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Female Nomina Professionalia in Russian Vocabulary of the 19th Century (Ssociolinguistic Analysis)

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Abstract

The authors focus on female nomina professionalia, which existed in Russian language of the 19th century. The appeal to this group of feminatives is determined by the fact that at that date they constituted an actual, actively replenishing lexical category. That was caused by changes in the socio-cultural life of the 19th century. The article analyzes the basic derivational models that produce nomina professionalia, traces the dynamics of such names throughout the 19th century, which is conditioned by extra-linguistic reasons.

Keywords: Lexeme, Theory of nomination, Nomina professionalia, Feminative, Agentive.

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Introduction

The anthropological focus of modern linguistics determines the interest of scholars in various aspects of personal nomination functioning. Personal names, which form the category of agency in a language, show convincingly that anthropocentrism is inherent in Russian language and in particular in the word-building of the last decades. On the contrary, "the language of the 19th century was characterized by femiocentrism, which is conditioned by the factors of extralinguistic development" [1, p. 275].

Among the names of persons, feminatives - the nominations of female persons - occupy a special place. The study of nominations with feminine semantics seems relevant in connection with the appearance of a significant number of such new formations in the language of the 19th century, with the increased interest of linguists in the social-cultural aspects of a language and the problems of functioning in the language of nomina professionalia.

A number of recent studies are devoted to the feminization of language and a potentially bias attitude towards women and the evaluation of their work, which is reflected in the feminatives of many European languages [2]. The modern extralinguistic situation allows us to speak of a new wave of Slavic language feminization at the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries [3-5]. The studies conducted on the materials of lexicographical data and corpus of texts, note the continuing activity of new feminatives with competing suffixes and the dictionary and contextual discrepancies in their expressive coloring [6, p. 42]. The causes and the peculiarities of the process can be realized by turning to the analysis of lexical feminatives of the 19th century.

Methods of research

During the study the methods of social linguistics were used: the analysis of written sources and the method of reconstruction. During the study, both general scientific methods (observation, description and classification) and special linguistic methods were used: the systematic-descriptive method; the method of continuous sampling. 3,576 lexemes - female names - were singled out by the method of continuous sampling out of literary works and lexicographic sources, 1659 units of nomina professionalia were singled out (the distribution according to sources is given in table 1); The interpretation method was used to describe the nominations that were not recorded by dictionaries.

Table 1. The number of female nomina professionalia, drawn by the method of continuous sampling

Item №	Lexicographical source	Number of nomina professionalia units
1	The dictionary of Church Slavonic and Russian language, compiled by the Second Department of the Imperial Academy of Sciences (SDIAS)	1037
2	The dictionary of Russian Academy 1806-1822 (DRA)	859
3	The general church Slavonic dictionary by P. Sokolov (Sokolov's dictionary)	1067
4.	Explanatory dictionary of the living great Russian language by V.I. Dal (Dal's dictionary)	1329
5	The dictionary of Russian language, compiled by the Second department of the Academy of Sciences (1891-1916) (DRL)	1012

Discussion

Female nomina professionalia form one of the thematic groups of women's names, the unity of elements of which is determined primarily by the denotative factor, since some "pieces of reality" are united in the thematic series.

The appeal to this thematic group of nominations is conditioned by its active replenishment in the 19th century, which is caused by the changes in the social and cultural life of society. The movement of feminine vocabulary, traced on the material of one thematic group, is of interest during the 19th century, as the dynamics of the vocabulary reflects the process of word usage culture development, the changes in national mentality - an onomasiological situation arises from a communicative situation [7, p. 35].

During the 19th century there was a significant evolution in the views on a woman role both in public and family life. During that period a women's movement was born in the country, and higher female education was developed.

Significant changes in Russian economy, the development of capitalist relations and industry

entailed inevitably the involvement of women in various spheres of productive activity. In the 19th century the range of professions available to women expanded significantly. So, at that time, they began to recruit women to the government telegraph companies.

The development of woman's education, including higher education, led to the fact that women started to work in medicine, journalism and literature, not only as stenographers, proofreaders and translators, but also as literary critics, journalists and writers. According to historians, "by the end of the century, women accounted for almost half of the teaching staff in primary and secondary schools, their participation in art, medicine, science, and literature was significant one" [8, p. 178].

The changes in social and cultural life caused the changes in the nominative system of a language, since new nominative units appeared in the language to denote new realities. Lexicographic practice and the texts of that period contain a large number of feminatives, which call a person by profession, a kind of activity, many of which are the new formations of the 19th century.

The activation of word-formation processes in this thematic group has been noted since the end of the 18th century, but "a woman of the 18th century admitted by Peter the Great to a man's company could only appear more freely at visits, balls, assemblies and in salons. Women were not allowed to the Government Senate or Duma, to science, literature and medicine. An educated woman of that period did not need to engage professionally in any kind of activity" [9, p. 8]. Male and female professions were clearly delineated then. Later, with the spread of "male" professions among women, the use of female designations increases as compared to masculine ones. The dictionaries of the first and the second half of the 19th century are a convincing proof that the number of female professional designations increases steadily as compared to male names. DRA noted new names that were not recorded in the 18th century, for example: a shoemaker, a female shoe maker, a craftsman who sews shoes, especially women's shoes; a cutter, a female cutter - one who cuts a dress; a candyman, a candywoman - one who makes or sells candy; Pakhtal'shchik, pakhtal'shchitsa - the one who churns cow milk.

Female professional designations, corresponding to the male ones in SDIAS, are reflected even more consistently. Thus, for the first time, this dictionary recorded the following lexemes: a female scribe, a female engraver, a female procurer, a female factory worker, a female greengrocer, a female needle-bearer, a female tinkerer, a female copyist, a starchmaker (293 titles).

Feminatives, which name a person by a profession, a kind of activity, remain the most

productive group in the language of the second half of the 19th century. We will mention only some of these names, recorded in the dictionaries of that time for the first time (Dal's dictionary, DRL): a female farrier, a female bagel maker, a female pin maker, a female wool-worker, a female cutter, a female engraver, a female tar maker, a female shareholder, a delivery woman, a female mender, a female tanner.

Especially it is necessary to name the lexemes, which call a female person in relation to the training lessons. Almost all of them are new words of this epoch, for example: smolanka, institute girl, bestuzhevka, a female conservator, a female student, a university girl, a post-graduate girl, etc. The appearance of such feminatives is conditioned undoubtedly by the development of women's education during the 19th century.

The new words of that period are also represented by such feminatives as a beneficiary woman, a female painter, a female composer, a female linguist, a female miniaturist, a female writer, a female portraitist, a female artist, a female Hellenist and the like. They all call females engaged in creative activity which was not allowed to women as a rule until the 19th century.

In the development of professional names, the formants -nits(a), -schits(a)/-chits(a), -lschits(a), which alternated with the suffixes -nik, -schik/-chik, -lschik were used during word development.

I.S. Vakhros noted that in the second half of the century, the high word-forming activity in the production of female vocational words is represented by the suffix -k(a) [10, p. 150]. So, the word-forming novelty of that time are the feminatives a female acrobat, a female assistant, a female laboratory assistant, a female mathematician and a female concierge, which is conditioned by linguistic reasons - the expansion of the producing base due to lexical borrowings.

In the second half of the century, the names with the suffix -k(a) appear, denoting a female in relation to a machine, a mechanism, a device: a female telegraph operator, a female Morse code signaller, a female user. There are more than 70 of such names taken by us from different sources [11, p. 18].

The innovations of that period are the word forming derivatives with the suffix -k(a) like a female doctor, a female teacher (they are few of such words according to the dictionary data). Female correlates in this case arise from agentive lexemes, which previously did not allow the development of feminatives.

There is the change in the semantics of a number of lexemes belonging to other thematic groups in the language of that period. The feminatives with the formant -sh(a) is are particular

interest in this regard. Such feminatives were used usually in the language of the eighteenth century for the nomination of a female person by a profession, a post, and a husband's title. At the beginning of the 19th century [12, 13, 14], this group was going through the process of breaking up the former semantic unity. This tendency is further developed in the second half of the century, when the dictionaries fix two meanings of such nominations, for example: a female architect - the "wife of an architect", "a female builder"; a banker woman is the wife of a banker, a woman who heads a banking institution (O.I. Eremenko provides 187 of such nominations).

It is symptomatic that some lexemes with the suffix -sh(a), which call a woman in accordance with "a husband's name", firstly recorded in Dal's dictionary and are given as multi-valued in RLD.

Although the suffix -sh(a) was recorded in the minds of native speakers by the names of certain semantics, in some cases it turned out to be more productive and more common than other affixes, especially during the development of nominations from foreign-language bases. The lexemes, which call a female person by a profession, an occupation, include the following names: a female author, a female manager, a female editor, a female proofreader, a female cook, a female orator, a female educator and a female initiator. But the dictionaries of the second half of the 19th century do not reflect in full the new names with the suffix -sh(a); Most of the above-mentioned derivatives are recorded only in the dictionaries of the modern Russian language (Ushakov's dictionary, BAS), but they are noted by us in the texts of this era.

The same fate as the feminatives on -sh(a), is experienced by the names of female persons named by "husband's name" with the suffixes -nits(a), -schits(a)/-chits(a), -ih(a). Separate names on -nits(a), having with the meaning of 'wife by husband' in the dictionaries of the first half of the 19th century, now lose this meaning and acquire another one: they call a female person by occupation. For example, the lexeme a female gardener means a 'gardener's wife' in SDIAS, and in Dal's and DRL dictionaries this term means "a mistress or a kitchen garden keeper".

In order to name a female by an occupation, a posit the lexemes with the suffix -nits(a) are actively used in the second half of the century. For example, the lexeme a female entrepreneur was first recorded in Dal's dictionary in the meaning 'of a woman who undertook something': a female overseer, a female listener, a female caretaker, a female keeper.

The semantic evolution of names with the suffix -nits(a) contributed to the consolidation of such nominations in the language. The thing is that the personal female nouns endure the

same fate as the masculine nouns with the same root. "Since the second half of the 19th century the word-forming activity of this model decreases, the productivity of personal noun word-production with the suffix -tel' stops" [15, p. 36].

In the language of the nineteenth century, the tendency of naming a female person by a masculine noun was actively developed, which was practically not noted in the language of the previous period [16, p. 12]. At the same time, the activation of this trend was conditioned in many cases by extralinguistic factors - the further involvement of women in various spheres of public and industrial life, the spread of professions with a high social significance among women related to intellectual spheres, as well as strictly "male" professions. The use of masculine nouns during the naming of such highly qualified professions and ranks as an assistant professor, a doctor (a scientific title), a surgeon, a candidate and the like was a typical one. This tendency exists up to the present day: during the hiring process, a female applicant is assessed differently depending on whether she was presented by a feminine or a masculine noun [17, p. 62; 18, p. 1]. The experiments of Polish scholars show that men evaluate women experts, named by a feminine, as less competent than those whose profession names do not differ from masculine ones [19, p. 1]. In a number of countries, according to the law, job advertisements should reflect the openness of a job for any candidate regardless of gender, but the requirement is met in about a third of cases [20, p. 361].

In sum, the result of a woman attraction to the participation in public and production activities in the 19th century was the emergence of a large number of new feminines, which named a person by profession, a post and performed labor processes. Besides, the growth of professional educations caused the change in the semantics of feminines, which previously did not have the designation of a person by a profession and an occupation. Sociocultural changes also led to the active use of masculine nouns to name a female person.

Conclusion

1. The social-economic and cultural development of Russia in the nineteenth century gave rise to the need for a new understanding of woman role in society. Female nomina professionalia prove convincingly that the use of word-building tools in the history of languages depends on the growing need for the production of new words, the need, caused by the changes in public life.
2. Due to social-cultural changes in the language of the 19th century, a significant number of words appear that name a female person according to work processes performed, by a profession and a type of activity.

3. A special productivity in the word formation of female nomina professionalia is noted in the suffixes -k(a), -sh(a), -nits(a), -telnits(a).

Footnotes

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