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**THE ESSENCE OF ONOMASIOLOGICAL BASES AND THEIR TYPES
IN PHYTONYMIC LEXICON***Nataliya Panasenko* *University of SS Cyril and Methodius in Trnava, Trnava, Slovakia***Received:** 19.09.2023 **Reviewed:** 02.10.2023 and 22.10.2023**Similarity Index:** 4%**Bibliographic description:** Panasenko, N. (2023). The essence of onomasiological bases and their types in phytonymic lexicon. In *Lege artis. Language yesterday, today, tomorrow*. Trnava: University of SS Cyril and Methodius in Trnava, VIII (2), p. 35-52. ISSN 2453-8035 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.34135/lartis.23.8.2.03>**Abstract:** The article presents the results of the onomasiological analysis of the names of medicinal plants or phytonyms. The research is based on the ternary onomasiological model, which includes a basis, feature, and predicate. Emphasis is placed on the basis zone and two bases: a person and an artefact. The research shows that the basis zone includes four varieties of the basis: a suffix, an exocentric compound word, a so-called split basis, and a meaningful word. Lexical bases designate not only the plant itself and its part, but also other things, which are examples of indirect designation.**Keywords:** onomasiological model, basis zone, formal and lexical onomasiological bases, feature zone, indirect designation.**1. Introduction**

In every language, the names of medicinal plants (MPs) form a coherent, organised system with a specific structure. They represent a large and diverse group of terms, including scientific, literary and common names, united by ancient origin, structural-semantic features, and synonymy. In plants' names stages of historical development, way of life, common and social life, and formation of primary representations about the natural phenomena are reflected. This lexicon is nationally specific, is connected with culture of people and embodies features of national consciousness (Панасенко 2014 /2011/). Phytonymic lexicon can be analysed from different points of view. I have made word-building, onomasiological and cognitive analysis of MPs' names in Romance, Germanic and Slavic languages. Now I want to present some results of the interpretation of two onomasiological bases: **a person and an artefact**.



How are the plants named? Why do some plants have many names and other only few? The naming of medicinal plants is a particular type of activity, since it lies between everyday life and medical practice, in that more names are given to those objects (plants), on which human activity is concentrated and which are of utilitarian interest.

In giving names to MPs, man first assigns them from the general class of plants, then identifies them with plants or objects already known to him, thus being guided by his personal sensual experience. The name of the MP can be considered an original instruction: where this plant can be found, what it looks like, when it blossoms, which disease it is most effective against, and so forth.

2. Aims, methods, and language material

My study had several stages. Firstly, MPs were selected from specialised reference books and dictionaries, total number of which comprises 170 items (see Панасенко 2010: 406-416); later new books and the Internet sources were added to this list. These examples were sorted with the help of programme "Flora".

The next stage was structural-semantic analysis, which revealed typical word-forming models (simple, derived, compound and complex-compound words) and designation types (multi-word units and phrases). This type of lexical analysis was very popular in the 20th century. It has now lost its appeal to linguists. It plays a minor role in my research. I use it to find out, in which structural models human knowledge is packed and how much information is hidden in them.

Derived, compound and complex-compound words together with the multi-word units were subjected to the onomasiological analysis. The analysis of onomasiological structure of phytonyms allows specifying nominative potential of these word-forming models and designation types; it helps reveal how different notions are combined in the name of a MP and thereby thoroughly characterise this lexico-semantic group.

Dokulil (1962) offered a binary onomasiological model (OM). Later his theory was further developed by Kubryakova (Кубрякова 1978), who offered a ternary model consisting of onomasiological basis, onomasiological feature, and onomasiological predicate, which will be referred to as simply a basis, a feature, and a predicate. Kubryakova (Кубрякова 1988) analysed mainly derivative and compound words, to which the scholars added complex-compound words and multi-word units (Дроздова 1990; Панасенко 2010; Рябко 2003).

However, the use of the onomasiological approach alone does not allow us to define how the name of the MP is connected with people's ideas about the world around them, about society in which they live and also about the system of concepts with which they operate. In order to solve this task, cognitive research is required, which makes it possible to describe not only the features sufficient for the identification of a MP, but also the entire complex of knowledge about this MP, i.e., word semantics and its evaluative component.

My aim is to characterise the basis zone (the term was first introduced by Drozdova (Дроздова 1990)), to specify formal and lexical bases typical of the phytonymic lexicon focusing on two bases: **person** and **artefact**. To make a proper interpretation of some phytonyms a cognitive analysis was applied.

2.1. Basics of onomasiological analysis

One of popular trends of modern linguistics is onomasiology, although it has old roots. In the late 1960s, onomasiology began to branch out in two directions: on the one hand, it performs its primary tasks – it studies the process of creating nominative units on the basis of word-forming models (Соснина 2020), methods and mechanisms of language objectification of various types of concepts (Panassenko 2012b), semantic and nominative connections (Косова 2008), and the cognitive nature of this process (Лукьянова 2018; Усик 2020); on the other hand, the onomasiological approach is considered as "a dynamic, functional-communicative aspect of studying the units and categories of all levels, the role of the latter in the naming activity of the linguist, their semantic task, the purpose of use in a specific statement (text)" (Бацевич & Космеда 1997: 29).

Numerous onomasiological studies based on various designation types in different languages highlight the problems of designation (Кислухина 2009; Курушкіна 2010; Kalafus Antoniová 2020). The onomasiological analysis reveals the act of the designation as the speech cogitative act, during which the designated is placed in a certain category. According to Rayevskaya, onomasiological approach to the process of the designation allows considering the words "as the result of human cognitive activity, which establishes connections between various substances in the surrounding world and expresses this communication in the name created by it" (Раевская 1981: 82). Among other trends I would like to mention the attempts to link onomasiology with grammar (Даниленко 1990), word-formation (Grzega 2005; Kos & Kozubíková Šandová 2020; Štekauer 1998), cognitive science (Borys 2023; Grondelaers & Geeraerts 2003; Panassenko 2021), and onomasiological modelling in the information field (Bolbakov et al. 2022).

When carrying out the onomasiological analysis, we must bear in our minds that it is the analysis of

the linguistic activity that represents the technique, which is very well worked out on the material of the word-formation analysis. In the field of onomasiology, the emphasis has shifted from the names of subjects to the study of designation processes in general.

As a rule, the onomasiological analysis is preceded by a structural-semantic analysis, which in my research has made it possible to identify the main ways of designating MPs and their distribution in the languages under consideration. Furthermore, derivatives and compound words, complex-compounds, and word combinations were analysed. The onomasiological analysis of the phytonym structure makes it possible to reveal the designative potential of derivatives and compounds, as well as other models, and to establish the semantic and onomasiological characteristics of these nominative units.

Ternary OM consists of a basis, feature, and predicate. Now I would like to specify what bases and features can be found in phytonymic lexicon. We can speak about a basis zone and a feature zone. Formally, the zone of basis is formed by suffixes and notional words, by exocentric composites, and compound bases. Categorically, all the bases are divided into two groups. Firstly, plant names include the genus-species relations and hypo-heteronymic relations that imply the used part of a plant (flower, leaf, root, etc.), or a botanical part of a plant (thorn, prickle, leaf, sprout, etc.). Secondly, in designation of a plant such lexical classes as artefact, person, entity, feeling, state, property and some other lexical categories are used. The most frequent basis in all the languages under consideration is the name of a plant; then its used part; in Slavic languages – person, substance, and feeling. This group of lexical bases, which in some languages includes 15-25 varieties, leads us to the secondary designation of MPs and needs its cognitive interpretation, which can help identify what properties of plant are hidden in their names and where they are located: in features or in bases.

The feature zone of phytonym contains the features necessary for the identification and localisation of a MP: **features of appearance** (colour /for colour properties see Uberman 2023/, size, plant's structure, form, etc.), **locatives**, **temporal** (blossoming time, beginning and duration of blossoming), **evaluative** (for the essence of evaluation see Bigunova 2019 and Prihodko 2016) – (evaluation proper, physical properties, addressee, functional target, efficiency of application, etc.), **features of alienate/inalienate possession**, **emotive-expressive features** (positive and negative emotions arising at contact with a plant), and **features of the warning of dangerous properties of a plant** (Panasenکو 2015; 2016). All these features are attributed to the basis by means of comparative, causative, temporal and other predicates.

Let us illustrate it with some examples. Ukrainian phytonym *Осі́нник* /autumn + suffix/ – Common autumn crocus (*Colchicum autumnale* L.) is a derivative; the formal basis is presented by the suffix *-ник*, to which a temporal feature is attributed by the predicate "something has a property"; interpretation: a MP, which blossoms in autumn. The English example Windflower (*Anemone nemorosa* L.) is a compound word, in which a temporal feature is attributed to the basis denoting the plant part (flower). The Slovak phytonym *Kozá brádk*a /goat's beard + dim. suff./ – Mountain arnica (*Arnica montana* L.) belongs to the group of multi-unit words. Its OM consists of the basis "part of animal's body"; predicate "something has something" attributes the feature of (in)alienate possession and appearance (small size). It is a metaphoric designation of the MP specifying its appearance. Russian complex-compound word *Золототысячник* /gold + thousand + suff./ – Hedgehyssop (*Gratiola officinalis* L.) has a formal basis represented by the suffix *-ник* denoting a plant; a predicate "something has a number of items" attributes to the basis the feature of appearance (colour).

Now let us discuss the basis zone in detail.

3. Formal and lexical onomasiological bases

According to Kubryakova, the basis reflects "the nominative activity of a person who in the act of word-formation brings up designated object under a certain category" (Кубрякова 1994: 39-40), which is undoubtedly associated with the natural categorization of the world. The basis plays the role of the concept that forms the ground for the designation of a class of objects. It was first introduced by Dokulil (1962: 197) who in the two-member onomasiological category, consisting of onomasiological basis and onomasiological feature, distinguished such types of bases as categories of substance, properties, actions, and circumstances. In the course of time the list of bases was growing and included abstract names denoting feelings and emotions, nature objects, people, and many others.

Bases can be described from a structural and categorical point of view, i.e., formally and meaningfully. Taking into account the structure and semantics of bases, the following types can be distinguished in the names of MPs: basis-suffix and basis – a full-valued word; the last one can be a complex or split basis, as well as other types of words containing a basis-exocentric compound with a zero morpheme. Each type of the basis in turn has its own dichotomy, both structural and substantive.

The types of bases identified in the MPs' names can be represented as follows (see Fig. 1).

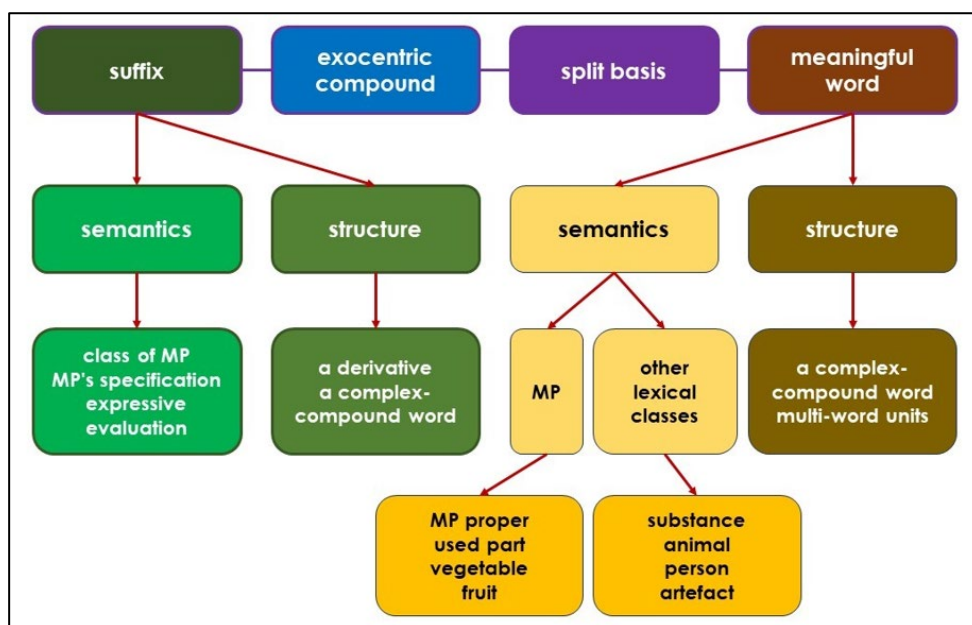


Figure 1. Onomasiological bases in the names of MPs. Source: after Панасенко 2010.

Let us discuss the basis zone presented in Fig. 1. Some suffixes, mainly in Slavic languages identify the plant, like Russian: *-ик, -як, -янк, -еи, -ица, -ина* – *Кислянка* – European barberry (*Berberis vulgaris* L.); Ukrainian: *Багнюк* /from *багно* – bog, mud/ – Marsh Labrador tea (*Ledum palustre* L.); Polish: *-yna, -iak, -ina* – *Szypszyna* – Dog-rose (*Rosa canina* L.), *Maliniak* – Raspberry (*Rubus idaeus* L.); Czech: *-k, -ek* – *Borůvka* – Blackberry – European blueberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus* L.), *Kamenka* – Cranberry (*Oxycoccus palustris* Pers.), and Slovak with identical suffixes and *-ina*: *Ostružina černicová* – European blueberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus* L.).

A suffix in combination with various predicates can express the **specification of a MP**, e.g.:

- 1) some suffixes specify that this plant is a bush: French *-ier* in *Vinettier* – European barberry (*Berberis vulgaris* L.), *Noisetier* – Common hazel (*Coryllus avelana* (L.) H. Karst.); others traditionally refer to berry plants in Slavic languages: Russian *-ика* in *Черника* /black + suff./ – European blueberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus* L.) and *Журавика* /crane + suff./ – Cranberry (*Oxycoccus palustris* Pers.); Ukrainian *-иця* in *Чорниця* /black + suff./ and *Боровиця* /pine forest + suff./ – European blueberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus* L.); Polish *-ica* in *Kwaśnica* – Cranberry (*Oxycoccus palustris* Pers.), *Czernica* /black + suff./ – European blueberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus* L.);
- 2) the second group of suffixes serves as an indicator of various plant properties; modifier suffixes **"performs an action"**: Russian *-ник, -ун* in *Пицальник* /to squeak + suff. *-ник*/ – European elder (*Sambucus nigra* L.); Ukrainian *-ак, -л(о) -к(а)* in *Свербак, Свербило*, /to itch + suff. *-ак, -л(о)*/, *Дрячка* /to irritate + suff. *-к(а)*/ – Dog-rose (*Rosa canina* L.); Polish and Czech *-l(o)* in *Żolcidło* and *Žlutidlo* /yellow + suff./ – Dyer's broom (*Genista tinctoria* L.); **"evokes feeling or**

state": Russian *-як* in *Пухляк* /to swell (up) + suff./ – Mezereon (*Daphne mezereum* L.); Ukrainian *-ник* in *Плоховник* /bad + suff./ – Sea-buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides* L.); **"has a property or feature"**: Russian *-як, -ец* in *Шипняк* /thorn + suff./ – Dog-rose (*Rosa canina* L.) and some others;

- 3) some suffixes have expressive evaluation. Emotivity and expressiveness in language can be conveyed in a word in two ways: by diminutive and pejorative suffixes, as well as lexical means. Although there are many positive examples in the Slavic languages, such phytonyms can be found in all the languages studied except English. Each language has a set of diminutive suffixes: German *-lein, -chen*; French *-et, -ette*; Russian *-к(а), -ик, -ичк(а)*; Ukrainian *-ок, -ік, -к(о)*; Polish *-к(а), -ек, -ieczek*; Czech and Slovak *-enk(a), -k(a), -eček, -ičk(a), -k(a), -ičk(a), -ec, -ešk(a), -ek*, e.g., Russian /dial./ *Товстушка* /a plump female + dim./ – Three-lobe beggarticks (*Bidens tripartita* L.); Czech *Veverčí ocásek* /squirrel's tail + dim./ – Field horsetail (*Equisetum arvense* L.). As far as derogatory suffixes are concerned, I have come across few examples. In general, they characterise colloquialisms and have ironic meaning: Russian *Друстуха* /Russian colloquial verb of diarrhoea + suff. *-уха*/ – Guelder-rose (*Viburnum opulus* L.), *Восковуха* /wax + suff. *-уха*/ – Sea-buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides* L.); Ukrainian *Жовтуха* /yellow + suff. *-уха*/ – Dyer's broom (*Genista tinctoria* L.).

It is necessary to emphasise once again the role of suffix semantics in the onomasiological structure of the phytonym. In many cases, a suffix is a formal basis denoting the plant. However, in derived words containing a diminutive suffix, the basis can shift to the left, because in this case the suffix serves to indicate the feature, and the suffix acts as a carrier of the feature of the appearance (small size) and positive or negative emotional assessment. Thus, the semantics of suffixes must be taken into account in the onomasiological analysis of the vocabulary.

The next element of the scheme are exocentric compounds, a type of a compound word where the meaning of the compound is not directly related to the meaning of its individual components. In other words, the compound as a whole has no inherent reference to its constituent words. Exocentric compounds are relatively rare and can sometimes be difficult to understand because the meaning is not compositional; you cannot easily infer the meaning of the compound based on the meanings of its parts (see more Bauer 2008 and Benczes 2015). In phytonymic lexis, they are usually easily interpreted if the researcher knows the properties of the MP very well. Although the examples are not numerous, they are very interesting and can only be found in low colloquial vocabulary: Russian *Балигалоф* /contorted Болиголов – something that evokes a headache/ – Labrador tea (*Ledum palustre* L.), *Золотохвост* /something that has a golden tail – peculiarities of the MP's structure and

colour/ – Dyer's broom (*Genista tinctoria* L.), *Дурнопьян* /something that evokes faintness and alcoholic intoxication/ – Black henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger* L.), *Пусторыл, Пусторосль* /something, which is empty inside – feature of the MP's structure; pipes are often made from young shoots/ – *Lilac* (*Syringa vulgaris* L.), *Кровенуск* /something that evokes bloodletting/ – Common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium* L.), *Пустодуї* /something, which after blowing off becomes empty/ – Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* Wigg.), *Хворобой* /something that kills the ailment, "хворь" is a colloquial form of "болезнь"/ – Common St. Johnswort (*Hypericum perforatum* L.); Ukrainian *Свербивуз, Свербивус* /something that evokes irritation of the skin, in this case the moustache, in physical contact/ – *Dog-rose* (*Rosa canina* L.), *Глеконар* /something that steams off *гличик*, a typical Ukrainian ceramic jug with the purpose of disinfection/ – Greater celandine (*Chelidonium majus* L.); Polish *Czworolist* /something that has four leaves/ – Herb Paris (*Paris quadrifolia* L.); Czech *Žlutozob* /something that has yellow seed/ – Sea-buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides* L.). In all of these examples, and others not mentioned here, the basis is easy to reconstruct, because it reflects a MP and its medicinal or useful properties.

I would also like to note that one of the features of phytonyms is that some OMs may consist of two bases, whose two-digit structure can be realised as a combination of one-order and equivalent units. Kubryakova names such bases "split" and gives the following Russian examples: *выставка-продажа* /trade exhibition/ and *диван-кровать* /folding divan/ (Кубрякова 1977: 287). Although there are but few examples of the split bases in phytonymic lexis, I cannot but mention this type of the basis, e.g., Russian *Репешки-колючки* /this phytonym is difficult to translate; it conveys the idea that something is prickly, like flowers of burdock, and has thorns/ – Spiny cocklebur (*Xanthium spinosum* L.). Another phytonym, *Волчий корень-трава* /wolf's root-grass/ – Aconite monkshood (*Aconitum napellus* L.) serves a good example of the split basis, which identifies MP's used part at any one time – root and grass.

Since the object of my research is a MP, it is naturally to suppose that a lexical basis in its name will be the plant itself or its part. But it is not so. All the lexical bases can be divided into two groups. The first group is made up of lexical bases related to plants and flora. These are the examples formed by the direct designation, and they represent information of the plant appearance, the place of its growth and time of blossoming, its useful properties and so forth (Panasenکو 2012a). We find the following lexical bases in this group: **plant** – Czech *Bršlen európsky* – European spindle-tree (*Euonymus europea* L.), **its used part** – German *Schwarzkraut* /black grass/ – Eurasian baneberry (*Actaea spicata* L.); Russian *Сухотный корень* /root healing tuberculosis/ – Wild arum (*Arum maculatum* L.),

vegetable, fruit, sort of plant (tree, bush) – Russian *Па́йде́рство* /heaven + tree/ – Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris* L.).

Another group includes examples, in which the lexical basis means something else: **artefacts** (the weapon, tools, house utensils, clothes and their details, and so forth), **people** (the queen, soldier, mother and so forth), **animals** (wild and domestic animals, birds, insects, mythical creatures, and so forth), **substances** (blood, salt, acid, and so forth), **nature object** (the sun, moon, star) and many others. These bases show the reference of the designated object not only to a plant or its part, but to something else. It means that the designation of a plant has been done by comparison with known concepts and objects. This gives us a basis for considering another, no less important way of designation – metaphorisation (for detailed analysis of metaphoric designations from onomasiological perspective see Panasenko 2023).

3.1. Lexical basis PERSON

Here I would like to return to the semantic classification of bases, take two lexical classes – **person** and **artefact** – and try to clear out how culture-specific information is reflected in different languages. Let us start with the basis **person** (see Fig. 2).

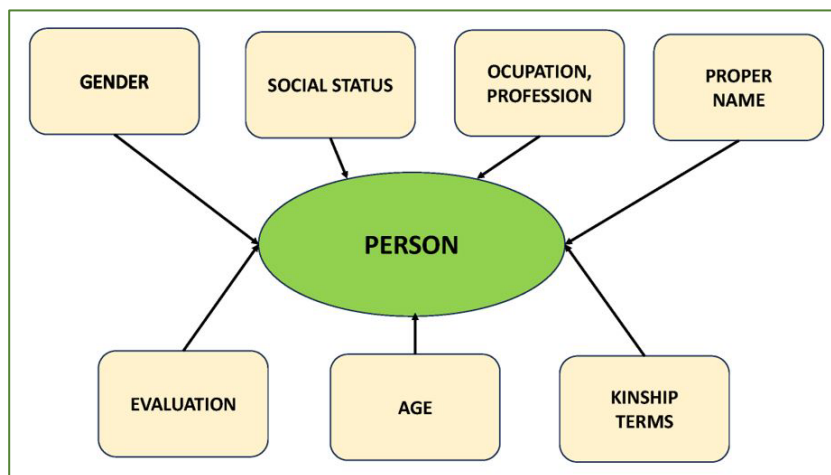


Figure. 2. Semantic interpretation of lexical basis **person** in the names of MPs. Source: own processing

In the languages under consideration the list of the bases representing person in literary and common MPs' names is considerable and includes the following items.

Gender – German *Waldmeister* /forest master/, *Waldmännlein* /forest men + dimin. suff./ – Sweet woodruff (*Asperula odorata* L.); Ukrainian *Братки* /brothers + suff./ – Pansy (*Viola tricolor* L.);

social status – French *Reine des bois* /queen or dame of the forest/ – Sweet woodruff (*Asperula odorata* L.); English *Lords-and-ladies* – Cuckoo-pint (*Arum maculatum* L.), *Fair lady* – Belladonna (*Atropa Belladonna* L.), *Naked ladies* – Common autumn crocus (*Colchicum autumnale* L.); Russian *Боярка* /boyar's wife/ – Common hawthorn (*Crataegus sanguinea* Pall.), *Мать-королева ядов* /mother-queen of poisons/ – Aconite monkshood (*Aconitum napellus* L.); Ukrainian *Царичка* /queen + dimin. suff./ – Belladonna (*Atropa Belladonna* L.);

occupation, profession – French *Trucheron* (*argot*, cadger) – St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum* L.); German *Wegwarte* (road guard) – Yellow gentian (*Gentiana lutea* L.); Russian *Попенок* /priest + dimin. suff./ – Corn bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis* L.); Ukrainian *Москалик* /Moskal + dim. suff./, *Солдатик* /soldier + dim. suff./ – Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* Wigg.); Polish *Mniszek* /monk + dim. suff./ – Aconite monkshood (*Aconitum napellus* L.);

proper name – these examples are numerous and reflect names typical of each language under discussion, like French *Angélique*; English *Jenny*, *Adam*, *Eve*; Russian *Матренка*, *Иван*, *Марья*; Ukrainian *Гриць*, *Іван*, *Мар'яна*, *Мотька*, *Любка*, etc., e.g., English *Sticking Roger*, *Stinking Roger* – Black henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger* L.); Russian *Любка* /popular female name Люба + suff./ – Spiny cocklebur (*Xanthium spinosum* L.), *Акулинка* /obsolete female name Акулина + suff./ – Common mullein (*Verbascum thapsus* L.); Ukrainian *Євка* /Eve + suff./ – Horsetail (*Equisetum arvense* L.);

evaluation – German *Immerschön* /eternal beauty/ – Dwarf everlasting (*Helichrysum arenarium* (L.) Moench.), *Nackte Hure* /naked whore/ – *Common autumn crocus* (*Colchicum autumnale* L.); Polish *Milek wiosenny* /spring darling/ – Pheasant's eye (*Adonis vernalis* L.), *Żeniszek* /bride groom + dimin. suff., which in this case adds to the plant's name an ironic evaluation/ – Common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium* L.);

age – Ukrainian *Бабка* /old countrywoman + suff./, *Дідки* /grandfathers + suff./ – *Taraxacum officinale* Wigg.); Polish and Czech *Babička* /old countrywoman + dimin. suff./ – Common hawthorn (*Crataegus sanguinea* Pall.); Czech *Dědek* /grandfather + suff./, *Mládeneček* /baby + dimin. suff./ – Dwarf everlasting (*Helichrysum arenarium* (L.) Moench.);

kinship terms – German *Stiefmütterchen* /stepmother + dimin. suff./, *Stiefkind* /stepchild/ – Pansy (*Viola tricolor* L.); Russian *Мать-и-мачеха* /mother-and-stepmother/ – Coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara* L.), *Братки* /brothers + suff./; Ukrainian *Сестрички* /sisters + dimin. suff./, *Сирітки* and Polish *Sierotki* /orphans + dimin. suff./; Polish *Macoszka* and Czech *Maceška*, /stepmother + dimin. suff./, Polish *Bratek* /brother + dimin. suff./, *Brat-y-sestra* /brother-and sister/, *Wdówki* /widows + suff./; Czech *Sirotko* /orphan + dimin. suff./ – Pansy (*Viola tricolor* L.).

From the examples given above it is clear that semantic classification of the bases designating **the person** makes it possible to determine his or her social status, profession, age, family relationships,

and so forth. But how do all these categories relate to a plant? The semantic class of the person bases can be interpreted in different ways. First of all, it is the **appearance** of the named plant. Most of the common names of Dandelion indicate specific form of its flown inflorescences. This form is associated with certain types of activity and, accordingly, with certain clothing (German, Russian, Ukrainian and Polish examples). The names reflecting such **age** categories, as Ukrainian *Бабука* /grandma/ and *Дідку* /grandpas/ are connected with the **appearance** of a plant – these are undersized plants with a silvery (gray-haired) edge of leaves.

The other class of names is connected with **the evaluative component**, either positive, or negative. The higher social status of the person is (queen, nobleman, lady), the more important the role of the plant in the arsenal of phytotherapeutic remedies.

Some lexical bases require cultural-historical knowledge to interpret the name of a plant. A good example of it is Autumn crocus (*Colchicum autumnale* L.) which has an unusual structure: part of the bulb is on the surface of the ground, and from time to time it loses part of its skin. The English common name *Naked ladies* reflects the aristocratic custom of wearing low-cut dresses. The German common name *Nackte Hure* (naked whore) not only refers to the characteristic structure of the plant, but also contains a strong negative component that overlaps with the group of bases expressing evaluation.

And the most numerous group of names has a cultural component. In every language there are personal names (English *Roger*, French *Angélique*, Russian *Матрёнка*, Ukrainian *Грицики*, and so forth); in the culture of peoples there are numerous legends, in which plants are mentioned. The common names of the pansy (*Viola tricolor* L.) in five languages are an illustration of the legend of the wicked stepmother who drove poor orphans, the brother and the sister, out of the house in the woods where they turned into flowers. A blue or violet part of a flower is associated with the male (brother), and a yellow part – with the female (sister).

3.2. Lexical basis ARTEFACT

Let us consider one more lexical basis – **artefact**. In my language material it is presented as follows (see Fig. 3).

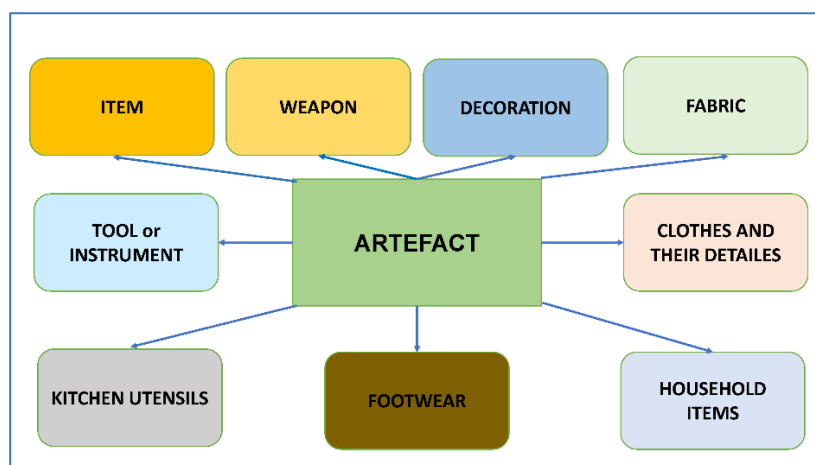


Figure. 3. Semantic interpretation of lexical basis artefact in the names of MPs. Source: own processing

This lexical basis is represented in phytonymic lexicon in the following way:

tool or instrument – German *Ackerpfriemen* (field awl) – Dyer's greenweed (*Genista tinctoria* L.); English *Adam's needle* – Common yucca (*Jucca filamentosa* L.), *Base broom* – Dyer's greenweed (*Genista tinctoria* L.); Russian *Кадило медоволистное* /censer/ – Bastard balm (*Melittis melissophyllum* L.), *Боговы грабельки* /God's rake + dimin. suff./, *Топорчику* /axe + dimin. suff./ – Pansy (*Viola tricolor* L.); Ukrainian *Серпик* /sickle + dimin. suff./ – Common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium* L.), *Сокирки*, *Топірчик* – /axe + dimin. suff./ – Pansy (*Viola tricolor* L.);

item – French *Bourse à pasteur* /a bag for a shepard/ – Common shepherd's purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris* (L.) Medik.), *Canne aromatique* /fragrant cane/ – Sweet flag (*Acorus calamus* L.); German *Frauenspiegel* /woman's looking glass/ – Water-pepper (*Polygonum hydropiper* L.); English *Solomon's seal* – Angular Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum odoratum* Mill.) Druce); Russian *Суконная плетъ* /cloth lash/ – Common mullein (*Verbascum thapsus* L.); Ukrainian *Мишечки* /sacks + dimin. suff./ – Common shepherd's purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris* (L.) Medik); Slovak *Křížek* /cross + dimin. suff./ – St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum* L.);

clothes and their details – French *Manchette de la Vierge* (the Virgin Mary's cuff) – Corn bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis* L.); German *Eisenhut* /iron cap/ – Common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium* L.); English *Lady's foxglove* – Common mullein (*Verbascum thapsus* L.); Russian *Манжетка обыкновенная* /cuff + suff./ – Common Lady's Mantle (*Alchemilla vulgaris* L.), *Полова скуфья* /skouphos, skull cap, a specific black or violet cap of an orthodox priest/ – Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* Wigg.); Czech *Kapsička* /pocket + dimin. suff./ – Common shepherd's purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris* (L.) Medik.); Slovak *Cigáňske gombiki* /gipsy buttons/ – Greater burdock (*Arctium lappa* L.), *Suknička* /frock + dimin. suff./, *Ženský plášť* /feminine cloak/ – Common Lady's mantle (*Alchemilla xanthochlora* Rothm.);

kitchen utensils – French *Bassinet blanc* /white pannikin/ – European wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa* L.); Russian *Богова скатерка* /God's table-cloth + suff./ – Dwarf everlasting (*Helichrysum arenarium* (L.) Moench.); Ukrainian *Вовча ступа* /wolf's mortar (vessel) – Meadow crane's-bill (*Geranium pratense* R. Knuth), *Мисочки* /pannikins + dimin. suff./ – Common shepherd's purse (*Capsella bursa pastoris* (L.) Medik.);

household item – French *Coussinette* /cushion + dimin. suff./ – Cranberry (*Oxycoccus palustris* Pers.); Russian *Высокая свеча* /high candle/ – Common mullein (*Verbascum thapsus* L.), *Подойнички* /milk-pail + dimin. suff./ – Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* Wigg.); Polish *Koszyszczko* /wattled bag + dim. suff./ – Vervain (*Verbena officinalis* L.); Slovak *Drabinka* /ladder + dimin. suff./ – Common silverweed (*Potentilla anserina* L.);

weapon English *Hercules' club* – Southern prickly ash (*Xanthoxylum clava-herculis* L.), *Green arrow* – Common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium* L.); Russian *Егорьево копье, Иисуса Христа копье* /Yegory's spear, Jesus Christ's spear/ – Meadow crane's-bill (*Geranium pratense* R. Knuth); Czech *Ježkova palice* /hedgehog's club/ – Thorn apple (*Datura stramonium* L.);

decoration – Ukrainian *Вовчі сережки* /wolf's ear-rings/ – European spindle-tree (*Euonymus europaea* L.), *Матері Марії сережки* /the Virgin Mary's ear-rings/ – Meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis* L.); Polish *Kocanki żolte* /yellow ear-rings/ – Dwarf everlasting (*Helichrysum arenarium* (L.) Moench.);

footwear – German *Blauer Pantoffel* /blue home slipper/ – Monkshood (*Aconitum napellus* L.); Ukrainian *Удодів чобіт* /hoopoe's boot/ – Pansy (*Viola tricolor* L.), *Черевички Божої матері* /the Virgin Mary's shoes + suff./; Slovak *Papučky* /slippers + dimin. suff./ – Yellow balsam (*Impatiens noli-tangere* L.);

fabric English *Adam's flannel, Old man's flannel*, Russian *Суконце* /woollen cloth + dimin. suff./ – Common mullein (*Verbascum thapsus* L.).

The bases of this group serve for the metaphorical identification of the **form** of the MP (or its part) (sword, arrow, candle); they inform us about **specific properties of the MP** (pillow – cranberry forms a dense tangle on which it is possible to lie down); **physical properties** – smell (censer) or milky juice (milk-pail); peculiarities of the MP structure (hollow stem) – whistle, horn, etc.

4. Concluding remarks

A basis is an important element of the OM, which also includes onomasiological features attributed to the basis by the predicate. The basis plays the role of the concept that forms the basis for the designation of a class of objects, in my case the names of MPs. When carrying out the onomasiological analysis we may speak about the basis zone and the feature zone.

In the feature zone of the phytonymic lexicon it is possible to distinguish features of appearance, evaluation, warning of the plant's dangerous properties, of (in)alienate possession and emotive-expressive. The basis zone includes formal, split, lexical bases and exocentric compounds. Formal and lexical bases can be classified according to their structure and semantics. The formal basis represented by a suffix indicates the class of MPs or specifies the medical target of the plant. Structurally, these bases can be found in the derivative and complex-compound words. Semantically, bases represented by meaningful words, denote the plant itself or its part. Other lexical bases are diverse and denote a person, artefact, substance, feeling, state, nature objects, etc. Such examples constitute a large group of phytonyms that have arisen through indirect designation, i.e., through metaphorical shift.

If we compare the bases **person** and **artefact**, it becomes obvious that the first lexical basis has a prominent culturological connotation, contains the large volume of hidden information, which should be decoded properly, and is related to the category of evaluation. The basis **artefact** also has a culturological component, but to a lesser extent; it mainly metaphorically describes the appearance and physical properties of the MP and its parts.

Abbreviations

MP(s) – medicinal plant(s)

dim. suff. – diminutive suffix

OM(s) – onomasiological model(s)

suff. – suffix

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