

METAPHORICAL TRANSFER OF ORNITHONYMS IN ENGLISH AND MARI

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Abstract

The article describes ornithonyms, having a transparent inner form, in the English and Mari languages, reflecting universal and unique features of the national scientific pictures of the world of the two languages. Cognitive methods have been used to analyse special English and Mari terminology aiming at the revealing of similarities and differences in the languages to observe specific and common features in the ancient consciousness of English and Mari people. The metaphorical transfer of ornithonyms in the abovementioned languages is the object of the research. Its subject is a comparative analysis of the metaphorical transfer of ornithonyms in English and Mari. 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, specialized Mari dictionaries are used.

Keywords: Ornithonyms, Metaphorical transfer, Transparent inner form, English, Mari

1. INTRODUCTION

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 Mari 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 Mari; statistical method.

To do the research, the *Dictionary of Animal Names in Five Languages: Birds* by R. L. Boeme and V. E. Flint, *Dictionary of European Animal Names in Five Languages* by L. Gozmani, Encyclopedia Britannica,

English Etymology Dictionary on-line; *Кайык – мыйын йолташем* by O. I. Gerasimova, *Шулдыран танна-влакын мурмышт* by A. F. Fedorov were used. 425 terms including 249 terms in English and 176 in the Mari

language form the basis of the analysis.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Metaphorical Transfer of Ornithonyms in English Terminological System

The authors presented the results of their research on the comparative analysis of ornithonyms in the English and Russian languages (Yakovleva, 2018) and English and German languages (Yakovleva, 2019) in their earlier papers. One and the same objects in national terminological systems may 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. The birds with formally apparent motivation belong to the second group. It should be mentioned that adjectives as parts of terms may clarify a habitat or an exterior of birds.

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, hermitrusher, 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 in the English terminological system in ornithology 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 ornithonyms (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 %) (Yakovleva, 2018).

4.2 Metaphorical Transfer of Ornithonyms in The Mari Language

There is a significant number of ornithonyms in the Mari language, which is not surprising for the reason that the Mari live on the territory covered by forests. Different species of wild animals as well of birds represent the fauna of the Republic of Mari El, located in the Volga-Vyatka region of the Russian Federation. It should be mentioned that Mari belongs to the Finno-Ugric languages.

This part of the research is devoted to the structural-semantic analysis of Mari ornithonyms. The names of birds given in the works by V. N. Vasiliev (1985-1987), O. I. Gerasimova (Gerasimova, 1991) and A. F. Fiodorov (Fiodorov, 2004) form the basis of the research. It should be mentioned that Mari ornithonyms have not been investigated from the point of metaphorical transfer, so this paper may serve as the basis for further analysis in this field.

The names of birds may be divided into two groups according to their motivation: ornithonyms with a transparent inner form (motivated) and ones with an obscure inner form (unmotivated). Motivated names are well understood by all the people who speak Mari for the reason that semantic characteristics referring to the Mari's linguistic picture of the world lie in their background.

According to their structure, unmotivated terms in the Mari language consist mainly of one word; to this group we can refer, for example, the following words: *йӱкӧ* – *swan*, *косо* – *bullhead*, *шумме* – *woodpecker*, *сузо* – *heather cock*, *комбо* – *goose*, *музо* – *hazel-hen*, *кӱдыр* – *blackcock*, *кӱседык* – *plover* and some other. V. N. Vasiliev, a well-known Mari linguist, stressed that this group of ornithonyms forms an ancient layer of the Mari language and are common for the language family (Vasiliev, 1985, p. 44).

Terms in the form of word combinations and the ones formed by compounding, the units of secondary nomination, refer to the terms with a transparent inner form. These terms hold prominent position in the lexical-semantic group *кайык* (*birds*). The word *кайык* itself, being a key term, has an unclear inner form at the current level of the Mari language development but we can find the explanation of the term in literature sources. According to V. N. Vasiliev, a prominent Mari researcher, the word *кайык* meaning *bird* was not widely used in the 18th century; its primary meaning was *wild* and the bird was nominated on the ground of its ability to fly: *чонештыше* – *being able to fly* [Vasiliev, 1987, p. 53]. The scientist also argues that the word

кайык was borrowed from the Chuvash language [Vasiliev, 1985, p. 46].

As pointed out by E. S. Kubryakova, by means of combining two or more notional words a new nomination is achieved, a specific meaning of which is derived due to new relations between them [Kubryakova, 1977, p. 283]. This type of motivation may serve as a word forming motivation.

It should be noted that semantics of a key word in Mari may be unmotivated but the semantics of a word combination, due to the inner form of the subordinate word, is motivated. As it has been mentioned above, the word кайык (*bird*) is unmotivated semantically but the derived word пӱрткайык (пӱрт 'house', кайык 'bird') has a transparent inner form: the bird, living near a house (*passer domesticus* (Latin); *house sparrow* in English).

Let us look more specifically at the terms кожгуса, кужу почан куса, ужаршиште, изи шиште, кузу сур шиште, изи ош чарлангӓ, кузу ош чарлангӓ that have relative nomination. The ornithonym кожгуса (Mari) – *tit-warbler* (Eng.) is formed as a result of combining the words куса 'tit-warbler' and кож 'fir-tree'. Therefore, in the Mari language, the nomination is connected with the place of habitation. In contrast with it, the term кужу почан куса (кужу почан 'with a long tail') refers to the external appearance of the bird. As far as other birds, belonging to this group, are concerned, the colour or the size or both these features lie at the basis of nomination: e.g. шиште 'woodpecker', ужаршиште 'green woodpecker (ужар 'green'); изи шиште 'lesser woodpecker' (изи 'little'); кузу сур шиште 'greater spotted woodpecker; чарлангӓ 'heron', изи ош чарлангӓ 'little white heron', кузу ош чарлангӓ 'greater white heron'.

The analysis of ornithonyms in the Mari language shows that nomination transfer occurs in different directions. The first one occurs in the direction from the nomination of subject to the nomination of bird: **subject** → **bird**. One of the examples is the word combination мардеж йӱшо вараш (*kestrel* – kind of small falcon, *windhover*). The semantics of the term in the Mari language contains the metaphor мардеж йӱшо meaning *drinking wind*. The bird prefers open spaces to fly in search of food. The English term has its origin from Old French *cresserele*, Modern French *créssele* – *rattle*, possibly from the old belief that their noise frightened away other hawks. Thus, in the Mari language the term is motivated by the manner of flying in open spaces, in English – by the noise it produces. But another English term used for nomination of the bird, *windhover*, also has the same *wind* in the compound noun; the difference is that in Mari the bird *drinks wind* while in English it *hovers* in wind.

The same trend can be observed in the ornithonym сергайык (сер 'river bank', гайык 'bird') – *common sand martin*. The bird builds its nest-tunnel on the river banks; the specific name in English means "of the riverbank"; it is derived from the Latin *ripa* "riverbank"; the transfer is performed on the basis of the place where birds build their nests; печыгайык (пече 'fence', гайык 'bird') – *rosefinch*; the birds are often seen on hedges, gardens, fences. In English, as the word implies, birds have various shades of red in their plumage. Consequently, in the Mari language the habit of sitting on fences is the source of motivation; in English – the bird's exterior appearance.

There are two semes in the semantics of the ornithonym купшӱльӧ (*jay bird*): the place of habitat (куп 'swamp') and seeds the bird eats (шӱльӧ 'barley'). In English, the jay's habit of favouring acorns as part of its diet, a food the bird habitually stores over winter, is reflected. A metaphorical basis has the term шурнывоch 'seedeater' (шурно – *cereals for bread making*. The seedeater flocks to feed on grass seeds and, at night, roost close together. The bird вӱржпоч 'pintail' (вӱрж 'awl' и поч 'tail') has a pointed tail, although the transfer is made on the comparison with an awl in the Mari language and a pin – in English. One more example is the ornithonym порсынвуй 'goldfinch' (порсын 'silk' и вуй 'head'), which means a bird with a beautiful head because silk female scarfs were considered to be beautiful and indicated a wealthy woman. Because of the thistle seeds the bird eats, in Christian symbolism the goldfinch is associated with Christ's Passion and his crown of thorns.

In the Mari language, the names of some plants may serve as a source of nomination for birds: коршангывуй 'goldfinch' (коршангӓ 'burr' and вуй 'head'), the metaphor in this case is based on the transfer of the colour of the burr's flower; энжжакйык 'robin' (энжжак 'raspberry' and кайык 'bird'), the robin has a red or orange breast – in the English language it is the basis for nomination but in the ancient Mari consciousness it was associated with the colour of raspberry.

A unique feature in the formation of Mari ornithonyms is a word combination or a compound noun where the name of one bird is used for the nomination of the other one. For example, лудо 'duck', йошкар 'red', йошкар лудо – *shelduck*. The shelduck belongs to waterfowl, which can be seen as intermediate between geese and ducks. The bird has orange-red plumage which is the basis for nomination; чечкем – *whinchat*, шоптыр чечкем 'garden warbler'. In the Mari language шоптыр means *currant*. The bird is usually seen in

parks and gardens – the places where currant grows, it is the basis for nomination in the Mari language. In English the name *garden warbler* is associated with the sound the bird produces and the place of its habitat.

The second type of metaphorical transfer occurs in the direction **animal** → **bird**. There is a number of ornithonyms which got their names as a result of the transfer from animal nomination to the name of birds: *шырчыккайык* 'river warbler' (*шырчык* 'starling' and *кайык* 'bird'). The basis of different character lies in the nomination of the ornithonym *шӧрлого*: *лого* 'trush' and *шӧр* 'milk'. The combination of the bird's name and the product gives a name to the new bird *шӧрлого* – *nightjar*. They are sometimes called *goatsuckers*, due to the ancient folk tale that they sucked the milk from goats. The birds, actually, feed on flying insects that they catch on the wing at night. The term *юмынтага* (*юмын* 'belonging to god' and *тага* 'lamb') got its name from similar sounds produced by the bird and the lamb. In English – *snipe*. Snipes search for invertebrates in the mud with a "sewing-machine" action of their long bills. Some terms contain the names of animals, being their prey, in their nomination: *кармыгайык* (*карме* 'fly' and *гайык* 'bird'), in English – *flycatcher*. Contrary to the Mari ornithonym, the action produced by the bird is of importance for ancient English consciousness. The ornithonyms *кол варааш* 'fish hawk', *колявараш* (*коля* 'mouse' and *варааш* 'hawk'), in English – *red-footed falcon*. Both Mari terms are derived from one word – *варааш* 'hawk'. *Кол* means 'fish' and we see that both ornithonyms completely coincide in the Mari and English languages, which is really a rare case. In the second term the transfer in Mari is made on the basis of food the bird prefers and in the English language – the colour of the bird's legs.

The third type of metaphorical transfer occurs in the direction **man** → **bird**. The ornithonym *апшаткайык* (*апшат* 'blacksmith' and *кайык* 'bird') 'chiffchaff' (Eng.) can serve as an example of the transfer in the direction from man to bird. The sounds produced by the bird are similar to the ones people used to hear in the blacksmith shop. In the English language, the bird is named onomatopoeically for its simple *chiff-chaff* song.

Metaphorical transfer in the direction a **whole/part relationship**

There is a number of ornithonyms with a transparent inner form which are composed with the help of metonymical transfer; they contain the same *external features* in their semantics: *олашӱй* 'garrot', meaning «spotted neck» (*ола* 'spotted' и *шӱй* 'neck'); *кугынер* 'kingfisher' (*кугу* 'big' и *нер* 'nose'), the bird with a long big bill; *важыкнер* 'crossbill' (*важык* 'curved' и *нер* 'nose'), the bird has a special beak, the halves of which are bent and shifted in different directions. These birds are characterised by the mandibles with crossed tips, which gives the group its English name. The semes connected with sound production as the basis for nomination may be treated as one type of metonymy: *куылудо* 'wild duck' – in the Mari language, the bird is named onomatopoeically for the sound it produces; the term *шӱшпык* 'nightingale' is likely to be derived from the Mari verb *шӱшкаш* ('whistle'); the ornithonym *куку* 'ckucoo' has similar motivation in the two languages.

The research shows that lexical-semantic group *кайык* (birds) represents a complicated formation both structurally and semantically. As far as its structure is concerned the ornithonyms have a form of the word, word combinations and compound nouns. On the grounds of the analysis we can conclude that the lexeme *кайык* is a key component of compound nominations. As far as plane of content is concerned, motivated and unmotivated nominations have been revealed. Ornithonyms with a transparent inner form are the result of metaphorical transfer on the basis of different qualities: place of inhabitant, external features, diet and sound production. Metaphorical transfer occurred in different directions: from subject to bird (29 %), from animal to bird (54 %), from man to bird (2 %) and metonymical whole/part relationship (15 %). A unique feature of Mari ancient consciousness is to form a new name for the bird using the name of the other bird.

5. CONCLUSION

The analysis made provides the basis for the conclusion that:

- 1) In English and Mari 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) The analysis of differential semes 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.
- 4) A comparative analysis of ornithonyms in two languages showed that the terms with a transparent inner

form are not identical in **English** and **Mari**; in case they both are formed on the basis of metaphorical transfer other markers and indicators lie in the foundation of semantic transfer.

- 5) The research results show that in the English terminological system in ornithology 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 ornithonyms (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 subject to bird: 7 (10 %).
- 6) On the basis of quantitative analysis it is possible to indicate that 112 (45 %) of ornithonyms in the **Russian** language are formed on the basis of metaphorical transfer. The dominating group occurs in two directions: *object* → *bird*: 51 ornithonyms (45.5 %) and *man* → *bird*: 52 ornithonyms (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 ornithonym (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 ornithonym is *свистун-галстучник* – a whistler with a tie, the English equivalent is a white-breasted whistler. The English ornithonym is a compound noun formed from the verb *свистеть* (to whistle) and the noun *галстук* (tie). In Russian metaphorical consciousness the accent is on the bird's exterior – the colour of its breast.
- 7) Comparative analysis of metaphorical transfer types allows concluding that all four languages: **English**, **German**, **Russian** and **Mari** acquire unique features as far as dominating types of transfer are concerned. In Russian it occurs in the direction *man* → *bird* (46 %) and practically the same data for *object* → *bird* transfer (45 %); in English the transfer in the direction *object* → *bird* (53 %) dominates as well as in German. The transfer in the direction *animal* → *bird* is a specific feature of the ancient Mari consciousness while in other three languages it is represented by the tiniest proportion. The transfer in the direction *subject* → *bird* is on the second place in Mari, but it occupies low positions in all the other three languages.
- 8) 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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