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# Conceptual and Theoretical Foundation of Anthroponyms

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**Abstract:** This article deals with the historical development of anthroponyms, their meaning, the description of significant peculiarities in meaning of anthroponyms, the linguistic status of anthroponyms, the ability of proper name to fulfill the identification function, to reflect the national and cultural features of society and serve as the carrier of additional linguistic and cultural information, especially in literary texts.

**Keywords:** Anthroponyms, historical development, folks, background knowledge, external form, perception, national coloration, lexical background, semantic part, linguistic community, functions, sociocultural significance.

**Introduction:** The system of English anthroponyms was influenced by different cultures and languages from early periods of its formation. Indo-European tribes settled in British islands in the eight century BC and brought their own system of proper names, which had Indo-European origin and accordingly was similar to the Slavic, Greek and other systems of naming. Anthroponyms formula in this system involved only firs name which was sometimes fallowed by a patronymic or toponymic nickname. In this period two-component names gradually replaced one-component names. Further Britain was captured by the Romans and remained as a part of Rome Empire for several centuries. Another significant historical event which affected English folk and its language was the Scandinavian conquest. The Scandinavian conquest did not influence too much on the general English system of proper names. The period of V-XI centuries in the history of development of English anthroponyms system is characterized by radical changes influenced by linguistic and extra-linguistic factors.

Further another vital important and new period of the evaluating in English linguo-community was coming and it was the Norman conquest. The Normans had conquered Britain and brought their own language, culture and names. It is also necessary to note that the Christian religion influenced enormously on the formation and development of English proper names. The process of convention to the Christian religion began in the seventh century in England. In this period the owner could have many nicknames and surnames, which were not registered officially. Next event which influenced on English anthroponymy was the socio-political movement-Reformation, that was developing in the Western and Central Europe in the sixteenth century. The reformation brought the development of a new variation of Christianity- Protestantism and Lutheranism. The reformation brought significant changes to the system of proper names of the English.

In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the most radical supporters of the church reformation- Puritans appeared in England. They brought a number of novelties to anthroponymy of the English. In 1660after the English bourgeois revolution the basic registered fund contained Old English, Norman, biblical, saint's names, names created after surnames and Puritan names.

In the XIX-XX centuries is the period of further widening

of English anthroponymy. The XX-XXI centuries characterize as the period of globalization, development of communication system, mutual influence and interconnection of different cultures. A frequent usage of short names, which are officially registered, observed, ethical, gender and national features in the structure of proper names doesn't matter.

Linguists investigate the features of anthroponyms as a linguistic category of language, the structure of their semantics, the features of the functioning of anthroponyms in speech and language. The popular issue is the study of the functioning of proper names in artistic discourse, the sociolinguistic motivation of anthroponyms, the means and methods of expressing the connotative meaning of names. Anthroponyms can be analyzed in their formal and nonformal forms, their differentiation from stylistic point of view, also the productivity of the formation of names and territorial and social dialectal anthroponyms are taken into consideration.

There are the following functions of anthroponyms: communicative, expressive, dialectal and appellative. Accumulative function is characterized for proper names, the function is connected with the ability of proper names to have a sociocultural seme in the meaning of a word and linguacultural information in its semantic structure. Proper names do not have grammatical and lexical functions, one of their functions is legalization of their owner in appropriate society.

Anthroponyms are involved in the main function of language – communicative. Without anthroponyms, communication between people is impossible or very complicated. In the process of communication, we very often use proper names as integral elements of our thinking. Anthroponyms also perform a phatic function, which helps to establish contact with the addressee. Often, in order to establish contact, a person begins to call the addressee by name, checking whether he hears him. Together with the phatic function, the appellative function is also involved, when the addressee uses the addresser's name as an address. It is extremely vital for us to consider the expressive function of language, which is often performed by proper names, especially anthroponyms. This is clearly visible in some languages in the various uses of name forms, since this function can be performed not only with the help of lexical, but also with the help of word-formation means. Proper names also have a deictic function. It means that they have the function of indication like personal pronouns or demonstrative pronouns. If we consider specific anthroponyms we should consider the role-deixis, which indicate the participants of a speech act.

Definition and meaning fixed in anthroponyms reflect specific features of objects and qualities which are surrounding society. The history of anthroponyms is connected with the culture and history of the community where they (anthroponyms) arise. No doubt that anthroponyms have national coloration, which is visible in practice in different languages.

In speech communication the structure of the denotative meaning of proper name can be subjected to the semantic modification and transformation, in the process of which the characteristic of onyms can be actualize, as a result the connotative meaning of onyms can be arise, which is a manifestation of extralinguistic information.

There is a hypothesis about the presence of a lexical background in the meaning of proper names, which was developed by E. M. Vereshagin and V.G. Kostomarov. The linguists define the lexical background as a set of non-conceptual semantic parts in the seme of the word. Scientists note that onomastic lexis not only has nominative function, but also a national-cultural component. Proper names can be devoid of a lexical concept, but its lexical background can be extensive and complex. The semantic parts of a proper names classify it to the set of homogeneous names and give a specific name s unique appearance. But what is a lexical background as a notion? It is a set of non-conceptual semantic part related to a word.

Additionally, there are 4 components in the meaning of proper names. The first component is the existential component, which points out that the object is existed. The second is the classifying component which classifies the object to a certain class, which can be called a denotation of a name. The third component is the individualizing one, a special purpose of the name for naming one of the objects within the framework of denotation, this object is called a referent of a name, this component can be called as a detailed message. In the individualizing component scientists state the

presence of additional meaning due to background knowledge about a specific person or object among the participants of this communication and appearing in the relevant contexts and situations. Additional meaning serves as a descriptive addition to the individualizing component in speech, contributing to its clarification and enrichment. And the fourth component is the characterizing component, which includes a set of characteristics of the referent, according to which this referent is identified.

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