

## Terminological discrepancy of modified proper names between English, French, German and Russian

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### Abstract

The aim of this contribution is to reveal some differences in French, English, German and Russian terminologies and to 'polish' definitions of some onomastic terms for modified proper names. The main difficulties which we will meet in confrontation of various terminologies are connected with the use of some terms for a designation of one type of proper names with different comprehension (content) of the same term in diverse onomastic schools, as well as a concurrence of national and international terms. Our special interest will be directed to terms designating transition of proper names to common nouns and on the contrary. The main objective consists not only in estimating definitions of terms which are more or less relevant, but in showing that the same phenomenon can be named differently, albeit these different nominations designate the identical. Therewith some entries for an international list of onomastic terms will be suggested.

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### Introduction

At first we will briefly decode what we mean by the term *modified proper name*, which is nevertheless well known and much discussed. Regarding grammatical studies, a group of assumptions by Kleiber (1981) might be exposed, with emphasis on the ideas about modified proper names which represent the basis of several studies by current linguists who are working in this field (Gary-Prieur, 1994; Gary-Prieur, 2001; Jonasson, 1994; Leroy, 2004; Vaxelaire, 2005 among others). G. Kleiber has inspired the typology of modified usages (denominative, exemplary, metonymic, etc.) and gallicized the Tyler Burge's term *modified proper name*. Due to the complications caused by this expression in accordance with recent works (Gary-Prieur, 2005; Kleiber, 2006; Noailly, 2000) the analysis here regards the term in question.

### What's in a modified name?

In Gary-Prieur (2005) is shown that the term *modified proper name* that comes from a particular logical theory (Burge) is not actually relevant to describe proper names from a linguistic point of view. It is pointed out that the use of this term is not clear, as we never know whether it reflects a syntactic or a semantic level of description.

In Noailly (2005) the modified proper name appears in its usual form without a determiner but is not used to indicate the original carrier of the name. These utilizations are not all the same: there are at least three types of them. Some seem close to antonomasia (without being one): "Be Chateaubriand or nobody", "it isn't anybody (who wishes) who can be Molière". Others concern the attribution of roles: "it's Raimondi who will be Mephisto", and with stress on the verb is: "Raimondi is Don Juan". The interpretive effects are different for the various cases. The syntax of these utilizations is not restricted to the attributive construction and when in context - appears more free. Moreover, the discussion brings out the fact that the contrast of value and role, usually used to describe similar phenomena, is insufficient in this case. It would be better to speak of borrowed identity. This hypothesis assumes that the representation of the individual given by the proper name is a more abstract entity than is normally thought.

When the proper name is accompanied by determinants that cause it to lose its unicity or singularity so typical for its usual referential use it will be called modified (Jonasson, 1994:171). And inversely it will be called unmodified proper name in its regular referential use where it appears generally “naked” without any modifiers. We understand the term of modified proper name in a wide sense not only as the use of proprial units with articles, determiners, clauses, attributes, appositions, modifiers, in the plural and not capitalized, but we include the semantic and referentialist modification too.

The terminology of modified proper names kindles a very special interest. Statistically, the terms of *modified proper name* can be found on the Internet 84 times; *nom propre modifié* – 234; *modifizierter Eigennamen* - only 12. We applied various Google filters in order to get the quantity of unrepeated links in a given language. We do realize that there was no real statistical methodology in it, but however the proportions may be representative. For instance, the impulse of G. Kleiber was efficient enough to spread this term mostly in French.

The transition of the proper name to the common name is a continuum. The proper names can undergo a variety of changes: grammaticalization, verbalization, adjectivization, adverbialisation, metaphorization, metonymization, communisation, generalization, particularization, depropriation, deonymization, appellativization / appellativation, denying of the capital letter, affixation, inflection, diminutivization, hypocoristic form, etc. Language dictionaries often record a considerable number of proper nouns unintentionally. This onomastic continuum, as well as the effects resulting from it, has been examined from the terminological viewpoint in our recent research (Shokhenmayer, 2011). In this context, the transition of the proper noun to the common noun is very frequent and multi-name. Many theorists see different processes therein and invent new terms to describe this phenomenon and name its consecutive formations. Here is a chronological overview of their terminologies:

- Rhetoric and Antique philosophy: eponymy / antonomasia (Sulzberger, 1926)
- 1660 Arnould & Lancelot: proper name “by figure” (Rieux, Rollin, 1975)
- 1767 Beauzée: appellative name (Bartlett, 1975)
- 1798 Condillac: proper name “figuratively” used (Condillac, 1798, eBook)
- 1911 Damourette & Pichon: name „generalizably” used (Damourette, Pichon, 1968)
- 1935 G. & R. Le Bidois: name used “by emphasis” or “in a figural sense” (Le Bidois, 1967)
- 1940 Gardiner: common proper names – (dis)embodied proper names (Gardiner, 1954)
- 1949 Jespersen: quasi proper names (*ibid.*)
- 1958 Lévi-Strauss : mytheme = onomastic mythologem (Lévi-Strauss, 1963)
- 1962 Likhačev: proprial concept / conceptual proper name (*ibid.*)
- 1968 Zabeeh: used proper names (*ibid.*)
- 1973 Algeo: primery – secondary proper names (*ibid.*)
- 1973 Pariente: epistemic proper names (*ibid.*)
- 1973 Burge: modified proper name (*ibid.*)
- 1980 Otin: connotonym = connotative onym (Otin, 1984)
- 1980 Grodziński : quasi-ideal proper names – multi-designatory names (*ibid.*)
- 1981 Meyer & Balayn: proper name quidditive (*ibid.*)
- 1985 Langendonck: appellative derived (*ibid.*)
- 1987 Kara’ulov & Gudkov: precedential proper name / intertextual proper name (Gudkov, 1999)
- 1989 Blokh & Semenova: onym semi-common or semi-onym (Blokh, Semenova, 2001)
- 1990 Kaplan: generic names – common currency names (*ibid.*)
- 1991 Flaux: Npa (nom propre en antonomase) = antonomastical proper name (*ibid.*)
- 1992 Künne: hybrid proper names (*ibid.*)

- 1992 Schweickard: Deonym (*ibid.*)  
 1994 Jonasson & Gary-Prieur: exemplary proper name (*ibid.*)  
 1996 Forest: direct – indirect idionyms (*ibid.*)  
 1997 Wilmet: essential proper name – accidental common noun (*ibid.*)  
 1999 Hadj Hamou: proper common nouns (Hadj Hamou, 2004)  
 1999 Kalinkin: poetonym = poetic onym (Kalinkin, 2000)  
 2000 Fomin: reminonym = reminiscential onym (Fomin, 2003)  
 2001 Katz: improper names (*ibid.*)  
 2001 Boulanger & Cormier: proprionyms (*ibid.*)  
 2003 Khaničev: appellonym = appellative onym (*ibid.*)  
 2004 Šekhtman & Zakharova: allusive proper name (Zakharova, 2004)  
 2007 Shokhenmayer & Jeandillou: recategorized proper name (Shokhenmayer, 2009)  
 2011 Van de Velde & Ambouroué: deproprial noun (*ibid.*)

The multitude of terms shows that border between proper names and common names are difficult to define. The modified names are so heterogeneous that we cannot create a unified theory of proper names. Such a theory would solve the problem of modified proper names' existence equally with the canonical unmodified onomastic units. The onomasticians must either assimilate the determined proper name to the common name or imagine a device for a special transformation of the proper name without articles to the proper name with an article.

### Antonomasia

The choice of terminology requires maximum precision. Various names are not all acceptable and will probably cover the same definitions not precisely. The most common denomination in linguistics for a phenomenon in question is *antonomasia* of the proper name. In rhetoric, *antonomasia* is a substitution of any epithet or phrase for a proper name, as for example "the little corporal" for Napoleon. The reverse process is also sometimes called *antonomasia*. It is a trope, a rhetorical figure in speech that also applies to modified proper names (e.g. *a new Mozart, the Napoleons of the future*, etc.). Today we can call it *lexicalized antonomasia*. According to the Internet statistics, the number of *antonomasia* in English reaches 117.000; *antonomasie* in French – 1.980; *Antonomasie* in German – 11.500; and *антономазия* in Russian – 5.276.

### Deonomastics

The term *deonym* means a "common noun derived or originating from a proper name" (ICOS list of Key Onomastic Terms) and comes from the specialists in Romance philology and from the "deonomastics". The latter had been thought to be the subdiscipline of historical Romance linguistics and to deal with the derivations of proper nouns. Although the research in the deonomastic field is dated from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Plattner, 1889), the term was introduced by Italian lexicographer Enzo La Stella in 1982 in the form of "deonomastica" (1982); to the end of the 80s Wolfgang Schweickard has used the germanized "deonomastisch" (1988) and gallicized "déonomastique" (1989) as adjectives; at the beginning of 90s the neonym got into the German linguistics as "Deonomastik" (Schweickard, 1992) and into the French linguistics as "déonomastique" (Büchi, 1993) respectively. The important role in the scattering of this term was played by the Romance philologists from Italy, Germany, France and Switzerland participating mostly in the Schweickard's research projects such as *DI* (Deonomasticon Italicum) and *DÉRom* (Dictionnaire étymologique des langues romanes).

The quantitative "portray" of these terms can be shown on different levels: *deonomastics* – 26 (only 10 of them in the English-speaking Internet, 0 of them in the UK, 5 of them in the

USA), *Deonomastik* – 469 (387 of them in the German-speaking Internet), *Deonomastika* (version promoted by Prof. Hornbruch, a calque from Romance languages) – 277 (233 of them in the German-speaking Internet), *deonomastica* – 1.970 (416 of them in the Italian-speaking Internet, 94 in the Spanish-speaking Internet), *déonomastique* – 130 (108 of them in the French-speaking Internet), *деономастика* - 0.

From our point of view, the discipline of deonomastics represents generally the study of words which have been formed on the basis of proper names, it is not the part of historical linguistics anymore, nor the domain of Romance philologists only.

By the mid 90s, Schweickard (1995) states the concurrence of the adjectives “deonomastisch” (ger. “deonomastische Bildungen”, fr. “formations déonomastiques”) and “deonymisch”. The latter became more popular and subsequently more frequent. The statistical comparison demonstrates that *deonomastic* in English has 20 occurrences, *deonomastisch* in German – 86, while *deonymic* in English – 37 and *deonymisch* in German – 248. French and Russian versions do not represent that kind of distinction.

By the means of this new adjective they came to the term *deonym*. According to the Internet statistics, *deonym* in English has got 117 occurrences, *Deonym* in German – 468, *déonyme* in French – 14, and *деоним* in Russian – 55. Deonym is acceptable as synonym of proprial derivata, but this term refers to all forms derived from a proper name and thus may be too general. It can't help us to remove the label of modified proper names, which sometimes is a sort of the “omnium-gatherum” term and therefore it doesn't always imply the change of the class / category.

The list, collection or vocabulary of deonyms is called *deonomasticon* (141 occurrences, *Deonomastikon* in German – 71 occurrences) and process of loss of the onymic function and / or character of being proper noun may be called *deonymisation* (28 occurrences) or *deonymization* (13 occurrences) in order to anglicize the German *Deonymisierung* (232 occurrences). That is why we could also use the verbs *deonymise* or *deonymize* (0 occurrences) in English as *deonymisieren* (16 occurrences) in German. The participle *deonymised* is also not existent in the Internet for the present, although another its version *deonymized* is to be found only once in an article within Russian Internet area.

All this information can be summarized in the following table:

deonomastics **Deonomastik** déonomastique **деономастика**

<b>deonomasticon</b> (151 oc.)	<b>Deonomastikon</b> (71 oc.)	déonomasticon (0 oc.)	деономастикон (0 oc.)
deonymisation (28 oc.) / deonymization (13 oc.)	<b>Deonymisierung</b> (232 oc.)	déonymisation (4 oc.)	деонимизация (134 oc.)
deonomise (0 oc.) / deonomize (1 oc.)	<b>deonymisieren</b> (16 oc.)	déonymiser (1 oc.)	деонимизировать (8 oc.)
ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS	РУССКИЙ

## Eponymics

According to the different word classes one might remember the term of the *lexicalized proper name* or more precisely substantivized proper name, adjectivized proper name, adverbialized proper name, verbalized proper name and even interjectionized proprial unit.

According to the ICOS list of Key Onomastic Terms eponym is a “proper name of a person or group of persons, forming the basis of the name of another person, family, place, object, etc., e.g. personal name *Washington* – toponym *Washington*”. In some Anglo-Saxon linguistics they use *eponym* as result of derivation that contradicts the traditional definition after which by eponym they mean derivative base. Compare the following examples (Beeching, 1998): “The English language contains a large number of eponyms. These are words derived from the names of a real or mythical person or place” and (Merriam-Webster, 1993) : “ An eponym is the name of a person or thing, whether real or fictitious, after which a particular place, tribe, era, discovery, or other item is named or thought to be named”. But the discussion is old and we do not enter this dispute. The modern dictionaries reconcile these two points of view, hence both definitions may be used (e.g. the English Wiktionary: *Romulus is the eponym of Rome* or *Rome is an eponym of Romulus* under [en.wiktionary.org/wiki/eponym](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/eponym)).

It's impossible to compare *eponym* in English and *Eponym* in German. They are written identically and it's difficult to differentiate them by means of Google: 1.130.000 occurrences in all languages, 705.000 of them are from the English Internet. However, it's possible to confront their plural forms and their derivations:

<b>eponymy</b>	<b>Eponymie</b>	<b>éponymie</b>	<b>эпонимия</b>
<b>(54.700)</b>	<b>(208)</b>	<b>(6.330)</b>	<b>(129)</b>
<b>eponymisation</b>	<b>Eponymisierung</b>	<b>éponymisation</b>	<b>эпонимизация</b>
<b>(3) /</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(13)</b>	<b>(51)</b>
<b>eponymization</b>			
<b>(10)</b>			
<b>eponymise</b>	<b>eponymisieren</b>	<b>éponymiser</b>	<b>эпонимизировать</b>
<b>(85) /</b>	<b>(11)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>(4)</b>
<b>eponymize</b>			
<b>(431)</b>			
<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>DEUTSCH</b>	<b>FRANÇAIS</b>	<b>РУССКИЙ</b>

## Neonyms for modified onyms

### *Recategorized proper name*

Some of modified proper names involve a recategorization because of the change of grammatical class by "improper derivation": proper name → common name. We can therefore speak of a *re-categorized proper name* or *recategorized anthroponym*, *recategorized toponym*, etc., as we proposed in our PhD research (Shokhenmayer, 2009). By

the "recategorized proper name" we understand secondary onomastic multi-referential nomination. It concerns the proper names being transformed into common names, whose semantic structure is attached to the world of associations (e.g. *second Alain Delon*). The passage in question occurs in connection with the figurative nomination, or secondary one according to the Russian terminology. For the linguist V. Gak, this term denotes a situation where "... the same form can be adapted to refer to other objects (but not that for which it was created) and at the same time, on the other hand, this object can acquire another nomination" (1977: 334).

### **Onomastism**

The neonym *onomastism* has been introduced by Canadian lexicographer J.-C. Boulanger in 1986. Its French version was *onomastisme*. The term has been developed in 2001 (Boulanger, Cormier) and indicates every word of common lexis (eponym, derived, etc.) which is etymologically related to a proper name. Onomastism may be subdivided into *anthroponymism* and *toponymism*.

### **Connotonym**

Ukrainian onomastician E. Otin proposed the term of *connotative proper name* or *connotonym* in 1984. The connotation is one of the most discussed terms in linguistics, its extension is not defined exactly. Connotation is connected with psychology and culture, as it means personal or emotional associations aroused by words. When these associations are widespread and become established by common usage, a new denotation is recorded in dictionaries. If a proprial unit is considered as belonging to a particular culture, society, profession, origin, age, gender or nationality, it's because of inherent traits attached to these cultures. For example, A. Stroll (1998: 528) believes that the feature "Russian" is a part of the sense of the name Ivan. The inherent characteristics may correspond to the cultural connotations or associations, to the common and extralinguistic knowledge, to the "sensory" etymology (Duroy / du Roi), national morphology (Ivanov / Russian, von Humboldt / German, van Dijk / Dutch, de Saussure / French, Fellini / Italian, Apresjan / Armenian, Melčuk / Ukrainian). We can say that these salient attributes are reflected in the names, they activate the semes (or "virtuems" in the terminology of B. Pottier) that potentially occur therein. Proper names possess no lexical assertive meaning, hence they can't have any semes, that is why the author proposed the term of *connoteme* (structurally analogous to mytheme, meme, sememe, etc.) in order to name this idea. The process of the connotative transfer is called *connotonymisation* or *connotonymization* - the network of associations. In favorable conditions it implies a bundle of connotations and being often activated in the speech, pushes one or several peripheral sense(s) towards the semantic heart where it (they) can settle and become the lexical assertive meaning. In this way, the pragmatics penetrates into semantics. Moreover, the adjective *connotonymic* can be added to this family of words.

### **Semi-onym**

Russian grammarians Blokh and Semenova demonstrate (2001: 30) that the lexico-semantic opposition NOMINA vs. APPELLATIVA in the text often undergoes a sort of transpositional deformation, which leads to the semantic and functional overloading of the onym: the latter becomes a bifunctional unit, both generalizing and individualizing. According to the mathematics, the transposition of the categorical forms reveals the solution of the contradictions between the opposite members. In this case, the transposed member acquires mixed categorical features. From the epistemological point of view, a categorical transposed

form functions as a linguistic means able to reflect the interaction of the dialectical laws as part of an act of knowledge achieved by the speaker.

The product of such a transposition has been called *semi-common onyms* or briefly *semi-onyms* by Blokh and Semenova (1991). These are onymic units characterized by hybrid lexico-grammatical properties, proprial and common at once, on a half-way from the possessed quality and a new gained one. Their bifunctionality enables them to identify the diverse facets of individuals by emphasizing the essential moments, as well as transitional ones in their formation (e. g. *a vigorous Victor Hugo* and *the poet Victor Hugo*).

Semi-onyms differ in their semantic-functional characteristics: in some of them it is the generalizing function that prevails, among others it is the individualizing function, but all of them have lexico-grammatical composed properties. The semantico-functional dualism of transposed names rejects the semantico-functional equivalence of non-articulated and articulated onyms. The "pure" onyms are linguistic monofunctional signs identifying singular referents on the basis of an informatively sufficient individualizing meaning (e.g. *Victor Hugo*). As for semi-onyms, they fulfill the dual function with the help of the mechanism of their semantic formation that represents the semiotic specificity of the transposed proper name: *a Victor Hugo* or *the Victor Hugo*.

The semiotic confrontation of modified proprial units presented in the work of Blokh (2001), establishes two distinct principles: semi-onyms with nominative bifurcation perform the generalizing and individualizing functions being mono-referential while semi-onyms with nominative and referential bifurcation are multi-referential. Compare:

*A badly shaken Mike Cronin* leaned on Nora for support as they walked down the aisle of the church, with Eileen and Mary trailing behind them (A.M. Greeley, *Thy Brother's Wife*, 1983 : 176) and

*His (Leonard Bernstein's) formidable father Samuel* ran a profitable beauty supply business and for many years bitterly opposed his son's choice of career, although late in his life he admitted, "You don't expect your child to be **a Moses, a Maimonides or a Leonard Bernstein**" (Time, 1990, 44 : 63).

### **Allusive proper name**

The Russian linguist N. Šekhtman proposes (1965) to call this type of modified proper names *allusive onyms*. The complexity of the meaning of re-categorized proper name, its saturation and informative "richness", associative in its nature, promotes the formation of allusion mechanism. This term could be used in order to demonstrate the character of allusivity, i.e. the quality of making allusions or of having nuances. In different cultures universal proper names (as well as universal modified proper names) may have different associations. For instance, my French friends associate Napoleon with a self-made man, a man of genius (only meliorative connotations). The Russians will associate Napoleon with overweening ambitions, therefore they have an expression *Napoleonic plans*, and the English will associate Napoleon with pride and speak of a *Napoleonic attitude* toward those who are inferior, for example for employees in pejorative connotations. Linguistically speaking, we have a case of connotational contronymy. Denotational contronymy means a linguistic unit that combines two opposite meanings (e.g. verb "to overlook"). Such words are often referred to as Janus words or auto-antonyms. Let repeat once again that the referentially modified name Napoleon is a case of connotative or associative contronymy. Translators and interpreters must be aware of such discrepancies and should offer their readers or listeners an explanation. Without it, the Russian phrase *I have Napoleonic plans* may sound ambiguous for a foreigner.

### ***Appellonym***

The appellativisation of proper names conduces to switch to another sub-lexical system, intermediate between appellative and onym. With regard thereto Khaničev (2003) has introduced the term *appellonym*. On the basis of his study he has developed a hypothesis on the existence of the intermediate layer between appellative and onomastic strata in the lexicon. The list or collections of appellonyms was named as *appellonymy* and the correspondent subdivision of lexicology that might investigate this inter-lexical stratum could be titled *appellonymics*. The term in question can be found apposite for it reflects the idea of halfness and that of duality.

### ***Precedential name***

The term of *precedential name* stems from the theory of precedential texts presented by Y. Karaulov in 1987. Precedential names mean those names, dates, texts, phrases and situations that any member of a given community will easily recognize. In recent years, precedential texts have been in the limelight of academic interest under the name of precedential phenomena (PP) where the concept of text has been understood in the widest sense. For example: the names (Napoleon, Othello, Winnie-the-Pooh), dates (9/11), texts (poems, fairy tales, novels, motion pictures, songs), phrases (to be or not to be, forbidden fruit) and situations (Judas kiss, Cinderella lost her shoe) can be described as precedential phenomena. Let's turn our attention to the precedential proper names whose function as "folded" or minimized text, a sort of cultural unit / cluster (e.g. Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, the Hound of the Baskervilles) are considered to be precedential texts well-known in the Russian culture and evoke almost automatically such precedential situation as "It's elementary, my dear Watson". Main features of PP are the following - they are easily recognized and widely used in a given community, they appeal to emotions and cognition, they tend to be renewed or transformed, e.g. Donna Quixote, Dr. Jekyll and Miss Hyde, Casanova, Sherla Holmes etc. The precedential names can be also called inter-textual or intercultural names. The British are amused to find out that Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson are more popular in Russia than in Great Britain and frequently appear in Russian jokes.

### ***Poetonym***

The term of poetonym has been introduced by Prof. Kalinkin in his manuscript "Fundamental theory of poetic onomastics (2000). The theoretical conceptualization of fundamental problems of poetic onomastics in linguistics has been presented for the first time. The premises, purposes and research problem have been considered, the development possibility of the poetics of onym as independent scientific discipline has been shown, the axioms and postulates of a general theory of poetics of onym have been formulated. The author has demonstrated the dynamic character of semantics of poetonym. We must confess that the term of poetonym does exist in the international linguistics and means "a fictional name created in a literary work", from the Greek poietos (made) and -onym (name), but any elaborated theories of poetonym are unknown to us. The Ukrainian linguist promotes the following terms: *poetonymy* (list or collection of poetonyms), *poetonymic* (adj.), *poetonymology* (subdiscipline), *poetonymogenesis* (formation of poetonyms). The last ones seem to be uncomfortable and complicated for a lot of languages. The first one, besides all, could signify the poetonymic study or the science itself, in this case we do not need any "poetonymology".



## Conclusion

In the post-Soviet countries, especially Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and in Europe and America, a huge work has been done in the field of theoretical and applied onomastics. Unfortunately, we do not always know the works of each other: those of Russian-speaking onomasticians are not known here and as for Russia, we know only some fragments of the Western onomastics. In the context of scientific globalization, linguistic barriers and terminological incompatibility hinder our mutual and cooperative progress. In order to achieve mutual understanding between scientists and schools, we need a constant terminological exchange and serious comparative terminological work mobilizing onomasticians from all over the world.

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