

## Phonosemantic Principles of Description Onomatopoeias in the Dictionary of New Type

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**Abstract:** The problems of lexicographical fixation of sound words (onomatopoeias) are revealed in the study. Here are described: phonosemantic principles of description of these language units of the German-Russian dictionary of onomatopoeias, specific features of this dictionary structure of the dictionary entry, criteria for selection of units. Universal and specific phonosemantic principles of comparison onomatopoeias in the bilingual dictionaries are revealed. The universal features include: acoustic features (Germ. bam-Rus. bam); phonemic identity (Germ. bah-Rus. ba); phonestheme identity (Germ. plumps-Rus. plyuh); phoneme-type identity (Germ. klapp-Rus. hlop). The specific features include: phonestheme linguistic specificity (Germ. phonestheme/kn/: knack (s), knick (s), Knall-Rus. Phonestheme/hr//tr/: hrust, tresk); sound imitative motivation and etymology: Germ. Die Klingenkreuzen“cross swords”, measure strength (in a dispute) Rus. Obmenkolkostyami (the exchange of barbs) “dispute”. Possibilities of practical application of the dictionary in phonosemantics, stylistics, etymology as well as for translation and learning German as a foreign language are mentioned.

**Key words:** Phonosemantics, onomatopoeia, German languages, Russian language, Russia

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### INTRODUCTION

The advantage of the European and American phonosemantics is that the lexicographical work on phonosemantic units which are realized in dictionaries and lists (Delia *et al.*, 1989; Gomi, 1989; Kakehi *et al.*, 1998; Magnus, 1999; McCune, 1983) is carried out there. The English and Japanese languages are represented in lexicography most of all. Russian studies also have little experience of lexicographical fixation of onomatopoeias and interjections. Fixation of grammatically “normal” onomatopoeias in the German and Russian lexicography is systematic and complete enough. The main problem is etymologizing of sound-imitative vocabulary. Sound-imitative nature of a word is observed only in obvious cases; more often the labels such as “suspicious”, “disputable”, “unclear” are made (Shlyakhova and Shestakova, 2011).

Lexicographical fixation of phonosemantic marginalia and wider language anomalies (interjections, onomatopoeias, relatives, particles and so on) is always a problem for lexicographers. N.R. Dobrushina writes that interjections have remained beyond attention of lexicography (Dobrushina, 1995). Kvesevich and Sasina (2001) mention, that “in bilingual lexicography interjections and wider relatives are clearly “unlucky”.

This is one of the least developed vocabulary layers in the lexicographic practice. They are represented little in the dictionaries of onomatopoeia and verb and interjection words (Kvesevich and Sasina, 2001). The purpose of research is to reveal the principles of comparison onomatopoeia in bilingual dictionaries. The tasks of the study are to establish the problem of lexicography of onomatopoeia and to describe phonosemantic specificity of German-Russian Dictionary of onomatopoeias.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study used traditional linguistic methods (lexical-semantic, etymological, comparative, quantitative analysis, system-structural and descriptive methods, continuous sampling, semantic integration and proper phonosemantic methods (etymological phonosemantic analysis, phoneme-type modeling).

**Problems of lexicographical fixation of onomatopoeia:** Analysis of lexicographic fixation of onomatopoeia shows that lexicography is the section of Germanic and Russian studies which did not pay enough attention to sound imitation as it is. Lexicographic problems associated with fixation of onomatopoeia are: lack of specialized

dictionaries. On the Russian material, according to our data, there are only two dictionaries (Kveselevich and Sasina, 2001; Shlyakhova, 2004) which include not entire corpus of onomatopoeic words but only phonosemantic marginalia. On the German materials German-English-Polish dictionary of verbs denoting noises is being developed (Mischke, 2013). Insufficient and non-systemic lexicographical fixation. Some German and Russian onomatopoeias are not fixed in the dictionaries. Marginalia obtain more complete fixation in Russian studies. Indistinct system of field labels; undifferentiated onomatopoeias, interjections and sound symbolic words. In German and Russian practice interjections and onomatopoeias do not differ; they are combined into one class. Usually in dictionaries they have the following field labels: interjektion/interjections, sometimes the labels lautmalend/onomatopoeia.

Lack of etymological development of this lexical layer. In German etymological dictionaries the sound imitative nature of primary interjections is not usually marked (ah, au, o, oh, etc.): they are characterized as exclamations in certain emotional states. In Russian etymological dictionaries the sound imitative origin of primary interjections is usually marked but not always.

Lack of clear criteria of comparison in bilingual dictionaries. Comparison of sound imitative vocabulary in German-Russian dictionaries is based on their semantic proximity, at the same time phonosemantic specificity of these units is not taken into account. So, the word bum is qualified in the dictionaries (Lingvo, Multitran, Large German-Russian Dictionary) as an interjection (Interjektion) and translated as boom, bakh. Meanwhile in this meaning bum is an onomatopoeia (not interjection) and explicates a blow (it is expressed by explosive/b/) followed by a lack of tonal accent (expressed by a sonant /m/). The translation of bakh is not entirely exact as here the acoustic denotation is a blow followed by lack of acoustic accent (expressed by a voiceless guttural/x/). Consequently, the Russian bakh taking into account phonosemantic features will correspond to the German baff or paff.

Translation of onomatopoeias is made on the basis of semantic and grammatical criteria, while correlation of the sound cover of a unit with its content (principally meaningful feature) is not considered. German-Russian dictionary of onomatopoeia-dictionary of a new type From our point of view, the creation of the German-Russian phonosemantic dictionary is an urgent problem of not only phonosemantics but also of Germanic and Russian studies in general. Even a simple fixation of the words of sound imitative origin established within the classical (not

phonosemantic) etymology, will allow imagining what a considerable place onomatopoeia takes in the German lexical fund.

The problem of fixation and description of onomatopoeias is partially solved within our German-Russian dictionary of onomatopoeias (Shlyakhova and Shestakova, 2011). In the dictionary the history of the study of German sound imitation is considered, the problem of lexicographic fixation of onomatopoeias is researched, the basis of units definitions as primarily motivated are defined, phonosemantic typology of German onomatopoeia is offered, the phonosphere and its reflection in the German language is presented in its most general form. The dictionary presents the basic fund of German onomatopoeias, offers material for etymologizing of certain lexemes, allows us to follow the development of individual linguistic units, not only in the framework of Roman-Germanic but also Indo-European languages. The dictionary apparently is the first attempt of systemic lexicographic description of the German onomatopoeias recorded in different socio-functional strata of German speech.

The main purpose of the Dictionary is the initial and therefore only very approximate establishment of German onomatopoeias fund (in comparison with Russian) which explicate phonosphere in German language. The dictionary includes onomatopoeias, functioning in German language as well as their Russian correlates. Furthermore, the dictionary includes the idioms and phraseological units where onomatopoeia is the base component. The dictionary contains about 1,100 entries which are distributed in 210 phonosemantic groups. A group contains from 1-30 entries. Header units of the nests are phonosemantic marginalia, in traditional Russian grammatical terminology-onomatopoeias, interjections, verbal-interjection forms, words of cry and chasing away the animals, etc., in the German tradition interjective.

The main criterion of the selection of units is their primary motivation: the possibility of inclusion of units into the German language sound imitative system based on universal classification of onomatopoeias; sound imitative etymology in one of the etymological sources; "sound" meaning of the word which indicates the acoustic denotation.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### **Phonosemantic principles of comparison of materials:**

The following phonosemantic and grammatical (taking into account phonosemantic features) categories of comparison of onomatopoeias were used in the dictionary.

**Acoustic feature:** For example, compactness, diffusivity of the spectrum of the vowel (/a-i/), correlating with the symbolic meaning of big-small size, etc.): Germ. bam-Rus. bam “a low bell sound”; Rus. bim and Germ. bim “a high bell sound”.

**Phoneme type:** Thus, the meaning of “to tinkle, crack” in different languages include a plosive and/or vibrant/sonorant: Dutch. kletteren, Finn. kalahtaa, Estonian. kolksatus “to clank”; Icelandic skrolt, Macedonian klopot, Norwegian skrangle, Turkish cyngyrak, Russian. dr, trr-Germ. klirr.

**Root morpheme of specific acoustic-articulatory structure:** Instant: Germ. patsch-Rus. chap, chak, chik “the sound of impact, knock”; continuants: Germ. piep-Rus. pi-pi “peep”; frequentatives: Germ. krach, pratsch, raps-Rus. briak, hriap, trah “an impact sound”.

**Phonesteme:** thus, semantic feature “to crack” in German has an initial sound /kn/: knack(s), knick(s), Knall; for the Russian language the initial sounds /hr/, /tr/ are typical: crunch, crackle.

**Interjection:** Germ. ach, oh-Rus. akh, okh “exclamation of joy astonishment, surprise, etc.”; Germ. aks (baks)-Rus. be, bis “exclamation of disgust”.

**Onomatopoeia:** Germ. gluck-Rus. bul’k “the sound of liquid motion”; kling-Rus. cling “the sound of impact the glass surface”; Germ. platsch-Rus. bultih “the sound when dropped in the water”.

**The words of cry and chasing away of animals and birds:** Germ. husch Rus. kish, kshsh “a cry, by which birds, pets are chased away, etc.”.

**The categorematic parts of speech on the basis of phonosemantic marginalia:** Germ. muhen Rus. michat’ (a cow), Germ. bahen Rus. bleiat’; Germ. Bimbam Rus. zvon, trezvon; Germ. heulen Rus. uhat’ (an owl).

**Set expression, idiom, phraseological unit, paroemia:** Germ. Larifar-Rus. lia-lia fa-fa “idle talk”; Germ. Maul halten-Rus. rot zatkni; Germ. Er sagt weder gicks noch gacks-Rus. On nimychit, nitelitsya; Germ. Rotz und Wasser heulen-Rus. “Vyt’ belugoj; revet’vtriruch’ya”; Germ. “ins Maul schmieren”-Rus. “Razzhevat’ i v rot polozhit’”, etc. However, not all words find their correlates in the languages compared on the basis of the criteria specified above which is on the one hand due to the specificity of the phonetic system of a language, on the other hand to the phonosemantic law of nomination multiplicity (one and the same denotation can

be nominated by various factors or by completeness/incompleteness of linguistic explication of a kineme).

Thus, in Germ, blaff and Rus. tiav-tiav, gav-gav, av-av the initial component of articuleme (perceptually hardly disarticulated for people) is differently presented in Russian (front and back) and in German (labial, lateral) but the final element of articulation is explicated equally (back vowel+labio-dental). In Russian a-p-chhi(ahchoo) all stages of kineme are explicated (mouth opening-closure-exhale) and in chihat’ (to sneeze) only the last stage. In Germ. hatschi “sneezing sound”, nieseln “to sneeze”. Nieseln is also a sound imitative verb, where the initial stage sniff is presented. Germ. Bahschaf “a fool” (<bah “baa, sheep bleating” + Schaf “a sheep”) is motivated by characteristics and sounds of an animal and the Rus. durak (a fool) (< Common Slavonic \*dur is connected with \*du-ti “to blow”) is motivated by the sign of “pout”. The difference of features taken as a basis of the nomination in different languages does not allow giving adequate phonosemantic correlates. In this case, the relevant correlate on the phonosemantic basis will not be durak (a fool) but slang, colloquial “ovtsa”, “baran”(sheep, ram) which is also based on the characteristic features of the animals and is a primary motivated.

In all the above cases, the comparison in the Dictionary is based on partial phonosemantic compliance based on common associations. Compare “Piercing-cutting” semantics: Germ. Die “Klingenkreuzen” “cross swords”, measure strength (in a dispute) Rus. “rubit’sya, rezat’syanaslovah” (to fight in word) “to argue” (colloquial); “Obmenkolkostyami” (the exchange of barbs) “dispute”. These approaches to the description of onomatopoeia will allow finding more accurate comparison in translation practice, even in the absence of the required unit in the dictionary. Thus, comparison of materials in the dictionary is performed on the basis of universal and specific phono-semantic features universal phono-semantic features (Table 1): acoustic feature (Germ. bam-Rus. bam, Germ. bim-Rus. bim); phonemic identity (Germ. bah-Rus. be, Germ. bum-Rus. bum, Germ. hih-Rus.

Table 1: Universal phono-semantic features

Features	German language (examples)	Russian language (examples)
Acoustic feature	bam bim bah	bam bim be
Phonemic identity	hihi kikeriki piep	khi-khi kukareku pip
Phonestheme identity	plumps krachzen	plukh kriahtet’
Phoneme-type identity	klapp schnapp	hlop schelk

Table 2: Specific phono-semantic features

Features	Gorman Language (examples)	Russian Language (examples)
Phonestheme linguistic specificity	knack(s), knick(s)	hrust, tresk
Sound imitative motivation and sound imitative etymology with asimilar semantics	Bahschafdie Klingenkreuzen	baran, ovca; rubit'sya

khi-khi, Germ. kikeriki-Rus. kukareku. Germ. piep Rus. pip); phonestheme identity (Germ. plumps-Rus. plukh; Germ. krachzen-Rus. kriahtet'); phoneme-type identity (Germ. klapp-Rus. hlop; Germ. schnapp-Rus. schelk); specific (idioethnic) phonosemantic features (Table 2): phones theme linguistic specificity: the meaning of "to crack" in German is expressed by initial phonestheme/kn/knack(s), knick(s), in Rus./hr/,/tr/ hrust, tresk; sound imitative motivation and sound imitative etymology with a similar semantics (Bahscha-baran, ovca (ram, sheep); die Klingenkreuzen-rubit'sya (to fight)).

**The structure of a dictionary entry:** A headword of a group differs from the headwords that are the components of the group with the presence of etymological reference in it. The dictionary entry of a headword of a group includes: headword; an etymological part: indication of the sound imitative base or root which indicate the primary motivation of the word; in the absence of the sound imitative etymology the semasiological phonosemantic parallels in related and unrelated languages are presented in etymological dictionaries; specification of the source of these etymologies; a dictionary entry. The system of meanings of each onomatopoeia is presented within four groups which are marked by Roman numerals: acoustic; articulatory and the sounds produced by animals; onomatopoeias of speaking and the words of call and chasing away; "non-sound" meanings formed on the basis of onomatopoeias.

Acoustic onomatopoeias which are defined as words producing by phonemic means the non-articulatory acoustic sounds of external environment (blaff "a sound of impact, fall, push, bukh, bakh", bam "a low bell sound"). Articulatory onomatopoeias (Phono-intra-kinemes) which nominate sound processes occurring in the nasal, mouth and throat cavity of people: reflective (accompanying these or those feelings) and "expressive" (accompanying emotions) movements (hatschi "sneezing sound"; Happ m grasping (by teeth, mouth) and also imitation of the voices of birds and animals, the nomination of their "speaking" (blaff "dogs barking, gav, av, tiav, tiaf").

Onomatopoeias of speaking are units reproducing by phonemic means non-reflective acoustic-articulatory sounds characterizing the process of speech, speaking in isolation from the concrete sense of the speech, presenting the speech process in its target, modal,

physiological, acoustic and other characteristics (blaffen "to talk fast, chatter, rattle") and the words of call and chasing away of animals and birds (put "The words calling hens, chickens"; husch "a cry which scares birds, pets away, etc."). "Non-sound" meanings formed on the basis of onomatopoeia Bambule ballyhoo (riots, disorders in the prison or correctional institution); "noisy meeting, the party"; Put "small fry"; Happen "a piece, small sized snack"; Blaffer "dog, mutt").

**Practical application of the dictionary:** This dictionary offers new material for lexicographic practice, introducing a great number of phonosemantic marginalia to scientific revolution. The materials of the dictionaries can be used for the expansion in the etymology of the interpretative base of etymologizing of individual words as well as lexicographical base of German and Russian dictionaries which often deny the systematic fixation or adequate qualifications of phonosemantic labeled material.

This dictionary can be successfully used in the practice of translation, since the description of onomatopoeias in the dictionary is performed taking into account the specificity of phonosemantic and stylistic coloring of these units. Thus, the verb schnapsen has in dictionaries the label ugs.scherzhaft (joking) but in the traditional bilingual German-Russian dictionary it is translated by stylistically neutral Russian expression "pit'vodku" (to drink vodka). German Schnapsen in the Dictionary has a number of Russian Matches: shmyaknut', hlopnut', shlepnut', hlebnut', klyunu', klyuknut', trahnut', hlebnut', sharahnut', buhnut', tyapnut', tyuknut', shvarknut', hryapnut', bahnut', hlobystnut', deryabnut', derbalyznut', cheburahnut', etc. These Russian correlates are also acoustic onomatopoeias and belong to colloquial speech. The large number of variants gives opportunity to make a more accurate translation.

The materials of the Dictionary will give opportunity to find more exact translation (based not only on the semantic but on the phonosemantic similarity) for sound imitative units. Thus, Germ. quieken is translated by Russian squeak, squeal, whereas here Russian dialectal kvikat', kuvikat' "squeak, whine" is phonosemantically closer while the seme "pronzitel'nyjkrik, vizg, pisk" (offered in the translation through vizzhat') is not supported by the phonetic structure of the word quieken. The word put "the calling words for hens, chickens" is

translated as tsip-tsip while phonosemantically closer it is translated as tip-tip. In our opinion, such little things are important, because in this case the translation retains the familiar sound patterns of the source language. The Dictionary can be successfully used for methodological purposes. As it is known, sound imitative vocabulary is widely used in daily communication by native speakers which makes the speech lively, easy. It should be noted that insufficient attention is paid to the onomatopoeias, interjectives as not categorematic parts of speech when mastering a foreign language.

Our practice shows that the learners of all skill levels are interested in onomatopoeia. Onomatopoeia will help German learning beginners to form interest in studying the language (words links becomes more obvious which helps to learn), it will help people who continue learning German to enrich vocabulary, especially the expressive and evaluative vocabulary as well as to eliminate some difficulties in the perception of German speech. Onomatopoeias as well as idioms and phraseological units with these words, can be included into a variety of exercises for development of pronunciation, speaking, listening skills. Many words of the language are “derived” from onomatopoeias on the basis of phonosemantic and etymological analysis. So, klappen “go well, be on the mend”; Klappe “mouth”; Klapperschlange “rattlesnake”; “talker, rattle, typist” and idiom Er hat einen Klaps “He is crazy” comes from klapp “impact sound, knock”.

The materials of the Dictionary enable to significantly enlarge vocabulary and accelerate its replenishment due to phonosemantic associations. So, muh “mooring of a cows, bull”; muhen “moo (cow)”; mucken “moo (person)”; muffeln “mutter, grumble”. Such presentation of the material stimulates interest among trainees, facilitates mastering the meanings of lexical units from different spheres of existence and enriches vocabulary by colloquial expressive-appraisive vocabulary. In addition, based on onomatopoeic vocabulary universal and specific features of German and Russian languages are clearly revealed which certainly helps both to form intercultural competence which is one of the most important tasks while teaching a foreign language and more adequate translation.

### CONCLUSION

In lexicographic fixation of onomatopoeias there are the following problems: insufficient and non-systemic lexicographical fixation of sound imitative words; indistinct system of field labels; undifferentiated onomatopoeias, interjections and sound symbolic words; insufficient etymological development of this lexical layer; the lack of clear criteria for comparison in the

bilingual dictionaries; the problem of translation of onomatopoeias in bilingual dictionaries. This Dictionary of a new type solves many problems: fixes the primary material for creation of the future German phonosemantic dictionary; provides material for etymologizing certain German lexemes; enables to follow the development of certain semantic linguistic units, not only within the Roman-Germanic but also Indo-European languages; presents in the most general form the phono-sphere of the German language; offers practical material for lexicographic, methodological and translation purposes.

Universal and specific phonosemantic principles of comparison of onomatopoeias in a bilingual dictionary have been revealed. The universal features include: acoustic features (Germ. bam-Rus. bam, Germ. bim-Rus. bim); phonemic identity (Germ. bah-Rus. ba, Germ. hihi-Rus. hi-hi); phonestheme identity (Germ. plumps-Rus. plyuh); phoneme-type identity (Germ. klapp-Rus. hlip). The specific features include: phonestheme linguistic specificity (Ger. phonestheme/kn /: knack(s), knick(s), Knall-Rus. phonestheme/hr/, /tr/: hrust, tresk); sound imitative motivation and etymology (“piercing-cutting” semantics: Germ. Die Klinglekreuzen “cross swords”, measure strength (in a dispute)-Rus. “rubit’sya, rezat’syanaslovah”(to fight in word) “to argue” (colloquial); “Obmenkolkostyami” (the exchange of barbs) “dispute”). These principles give opportunity to find more exact correspondences in translation, even in the absence of the required unit in the dictionary.

The structure of the dictionary, phonosemantic principles of description of the sound imitative units taking into account their etymological origins and stylistic coloring, extensive illustrative material from literature, journalism and colloquial speech in German and Russian languages, a sufficiently great number of Russian equivalents allow professionals in phonosemantics, etymology, semantics, stylistics, word-formation of the German language to use the dictionary successfully.

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