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## СЕМАНТИКО-ФУНКЦІОНАЛЬНІ ОСОБЛИВОСТІ АНТРОПОНІМІВ У ДЕТЕКТИВНОМУ РОМАНІ «ВБИВСТВО У «СХІДНОМУ ЕКСПРЕСІ» А. КРІСТІ

У статті розкрито проблему антропоніміки як у мовознавстві в цілому, так і у літературознавстві зокрема. Проаналізовано лінгвістичні дослідження як вітчизняних, так і зарубіжних вчених, у працях яких представлені не лише семантичні особливості власних імен, а також специфіка ономастичного фрагменту дійсності. Згадуються основні етапи розвитку антропонімів в історії англійського народу. Розглянуто різні підходи вчених до класифікації власних назв, зокрема опрацьовано наукові роботи А. Вежбицької, на основі яких розкрито поняття маркованості щодо особистих імен. Проаналізовано універсальну класифікацію О. В. Суперанської в контексті детективного роману «Вбивство у «Східному експресі», яка базується на особливостях походження антропонімів, зважаючи на простір, в якому вони переважно вживаються, та робить акцент на експресивно-оцінній функції власних імен. Розглянуто поняття «поетична ономастика» та «поетонім». Запропоновано власний термін для номінації літературних імен, що дозволяє включити їх до окремого сектору в загальній системі поетичної ономастики. На прикладі аналізу детективного роману «Вбивство у «Східному експресі» визначено особливу роль антропонімів та фразеологізмів у творах художньої літератури. Схарактеризовано основні функції власних імен у детективному романі, значимість яких підкріплюється прикладами з зазначеного твору А. Крісті. Особливу увагу приділено класифікації фразеологічних одиниць з антропонімічним елементом в англійській мові, фундаментом якої є етимологічна специфіка власних назв. Проведено детальний аналіз літературних імен у складі ідіоматичних виразів у романі А. Крісті «Вбивство у «Східному експресі», на базі якого представлено власну класифікацію фразеологізмів з компонентом-антропонімом. Аналіз антропо-фразеологічного аспекту роману дає підстави для визначення антропоніма як ключового елемента в створенні художнього образу, який є основним провідником читача у світ загадкової реальності твору.

**Ключові слова:** антропоніміка, детективний роман, реальні антропоніми, міфологічні антропоніми, фігура-тивні імена, фразеологічна одиниця.

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## SEMANTIC AND FUNCTIONAL PECULIARITIES OF ANTHROPONYMS IN THE DETECTIVE STORY “MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS”

BY A. CHRISTIE

The article reveals the problem of anthroponymics both in linguistics in general and in literary studies in particular. The linguistic researches of both domestic and foreign scientists were studied. In their works, not only the semantic peculiarities of people's names are presented, but also the specifics of the onomastic fragment of reality. The main stages of the development of anthroponyms in the history of the English people are mentioned. The approaches of different scientists to the classification of personal names are considered. In particular, the scientific works of A. Vezhbytska are explored, on the basis of which the concept of “markedness” in the scope of people's names is revealed. The universal classification of O. V. Superanska in the context of the detective story “Murder on the Orient Express” were analyzed. The classification is based on the peculiarities of the origin of anthroponyms, takes into consideration the space in which they are primarily used and focuses on the expressive and evaluative function of personal names. The concepts of “poetic onomastics” and “poetonym” are considered. In the article, we provide the specific term for the nomination of literary names, which allows them to be included in a separate sector in the general system of poetic onomastics. The significant role of anthroponyms and idioms in fiction is determined conducting the analysis of the detective story “Murder on the Orient Express”. The main functions of characters' names in the detective story are characterized, the significance of which is proved by the examples from the previously mentioned novel by A. Christie. Big attention is paid to the classification of English phraseological units with an anthroponymic element, the basis of which is the etymological specificity of personal names. The research of literary names as parts of idiomatic expressions in the novel “Murder on the Orient Express” by A. Christie is carried out. Based on the results, we present our own classification of phraseological

*units with an anthroponymic component. The analysis of the anthropological and phraseological aspect of the novel allows us to determine the anthroponym as a key element in the process of creating of the word picture, which is the personal guide of the reader that brings them to the world of the mysterious reality of the literary work.*

**Key words:** *anthroponymics, detective story, real anthroponyms, mythological anthroponyms, figurative names, phraseological unit.*

**Statement of the problem.** Onomastics is a branch of linguistics the focus of which is the analysis of proper names that in their turn are carriers of socio-cultural information and reflect the main values of society. Depending on the nature of proper names, onomastics divides into the following branches: anthroponymics (names of people), astronimics (names of space objects), zoonimics (names and nicknames of animals), caronymics (names of ships), theonymics (names of gods and deities), toponymics (names of geographical objects), ethnonymics (names of tribes and nations). Since the development of the lexical and phraseological foundations of any language, including English, is based on the anthropocentrism, on the so-called principle of “person in language” (Benvenist, 2002: 257), special attention is paid to the anthroponymics, the objects of study and analysis of which are anthroponyms.

**Research analysis.** Anthroponyms became a common object of linguistic researches in the middle of the XX century. Cognitive and conceptual onomastic analysis may be considered to be the main method of analysis of proper names in general, and people’s names in particular. Such linguists as D. I. Ermolovych, M. Ya. Bloch, S. I. Zynin, O. V. Speranska, Yu. O. Karpenko, A. Vezhbytska, E. Benvenist, S. Kripke, C. K. Evans, W. F. Nicolaisen, O. K. Scarle, E. Ehrlich, H. Storm, P. Hanks and T. Freedman have made a significant contribution to the development of onomastics as a linguistic discipline. The works of all the above-mentioned scientists widely reveal the specific features of the cognitive mechanisms of forming the meaning of proper names, their semantics as well as knowledge about the onomastic fragment of reality.

**Purpose of the article**– to determine the principal functional and semantic features of anthroponyms as components of phraseological units in the detective story “Murder on the Orient Express” by A. Christie, as well as to present our own version of their classification.

**Presenting main material.** The anthroponymic system is a complex of personal names that reflect the main characteristics of their bearers in the linguistic and cultural spaces. Personal names of people are kinds of signs and symbols that form a unified code system of a particular language, in which the specifics of the mentality as well as national and cultural values of the people are encrypted.

Anthroponyms are a set of personal names that identify a real person (real anthroponyms) or a fictional character (mythological anthroponyms). This set includes people’s first and last names, nicknames, pen or stage names, and so on. The concept of “anthroponym” was first introduced into science by the Portuguese linguist Zh. Leite Vasconselva in 1887 (Vinogradov, 1997: 10).

The Soviet linguist D. I. Ermolovich singles out the following main features of anthroponyms (Ermolovich, 2001: 38):

- a) indication of the person: Ravi, Olivia;
- b) indication of belonging people to a certain national and linguistic community: Robin, Henry, William (English community) in contrast to René (French), Henri (Estonian), Wilhelm (German);
- c) indication of gender prepossession: Michael, Jared, Jenna, Elizabeth.

The composition of modern English personal names is a kind of mosaic composed of ancient and new, native English and borrowed, traditional and fictitious names.

Most English names have come a long way in historical development that is closely connected to the history of the English people and the English language. This historical path includes six stages:

- 1) Celtic period (c. 600 BC);
- 2) Anglo-Saxon period (IV–VI);
- 3) Viking period (IX–X);
- 4) Norman period (XI);
- 5) the period of English Reformation (XVI);
- 6) the period of Renaissance, or the century of Shakespeare (XVI–XVII).

The classification of anthroponymic units is one of the most difficult issues for linguists. This problem was studied by such scientists as O. V. Superanska, D. I. Ermolovych, A. I. Rybakin, A. Vezhbytska, E. Kurylovych and H. V. Buren.

A simplified classification of personal names that can be easily learned by native speakers of different languages, was provided by a researcher at the University of Hawaii, H. V. Buren, who divided personal names into such categories:

- 1) male (Charles, Gerald, William) and female (Emily, Irene, Margaret);
- 2) full (Nicholas, Dorothy, Olivia), short forms (Nick, Doll, Livia) and pet names (Nicky, Dolly, Olly) (Buren, 1977: 125–126).

Based on such a linguistic term as “markedness”, A. Vezhbytska identifies the following categories of personal names in the English language:

- 1) full names:
  - a) marked (William, Deborah);
  - b) unmarked (Martin, Clare);
- 2) short forms:
  - a) marked (Ter, Ger, Deb, Pen);
  - b) unmarked (Tom, Pam);
- 3) names ending -ie / -y:
  - a) marked (Jimmy, Bobby, Pammy, Ruthie);
  - b) unmarked (Penny, Debbie, Terry, Jerry)

(Wierzbicka, 2006: 156-157).

Marked names are those that occur more often in speech, and unmarked ones are less common. It is worth to mention that markedness is a relative concept. For instance, the full name of one of the main characters of the novel “Murder on the Orient Express” by A. Christie is Mary Hermione Debenham, but others usually call her using only the first part of the name – Mary. Hence, relative to the middle name Hermione, the given name Mary is marked.

Philologist A. I. Rybakin divides English personal names into three groups according to their morphological and phonological features:

- 1) full names (Christopher, Edmund, Helen, Jane, Margaret);
- 2) variants of full names (Kristopher, Edmond, Ellen, Janice, Marget);
- 3) derivatives of full names (Kit, Kris, Ella, Nell, Ed, Ned, Janie, Greta, Megan). He refers short forms of personal names and pet names to derivatives as well (Rybakin, 2000: 8).

We believe that universal classification of anthroponyms created by professor O. V. Superanska may be applied to any class of personal names. The scientist identifies the following types of anthroponyms (Superanskaia, 2012: 78):

- 1) naturally created names: Hector, Henry, Natalia;
- 2) artificially created names:
  - a) real-life names: Mary, Helena, Greta ;
  - b) literary names:

- names whose structure does not indicate any features of the nature or appearance of the characters (lack-of-expressiveness names): Linda, Pierre;

- names that have an explicit expressive and evaluative function (expressively rich names, or talkative names). In the novel “Murder on the Orient Express”, the following first and last names of the characters may be attached to this category:

1) Robert Armstrong: Arm + Strong – this surname indicates that this man is quite strong physically and very brave.

Example: “*Colonel Armstrong was an Englishman – a V.C*” (*V.C. is a colloquial expression for war hero awarded the Victoria Cross for acts of bravery*) (Christie, 2008: 83).

2) Mr Hardman: Hard + Man – “bold man”. The author wanted to point out the personal qualities of this character, namely his courage, because after his beloved Susanna committed suicide because of Ratchett’s tricks (“...*in a fit of despair the poor girl threw herself from a window and was killed*” (Christie, 2008: 84)), he did not lose heart and dared to avenge for his beloved’s death, taking part in the murder of the executioner Ratchett (“... *he had been in love with the French girl*” (Christie, 2008: 300)).

In our article, we will focus on the analysis of the main features of anthroponyms in the context of fiction, namely in the detective story “Murder on the Orient Express” by A. Christie.

Anthroponyms play a key role in a literary work. Anyway, it is the name of the character that can reveal to the reader the inner world of its bearer, bearer’s nature as well as form an attitude towards it.

The name of the character is not chosen randomly; this is rather time-consuming process. Having come up with just the name of the character, the author has already laid their own special idea in it. Therefore, the anthroponym carries a certain subtext, absorbs all the secret images and symbols as well as gives expression to the imaginary reality depicted in the work.

For example, in the novel “Murder on the Orient Express”, the author named the daughter of Colonel Armstrong Daisy. This flower is a symbol of tenderness and kindness, and the association of the girl’s name with a daisy reveals these qualities in the heroine’s nature: “... *darling, darling Daisy. She was so sweet – so happy – she had such lovely curls. We were all just crazy about her*” (Christie, 2008: 256). Taking into consideration the part of the description of Daisy “...*she had such lovely curls...*”, we also can say about her congeniality with an angel that is also often depicted with sun-coloured curly hair as well.

Sometimes even the form of the name itself may indicate some characteristics of its bearer. For instance, their social position or nationality:

- 1) Colonel Arbuthnot – colonel;
- 2) Hildegard Schmidt – German;
- 3) Greta Ohlsson – Sweden.

Russian scientists S. P. Vasyleva and O. V. Voroshylova refer anthroponyms in fiction to a special branch of onomastics – literary or poetic onomastics. They also propose some terms to denominate the name of the literary character: “the name of the fiction figure”, “the name of the literary character” or “the name of a character” (Vasileva, Voroshylova, 2009: 4).

The term “poetonym” is quite common as well. Poetonym is any fictional name of a character that carries a certain associative load.

There are also several other terms to label this category of names. For example, William Green proposes terms “characteronyms” or “attributive names” (Green, 2013: 1). A. V. Kalashnikov names them “meaningful anthroponyms” in his scientific work (Kalashnikov, 2004: 4), and Yvonne Bertills uses such terms as “literary names”, “semantically loaded names” and “modified conventional names” (Bertills, 2003: 9). In this article, we are going to use our own term for literary anthroponyms – “figurative names”.

Figurative names are the names of the literary characters that are filled with symbolism, conceal a certain subtext, and help the reader to immerse more deeply into the atmosphere of the work.

The principal functions of the figurative names in the detective story “Murder on the Orient Express” are as following.

1. Nominative function. It serves to identify the names of characters without resorting to their qualitative characteristics: Mary, Natalia, Hildegard.

2. Differentiating function. It distinguishes a personal name from a number of similar ones. This function helps the reader to identify a certain character from all the others using their personal name: Sonia, Helena, Antonio.

3. Identification function. It means the presence of words-identifiers in a literary work that are used along with the name of the character and most often indicate the type of their activity: Colonel Arbuthnot – colonel; Dr. Constantine – doctor.

4. Illusionary function. It aims at creating and maintaining the level of mystique of a fictional reality (Vereshchagin, 2003: 198). In the novel “Murder on the Orient Express”, people of different nationalities gathered on the train – Germans, French, Belgians, Russians, British, Americans. They have their own languages, and the author uses borrowed vocabulary in the work in order to plunge the reader deeper into the atmosphere of a fictional reality. The borrowed vocabulary mainly consists of Germanisms and Frenchisms: *Fräulein* (Miss), *mais oui* (yes), *mon cher* (my friend).

Anthroponyms are the source of socio-cultural information and clearly reflect the principal values of society. But the power of personal names increases significantly if they are considered through the prism of the phraseological foundation that carries an important linguistic and cultural significance and with the help of which the national logic of thinking can be comprehended. The tandem of these two components notably enhances the aesthetic aspect of the

language. That is the main reason why in our work we focus on the anthroponym as a significant element of phraseological unit.

Phraseological unit or idiom is a stable expression, the general meaning of which is not determined by the meanings of the individual elements it consists of.

In idioms, one can observe a wide range of various semantic processes that may occur in any lexical system of a language: synonymy, antonymy, polysemy, etc. Hence, the anthroponymic component, which is a component of phraseological unit, is characterised by a number of semantic processes as well.

One of the main features that characterises phraseological units with an anthroponymic component is the semantic indivisibility of the components, which allows them to act as a single indivisible semantic language unit expressing a single concept of objectivity.

The semantics of objectively motivated anthroponyms in the structure of English idioms from the point of view of etymology allows us to divide phraseological units into the following groups.

1. Idioms with Bible-related anthroponyms:
  - a doubting Thomas – a person who doubts everything;
  - David and Jonathan – true friends;
  - as old as Methuselah – very old person;
  - bow down in the house of Rimmon – to act contrary to one’s principles.
2. Idioms with anthroponyms of ancient origin:
  - cut the Gordian knot – to solve the difficult problem;
  - the thread of Ariadne – the way that helps get out of the complicated situation;
  - Herculean effort – titanic effort;
  - Janus-faced – hypocritical person.
3. Idioms with names of known figures:
  - Jack Ketch – very cruel person;
  - John Hancock – signature; to put a signature;
  - Florence Nightingale – a person who always helps the sick, the poor and the infirm;
  - Old Harry – devil; brutal person.
4. Idioms with representative names in the context of English and American literature:
  - Dr Jekyll and Mr. Hyde – a person whose nature contains both bad and good qualities;
  - Becky Sharp – an adventurer who tries to get their goals at any cost;
  - Rip Van Winkle – an old-fashioned retrograde person;
  - Dorian Grey – narcissistic egoist.

In the article, we mostly pay attention to the phraseological units with an anthroponymic component precisely in the plane of a detective story.

The detective genre began the way of its development at the end of the 18th century. Famous representatives of this genre are such writers as William Godwin (“The Adventures of Caleb Williams”), Edgar Allan Poe (“The Murders in the Rue Morgue”), Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (“The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes”), Robert Stevenson (“The Rajah’s Diamond”). The English writer Agatha Christie is undoubtedly considered to be the queen of the detective.

Agatha Christie is not just a person, but a true cultural phenomenon. Her contribution to the world culture is so great that she can safely be called the greatest writer of all time. Agatha Christie gave the world two wonderful detectives – the Belgian Hercule Poirot and the old lady Miss Marple. The plots of all the works of the greatest writer are characterised by unsurpassed logic, realism and originality.

“Murder on the Orient Express” is the calling card of the British writer and, perhaps, the most famous detective story among readers. Excellent chunks of a language, high attention to detail, the compact microcosm of the novel (because the events take place in the enclosed space of the coach) and its incomparable intellectual character – all this makes it possible to include this work in the list of real pearls of classics not only in Britain, but also around the world.

In the novel, we selected 9 expressions with an anthroponymic component that would be an excellent addition to the phraseological treasury of the English language. Taking into consideration semantic features and specifics of the origin of the anthroponyms, we have created our own classification of the selected phraseological units.

1. Phraseological units with real anthroponyms – personal names of real people:

a) idioms with the names of known figures of the English literature:

- *I read my Dickens – be absolutely sure of something.*

Here, we are talking about the famous English writer Charles Dickens, who was Agatha Christie’s favorite author. In the novel, this expression occurs in the following context: “*I read my Dickens. M. Harris he will not arrive*” (Christie, 2008: 24).

Mrs. Harris is the personification of a creature that does not really exist. This name is associated with the novel by C. Dickens “Martin Chuzzlewit”, in which Sarah Gamp, a midwife who abused alcohol, invented the so-called Mrs. Harris, with whom she could talk about everything. In the context of the novel “Murder on the Orient Express”, Poirot wanted to emphasize that he was quite sure that the so-called M. Harris would not come, since he did not actually exist;

b) idioms with the names of known figures of the French literature:

- *The pen of a Balzac – unsurpassed poetic talent.*

We are talking about the famous French writer Honore de Balzac, who is the personification of unsurpassed poetic talent. Monsieur Bouc says that if he had such a poetic talent, he would be able to describe everything that is happening in the best possible way: “*If I had but the pen of a Balzac! I would depict this scene*” (Christie, 2008: 27).

2. Phraseological units with mythological anthroponyms – personal names of fictional creatures or characters in literary works:

a) idioms with the names related to the realia of the English culture:

- *John Bull – an unpleasant person.*

John Bull is a biased nickname for an Englishman. In the work, this is exactly what Antonio Foscarelli, Italian agent for Ford motor cars, calls the valet Masterman who was in the same compartment with him: “*... Then I go back to my compartment. It’s empty. The miserable John Bull who shares it with me is away attending to his master. At last he comes back – very long face as usual...*” (Christie, 2008: 165).

b) idioms with the names related to the Greek mythology:

- *Hercule Poirot – a very attentive person who is able to notice all the details; an erudite, resourceful detective.*

The connection between the name of the famous Belgian detective and Greek mythology is that the name of the French origin Hercule comes from the name of the famous character of ancient Greek mythology Hercules. The latter is famous for his supernatural strength, which gave him the opportunity to perform 12 feats, and in the case of Poirot, his main weapon is not physical strength, but the power of intelligence. Just like Hercules, he fights head-to-head with terrible monsters – sophisticated and cruel murderers. All the selected quotes reflect Poirot’s unsurpassed talent as an investigator and his complete dedication:

1) “*But you, you are at the top of the tree nowadays, mon vieux*” (Christie, 2008: 19);

2) “*I know your reputation. I know something of your methods. This is the ideal case for you*” (Christie, 2008: 56);

3) “*But have I not heard you say often that to solve a case a man has only to lie back in his chair and think?*” (Christie, 2008: 56).

c) idioms with the names of characters of the novel:

- characters whose last names are of Italian origin:

- *Antonio Foscarelli – a buoyant and friendly person.*

Antonio Foscarelli is an Italian who in the novel is distinguished by his excessive cheerfulness, always smiles at everyone and loves to communicate with people, sometimes even telling things that he was not asked at all. The following quotes clearly reveal his nature:

1) “*This wasn’t a man who had to have information dragged from him*” (Christie, 2008: 163);

2) “*Then he rose, his smile as engaging as ever*” (Christie, 2008: 166).

- *Cassetti – cold-blooded murderer.*

In the novel by A. Christie, Cassetti is the personification of the most large-scale evil, because this character kidnapped and brutally killed a little girl named Daisy, and went unpunished. It should also be noted that this was not his only victim, because he was the leader of a gang that was engaged in kidnapping and killing people:

1) “*This is the man who murdered little Daisy Armstrong. Cassetti*” (Christie, 2008: 82);

2) “*About six month later, this man Cassetti was arrested as a head of the gang who had kidnapped the child. They had used the same methods in the past. If the police seemed likely to get on their trail, they killed their prisoner, hid body, and continued to extract as much money as possible before the crime was discovered*” (Christie, 2008: 84).

- *Who murdered Cassetti? – a very difficult and knotty case, which takes time to solve.*

This is the question that Hercule Poirot asks himself throughout the novel, because finding the killer of Cassetti is quite a difficult task, since there are almost no clues that would help in solving the case, and the witnesses do not give any important information. But Poirot is an experienced detective who will still be able to understand who the mysterious murder is. Or murderers...

- characters whose last names are of English origin:

- *Valet Masterman – a person who is biased against representatives of other nationalities.*

In the novel, the valet Masterman clearly demonstrates his bias towards Americans. Since he is

a native of Britain, he considered Americans narrow-minded people:

1) “*He’s a Britisher and, as he calls it, he «keeps to himself». He has a low opinion of Americans*” (Christie, 2008: 67);

2) “*I don’t care very much for Americans, sir*” (Christie, 2008: 104).

- *Mrs. Hubbard – chatterbox; a person with good intuition.*

In the novel, Mrs. Hubbard is depicted as a person who likes to talk to everyone and it does not matter whether she knows this person or not. This woman also demonstrates her foresight skills, because even before the crime was committed, she emphasized to Poirot that something terrible would definitely happen that night. And so it turned out:

1) “*Poirot, by now, knew all about Mrs. Hubbard’s daughter. Everyone on the train who could understand English did!*” (Christie, 2008: 39);

2) “*I just can’t get over it. Cassetti – on this train. I had a hunch about that man, didn’t I, Mr. Poirot?*” (Christie, 2008: 116).

**Conclusions.** The anthroponym is a universal lexical component of the language, the features of the structure and functioning of which reflect the specifics of a particular ethnic group, being a valuable source in the study of the language and the socio-cultural life of the people both in the past and at the present stage of their development. The role of personal names in fiction is especially important. Since a person is at the epicenter of any work, the entire nature of further events is aimed at revealing their qualities, and the name is a key element in creating a word picture. Phraseological units are often used to reflect the atmosphere of the work better and make the reader plunge into the world of “parallel reality”. Using the example of the analysis of the detective story “Murder on the Orient Express” by A. Christie, we proved the significant role of the anthroponymic component in idioms. Based on the history of the origin and semantics of personal names, we have proposed their classification, which reflects a fairly high level of literary imagery of the novel. Therefore, our research confirms that anthroponyms occupy an important place not only in linguistics, but also in literary studies.

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