

**Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine
Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv
Educational and Scientific Institute of Philology
Department of English Philology and Intercultural Communication**

Bachelor`s thesis

NICKNAMES IN THE 21ST CENTURY ENGLISH

Oksana Bugaienko,

4th year student of the Education Program

“English Studies and Translation
and Two Western European Languages”

Field of science: 03 “Humanities”

Specialty: 035 “Philology”

Supervised by

Larysa Pavlichenko, PhD

«Допущено до захисту»

Протокол засідання кафедри англійської філології
та міжкультурної комунікації

Протокол № 10_ від 27 травня 2024р.

Зав. кафедри _____ д.філол.н., проф. Алла БЄЛОВА

KYIV – 2024

АНОТАЦІЯ

Дане дослідження заглиблюється в багатогранний ландшафт використання нікнеймів у сучасних англомовних спільнотах, маючи на меті дослідити його поширеність, еволюцію та соціокультурне значення. Завдяки всебічному аналізу, що охоплює лінгвістичні, соціокультурні та комунікативні аспекти, в роботі визначаються різноманітні форми та функції англійських нікнеймів у 21 столітті. Використовуючи різні методологічні підходи, включаючи вибірку, описовий аналіз, семантичний і прагматичний види аналізу, в дослідженні вивчаються лінгвістичні характеристики, процеси словотворення та соціокультурні фактори, що впливають на використання прізвиська. Опираючись на низку джерел, включаючи відео на найбільш популярному відеохостингу YouTube, статті та дослідницькі матеріали, визначено та класифіковано різні типи англійських псевдонімів, проаналізовано їхні структурні та семантичні особливості, досліджено їхню роль у формуванні ідентичності та динаміці спілкування. Отримані дані підкреслюють вплив цифрових комунікаційних платформ і культурних змін на формування, використання та значення псевдонімів, підкреслюючи їхнє значення в сучасній англійській мові як способи самовираження, персонального брендингу та управління ідентифікацією. Знайдені результати підкреслюють роль нікнеймів як маркерів ідентичності, соціальної приналежності та динаміки влади, а також їх вплив на робочу комунікацію та міжособисті відносини. Ця робота сприяє глибшому розумінню складної взаємодії між мовою, культурою та ідентичністю в сучасному суспільстві.

Ключові слова: англійські нікнейми, соціокультурні фактори, персональний брендинг, лінгвістичні характеристики, ідентичність, семантичні особливості, словотворення, соціальна приналежність

ABSTRACT

This study delves into the multifaceted landscape of nicknames use in contemporary English-speaking communities, aiming to explore its prevalence, evolution, and socio-cultural significance. Through a comprehensive analysis covering linguistic, sociocultural and communicative aspects, the work identifies the various forms and functions of English nicknames in the 21st century. Using various methodological approaches, including sampling, descriptive analysis, semantic and pragmatic analysis, the study examines linguistic characteristics, word-formation processes and socio-cultural factors that influence the use of nicknames. Based on a number of sources, including videos on the most popular video-hosting site YouTube, articles and research materials, the article identifies and classifies different types of English pseudonyms, analyses their structural and semantic features, and explores their role in identity formation and communication dynamics. The findings highlight the impact of digital communication platforms and cultural change on the formation, use and meaning of pseudonyms, emphasising their importance in modern English as a means of self-expression, personal branding and identity management. The findings highlight the role of nicknames as markers of identity, social belonging, and power dynamics, as well as their impact on workplace communication and interpersonal relationships. This work contributes to a deeper understanding of the complex interplay between language, culture and identity in contemporary society.

Keywords: *English nicknames, socio-cultural factors, personal branding, linguistic characteristics, identity, semantic features, word-formation, social belonging*

CONTENT

INTRODUCTION	5
1. THEORETICAL PRINCIPLES OF THE STUDY OF NICKNAMES IN ENGLISH.....	8
1.1. Definition of the concepts of "nickname" and "anthroponym" in linguistics	8
1.2. Nicknames as a kind of anthroponymic vocabulary	11
CONCLUSION TO CHAPTER I.....	14
2. CLASSIFICATIONS AND TYPES OF ENGLISH NICKNAMES	16
2.1. Classifications English nicknames based on various distinctive features	16
2.2. Types of nicknames in English	21
CONCLUSION TO CHAPTER II.....	27
3. WORD-FORMATION AND SEMANTIC FEATURES OF NICKNAMES IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE OF THE 21ST CENTURY	29
3.1. Derivative models of nicknames of the English language	29
3.2. Semantic features of English nicknames	32
3.3. Comparative analysis of structural and semantic features of nicknames in English	35
CONCLUSION TO CHAPTER III.....	39
CONCLUSION	41
REFERENCES	44
SUMMARY	49
APPENDICES.....	52

INTRODUCTION

In the vast expanse of the English language, nicknames serve as distinctive markers of identity, affection, and social connection. The use of nicknames has permeated the everyday discourse of contemporary English-speaking communities in the 21st century. Understanding the intricacies of nickname usage within this context holds significant importance, shedding light on the evolving dynamics of language, culture, and interpersonal communication.

This work embarks on a comprehensive exploration of the phenomenon of nicknames within the framework of 21st century English. By delving into the multifaceted nature of nickname usage, this study aims to highlight its linguistic, sociocultural, and communicative dimensions, thereby uncovering its relevance and significance in modern society.

This study is based on the recognition of the profound impact of nicknames on how people perceive themselves and others, as well as how they navigate social interactions. In an era marked by rapid technological advancements and cultural shifts, the study of nicknames provides invaluable insights into the intricate ways in which language adapts and evolves to reflect changing societal norms and values [9, 18].

The **relevance** of the topic is in the need to generalize and systematize the diverse and evolving landscape of nickname usage within contemporary English-speaking communities.

The aim of the study is to explore the usage, evolution, and socio-cultural significance of nicknames within contemporary English-speaking communities.

The defined aim involves the following **objectives**:

- 1) to examine the prevalence and frequency of nickname usage in contemporary English-speaking communities, with a focus on different demographic groups and social contexts;
- 2) to identify and categorize the various types and forms of nicknames used in 21st century English;

3) to analyze the linguistic characteristics and word-formation processes involved in the creation and evolution of English nicknames;

4) to investigate the socio-cultural factors influencing nickname usage in the 21st century;

5) to compile the vocabulary of nicknames.

The object of the work is nicknames within the English language during the contemporary era.

The subject of the work is the usage, characteristics, and evolution of nicknames, the linguistic, sociocultural, and semantic aspects of nicknames in 21st century English.

The study material consist of 5 short YouTube videos (5-15 minutes each) from American, British bloggers and Canadian English teachers [43-47]; 210 English words were analyzed [Appendix 4].

Structure of the work: the work contains an introduction, three chapters, conclusions to each chapter, general conclusions, a list of references (47 positions), a summary, a list of supporting materials (4 Appendices).

General and special **methods** of linguistics are used in the work for the complete inventory and systematisation of the analysed material:

- method of sampling (the method was used to collect nicknames from various sources, such as social media or forums);

- descriptive method (the method used to provide a description and characterization of nicknames, such as semantic features and origins);

- method of semantic analysis (a method used to reveal the meaning and semantic connotations of nicknames in different contexts);

- method of observation (a method used to analyze the use of nicknames in social media or in different communication situations);

- method of quantitative analysis (the method used to classify nicknames by criteria such as age, gender, or region of residence);

- pragmatic analysis (the method used to study the influence of nicknames on communication with the interlocutor in specific communication situations).

The **novelty** of the paper lies in its comprehensive analysis of the linguistic, sociocultural, and communicative aspects of nicknaming practices within the contemporary English-speaking world, examining the impact of digital communication platforms, social media, and cultural shifts on the formation, usage, and meanings of nicknames in the 21st century.

The **theoretical significance** of the work lies in its contribution to the understanding of language dynamics, sociolinguistics, and identity formation within contemporary English-speaking communities.

The **practical significance** of the work lies in its potential to inform effective communication strategies, foster cultural sensitivity, and enhance identity management in diverse social and professional contexts.

The first section "Theoretical principles of the study of nicknames in English" focuses on defining the concepts of "nickname" and "anthroponym" in linguistics, exploring their roles in language and society, and examining the theoretical principles underlying the study of nicknames in English.

The second section "Classifications and types of English nicknames" focuses on analyzing the types and functions of English nicknames in the contemporary context, exploring traditional, endearment, descriptive, digital, gendered, cultural, and celebrity-pop culture nicknames; provides an insight into the dynamic nature of English nicknames and their multifaceted role in linguistic and social contexts.

The third section "Word-Formation and semantic features of nicknames in the English language of the 21st century" analyses the structural and semantic features of nicknames in English, examining their composition, formation mechanisms, and cultural significance; explores how linguistic mechanisms such as abbreviation, suffixation, blending, and portmanteau contribute to nickname formation, also how nicknames differ across contexts and social groups.

The general conclusion summarises the results of the research, how the study of nicknames in 21st century English reveals their intricate role in language, society, and identity formation. The appendices provide classifying English nicknames based

on various distinctive features, present the most popular affectionate nicknames and demonstrate the nicknames by subject matter.

1. THEORETICAL PRINCIPLES OF THE STUDY OF NICKNAMES IN ENGLISH

1.1. Definition of the concepts of "nickname" and "anthroponym" in linguistics

A nickname is a pseudonym that differs from a person's own or official name. It is mostly fictional and often based on a person's characteristics or personality traits [38].

Nicknames and pseudonyms are the anthroponymic field periphery and play an important role in the structure of a literary text. They have been studied and continue to be studied by many researchers, such as Berezhna O.O. [1], Velychko Y.A. [2], Kavun O.O. [4], Kateryniuk V. [5], Nikolenko O. [7], Verbych S.O. [8], Skrypnyk L.G. [10], Furist N.P. [11], Alford R. [16], Bechar-Israeli H. [18], Carole Hough [19], etc. Nicknames act as a fixing way the development of the world and human experience. Proper names create linguistic diversity. The stylistic function of such proper names is different. They can act as a designation and characterization of the character [14].

Pseudonyms perform an important social function and often act as miniature sketches of characters, illustrations of character and appearance, or capsule stories, highlighting and reinforcing a certain moment in a person's life that stands out from the rest.

Nicknames carry meanings and can be interpreted in various ways depending on the context of the community. Beyond what serves the actor's contextual goals, nicknames have no consistent and intrinsic identification. The meaning, definition, and even self-indication of nicknames are all open to interpretation. Nevertheless, cultural norms give functional classifications and determine whether certain social or physical aspects have been suitably employed as nicknames or sources of nicknames. Nicknames can serve as an instrument of social solidarity.

Names appear as a result of complex and diverse human life. Naming and defining are two processes of symbolizing a concept to refer to something referent that is outside the language. The naming is arbitrary, but contemporary names can be traced through the causes or events behind the naming or mention of several words in the lexicon. The basics of addressing nicknames are based on the job, physical appearance, characteristics, pun on real name, family members, certain event, birth and place of residence, and politics [30].

Nicknames as identity are usually marked by modifying a person's name who serves as a giver of identity associated with respectable ideals and standards. They are typically employed based on various circumstances, such as for close friends, as a distinctive call relating to a person's character, attitude, physical, or psychological characteristics.

As a result, the use of these nicknames might be interpreted as an expression of intimacy, with someone calling and being called to convey his intimacy.

In addition to being used in the context of intimacy, nicknames can also be a joke that leads to mocking and shaming a person's physical, psychological, and character. In this context, intimacy becomes oppression, and using a nickname has the connotation of humiliating someone using a nickname that is regarded as inappropriate. The form of a mocked nickname is frequently distinguished by aberrations, such as when the term pronounced violates applicable norms and ethics, causes harm to individuals, and is used to mock someone [14].

The terms byname and nickname need some clarification. A byname (or a nickname) is an unofficial name. Bynames can be positive, derogatory, or neutral. The term nickname is often limited to characterization, and is one of the sources for bynames.

Gradually, it became necessary to separate people with the same name, and in medieval documents people are often distinguished by additional names. The function of a pseudonym is to individualize, identify and differentiate people with the same name. Pseudonyms are unofficial names in contrast to official names, i.e. first names and surnames/nicknames. Nicknames are personal and not inherited.

Bynames can carry positive connotations, they are pet names, for example *Honey*, *Darling*, or pet forms of official names (hypocorisms, from Greek *hypokorisma*, *hypokorismos* 'affective words'), for example *Bill(y)* for *William*, *Lizzie* for *Elizabeth* [19, 47].

They can be derogatory, often labelled nicknames, for example *Piggy*, *Fatty* (fat people), *Stinky* (a nasty-smelling person). They can also be neutral, for example *Smith* designating a smith, or *Fleming* 'a person from Flanders' or *Brooks*, *Wood* formed from a place-name or a location [21].

Onomastics (from the Greek *ὀνομαστική* - the art of naming) is a branch of linguistics that studies proper names in terms of origin, structure, development, functioning, spelling, etc. Onomastics indeed delves into the intricacies of proper names, examining their origins, structure, evolution, usage, and even cultural significance. It encompasses various aspects such as anthroponymy (personal names), toponymy (place names), and even study of names in literature and folklore. This branch of linguistics helps understand the rich tapestry of human language and society through the lens of naming practices [3, 20].

In turn, anthroponymy is a branch of onomastics that studies the proper names of people (anthroponyms). Anthroponymy as a system of personal names deserves a thorough consideration from both theoretical and practical aspects. Anthroponyms are linguistic units whose main function is to provide linguistic identification of a person in society. They are a kind of code that stores important information not only about a particular historical era, but also about the human community in general.

Also referred to as 'anthroponymy', anthroponomastics encompasses the study of names given to individuals or to groups of people. As in toponomastics, etymological investigation is a major thrust of investigation, but there is in addition a greater emphasis on the historical development of naming patterns and on synchronic research into name choices.

Anthroponymy studies: features of formation of anthroponyms; the basic principles of human nomination; ways of transition of an appellative into an anthroponym and vice versa; chronological characteristics of anthroponyms, their

changes over time; the emergence of different forms of naming a person, the word formation of different clusters of anthroponyms; the functioning of certain anthroponyms in the language at different chronological sections. Anthroponymy also solves purely practical problems: spelling of anthroponyms; transmission of anthroponyms into another language.

Anthroponymic research examines how naming practices change in response to life events and social contexts. Changes in marital status, age, religious conversion, or membership in secret societies may require a name change to reflect changes in personal identity and social status [19].

In the formal English-speaking environment, two-part anthropoforms such as *John Smith* or *Mary Brown* are used. Names are distinctive and serve different purposes. Quite often, for one reason or another, people change their surname or name or disguise it. The reasons and forms of this phenomenon are quite diverse [20].

Changes in naming practices are linked to historical developments, and the survey concludes with a discussion of the current trend in many European countries for individualization in given names, through such strategies as unorthodox spellings and the creation of new, innovatory names.

In many naming systems, one or more given names are followed by a surname, otherwise known as a family name since its function is to identify an individual as a member of a family [28].

Anthroponymy also studies such functions of anthroponyms in speech as nomination, differentiation, name change related to age, marital status, living among people of another nationality, conversion to another faith, joining secret societies, etc [2].

S. Verbych [8] noted that anthroponym names provide identity without implying any specific attributes or characteristics about the individual. They serve as markers for distinguishing one person from another, but they don't inherently describe personality traits, abilities, or other qualities.

1.2. Nicknames as a kind of anthroponymic vocabulary

The word "nickname" was first registered in English in the 15th century: *an eke name* (from the Old English *eke* - *also*) [20]. It was used to refer to an additional name that expressed admiration or mockery. English linguists also interpret the concept of "nickname" ambiguously. For example, E. Partridge defines this term as an addition to or a substitute for names, including in the concept of nickname-naming the dismissive or familial use of derivatives of proper names [30]. R. Kennedy and T. Zamyner define a nickname as a reference expression that identifies an individual and differs from the formally given name of the referent [23].

Nicknames, as a form of anthroponymic vocabulary, offer a unique lens into human interaction and identity. They encompass a wide range of functions, from endearment to humor, and often serve as linguistic markers of familiarity and intimacy within social circles. Coming from various sources such as physical attributes, personality traits, or occupational affiliations, nicknames reflect the intricate dynamics of personal relationships and cultural contexts.

Across different cultures and historical periods, nicknaming practices have evolved, reflecting shifts in societal norms and linguistic conventions. Thus, the study of nicknames provides valuable insights into the complexities of human communication and the ways in which language shapes social interactions and identities.

Nickname is a type of anthroponym with the help of which an additional and non-official name is given to a person. Such a name reveals his / her peculiar features of character, appearance, etc. When choosing a name (nickname), the user is operated by a number of motives that may explain the choice of language. In communication, the communicator presents the interlocutor's portrait of his / her speech behaviour, one of the most meaningful components of which is nonverbal communication [1, 22].

Anthroponym is a personal name given officially to a human being for his / her identification. The criteria of ascribing of nicknames to anthroponymic vocabulary are the facts of their belonging to the proper names that identify people and to the words of common stock (everyday language).

Nicknames are means of expressing subjective attitude to a person. So they are expressively coloured and evaluative language units. A significant amount of such units are figurative, based on metonymical or metaphorical transferring of common words. There is no one generally recognized classification of nicknames in linguistics nowadays. This is explained by a big amount of referents designated by these units and different category features put into bases of such classifications by scholars. Sociolinguistic status of nicknames allows to classify them depending on socio-communicative situation of their usage (situational and extra situational, multiple and single) and composition of language units used in them (anthroponomical, mixed, and non-proper; homeric (verbose), and hypocoristic (brief, laconic) etc.

The anthroponymic wealth of every nation is a product of its history. Therefore, when studying surnames as a specific lexical layer of a particular language, it is necessary to take into account the history of their development and formation. The system of modern English surnames has been developing for many centuries and has its roots in the distant past. It is closely linked to the history of the country and the English people, as well as to the history of the English language [12].

One of the most widespread classifications of English nicknames suggested by British scholar J. Holland is based on semantic and thematic features of these language units [22].

The most numerous types of nicknames, differentiated by the scholar, are those which point to a proper name of a person (*Johnny, Alex, Lizzy*); his / her profession, passion, hobby (*Doc (for a doctor), Chef (for a chef), Bookworm (for a passionate reader)*); features of character, appearance (*Red (for someone with red hair), Smiley (for someone who's always smiling)*); nationality, ethnic or racial origin (*Tex (for someone from Texas), Irish (for someone of Irish descent)*); social or property status (*Duke (for someone of noble status), Rich (for someone wealthy)*) [39].

Holland's classification system provides a comprehensive framework for analysing the semantic and thematic dimensions of English nicknames. By classifying nicknames according to their underlying meanings and themes, researchers can gain a deeper understanding of the cultural, social and psychological

factors that influence nickname practice. In addition, understanding the various ways in which nicknames are constructed and used enriches our understanding of language as a dynamic and expressive tool for communication and identity formation.

These studies reveal the diversity and multiplicity of nicknames in the English language. From the use of personal names to occupations, physical appearance, body features and ethnicity, they reflect not only the individual's personality but also cultural context and social relationships. Such nicknames become an important element of the linguistic palette, expanding the range of linguistic possibilities and reflecting the diversity of linguistic identities [1].

Conclusion to Chapter I

Nicknames and pseudonyms play an important role in language, literature and society. They not only serve as a means of identification, but also represent characteristics, experiences and social relationships. Nicknames have a form of intimacy and familiarity with one another, and they also may have negative consequences such as shaming, bullying, humiliation, etc.

The terms "byname" and "nickname" need to be clarified, and anthroponymy studies the complex processes of forming and using personal names. Changes in naming practices are linked to historical developments and reflect current trends in the creation and use of names.

In addition, nicknames belong to the anthroponymic vocabulary. Performing a nominative function, they give another additional name to the referents they designate. They serve as a means of expressing a subjective attitude, mockery or admiration, contempt or affection, condemnation, etc.

Currently, there is no single classification of English nicknames in linguistics. The most common semantic and thematic groups of nicknames in terms of their number in English are those denoting: a person's own name; belonging to a particular profession, hobby, or occupation; character traits, appearance; nationality, ethnic or racial origin; social and property status.

Summing up all the facts presented in Part I, we can conclude that the study of nicknames and anthroponymy helps to understand the complexity of linguistic and socio-cultural dynamics in our time. It highlights the importance and significance of names in expressing one's own and unique identity and social relations, as well as the role of cultural norms in shaping individual and collective originality; demonstrates how cultural norms influence personal and collective uniqueness.

2. CLASSIFICATIONS AND TYPES OF ENGLISH NICKNAMES

2.1. Classifications English nicknames based on various distinctive features

English nicknames are classified according to semantic and thematic features. One of the most common classifications of English nicknames based on the semantic and thematic features of these units was proposed by British researcher J. Holland in 1967 [22].

In addition, at the beginning of the 21st century, onymic vocabulary began to play an important role in Ukraine. Linguist and scholar Svyatoslav Verbych continues to actively study this issue [8].

Within the framework of these classifications, the researchers identified the most numerous types of nicknames in English:

- 1) those that indicate a person's own name (personal names);
- 2) those that determine belonging to a particular profession, hobbies and hobbies (occupational nicknames);
- 3) those that describe personal traits, appearance (physical attributes);
- 4) those that indicate nationality, ethnic or racial origin (ethnic nicknames);
- 5) nicknames that indicate the social and property status of a person (person's social status) [APPENDIX 1].

One of the most common types of English nicknames is derived directly from **personal names**. These nicknames often involve shortening, modifying, or affectionately altering a person's given name. They are widely used in everyday vocabulary. The most common of these are nominals formed by abbreviation, for example: "*Luciana*" for "*Lu*," "*Abigail*" for "*Abi*," "*Samantha / Samuel*" for "*Sam*," "*Edward*" for "*Ed / Eddie / Eddy*" and "*Donald*" for "*Don*" [24].

In English, nicknames that indicate belonging to a particular profession, type of hobby, or occupation are also common. **Occupational nicknames** are based on a person's profession or job role. These nicknames may highlight someone's career path, expertise, or responsibilities. Examples include "*Copper*" for a police officer, "*Shrink*" for psychiatrist or psychologist, "*Scribe*" for a writer or journalist, "*Collier*" for a coal miner, and "*Hooper*" for a dancer [34].

According to researchers, the largest semantic and thematic group of nicknames in English are those that describe personal traits of a person's character and appearance (**physical attributes**). These nicknames may be affectionate, descriptive, or teasing, depending on the context. Examples include "*Four-eyes*" for someone who wears glasses, "*Towhead*" for person with very blond, almost white hair, and "*Chubs*" for a person who is overweight [21, 29].

Ethnic nicknames and nicknames that indicate national or racial origin express subjective attitude, mockery or admiration, contempt or affection, condemnation of the referents who are marked. These nicknames may arrange diversity, reinforce stereotypes, or serve as cultural identifiers. Examples include "*Sassenach*" (by the Scots) and "*Sows*" (by Cornish people in Cornwall, England), and "*Pom*" and "*Pommie*" (by Australians and New Zealanders). Such proper names are typical and are not usually judged negatively. But more often, shortened names with emotionally evaluative suffixes are used as nicknames, for example: *Ikey-mo* (Isaac + Moses) - Jew; *Fritz, Freddy (Friedrich)* - German; *Paddy, Pat (Patrick), Mick, Mickey* - Irish. Abbreviations of official ethnic names can also be used as nicknames (*Argie - Argentine, Chinee - Chinese, Aussie - Australian, Paki - Pakistani*) [37].

In modern English, many nicknames denote a **person's social status**. For example, nicknames are used to derisively refer to a member of the privileged class of British society, the meaning of which is formed by metonymic (metaphorical) reinterpretation of commonly used lexemes, in particular *toff* is a fancy-dressed upper-class representative; *yah, hoorayhenry* is self-centred [4]. Also "*Duke*" for someone of noble status, "*Rich*" for a wealthy individual, and "*Pauper*" for someone of modest means [41].

By categorising English nicknames along these thematic lines, researchers can better understand the underlying motivations, social dynamics and cultural significance of nickname use in English-speaking societies. In addition, the ongoing research on homonymic vocabulary in Ukraine, led by scholars such as Sviatoslav

Verbych, highlights the continued relevance and importance of studying naming practices in different linguistic and cultural contexts [8].

Nicknames are more than just alternate names; they are linguistic signs endowed with cultural, social, and personal significance. In English, nicknames are as diverse as the people who use them, reflecting a myriad of characteristics and relationships. This exploration delves into the classifications and types of English nicknames, examining their distinctive features, origins, and functions. By understanding the nuances of English nicknames, we can gain insights into the complexities of human communication and identity [15].

In addition to semantic content, English nicknames can be classified based on sociolinguistic factors such as usage, context, and linguistic features.

Situational vs. Extra-Situational:

Nicknames may be situational (*"Bookworm" for a student known for always having their nose in a book*), meaning they are used within specific social settings or groups, or extra-situational (*"Smarty Pants" for someone known for their intelligence, recognized in various social settings*), meaning they are more widely recognized and accepted across different contexts. These are more widely recognized and accepted across various social contexts. They often derive from characteristics or feature that are universally acknowledged, such as physical appearance or personality peculiarity [17].

Multiple vs. Single:

Some individuals may have multiple nicknames (*Sarah "Sunny" Johnson, also known as "Sar-bear" by her family and "Sarge" by her coworkers*), each serving a different purpose or reflecting different aspects of their identity. These nicknames may be used interchangeably depending on the context or the preferences of those addressing them. Others (*David "Duke" Thompson: "Duke" is the sole nickname used consistently across all social circles*) may have only one primary nickname that is commonly used in all situations. This single nickname can reflect a dominant aspect of their identity or be chosen for its simplicity and ease of recognition.

Homeric vs. Hypocoristic:

Homeric nicknames are verbose or elaborate, often reflecting a person's full name or title. They may be derived from full names or titles and are typically used in formal or ceremonial contexts. Hypocoristic nicknames, on the other hand, are brief and affectionate, usually derived from a person's given name or a diminutive form. They tend to be shorter and more endearing, reflecting close relationships or informal interactions. Examples: "*Swift-footed Achilles*" or "*Wily Odysseus*" [40].

Anthroponomical, Mixed, and Non-Proper:

Anthroponomical nicknames ("*Chris*" for *Christophe*) are directly derived from personal names. They maintain a direct connection to the individual's identity and are commonly used in everyday interactions, while mixed nicknames ("*J-Lo*" for *Jennifer Lopez*) combine elements of personal names with other linguistic elements. They may arise from creative wordplay or cultural references, serving as unique identifiers within specific social circles. Non-proper nicknames ("*Mickey*" for "*Michael*") may be based on common words or phrases unrelated to personal names and they often emerge from notable characteristics, behaviors, or experiences associated with the individual [28].

By examining these sociolinguistic factors, we gain a deeper understanding of the dynamic nature of English nicknames and their role in interpersonal communication, social identity and cultural expression. Awareness of the nuances of nickname use and interpretation contributes to a better understanding of linguistic diversity and the complex interaction between language and society.

Historical and Cultural Classification of English nicknames:

The historical and cultural classification of English nicknames provides insight into how these linguistic phenomena have evolved over time and are influenced by broader societal trends, cultural traditions, and historical developments.

Historical Development:

The progression of English nicknames mirrors modifications in language, society, and cultural standards throughout the ages. Various people speak different languages, so names and nicknames were frequently swapped and altered as groups of individuals with distinct cultural backgrounds mixed due to invasions and

migrations. French influences on English naming and nicknaming conventions emerged owing to the Norman Conquest of England in 1066; this is an example of how names change over time. Nicknames also changed with time. Industrialisation and urbanisation resulted in nicknames related to occupations that arose from new industries and urban living environments being created over time.

Furthermore, the English language has changed phonetically; it has also borrowed from other languages over time and these changes have affected how people form or say their nicknames. In Old English for example, nicknames were generally made up of descriptions that had something to do with physical appearance or personal character traits.

Cultural Significance:

Nicknames often carry cultural significance, serving as markers of identity, belonging, and community affiliation. Cultural traditions, customs, and values shape the meanings and usage of nicknames within specific cultural contexts [6].

Within specific cultural contexts, nicknames may denote membership in particular social, ethnic, or regional groups. For example, certain ethnic communities may have distinct naming conventions or use specific terms of endearment within their social circles.

Also nicknames often carry symbolic meanings or references to cultural traditions and customs. They can evoke shared experiences, historical events, or cultural symbols, serving as mnemonic devices that connect individuals to their heritage and shared identity.

English nicknames, with their diverse classifications and types, offer a window into the complexities of human communication and identity. From personal names to occupational titles, physical attributes, and cultural affiliations, nicknames reflect the rich tapestry of linguistic diversity and cultural heritage.

By understanding the nuances of English nicknames, we can appreciate the intricacies of language and social interaction, fostering deeper connections and mutual understanding within society.

2.2. Types of nicknames in English

Nicknames have long been an integral part of human interaction, serving various functions such as expressing familiarity, affection, or even emphasizing certain characteristics of individuals. In the ever-evolving landscape of the English language, the 21st century has witnessed a proliferation of diverse and creative nicknaming practices.

From traditional diminutives to contemporary digital monikers, the spectrum of nicknaming conventions reflects the dynamic nature of language and culture. In this comprehensive exploration, we delve into the multifaceted world of 21st century English nicknames, analyzing their types, functions, and pragmatic implications.

1. Traditional Nicknames:

Traditional nicknames often derive from given names but can also originate from physical attributes, personality traits, or familial relationships. These nicknames serve as familiar and endearing alternatives to formal names, fostering a sense of closeness and intimacy. Traditional nicknames exhibit a wide range of variations and adaptations, accommodating different linguistic patterns, regional dialects, and personal preferences. They highlight the dynamic nature of language and the fluidity of naming conventions across cultures and generations. For example:

- William → Bill: This abbreviation of "*William*" dates back centuries, with origins in medieval England. Its usage as a nickname reflects the tendency to truncate longer names for convenience and informality [46].

- Katherine → Kate: "*Kate*" is a common diminutive of "*Katherine*," offering a more casual and approachable alternative. It exemplifies the tendency to shorten names and add an affectionate touch.

- Elizabeth → Liz: The transformation of "*Elizabeth*" into "*Liz*" showcases the flexibility of nicknaming conventions, as well as the preference for simplicity and ease of pronunciation [16, 25].

2. Endearment Nicknames:

Endearment nicknames display fondness and familiarity and are often exchanged among relatives, close friends or romantic partners. They may be derived

from given names, pet names or even entirely unrelated terms and are used to strengthen the emotional bond between people who know each other well. These nicknames help in the development and maintenance of personal relationships by indicating shared history and current feelings of affection. They have a deeper meaning than just being words. Some examples are given below:

- Sweetie: This affectionate term conveys warmth and fondness, commonly used between romantic partners or parents and children. Its sweetness evokes feelings of tenderness and care [APPENDIX 2].

- Honey: "*Honey*" is another endearing nickname often employed within romantic relationships. It symbolizes sweetness, warmth, and nurturing, reflecting the dynamics of love and affection [13].

- Darling: "*Darling*" conveys a sense of endearment and admiration, often used to address loved ones or close friends. Its usage emphasizes closeness and emotional intimacy [25].

3. Descriptive Nicknames:

Descriptive monikers function as shortened symbols for discernible features or behaviors of persons. These titles are joyful, ironical or even sentimental and thus may give a hint regarding social dynamics among a group of people. Additionally, descriptive nicknames help to quickly identify a person based on their skill sets, observable attributes such as physical appearance and even character traits. They also reveal how an individual may be seen within his or her own community.

- Red: This nickname may be bestowed upon someone with red hair, serving as a simple and straightforward descriptor. It reflects the tendency to use physical attributes as identifying markers [39].

- Ace: "*Ace*" is a descriptive nickname often given to individuals who excel in a particular skill or domain. Whether in sports, academics, or other endeavors, it highlights prowess and achievement.

- Sunshine: This nickname evokes qualities such as brightness, warmth, and positivity, often assigned to individuals with cheerful dispositions. It reflects the association between personality traits and symbolic imagery [18].

4. Digital and Online Nicknames:

In the digital age, nicknaming practices have expanded to encompass virtual identities and online personas. Digital nicknames, also known as usernames or handles, play a crucial role in online communication platforms, social media networks, and gaming communities. These nicknames can be creative, whimsical, or cryptic, reflecting individual preferences and online personas. Also they offer virtually unlimited opportunities for creativity and self-expression. Individuals can draw inspiration from various sources, including their hobbies, interests, favorite characters, or abstract concepts, to craft unique and memorable online identities. Examples include:

- @TechGuru13: This digital nickname combines the thematic element of technology expertise (*@TechGuru*) with a numerical identifier (*13*), potentially signifying the individual's birth year or favorite number. It highlights the fusion of professional interests and personal identity within the digital realm.

- MysticDragon: This online nickname incorporates mythical imagery (*Mystic*) with a powerful creature archetype (*Dragon*), creating a distinctive and memorable persona. It exemplifies the use of fantasy elements and symbolism in digital nicknaming practices.

- PixelPirate: Combining technological terminology (*Pixel*) with a thematic archetype (*Pirate*), this digital nickname conjures images of digital adventures and swashbuckling exploits. It showcases the playful and imaginative nature of online personal construction [44].

5. Gendered and Cultural Nicknames:

Nicknaming practices can also be influenced by gender norms, cultural traditions, and societal expectations. Certain nicknames may be more commonly associated with specific genders or cultural backgrounds, reflecting broader patterns of linguistic and social behavior. Examples include:

- Buddy: While not inherently gendered, "*Buddy*" is often associated with male camaraderie and friendship, reflecting cultural norms surrounding masculinity and social bonding.

- Princess: This nickname is frequently assigned to young girls or individuals perceived as feminine, invoking images of royalty, grace, and innocence. Its usage reflects traditional gender roles and societal expectations.

- Bubba: "*Bubba*" is a colloquial nickname often associated with Southern culture in the United States, particularly among male individuals. It conveys a sense of familiarity, camaraderie, and down-to-earth authenticity [24]. Nicknaming practices can vary significantly across different regions and cultural backgrounds. Certain nicknames may be deeply rooted in specific cultural traditions or linguistic contexts, reflecting shared values, experiences, and identities within those communities.

6. Celebrity and Pop Culture Nicknames:

Celebrity culture and pop phenomena often inspire nicknaming trends, with fans and enthusiasts adopting monikers inspired by their favorite icons, characters, or cultural references. These nicknames serve as markers of fandom identity and cultural affinity, fostering connections within fan communities and subcultures. Examples include:

- Beyhive: This nickname refers to the devoted fanbase of singer Beyoncé Knowles, collectively known as the "*Beyhive*." This nickname has become synonymous with Beyoncé's influence and impact on popular culture, extending beyond her music to encompass her activism and cultural contributions. It symbolizes loyalty, solidarity, and enthusiasm for the artist's music and persona [42].

- Potterhead: Derived from the "Harry Potter" book series by J.K. Rowling, "*Potterhead*" denotes avid fans who immerse themselves in the wizarding world of Hogwarts and its magical adventures. It signifies a shared love for the literary and cinematic franchise. Fans who identify as Potterheads often participate in fan conventions, online forums, and themed events, demonstrating the enduring legacy of J.K. Rowling's beloved franchise.

- Trekkie: Fans of the "Star Trek" science fiction franchise are often referred to as "*Trekkies*," reflecting their passion for space exploration, futuristic themes, and iconic characters such as Captain Kirk and Mr. Spock. Trekkies engage in a wide

range of activities, from cosplay and fan fiction to scholarly analysis of the series' social and philosophical themes, underscoring the franchise's enduring cultural impact. This nickname embodies a sense of community and belonging within the science fiction fandom [16].

- Snoop Dogg: Cordozar Calvin Broadus, Jr., was a young boy when his mother nicknamed him "Snoopy" because she thought he looked like Charlie Brown's beagle. When he became a rapper, he decided to take the stage name Snoop Doggy Dogg, but shortened it to the more mature Snoop Dogg. His pseudonym not only pays homage to his childhood, but also reflects his laid-back, charismatic personality as a rapper and cultural icon [31].

In general, almost every global star has a nickname. They might use them for personal or professional branding, to create a distinctive persona, or simply because they prefer a shorter or more casual version of their given name. Nicknames can also be adopted for ease of pronunciation or to reflect a particular stage name chosen for artistic or career-related purposes.

Additionally, some celebrities might have been given nicknames by friends, family, or fans, which then become widely adopted. For example: Kris Jenner is *Kristen*; Will Smith is *Willard*; Gigi Hadid is *Jelena*; Bella Hadid is *Isabella*; Katy Perry is *Katheryn*; Mila Kunis is *Milena*; Nicki Minaj is *Onika*; Shay Mitchell is *Shannon*; Skeet Ulrich is *Bryan*; Bella Thorne is *Annabella*; Spike Lee is *Shelton*; Tan France is *Tanveer* [32]. Overall, nicknames add to the temptation and availability of celebrities, providing a sense of familiarity and connection for fans while also allowing stars to shape their public image.

In modern English-speaking cultures, there is a tendency to use names that lack the evaluative component. So let's look at the following types of nicknames: **pejorative, ameliorative, humorous and neutral nicknames.**

Pejorative nicknames (23-11%) are based on a negative attitude towards the object of nomination. Pejorality implies the presence in linguistic units of pragmatics of disdain, disapproval, contempt, humiliation, criticism and condemnation of the object of nomination. These meanings can be expressed directly (*There was a*

colleague in the team known as the office vampire. She didn't do any work, she was lazy and discussed other employees) (*Nicknames for colleagues*) or indirectly, ironically ("*Captain Obvious*" for someone who states the obvious in a patronizing way; "*Sunshine*" for someone who's often gloomy or pessimistic).

Ameliorative nicknames (20-31.5%) convey positive sentiments, expressing admiration, affection, or respect for the person being named (exaltation, affection, approval). These nicknames elevate the person's image or highlight their admirable qualities, often serving as a form of endearment or praise: *The Professor* (for an English teacher), *Superman*, *Sweetpea* (family nickname) [27].

Playful or humorous nicknames (49-51%) appear for entertainment purposes. Humorous nicknames are characterized by their playful or entertaining nature, often used for comedic effect or to generate satisfaction. The nature of these nicknames is expressed in the absence of a categorical negative or positive assessment of the named person, which is determined by the pragmatic attitude of the noun to joking in friendly communication (*Cruella*, *MickeyMouse*).

Neutral nicknames (8-6.6%) are distinguished by their lack of an evaluative component, but they are not destitute of emotionality and clearness as properties of informal names. This group includes the main types of abbreviated names, lacking strong emotional connotations (*Gabby* - *Gabrielle*, *Chezza* - *Cherie* / *Cheryl*) and surnames (*Parky* - *Parkinson*, *Becks* - *Beckham*) [26].

From traditional diminutives to digital personas, nicknames serve as linguistic markers of identity, affection, and cultural belonging. Whether used to express intimacy, highlight distinctive traits, or foster sociability, nicknames play a vital role in shaping social interactions and relationships. The growth of their popularity compared to evaluative and characteristic nicknames is a consequence of the influence of the influence of political correctness laws on the choice of forms of addressing interlocutors.

Stylistically, most nicknames belong to the informal sphere of communication. At the same time, a number of nicknames of celebrities continue to move from the informal sphere to the sphere of semi-official "second" names that reflect the

nickname tradition of culture. These "second" names often reflect a blending of personal familiarity with public recognition, covering the gap between the informal and the semi-official spheres of communication. This phenomenon highlights the evolving nature of language and the ways in which cultural practices influence linguistic conventions.

Conclusion to Chapter II

In conclusion, the exploration of English nicknames reveals their diverse classifications and types, each reflecting distinct features, origins, and functions. Currently, linguistics does not have a single classification of English nicknames. Nicknames are differentiated according to various categorical features: the sphere of use, the composition of their linguistic units, semantic and thematic principles, etc. Such a variety of classifications is due not only to the wide range of referents that denote these units, but also to the choice of the key categorical feature or features that form the basis of nicknames classification.

Semantic classification categorizes nicknames based on semantic content, including personal names, occupational titles, physical attributes, personality traits, nationality or ethnicity, and social status. Sociolinguistic classification, on the other hand, considers factors such as situational vs. extra-situational usage, multiple vs. single nicknames, and the distinction between homeric and hypocoristic forms. Additionally, historical and cultural classification highlights the influence of historical developments and cultural traditions on the formation and adoption of nicknames.

The myriad classifications and types of English nicknames offer a fascinating glimpse into the complexities of human communication and identity. From the affectionate diminutives derived from personal names to the descriptive nicknames based on physical attributes or personality traits, nicknames serve as linguistic tokens imbued with cultural, social, and personal significance. In the digital age, online personas and digital handles have expanded the realm of nicknaming practices, reflecting the fusion of technology with linguistic creativity.

Furthermore, the influence of gender norms, cultural traditions, and societal expectations on nicknaming practices underscores the dynamic interplay between language and social context. Whether inspired by celebrity culture, pop phenomena, or cultural affiliations, nicknames serve as markers of identity, belonging, and community affiliation.

Thus, nicknames serve as a dynamic linguistic tool that reflects social dynamics and individual identity. Although pejorative, ameliorative, humorous and neutral nicknames serve different communicative functions, the prevalence of neutral and humorous variants is indicative of a shift towards carefree in contemporary English-speaking culture. As traditional diminutives continue to coexist with modern digital nicknames, the enduring significance of nicknames underscores their role in shaping social interaction and strengthening a sense of community.

3. WORD-FORMATION AND SEMANTIC FEATURES OF NICKNAMES IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE OF THE 21ST CENTURY

3.1. Derivative models of nicknames of the English language

Derivational nickname patterns in English are the process of transforming long names into shorter, more informal or affectionate forms. These derived forms often arise from close acquaintance in social circles. They serve as an alternative to formal names and are widely used among family, friends and colleagues.

I. Linguistic Mechanisms of Nickname Formation

Abbreviation and Diminution. Abbreviation is one of the most common mechanisms for nickname formation, involving the shortening of a name or a part of it. Diminutive forms, derived through abbreviation, often convey affection or informality. Examples include "*Matty*" from "*Matthew*" or "*Charlie*" from "*Charlotte*", "*Ol*" from "*Oliver*".

Suffixation. Suffixes such as "*-ie*," "*-y*," "*-o*," "*-ey*," "*-azza*," "*-ozza*," are frequently added to names to create endearing or diminutive forms. For instance, "*Johnny*" from "*John*" or "*Katie*" from "*Katherine*," "*Chazza*" from "*Charles*" [40].

Blending and Portmanteau. Blending involves combining parts of two or more names to create a new, often whimsical, nickname. Portmanteau nicknames, popularized in the digital age, blend the names of celebrity couples or public figures to create unique monikers, such as "*Brangelina*" for Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie or "*Kimye*" for Kim Kardashian and Kanye West [35].

Augmentation and Exaggeration. Augmentative forms of nicknames involve enlarging or intensifying the original name, often for humorous or expressive purposes. Examples include "*Big Mike*" or "*Tiny Tina*," which may emphasize physical attributes or personality traits.

II. Cultural and Regional Variations

Ethnic and Cultural Influences. Different ethnic and cultural groups exhibit distinct nicknaming traditions, influenced by linguistic, historical, and sociocultural factors. For example, Hispanic cultures often use diminutive suffixes such as "*-ito*" or "*-ita*" to express affection or familiarity, as seen in "*Juanito*" or "*Rosita*" [36].

Regional Dialects and Vernacular. Regional dialects within English-speaking countries often have their own unique nicknaming conventions. For instance, in the United States, individuals from the southern region may use terms of endearment like *"honey," "darlin',"* or *"sugar"* as informal nicknames [29, 40].

Historical Context and Folklore. Some nicknames have historical or folkloric origins, reflecting specific events, traditions, or cultural practices. For example: *"Queen Elizabeth I"* for *"King George"*. In English, the term "queen" is often used to describe women who hold the highest position in terms of social status or achievements within society. The term "king" used to describe a person who is considered the best or most considerable in their field or group [7, 36].

III. Social and Interpersonal Dynamics

Gendered Nicknaming Practices. Gender often plays a role in nicknaming practices, with certain names or suffixes being more commonly associated with one gender than another. For example, diminutive forms ending in *"-ie"* or *"-y"* are frequently used for female names, while augmentative forms may be more common for male names: (*"James" > "Jimmy," "Margaret" > "Maggie"*) [20].

Influence of Social Relationships. Nicknaming practices are shaped by the dynamics of social relationships, reflecting levels of intimacy, hierarchy, or camaraderie within social groups. Close friends may use affectionate or humorous nicknames to reinforce bonds (*"Em"* instead of *"Emily," "Big sissy / Sista," "Unicorn"*) while formal settings may call for more conventional forms of address [43].

Professional and Occupational Nicknames. In professional settings, individuals may adopt nicknames or titles related to their occupation or expertise. For example, doctors may be referred to as *"Doc,"* while military personnel may use rank-based nicknames such as *"Sarge"* for sergeant [20].

IV. Evolution of Nicknaming in the Digital Age

Online Nicknaming and Pseudonyms. The rise of digital communication platforms has led to the proliferation of online nicknaming practices, with individuals adopting pseudonyms or usernames that reflect their interests, personalities, or online personas. These nicknames often serve as digital identities within online communities.

Emoji and Emoticon Nicknames. The incorporation of emojis and emoticons into digital communication has given rise to creative nickname variations that incorporate visual elements. Emoticons such as ":)" or ":P" may be used as playful or affectionate additions to traditional nicknames.

Meme-Based Nicknames. Internet memes and viral trends often inspire new nickname formations, with individuals adopting humorous or ironic monikers based on popular cultural references ("*tigress*," "*Policewoman*," "*summer_butterfly*," "*33banana33*"). Memetic nicknames may evolve rapidly within online communities and may be context-dependent [18].

Derivational nickname patterns illustrate the transformability and creativity of language, as well as the interpersonal connections that shape linguistic expression. They serve as a means of promoting intimacy, sociability and affection between different groups of people, and reflect the diverse cultural and social landscapes of the English-speaking world. From diminutive forms and affectionate suffixes to regional variations and digital innovations, nicknaming practices continue to evolve and adapt to changing social contexts.

The division of nicknames by their graphic features is also considerable. According to the way they are written, we distinguish nicknames that include letters (of different alphabets and writing styles), numbers, signs and symbols, and emoticons (as mentioned above):

- nicknames that are written only with a small letter (*lovelybaby*, *blackman*, *moodstylestore*). A total of 274 names of this group were identified, which is 55% of all analysed names. These network names make up the largest group;

- nicknames with a capital letter, or in full capital letters (*MISSSTASYA*, *ColdDog*, *BABYALEX*);

- nicknames using numbers (*ace2020store*, *044gardens*, *rosestore1*);

- nicknames using additional characters and symbols (*milas.beauty.store*, *lara_laraa_*, *Hotel!London*).

In addition, the so-called "at sign @" is often used to replace the letter "a" (*M@estr@*, *G@mer.@lice*) [34].

Such a variety of symbols, signs, and the mixing of uppercase and lowercase letters is determined by the peculiarities of the place where nicknames function - the Internet space - and is explained by the desire of users who act as virtual linguistic personalities to stand out among a huge number of other users or is used to attract the interest of the audience.

A graphical analysis of proper names on social media shows that nicknames differ significantly from traditional names: they can be transmitted using only alphabetic characters (both lowercase and uppercase). At the same time, a word may begin with a lowercase letter, have capital letters in the middle or at the end, which directly contradicts the norms and rules of written speech and is due to the peculiarities of the Internet space as a special form of communication and the scope of the name itself.

This diversity in graphical features not only reflects the unique environment of the internet but also challenges traditional linguistic norms. In the online realm, names can deviate from standard writing conventions, featuring variations in capitalization and the mixing of uppercase and lowercase letters. Such deviations underscore the dynamic nature of online communication and the evolving landscape of digital identity formation.

3.2. Semantic features of English nicknames

An exploration of the semantic features of English nicknames reveals a fascinating tapestry of linguistic creativity, cultural influences, and personal identity. Often intimate and affectionate, nicknames serve as shorthand identifiers, conveying layers of meaning beyond their literal interpretation.

Very often, nicknames encode information about the user: in addition to a personal name, it can be age, gender, profession, hobbies, features of a person's appearance or character, emotional state, preferences, etc. They serve to create a sense of intimacy or camaraderie between individuals and are often used as

alternatives to formal names in casual settings. These semantic features contribute to the uniqueness and memorability of each nickname, reflecting the individuality of the person being addressed [9].

We should consider the semantics of nicknames, which has been much discussed since Mill. They are diachronically motivated, and in most cases a meaningful etymon can be found: for example, surnames are derived from elements of common vocabulary that indicate paternity (*son of Richard* > *Richardson*) or occupation (*millar* > *Miller*). But they are simultaneously obscure: "It is widely, though not universally, accepted that proper nouns are irrelevant" [33].

Due to such a wide range of information embedded in the essence of a nickname, there are a huge number of different classifications and varieties of virtual names proposed by various researchers in order to reveal the meaning of network names as accurately as possible. Given the similarity between nicknames and pseudonyms, it is appropriate to use the classification of pseudonyms to reveal their semantic nature [34].

Among the English nicknames, the leading position belongs to a significant percentage of nicknames (38%) that do not belong to any of the groups in the classifications, because they are incomprehensible to other communicators and require explanation by the user in order to determine the semantic essence of the network name, e.g., *tgpnvsla*, *br99st*, *zagabriella*, *wwwfqabt*. Among the network names whose semantic nature can be analysed, the most numerous group is made up of phrenonyms, i.e. nicknames consisting only of the name, for example, *Helen*, *Deborah_*, *Victoria05*, *Ariela* (22.4 %). This popularity of phrenonyms can be explained by several factors.

Firstly, the familiarity and conciseness of a personal name makes it a convenient and easily identifiable choice in virtual interactions. In addition, using only a first name ("*Sarah77*," "*JohnDoe*") is in line with traditional ways of addressing people in person, which facilitates smooth communication on online platforms. They're popular because they are easy to recognize and quickly convey a person's identity online. Also the choice of a prenominal allows people to quickly and

concisely express themselves in the vast space of the Internet, where concise self-presentation is often preferred.

The prevalence of prenominal names emphasises the importance of personal identity and the desire for effective communication in virtual space. It reflects the tendency to use familiarity and simplicity to navigate complex online environments, emphasising the role of individual identity in shaping digital communication practices [9].

Among other semantic groups of nicknames, the following were identified: titlonyms - names indicating positions, professions, social statuses, e.g. (*KingOf_The_Castle*, *_Duke_Dreams_*); geronyms - nicknames denoting the names of literary characters and mythical creatures, e.g. (*heroic@heart*, *WarriorSpirit*); eidonyms - a nickname that contains information about the user's appearance, e.g. (*dream.crafter_*, *FantasyWeaver*); zoonymph - nicknames for animals (*Tiger@King*, *EagleEye*); phrenonyms - Internet names that indicate certain traits of the user's character (*Laughing.girl*, *CryingCloud*, *WhisperingWind*); toponyms - nicknames that contain a geographical name (*TokyoExplorer*, *Paris_in_my_heart*); allonyms - names of famous people chosen as nicknames (*MissZendaya*, *shakira2002*); chromatonyms - network names that contain a colour name (*_Blue_Sky_Dreamer_*, *golden.sunset_lover*); phytonyms - nicknames denoting the name of a plant (*green.09.thumb*, *BlossomBuddy*, *Flower_Child*).

The smallest number of nicknames include food names (*coffee_connoisseur_1999*, *Sweet_Tooth_Savant*); next is a group of nicknames with abstract concepts (*wisdom.whisperer*, *courageous.heart*); and the last group of nicknames are nicknames related to fashion and the name of certain clothes (*beauty_hunter*, *trendy_threadster*) [APPENDIX 3].

In the classification according to the semantic criterion, the largest group is made up of autonyms (30.6% of the total number of lexical items). This can be explained by the fact that anonymity is a person's real name, and modern users do not seek to hide their real name, but try to give as much information about themselves as possible. The classification of nicknames by subject matter showed that the largest

number of nicknames are expressed by a combination of different parts of speech, especially many network names are a combination of a noun and an adjective.

In addition to the division of nicknames into classifications, there is also a division into degrees of anonymity. There are three divisions: **very high degree of anonymity, high degree and low.**

A **very high degree** of anonymity means that the personal information about the user's identity is unknown, detailed information about gender, etc. is hidden (*dwx, k13*). Individuals using nicknames with a very high degree of anonymity may prioritize privacy and discretion in their online interactions.

The second group is a **high degree of anonymity**, which is characterised by the fact that the age and gender can be guessed from the nickname of the person to whom it refers, and no other personal information is provided (*Kate28, _ELIZABETH_*). While they offer limited insight into their user's identity, they still maintain a level of anonymity by withholding specific personal information.

The last group is a **low degree of anonymity**, which means that the user's profession gives certain clues about the gender, interests and social status of this person (*football_agency, IT.steps.work*). While these nicknames offer less anonymity compared to the previous categories, they still may not reveal detailed personal information about the user.

Each of these groups consists of three categories of nicknames, which, according to Bechar-Israeli H., have a certain relationship to something [18]. Bechar-Israeli H.'s classification further clarifies the relationship between nicknames and user identity, highlighting the varying degrees of anonymity and information conveyed by these linguistic constructs. From a very high degree of anonymity, where personal information is completely hidden, to a low degree of anonymity, where profession and pastime can give clues about gender and interests, this division highlights the subtle connection between nicknames and user identity.

3.3. Comparative analysis of structural and semantic features of nicknames in English

The structural analysis of nicknames involves the consideration of lexical units in terms of their composition. Nicknames have a variety of characteristics in terms of structural expression. By structure, we distinguish between one-word ("*elizaabeth_*," "*isabellaa*,") and multi-word nicknames ("*kimkardashian*," "*erling.haaland*").

According to observations, Internet users most often choose nicknames that are represented by only one word (approximately 70%), but construct names also make up a significant percentage of the total number of anthroponymic units studied. Construct names are less common, due to the non-linearity and cumbersomeness of such names. Among them, word combinations are more common than sentences represented by simple constructions.

Nowadays, it is impossible to imagine ourselves without electronic gadgets, including social media. Social media has become a major part of communication and interaction, and nicknames allow users to express themselves or leave anonymous comments. Both elements reflect current trends in online culture and resistance to personal identification.

Instagram, Telegram, Facebook, WhatsApp, Viber have become an integral part of our lives. Thanks to these social networks, we can not only get the latest news from around the world, but also communicate with other people. They've seamlessly integrated into our daily lives, offering a platform for connection, news consumption, and social interaction. With their widespread usage, they've become indispensable tools for many, shaping the way we interact and share information globally.

As the research shows, most people on social media choose nicknames that consist of just a first and last name ("*jasonstatham*," "*pat_cummins*," "*stefani.pollack*") [42] or abbreviations, when either the first or several initial letters of official anthroponyms are used ("*KB*," "*LeahM*," "*K_Train*") and even criminal nicknames ("*The_Hunter*," "*mad.murder*," "*enforcer_666*") [5].

Registering on social networks with a first and last name helps users create a more personal and identifiable profile. This makes it easier for friends and acquaintances to find each other, as each person is associated with their own

nickname on the social network. In addition, the use of real names can foster a sense of responsibility and authenticity within the platform community.

Traditionally, a pseudonym is defined in literary criticism as a fictitious name that creates a false image of the writer in terms of his or her gender, nationality, profession, character, or political preferences.

Unlike other anthroponyms (names and surnames), pseudonyms are "invented and appropriated by the author as a special means of self-expression." The emergence of a pseudonym is not caused by the social necessity that determines the emergence and functioning of real names, as the nominator is guided by his or her own desires regardless of private reasons (secrecy, following fashion, etc.).

The main motive for creating a pseudonym is self-representation, which is similar to a network name. In addition, their similarity is also based on signs of self-identification, individual belonging, and a limited sphere of use.

The study of the nickname as a means of identification in the virtual environment is connected not only to lexicon, but also to psychology and sociology. Anonymity allows you to manifest a hidden perception of yourself as a person on a subconscious level, which is known only to the user, often unconsciously. This explains the interest of psychologists in the creation and interpretation of nicknames in the virtual world.

Structural Analysis:

Nicknames in English exhibit a diverse range of structural patterns. One common structural feature is the use of alphanumeric characters, often combined with symbols or punctuation marks. For example, "*99_alex_99*" combines the author's name "Alex" with the numeric sequence "99," indicating potentially a birth year. Another structural pattern involves the concatenation of words or phrases, such as "*foodie_life*" or "*City.Travel*," which convey specific interests or passions. Additionally, some nicknames incorporate underscores, dashes, or capitalization for clarity or aesthetic appeal, as seen in "*Music_Lover*".

Semantic Analysis:

The semantic features of nicknames in English encompass a wide spectrum of meanings and connotations. Many nicknames reflect personal interests, hobbies, or professions. For instance, "*gamer_girl*" implies a passion for gaming, while "*Book.Worm*" suggests a love for literature. Some nicknames convey aspirational or idealized identities, such as "*fashionistaa*" or "*fitness_chloe*," which highlight a dedication to style or physical fitness.

When comparing the structural and semantic features of nicknames, several patterns emerge. Structural elements often serve as vehicles for conveying semantic content. For instance, alphanumeric sequences like "*99_alex_99*" not only provide a unique identifier but also indicate a birth year. Similarly, the combination of words or phrases in nicknames like "*foodie_life*" or "*City.Travel*" serves as a shorthand for expressing specific interests or personality traits [44].

Furthermore, the choice of structural patterns can influence the perceived meaning of a nickname. Nicknames with cleaner, more straightforward structures may be perceived as more professional or serious, while those with playful or unconventional structures may convey a sense of creativity or whimsy.

Gary Glitter is the pseudonym of *Paul Francis Gadd*. The name *Gary* is a very common English name, but as soon as the performer added the surname *Glitter*, he literally shone. Most likely, the performer deliberately chose a simple name so that his "bright" surname would have a greater effect against this background.

There are also oxymorons in English pseudonyms. For example, pseudonym Norman Cook - "*FatBoy Slim*" (fat "*chubby*," slim "*thin*") [45]. Mutually exclusive concepts intersect in this name, which emphasises the ambiguity of the image, as well as the unusual graphic image of the name. According to codified norms, the phrase fat boy is written separately, in this case, the performer wrote both words together to strengthen the contrast.

It is clear that when English-language pseudonyms are transcribed/transliterated, their semantics are often lost. Sometimes in articles and advertisements, a nickname is used as a basic element of wordplay, its semantics played out in a certain context. In this case, the translator has to introduce certain explanations into

the text regarding the meaning of the pseudonym in the source language or provide the translated text with a commentary.

A comparative semantic analysis of some types of pseudonyms in the English onomasticon has shown that artists deliberately choose spectacular and enchanting pseudonyms to create a certain effect and emphasise the peculiarities of their work before appearing on stage.

Conclusion to Chapter III

The exploration of word-formation and semantic features of nicknames in the English language of the 21st century reveals a rich tapestry of linguistic creativity, cultural diversity, and interpersonal dynamics. From derivative models of nicknames, including abbreviation, blending, and suffixation, to the semantic encoding of information about individuals, such as age, gender, and interests, nicknaming practices reflect the intricacies of human interaction and identity expression.

The first subchapter highlighted the fundamental linguistic mechanisms behind nickname formation, including abbreviation, blending, suffixation, and augmentation. It showcased how these processes generate a diverse array of nicknames, each conveying distinct tones of familiarity, affection, or humor. By exploring the origins and cultural significance of these derivative models, the chapter underscored their role in reflecting and shaping social dynamics within English-speaking communities. Moreover, it emphasized the ongoing evolution of nicknaming practices in the digital age, where online platforms and meme culture contribute to the emergence of new and innovative nickname variations.

The second subchapter highlighted the intricate semantic nature of English nicknames, revealing how they encode diverse aspects of users' identities, such as age, gender, profession, and personal characteristics. The chapter also discussed classification systems for nicknames, noting the prevalence of autonyms and the variety of semantic structures, such as phrenonyms and combinations of different parts of speech, reflecting users' preferences and motivations in nickname creation. The semantic richness of English nicknames underscores their significance in shaping digital communication practices, facilitating connection, expression, and individuality

in online interactions. Additionally, the division of nicknames into degrees of anonymity provides insights into users' privacy preferences and the level of personal information they choose to disclose.

The third subchapter highlighted the significant role of nicknames in contemporary digital culture, particularly within the context of social media platforms. It discussed the prevalence of first name and last name combinations as popular choices for online identities, facilitating personalization and ease of identification on social platforms. Lastly, the discussion underscored how nicknames on social media platforms serve as tools for self-expression, personal branding, and community engagement, shaping perceptions and interactions within online communities.

CONCLUSION

This study has provided a comprehensive analysis of the phenomenon of nicknames in 21st-century English, encompassing theoretical principles, classifications, word-formation mechanisms, semantic features, and a comparative analysis of structural and semantic attributes.

The present study has shown that anthroponym, one of the leading terms of onomastics, is an object that has been studied many times, but continues to develop and is of interest to many linguists. The prevalence and frequency of nickname usage in contemporary English-speaking communities vary significantly across different demographic groups and social contexts. As a linguistic category, an anthroponym has a number of distinctive features (it denotes the names of people, is characterised by semantic unity of components, the presence of a lexical background, and socio-historical conditioning), and also performs a number of functions, the main one being that the nominative emergence of the Internet gave a new impetus to the development of anthroponyms and, consequently, to their study.

Possessing a number of features, including the subjectivity of transmitted and received information, hypertextuality, globality, anonymity, and language specificity, the Internet space has created a special micro-society represented by linguistic personalities. The proper name has become a way of self-representation, subject to certain modifications due to the peculiarities of communication in the Internet space. A nickname has become a virtual analogue of a proper name. The analysis of the research on the topic allows us to conclude that a nickname is a unit of artificial nomination created by a linguistic personality for self-presentation in social networks.

The exploration of nicknames in 21st-century English illuminates the intricate interplay between linguistic principles, cultural influences, and social dynamics. Through the theoretical lens of linguistics, we have dissected the concepts of "nickname" and "anthroponym," recognizing nicknames as a unique subset of anthroponymic vocabulary that embodies personal identity and social relationships.

The study shows that social network users do not seek to hide their "I", but, on the contrary, want to realise themselves as much as possible in virtual communication as a communicative, unusual, bright personality. People use a wide variety of nicknames to present themselves as individuals, outlining their character traits, preferences, hobbies, etc.

Various types and forms of nicknames have emerged in 21st century English, reflecting the diverse linguistic and cultural landscape. From affectionate diminutives to humorous monikers, nicknames serve multiple functions in modern communication, shaping interpersonal relationships and identities.

The analysis of linguistic characteristics and word-formation processes involved in English nickname creation reveals a rich interplay of phonetic, semantic, and morphological elements. Derivative models such as abbreviation, suffixation, and blending offer insight into the linguistic mechanisms through which long names are transformed into compact, expressive forms. Semantic features reveal the layers of meaning and connotation embedded within nicknames, reflecting personal attributes, interests, and cultural affiliations.

Having analysed the structure of nicknames, we found that users most often choose nicknames represented by a single word, but that compound names also make up a large percentage of the total number of lexical items. Among the sentence nicknames, there are mainly names that are simple sentences. In the classification according to the semantic criterion, the largest group is made up of autonyms (30.6% of the total number of lexical items). This can be explained by the fact that an autonym is a person's real name, and modern users do not seek to hide their real name, but try to provide as much information about themselves as possible.

The comparative analysis of structural and semantic features underscores the symbiotic relationship between form and meaning in nickname construction. Structural elements serve as vehicles for conveying semantic content, while semantic associations inform the choice of structural patterns. This holistic understanding of nicknaming practices deepens our appreciation for their role in identity construction and social interaction in contemporary English-speaking communities.

As exemplified by the diverse examples discussed throughout this study, from traditional diminutives like *"Matty"* to digital-era pseudonyms like *"99_alex_99,"* nicknames serve as potent markers of individuality and belonging. By delving into the nuances of nickname formation, we gain valuable insights into the evolving nature of language and the complexities of human communication.

Socio-cultural factors play a significant role in influencing nickname usage in the 21st century. Factors such as cultural heritage, social status, and technological advances shape the adoption and dissemination of nicknames, reflecting broader trends in communication practices and social dynamics. Understanding these factors is essential for comprehending the role of nicknames in contemporary English-speaking societies.

In addition to the above analyses, an alphabetical dictionary of common English nicknames has been compiled [APPENDIX 4]. This resource is an important element in our quest to unravel the intricacies of nickname formation and use in the English language. By providing a structured repository of a variety of nicknames, it not only deepens our understanding of linguistic nuances, but also offers insight into the sociocultural dynamics that influence the adoption and evolution of nicknames.

REFERENCES

1. Бережна О. О. Особливості та способи перекладу складних термінів з антропонімами в англomовних наукових текстах. 2019 №9. С.14-18. - http://ddpu-filolvisnyk.com.ua/uploads/arkhiv-nomerov/2018/NV_2018_9/5.pdf
2. Величко Я. А. Антропонімія в англійській мові: структурно-семантичний та функціональний аспекти. 2010 С.5-7. - <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/14049369.pdf>
3. Енциклопедія сучасної України [Електронний ресурс] – <https://esu.com.ua/article-75454>
4. Кавун О.О. Семантико-структурна типологія англійських та українських прізвищ [Електронний ресурс] - <https://studentam.net.ua/content/view/8714/97/>
5. Катернюк В. Дериваційні моделі прізвицьк в англійській мові. С.1-8. - https://elibrary.kubg.edu.ua/id/eprint/5605/1/V_Katerniuk_SV_7_GI.pdf
6. Лінгвістичні особливості нікнеймів у соціальних мережах Instagram та Facebook [Електронний ресурс] - https://philology.lnu.edu.ua/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/miy-nikneym_konkursna-robota.pdf
7. Ніколенко О. Прізвиська в англomовній картині світу: структурні, семантичні, соціокультурні особливості. *Автореф. дис. к. філол. н.* 10-02.04 - германські мови. 2015
8. С. Вербич. Сучасна українська онімна лексика: функціональний аспект. 2008 №5. С.54-60. - <http://dspace.nbu.gov.ua/bitstream/handle/123456789/2005/10%20-%20Verbych.pdf?sequence=1>
9. Семантичні особливості мережевих імен в англійській та українській антропоніміці [Електронний ресурс] - https://www.researchgate.net/publication/336847650_SEMANTICNI_OSOBLIVOS_TI_MEREZEVIH_IMEN_V_ANGLIJSKIJ_TA_UKRAINSKIJ_ANTROPONIMICI
10. Скрипник Л. Г. Власні імена людей / Л. Г. Скрипник, Н. П. Дзятківська. - К., 1986

11. Фурист Н. П. Лінгвокультурні особливості інтимізації в англійських та українських фольклорних текстах, 2011 - 201 с.
12. Яків'юк М.І., Бялик В.Д. Article "Classifications and types of English nicknames" - 2019 - Видавничий дім "Гельветика" [Електронний ресурс] - <https://dspace.uzhnu.edu.ua/jspui/handle/lib/33598?mode=full>
13. 86 Sweet Nicknames For Girlfriends, Boyfriends, Or Spouses [Electronic resource] - <https://www.southernliving.com/culture/sweet-nicknames-girlfriend-boyfriend-spouse>
14. A Connection Between Nickname and Identity: Does it Reflect Intimacy or Shaming? Annisa A Dianitami, Widyastuti Widyastuti, Slamet Setiawan [Electronic source] - <https://www.atlantis-press.com/article/125985288.pdf>
15. A research project on nicknames and adolescent identities [Electronic resource] - <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/143873423.pdf>
16. Alford R. Naming And Identity: A Cross-Cultural Study of Personal Naming Practices. Cambridge University Press, 2016. 190 p.
17. Article. Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities Research, volume 673 [Electronic resource] - <https://www.atlantis-press.com/article/125976149.pdf>
18. Bechar-Israeli H. From «Bonehead»: Nicknames, Plays and Identity on Internet Relay Chat. Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication. 1998. Vol. 1. № 2. P. 145
19. Carole Hough. The Oxford Handbook of Names and Naming. Oxford University Press, 2016. 237-239 p.
20. Crystal D. The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004. 282 p.
21. English nicknames based on appearance and personality [Electronic resource] - <https://blogs.transparent.com/english/english-nicknames-based-on-appearance-and-personality/>
22. Holland J. The Many Faces of Nicknames. Names. 2015. Vol. 38. № 4. 261 p.

23. Kennedy R., Zamyner T. Nicknames and the Lexicon of Sports. Studies in language. 2018. 129-142 p.
24. King Shumba, Smiling Devil and Baby Doctor: A sociolinguistic study of lecturers' nicknames in two Nigerian universities [Electronic resource] - https://www.researchgate.net/publication/344685305_King_Shumba_Smiling_Devil_and_Baby_Doctor_A_sociolinguistic_study_of_lecturers'_nicknames_in_two_Nigerian_universities
25. Matching up Nicknames With Given Names. [Electronic resource] - <https://www.thoughtco.com/matching-up-nicknames-with-given-names-1421939>
26. National and Cultural specificity of nicknames in modern English material [Electronic resource] - <https://wos.academiascience.org/index.php/wos/article/download/1050/980/2010>
27. Nicknames as Sex-Role Stereotype [Electronic resource] - https://www.researchgate.net/publication/225918391_Nicknames_as_Sex-Role_Stereotypes
28. Nicknames of English-Speaking Adolescent Users of Social Networks (on the Example of Twitter) [Electronic resource] - https://www.researchgate.net/publication/342473471_Nicknames_of_English-Speaking_Adolescent_Users_of_Social_Networks_on_the_Example_of_Twitter
29. Occupational Nicknames. [Electronic resource] - <https://www.nwaonline.com/news/2022/may/11/super-quiz-occupational-nicknames/>
30. Patridge E. Usage and Abusage: A Guide to Good English. London: Middlesex University Press, 1976. 202 p.
31. Pop Culture Passionistas, 2009 [Electronic resource] - <http://www.popculturepassionistasarchive.com/2009/10/celebrity-nicknames-and-aliases.html?m=1>
32. Real Names of Celebs You Only Know By Their Famous Nicknames [Electronic resource] - <https://www.buzzfeed.com/kristenharris1/celebs-go-by-nickname-real-name>

33. Semantic features of proper names [Electronic resource] - https://www.researchgate.net/publication/339316574_SEMANTIC_FEATURES_OF_PROPER_NAMES_IN_ENGLISH_AND_UZBEK

34. Structural and semantic characteristics of the nicknames. 2021 [Electronic resource] - https://www.researchgate.net/publication/354754985_STRUCTURAL_AND_SEMANTIC_CHARACTERISTICS_OF_THE_NICKNAMES_OF_THE_VILLAGE_OF_LYKHACHIVKA_KOTELEVSKIYI_DISTRICT_POLTAVA_REGION

35. ThoughtCo. Portmanteau Words [Electronic resource] - <https://www.thoughtco.com/portmanteau-word-1691644>

36. Towards the Inclusion of Nicknames in the Genres of Folklore: The Case of the Former Jewish Community of Tetuan, Morocco. Vol.122, August 2011, pp. 135-154.

37. What are the nicknames or colloquial terms for nationalities? [Electronic resource] - <https://www.quora.com/What-are-the-nicknames-or-colloquial-terms-for-nationalities>

38. What does a nickname mean? [Electronic resource] - http://teg.com.ua/sho-take-nik-abo-nikneim-znachennia-i-prikladi/#google_vignette

39. What does it mean to call someone 'Red' before their name? [Electronic resource] - <https://www.quora.com/What-does-it-mean-to-call-someone-Red-before-their-name>

DICTIONARIES

40. Definitions and synonyms. Macmillan Dictionary [Electronic resource] - <https://macmillaneducation.my.salesforce-sites.com/help/>

41. Meaning of words in English. Cambridge Dictionary [Electronic resource] - <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/pauper>

42. Pop Culture Dictionary [Electronic resource] - <https://www.dictionary.com/e/pop-culture/beyhive/>

LANGUAGE DATA

43. Aesthetic&cute nicknames for bestie, bff. YouTube - <https://youtu.be/vUzrm-p5gIM?si=YmuzEneZ6HGOiFJK>
44. How To Choose The Best Instagram Username To Grow Your Account. YouTube - <https://youtu.be/vP2bA6XAZSs?si=s0UXkC4Zccf9YIFu>
45. Instagram Profile Name and Username Whats The Difference. YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXqMwr3DBo8>
46. Learn English Vocabulary for English Nicknames. YouTube - <https://youtu.be/4grXIq04M1U?si=lAD7ySAjnp5V7dm>
47. The Name With The Most Nicknames. YouTube - <https://youtu.be/-ip4uJgpSRM?si=s4KARTe8MUAVxsUx>

SUMMARY

В бакалаврській роботі досліджено феномен прізвиськ в англійській мові 21-го століття. Робота охоплює теоретичні принципи, класифікації, механізми словотворення, семантичні особливості та порівняльний аналіз структурних та семантичних атрибутів. Вивчаючи прізвиська, дослідження розкриває складну взаємодію між лінгвістичними принципами, культурними впливами та сучасною соціальною динамікою.

Крізь призму лінгвістики розглядаються поняття "псевдонім" та "антропонім", визнаючи прізвиська унікальною підгрупою антропонімічної лексики, що відображає особистісну ідентичність та соціальні відносини. Також наводяться найбільш поширені класифікації англомовних прізвиськ, встановлюються категоріальні ознаки, на яких базуються ці класифікації, аналізуються типи прізвиськ англійської мови.

Дослідження демонструє, що у віртуальному спілкуванні користувачі соціальних мереж прагнуть продемонструвати свою індивідуальність, обираючи широкий спектр ніків, які відображають їхні індивідуальні риси характеру, вподобання та хобі. Нікнейми дозволяють проявляти активність в соціальних мережах, не розкриваючи особистості. Вони спрощують взаємодію користувачів, оскільки, на відміну від імен, вони не повторюються. В сучасному світі нікнейми стають не тільки інструментом ідентифікації, але і способом самовираження. Ідентифікація особистостей співрозмовників в соціальних мережах можлива лише за допомогою нікнеймів.

Результати дослідження свідчать про те, що користувачі соціальних мереж активно використовують віртуальне середовище для вираження своєї унікальності та особистої ідентичності. Вони не лише не приховують свою особистість, а й навпаки, намагаються яскраво виразити себе та своє "Я" через вибір незвичайних та оригінальних нікнеймів. Ці нікнейми стають засобом підкреслення різних аспектів своєї особистості, таких як особисті характерні риси, уподобання, хобі та захоплення.

Класифікації та типології англійських нікнеймів дають уявлення про різноманітні форми та функції, які вони виконують: від пестливих зменшувальних до гумористичних збільшувальних, кожен з яких відображає лінгвістичну творчість та соціальний контекст.

Словотвірні механізми, такі як аббревіація, суфіксація та змішування, демонструють те, як довгі імена перетворюються на скорочені, виразні форми. Семантичні особливості розкривають значення, закладені в прізвиськах, що відображають особисті якості, інтереси та культурну приналежність.

Дослідження показало, що, хоча однослівні ніки і є поширеними, легко запам'ятовуються і вимовляються, однак значну їх частину складають також складні імена. Автоніми, що представляють справжнє ім'я людини, домінують у класифікації за семантичним критерієм, що вказує на тенденцію, коли користувачі прагнуть надати якомога більше інформації про себе.

Ця робота розкриває важливість вивчення нікнеймів у сучасній англійській мові XXI століття через кілька ключових аспектів.

По-перше, робота надає ґрунтовний та всебічний аналіз феномену нікнеймів в сучасній англійській мові, включаючи теоретичні принципи, класифікації, механізми словотворення та семантичні особливості. Таким чином, семантичний аналіз підкреслює комунікативні та експресивні функції нікнеймів. Це дозволяє краще розуміти природу та їх роль у сучасному англійському суспільстві.

По-друге, робота розкриває важливість нікнеймів як засобу самопрезентації та вираження індивідуальності в інтернет-просторі. Вона показує, що нікнейми стають віртуальними аналогами справжніх імен, які відображають особисту ідентичність та соціальні зв'язки кожної людини.

По-третє, дослідження надає унікальний світогляд на роль нікнеймів у формуванні особистої ідентичності та соціальної взаємодії в англійських спільнотах. Дане дослідження демонструє, що нікнейми відображають не лише індивідуальність, але й культурні та соціальні контексти, з яких вони виникають.

Загалом, дослідження нікнеймів в англійській мові 21 століття є важливим і актуальним в контексті сучасних цифрових комунікаційних засобів та соціальних взаємодій. Воно допомагає розкрити сутність та значення нікнеймів у формуванні особистої та колективної ідентичності, а також відображає культурний контекст англомовного світу.

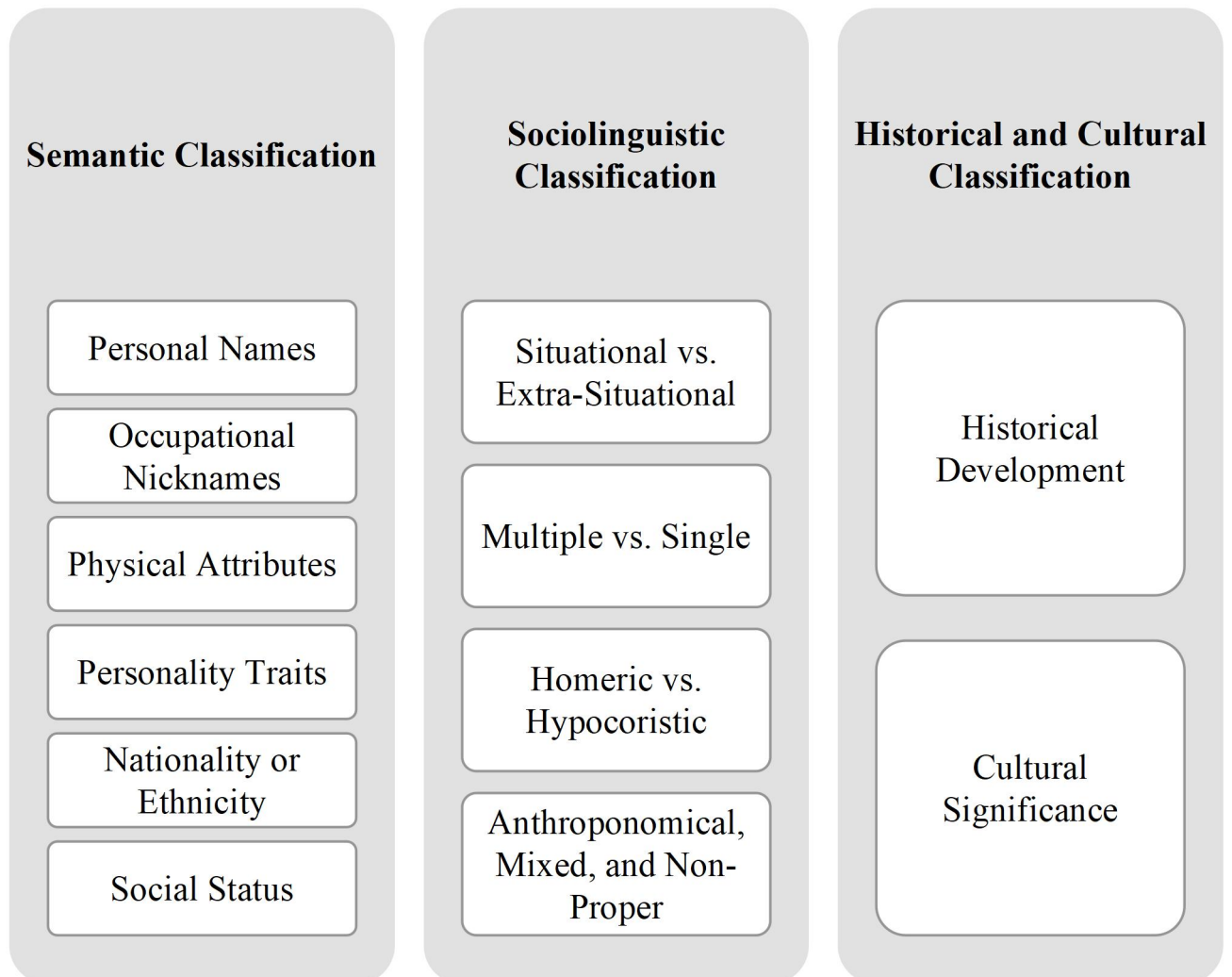
Більш того, в роботі складений та упорядкований алфавітний словник поширених англійських прізвиськ. Даний словник нікнеймів, які найчастіше зустрічаються в сучасному повсякденному житті сформовано та систематизовано на основі проаналізованих джерел в рамках виконання даної роботи. Він включає в себе 200 слів викладених в алфавітному порядку. Звичайно словник не обмежується наведеними нікнеймами і може бути нескінченно довгим та оновлюватись унікальними словами. Він може бути ідеально корисним для вивчення та аналізу лінгвістичних особливостей англійської мови.

У сукупності, бакалаврська робота дозволяє глибше зрозуміти, що поява Інтернету та різноманітних соціальних мереж дала новий привід та поштовх до розвитку антропонімії. Ця робота пропонує комплексне дослідження антропонімії в цифрову епоху, підкреслюючи важливість вивчення англійських прізвиськ для розуміння еволюції мови, соціальної взаємодії та формування ідентичності в 21-му столітті.

Завдяки своїм теоретичним спостереженням, емпіричному аналізу та висновкам для майбутніх досліджень, це дослідження робить внесок у ширшу сферу лінгвістики та збагачує наше розуміння труднощів людської комунікації в сучасну цифрову епоху.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1. Classifying English nicknames based on various distinctive features



APPENDIX 2. Most popular affectionate nicknames

The most popular affectionate nicknames

Kitten
Mouse
Bear
Ladybug
Bunny
Cat
Puppy
Baby
Honey
Babe
Sweetie
Love

Least liked affectionate nicknames

Bae
Daddy
Boo

APPENDIX 3. Classification of nicknames by subject matter

Thematic groups of titles and percentage	Examples
Autonyms – 30,6%	MusicLover, NatureEnthusiast
Toponyms – 4,4 %	TokyoExplorer, Paris_in_my_heart
Allonyms – 6,8 %	MissZendaya, shakira2002
Zoonymph – 5,6 %	Tiger@King, EagleEye
Preonyms – 7,6 %	MindMaster, SoulSeeker, DREAMWEAVER
Geronyms – 6,8 %	heroic@heart, WarriorSpirit
Titlonyms – 8,2 %	KingOf_The_Castle, _Duke_Dreams_
Physionyms – 1 %	smiling_3sunshine, SparklingEyessss
Phytonyms – 1,8 %	green.09.thumb, BlossomBuddy, Flower_Child
Phrenonyms – 8,5 %	Laughing.girl, CryingCloud, WhisperingWind
Chromatonyms – 5,4 %	_Blue_Sky_Dreamer_, golden.sunset_lover
Eidonyms – 3,6 %	dream.crafter_, FantasyWeaver
Emotonym – 2,2 %	JoyfulJester, sad_soul
Food names – 3,8 %	coffee_connoisseur_1999, Sweet_Tooth_Savant
Names of abstract concepts – 1,6 %	wisdom.whisperer, courageous.heart
Clothing names – 2,4 %	beauty_hunter, trendy_threadster

APPENDIX 4. Alphabetical dictionary of commonly used English nicknames

№	Nicknames
1.	@TechGuru13
2.	044gardens
3.	33banana33
4.	99_alex_99
5.	Abi
6.	Ace
7.	ace2020store
8.	Alex
9.	Argie
10.	Ariela
11.	Aussie
12.	BABYALEX
13.	beauty_hunter
14.	Becks Beckham
15.	Bella Hadid
16.	Bella Thorne
17.	Beyhive
18.	Big Mike
19.	Big sissy / Sista
20.	Billy
21.	blackman
22.	BlossomBuddy
23.	Blue_Sky_Dreamer
24.	Bookworm
25.	br99st
26.	Brangelina
27.	Brooks

28.	Bubba
29.	Buddy
30.	Captain Obvious
31.	Charlie
32.	Chazza
33.	Chef
34.	Chezza Cherie Cheryl
35.	Chinee
36.	Chris Christophe
37.	Chubs
38.	City.Travel
39.	coffee_connoisseur_1999
40.	ColdDog
41.	Collier
42.	Copper
43.	courageous.heart
44.	Cruella
45.	CryingCloud
46.	Darling
47.	Darling
48.	Deborah_
49.	Doc
50.	Don
51.	dream.crafter_
52.	Duke
53.	Duke_Dreams
54.	dwx
55.	Ed / Eddie / Eddy
56.	ELIZABETH

57.	Elizabeth Liz
58.	Em Emily
59.	enforcer_666
60.	erling.haaland
61.	FantasyWeaver
62.	fashionistaa
63.	FatBoy Slim
64.	Fatty
65.	fitness_chloe
66.	Fleming's
67.	Flower_Child
68.	foodie_.life
69.	football_agency
70.	Four-eyes
71.	Fritz, Freddy
72.	G@mer.@lice
73.	Gabby Gabrielle
74.	gamer_girl
75.	Gary Glitter
76.	Gigi Hadid
77.	golden.sunset_lover
78.	green.09.thumb
79.	Helen
80.	heroic@heart
81.	Honey
82.	Hoofer
83.	Hotel!London
84.	Ikey-mo
85.	Irish

86.	isabellaa
87.	IT.steps.work
88.	jasonstatham
89.	Jimmy
90.	J-Lo Jennifer Lopez
91.	John
92.	John Smith
93.	JohnDoe
94.	Johnny
95.	Juanito
96.	K_Train
97.	k13
98.	Kate28
99.	Katherine Kate
100.	Katie
101.	KB
102.	kimkardashian
103.	Kimye
104.	King George
105.	KingOf_The_Castle
106.	Kris Jenner
107.	lara_laraa_
108.	Laughing.girl
109.	LeahM
110.	Lizzie
111.	lovelybaby
112.	Lu
113.	M@estr@
114.	mad.murder

115.	Maggie
116.	Mary Brown
117.	Matty
118.	Mick, Mickey
119.	Mickey Michael
120.	MickeyMouse
121.	Mila Kunis
122.	milas.beauty.store
123.	miller Miller
124.	MISSSTASYA
125.	MissZendaya
126.	moodstylestore
127.	Music_Lover
128.	MysticDragon
129.	Nicki Minaj
130.	office vampire
131.	Ol
132.	Paddy, Pat
133.	Paki
134.	Paris_in_my_heart
135.	Parky Parkinson
136.	pat_cummins
137.	Paul Francis Gadd
138.	Pauper
139.	Piggy
140.	PixelPirate
141.	Policewoman
142.	Pom Pommie
143.	Potterhead

144.	Princess
145.	Queen Elizabeth I
146.	Red
147.	Red
148.	Rich
149.	Richard Richardson
150.	rorestore1
151.	Rosita
152.	Sam
153.	Sarah Sar-bear Sarge
154.	Sarah77
155.	Sarge
156.	Sassenach
157.	Scribe
158.	shakira2002
159.	Shay Mitchell
160.	Shrink
161.	Skeet Ulrich
162.	Smarty Pants
163.	Smiley
164.	Smith
165.	Snoop Dogg
166.	Sows
167.	Spike Lee
168.	stefani.pollack
169.	Stinky
170.	Sugar
171.	summer_butterfly
172.	Sunshine

173.	Superman
174.	Sweet_Tooth_Savant
175.	Sweetie
176.	Sweetpea
177.	Swift-footed Achilles
178.	Tan France
179.	Tex
180.	tgpnvsla
181.	The Professor
182.	The_Hunter
183.	Tiger@King EagleEye
184.	tigress
185.	Tiny Tina
186.	toff
187.	TokyoExplorer
188.	Towhead
189.	Trekkie
190.	trendy_threadster
191.	Unicorn
192.	Victoria05
193.	WarriorSpirit
194.	WhisperingWind
195.	Will Smith
196.	Wily Odysseusx
197.	wisdom.whisperer
198.	Wood
199.	wwwfqabt
200.	yah hoorayhenry
201.	zagabriella

