STRUCTURAL SEMANTIC PROPERTIES OF ENGLISH FLORAL NAMES

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The article is devoted to onomastic research as one of the linguistic instruments to understand the inner structure of lexicon in modern linguistics. The procedure and definition of onomastic analysis is revealed in the article, its position in linguistics is being defined, and also semantic potential of onomastic English floral names are investigated through etymological, structural and semantic methods.

Key words: onomastics, floral names.

Onomastics studies mainly proper names which do not necessarily include people names but may also refer to names of other objects in the world. The first researchers who founded the basis of scientific onomastic research in general were German scholars Ferschtehman and Schtark. In Ukrainian linguistics, onomastics predominantly is represented by works that are devoted to cultural, geographical and toponymic issues. Yet, analysis of floral elements is still under little study, especially in Ukrainian linguistic school. M.D. Matiyiv includes the study of floral names in his scope of interest. In his work "Flora and fauna of the Carpathians in the hydronymy of the Stryi basin" [1] he proves that a lot of hydronyms take their names from anthropological characteristics, so our hypothesis is to establish similar connections within English floral names. At the present stage, we find other representatives of onomastics who develop Ukrainian onomasiology: L.P.Borysova (Donetsk), E.B.Vovk (Kyiv), B.K.Halas (Uzhhorod), O.L.Hvozdyeva (Mykolaiv), O.D.Zvyeryev (Chernivtsi).

The purpose of this research is to investigate structural semantic properties of English floral names. The most dominant semantic feature of floral nominations is their composite unity which rests on unmotivated combinations of words. When such phrases occur, they should be understood metaphorically because they create a totally

different meaning than the sum of ingredients. To define the real meaning of floral names we used three methods. These are structural, semantic and etymological. According to the structure we distinguish one-component and poli-componential nominations. So, one-component names were analyzed through etymological method and poli-componential phrases through structural and semantic methods.

Our selection of over one hundred items allowed only five names of flowers consisting of one word only: broom, cosmos, xylosma, privet and ladino. Below we look at their origin and inner structure.

Broom [5] — one root word with a native origin. The form of Old English is *brom*, it is a popular name for several types of shrubs common throughout Europe (used medicinally and for fuel) and characterized by long, slender branches and many yellow flowers. From Proto-Germanic *brœmaz* which means *"thorny bush",* from PIE *bh(e)rem* means *"to project; a point."*

Cosmos [2] — one-root word with a Greek origin. Appeared in Middle English in 1150-1200. From Greek language *kósmos* means order, world, universe, because of its evenly placed petals. Cosmos is a native plant of Mexico. Spanish priests apparently planted it in missions in Mexico, perhaps hoping to cultivate a sense of harmony and order.

Xylosma [19] — one root word with a Greek origin. The generic name is derived from the Greek words (*xylon*), meaning "wood," and (*osmé*), meaning "smell,"referring to the fragrant wood of some of the species.

Privet [15] — one root word of unknown origin. First recorded in 1535–45. Early forms *primet*, *primprint* perhaps suggest some connection with prime. Besides, it can serve as a habitational name from a place in Hampshire, which probably gets its name from an unrecorded Old English word pryfet 'privet'. This word is found from an early date in place names, for example Privett Farm in Standlynch, Wiltshire, which could be a source of the surname, but as a vocabulary element it is not recorded before the 16th century.

Ladino [16] — one root word of a Spanish origin. Appeared in English in 1885–90. Perhaps from Italian ladino (see Ladin), refers to a person or thing from the Italian speaking area of Switzerland, where the clover is grown.

Veronica [17] — one root word of a Latin origin. First recorded in English in 1520–30. The genus name Veronica used in binomial nomenclature was chosen by Carl Linnaeus based on preexisting common usage of the name veronica in many European languages for plants in this group. Such use in English is attested as early as 1572. The name probably reflects a connection with Saint Veronica, whose Latin name is ultimately derived from Greek, Berenice.

Summing up these one-root floral names, we can affirm that through etymological analysis we found out temporal markers. Thus, only one nomination has a native origin, Cosmos and Xylosma are of Greek origin and Privet, Ladino and Veronica are borrowings from Romance languages.

Poli-componential floral nominations constitute the prevailing majority of selected items. We can mention two most numerous groups here and the first group of floral names we describe derives meanings from utilitarian objects or basic shapes. The shapes to mention are a cross and a snowflake, the objects are cup, bell, trumpet and basket.

Summer snowflake [13] — according to the structure it is a poli-componential phrase, of N+N structure, where the first noun is an attribute to the second. Its semantic centre of the phrase is a subordinate compound word, consisiting of two root morphemes: -snow- and -flake-, expressing a notion of shape, found in nature in winter time. The meaning of the whole phrase cannot be deduced from the constituents' meanings. If the floral name lacks semantic motivation, we term it idiomatic.

Hairy bittercress [6] — according to the structure it is a poli-componential phrase, of A+N structure. Its semantic centre is a subordinate compound word, consisting of two root morphemes: -bitter- and -cress-, expressing a notion of shape which is more typical to the nature figure. The meaning of the whole phrase cannot

be deduced from the constituents' meanings. If the floral name lacks semantic motivation, we term it idiomatic.

As we can see above, this analysis provides us with semantic insights into shape but also have their connotations in human images. Both of nominations lack semantic motivation and belong to idiomatic expressions. The floral names with meaning resting on instrumental utilitarian objects is analyzed below.

Honeycup [20] — according to the structure it is a poli-componential phrase. It is a compound, consisting of two root morphemes: -honey- and -cup-, where the first morpheme -honey- is a characteristic of the second one -cup- which is the semantic nucleous, expressing a notion of shape that is more typical to utilitarian objects. The meaning of the whole phrase cannot be deduced from the constituents' meanings. If the floral name lacks semantic motivation, we term it idiomatic.

Golden bells [9] — according to the structure it is a poli-componential phrase, of A+N structure, where the adjective golden serves as an attribute to the noun bells. Its semantic centre of the phrase is noun bells, expressing a notion of a shape both as instrumental utilitarian object and as a notion of a flower. Thus, when we first see its name we think about something that is in human use, that's why phrase has a lack of motivation and we term it idiomatic.

Golden Trumpet [11] — according to the structure it is a poli-componential phrase, of A+N structure, where the first adjective is the attribute to the word trumpet that convey the quality of colour. Its semantic centre of the phrase is the word trumpet, expressing a notion of a shape that is typical to instrumental utilitarian objects. The meaning of the whole phrase cannot be deduced from the constituents' meanings. If the floral name lacks semantic motivation, we term it idiomatic.

Indian Basket Grass [18] — according to the structure it is a poli-componential phrase, of A+N+N structure, where the noun grass is the semantic centre of the phrase. Although, this nomination consists of two different concepts – Indian Basket Grass and Indian Basket, where in the second one the central image is basket, expressing a notion of shape typical for utilitarian objects with an attribute word Indian. So, we can consider noun grass as a separate concept where Indian

Basket is an attribute to a given word. Referring to the whole phrase we can understand that it is a plant only because of word grass. That's why, we can find this phrase semi-idiomatic.

Summing up these nominations, we can prove that Golden bells and Golden Trumpet belong to instrumental utilitarian objects and Honeycup with Indian Basket Grass convey the notion of shape typical for utilitarian objects. Three of them we found idiomatic and only Indian Basket Grass belongs to semi-idiomatic expression.

One more group of poli-componential floral names derives meaning from live things, it will be here represented by animalistic and anthropological floral names. Animalistic components are seen in the following nominations:

Bird of paradise [3] — according to the structure it is a poli-componential phrase, of N+N structure, where the first noun is the semantic centre of the phrase, expressing an animalistic notion with the second noun giving a feature. The meaning of the whole phrase cannot be deduced from the constituents' meanings. If the floral name lacks semantic motivation, we term it idiomatic.

Snake's head fritillary [10] — according to the structure it is a poli-componential phrase, of N+N+N structure, where the third noun fritillary is the semantic centre of the phrase and a snake's head is a separate concept with an animalistic feature and it serves as an attribute to the noun fritillary. The meaning of the whole phrase cannot be deduced from the constituents' meanings. If the floral name lacks semantic motivation, we term it idiomatic.

Seep monkeyflower [8] — according to the structure it is a poli-componential phrase, of N+N structure, where the first noun is the attribute to the second one. Its semantic centre of the phrase is a subordinate compound word, consisiting of two root morphemes: -monkey- and -flower-, expressing a notion animalistic feature. The meaning of the whole phrase cannot be deduced from the constituents' meanings. If the floral name lacks semantic motivation, we term it idiomatic.

According to this analysis, here we have plant nominations that express an animalistic notion. So, all of these plants lack their semantic motivation, so we

consider them idiomatic. Anthropological components of meaning can be observed in the following floral names:

Lady's Slipper Orchid [7] — according to the structure it is a poli-componential phrase, of N+N+N structure, where the third noun is the semantic centre of the phrase and a lady's slipper is a separate concept with an anthropological feature and it serves as an attribute to the noun orchid. Referring to the whole phrase we can understand that it is a plant only because of word orchid. That's why, we can find this phrase semi-idiomatic.

Baby blue eyes [4] — according to the structure it is a poli-componential phrase, of N+A+N structure, where the noun baby is the semantic centre of the nomination with an anthropological feature and blue eyes is a separate concept and it serves as an attribute to the given noun eyes. The meaning of the whole phrase cannot be deduced from the constituents' meanings. If the floral name lacks semantic motivation, we term it idiomatic.

Slender St John's Wort [12] — according to the structure it is a poli-componential phrase, of A+A+N+N structure, where the two first adjectives and the third noun convey anthropological notion and serve as the attributes to the fourth noun. Its semantic centre of a phrase is noun wort. The meaning of the whole phrase cannot be deduced from the constituents' meanings. If the floral name lacks semantic motivation, we term it idiomatic.

Pride of Sussex [14] — according to the structure it is a poli-componential phrase, of N+N structure where the first noun is the semantic centre of the phrase, expressing an anthropological notion with the second noun giving a feature. The meaning of the whole phrase cannot be deduced from the constituents' meanings. If the floral name lacks semantic motivation, we term it idiomatic.

Therefore, these plants convey the anthropological conception. According to the structure of phrases we came to conclusion that only Lady's Slipper Orchid belongs to semi-idiomatic type and Baby Blue eyes, Slender St John's Wort and Pride of Sussex as well are idiomatic expressions.

To sum up, it should be pointed out that my research was devoted to structural semantic properties of English floral names. Among these nominations we have one-component and poli-componential examples. One-component nominations were classified through etymological and structural methods and poli-componential phrases were analyzed through structural and semantic methods. Thanks to this analysis we found out that almost all nominations belong to idiomatic expressions because they are lack of semantic motivation. Moreover, among poli-componential floral names we find those which include anthropological, animalistic and dendrological features with complex imagery that contain shape, quality and action.

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