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## **Motivational features of wild berry plant names in Khanty: Ethno-linguistic study**

### **Abstract**

The article presents the results of ethno-linguistic study of berry plant names aimed to determine the motivating features of the nominations and word-building patterns in Western Khanty dialects. The material for the study comprised dictionaries of Synskiy, Shuryshkar, Ural, Kazym, Middle Ob dialects, dialect field recordings and expedition materials obtained by the author of this paper in 2017–2018. To identify word-building patterns, morpheme analysis was applied together with semantic and morphological analysis. Descriptive method was used to present the results. During continuous sampling, 56 folk names of wild berry plants have been found. Variability of naming was noticed. The names were also characterized by variable spelling (separate vs joint up) and variable pronunciation (with liaisons and vowel alternations). Motivational features of the names included color resemblance, similarity of one kind of berry to another, morphological features of the plant, places of growth, names of animals feeding on the berries. Compounding turned out the most frequent word-building pattern, semantic derivation and suffixation were also present but much less frequent. Among the names, practically no loan words were found.

**Keywords:** lexical units, berry plants, word-building patterns, motivational feature, Khanty language, dialect

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