

PROPER NAMES AS TERMINOLOGY IN SOCIAL SCIENCE

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Introduction

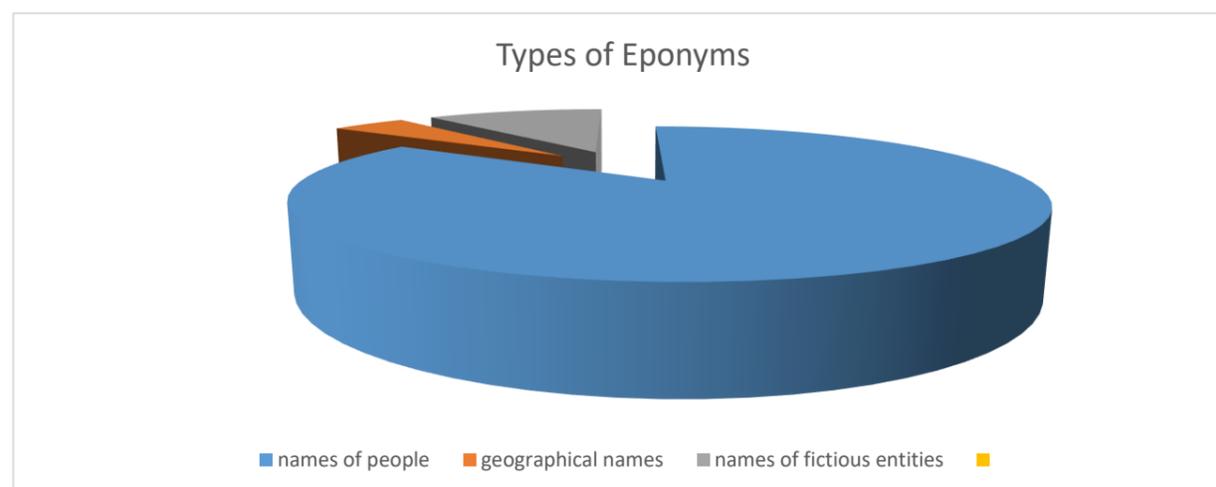
Proper names reflect the interaction between society and language. They identify unique entities and are used to refer to them, as distinct from common nouns that refer to a class of entities. The central problem about proper names is that of their meaning. This paper builds on the assumption that the mere ability of proper names to form meaningful derivatives evidences the existence of some kind of meaning. The potential of proper names to form derivatives varies across languages with different word-classes coming into play.

A special case of proper name usage is found in terminologies – groups of specialized words or meanings relating to a particular field. Eponym-based terminology of such subject area as sociology has not yet received sufficient coverage, not least due to the fact that this type of word-formation in creating new terms across various fields of knowledge and technology is employed unevenly, which leads to a higher or lesser occurrence of such terms within a particular subject area. The research is confined to English sociological terminology in recognition of the fact that most sociological terms originate from works of English-speaking authors.

Results

Eponym-based terms within sociological terminology designate a broad variety of concepts and feature considerable heterogeneity with regard to their basic components of nomination. Primarily, these are terms based on the names of people (84.5%). Less common are those based on geographical names (4.5%) or general cultural and culture-specific knowledge (11%).

Structurally, eponymous terms in the domain of sociology are represented by single-word terms and terminological compounds. The research identified no cases of semantic derivation, a single occurrence of blending with the rest of one-word terms being the result of affixation. that single-word eponymous terms are motivated by a combination of encyclopedic knowledge of the phenomenon represented by the onym and the semantic meaning of the derivational morpheme. Eponym-based terminological compounds are motivated in a similar way, with the categorical information expressed by the appellative component and differentiation related to the encyclopedic meaning of the eponym.



Conclusion

Mythology-based eponymous terminology feature uneven level of transparency – while those originating from ancient or biblical tradition are comparatively transparent, those of later origin require specific cultural knowledge for the meaning to be retrieved. The latter are culture-bound elements in relation to American culture.

Research. The terms were manually retrieved from a set of data of 2500 terminological units extracted from a number of dictionaries and other sources. They were further grouped by structural criteria and the nature of eponymous component and made subject to morphological and semantic analyses. Judgments on their transparency were made after their entries were carefully studied and, in some cases, further semantic analysis was carried out.

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