

УДК 81'367.623:[811.161.3+811.111]

UDC 81'367.623:[811.161.3+811.111]

## МЕНТАЛЬНЫЯ МЕЛІЯРАТЫЎНЫЯ СУБСТАНТЫВЫ Ў БЕЛАРУСКАЙ І АНГЛІЙСКАЙ МОВАХ

## MENTAL MELIORATIVE SUBSTANTIVES IN THE BELARUSIAN AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES

**В. А. Мусіенка,**

*аспірант кафедры мовазнаўства  
і лінгвадыдактыкі Беларускага дзяржаўнага  
педагагічнага ўніверсітэта імя Максіма Танка*

Паступіў у рэдакцыю 07.05.21.

**V. Musiyenka,**

*Postgraduate Student in the Department of  
Linguistics and Linguodidactics, Belarusian State  
Pedagogical University named after Maxim Tank*

Received on 07.05.21.

У артыкуле разглядаюцца другасныя імёны чалавека, якія характарызуюцца станоўчай канатацыяй. Выяўлены мадэлі семантычнай дэрывацыі, у аснове якіх ляжаць зыходныя значэнні намінацый жывёл, птушак, частак цела чалавека, нябесных целаў і абстрактных паняццяў. Ахарактарызаваны метафарычныя і метанімічныя трансфармацыі, прыведзена іх колькасная структура ў беларускай і англійскіх мовах.

*Ключавыя словы:* беларуская мова, англійская мова, назоўнік, першаснае значэнне, чалавечыя імёны, заамарфізмы, саматызмы, метафара, метанімія.

The article deals with the secondary names of the person which are characterized by a positive connotation. Models of semantic derivation are revealed, which are based on the initial values of the nominations of animals, birds, human body parts, celestial bodies and abstract concepts. Metaphorical and metonymic transformations are characterized, their quantitative structure in the Belarusian and English languages is resulted.

*Keywords:* Belarusian language, English language, noun, primary meaning, human names, zoomorphisms, somatisms, metaphor, metonymy.

A characteristic feature of the current stage of development of linguistics is the multifaceted approach to language learning. The main feature of linguistic research in recent years is “anthropocentrism” – a turn from the study of language to the study of language in the speech team, in society, especially relevant is the study of language selection, organization in language and interpretation in the perception of information in constructing speech formulas.

Researchers are currently attracting the attention of language properties related to the “human factor”, with various aspects of a person’s inner state, his mental abilities and emotional states. Language is not only a means of cognition and reflection of the world of objects and ideas, but also serves to express feelings, social and individual evaluations and various intentions, serving the sphere of emotional and mental activity of human consciousness.

Despite some achievements of domestic linguistics in the study of mental nouns, in science there is still no generally accepted definition of “mentality”. Following V. V. Kolesov, we understand mentality as “a worldview in the categories and forms of the native language, which connects intellectual, spiritual and volitional qualities of the national character in its typical manifestations in the process of cognition” [1, p. 87].

The comparative aspect in the study of nouns of mental activity is of particular interest because the analysis of the semantic structure in these two languages makes it possible to identify their common and distinctive features.

The research field quite often includes a representation of a person’s mental abilities. Typically, such abilities are assessed by two opposite mark-

ers: positive and negative. In this field, preference is given to the pejorative marker, which characterizes a person from a negative point of view, negative evaluations, conclusions, judgments. The reason for this has been widely covered in the linguistic literature. The shortcomings of man, his vicious qualities are emphasized in order not only to offend man, to identify his shortcomings, but also to show possible ways to eradicate these shortcomings. Representation of negative qualities is carried out on the principle: to reflect negative qualities in language → to show possible ways out, to sharpen attention on pejorative connotation. Meliorative nominations are not the direct opposite of pejorative names in quantitative terms: there are far fewer such nominations, due to the weakened focus on certain achievements, successes, positive human qualities, which are sometimes perceived by native speakers as the norm and do not exceed a certain rating scale. It is for this reason that the category of meliorativeness is represented in a few lexical items [2, p. 30].

In the Belarusian and English languages, the connotation assessment is clearly expressed in the zoonymic nominations. Virtually all animal names are used to describe humans [3–8]. Among such nominations, almost 90 % are pejorative. Secondary nominations with reclamation assessment are no more than 10 %. As a rule, such nominations are applied with a connotation of approval, admiration, embodiment of beauty of the person and his courage, bravery, determination. In the Belarusian and English languages zoomorphisms *голуб* – *dove*, *птушка* (*птушаня*) – *bird*, *салавей* – *nightingale* with such connotation are used. Zoomorphisms are seldom used to express a person’s mental abilities, his mentality. Nominations with a negative connota-

tion such as *баран* – *ram*, *ішак* – *ass*, *асёл* – *donkey* (*jackass*) prevail in this semantic group. Zoomorphisms with a positive connotation are almost the exception. The same mentality in these cases is syncretic due to the fact that the mentality of a person is combined with a characteristic of a person, his positive character traits. For example, the noun *зубр* (*bison*) reveals a secondary LSV 'major specialist, influential person in any field of activity': *У гэтай справе ён сапраўдны зубр* (А. Марціновіч); *Так непакоіўся ў той час адзін з буйнейшых натхніцеляў санацыі, памешчыцкі зубр Мацкевіч* (С. Майхровіч); *Максіма здзівіла, што сярод іх [пракурораў] няма зубра абвінавачання пракурора Пжылуцкага, аўтара абвінавачаньня акта* (М. Машара). In this case, the professional qualities of a person, his influence imply his high mental abilities. In English, secondary mental LSVs for this counterpart have not been formed.

In the Belarusian language, the noun *кіт* (*whale*) can semantically act as a synonym for the noun *зубр* (*bison*). Along with the actualization of the exclusivity and importance of man, in a certain field of activity is actualized the seven minds, mental faculties: *кіты сучаснай фізікі; Так, Аўтуховіч сапраўдны кіт у бізнесе не вельмі вялікага Ваўкавыска* (Наша Ніва). In English, secondary mental LSVs for this counterpart have not been formed.

It can be attributed to the mental secondary LSV the noun *птушка* (*bird*), in the semantic structure of which mental semes 'significance, influence, intelligence' stand out: *Гэтая схільнасць упайнаважанага – не дзіва, бо чалавек ён старонкі і па-сапраўдному не ведае, што гэта за птушка наш Лепятун* (А. Кулакоўскі); *Ну, калі ўжо сам таварыш Верашчака... – прамовіў я такім тонам, быццам мне вельмі добра было вядома, якая гэта значная птушка – Верашчака* (Я. Васілёнак). A secondary LSV developed in the English noun, which indicates the wisdom of man, his experience, insight 'a person of a particular type, especially somebody who is strange or unusual in some way': *a wise old bird; She is that rare bird: a politician with a social conscience*.

In the Belarusian language, the noun *сабака* (*dog*) has developed secondary LSV with positive and negative connotations. It expresses both approval, admiration for someone's aspiration to a certain cause, and indifference, pity, betrayal: *Добра спявае, сабака; «Багацее, хітры сабака...»* (І. Мележ); *Таму і трэба рабіць так, каб такому сабаку нідзе ходу не было і каб людзі без усякіх сабак маглі жыць свабодна* (Я. Леўка); *Ах ты, здраднік. Іш выгнуўся, сабака* (І. Шамякін). In English, the noun *dog* is used as 'a person of a specified kind in a tone of playful reproof, commiseration, or congratulation', and 'a man who has done something bad', 'something that people consider unsatisfactory or of poor

quality': *Your historian is a dull dog; You lucky dog!; You dirty dog!; It's a real dog*.

In English, the noun *phoenix* (*фенікс*) in metaphorical transference emphasizes the successful way out of a difficult situation associated with mental activity. If you describe someone or something as a phoenix, you mean that they return again after seeming to disappear or be destroyed: *Out of the ashes of the economic shambles, a phoenix of recovery can arise*.

You can include some meliorative secondary LSVs, which in their primary meanings are associated with the names of celestial bodies. In the Belarusian language the noun *сонца* (*sun*) is used in the following secondary LSV 'about something that is a source of life, happiness of someone, something', 'about the one who is an object of worship, admiration'. In most cultures of the world, the sun as a celestial body is the main symbol of creative energy, a source of heat and light. Therefore, our ancestors viewed the sun as the symbolic center of the universe. Due to its qualities, the sun began to embody vitality and eternal youth, courage, knowledge and intelligence, power, justice, victory and glory. It was believed that the truth can be learned only in the radiance of the sun: *Сонца навукі скрозь хмары цёмныя Прагляне ясна над нашаю ніваю* (Я. Лучына); *Сонца свабоды зазьяла Краю лясоў і балот* (А. Александровіч); *Ты – наша сонца, ты – наша слава, ты – наша вечная вясна* (У. Някляеў); *А вось звароты развітальныя: «Бывай, бывай, маё сонца, сэрца, жыццё...»* (А. Вярцінскі); *Ці не пажадаюць і яны сонца справядлівасці і міру пасля той прасмярдзелаі трупамі ночы* (В. Быкаў); *Дзе ты, сонца маёй душы?!* (У. Караткевіч).

In the English noun *sun* (*сонца*) developed LSV 'a person or thing regarded as a source of glory, inspiration', 'someone's success or': *The rhetoric faded before the sun of reality; The sun of the Plantagenets went down in clouds*.

The noun *галава* (*head*) 'part of the human body' (somatism), which has an extensive network of secondary LSVs, is widely used. The representation of mental faculties is based on the model of 'somatism' → 'mental faculties' → 'man in terms of mental faculties'. Positive connotations are most often noted in the structure of this polysemant: 'a man of great intelligence', 'a bearer of positive qualities, qualities': *Букрэй быў вядомы ў батальёне, як адважная, смелая, камбінатарская галава* (Я. Колас); *Моцны вучоны чалавек. Галава!* (К. Крапіва). Along with LSV with a positive connotation in this polysemant, opposite antonymous LSVs have developed, which contain a negative, pejorative characteristic of a person, his mental limitations: *Эх, ты, галава, два вухі!* (А. Якімовіч); *Эх, галава твая парожна!* (Я. Колас); *Эх ты, галава яловая. Не ведаеш ты...* (В. Быкаў); *Пабудзіў, і сам не памятае. Эх, куды ж пайшоў, пачакай, галава, разам пойдзем*

(К. Чорны). In English head (галава) it has been found LSV 'mental or emotional control', 'natural aptitude or talent': *a level head, a good head for figures; She had a good head for business*. The fixation of positive and negative qualities within the semantic structure of the noun head demonstrates the phenomenon of enantiosemy. In the English equivalent head enantiosemic LSV is not recorded. At the same time, it should be noted that the English language uses the term contronym to express enantiosemic phenomena, which was introduced into linguistic circulation by Jack Herring and later supported by Richard Lederer [9]. The realization of this phenomenon can be observed in English phraseology with the word *head*, where both positive and negative qualities are recorded: *be as clever as a cartload of monkeys* 'to be terribly clever', *a clever dog* 'smart, agile', *an old head on young shoulders* 'about an extremely clever person', *a good head on one's shoulders* 'about a reasonable person', *a clear head* 'a good head for figures', *a good head for* 'about one's excellent mental abilities', *off one's head* 'about a strange, stupid, dangerous man'.

The productivity of the formation of synecdochic LSV is confirmed by the use of mental phraseologies with a component head. In such phraseologies, two opposite qualities are emphasized: 'reasonableness and unreasonableness of man'. There are a significant number of such phraseologies in the Belarusian language.

The expressions *вялікая галава* 'about the clever, wise person', *галава варыць* 'about the clever, clever person', *залатая галава* 'about the capable, talented person', *з галавой* 'about the clever, sensible person', *разумная галава* 'about the sensible, a smart person', *светлая галава* 'about a smart, able to think logically person', *мець каня ў галаве* 'to be smart enough, smart, not to do stupid things', *галава не на вошы / не для вэшэй* 'smart, smart, resourceful person' with a meliorative connotation are used.

The phraseological units *галава і два вухі* 'about the unpredictable, simple man', *садовая галава* 'about the ignorant, distracted person', *галава як рэштата* 'about bad memory', *дзіравая галава* 'about the person with bad memory', *дубовая галава* 'of the stupid, unreasonable person', *яловая галава* 'about the stupid, stupid person', *авечая галава* 'about the stupid forgetful person', *без галавы* 'about the unreasonable, stupid person' with a pejorative connotation are used.

It should be noted that enantiosemy can develop within a single phraseological expression, such as *галава зварыла*: а) 'about a person who has done something not as it should be, admitted some nonsense': *Гэта ж трэба – галава зварыла, пайшоў да Пшыбыльскага ў паслугачы!* (Х. Шынклер), б) 'about the person who made the right decision': *У адказны момант яго галава зварыла як трэба*.

The process of metaphorization includes the names of the fiery element *агонь (fire) і іскра (sparkle)* 'ardor, liveliness, upliftment', 'about a quick and agile man': *Цеплыня і агонь гарэлі ў ім у глыбіні* (К. Чорны); *Крыніца творчага агню* (М. Хведаровіч). In the secondary LSV of these nouns such human traits as 'dexterity, militancy, energy', 'impatience, nervousness' are actualized: *Слаўная ў Бульгі наймічка, да чаго ж спрытная і ваяўнічая! Агонь!* (А. Бажко); *Сярод іх быў Апанас Хмель, чалавек нецярплівы, словам, – іскра, порах* (П. Пестрак). The English equivalents of fire and sparkle do not contain personalized, but qualitative LSV 'very strong emotion, especially anger or enthusiasm', 'strong criticism or antagonism', 'vivacity and wit': *The fire seemed to die in him when his wife left; He directed his fire against policies promoting American capital flight; The performance lacked; Do something to add a sparkle to your life!*

The group of meliorative names quite often includes abstract concepts and qualities. Secondary LSV of such nominations develop on a metonymic model 'certain quality' → 'the person with such qualities': *талент (talent), аўтарытэт (authority)* 'the person with extraordinary abilities', 'the person enjoying the deserved respect has influence': *На поле выйшаў талент, будучая зорка футбола, спартовец, які будзе ствараць цуд на зялёным дыване* (К. Травень); *Маладыя таленты слаборнічалі ў вакальным майстэрстве і харэаграфіі* (У. Іванов); *Пан Паўлоўскі – гэта аўтарытэт, які любому чалавеку бачна ў высока паднятай і накрытай фанабэрыста-зухаватым капялюшам на русай галаве, у кароткім, адрывістым і аўтарытэтным голасе* (К. Акула); *А ён – першы аўтарытэт у горадзе па партызанскай гісторыі* (І. Шамякін).

In the English equivalents *talent* and *authority* secondary personalized LSVs are formed only in the noun *talent* 'people or a person with a natural ability to do something well': *There is a wealth of young talent in British theater; He is a great talent*. The English noun *authority* reveals only the primary meaning of 'a quality which makes other people take notice of what they say': *He had no natural authority and no capacity for imposing his will on others*.

Thus, the primary LSV nouns are a kind of "image", which is "painted" by a mental "paint". The choice of tones depends on the semantic content of the primary LSV, their significance in the minds of Belarusian and English speakers. Meliorative mental nominations (as opposed to pejorative ones) form a small lexical layer in Belarusian and English. The process of metaphorization is attested in the names of animals (*зубр – bison, кит – whale, фенікс – phoenix*). Personified LSVs in the names of celestial bodies (*сонца – sun*) and fiery elements (*агонь – fire, іскра – sparkle*) are regularly formed. Metonymic and synecdochic LSV is expressed in somatism

галава – head, where the primary LSV 'part of the human body' is transferred to the person himself, as well as his mental abilities or mental limitations. Mental personalized LSVs can be formed from primary LSVs with the meaning of abstract concepts, qualities and properties of a person

#### ЛІТАРАТУРА

1. Колесов, В. В. Логический анализ языка. Ментальные действия / В. В. Колесов. – М. : Наука, 1993. – 326 с.
2. Старычонок, В. Д. Мнагазначнасць слова беларускай мове. У 3-х кн. / В. Д. Старычонок. – Мінск : Коларград, 2017. – Кн. 2. Семантычная прастора чалавека ў мове і маўленні. – 349 с.
3. Бочина, Т. Г. Зооморфизмы как семантические дериваты эмоциональной оценки / Т. Г. Бочина // История русского языка: словообразование и формобразование. – Казань : Изд-во Казан. ун-та, 1997. – С. 145–154.
4. Григорьева, Г. С. Лексические единицы с зоонимами в аспекте теории номинации (на материале современного английского языка): автореф. дис. ... канд. филол. наук: 10.02.12 / Г. С. Григорьева ; Одес. гос. ун-т. – Одесса, 1985. – 23 с.
5. Киприянова, А. А. Функциональные особенности зооморфизмов (На материале фразеологии и паремииологии рус., англ., франц. и новогреч. яз.): автореф. дис. ... канд. филол. наук: 10.02.19; 10.02.01 / А. А. Киприянова ; Кубан. гос. ун-т. – Краснодар, 1999. – 23 с.
6. Курбанов, И. А. Национально-культурная специфика зоонимов русского и английского языков / И. А. Курбанов, Т. Г. Матулевич // Департамент образования и науки Ханты-Манс. авт. окр. Сургут, гос. пед. ин-та. – Сургут : Сургут. гос. пед. ин-т, 2002. – С. 209–211.
7. Хомцова, Е. В. Закономерности семантической деривации названий животных и предметов быта: когнитивный аспект (на материале белорусского, русского и английского языков): автореф. дис. ... канд. филол. наук: 10.02.19 / Е. В. Хомцова ; Бел. гос. ун-т. – 2021. – 26 с.
8. Яскевич, Н. В. Зооморфизмы в русском и белорусском языках (сравнительно-типологическая характеристика): автореф. дис. ... канд. филол. наук: 10.02.20 / Н. В. Яскевич ; БГПУ. – Минск, 2004. – 19 с.
9. Lederer R. Curious Cononyms, Word Ways / R Lederer. – Concord, New Hampshire. – 1978. – Vol.11, Iss.1. – Article 10.

(талент – talent, аўтарытэт – authority). Secondary mental LSVs have been formed in 16 nouns (9 Belarusian, 7 English), which indicates greater representativeness, the representation of such nominations is more in Belarusian nouns than English one.

#### REFERENCES

1. Kolesov, V. V. Logicheskij analiz yazyka. Mental'nye dejstviya / V. V. Kolesov. – M. : Nauka, 1993. – 326 s.
2. Starychonak, V. D. Mnagaznachnasc' slova belaruskaj move. U 3-h kn. / V. D. Starychonak. – Minsk : Kolargrad, 2017. – Kn. 2. Semantychnaya prastora chalaveka ŭ move i maulenni. – 349 s.
3. Bochina, T. G. Zoomorfizmy kak semanticheskie derivaty emocional'noj ocenki / T. G. Bochina // Istoriya russkogo yazyka: slovoobrazovanie i formoobrazovanie. – Kazan' : Izd-vo Kazan. un-ta, 1997. – S. 145–154.
4. Grigor'eva, G. S. Leksicheskie edinicy s zoonimami v aspekte teorii nominacii (na materiale sovremennogo anglijskogo yazyka): avtoref. dis. ... kand. filol. nauk: 10.02.12 / G. S. Grigor'eva ; Odes. gos. un-t. – Odessa, 1985. – 23 s.
5. Kipriyanova, A. A. Funkcional'nye osobennosti zoomorfizmov (Na materiale frazeologii i paremiologii rus., angl., franc. i novogrech. yaz.): avtoref. dis. ... kand. filol. nauk: 10.02.19; 10.02.01 / A. A. Kipriyanova ; Kuban. gos. un-t. – Krasnodar, 1999. – 23 s.
6. Kurbanov, I. A. Nacional'no-kul'turnaya specifika zoonimov russkogo i anglijskogo yazykov / I. A. Kurbanov, T. G. Matulevich // Departament obrazovaniya i nauki Hanty-Mans. avt. okr. Surgut, gos. ped. in-ta. – Surgut : Surgut. gos. ped. in-t, 2002. – S. 209 – 211.
7. Homcova, E. V. Zakonomernosti semanticheskoy derivacii nazvanij zhivotnyh i predmetov byta: kognitivnyj aspekt (na materiale beloruskogo, russkogo i anglijskogo yazykov): avtoref. dis. ... kand. filol. nauk: 10.02.19 / E. V. Hamcova ; Bel. gos. un-t. – 2021. – 26 s.
8. Yaskevich, N. V. Zoomorfizmy v russkom i beloruskom yazykah (sravnitel'no-tipologicheskaya harakteristika): avtoref. dis. ... kand. filol. nauk: 10.02.20 / N. V. Yaskevich ; BGPU. – Minsk, 2004. – 19 s.
9. Lederer R. Curious Cononyms, Word Ways / R Lederer. – Concord, New Hampshire. – 1978. – Vol.11, Iss.1. – Article 10.