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Ethnolinguistic analysis of berry plant names in the Eastern Khanty dialects

Abstract

This paper presents the experience of classifying vocabulary – the names of wild berry plants – in the Eastern dialects of the Khanty language in the ethnolinguistic aspect. The aim is to describe the motivational features and the main ways of nominating plants. The materials for this study were taken from the Vakhovsky and Surgut Khanty dialect dictionaries, field dialect records made by the author of this study during expeditions in 2015 and 2022. To process the data and interpret the results, a number of methods were applied: description, phitonyms' qualitative and quantitative features comparison, component analysis, definition analysis and word-building pattern analysis, in some cases elements of etymological analysis were used. The total of more than 50 lexical units were identified and analyzed. Variable names of berry bushes in the Khanty language were found, dialect features of the phitonyms were demonstrated. The motivating features reflecting native speakers' ideas about berry plants were systematized: 1) the place where the plant grows; 2) the name of a bird / beast feeding on the plant; 3) the habitat of the bird / animal; 4) action verbs; 5) the color of berries, leaves (color feature); 6) semantic feature (crunch, crunch, intertwine); 7) similarity of berry's shape to other berries' shape, etc. Compounding was discovered to be the most frequent word-building pattern, semantic and suffixation were less frequent. No borrowed words were used in the phitonyms under study.

Keywords: ethnolinguistics, dialect vocabulary, berry plants, word-building patterns, motivational analysis, Khanty language, Eastern dialects

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