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LITERARY EPONYMS

Abstract: Linguistics, like all other fields, is undergoing rapid changes. In particular, the lexical layer of the language level is enriched by the emergence of eponyms. Nowadays, we encounter eponymous units in almost all areas. This linguistic unit can be observed even in literary works. The following research is devoted to literary eponyms and their linguistic features.

Key words: eponyms, linguistic unit, literary eponym, literary text, domain.

Language: English

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Introduction

Today, in all aspects of life, there are domain-related linguistic units, which are considered domain lexemes as specific terms and are classified by direction. In this domain, lexemes - eponyms have a great stimulus on the expansion of the terminological level both in science and technology.

Literature review.

Many linguists and researchers have conducted scientific research on eponyms in certain fields; print and electronic works have been published by various authors. For instance, E.M. Kakzanova carried out scientific research in the fields of mathematics and medicine and considered "eponym" as a terminological unit containing a proper noun. V.M. Leychik states that in modern linguistics, eponyms are not only terms for certain concepts, but also nomenclatural units formed due to the emergence of special terminology.

In his research, Z. Taubayev studied the use of eponyms in political discourse. It can be seen that a lot of research on eponyms in the fields of science has been done and is still being carried out. The use of eponymous units in literary texts is also observed. The

existence of eponyms in this context, that is, in literature, can be understood from the definitions given to eponyms in the following sources:

"Eponym is a name of a legend or real person that writers associate with some other person, object, institution, or thing. Simply, we can define it as a famous person whose name is given to someone else, such as Homer has derived the name of his ancient epic *The Odyssey* from a major character, *Odysseus*"¹. That's to say, an eponym is the name of a myth or real humankind that authors associate with another individual, object, institution, or thing. As can be seen from the given classification, there are also eponymous units in the literary text, which can be called literary eponyms.

"The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language" defines an eponym as follows: "a person whose name is or is thought to be the source of the name of something, such as a city, country, or era"².

O. Douglas added a cultural connotation to the given definition and described it as "A real or fictitious person whose name has become synonymous with an era, event, object, practice, or the like"³.

¹ <https://literarydevices.net/eponym>

² The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language. Fourth Edition. 2000. P-2508.

³ Douglas, Auriel, 1990. Webster's new dictionary of eponyms. New York: Simon & Schuster A Webster's New World

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Analysis and results.

It is obvious that the scientist referred to eponyms in the work of art through the description of a real or fictional person. Literary eponyms are words or phrases taken from the names of characters, authors or other literary sources. These names often carry specific meanings or connotations associated with the works. For instance, *Jekyll and Hyde*: characters from Robert Louis Stevenson’s novel *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* are eponymous units used to describe two opposites: one good and one bad. Or *Don Quixote* - the main character of the novel “Don Quixote” by Miguel de Cervantes. Through the character of Don Quixote, the writer depicted an overly idealistic, unrealistic or foolishly passionate person, and the eponym of Don Quixote, which embodies a person with this characteristic, originated. In the given example, the hero of the work was an eponym. In the explanatory dictionaries of the English language eponymous character is defined as *eponymous hero/heroine – the character in a play or book whose name is the title of that play or book.*⁴

Literary eponyms can be divided into several types depending on their origin, meaning and usage. We have decided to classify the literary eponyms which were analyzed during our research as follows:

1. **Eponyms that refer to a personage or main hero.** These eponyms are created on the basis of the names of fictional characters in literature, they show names that reflect certain qualities, characteristics or behavior, become synonyms and are used as eponyms. For example, **Romeo and Juliet** in Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet* is used to refer to a deeply romantic or tragic love story; **“Scrooge”**: refers to a miser, derived from the character Ebenezer Scrooge in the work “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens. Let’s pay attention to another example. Both the title of Homer’s work “Odyssey” and the name of the main character Odysseus are taken from the Latin name “Ulysses” and used as an eponym. Also, this word can be found in the English dictionary as “1: a long wandering or voyage usually marked by many changes of fortune; 2: an intellectual or spiritual wandering or quest”⁵ a noun which is used to

describe any epic journey. It is known that after the Trojan War, Odysseus spends 20 years trying to get home, encounters various adventures, and learns a lot about himself and the world. Based on this, in our opinion, an odyssey is any long, complex journey, often a spiritual or psychological one aimed at achieving a goal.

We observed literary eponyms among Uzbek eponymous units as well. For example, in “**Alpomish**”, which is considered an example of Uzbek folklore example, the eponym *Alpomish*, like Odysseus, is used both as the main character and as the name of the work.

2. **Eponyms representing the author.** These eponyms are named after famous authors and are often used to describe specific writing styles, genres, or literary trends. For example: “**Shakespearean**”: refers to anything related to the works of William Shakespeare; “**Orwellian**”: Used to describe a dystopian or totalitarian society inspired by George Orwell’s work “1984”

3. **Mythological literary eponyms.** Some eponyms are based on mythological characters or concepts that appear in literature, that is, they are created on the basis of a myth. For example, **Achilles’ heel** refers to human weakness or weak point based on the legend of Achilles in Greek mythology; **Pandora’s box**: Originating from the legend of Pandora, it describes the source of problems or unexpected consequences, which refers to the source of unexpected and negative consequences, inspired by the legend of Pandora, who opened the forbidden box and released all evil into the world.

4. **Trans domain literary eponyms.** This type of eponym is a broader concept or word that is commonly used in more than one field beyond its original context. *Baron Munchausen/Munchausen Syndrome*, *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland /Alice in Wonderland Effect*, *Miss Havisham/Miss Havisham syndrome*, *Othello/Othello syndrome*.

These eponyms are used as an eponym unit both in literary texts and in medicine. We will consider some of them which are given in both areas.

Table 1.

In literary text	In medicine
Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland – used as a literary eponym of the main character of the work Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll to describe a strange, surreal, or fantastical situation or place.	Alice in Wonderland syndrome (AIWS) – is a disorienting neurological condition that affects human perception to the senses of vision, hearing, touch, sensation, and the phenomenon of time. ... It is known to occur in conditions including migraine, epilepsy, and certain intoxicants and infectious diseases ⁶ . That’s to say,

⁴ https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/eponymous-hero#google_vignette

⁵ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/odyssey>

⁶ Osman Farooq, Edward J. Alice in Wonderland Syndrome: A Historical and Medical Review. *Pediatric Neurology* Volume 77, December 2017, Pages 5-11

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	a neurological disorder that impairs cognition in children. The patient’s perception of reality is disturbed; large objects appear larger than small ones. It is also noticeable in migraine and epilepsy and certain infectious diseases.
<p>Baron Munchausen – the work by the German author Rudolf Erich Raspe. In literature Baron Munchausen refers to a fictional character famous for telling extravagantly exaggerated stories about his adventures. The hero is based on the real-life historical figure Freiherr von Münchhausen (1720-1797), a German nobleman and soldier. The stories of Baron Munchausen comprise unbelievable feats of adventure and are usually humorous and satirical in nature.</p>	<p>Munchausen syndrome – a psychological disorder characterized by the intentional feigning, exaggeration, or induction of the symptoms of a disease or injury in order to undergo diagnostic tests, hospitalization, or medical or surgical treatment⁷.</p>

It should be noted that although trans domain eponyms are more common in literary texts, they are also found in other fields. For example, Shrapnel, Tesla, Morse code, Doppler Effect. *Shrapnel*, which is used in the military, can also be found in the medical field to describe fragments of metal or other foreign bodies embedded in the body as a result of an explosion or injury. Merriam Webster’s dictionary defines this word as “bomb, mine or shell fragments”⁸

After the bombing the walls of the house postmarked with bullets and shrapnel.

It is known that *Tesla* is an American company that produces electric cars in today’s technologically advanced automobile industry. Tesla is famous among the people for its electric cars. The company was founded in 2003 by Martin Eberhard and Mark Tarpeneing. The eponym *Tesla* represents the unit of magnetic field strength in the field of physics apart from the automotive industry.

So, literary eponyms have a trans domain function, and the very eponyms are considered an eponymous unit of different fields.

Although the main goal of our research is to study eponyms linguistically, we found it necessary to study the structural and syntactic features of literary eponyms. Literary eponyms are used morphologically in the language as noun, adjective, and verb phrases.

1. Adjective: **Byronic** – refers to the characteristics of a romantic hero that is frequent in Byron’s poetry and his life; “**Dickensian**” evokes

images of Victorian England, embodying conditions of poverty, hardship, or social inequality which was described by Charles Dickens

2. Noun: **Scrooge McDuck** - often refers to a humorous rich and miserly character. Scrooge McDuck is a Disney character who is famous for his great wealth and greed.

3. Verb: the number of literary eponyms with a verb feature is very small. In rare cases, eponyms can be given in the text or in a simple sentence in the form of a verb describing the action or behavior of the hero of the work. For example, **Sherlock Holmes** - a literary character created by the English writer Arthur Conan Doyle, the character of a detective-investigator is used as a verb besides the noun in the dictionary “noun.1. a detective; verb.2. to investigate (something)”⁹.

Conclusion.

Considering all the above given features of the literary eponyms it can be concluded as:

a) Literary eponyms can be classified into four types depending on their origin, meaning and usage.

b) These terms have a domain shift function, that’s to say, the same eponym can be observed in other domains.

c) Literary eponyms like other types of eponymous units possess structural and syntactic features which can be observed in everyday life.

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⁷ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/Munchausen%20syndrome>

⁸ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/shrapnel#dictionary-entry-1>

⁹ <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/sherlock>

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