

CLASSIFICATION OF PROPER NAMES

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Abstract: *This article examines the classification of proper nouns within the framework of linguistic analysis, aiming to elucidate the distinctive features and categorization principles that govern these essential elements of language. Proper nouns, as specific names for unique entities such as individuals, places, organizations, and works of art, play a crucial role in communication by providing specificity and identity to referents. Through a comprehensive review of linguistic literature and theoretical frameworks, the paper explores various approaches to classifying proper nouns, including syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic perspectives. It discusses the criteria used to distinguish proper nouns from other lexical categories, such as common nouns, and the factors influencing their classification, such as capitalization and lexicalization. Furthermore, the paper delves into the subcategories and typologies of proper nouns, considering factors such as geographical origin, cultural significance, and historical context. It examines the role of proper nouns in shaping cultural and societal identities, as well as their adaptation and evolution over time. The paper also addresses the challenges and ambiguities inherent in classifying proper nouns, including cross-linguistic variations and the influence of context on interpretation. It discusses recent developments in computational linguistics and natural language processing for automated identification and classification of proper nouns in large text corpora.*

Key words: *proper nouns, anthroponyms, toponyms, zoonyms, phithonyms, chromonyms, anthroponymics, anthroponomastics.*

Proper Nouns consist of special names, and the names are expressed by words,

the word is the main object of the study of lexicology. The data of lexicology make it possible to determine the nature of the components of Proper Nouns. The theory of lexical meaning developed in semantics helps to identify the semantic specificity of proper nouns. The data of syntax is very important to identify the grammatical specifics of these word combinations - their grammatical structure and functions. The word in the Proper nouns is characterized by a certain phonetic form, but in the process of development it can also change.

Besides, it relates to cognitive linguistics, pragma-linguistics, linguoculturology, sociolinguistics. Apart linguistic subjects it concerns as well as non-linguistic ones, namely literature, history, ethnography, mythology, anthropology.

As it mentioned above, Proper nouns are referred to the science of onomastics which is relatively new science and appeared in the middle of the last century. Nikonov, Superanskaya, Gardiner, Reformatskiy, Husser, Buhler, Sweet are elaborated in the field of proper names. Superanskaya classified proper names according to the meaning into the followings: *anthroponyms*, *toponyms*, *zoonyms*, *phithonyms*, *chromonyms*.

According to Gary-Prieur, no proper classification of PNs exists apart from intuition-based lists. However, such available classifications are still useful as they allow the grouping of the entries into relatively homogenous groups. Each PN etymon was categorized according to a simplified version as Huguin proposed. She distinguishes five families, based on the nature of the referent: anthroponyms are prototypically the names of specific human beings or animals; toponyms are the names of places whether natural or human-made; phenonyms are the names of natural phenomena; ergonyms are the names of material human-made creations or inventions; and praxonyms are the names of non-material creations or discoveries. The present categorization was based on this classification but with terminological and categorial changes: the type 'person' is the exact equivalent of the anthroponym category; the type 'place' is used in place of *toponym* but would also include some phenonyms such as stars and planets as they are located entities; finally, the type

'products and services' includes commercial creations which are either ergonyms or praxonyms. When it comes to discoveries whose name is eponymous to its inventor / discoverer, it was coded in the 'person' type which takes precedence in this study.

Now, let us approach to each type of Proper noun closely. Moreover, different scientists differentiated various function of proper names. Lawson distinguishes three functions of proper names, namely *toponyms*: address, descriptive and ideological. But the meaning of these *toponyms* are unequal, therefore their functions are unbalanced. Belenkaya connects function of nomination in society with perception of names by population. She distinguishes the following functions of *toponyms*: indicator, indicator +characteristics, indicator +emotional color, indicator +ideological function. In this case, she suggests that non-motivated names have only pointing functions, and motivated mix it with object's characteristics, ideological function and emotional color. But this theory is false, because ideological and emotional connotations are irregular, non-permanent elements and cannot be belonged to functions, though they are essential ingredients of meaning of proper names. **Toponymy**, taxonomic study of place-names, based on etymological, historical, and geographical information. A place-name is a word or words used to indicate, denote, or identify a geographic locality such as a town, river, or mountain. Toponymy divides place-names into two broad categories: habitation names and feature names. A habitation name denotes a locality that is peopled or inhabited, such as a homestead, village, or town, and usually dates from the locality's inception. Feature names refer to natural or physical features of the landscape and are subdivided into hydronyms (water features), oronyms (relief features), and places of natural vegetation growth (meadows, glades, groves).

Toponymy is concerned with the linguistic evolution (etymology) of place-names and the motive behind the naming of the place (historical and geographical aspects). Most toponymy, however, has concentrated on the etymological study of habitation names, often neglecting the study of feature names and the motive behind the naming of the place.

Habitation and feature names are either generic or specific, or a combination of the two. A generic name refers to a class of names such as river, mountain, or town. A specific name serves to restrict or modify the meaning of the place-name. Most of the world's languages can be divided into two groups based on the general tendency to have the specific either precede or follow the generic. In English the specific usually comes first, while in French the specific generally follows the generic. The influence of other languages creates exceptions to this generalization. The influence of French and Spanish created many exceptions to the tendency in English in the United States to have the specific first. This is most evident in the naming of many larger bodies of water, such as [Lake Superior](#), [Lake Michigan](#), or [Lake Champlain](#), that were first explored and settled by the French. English settlers migrating into these areas accepted the French naming convention, but since the French did not colonize the areas heavily, many of the smaller bodies of water in these regions were named under the English convention of specific first.

Most toponymic studies have focused on the specific aspect of the place-name. The adjectival form of the specific is the dominant place-name type in English. Prepositional place-names used in a descriptive sense are more rare in English. The City of Chicago is an example of the prepositional place-name, but in common use the preposition and the generic are dropped.

Toponymy also involves the study of place-names within and between languages. Studies within a language usually follow three basic assumptions: every place-name has a meaning, including place-names derived from personal names; place-names describe the site and record some evidence of human occupation or ownership; once a place-name is established or recorded, its phonetic development will parallel the language's development.

The second type of Proper nouns is called antroponym. **Anthroponymy** (also **anthroponymics** or **anthroponomastics**, the word derived from [Ancient Greek](#) *anthrōpos* which means “human”, and *onoma* means “name”) is the study of anthroponyms, the [proper names](#) of [human beings](#), both individual and collective. Anthroponymy is a branch of [onomastics](#).

Researchers in the field of anthroponymy are called *anthroponymists*. Since the study of anthroponyms is also relevant for several other disciplines within [social sciences](#) and [humanities](#), experts from those disciplines also take part in anthroponymic studies, including researchers from the fields of [anthropology](#), [history](#), [geography](#), [sociology](#), [prosopography](#), and [genealogy](#).

Anthroponymists are required to follow certain principles, rules and criteria when researching anthroponyms. The methods used for research are divided into two major categories: the collecting of anthroponymic information and the analysis and interpretation of anthroponyms. The collection of anthroponymic information includes: inscriptions, documents, [onomastics](#)-tax records, dictionaries, phone books, [monographs](#), and websites, which are used afterward for mapping purposes. The analysis and interpretation of anthroponyms take into account the processing of the collection of the information gathered, which consists of [linguistic analysis](#), comparative-historical method, [geographical](#) method, and [statistical](#) method.

Studying *anthroponyms*, Blonar distinguishes as one of their functions – identification. Moreover, he distinguishes special *anthroponymic* functions:

- 1) pointing to kinship. In some cases, *anthroponyms* allow to distinguish relatives from non-relatives;
- 2) legalization of man in society. Obviously, the very first function of names connected with their appropriation to each newborn;
- 3) characteristics which is typical for nicknames;
- 4) pointing to social state. *Anthroponym* witnesses about belonging of person to certain class, certain social group.

The next group of Proper nouns is *zoonyms*. The term “zoonym” is considered the most commonly used among researchers who have turned to the study of phraseological units with the “animals” component. Many scientists use this term, understanding by it the word denoting any animal. Some believe that this term can only be applied to animal nicknames, which in their main vocal function are close to personal names and nicknames of people.

In conclusion, the paper emphasizes the importance of understanding the www.pedagoglar.org

classification of proper nouns for linguistic analysis, language teaching, and natural language processing applications. It underscores the dynamic nature of proper nouns and the need for interdisciplinary approaches to effectively study and classify these fundamental elements of language.

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