

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

On the rights of the manuscript

ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**THE FUNCTIONAL-SEMANTIC FEATURES OF
PHYTONYMS IN THE ENGLISH**

Speciality: 5708.01 – Germanic languages

Field of science: Philology

Applicant: **Gunay Mammadagha Aghayeva**

Baku – 2025

The work was performed at the Department of English Lexicology at the Faculty of English and German Languages of Azerbaijan University of Languages.

Scientific supervisor: **Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professor
Afgan Ali Abdullayev**

Official opponents: **Doctor of Philological Sciences,
Associate Professor
Konul Elkhan Abdurahmanova**

**Doctor of Philological Sciences,
Associate Professor
Lala Gadir Gurbanova**

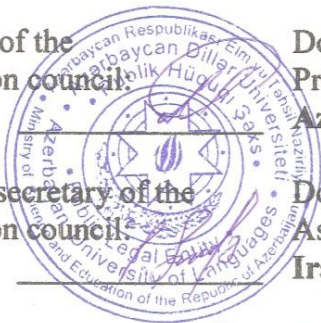
**Doctor of Philosophy on Philology
Fatima Mayis Valiyeva**

Dissertation council ED 2.12 of Supreme Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan operating at Azerbaijan University of Languages.

Chairman of the
Dissertation council: **Doctor of Philological Sciences,
Professor
Azad Yahya Mammadov**

Scientific secretary of the
Dissertation council: **Doctor of Philosophy on Philology,
Associate Professor
Irada Nadir Sardarova**

Chairman of the
scientific seminar: **Doctor of Philological Sciences,
Professor
Fakhraddin Yadigar Veysalli**



GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WORK

Urgency of the theme and the degree of research. The representative nominative domain of the world linguistic landscape, represented by phytonyms, has a wide arsenal based on the triadic principle of “language – culture – people”. The variety of English culture determines the need to identify the share and place of phytonyms within the lexical layer of the language. The study of phytonyms within the framework of the anthropocentric paradigm from various aspects allows for the exploration and interpretation of the peculiarities of how the English-speaking community perceives the surrounding world, the main mechanisms behind this perception, interpersonal relationships within society, and the features of their worldview. The relevance of the research topic is determined by the following factors:

1) Phytonyms, characterized by metaphorical meaning, archetypal, and stereotypical concepts, form the core of the lexical composition of the national language.

2) The understanding of lexical units related to the phytonymic field by speakers of other languages is often accompanied by certain challenges, and the comprehension of lexemes and phraseological units enriched with national-cultural connotations requires a linguocultural interpretation.

3) As verbal expressions of various knowledge structures, phytonyms create a fertile ground for determining the cognitive-taxonomic potential of lexical units belonging to the phytonymic field in the process of evaluating the surrounding world by the language speakers.

4) Phytonyms encapsulate human life experiences and knowledge, reflecting the features of national-cultural mentality.

5) To study the lexical-semantic system of a language in depth, the examination of its individual fragments – one of which reflects the centuries-old path of the people’s perception of the natural world through phytonyms – is crucial.

All of the above can be considered as the relevance of a study dedicated to the functional-semantic analysis of the phytonym lexicon in the English.

In recent years, the attention of linguists has been focused on the study of phytonym from the systematic-semantic description in lingua cultural and cognitive aspects. It was highlighted in the researches of J.Seidle, W.M.Mordie, G.Lakoff, C.H.Brown, N.R.Norricks, N.M.Bradbury, C.Adalina, S.Suprayogi in English linguistics¹; in Russian linguistics S.V. Kezina, D.B.Mirzakhanova, A.V.Berestnyova, A.M.Letova, A.G.Dementiyeva, E.V.Krepkogorskaya, Y.N.Isayev²; in Azerbaijani linguistics A.M.Gurbanov, K.M.Abdullayev, E.S.Guliyev, Z.Y.Gasimova, S.A.Malikova, R.R.Aghayeva³ and others.

¹ Seidle, J. English Idioms and How to Use Them. / J.Seidle, W.Mc.Mordie. – Moscow: Vyssaya skola, – 1983. – 134 p.; Lakoff, G. Metaphors we live by / G.Lakoff, M.Johnson. – London: The Univ. of Chicago Press, – 2003. – 276 p.; Brown, C.H. Language and living things: Uniformities in folk classification and naming/C.H.Brown. – New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers Univ.Press, – 1984. – 306 p.; Norrick, N.R. How Proverbs Mean Semantic Studies in English Proverbs // Trends in Linguistics. Studies and Monographs / ed. By De Gruyter, – 1985. – p.1-10; Bradbury, N.M. Transforming Experience into Tradition: Two Theories of Proverb Use and Chaucer's Practice // Oral Tradition, – 2002. №17, – p.261-289; Adalina, C., Suprayogi, S. Contrastive analysis of English and Indonesian idioms of human body // Linguistic and Literature Journal, – 2020. №1. – p.21-26.

² Кезина, С.В. Семантическое поле цветообозначений в русском языке: /автореф. дисс. канд.филол.наук / – Пенза, 2005. – 32 с.; Мирзаханова, Д.Б. Фитонимическая лексика азербайджанского языка (в сравнении с другими тюркскими языками): /автореф. дисс.канд.филол.наук/ – Махачкала, 2007. 27 с.; Берестнева, А.В. Названия экзотических растений в английском и русском языках: структурно-словообразовательный и номинативно-мотивационный аспекты: /автореф. дисс. канд.филол.наук / – Майкоп, 2008. – 25 с.; Летова, А.М. Семантические особенности фитонимов в русском фольклоре: /автореф. дисс. канд.филол.наук / – Москва, 2012. – 23 с.; Дементьева, А.Г. Когнитивные основы формирования переносных значений фитонимов: на материале английского, русского и французского языков: /дисс. канд. филол. наук / – Тамбов, 2012. – 185 с.; Крепкогорская, Е.В. Сопоставительный анализ фразеологических единиц с компонентом фитонимом в английском и русском языках: / дисс. канд.филол.наук / – Казань, 2012. – 197 с.; Исаев, Ю.Н. Фитонимическая картина мира в разнотипных языках: /дисс. доктора филол. наук / – Чебоксары, 2015. – 413 с.

³ Qurbanov, A. Azərbaycan dilinin onomalogiyası / A.Qurbanov. – Bakı: – 1988. – 596 s.; Abdulla, K.M. “Kitabi-Dədə Qorqud”da rəng simvolikası / K.M.Abdulla. – Bakı: – 2004. – 127 s.; Кулиев, Э.С. Фитонимы в азербайджанском языке. /автореф. дисс. канд.филол. наук / – Баку, 1987. – 26 с.; Qasimova, Z.Y. Müasir ingilis və Azərbaycan dillərində bitki adlarının struktur-funksional təhlili: /filolo-

The object and subject of the research. The object of the research consists of phraseological units in the English language that contain phytonyms, as well as other linguistic units reflecting realia from the plant kingdom.

The subject of the research is the study of the functional, lexical-semantic, grammatical (structural), and stylistic characteristics of phytonyms in the English language, their metaphorization, representation in floristic phraseology and proverbs, as well as the examination and systematization of their recording in lexicographical sources.

The goal and objectives of the research. The formation of the semantic field of phytonyms in the English, both nominatively, structurally, and phraseologically, involves the thematic grouping of these phytonyms and the identification of their functional-semantic characteristics. To achieve the goal set in the research, the following tasks were carried out:

- provide a review of theoretical sources related to the problem;
- identify the general corpus of phytonyms in the English;
- analyze the functional, structural-semantic, derivational, and metaphorical characteristics of phytonyms;
- determine the overall scope of phytonyms;
- identify the motivated nomination characteristics of phytonyms and provide an interpretation of their national-cultural significance;
- identify the metaphorical characteristics of phytonyms by examining their functional-semantic features within context;
- examine the usage patterns of phytonyms in everyday language within contextual settings.

The research methods. While investigating the functional-semantic characteristics of phytonyms in the English language, alongside the structural-semantic analysis method, cognitive modeling, cognitive-matrix analysis, conceptual analysis, linguistic

giya üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru dis. avtoreferatı. / – Bakı, 2011. – 22 s.; Məlikova, Ş.Ə. Tərkibində bitki adları olan frazeoloji birləşmələr: ingilis və Azərbaycan dillərinin materialları əsasında: /filologiya üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru dis. avtoreferatı./ – Bakı, 2012. – 28 s.; Ağayeva, R.R. Frazelogizmlərin formalaşmasında ekstralingvistik amillərin rolu: /filologiya üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru dis. avtoreferatı./ – Bakı, 2016. – 24 s.

description and observation, semantic-nominative, and componential analysis methods were also employed.

The main provisions for defense:

1. Phytonyms (floristic lexicon and phraseological units) represent an important thematic subsystem in the lexical layer of the English language. Certain groups of lexical phytonyms carry symbolic meanings and contain nationally and culturally specific knowledge and information within their semantic content.

2. Phytonyms reflect human centuries-long observations of the plant world (flora), embody human attitudes towards the surrounding nature, and form the foundation of the cultural content of the language.

3. English phytonyms are categorized into root, affixal, compound, and complex lexical units. In terms of quantity, various types of compound names predominate. The system of nominations related to word formation enters the cognitive aspect of language, reflecting human cognitive and taxonomic activities, and contributes to the formation of the linguistic landscape of the world.

4. Metaphorized phytonyms reflect the worldview of the people, representing a system of national-cultural values that incorporates both universal and idioethnic features.

5. Phytonymic lexicon represents an independent microsystem characterized by specific parameters and realizes multi-functional usage. The motivational-nominative characteristics of phytonyms, as products of cognitive nomination, are determined by historical, geographical, cultural, and other factors in the English language.

6. A person's perception of the surrounding reality, including nature, is the cornerstone in the formation of their value system. Lexicon reflecting phytonymic concepts, as part of the lexical subsystems of the language, vividly demonstrates the conscious and purposeful objectification of the surrounding world by the language speaker.

7. Phytonyms, performing a certain function within proverbs and phraseological units, possess the feature of metaphorization.

Scientific novelty of the research. The systematic functional-semantic interpretation of phytonyms in the English and the determination of their role in the formation of the linguistic

landscape of the world can be regarded as the scientific novelty of the study. The work describes the main principles of nomination and the methods of their formation within the phytonym system of the English language, including the word-formation models of phytonyms. The study identifies the role of the nomination system in the formation of the linguistic landscape of the world within the English phytonymic lexicon. The investigation of the structure and functional-semantic aspects of English phytonyms can also be considered as a scientific innovation in the research.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research. The theoretical significance of the research lies in the fact that the tasks set for the study of English phytonyms were appropriately determined. The outcomes of this study can be utilized in the exploration of other thematic groups within the lexical system, as well as in the multifaceted analysis of phytonyms. Furthermore, the findings provide a foundation for subsequent theoretical inquiries into phytonyms. The materials derived from this research hold potential for application in the development of textbooks, lexicographical studies, dictionary compilation, and the preparation of master's theses, thereby underscoring its practical relevance.

Approbation and application. The main propositions of the dissertation have been reflected in articles and abstracts published in various scientific journals of the Republic, as well as in collections published in foreign countries.

Name of the organization where the dissertation is performed. The work was performed at the Department of English Lexicology at the Faculty of English and German Languages of Azerbaijan University of Languages.

The total volume of the dissertation with a sign including a separate volume of the structural units of the dissertation. The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, and a list of literature. The **Introduction** is 5 pages, 9060 characters, Chapter I is 47 pages, 88731 characters, Chapter II is 37 pages, 70444 characters, Chapter III is 36 pages, 66680 characters, and the Conclusion is 3 pages, 5633 characters. The total volume of the dissertation, excluding the list of references, is 240548 characters.

THE MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

The **Introduction** section of the dissertation substantiates the relevance of the topic, defines the object and subject of the research, outlines the aims and objectives of the study, presents the propositions to be defended, and elaborates on the scientific novelty, theoretical and practical significance, linguistic materials, and research methods. Furthermore, it provides details regarding the approval of the work and its structure.

The inaugural paragraph *“Phytonymic lexicon as an object of linguistic studies”* in Chapter I of the dissertation titled **“On the ways of formation and history of researching of Phytonyms in English”** undertakes a historiographical analysis of research into the phytonymic lexicon. Phytonyms within the lexical-semantic system of a language serve not only a nominative function but also fulfill pragmatic and evaluative roles, thereby embodying deeper layers of meaning and cultural connotation.

According to N.I.Konovalova, *“phytonyms constitute a distinct lexical-semantic group that performs not only nominative but also pragmatic, evaluative, expressive, and other functions.”*⁴

In daily practices, humans perceive the diversity of the plant world, which finds its reflection in the linguistic worldview. This phenomenon is ethno specific, as phytonyms preserve the ethnos' conceptualizations of world order. Unlike other lexical groups, phytonyms are not arbitrary in nature. As U.Kricshke notes, *“...phytonyms do not denote specific individuals or particular locations, but rather signify an entire class of plants characterized by certain attributes.”*⁵

U.Kricshke, offering a critical perspective on ancient English texts containing phytonyms, asserts that *“the attempts to adapt ancient medical texts to the realities of medieval England are merely 'perpetual rewritings, futile works comprised of nonsensical*

⁴ Коновалова, Н.И. Народная фитонимия как фрагмент языковой картины мира / Н.И.Коновалова. – Екатеринбург: Изд-во Дома учителя, – 2001. – с. 57.

⁵ Kricshke, U. The Old English complex plant names: a linguistic survey and a catalogue / U.Kricshke. – Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, – 2013. – p.40.

lexicon.”⁶ A.V.Superanskaya, emphasizing the importance of studying phytonyms, wrote: *“Objects of the plant world, deeply intertwined with the customs and beliefs of various epochs, should be delineated as an independent field of research.”*⁷

R.C.A.Prior, in his work on the names of plants in Britain, states that in English, *“fruits, cereals, herbs, and medicinal plants have retained the same names for a thousand years. The most plant names were adopted by the English from the languages of other peoples who conquered England – namely, the Romans, Anglo-Saxon tribes, and Normans.”*⁸

Phytonyms reflect humanity's centuries-long observations of the plant world and their attitudes toward the surrounding environment. In language, phytonyms serve not only a nominative function but also perform expressive and evaluative roles. O.I.Vasilenko identifies two distinct categories of the evaluative potential of phytonyms: this, on the one hand, *“The evaluative component can be determined, on the one hand, by the objective attributes of the plant, such as its physical characteristics, utility in practical activities, and so on. On the other hand, the evaluative component can be defined by the cultural characteristics of the plants, including the religious and mythological origins of their names.”*⁹ According to A.G.Dementiyeva, *“the formation of figurative meanings of phytonyms occurs through the operation of cognitive mechanisms, based on cognitive models. Figurative phytonyms, in turn, signify a new class of objects or convey evaluative meanings.”*¹⁰

E.V.Krepkogorskaya observes that the national-cultural aspect is

⁶ Kriskche, U. The Old English complex plant names: a linguistic survey and a catalogue / U.Kriskche. – Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, – 2013. – p.56.

⁷ Суперанская, А.В. Общая теория имени собственного/ А.В.Суперанская. – Москва: Наука, – 1973. – с.186.

⁸ Prior, R.C.A. On the Popular Names of British Plants / R.C.A.Prior. – London, – 1879. – p.143.

⁹ Василенко, О.И. О фитонимическая семантическая деривация как отражение оценочного потенциала фитонимов // Тетради для аспирантов: Известия РГПУ. А.И.Герцен, – 2008. № 26 (60), – с.63.

¹⁰ Дементьева, А.Г. Когнитивные основы формирования переносных значений фитонимов: на материале английского, русского и французского языков: /дис. канд. филол. наук / А.Г.Дементьева. – Тамбов, 2012. – с.22.

manifested in plant-based phraseological units in both English and Russian. According to the author, *“due to social, historical, or economic development, this component may or may not find its reflection in the phraseological systems of the compared language.”*¹¹ For instance, in Russian, the depiction of the “дуб” (oak tree) is associated with a foolish or narrow-minded individual, as seen in the expression “дубовая голова” (“oak head” – a foolish person). In contrast, in English, the oak symbolizes bravery, as reflected in the phrase “a heart of oak” (a courageous, valiant person).

The second paragraph of Chapter I, titled ***“The formation ways of phytonyms,”*** specifically in the subsection *“Phytonyms Formed Lexically,”* examines the methods through which phytonyms are created lexically. The analysis of word structures not only identifies productive and group-specific word-formation models within this lexical-semantic category but also reveals rare types of complex derivatives and unique models inherent to phytonymic lexicon. R.D.Setarova classifies the structural models of phytonyms as follows: *“simple words, complex derivatives, complex suffixal formations, and multi-word complexes.”*¹²

The phytonyms of the English language are classified based on their structure into root, affixal, compound, and composite lexemes. The process of word formation in the English language and the new lexical plant names generated through this process can be grouped according to its intrinsic developmental principles into the following categories: lexical, semantic, morphological, and syntactic methods.

The essence of the formation of plant names through lexical means lies in the fact that newly created lexical plant names enter the language in their ready form. In the process of lexical word formation, plant names emerge without the use of any grammatical tools. The number of plant names formed lexically in the English language is not insignificant. For example, *“almond” (badam)*. In the process of development, this plant name underwent conversion and transformed into an adjective, during which it began to be used as an

¹¹ Сетаров, Р.Д. Национальная специфика образной номинации (на материале названий растений): /дисс. канд. филол. наук / – Воронеж, 2000. – с.48.

¹² Musayev, O.İ. İngiliscə-Azərbaycanca lüğət / O.İ.Musayev. – Bakı: – 2008. – s.247

adjective, describing not only its form but also its color and taste. For example: “*almond taste*” (*badam dadı*); “*almond blossom*” (*badam çiçəyi*); “*almond eyes*” (*badamı gözlər*).

This phytonym entered the vocabulary of the language as the 1st component of several complex words. For example: “*almond-butter*” (*badam yağı*); “*almond-eyed*” (*badamgözlü*); “*almond-milk*” (*badam südü*); “*almond-oil*” (*badam yağı*).

The term “*aloe*”(*aloe*) primarily refers to a plant native to South Africa and is alternatively known as the “*century plant*”. This phytonym can also appear in the noun form “*aloes*”, typically functioning in the singular sense. Moreover, when used in expressions like “*aloes wood*”, it serves as an alternative name for “*eagle wood*”, which finds applications in the perfume industry.

“*Cherry*”(*albalı*). The name of this plant, as a result of conversion, is used as an adjective and can form compound adjectives and nouns as the first component of compound words. For example: “*cherry-orchard*” (*albalı bağı*); “*cherry-silk dress*” (*albalı rəngli ipək don*); “*cherry-stone*” (*albalı çəyirdəyi*); “*cherry-tree*” (*albalı ağacı*); “*cherry-wine*” (*albalı şərabı*)¹³.

This notion can also be applied to phytonyms formed lexically in the English language. An examination of their origins reveals that English phytonyms often derive from Latin, French, Old English, and other sources, showcasing specific characteristics as well as the evolution of their meanings over time.

The second subsection of the second paragraph, titled “*Phytonyms forming morphologically*” underscores the productivity of morphologically derived plant names in English. The central mechanism of the morphological process involves the creation of new plant names through the addition of suffixes to word roots. The indispensable role of word-forming suffixes in the formation of plant names in English is evident. From this perspective, it is entirely logical to regard plant names as derived formations, as linguistic evidence frequently necessitates affirming the existence of specific suffixes integral to the creation of such terms. For instance, the derivational analysis of plant names like *eranthous* (a type of fungus)

¹³ Musayev, O.İ. İngiliscə-Azərbaycanca lüğət / O.İ.Musayev. – Bakı: – 2008. – s.247

and *pellitary* (*balqabaq*) demonstrates that they are formed through suffixes such as /-en/, /-ous/, and /-y./

Naming is inherently a characteristic of nouns, as illustrated by the examination of plant names formed with the suffix *-tion*. For example, the term *carnation* (*qərənfil*) refers to a specific flower, and due to its color, it has also come to denote shades like crimson or carnation pink in the lexicon. Another meaning of the word is “flesh color.” This particular semantic nuance appears to have led to the derivation of the adjective *carneous* (*ət rəngi*) through the addition of the suffix *-ous*. Apparently, plant names formed with the suffix *-ness* can be noted. Examples include *debudness* (*bespoçkvost*) and *aphaness* (*yöndəmsiz gül*).

In English, the most productive suffixes are typically /-er/, /-or/, and /-ar/. These suffixes also play a role in the naming of several phytonyms. For example: “*aster*” (*zoğal ağacı*).

Occasionally, a word undergoes conversion and starts functioning as a verb, forming new lexical combinations. For example, the phrase “to ginger” initially means (*zəncəfil əlavə etmək*). However, due to the stimulating property associated with this spice, the verb evolves to acquire an additional meaning, such as “to invigorate, spur, or whip (horse)”.

“to ginger up” – *canlandırmaq, ürəkləndirmək*;

“to ginger somebody up” – *bir kəsi ürəkləndirmək*;

“to ginger up a scene” – *səhnəni canlandırmaq (teatrda)*.

This word combines with other words to form compound words. For example: “*ginger-ale*” (*zəncəfilli pivə/abco*); “*ginger-beer*” (*zəncəfilli pivə/limonad*); “*gingerbread*” (*zəncəfilli pryanik, kovrijka*).

By adding the adjective-forming suffix /-u-/ to the given word, a new adjective can be created. For example: “*gingery*” (*zəncəfil, zəncəfilli*).

In English, there are phytonyms formed through the suffix /-ous/. For example: “*octamerous*” (*səkkiz nöqtəli gül*).

The suffix /-ous/ is an adjective-forming suffix in English. However, when /-ous/ attaches to words, it combines certain features in such a way that, while it may express one meaning with the root word in a previous context, it can shift in meaning in a new context.

For example, in the term “octopetalous,” it conveys the idea of an “eight-petal flower.” In contrast, in the word “*polypetalous*,” it denotes a “many-petal flower,” showing how the suffix adapts its meaning based on the root word.

In linguistic literature, the affixes involved in the formation of plant names are divided into two groups: productive and non-productive. The affixes that can be added to a large number of plant names in terms of quantity (number) and that generate a variety of new plant names with different meanings are called productive affixes. For example, affixes such as */-us, -ate, -la, -ous, -y/, etc.*, can be cited as examples. Affixes that are added to plant names and primarily create unambiguous plant names are called non-productive affixes.: */-ia, -et, -an, -oc, -tten, -ing/* and so on.

In the second paragraph of Chapter I, under the third section titled “*Phytonyms forming by syntactic methods*,” it is stated that phytonyms created via syntactic processes are categorized into the following groups: compound (complex) phytonyms and phrase-based phytonyms. In linguistics, word formation through syntactic methods refers to the process in which two or more words are combined based on various relationships to form a single, complex lexical unit.

In the study of compound words, it is essential to pay attention to the relationship between their components. The members of compound words are often linked by the same grammatical connections. For example, in English, compounds like *blackbird* (*qaratoyuq*) and *whitecap* (*köpüklü dalğalar*) are formed by combining components into cohesive lexical units. Such combinations often follow the structure of “adjective + noun,” as in *black bird* and *white cap*. On the other hand, there are asyntactic compound words, such as *door-knob* (*doorknob*), where the relationship between the components does not directly parallel English syntax. This is because expressions like *doorknob* lack a straightforward syntactic equivalent in English grammar. This distinction highlights the diversity of compound formation processes within the language¹⁴.

Although each component of a compound word possesses an independent meaning, in most cases, these auto-semantic components

¹⁴ Blumfeld, L. Dil (ingilis dilindən tərcümə) / L.Blumfeld. – Bakı: – 2014. – s.225.

either completely lose or partially diverge from their original meanings during the formation of a compound word. At times, the first component expresses the core meaning more clearly, while in other cases, the second component becomes dominant and carries the primary meaning. In certain instances, the central meaning is understood through the combined contribution of both components. A.I.Smirnitsky identifies two types of compound words in his works. 1) *compound words formed with a specific linking morpheme: For instance, examples such as angl-o-saxon and state-s-man (Anglo-Saxon, statesman). These types of compounds are relatively rare and are stylistically limited and non-productive;* 2) *compound words formed without a specific linking morpheme: These compounds, in turn, are further divided into more numerous and diverse types.*”¹⁵

The components of compound plant names can function both independently as free elements and as part of other compound terms. For example, the plant name *dog-violet* (*vəhʃi bənövşə*) consists of two words, *dog* and *violet*, each of which holds its own distinct meaning. At the same time, 1-st component, *dog*, can combine with another plant name, such as *rose* (*qızılgül*), to form the phytonym *dogrose* (*itburnu*).

When discussing the naming of phytonyms through compound words, it is important to note certain distinctive features. The phytonym *Rose*, as a simple word, denotes the plant known as “*qızılgül*” (*rose*). However, when combined with other components, it can indicate either the shrub form of the plant or substances derived from it. For instance, a red rose refers to a “*qırmızı qızılgül*” (red rose), while a bunch of red roses describes “*dəstə qırmızı qızılgül*” (*a bouquet of red roses*). This fact demonstrates the existence of various color-based varieties of roses.

In the naming of some phytonyms, the use of pronouns and negation particles can be observed. For example, *forget-me-not* (alight-blue flower) which is also referred to as “*yaddaş çiçəyi*” in Azerbaijani. Another example is *touch-me-not* (*balsam*). In both phytonyms, the first component is a verb (*forget* – “*unutmaq*”, *touch*

¹⁵ Смирницкий, А.И. Лексикология английского языка / А.И.Смирницкий. - М.: Издательство литературы на иностранных языках, 1956. – с.135.

– “*toxunmaq*”), the second component is a pronoun (*me*), and the third component is the negation particle (*not*). In Azerbaijani, the names of these plants are also compound words.

The first paragraph of the second chapter of the dissertation titled “**Lexical-semantic features of phytonyms in the English**” specifically under the section “*Metaphoric phytonyms*,” highlights that the metaphoric naming of phytonyms reflects the conceptual worldview shaped by human sensory experience. As M.Minsky writes, a metaphor “*allows one to perceive an object or idea in the light of another object or idea, which in turn enables us to apply knowledge and experience from one domain to another.*”¹⁶

Metaphor plays a significant role in the formation of plant names. “Metaphoric thinking” is consistently embodied in linguistic metaphors. According to A.Mammadov, “*the use of metaphor is a cognitive ability.*”¹⁷ Metaphor is the transfer of the name of an actual denotation to another denotation based on a common feature. It is the process of understanding an object or event through the prism of another object or event, or through the conceptual domain of one concept to the conceptual domain of another.

One of the key criteria for clarifying the status of phytonyms is motivation. Based on the motivation criterion, phytonyms are classified into three groups: parametric, pragmatic, and locative-temporal. The parametric criterion allows the identification of prototypical bases for naming, such as semantic prototypes for phytonymic lexemes. For pragmatic phytonyms, functional-pragmatic and denotative-purposeful features are crucial. Meanwhile, for the locative-temporal criterion, natural and geographical features, as well as temporal characteristics (e.g., month, time of day, flowering and fruiting periods, etc.), are significant.

Cognitive modeling represents the knowledge and perceptions of language speakers about the plant world in the form of mental schemas. A cognitive metaphorical model structures knowledge based on the

¹⁶ Минский, М. Остроумие и логика когнитивного бессознательного // Новое в зарубежной лингвистике. – Москва, – 1998. – с.281.

¹⁷ Məmmədov, A. Diskurs təhlilinin koqnitiv perspektivləri / A.Məmmədov, M.Məmmədov. – Bakı: Çarşıoğlu, – 2010. – s.47.

similarity between a known source object and a new one. The source consists of well-known typical realities – “cultural codes,” which form the basis for typical cognitive models. The source domain can include aspects such as color, plants, clothing/ domestic items/accessories, natural elements, emotions, shapes, and more.

Source domain – color. In English, when forming the phytonym “blue + beard” (literally “mavi saqqal”) → bluebeard (kəkilli adaçayı), the initial word combination follows an adjective-noun structure. The sequence of components in the borrowed word remains identical to that of the original phrase. This category includes English compound words with color-based metaphors, such as “primrose” (novruzgülü) and “bluebell” (zəngçiçəyi). Certain English phytonyms are constructed using the adjective (color) + noun adjectival-nominal structure: purple + daisy → purple daisy (bənövşəyi çobanyastığı), red + daisy → red daisy (qırmızı çobanyastığı), and so on.

The source domain is plants. The basis of metaphorization lies in the phytonyms themselves. The names in this group are semantically analyzable and, when used independently, denote plants. Structurally, they are represented by two models: “noun + noun” (isim+isim), “adjective + noun” (sifət+isim). For example, as a result of the integration of initial components, phytonyms formed in accordance with the “noun + noun” structural type arise, where the component *rose* (qızılgül) develops a new meaning. Examples include *cabbage rose* (kələm qızılgülü) and *brier rose* (gülləçəkli moruq), among others.

The source domain is clothing/household/accessory elements. The “noun + noun” (clothing/household/accessory) structural model is represented by phytonyms that embody cultural codes related to these elements. For example, there is a significant group of phytonyms with the component *lady’s* (xanım). In the original phrase, syntactic connections are formed through a prefix, facilitating the implementation of the derived phytonym’s reverse model. An example of this is *lady’s purse* (quşəppəyi) ← *lady’s* + *purse* (literally: lady’s bag) ← *the purse of a lady* (xanımın pul kisəsi).

The source domain is animal. In this type of metaphorization, the characteristic model for English is the “noun + noun” structure. For example, *foxtail* (tülküquyruğu) ← *fox* + *tail* (tülkü + quyruq)

(literally: fox tail) ← *the tail of a fox* (tülkü quyruğu).

The source domain is natural phenomena and elements. The metaphorical basis of this group is formed by natural events, components, and materials such as *wind* (külək), *water* (su), *ice* (buz), and *snow* (qar). For example, the term *windflower* (suçiçəyi), literally meaning “wind flower,” exemplifies this metaphorical connection.

The source domain is emotions. The metaphorization of phytonyms is based on a vertical designation mechanism. For example, *love* (məhəbbət), literally meaning “love in the mist,” transforms into *love-in-a-mist* (şam böyürtkəni). Similarly, *love-in-winter* (qışda sevgi) transforms into the phytonym *love-in-winter* (qaraçörəkotu).

The analysis of phytonymic linguistic material identifies four primary models of metaphorical transfer: human ↔ plant, living beings (animals) ↔ plant, artifact ↔ plant, and abstract event ↔ plant. These models form the basis for the metaphorization of actively used phytonyms in English. Among these, the most productive model for the formation of figurative meanings in phytonymic units is the human ↔ plant model.

In the second paragraph of Chapter II, titled “*Phytonyms distinguishing for colours*” the issue of differentiation in phytonyms based on color is studied. The motivating feature, which is an objective attribute of realities, forms the basis of motivated word formation. These features, which drive evaluations, are not only variable but also exhibit instability in their volume and the nature of their properties beyond established boundaries. According to M.N.Lazareva, “*When objectifying the world, humans use a fixed, defined set of features, which enables them to classify and systematize reality.*”¹⁸

Color is one of the primary attributes of naming and is frequently incorporated into the folk names of plants (phytonyms). The shades of individual parts of a plant may be noted in the names, and based on this, phytonyms can be divided into several groups:

- 1) The color of flowers: *bluebell* (zəngçiçəyi), literally “blue

¹⁸ Лазарева, М.Н. О соотношении универсального и лингвоспецифичного в научной картине мира растений // Актуальные направления развития научной и образовательной деятельности. – Чебоксары: Интерактивплюс, – 2014. – с.105.

bell”)¹⁹;

2) The shade of leaves: *silver leaf* (yovşan), literally “silver leaf”²⁰;

3) The shade of blooming: *the tinsel grass* (tinsel otu).

4) The shade of fruits: *kultakastikas* (titrək ot), literally “golden reed.”

5) The shade of plant sap: *St. John's Blood* (dazı, qoyunqıran, çobansüzgəci), literally “St. John's blood.”

6) The overall shade of the plant: *coltsfoot* (dəvədabanı), literally “green flower.”

The color attribute in English phytonyms can be expressed in two ways – directly and indirectly. An example of the first method is *red clover* (çəmən yoncası), literally meaning “red clover.” Sometimes, the indication of color in phytonyms is combined with other naming features. For instance, in *yellow star-of-Bethlehem*, both color and form are reflected. Phytonyms in this group adhere to the principle of direct nomination, as they explicitly name the color of the plants.

Now, we would like to demonstrate the metaphorization of phytonyms within context: “*The wind shook some blossoms from the trees, and the heavy lilac-blooms, with their clustering stars, moved to and from in the languid air.*”²¹

In this text, both “blossom” and “lilac-blooms” refer to the tree and its flowers, and in dictionaries, both words – “blossom” and “bloom” – express the meaning of *flower* (çiçək). However, the process of metaphorization does not stop here. For example:

“*She is blooming after her holiday.*”; “*The apple trees are blossoming.*”; “*Jane blossomed out into a charming girl.*”

In these examples, the word *flower* (“çiçək”) undergoes metaphorization based on certain semantic components. When attributed to a person, it retains its deeper semantic nuance, illustrating Jane's transformation into a charming girl.

In some cases, plants are given the same names regardless of whether entirely different parts of the plants possess a certain color.

¹⁹ Dictionary of English Plant Names / ed. by J.Britten, R.Holland. – London: Trübner & Company, – 1886. – p.572.

²⁰ Plant-Lore: [Electronic resource]. URL: <http://www.plant-lore.com>

²¹ Dodge, M. The Silver scates / M.Dodge. – Bloomsbury Books, – 1994. – p. 84.

For instance, *achillea millefolium* (adi boymadərən, qanotu) and *achillea nobilis* (nəcib boymadərən) are both referred to as "yarrow" and are associated with white flowers.

Cognition and value unite in a single entity, where a motivated word, unlike an unmotivated one, begins to reflect a person's worldview. When approached as a manifestation of the relationship between language and thought, word formation appears logical, as T.I. Vendina states, "*In such instances, the act of word creation allows one to penetrate the depths of human consciousness and explore the secrets of a nation's spirit.*"²²

In the third paragraph of Chapter II, titled "***Phytonyms distinguished for features***" it is shown that phytonyms can be classified based on various attributes, characteristics, scope of usage, and fields of application as a result of different approaches. When naming an event or phenomenon, its properties and features should be considered, and from a linguistic perspective, its structural-semantic components must also be taken into account in English.

"*Duck weed – a very small plant that grows on the surface of still water.*"²³

The *duck* component means "ördək" (*duck*), and the *weed* component translates to "alaq otu" (*weed*). The interpretation of this word in explanatory dictionaries as "su gülü" (*water flower*) is no coincidence, as ducks are typically found in water and often feed on this plant. In this compound word, the shared semantics of both components are reflected.

There is another phytonym with the first component *duck*, where the nomination is understood not based on the meanings of both components but rather on the second component. For example, in the combination *duck wheat* (*qarabaşaq*), the second component conveys the meaning more precisely. In this case, the semantics of the second component is dominant within the compound.

"*Sunflower*" – a very tall plant with large yellow flowers, grown

²² Вендина Т.И. Словообразование как способ дискретизации универсума // Вопросы языкознания. – 1999. Выпуск № 2, – с.48.

²³ Cronin, A.J. The stars look Down / A.J.Cronin. – United Kingdom, – 1935. – p.390.

in gardens or for its seeds and their oil that are used in cooking.”²⁴ One of the characteristics of the sunflower is its movement in accordance with the rising and setting of the sun. The plant faces the direction from which the sun rises.

The characteristics of phytonyms also possess distinctive word formation and lexical-semantic features. The majority of phytonyms contain essential characteristics for the identification and localization of plants. This means that they can be classified as having external and local features.

In the first paragraph of Chapter III of the dissertation **“Functional characteristics of phytonyms in the English”** entitled ***“The characteristics of phytonyms based on their scope of application”*** it is shown that humanity expresses its experience of cultural and spiritual development in the names of objects and events of the surrounding reality. The semantic structure of phytonyms encompasses the most valuable information directly connected to a people's material and non-material culture, as well as the cultural and economic aspects of their daily lives. According to T.V.Toporova, the lexical layer is *“the field that most frequently appeals to the semantic (value) parameters of the world model. Floristic lexicon is a system that reflects a fragment of the world, which is clearly revealed through values closely connected with humans.”*²⁵ In phytonyms, the fusion of cognition and value occurs, as they not only denote the name of the plant but also carry an evaluative characteristic rooted in their practical significance to human life.

Phytonyms can be classified according to various parameters, meaning they can be grouped into categories such as trees, shrubs, fruit-bearing and non-fruit-bearing plants, berries, flowers, stone fruits, vegetable plants, as well as according to their uses, such as medicinal plants, vegetables used in everyday life, plants used for spices, poisonous plants, and so on. For this purpose, we would like to examine the functional aspects of vegetable plants in the English language: *pea, tomato, cucumber, radish, white radish, carrot,*

²⁴ Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary / Oxford Univ. Press, – 2005. – p.1304.

²⁵ Топорова, Т. В. Семантическая структура древнегерманской модели мира / Т.В.Топорова. – М.: Радикс, – 1994. – с.3.

parsley, horse radish, leeks, onion, kahirabi, celeriac, chard, spinach, cabbage, abrassica, races, savay, kale, scorzonera.

A group of these plants is characterized as salad vegetables, as they are used exclusively for salads: “lettuce” (*cabbage lettuce, head of lettuce*), “lettuce leaf”, “corn salad” (*lamb’s lettuce*), “endive” (*endive leaves*), “chicory” (*succory, salad chicory*), “globe artichoke”, “sweet pepper” (*spanish paprika*).

“Lettuce” (*kahi*)²⁶. It is described in the explanatory dictionary as follows: belonging to the Asteraceae family, broad-leaved, edible, and typically used in salad preparation. Origin: the word *Lactuca* in Latin, derived from *lac-milk*, because its sap is milky. It was named based on this semantic component.

In the Collins dictionary, another variety of it is also recorded: “cornsalad”²⁷. According to the explanation in the dictionary, these plants belong to the same root, but due to differences in meaning components, cultivation, and usage, they serve different functions. *Corn salad* grows in grain fields, and its second name is *lamb’s lettuce*. The sap and stem of the *lamb’s lettuce* plant are milky, and based on the relationships between these features, it can be said that its naming is not accidental. Its functional characteristics coincide with its nomination, meaning it is used in salad preparation and is also associated with the word “*quzu*” “*lamb.*” The absence of the words *sheep or goat* in this phytonym can be explained by the following: the semiotic connection of “suckling lamb” and the plant’s milky sap justifies this particular naming of the phytonym.

E.V.Komina defines motivation as “*the perception of the associative formal-semantic connection of a particular word with other members of the dictionary by the speakers of the language.*”²⁸ In the naming of phytonyms, especially in complex structured phytonym names, metaphorization typically occurs as a result of motivation. Here, one meaning element of a phytonym corresponds

²⁶ Collins English Dictionary / – Harper Collins Publishery – 1994. – p.894.

²⁷ Ibid, – p.357.

²⁸ Комина, Е.В. Мотивация как лингвистическое явление / Е.В.Комина. // Семантика и структура слова. – Калинин: Изд-во Калининского университета, – 1984. – с.65.

to the meaning element of another phytonym. For example:

*“Milk weed – one of various wild plants with milky juice, also called silk weed any plant of the mostly North American genus Asclepiads having milky sap and pointed pods that spilt open to release tufted seeds, orange milk weed another name for butterfly weed.”*²⁹

In the semantic layer of this plant, the "milk" semi is present, which is why it is called a “milky plant.” *Milkwort* means “milk-producing plant” because when the stem or leaves are broken or plucked, milk-like sap flows from them. This semi has played a crucial role in their naming.

In the second paragraph of Chapter III, titled ***“Phytonyms Used in Everyday Life and Medicine,”*** it is noted that the folk names of plants provide extensive material for research from various perspectives. Folk phytonyms significantly differ from the scientific botanical nomenclature. The names given by the people to plants lack terminological characteristics. They are not related to a clear system of understanding because, in folk consciousness, there is no strict classification that encompasses all plants. The differentiation of plants and the degree of generalization of folk names reflect the level of knowledge about plants, their economic and medicinal uses. Folk medicine phytonyms refer to plants considered universal remedies.: “*aloe arborescens*” (aloe), “*valeriana officinalis*” (pişikotu), “*potentilla*” (qazayağı), “*taraxacum officinale*” (zəncirotu), “*artemisia absinthium*” (acı yovşan).

In English, there is also a group of phytonyms that are used as spices in everyday life. Phytonyms whose seeds are used as spices include examples such as these: “*cardamon*” (hil), “*anise*” (razyana), “*coriander*” (keşniş), “*pepper, capsicum*” (qara istiot), “*caraway*” (zirə /cirə), “*secame, til*” (küncüd) and so on.

Phytonyms whose leaves are used as spices include: “*mint*” (nanə, yarpız), “*parsley*” (cəfəri), “*celery*” (kərəvəz), “*fennel, dill*” (şüyüd), “*coriander*” (keşniş), “*sorrel*” (əvəlik) and the others.

Fragrant plants can be associated with the following phytonyms: “*coriander*” (keşniş), “*mint*” (yarpız, nanə), “*parsley*” (cəfəri), “*thyme*” (kəklikotu) etc.

²⁹ Longman Exams Dictionary / – Pearson Longman, – 2006. – p.992.

When discussing spice plants, the phytonym “cinnamon” (darçın) comes to mind first. The bark of cinnamon is used as a spice to add flavor and fragrance to dishes and confectionery products. “Vanilla” is used in the food and fragrance industries. “Cocoa” is widely used in the spice industry, in everyday life, and in the preparation of various medicinal products. “Olive” is used as a food product when its unripe fruit is preserved, and oil is extracted from its ripe fruit, which is used both as a food product and for other purposes.

Phytonyms capture attention in the lexicon of a language due to their societal pervasiveness, functional dynamism, originality, richness in both quantity and meaning, the nuanced variety of semantic shades, and their correlation with human living conditions, daily life, lifestyle, as well as geographical terrain. Additionally, their significance is also shaped by whether or not they hold medicinal

In the third paragraph of Chapter III, titled “*Phytonyms Used in phraseological units*” it is demonstrated that the close connection between folk culture and mentality is a clear proof of the special place occupied by phraseological units in the language system. Derivatives of the second nomination serve as sources of expression for phraseological units, and it is characteristic that they possess an emotional-axiological component in their semantics. A.I.Smirnitski, as a distinguishing feature of phraseological combinations (idioms), noted their “*vivid stylistic nuance and emotional richness*.”³⁰

Phytonymic phraseological units have an anthropocentric nature. In most of them, there is a clearly evaluative connotative component. Without understanding the meaning of phytonymic phraseological units, it is not possible to correctly grasp and interpret the information the language user intends to convey. The most common phytonyms in English phraseological expressions are as follows: “apple” (alma), “banana” (banan), “cherry” (albalı), “nut” (qoz), “daisy” (qızçıçəyi), “lily” (zanbaq), “rose” (qızılgül), “violet” (bənövşə).

In English, phraseological expressions with the “apple”. component are used to refer to someone who appears attractive but is morally shallow. For example: “a bad apple” – (yaxşılar arasında pis

³⁰ Смирницкий, А.И. Лексикология английского языка / А.И.Смирницкий. – М.: Издательство литературы на иностранных языках, – 1956. – с.209.

adam). In English mentality, the phytonym “apple” signals deceptive success. For example: “Adam’s apple” (Adəm alması, cənnət alması). “Apple of discord” (nifaq alması), “the apple of one’s eye” (göz bəbəyi), “the apple of Sodom” (gözəl, amma çürük), “apple sauce” (riyakarlıq). The potential semes of this phytonym are: “wormy,” “rotten,” “bad,” and “enmity.” In phraseological units featuring the “apple” phytonym, the negative evaluative connotation is dominant.

In phraseological units with the “rose” (qızılgül) component, metaphorical transfer is motivated by a positive evaluative component in the semantic structure of the phytonym, which is determined by the objective characteristics of the plant, such as its beauty and pleasant fragrance. By analyzing the function of the “Rose” phytonym as part of English phraseological units, the following semes can be identified: “external attractiveness,” “prosperity,” “joy in life,” and “happiness.” “English rose” (əsl ingilis xanımı), “as fresh as a rose” – (gül kimi təravətli, asan həyat). This is reflected in the following phrases: “come up roses” (çox uğurlu alınmaq), “gather life’s roses” (xoşbəxtlik güllərini dərmək).

In English, phytonym-containing idiomatic expressions can be grouped according to their meanings. For example, there are phraseological units based on external appearance, which include phytonyms related to the physical characteristics or visual features of plants.: The phrase “Strawberry mark” – (*a permanent dark red mark on a person’s skin which has existed since birth*) – (anadangəlmə qırmızı xal) is an idiomatic expression that has been created based on the similar color shade of the berry.

The other group includes characteristics of personality traits. For example, “a man of straw” phraseology was created as a result of studying the properties of the “straw” – (saman) plant and means “unreliability, unsustainability”. This quality of the phytonym “Saman” created the phraseology “a man of straw” – (*someone who has a weak character*) – (zəif xarakterli insan).

A third group consists of phytonym-based phraseological units that are based on the generality of actions. For example, the phrase “to make two bites of a cherry” (çox asan bir işə artıq əmək sərf etmək) is formed based on the perception of a cherry as a small fruit. This phrase

expresses the meanings of “pointlessness and aimlessness.”

Thus, while the characteristics of the phytonymic phraseological units we have identified do not fully reflect the linguistic landscape of the world, by studying the national and cultural features of phraseological units, it can be argued that phytonyms transfer their own characteristics – such as the nature of human qualities, external appearance, and so on – into phraseological units.

In the fourth paragraph of the third chapter titled “*Phytonyms in proverbs and sayings*,” it is stated that the phytonyms in proverbs reflect the specificity of the cognitive, linguistic, and cultural landscape of the world, revealing the linguistic-cultural potential of the language unit. The national characteristics of proverbs are also determined by the specificity of implicit meanings within them. In the English proverb lexicon, the referential affiliation of phytonyms is related to the expressiveness of the proverb and its elements, as well as its evaluative and generalized semantics. The form of proverbs is laconic, which enables their application in all areas of life. For example, N.M. Bradbury notes that “*proverbs should be analyzed in the context of culture*.”³¹

Proverbs differ from sayings in that they are metaphorical, allegorical in nature, and didactic. Structurally, they align grammatically with sentences, representing a complete statement, and are introduced into situations in a “ready-to-use” form. The structural completeness of proverbs indicates their functional fit as a communicative unit, rather than merely a nominative one. For example: “*George entered the office of the property broker, a little bald, old man with a thin nick and prominent Adam’s apple.*”

According to the story, since Adam’s apple got stuck in his throat, it protrudes forward. In this context, neither Adam’s name nor the apple is mentioned in the translation.

In English linguistic culture, there is another proverb formed with the Latin-derived and “apple” phytonymic component: “*The rotten apple injures its neighbours*.” This proverb is a simple sentence, but when we focus on its functional semantics, we realize

³¹ Bradbury, N.M. Transforming Experience into Tradition: Two Theories of Proverb Use and Chaucer’s Practice // Oral Tradition, – 2002. №17, – p.318.

that a significant meaning is hidden beneath the surface. In Azerbaijani, this proverb is sometimes expressed as: *“One bad cow can spoil the whole herd's name.”*

In another proverb, the “oak” and “reed” phytonyms are involved, and here, different semantic components are revealed. For example: *“Oaks many fall when reeds stand the storm.”*

In this example, metaphorization is evident: the oak, with its large trunk and branches, can be toppled by the wind, while the reed, being flexible, bends under the wind's pressure and then rises again. However, the “oak” is not elastic in this sense and cannot rise after bending. This idea, formed in the folk mind, is reflected in the language. Here, a second nomination has occurred. One individual maintains their “self” and integrity, never bowing before anyone when the time comes, while another person, to remain in power, will resort to flattery, deceit, and various tactics.

The second naming system represents multifunctional expressions that generalize linguistic units, some of which carry metaphorical meaning and are useful for didactic purposes. Proverbs and sayings serve as markers of the relationships between situations or realities.

In the study of theoretical literature and linguistic material, the following conclusions have been obtained:

1. The phytonymic lexicon is one of the primary objects of linguistic research, as it, on the one hand, represents the human perception of the natural world, the worldview of a particular people, and the characteristics of their cultural traditions. On the other hand, it is an ancient semi-system that embodies a group of clearly distinguishable objects, characterized by a substantial and stable quantitative composition. Phytonyms are a living embodiment of the material and spiritual culture of the people, their linguistic culture, in other words, they are an artifact. The study of phytonyms in linguistics can be categorized as follows: structural-semantic, etymological, onomasiological, motivational, lexicographical, linguistic-geographical, linguistic-cultural, ethnolinguistic, and cognitive aspect.

2. Phytonyms (plant names) constitute a polished subgroup within the lexical system of a language from a connotative perspective. The essence of national-cultural connotation forms the

foundational principle for linguistic cultural and cognitive approaches to linguistic phenomena. The study of phytonyms from linguistic-cultural and cognitive perspectives reveals their role as national-cultural markers of the language to which they belong. Such analysis not only uncovers their denotative meanings but also brings to light their connotative (associative and evaluative) potential.

3. Phytonym-based phraseological units are an integral part of any natural language. As a means of representing the surrounding world, phytonym-based idioms reflect the national and cultural characteristics, as well as the ideological values, of the speakers of a given language. The study of the phytonym-based phraseological corpus helps in creating an image of a specific people, studying their customs, traditions, and values, and enables one to “see the world” through their eyes. Phytonyms in phraseological units perform descriptive (characterizing) and evaluative functions, which are determined by the plant's objective characteristics (useful/harmful, edible/inedible, medicinal, used in economic activities and domestic life), and cognitive-pragmatic laws of thought.

4. Phytonyms, as part of the biomorphic code of culture, are second-order nominative units – components of phraseological units, metaphors, proverbs, and sayings. They represent a unique linguistic model code due to the unity of objective reality of the world and human cognition, as well as the way natural conditions shape a particular plant world.

5. Phytolinguistic vocabulary, as one of the representative nominative fields of the linguistic landscape of the world, is an extensive linguistic material that reflects the “language-culture-ethnos” principle. The arsenal of plant names, which forms the core of the phytonymic field, constitutes the semantic-word-creation domain that influences the formation of this lexical-semantic field in the language. The majority of nominative units included in the arsenal of phytonymic vocabulary have a simple structure. The words naming phytonyms sometimes undergo conversion, functioning as adjectives or verbs, and can also form word combinations, which provides an opportunity to reveal their functional-semantic characteristics.

6. In English, structurally derived phytonyms (plant names)

emerged during later stages of language development and constitute a relatively small portion of the lexical inventory. New phytonyms created through the process of word formation can be categorized into lexical, semantic, morphological, and syntactic methods. In lexical naming of phytonyms, Latin, French, and Old English-origin units hold significant influence. The morphological creation of phytonyms involves affixes, which can be divided into two groups: productive and unproductive affixes. Examples of productive affixes include /-us/, /-ate/, /-la/, /-ous/, /-y/, etc. Additionally, in English phytonymy, models like “lady’s + afterfact” are used, where the function or functional characteristic of the component becomes prominent. For instance, “lady’s night cap” (sarmaşıq) exemplifies this approach.

7. The use of phytonyms (plant names) in phraseological units is a significant aspect of the linguistic and cultural character of the English language. Phytonyms add expressiveness to phrases and serve as a medium for the emergence of new shades of meaning. Phytonym-symbol-based phrases represent the unique linguistic worldview of a culture, with examples in English including “rose” (qızılgül) and “oak” (palıd ağacı). Phytonymic vocabulary, within secondary nomination units, reflects the cultural-historical characteristics, traditions, national mentality, and system of values of a people. Through the study of phytonym-component-based secondary nomination units, key mental qualities associated with the English people's value system have been identified: modesty, simplicity, purity, delicacy, strength, loyalty, dignity, courage, hard work, perseverance, joy, happiness, love, and so on. This suggests that in second-level nominative units containing phytonyms, the context of the corresponding linguistic culture predominantly conveys a positive connotation.

8. The cognitive metaphorical model organizes knowledge based on the resemblance between a known source object and a new target object (“source domain → target domain”). In English, phytonymic vocabulary – the realm of plants, especially flowers and herbs – relies on metaphorical and metonymic models that categorize national-cultural perceptions of the natural world, thereby explicating the worldview of its speakers. The source domains of metaphorical cognitive models encompass knowledge structures (or “quanta”) such as color, plants,

clothing/household/decoration, animals, Biblical figures or saints, nature and natural elements, emotions, and shapes. The figurative meanings of phytonyms emerge under the influence of cognitive mechanisms derived from these models. Phytonyms with metaphorical meanings not only express new classes of objects but also convey evaluative knowledge, enriching the linguistic and cultural tapestry.

9. In English linguistic culture, the analysis of phraseological units and proverbs containing phytonymic components reveals the prominence of the subgroup associated with intangible elements. Proverbs with phytonymic components often convey wise advice in the form of intangible values. For example, the component “fruits” symbolizes human achievements and serves as an indicator of success, reflecting the evaluative and metaphorical richness of these expressions within cultural and linguistic contexts.

10. The connotative marking and direct association of phytonymic vocabulary with linguistic means (fixed comparisons, epithets, phrases, metaphors, proverbs, idioms) make it a valuable resource for studying the national linguistic worldview. Therefore, its inclusion is essential in teaching English to Azerbaijani-speaking students. This approach not only enriches their understanding of English but also bridges cultural and linguistic connections, fostering a deeper appreciation of the language’s cultural nuance.

The main content and scientific provisions of the dissertation are reflected in the following publications:

1. İngilis dilində fitonimlərin metaforikləşməsi // “Xarici dillərin tədrisinin aktual problemləri” Respublika elmi-praktiki konfransının materialları. – Bakı. Azərbaycan Dillər Universitet, – 5-6 may, – 2016, – s.80-82.
2. İngilis və Azərbaycan dillərində bitki adlarının struktur xüsusiyyətləri // “Koqnitiv və tətbiqi dilçiliyin aktual problemləri” adlı Beynəlxalq elmi konfransın Tezisləri. – Bakı: Azərbaycan Dillər Universiteti – Rusiya EA Sibir Bölməsinin Filologiya İnstitutu, – 20-21 oktyabr, – 2016, – s.243-245.
3. İngilis dilində fitonimlərin leksik-semantik xüsusiyyətləri // – Bakı: “Elm və təhsil”, AMEA, M.Füzuli adına Əlyazmalar İnstitutu, – 2017. №18, – s.307-313.

4. Morfoloji üsulla yaranan bitki adları // Proceedings of the International Conference on “Sustainable Development and Actual Problems of Humanitarian Sciences” dedicated to the 95th anniversary of the National Leader Haydar Aliyev. – Baku: Azerbaijan University, – 14-15 May, – 2018, – p.176-178.
5. Dilin leksik-semantik sistemində fitonimlərin adlandırılması problemi // – Bakı: Bakı Dövlət Universiteti, Dil və ədəbiyyat. Beynəlxalq elmi-nəzəri jurnal, – 2018. №3(107), – s.180-182.
6. Komponentlərində fitonimlər olan frazeoloji birləşmələrin semantik xüsusiyyətləri // – Bakı: Bakı Dövlət Universiteti, Dil və ədəbiyyat. Beynəlxalq elmi-nəzəri jurnal, – 2019. №2(110), – s.8-10.
7. İngilis dilində düzəltmə bitki adı bildirən sözlərin semantik xüsusiyyətləri // – Bakı: “Elm”, Terminologiya məsələləri, – 2019. №2, – s.135-140.
8. Onomastik vahidlərdən əmələ gələn bitki adları // – Bakı: Azərbaycan Dillər Universiteti, Dil və ədəbiyyat, – 2020. X cild, №3, – s.97-103.
9. The role of plant names in the enrichment of the dictionary composition of the English and Azerbaijan languages // Débats Scientifiques et Orientations Prospectives du Développement Scientifique. – Paris, République Française, – 1 Octobre, – 2021, Vol.1, – p.131-133.
10. Этимология фитонимов в английском языке // – Видавничий дім “Тельветика”, Таврійський національний університет ім. В.І.Вернадського. Вчені записки. Серія: Філологія. Журналістика, – 2021. Частина 1, Том 32(71), №5, – с.92-96.
11. Məişətdə və tibb sahəsində işlədilən fitonimlər // – Bakı: Bakı Dövlət Universiteti, Dil və ədəbiyyat. Beynəlxalq elmi-nəzəri jurnal, – 2022. №3(120), – s.484-487.
12. Fitonimlərin rənglərə görə adlandırılmasının bəzi xüsusiyyətləri // – Bakı: ADU-nun Elmi xəbərləri (humanitar və ictimai elmlər), – 2023. №3, – s.20-25.
13. On the Question of the Peculiarity of the Differentiation of Phytonyms in Modern Azerbaijani and English Languages // – Poland: Wydawnictwa Adam Marszatek, Studia Orientalne, – 2024. R 13, Nr 2(30), – p.71-84.

The defense will be held on 15 May 2025 at 11⁰⁰ at the meeting of the Dissertation council ED 2.12 of Supreme Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan operating at Azerbaijan University of Languages.

Address: AZ1014, Baku, Rashid Behbudov Street, 134.

Dissertation is accessible at the Azerbaijan University of Languages Library.

Electronic version of the abstract is available on the official website of the Azerbaijan University of Languages.

Abstract was sent to the required addresses on 14 April 2025.

Acad

Signed for print: 10.04.2025

Paper format: 60×84^{1/16}

Volume: 46932 characters

Number of hard copies: 20