by naming each Individual letter (so called intialism, as in H.O.D, /eich od/ or by applying regular reading rules (e.g /ainek/, /naka/).

The spelling of acronyms may differ with regard to the use of capital letters are used which can be interpreted as a formal device that clearly links the acronym to its base word. Some words that historically originated as acronyms are nowadays no longer spelled with capital letters and for the majority of speakers these forms are no longer related to the words they originally acronym (e.g. rader).

Acronyms being pronounced like regular words must conform to the phonological patterns of English which can create problems in applying regular reading rules if the reading out would result in illegal phonological words. For example, an acronym like CBC, BBC is an unlikely candidate for acronyms because (bbk); (kbn) or (bbs) feature an illegal word-internal structure of

sounds in English. Sometimes, however, speakers make acronyms pronounceable, i.e. **INEC, PIN** etc

According to Quirk and Greenbaum (1975) acronyms could be divided broadly into two parts.

1. The acronyms here are pronounced as words e.g.

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)

ASUU (Academic Staff Union of University)

FAAN (Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria)

2. Acronyms pronounced as sequences of letters which could be called 'alphabetism': the letters represent full words e.g.

ATM (Automatic Teller Machine)

CBN (Central Bank of Nigeria)

EAA (Earn Academic Allowances)

IBR (Institutionally Base Research)

IDP (Internally Displaced Person)

NHF (National Housing Fund)

PVC (Permanent Voter's Card)

General Discussion

From the above analysis of acronyms the study establishes that the criteria used in the identification of acronyms is found to be similar in their morphological, phonological as well as the semantic criterion. This section

contains general discussion on the topic of the study acronyms.

The Nature of Acronyms in the Nigerian English

The nature of Acronyms in Nigerian English is that a typical acronym takes the first sound from each of several words and makes a new word from those initial sounds. It also, usually found to be using Nigeria and sometime used National at the beginning; For instance, National Examination Council (NECO) and Nigerian Television Authority (NTA).

The Processes of Word formation in Acronyms in Nigerian Context

Word formation deals with the processes in which languages tend to involve themselves in forming new words. Therefore, is a natural linguistic phenomenon that exists not only in English but in all the living languages of the world specifically acronyms used in Nigerian Context Mathews (1991). According to Mathews (1991), 'word-formation is that branch of Morphology which deals with relations between a complex lexeme'. He concludes that lexemes are of two forms either simple or complex which have relation between them. According to Rubba (2004), 'word-formation processes deal with the ways of creating new words in English 'the free encyclopedia of Linguistics (2008) maintains that word-formation rules form new words'. Acronyms being pronounced like regular words must conform to the phonological patterns of English which can create problems in applying regular reading rules if the reading out would result in illegal phonological words. For example, an acronym like CBC, BBC is an unlikely candidate for acronyms because (bbk); (kbn) or (bbs) feature an illegal word-internal structure of sounds in English. Sometimes, however, speakers make acronyms pronounceable, i.e. **INEC, PIN** etc. Therefore, users tend to have problem in applying it in communication.

The Enrichment of Acronyms to the Nigerian English

Acronyms are integral part of Morphology. It is believe that acronyms are a rich source of new words in Nigerian English and several words are added like- ASUU, NAPRI, NEMA, FERMA, INEC, NIN, PIN, ASUU, NECO, JAMB, AIDS, TETFUND, CAN, TIN, and NAFDAC are numbered among the recent addition of vocabularies in Nigerian English. Furthermore, the knowledge about this aspect of word formation in English (acronyms) will give students of English broad views about the area of research.

Findings

The study revealed the inventive nature of language evolution through the creation of new acronyms. Nigerian speakers showcase linguistic creativity in addressing emerging concepts.

The rapid dissemination of linguistic forms through digital platforms has expedited language evolution. New abbreviations emerge in response to the digital communication landscape.

Educators can integrate relevant acronyms into educational materials, bridging the gap between formal learning and real-world language use. Additionally, these linguistic forms find use in financial literacy campaigns, enhancing the effectiveness of financial education. It is evident from the forgoing analysis of acronyms that the study has examined a morphological study of acronyms used in Nigerian English as a case study. The study discovered that acronyms have a wide spread use among Nigerian learners and speakers of English particularly in public organizations and in some private organisations. The professional users of English, the Journalists, Newspapers, the publishers, Radio and Broadcast, Electronic and Prints media and General users are paramount stakeholders in this study. There is a fact that acronyms depend on orthography and not pronunciation and organisation. Furthermore, the study traces the nature and functions of acronyms. It is

discovered that acronyms being pronounced like regular words must conform to the phonological patterns of English. The research establishes the fact acronyms may use consonant and vowel respectively. Moreover, the study is an attempt that has examined and exposed the processes of morphological developments of acronyms with particular attention to use of English in Nigeria or in Nigerian context. It is only hoped that it serves as a contribution of knowledge to the existing literature in Nigerian English usage.

Conclusion

It is evident from the forgoing analysis of acronyms that the study has examined a morphological study of acronyms used in Nigerian context as a case study. The study discovered that acronyms have a wide spread use among Nigerians, particularly in public organizations and in some private organizations. The professional users of English, the Journalists, Newspapers, the publishers, Radio and Broadcast, Electronic and Prints media and General users are paramount stakeholders in this study. It is also, finds out those Nigerian users find it easy to communicate their messages. The Nigerian English users are aspire to speak and use acronym in their day to day activities. There is a fact that acronyms depend on orthography and not pronunciation and organisation. Furthermore, the study traces the nature and functions of acronyms. It also, discussed the barrier in understanding their morphological and pronunciation aspects. It is discovered that Acronyms being pronounced like regular words must conform to the phonological patterns of English.

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Appendix

Sample of Selected Acronyms

- AFCON** (African Cup of Nations)
- AFIC** (Academic Fraud Investigation Committee)
- AIDS** (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)
- ASUU** (Academic Staff Union of Universities)
- CAC** (Corporate Affairs Commission)
- CAF** (Confederation of African Football)
- CAN** (Christian Association of Nigeria)
- COREN** (Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria)
- ECOMOG** (Economic Community of West African State Monitoring Group)

ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States)
ESAN (English Scholars Association of Nigeria)
FAAC (Federation Account Allocation Committee)
FAAN (Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria)
FEC (Federal Executive Council)
FEAP (Family Economic Advancement Program)
FERMA (Federal Road Maintenance Agency)
FESTAC (Festival of Arts and Culture)
FIFA (Federation of International Football Association)
FOLDOC (Free Online Dictionary of Computing)
FUGUS (Federal University Gusau)
GIGO (Garbage in Garbage out)
ICAN (Institute of Chartered Accountant of Nigeria)
INEC (Independent National Electorate Commission)
IPPIS (Integrated Personnel & Payroll Information System)
JAMB (Joint Admissions and Matriculations Board)
KADPOLY (Kaduna Polytechnic)
LAN (Linguistics Association of Nigeria)
LASER (Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission Radiation)
MAMSER (Mass Mobilization Social Justice Self Reliance and Economic Reconstruction)
NABTEB (National Business and Technical Examination Board)
NACA (Nigeria Action Committee of Aids)
NAF (Nigerian Air Force)
NAFDAC (National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control)
NALDA (National Agricultural Land Development Agency)
NAMA (Nigerian Airspace Management Agency)
NAN (News Agency of Nigeria)
NANS (National Association of Nigerian Students)

NAPEP (National Poverty Eradication Program)
NAPRI (National Animal Production Research Institute)
NARD (Nigerian Association of Resident Doctors)
NASU (Non Academic Staff Union)
NATIP (National Trafficking in Person)
NBAIS (National Board of Arabic and Islamic Studies)
NEC (National Executive Council)
NECO (National Examination Council)
NICON (National Insurance Cooperation of Nigeria)
NEMA (National Emergency Management Agency)
NEPA (National Electric Power Authority)
NIIPS (National Institute for International Policy and Strategy)
NIMASA (Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency)
NIMC (National Identity Management Commission)
NIMET (Nigerian Meteorological Agency)
NIN (National Identification Number)
NIPOST (Nigerian Postal Services and Telecommunication)
NIREC (Nigerian Inter-Religion Council)
NIRSAL (Nigerian Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending)
NITDA (National Information Technology Development Agency)
NITEL (Nigeria Telecommunication Limited)
NOA (National Orientation Agency)
NOUN (National Open University of Nigeria)
NUPENG (National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers)
OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Export Countries)
PAYE (Pay As You Earn)
PENCOM (Pension Commission)
PENGASSAN (Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria)
PIN (Personal Identification Number)
PrAN (Pragmatics Association of Nigeria)
PTAD (Pension Transitional Arrangement Directorate)

RADER (Radio Detective and Ranging)
RAM (Random Access Memory)
REC (Resident Electorate Commissioner)
SAN (Senior Advocate of Nigeria)
SAP (Structural Adjustment Program)
SARS (Special Anti-Robbery Squad)
SCUBA (Self-contained Under water Breathing Apparatus)
SEC (Security and Exchange Commission)
SMEDAN (Small Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria)
SWAN (Sports Writers Association of Nigeria)
TETFUND (Tertiary Education Trust Fund)
TIN (Tax Identification Number)
UBEC (Universal Basic Education Commission)
UDUS (Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto)

UDUTH (Usmanu Danfodiyo University Teaching Hospital)
UNICAL (University of Calabar)
UNIBEN (University of Benin)
UNIJOs (University of Jos)
UNECEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund)
UTAS (University Transparency Accountability Solution)
UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)
VAT (Value Added Tax)
WACOT (West African Cotton Company Limited)
WAEC (West African Examination Council)
WAN (Wide Area Network)
WAVE (West African Vernacular English)
WHO (World Health Organization)
ZIP (Zone Improvement Plan)