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ONOMASTIC

PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN ENGLISH

UNIDADES FRASEOLÓGICAS ONOMÁSTICAS EN INGLÉS

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this work is to briefly discuss the relevance of onomastic phraseology taking as an example element of the historical evolution of names in the English language. Onomastic phraseology is a linguistic phenomenon determined by the way of thinking of society. These linguistic units express the world of special names, their form, and their content. By examining them, one can discover the reasons for the emergence of names of places and people, and the path and history of their development. Thus, for example, the work analyzes how the British Isles were constantly attacked by the Scandinavians before the Norman invasion and, as a result, the northeastern regions of England were not under their strong influence in the 9th-10th centuries. This conditioned the Germanic origin of many names in the region and that its nomenclature overlaps with the Anglo-Saxon one in many common aspects. The article also examines the formation of anthroponymic traits in the territories they occupied and the parallel use of Scandinavian and Old English names in those territories.

Keywords: Onomastics, Language, History, Meaning, Development.

RESUMEN

El objetivo de este trabajo es discutir brevemente la relevancia de la fraseología onomástica tomando como ejemplo elementos de la evolución histórica de los nombres en el idioma inglés. La fraseología onomástica es un fenómeno lingüístico determinado por la forma de pensar de la sociedad. Estas unidades lingüísticas expresan el mundo de los nombres especiales, su forma y contenido. Mediante su examen, se puede descubrir las razones del surgimiento de nombres de lugares y personas, y el camino y la historia de su desarrollo. Así, por ejemplo, en el trabajo se analiza como las Islas Británicas fueron constantemente atacadas por los escandinavos antes de la invasión normanda y, como resultado, las regiones del noreste de Inglaterra no estuvieron bajo su fuerte influencia en los siglos IX-X. Esto condicionó el origen germánico de muchos nombres de la región y que su nomenclatura se superpone con la anglosajona en muchos aspectos comunes. El artículo también examina la formación de los rasgos antroponímicos en los territorios que ocuparon y el uso paralelo de nombres escandinavos e ingleses antiguos en esos territorios.

Palabras clave: Onomástica, Idioma, Historia, Significado, Desarrollo.

INTRODUCTION

Studying languages and their structures is very important for various reasons spanning from curiosity to comprehending society as a whole. Language is the primary tool we use to communicate, and grasping its nuances in spoken and written form allows us to express ourselves in a better way which is vital for interactions from intimate relationships to professional settings. Moreover, by understanding languages we can foster critical thinking abilities to identify logical fallacies, comprehend diverse viewpoints, and evaluate information objectively (Whitehead et al., 2017). This is very relevant to enable informed decision-making and effective problem-solving. On the other hand, since language is intrinsically tied to culture, its examination unlocks understanding of a society's values, beliefs, and traditions, facilitating cross-cultural communication (Demuro & Gurney, 2018; Srivastava & Goldberg, 2017). Furthermore, linguistic research illuminates the human mind's workings and communication processes by probing aspects like language origins, evolution, structure, and usage (Cragg & Nation, 2010; Smalle & Möttönen, 2023; Zauche et al., 2016). Finally, when we appreciate the intricacies of language it deepens our enjoyment of literary works' beauty and complexity (Allan, 2016). As can be seen, the significance of language study transcends pragmatic purposes, as the intellectual pursuit itself can be a source of profound gratification, opening gateways to novel realms and experiences.

Phraseologisms are one of the main factors determining the richness of the language. Specifically, phraseology is a branch of linguistics dedicated to the study of phraseological units (PUs), which are stable multi-word combinations with distinctive characteristics. These idiomatic expressions possess a unitary meaning that transcends the sum of their components, exhibiting a fixed structure though allowing for some formal variations (Autelli, 2021). Their prefabricated nature sets them apart from spontaneously generated constructions. Several categories of PUs are recognized, for example, idioms have a figurative meaning, while collocations carry a literal sense. Proverbs convey moral messages or popular wisdom, and proverbial phrases express general truths or advice. Despite being a relatively new field, phraseology has gained significance due to the recognition that PUs are an essential component of natural language and play a crucial role in effective communication. Their study has practical applications in foreign language teaching, facilitating the acquisition of fluent and native-like proficiency (Timofeeva, 2013). It is also valuable for translation, preserving the nuanced meanings of these idiomatic expressions. Furthermore, phraseological analysis of discourse

can reveal speakers' intentions and subtleties (Ariza & Perez, 2023).

On the other hand, onomastics is the branch of linguistics that concentrates on the study of proper names - designations used to identify and distinguish individuals, locations, animals, etc. This field scrutinizes the origins, historical development, semantic connotations, and geographical distribution patterns of proper nouns (Loveday, 2022). Onomastics is by nature an interdisciplinary field, intersecting history, geography, sociology, and anthropology. Its relevance as a field comes from the fact that the examination of proper names gives us deeper insights into the cultural and historical fabric of societies, as these appellations often mirror the belief systems, values, and traditions ingrained within a community's collective identity (Sokol et al., 2020). By unraveling the etymological roots and symbolic significance imbued in names, onomastics unveils a window into the intangible tapestry of human civilizations across time and space. Therefore, this linguistic discipline facilitates a more profound comprehension of the intricate interplay between language and the social constructs that shape our perception of the world around us (Ainiala & Östman, 2017).

In the phraseological fund of the English language, many phraseologies contain onomastic units. Such language units are very interesting linguistic elements in terms of their semantic meaning and conceptual essence. Onomastic phraseology is a linguistic phenomenon determined by the way of thinking of society. These language units express the world of special names, the form and content of this world. Their role in the creation of the world's language landscape is extremely important. Onomastic phraseology is included in the language as a means of understanding reality, creating the experience of interaction with the surrounding world. To increase the pragmatic and emotional effect in the text, onomastic units are very widely used in fixed combinations. Onomastic phraseology exists in a cultural context, arises within the framework of a certain language-thought culture, and reflects the ethnocultural characteristics of the people to which it belongs. Therefore, the onomastic units—anthroponyms, toponyms, ethnonyms, hydronyms, and oronyms, used in phraseologies of different language systems reflect the attitude of human beings and their environment. Like the cultural semantics of the language, onomastic units are also a product of history; these language units are a kind of mirror of history (Mammadova, 2012, pp. 93–94). Then, the objective of this work is to briefly discuss the relevance of onomastic phraseology considering some historical elements of the evolution of English names.

DEVELOPMENT

Proper names have been with people since the dawn of human history. People gave names to each other, places, mountains, rivers, seas, and the sky to distinguish them, actively used these names in their language, and even partially stabilized and preserved them in the phraseology that arose in the later stage of language development. There is also a certain affinity between onomastics and phraseology. In other words, onomastic units and phraseology, like language units, emerged historically and went through a certain development path. Although each special name was created based on the laws of language, it was formed as a result of a certain historical process, was changed by different peoples and languages in different periods, and was shaped into its present form. Sometimes it is very difficult to restore its etymology (Adilov & Pashayev, 2019, p. 12).

For example, the Scandinavian occupation, which began in the 8th century and lasted until the 11th century, did not bring any serious changes to the structure of Anglo-Saxon names. The Scandinavians, who settled in the eastern, central, and northern parts of England, created a "Danish-style administration" there. With that, they mingled with the Anglo-Saxons and easily accepted their customs, language, religion, and social rules. Before the Norman invasion, the British Isles were constantly attacked by the Scandinavians, and as a result, the north-east of England came under their strong influence in the 9th-10th centuries. Since they were of Germanic origin, their nomenclature shared many common features with the Anglo-Saxons. However, their anthroponymic features were formed in the territories they occupied. Scandinavian and Old English names were used in parallel in those areas. Thus, the 11th century was a turning point in connection with the invasion of Scandinavian Askeriz and English Esgar.

Beginning in 1066, for a period of 36 years, double-meaning names of Norman origin almost completely supplanted the Old English names used among the nobility and townspeople. This process gradually spread in the villages. The number of names of English origin decreased significantly, and at the same time, a second surname was formed, which was passed down from generation to generation. The Normans brought with them the Frenchized concept of double Germanic names. For example, RICHARD, HUGO, GERARD, WILLIAM, etc. When it was conducted a population census for the first time and compiled a rich list of names and personal names reflecting the end of the 11th century it can be said that the names William, Richard, Robert, Piers, and Richard were among the most commonly used double-meaning male names already in the 15th century. The mentioned names

covered 60% of the entire male population. Between 1550 and 1800, the most popular male names were William, John, and Thomas.

As for women's names, it is difficult to come to a general conclusion about women's names of that time, because women's names were not included in the documents. However, Elizabeth, Mary, and Anne are known to be the three most popular female names in the period between 1600 and 1800. Of course, this was also related to the religious traditions of that time. It should also be noted that one of the characteristics of the 11th and 16th centuries was that male names were changed into female names under French influence: Alexandra, Jacoba, Nicola, etc. These names were officially recorded. But, since there are no gender suffixes in English, they were called male names: Alexander, James, Nicholas, etc.

The following trend can be felt in modern English anthroponymy: the British tried to use their traditional names. So, in 1949, the 3 most common male names were John, Richard, and Peter. The previously very common name William ranked seventh after David, Charles, and Michael. Names like Ann(e), Mary, Elizabeth, Jane, Susan, and Margaret took the first place among women. In 1966-1967, English people paid attention to male names such as James, John, and Charles, and female names such as Jane, Mary, Louise, Elizabeth, and Anne. Surnames were not used in English until the Norman invasion, and they gradually began to be formed from nicknames. What is also interesting is that, along with original English surnames (White, Nash, Wood, Dadson, Forest, Reeve), Norman (Allen, Austin, Layson, Tracy, Fitzwilliam), Celtic (Evans, Maddock, Murdoch), Scandinavian (Kettle, Knott), and even Finnish (Hemming) surnames of origin also existed (Ekwall, 1978, p. 155).

A large number of surnames of Scottish and Welsh origin are used in Great Britain. Examples include Ferguson, MacDonald (Ireland), Abrahams, and Bevan (Wales). A group of them are derived from place names: Scottish surnames like Forbes, and Dunlop; English surnames like Ball, Cardiff, and Kay; and French surnames like Buxville. When we come to English personal names, it should be noted that English personal names are chosen both for their ethnic diversity and for their broad semantic and structural features. On the other hand, taking into account that individual personal names and surnames appeared in different periods, it is appropriate to discuss them separately and talk about the semantic and structural features specific to each of them in more detail.

The spread of Christianity was one of the factors influencing the suppression of ancient Anglo-Saxon names from

the 7th century onwards. In the 6th century, missionaries of Pope Gregory the Great came to England from Rome and tried to spread this religion thanks to the help of the royal authority. As classes in schools and monasteries were taught in Latin, the spread of Roman and Greek names in English was accelerated. Also, the English nomenclature, which the local population did not understand, was enriched with Biblical names. Among the royal family and officials, those names were accepted very quickly. But among the masses of the common people, the names belonging to the ancient pagan era were still alive. At the end of the 15th century, according to Whitcomb, the Biblical name John was the fifth most used name. But the names William, Robert, Ralph, and Richard took the first, second, third, and fourth places, respectively. However, Mary, Anne, Joan, and Elizabeth from the biblical female names are first mentioned in written sources at the beginning of the 13th century.

In 1382-1384, the translation of the Bible in Middle English appeared. For the first time in England, the first compulsory registration of children born in 1583 and baptized and given a name and surname was carried out. It is completely seen that starting from that period, the church began to have an intensive and extensive influence on the spread of Christian names. In the 16th and 17th centuries, the most common male name was the Biblical name John, and the most popular female names were the Biblical German names Elizabeth, Mary, and Anne. The socio-political movement against the Catholic Church in Europe in the 16th century caused a major change in the English naming system. By the end of the 16th century, names such as Agnes, Barbara, Basil, Christopher, Denis, Katherine, Martin, Valentine, etc. were already falling out of favor, and the names belonging to the Testament, a branch of the Bible, were widespread. For example, names like Amos, Benjamin, Elijah, Hannah, Jacob, Joseph, Samuel, Sarah, Susan, and so on were used more often. As a result of the Puritans' creative imagination, the English nomenclature at that time was enriched with names of virtues such as Charity, Faith, Hope, and Prudence.

As it is known, in the first half of the 17th century, the Puritans suffered a sharp reaction and emigrated to the North American colonies. Right now, names like Abraham, Adam, Benjamin, Daniel, Elihu, Ira, Isaac, Samuel, etc. are more common in North America than in England. In other words, this too can be explained by the traditions of the period of establishment of colonies in North America. With this, we witness the great influence of the social and political life of the country on the system of English personal names. Many people took their names from literature created by members of English and American society

and gave them to their children. Writers like Spencer, Shakespeare, Chaucer, Sidney, Milton, Defoe, Swift, Richardson, Fielding, Smollett, Sterne, Scott, Dickens, Thackeray, Brontë, Eliot, Tennyson, Galsworthy, and others in England, and Cooper, Hawthorne, Beecher-Stowe, Twain, Dreiser, and Lewis in the United States enriched the English and American system of personal names with the names they gave to their characters. Examples of the most common personal names related to the names of these characters include the following: The name Stella from Sidney's "Astrophel and Stella"; The name Gloriana from Spenser's poem "The Faerie Queene"; The name Pamela from Sidney's novel "Arcadia"; The name Vanessa from Swift's poem "Cadenus and Vanessa", etc. The role of Walter Scott, who brought back to life the ancient names in his historical novels, is unparalleled in these instances: Enid, Gareth, Geraint, Guinevere, Guy, Yvain, Lancelot, Nigel, etc. Alice, a forgotten female name used by Lewis Carroll in the 19th-century tale "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland", published in 1865, became very popular immediately after its publication.

In England, in the 14th and 16th centuries, it was rare to find people with two names. However, in the 17th and 18th centuries, those bearing two or more personal names were already quite common, especially among girls. But double names like Mary Anne, Mary Jane, and Sarah Jane were considered as a single personal name. Later, modern female names consisting of two parts (Annella-Anne+Ella, Marianne-Mary+Anne, Saralinda-Sarah+Linda, etc.) began to be used. It should be noted that the creation of complex names by combining two names is also fruitful in our time. Compound names of this type, created by combining two elements, later supplanted double names like Mary Anne and Mary Jane. Nowadays, double names are very rare in English and American nomenclature (Dunkling, 1977, p. 59).

In general, among English names, derived names used in informal situations for addressing others are widespread. The exact number of derived names is also unknown. This is because the imagination of those who created these names, used in addressing friends, relatives, and children, is wider, and the total number of derivative names is incalculably large. For example, the personal name Ben is derived from Benjamin, and Dan is derived from Daniel. By adding suffixes to these derivative names, modification indicating diminution and endearment is widely used in names: Danny from Daniel, Jimmy from James, etc. Derived names are formed by shortening the beginning, middle, and end of full names:

1. Names derived from the end: Ness from Agnes, Tony from Anthony, Tina from Christina, etc.;

2. Names derived from the middle: Austin from Augustine, Aline from Adeline, etc.;
3. Names derived from the beginning: Alee from Alexander, Alf from Alfred, Ag from Agnes, etc.

In the system of personal names, the derivation of derived personal names can be imagined as follows: for example, Daniel and Theodore are first abbreviated to Dan and Ted, and Danny and Teddy are formed from them with the help of suffixes. That is why abbreviated names can be called primary derivatives, and names based on them with a suffix can be called secondary derivatives.

The ethnic diversity of the country is reflected in American personal names: Federico, Rodolfo, Dolores (Spanish), Malcolm (Scottish), Magnus (Swedish), Donovan, Patrick, Maura (Irish), Enrico, Paola, Gemma, Antonio (Italian), Manuel, Mario, Raul, Ruth (Norman), Kalli, Matti, Elvi (Finnish), Rudolph, Rupert, Martha (German), Paul, Vivienne (French), and others. During the period of advanced feudalism in England, the feudal monarchy reigned, cities began to grow rapidly, and crafts, trade, goods, money, and market relations began to develop. In this period, the social-distinguishing function of nicknames expanded, and at the same time, the special prevalence of nicknames with the meaning of mockery, joke, and open or hidden satire increased. Even the scribes came up with several nicknames and translated them from English to Latin and French. But such nicknames were not stable; they were not passed down from generation to generation.

The formation of the English literary language, especially its lexical fund, was strongly influenced by the Latin language, the Scandinavian dialects, and the French language. Modern English anthroponymy retains traces of related Old English and Scandinavian dialects. For example, surnames like BAXTER, BRADLEY, FATT, MERRY, PINK, SHARP, etc. A comparison of the Old English etymon surnames ASHKETTLE, ASKWITH, KETTLE, THOROLD with the Old Norse etymon surnames shows this affinity. However, during the period when England was under the occupation of Normandy, English anthroponymy underwent a radical change, and surnames based on French toponyms and onomastic names remain in modern English. For example, BASKERVILLE, BAYARD, CHEEVER, CORBET, DEVEREUX, EVEREST, MONTAGUE, AGUILAR, RUSSELL, etc. (Ekwall, 1978, p. 205).

The creation of anthroponymic units and the evolution of anthroponyms are also typical for the name system of the English language. In English, first names and then nicknames began to be used, and surnames were created from nicknames. In general, the exact history of the

transformation of English nicknames into surnames, which denote family names, is not known. However, certainly, they were first used as surnames by nobles, and members of the feudal elite. After the Norman Conquest, the eldest son's succession to real estate was settled in the family, and this right gave rise to the emergence of family names. The nicknames of feudal barons, lords, and counts gradually passed from father to son and became generational anthroponyms. Later, this process included the lower class of the urban and rural population, including artisans, small traders, and peasants.

In Great Britain, the use of surnames in the southern and central counties began earlier than in the northern counties of Scotland. In Wales, the use of surnames occurred later. From the research, scholars Fransson and Reany believe that the transformation of nicknames into surnames dates back to the beginning of the 12th century. In the 12th and 14th centuries, this process became more intensive. Already in the 15th century, surnames covered all strata of the English population. In the end, it can be concluded that the system of modern English surnames was formed during the entire classical medieval period (end of the 11th century - 15th century). Its formation in Wales and Scotland coincides with the 16th and 17th centuries. However, in English, the use of patronymics occurred much later than personal names. This is due to the emergence of the need to indicate the name of the generation. In genealogical nicknames, mac-mag "son", rarely ui "grandson", fer "husband" are used.

Modern examples like Macdonald - mac+Donald, Macrae-mac+Rae may be counted as such. Under the influence of the format of Germanic origin, names like Fergusson-Fergus+son, and Farquharson appeared in Scots. The British Isles were constantly under attack from the Norse before the Norman invasion. As a result, the north-east of England came under their strong influence in the 9th-10th centuries. Being of Germanic origin, their nomenclature had much in common with that of the Anglo-Saxons. However, their own anthroponymic features were formed in the territories they occupied. In those areas, Scandinavian and Old English names were used in parallel (Gurbanova, 2010, p. 68). It should be noted that a group of surnames derive from place names: Scottish surnames like Forbes, and Dunlop; English surnames like Ball, Cardiff, and Kay; French surnames like Baskerville.

CONCLUSIONS

Studying the history of English names is important since it establishes a connection with the past and roots of individuals, offering insight into the history and evolution of families over time. Furthermore, it reflects cultural

diversity, as English names often stem from various origins influenced by different cultures and languages, such as the Anglo-Saxon language before the Norman Conquest in 1066. For instance, since the beginning of 1066, and for a period of 36 years, double-meaning names of Norman origin almost completely supplanted the ancient English names used among the nobility and townspeople, and gradually, this process spread to the villages. The number of names of English origin decreased significantly, and at the same time, a second family name, which was passed down from generation to generation, began to form. The Normans themselves brought with them such Frenchized double-meaning Germanic names, for example, Richard, Hugh, Gerard, etc.

In general, many ancient English names hold descriptive meanings or derive from occupations, shedding light on ancestral professions and societal roles. Besides, English names have been used throughout history to transmit ideals, values, and hopes, embodying cultural and societal aspirations. English personal names have been chosen both for their ethnic diversity and for their wide semantic and structural features. On the other hand, taking into account that individual personal names and surnames appeared in different periods, it is appropriate to discuss them separately and talk about the semantic and structural features specific to each of them in more detail. Thus, the examination of English common names provides a captivating glimpse into the rich cultural tradition and the evolution of popularity across centuries, unveiling not only aesthetic preferences but also historical and social influences that have shaped English-speaking countries.

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