

LINGUOCULTUROLOGICAL ASPECT OF THE STUDY COMPOUND NAMES IN MULTI-STRUCTURAL LANGUAGES

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Abstract

The given research is devoted to studying of the Russian and English compound names as unique source of the language information on Russian and English concept of the unreal world. The phraseological and paremic units of the language carry not only the actual language information, but also reflect the facts of social life, material and spiritual culture of the ethnic group. In this regard, of special interest for the study are established combinations which include lexemes with the archiseme “злой дух” (evil spirit) and its derivatives. The analysis of the phrasicon of the Russian language showed that at present there are more than three hundred units of this category in it. The object of conceptual analysis in our research are compound names with components “чёртов/бесов” (devil's), “чертовский/бесовский” (devilish), “чёрт/дьявол” (devil). Based on the analysis of the internal form of the above composite names we can assume that the composite names under review serve to designate a special kind of realia that have specific features: these are weeds, poisonous plants or plants with characteristic morphological features (spines); fish and mammals with characteristic features of appearance (spines, corniculate spines), predators; people with qualities negatively assessed by members of the speech community. Therefore, we can make a conclusion that according to the beliefs of Russian people the evil spirit was involved in the creation of realia and the Russian language uses the phraseological units of this type for the nomination. The evil spirit had the same properties of appearance or character, which are inherent in the objects of the nomination. The involvement of the material in English also contributes to the verification of the conclusions. Thus, the English language has a large array of phraseological units-phytonyms which include components devil and devil's. Generally, attributive relations develop between the components of phraseological units of this type. In this case, the lexeme devil can function as both the determinant and the determinable element. As the determinant of lexical units devil and devil's develop a number of the unique proprietary meanings: “sour”, “prickly”, “poisonous”, “witchy”. These English phytonyms in the same way as the Russian compound names are used to refer to a particular range of plants with a number of the specific characteristics. These are weeds or poisonous plants, parasitic plants, plants with spines. In our opinion, this fact bears witness to some commonality of ideas about the surreal world among Russian and English speakers and can be confirmed by the presented language material.

Keywords: Linguoculturological aspect, compound names, the Russian language, the English language

1. INTRODUCTION

In modern methods of teaching of foreign languages including Russian as well as foreign languages increasing attention is being paid to the linguoculturological aspect, according to which the study of the

language should be combined with the knowledge of the spiritual culture of its speakers (Kozhemyakova, 2018, p. 471, Romanova, 2014, p.144). There is no doubt that the phraseological and paremic units of the language carry not only the actual language information, but also reflect the facts of social life, material and spiritual culture of the ethnic group. In this regard, of special interest for the study are established combinations which include lexemes with the archiseme “злой дух” (evil spirit) and its derivatives. The analysis of the phrasicon of the Russian language showed that at present there are more than three hundred units of this category in it. The object of conceptual analysis in our research are compound names with components “чёртов/бесов” (devil’s), “чертовский/бесовский” (devilish), “чёрт/дьявол” (devil).

These listed compound names are names of plants and animals that can designate objects of inanimate nature and everyday objects, serve to naming abstract concepts to refer to people (*бесова нога* – a restless man, *бесово молоко* – spurge, *бесовское зелье* – tobacco plant, *бесовское наваждение* – demonic temptation, *чёртов орех* – water caltrop, *чёртов палец* – devil’s finger, *чёртов сын* – devil’s son, bad egg, *чёртова борода* – goatsbeard, *чёртова дыра* – hellhoule, *чёртова дюжина* – baker’s dozen, *чёртова кожа* – moleskin, *чёртова кукла* – a cruel or malicious woman, *чёртова перечница* – an old hag, *чёртова рыба* – devilfish, *чёртово дерево* – *Aralia elata*, *чёртово зелье* – tobacco plant, *чёртово колес* – Ferris wheel, *чёртово место* – damned place, *чёртово ребро* – peppergrass, *чёртово семя* – devil’s seed, *чёртово яйцо* – stinkhorn, *морские черти* – monkfish, *морской дьявол* – devilfish, *сумчатый дьявол*, *сумчатый чёрт*, *тасманийский дьявол* – Tasmanian devil). Linguocultural analysis of compound names with a such structure should be aimed at determining the unique meanings to develop elements “чёртов/бесов” (devil’s), “чертовский/бесовский” (devilish), “чёрт/дьявол” (devil) in these units as well as to establish the reasons why a particular realia at the time of nomination was perceived by Russian native speakers as “belonging to the evil spirit”.

2. LINGUOCULTUROLOGICAL ASPECT OF THE STUDY COMPOUND NAMES IN MULTI-STRUCTURAL LANGUAGES

As it was noted above, the considered units can be combined on the basis of the fact that in their structure there are components of “чёртов/бесов” (devil’s), “чертовский/бесовский” (devilish), “чёрт/дьявол” (devil), which function as adjectives, since they specify and concretize the meaning of the second component of the combination. The structural and semantic relations of components in such compound names are close to the structural and semantic relations of the definition and the defined word in the phrase and are of an attributive nature. In a smaller number of compound names of the traits the lexemes *чёрт*, *дьявол* (devil), in contrast, function as nouns and are definable as lexical units whose meaning is concretized by the second component of phraseology. At the same time, the relations between the components also do not go beyond the structural and semantic relations specific to adjectival phrases, c.f.: *морские черти* – monkfish, *морской дьявол* – devilfish, *сумчатый дьявол*, *сумчатый чёрт*, *тасманийский дьявол* – Tasmanian devil. All these phraseological units have a nominative function and mostly are of a terminological character.

Let us have a closer look at the group of the compound names in which the elements “чёртов/бесов” (devil’s), “чертовский/бесовский” (devilish), “чёрт/дьявол” (devil) function as an adjective name. Generally, these phraseological units combine the definition and the definable component and there are relations of concretization between them. The defined word carries the generic concept and has a direct meaning. The determinant (“чёртов/бесов” – devil’s, “чертовский/бесовский” – devilish, “чёрт/дьявол” – devil) narrows the extension of the generic concept designated by the defined word and always has a figurative meaning. Therefore, in this case we can talk about a partial metaphorization of the term. According to the classification of terminological combinations made by V. N. Prokhorova, these units of language are phrases in which “the defining word is metaphorized, and the metaphorization of this adjective is carried out in this phrase” (Prohorova, 1980, p. 65). Such phraseological units are *чёртов орех* (a water caltrop, a genus of annual aquatic herbs of the family Lythraceae that grows mostly in fresh water, the fruit is a “nut” with corniculate spine and is edible), *чёртова рыба* (a devilfish), *чёртово дерево* (*Aralia elata*; the bark of aralia is wrinkled, lined with numerous spines), *чёртово колесо* (Ferris wheel, a form of entertainment in places of festivities. This is a rotating circular platform, where the player has to keep from falling during the rotation), *чёртово место* (a damned place, a very deep, abandoned, distant place). This group should also include terminological names *морские черти* (the family Lophiidae; predator, length up to 1.5 m, weight up to 20 kg, flattened body and head, large mouth, strong teeth, spiny dorsal fin spines consists of 6 rays (three on the head), fringe is of leathery lobes on the sides of the body), *морской дьявол* (a fish of the family Mobulidae, flat front body, width up to 6.6 m, weight up to 1.5 tons, pectoral fins is pointed, their front parts are isolated and form corniculate head fins), *сумчатый дьявол*, *сумчатый чёрт*, *тасманийский дьявол* (a mammal of the flesh-eating marsupials that harms poultry farming, a distinctive feature are powerful fangs

and molars).

Another part of the compound names in which the relationship between the components are attributive also combine two beginnings: the definition and the definable word. However, in this case, both the determinant and the defined word have figurative meanings. Unlike the first subgroup of phraseological units, where the semantic shift occurred only in one lexical component of phraseology, these terms were formed as a result of the connection of components, each of which underwent a semantic transformation. V. N. Prokhorova believes that such compound names "represent the result of metaphorization of the phrase as a whole" (Prokhorova, 1980, p. 66). Thus, the main way of formation of these units is a metaphor. In the Russian compound names of this type under review the means for comparison are beliefs of the evil spirit implemented with the elements of "чёртов/бесов" (devil's), "чертовский/бесовский" (devilish), "чёрт/дьявол" (devil) on the one hand and various objects such as body parts (finger, beard, skin, rib) in the names *чёртов палец* – a devil's finger (belemnite), *чёртова борода* – devil's beard (*Aralia elata*; a tree up to 6 m with the wrinkled bark covered with numerous thorns), *чёртова кожа* – moleskin (strength fabric), *чёртово ребро* (the popular name of peppergrass; a toxic plant); other realia, c.f.: *бесово молоко* (spurge, the name of the plant), *чёртово яйцо* (the fruit body of *Phallus impudicus* button ; Mature mushroom have a strong unpleasant smell of carrion).

There is a special group of the phraseological units in the Russian language that serve to designate people whose behavior, character traits are negatively evaluated by native speakers: *бесова нога* (a restless man), *чёртов сын* (a devil's son, bad egg), *чёртова кукла* (a cruel or malicious woman), *чёртова перечница* (an old hag).

Based on the analysis of the internal form of the above composite names we can assume that the composite names under review serve to designate a special kind of realia that have specific features: these are weeds, poisonous plants or plants with characteristic morphological features (spines); fish and mammals with characteristic features of appearance (spines, corniculate spines), predators; people with qualities negatively assessed by members of the speech community. Therefore, we can make a conclusion that according to the beliefs of Russian people the evil spirit was involved in the creation of realia and the Russian language uses the phraseological units of this type for the nomination. The evil spirit had the same properties of appearance or character, which are inherent in the objects of the nomination.

The involvement of the material in English also contributes to the verification of the conclusions (Grigoreva, 2015, p.139 – 141). Thus, the English language has a large array of phraseological units-phytonyms which include components devil and devil's. Generally, attributive relations develop between the components of phraseological units of this type. In this case, the lexeme *devil* can function as both the determinant and the determinable element. As the determinant of lexical units *devil* and *devil's* develop a number of the unique proprietary meanings: "sour", "prickly", "poisonous", "witchy". These English phytonyms in the same way as the Russian compound names are used to refer to a particular range of plants with a number of the specific characteristics. These are weeds or poisonous plants, parasitic plants, plants with spines. The shape of these plants can be very unusual and resemble parts of the human body or household items, c.f.: *devil's-crow (s)*, *devil's-finger (s)*, *devil's-gut (s)*, *devil's-hair (s)*, *devil's-hand (s)*, *devil's-tongue (s)*, *devil's paintbrush*, *devil's-pitchfork (s)*, *devil's-rattlebox (es)*, *devil's-walking-stick (s)*, *devil's club*, *devil's-apron*. In our opinion, this fact bears witness to some commonality of ideas about the surreal world among Russian and English speakers and can be confirmed by the presented language material. Thus, the study of language material from the standpoint of linguoculturology allows us to reconstruct the knowledge and ideas of people about a certain fragment of the surrounding world and to trace how a non-linguistic realia is refracted in the language.

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