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STUDY OF MEDICINAL PLANT NAMES FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF TERMINOLOGY AND ONOMASTICS

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Annotation: *This article examines the study of medicinal plant names from the perspectives of terminology and onomastics. The research analyzes the nominative characteristics of phytonyms, their semantic structure, and their role within the terminological system. Particular attention is paid to the linguistic, historical, and cultural factors influencing the formation of medicinal plant names, as well as their features as onomastic units. The article also investigates the etymological origins of phytonyms, their metaphorical nomination, and their linguocultural aspects related to traditional medicine. The findings demonstrate that medicinal plant names are complex lexical units situated at the intersection of terminology and onomastics.*

Keywords: *medicinal plants, phytonyms, terminology, onomastics, lexical-semantic features, nomination, etymology, linguoculture, terminological unit, semantics.*

Annotatsiya: *Ushbu maqolada dorivor o‘simlik nomlarining terminologiya va onomastika nuqtayi nazaridan o‘rganilishi tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot davomida fitonimlarning nominativ xususiyatlari, semantik tuzilishi hamda terminologik tizimdagi o‘rni yoritilgan. Dorivor o‘simlik nomlarining shakllanishida lingvistik, tarixiy va madaniy omillarning ta’siri ko‘rib chiqilib, ularning onomastik birlik sifatidagi xususiyatlari ochib berilgan. Shuningdek, maqolada fitonimlarning etimologik manbalari, metaforik nominatsiyasi va xalq tabobati bilan bog‘liq lingvomadaniy jihatlari tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot natijalari dorivor o‘simlik nomlari terminologiya va onomastika kesishgan nuqtada joylashgan murakkab leksik birliklar ekanligini ko‘rsatadi.*

Kalit so‘zlar: *dorivor o‘simliklar, fitonim, terminologiya, onomastika, leksik-semantik xususiyatlar, nominatsiya, etimologiya, lingvomadaniyat, terminologik birlik, semantika.*

Аннотация: *В данной статье рассматривается изучение названий лекарственных растений с точки зрения терминологии и ономастики. В ходе исследования анализируются номинативные особенности фитонимов, их семантическая структура и место в терминологической системе. Освещается влияние лингвистических, исторических и культурных факторов на формирование названий лекарственных растений, а также раскрываются их особенности как ономастических единиц. Кроме того, в статье исследуются этимологические источники фитонимов, их метафорическая номинация и лингвокультурные аспекты, связанные с народной медициной. Результаты исследования показывают, что названия лекарственных растений представляют собой сложные лексические единицы, находящиеся на пересечении терминологии и ономастики.*

Ключевые слова: *лекарственные растения, фитонимы, терминология, ономастика, лексико-семантические особенности, номинация, этимология, лингвокультура, терминологическая единица, семантика.*

Introduction

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The vocabulary system of a language is closely connected with the historical experience, culture, and worldview of a nation. In this regard, plant names, especially the names of medicinal plants, represent an important object of study in linguistics, particularly in the fields of terminology, lexicology, and onomastics. The names of medicinal plants function not only as biological or pharmaceutical terms, but also as nominative units reflecting traditional knowledge, cultural values, and people's perceptions of nature and healing practices. In modern linguistics, increasing attention is being paid to the investigation of terminological systems and the onomastic nature of various naming units. Phytonyms, or plant names, occupy a special place among such units because they combine both terminological and onomastic features. The names of medicinal plants may reflect the external appearance of a plant, its healing properties, geographical origin, or symbolic associations formed in folk culture. Therefore, the linguistic analysis of medicinal plant names contributes to a deeper understanding of the relationship between language, culture, and human cognition. English medicinal plant names such as sage, mint, lavender, foxglove, and ginseng demonstrate different mechanisms of nomination and semantic development. Some of these names entered the English language through Latin or Greek scientific terminology, while others originated from folk medicine and everyday experience. This indicates that medicinal plant names possess multilayered semantic structures shaped by historical, cultural, and linguistic processes. From the perspective of terminology, the study of medicinal plant names helps to determine their role within scientific classification systems, their semantic precision, and their terminological stability. From the onomastic point of view, phytonyms are valuable naming units that reflect national mentality, figurative thinking, and cultural perceptions of nature. In particular, metaphorically motivated medicinal plant names reveal how language encodes symbolic and associative meanings connected with human experience. The relevance of this research lies in the necessity of studying medicinal plant names comprehensively from both terminological and onomastic perspectives. The article investigates the nominative models, lexical-semantic characteristics, etymological origins, and linguocultural aspects of medicinal phytonyms. Special attention is also paid to the functions of medicinal plant names within terminological systems and their specific features as onomastic units.

Literature Review and Methodology

The study of plant names, particularly medicinal phytonyms, has become one of the important areas of modern linguistic research. In recent decades, scholars have shown growing interest in the lexical-semantic, terminological, and onomastic features of naming units connected with nature and traditional medicine. Medicinal plant names are regarded not only as elements of botanical terminology but also as linguistic units reflecting cultural memory, historical development, and human interaction with the natural world. Theoretical foundations for the study of lexical meaning and nomination were established in the works of linguists such as J. Lyons, S. Ullmann, and D. Crystal. Their studies emphasize that lexical units emerge through the interaction of language, cognition, and cultural experience. According to these scholars, the meaning of a word is closely connected with social practice and historical development. This approach is especially relevant in the analysis of medicinal plant names because many phytonyms are motivated by healing functions, visual characteristics, or symbolic associations. Research in terminology has also contributed significantly to the understanding of medicinal plant names. Scholars such as J. C. Richards and H. Jackson note that terminological units are expected to demonstrate semantic precision and systematic organization within specialized fields. However, medicinal phytonyms often differ from

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purely scientific terms because they combine professional terminology with elements of folk naming traditions. As a result, many medicinal plant names preserve metaphorical or culturally marked meanings alongside their scientific usage. From the perspective of onomastics, phytonyms are studied as naming units that reflect national mentality and cultural worldview. V. Telia and N. Arutyunova underline that names associated with natural objects frequently contain symbolic and associative meanings shaped by collective cultural consciousness. In English, medicinal plant names such as sage, eyebright, and foxglove reveal metaphorical nomination and folk interpretations connected with healing, spirituality, or visual similarity. Such examples demonstrate that phytonyms function not only as terminological units but also as carriers of cultural and linguistic information. Etymological studies further show that many English medicinal plant names originated from Latin, Greek, Old English, and Germanic linguistic sources. Scientific botanical terminology introduced a large number of Latin-based names into English, while folk medicine preserved traditional native forms. This coexistence of scientific and folk nomination created a multilayered lexical system in which medicinal plant names acquired both terminological stability and semantic diversity. The present research applies a комплексive methodological approach combining descriptive, semantic, etymological, and comparative methods of analysis. The descriptive method was used to classify medicinal plant names according to their structural and semantic characteristics. Semantic analysis helped identify the nominative motivations behind phytonyms, including references to healing properties, physical appearance, color, smell, or symbolic meaning. The etymological method was employed to trace the historical origins of selected medicinal plant names and determine the influence of Latin, Greek, and Germanic linguistic traditions on their formation. Comparative analysis was also used to examine similarities and differences between scientific botanical terminology and folk phytonymic nomination. The research material consisted of English botanical dictionaries, pharmaceutical glossaries, etymological sources, and scientific studies related to medicinal plants and linguistic terminology. Such an interdisciplinary methodological framework made it possible to investigate medicinal plant names from both terminological and onomastic perspectives and to reveal their lexical-semantic complexity within the English language.

Results

Medicinal plant names in English reflect much more than scientific classification. They carry traces of historical experience, folk medicine, cultural imagination, and human interaction with nature. During the analysis, it became clear that many phytonyms were created not randomly, but through direct observation of a plant's healing effect, appearance, smell, or symbolic meaning. These names preserve centuries of practical knowledge and reveal how people understood the natural world before the development of modern medicine. A large number of medicinal plant names are strongly connected with their therapeutic function. Words such as lungwort, feverfew, and heal-all openly indicate the illnesses or conditions these plants were believed to cure. The semantic structure of such names is highly transparent because the nomination itself acts as a form of explanation. In folk medicine traditions, naming a plant after its medical purpose helped people remember and transmit practical healing knowledge from one generation to another.

Visual perception also played a significant role in the formation of medicinal phytonyms. Certain names emerged from comparisons between plants and familiar objects or living creatures. The flower called foxglove, for example, received its name because its shape resembles a small glove.

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In snake root, the image of a snake influenced the associative nomination process. These examples demonstrate that metaphorical thinking became one of the most productive mechanisms in the creation of English plant names. Human imagination transformed ordinary botanical objects into expressive linguistic images. The research additionally revealed that medicinal phytonyms often contain symbolic meanings that extend beyond medicine or botany. Some plants became associated with emotional, spiritual, or cultural values within English-speaking communities. Sage gradually developed connections with wisdom and intelligence, while lavender became linked to calmness, peace, and emotional comfort. Such associations show that medicinal plant names function not only as scientific terms but also as cultural symbols embedded in collective consciousness. Historical and etymological analysis demonstrated that English medicinal plant terminology developed under the influence of several linguistic traditions. Latin and Greek contributed many scientific botanical terms, especially in pharmaceutical discourse. At the same time, folk names preserved elements of Old English and Germanic vocabulary. Because of this interaction, English contains both official botanical names and traditional popular names for many medicinal plants. This coexistence reflects the connection between scientific knowledge and everyday language experience. Another important observation concerns the dual nature of medicinal phytonyms. On one hand, they serve as terminological units used in medicine, pharmacology, and botany. On the other hand, they belong to the sphere of onomastics because they function as culturally motivated naming units shaped by social memory and national worldview. Their semantic richness cannot be fully understood without considering both linguistic and cultural contexts together. The study confirmed that medicinal plant names represent a unique lexical layer within the English language. They combine scientific precision with metaphorical imagination, historical memory, and cultural symbolism. This complexity makes phytonyms an important source for studying the relationship between language, culture, and human cognition.

Discussion

The analysis of medicinal plant names showed that phytonyms occupy a special place within the English lexical system because they combine scientific terminology with cultural and symbolic meanings. Unlike many technical terms that function only within professional discourse, medicinal plant names often preserve traces of folk medicine, historical beliefs, and collective human experience. This explains why many of them remain semantically expressive even after becoming part of scientific vocabulary. One of the most noticeable aspects observed during the research was the strong connection between nomination and human perception. People tended to name medicinal plants according to what they saw, felt, or experienced in everyday life. Healing effects, physical appearance, smell, taste, or emotional associations became the foundation for lexical formation. Such naming principles demonstrate that language develops not in isolation, but through continuous interaction between humans and their environment. The presence of metaphorical nomination in many phytonyms reveals the important role of imagination in lexical development. Names like foxglove, snake root, or eyebright are not purely descriptive; they reflect figurative thinking and associative interpretation. In these cases, language transforms natural objects into symbolic images that are easier to remember and culturally meaningful. This process also explains why many medicinal plant names sound vivid and expressive compared to strictly scientific botanical terminology. The study additionally highlighted the coexistence of scientific and folk naming systems in English. Botanical science introduced standardized Latin-based terminology, creating

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lexical precision and international consistency. However, traditional folk names continued to survive in everyday communication because they remained emotionally familiar and culturally recognizable. As a result, English medicinal phytonyms developed as a hybrid lexical field where professional terminology and popular nomination exist side by side. Another important point concerns the linguocultural value of medicinal plant names. Certain phytonyms gradually acquired meanings that extended beyond medicine and botany. Plants such as sage or lavender became connected with wisdom, peace, healing, and emotional balance in cultural consciousness. This demonstrates that medicinal plant names function not only as linguistic signs but also as carriers of symbolic and cultural information. Through these names, language reflects collective attitudes toward health, nature, and spirituality. The findings also suggest that medicinal phytonyms should be studied from an interdisciplinary perspective. Purely terminological analysis cannot fully explain their semantic richness because many names contain historical, cultural, and metaphorical layers. Combining approaches from terminology, onomastics, semantics, and linguocultural studies allows a more complete understanding of how medicinal plant names evolve and function within language. The research confirmed that medicinal plant names are not static lexical units. Their meanings continue to develop alongside changes in science, medicine, and cultural perception. Some traditional names preserve ancient beliefs, while others acquire new associations in modern discourse. This dynamic nature makes phytonyms a productive area for further linguistic investigation, especially in comparative, cognitive, and ethnolinguistic studies.

Conclusion

Medicinal plant names in English form a unique lexical field where scientific terminology and cultural imagination intersect. Their semantic structure reflects not only botanical classification but also centuries of medical practice, folk beliefs, and human observation of nature. Many phytonyms emerged from direct interaction with plants and preserve traces of how earlier communities understood healing, illness, and the surrounding environment. Names connected with medicinal plants often reveal clear semantic motivation. Healing functions, visible characteristics, smell, color, and symbolic associations became the basis for nomination. Because of this, phytonyms developed as expressive linguistic units rather than mechanically created scientific labels. Metaphorical naming patterns such as foxglove or eyebright demonstrate the influence of figurative thinking on the evolution of English vocabulary. Scientific development introduced Latin- and Greek-based terminology into pharmaceutical and botanical discourse, yet traditional folk names continued to remain active in everyday language. This coexistence created a multilayered lexical system where official terminology and culturally shaped nominations function simultaneously. Such duality strengthens the lexical richness of medicinal phytonyms and increases their linguistic value. Cultural symbolism attached to certain plants also expanded the semantic boundaries of phytonyms. Words like sage and lavender gradually acquired meanings associated with wisdom, calmness, and emotional balance. These associations prove that medicinal plant names operate not only as terminological units but also as carriers of cultural memory and collective perception. The semantic diversity and historical depth of medicinal phytonyms make them an important source for linguistic research. Their study helps reveal the relationship between language, cognition, terminology, and national worldview. Investigating medicinal plant names through both terminological and onomastic approaches allows a deeper understanding of how lexical units preserve scientific knowledge together with cultural identity.

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