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MODERN TOPICAL LINGUISTIC ISSUES OF EPONYMS

This article elaborates eponyms as an object of a special professional text and its modern linguistic problems. The author based on the definitions of scientists tried to determine the level of investigation of eponyms in modern linguistics. The following linguistic problems of eponyms were determined: a) the problem of naming an eponym, due to several scientists who are directly related to a discovery; b) problems of writing eponyms with upper or lower case letters; consideration of eponym and deonym (deonymization) indifferently; c) confusion of the use of different scientists who have identical or similar surnames/names for one eponym; d) the incorrect pronunciation of international eponyms in different countries; e) the name of the same conceptual eponym is different in different countries and other relevant language problem issues were considered in this article. The author at the end of the article recommends the use of transcriptions in the compilation of eponym dictionaries in various fields of science as structural complex eponyms create certain difficulties in reading. The revealed language problems of eponyms indicate the perspective and relevance of further research of it in the field of linguistics and philology.

Key words: eponym, anthroponym, toponym, special-professional language unit, appellative.

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Эпонимдердің қазіргі өзекті лингвистикалық мәселелері

Берілген мақалада арнайы-кәсіби мәтіннің нысаны болып саналатын, бойына когнитивті-тарихи ақпаратты жинақтаған ономастикалық тілдік бірлік болып саналатын эпонимнің қазіргі лингвистикалық мәселелерін қарастырады. Автор эпонимді зерттеген ғалымдардың анықтамаларын талдай отыра, эпонимдердің ғылым салаларындағы зерттелуі деңгейін анықтауға тырысады. Эпонимдердің бірнеше тілдік мәселелері анықталады: а) бірнеше зерттеушінің болуы және эпонимдерді номинативті нақты анықтаудағы қиындығы; ә) эпонимдердің бас әріппен не кіші әріппен жазылу мәселесі; эпоним мен деонимнің бір ұғым ретінде қарастырылу мәселесі; б) бірнеше бір-біріне қатысы жоқ әртүрлі зерттеушілердің бір ұғымда қолданылу мәселесі; в) әр тілден енген халықаралық эпонимдердің өзге мемлекеттерде дұрыс оқылмауы; г) бір ұғымды білдіретін эпонимнің әртүрлі мемлекеттерде әртүрлі жазылуы және қолданылуы және тағы басқа өзекті тілдік мәселелері анықталды. Автор мақаланың соңында эпонимдерді зерттеу барысында эпонимдер транскрипция арқылы берілсе деген ұсыныс білдіреді. Болашақта шығарылатын сөздіктерде анықтамалармен қатар эпонимдердің транскрипциялары берілсе аса күрделі, көп сөзді эпонимдерді қатесіз оқу мүмкіндіктері туындар еді. Сонымен қатар, автор эпонимдердің тілдік мәселелерінің анықталуы оның өзекті екенін және болашақта тіл білімі, филология саласында перспективасы жоғары зерттеу салаларының бірі екенін атап көрсетеді.

Түйін сөздер: эпоним, антропоним, топоним, арнайы-кәсіби тілдік бірлік, апеллатив.

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Современные актуальные лингвистические проблемные вопросы эпонимов

В данной статье эпонимы рассматриваются как объект специально-профессионального текста и его современные языковые проблемы. Автор, базируясь на дефинициях ученых, попытался определить уровень исследования эпонимов в современном языкознании. Определены следующие лингвистические проблемы эпонимов: а) проблемы идентификации наименования эпонимов, поскольку несколько ученых имеют непосредственное отношение к открытию; б) проблемы написания эпонимов заглавными или прописными буквами; рассмотрение эпонима и деонима (деонимизации) индифференциально; в) путаница использования разных ученых с идентичными или схожими фамильными именами на одно понятие одновременно; г) неправильное произношение международных эпонимов в разных странах; д) наименование одного и того же понятийного эпонима по-разному в разных странах и другие актуальные языковые проблемные вопросы были затронуты в данной статье. Автор в конце статьи рекомендует использовать транскрипции при составлении словарей эпонимов в разных сферах науки, так как структурно-сложные эпонимы создают определенные трудности. Выявленные языковые проблемы эпонимов указывают на перспективу и актуальность дальнейшего исследования его в сфере языкознания и филологии.

Ключевые слова: эпоним, антропоним, топоним, специально-профессиональная языковая единица, апеллатив.

Introduction

The role of human being in all periods of existing life was crucial and many notions were appeared and connected with them. They became widespread and important to a certain community and even to the entire world. One of this kind of term is an eponym.

In today's science, branch and interdisciplinary science, there is a growing number of eponyms. There is a strong necessity to define and systematize them. Eponyms have played a very significant role in scientific terminology.

There is a range of scholars, linguists, and representatives of other fields of science who have devoted their research to topical issues of eponyms. Foreign scientists: R. Trahair, M. Freeman, T. Teluja, R. Boycott, P. Gooden, J. Marciano, B. Cappuzzo, B. Barankin, T. Hunter, J. Duque-Parra, J. Llano-Idarraga, A. Raffner; Russian scientists: N. Novinskaya, V.M. Leichik, E. Kakzanova, A. Azimov, R.V. Filina, D.S Lotte, M.G. Blau, V.N. Gubina, S.D. Shelova S.B. Koroleva and many others who have investigated etymology, current linguistic problems, classifications and role of them in modern humanitarian science.

In R. Boycott's opinion, «An eponymous word is one that has entered the English language because of a person's or that person's deeds» (Boycott, 1982: 9). According to R. Trahair: «Eponyms are words that originated with a name of a person. The person

may be a living or deceased individual, a hero, or a character from fiction. Persons or give their name or have it attached by others to an event, state of affairs, activity or institution» (Trahair, 1990: 4). However, R. Trahair makes some additions to the definition: «In the social sciences, many eponymous events are associated with the names not of people but of important places» (Trahair, 1994: 3). Thereby, eponyms are not derived only from anthroponyms, but also from toponyms.

The above-mentioned scholars discuss that eponyms were made from anthroponyms and toponyms. For the first time, T. Teluja scientifically defines an eponym and gives the following definition: «An eponym may refer to a physical principle, a food, an exclamation of surprise or a philosophical guide» (Tuleja, 1987: 17).

On the basis of these definitions, we can see that eponyms are derived not only from anthroponyms, but also from toponyms. Our research involves anthroponyms and toponymic eponymous language units used in disciplinary, interdisciplinary sciences.

V.M. Leichik agrees with the opinion of T. Teluja and gives the following explanation: «Terms, the elements of the structure of which are proper names, or denoting authors of the corresponding objects, phenomena, units of measurement, or appropriated in honor of famous figures of science and culture» (Leichik, 1994: 6). Consequently, eponyms are the terms that comprise proper names (anthroponyms

and toponyms) and function as a scientific terms of science.

E.M. Kakzanova provides comprehensive definitions to the term eponym: «An eponym is a term that contains in its composition the proper name (anthroponym, toponym, mythonym), and also a common name in the designation of the scientific concept (Hopfsche Group / Hopf group). In addition, the term eponym can be formed in a non-affixed way (anthroponym, toponym or mythonym) by metonymic transfer (Ampere). The third group consists of affix derivatives on behalf of one's own (anthroponym, toponym or mythonym) (Jacobian, ulexite)» (Kakzanova, 2016: 86). According to this comprehensive definition, we can easily see an eponym is complex, compound phenomenon due to the fact that it comprises main three criteria. If one of these criteria coincides, that word can be considered as an eponym.

Experiment and used methods

In our research we analyzed American, Russian and Kazakh political journals, periodicals from 2012-2015 years and identified eponyms. Namely American journals, periodicals: The Washington post, The New Republic, The National review, Politico; Russian periodicals: Svoboda misl' (Independent idea), Moskovskaya Pravda (Moscow truth), Nezavisimaya gazeta (Independent newspaper), Russkaya pravda (Russian truth); Kazakh periodicals: Zhas Kazakh, Zhas Alash, Egemen Kazakhstan.

Diachronic method. It is the method that considers the development and evolution of a language, phenomenon through history. In order to know is it the name of a person or a place, or even of other things, we examined the history, etymology of eponyms.

Definition analysis (descriptive method). First of all, there was a need to identify the semantic meanings of them and then only examine the problems of them. With the help of definition analysis, there was a possibility to figure out the linguistic issues of eponyms which will be illustrated in the section results and consideration.

Results and consideration

Eponyms are complex onomastic language units used in the special-professional field. Because of using as national and international cognitive, cultural and historical language units, there are several language issues that are specific to their use. They are as follows:

1. Several people discover news or important events, the names of the main discoverers or initiators were given to the object, and those who made the real contribution remain in the shade. For example, *Bamatter-Franceschetti-Klein-Sierro syndrome*, *Morgagni-Shereshevskii-Turner-Albright syndrome*. Reading and memorizing such medical eponyms are a challenge. It is not surprising that even more scientists can contribute and their names will not be added. Correspondingly, it creates another problem. It has been said that eponyms are claimed to possess an elevated power of lexical conciseness. It is true in most cases, however, there is also a substantial number of eponyms which are not concise at all, in that they are made up of even more than three proper names. After all, if the list of names is long or over, it considerably impedes creating an eponym. Because people can not write their full long list names and does not make them easy to read. Thereby, it is one of the linguistic issues of the eponyms, in particular, identifying the real discoverer or if it is collaborative work to fix number of scientists.

2. Anthroponyms or toponyms as the main constituents of eponyms can be ignored as objects. For example, *roentgen* electromagnetic waves that contain a band between X – rays and ultraviolet rays. Anthroponym is fully or partially deprived of its meaning and added to the appellatives. The inventor is forgotten and only the object, discover he has made are in the mind of people. Thereby the object of investigation smoothly goes to the invention not to the person. The next eponym *boycott* (in honor of Charles Boycott) means to express disapproval or to force acceptance of certain conditions. *Chauvinism* is dedicated to Nicolas Chauvin. The latter loved his nation at infinite, fanatic level. He was a part of Napoleon's army and participated in the Battle of Borodino. But do not know whose name lays under this eponymous term. Another example, *silhouette*. The eponym was named after French minister of finance and politician Etienne de Silhouette. But people do not pay attention that it was derived an outstanding politician and that his nationality was French. Because the object of investigation lays on not the person, but on the notion that it gives. *Colossal* (Rhodes Colossal), *masochist* (Leopold von Masoch), *mausoleum* (a provincial governor in the ancient Persian empire Mausolos) and so on. When we use them, we do not even think about are they anthroponyms or toponyms.

3. One of the controversial issues concerning eponyms whether to write them with upper case or lower cases. In most cases, compound eponyms

with the features of anthroponyms or toponyms are capitalized. Because they keep full properties of proper names. One word eponyms made by means of metonymy without affixes are written in small letters. Because features that belong to proper names are abandoned and transformed into a known or commonly used word.

Mostly, words that have undertaken through metonymization process and are becoming deonyms must be written with the lower case letters.

But it needs to note that in different linguocultures, especially in Mass media even one word eponyms can be written differently. For example, in Western community (USA) Putinism is often written with upper case, but in Russian periodicals in most cases is written with lower case. Thereby, it depends on national linguocultural peculiarities or some rules of printing presses. 4. The notion deonymization (appellativization) and eponym are commonly used among many scholars. Generally, it needs to be called deonymization (appellativization) process.

L.S. Berg, A.P. Dulzon, D.P. Europeus, M.A. Castren, A.K. Matveev, O.G. Molchanova, E.M. Murzaev, V.V. Radlov, V.P. Semenov and others scientists have noted appellatives as an important source in the study of the history of the local population.

The appellative process is the kind of process of becoming proper names into common names. For example, Ampere → ampere, Boycott → boycott, Henry → henry (induction unit), Kashmir city → cashmere, Newfoundland → newfoundland (dog type). The process of becoming proper names into common names takes place as follows: a) human names → things; b) nouns → things; 6) person's name → action; c) human name → measure unit.

There are several types of appellative process:

a) the name of the inventor. For example, Morse, Diesel, Volts;

b) by the name of an individual. For example, bolivar (in honor of Simon Bolivar).

We would consider deonyms or deonymization (appellativization) processes within the eponym. Unarguably, they might become ordinary words that we use in daily lives, might lose fully or partially proper name characteristics. But, despite on these facts when you investigate etymology of them, you arrive at a conclusion that there are proper names which constitute them. If they are derived from proper names, definitely they eponyms and should be considered as the variation of eponyms.

5. Two or more different scholars with the same names might be appeared in compound eponymous

names. The occurrence of *Arthurite* is the same name as Arthur Russell and Arthur Kingsbury, two men's names in one eponym. People may think that it is one person's name. That is why it is necessary to carry out an etymological analysis or a definitional analysis. *Jaeger's amputation, Jaeger's plate, Jaeger's keratosis, Jaeger's hook*. Everywhere, though, they are scientists who have lived in different years, at different locations. Unknowingly, people may think that one person has discovered above-mentioned news or inventions.

Jaeger amputation is a German surgeon M. Jaeger. The type of operation given in honour to M. Jaeger (1795-1838). Jaeger's plate – an Austrian ophthalmologist. The term given by F. Jaeger (1784-1871).

Jaeger's hook – a German ophthalmologist W. Jaeger invented the device (the instrument).

Pick's cell, Pick's disease, and Pick's pericarditis are not scientific discoveries associated with one person's name but are named after three different scientists:

Pick's cell – Ludwig Pick, a German pathologist (August 31, 1868 – February 3, 1944) was born in Poland.

Pick's disease – Arnold Pick (Czech psychiatrist) was first discovered and described the disease in 1892 by examining the brain tissue of several deceased patients.

Pick's pericarditis – Friedel Pick (Austrian Physician).

Ordinary people may be confused, because in most cases names are not written in eponyms.

6. In medicine, eponyms are often honored not only for the sake of scientists who discovered but also for patients who are ill. For example, *the Mossee Symptom* is dedicated to the well-known French scientist who suffered from pathological arterial valves. *Kaspar Hauser Syndrome* (in honor of a sick child). Therefore it is necessary to conduct an etymological or definitive analysis of the eponyms. For example, if the Mossee symptom coincides with the *Kaspar Hawker syndrome*, we might think that both of them were discovered by scientists, or both were ill patients. Therefore, we think that these facts are the problem of investigating eponyms.

7. There is no transcription of eponyms, people find them difficult to read. For example, Kuffner cell, Rentschler nail, Papanicolaou smear, Hirschsprung's disease, Quincke's edema, Kiesselbach's area, Boeck's syndrome and so on. It is difficult to read not only to ordinary people but also to specialists. That is, the eponym is not transcribed. We propose scientists to make a transcript of the eponyms while

making dictionaries. For example, *Boeck syndrome* [*Bek sindróm*]. People will be able to read eponyms correctly with the help of transcriptions.

8. Some eponyms, particularly the same chemical elements are written differently in different countries. Each country tries to give a name to its scholars or names. For example, the chemical element in the USSR Kurchatovium (I.V. Kurchatov, the famous scientist of the USSR), is known as Rutherfordium (Rutherford E., the famous US chemist) in America. In the field of medicine, in Russia, *Kashina's disease* is called the *Beck disease* in the United States. But both are the «endemic disorders of the organism in the newborn». It is worth noting that each state wants to name the public figures and scientists of their nation. We can see that eponyms are very important to the nation and that the state wants to pass them to the next generation as the cognitive-cultural information.

9. Some of the eponyms are difficult to read or some letters replaced, but today's generation does not have the full and correct version. One of these eponyms is the river *chargoggagoggmanchaugga goggchaubunagungamaugg*, located in Webster, Massachusetts. In the guidebook, the twentieth letter of the hydronym was written wrongly, instead of *u* is *o*. As for the widespread legend, the hydronym is translated as follows: «You will catch your own fish on your own coast, and I shall catch my fish on the opposite shore, and no one will fish in the midst of the river» (The New York Times, 2004).

Later, this river renamed into Webster River. The main reasons are: 1) located near Webster; 2) its reading is too long or even impossible. The river is called Webster River without paying attention to the semantics. On the one hand, it is important to know the background of the eponym and to keep the original variant, but on the hand, this variant name of the location is the acceptable and not understandable. That's why to rename it as Webster river was the right decision.

It was just one example, what about if there are a range of eponyms whci do not have any links with the object. This means it is quite necessary to make etymological analysis and to figure our history, appearances of eponyms.

10. There are many scientists who suggest the deletion of eponyms from medical language and their substitution with descriptive terms. Scholar Duque-Parra and Llano-Idarrago state that eponyms «do not provide any clear information leading to the identification of the situation under study, as they are not reasonably descriptive» (Duque-Parra, Llano-Idarrago, 2006: 219-224). According to A. Woywodt

and E. Matteson eponyms «lack scientific accuracy, lead to confusion and hamper scientific discussion in a globalized world» (Woywodt, Matteson, 2007). But we are opposed to these ideas and propose that eponyms are concise and make the scientific text more clear without any descriptions. For example, *Alzheimer's disease* is a term that is understandable to a person in the field of medicine who has a higher education. Instead, it would be too long to say, «human brain damage, human ejaculation, and human aging». In the seismological science, there is an eponym *Richter scale*. Its definition is far easier to define as «the measuring energy as a seismic wave during earthquakes». Consequently, the eponyms are the simplest way of expressing meaning. Due to this compactness, they enrich the terminology of different branches of science.

Whatever their future will be, at present time eponyms are still largely used in different branches of science, as proved by dozens of new entries which can be daily found in periodicals and political discourse.

11. One of the key issues of the contemporary issues is their inability to read properly in science. That is, when the eponym borrowed or adopted from another language, it is misinterpreted without considering the language specifications. The Daltonism is given in honor of the English physicist J. Dalton. People from the Post Soviet countries read how it is written. The Dalton anthroponym must be read as «o» instead of «a». The Hunter channel. The term is in honour of an English anatomy and surgeon J. Hunter. But in many countries (Commonwealth of Independent States) the letter «h» is pronounced as «g». Watt is the unit of measurement (James Watt). James Watt is the author of this unifying unit of power. But «watt» is pronounced as «vat.» This is a problem that has not been transcribed internationally.

12. The founder of the Soviet terminology S. Lotte points out that eponyms can not be associative and neutral. According to E. Kakzanova, the terms are typical for associations [20, p.199]. We fully agree with E. Kakzanova's opinion, because its motivation is not directly related, but through the association. For example, a politician immediately recognizes the difference between the *Potsdam conference* and the *Belovezh agreement*. The onomastic component helps to understand the differences between the two notions. When a politician hears the words «Potsdam» or «Belovezh», his will have several associative phenomena associated with toponymic land. And if the specialist hears the eponym *Potsdam's Conference*, he understands the

conference is directed to the anti-crisis coalition to discuss a post-war Europe situation. Another example is the linguistic eponym *Saphir-Wolf's hypothesis*. Any linguist or specialist in language studies comes with an association that this eponym is about American ethnolinguistics, world language picture, and exotic tribes. In our opinion, eponyms are not neutral, they are associative.

13. Another problem is that the middle name may be given, not the surname. The reader may not be able to distinguish between the middle name and family name.

For example, minerals in geology:

Anandite – Ananda (surname of Coomaraswamy);
 Andorite is the name of Andor (von Semsey);
 Austinites was named after Austin (surname Rogers).

It's quite hard to identify not only to ordinary people, but also linguists who are going to investigate them. But the main point here is that they are formed due to proper names and can be considered as eponyms.

Above-mentioned modern linguistic issues make clear that eponymous units are complex linguistic units, need further linguistic analysis and investigation.

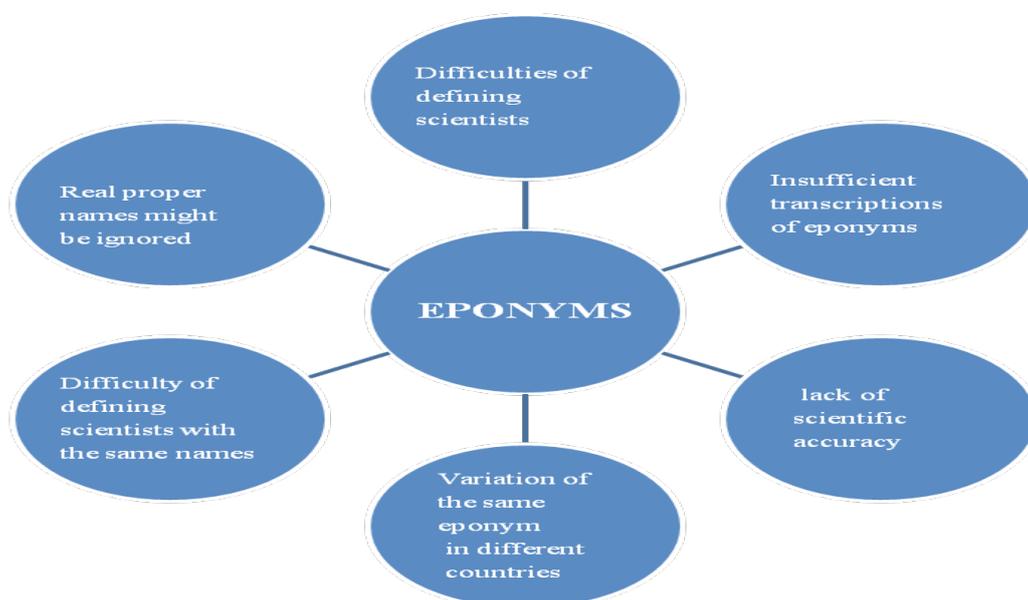


Figure 1 – Linguistic issues of eponyms

In conclusion, several linguistic issues have been discussed. The main two problematic issues that should be marked out from other issues are phonetic pronunciation and suggestion about the deletion of eponyms from medical language and their substitution with descriptive terms. We strongly recommend to future young scientists to make dictionary of eponyms with transcriptions. It would be great contribution to develop and widespread eponyms in the different domain of science. Concerning the second issue, we refuse using descriptive words instead of eponyms. There are several factors that indicate my points are true:

people are got accustomed to use concise, brief terms at present time and time-consuming words are not in trend, even day by day we bump into many abbreviations and shortenings; eponyms are compact, the word saves time, does not spoil the word. secondly, eponyms are associative, onomastic terms and the audience by hearing such terms at predict the meanings of the words. In this case, needless to give definitions and make tautologies.

The revealed language problems of eponyms indicate the perspective and relevance of further research of it in the field of linguistics and philology.

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