

## ORNYTHONIMS IN THE GERMAN AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES: METAPHORICAL TRANSFER

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### Abstract

The article describes ornythonims, having a transparent inner form, in the German and English languages, which can be viewed as the reflection of the linguistic scientific pictures of the world (SPW) of the two languages. Cognitive methods have been used to analyse special German and English terminology aiming at the revealing of similarities and differences in the languages to observe unique and common features in the linguistic scientific pictures of the world. The metaphorical transfer of ornythonims in the abovementioned languages is the object of the research. Its subject is a comparative analysis of the metaphorical transfer of ornythonims in German and English. 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 are used.

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

### 1. INTRODUCTION

A scientific picture of the world 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. It is constantly changing and this process leads to the appearance of new terms and specifications. A scientific picture of the world is universal as scientific knowledge is objective and free of language subjectivity. On the other side, in any national language it gets its national colouring by forming national terminology in the people's native language. This process leads to the formation of a national linguistic scientific picture of the world (Kornilov, 2003).

### 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 German and English 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 are 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 German and English; statistical method.

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 are used. 441 terms including 226 terms in German and 205 terms in English form the basis of the analysis.

### 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 German Terminological System

Terms with a transparent inner form are used in the German language insignificantly more often than in the English terminological system. 205 ornithonyms were found in the English language and 226 in the German language (Yakovleva, 2018).

We may get an insight about different characteristics of birds in both languages with the help of motivated naming of the following types:

– *Brillen vogel* (m): (*die Brille* – eyeglasses; *der Vogel* – bird): the bird has orange-yellow circles under its eyes. In English the name of the bird is *Macgregor's bird of paradise* and it does not have a transparent inner form but commemorates its discoverer although another name of the bird is *Macgregor's giant honey eater* due to the fact that its diet consists mainly of fruits. In German the transfer is made on the basis of the bird's appearance, in English – the diet.

– *Rotdrossel* (f): (*rot* – red, *die Drossel* – the throttle) – *the red throttle*. In English – *redwing*. In the German language the adjective *red* refers to the colour of the whole bird, but in English – only to the wings. It is interesting to note that the bird has white feathers on its head that is why in Russian the bird is called on the basis of this fact – *белолобик* – a bird with white forehead.

– *Bergfink* (m): (*der Berg* – mountain is derived from Latin *montis*, *der Fink* – finch), but the bird lives not in the mountains but in the forests of northern Europe and Asia. In the English language the name of the bird means *bramble* or a *thorny bush*. The bird has a white rump, an orange breast and a white belly. In English, it has also been called *the mountain finch* derived, the name derived from the Latin language.

– *Kirschkernelbeißer* (m) (*die Kirsche* – cherry, *das Kern* – stone, *beißen* – bite): *the one which bites cherry kernels*). The bird has a big powerful bill which helps it to crack fruit kernels, especially those of cherries. In English the name is derived from the name of the bush: *hawfinch*.

*Eisvogel* (m): (*das Eis* – ice, *der Vogel* – bird). The origin of the name has nothing to do with ice. Some authors connect it with shiny coloured plumage of the bird. Others refer to the ice-blue spine feathers. In any case, they refer to the colour of feathers. In English the bird is called *kingfisher* as these birds are usually thought to live near rivers and eat fish though many species live away from water. It is also known that 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.

– *Schneidervogel* (m): (*der Schneider – tailor, der Vogel – bird*) - *tailorbird*. Tailorbirds get their name from the way their nest is constructed. The edges of a large leaf are pierced and sewn together with plant fibre or spider's web to make a cradle in which the actual grass nest is built.

A careful examination of ornithonyms' names shows that we may get an idea of birds due to their exterior, habitat, food and way of life, actions they perform or their diet. In the research, the terms are divided into two groups on the basis of their binding with the plane of content degree and degree of transparency.

The terms characterizing an object in the way which is clear to all native speakers build the first group, e.g.: *Klaffschnabel* (m): (*der Klaffe – gap, yawn; der Schnabel – beak*). In English – *open-billed stork*. The birds are characterized by large bills, the mandibles of which do not meet except at the tip, so it seems that the beak is always open.

– *Brillenvogel* (m): (*die Brille – eyeglasses, der Vogel – bird*). Many species have a conspicuous ring of tiny white feathers around their eyes. In German only the fact that the birds have 'glasses' is emphasized but in English *white* become eyes: a *white-eye bird*.

- *Weißstirnchen* (n): (*weiß – white, die Stirn – forehead*): the front part of the bird's head, namely the part above the beak, is white, so it seems that the bird has a white forehead. In English, the bird is called *white-faced ibis*.

- *Bartvogel* (m): (*der Bart – beard, der Vogel – bird*). It is a bright bird, under the beak of which there is a part of black feathers like a beard. In English they got the name *barbets* for the bristles at the bases of their stout, sharp bills.

- *Scherenschwanz* (m): (*das Scheren – scissors, der Schwanz – tail*): the bird's tail is like a pitchfork. The name derived from the Latin word *forfex* (*scissors*). In English the species are called *the scissor-tailed flycatcher*, also known as *the Texas bird-of-paradise* and *swallow-tailed flycatcher*.

*Scherenschnabel* (m): (*das Scheren – scissors, der Schnabel – beak*) – the bird's diet is fish, insects, crustaceans and mollusks; its beak resembles scissors in shape, which helps the species to perfectly catch fish from water. In the English language they got the name *skimmers*. Skimmers have a light graceful flight, with steady beats of their long wings. They fly low over the water surface with the lower mandible skimming the water for small fish.

Detailed analysis allows to say that to the first group belong 151 (66.8 %) out of 226 terms with a transparent inner form.

The terms with formal motivation when native speakers do not fully understand why this kind of motivation was chosen form the second group. The following examples may be considered:

*Uferschwalbe* (f): (*Ufer – bank, die Schwalbe – swallow*): the birds are noted for the place where they dig their nests: on the high river bank. They are called *sand martins* in Europe and *bank swallows* in the Americas.

*Sandregenpfeifer* (m): (*der Sand – sand, der Regen – rain, der Pfeifer – plover*). The birds are found on sandy or pebble sites on the banks of rivers, lakes and seas. They are characterized by their capacity to foresee the approach of rain which makes them restless and troubled. The birds are called *ringed plovers* in English. The common ringed plover's breeding habitat is open ground on beaches. The species have a grey-brown back and wings, a white belly, and a white breast with one black neckband. A characteristic feature of the birds' behaviour is the basis of motivation in German and a feature of their appearance – in English.

*Steinwälzer* (m): (*der Stein – stone, walzen – to turn*): *turnstone*. As the name implies, these species overturn stones, seaweed, and similar items in search of invertebrate prey. Despite its small size the bird can overturn quite big objects using not only its feet but chest.

*Nachtreiher* (m): (*der Nacht – night, der Reiher – heron*). The name derives from the Greek for "night raven". The bird can be heard mainly at night or in the evening, which is the basis for nomination.

On the basis of the analysis it is possible to indicate that 75 (33.2 %) out of 226 German terms belong to the second group.

The data obtained in the English and German languages confirm the idea of a motivational feature as the basis for nomination which in most cases reveals a distinctive feature of the bird. The same objects in other national terminological systems may also have a transparent inner form, but rather often different features may build the basis of their nomination, which is a mark of the national linguistic view of the world.

As far as the structure of German ornithonyms is concerned, a typical linguistic feature of the German language, including terminology, is compound nouns consisting of two or more elements while in English adjectives, participles or nouns are used as explanatory words. This is illustrated by a great number of examples:

- *Semperbrillenvogel* (m): (*das Semper – bridle, die Brillen – eyeglasses, der Vogel – bird*). The German compound noun consists of three nouns. In English the bird is called *a bridled white-eye* and has in its structure a participle, an adjective and a noun. The species has a white ring round its eyes which is the basis for nomination.

- *Stummelscherenschwanz* (m): (*der Stummel – stub, die Scherzen – scissors, der Schwanz – tail*). The bird has a scissor-like tail divided in two parts. In English the tail is compared with a fork as the bird is called *a little forktail*. In Russian, an absolutely different feature is the basis for nomination – the bird's white legs: *белоножка* (*белый – white, ножка – a small leg*).

*Schlangehalsvogel* (m): (*die Schlange – snake, der Hals – neck, der Vogel – bird*) – a bird with a snake-like neck. The name refers to the birds' long thin neck, which has a snake-like appearance when they swim with their bodies submerged, or when mated pairs twist it during their bonding displays. In English the species is called *darther*. "Darter" is used with a geographical term when referring to particular species. It alludes to their manner of procuring food, as they impale fishes with their thin, pointed beak.

*Stachelschwanzsegler* (m): (*der Stachel – needle, der Schwanz – tail, der Segler – swift*): a swift with a needle-like tail. Needle-tailed swifts get their name from the spined end of their tail, which is not forked as it is in the typical swifts; the scape of each rudder protrudes 3-5 mm outward in the form of a needle.

From this we may conclude that practically all the German terms consist of one compound word and unlike other compound nouns they are not connected with the consonant 's' but 'n' or are formed without any connecting consonant, e.g.: *Akaziendrossel, Schlangehalsvogel, Stachelschwanzsegler* .

## 4.2 Types of Metaphorical Transfer

On the basis of the work made we have come to conclusions that there are four common types of metaphorical transfer in naming ornithonyms: in the direction from man to bird, from animal to bird, from object to bird and from object + animal to bird.

### Metaphorical transfer in the direction from **man to bird**:

Baumspäher (m) – *ad literam*: "tree observer"; an English ornithonym: *tree hunter*.

Baumsteiger (m) – *ad literam*: "tree climber"; an English ornithonym: *woodcreeper*.

Erdhacker (m) – *ad literam*: "digger"; an English ornithonym: *earthcreeper*.

Kaisergans (f) – *ad literam*: "emperor goose"; an English ornithonym: *emperor goose*.

Glöckner (m) – *ad literam*: "ringer"; an English ornithonym: *bellbird*.

Nußknacker (m) – *ad literam*: "nutcracker"; an English ornithonym: *nutcracker*.

Kaiseradler (m) – *ad literam*: "eagle emperor"; an English ornithonym: *imperial eagle*.

Sekretär (m) – *ad literam*: "secretary"; an English ornithonym: *secretary bird*.

Weber (m) – *ad literam*: "weaver"; English ornithonyms: *weaver bird, widow-bird*.

Trompetervogel (m) – *ad literam*: "trumpeter"; an English ornithonym: *trumpeter*.

### Metaphorical transfer in the direction from **animal to bird**:

Schlangehalsvogel (m) – *ad literam*: "a bird with a snake-like neck"; an English ornithonym: *darther*.

Froschmaul (n) – *ad literam*: "frog's mouth"; an English ornithonym: *owlet-nightjar, frogmouth*.

Mausvogel (m) – *ad literam*: "mouse-bird"; an English ornithonym: *mousebird*.

### Metaphorical transfer in the direction from **object to bird**:

Brillenvogel (m) – *ad literam*: "eyeglasses-bird"; an English ornithonym: *white-eye*.

Eissturmvogel (m) – *ad literam*: "ice storm-bird"; an English ornithonym: *fulmar, petrel*.

Schirmvogel (m) – *ad literam*: “umbrella-bird”; an English ornithonym: *umbrella-bird*.

Sichelhuhn (n) – *ad literam*: “sickle hen”; an English ornithonym: *grouse*.

Eisvogel (m) – *ad literam*: “ice-bird”; an English ornithonym: *kingfisher*.

Schuhschnabel (m) – *ad literam*: “shoe-bill”; an English ornithonym: *whale-headed stork*.

Feuerauge (n) – *ad literam*: “fire-eye”; an English ornithonym: *fire-eye*.

Schmuckvogel (m) – *ad literam*: “ornament-bird”; an English ornithonym: *fruit-crow, fruit-eater*.

Metaphorical transfer in the direction from **object + animal to bird**:

Spießente (f) – *ad literam*: “spear-duck”; an English ornithonym: *pintail*.

Löffelente (f) – *ad literam*: “spoon-duck”; an English ornithonym: *spoonbill*.

All this allows us to conclude that 92 (40.7 %) ornithonyms out of 226 having a transparent inner form have a metaphorical transfer of different types. According to our research, the ornithonyms with a metaphorical transfer in the direction from **object to bird** are dominant.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The analysis made provides the basis for the conclusion that:

- 1) In German and English ornithological term systems the tendency 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, as a rule, not identical in German and English; in case they both are formed on the basis of metaphorical transfer very often other markers indicators lie in the foundation of semantic transfer.
- 6) The analysis of differential semes shows that characteristics connected with birds' size, plumage, 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 in the people's native language producing a national linguistic scientific picture of the world.

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