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DRUNKONYMS IN ENGLISH (BASED ON B. FRANKLIN'S "THE DRINKER"S DICTIONARY")

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ABSTRACT

The article is devoted to the study of drunkonyms in English. "Drunkonym" is a linguistic term used to denote lexical units depicting a person's alcohol intoxication. There are too many synonymous words and phrases in English for "Drunk." Such kind of words and idioms exist in all languages, but their number is extremely big in English. There are several dictionaries called "Drunktionaries" in English.

In the article one of the most famous dictionaries of this type "The Drinker's Dictionary" by B. Franklin is scrutinized. The classification of drunkonyms is made according to different criteria (according to their degree of intensity, according to their positive or negative connotation, according to figurative language used in them).

The analysis revealed that most of the drunkonyms do not describe positive attributes of character nor desirable states of mind. "Drunkeness" as a concept is of negative character but in English there are some positive lexical units denoting alcohol intoxication. The analysis also showed that many phraseological units depict an intoxicated person's condition through idiomatic zoonyms. Besides there is a group of idiomatic drunkonyms containing toponyms, phytonyms and anthroponyms.

Drunkonyms in B. Franklin's dictionary may fall into several categories: literary, neutral and colloquial (slangy, vulgar, disphemic). Phraseological Drunkonyms are based on the following stylistic devices: metaphor, metonymy, euphemism, simile and irony.

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INTRODUCTION.

Drinking is a favorite past time of many people around the world. It helps them to relax, be social and have a good time. The effects of alcohol vary widely from person to person, but alcohol mainly causes particular signs the person may exhibit to indicate alcohol intoxication. All these signs are found in lexical units called "Drunkonyms."

THEORETICAL BACKGOUND.

English is particularly rich with drinking terms and lexical units denoting a person's intoxication. Their number is so great in English that there are special dictionaries called "Drunktionaries." Some of the famous Drunktionaries are: B. Franklin's "The Drinker's Dictionary" (1737), S. Farmer's "The Drinker's Dictionary" (1886), C. Larson's "The Drinkers Dictionary" (1937), P. Dickson's "The Definite Drinker's Dictionary" (2009).

In spite of the fact, that there are so many drunkonyms in English and there are so many drunktionaries, linguistic scientific articles on the same topic are rare. The idea about uninvestigated topic is shared by Ash Levit, Kenneth J. Sher and Bruce D. Bartholow (2008) in the article "The

Language of intoxication: Prelimenary Investigations": "The extensive vocabulary individuals use to describe alcohol's subjective effects has largely gone *unexamined* in contemporary alcohol research." In their article the scholars examined the language drinkers use to describe their own intoxication.

One of the complex studies in this field was conducted by Cameron and his colleagues (2009) (see Cameron D, Thomas M, Madden S, Thornton C, Bergmark A, Garretsen H, Terzidou M. "Intoxicated across Europe: in search of meaning"). They conducted a pilot study to examine the meaning and possible categorization methods of intoxication-related terms across languages and cultures. English, Scottish, Dutch, Swedish, and Greek alcohol researchers compiled the 10 most commonly used intoxication-related terms in their respective region. Each group of researchers compiled unique term lists, indicating cultural and regional differences in intoxication vocabulary. Results also showed significant differences among regions in psychological and behavioral ratings of terms, indicating conceptual differences among terms. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2680117/#R5

We should mention the names of E. Wilson (1927) and S. Flexner (1976) who have compiled lists of words denoting drunkenness and studied degrees of intensity they represent, starting with the mildest stages and progressing to the more disastrous. H.G. Levine's "The Vocabulary of Drunkenness" (1981) is of great value as a theoretical material as it focuses on studying American slang synonyms of the concept "drunk."

In spite of the fact that theoretical materials are few in number, it is still possible to investigate the ways of forming lexical units denoting a person's intoxication, classify these units into special categories and study their figurative language. Specialized dictionaries, the so called "Drunktionaries" serve as a good source for it.

The oldest and the most famous dictionaries mentioned by me above is "The Drinker's Dictionary" by B. Franklin. It was first published in1737 in the Pennsylvania Gazette. It consists of an alphabetical arrangement of more than 200 synonyms and synonymous phrases denoting drunkenness. The lexical units in this dictionary are not borrowed from different languages, neither are they collected from the "writings of the learned," but gathered by B. Franklin from the "Tavern conversation of Tiplers." Many of the lexical units describing an intoxicated person are slangy, only few are complimentary. Some of the lexical units like "inebriated," "intoxicated," "boozy," "tipsy" have remained in English vocabulary to this day, but those ones that were more creative ("wamble crop'd") have fallen out of use.

There is a question: Why did B. Franklin devised such kind of dictionary? Was he a big fan of drunkenness? The answer on the question is found in the article "A thump over the head with Samson's Jawbone": Founding Father Benjamin Franklin created a "Drinker's Dictionary of more than 200 words to describe "beastly vice" of drunkenness." In the article we read: "In the mid-1700s, residents of the Thirteen Colonies had a hard life. Taxed without representation by the British and forced to survive extreme temperatures, they faced rather grim circumstances … and they turned to alcohol to cope." There were many taverns in America. "Tavern was not a place where people gathered for drinking, but it was a kind of community center, courtroom, marketplace, absolutely everything. You didn't have people over to your house, but you met your friends and did business inside a tavern" writes Sharon Salinger, the author of "Taverns and Drinking in Early America." Taverns also served as rest places for travelers.

It is known that B. Franklin liked traveling and visited many taverns during his lifetime. As historians say, he was a moderate drinker. He went to taverns for socializing. Thomas Foster, associate professor of history at DePaul University writes about Franklin:" He was more known for being a fan of moderation in all things. As a young man he developed a list of virtues by which he tried to live. The first of these 13 virtues is "Temperance. Eat not to dullness; drink not to elevation."

Though B. Franklin is known for his famous aphorisms about drinking ("Beer is proof God loves us and wants us to be happy," "There cannot be good living where there is no good drinking," "Drunkenness is the worst of evil, makes some men fools, some beasts and some devils," "When the wine enters, out goes truth") most of which are quite contradictory, he was moderate in drinking; More than that, he was more of a wine man than a beer man. In the book "Stirring the Pot with B. Franklin" author of the book Eighmey (2018) says: "Franklin's fondness for boozing was closely connected to his enjoyment of socializing as he had a substantial wine celler and substantial orders of wine, because he was entertaining a lot. ….. He was a joyful host. He enjoyed the company of friends in taverns and intellectual club that met in one."

But as a young man, at the age of 18, when he worked at a printing house in London, he was called a "Water American" by his colleagues because he drank only water at work while his colleagues drank beer. He never considered the social practice of drinking to be one of life's great joys. He thought moderate drinking stimulated intellectual conversation.

Franklin began his prologue to the list by proclaiming there is 'Nothing more like a fool than a drunken man'. He wrote: 'Mankind naturally and universally approve virtue in their hearts, and detest vice; and therefore, whenever [through] temptation they fall into a practice of the latter, they would if possible conceal it from themselves as well as others, under some other name than that which properly belongs to it. But drunkenness is a very unfortunate vice in this respect. It bears no kind of similitude with any sort of virtue, from which it might possibly borrow a name; and is therefore [reduced] to the wretched necessity of being [expressed] by distant round-about phrases, and of perpetually varying those Phrases, as often as they come to be well understood to signify plainly that a man is drunk' (Franklin, 1737).

DISCUSSION AND RESEARCH RESULTS.

Looking through B. Franklin's Drinker's Dictionary, I found some positive lexical units denoting alcohol intoxication: *merry, generous, glad, jocular, cherry merry, Cherubimical*. These lexical units show that if one takes alcohol moderately, it makes them happy and joyful. One may see how attractive and pleasurable is being drunk through following phrases: *Seen the yellow star; He's a king; He is in Trance; seen a flock of moons.*

Lexical units denoting a person's intoxication depict mostly the negative characteristic features of an intoxicated person. Phraseological units: *his head is full of bees, he sees two moons, he has seen the yellow star, he is in his air, he sees the bears, seen a flock of moons* – show how silly and imaginative the drunk become. Phrases like *He's a king, the king is his cousin, fears no man* depict one of the characteristic features of drunk men – high opinion about their abilities. It is already known than an intoxicated person has some easily distinguishable physical signs, such as swaying and staggering, difficulty walking straight, bumping into furniture, glassy eyes and lack of focus, falling down. All these signs are represented in the following lexical units: *like a rat in trouble, sore footed, tongue – tied, cockeyed, got a brass eye, he makes indentures with his legs, crump footed.*

Some drunks are too talkative, slurring or making mistakes in speech, having rambling conversation. Such drunks are called *double-tongued.* Phraseological units, like *He's a dead man, he is quarrelsome* show the negative peculiarities of an intoxicated person: not being aware of hearing and understanding what is being said and becoming loud, argumentative, annoying others. An intoxicated person has an awful smell of alcohol, hence phraseological units: *smelt of an onion, he's fishy.* Loss of train of thought, difficulty in paying attentions is one more characteristic feature of a drunk, shown in the phraseological units*: knows not the way home, out of the way.* Generally the state of being drunk can be defined as being *bewitched* or *haunted with evil spirits.*

H. Levine (1981) says: "It's striking that so many of the American synonyms of drunk suggest some kind of power, force or violence" and gives examples of dunkonyms (crashed, bombed, boxed, buried, plastered, tanked, wiped-out, paralyzed, shot, damaged, whipped, etc.) to prove his idea. Such kind of terms in Franklin's dictionary are rare – *hammered, he drank more than he has bled.*

English Medieval folklore distinguished four successive stages of drunkenness, based on the animals they make men resemble: sheep, lion, ape, sow. In English vocabulary synonymous phrases for drunk are: *blind as a mole /a bat / a beetle, boiled as an owl, dog / lion / fox /ape drunk, pissed as a pig* but in Franklin's dictionary there are not very many phrases of this kind. Some of them are: *as dizzy as a goose, like a rat in trouble, as good conditioned as a puppy, foxed.*

In the dictionary one can come across phrases containing anthroponyms *(He's Prince Eugine, he kissed black Betty, Sir Richards has taken off his considering cap, been before George)* and toponyms *(Been to France, Been at Geneva / Barbados, Been to Jericho, Halfway to Concord).* Metaphoric expressions with toponyms serve as metaphors for a drunken mind's tendency to wander. *"Been at an Indian Feast"* aims at mocking at Native Americans. Anthroponimic idiom *had a thump over the head with Samson's Jawbone* is a Biblical reference to Samson, who defeated an entire army with the jawbone of a donkey. This idiom underlines one of the peculiarities of the drunk - becoming fearless and brave. Another anthroponimic idiom *"Sir Richard has taken off his considering cap"* shows foolishness of drink - lovers. It is not always easy to guess the meaning of some of the idiomatic expressions. One needs to have background knowledge about historical figures mentioned in a phraseological unit, for example idiom

"He's Prince Eugine" means "drunk." But why, what are the similarities between them? Prince Eugine was the general of the imperial army in August, 1717. He personally distributed extra rations of wine, beer and brandy to his troop to boost their courage. Thus this phrase is associated with a drunk man's courage, his fearless character. Metonymical phrase *He's kissed Black Betty* is vague until we get information about Black Betty. Black Betty was the name of a pretty barmaid who worked at the notorious Tom King's Coffee House in Covent Garden, London. But in the idiom, Black Betty was used as an expression for a liquor bottle. https://pop-culture.fandom.com/wiki/Black_Betty

As for phytonimic drunk terms (drunkonyms containing the names of trees, flowers or some other plants) the number of such kind of terms in Franklin's dictionary is quite small: *he's crocus, got corns in his head.*

Levine's (1981) study found the following: Flexner who is one of the editors of the dictionary of American Slang, divided slang terms for "drunk" according to three broad stages of drunkenness: 1) words for the initial comfortable, relaxed feeling which makes us pleasantly conspicuous; 2) words for the stage of being unsteady on one's feet and not seeing clearly; 3) words for the final stupor of being drunk .

I also attempted to classify drunkonyms according to the degree of intensity and singled out three main categories of lexemes: 1) lexemes denoting a slightly tipsy person who seems quite cheerful, lively and comfortable *(has taken a chirruping glass, glad, buzzey, flushed, jocular);* 2) lexemes denoting a person who has consumed a significant amount of alcohol *(tipsy, fettered, his shoe pinches him, he makes Virginia fence);* 3) lexemes denoting a thoroughly drunk person *(drunk as a wheel-barrow, burdocked, he's wet, he's water-soaked, soaked).*

I tried to study phraseological drunkonyms from stylistic point of view. The analysis revealed that stylistic devices that take part in formation of phraseological drunkonyms are: euphemism *(has taken a chirruping glass, took his drop, in his element, has taken Hippocrates grand elixir),* metaphor *(he is in liquor, he is in his airs),* metonymy *(he's kissed black Betty),* simile *(as drunk as David's sow, as dizzy as a goose, as drunk as a beggar, drunk as a wheel-barrow),* verbal irony *(made an example),* rhythm *(cherry merry).*

The dictionary contains a lot of slang (*buskey, got corns in his head, been to Barbados)* and some vulgar *(pissed in the brook)* terms for "drunk." Some drunkonyms are out of date *(Sir Richard has taken off his considering cap)* and are not used by language users any more.

CONCLUSION

The analysis of B. Franklin's "The Drinker's Dictionary" has shown that "drunkenness" as a concept has a wide range of idiomatic and slang terms associated with it. Most of the drunkonyms do not describe positive attributes of character nor desirable states of mind. "Drunkeness" as a concept is of negative character but in English there are some positive lexical units denoting alcohol intoxication. The analysis also revealed that many phraseological units depict an intoxicated person's condition through idiomatic zoonyms. Besides there is a group of idiomatic drunkonyms containing toponyms, anthroponyms and even phytonyms. Stylistically most of the terms are metaphors and euphemisms that deserve serious consideration from scholars.

During centuries the number of drunkonyms has increased. Today in some dictionaries the number of "drunk" terms and phraseological units reaches 900 or more, but B. Franklin's "The Drinker's Dictionary" is unique as it gave foundation to drunkdictionaries. Though this dictionary contains some of the terms that are out of date and are not used by native speakers, this specialized dictionary is valuable as it shows the world vision of 18th century Americans and gives the researchers possibility to study drunkonyms diachronically. I hope, the scientific study of drunkonyms will continue in future as there are many gaps to be filled.

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