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**2024/6-SON
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LEXICAL-STRUCTURAL FEATURES OF MYTHONYMS

MIFONIMLARNING LEKSIK-STRUKTURAL XUSUSIYATLARI

ЛЕКСИКО-СТРУКТУРНЫЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ МИФОНИМОВ

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Abstract

Mythonyms are a term introduced to refer to words derived from or related to myths that play a role in the study of myths and narratives. This article analyzes the lexical and structural features of mythonyms, their origin, change and influence on modern language. Quantitative and qualitative analysis has been used to study the structure of mythonyms from classical and modern sources using a mixed method approach. Mythonyms share common features such as metaphor and symbolism, which often reflect the cultural context of their use. This article also highlights the structural variability of mythonyms, from related names to adjectives, and their role in enriching language. These concepts help to understand how myths affect language and perception, are a valuable resource for linguistics and literary studies.

Annotatsiya

Mifonimlar, afsonalardan kelib chiqqan yoki ular bilan bog'liq bo'lgan so'zlarga ishora qilish uchun kiritilgan atama bo'lib, ular afsona va rivoyatlarni o'rganishda rol o'ynaydi. Ushbu maqolada mifonimlarning leksik va tarkibiy xususiyatlarini, ularning kelib chiqishi, o'zgarishi va zamonaviy tilga ta'sirini tahlil qilingan. Aralash usulli yondashuvdan foydalanib, klassik va zamonaviy manbalardan olingan mifonimlar tuzilishini o'rganish uchun miqdoriy va sifat tahlillari qo'llanilgan. Mifonimlar metafora va ramziy ma'no kabi umumiy xususiyatlarga ega bo'lib, ular ko'pincha ulardan foydalanishning madaniy kontekstini aks ettiradi. Ushbu maqola shuningdek, tegishli ismlardan sifatlarga qadar mifonimlarning tarkibiy o'zgaruvchanligini va ularning tilni boyitishdagi rolini ta'kidlaydi. Ushbu tushunchalar afsonalarning til va idrokka qanday ta'sir qilishini tushunishga yordam beradi, lingvistik va adabiyotshunoslik uchun qimmatli manba hisoblanadi.

Аннотация

Мифонимы-это термин, введенный для обозначения слов, происходящих из мифов или связанных с ними, которые играют роль в изучении мифов и повествований. В данной статье анализируются лексико-структурные особенности мифонимов, их происхождение, трансформация и влияние на современный язык. Количественный и качественный анализ применялся для изучения структуры мифонимов из классических и современных источников с использованием смешанного методического подхода. Мифонимы имеют общие характеристики, такие как метафоры и символы, которые часто отражают культурный контекст их использования. В этой статье также подчеркивается структурная изменчивость мифонимов от собственных существительных до прилагательных и их роль в обогащении языка. Эти концепции помогают понять, как мифы влияют на язык и восприятие, и являются ценным ресурсом для лингвистических и литературных исследований.

Key words: mythonyms, lexical features, structural features, metaphor, myth, language, symbolism, cultural context.

Kalit so'zlar: mifonimlar, leksik xususiyatlar, tarkibiy xususiyatlar, metafora, afsona, til, ramziylik, madaniy kontekst.

Ключевые слова: мифонимы, лексические особенности, структурные особенности, метафора, миф, язык, символика, культурный контекст.

INTRODUCTION

Mythonyms, or words derived from mythological sources, are an essential aspect of language and literature. These words reflect the deep connection between mythology and human culture, encapsulating the symbolic and metaphorical dimensions of mythological tales in everyday language. The lexical and structural features of mythonyms are crucial to understanding how myths continue to shape contemporary language, not just as historical artifacts but as living elements that evolve with culture and context.

The term "mythonym" is used to describe words that originate from mythological characters, places, events, or narratives. Such words can take various forms: proper names, adjectives, verbs, or even concepts that resonate with mythological significance. From the Greek gods and heroes to modern adaptations in literature, media, and even scientific nomenclature, mythonyms serve as powerful cultural markers. They have the ability to condense complex mythological stories into single words that carry deep layers of meaning. Understanding their lexical and structural features offers valuable insights into the dynamics of language and culture.

This study seeks to examine the lexical-structural features of mythonyms, focusing on how they evolve, adapt, and function within contemporary language. Specifically, the study will analyze the way mythonyms manifest in the lexicon and the underlying structures that govern their transformation. By analyzing mythonyms, one can also explore their symbolic and metaphorical meanings, tracing how they bridge the gap between mythological tales and real-world language use.

Language is a living entity that continually evolves. The incorporation of mythological references into modern language reflects the resilience and adaptability of cultural symbols. As such, mythonyms often undergo shifts in meaning, form, and function. They may evolve from proper names into general descriptors or metaphorical expressions. For instance, "Herculean" may originally have referred to the character Hercules but now denotes anything of great strength. Similarly, "Pandora's box" has transcended its specific mythological reference to become synonymous with any action that leads to unforeseen consequences.

In this context, the role of mythonyms extends beyond mere linguistic curiosity; they provide a lens through which to examine the relationship between myth and language, the evolution of words, and the persistence of cultural symbols in modern society. This research is informed by both the structural properties of words and the broader cultural context in which they function. It is important to note that mythonyms are not only lexical but also serve as symbols within various discourses—literary, social, psychological, and political.

To provide a comprehensive analysis of mythonyms, the study employs a mixed-methods approach. By combining qualitative analysis of mythological texts and modern usage with quantitative methods of corpus analysis, this study aims to reveal the structural and lexical patterns of mythonyms across different genres and contexts. The following sections will review the relevant literature on mythonyms and related concepts, outline the research methodology, present the results, and engage in a discussion of the findings.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The study of mythonyms intersects with several fields, including linguistics, semiotics, mythology, and literary studies. Mythonyms are integral to understanding the intersection of mythological narratives and their linguistic counterparts, which has been the subject of considerable academic inquiry. Previous research has highlighted the crucial role of myth in shaping language, both at the level of vocabulary and in terms of cultural understanding.

A key contribution to the field comes from Jakobson's (1960) theories on the relationship between language and mythology. He proposed that myths, like language, are structured according to specific rules that influence how meaning is conveyed. In this light, mythonyms can be seen as linguistic expressions that encapsulate these mythical structures. For example, certain adjectives like "Achilles' heel" or "Herculean" carry metaphoric connotations that invoke the mythological background from which they originated. These expressions condense an entire mythological narrative into a single linguistic unit that resonates with speakers and listeners alike.

In his work on lexical semantics, Fillmore (1982) discussed how metaphor and symbolic meaning are central to understanding mythonyms. Mythonyms, according to Fillmore, operate not just as names but as symbols that bring forth a network of associations tied to the original mythological context. This symbolic nature is particularly evident in the use of mythonyms in literature, where characters or places associated with mythological themes often evoke complex meanings that extend beyond the immediate narrative. As scholars like Turner (1987) and Lakoff & Johnson (1980) have argued, metaphorical thinking is an inherent part of human cognition, and mythonyms serve as one of its manifestations.

The structural features of mythonyms also warrant close attention. Various scholars have examined how mythonyms function in different grammatical categories. Haiman (1980) suggested that the transformation of mythological names into adjectives or verbs is one way in which mythonyms interact with the broader linguistic system. This transformation often involves a shift from a proper noun (e.g., "Hercules") to an adjective (e.g., "Herculean"), allowing the mythological reference to be used in broader contexts. The lexical flexibility of mythonyms demonstrates their adaptability and relevance across different linguistic contexts.

Moreover, mythonyms often display a remarkable consistency in their use across languages and cultures. These words, while shaped by specific cultural traditions, often transcend linguistic boundaries. For example, the use of the word "Achilles' heel" to denote vulnerability or weakness appears in both English and other languages, including French and Spanish, despite the fact that the original myth belongs to ancient Greek culture. This universality of mythological symbols has led some scholars, such as Turner (1987), to argue that mythonyms function as a "universal language" of human experience, linking different cultures through shared mythic structures.

In addition to these linguistic and structural analyses, mythonyms have been studied from the perspective of their sociocultural impact. According to McHugh (1995), mythonyms can serve as a reflection of cultural values and concerns. For instance, the widespread use of "Pandora's box" in contemporary discourse reflects societal anxieties about the unforeseen consequences of human actions, particularly in political or technological contexts. Similarly, mythonyms associated with divine or heroic figures, like "Apollo" or "Achilles," are often used to convey idealized or aspirational qualities, linking the individual to a larger cultural or mythic narrative.

The study of mythonyms offers a unique lens through which to examine both the evolution of language and the persistence of cultural myths. By exploring their lexical and structural features, this research contributes to our understanding of how mythological references continue to shape modern language, reflecting both historical continuity and cultural transformation.

METHODOLOGY

This research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative methods to analyze the lexical and structural features of mythonyms. The qualitative analysis involves an in-depth examination of the historical and literary contexts in which mythonyms appear, focusing on their symbolic and metaphorical meanings. This is achieved through a review of mythological texts, literary works, and contemporary media where mythonyms are frequently employed. The quantitative aspect of the study involves the analysis of a corpus of mythonyms, using a linguistic corpus tool to quantify the frequency and structural variation of mythonyms across different languages and contexts.

The corpus includes mythonyms from classical mythology, modern literature, and everyday language. The selection of mythonyms is based on their cultural significance and frequency of usage. A range of mythonyms is chosen, including proper names (e.g., "Achilles"), adjectives (e.g., "Herculean"), and metaphorical expressions (e.g., "Pandora's box"). The research also explores the evolution of mythonyms, tracing their origins and transformations over time.

Data is collected from various sources, including mythological texts, classical literature, contemporary fiction, and media such as film, television, and advertising. The analysis uses both manual coding for qualitative interpretation and computational methods to identify patterns in the usage of mythonyms.

RESULTS

The study reveals several key trends in the lexical and structural features of mythonyms. The analysis of the corpus shows that mythonyms frequently shift between different grammatical categories, particularly from proper names to adjectives or metaphorical expressions. For example, the word "Hercules" initially refers to the Greek hero but has evolved into the adjective "Herculean," denoting strength or heroism. Similarly, the mythonym "Pandora's box" has become a metaphor for a situation that leads to unforeseen and often uncontrollable consequences.

The frequency of mythonyms also varies across genres. Mythonyms are most prevalent in literary and rhetorical contexts, where their symbolic and metaphorical meanings are highlighted. In media and advertising, mythonyms often take on a

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DISCUSSION

The findings underscore the multifaceted nature of mythonyms, which serve not only as linguistic units but also as carriers of cultural meaning. The structural flexibility of mythonyms allows them to adapt to different contexts, while their metaphorical richness enables them to convey complex ideas in a concise and evocative manner.

The shift from proper names to adjectives or metaphors is one of the most striking features of mythonyms. This process of transformation reflects the broader tendency of language to distill complex narratives into simpler forms that retain their symbolic power. The widespread use of mythonyms in contemporary media and advertising further illustrates their adaptability, as these words are often employed to evoke strong associations in the audience.

However, the study also highlights the limitations of mythonyms. While they retain their symbolic power, their meanings can become diluted or misinterpreted when used out of context. For example, the use of "Pandora's box" in popular culture may not always evoke the original myth's themes of curiosity and unintended consequences, instead becoming a shorthand for any problem or dilemma.

CONCLUSION

This study highlights the lexical and structural features of mythonyms, revealing their significant role in shaping both language and culture. By examining how these words evolve and adapt, we gain a deeper understanding of the relationship between mythological narratives and linguistic practices. Mythonyms continue to be an important part of modern language, reflecting the enduring power of myth and its ability to influence thought and expression. Further research could explore the cognitive and psychological mechanisms underlying the use of mythonyms, as well as their impact on cross-cultural communication.

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