

PROPER NAMES FREQUENCY IN ENGLISH PROVERBS

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Proverbs of all peoples contains the wisdom as well as beliefs, persuasions and values. Moreover, they include important information about the way of life and behaviour of the nation. The context of proverbs is full of ideas and recommendations which are useful through the centuries. As a result, they are attractive for many scholars due to not only their context and meaning but also regarding their grammatical structure and usage of lexical units.

In general, proverbs are defined as «succinct and pithy sayings, expressing commonly held ideas and beliefs» [2]. Proverbs are related to folk literature. Their origin has mostly come from oral tradition. Many generations use proverbs to make their speech more bright and convincing. Every nation has its specific ideas and traditions which are represented in proverbs. On the other hand, there are a lot of proverbs which are universal and have equivalents in different languages.

Many linguists define semantic, grammatical, and lexical peculiarities of proverbs. Among them are: Shirley Arora, Robert M. Harnish, Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Richard P. Honeck, Clare T. Kibler, Michael D. Lieber, Wolfgang Mieder, and others. Modern scholars indicate the literal and figurative meanings of proverbs, identify numerous poetic devices (alliteration, parallelism, rhyme, ellipsis, hyperbole, paradox, personification, metaphor, etc.), establish the paremiological minima of European languages [4, p. 7–8].

The *purpose* of the research is to demonstrate the frequency of the usage of proper names in English proverbs. This empirical onomastic research might show what proper names are more common as well as familiar for native speakers.

Onomastics is the science that studies names. The subject of this science is broad, that is why there are proposed some divisions: by language or by geographical, historical, or similar partitions. As for another division, «in a very broad categorization, names of persons, or personal names, are discerned on the one hand, and names of places, or place-names, on the other. A set of personal names is called anthroponymy and their study is called anthroponomastics. A set of place-names is called toponymy, and their study is called toponomastics. In a looser usage, however, the term onomastics is used for personal names and their study, and the term toponymy is used for

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place-names and their study» [2]. Moreover, the field of study of onomastics is concerned with other proper names: bionyms, hydronyms, astronoms, chrononym, ideonyms, etc. [5].

Analyzing English proverbs [6] there were distinguished 133 proper names which refer to the groups and subgroups according to their contexts.

The first large group is «Anthroponyms». *Anthroponyms* indicate a set of personal names as well as any name available for human use [2]. This group is represented by 36 personal names which occur in 8 subgroups:

1) *ethnonyms* (13) – depict names of peoples or ethnic groups [1]: *Englishman* – 4 (*Englishman's* – 2, *Englishman* – 1, *English* – 1), *Greek* – 3 (*Greek* – 2, *Greeks* – 1), *Indian* – 2, *Americans* – 1, *Frenchmen* – 1, *Romans* – 1, *Russian* – 1 (e.g. «*The only good Indian is a dead Indian*»);

2) *forenames* (9) – define intimate personal names; they are person's individual names, «distinct from the surname, and usually given him or her at birth» [5, p. 43]: *Jack* – 4, *Jam* – 3, *Jill* – 2 (e.g. «*A good Jack makes a good Jill*»);

3) *surnames* (4) – describe family names or names indicating group membership [3, p. 166]: *Caesar* – 1, *Dr Diet* – 1, *Dr Quiet* – 1, *Dr Merryman* – 1 (e.g. «*The best doctors are Dr Diet, Dr Quiet, and Dr Merryman*»);

4) *mononyms* (3) – words indicating the single name as generally applied to people, they are names that are complete in single words [5, p. 64]: *Adam* – 1, *Agamemnon* – 1, *Eve* – 1 (e.g. «*Brave men lived before Agamemnon*»);

5) *proponyms* (3) – indicate full names of an individual person; they are person's full names «as being composed of a hyperonym, referring to a full name set, of which one is the hyponym, or intimate personal name attached to an individual from his earliest days» [3, p. 164.]: *Tom Fool* – 2, *Robin Hood* – 1 (e.g. «*Robin Hood could brave all weathers but a thaw wind*»);

6) *hagionyms* (2) – represent names of saints, biblical names [5, p. 47]: *Mahomet* – 2 (e.g. «*If the mountain will not come to Mahomet, Mahomet must go to the mountain*»);

7) *apronym* (1) – denote surnames that suit the occupation of the name's bearer [2]: *Clergymen's* – 1 (e.g. «*Clergymen's sons always turn out badly*»);

8) *patronyms* (1) – describe names adopted from the father's or ancestor's name; they are anthroponyms, especially surnames, «formed from that of the bearer's father or from the original ancestor of a male line of descent» [5, p. 77]: *Macgregor* – 1 (e.g. «*Where Macgregor sits is the head of the table*»).

The second group is «Toponyms». *Toponyms* include a set of place or geographical names [2]. This group combines 17 place-names which occur in 2 subgroups:

1) *choronyms* (9) – determine the toponyms that are the proper names of «any country, territory, region, district, or the like» [5, p. 20]: *England* – 5 (*England* – 4, *England's* – 1), *Yorkshire* – 2, *Ireland's* – 1, *Sussex* – 1

(e.g. «*Yorkshire born and Yorkshire bred, strong in the arm and weak in the head*»);

2) *astionyms* (8) – identify proper names of towns and cities [5, p. 13]: *Rome – 4, Cupar – 2, Paris – 1, Manchester – 1* (e.g. «*What Manchester says today, the rest of England says tomorrow*»).

The third group is «*Chrononyms*». They depict proper names of a time period or some events [5, p. 21]. *Chrononyms* are displayed in 18 words which refer to 2 subgroups:

1) days of the week: *Monday – 1* (e.g. «*Monday's child is fair of face*»);

2) months: *May – 6, March – 4, February – 2, June – 2, April – 1, July – 1, September – 1* (e.g. «*September blow soft, till the fruit's in the loft*»).

The fourth group is «*Ideonyms*». *Ideonyms* indicate proper names of non-material objects [5, p. 53]. This group involves 10 onyms which occur in 2 subgroups:

1) *heortonyms* (9) – describe the names of holidays or some important dates [5, p. 48]: *Candlemas day – 3, Saint Swithun's day – 2, Saint Paul's day – 1, Saint Thomas – 1, Christmas – 1, Yule – 1* (e.g. «*A green Yule makes a fat churchyard*»);

2) *biblionyms* (1) – cover proper names of all written and verbal texts as well as their series and collections [5, p. 16]: *Scripture – 1* (e.g. «*The Devil can quote Scripture for his own ends*»).

The fifth group is «*Theonyms*». *Theonyms* denote names of a god, a goddess or deity [5, p. 99]. This group comprise 55 words: *Devil – 33 (Devil – 28, Devil's – 5), God – 20 (God – 16, God's – 4), Mammon – 1, Divine – 1* (e.g. «*You cannot serve God and Mammon*»).

The sixth group is «*Zoonyms*». *Zoonyms* determine names of animals [5, p. 106]. This group includes 3 proper names: *Brag – 1, Holdfast – 1, Lovell – 1* (e.g. «*Brag is a good dog, but Holdfast is better*»).

The seventh group is «*Ergonyms*». *Ergonyms* identify names of an incorporated work-oriented entity (a workshop, company, any firm in general) [5, p. 37]: *Church – 1, the Court of Session – 1* (e.g. «*The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church*»).

The eighth group is «*Bionyms*». *Bionyms* cover names of living beings [5, p. 17]. This group is represented by only one onym: *Nature – 1* (e.g. «*You can drive out Nature with a pitchfork, but she keeps on coming back*»).

Thus, the analysis shows that the most frequently used proper names are theonyms. It may indicate opposite distinction of God and Devil and the strong belief of English people in higher forces. The anthroponyms represent the common forenames and surnames for English nation. In addition, they illustrate significant historical personalities. The toponyms give the information about the towns, which were well-known in the past as well as

depict the attitude of English people to these places. In conclusion, the study of frequently used onyms in English proverbs enlarge knowledge about the past and present of this nation and also denote the important characters and territories. The further study is based on the analysis of proverbs in other European languages.

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