

## METAPHORICAL TRANSFER OF ORNYTHONIMS IN THE ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGES

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### Abstract

The article deals with the terms denoting the names of birds, ornythonims, with a transparent inner form in the English and Russian languages as the reflection of the linguistic scientific pictures of the world of the two languages. Special terminology has been analysed with the help of cognitive methods to compare similarities and differences in the languages with the aim of observing unique and common features in the linguistic scientific pictures of the world. The object of the research is a metaphorical transfer of ornythonims in the abovementioned languages. A comparative analysis of the metaphorical transfer of ornythonims in English and Russian is the subject of the research. In the framework of this analysis the task is to characterize specific features forming the basis of metaphorical transfers in naming birds with a transparent inner form. To do the research, the *Dictionary of Animal Names in Five Languages: Birds. Latin, Russian, English, German, French* by R. L. Boeme and V. E. Flint, *Dictionary of European Animal Names in Five Languages* by L. Gozmani, *IOC World Bird List (v 8.1) (Eng.)*. *IOC World Bird List* by F. Gill and D. Donsker were used. 454 terms including 205 terms in English and 249 terms in Russian form the basis for the analysis.

**Keywords:** National linguistic scientific picture of the world, Ornythonims, Metaphorical transfer, Transparent inner form, English, Russian

### 1. INTRODUCTION

A scientific picture of the world (SPW) may be viewed as: 1) a branch of philosophical knowledge; 2) an integrant part of the scientific worldview; 3) a form of systemizing scientific knowledge; 4) a research programme (Shmakov, 1990, p. 74). The third approach suits most for the purposes of this paper: a scientific picture of the world as a complex of all sciences including arts being developed by all specific branches of knowledge at the present state.

A SPW contributes to interdisciplinary links between different branches of knowledge; it is connected with the worldview and philosophical images of the world which fixes a system of values and priorities of a peculiar

culture. A SPW is constantly changing and this process leads to the appearance of new terms and specification of available ones. It is universal as scientific knowledge is objective and free of language subjectivity but in any national language a scientific picture of the world get its national colouring by forming national terminology on the people's native language and as a result producing a national linguistic scientific picture of the world.

## 2. OBJECTIVE OF THE RESEARCH

The objective of the research is to characterize specific features which form the basis for metaphorical transfers in naming birds with a transparent inner form in the English and Russian languages. Metaphorical transfer of ornithonyms with a transparent inner form is based on differential senses of three types: specifying a classification characteristic of the denotation; specifying an exterior characteristic of the denotation and characterizing the denotation through actions it produces.

## 3. MATERIAL AND METHODS

In the research, the following methods were used: a continuous sampling method; registration and processing of the obtained data; observation; analysis of each term system and its specific features; a comparative analysis of the term systems in English and Russian; statistical method.

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## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to the classification of the International Ornithologists' Union, a number of bird species equals to 10.699 (Gill F., Donsker, D., 2018). There are the following system categories in ornithology: kingdom, subkingdom, type, class, subclass, infraclass, order, suborder, bloodline, genus and species. The first three categories present the arrangement of living creatures on a higher level of abstraction. The last eight categories arrange terms inside the class of birds. The abovementioned categories represent a classification of species in scientific consciousness. This classification is built on genus-species relations. In the research we consider the birds belonging to the subclass *True birds* of the infraclasses *Ratites* and *Noisome birds*.

The scheme of the terms research may be represented in the following way: motivation of a scientific notion – type of motivation – terms formed as a result of the semantic transfer – typology of regular semantic transfers. The last member of this chain may be viewed as the demonstration of national specifics as it is a direct reflection of metaphoricity of the national linguistic consciousness.

### 4.1 Metaphorical Transfer of Ornithonyms in English Terminological System

In the terminological system of English scientific terms we may observe the tendency to use the terms with a transparent inner form. There are three types of motivation: word-building-morphological, syntactical and semantic which correspond to three ways of word formation in the English language (Kornilov, 2003, p. 125).

We may get an idea of birds due to their exterior, habitat, food and way of life, e.g.: *open-billed stork*, *white-eye*, *fantail*, *red-legged kittiwake*, *black-backed magpie*, *bank swallow*, *fieldfare*, *gnatcatcher*, *night-heron*, etc. The same objects in other national terminological systems may also have a transparent inner form, but absolutely different features may build the basis of their nomination, which is a mark of national linguistic view of the world.

Two groups of motivated terms may be singled out due to the degree of "transparency" dependence on special knowledge. The terms characterizing an object in the way which is clear to all native speakers build the first group, e.g.: *fantail* – a bird with a tail like a fan; *black-backed magpie* – the bird has black feathers on its back; *fire-eye* – the bird has eyes of red colour, etc. 151 ornithonyms out of 205 (73.7 %) form the first group.

The birds with formally apparent motivation belong to the second group, e.g.: *skimmer* – trying to get food the bird makes slow and noiseless wing beats skimming above the surface of water dousing its beak into it. *Kingfisher* – the bird eats fish, it catches and eats 60 % of its own weight; it is patient being able to sit for hours observing the water for fish.

In accordance with the research 54 terms out of 205 (26.3 %) have been revealed in the second group.

It should be mentioned that adjectives as parts of terms may clarify a habitat or an exterior of birds, e.g.: *yellow throat, yellow-breasted bunting, rough-legged hawk, spine-tailed swift, red-winged gray warbler, etc.*

The terms with a transparent inner form formed not as a result of motivation but as a result of metaphorical transfer are of special interest for this research. Semantic transfer is observed in case when the words of common language develop into terms by metaphorical interpretation. Three models of metaphorical transfer have been revealed in the research. The first one occurs in the direction from nomination of man to the nomination of bird: *treehunter, hermittrush, emperor goose; honeyguide, warbler, pilot bird, secretary bird, weaver, tailor bird*. The second one occurs in the direction from nomination of animal to the nomination of bird: *snake-bird, whale-headed; frogmouth, mousebird*. The third group is represented by the metaphorical transfer in the direction from nomination of object to the nomination of bird: *forktail, umbrella bird, spine-tailed swift, crossbill, lyrebird, mandarin duck, sunbird, lovebird*.

The research results show that 72 terms (35.1 %) out of 205 are formed on the basis of metaphorical transfer. The dominating group occurs in the direction *object* → *bird*: 38 ornythonims (53 %); it is followed by the group with the semantic interpretation from the nomination of man to the nomination of bird: 27 (37 %); and the smallest one is represented by metaphorical transfer from object to bird: 7 (10 %).

## 4.2 Metaphorical Transfer of Ornythonims in Russian Terminological System

The trend to use terms with a transparent inner form is also typical for the Russian language. During the research, 249 ornythonims have been found out which were distributed into two groups according to their binding with the plane of content of term system and their “transparency” degree on special knowledge. The terms characterizing an object in the way which is clear to all native speakers build the first group, e.g.: *вееeroxвостка* – the bird has a beautiful tail like an open fan (in Russian: *вееp*); *белоглазка* – the bird with white eyes, it has a white ring around its eyes due to which its eyes seem white; *бородастик* – the bird of bright colour having a number of black feathers under its beak looking like beard (in Russian: *борода*); *змеешейка* – the bird got its name from an unusually long neck looking like a snake (*snake* – *змея*, *neck* – *шея*); *камышница* – the bird’s habitat is near water in bulrushes (*камыш* – *bulrush*).

On the basis of quantitative analysis it is possible to indicate that 167 ornythonims out of 249 (67.1 %) form the first group.

The birds with formally apparent motivation belong to the second group where the meaning of the term may be explained only by a detailed analysis of all the bird’s features, e.g.: *ауст-разиня* (*open-billed stork*), the upper and lower parts of its beak do not touch each other, which is why it looks like its beak is always open; *головач* – the bird has a tuft of up-turned feathers covering its head making it look big (in Russian: *голова* – *head*); *жиряк* – in Russian it means a *fat bird* though it got its nomination not because of extra weight but due to the fact that the bird eats fruits of palms containing a large quantity of oil (in English: *oilbird*); *перевозчик* – the ornythonim is formed from the verb *перевозить* (*transform*), though the bird does not transform anything, it likes to fly from one river bank to the other one; *птица секретарь* (*secretary bird*) – the bird has black feathers on its head looking like goose feathers which secretaries of judicial sessions liked to put into their wigs.

Proceeding from the analysis we may say that 82 terms out of Russian 249 ones (32.9 %) have been revealed in the second group.

It should be mentioned that in the Russian language there is a specific group of ornythonims obtaining a characteristic which may be observed either in a definite period of their life or in species of one gender, usually, males, e.g.: *звонарь* – the ornythonim is formed from the Russian verb *звонить* (*to ring the bell*): the bird has a peculiar voice of a bell-like; *трубач* – term is derived from the Russian verb *trumpet*; the bird got its name due to its sonorous voice produced only by males.

The use of compounds is another peculiar feature of Russian ornythonims; the Russian terms unlike the English ones consist of two or more elements in a closed compound noun expressed by adjectives or nouns with a connecting vowel, e.g.: *белолобик* – formed from Russian words *белый* (*white*) and *лоб* (*forehead*) connected by the vowel *o*; *вилохвостка* – in Russian: *вилы* (*fork*) and *хвост* (*tail*) connected by the vowel *o*; *желтобрюшка* – in Russian: *желтый* (*yellow*) and *брюшко* (*belly*). In some cases the first or the second element of the compound noun may be expressed by a verb, e.g.: *личинкоед* – formed from the Russian noun *личинка* (*larva*) and the verb *ест* (*to eat*), meaning the bird eating larvae; *вертиголовка* – is formed from the Russian verb *вертеть* (*to twist*) and the noun *голова* (*head*), the bird twisting its head.

Some ornythonims in the Russian language are joined with hyphens, e.g.: *гусь-белошей* (*emperor goose*),

дятел-сосун (*yellow-bellied sapsucker*), нектарница-пауколовка (*spiderhunter*), гарпия-обезьяноед (*monkey-eating eagle*), колибри-мечеклюв (*sword-billed hummingbird*), etc. In the English language there are also very rare cases of closed compound nouns denoting ornythonims: *streamer-duck* (in Russian: *утка-пароход*).

There are three types of metaphorical transfer: 1) *man* → *bird*, 2) *animal* → *bird*, 3) *object* → *bird*. The first one occurs in the direction from the nomination of man to the nomination of bird: *говорушка красноногая*, the meaning in English may be expressed in the following way: *a bird with red legs which talks a lot*. It is derived from the Russian verb *говорить* (*to talk*); during mating dance the male and female loudly cry standing opposite each other, which gives an impression of their conversation. *Органист* (*organist*) – the bird's song imitates the sounds a musician produces playing the organ; *печник* – stove maker, *ovenbird* in English. In the English language we have a transfer from the nomination of object to the nomination of bird but in Russian a semantic transfer is produced in the direction from a person who makes stoves; the bird is capable of making a nest in the form of an old oven with a complicated system of galleries; *пересмешник* (*mockingbird*) – the bird with a beautiful voice is talented in imitating noises, hisses, voices of other birds with their typical intonations; *глупыш* (*silver petrel*) – in Russian it is formed from the adjective *глупый* (*silly*) and the suffix. The bird makes its nest everywhere: on ice, rocks without burdening to hide it; as a result of these "silly" actions its eggs, small birds and even old birds are decimated.

The second group is characterized by the metaphorical transfer from animal to bird, e.g.: *китоглав* (*whale-headed stork*) – in Russian it is a compound noun formed from two nouns: *кит* (*whale*) and *голова* (*head*) with a connecting vowel *o*. The head of this bird resembles a large head of a blue whale; *лягушкорот* (*frogmouth*) – the bird has a big beak which makes it look like a frog; *птица-мышь* (*mousebird*) – this small bird has grey-brown feathers and a long tail which can reach 22 cm, they move quickly in bushes resembling mice.

The third group is represented by ornythonims with the transfer from an object, e.g.: *буревестник* – is formed from the Russian noun *буря* (*thunderstorm*) and the verb *предвещать* (*forecast*). When seamen saw these birds they began to prepare for the storm as the birds were believed to forecast storms. *Пеликан* (*pelican*) – the name of the bird is likely to derive from the Greek word *pelecs* (*bowl*). The bird has a big pharyngeal sack in the form of a bowl which it uses as a catching net; *молотоглав* (*hammerhead stork*) – the contours of its neck, pileated head and beak in profile look like a hammer; *топорик* – is formed from the Russian noun *топор* (*hammer*), the bird has a strong, high and flat nose of red and orange colour looking like a hammer; *серпклюв* – in Russian it is a compound noun formed from two nouns: *серп* (*crescent*) and *клюв* (*beak*) with a connecting vowel *o*. The bird has a red down-turned beak in the form of a crescent; *фрегат* (*frigate bird*) – frigates, substantial and fast-sailing, were used by corsairs to arrack other ships. The birds got their names due to their activity: they attack birds of prey in groups of two or three.

On the basis of quantitative analysis it is possible to indicate that 112 (45 %) of ornythonims in the Russian language are formed on the basis of metaphorical transfer. The dominating group occurs in two directions: *object* → *bird*: 51 ornythonims (45.5 %) and *man* → *bird*: 52 ornythonims (46.5 %); they are followed by the group with the semantic interpretation from the nomination of animal to the nomination of bird: 8 (7.1 %). In addition to these groups there is one ornythonim (0.9 %) in the Russian language in the nomination of which the metaphorical transfer occurs in two directions simultaneously: *man* → *bird* and *object* → *bird*. The name of this ornythonim is *свистун-галстучник* – *a whistler with a tie*, the English equivalent is *a white-breasted whistler*. The Russian ornythonim is a compound noun formed from the verb *свистеть* (*to whistle*) and the noun *галстук* (*tie*). In English metaphorical consciousness the accent is on the bird's exterior – the colour of its breast.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The analysis made provides the basis for the conclusion that:

- 1) in English and Russian ornithological term systems the trend to use terms with a transparent inner form is quite evident;
- 2) the analysis of the terms according to the binding between the plane of content and the degree of transparency showed that the terms with a transparent inner form dominate in the two languages;
- 3) a semantic transfer from the nomination of man to the nomination of bird and the nomination of object to the nomination of bird are distinguished for their frequent use in the two languages;
- 4) in case of interpretation on the basis of the denotation's exterior it is compared with an inanimate object

and the metaphorical transfer is performed in the direction *object* → *bird*. But when it is compared in accordance with birds' activity the metaphorical transfer is performed in the direction *man* → *bird*.

5) a comparative analysis of ornithonyms in two languages showed that the terms with a transparent inner form are not identical in English and Russian; in case they both are formed on the basis of metaphorical transfer other markers, indicators lie in the foundation of semantic transfer.

6) the analysis of differential senses shows that characteristics connected with birds' size, colouration, shape, actions and sounds produced by them, peculiar features of their morphology form the basis of nomination.

7) through the research it has been possible to show that in any national language a scientific picture of the world gets its national colouring by forming national terminology on the people's native language and producing a national linguistic scientific picture of the world.

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