

Ukrainian nicknames, problem of their classification

Proper names of people is a valuable source for the study of the lexical system and determination of semantic, morphological, structural features of language.

The questions of functioning and structure of unofficial names, mostly individual nicknames, were the subject of some articles of Polish (A.Cieślukowa, L.Tomczak, M.Biolik), Slovak (V.Blanar), Russian (Y.Danilina, G.Simina) and other linguists.

In Ukrainian onomastics it is possible to choose three stages, when nicknames were interested in (the end of the XIX century, the seventieth years of the XX century, the beginning of the XXI century).

However in Ukrainian linguistics there is no the special investigation devoted to the determination of nomenclature, a motivation base and structure of nicknames, that occur on large territories. It's possible to say, that modern nicknames and other unofficial names in Ukrainian antroponimics are forgotten undeservedly. The official last names of people were mostly formed on the base of nicknames. The process of creation of the last names completed in the XIX century, but the process of appearing of nicknames and other unofficial names is going on even today, indisputably, will proceed in the future, as nicknames have become the inalienable element of language communication.

The material of our research is the people's nicknames which were collected by expedition way in the villages of Poltava Region. It is the central part of Ukraine.

Therefore **the purpose of our work** is to investigate the people's nicknames which occur in central part of Ukraine. For this purpose it is necessary to solve the following problems:

- 1) to create the base of nicknames, where every lexical unit will be described in the most possible way as for the type of the nickname, the motive of nomination, functioning, emotional-expressive colouring, age and the official personality name of a person (if it is possible, if this information will be available), the place of occupation and others;
- 2) to classify all the material according to a few criteria;
- 3) to show the modern state of the system of Ukrainian nicknames of the beginning of the XXI century.

Our research will help to describe such items:

I. Kinds of Ukrainian nicknames (the street nicknames, the individual nicknames, the family nicknames).

II. Lexical base of the nicknames.

1. Nicknames formed from the last name and the first name of a person.
2. Nicknames connected with to the ethnic or territorial origin of a person.
3. Nicknames, that specify the profession, or some kinds of activity.
4. Nicknames, that have appellatives in its basis of.

III. Classification of nicknames after the motive of nomination.

1. Nicknames, that appeared on the basis of features of speaking.
2. Nicknames, that specify features and traits of people.

Collection and study of nicknames exposes powerful word-formation fantasy of people, enormous potential possibilities of the anthroponomical system of Ukrainian language, plays a considerable part in the exposure of ways of forming of the personal names of Ukraine during different periods of its development.