

STRUCTURAL AND SEMANTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF ANTONOMASIA IN ENGLISH ONOMASTICS**Akhmatokhunova Maftunakhon Akmal kizi**

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Annotation: This article investigates antonomasia as a practical stylistic method within the English language and literary tradition. The study emphasizes the necessity of analyzing the linguistic essence of antonomasia in order to properly understand its place among other stylistic devices. A threefold classification is proposed: 1) structural types of antonomasia, based on single-word or multi-word formations; 2) contextual types, distinguishing between micro- and macro-contextual applications; and 3) lexical-semantic principles, including the role of various word groups, complete and incomplete lexical meanings, and layers of the English lexicon.

Keywords: antonomasia; stylistic device; English onomastics; surname formation; structural semantics; literary stylistics; prefixes

Distinguishing antonomasia as a practical stylistic method of the language and determining its place among other stylistic methods is based on a careful analysis of the linguistic nature of antonomasia, its linguistic essence, because the analysis of antonomasia is a necessary condition for the correct understanding of the functioning of any stylistic method in general, and antonomasia in particular. Linguistic analysis of the stylistic method must include many things and cover all aspects of the researched phenomenon as much as possible.

In this work, the determination of stylistic methods of antonomasia is carried out by clarifying the structural-semantic characteristics of antonomasia that is, when the form of the stylistic method is analyzed, the content comes out as a necessary component. Using this rule as a starting point, it is advisable to adopt the following classification of antonomasia [1]:

1) identify the main structural types of antonomasia (the basis of the identification is the potential “possibility” of antonomasia consisting of one, two or more words);

2) identify the main contextual types of antonomasia (the distinction is based on the distribution of antonomasia relative to the context, which, in turn, is divided into micro-context and macro-context);

3) the third type of classification of antonomasia is built on the basis of three principles: a) the participation of various word groups in the formation of antonomasia; b) the participation of words with complete and incomplete meanings; c) the role of various layers of the English lexical structure in the formation of antonomasia.

The first section of the classification - the participation of various word families in the formation of antonomasia - is carried out according to the following plan: a) highlighting the main structural types of antonomasia; b) comparing the highlighted structural types of antonomasia with the structural types of English common surnames; the phenomenon of similarity and difference.

The first structural type of antonomasia is presented (expressed) by a word. As is known, a word has a complex semantic structure. The elements of this structure are quite stable, but the process of accumulating new qualities also occurs in this structure. For example, a word that gives a new understanding of an object through a system of forms and meanings can change its conceptual connection and, as a result of human cognitive activity, become a sign of a rarely encountered object in order to distinguish a specific or individual one. This pre-existing feature of designating something rarely found in the language through the use of words that already exist, expressing a general concept, is used in the stylistic method of antonomasia.

The analysis of the structural composition of this group of antonomasia shows that antonomasia is built on the basis of the English language material, on the basis of existing word-formation models of English surnames [2].

In accordance with the above structures of English surnames, the following subgroups of antonomasia are distinguished:

1) Single-theme nouns:

a) simple nouns with one theme, for example: Mr. Snap, Count Ugly, Mrs. Fox;

b) affixed nouns with one theme, for example: Mrs. Charmer, Lord Richly, Miss O'Tabby, Miss Mackstay.

2) Double-theme nouns, for example: Mr. Goodland, Miss Moneywood, general Fireface, Lady Graveairs.

The material we have collected allows us not only to divide antonomasia into the indicated subgroups, but also to identify the most frequent structural type of antonomasia. The results show that the nouns of the second subgroup are the most common.

Most of this type of antonomasia is formed by suffixation, less often by prefixation. Among those formed by prefixation, the prefixes of genealogical names are of great interest: O' is a prefix of Irish origin, Fitz is a prefix of Norman origin, and Mas is a prefix of Scottish origin. The patronymic character of the prefix affects the meaning of any name, since a peculiar contrast is created between the meaning of the subject and the prefix of the name within the name. Thus, for example: Lady MacNull. In this example, the word MacNull with an objective-logical meaning (of no force or value) introduced into the subject of the word becomes a personal name, which is evidenced primarily by the presence of the genealogical prefix Mac which usually forms the names of French and Scottish clans in English onomastics – Macgregor. Thus, the word acquires a nominal meaning, and the objective-logical meaning, although it is pushed into the background, does not disappear, but acquires an additional stylistic subtle meaning under the influence of the meaning of the prefix. We observe this phenomenon in the following examples: Miss O'Tabby – here the synthesis of the patronymic prefix O' creates an antonomasia with the specific semantics of the word base (an old woman who gossips in an unkind way); Mac Screw – a typical English surname of Scottish origin, as a result of stylistic analysis, shows not only the presence of a meaning derived from the word "screw", but also an additional subtle meaning, which is given to the subject of the noun by the prefix Mac. Such subtle

meanings can also be distinguished in the names Miss O'Trigger (a lever which releases a spring), Fitz-Heehaw (the sound made by an ass, a loud senseless laugh).

The analysis confirms that antonomasia occupies a distinct place among stylistic methods due to its dual function: it designates an individual while simultaneously conveying evaluative, ironic, or symbolic meaning. By examining its structural and semantic classifications, the study demonstrates how antonomasia often parallels the models of English surname formation, particularly through single-theme and double-theme nouns. Prefixes of genealogical origin (O', Mac, Fitz) play a crucial role in producing additional semantic layers, enabling names to acquire both nominal and connotative meanings. This highlights the richness of antonomasia as a linguistic and stylistic phenomenon. Ultimately, antonomasia serves not only as a naming strategy but also as a powerful artistic tool that enhances characterization, deepens textual meaning, and reflects cultural-linguistic traditions within English literature.

References

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