

MEDIASPACE AS A SPECIAL SPHERE OF PRODUCTION AN EXTRA-SYSTEMIC VOCABULARY (ON THE EXAMPLE OF RUSSIAN FEMINITIVES WITH SUFFIXES -ЕСС(А), -ИС(А))

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ABSTRACT

The article discusses the derivative names of women with the suffixes -ecc(a), -ис(a), functioning in the modern Russian-language media space. The media space, understood by us as a sphere of global communication created by electronic means, has become a new medium for the functioning of the Russian language. The relevance of the study is determined by the debatability in modern society of the problem of creating and using special feminine words-signs - feminitives. The language material is 41 tokens with these suffixes. The analysis of the functioning of the names of female persons in the language was carried out on the basis of material collected using the National Corpus of the Russian Language and Media Data. The derived nominal representations of female persons by professional or other affiliation form a modification category of femininity, distinguished on the basis of a generalized derivational meaning of 'a female person belonging to the category of persons denoted by a motivating noun'. The article lists the features of Internet communication in a linguistic aspect, defines the lexical and semantic composition of the names of female persons with the suffixes -ecc(a), -ис(a), and also presents a stylistic characteristic of these language units. Based on the results of the study, it was made about the favorableness of the media space for the generation of unsuccessful vocabulary, which includes feminists-neologisms ending in -ecc(a), -ис(a).

Keywords: media space, word formation, feminitive, gender, neology, Internet

1 INTRODUCTION

Technological progress is constantly making changes in the composition of professions and the organization of labor. Now it is impossible to imagine a single field of activity without the active participation of women, which entails the intensification of existing correlates of feminine names and the emergence of a number of new nominations for females, mainly in the field of vocabulary. The variety of means of expression and the growing demand for feminitives in modern society makes the word-formation category of femininity one of the most productive, which indicates its high importance for native speakers of the Russian language.

At the beginning of the XXI century, marked by the development of information technology, social life underwent dramatic changes. The emergence of the Internet, a worldwide system for transmitting information, has had a significant impact on the social life of a person.

The Internet, which gained widespread over the past twenty years, has become the main global information environment where the speech element has been reflected. Due to its indisputable advantages, namely the speed of information exchange, general accessibility and relative freedom of communication, Internet communication has become a key way of interaction for people around the world. Modern media space covers all spheres of public life: whether it is politics, science, culture or economics.

The most important feature of Internet communication is the opportunities that each user acquires with access to the network: to be not only a consumer of an unlimited amount of information posted on the Internet but also become the author (and sometimes co-author) of new, unique content. Media space participants use various web resources as personal platforms for expressing their own opinions, promoting ideas, influencing a particular segment of the information space and drawing audience attention to themselves or to the issue under discussion. The word, being the main means of exercising the potentials of a linguistic personality on the Internet, has become a tremendous force, thanks to which bloggers are able to influence (primarily verbally) others. The audience of such public blogs can reach several hundred thousand people, and bloggers thereby expand their area of presence, becoming television presenters, film actors, and ambassadors (i.e. representatives) of various brands.

Names of people in different areas of social communication and, accordingly, in certain layers of Russian vocabulary are the subject of close study of linguists, as they belong to the most important category of human life [1, 2, 3, 4]. The sphere of non-standard nomination of persons is considered by researchers from different perspectives: as a component of word-building homonymy [5], a means of authorial stylization of a literary text [6] or a means of expressing a linguistic picture of the world [7]. The media space, which has become the new medium for the functioning of the language, stimulates linguistic personalities to create “fresh” nominations, filling in peculiar “gender gaps”, and, as a result, generates new language means. This process is favored by such factors as 1) the community of the communicative space, which unites people of different social groups; 2) a completely different organization of written and oral speech in combination with various methods of communication (audio, video and text messages) based on a situational fragment of extralinguistic reality; and 3) a new principle of interaction between producers and consumers of content, which are equally regulators of the process of creating and disseminating information [8]. The linguistic consequence of changing traditional communication schemes is the diffusion of stylistic boundaries, the spread of colloquial style norms in other areas of communication, exposure to foreign language, the emergence of neologisms and occasionalisms. The relative “freedom of language” of the Internet allows users to engage in word creation, which is designed to solve a variety of problems: from the need to name a new phenomenon or object to the implementation of a language game to achieve certain pragmatic goals.

The development of Internet communication made language become not just a means of communication but also a subject of discussion both among network users and among representatives of the linguistic community. One of the most “acute” issues of the present time is the use of feminines, the names of females, formed from the

corresponding masculine correlates. Linguists write popular science articles for online media about feminities [9], and round tables are organized in which popular bloggers participate along with professional linguists [10]. Native speakers recognize the language as a regulator of linguocultural and sociocultural stereotypes, forming various versions of the picture of the world. So, supporters of the use of feminities say about the “invisibility” of women in Russian: «Многие не знают о том, что Харпер Ли (писательница) – женщина. Но мы бы не столкнулись с такой действительностью, если бы о ней писали как о "писательнице", "романистке", "авторке", "творце"» [11]. Feminists are reinterpreted as carriers of a certain sociocultural code, namely: an attempt to deliberately eliminate linguistic asymmetry in the paradigm of gender names.

2 METHODS

The language material for our study includes 41 tokens with the suffixes -ecc(a), -ис(a). As sources, we used data from the Russian Grammar [12], the New Dictionary of the Russian Language [13], the National Corpus of the Russian Language (hereinafter - NCRL) [14], as well as data from the Russian-language media space.

The research methodology is based on an integrated approach to the analysis of derivative units and involves a combination of the analysis of their derivational structure and motivational relations with the determination of the specifics of functioning in speech.

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In modern Russian, word-building types with the suffixes -ecc(a), -ис(a) in the framework of the analyzed femininity category express the modification meaning ‘a female person belonging to the category of persons called a motivating noun’. Word-building types with suffixes -ecc(a), -ис(a) in the Russian language express exclusively the meaning of femininity, that is, they name only females, which allows us to distinguish the names of women in an independent category of femininity [15].

According to Russian Grammar, nouns with the suffix -ecc(a) are motivated by unmotivated nouns: поэтесса, принцесса, стюардесса [12]. The dictionaries contain 21 names with the suffix formant -ecc(a). We found the following names with stylistic marks: 2 are marked as obsolete (метресса, дюшесса), 2 as historical (грандесса, догаресса), 8 as colloquial (патронесса, авторесса, агентесса, адвокатесса, гидесса, драматургесса, клоунесса, критикесса), 3 - as occasional (чемпионесса, очеркесса, гигантесса). Words поэтесса, принцесса, стюардесса, баронесса, виконтесса, кронпринцесса are (according to dictionaries) stylistically neutral. This word-formation type reveals some productivity in modern Russian media space (primarily in social networks). According to the word-formation model with the suffix -ecc(a), derivatives from motivated foundations with the suffix -ик are formed through complication: историк – историкесса or its reduction: математик – математесса, теоретик – теоретесса.

In the field of computer games and fiction literature there are feminities such as демонесса (1), бакалавресса (2):

(1) Считается, что мифы об этой **демонессе** зародились на древнем Ближнем Востоке, где она была известна, как «тёмная дева» или «дух дикой природы» [16];

(2) По вызову декана явилась **бакалавресса** Еурилль – грациозная полная женщина в шёлковой бакалавратке [17].

In the media, the following names occur: **комикесса** (3), **министресса** (4), **политикесса** (5), **пилотесса** (6), **адвокатесса** (7):

(3) Ранее **комикесса** и режиссер работали вместе над позапрошлогодним «Девичником в Вегасе» и недавними «Копами в юбках» [18];

(4) **Премьер-министресса** Бангладеша Шейх Хасина говорит беженцам, что они должны вернуться назад, в Мьянму [19];

(5) Глава Совфеда Валентина Матвиенко сообщила, что американская **политикесса** Хиллари Клинтон может приехать на II Евразийский женский форум [20];

(6) Одна **пилотесса** говорит, что старается всегда мягко посадить самолет, и когда пассажиры аплодируют, ей это очень приятно [14];

(7) Они совершили преступление из чувства сострадания к младшему товарищу, – увещевала меня **адвокатесса** [14].

Occasional formations occur in the field of informal interpersonal communication: **историкесса** (8), **логопедесса** (9), **френдесса** (10), **теоретесса** (11), **математесса** (12):

(8) **Историкесса** из Оксфорда находит в библиотеке таинственный манускрипт, и поневоле погружается в мир магии [23];

(9) Да у нас такая **логопедесса**! Что просто ах! [24];

(10) **Френдесса** sumatumania недавно написала про пять любимых фильмов Брюса Уиллиса [25];

(11) Первая посвящена основательнице послевоенного феминизма Симоне де Бовуар и Сартру, ее вдохновлявшему, а также французским постструктуралистам, чьи сочинения толкуют **теоретессы** [26];

(12) Мариам Мирзахани – гениальная иранская **математесса** [27].

Nouns with the suffix -ис(а) are motivated by non-motivated nouns or verbs with suffixes -ор, -тор: **актриса**, **аббатиса**, **диакониса**, **директриса**, **инспектриса**, **лектриса** [12]. The dictionaries provide 6 words. Among them, with the corresponding stylistic marks: 1 obsolete (**лектриса**), 2 conversational (**директриса**, **инспектриса**), the rest (**аббатиса**, **актриса**, **киноактриса**) are not stylistically marked. The NCRL recorded the use of the feminitive “авиатриса”: “Первой **авиатрисой** Америки будет, очевидно, г-жа Арнольд, одна из богатейших женщин Флориды» [14].

In modern Russian, the considered type turned out to be unproductive. The feminitive “автриса”, found in feminist discourse, is an attempt to form a word-building synonym for the author’s word, devoid of a dismissive connotation, according to the word-formation model already existing in the Russian language with the suffix -ис(а): «Адриенна Рич – **автриса** 25 книг стихов, 6 сборников эссе и заметок» [28].

All words formed with the help of word-building suffixes -ис(а), -есс(а), according to the type of semantic relations can be divided into those denoting 1) professional affiliation (stewardess, actress); 2) the social status of women (patroness, metressa); 3) noble or church titles (princess, baroness, viscountess, abbess). Among them, there are no names of persons according to ethno-territorial affiliation and psychophysiological characteristics.

We found that all words with given suffixes recorded in dictionaries are foreign: they are mainly borrowed from Latin, French, and English. Words that name the title (**баронесса**, **виконтесса**, **грандесса**, **догаресса**, **дюшесса**) have the mutational meaning

of 'wife or daughter of a person named with a motivating word', as well as the word *диаконисса*, which does not correspond to the name of the male person *диакон* the female correlate is formed from. The remaining names have a modifying meaning 'female person' and belong to the derivational category of femininity.

The stylistic status of the considered word-formation types with the suffixes *-ecc(a)* и *-ис(a)* is extremely heterogeneous: they include both those related to the neutral layer of Russian vocabulary (*актриса, стюардесса, принцесса, поэтесса*), and to the colloquial style (*директриса, адвокатесса*) These feminines often carry additional connotations, for example, dismissive: *критикесса, логопедесса*, or humorous: *авторесса, гидесса*, and are also used in feminist discourse in order to emphasize the gender of the object of speech.

4 SUMMARY

The suffix types *-ис(a)*, *-ecc(a)* are on the periphery of the derivational category of femininity for several reasons, namely: 1) words with these suffixes are borrowed, which are subsequently singled out by analogy with Slavic suffixes; 2) the extreme diversity of the native Slavic suffixes allows dispensing with foreign formants to form new tokens; 3) most of the existing derivatives denote persons belonging to a particular social stratum: either to the aristocracy or to the clergy, in connection with which the names of persons formed by these suffixes by profession acquire a pejorative connotation (*директриса, критикесса*). Nevertheless, despite the general inefficiency, nominations with the suffixes *-ис(a)*, *-ecc(a)* are used in the media space either to avoid unwanted homonymy (*пилот – пилотка – пилотесса*), or if there are morphological or stylistic restrictions of other suffixes models (*авторша – авторка – авторесса – автриса*).

5 CONCLUSIONS

Thus, we can conclude that the media space is a favorable environment for the generation of casual vocabulary, which includes feminine-neologisms ending in *-ecc(a)*, *-ис(a)*.

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