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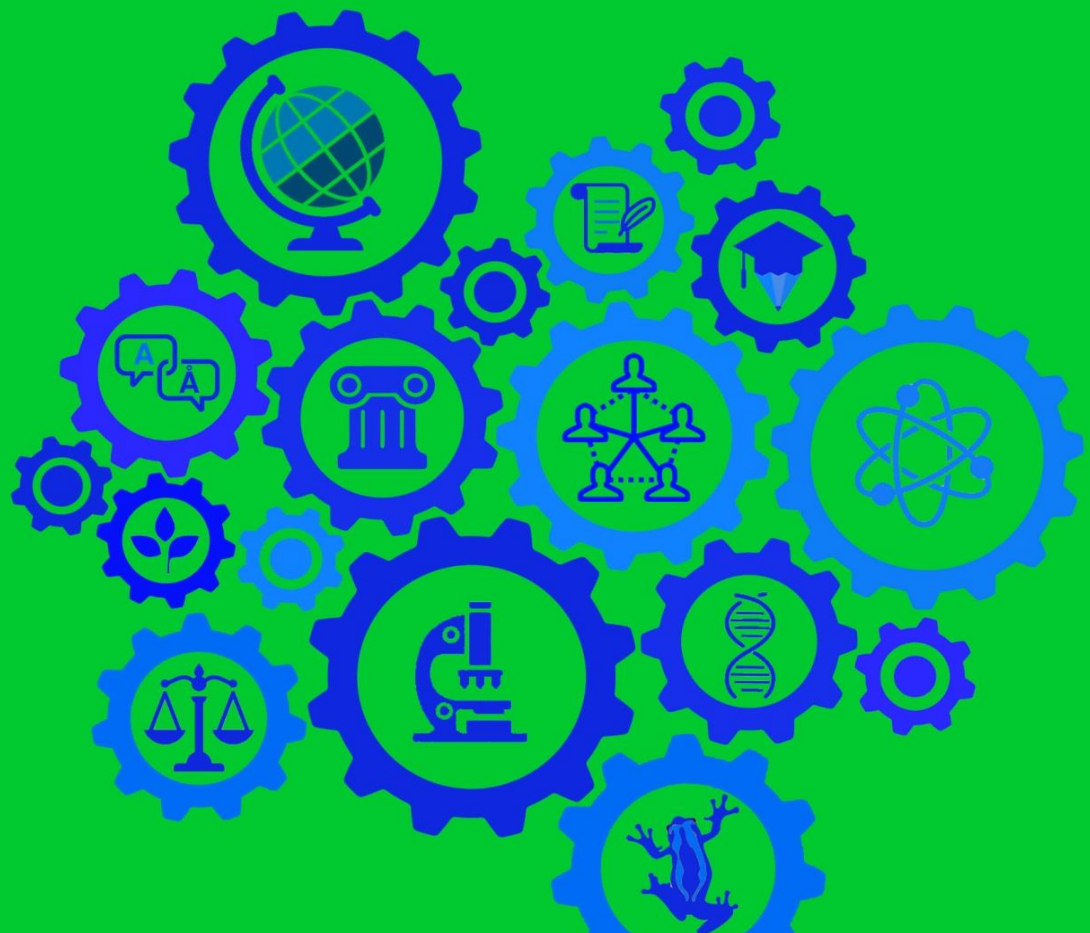
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LINGUOCULTURAL ASPECT OF SYMBOLIC ANTHROPONYMS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Abstract. This research focuses on studying English anthroponyms with symbolic semantics at the unique intersection of linguistics and cultural studies. It reveals how proper names can reflect various aspects of English-speaking culture, fulfilling the function of symbols as code signs for ideas, concepts, or values of a particular linguacultural community.

The study analyzes symbols represented by anthroponyms within the context of national culture. This includes examining the semantic and functional characteristics of these anthroponyms and their influence on the creation and representation of cultural images. The research addresses issues related to the classification, symbolization process, and use of anthroponyms based on the specific cultural characteristics of the people.

This work can serve as a starting point for further comparative-typological or discursive studies and represents a significant contribution to developing the problem of language and culture interaction in the modern world. It emphasizes the interdisciplinary nature of the topic and its relevance in the context of globalization and multiculturalism in contemporary society.

Keywords: anthroponyms, symbolic semantics, linguistic and cultural studies, English proper names, cultural symbols, onomastics, linguacultural analysis, cultural identity, symbolization process, intercultural communication, cultural codes, historical figures, literary characters, biblical names, royal titles.

INTRODUCTION

Actuality of the Research Topic. In today's multilingual and multicultural world, language serves as a means of forming and expressing cultural norms and values.

Anthroponyms, or proper names, are mirrors of culture and history. The study of anthroponyms at the intersection of linguistics and cultural studies from the perspective of their symbolic semantics reveals unique aspects of the worldview and cultural characteristics of English-speaking peoples.

Anthroponyms carry symbolic meanings that can reveal historical, social, and cultural features of a nation. The linguacultural analysis of symbolic anthroponyms combines both scientific aspects of linguistics and practical needs in the field of intercultural communication, serving as a valuable tool for uncovering complex interconnections between language, culture, and society.

Knowledge of anthroponyms and their cultural connotations, as well as their symbolic meanings, is key to successful intercultural communication and translation. This knowledge helps build bridges between different cultures, promoting mutual understanding through the development of more effective strategies for communication and interaction between various cultures.

The study of linguacultural aspects of symbolic anthroponyms holds significant importance in developing theories in linguistics, cultural studies, and semiotics, as well as in such fields as translation, education, intercultural communication, and even marketing.

All of the above determines the demand for and necessity of studying anthroponyms with symbolic semantics at the intersection of linguistics and cultural studies.

The Object of Research is English anthroponyms that carry symbolic meaning in their semantic structure.

The Subject of Research is the linguacultural characteristics of symbolic anthroponyms in the English language.

The Aim of this Research is to conduct a comprehensive analysis of English anthroponyms as symbols reflecting cultural and historical aspects of the English-speaking community.

To achieve this aim, the following objectives were set and addressed:

- To examine the theoretical foundations of studying anthroponyms and symbols by contemporary linguists;

- To determine the origin of anthroponyms with symbolic semantics;

- To classify symbols represented by anthroponyms, taking into account their semantic features;

- To reveal the mechanism through which anthroponyms acquire symbolic semantics;

- To study the specific characteristics of anthroponyms functioning as symbols and their interaction with other linguistic units.

The Research Material consists of English anthroponyms recorded in "The English-Russian Who's Who in Fact and Fiction: About 5,000 Words and Expressions" by D.I. Ermolovich [Ermolovich, 1999].

Scientific Novelty of the research is determined by its comprehensive linguacultural analysis of symbolic anthroponyms in the English language, specifically:

1. The identification and analysis of the most culturally significant English symbolic anthroponyms, such as names of historical figures, literary characters, and monarchs.

2. The systematization and classification of culturally marked proper names in English according to thematic principles, and description of their symbolization process.

3. The identification and description of unique connections between the studied units and specific cultural characteristics, which reveals new aspects in the study of cultural identities.

Theoretical Significance of the research lies in deepening the understanding of the relationship between language and culture through the example of symbolic anthroponyms, expanding the conception of proper names' role in the linguistic worldview, revealing cultural connections and reflection of cultural and historical aspects of the English-speaking community through the prism of anthroponyms. Furthermore, the obtained results can serve as a foundation for further linguacultural studies of proper names.

Practical Significance of the research is determined by the possibility of applying its results in:

- Theory and practice of intercultural communication
- Foreign language teaching
- Literary studies and linguistic and cultural studies when analyzing literary works
- Translation studies for selecting appropriate translation solutions
- Lexicography when compiling linguacultural dictionaries

LITERATURE REVIEW. The study of proper names from a linguacultural perspective has been addressed in works by scholars such as A.V. Superanskaya [1973], V.A. Nikonov [1974], N.V. Podolskaya [2010], O.A. Leonovich [2002], D.I. Ermolovich [2004], and others.

Special attention is paid to the origin and semantics of anthroponyms and their role in the linguistic worldview. Several studies analyze the reflection of cultural stereotypes and historical realities in English proper names.

A.V. Superanskaya's research "General Theory of Proper Names" [1973] addresses issues of classification and semantics of anthroponyms.

In his work "Name and Society" [1974], V.A. Nikonov investigates the connection between anthroponymics and the history and culture of people, with significant attention paid to English names.

L.M. Shchetinin's work "Symbolic Names" [1990] reveals the special role of certain proper names as cultural symbols. The author analyzes proper names that have acquired the status of cultural symbols and are used metaphorically to characterize specific concepts and phenomena. In particular, such symbolic names as Prometheus, Don Quixote, Faust, Don Juan, and others are examined, showing their role in reflecting mentality and cultural values.

O.A. Leonovich in "In the World of English Names" [2002] studies the issues of English proper names, factors influencing the choice of personal names, surnames, nicknames, pseudonyms, and animal names. The work also addresses the use of proper names in literature, phraseological units, and the transformation of proper names into common nouns.

D.I. Ermolovich's monograph "Proper Names at the Intersection of Languages and Cultures" [2004] examines theoretical aspects of studying proper names and analyzes the characteristics of anthroponyms functioning in interlingual contact.

O.A. Postnikova's dissertation "Anthroponymic Symbolism in English-Speaking Culture" [2009] interprets proper names with culturally marked connotations, including generalizing names, significant names, and embodied names. The work describes anthroponyms with positive and negative symbolism, providing examples of words symbolizing bravery, strength, female beauty, wealth, and other concepts.

N.V. Podolskaya's article "Cultural and National Specifics of English Anthroponyms" [2010] analyzes the reflection of culture in English names. It examines such features of English anthroponyms as the presence of double names, the tradition of

naming children after relatives, the influence of literary works on name choice, and the reflection of historical events in names.

These works establish the theoretical foundation for the linguacultural study of anthroponyms and serve as the basis for our research.

RESEARCH METHODS

The study of existing scientific works, articles, and books dedicated to anthroponymy and linguoculturology of the English language was based on theoretical analysis of linguistic literature. The method of linguistic description (descriptive method) was applied in describing the structure and semantics of symbolic anthroponyms in English.

The dictionary definition method was employed in analyzing name interpretations in dictionaries. The semantic analysis method was used to study the meaning and symbolism of anthroponyms in the English language.

Methods of linguocultural and etymological analysis were also applied to identify the cultural specificity of proper names, their origins, and to study the interconnection of anthroponyms with cultural, historical, and social aspects of English-speaking countries.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The conducted analysis will identify the most significant symbolic anthroponyms in the English language from a linguocultural perspective, characterizing the features of their semantics, origin, and functioning. The identification of key proper names that carry special symbolism in English will enable an in-depth investigation of these anthroponyms' meanings and origins, including their historical roots and cultural associations.

Through the identification of primary symbols and their meanings associated with anthroponyms in English, we expect to discover the close interconnection between proper names and the history and culture of the people, demonstrating how

anthroponyms reflect the cultural characteristics and values of English-speaking societies.

DISCUSSION

Symbolic anthroponyms play a crucial role in reflecting the cultural and historical characteristics of English people and shaping their national identity. As proper names used to designate specific individuals while carrying additional meanings or associations, symbolic anthroponyms are employed in various cultural and literary contexts, resulting in a range of functional and semantic features.

Semantic Features. Regardless of the function that symbolic anthroponyms perform in the text, their semantic structure is based on their denotative meaning. The primary meaning of an anthroponym is the specific person or character it designates.

The connotative meaning of the units under study can include additional meanings or associations that the name acquires. For example, the name "Napoleon" can be associated with military genius or ambition.

It deserves special attention that the meaning of a symbolic anthroponym can vary in different cultural contexts and reflect historical, social, or cultural characteristics. For instance: the name "Romeo" in a literary context is associated not only with Shakespeare's character but also with the image of a young man in love. The name "Mother Teresa" has become a symbol of compassion and self-sacrifice. And "Macbeth" is an anthroponym that symbolizes ambition and betrayal.

As we can see, symbolic anthroponyms possess a range of semantic and functional features that facilitate their diverse use in speech and enrich it with additional cultural-connotative meanings.

Functional Features. Symbolic anthroponyms, depending on their context of functioning, can realize the following functions:

Identification function: anthroponyms serve for unique identification of a specific person or character;

Symbolization function: they can symbolize certain characteristics, qualities, or attributes associated with that person;

Metaphorization function: in the context of literature, anthroponyms are often used metaphorically, representing a character as an embodiment of a certain idea or concept.

It should be noted that the semantic-functional uniqueness of the studied units is determined by the mechanism of English name symbolization, which is based on various factors such as historical events, literary works, cultural norms and values, etc. Let us analyze the mechanism of name symbolization through specific examples, particularly examining how proper names become cultural signs and symbols, and how the name of a historical figure or literary character can acquire symbolic meaning. Highlighting the symbolic meaning and its formation mechanism in separate points allows us to clearly trace this process for each name:

Robin Hood:

Symbolic meaning: Fighter for justice, protector of the poor

Mechanism: Legends and tales about Robin Hood, who stole from the rich and gave to the poor, transformed his name into a symbol of justice and fight against inequality.

Sherlock Holmes:

Symbolic meaning: Embodiment of logical thinking and analytical mind

Mechanism: Arthur Conan Doyle's literary works about a detective with incredible investigative abilities transformed Sherlock Holmes's name into a symbol of analytical thinking.

Guy Fawkes:

Symbolic meaning: Anti-hero, fighter against oppression

Mechanism: Guy Fawkes's participation in the "Gunpowder Plot" against the English Parliament in 1605 transformed his name into a symbol of protest and struggle against oppression.

King Arthur:

Symbolic meaning: Ideal monarch, symbol of honor and nobility

Mechanism: Legends about King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table, who followed a code of honor, made his name a symbol of nobility and ideal rulership.

Scrooge:

Symbolic meaning: Miser, person devoid of compassion

Mechanism: The character of Ebenezer Scrooge from Charles Dickens's "A Christmas Carol" became a symbol of greed and insensitivity.

These examples demonstrate how the names of Robin Hood, Sherlock Holmes, Guy Fawkes, King Arthur, and Scrooge acquired specific symbolic connotations and how historical events, literary works, and cultural norms can influence the symbolic meaning of a name. Symbolic anthroponyms can serve as metaphors or allegories, conveying complex ideas or concepts through a specific name or character.

Based on our analysis of the collected empirical material, we found it appropriate to systematize and classify the studied anthroponyms according to thematic principle into symbolic names of historical figures; literary characters; monarchs; royal nicknames; and biblical names.

Symbolic Names of Historical Figures. Many names of historical figures become symbols of certain qualities or phenomena. Let us examine some symbolic names of historical figures in the English language:

King Arthur. This name symbolizes the ideals of nobility, honor, and military valor. King Arthur is the central character of numerous legends and tales associated with the Knights of the Round Table.

Robin Hood. Robin Hood's name has become a symbol of the fight for justice and protection of the poor from the cruelty and corruption of the wealthy social classes.

William Shakespeare. One of the most famous playwrights and poets in history, Shakespeare's name has become a symbol of English literature and talent in the art of words.

Queen Victoria. Her name is associated with the Victorian era, a period of strict morality, industrial growth, and imperialism in Great Britain.

Winston Churchill. British Prime Minister during World War II, Churchill's name has become a symbol of determination, leadership, and patriotism.

Guy Fawkes. His name symbolizes anti-government protest and the struggle against tyranny following his failed attempt to assassinate King James I in 1605.

These names and their symbolic meanings are part of the cultural heritage of the English language and reflect various aspects of history and social values. They continue to inspire artists, writers, and public figures and influence modern culture and identity.

Symbolic Names of Literary Characters. Literary characters can also embody national traits and serve as cultural symbols. Authors often use symbolic names of literary characters to convey specific characteristics, motifs, or themes. For example:

Ebenezer Scrooge. A character from Charles Dickens's "A Christmas Carol." His name has become a symbol of greed and insensitivity.

Romeo and Juliet. The names of Shakespeare's tragedy's protagonists have become symbols of passionate and tragic love.

Huckleberry Finn. Mark Twain's character whose name is associated with childlike innocence and thirst for adventure.

Jane Eyre. The protagonist of Charlotte Brontë's eponymous novel, symbolizing female strength, independence, and moral integrity.

Dracula. The famous vampire from Bram Stoker's novel, whose name has become a symbol of evil and horror.

Harry Potter. A character from J.K. Rowling's book series who has become a symbol of magic, friendship, and the fight for justice.

Atticus Finch. A character from Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird," symbolizing wisdom, justice, and humanity.

Gollum. A character from J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings," whose name has become a symbol of duality and addiction.

These names don't merely identify characters; they also convey key aspects of their character, role in the story, or relation to certain themes and ideas. They can serve as metaphors, allegories, or symbols, adding layers of meaning and depth to the works in which they appear.

Symbolic Names of Monarchs

The names of monarchs reflect the traditions of ruling dynasties. For example, the tradition of naming newborn princes after ancestors indicates historical continuity. Symbolic names of monarchs are typically chosen at birth and can reflect various aspects such as family traditions, religious beliefs, political ambitions, or cultural values. For example:

Elizabeth. A name borne by several English queens, including Elizabeth I and Elizabeth II. This name can symbolize steadfastness and dignity.

Louis. A popular name among French kings, it can reflect the divine right of kings and their role as Christian monarchs.

Ferdinand. A name borne by many monarchs in different countries, which can symbolize peace or courage.

Victoria. The name of Queen Victoria, which can symbolize victory or triumph.

George. A name borne by many British monarchs, which can be connected to Saint George, the patron saint of knights.

Mary. A name borne by many queens, which can symbolize purity and piety, in honor of the Virgin Mary.

It should be noted that symbolic names of monarchs can be chosen for various reasons and reflect different aspects of a monarch's personality, legacy, or reign. They are often connected to biblical or historical figures, family traditions, or cultural and religious values, serving not only as identification markers but also as symbols of power, legitimacy, and national identity.

Symbolic Royal Nicknames. Symbolic nicknames of monarchs are often used to emphasize certain characteristics, achievements, or features of their reign. Let us compare:

Richard the Lionheart. This nickname was given to Richard I of England for his courage and military valor during the Crusades.

Bloody Mary. Mary I of England received this nickname due to her brutal persecution of Protestants during her reign.

The Sun King. Louis XIV of France bore this nickname, symbolizing his absolute dominion and grandeur, like the sun around which the universe revolves.

Good King Henry. Henry IV of France earned this nickname for his care for the people and pursuit of peaceful reforms.

Catherine the Great. Catherine II of Russia was given this nickname for her extensive reforms and expansion of the Russian Empire.

Mad King George. George III of Great Britain was known as the "mad king" due to his illness that led to periods of insanity.

The Virgin Queen. Elizabeth I of England was known as the Virgin Queen, symbolizing her unmarried status and purity.

It's important to note that "Symbolic Names of Monarchs" and "Symbolic Royal Nicknames" are not the same thing. Symbolic names of monarchs refer to names given to kings and queens at birth. For example, Mary Tudor, Elizabeth I, Charles I, etc. These names reflected dynastic traditions and parents' political and religious views. Symbolic royal nicknames are unofficial epithet-names that became associated with monarchs during their reign and reflected their personal qualities or characteristics of their rule, acquiring symbolic meaning. For example:

- **Richard the Lionheart:** Nickname of Richard I of England, reflecting his bravery and military prowess

- **Philip the Fair:** Philip IV of France received this name not for his appearance but for his pursuit of justice and order

- **Alfonso the Wise:** Alfonso X of Castile was known for his wisdom and learning, especially in science and arts

- **Charlemagne:** Charles I of the Franks, known for his conquests and reforms that laid the foundation of medieval Europe

- **Peter the Great:** Peter I of Russia received this name for his reforms aimed at modernizing and Westernizing Russia

- **Louis the Pious:** Louis I of France was known for his devotion and commitment to Christian values

- **Henry the Navigator:** Henry of Portugal received this name for his support of exploration and discoveries that advanced maritime voyages

- **Frederick the Great:** Frederick II of Prussia, known for his military genius and enlightened rule

- **James the Conqueror:** James I of Aragon received this name for his successful conquests in the Iberian Peninsula

Thus, while symbolic names were given at birth, symbolic nicknames were acquired during reign, but both types of anthroponyms performed important symbolic functions in English culture.

These symbolic nicknames not only characterize monarchs but also serve as historical markers, reflecting important aspects of their reign and influence on history. They can be both respectful and derogatory, and are often used in historical literature and narrative to convey the complex image of a monarch.

Symbolic Biblical Names. Biblical names play a crucial role in religious literature, and their meaning is often deeply symbolic, frequently referring to Christian traditions of the English people. For example:

Adam: The first man in the Bible, Adam's name is often associated with humanity as a whole.

Eve: The first woman, created from Adam's rib, Eve's name symbolizes life and motherhood.

Isaac: Means "laughter," given to Abraham and Sarah's son because they laughed in disbelief at having a child in their old age.

Jacob: Means "deceiver" or "supplanter," reflecting his cunning in dealings with his brother Esau. Later renamed Israel, meaning "struggles with God."

Moses: Means "drawn from water," reflecting the circumstances of his rescue from the River Nile.

David: Means "beloved" or "friend," fitting for King David, a man after God's heart.

Ezekiel: Means "God strengthens," appropriate for a prophet who strengthened people in difficult times.

Jesus: Means "God saves," symbolizing Jesus Christ's mission as humanity's Savior.

Mary: Means "bitter," but the name of Jesus's mother is also associated with purity and obedience.

Peter: Means "rock," given to Apostle Peter by Jesus, symbolizing his role in founding the Christian church.

These names and their meanings don't merely identify characters but convey key aspects of their character, role in biblical history, or relationship to divine themes and ideas. They serve as metaphors, allegories, or symbols, adding layers of meaning and depth to biblical texts.

Anthroponyms in Phraseology and Literature

Symbolic anthroponyms in English are widely used in idioms, proverbs, sayings, and literature. For example:

- "Rob Peter to pay Paul": Taking from one to pay another
- "Peeping Tom": Symbol of improper curiosity, from the legend of Lady Godiva
- "Every Jack has his Jill": Using Jack and Jill as generic names for men and women
- "As mad as a March hare": From Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland"
- "Don Quixote": Symbol of idealistic but impossible mission
- "Hamlet": Symbol of philosophical contemplation and moral hesitation
- "Odysseus": Symbol of cunning and long journey home

Thus, in becoming symbols, anthroponyms concentrate important cultural codes and become part of national consciousness. Their study is crucial for understanding mentality. Symbolic anthroponyms play a vital role in reflecting cultural and historical characteristics of the English people and forming their national identity.

CONCLUSION

Anthroponyms with symbolic semantics play a vital role in the linguistic worldview, reflecting cultural and historical characteristics of people, and represent a special layer of vocabulary that requires comprehensive linguocultural study.

There exist various models and principles for classifying symbolic anthroponyms depending on their origin, semantics, and sphere of usage. In this work, we identified several main groups of symbolic anthroponyms according to thematic principle: names of historical figures, literary characters, monarchs, royal nicknames, and biblical names. Each of these groups possesses its own specifics.

The process of anthroponymic symbolization follows certain patterns and mechanisms connected with historical and cultural context. The mechanism of anthroponymic symbolization in English operates under the influence of various historical-cultural and literary-artistic factors.

Anthroponyms that function as symbols in English, along with other functions in language and speech, realize the functions of nomination, identification, and symbolization. The peculiarities of implementing various functions of symbolic anthroponyms vary depending on the context in which they are used. The symbolic semantics of anthroponyms is determined by the culture, traditions, and values of English people and is fixed in the paremiological fund and literary heritage of the people.

A comparative linguocultural study of symbolic anthroponyms in English and Russian languages appears promising, as it would allow for the identification of their isomorphic and allomorphic properties.

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