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THE ROLE AND IMPORTANCE OF PHYTONYMS IN WORLD LEXICOGRAPHY

Matkarimova Gulira'no Abdullayevna
Mamun University Lecturer
Khiva City, Khorezm region, Republic of Uzbekistan
Gmail: guliranomatkarimova@gmail.com
Tel: +998914340340

Abstract. *In the process of studying phytonyms of any language it is impossible without taking into account their historical features and new genesis. Initially, plants were given names to distinguish them from each other, like any other lexemes, they were elementary payo. Later, some phytonomic names, firmly established in a certain language, became terms. But at the same time, many words expressing the realities of the plant world, passed into the passive reserve (ceased to be used in the language and gave way to neologisms). In this regard, the phytonomic vocabulary of the English language is very important.*

Keywords: *phytonyms, V. Humboldt, A.V. Superanskaya, I.A. Baudouin.*

Annotatsiya*. Fitonimlarni har qanday tilda o‘rganish jarayonida ularning tarixiy xususiyiyatlarini, yangi genesisini hisobga olmasdan mumkin emas. Dastlab o‘simliklarga ularni bir-biridan ajratish uchun nomlar berilgan, boshka har qanday leksemalar kabi, elementar ravishda payo bo‘lgan. Keyin, ma’lum bir tilda mustahkam o‘rnashgan ayrim fitonomik nomlar terminlarga aylangan. Ammo shu bilan birga o‘simlik dunyosining realiyalarini ifodalagan ko‘plab so‘zlar passiv zaxiraga o‘tgan (tilda ishlatilishdan to‘xtab, neologismlarga o‘rin berishgan). Bu jihatdan inglis tiling fitonomik leksikasi juda ahamiyatlidir.*

Kalit so‘zlar*: fitonimlar, V.Gumbolt, A.V. Superanskaya, I.A.Boduen.*

Introduction. Scientific comparative research, on the one hand, aims to determine the individual characteristics of a particular language and, on the other hand, to reveal its common features with other languages. This idea is confirmed by the words of I.A.

Baudouin de Courtenay: "... it is scientifically impossible to see the categories of another language in a given language without any limitations; science should not impose foreign categories on an object but should search for those that exist within it and determine its structure and composition" [1,68]. This once again confirms that the comparative method has great theoretical value, as it allows for a deeper understanding of language universals and the nature of language as a social phenomenon through the unique characteristics of the compared languages.

Results and discussions. In modern linguistics, the main shift in contemporary science is the focus on philosophical culture and anthropological issues. When studying language and its figurative representations, understanding the anthropological basis of language has become crucial. Examining language and its qualities has increased interest in interdisciplinary issues within the humanities, leading to the concept of the "man-language-culture" unity.

The linguistic worldview is shaped alongside language. V. Humboldt and his followers, who formulated the concept of language as a system of intrinsic values, emphasized that language creates an intermediary world between human society and reality. For this reason, F. de Saussure argued that diachronic and synchronic approaches should not be mixed when studying language. He criticized the notion of a logical unit of human cognition while highlighting the significant semantic differences in the structures of various languages. This perspective has influenced the study and development of multiple fields of semantics, including the "field" approach in linguistics (J. Trier, L. Weisgerber, G. Ipsen, V. Porzig, etc.).

Several linguistic scholars have studied phytonyms for years. In linguistics, plant names are referred to as phytonyms. The term phytonym is derived from the Greek words "phyton" (plant) and "onyma" (name, title), meaning plant names. This term was first introduced into linguistics by A.V. Superanskaya in her book "General Theory of Proper Names" [2, 30-34]. Phytonyms are defined as units of folk botanical nomenclature, while phytoterms refer to scientific plant names based on botanical characteristics [3, 34-37]. Words belonging to this lexical group have important characteristics that must be considered during research. U. Krishke noted that the

analysis of phytonyms should be conducted at the intersection of three disciplines: linguistics, philosophy, and botany. From a philosophical perspective, plants represent natural species—objects naturally grouped together not by human intention but by inherent characteristics. Therefore, phytonyms, as terms denoting natural species, reflect real properties of plants and, unlike other lexical groups, are not arbitrary but well-thought-out names. In this regard, phytonyms are closely related to anthroponyms and toponyms, as they also denote real people and real objects. However, unlike these lexical groups, phytonyms do not refer to specific individuals or places but to entire classes of plants with shared characteristics.

Linguistic scholars such as T.R. Pisarskaya, N.E. Yakimenko, and L.F. Pucileva explained the naming of phytonyms as follows: "All names of objects are based on formal similarity or derive from a particular characteristic. Plant names either directly denote the plant or are derived from the names of its parts" [4, 366].

F.I. Buslaev studied the mythological aspects of phytonymic vocabulary. As the founder of the Russian mythological school, he stated in his work "The Historical Meaning of Proper Names" that plant names demonstrate the connection between folk life, morals, and beliefs, concluding that "...the nomenclature of folk botany itself takes us back to the mythological era" [5, 552].

According to N.I. Konovalova, phytonyms function within the lexical-semantic system of a language, not only fulfilling a nominative role but also pragmatic, evaluative, and expressive functions [6, 643].

Linguist A.M. Letova classified plant names as follows:

- Plants based on external characteristics (e.g., birch, white pine).
- Plants named according to their properties (e.g., fern, linden, nettle, willow).
- Plants named based on their growth location and method (e.g., grapevine, mushroom).
- Plants named according to their practical use in daily life (e.g., tree, pea).
- Plants named according to their smell (e.g., currant) [7, 198].

V.V. Salnikova also presented a classification of phytonyms based on thematic characteristics:

1. Trees

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2. Shrubs
3. Herbs
4. Flowers
5. Fruits
6. Vegetables
7. Mushrooms
8. Names based on plant parts
9. Color-based names

However, a definitive classification of plant names has not yet been established. Some scholars consider plant names as simple terms (Merkulova, 1961, 1965; Bobrova, 1976; Borisova, 1989; Itunina, 1999), while others view them as nomenclature (Zakarevskaya, 1970; Ivanov, 1985). A third group of scholars believes that plant names should be considered nomenclature while also exhibiting certain terminological characteristics, such as a clear connection with the denotatum, precise lexical meaning, and the presence or absence of a generalizing term within a plant group (Aryanova, 1989) [8, 13]. It is important to note that these features apply to many lexical-semantic groups.

In the lexical-semantic system of language, phytonyms express not only nominative but also pragmatic, evaluative, and expressive functions. Sometimes, a single phytonym can have multiple names among speakers of the same language [9, 67-75]. Therefore, folk names for plants exhibit great diversity and can sometimes cause confusion. This is particularly significant when considering plant names in the Uzbek language and their dialectal variations.

The Earth cannot sustain itself without the plant world. For this reason, numerous international publications, newspapers, books, and legal projects have been dedicated to the protection of plants. For instance, the journal "Economic Botany" provides information on economically important plants, "Plant Science" publishes articles on plant sciences, including new plant species and their significance in agriculture, and the "Journal of Ethnopharmacology" explores the medicinal properties of plants and their traditional uses.

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Additionally, the U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1973 was enacted to "preserve plants and ensure that their conservation is key to sustainable economic growth and development." This law aims to protect endangered plant and animal species.

In Uzbekistan, significant efforts have been made to conserve flora. The "Botanical Journal" of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan publishes scientific articles on plants, while the "Ecology and Nature Protection" journal focuses on ecology and conservation issues. The "Red Data Book of the Republic of Uzbekistan," last updated in 2009, is a crucial reference.

Conclusion. Phytonymic names are not only crucial for botanical nomenclature but also hold deep cultural, historical, and linguistic significance. The study of phytonyms facilitates scientific classification, standardization, and cross-disciplinary research, enhancing our understanding of both language and the natural world.

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