



ENGLISH PROPER NOUNS AND THEIR LINGUACULTURAL ASPECTS

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Abstract

This article is devoted to investigate English proper nouns which contain culture-related information. They were divided into main groups: idiomatic expressions with the structure of knowledge related to religion, myths and legends, literature, geography, history and culture. They convey significant information about people's way of life, religious principles, historical events, geographical places, etc. Theoretical part of the article is proved by numerous examples of English proper nouns which were chosen for linguo-cultural approach of investigation. The objectives of the research: English proper nouns with linguo-cultural content. The following methods of the research were used: descriptive method, comparative and cross-cultural analysis. Results obtained: linguocultural information in the semantics of English proper nouns with idiomatic expressions has been revealed and approved by numerous examples. Conclusion: the structures of religious, mythological, historical, literature-related, geographical and national-specific knowledge have been defined in the meaningful content of idioms.

Keywords: noun, proper noun, phraseological unit, semantics, structures of knowledge, linguo-cultural content.

INTRODUCTION

Naming a single entity is one of the basic speed, acts, included by the class of declaratives, alongside declaring war, dismissing and be questing. People and peaces, pets and hurricanes, and festivities, institution and commercial products, works of art and shops are given a name. Naming serves to highlight entities that play a role in people's daily life, and to establish and maintain an individually in a society. Objects of analysis of onomastic people's names, proper nouns have been investigated by philosophers, logicians, anthropologists and psychologists, but only sporadically by linguists: e.g. with different approaches and concerns, Sloat[1,26-30] , Gary – Prieur[2, 47-53]. It is generally agreed among linguists that proper nouns are a universal linguists category [3, 88-95]. Their status and function is theoretical issue debated by many scholars, whose views are discussed in Van Langendock [4, 112-132]. The topic is complex and controversial and the account given will be brief and schematic; this means that some aspects will be considered. Proper Nouns constitute a system organized according to criteria varying across cultures, and provide an interpretation of the society of which they are the expression. They are linguistic items fulfilling a referential function, they refer to single entities existing in the real world. Like deictic, they are not dependent on the immediate situational context. Like nouns, PNs, constitute an open class of words and, hence, are lexical rather than grammatical; but, unlike



nouns, they lack lexical meaning. Proper nouns (also called proper nouns) are the words which name specific people, organizations or places. They always start with a capital letter.

- Each part of a person's name is a proper noun – Lynne Hand, Elizabeth Helen, Ruth Jones.
- The names of companies, organizations or trademarks: - Microsoft, Rolls Royce, the Round Table, www.
- Given or pet names of animals – Lassie Triger Sam.
- The names of cities and countries and words derived from those proper nouns – Paris, London, New York, England. English Geographical and Celestial Names – The Red Sea, Alpha Centauri, Mars.
- Monuments, buildings, meeting rooms – The Taj Mahal, The Eiffel Tower, Room 222.
- Historical events, documents, law, and periods – The Civil War, the Industrial Revolution, World War 1.
- Month, days of week, holidays – Monday, Christmas, December.
- Religions, deities, scriptures – God, Christ, Jehovah, Christianity, Judaism, Islam, the Bible, the Torah, the Koran.
- Awards, vehicles, vehicle models and names – The Nobel Peace Prize, the Scout Movement, Ford Focus, the Bismarck, Hoover.

Let us carry a research on the main linguistic features of PNs in English. The first feature is the initial – capitalisation in writing, whose function is to distinguish a PN from a common noun, e.g. Rosemary vs. rosemary. They are subject to some words formation process; for example, hypocorisms can be formed full first names, employing various mechanisms.

Full From Hypocorisms John Johnny (suffixation) Joseph Joe (shortening) Richard Dick (shortening and phonological modification) With regard to grammar, names raise varies issues. One issue concerns the internal structure of nouns, they can be mono – or polylexemic, sometimes incorporating the article (e.g. London, John Smith, The Red Sea); personal names can be preceded by a title (e.g. Mr. Smith, Aunt Mary), whose status is rather controversial.

Let us now consider the semantics of PNs, an issue much discussed from Mill onwards. They are diachronically motivated, and a meaningful etymon is found in most cases: e.g. family names derive from elements of common vocabulary referring to parentage (son of Richard > Richardson) or, occupation (miller > Miller). But they are synchronically opaque: "it is widely, though not universally, accepted that proper nouns do not have sense". Now let's analyze the material in Uzbek language. Names, which are given to person or places are called proper names, so they are divided into several groups:

- 1) Person's name, surname, nickname: Rahim Mahmudov, Oybek Foni.
- 2) given to animals: Olapar, Boychibor:
- 3) geographical locations (including names of streets and contienents): Navoiy kochasi, Osiyo qit'asi.
- 4) offices and work-places or centre's names Ozbekiston Respublikasi, Markaziy banki, Nizomiy nomli TDAU.
- 5) names of books, magazines, newspapers, movies, spectacle " Otkan kunlar" romani, " Ma'rifat" gazetasi.
- 6) water-places and building's names: Amudaryo, Orol dengizi, Katta Fargona kanali.
- 7) historical events, holidays' names: Mustaqillik kuni, Navruz bayrami.



8) astronomic terms especially planets, methoors, astreod's: Jupiter, Southern, Somon yoli. The names of books and newspapers, magazines, movies that are given person's name are written with “—“ like “Guncha” jurnali, but names of cities, cinemas and offices are written without “—“, and they are just: nomidagi, nomli – named after. Many proper nouns are derived from common nouns or another parts of speech, e.g: Polat (turdosh ot), Guzal (sifat), Sakson ota (son), Kimsan (olmosh), Sotiboldi (fe'l). But sometimes proper nouns are used like amper (tok ulchovi), Xosiyatxon (atlas turi). The topic is semantic peculiarities of the phraseological units with proper nouns in the English and Uzbek languages, and every scholar has his opinion about the following topic who worked on phraseological units of English and Uzbek. So, we tried to open some peculiarities of this topic at first time. We classified phraseological units according to their meaning to the following phraseo- semantic groups.

1) Names of places which are named according to their geographical locations and history which is concerned with events, happened there. The city of the Falls amer., « The city of waterfalls» Lunswell (Lunsville located in Kentucky on the Ohio River, forming a series of stremmings and waterfalls near the city). The city of Brotherly love amer., “city of brotherly love” (Philadelphia) Senator George Wharton Pepper is a devout Episcopalian, leader of the church of J. P. Morgan and company in the city of Brotherly love. [5]

2) events which are considered negative, like danger or unpleasant situation. Domocles' sword – (ever-present danger) (from the legend of the Syracuse circulation of Dionysius, who at the feast put Domocles, envious of him, in his place and hung a sword on his thin hair over it). Between Scylla and Charybdis , “in a bind”. Pandora's box, (open) A - a situation that might turn out to contain many unexpected and unwanted problems and consequences.

3) In daily life we come across kind of hard work. A labour of Hercules , “extremely difficult work”. A labour of Sisyphus, “hard and barren labor”.

4) Observing on comparing languages, extraordinary habits or culture are more interesting side of learning languages especially about drinks. John Barleycorn (personification of beer and other alcoholic and malt drinks; the expression, known from the first half of the 17th century, gained particular popularity due to the use of it by R. Burns). Bacchus has drowned more men Neptune “wine has killed more people than the sea”. Adam's ale (or wine) “Adam's wine”, “water”. Some take a glass of porter to their dinner, but I slake my thirst with Adam's wine. [6,30]

There are various classifications of phraseological units with the "proper name" component: by gender (I. V. Zykova), by semantic features (A. F. Artyomova, O. A. Leonovich). According to the classification compiled by A. F. Artyomova and O. A. Leonovich, there are 4 semantic groups of phraseological units (PhUs): 1) PhUs with the component "proper name" of biblical origin; 2) PhUs with the component "proper name" of mythological origin; 3) PhUs with the component "proper name" associated with the geography, history, literature and life of the English; 4) phraseological units with the component "proper name" of American origin [A.F. Artyomova, O.A. Leonovich, 2003; 73]. In the present article English and Uzbek phraseological units are classified due to:

1) Idioms with the structure of religious knowledge;



- 2) Idioms with the structure of mythological knowledge;
- 3) Idioms with the structure of historical knowledge;
- 4) Idioms with the structure of literary knowledge;
- 5) Idioms with the structure of geographic knowledge;
- 6) Idioms with the structure of national-specific knowledge (on the example of idioms of American origin)

Idioms with the structure of mythological knowledge. Mythonymy is a kind of sector of onomastic space, which includes the names of people, animals, plants, peoples, geographical and cosmographic objects, various objects that never really existed [Encyclopedic dictionary, 1992; 56]. Phraseological phrases of mythological etymology include: Damon and Pythias – bosom friends, inseparable friends; a labor of Sisyphus – hard and fruitless labor; Pandora's box – Pandora's box, the source of all kinds of disasters; the Weird sisters – (mouth.) 1) goddesses of fate; 2) witches in Shakespeare's tragedy "Macbeth"; appeal from Philip drunk to Philip sober – ask someone to reconsider their decision (from ancient Greek legend); Bacchus has drowned more men than Neptune – wine (alcohol drinks) killed more people than the sea; the hound of hell – monster, Cerberus; between Scylla and Charybdis – in a hopeless situation (expression created by Homer); Draconian laws – harsh laws; Penelope's web – special method in doing something (Penelope is the name of the heroine of Homer's poem "Odyssey"); Cassandra warnings – warnings that are ignored but come true; Promethean fire – fire as a source of life; a labor of Hercules (or Herculean labor) – very hard work; the Gordian knot – a tangled affair; to cut the Gordian knot – to solve a complicated case; Platonic love – strong love (the expression is based on Plato's philosophical work); Achilles' heel – weak, vulnerable place; Achilles' spear – something that hurts and heals (like Achilles' spear); Augean stable – run-down, dirty place; fling (or give, throw) a sop to Cerberus – "appease Cerberus", appease with a bribe. As can be seen from the examples, many phraseological units were created by the ancient Greek writer Homer. Thus, his Iliad describes the bravery of the defenders of Troy, which gave rise to the phraseological expression like a Trojan which means "heroically, valiantly, courageously": He had lain like a Trojan behind his matters in the gallery... [R. Stevenson, "Treasure Island", p. 102].

Idioms with the structure of historical and life-related knowledge. This group includes: I) Anthroponyms – names of objects without describing or endowing them with any properties. Despite the fact that anthroponyms name people, they denote a variety of concepts related to the peculiarities of psychological perception of people [Postovalova V.I., 1999; 29]: John Thomas – liveried footman; Good-time Charlie – reveller, rake, playboy; Tom, Dick and Harry – anyone, everyone, the first person you meet; clever Dick – smart boy; doctor Fell – a person who causes antipathy to himself; Billy Bunter – voracious, fat, clumsy teen; Brown, Jones and Robinson – simple, ordinary Englishmen. Proper names in phraseological units may indicate some geographical or historical object: Cleopatra's needle – the nickname of the Egyptian obelisk on the Thames embankment in London.



Idioms with the structure of geographic knowledge. This group contains expressions which have names of continents, countries and cities, seas and oceans, islands and rivers, etc. Most of them are connected with places where definite historical events had taken place: Hercules' Pillars – Gibraltarian strait; Big Ben – big clock on the building of English Parliament; Prince of Wales – crown prince; From John o'Groats to Land's End – from the north to the south of England; From Land's End to John o'Groats – from the south to the north of England; Father Knickerbocker – jocular nickname of New York city; Broadway boy – a playboy; the old lady of Threadneedle street – English bank. So, geographical names are included into a number of idiomatic expressions and denote geographical place: Cleopatra's needle – the nickname of Egyptian obelisk on the shore the river Thames [Kunin A.V., 1967; 646]. The structures of geographical knowledge in the semantics of idiomatic expressions convey important information about the events which took place in definite places: Tyburn blossom – young thief who was punished at Tyburn Square in London. This square was a special place of public punishments till 1783. A number of expressions deal with rivers and seas: the Father of Rivers – nickname of the River Nile; father Thames – nickname of the River Thames; the mistress of the Adriatic – Adriatic.

Idioms with the structure of national-specific knowledge. (on the example of idioms of American origin) They not only define the phenomenon, but also express the speaker's attitude: enough to puzzle a Philadelphia lawyer – complex, complicated case; Brother Jonathan – Yankee; black Jack – baton; Jack-leg lawyer – a lawyer who takes on a dubious case; a man of color – a man whose ancestors were dark skinned; give the guy to somebody – get away, get away from someone; catch Jesse – be beaten, get scolded. Especially interesting is the American slang that characterizes people: dumb Dora – stupid girl, fool; Holy Joe – nickname of military priests; coal-oil Johnny – moth, spender; horse opera – cowboy movie. American expressions are registered in lexicographic sources with various stylistic marks: Holy Mackerel! – Oh, my God! It can't be! Here are those on! (expression of surprise); loan shark – the money – lender; floor leader – the party organizer; the last of the Mohicans – the last of the Mohicans, the last representative of any dying social phenomenon (according to the title of the novel by Fenimore Cooper). It should be noted that the Mohicans are an extinct tribe of North American Indians; a Rip Van Winkle – a backward man (after the hero of the American story, who slept for 20 years);

CONCLUSION

Thus, the character of a proper name is determined by many factors: the geographical environment, culture, history, and religion of the people. These are just some examples which describe and disclose history and culture of people. In the modern English and Uzbek languages there are hundreds of similar examples of idiomatic expressions which are closely connected with history, geography, literature, myths and legends, religion and culture. They are very interesting for both lingual-cultural investigations and self-learning and broadening one's outlook as well.



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