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Structural and Semantic Peculiarities of Characters' Names in English, Russian and Ukrainian Fairy Tales

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Annotation: *The article highlights the characters' names which are the special system of proper names. The classification of characters' names in English, Russian and Ukrainian fairy tales according to their structural and semantic peculiarities is presented in the article. There is a comparative analysis of such peculiarities of characters' names in the languages under consideration. The common and distinctive features of structure and semantics functioning in characters' names of fairy tales are given in the article.*

1. Introductory provisions. The proper names of literary work make up special system of names which accumulates and stores important historical and cultural information about people's life (1). Proper names cannot be taken under consideration without the specific cultural and historical context, even if characters' names of fairy tales discourse based on folk tradition of naming (2). The *topicality* lies in insufficient study of fairy-tale characters' names in comparative aspect based on English, Russian and Ukrainian fairy tales. The *aim* of the study is to provide structural and semantic analysis of characters' names of fairy-tale discourse in English, Russian, Ukrainian languages. The *object* of the study is characters' names in fairy-tales of 19th-21th centuries in three languages. The *subject* of the research is structural types and semantic peculiarities of characters' names in English, Russian and Ukrainian fairy-tales. The material of the study was obtained by overall analysis in English, Russian and Ukrainian fairy-tales (150 fairy-tales) and 1246 units (proper names).

2. Structural types and semantic peculiarities of characters' names in English, Russian and Ukrainian fairy-tales. 2.1. The system of characters' names in English, Russian and Ukrainian fairy-tales is based on the following structural types (in order of frequency, see *chart 1*): one-component – 56,2% (eng.: *Lucinda*, rus.: *Lenyvytsa*, ukr.: *Ermaks*), two-component names of characters – 33, 3% (rus.: *Gregory Potopaev*, ukr.: *Ivan Mazepa*, eng.: *Edgar Atheling*), multi-component names - 10,5% (eng.: *Thomasina Title-mouse, a woodhouse with long tail*, rus.: *Tsar Dolhovost Inary the Third*, ukr.: *Hector puppy, Neboraka*)

Chart 1

Structural types	English	Examples	Russian	Examples	Ukrainian	Examples	Total
1. one-component	41,3%		57,3%		71,2%		56,2%
Non-calendar names	96; 33,6%	Giraffe, Zebra	142; 39,0%	Rukodelnitsa, Lenivitsa	140; 55,5%	Golochka, Nitka	378; 41,9%
Calendar names	20; 7,01%	Jane, Lucinda	51; 14,0%	Misha, Anyuta, Vilgelm	38; 15,0%	Olenka, SvItlanka	109; 12,0%
Family names	2; 0,7%	Tinker, The Miller	10; 2,7%	Bublikov, Shpil	1; 0,39%	Ermaki	13; 1,44%
patronymic	-	-	6; 1,6%	Danilyich, Goryinyich, Prohoryich	1; 0,39%	Severinovich	7; 0,77%
2. two-component	35,6%		35,8%		25,5%		33,0%
Name and nickname	36; 12,6%	Tom Thumb, Hunca Munca.	7; 1,9%	Petr Dolgohvost, Alenka Koza	7; 2,7%	Vovk Nesitiy, Ivan Samsobipan	50; 5,5%
Attributive word combination	17; 5,9%	Old Betsy, Painted Jaguar	23; 6,3%	Seryiy Volk, Elena Prekrasnaya	15; 5,9%	Nestor Pronizuyuchiy, NaymudrIshe Zaychenya	55; 6,1%
Name and family name	7; 2,4%	Arthur O`Bower, Edgar Atheling	12; 3,2%	Ivan Dolgan, Grigoriy Potopaev	4; 1,5%	Ivan Mazepa, Ivan Fedorov	23; 2,5%
Name and patronymic	-	-	19; 5,2%	Demyan Danilovich, Satana Satanailyich , Fedosya Petrovna	-		19; 2,1%

Name or family name with apposition	42; 14,7 %	Bob the retriever, Percy the cat	70; 19,2 %	Lev-gosudar,Zhar-ptitsa	39; 15,4%	Vovchik – bratik, mayster Grin, borsuk Babay	151; 16,7%
3. multi-component name		Thomasina Title-mouse, a woodhouse with long tail, dog-headed, barking Baboon, Quite the Wisest Animal in All South Africa	24; 6,5 %	Kvakun dvadesyatyi y, Tsar znamenitoy porodyi, vlastitel blizhney tryasinyi; Tsar Dolgohvost Inariy Tretiy	7; 2,7%	Gektor Tsutsik, neboraka; Cholovsk u Hutryansy Shaptss	96; 10,5 %
total			364 – 100 %		252 – 100%		901 – 100%

Such quantitative distribution (the one with one-component names prevailing) in fairy-tale discourse is the most characteristic in all languages under consideration. 2.2. The authors of the English fairy-tales often use non-calendar names of the characters. Generally, these are names of animals who are the protagonists of the majority of English fairy-tales selected for the analysis (eng.: *Giraffe, Zebra*). 2.3. In English fairy-tales there is the largest number of names with the same denoting 'animals' (eng.: *Mouse, Painted Jaguar*). The names of these characters have broad semantics and almost always meet the expectations of the readers regarding the particular behavior and the appearance of animal character. In Russian and Ukrainian tales, on the contrary, the names of people and creatures - not animals with evaluative characteristics (positive or negative) or clearly defined external criterion prevail (rus.: *Elena Prekrasnaya, Dolgohvost*, ukr.: *Ivan Samsobipan, Man in a fur hat*). 2.4. In Ukrainian fairy-tales compared with English and Russian ones the tendency of more frequent use of one-component characters' names was traced. (eng.: *Flopsy*, rus.: *Rukodelnytsa*, ukr.: *Holochka*). All types of one-component names preserved. 2.5. The authors of Russian and Ukrainian fairy-tales do not often name their characters only by surname and patronymic name. While in Russian these figures are higher than in Ukrainian, as this name structure was widely-spread in Russia since the twentieth century (rus.: *Prokopych, Danilych, Prokhorych*). However, this phenomenon is not a general characteristic of the fairy-tale discourse. 2.6. There is a smaller quantity of two-component names in English, Russian and Ukrainian fairy-tales in comparison with one-component name, but the subtype 'name plus surname' appears even less frequently (rus.:

Gregory Potopaev, ukr.: *Ivan Mazepa*, eng.: *Edgar Atheling*). 2.7. In English, Russian and Ukrainian fairy-tales within the structural type of two-component names the predominant subtype is the 'name or the surname of apposition' (eng.: *Bob the retriever*, *Percy the cat*, rus.: *Lion- Emperor*, ukr.: *Vovchik - bratik*). This subtype is the most typical for fairy-tale discourse in general, and is the peculiar feature that distinguishes the characters of fairy-tales from characters of the other literary genres. 2.8. Attributive word-combination is almost equally productive way of creating names of characters in all languages. This is semantically complete names, which give a vivid description of the character at the first mention of his/her name (eng.: *Old Betsy*, *Painted Jaguar*, ukr.: *Sery Volk*, rus.: *Elena Prekrasnaya*). 2.9. The two-component names' subtype 'patronymic name' exists only in Russian fairy-tales (rus.: *Demyan Danilovich*, *Satana Satanailych*). 2.10. The least frequent in English, Russian and Ukrainian fairy-tales is the multi-component form of the name of characters. However, the majority of characters' names of this type can be observed in English language - 22,8% (eng.: *Sammy the Intelligent Pink-Eyed Representative of a Persecuted (But Irrepressible) Race* ; *Appley Dapply, a little brown mouse*).

3. *Conclusions*. Names of fairy-tale characters are semantically full names, which distinguish fairy-tales as a special genre. The analysis showed that the structural types of the characters' names vary according to the set of main characters, folk tradition of naming in each nation, author's preferences and pragmatic effect that the fairy-tale has to make on reader. One-component names prevail in English fairy-tales, because the characters of these stories are animals mainly, names of which usually consist of a single component. In Russian fairy-tales characters receive their names not because of the folk tradition of naming, but thanks to current tendencies relevant to the author (use of patronymic name). Authors of Ukrainian tales, on the contrary, are guided by the ancient folk tradition of naming and often create the names of characters regarding to objects they represent.

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