



Russian feminine nouns
with suffix -k(a) in the
modern mediaspace

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RUSSIAN FEMININE NOUNS WITH SUFFIX -K(A) IN THE MODERN MEDIASPACE

SUSTANTIVOS FEMENINOS RUSOS CON EL SUFIJO -K (A) EN EL ESPACIO DE MEDIOS MODERNO

ABSTRACT

The article is devoted to the study of the peculiarities of derivative feminine nouns with suffix -ka, which is considered to be the most productive means of expressing modification of the word-formation category «femininity» in the Modern Russian language. The relevance of the study is due to what is happening in the present-day world especially the societal changes that led to the increased activity of existing correlates of the feminine gender and the emergence of a number of new female words according to the professional and social set-ups. The basis of this phenomenon is that women's increased activity is stepping up in all spheres of public life: professional practice, science, culture, politics and so forth. Nowadays, global social changes are contributing to the emergence of new linguistic units and the Internet is getting the main communicative scope. The data of the Russian Reverse Dictionary and potential words that are functioning in the Russian media space are taken to present the material for research. Word-Forming bonds of the suffix -kA to motivated word stem are thoroughly described and the conclusion is drawn about the flexibility of this morpheme and its indifference to producing word. The peculiarities of functioning of the analyzed word-formative type are distinguished in modern Russian media space. The reasons of becoming the most popular suffix of producing feminisms-neologisms are listed.

KEYWORDS: categories of femininity, word formation, feminitive, word building type, suffix.

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RESUMEN

El artículo está dedicado al estudio de las peculiaridades de los sustantivos femeninos derivados con sufijo -ka, que se considera el medio más productivo para expresar la modificación de la categoría de «formación de palabras» «feminidad» en el idioma moderno ruso. La relevancia del estudio se debe a lo que está sucediendo en el mundo actual, especialmente los cambios sociales que condujeron al aumento de la actividad de los correlatos existentes del género femenino y al surgimiento de una serie de nuevas palabras femeninas según lo profesional y lo social. configuraciones La base de este fenómeno es que el aumento de la actividad de las mujeres está aumentando en todos los ámbitos de la vida pública: la práctica profesional, la ciencia, la cultura, la política, etc. Hoy en día, los cambios sociales globales están contribuyendo a la aparición de nuevas unidades lingüísticas e Internet está obteniendo el principal alcance comunicativo. Los datos del diccionario inverso ruso y las palabras potenciales que están funcionando en el espacio de los medios rusos se toman para presentar el material para investigación. Los enlaces de formación de palabras del sufijo -kA a la raíz motivada de la palabra se describen detalladamente y se llega a una conclusión acerca de la flexibilidad de este morfema y su indiferencia para producir la palabra. Las peculiaridades del funcionamiento del tipo de palabra-formativo analizado se distinguen en el espacio moderno de los medios rusos. Se enumeran las razones para convertirse en el sufijo más popular de producción de feminismos-neologismos.

PALABRAS CLAVE: categorías de feminidad, formación de palabras, feminitivo, tipo de construcción de palabras, sufijo.

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INTRODUCTION

The word-formation category of femininity belongs to the number of universal linguistic categories. It forms two large lexical classes: the women's identity and female animals in the Russian language. The word-building category of femininity is characterized by a wide range of means of expression thus it is thought to be the most productive one. The subcategory of women's names in which we have a concern is a set of derived words with general meaning «female person».

Anthroponyms that correlate according to assigned sex and grammatical gender are associated with word-formation references in which the feminine form is usually secondary to the masculine. This order is precisely natural for Russian language, as many personal nouns of masculine gender have the property of denoting a person in general (the names of professions: doctor, accountant, stage director) and denominate group of people including both men and women (plural numbers: students, athletes, Tatars).

The relevance of the study is related to active learning of gender manifestations in the language and women's language representation. This is due to social changes in the modern society: women are actively involved in all areas of human activities, and the origin and the functioning in the Russian media space of a large number of femininitives - nominations of persons of a female in a professional, social, ethnic origin are confirmations for this. Moreover, the study of these femininitives is becoming to have special significance. The media space is the main platform for people's communication around the world. There is no life without the Internet in our modern world. Moreover, the traditional media are dying, being transformed in their own digital alternatives: online Newspapers, news portals, digital TV, online radio and other services with free or partial paid content. The Internet has long

ceased to be just repository information; this is a place where everyone can become popular, influential and commercially successful by monetizing its own individuality and their ideas. Nowadays, when the information space is quite oversaturated due to globalization, a unit of information must be really unique or relevant to involve a great number of users. Only those units that are relevant and have a meaningful language niche can exist as going units and it is rather typical for many femininitives. Lacunarity of this lexical and semantic sphere is recognized by native speakers as a significant absence it is always replenished in speech practice by potential derivatives.

METHODS

Firstly, the information for the study was taken from the Russian Reverse Dictionary, allowing to draw a conclusion about the volume and specificity of the derivation type of femininity with suffix -к(а), secondly, the data of Internet resources, including the Internet-magazines and Newspapers (Psychologies.ru, Gazeta.ua), thirdly, materials of social networks, the most popular among Russian-speaking users (VKontakte, Twitter, Instagram). Media space is increasingly attracting attention of linguists as a source of material for research [3], [4], since it is a basic communicative sphere for people of all over world. The methodological basis of the study consists of cognitive oriented methods of analysis of derived words ([5], [6], etc.), on the basis of which stands out and receives linguistic and cognitive interpretation of derivational category of "femininity" and word-formation types which imply this category.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the modern Russian language word-formation type with suffix -к(а) within the particular sub-categories of femininitives expresses modification value "female person" belonging to the category of persons which is named (regardless of gender) as a motivating noun. Suffix -к(а) is highly productive due to its ability to join a large number of bases; apparently the only one systemic limitation is phonetic inconvenience, which arises on the morphemic suture. So, suffix -к(а) freely joins

to bases which end in voiced and voiceless explosive consonants: -б (серб-сербка, араб-арабка), -п(эффиоп-эффиопка), мизантроп-мизантропка, (филантроп-филантропка), -д (швед-шведка, сердце-сердцеда), -т

(студент-студентка, аспирант-аспирантка); носовые сонорные: -л (профессионал-профессионалка, либерал-либералка, театрал-театралка, балабол-балаболка, монгол-монголка), -м (хам-хамка), -н (спортсмен-спортсменка); дрожащие сонорные: -р (аварец-аварка, баварец-баварка, свинарь-свинарка, лекарь-лекарка); -ж (норвежец-норвежка, консьерж-консьержка, конькобежец-конькобежка), -ц (европеец-европейка, индонезиец-индонезийка), -з (абхаз-абхазка, кавказец-кавказка, гагауз-гагаузка), -с (белорус-белоруска, мракобес-мракобеска, альбинос-альбиноски), -ш (чуваш-чувашка); смычно-щелевые: -ч (богач-богачка, циркач-циркачка).

According to "Russian grammar" [8], the suffix -к(а) is attached to motiveless nouns of masculine gender (серб-сербка, скандинав-скандинавка, швед-шведка, сосед-соседка), with different suffixes -ент, -ант, -авт, -ат, -ит, -яй, -ач, -ич, -ин, -анин (студент-студентка, кандидат-кандидатка, бандит-бандитка, официант-официантка, хозяйка-хозяйин, вегетарианец-вегетарианка, москвич-москвичка, циркач-циркачка), nouns of masculine gender with suffix -ка and alteration of hushing sounds (словак-словачка, чудак-чудачка, казак-казачка, калмык-калмычка, земляк-землячка), alteration of velars and hissing sounds (казак-казашка, монах-монашка, чечешка), compound nouns with zero suffix (сердцеед-сердцеедка, домосед-домоседка, наркоман-наркоманка), nouns of masculine gender with suffix -ик (католик-католичка, алкоголик-алкоголичка). Morph -овк(а) is attached to monosyllabic motivating word stem (вор-воровка, плут-плутовка). Morph -ичк(а) has a mutative meaning of «teacher of the subject, called motivated base» (химичка, математичка), with the exception of (филолог-филологичка).

Zemskaya E. V. distinguishes two types of semantic relations, common to the word-formative category "feminine" [9]:

1. The names of persons by their ethnic and geographic groups can be divided according to their biological sex: nouns of masculine gender generalize both men and women in plural number (татарин-татарка, татары). The names of persons according to their

psychophysiological principles are also divided (блондин-блондинка, шатен-шатенка). Both correlates are normative and are actively used in speech;

2. The names of persons by social and professional groups are organized differently. The nominations of masculine gender have a meaning in general, which is represented in monolingual dictionaries (руководитель - сущ.м.р. лицо, стоящее во главе чего-либо) they denote both men and women. However, the nouns of masculine gender are primarily associated with men in native speakers' minds. Moreover, there are a lot of puzzles to be made up according to it. (У двух шоферов есть брат Андрей, а у Андрея братьев нет. Как же это так? Ответ: шоферы - сестры).

The nominations of male gender in relation to women still cause dissonance despite the fact that women show up in different professional fields (article entitled «Депутат и политолог развелись после 20 лет брака», evoke readers' perplexity in first few seconds). The existing nominations of feminine gender are related to professions that were traditionally carried out by women (санитарка, сиделка, машинистка, прачка, балерина). The majority of these professions are not motivated by masculine gender, for a rare exception (стюардесса, актриса).

Such a distinction between the codified language and representations of native speakers leads to the fact that the spoken language functions a large number of spoken femininities, differently marked from neutral to colloquial-reduced. For example, the word teacher is commonly used, but the nomenclative position is called teacher (honorary title Заслуженный учитель РФ is assigned both men and women), and the word врачиха has strong negative connotation. However, the researchers denote that despite of the strict adjustability of positions' names, this layer of codified vocabulary is also affected by the changes, occurring in society, and must conform to the requirements of time.

Word formation as a process always determines the correlation of reality awareness and derivative words in human consciousness. Fragments of the real world are interpreted by the linguistic personality and are named according to the importance degree of this concept. As it was mentioned before,

the functioning of wide range of feminities in spoken speech refers to the language lacunarity of the derivational system. A variety of derivational means of the category of “femininity” in Russian language are represented by ten main word-formation types [11] emphasizes the importance of the representation of women in the language and witnesses an existing need to strengthen the correlates of feminine gender.

The modern Russian media space is characterized by several features:

a) the community of communicative space, forming one linguistic area where the norms of the language are «washing out»; b) Internet accessibility, allowing any user to engage in word-making and involve other people in the process;

c) the speed of communication which distribute initiatives of language within and beyond the media space. All that makes the media space a propitious base for generating non-verbal vocabulary. The feminist discourse is meant to be the most debatable one in modern society. The representatives of the third wave of feminism stand for the need in changes of socio-cultural stereotypes associated with women who are represented in language and media. Realizing the opportunities which Internet provides, women use its resources to create communities, promote ideas, and increase their audiences. Active neoplasm and the usage of nominations of feminine gender are closely associated with thesis that postulates feminism movement.

The suffix-к(а) is the most popular in feminist media space for several reasons: 1) the existence of a large number of feminities formed by derivational model that emphasizes the “naturalness” of Russian language forming feminities-neologisms; 2) lack of restrictions (formal, semantic, stylistic), affecting to ability of morphemes to join different types of bases; 3) regularity of suffix -к(а) with Slavonic languages (Ukrainian: лікарка, авторка, Belorussian: directory, paetka, Bulgarian: trycycle, ekskursovodov Slovak :profesorka, učiteľka, špecialistka).

The distribution of linguistic initiatives takes place mostly in Internet communication, the specifics of which do not require strict adherence of norms of literary lan-

guage. Each digital resource independently makes the decision on possibility of usage of feminities- neologisms, including the published author` request. For example, in feminist communities the authors are named as социологиня, кандидатка филологических наук, писательница, локализаторка [12], at the same time on the pages of the online version of the journal Psychologies the same authors are presented in different ways: журналист, филолог, социолог, нописательница и философия [13]. On the website of the online edition Gazeta.ua article «Директорка, депутатка, президентка: 5 reasons to use feminities» according to the materials of the lecture-linguist and candidate of philological Sciences Elena Sinchak, presented on the website as языковед and кандидат филологических наук, but старшая преподавательница and соавторка of the book «Gender for media» is published [14].

In the formation of feminities neologisms with the suffix -к(а) three trends can be distinguished in which the suffix -к(а):

1) freely joins to the existing names of professions where there are no formal restrictions; (эксперт –экспертка, юрист – юристка, режиссер – режиссерка, лингвист –лингвистка);

2) creates derivatives which do not have derogative sense of a word in contrast to existing feminities with stylistically reduced suffix-ш(а), ср.: авторша – авторка, тренерша – тренерка);

3) is used for identifying women in new professions, appeared in the last decades of XXI century (локализатор –локализаторка, блогер – блогерка, менеджер – менеджерка, дизайнер –дизайнерка)

SUMMARY

As it was established, the word-formation type- к(а) has the flexibility to structural characteristics of motivated base, being not tied to a certain type of word stem. The only morphological restriction for the suffix is the combination of the posterior-lingual on the morphemic seam, which can be bypassed with the help of morph- –ичк(а): филологичка.

The motiveless nouns of masculine gender and derivatives with suffixes –ец, -ист are

considered to be the derivational word stem. The active word formation with suffix -к(а) in Slavonic languages also indicates the “naturalness” of this word formation types for Russian language. That’s all aforesaid does word-formation type with suffix -к(а) the most productive means in word-formative category “femininity”.

In modern Russian media space the usage of suffix -к(а) creates new feminitives which detect the following features:

1) Creation of new nominations of the female gender with the help of suffix -к(а)

according to nominative purposes, as a consequence of the sharply increased representation of women in different professional fields due to a huge number of new professions (программист – программистка).

2) Appearance of new synonymous of feminist formations with suffix -к(а) is focused on neutralizing negative connotations and derogatory sense of a word with different suffixes (авторша – авторка).


3) Relevance of the referent “female person” for the language consciousness that requires expression by word-formative means. The suffix -к(а), being the most productive is becoming the important tool for the representation of women in the language.

CONCLUSIONS

Thus, word-formation type with suffix-K (a) has an ability to join different types of bases due to lack of formal, semantic and stylistic restrictions that makes it the most popular means of word-formation category “feminine” in modern Russian media space.

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