About The Problem Of Nickname Separation From Other Onomastic Units

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Abstract

The review of scientific literature shows the lack of a common opinion in linguistics on the category of nicknames. In modern studies, the notion of a nickname is often used instead of the words nickname and pseudonym. Proceeding from this, we distinguished the characteristic features of nicknames as an onomastic unit: an oral form; the function of an individual isolation from society; territorial, temporal limitation; weak systematicity; variability; optionality; structural and semantic diversity.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In linguistic science, the term "nickname" has various interpretations. N.N. Ushakov noted quite rightly on this occasion: "... to start a serious, special study of nicknames should be ... with the clarification of the phenomenon understood as a nickname" [12, p. 158].

A well-known Russian anthroponymist V.A. Nikonov wrote: "The term nickname is turned into a bag for any non-passport names. The main lesson: it's time to understand the confusion, to justify scientifically the categories of naming, without dumping them into a bunch of nicknames". Moreover, V.A. Nikonov saw the problem in the fact that "the term nickname does not disclose, but hides the differences of anthroponymic phenomena, it needs a theoretical interpretation in the definition" [5, p. 141].

2. OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL ANTHROPONYMS

As you know, anthroponyms are traditionally divided into official and unofficial ones. An official name means "the name (or its specific form) accepted in official use" and an unofficial name means "officially unidentified, unapproved proper name or a name in an unofficial form" [6, p. 134].

Concerning the separation of official and unofficial names L.P. Kuznetsova notes the following: patronymic and
family names are located in the near-nuclear space with different degrees of distance from the nucleus towards the periphery. These units are mandatory for the people of Russian-speaking community. Nicknames, group street names make up the anthroponymic periphery and are optional ones [4, p. 56]. In other words, formal and informal naming can be divided into mandatory and optional one.

Nicknames as unofficial anthroponyms originate from ancient times, and their formation is based on a clear system. In Russian language, the word nickname was equivalent to the modern word surname in a certain sense in ancient times. In Ukrainian, the word "прізвище" is still used instead of the word "surname", which was not included in the Ukrainian literary language [9, p. 18].

Until the 17th century, the word nickname was used as a synonym for the term personal name, referring only to Russian names, and from the 17th century it was more used in the meaning of an additional secondary naming of a person, often jokingly, to mock oneself [7, p. 86]. Historically, it is clear that nicknames are very closely related to official names, in some cases even there is the difficulty in the distinguishing of names or surnames from nicknames. This situation is complicated by the fact that in ancient times the nicknames passed into the category of name or surname, and there is a reverse trend at the present stage.

The next distinctive factor of official naming from unofficial ones is their record in documents. Official names preserved to the present day in archival data. Most of the ancient nicknames reached us verbally. It is worth noting that sometimes they indicated a nickname instead of a name in the documents.

A nickname is differed from a personal name by the fact that a child's name is chosen by parents. A nickname can be originated in any collective. A person remains uninvolved in a name assignment. Thus, a name has a character of good will basically, which should be achieved by the named in practice. A nickname traditionally has the character of description, which occurred in reality contrary to expectations.

A nickname is developed after an event, namely a real one. For example, a person lost sight and walks in glasses. A team can give him such nickname as Professor, four-eyed, nerd, etc. And the name is assigned right after birth with some good intentions. Personal names are assigned to each individual necessarily and officially. The change of a name is registered in official documents. In rare cases, an unofficial own name may also function, which is given by a religious minister.

In the past, nicknames were used to keep a name secret. Many peoples of the world have a taboo on names. In ancient times, the culture of renaming was applied to everything that could be dangerous for humans. In mythology, "name" played the most significant role. The name in the mythological consciousness is ontological and existential. According to beliefs, it was possible to influence an object by pronouncing his name.

So, in China it was not allowed to speak or write the names of emperors. Russians had surnames, formed from bad nicknames, the were produced for the guard against evil spirits. Turks replaced personal names with nicknames when children died often.

2. PERSONAL NAMES AND NICKNAMES

Nicknames are more mobile and are not recorded officially if they changed. Nicknames, in contrast to names, have territorial and sometimes temporary restrictions. One and the same person can have several nicknames that exist only in a given area and only in a narrow society. For example, a caller named Fanis has three nicknames: Kernis ‘Rat’ - the consonance with the name, common in school environment; Karga ‘Raven’ - a man has a dark skin, the nickname spread during a more mature period; Ҡaban ‘Wild boar’ - with a large constitution, he had this nickname in a student society. A person may be silent on some nicknames. In the time space, some nicknames can be passed on from generation to generation, and others can disappear at once, as soon as they appeared.

From other official anthroponyms, nicknames are differed by weak systematicity, short duration, and variability. They are characterized by a structural-semantic variety: thus, any language unit can be used as a name - from a separate sound to a whole sentence.
A nickname, unlike a name that traditionally does not distinguish any features of a person, or indicates the features of appearance: Kalancha - for high growth; character: The beast - heartlessness, etc., or somehow related with a name: Davlat - from the surname Davletbaev; Name: Zinaida - from the name Zalifa; or it depends on special circumstances, where this nickname arose: Itexe `Shoemaker` - stole the boots from one neighbor and sold them to another. It identifies each individual in a team. For example, there may be several people with same names in a particular society, and they will have completely different nicknames. Thus, it can be concluded that a nickname has an auxiliary function to indicate the individuality of a person, the characteristic trait of his personality.

3. SEPARATION OF NICKNAMES FROM OTHER ONOMASTIC UNITS

Often the term "nickname" is perceived as a synonym OF other onomastic categories such as a nickname, a pseudonym, a label, a moniker, a rattle, a byword, etc.

The issue of distinguishing between nicknames, bywords, priests tried to be solved by V.I. Dahl: nickname - a name given to an animal, especially a dog, a bird; The byword - "to tease someone, a sneered nickname, but not personal one, but to a city, a region, a community: Kaluga people are needle makers; Astrakhan people are sour fish oil"; A nickname is a name that is attached to someone in jest or on an occasion [3, p. 118, 442, 485].

In modern studies, the category "nickname" is more often confused with the category of "pseudonym". Let's try to distinguish each of these concepts from nicknames.

Let's start with nicknames. In the various dictionaries, the following explanations of nicknames are given:

Nickname - I. A name given to a pet; II. A nickname that is given to some person as a joke, a mockery, and also with some special, for example, secret goal [11].

So, the lexeme "nickname" in the first sense expresses the name of an animal. In the second meaning it denotes a nickname, which is given in mockery or to hide a real name. Sometimes they use the term zoonym for the first meaning in onomastics.

It is impossible not to agree with the opinion expressed by V.I. Suprun, that zoonymic nomination repeats nickname in many respects, since the dominant element of meaning is the characterological function in appearance, habits, an attitude to a certain species. Also zoonyms, as well as nicknames, are included in nuclear-peripheral relations, tending both to the core and to the periphery of the field. The zoonyms formed from the personal names of a person (Mashka, Borka, Katka, Yashka) and from the patronymics (Vanych, Sanych, Mikhalych) are closer to the core. The author argues that this phenomenon does not make it possible to draw a clear boundary between zoonyms and anthroponymy sometimes [10, p. 117].

In modern dictionaries of Russian jargon, the term "nickname" is used to denote the nicknames of people, explaining it by its "pejorative nature", "negative evaluation", which makes it possible to use the nicknames by prisoners [2, p. 7]. In argot slang such synonyms as "cliff", "klikuchka", "moniker", etc. are used.

Sometimes there is the confusion of "nickname" and "pseudonym" concepts in linguistics. Painters, writers, actors, public figures, etc. began to use pseudonyms to hide their own name. A real name of a person with a pseudonym is called autonym.

Common reasons for the use of this kind of aliases are: 1) the desire to replace a too long name with a shorter, memorable one; 2) the desire to take a "speaking" name; 3) the desire to conceal an origin; 4) the desire to have the same namea with another person acting in this field. In addition to individual pseudonyms, there are collective pseudonyms in Russian language: Kukryniksy, Nicholas Burbaki, Kozma Prutkov, and others [1].

Apparently, both nickname and pseudonym are referred to an unofficial naming of the person, which gives rise to confusion among these concepts. The most basic difference between nicknames and pseudonyms is self-nomination. If a nickname is invented by society, then the pseudonym is chosen by a man.

The World Wide Web has given us new opportunities to create virtual onyms. Virtual communication has no restrictions on gender, age, profession, nationality, religious affiliation, etc. A new "virtual person" is born with the appearance of a new name - a nickname.
Unlike nicknames, pseudonym is closer to nicknames. The owner of a nickname (as well as a pseudonym) chooses his own name. Nowadays nickname (English nickname - the initial meaning “nickname”, from the mid-English an eke name - “other name”) denotes the network name used in the space of communication (in blogs, forums, social networks) [13, p. 68]. Apparently, a direct translation of this category introduced another ambiguity in the fields of informal anthroponyms. A person with a network name is given the opportunity to create an image for himself, hiding his real "I". In this regard, you can consider a group of nicknames formed from nicknames. These nicknames can be conditionally defined as hidden egoistic nicknames (from the name of the psychological phenomenon "hidden egoism") or as auto-nicknames.

Nicknamed folklore is also called "bywords". This term was used by I.Yu. Kartashova (1985) and N.V. Drannikova (2004). The dispute between linguists and folklorists about the term "nickname" is still relevant. Linguists considered "byword" as a popular aphorism, and folklorists consider it both as group nicknames and as aphorisms. It is also customary to use the word "nickname" to determine the unofficial names for inanimate objects: Piglet (the area of Salavat Yulaev monument in Ufa); A ship (a long building of a residential complex in Ufa); Urman ‘Les’ (Forest Technical School), etc.

It is well known that an external or internal impulse is necessary for the development of nicknames. This impetus or motivation for nicknames depends on the imagination of nickname authors and a nicknamed person social status, it also shows their benevolent or hostile attitude to each other.

One can not but agree with A.M. Selishchev that the largest part of personal names and nicknames refers to a man's appearance and his traits. In this case, a nickname is given most often according to physical deficiencies and negative traits. In the old days, they were not shy about any meanings of words in respect of nicknames, so now they seem ridiculous to us often [8, p. 7].

Many researchers of nicknames rely on the definition by N.V. Podolskaya: "A nickname is the kind of anthroponym. An additional unofficial name given to a person by surrounding people in accordance with his characteristic feature, the circumstance accompanying his life according to some analogy" [6, p. 111].

5. CONCLUSIONS
Comparing various definitions, we came to the conclusion that a nickname is a name given to a person in addition to his name and that contains an indication of any noticeable character trait, appearance, activity of this person, applied in joke or for any occasion. As we know, nicknames are most common among rural residents.

Based on the analysis, we assume that the link between nicknames and ethnonyms forms a chain: nicknames - collective nicknames - ethnonyms. At the present stage of nickname development, the reverse trend is also possible: ethnonyms - collective nicknames - nicknames.

6. SUMMARY
The dictionaries of different periods do not introduce any significant changes in the interpretation of the word nickname, limit its meaning, reducing the a nickname to the estimated and characteristic informal names. The dispute about nicknames continues to this day. In this regard there is no common interpretation of nicknames [14; 15].

Based on the vocabulary definitions and the opinions of authoritative linguists, we tried to distinguish the concept of a nickname from other onomastic units. So, the word "nickname" refers to zoonyms basically. The lexeme "zoonym" is used in scientific literature, and in common speech people use the word "nickname". Also a nickname is the nickname of criminal authorities, thereby indicating it as a negative phenomenon. Thus, the meaning of the word "nickname" has a negative connotation, shows a contemptuous attitude towards a person and offends him.

Unlike nicknames, a pseudonym referred to an unofficial anthroponyms, has a legal status. He has the right to intellectual property. The law does not allow the disclosure of an alias without an author's consent, except when a pseudonym is used to falsify authorship.
Practice shows that nicknames are often confused due to the incorrect approach of these categories translation. The most basic difference between nicknames from pseudonym is self-nomination. If a pseudonym is given by society, then in virtual reality a person chooses a nickname by himself.

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