

LINGUOCULTURAL ANALYSIS OF ZOONYMS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Abstract: This article aims at identifying the specific features zoonyms in Russian and English is a little-studied topic that is relevant today, especially in the part of the dictionary, which includes the nicknames of fairy-tale animals and their English equivalents. The following methods were used in work: search, comparison, collection and analysis of information. This study was conducted within the framework of the grant funding project “Creation of trilingual dictionary of biological terms with the linguacultural component.”

Keywords: zoonym, animal, fairy-tale character, transmission, onomastics, anthroponym

ЛИНГВОКУЛЬТУРНЫЙ АНАЛИЗ ЗООНИМОВ АНГЛИЙСКОГО И УЗБЕКСКОГО ЯЗЫКОВ.

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Аннотация: Целью данной статьи является выявление специфических особенностей зоонимов в русском и английском языках – это малоизученная тема, актуальная на сегодняшний день, особенно в той части словаря, в которую входят клички сказочных животных и их английские эквиваленты. В работе использовались следующие методы: поиск, сравнение, сбор и анализ информации. Исследование проведено в рамках грантового проекта «Создание трехязычного словаря биологических терминов с лингвокультурным компонентом».

Ключевые слова: зооним, животное, сказочный персонаж, передача, ономастика, антропоним.

Introduction

In the modern world, the role of animals in human life is particularly significant. In the city, cats, dogs, hamsters, guinea pigs, parrots not only delight the eyes of their masters and amuse them but also, most importantly, become loyal friends, the sources of joy and happiness, consolation, with whom people do not feel alone. For rural residents, domestic animals, especially cows, pigs, horses, are indispensable in economic activities. Rescue animals, in turn, occupied a special place during the war and continued to do that in peacetime. It is also difficult to imagine our life without a circus, a zoo, and various exhibitions. In most cases, all people's "smaller brothers" have their names. In different languages, there is a vast variety of animal nicknames, which is due to various circumstances in the historical, cultural, social life of society. Thus, it is reasonable to assume that figurative thinking of different peoples is characterized by national diversity, being reflected in the naming of animals.

Communication and interaction of language and culture are one of the fundamental problems of modern linguistics since in most cases, a person does not deal with the world itself but with his ideas, cognitive patterns, and models. Any human, being an integral part of the culture, perceives the world or different worlds through the prism of his/her culture and language. Makovsky, Jackendoff, and Lakoff write about the embodiment of communication, cognitive processes, and mechanisms [1]; [2]; [3].

Since the primary function of culture is the accumulation and processing of information obtained in the course of human activity, training is directly related to the peculiarities of the national mentality. The mentality is a worldview in categories and forms of the native language, connecting intellectual, spiritual, and permissive qualities of a national character in its typical manifestations [4, p.74]. According to Kolesov, the word embodies the ethnicity and national ideas, represented by the traditional symbols of this culture in their finished form [4. p.74]. Such disciplines as anthropological linguistics, ethnolinguistics, and ethnopsycholinguistics study the interaction of language and culture. N.I. Tolstoy defined "ethnolinguistics" as an interdisciplinary science that deals with the language and culture in integrity. It is not just a reflection of folklore culture, psychology, and mythological concepts.

Ethnolinguistics plays the constructive role in communication and influences on the formation and functioning of folk culture and folk psychology. Russian scientists such as Nikitina [5], Tolstoy [6], Telia [7], Bartminsky [8], and Tolstaya [9] studied various aspects of ethnolinguistics. The ethnolinguistic school in Kazakhstan is associated with the name of academician Kaidarov. Additionally, a large group of Kazakh scientists, such as Gabithanuly, Karsybekova, Zhusupova, Atakhanov, Atabaev, Katybaev, Mankeev, Majitaev, and Tazhikeev, who took into account the Kazakh history and reflected life in the modern objective reality within the language [10].

The Concept of Zoonym

Zoonyms are assigned to animals' proper names or nicknames. Onomastics is a section of linguistics that studies any proper names, the history of their origin, and transformation as a result of prolonged use in the source language or in connection with borrowing from other words. Zoonomia is the youngest area of onomastics that deals with the nicknames of animals. It is a poorly researched scientific layer because of the rare fixation of zoonyms in official documents and frequent disappearance due to the death of their bearer. First of all, domestic animals such as cats, dogs, horses, pigs, cows, etc. have proper names. However, other animals, kept in zoos and circuses, for instance, can also have their names, including even creatures like the famous Nessie is a hypothetical inhabitant of the Scottish lake Loch Ness, which existence has not been proven yet.

Zoonyms can be divided into single and multiple. For example, the well-known Nessie belongs to the individual zoonyms. Numerous zoonyms turned into the official nicknames due to their high frequency of use. In Russian language, such typical dog nicknames as Rex, Jack, Mukhtar, Druzhok, and Sharik, cat nicknames such as Vas'ka, Ryzhik, Dymok, or Murka, nicknames of cows such as Buryonka, Pestrushka, and Zhdanka, the nicknames of horses such as Bujan and Gnedukh have appeared. In the semantics of these zoonyms, a particular attribute is fixed to a specific type of animal, for example, Mishka, Krok, Mus'ka, or Shalun. In English,

there is also a set of the most typical multiple zoonyms. According to some studies published on the Internet, in the United States in recent years, the most famous nicknames for pets (primarily cats and dogs) were Max, Maggie, Buddy, Bailey, Jake, Sam, Molly, Nicky, Coco, Sadie [11].

Sources of Zoonym Formation

Among the causes of zoonym formation there are:

a) multiple anthroponyms: English speech widely uses both derivatives such as abbreviated forms: Mag, Sam, Ben and diminutive forms with the suffix -y or -ie, Molly, Nicky, Maggie. In the Russian language, there are forms with a suffix – ‘ka’: Vas’ka, Mishka, Son’ka, Muska, and Fil’ka. Sometimes, jokingly respectful names copy more official forms of treatment, such as Vasily Timofejevich – the nickname of the cat, Aksinya Ivanovna – the nickname of a pig, Ivan Ivanovich – the nickname of the goose. Also, in Russia, fashionable foreign anthroponyms, such as Jerry, Jack, Barbie, Tom, and Ralph, became popular. Conversely, a similar trend in English zoonomia fails. Only a few nicknames of some animals, kept in zoos, look like the borrowings from other languages, for example, African: Matata (warthog name), Ashiki, Sabiki (the nicknames of lionesses), Kvahari (the nickname of the antelope), Mwan (the nickname of a chimpanzee). Such popularity can be explained by the fame of a Disney cartoon *The Lion King* in 1995, where the animal characters were named after African names;

b) individual anthroponyms such as names and surnames of famous personalities of the present and the past, as well as aspects of myths, literary works, movies, and TV shows. Nixon (the former US President), Nefertiti (the queen of ancient Egypt), Genghis Khan (Mongol Khan-conqueror), Capone (gangster), Athena, Venus (ancient goddesses), Romeo, Capulet (literary names), Gomez and Morticia (the characters of the TV series *Semeyka Adams*) served as the basis for the animals’ names;

c) toponyms and astronomers, e.g., Egypt, Nile, Alaska or Russian Baikal, Amazon, Africa, or the Bega;

d) trademarks and names of products (especially in English): Hershey, Cadbury (chocolate brand), Havana (name of cigars), Cappuccino (recipe for coffee), and Bugle Boy (branded clothing);

e) nominal names, other words and expressions, emphasizing some external characteristic of animals, their character, or another association with it, for example, in Russian – Pestruha, Ryzhik, Belianka, Faithful, Bujan, Likhaya, Noshka, Krasotka, Matroskin, Kashtanka, whereas in English – Spotsie, Blackberry, Jasmine, Danger, Ferocious, Sweetie Pie, and Honey.

e) computer slang: ICQ, Flash, Chip.

When a zoonym acquires the status of a universal nickname of a particular animal species, it quickly learns a secondary classifying nomination, which turns into a category of familiar names, such as Bobik, Sharik, Barbos, and Juchka prevalent in the past although today they are recognized as dog names. Hence, for example, the decision of the translator of the Russian fairy tale *Repka*, which zoonym Zuchka transferred to English just as Dog, is justified.

Features of Zoonyms' Transmission in Translated Texts

In the scientific literature, zoonyms are poorly researched, and it is almost impossible to solve the problem of their transmission in translated texts. Issues for translation are primarily those nicknames, which people have a specific motivation. If a formal name forms a nickname or a describing word or an expression, it usually remains relevant and essential for translation. An attempt to convey this meaning often comes into conflict with the individualizing function (IF), which requires the preservation of its unique external form.

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