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Introduction

Wprowadzenie

This volume of “Annales UMCS. Sec. FF”, which is now in the hands of the Reader, and the next one (2019, No. 2), can be perceived as a result of editorial and scientific activities aimed at disseminating an ever-increasing knowledge of proper names as an important part of the language resource. The texts collected for the purposes of such a two-part publication bring closer the nature and specificity of onomastic research conducted in various scientific centres in Poland and other Slavic countries (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Belarus, Ukraine and Russia), as well as outside this area (Lithuania and Italy), and give a certain idea of the problematic extent of this research and its knowledge-generating utility. It should be recalled here that the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, in cooperation with the Onomastic Section of the Committee on Linguistics of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Slavic Onomastics Committee at the International Congress of Slavists, co-organised in 2018 the 21st International and Nationwide Conference on Onomastics “Onomastic Terminology – Name-formation”. Two blocks of issues were discussed, which are also addressed in the materials we publish. On the one hand, it concerns the terminology used for proper names, on the other hand, it also addresses the ways of creating and introducing onyms into the linguistic circulation, especially in relation to the conditions for the realization of their object functions and due to the accompanying communication and cultural factors.

The articles in this volume are arranged in order from general to specific issues. It opens with Rudolf Šramek’s text accompanied by theoretical and methodological findings concerning the model of the general concept and functional structure of

onomastics, with an indication of categories or functional elements that define the “content” of onomastics as a “whole”. Different applications of theoretical elements allow us to shape and develop onomastic scientific discourse and influence the type and methods of research, which are reflected in different research paradigms of onomastics and related concepts (e.g. language memory, language landscape or onymic communication register in socio-onomastic paradigm), addressed by Pavol Odaloš. Mariusz Rutkowski and Katarzyna Skowronek refer in their deliberations to the concept of onomastics in action, understood as a research programme based on a specific theoretical and methodological basis within the plan of obtaining information on the linguistic and social properties of proper names. It is a proposal for onomastic research in discourses, representing onomastics in its interdisciplinary, inter-humanistic and social dimensions. In the articles presented below, the reflection on terminology as an important component of onomastic theoretical and meta-economic discourse occupies an important place. One of the methodological principles in science is the requirement to establish and agree on the meaning of the words on which the argument is based, which in different scientific environments may be used in different ways, depending on the research traditions. The situation related to the systemic organization and usage in the field of specialist terminology in Polish and Slavic onomastics is discussed in review and synthesizing-problematic articles (onomastic terminology in the fullest possible range of disciplines), and articles addressing selected terminological and conceptual issues (such as cultural and topographical street names) authored by Artur Gałkowski, Barbara Czopek-Kopciuch, Halszka Górny, Urszula Bijak and (on terminology used in Belarusian toponomastics) Hanna Mezenko, Agnieszka Myszka and Ewa Oronowicz-Kida.

The findings from the analysis of a specific research material, in this case anthroponymy, are presented by further articles related to various interpretative concepts and methods of studying proper names, both traditional and those related to current linguistic trends. In her article, Agnieszka Raszewska-Klimas refers to a newer methodological orientation on the grounds of onomastics, which is cognitivism used to interpret surname anthroponyms. The anthropomorphic material is also considered in other texts based mainly on etymological and motivational explanations. Issues related to the methodology of anthroponymic research are discussed by Władysław Makarski. The aim of linguistic analysis of personal names of historical and contemporary figures commonly known in Poland (such as *Dąbrowka*, *Mickiewicz* and *Słowacki*, *Wojtyła*) presented by this author is to verify the existing naming etymologies. The context of historical onomastics, focused on the links between the properties of names and the history of language and culture, is addressed by Silvia Corino Rovano. The subject of discussion in this case are the professional determinants of naming people, which occurred in the

Franco-Provence area in the 14th century, and which can be observed in a specific type of historical sources, in a situation where the name of a profession as a description of a person (in connection with their social role) becomes a surname. Jaromír Krško, in turn, addresses the issue of the formation of medieval anthroponymic system and information contained in names appearing in historic documents from the Hont region. Not surnames, but forenames are the topic of the article by Henryk Duszyński-Karabasz, who conducted the analysis (with reference to etymology and frequency-textual findings) of the names of persons born in the village of Nakło in the second half of the 19th century, as represented by various religious groups (Catholic, Evangelical and Jewish). The last text in the volume is an etymological study by Rolandas Kregždys on the myth of *Ockopirmus*, referring to one of the most important figures in the pantheon of pagan Baltic (Yotvingian) gods.

The articles in this volume constitute a collection of reflections that presents a quite diverse spectrum of interpretative possibilities and research effects in the field of onomastics. I sincerely hope that these reflections will be of interest to Readers and will encourage them to search for other onomastic texts prepared for publication in “Annales UMCS. Sec. FF”.

Translated into English by Marek Robak-Sobolewski

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