

SYSTEMATIZATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF ENGLISH NICKNAMES

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Nicknames are widely used in English-speaking countries.

Everybody would like to know the meaning of his or her nickname and home town, famous people and places.

The **object** of the research work is American and English nicknames of people and places.

The **problem** is that curriculum of the English language for Belarusian secondary school does not touch upon the theme of nicknames.

The **purpose** is to examine American and English nicknames to become a broad-minded person and to understand English well.

The **actuality** of the research work is to study nicknames of people and places because it will have positive influence on the knowledge of the language, speech, literature and culture of English-speaking countries.

The descriptive and analytical methods were used during the work with the research material.

Nickname is a shortened or diminutive form of a given name, for example, Peter – Pete; William – Bill, Will; Anne – Annie; Elizabeth – Betty, Liz. Nickname is a kind of byname that describes a person or an object by their characteristics. Owners of some English names or surnames can receive traditional nicknames [2, p.10]. For example: Charlie – Chuck, Derek – Dekker, Maurice – Mogga, Michael – Spike, Miller – Dusty, Murphy – Sprud, White – Chalky, Clerk – Nobby, Wedd – Spider (a spider's wed). E. Partridge called such nicknames as inseparable nicknames. He described the traditional nicknames of soldiers: Darky or Smudge (Smith, Spud-Murphy, Dusty – Miller, Pedlar – Palmer is the famous boxer Palmer). "When I was a child, says G.L. Menken- anyone whose father was a doctor we named Doc... Smith became Smitty. We bullied thin boys as Slim, thick children as Fats, small children as Shortie [7, p.43].

There are nicknames of people and nicknames of geographical objects. Group, school, funny, collective nicknames were studied. Nicknames play an important part in our everyday speech. *Nickname* is a familiar, invented given name for a person or thing instead of the actual name of the person or thing. The usage of nicknames has a long history in English. According to the research paper nicknames are: hostile ("Four-eyes", "brace-face", "Booger"), friendly (missy, Romeo, macho), neutral ("Ginger", "Blondie", "Money-Bags"), individual or generic. Also the nickname can be a very best kind of verbal caricature. It is very important to have nicknames for some kinds of people. Some nicknames of public and political statesmen of the past are known in our time in England and the United States. Some of the nicknames are known and used in restricted contexts (pupils, lovers). Nicknames of geographical objects, nicknames of places are very popular in English-speaking countries, especially in the USA [1, p.134].

There are two categories of nicknames of place: informal and conversational. For example: Orchard Valley-Torture Valley ("долина пыток"), Somerville-Slumville ("город трущоб"), Louisville-Louseville ("грязный, мерзкий город"), The Monkey walk or The Talent Walk-was the nickname of the main street of Edinburgh. On the other hand, such nicknames as Auld Reekie ("старый дымокур" – Эдинбург), Big Windy (Чикаго), Beantown (Батон) Big Apple (Нью-Йорк), Big "D" (Даллас), The Potteries ("гончарни" – г. Стоук-на-Тренте) [4, p.24].

Nicknames describe real qualities and characters of people. It gives emotional, social, ironical opinion about them. When studying different types of nicknames in English helps us to broaden our knowledge about the history, life style, customs of the people of the United Kingdom and the United States.

The problem of the work is that the curriculum of the English language for our secondary schools does not touch upon the subject “Nicknames of English-speaking countries”. An interview was conducted to make sure that the problem exists.

The results of the interview show the problem, importance and the necessity of learning nicknames at school.

A dictionary of nicknames was examined to get good knowledge of the English language, contemporary speech, literature and culture of English-speaking countries.

The research paper helps to analyze the typical nicknames used by people who use English as a foreign language and helps to understand these nicknames better and use them in everyday speech. The found information can be used for further scientific research.

In the practical part a survey was conducted Student’s Books and the dictionaries of names and nicknames were analyzed. This research work can be very useful for learning nicknames and better understanding English texts containing nicknames. For Belarusian pupils there are a lot of misunderstandings in the English language because of the great number of nicknames in English texts:

1. A world-known nickname of *New York* is..?
2. A nickname given to the *Planet Mars* is..?
3. “*Egypt* is a nickname of...?
4. Have you ever heard about the *City of Lilies*? What is it?
5. What/Who is called “*Dog Star*”?
6. What state is the *Grand Canyon*?
7. What country is sometimes called “*Six Countries*”?
8. How can *Paris* be sometimes called?
9. Do you know what nickname was given to *London*, when it was the world’s leading port?
10. What’s *George Washington’s* nickname?
11. Have you ever heard about “*Great white way*”?
12. What’s *Alabama’s* nickname?
13. What is the *Land of Opportunity*?
14. What is the *Golden State*?
15. What is the *Sunshine State*?

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