

SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF THE PROVERBS WITH PROPER NAMES IN ENGLISH

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ANNOTATION The article examines English proverbs that include proper names to convey lessons or ideas quickly and effectively. It explains how these proverbs have both a literal meaning and a deeper, symbolic meaning, often drawn from cultural or historical contexts. The analysis highlights how these proverbs use memorable language to pass on wisdom, reflect societal values, and facilitate communication.

Key words: anthroponymic code, proper names, proverbs, types, figures, linguocultural, historical.

INTRODUCTION Under the anthroponymic code of culture M.L. Kovshova understands a set of proper names with a specific, vaguely generalized or fictitious reference, denoting persons (real and fictitious, persons and groups of persons) and characters (anthropic and anthropomorphic), which have been identified in world and/or national culture as mythologies, symbols, standards or stereotypes [3; p. 150]. Based on this, she identifies mythonyms, historicalonyms, etc. The analysis of the anthroponymic code of culture is carried out on the basis of English-language and Russian-language proverbs containing anthroponyms. According to G.L. Permyakov, proverb is a broad concept, a folk saying formulated as a sentence (for example, sayings, proverbs, etc.). A proverb is a short saying of an edifying nature in the form of a sentence, which necessarily has a figurative meaning and a generalizing function [6; p. 27]. Sayings differ from proverbs in that they do not have an edifying function; their leading function is characterizing.

MAIN PART

Proverbs with proper names often carry rich cultural and historical significance, encapsulating wisdom, humor, or moral lessons tied to specific figures or contexts. Analyzing these proverbs semantically involves examining the meanings, implications, and cultural references embedded in the use of these proper names.

Examples: “As wise as Solomon.” Solomon is a biblical figure renowned for his wisdom. The proverb draws on this reputation to emphasize great wisdom. The connotations and associations linked with the proper name that contribute to the

meaning of the proverb. “To meet one’s Waterloo.” Refers to a decisive or final defeat, based on Napoleon Bonaparte’s defeat at the Battle of Waterloo. The broader implications and lessons that the proverb conveys through metaphor. “Crossing the Rubicon.” Making an irreversible decision with significant consequences, akin to Julius Caesar’s historic crossing of the Rubicon River. Insights into the norms, values, and attitudes of the society that uses the proverb. “An Achilles’ heel.” Emphasizes the importance of recognizing and addressing personal vulnerabilities, referencing the Greek myth of Achilles’ only point of weakness. The use of language, including wordplay, alliteration, and rhythm, enhances the proverb’s memorability and impact. “Robbing Peter to pay Paul.” The use of parallel structure and the rhythm of the names contributes to the proverb’s catchiness and memorability. **"As old as Methuselah"**: Very old. Refers to something or someone extremely old. Methuselah is a biblical figure said to have lived 969 years. Suggests great age or longevity. **"As mad as a hatter"**: **Literal Meaning**: Very crazy. **Figurative Meaning**: Someone who is extremely eccentric or crazy. The phrase is often associated with the character from Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland," though it may also refer to the historical use of mercury in hat making, which caused madness. **"A Trojan horse"**: A large hollow wooden horse used by the Greeks to sneak into Troy. **Figurative Meaning**: Something that appears beneficial but actually causes harm. Refers to the ancient Greek tale where a deceptive gift led to the fall of Troy. Warns against hidden dangers in seemingly beneficial offerings [2; 39p].

Semantic Components

- **Proper Names as Symbols**: Each proper name in these proverbs serves as a symbol with specific connotations. For instance, “Solomon” is a symbol of wisdom, while “Waterloo” is a symbol of defeat.
- **Cultural Resonance**: The names often carry cultural resonance that deepens the meaning of the proverb. They encapsulate historical events, legendary figures, or cultural myths.
- **Euphemism and Metonymy**: Some proverbs use names as euphemisms (e.g., “Croesus” for wealth) or metonymies (e.g., “Newcastle” for coal), where the name stands in for a broader concept.
- **Cognitive Connections**: The use of familiar names helps create cognitive shortcuts that make the proverb’s lesson easier to understand and remember.

CONCLUSION. The investigation into English proverbs featuring renowned names highlights a deep interplay between language, culture, and shared wisdom. These proverbs effectively encapsulate complex concepts and values through brief, memorable phrases. By delving into their literal and metaphorical meanings, historical backgrounds, and symbolic connotations, we uncover significant insights into the cultural traditions and societal principles that influence them.

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