

HISTORY AND FORMATION OF EPONYMS

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It is known that the most active part of any language is its lexical level, which is constantly enriched with new words and terms. The role of human involvement in this process is inestimable.

In the evolution of linguistics, language was considered the main point of view. At the current stage of development of linguistics, the language system and the mechanism of human-linguistic activity are the person who owns the language, his/her linguistic consciousness, thinking, mentality; attention to learning in connection with factors such as speech situation, social environment, and national culture is increasing.

The inclusion of the category of “linguistic person” in the scientific paradigm of science led to the formation of linguistic directions dealing with the problems of human phenomena such as cognitive linguistics, psycholinguistics, linguoculturalology, sociolinguistics, pragmatolinguistics, ethnolinguistics. Linguistics has changed and ceased to be just the science of language. Language, as a component of all spheres of human activity and a reflection of his worldview, cannot be understood and explained outside of contact with man. This approach to linguistics gave stimulus to the wide spread of the ideas of anthropocentrism in world linguistics.

The notion of anthropocentrism of language refers to such phenomena as anthroponym, toponym, mythonym and eponym in the onomastics branch of linguistics. We will consider only the eponymous part of these names and its etymology. So what is an eponym? What is its origin?

The origin of the lexical unit “Eponym” can be traced back to the adoption of a name by Amenhotep IV, the husband of Nefertiti, who lived in Ancient Egypt from 1372-1354 BC. He announced himself to change his name. From this, it can be seen that in Ancient Greece and Rome, the names given to the person who created the name of the nation, place, etc. were considered eponyms. As verification of this, it is the only definition given in the dictionary “Словарь лингвистических терминов” compiled by O.S. Akhmanova, Webster’s dictionary published in Canada and a number of other dictionaries and references. For example, the Wikipedia article and the Internet Literary Terms page define an eponym as follows: An Eponym is a person, place, or thing after whom or which someone or something is, or is believed to be, named.⁷ The word eponym (pronounced e-puh-nim) came into use around 1833 and comes from the Greek word, “eponymos”. Broken down, its construction is as follows: “epi”, meaning “upon or after” and “onyma”, meaning “name”⁸. As can be understood from the definition, an eponym is an individual, place or thing named after a person or thing, and it has been used as a term in science since the first

⁷ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eponym>

⁸ <https://literaryterms.net/eponym/>



half of the 19th century. It can be assumed that the country of the people goes back to Greece. In addition, the term eponym can cover words of a mythological nature. For example, there were giants called Gigantes in Greek and Rim mythology. They were famous for the Gigantomachia, their battles with the Olympian gods. Gigantes has become the name of an illness which is a condition in people with excessive growth and height that is much higher than average and it is defined as “Gigantism refers to GH excess that occurs during childhood when open epiphyseal growth plates allow for excessive linear growth, whereas acromegaly indicates the same phenomenon occurring in adulthood”.⁹ Currently, eponym as a linguistic term is included among names such as “synonym”, “homonym”, “antonym”, “paronym”. Eponyms are terms formed with the involvement of names and are a layer of vocabulary that is of great interest from the point of view of studying cognitive processes of anthropocentric nature.

Several scientists and researchers of the world, such as M.G. Blau, N.V. Podolskaya, Akhmanova O. S., G. Lalich, N. Bragina, S. Lubensky, K. Denham, A. Lobeck, J. Taylor, V.N. Gubin, S.B. Korolev and R. P. Samusev, Kakzanova E. M. explained their theoretical views and scientific conclusions on the term in their works. For example, according to terminologist Podolskaya, an eponym is the name of a person known by some means, and it is a foundation factor that causes any other onym.

It can be seen that the eponym exists in many areas of social life, including medicine, technology, economics, politics, and history. Let's focus on the following examples: **Parkinson's disease**, or parkinsonism which is called tremor paralysis, that is, a chronic disease of the human central nervous system in medicine. The name of the syndrome goes back to the English doctor J. Parkinson who described it in 1817. **Richter scale** – “an open-ended logarithmic scale for expressing the magnitude of a seismic disturbance (such as an earthquake) in terms of the energy dissipated in it with 1.5 indicating the smallest earthquake that can be felt, 4.5 an earthquake causing slight damage, and 8.5 a very devastating earthquake”.¹⁰ The unit of measurement of the power of the earthquake was created by Charles Francis Richter in 1936.

In conclusion, new discoveries in any scientific field; whether it is the name of a disease, or it is specific to geography, astronomy, chemistry or technology or not, the name of measurement units and scientific laws is constantly named in honor of scientists who dealt with these issues.

Eponyms are the fundamental part of terminology in science, and their unique feature is reflected in their main functions.

⁹ Eugster, Erica A.; Pescovitz, Ora H. (1 December 1999). “Gigantism”. *The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism*. 84 (12): 4379–4384.

¹⁰ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/Richter%20scale>



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3. <https://literaryterms.net/eponym/>
4. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/Richter%20scale>

