MORPHOLOGICAL AND GRAMMATICAL FEATURES OF EPONYMS IN ENGLISH

Atabayeva Nodira Djurayevna
Tashkent University of Architecture and Civil Engineering
Associate professor of Foreign languages department

Abstract. The lexical layer of the English language comprises a large number of terms, most of which are eponyms. This article analyzes the structural features of eponyms. In terms of content, eponymous terms are the most studied in the field of medicine, natural and exact sciences, while in linguistic terms, the unexplored aspects of eponyms allow for a number of studies. In this regard, the article describes the morphological and grammatical features of eponyms. Eponyms are divided into commonly used eponyms and terminological lexical units according to the use, and according to structural forms, they are divided into simple eponyms, compound eponyms and abbreviated eponyms.

Key words: terminological lexical unit, compound eponym, abbreviated eponymous unit, component, abbreviation, acronym, initialism.

I. INTRODUCTION

With the development of science and technology, the specialized lexicon of each field is expanding. A significant portion of this lexicon is made up of eponyms. In terminological phrases, eponyms typically serve as the first component. In the formation of these lexical units in English, anthroponyms and toponyms play a substantial role. Names of famous scientists who have contributed immensely to science and knowledge with their discoveries, theories, or principles are commonly used in eponyms. The concept of eponyms, or eponymization, holds a unique place in linguistics. Eponyms are based on mythonyms, anthroponyms, and toponyms. Mythonyms originated from the names of mythological characters or figures, and

these are often derived from Latin or ancient Greek roots. For example, the English word *mentor*, commonly used in education and other fields, originates from Greek mythology. Mentor was a trusted friend, advisor, or teacher in ancient Greek lore.

Toponyms, or geographical place names, also give rise to eponyms. For instance, *mayonnaise* is a culinary term that comes from the name of Mahón, a place in the Balearic Islands. Eponyms based on anthroponyms, such as surnames, given names, pseudonyms, and literary characters, are frequently used. An example is the musical instrument *saxophone*, named after the Belgian inventor Antoine Joseph Sax in the 19th century.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Eponymous units based on mythonyms, anthroponyms, and toponyms are pervasive in nearly every aspect of social life. Even in everyday language, many eponyms are used as regular terms (e.g., aspirin, xerox, sandwich, nicotine, cardigan, reglan, boycott). Eponyms can be categorized according to their usage into:

1. Eponyms that are commonly used in the general lexicon.
2. Eponyms that serve as terminological lexical units.

Common eponyms refer to words such as *atlas*, *watt*, *nicotine*, and *aspirin* which are frequently used to describe particular objects, concepts, or phenomena in daily life and also carry specific meanings in various scientific fields. Terminological eponyms, on the other hand, are specialized terms used primarily in specific scientific fields, such as *Avogadro's number* (in physics and chemistry) or *Maxwell's equations* (in thermodynamics).

Eponyms can take on various morphological and grammatical forms. According to some studies, eponyms have been categorized into simple, compound, and abbreviated forms. McArthur, Ikonnikova, and Novinskaya have offered classification systems based on the structure and grammatical makeup of eponyms.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Eponyms in English take several morphological forms, including simple eponyms, compound eponyms, and abbreviated eponyms. These forms can be examined in detail below.

Simple Eponyms: Simple eponyms typically refer to proper nouns that have been converted into regular lexical units without significant morphological changes. These eponyms often retain the original form of the proper noun or may undergo slight modifications. Examples include:

- ✓ *atlas* (from Greek mythology character Atlas, now used to refer to a collection of maps).
- ✓ *watt* (named after James Watt, used as the unit of power).
- ✓ *panic* (derived from the Greek god Pan, now used to refer to sudden fear).
- ✓ *boycott* (from the name of Charles Boycott, now used as a verb meaning to refuse to engage with something as a form of protest).

These simple eponyms can also function as verbs, adjectives, or nouns depending on the context. For instance, *to panic* (verb) and *boycott* (both verb and noun) demonstrate how a word can evolve and extend its meaning beyond its initial eponymous origin.

Compound Eponyms: Compound eponyms are combinations of a proper noun and a common noun. This form can occur in two main patterns:

- ✓ Proper noun + common noun (e.g., *Avogadro number*, *Morse code*, *Richter scale*).
- ✓ Proper noun + common noun + common noun (e.g., *Monge-Ampère equation*, *Richter magnitude scale*).

These compound eponyms are particularly common in scientific and technical terminology, where a person's name is combined with a term to describe a discovery or concept associated with that individual.

Abbreviated Eponyms: Abbreviated eponyms are often created by shortening the original eponymic term, using initials or acronyms. Some common examples include:

- ✓ *MTM Enterprises* (from Mary Tyler Moore).
- ✓ *MB* (from Milton Bradley).
- ✓ *JBL* (from James Bullough Lansing).

These forms of eponyms are primarily used in commercial and corporate names.

IV. CONCLUSION

The study of eponyms highlights their morphological and grammatical richness in the English language. From simple terms derived from personal or place names to more complex compound and abbreviated forms, eponyms serve as vital tools in both everyday language and specialized scientific discourse. As new discoveries continue to shape our understanding of the world, the role of eponyms will undoubtedly expand, offering a unique lens through which to examine the development of language and knowledge.

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