

II. АКТУАЛЬНЫЕ ПРОБЛЕМЫ СОВРЕМЕННОЙ НАУКИ (ПО ОБЛАСТЯМ ЗНАНИЯ)

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SOME THEORETICAL ASPECTS OF PLANT NOMINATION

For modern linguistics, the question of the relationship between man and nature is actual. Plants were constant companions of man: they were used as medicines, as food, etc. The experience and observations of plants were reflected in the language: plants got their names based on certain motivating signs. The study of phytonyms makes it possible to get an idea of the diverse linguistic phenomena of the people, to trace how the extra-linguistic reality is reflected in the language. When comparing languages, it is possible to find out the peculiarities of the national picture of each native-speaking nation.

The issue of nomination is one of the central ones in theoretical linguistics. An important aspect of the study of the nomination is the survey of the principles and methods of the linguistic forms-signs formation: nomination is the process of turning the facts of the surrounding reality into language meanings that reflect social experience in the minds of native speakers; it is the image reflection in the language consciousness of members of an ethnic society with the help of a linguistic sign, which is characterized by motivation.

The study of phytonyms in the linguoculturological aspect enables to get an idea of the diverse language phenomena of the nation, to trace how the extra-linguistic reality is reflected in the language: phytonyms constitute one of the oldest layers of vocabulary actively involved in the conceptualization of various language phenomena.

The research of phytonyms originates in bilingual dictionaries of the Middle Ages and Renaissance, where Latin names of plants and their translation into living European languages were mentioned. But the ambiguity of the translation, a large number of synonymous colloquial names, which could concern different referents (sometimes having similar features), the development of botany, which required the description of new plant species, led to the need of the botanical nomenclature. The basics of taxonomy were laid by the Swedish naturalist Carl von Linnaeus. Most studies were conducted on the etymology of various layers of phytonymic vocabulary in classical languages.

With the development of cognitive linguistics, one of the priority areas is the study of the role of phytolexics in expressing the national picture of the world. The study of phytonymic units allows us to make conclusions about the history, migration, geographical conditions of life of any ethnic group, because the referents of plant names are objects related to human life, his way of life (edible and inedible plants, sacred and magical, medicinal and poisonous, helping people and harming them, etc.).

Upon the conditions of existence of a group of native speakers, plant names may or may not be present in the language; equivalent phytonyms in different languages may have differences in semantic structure.

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