Mixed type of motivation of English, French and Ukrainian fish names

N. Shvets

SHEE «Pereiaslav-Khmelnitskyi Hryhorii Skovoroda State Pedagogical University», Pereiaslav-Khmelnitskyi, Ukraine
Corresponding author. E-mail: nathalie.chvets@gmail.com

Paper received 27.10.16; Revised 02.11.16; Accepted for publication 10.11.16.

Abstract. The paper is devoted to the study of mixed motivation type of fish names in the English, French and Ukrainian languages from the point of view of cognitive onomasiological approach. The cognitive onomasiological analysis was used to describe the peculiarities of mixed motivation of ichthyonyms and to identify their onomasiological structure. The contrastive method helped to explain the similarities and the differences between the English, French and Ukrainian fish names.

Keywords: ichthyonyms, motivation, types of motivation, mixed motivation, cognitive onomasiological analysis, onomasiological structure.

Introduction. Modern cognitive semantics (G. Lakoff [10], B. Rudzka-Ostyn [13]) as well as cognitive onomasiology (P. Koch [8], O. Selivanova [17], P. Štěrka [18]) and linguoculturology (K. Mizin [12], J. Bartmiński [2], A. Wierzbicka [20]) are generating considerable interest in the process of creating names for things and phenomena, paying special attention to the peculiarities of transforming extra-linguistic knowledge about the objects into linguistic units and therefore to linguistic motivation of these units. Animal names are among the most commonly investigated lexemes in the frame of mentioned approach (M. Contini [3], J.-P. Dalbera [4], A. Goatly [6], S. Martsa [11]) due to their ability to express national character traits and cultural symbols. This paper will focus on one type of animal names – ichthyonyms (fish names).

Literature review. There are numerous researches regarding fish names from different perspectives, such as etymology (W. Sayers [14]), P. Barbier [1], V. Usachova [19], V. Kolomiyets [9]), ethnonlinguistics (A. Guigné [7]), terminology (A. Gerd [5]). However, previous works failed to address cognitive onomasiological aspect of the problem.

Objective. The present paper focuses on the research of mixed motivation type of fish names in the English, French and Ukrainian languages from the point of view of cognitive onomasiological approach.

Materials and Methods. In this paper, the term “motivation” is understood, according to Ukrainian linguist O. Selivanova, as linguo-cognitive process resulting in the formation of the onomasiological structure projected onto the structure of the knowledge about the designated [16, p. 480]. In order to identify the motivation types, we used cognitive onomasiological analysis proposed by Selivanova [17]. This method has two stages – 1) simulation of the structure of knowledge about the designated and 2) interpretation of the onomasiological structure [17, p. 109].

The first stage of the method aims to reconstruct the motivational basis by simulating mental-psychoneticaly corpus, which is the model of knowledge structure based on the cooperation of three functional modules – propositional, associative and evaluative – with linguistic resources [16, p. 383]. Propositional module includes true knowledge about the object, associative module tends to describe characteristics of the object in terms of other domains, and evaluative module is connected with personal view of people who create names.

The second stage of the method identifies the structural types of linguistic units: 1) derivatives; 2) compounds; 3) two-component nouns; 4) multi-component nouns. In accordance with the research of O. Selivanova [15, p. 67–94], the compounds were classified into four types: 1) associative; 2) distant-syntagmatic; 3) contact-syntagmatic; 4) integrated.

In order to identify motivation types of ichthyonyms we studied 1716 fish names (638 – in English, 630 – in French and 448 – in Ukrainian) and found out that 403 ichthyonyms (186 – in English, 140 – in French and 77 – in Ukrainian) belong to mixed motivation type.

With the help of contrastive method, we explained the similarities and the differences between the English, French and Ukrainian fish names that belong to mixed motivational type.

Results and Discussion. The mixed type of motivation of English, French and Ukrainian fish names can be described as the choice of motivators from different functional modules of mental-psychoneticaly corpus. One motivator is chosen from the propositional module and has direct meaning; others are selected from associative or evaluative module, therefore having figurative meaning. Due to this fact we distinguished three varieties of mixed motivation – propositional combined with associative (84,6%), propositional combined with evaluative (13,1%) and associative combined with evaluative (3,3%).

As can be seen from mentioned above figures, the most productive variety of mixed motivation type is propositional combined with associative. To be more precise, 341 ichthyonyms (170 – in English, 95 – in French and 76 – in Ukrainian) were created this way. We constructed 16 models of this variety based on the place of propositional element in onomasiological structure of English, French and Ukrainian fish names:

1) the first and most effective model includes associative element (AE) and the mention of fish habitat or other important place in fish life – AE+locative (143 fish names, among them 78 in English – e.g. kelp pipefish, galapagos batfish, copper rockfish, 36 in Ukrainian – e.g. морський ѐжак, клон мавританський, півник яванський, and 29 in French – e.g. bananes de mer, aiguille de mer, chien espagnol, volier atlantique);

2) the second model consists of associative element (AE) and colour adjective – AE+colour (54 fish names, among them 22 in English – e.g. pink cardinalfish, purple surgeonfish, red velvetfish, 19 in French – e.g. torpille noire, grenadier bleu, perroquet vert, and 13 in Ukrainian – e.g. собавча червоно-жовтый, півник зелений,
gorbatь світлî; 3) the third characteristic is composed of associative element (AE), quality characteristic and the mention of fish body part or the peculiarity of coloration – \textit{AE+quality+partitive} (45 fish names, among them 29 in English – e.g. yellowfin surgeon, blue barred parrotfish, sharptooth catfish; 11 in French – e.g. poisson-ballon à taches blanches, poisson-clown à bande dorsale, chirurgien hagard à raies noires; 5 in Ukrainian – тюрокрила риба-ылка, собачка чорноголова, тюрокрила риба-ылка, сонячий окунь синьобривий, бабець структаплавцевий); 4) the fourth model includes associative element (AE) and the mention of fish body part or the peculiarity of coloration – \textit{AE+partitive} (28 fish names, among them 19 in English – e.g. barred pipefish, spotted batfish, speckled guitarfish; 7 in French – chirurgien strié, dragonnet tacheté, loup de mer bleu, saint-pierre maculé, poisson chat rayé, girelle à raies noires, bagnard à raies noires blanches; 7 in Ukrainian – дракончик, акула трьохсмугова, карачун двосмугиста, бабець ксяка, малый півень смугастий, риба-ылка хвостата; 5) the fifth model consists of associative element (AE), the element of quantity level and the mention of fish body part or the peculiarity of coloration – \textit{AE+quantity+partitive} (25 fish names, among them 12 in English – e.g. sixgill sawshark, longnose sawshark, longnose pipe; 7 in French – serponton à long nez, muge à grosse tête, poisson-scie à long rostre, requin-scie à long nez, requin-marteau à petits yeux, poisson-clown à deux bandes, poisson-clown à trois bandes; 6 in Ukrainian – риба-ылка дюймовиста, іглиця, twole, акула дюймовиста, бабець малоротий; 6) the sixth model is composed of associative element (AE) and the element of quantity level – \textit{AE+quantity} (10 fish names, among them 4 in French – gobie grêle zebre, muge à grosses lèvres, sar à grosses lèvres, grand requin commun; 3 in English – lesser guitarfish, slender glassy, tawotone fingerfish; 3 in Ukrainian – іглиця мала, дракончик великий, дракончик малый); 7) the seventh model includes associative element (AE) and the mention of fish appropriateness to this species – \textit{AE+correlative} (9 fish names, among them 5 in French – poisson-scie commun, requin-taupie commun, requin nourrice fauve, morsouin commun, labre nettoyeur commun et 4 in English – false lanternshark, common dolphinfish, false stonefish, false Englishman); 8) the eighth model consists of associative element (AE) and verb denoting fish behavior – \textit{AE+predicative} (9 fish names, among them 6 in French – grondin-lyre, requin dourmer corno, requin dourmer à crête, requin dourmer taureau, requin dourmer bouledogue, requin dourmer zèbre and 3 in English – razorback sucker, airbreathing catfishes, rainbow runner); 9) the ninth model is composed of associative element (AE), quality characteristic and the mention of fish habitat or other important place in fish life – \textit{AE+quantity+locative} (7 fish names, among them 6 in Ukrainian – морський півень червоний, морський півень жовтий, морський півень сірий, пікчер-білоопер діспровський, пікчер-білоопер діспровський, пікчер-білоопер донський; and 1 in French – loûp de mer bleu); 10) the tenth model includes associative element (AE), the element of quantity level and the mention of fish habitat or other important place in fish life – \textit{AE+quantity+locative} (7 fish names, among them 6 in French – petite aigille de mer, grande aigille de mer, grand serpent de mer, petite vipère de mer, petit turbot ouest-africain; and 1 in Ukrainian – морський півень малий); 11) the eleventh model consists of associative element (AE), the mention of fish appropriateness to this species description and the mention of fish habitat or other important place in fish life – \textit{AE+correlative+locative} (3 fish names, among them 2 in French – aigle de mer commun, renard de mer commun; and 1 in English – false catshark of brito capello); 12) the twelfth model is composed of associative element (AE) and the name of fish defensive instrument – \textit{AE+instrument} (1 Ukrainian fish name – собачка Звонимира); 13) the thirteenth model includes associative element (AE) and the name of fish defensive instrument – \textit{AE+instrument} (1 Ukrainian fish name – щипуната риба-ылка'); 14) the fourteenth model consists of associative element (AE), quality characteristic, the mention of fish body part or the peculiarity of coloration and the mention of fish habitat or other important place in fish life – \textit{AE+quality+partitive+locative} (1 Ukrainian fish name – довокорий європейський морський коник); 15) the fifteenth model is composed of associative element (AE), quantity characteristic, the mention of fish body part or the peculiarity of coloration and the mention of fish habitat or other important place in fish life – \textit{AE+quantity+partitive+locative} (1 Ukrainian fish name – морський коник довокорий); 16) the sixteenth model includes associative element (AE), quantity characteristic, the mention of fish body part or the peculiarity of coloration and quality characteristic – \textit{AE+quantity+partitive+quality} (1 French fish name – petit barracuda à bande dorée). The second variety of mixed motivation – propositional combined with evaluative – is represented by 53 ichthyonyms (14 – in English, 38 – in French and 1 – in Ukrainian). The motivators are chosen from propositional module, which contains true information about the fish, and evaluative module, which points out at people’s opinion about the fish. This opinion can be positive and this is achieved by using the names of: – dynastic leaders (e.g. eng. longnose emperor, bigeye kingfish, fr. poisson empeure à bande orange); – supernatural creatures (e.g. eng. african angel shark та ін. fr. ange de mer africain, ukr. акула-ангел європейська); – the woman (e.g. eng. rock beauty, fr. bonite à ventre rayé, demoiselle grise). The negative opinion is usually expressed in the French fish names, such as chimère commune, chimère à nez rigide and chimère à nez mou. The third variety of mixed motivation – associative combined with evaluative – is the least common among fish names, we found only 9 ichthyonyms (7 – in French and 2 – in English) created this way. Therefore we can assume this variety to be absent in the Ukrainian language. When forming fish names this way, the
speakers combine figurative meaning (taken from associative module) with their opinion (which is the part of evaluative module). The examples in French are the names демоецлел дорée, демоецлел à queue d'hirondelle, демоецлел footballleur, демоецлел saphir, l’empeçre fleuri, poisson-ange géographe, in English – brassy kingfish and giant damselfish.

The second phase of cognitive onomasiological analysis, as we mentioned at the beginning of the paper, involves the interpretation of onomasiological structure of the name.

It was found out that English ichthyonyms of mixed type are mainly two-component nouns (84,42%). The motivators from different modules are expressed through compound nouns or adjectives that are often the parts of the following models – Adj+N (37,1% – Caribbean lanternshark, airbreathing catfishes, brassy kingfish), N+N (36,56% – honeycomb rockfish, sand lizardfish, blotcheye soldier).

The formation of multi-component nouns of mixed motivational type is not really common in the English language (14,51% – Pacific leopard flounder, brown cat shark, largetooth cookiecutter shark). There are even fewer compounds among English fish names (approximately 1%), the derivatives are non-existent.

Since the French language is different from English in grammar structure, the onomasiological structure of French fish names cannot coincide the formula described above. When combining motivators chosen from different modules, each motivator is expressed by separate lexeme. That is why the majority of French fish names are multi-component nouns (54,29% – merou croissant jaune, gobie à lèvres rouges, chirurgien à queue jaune).

Two-component nouns are less common among French ichthyonyms, but they are still well-represented (45%). They are organized as the following models: N+Adj (23,57% – chien espagnol, voiller atlantique, demoleisse bleue), N+(Prep)+N (17,86% – virep de mer, demoiselle des Philippines, demoleisse footballleur). There are even less compounds among French fish names than it was in English (approximately 0,7%), the derivatives are also not represented.

The Ukrainian language, just as English, turned out to have the tendency to combine different motivators in compound adjectives, which are the parts of two-component nouns organized according to the models Adj+N or N+Adj (81,82% – дракончиця середземноморській, північноамериканський велоніс, собачка червоно-жовтій).

The multi-component nouns in Ukrainian incorporate three motivators. We found out that their percentage is 15,58% – чорноморська змійка риба-лігія, сонячний окунь синьозборний, котяча акула дрібно-плямиста). There also 2,6% of compounds among Ukrainian ichthyonyms, the derivatives are also not represented.

Conclusions. After conducting the research we revealed three varieties of mixed type of motivation among English, French and Ukrainian fish names – propositional combined with associative (84,6%), propositional combined with evaluative (13,1%) and associative combined with evaluative (3,3%). It was found out that associative combined with evaluative variety is represented only in English and French. After this, we identified the models according to which the fish names were created. The second stage of our research was aimed at the study of onomasiological structure of English, French and Ukrainian ichthyonyms, where we distinguished four structural types of fish names: derivatives; compounds; two-component nouns; multi-component nouns.

REFERENCES

Смешанный тип мотивации английских, французских и украинских ихтионимов

Н. В. Швец

Аннотация. Статья посвящена изучению смешанного типа мотивации наименований рыб английского, французского и украинского языков с точки зрения когнитивно-ономасиологического подхода. Когнитивно-ономасиологический анализ использован для описания особенностей ихтионимов со смешанной мотивацией и для установления их ономасиологической структуры. Сопоставительный метод помог выявить сходства и различия английских, французских и украинских наименований рыб.

Ключевые слова: ихтионимы, мотивация, типы мотивации, смешанная мотивация, когнитивно-ономасиологический анализ, ономасиологическая структура.