

URBAN INFORMAL MICROTOPYNYMY OF LONDON AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

This article is devoted to the analysis of informal names of urban realities, which represent a special nominal layer of colloquial vocabulary, created by citizens out of the official urban onomastics. In this work the informal (national) onomastics of the modern city and the reason of emergence of informal urbanonyms in the speech of citizens will be discussed.

The urban informal microtoponyms are small informal names of geographical objects (squares, streets, buildings) that are used in local speech. Colloquial urbanonyms contain a lot of information about the history of the city and its modern life, about the development of culture, and, what is very important, about new trends in the development of the language. Also they reflect the psychology of city dwellers [1, p.236].

Residents of the city give names, either transforming the official name, or creating a completely new name, which is not associated with the official name. In this creative activity, the capabilities of the forming system (especially the oral vocabulary types and models) and the lexical wealth of the language are determined [2, p. 20].

The emergence of second names in the language of the city is not accidental and caused by several reason:

- because of rejection of neutral bulky official names citizens have a desire to reduce too long official name;
- because of the need to distinguish objects with the same value or the same functions;
- because of the citizens' striving for expressiveness, which is characterized by imagery, emotionality and estimation.

We have identified several thematic groups of informal urbanisms:

City names: *London – The Big Smoke* (London is constantly under a layer of accumulated exhaust fumes and smoke)//*The city of tears* (Tears being a metaphor for rain. It often rains in London); *Eastleigh – Beastly Eastleigh* (There is a lot of garbage and dirt on the streets, so it is called “Beastly Eastleigh”); *Wath- upon -dearne- Wath* (Apocope); *Swindon-Swindump* (Rioters call this city consonant with the real name «Swindump», dump-помойка); *Stanford-le-hope- Stanford-no-hope* (Locals call their small and old city Stanford-no-hope); *Teddington -the Ton* (Roots truncate +abbreviation); *Millom-Mills* (Abbreviation).

The names of villages: *Barkham- Hemmed-in land; Widford- Willow-tree ford* (A large number of willows are in the countryside, that's why it has been known as the Willow-tree ford); *Sanderstead- Sandy place*.

The names of metro and train stations: *Metro-pipe* (Englishmen call the subway "pipe" because of its elongated shape resembling a pipe);

Castleford railway station-Cas-Vegas (The station received this name due to the terrible sight. Residents jokingly call it "Cas-Vegas", making a reference to Las Vegas).

The names of neighborhoods: *Notting Hill - New Kensington* (The name "New Kensington" was given by residents who used to that this place was Kensington); *Penge-Wood head* (The name Penge derives from Celtic words meaning "head of the wood". Some people still call this place «Wood head»); *Acton- Oak-tree farm* (A lot of oaks grow in this place).

The names of streets and districts: *Union street-Smelly Alley* (The name Smelly Alley does not come from the presence of the long-established Smelly Alley Fish Company (formerly Frosts fishmongers), but because in the 16th century it had an open sewer running down it and became known as "Smelly Alley"); *Egbert Road-Dollies Lane* (Because of very narrow pavement. Residents joke that this trot is only for dolls.).

The names of buildings (houses, hotels, etc.): *Windsor Castle-Round Castle* (The castle has a round shape, so it is called "Round Castle"); *English bank – The Great old lady with the Traidnidle Street* (The Old Lady of Threadneedle Street' is the nickname of the Bank of England which has stood in its current location, right in the heart of the City of London since 1734); *Heathrow Airport –Thiefrow* (Heathrow airport is often called 'Thiefrow' ("thief row") Because of the large number of thefts); *Alexander Palace-Ally Pally* ("Ally Polly" is a common abbreviation for the Alexandra Palace); *Skyscraper Mary-Ex 30 – Cucumber* (Londoners call the skyscraper "cucumber" because of the greenish shade of glass and characteristic shape); *The Tower of Elizabeth -Big Ben* (Big Ben is the nickname for the Great Bell of the clock at the north end of the Palace of Westminster in London and is usually extended to refer to both the clock and the clock tower as well); *Church of St. Bridgette – Church of the Printers* (In the 18th century Fleet Street became the center of rapidly developing newspaper business, and since then the cathedral, designed by Christopher Wren, was named "The Church of the Printers"); *My house – Lord House* (Englishmen very often name as a joke their house "Lord House"); *The royal Hospital-Old Men's Gardens –* (Home to Chelsea Pensioners); *Steeple tower – Steep place*.

The names of park, gardens, bridges: *The Millennium bridge-The Wobbly bridge* (This hanging pedestrian bridge is unique due to the Y-shape and not very stable construction); *A water meadow near Wilton-*

Happy meadow (Because it was a skating area, where different parties were); *A bridge over the Itchen in Hampshire-Banana Bridge* (пример) (This bridge has the shape of a banana, so it is called “Banana Bridge”).

Names of rivers and lakes: *Thames-Thames Father* (Romans built Londinium on the river Thames); *Roding River- Winding river* (The river has strong winds, which is the reason for its name); *Chelmer – Little Baddow* (The river is named after the nearest village); *The Serpentine-The Serps* (Abbreviated name of the river).

The following ways of formation of informal urbanonyms were identified:

abbreviation: *Kirkcaldy-KDY* .

roots truncate (apocope): *Wath- upon -dearne- Wath*.

roots truncate (+ suffixation): *Millom-Mill, The Serpentine-The Serps*.

roots truncate (+ phonetic association): *Swindon- Swindump*

roots truncate +abbreviation: *Teddington -the Ton*

irony: *English bank - The Great old lady with the Traidnidle Street, The royal Hospital-Old Men’s Gardens, My house- Lord House, Egbert Road-Dollies Lane*.

phonetic association: *Loomis (курьерская служба) – Loose It*.

metaphorization: *London- The Big Smoke, Eastleigh -Beastly Eastleigh, Widford- Willow-tree ford, Sanderstead- Sandy place, Stanford-le-hope- Stanford-no-hope, Barkham- Hemmed-in land, Metro-pipe, Notting Hill - New Kensington, Union street-Smelly Alley, Windsor Castle- Round Castle*

Heathrow Airport –Thiefrow, Skyscraper Mary-Ex 30 – Cucumber, Church of St. Bridgette – Church of the Printers, The Millennium bridge-The Wobbly bridge, A bridge over the Itchen in Hampshire-Banana Bridge, Thames-Thames Father.

polysemy: *Chelmer- Little Baddow*.

As you can see the most productive morphemic ways of formation of informal urbanonyms are abbreviation and truncation. Among the non-morphemic ways of forming the nicknames of inanimate objects, the most commonly used is metaphorization (66%) and irony.

On the basis of collected material it was decided to create a lexicographic electronic map of unofficial names of London and its surroundings.

REFERENCES

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