SPECIALIST EPONYMS AND GENERAL EPONYMS IN A LEXICOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Introduction

The literature on general vs specialist vocabulary (Bidu-Vrânceanu 2007, Bidu-Vrânceanu 2008) approaches the migration of specialist vocabulary towards the word stock and brings forth descriptions of the methods contributing to this phenomenon. Our study, relying on lexicographic products, is so devised as to focus on eponyms, a category of words shared both by jargons and the general vocabulary within the framework of the English language. **Aim(s) of the study**

This approach is intended to outline the richness of the English eponymic heritage in the lexicographic bibliographies. It also aims to reveal the abundance of lexicographic products which describe eponyms.

Materials and method

The term *eponym* was introduced in the English vocabulary in the mid-19th century (Collins Millennium 1999: 521). In spite of its long presence in the English wordstock, *eponym* was not included in the title of the first dictionary (Edwards 1968) compiled with the specific purpose of presenting the story of some words obviously originating in names of literary heroes. Nevertheless, very few years after this dictionary, Hendrickson (1972) authors the first lexicographic product to bear this label. With only two exceptions (Wolk 1980, Ehrlich 1999), all the other such works (dictionaries, encyclopedias, handbooks and pocket guides) within their titles lay an emphasis on the category of words they account for i.e., the eponyms.

The corpus tailored for the currently described research includes lexicographic paperback and online works

The materials representing the research background were selected on the basis of a well-defined purpose, namely to meet the two following requirements:

- a) to exclusively describe common words derived from proper names, which were first used in specialist literatures;
- b) to account only for those eponyms acknowledge to belong to the English vocabulary.

The methods applied in performing the research are the traditional ones and involve the corpus analysis on structural and comparative principles, on chronology and on content analysis.

Research results.

Since English eponyms emerge against a well-defined cultural background, they are born with a high degree of cultural specificity. The 50 lexicographic products (see the annex) introducing eponyms may be roughly divided into general dictionaries of eponyms (15 in number) and specialist dictionaries of eponyms (35).

The former category further subdivides into:

- a) plain dictionaries of eponyms (Beeching 1989, Freeman and Newman 1997, Trahir 1992);
- b)dictionaries of eponyms whose title emphasizes the publishing house brand (Douglas 1990, Douglas 1991, Letusé and Rogelio 2001, Manser 1996 and Manser 2004). In fact, they are merely general dictionaries which advertize for the brand of their publishing house.

The latter category further distinguishes works to cover:

a.very specific fields: economics (Segura and Braun 2004), social sciences (Trahir 2001) and plants (Quattrocchi 1999)

b.medicine (32 lexicographic works). The possible taxonomy of these medical dictionaries below reveals the compilers' or the editors' focus on:

c.eponymists (Berrios and Freeman 1991, Berry 1992, Forrest and Carr 1982);

d.plain medical eponyms (Chadwick 2001, Firkin and Whitworth 1987);

e.eponyms presented together with other lexical categories (Delong 2002, Hunter 1994, Rodin and Jack 1987, Sloane 1997);

f.eponyms in specific medical branches (neurology – Koehler, Bruyn and Pearce 2000, orthopedics – Moll 1998, obstetrics and gynecology – Baskett 1996, behavioural optometry – Hendrickson 1993, psychology – Zusne 1987, radiology – Kanne, Rohrmann and Lichtenstein 2006);

g.a certain degree of subjectivity in the making of the eponym list, where authors take over their predecessors' legacy (Forbis 1998, Barankin 2005) or where authors put forward their own versions (Forrest and Carr 1982, Jablonski 1991, Marcucci 2001 and Stedman 1998).

Our previous research in the field of eponyms leads to the following observations: irrespective of their belonging to the English word stock or to jargons, eponyms represent a lexical category with a few peculiar features:

- 1. they were created to fill in jargon or field-specific lexical gaps and this aspect implicitly accounts their cultural specificity. In other words, eponymists of fame in the Anglo-Saxon and North American worlds may mean or say next to nothing to members of other cultures less conversant with Anglo-American vocabularies. Hence, translation problems may occur in the exchange of ideas characterizing our globalized society.
- 2. eponyms in chemistry or botany, for example, have a simple structure since they derive from personal names, to which suffixes were added:
 - ium (for chemical elements): promethium, einsteinium, rutherfordium;
 - ite (for names of minerals): alexandrite, lewisite;
 - ia (for names of plants): magnolia, fuchsia, dahlia;
 - ize (for verbs describing processes): pasteurize
- 3. eponyms in 'ready-made' expressions (pertaining to classical sciences) consist of joint structures which put together common nouns and personal names:
 - physics: the Mach number, the Rutherford model, the Bohr radius, the fast Fourier transformI;
 - mathematics: Boolean geometry, Euclidean algorithm, Pythagorean theorem, the Maclaurin's series, the Sheppard's corrections, the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, the <u>Hall-Littlewood polynomial</u>;
 - anatomy: Cowper's glands, Brocca's area;
 - -chemistry: the Russell-Saunders coupling, Hoffmann method, Daniell cell;
 - although numerous of the various fields of (scientific) activity (and research) operate with eponyms (such as mathematics, physics, chemistry, financing and banking, law, engineering, shipbuilding, metallurgy), they have not been described in specifically-devised lexicographic instruments, but they may be found in specialized dictionaries. The following example was extracted from such a source: to mirandize (to recite the Miranda warnings to a person under arrest, MDL 1996: 314)

Conclusions

The present study was devised and performed with a clear aim: to demonstrate the wide variety of dictionaries which account for and implicitly popularize eponyms, no matter the field they were created within.

Lexicographers do show a particular interest in approaching eponyms and, as a consequence, very many useful instruments have been compiled so far. Although there have been produced specialist for other fields of activity, the most numerous of the dictionaries dedicated to eponyms are circumscribed to the medical jargon.

Annex

Auchter, D.	1998	Dictionary of Historical Allusions	William Collins-World
		and Eponyms	Publishing, Co. Inc.
Barankin, B.	2005	Stedman's Illustrated Dictionary of	Philadelphia: Lippincott
		Dermatology Eponyms.	Williams & Wilkins

Baskett, Th. F.,	1996	On the Shoulder of Giants: Eponyms and Names in	RCOG Press
Banerjee, T, da Silva, A. A. D.,	1999	Obstetrics and Gynecology Signs, Syndromes, and Eponyms: Our Legacy	American Association of Neurological Surgery
Beeching, C.L. Berrios, G.E., Freeman, H.L.,	1989 1991	A Dictionary of Eponyms Eponymists in Medicine: Alzheimer and the Dementias	London: Clive Bingley London: Royal Society of Medicine
(eds) Berry, D.,	1992	Enonumists in Madicina	
Chadwick, E., Casselman, W.,	2001	Eponymists in Medicine Dictionary of Medical Eponyms A Dictionary of Medical Derivations	Taylor & Francis Ltd. Parthenon Publishing
Delong M.F.,	2002	Medical Acronyms, Eponyms & Abbreviations. 4th ed.	Los Angeles, Calif: Practice Management Information
Douglas, A.,	1990	Webster's New World Dictionary of Eponyms: Common Words from Proper Names	Corporation New York: Macmillan General Reference
Douglas, A.,	1991	Webster's New World Dictionary of Eponyms	New York: Hungry Minds Inc.
Enersen, O.D.,	2005	Whonamedit.com	
Ehrlich,E.,	1999	What's in a Name?: How Proper Names Became Everyday Words	New York: Henry Holt
Edwards, G.	1968	Uncumber and Pantaloon: Some Words with Stories,	& Company London: Geoffrey Bles
Firkin B.G, Whitworth JA.	1987	Dictionary of Medical Eponyms.	Canforth: Parthenon
Forbis P, Bartolucci S.L.	1998	Stedman's Medical Eponyms	Philadelphia, Pa: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins
Forrest, A.J., J. L. Carr (eds.)	1982	Forrest's Dictionary of Eponymists	Wilkins
Freeman, M.S., Newman, E.,	1997	A New Dictionary of Eponyms	Oxford: Oxford University Press
Havard, C.,	1998	Medical Eponyms: Diseases, Syndromes and Signs	Barry Rose Law Publishers Ltd.
Hendrickson, Robert	1972	The Dictionary of Eponyms	New York: Stein & Day
Hendrickson, Homer	1993	Eponyms of Behavioural Optometry	Optometric Extension Program
Hendrickson, R.,	1995	The Dictionary of Eponyms; Names that Became Proper Words	Oxford: Oxford University Press
Hunter, T.,B.,	1994	Medical Devices, Abbreviations, Acronyms and Eponyms: A Pocket Guide	Mosby
Jablonski, S.,	1991	Jablonski's Dictionary of Syndromes and Eponymic Diseases	Krieger Publishing Company
Jablonski, S.,	1995	Illustrated Dictionary of Eponymic Syndromes and Diseases and Their Synonyms	Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company
Jones, N. K., (ed)	2002	Medical Acronyms, Eponyms and Mnemonics	New York: Wysteria Publishing
Kanne, J.P. et al.	2006	Eponyms in Radiology of the Digestive Tract :Historical Perspectives and Imaging	0
Karavis, S,	1998	Appearances A Dictionary of Eponyms	Oxford: Heinemann

Matthews, G., Koehler, J., Bruyn, G., W. Pearce, J. M.S., (eds)	2000	Neurological Eponyms	Literacy World Oxford University Press, Inc, USA
Letusé L. O., Rogelio, A.,	2001	Elsevier's Dictionary of Eponyms	Amsterdam, New York: Elsevier
Lourie, J. A.,	1982	Medical Eponyms, Who Was Coude: A Short Dictionary Eponyms	London: Pitman
Manser, M.,	1996	The Wordsworth Dictionary of Eponyms	Hertfordshire: Wordsworth Reference
Manser, M.,	2004	Chambers Dictionary of Eponyms	Chambers Harrap Publishers
Marcucci, L.	2001	Marcucci's Handbook of Medical Eponyms.	Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins
Moll, J.M.H.,	1998	Eponyms in Orthopaedics: Chart (Chapman & Hall Medical Wallcharts)	Hodder Arnold
Olry, Régis	1995	Dictionary of Anatomical Eponyms	Stuttgart: Gustav Fischer
Petrov, V., I., Perepelkin, A., I.,	2005	English-Russian Medical Dictionary of Eponyms	Meditzina
Quattrocchi, U.,	1999	World Dictionary of Plant Names: Common Names, scientific Names, Eponyms, Synonyms and Etymology	CRC Press Inc
Rodin, A., E., Jack D. K.,	1987	Medicine, Literature and Eponyms: Encyclopedia of Medical Eponyms Derived from Literary Characters	Krieger Publishing Company
Segura, J., Braun, C. R., (eds)	2004	An Eponymous Dictionary of Economics: A Guide to Law and Theorems Named after Economists	Northampton: Edward Elgar
Sloane S. B.,	1997	Medical Abbreviations & Eponyms. 2 nd ed.	Philadelphia, Pa: Saunders,
Stedman's	1998	Stedman's Medical Eponyms	Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins
Tenner, S., M., Masterson, Th.M.,	1993	The Pocket Guide to Eponyms and Subtle Signs of Disease	International Medical Publishers
Trahir, C.S. R.,	1992	An Australian Dictionary of Eponyms	OUP
Trahir, C.S. R.,	2001	From Aristotelian to Reaganomics: A Dictionary of Eponyms with Biographies in the Social Sciences	Westport: Greenwood Press
Wolk, A.	1980	Everyday Words from Names of People and Places,	New York: Elsevier/Nelson Books
Yee, A. J.,	2007	Medical Eponyms	,
Zusne, L.,	1987	Eponyms in Psychology: A Dictionary and Biographical Sourcebook.	New York: Greenwood Press
* * * *	1996	Coders' Desk Reference: Everything a Coder Needs to Know: Acronyms, Syndromes, Procedural Eponyms, Surgical Cpt Explanations and Coding Tips, Medical Terms, Abbreviations	Medicode Inc

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* * * (1999). Collins English Dictionary, Millennium Edition, Glasgow: HarperCollins Publishers (= CEDM)

*** Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Law, Springfield: Merriam-Webster, Incorporated, 1996 (MDL)

ABSTRACT

Professional or amateur English and American lexicographers have taken steady interest in the study and popularization of eponyms, mainly created in specialist vocabularies which gradually integrate in the word stock. Since English eponyms have been the topic of 50 paperback and electronic dictionaries, they do enjoy a special status among the other directions in lexicographical approaches (foreignisms, abbreviations, etc.).

This paper originates in a larger project intended to cover a wide range of aspects regarding eponyms (suc as

This paper originates in a larger project intended to cover a wide range of aspects regarding eponyms (suc as their creation and popularization, classification, usage, migration from one science to another, translation difficulties and last but not least, ethical problems). Purely lexicographic in its perspective, the current approach constitutes a state-of-the-art reflection of eponyms as they appear mainly in English and American lexicographies. The classification of dictionaries of eponyms envisaged in this presentation invites to investigating eponyms in fields yet uncovered and to compiling such works for theoretical and practical reasons.