Mykytiuk I. M.

SYSTEM OF LEXICAL NOMINATION IN AUTHOR'S DISCOURSE

У статті розглянуто систему лексичної номінації в авторському дискурсі австралійського письменника А.Б. Патерсона. Номінативний простір дискурсу А.Б. Патерсона характеризується використанням одиниць номінації, які належать до таких тематичних груп: людські істоти, фауна, предмети щоденного вжитку, рукотворні та природні об'єкти, флора.
Ключові слова: *номінація, авторський дискурс, тематична група.*

Микитюк И. М. Система лексической номинации в авторском дискурсе. – Статья.
В статье рассмотрена система лексической номинации в авторском дискурсе австралийского писателя А.Б. Патерсона. Номинативное пространство дискурса А.Б. Патерсона характеризуется использованием единиц номинации, принадлежащих к таким тематическим группам: человеческие существа, фауна, предметы ежедневного употребления, рукотворные и природные объекты, флора.
Ключевые слова: *номинация, авторский дискурс, тематическая группа.*

Mykytiuk I. M. System of lexical nomination in author's discourse. – Article.
The article explores the system of lexical nomination in the author's discourse of Australian writer A.B. "Banjo" Paterson. Nominative dimension of A.B. "Banjo" Paterson's discourse is characterized by the usage of nomination units that belong to such thematic groups: nominations of human beings, nominations of fauna, nominations of objects of everyday life, nominations of man-made and natural objects, nominations of floristic objects.
Key words: *nomination, author's discourse, thematic group.*

The problem of nomination is of particular interest in modern linguistic research, which is characterized by the tendency of transition from the analysis of language as a system to the study of speech, each act of which is onomasiological [1, p. 200]. In connection with this, onomasiological approach is viewed as a functional one, given the fact that it is based on the communicative significance of language forms.

In modern linguistics semasiology (the science about meaning) and onomasiology (the science about names) supplement each other, uniting in the framework of general semantics, since the language sign is capable of reflecting the reality conceptualized by the speakers only in the unity of nominative structure and meaning. The activity of the speaker (transition from meaning to the forms of its expression) and listener (transition from the form to meaning) form an inseparable unity: nominative function of the language is closely connected with its communicative and cognitive functions [3, p. 346]. M.M. Poliuzhyn argues that "modern stage of development of linguistics is characterized by the integration of new semantic and onomasiological theories" [4, p. 112].

The **objective** of the article is to reveal the thematic dimension of nomination units used by the author of a literary text. The **tasks** of the research are: to reveal the notions "nomination" and "discourse", to analyze thematic groups of nominative units characteristic of Australian author's discourse, to summarize the obtained results.

The research is based on the **material** of the literary works by Australian fiction writer Andrew Barton "Banjo" Paterson ("An Outback Marriage", "The Shearer's Colt"). The choice of the material is stipulated by the fact that in the discourse of this author Australian system of nomination acquires particular vividness.

The term "nomination" (from the Latin *nominatio* – naming) is treated as: 1) formation of language units that are characterized by nominative function, i.e., those units that serve for naming and singling out fragments of reality and for the formation of the corresponding concepts of them in the form of words, word-combinations, phraseological units and sentences. This term also signifies the result of the nomination process – a meaningful language unit. Some scholars use the term "nomination" to name the branch of linguistics that studies the structure of acts of nomination. In this sense nomination is equal to onomasiology as opposed to semasiology; 2) the totality of problems that study the dynamic aspect of nomination acts in the form of a sentence and its components that are studied in the theory of reference; 3) the totality of linguistic problems, that deal with nomination, word-building, polysemy, phraseology, that are studied in the nominative aspect [5, p. 336]. We view nomination as both the process and the result of naming, in which language elements are correlated with the objects they signify.

Most linguists agree that discourse is language in use, "lingual representation of the corresponding sphere of communicative activity, cognition and practice" [6, p. 34]. I.S. Shevchenko considers discourse to be an integral phenomenon, a cognitive and communicative activity, representing the unity of the process and the result and including both extra-linguistic and linguistic aspects [7, p. 38]. V.V. Krasnykh treats the term "discourse" as a verbalized speech and cognitive activity that involves both linguistic proper and extralinguistic components [2, p. 194].

Acknowledging the scientific views of G. Brown and G. Yule [9, p. 54], we define author's discourse as a pattern of verbal behaviour, as well as a verbal form of social behaviour, an instance of communica-

tive language use, and the process of unfolding an author's idea into a text.

We analyze system of nominations in the author's discourse of Australian writer, lawyer and grazier A.B. Paterson, best known as a bush balladist. According to C. Semmler, A.B. Paterson helped to make the Australian legend: "In his lifetime, he was a living part of that legend in that, with the rare touch of the genuine folk-poet, and in words that seemed as natural as breathing, he made a balladry of the scattered lives of back-country Australians and immortalized them" [10].

Nomination units singled out from the novels "An Outback Marriage" and "The Shearer's Colt" may be further grouped on both linguistic and extra-linguistic basis into thematic groups.

1. Thematic group of nominations of people.

In the analyzed discourse we have traced a lexeme with negative connotation – gin which serves for nomination of aboriginal women and bears a derogatory meaning:

– The gins grinned uncomprehendingly, but held out their pannikins, and into each he poured a threefinger nip of raw overproof rum that would have burnt the palate of Satan himself [11, p. 80].

Another derogatory nomination of a female is lubra:

– Lubra, no! A hot-tempered faggot of a woman I met at Pike's pub. I lived with her three weeks and left her there. I haven't seen her this six years" [11, p. 82].

For nomination of males the lexeme bloke (bloke – person, usually a male; man, guy) is most frequently used:

– You couldn't get a dressier bloke than him, and look how hot he is! I'd put the word on this red bloke if I was you, trooper. There he is now, down be the fence" [12, p. 9].

Nomination mate is used to denote *"friend"*:

– But they must think they've got something on him at last, for I've got definite orders to arrest his mate and to keep him where Jimmy can't get at him. I expect they are going to put the third degree on his mate and see if he'll squeal before they take Jimmy in". "Who's his mate?" said Fitzroy [12, p. 35].

Nominations for the native population of the Australian continent include: black, blackfellow, black boy, Aboriginal:

– Here they dismounted and waited, Considine and Charlie talking occasionally in low tones, while the blacks sat silent, holding their horses [11, p. 86];

– He hurried off to the head-station with the news, and on his way told three teamsters, an inspector of selections, and a black boy belonging to Mylong station, whom he happened to meet on the road [11, p. 30];

– He was the finest and most fearless bush rider in the district, and could track like a blackfellow [11, p. 64];

– Lunch at the Calabash Races was what might be called a sporting affair as it was enlivened by a fight between two aboriginals who elected to settle their differences in sight of the bough shed under which the repast was set out [12, p. 32].

Nominations jackeroo and station hand are used to denote "workers":

– Nobody wore a coat, but there was something about the cut of the pants and the quality of the hat that differentiated the jackeroos (Englishmen getting colonial experience) from the tank-sinkers and fencers [12, p. 5];

– He told her that the two servants were in the kitchen, but it turned out that she wanted to interview all the station-hands, and it had to be explained that the horse-driver was six miles out on the run with his team, drawing in a load of bark to roof the hay shed [11, p. 38].

Australian English is very specific in the nomination of people who borrow land – selectors, and people, who owl land – squatters:

– All you can see around belongs to him; but after the next gate we come on some land held by selectors [11, p. 35];

– A few squatters, down from their stations had foregathered at the centre table, where each was trying to make out that he had had less rain than the others [11, p. 6].

Alongside with the lexeme selector one more word with the same meaning is widely used in the analyzed discourse – cockatoo:

– But they used to laugh at me on the mines, so now I talk Australian just as good as any cockatoo. But, keep it dark that I got money [12, p. 13].

Andrew Barton "Banjo" Paterson also uses the Australian variant of the word "hoodlum" – larrikin:

– The Englishman thought that all the stories he had heard of the Australian larrikin must be exaggerated, and that any man who was at all athletic could easily hold his own among such a poor-looking lot [11, p. 11].

The groups of larrikins in Australia are called gangs:

– They go in gangs, and if you hit one of the gang, all the rest will "deal with you", as they call it [11, p. 9].

To name the inhabitants of Australian inland (bush, scrub) Andrew Barton "Banjo" Paterson uses nominations bushman or scrubber:

– The bushman stared down the room with far-seeing eyes, apparently looking at nothing, and contemplated the whole show with bored indifference [11, p. 11];

– <...> he had about seventy miles to cover before he got home so he had no idea of wasting time over a charity race among a lot of scrubbers [12, p. 39].

The lexeme bushranger is used to denote an *"outlaw"* (analogous to the outlaws of the American Wild West):

– "Them's the sort," he said, "that the bushrangers used to take away when they stuck up a station" [12, p. 28].

Station workers who shear sheep are named shearers:

– At first glance he was undoubtedly a shearer, for his hands had the gnarled look that comes from handling sheep full of thistles, burrs, and various kinds of thorns [12, p. 4].

Homeless people, vagabonds, rural tramps are nominated by the lexeme swagmen:

– Some days she spent at the homestead house-keeping, cooking, and giving out rations to swagmen – the wild, half-crazed travellers who came in at sundown for the dole of flour, tea and sugar, which was theirs by bush custom [11, p. 56].

2. Thematic group of nominations of fauna.

Here are the examples of nominations of various animals, especially those that are found nowhere else but in Australia: kangaroo, wallaby, wallaroo, possum, dingo:

– She rode well too, having been taught in England, and she, Poss, Binjie and Hugh had some great scampers after kangaroos, half-wild horses, or anything else that would get up and run in front of them [11, p. 56];

– But Red Fred was no shot, and he even missed a bewildered wallaby that tried to run up his leg. Soured by this misfortune he was just about to put his gun away in the car when a mob of wood-duck came over [12, p. 44];

– <...> like a red wallaroo – looks like his head had been raddled [12, p. 9];

– "What about going out after possums down the garden?" said Binjie. "Now, you youngsters, where are your possum dogs? I think they ought to get some in the garden" [11, p. 50];

– After a dingo he was – seen the tracks [11, p. 109].

In the author's fictional discourse we also came across the name of the Australian bird – cockatoo:

– Still no sign from Red Mick. No one stirred about the place; the fowls still fluttered in the dust, and a dissipated-looking pet cockatoo, perched on the wood-heap repeated several times in a drowsy tone, "Goodbye, Cockie! Goodbye Cockie!" Then the door opened, and Red Mick stepped out [11, p. 63].

3. Thematic group of nominations of the articles of everyday life.

Nomination tucker is used to denote "food":

– I want you to answer me letters, and to tell me what to say to the Governor, and to keep me from making a big fool of myself I'll give you a thousand a year and your tucker [12, p. 12].

Australian swagman's *luggage* is usually called swag:

– Any man that gits this place will hump his swag from it in five years, mark me! [11, p. 75].

Many unique Australian nominations are connected with the farm (station) life, e.g.: stockwhips:

– I'd sooner run a mile than fight, any time. I'm like a rat if I'm cornered, but it takes a man with a stockwhip to corner me [11, p. 10].

There is one more nomination deserving attention – sliprails (movable rails, forming a section of a fence):

– Certain it is that, even as she spoke, a rider on a sweating horse was seen coming at full speed up the flat; he put his horse over the sliprails that led into the house paddock without any hesitation, and came on at a swinging gallop [11, p. 109].

To denote *"fight"* nomination barney is used:

– Now, I want you and Monkey to get up a barney in the bar [12, p. 6].

Here are some more examples of the nominations denoting the articles of everyday life of Australians:

– By this time the Chinee had donned a dirty calico jacket, and began in silence to put some knives, forks and pannikins on the table [11, p. 73];

– Wears a barber's delight [silk shirt] and jemimas [elastic-sided boots], but the dressier they are the hotter they are. Look at Dear Boy Dickson [12, p. 9].

Nominations for sums of money are:

– I give you flet-ten pong [fifteen pounds] to one, Iun Closs [12, p. 31];

– Matters were not improved by a visit from Jimmy the Pat, who poked a blandly smiling face in under the bough shed and said that he would give Moira ten pong (ten pounds) for Iron Cross, which he described as "welly goo" "oss, welly ni'" [12, p. 32].

4. Thematic group of nominations of man-made and natural objects.

Nomination pub in the analyzed discourse is used to denote "hotel":

– Saw him to bed at the pub, and I'd have slept in front of his door if they'd have let me [12, p. 56].

There are also special names for the parts of the buildings, such as skillion (a lean-to or outbuilding):

– If Maggie hasn't heard about me, and if she thinks that you and me are just a shearer and a trap she'll tell us to come into the kitchen for our grub, and she'll tell us to sleep in the skillion behind the wash-house [12, p. 15].

The farms in Australia are called stations and everything connected with them takes the element -station:

– He manages stations for Grant, and the old man has kept him out on the back-stations nearly all his life [11, p. 3];

– Some are in a wilderness with fittings to match; others have telephones between homestead and out-stations, the jackeroos dress for dinner, and the station hands are cowed into touching their hats and saying "Sir" [11, p. 15].

Homestead is used for nomination of the residence of a station owner or manager:

– The <u>homestead</u> isn't much but the boss says if you build too good a <u>homestead</u> the manager will never go out on the run [12, p. 27].

"Fields" in Australia are named paddocks:

– Away, up in the <u>paddocks</u> a bull roared a challenge and was answered from across the river [12, p. 22].

Nomination bush stands for the inland of the Australian continent:

– <...> but when he spoke he used the curious nasal drawl of the Far Out bushman, the slow deliberate speech that comes to men who are used to passing months with the same companions in the unhurried Australian <u>bush</u> [11, p. 5];

– She was in a hurry to get away – English people always are – but in the bright lexicon of the <u>bush</u> there is no such word as hurry [11, p. 29].

5. Thematic group of nominations of flora.

Nomination of flora may be traced in the following examples:

– <...> nothing but dull grey clumps of <u>saltbush</u> and the dull green Mitchell grass [11, p. 5];
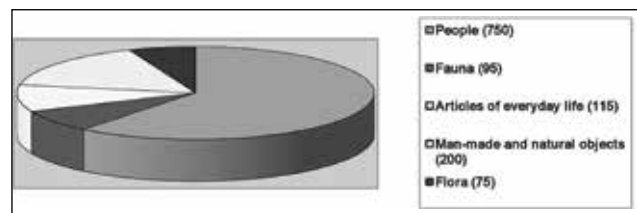
– <...> up one hill, through an avenue of dusty, tired-looking <u>gumtrees</u>, down the other side through a similar avenue, up another hill precisely the same as the last, and so on [11, p. 31];

– The <u>wattle-trees</u> were out in golden bloom, and the snow-water from the mountains set the river running white with foam, fighting its way over bars of granite into big pools where the platypus dived, and the wild ducks [11, p. 20];

– Loitering along, far off the track, they crossed a little ridge where <u>stringybark trees,</u> with an undergrowth of bushes and saplings, formed a regular thicket [11, p. 60];

– Silver-grey and bright green trees, such as the <u>myall belah, krui-bush</u> and <u>emu-bush</u> gleam in the bright light and a clump of <u>Old Man Saltbush</u> in the distance looks like a dome of silver [12, p. 14].

The results of the research may be summarized as follows in Figure 1.

Fig. 1. Quantitative characteristics of thematic groups of nominations in A. B. Paterson's discourse

The figure shows that in the analyzed author's discourse nominations of people (750 units) prevail. Next in frequency of occurrence are nominations of man-made and natural objects (200 units) and nominations of articles of everyday life (115 units). Nominations of fauna (95 units) and flora (75 units) are least quantitatively represented. The obtained results may serve as another proof of anthropocentrism – a philosophical viewpoint arguing that human beings are the central or most significant entities in the world [8].

In the process of our investigation we came to the conclusion that the nominative dimension of A.B. Paterson's discourse is characterized by the usage of nomination units that belong to the following spheres: 1) human beings; 2) fauna; 3) articles of everyday life of people; 4) man-made and natural objects; 5) floristic objects.

Lexical units used for nomination of the surrounding world in A.B. Paterson's fictional discourse create the atmosphere of local coloring and emphasize the unique character of the Australian variant of English.

Further research in this field may be conducted in terms of peculiarities of nomination system in the author's discourse of New Zealand writers.

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