



THE TERM “ZOONYM” AND ITS CONTENT IN ENGLISH

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Abstract:

In this article we discuss research results of the term “zonym” from linguists of different countries. Some approaches to the study of animal names are also analyzed. Zonymic vocabulary is part of national linguistic picture of the world, and is also the bearer and custodian national and cultural information about man’s relationship to the environment reality and the nature of his behavior in society.

Keywords: the term “zonym”, zoolexeme, “zonym-containing” lexeme, zoosemism, zonymic fund, zoomorphic elements, zooforms, zoocharacteristics, Anthroponyms of zonymic type.

Introduction

Some scientists believe that the term “zonym” refers only to nicknames animals (Bobik, Murka, Nochka) that are close to the names and nicknames of people according to its main vocative function. Others, using this term, mean the name of animals in general, the name of a group of animals, their genus or species (dogs, cats, horses). Still others refer to zonyms not only proper and common nouns, but also all words somehow related to world of fauna, that is, they consider it as a term expressing a broad concept. Researchers do not have a consensus on this issue.

Literature review

The most popular definition of the term “zonym” is definition given by N.V. Podolskaya in the Dictionary of Russian Onomastic terminology: "A zonym is the proper name (nickname) of an animal, including domestic, kept in a zoological garden, “working” in a circus, in protection, experimental or wild” (for example, Mukhtar, Naida, Gnedoy).

V.V. Morkovkin believes that the term “zonym” in relation to a living essentially not entirely successful: it is ambiguous, and also has one more flaw. According to this linguist, assigning a word qualification “zonym” is obscured by the fact that this word, equally with the actual animal meaning, can also be correlated with denotations – non-animals. In addition, a zonym can act as a source lexical-semantic variant of a polysemantic word, or may be one of derivative lexical-semantic variants of such a word. It is for this reason





For this reason, the researcher proposes the terms “zoolexeme” and “zoonym-containing” lexeme. A zoolexeme is a lexical unit in its original meaning acting as the name of a certain species animal (for example, fox). In this case, a zoolexeme can simultaneously be zoonym, if it appears in explanatory dictionaries as an unambiguous word (for example, bullfinch). If the zoonym is one of the derived lexical-semantic variants of the word (and not the original one), then such a unit can be called a zoonymic lexeme (flycatcher – “small bird”).

According to Z. N. Verdieva, the names of animals can be classified to “mythimemes”, that is, to words with double meaning, words of words that simultaneously function on two levels: in terms of language, where they store their lexical meaning, and in terms of metalanguage, where they act as elements of a secondary sign system that can arise only from connections of these elements. This is due to the fact that the term “zoonym” used as a common noun that denotes animal (cow, dog), and to denote a proper name (nickname) animal (Zorka, Burushka).

A.A.Kipriyanova offers her own term: “zoosemism” is a generic supergenerality, in which we can feel the priority of the figurative meaning of those included in her lexeme. Nomenclature and attraction to the sphere of terminology of the majority zoonymic units in the literal sense determines their limited use in colloquial, everyday, everyday speech. At the same time, in his figuratively, these zoonymic units receive a “charge” of imagery and emotionality, thereby becoming widely used in everyday communication of people, and in literature, giving idiomaticity to the language.

Yu.G.Yusifov notes that “zoonym” is also used in the meaning of general, and in the meaning of proper names of animals and is understood as a term that combines two functions, which is why its use in onomasiology and lexicology.

In the study of L.F.Mirnyuk we find a fairly broad understanding of the term in question. The scientist classifies as zoonyms:

- any names of animals (elephant, mosquito, etc.);
- units derived from the names of animals (hare, cow, pork, etc.);
- all words that are somehow connected with the animal world (hay, field, beast, hoof, corral).

N.V. Solntseva suggests using the term “zoosemism” for direct names of animals (mammals, birds, etc.), and “zoomorphism” – as a metaphorized zoonym (its own figurative version), which characterizes and evaluates a person. The researcher believes that zoosemism and zoomorphism (being lexico-semantic variants of the zoonym) united and at the same time opposed to each other in its semantic structure.

E.A.Katsitadze deepens the terminological distinction within zoonymy. The term “zoolexeme” in her works denotes linguistic units with the basic “actual” meaning,



which is reflected by the name animal. For the entire set of metaphorized zoolexemes, the term is introduced “zoometaphor”, and for anthropocentric metaphorization (transfer of the name animal to person) – the term “zoomorphism”. In other words, the term “Zoomorphism” is used when transferring the names of the properties of animals (their forms, habits, behavior) to similar human character traits. For example, “fox” as the actual name of an animal is zoosemism, and “fox” as a characteristic of a person (cunning like a fox, cunning) (zoocharacteristics existing on the basis of zoosemism) is zoomorphism, and both these terms are variants of the same lexical unit of the language– zoonym.

There are other approaches to the study of animal names. They are considered from linguocultural, structural and word-formation positions. For example, Ts. Ts. Ogdonova believes that human thinking tends to reflect the world zoomorphically or anthropomorphically.

The results of this reflection are recorded, among other things, by words of a special kind-zoomorphisms, or zoocharacteristics based on objective (real) or subjective (imaginary) qualities of animals that are attributed to them by the creative thinking and imagination of the people. These signs fixed in the figurative-content structure of lexical units, are “semantic motivation” (internal form).

Zoomorphisms can characterize a person through the system connotative and associative meanings that native speakers associate with certain lexemes naming animals. For example, connotative contents of the characteristics chicken, sheep highlight semes “stupidity”, “woman”, while lion, tiger imply the semes “predator”, “man”, “formidable”. But in some cases identifying semes are lost, and characterizing semes are updated instead: for example, a fox characterizes a cunning, flattering person, regardless of gender and age.

The researcher highlights:

- occasional animal characteristics, where it can be used any name of the animal; its stylistic content is determined context, which leads to certain meanings, the word acquires that and another metaphorical meaning (a kind, smart and affectionate person can be call it a dog);
- stable animal characteristics, which are assigned in the mind persistent metaphors; many of them have become symbols of certain human qualities: hare, fox, wolf, bear, elephant, donkey and others. They enter into a wide word-formation network, regulating semantics derivatives of verbs, adverbs, adjectives.

The peculiarities of zoonyms include their large size (for example, by compared with anthroponymy) “openness” for the penetration of words from other classes of



onomastics, exposure to foreign language influence and their smaller normalization compared to other classes of proper names.

Thus, a number of works by linguists from different countries are devoted to zoonyms. countries, each of which deserves special attention and has a specific value for the study of zoonymy and the development of zoonymy. In our work, we define a zoonym as the name of an animal with using the common noun of the noun through the naming of the gender, to who owns the animal (dogs, cats, horses).

Materials and methods

Zoonyms represent a specific layer of the lexical system language, since they reflect the characteristics of national culture, customs and morals, beliefs and traditions. Zoonymic vocabulary is part of national linguistic picture of the world, and is also the bearer and custodian national and cultural information about man's relationship to the environment reality and the nature of his behavior in society.

Zoonyms as a class of words are characterized by the presence of a systemic ability to act in metaphorical meanings as a characteristic person. Yu. V. Alshanskaya notes that almost every zoonym has three "levels" of meaning that are closely related to each other. The first value is "ordinary" is the name of this or that animal, the second is "mythological" – is reflected in traditional folk culture, in folklore texts. Based on these two "levels", a stereotypical meaning or stereotypical image that is actualized when using a zoonym for a zoomorphic characteristic of a person.

Among the most significant factors influencing the ethnolinguistic picture world, a special place is occupied by the animal world as an integral part surrounding nature. Humans and animals have been in close contact with each other for a long time. friend, since animals have always played an important role in the lives of many peoples, accompanying a person throughout his life. Therefore, zoonyms are widely represented in all languages of the world and are actively used vocabulary.

Animal names are associated with ethnography, history and thinking people, since the external world and its internal comprehension are the factors which generate the linguistic picture of the world of any national language, since the natural environment is also one of the components of linguistic pictures of the outside world. Moreover, based on the belief in the existence souls and spirits the most ancient form of thinking, which was inherent in many peoples, and the belief in the animation of all nature is mainly reflected in the zoonymic fund of the language.

Many animals are easily comprehended in the linguistic consciousness Russian speaking people. Moreover, they are directly related to life person, and this is reflected in the use of their names in Russian speech. They are often found in works of oral folk





art and phraseological turns that reflect the naive picture of the world, the history of the people, their worldview.

In addition, in the minds of Russian language speakers there is a clear division of animals into wild and domestic. This is due to the fact that home animals are characterized by exceptional importance for humans. They benefit by being a source of food and materials or helping with economy - in security, transportation of goods, etc., and corresponding zoonyms (sheep, pig, cow, etc.) belong to the most ancient layer of vocabulary.

The division of animals into wild and domestic and a special attitude towards domestic animals also had an impact on the language: in the lexicon appeared special words for the names of both domestic and wild animals. For example, these are special names (with a suppletive base) for females and males

(sheep/ram, pig/hog, cow/bull, etc.), as well as for cubs (sheep/lamb, horse/foal, pig/pig, etc.).

It is also worth saying that one of the features of zoonymic vocabulary is its active involvement in the metaphorical sphere of language. This explained by cultural and historical factors: due to close interactions between humans and animals, they have become the measure of many human qualities and actions. Man not only used many animals in everyday purposes, but also often compared himself with them, trying to understand and characterize your own behavior and the behavior of other people in various situations.

Over the course of history, the relationship between humans and animals has changed, but have not lost their meaning, so many words denoting names representatives of the fauna, now evoke strong associations with certain human properties. Such words became symbols that used to characterize people figuratively, as well as for emotional assessment of their qualities, since the associations that arise in the process observing animals is one of the most productive. How The more an animal was involved in a person's life, the more often its image was used to characterize it. The appearance of a large part zoonymic metaphors are associated with the life activity of people and are based on a kind of association by contiguity: what takes place in the human society, is transferred to representatives of the animal world.

The symbolism of animals in different languages developed differently, since the process of its formation depended on the role that animals played in life of society. Therefore, it is understandable that domestic animals are involved in creating symbolism more often than others. It is also worth saying that in different cultures some animals may denote the same (or similar) concept. For example, a fox as a





symbol of cunning, monkey - imitation, etc. But at the same time, there are differences. For example, in

In Russian, the word “pig” is a symbol of 1) dirt, 2) ingratitude, 3) bad manners, and in English the word “pig” means glutton. And this fact emphasizes the individuality of the imaginative thinking of a particular people, which is a complex associative psychological process, as well as differences in the value picture of the world of different ethnic groups.

Animals are close to humans in the nature of their existence. They also have habits, behavioral characteristics, and a special disposition. As a result the impact of figurative-associative mechanisms on the main meaning of the zoonym an option with a metaphorical meaning arises. Features related to metaphorical meanings of certain zoomorphisms are associated with national mentality of native speakers, with national linguistic a picture of the world containing information about sustainable traditions of associations evoked in the collective linguistic consciousness different names of animals. That is, the name of the animal becomes a figurative means both to characterize a person and to express different emotions, causing us different connotations and associations.

Conclusion

The regional value of English phraseological units is very great, because when learning a foreign language, a person simultaneously gets acquainted with new culture. Phraseologisms and phraseological combinations reflect the centuries-old history of the English people, the uniqueness of their culture, way of life, traditions and are highly informative units of the English language. In Most idiomatic expressions were created by the people, therefore they are closely related to the interests and daily activities of ordinary people. Many phraseological units are associated with beliefs and legends. However Most English phraseological units arose in professional speech. Zonyms are a special component included in the structure phraseological unit and forming a general phraseological meaning.

Transferring a name by similarity is one of the leading methods formations of phraseological units. Zonyms are a little-studied class onomastic vocabulary, which deserves further research and analysis of which takes into account their semantic, structural and thematic peculiarities.

Since the names of domestic and wild animals, birds, fish, insects etc. form a rich thematic layer in the vocabulary of any language, they a term is needed to define them. In this regard, this thematic the group can be called by the terms “zonyms”,





“animalonyms” or “animalisms” (this is the literary name of zoonyms, but some scientists are of the opinion that this term narrows the concept of “zoonym”).

Zoological names, which are used in direct meanings, some linguists call “zoosemisms”, and those that are used in figurative meanings (when characterizing a person) - “zoomorphisms”.

In terminology, the following hierarchy of terms and concepts is observed: Zoonyms, zoosemisms, zoologisms are direct names of animals; zoomorphisms, zoomorphic elements, zooforms, zoocharacteristics, Anthroponyms of zoonymic type - figurative meanings of animal names, projected onto a person; animalisms – nominative and nominative-derived names of animals (hedgehog, shrink); and faunisms are the most a general concept that includes both the names of the animals themselves and synanimalistic elements (moo, shepherd, etc.).

In different languages, zoonyms reflect the specifics of national and cultural ideas. They have great information opportunities, since they not only divide representatives of the animal world into species and groups are called names of domestic animals, but can also give versatile characteristics of a person.

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