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ПРИЛАГАТЕЛЬНЫЕ В ПРОЗВИЩАХ ИСТОРИЧЕСКИХ ЛИЧНОСТЕЙ

ADJECTIVES IN THE NICKNAMES OF HISTORIC PERSONALITIES

Ключевые слова: антропоним, прозвище, имятворчество, мотивация, экспрессивные прозвища.

*В статье осуществляется исследование прозвищ исторических персоналий и пути их образования. Разграничены понятия *Beiname* и *Übername*, которые соответствуют украинскому термину «прозвище» («*прізвисько*»). Рассмотрена роль прилагательных, используемых в процессе образования прозвищ. Проанализированы основные способы мотивации. На основе семантического значения прилагательных проведено разделение прозвищ на группы с мелиоративным, пейоративным и нейтральным значением. Определено, что прозвищное имя представляет собой особый класс имен собственных, который служит для дифференциации исторических личностей с тождественными именованями.*

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Key words: anthroponym, nickname, name-creation, motivation, expressive nicknames.

*The article studies the nicknames of historical personalities and ways of their formation. The authors differentiate the concepts *Beiname* and *Übername* which correspond to the Ukrainian term «*nickname*» and consider the role of adjectives used in the process of nickname creation. The paper also focuses on the main methods of motivation analysis. Based on the semantic meaning of adjectives, the nicknames are divided into groups with meliorative, pejorative, and neutral meaning. The nickname is defined as a special class of proper names, which serves to differentiate historical personalities with identical naming.*

It is a well-known fact that along with official surnames and names people are accompanied by unofficial names, i.e. the nicknames they receive due to their appearance, character, actions, origin, activity or other features. The nicknames were the first means of naming people. Thereafter, in the Middle Ages, the nicknames became sources of surnames creation.

Unofficial expressive names were traditionally used to nominate both ordinary people and nobility. A lot of rulers and generals entered the history under their nicknames. For royal dynasties, it was customary to give similar names to their descendants. This tradition dates back to the ancient

Germans. It is also worth mentioning that all royal and princely dynasties had their own preferences in name-giving.

Through generations, Carolingians called their descendants Karl, Ludwig, Lothar; the future rulers of the Holy Roman Empire were generally referred to as Henry (Heinrich), Otto, and Conrad. Saxon princes and kings received the baptismal names of August, Friedrich or Heinrich. The tradition of giving the same names was a common phenomenon, even amongst brothers, i.e. quite often, the children of the king or prince, born of different wives, received the same names. The easiest way to differentiate rulers was to use ordinal numerals added to their identical names, as it was for instance with the French kings Karl I, Karl II or Louis XI, Louis XIV.

In France, with absolutism dominated, all kings were assigned traditional names typical for their royal dynasties in a strict chronological order. It is a well-known fact that the German-speaking territories comprised a large variety of states like kingdoms, principalities, and counties. Frequently, on these territories, the namesakes ruled during the same chronological period - like in the case with the Emperor of the Frankish Empire Charles III the Fat (876-887) and the King of the West-Frankish Kingdom Charles III the Straightforward (893-923). Thus, this method was not quite sufficient for the differentiation of the Frankish, Saxon, Bavarian or other Louises, Charleses, and Henries.

The accompanying nicknames turned into an effective way of distinguishing the rulers. These additional names were unique individual identifiers not inherited by their descendants. Even though similar nicknames often occur in historical chronicles, they, however, refer to individuals who lived during different epochs and belonged to different dynasties. The following is far from a complete list of German Ludwigs: *Ludwig der Deutsche* (*Louis the German*), *Ludwig der Fromme* (*Louis the Pious*), *Ludwig der Große* (*Louis the Great*), *Ludwig der Strenge* (*Louis the Strict*).

The German onomastic literature boasts several terms rendered into Ukrainian as a “nickname.” These are “Beiname”, “Rufname”, “Spitzname”, and “Übername”. To identify the nicknames of historical personalities within the terminological variety mentioned above, the linguists most frequently use two terms: “Beiname” - an additional personal name, the so-called accompanying word given by a well-known person to distinguish him or her from a number of people with similar names and “Übername” - a nickname used to add more details to characteristics [3, 204]. Rosa and Volker Kohlheim emphasize that Beiname is the third mandatory part of the medieval name of historical personalities.

Wolfgang Fleischer critically substantiates differences between the two terms. He argues that the additional name (“Beiname”) characterizes a person from a social perspective, that is, it indicates a place of birth, origin, residence, profession, or service. The nickname (“Übername”) adds either physical or spiritual attributes and disappears together with the death of its bearer [2, 10]. Wilfrid Seibicke points out the translatability of additional nicknames; these additions to the official name are always rendered, e.g. lat. *Carolus Magnus* —*Karl der Große* (German), *Charles the Great* (English), *Карл Великий* (*Ukrainian*), *Карл Вялікі* (*Belarusian*).

The Onomastic Atlas (dtv-Atlas Namenkunde) of Konrad Kunze denotes the additional name “Beiname” as the official part of the name; this is contrary to the ordinary nickname (“Übername”), which is defined as an unofficial constituent of the name or surname [2, 10].

Needless to say, that the semantics of official names and surnames is either opaque or already lost, whilst nicknames both indicate the person and supply additional details. In this case, the term “Beiname” is more appropriate to use since each nickname of historical personalities became an integral part of the official name, entered into historical chronicles, and distinguished its bearer among other Charleses, Ludwigs, Richards, and others.

The nickname is an appropriate illustration of the official constituent of the name of the rulers and commanders. The most productive way of creating the accompanying nicknames is the use of adjectives. Structurally, they are mostly substantive adjectives. The naming motivation is divergent, e.g. appearance, character, age, etc.

The whole array of unofficial names under analysis undergoes subdivision into three clearly distinct groups:

1. nicknames with meliorative meaning;
2. nicknames with pejorative meaning;
3. nicknames with neutral meaning.

The first group includes adjectives that create laudatory names of rulers. The adjective “great” was the most desirable since the times of Alexander of Macedon. However, the legendary commander got the laudatory epithet *Alexander Magnum* (*Alexander the Great*) after his death, during the time of the Roman Empire. Afterward, rulers received this title while they were alive. It is quite apparent that “Great” as an additional name was flattering since it did not describe the height, but personalities` significance for the human history. The most famous representative of the Carolingian dynasty who founded the Frankish Empire was called Charlemagne or Charles the Great (Karl der Große), the Prussian king of the Hohenzoller dynasty / House of Hohenzollern was called Frederick the Great (Friedrich der Große), Ludwig der Große (*Louis the Great*), *Otto I the Great* (*Otto I der Große*).

Each national onomasticon contains at least one well-known name with this adjective like German *Friedrich der Große* (*Frederick the Great*); Polish *Kazimierz III Wielki* (*Casimir III the Great*); Russian *Екатерина Великая* – (*Catherine the Great*); Ukrainian *Володимир Великий* (*Святославу*) (*Volodymyr the Great* (*Sviatoslavych*)).

Among other most frequently used epithets to create nicknames are adjectives indicating positive traits of character. Here belong lexemes with the semantic meaning of courage, perseverance, nobility, virtue, intelligence and attractive appearance: *Johann der Beständige* (*Johann the Steadfast* or *Johann the Constant*), *Karl der Kühne* (*Charles the Bold*), *Philipp der Schöne* (*Philip I the Handsome*), *Philipp der Gute* (*Philip the Good*), *Heinrich II der Heilige* (*Saint Henry*), *August der Starke* (*Augustus II the Strong*), *Anton der Gütige* (*Anthony the Kind*); Ярослав Осмомисл (*Yaroslav Eight-Minded*); Ярослав Мудрый (*Yaroslav the Wise*).

The second group of names has less positive, even pejorative meaning. These are mostly antonyms of the first group adjectives - angry, timid, terrible, lazy, miserly, etc.: *Johan Frederick der Entzündete* (*John Frederick the Inflamed*), *Karl der Böse* (*Charles the Bad*); *Karl der Einfältige* (*Charles the Simple* or *the Straightforward*), *Ludwig der Nichtstuer* (*Louis the Do-Nothing*), *Otto der Faule* (*Otto the Lazy*), Иван Грозный (*Ivan the Terrible*, *Iwan der Schreckliche*), *Otto der Faule* (*Otto the Lazy*). More numerous is a group of adjectives that describe an unattractive appearance (thick, thin, bald, small, big-nosed, noseless), *Friederich der Eindügige* (*Frederick the One-Eyed*), *Friederich der Gebissene* (*Frederick I, the Bitten*), *Johannes der Blinde* (*John the Blind*), *Karl der Dicke* (*Charles the Fat*), *Karl der Kahle* (*Charles the Bald*), *Pippin der Bucklige* (*Pepin the Hunchback*) and indicate defective appearance nickname bearers (curved, humpbacked, lame, blind, dumb): *Albrecht der Lahme* (*Albert the Lame*), *Friedrich der Lahme* (*Frederick the Lame*), *Ludwig der Stammer* (*Louis the Stammer*), Мстислав Глупый (*Mstislav the Dumb*). By and large, the nicknames of these two groups are stylistically marked and have expressive coloring.

A group of nicknames with neutral connotation is formed by adjectives that identify older / younger members of the kin or the age of the nickname bearer: *Pippin der Altere* (*Pepin the Elder* or *Pepin the Old*), *Pippin der Mittlere* (*Pepin the Middle*), *Pippin der Jüngere*, *Pippin der Kleine* (*Pepin the Short*). Here also belong the adjectives, which specify a profession, territorial, national or ethnic affiliation: *Heinrich von Sandomir* (*Henry of Sandomierz*), *Johannes von Böhmen* (*John of Bohemia*), *Ludwig der Überseeische* (*Louis from Overseas*), *Ludwig von Tarent* (*Louis of Taranto*), *Philipp von Makedonien* (*Philip II of Macedon*).

Although the latter may include an expressive adjective, everything depends on the political preferences of each nation and ethnic group. Amongst other identifiers, we detect an indication of some neutral or common features of appearance (bearded, bluish, blackish etc.), for instance: *Georg der Bärtige* (*George the Bearded*), *Johann Weißhaupt* (*John the Whitehead*), Всеволод Чермный (*Vsevolod Ruddy* (*Vsevolod Svyatoslavich the Red*)).

Similarity and identity of individual unofficial names are explained by a similar situation or motivation. The ways of their origin are also diverse. On the one hand, the referent can get the nickname during his or her life as a compliment or, conversely, as a mockery of contemporaries,

supporters or enemies. Other names can appear much later, after the death of the ruler; they are created by further generations of chroniclers or historians.

Functions of the names of historical personalities combine the features of two categories of onyms. Being additional official names, they are used to identify a person. Nonetheless, they also serve as expressive names.

Though the tradition of naming people with semantically transparent nicknames dates back to antiquity, it is preserved to date. Nowadays, journalists use such “titles” metaphorically to characterize modern politicians. Thus, Angela Merkel is often called Angela die Grosse (Angela the Great). Though such titles are unofficial, it is quite probable that they will turn into well-known identifiers of famous personalities, as it happened with the nickname of Margaret Thatcher often called the Iron Lady.

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