

**CORRELATION LANGUAGE – AGE:
NEW ASPECTS OF DESCRIPTION ON THE MATERIAL
OF NON-OFFICIAL NAMES GIVEN TO SCHOOLCHILDREN**

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The author suggests that the motivational grouping of nicknames is influenced by the age of the respondent who is describing non-official naming in the questionnaire. Data for research have been collected by way of written survey held among the schoolchildren from ten districts of Lviv Region. The article analyses the questionnaires of schoolchildren aged 14 (born in 1996), 15 (born in 1995), 16 (born in 1994) and 17 (born in 1993). Based on non-official names of schoolchildren of four age groups, motivational features of collected antroponyms have been reviewed and motivational groups, sub-groups and types of nicknames have been singled out.

Key words: nickname, nomination motif, motivation group, schoolchild.

Sociolinguistic characteristics of non-official names of schoolchildren demands the description of correlative interaction ‘language and age of schoolchildren’, ‘name and sex of schoolchildren’, ‘language and family of schoolchildren’. The aim of the article is to examine the role of age factor and motivation of appearance of nicknames. Its task is to analyze the responses of schoolchildren aged 14 (1996), 15 (1995), 16 (1994), 17 (1993) as to the motivation of nicknames and to find out to what extent the age of respondent, which discloses the motivation of nicknames, is relevant for substantiating correlative relations ‘nickname’ – ‘schoolchild name’.

Motifs behind the names and regularities in the basis of nominative processes have already been discussed in their works by V.Chabanenko, M.Nalyvaiko, V.Tykhosha, O.Antoniuk, H.Senyk, N.Shulska and others, taking into account illustrative material from different territories of Ukraine (Nyzhnia Naddnyprianshchyna, Khersonshchyna, Donechyna, Odeshchyna and Zahidne Polissia). Nonetheless, age factor and its influence on motivational grouping of non-official names of schoolchildren has not yet been an independent object of analysis.

Age is certain, comparatively limited in time degree of physical, psychological and social development of a person [1: 29], which influences the process of mastering the language and development of speaking skills [2: 79]; different stages of life differentiate anthroponymic formulas of nomination and identifications of a person in a group [3: 38–44]. This social category differentiates nicknames used in the environment of children, youth, speaks of middle and senior age [4: 10–11].

The novelty of research consists in the fact that the nicknames of schoolchildren in Lviv Region, which is a scarcely researched onim material, are introduced into academic circulation (data collected by way of written questioning in 2010). We divide the respondents into groups of pupils aged 14 (1996), 15 (1995), 16 (1994) and 17 (1993). We express an opinion that the age may influence the choice of motivational characteristic of nickname, since the respondents aged 10–11–14–15 are teenagers, while the schoolchildren aged 16–17–25 are already young adults [5: 152–200].

Schoolchildren aged 14 (1996) on motivation of nicknames

Motivational classification of nicknames demonstrates the reasons behind the appearance of names. The problem of defining the motif of nomination is connected with the fact that proper names exist in mental lexicon in the form of concept which do not come through full verbalization in the acts of communication, oral or written texts [6: 24–26]. While the objective and the general comes to communication, the subjective and individual does not [7: 23]. Nonetheless, non-official names have motivation which in many cases may be ‘read’. Nicknames are not only identification features of person that distinguish him/her among others, but also characteristics that compress in themselves a motivational text, which proceed the appearance of non-official naming. Thus, they can be explained and interpreted in the process of speaking in the form of an opened text [8: 1]. Opening of motifs of nomination should be based not on the intuition of the researcher, but the explanation of the respondents as to the appearance and meaning of each separate nickname [9: 181].

While analyzing the motivational texts introduced by the respondents into the questionnaires we use the experience of classifying folk and domestic names of the persons [10: 2–6]. Taking into account the introduction of individual motivational features, we distribute non-official names (according to the hierarchical structure) into motivational groups, sub-groups and rows of names. Despite non-official, non-obligatory and optional status, informative and content saturation of nicknames gives a chance to identify individual characteristic of nicknames ‘characteristic of schoolchild’s hair’. Nicknames are used for characterizing hair cut or dyed in a certain manner. Motivational rows of names identify color (Blonde, Red, Black), natural qualities (Curly, Bald, Rumped) and way of hair styling (Poodle, Hedgehog, Saucepan).

Motivational sub-group of nicknames ‘facial features of a schoolchild’. It is formed by onyms which point out to the form and size of a face (Monkey, Duck), eyes (Chinese, Seagull), nose (Crooked Nose, Honker), teeth (Beaver, Rabbit), ears (Cheburashka, Valve) etc.

Motivational sub-group of nicknames ‘physical properties of a schoolchild’ discloses physical and live energy of denotatum through such motivational rows of names as: strong (Strapper, Dragon, Break Away), speedy (Patron, Bullet, Puma) etc.

Suggested nicknames disclose the views of schoolchildren on positive and negative features of external outlook of a person. It is possible that natural processes in the body of teenagers attract more attention of schoolchildren to their appearance. Ideas about it become the most important in self-consciousness of teenager, since the features of adulthood are manifested in changes of the body and define the status in the company of peers [11: 155].

Motivational group of nicknames ‘internal properties of a schoolchild’ (43.55% of names). Motivational analysis of names reveals psycho-mental characteristics inherent to nominations and displays information about those things schoolchildren think, dream, admire or condemn. Transition from childhood to adolescence, from immaturity to maturity is observed in physical,

mental, moral, social and spiritual development of the personality. In the company of peers schoolchildren develop a new system of criteria for estimating behavior and personality of a person, form new moral and ethnic demands. Values dominating in peer group become important for a person [11: 194–211]. For example, nicknames suggested by respondents demonstrate information about behavior (57.04%), mental abilities (16.19%), character (14.08%) and hobbies of the person named (10.56%).

A teenager is trying to be engaged to the life and activity of adults by way of copying them. First he is taking what is available – appearance and manner of behavior [11: 202]. Motivational sub-group of nicknames ‘behavior, habits of a schoolchild’ opens up the way of life, deeds, actions; skills and abilities acquired through training. Motivational rows of names point to the peculiarities of speech (Chipmunk, Chatterbox, Swear-Word), sports activities (Sniper, Bullet, Rabbit), studies (Crammer, Keener, Nerd) etc.

Motivational sub-group of nicknames ‘mental abilities of a schoolchild’ opens up intellectual properties of a person. Since during teenage years school is a principal social environment of a child where the main activity is studies, the results of which are mastering of knowledge and skills [1: 40–41], the major part of nicknames falls within such motivational rows of names as wise (Philosopher, Wikipedia, Walking Encyclopedia) or unwise (Plough, Saucepan, Soap and Sponge).

Motivational sub-group of nicknames ‘character of a schoolchild’ points to the stable physiological properties of a person and his/her personal characteristics which are manifested in behavior and activity. Nicknames suggested by the respondents can be divided in the following rows of names: funny (Gaper, Clown), good (Saint, Just Eye), bad (Hen, Snail), cunning (Fox) etc.

Motivational sub-group of nicknames ‘desire of a schoolchild’ displays the interest of denotatum to something. Thus, motivational rows of name point to

the desire to eat (Sandwich, Cake), to watch the films or cartoon (Carmelita, Cartoon), to sleep (Sleepwalker), to rule the others (Boss) etc.

Based on non-official names we have got convinced that 14-year old schoolchildren (1996) offer nicknames that disclose the appearance of denotatum. It is testified by 56.44% of fixed names. Respondents primarily pay attention to external experience, posture, height, peculiarities of hair, facial features and physical properties of named persons. The names that disclose internal features of denotatum make 43.55%. Motivational sub-groups of names identify the behavior, habits, intellectual properties, characters and hobbies of a person.

Schoolchildren aged 15 (1995) on the motivation of nicknames.

Motivational group of nicknames 'external features of schoolchildren' (48.63%) discloses external look of a schoolchild in general (29.77%), points to its height (21.34%), peculiarities of figure (18.53%), facial features (12.35%), hair (11.23%) and physical properties (6.74%). Motivational sub-group of nicknames 'external features of schoolchildren' is represented by a row of names that point to the peculiarities of clothing and accessories of a denotatum (nickname Star is given to a person who dresses in bright clothes), similarity with somebody (nickname Aza denotes a person who looks like a Gypsy), color of the skin (nickname Niger is given to dark-skinned schoolchild), external beauty (Quasimodo, Pushkariova) etc.

The following group of onyms 'height of schoolchildren' is presented by the oppositional rows of names: short (Dwarf, Baby, Titch, A Little One) and tall (Mop, Hose, Three Meters, A Tall One).

Motivational sub-group of nicknames 'peculiarities of constitution of a schoolchild' includes other rows of anthroponyms: plump (Volley Ball, Ship, Titanic, Elephant) and skinny (Skeleton, Straw, Stick, Board).

Motivational sub-group of nicknames 'facial features of a schoolchild' is distributed among the rows of names which point to the color, form and size of

face (Beetroot, Kolobok, Boatswain), ears (Klapai, Cheburashka, Shrek), teeth (Beaver, Hare, Rabbit), eyes (Chinese, Sniper) etc.

Motivational sub-group of nicknames 'characteristic of schoolchild's hair' reveals information on its color (Red, Gray, Blond), way of styling (Lawn Mower, Mushroom, 220 V), natural characteristics (Braid, Curly, Pasta Factory) etc.

Motivational sub-group of nicknames 'physical characteristics of schoolchildren' includes those who are strong (Thunder Storm Woman, Chucker-out, Bouncer) and agile (Stitch, Gymnast, Hare).

Motivational group of nicknames 'internal characteristic of a schoolchild' (51.36%). Sub-groups of nicknames, similarly to the previous case, inform about the behavior, habits (46.80%), character (22.87%), inspirations, dreams (14.36%) and mental abilities (14.36%) of persons.

Motivational group of nicknames 'behavior, habits of a schoolchild' is presented by the row of names which characterize the behavior in general (Brakes, Boot Licker, Philosopher) and habits of the denotatum to study (Professor, Blockhead, Crammer), to study something (Geographer, Pythagoras, Gagarin), to sing and to listen to music (Bird, Fiddle, Vera Brezhneva), to speak (Chatterbox, Jay Bird, German), to smoke and to consume alcohol (Smoker, Dope Head, Druggy) etc.

Nicknames included to the sub-group of names 'character of a schoolchild' form motivational rows for denoting funny (Smile, Miracle, Snout), kind (Baby, Liolik), quiet (Angel, Princess), bad (Snivel, Fascist) person.

Onims included to the sub-group of names 'inspiration and dreams of a schoolchild' are distributed between the rows of names that identify those who want to control others (Director, Ruler), to sleep (Dreamer, Sleeping Beauty), to fish (Fish, Carp), to receive profession (Historian, Surgeon) etc.

Nicknames in the sub-group 'mental abilities of schoolchildren' identify those who are wise (Brain, Google, Wiseacre) or unwise (Ram, Elk, Handbrake).

Materials of the questionnaires show that schoolchildren aged 15 (1995), unlike the schoolchildren aged 14 (1996) offer more nicknames that disclose internal characteristics of named persons. We observe the dynamics of names grouping: attention from external features of the person switches to internal characteristics, information about which opens up in the process of durable school interaction. It is testified by 51.36% of names that inform about habits, characters, aspirations and mental abilities of denotatum and 48.63% of names identify beauty, height, figure, facial features etc.

Schoolchildren aged 16 (1994) on motivation of nicknames

Motivational group of nicknames ‘external features of schoolchildren’ (45.84%) points to the external look of a schoolchild and characterizes the denotatum for separate details of clothes (28.85%), figure(20.13%), hair (20.13%), height (16.10%), facial features (8.72%) and physical properties (6.04%).

Motivational sub-group of nicknames ‘external look of a schoolchild’ is manifested in a row of names that characterize the denotatum in accordance with peculiarities of clothes, accessories (nickname Brand points to the persons who follows the fashion), skin color (nickname Black points to dark-skinned person), similarity to somebody (Uzbek, Kolobok), external beauty (Doll, Owl) etc.

Motivational sub-group of nicknames ‘figure of schoolchildren’ is presented by oppositional rows of names which identify the person who is plump (Fleshy, Fluffy, Boar, Wardrobe etc.) or skinny (Compass Leg, Nail, Board, Hen).

Sun-group of nicknames ‘characteristic of hair of a schoolchild’ through the motivational names points to the color (Black, Red, Blond), natural qualities (Ram, Poodle, Chornobyl Resident), hair styling (Elvis, Brushed Up, 220 V).

Motivational sub-group of nicknames ‘height of a schoolchild’ through motivational rows of names identify the person who is short (Dwarf, Baby, Meter, Mini) or tall (Gulliver, Long, Stick, Rock).

Motivational sub-group of nicknames 'facial features of a schoolchild' through motivational rows of names point to the form and size of eyes (Binoculars, Eye), ears (Big Ears, Ear) etc.

Motivational sub-group of nicknames 'physical properties of a schoolchild' is manifested in a row of names which point to a person who is rapid (Live Wire, Schumacher), slow (Bear, Snail) etc.

Motivational sub-group of nicknames 'internal features of a schoolchild' (54.15%) is presented by a group of names that show behavior, habits (50.00%), characters (18.75%), mental abilities (15.90%), aspirations and dreams (15,34%) of a schoolchild.

Motivational sub-group of nicknames 'behavior and habits of a schoolchild' point to the speech (Chatterbox, Babblers, Bawler), studies (Genius, Simpleton, Grade-Glubber), sports activities (Boxer, Parachute), ability to play musical instruments or sing (Accordion, Nightingale), attitude to people (Scatterbrain, Spitfire) etc.

Motivational sub-group of nicknames 'character of a schoolchild' points to those who are bad (Posh, Choleric, Upstart, Hayseed) or to the contrary, good (Uncle, Joker, Jin, Live Wire).

Oppositional rows of sub-group of onyms 'mental abilities of schoolchildren' – wise (Professor, Prophet, Sage, Pentium) or unwise (Know-Nothing, Blunt, Elk, Down) display intellectual properties of denotatum.

Motivational rows of sub-group of nicknames 'aspirations and dreams of a schoolchild' inform about the desire of denotatum to eat and to consume alcoholic drinks (Cheesecake, Glass), to manage the others (Chef, Boss) etc.

Similarly to the previous case, schoolchildren aged 16 (1994) more often pay attention to the internal world of the persons. It is shown by 54.15% of nicknames which display skills, abilities, stable mental characteristics, intellectual properties and likes of denotatum. Accordingly, 45.84% of names characterize external outlook of denotatum, his posture, hair styling, height, facial features and physical properties

Schoolchildren aged 17 (1993) on motivation of nicknames

Motivational group of names 'external features of a schoolchild' (47.89%). We have analyzed and singled out a row of onims which disclose external look of denotatum (27.47%), peculiarities of their figure (21.97%), height (19.78%), hair (14.28%), face (10.98%), physical properties (5.49%).

Motivational sub-group of nicknames 'external look of a schoolchild' through motivational rows of names reveals information about likes of schoolchildren in clothes, accessories (nickname Joe is given to a boy given in red shirt), similarity to somebody (nickname President point to external similarity between denotatum and president), skin color (non-official name Haitana is used for nominating dark-skinned person) etc.

Motivational rows of sub-group of nicknames 'peculiarities of figure of a schoolchild' mark plump (Elephant, I don't eat) and skinny (Dry Bread, Cutlet) of denotatum.

Motivational rows of sub-groups of nicknames 'height of a schoolchild' include tall (Skyscraper, Cane) and short (Kapitoshka, A Little One) persons.

Motivational rows of sub-groups of names 'characteristic of hair' reveal information about color (Blond, Black), natural properties (Curly, Sue, Poodle), way of hair styling and haircut (Licker, Honey Agaric) etc.

Motivational rows of sub-group 'facial features of a schoolchild' informs about the size and form of ears (Flap-Eared, Locator), teeth (Beaver, Hare), lips (Thick-Lipped), nose (Caliber) and others.

Sub-group of onims 'physical properties of a schoolchild' (5.49%) identify swift schoolchildren (Meteor, Battery).

Motivational group of names 'internal characteristics of a schoolchild' (52.1%) is represented by sub-groups of names which open up behavior and habits (54.54%), character (18.18%), aspirations (15.15%) and mental abilities of denotatum (12.12%).

Rows of nicknames offered by respondent in such sub-group of names as 'behavior and habits of a schoolchild' point to the peculiarity of speech

(Chatterbox, Parrot, Speech Therapist), studies (Triangle, Artist, Student), ability to manage the others (Boss, Vahtang, Director), ability to work (Bee, Mechanic, Murzia), to perform sports activities (Sportsman, Beckham, A Big One), to eat (Dumpling, Fritter) etc.

Nicknames that point to the 'character of a schoolchild' distributed among two rows of names: bad (Bulldog, Cobra, Fox) – good (Mouse, Siskin, Hedgehog).

Motivational rows of sub-group 'aspiration and dreams of a schoolchild' display the preferences of schoolchildren in food (Pie, Beer), desire to master a profession (Doctor, Prosecutor), to manage the others (Boss) etc.

Motivational rows of sub-group 'mental abilities of a schoolchild' identify wise (Computer, Philosopher) and unwise (Donkey, Blockhead) of persons. Analyzed nicknames offered in the questionnaires of respondents aged 17 (1993) testified to minor distinct tendencies in quantity correlation between names that open external and internal features of schoolchildren. Thus, 47.89% of nicknames point to the external outlook of denotatum, and 52.1% display behavior, habits, character, aspirations and mental abilities of the persons. New social situation of development - a transition to the independent life [11: 234–257] – shifts the attention of schoolchildren from cognition and estimation of others to self-analysis.

To conclude we would suggest that non-official names of four age categories of respondents testify to various tendencies of motivational grouping of names (see the diagram).

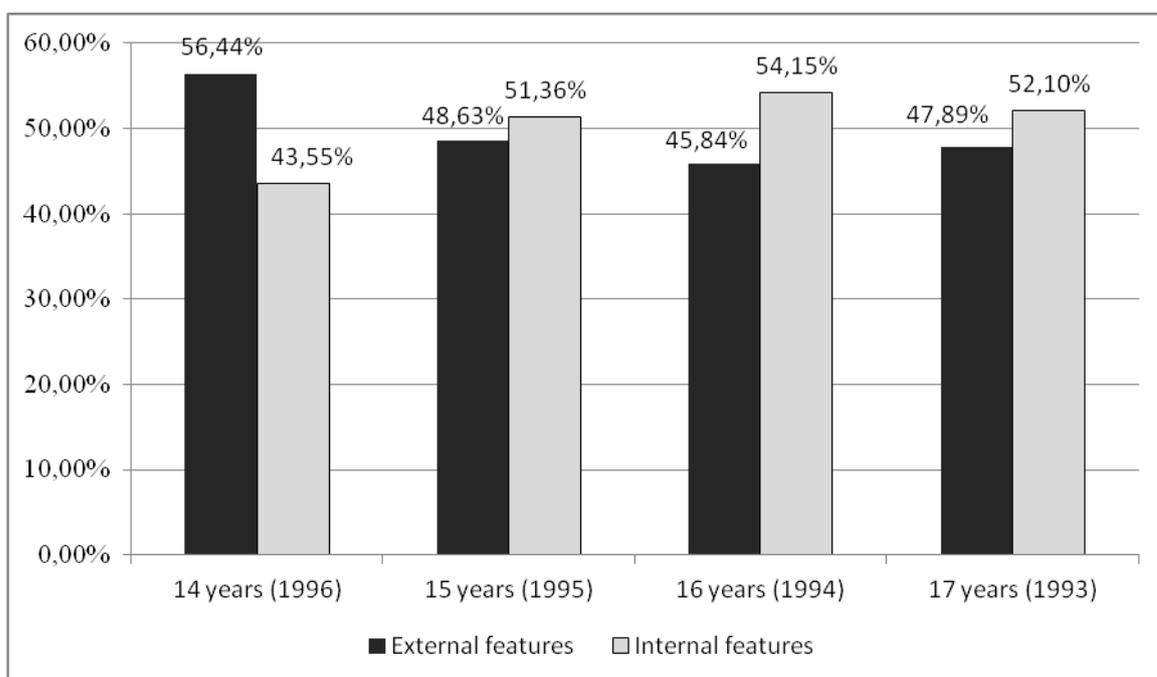


Diagram. Dynamics of motivational grouping of nicknames in non-official name list of schoolchildren, %

It is obvious that the choice of motivational features of nicknames is influenced by age peculiarities of world perception. There are reasons to believe that the age of a schoolchild is relevant means of revealing divergences of motivational grouping of names in accordance with individual features of denotatum.

Schoolchildren aged 14 (1996) pay attention to external features of the person, which is testified by 56.44% of nicknames that open up the external look of denotatum and 43.55% of names which mark internal features of the person. Respondents aged 15 (1995) do not differentiate these groups (accordingly these are 48.63% and 51.36%). Nonetheless, schoolchildren aged 16 (1994) mark internal features of the person (45.84% and 54.15%). Respondents aged 17 (1993) have more stable concepts of the world; therefore they oppose the motivational groups of names (47.89% and 52.1%) to a lesser degree.

The prospects for further research consists in displaying social nature of proper names through the description of dynamics in motivational grouping of nicknames in various age categories of respondents.

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КОРЕЛЯЦІЯ МОВА – ВІК: НОВІ АСПЕКТИ ОПИСУ НА МАТЕРІАЛІ НЕОФІЦІЙНОГО ІМЕННИКА ШКОЛЯРА

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Висловлено припущення, що на мотиваційне групування прізвиськ впливає вік респондента, який описує неофіційне найменування в питальнику. Матеріал для дослідження зібрано шляхом письмового опитування учнів десяти районів загальноосвітніх навчальних закладів Львівської області. Проаналізовано анкети школярів 14 (1996 р. н.), 15 (1995 р. н.), 16 (1994 р. н.), 17 (1993 р. н.) років. На матеріалі неофіційного іменника чотирьох вікових категорій респондентів розкрито мотиваційні особливості зібраних антропонімів, виділено мотиваційні групи, підгрупи та ряди прізвиськових назв.

Ключові слова: прізвисько, мотив номінації, мотиваційна група, школяр.

КОРЕЛЯЦІЯ ЯЗЫК – ВОЗРАСТ: НОВЫЕ АСПЕКТЫ ОПИСАНИЯ НА МАТЕРИАЛЕ НЕОФИЦИАЛЬНОГО ИМЕННИКА ШКОЛЬНИКА

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Высказано предположение, что на мотивационное группирование прозвищ влияет возраст респондента, который описывает неофициальное наименование в вопроснике. Материал для исследования собран путем письменного опроса учащихся десяти районов общеобразовательных учебных заведений Львовской области. Проанализированы анкеты школьников 14 (1996 г. р.), 15 (1995 г. р.), 16 (1994 г. р.), 17 (1993 г. р.) лет. На материале неофициального именника четырех возрастных категорий респондентов раскрыты мотивационные особенности собранных антропонимов, выделены мотивационные группы, подгруппы и ряды прозвищных названий.

Ключевые слова: прозвище, мотив номинации, мотивационная группа, школьник.