THE USE OF PHYTONYMIC PRAISES IN ENGLISH

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Abstract: This article deals with the use of plant names in giving human appearance and character traits. The ability of language to express human appearance and character through phytonim is examined.

Key words: apperance, phytonym, personality, image, plants, stanza, metaphor, verbalization, verse

In the English linguistic culture, describing and praising the appearance of a person is reflected in the language by comparing it to the category of plants. The English nation, like other nations, enjoys the world of plants and expresses its unity in language. We can see proof of this in the following examples:

When we talk about flowers, common expressions such as beautiful, delicate, charming and fragrant come to mind. For most men in any country of the world, the woman they love is as beautiful and charming as flowers. We can see evidence of this in the following verses:

O my love is like a red, red rose

That's newly sprung in June.

O my love is like the melody

That's sweetly played in tune.

(A red rose Robert Burns)

Through this verse, the poet can observe that the "red rose" is as beautiful as his lover.

Collins COBUILD Advanced Learner's Dictionary defines this word as follows:

An oak or an oak tree is a large tree that often grows in woods and forests and has strong, hard wood [1]

"Mighty Oak" by Kathy J Parenteau

Stand tall, oh mighty*oak, for all the world to see.

Your strength and undying beauty forever amazes me.

Though storm clouds hover* above you,

Your branches span* the sky

In search of the radiant* sunlight you

Count on to survive.



In the poem "Mighty Oak", the poet describes the tree as a person, and believes that strength and wisdom are qualities that people can have. Trees grow and became stronger and people became wiser as they getting older. The poem suggests that trees and people are similar.

Mouth and lips are especially valued in English national culture: cherry lips, small cherry mouth, finely curved scarlet lips. We can observe the use of the word cherry in these verses:

There Is A Garden In Her Face (by Thomas Campion)

There is a garden in her face

Where roses and white lilies grow;

A heav'nly paradise is that place

Wherein all pleasant fruits do flow.

There cherries grow which none may buy,

Till "Cherry ripe" themselves do cry.

Her eyes like angels watch them still,

Her brows like bended bows do stand,

Threat'ning with piercing frowns to kill

All that attempt with eye or hand

Those sacred cherries to come nigh,

Till "Cherry ripe" themselves do cry.

Thomas Campion's poem "There is a Garden in Her Face" praises female beauty. Each stanza in this poem contains a series of similes and metaphors that express praise.

With the repeated reference of the lyrical hero to the cherry lips, this motif occupies a central place in the meaning of the poem. The narrator uses the image of the cherry as a metaphor for the beauty and elegance of the depicted woman.

In English, the unique image of a woman is verbalized through metaphors. To express the image of a woman using phytonyms: "as fresh as a daisy" (healthy, strong, young), "to deserve a bouquet of orchids" (worthy of praise), "fair as a lily", "white as a lily: her similes such as lily hands", "delicately fair:a lily maiden" [2] can be used.

As pure as lily ((as) fair as a lily (or as a rose))

...both sisters were fair as lilies.[3]

The Collins COBUILD Advanced Learner's Dictionary defines Lily as:

A lily is a plant with large flowers. Lily flowers are often white.[4]



Although appearance is valued in English national culture, healthy skin tone and facial shape are verbalized: olive-coloured face, flower-like face, fruit-like cheek, quince blossom skin.

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