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“NONCE-SPELLS” AS A CONSTITUENT OF PHANTASTIC ONOMASTICON

Summary. Each work of literature created by an author reflects its inner world, idiolect, linguistic consciousness. The author is a kind of researcher who discovers the world and the results of this cognition are described in his work. Language means of a fiction text are included into it with the object of depicting the realities of the secondary world created in the author's imagination. The works of such type belong to the fantasy genre which is characterized by the numerous amount of new lexemes – “author's neologisms” or “nonce-words” which appear under the influence of the context on the basis of typical (usual) or untypical (occasional) pattern of word-formation.

This article covers the key points of the analysis of spells as “nonce-onyms” in the fantasy genre which function in the novels created by the English and Russian writers. The process of the complex interpretation of the given lexical units is multilayer and includes such constituents as derivational analysis, componential and contextual analyses.

The structure of nonce-words denoting spells is seldom coincide with the norms that's why the derivational patterns applied to the corps of fantasy nonce-words cannot be restricted by usual ways of word-formation. This fact causes the appearance of the large amount of occasional means of word-formation. The most productive are considered to be the following: onimization, alternation, rederivation, desegmentation, tmesis, semantic method, occasional word-combination etc. In the process of interpretation of the occasional spells one of the main issues is devoted to the contextual analysis. The study of contextual and structural aspects of spells makes it possible to deduce with the help of componential analysis the differential and integral semes in the corps of the nonce-words under analysis. This process is considered to be extremely essential stage of interpretational apparatus of the nonce-spells as, besides revealing the semantic characteristics of given lexemes, it enables the distinguishing of analysed onyms denoting spells into semantic groups and subgroups according their semantic peculiarities.

Key words: occasional onym, appellative, seme, rederivation, tmesis, elision.

Problem statement. One of the most popular genres nowadays is considered to be fantasy, which has found the acceptance in many countries during its rather brief existence and broadened its boundaries far more than the literary sphere. While creating the fantasy text the author firstly makes the new world, unreal world, which, however, has to be described in real detail, so as the reader could not doubt its authenticity and real existence. Such world has its own culture, history, geography, mythology, language, people etc. One of the integral parts of every fantasy world is magic. The fantasy author certainly more or less uses it in his work: he can endow with magic one or more characters of his novel or construct the whole

fantasy world on the basis of magic by means of making so called “magic systems” [1, p. 52]. One should distinguish the ways of getting of the magic power: in some worlds magic is innate ability, in the others it is the skill, which is available for the one who wishes. There also ought to be distinguished the ways of the implementation of magic in the fantasy works, such as bewitched objects, soothsaying, impersonation and of course spells – “the type of ritual and magic speech, the direct appeal to the object of impact in the imperative form – demand, order, incitement, request, supplication, warning, prohibition” [2, p. 259]. Spells are used not only on the pages of literary works, but were used by people since earliest times. With the help of spells, which were the original verbal ritual and could be a part of the complex verbal forms – charms, ritual songs, people tried to make their wishes come true, for instance, to affect the weather, crops etc.

Thus, the spells are undoubtedly the group of the language devices, which help the author to construct his own fantasy world, so they are the nonce-words according to their nature, because they are new unique items and function only on the pages of the literary work.

Purpose of the article. The aim of the article is the analysis of semantic and structural peculiarities of the spells as nonce-words in the novels of Russian and British fantasy.

Presentation of the main material. In the capacity of the illustrative material were chosen the cycles of novels “Harry Potter” by J. K. Rowling and “Tanya Grotter” by D. Yemets, on the score of the fact that these novels are ones of a few works, which the mentioned group of the nonce-word with different structure and semantics functions in. Besides, the work of the British fantasy writers has become very popular not only in the motherland, but quite beyond its borders. Russian fantasy after all has appeared much more later, but though has been developing very rapidly and has got a lot of fans in many countries.

In the process of analysis of some nonce-words the most valid way is, to our mind, their classification according to the semantic principle, namely their division into “onyms”(proper nouns) and “apelatives”(common nouns), which contain in turn the groups of nonce-words with different semantics and structure. Author's new formations with the additional seme “spells” are analyzed for the first time from the linguistic point of view. That is why the question about their relation to one or another class is controversial. According to A. V. Superanskaya, whose research is devoted to the theory and methodology of onomastic investigation, person during the process of cognition gives names to its separate parts by means of “classification (by giving common names) and “individualization (by giving proper names)” [3, p. 15]. Classification indicates that the named objects are apprehended as typical, so they

denote the class of similar objects, while individualization means that the object, which gets certain name, considered to be a representative of its class, which is unique – that is the peculiar characteristics of the nonce-words with the additional seme “spells”, because every item, which functions in this class, has special semantics, purpose and the sphere of use.

According to the results of the component analysis in the semantic structure of the occasional onyms with the common meaning “spells” were distinguished such dominant semes:

1. Group of the nonce-words with the dominant seme **action** is one of the biggest in the English language and is presented by such lexemes: *Alohomora*, *Ligilimens*, *Rictusempra*, *Evanesco*, *Aparecium*, which are built by means of different mixed methods of word-formation, which include usual and occasional models. For instance, the occasional spell *Alohomora*, which is formed by mixing the means of compounding and occasional way of rederivation, is the three-component compound word, which is very rare phenomenon in occasional word-building, because compounding is characterized by the two-component type of compound lexemes. Mentioned nonce-word is derived from the Latin language items **alo, v** – “to worsen”, **mora, n** – “obstacle” and the pronoun **hoc** – “this”, which in the process of rederivation – the method of reduction of a part of certain word, loses its final component. Such transformation is caused probably by phonetic processes, namely by the phenomenon of elision, which is characterized by the reduction of vowel or consonant sound in the word for the purpose of facilitation of its pronunciation, i. e. the achievement of the euphony.

In the process of combination of these lexemes the word-combination is formed with the meaning of “to remove this obstacle”, which fully defines the meaning of this so called “semantically-tinted” lexeme, because the mentioned spell is used for opening the closed doors.

Besides, on the basis of the similar model was formed another occasional spell *Legilimens*, which structure are the methods of compounding and tmesis are combined in. Its structure also includes the components of the Latin origin, namely the verb **lego** – “to read”, which is used in the form of present tense of the first person singular and complicated by the means of tmesis by adding phonemes “l” and “i”, which are presumably used for the purpose of creation of the partial equivalent of the Latin Participle **legibilis** – “easy-to-interpret”. This transformed verb in the combination with the noun of Latin origin **mens** – “thought” forms the word-combination “to read thoughts (easily)” and reflects the semantics and purpose of the spell, which is called to help a magician to read the thoughts of the object of his influence.

Occasional word-building in the network of the mentioned group is characterized by a set of unusual methods. For example, the lexical unit, which also means a spell and functions in the British fantasy, *Rictusempra*, is formed by means of the use of occasional ways of rederivation and the method of the so called “overlapping” of the words. When in use of this method the words are combined so that the final part of the first word becomes the beginning of the second one. This process takes place in the formation of the compound lexeme *Rictusempra*, which is built according to the model N+Adv. This lexeme is derived from the Latin masculine noun **rictus** – “the opening of the mouth” and the adverb **semper** – “always”, which was transformed into “sempra” by means of rederivation, namely the omission of the phoneme “e” in the middle of the word for the purpose of the facilitation of pronunciation. Besides, the final

part of this nonce-word is complicated with the inflexional formant, which is the marker of the noun of the first declination in the Latin language. The analysis of so called “zero” context of the word, namely its internal form, which nonce-words mainly explicate their semantics through, gives only partial image of its purpose in the text. However, the analysis of the minicontext, which the nonce-word functions in, gives an opportunity to conclude about the purpose of this spell in the text – to provoke unrestrained laughter. This minicontext gives also an opportunity to parallel between the meaning of the word in the minicontext and its internal form.

The occasional spells, which function in the text of Russian fantasy and have the same dominant seme **action** are formed on the basis of usual word-building models and derived from Russian lexemes. For instance, the spell *Взломус* is formed by the affixal method, namely by means of adding to root of the Russian noun **взлом** – “break-in” the final formant “-ус”, which is the inflexion of Latin origin and is used for the purpose of the masculine nouns. Such kind of transformation doesn’t cause any semantic changes, but gives the lexeme additional semantic shade of “magic”, because the most part of the magic rituals, alchemic works are created in Latin. Besides, the word “magic” itself has Latin origin. The semantics of the analyzed new formation is fully represented in its internal form, because the mentioned spell is used to make up the pass in every surface.

Likewise, another spell *Расслабонум* was formed, namely by means of adding the formants “o” and “n” to the verb **расслаблять** – “to relax”. Besides it is complicated by the form-generating affix “-ум”, which has Latin origin and is used to form singular nouns. The formants “o” and “n” indicate the fact, that the mentioned nonce-word is derived from another Russian word “расслабон”, which is the slang unit according to its nature, which means in the dictionary of argot “a pleasant physical state, the absence of difficulties and trouble”. The analysis of semantics and structure of the author’s new formation gives only partial interpretation of this unit, however, the studying of the minimal context of the occasional word gives to the reader an opportunity to define the real nature of this spell – the magician’s ability to see invisible things.

2. One of the numerous groups of the occasional spells is the group with the common seme **fight**, which is represented in both English and Russian fantasy. The means of word-formation in this semantic group differentiate from purely usual to fully occasional. For example, the spells *Crucio* and *Stupefy* are formed by means of the occasional way of onimization, which assumes the transformation of the appellative lexical unit into the proper noun or onym. With the help of this method J. K. Rowling has transformed Latin verb **crucio** – “to torture” and the verb of English origin **to stupefy** into the occasional onyms, which in their occasional use stand for the spells for the activation of excruciating pain and for the loss of consciousness, respectively.

Unlike the British fantasy, which include the nonce-words, which are built by means of occasional methods, the Russian fantasy texts are characterized by usual ways of word-building. For instance, the spell *Искрис Фронтис* was built on the basis of affixal method, namely the adding of a certain inflexional element “-ис”, which has Latin origin, to the Russian noun **искра** – “spark” and the adjective **фронтальный** – “frontal”. The semantics of the components of this spell fully corresponds to its purpose in the text – creation of the battle spark, which appear from the wizard’s ring, because the bewitched rings are used by the pupils of magic school Tibidochs (“Тибидохс”) instead of the magic wands.

Usual word-formation is represented in Russian fantasy with the way of compounding. By means of this way was formed the occasional spell *Kaputt Tynetut* (“*Капут Тыненут*”), which consists of the German adjectival lexeme **kaputt** – “damaged”, which was transliterated in the text by means of the Russian alphabet. It is also combined with the ternary lexeme, which includes the stems of the pronoun **ты** – “you”, negative particle **не** – “no” and the adverb **тут** – “here”. This battle spell is used to separate the enemy’s soul from his body.

It’s worth mention that occasional word-formation in this semantic group is represented with the mixed method, but it appears only in the English language, because according to the results of analysis of the occasional spells it can be concluded that English lexical units have more complex structure and semantics, than the Russian ones. For example, the spell *Expeliarmus*, which functions in the J. K. Rowling’s novel “Harry Potter”, was formed by means of the combination of two usual methods: compounding and affixation. The mentioned occasional formation is a complex disyllabic word, which was built by the combination of the stems of Latin lexemes **expello, v** – “to drive out” and **arma, n** – “weapon” and grammatically complicated with the final formant “-us”, which has Latin origin and doesn’t provoke any semantic changes. The semantics of this occasional word develops through its internal form, namely the mentioned spell is used by the wizards during the fight for the purpose of disarming the enemy.

3. Another type of occasional words, which have a dominant seme **chores**, are represented mainly in Russian fantasy, because the wizards of Tibidochs use the spells in all spheres of life. For example, the spell *Tehistus Trubatchistus* (“*Течистус Трубачистус*”), which is used by lazy magicians for doing such chores as washing up and cleaning the teeth. The mentioned lexeme is formed by using the affixal method with the help of word-forming affix “-us” (“-ус”), which originate from the Latin language. Russian word-formation is also represented by the mixed method. For example, the occasional onym *Banticus Tribanticus* (“*Бантикус Трибантикус*”) – the spell, which is used for lacing the shoes, is formed by adding the same affix as in the previous nonce-word, however the second component of this occasional word-combination is built by means of compounding: combination of the roots of the numeral **три** – “three” and noun **бант** – “bow”, which gets the additional connotation in the process of adding to the root Russian hypocoristic suffix “-ик” (“-ik”).

British nonce-words, which function in the mentioned semantic group, are used mainly by means of onymization. For instance, the spell *Nox* and *Reparo* are formed by transforming the appellative units of Latin origin into onyms: a noun **nox** – “night” and a verb **reparo** – “to repair”. These spells are used for turning off the light and reparation of different things, thereafter.

4. The multiple number of the nonce-words, which function in the texts about Tanya Grotter, refer to the group with the common seme **motion**. It is caused by the fact, that the wizard in the D. Yemets’ novels has to use a certain spell to levitate, while the pupils of Hogwarts in J. K. Rowling’s texts has brooms, which contain magic themselves and do not require additional spells. In this group have to be mentioned such spells as *Toronygus Ugorelus*, *Плотус Камикадзис*, which are word-combinations according to their structure and were formed by means of affixation, namely by adding the form-generating affix “-us” to every component.

Semantic group with the common seme **motion** in the English language is represented by occasional items, which mostly have

complex structure, because they are formed by means of mixing the usual and occasional word-building methods. For example, the spell *Wingardium Leviosa* which is used to lift the things into air, is occasional word-combination, which components are built with the help of the ways of compounding, affixation and tmesis. The word *Wingardium* is formed by means of adding the reduced stem of the Latin adjective **ardus** – “high” to the verb of the same origin **wing** – “to fly”. Besides, the analyzed component of this lexical unit is grammatically complicated with the inflexional formant “-um”, which is used in the Latin language to mark a singular form of a noun. The final component of the word-combination, the lexeme *Leviosa*, is formed with the help of occasional method – the tmesis, which is performed by means of adding the vowel sounds “o” and “a” to the Latin adjective **levis** – “light”. The appearance of the first vowel causes only phonetic changes, which were possibly necessary for the purpose of facilitation of the pronunciation or making up more syllables, which gives to this spell a shade of solemnity, because namely this intonation was the so called button, which activated the spell. However, phoneme “a” causes to its turn some grammar transformations, as this phoneme as an inflexional component is used in Latin to mark the nouns of the first declination.

5. One of the numeral groups in this occasional semantic set is the group of the nonce-words, which denote “protection”, which function basically in the British texts. Here has to be mentioned such occasional unit as *Protego*, which is built by using the way of onymization – changing the Latin appellative **protego, v** – “to protect” into the proper lexical unit and used by the wizards to make up an invisible shield, which helps to protect themselves from the enemies. The same way is used to create a spell *Expecto Patronum*, which helps to protect the wizard from the dementors. This lexeme is derived from the Latin verb **expecto** – “to expect” and the noun **patronus** – “protector”. Besides, this nonce-word is grammatically complicated by adding the inflexion “-um” to final part of the stem of the second component of this word-combination, which does not cause any semantic transformations.

Conclusions. Thus, occasional units, which denote the spells, which are onyms according to their nature, as they indicate a certain object in the certain class, are the integral part of every fantasy text, which they function in. Occasional spells are very important components, which have to be taken into consideration while analyzing any fantasy work of literature. Having interpreted this semantic group in the areas of British and Russian fantasy, it has to be concluded, that the most part of English nonce-words are used in the texts to denote “action”, “fight” and “protection”. However, the Russian occasional spells mainly denote “chores”, while the number of lexemes with common semes “fight” and “action” is less than in English. Total number of the nonce-words in the British fantasy is much more multiple than in the Russian language. It also has to be mentioned that the structure of the nonce-words has a number of differences in both languages. The ways of occasional word-formation differentiate from the totally usual to purely occasional. Besides, occasional new Russian units are mainly word-combinations, which structure contains the process of the repetition of their final components. This process causes the effect of a rhyme.

Such difference in the structure, semantics and the ways of word-formation of the occasional spells in both languages has arisen because of the fact that fantasy in Britain, which is considered to be its motherland, has been developing for several decades, while in Russia this process is much more slower. Besides, in spite

of the similar plot, both sets of novels differentiate to a great extent, because the work of Russian writer was used mainly for the readers of juvenile age, while, the novels of British author captivate the attention of the great part of reader audience, which include several age groups. This stuff has caused the situation, that occasional onyms and other nonce-words, which function in the Russian fantasy, are considered to be simple, though their interpretation causes some difficulties, as the structure of some nonce-words contradict some rules of usual and occasional word-building processes. Though, the interpretation of the English formations is complicated with some factors, which are connected with Latin origin of the words, every case of using a nonce-word is motivated, and the lexemes themselves have accurate structure and corresponding semantics.

The perspective of the further research in this direction can be the interpretation of the other types of onyms, which function in the fantasy genre, and the studying of the problems connected with their translation.

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Власенко І. Оказіональні закляття як компонент фантастичного ономастикону

Кожен літературний твір, створений автором, відображає його внутрішній світ, ідіолект, світовідчуття, мовну свідомість. Письменник є дослідником, який пізнає навколишній світ, а результати цього пізнання відображаються в тексті його твору за допомогою мови. Мовні особливості

художнього тексту введені до тексту з метою відображення реалій вторинного світу, створеного в уяві автора. Твори такого типу належать до літературного жанру фентезі, що характеризується наявністю великої кількості нових слів – «авторських новотворів» або «оказіоналізмів», які виникають під впливом контексту на основі типової (узальної) або нетипової (оказіональної) моделі.

Стаття висвітлює аспекти аналізу оказіональних онімичних закляття жанру фентезі, що функціонують у творах британських і російських письменників. Процес комплексної інтерпретації оказіональних лексичних одиниць є багаторівневим і містить такі скланики, як аналіз способу творення лексеми, а також компонентний і контекстуальний аналізи.

Структура оказіоналізмів на позначення закляття досить часто не відповідає нормі, саме тому моделі словотвору, використовувані в корпусі оказіональних лексем жанру фентезі, не можуть бути обмежені узуальними засобами. Цей факт спричинює появу значної кількості оказіональних способів, серед яких найбільш продуктивними для жанру фентезі є онімізація, альтернація, редеривація, десегментація, тмезис, семантичний спосіб, засіб оказіонального поєднання слів тощо. При інтерпретації оказіональних закляття значну роль відіграє дослідження контексту, у якому вони функціонують. Дослідження контексту та структури аналізованих новотворів дає змогу виділити шляхом компонентного аналізу інтегральні й диференційні семи в корпусі аналізованих оказіоналізмів. Цей процес є досить важливою ланкою інтерпретаційного апарату оказіональних закляття, оскільки, окрім аналізу семантичних характеристик, він дає можливість розподілити оказіональні лексеми по групах і підгрупах згідно з їх семантикою.

Ключові слова: оказіональний онім, апелятив, сема, редеривація, тмезис, елізія.