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**Cultural difference between proper names of cats in Russia and America**

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A person can see and hear many names of their own in a day, which means they are all around us. Often it is our pets, to which people give nicknames. D.N. Ushakov interprets this word as “a name, a nickname given to a pet” [1]. Moreover, the science studying animal names, zoonymy, appeared relatively recently, somewhere in the 60s.

Cats are some of the most popular pets around the world. They were domesticated as far back as Ancient Egypt in 2000-1900 BC. In Russia and America, there are different principles for choosing a nickname.

**The object** of the study is the proper names of Russian and American cats.

**The subject** of the study is Russian and American cat names and their cultural difference.

**The purpose** of this study is to introduce the proper names of cats and the cultures of America and Russia.

As **methods of research** used: the method of solid sampling and methods of scientific analysis, method of observation and generalization.

**The theoretical significance** of the paper is to investigate the meaning of proper names in cats.

**Practical significance** of the work consists in deepening the knowledge about proper names, the meaning of the animal's name. Both the research material and the obtained knowledge can be used in the educational process, in the reading of special courses, in general courses on the history of culture of countries.

For theoretical substantiation of the study, the information of domestic and foreign Internet resources on zoonymy was studied (E.V. Guseva, I.V. Gyubbenet, T.L. Cherezova, A.V. Superanskaya).

**The material of the study** was the international scientific journal “Questions of Onomastics” E.N. Varnikova. Varnikova, the journal “Argumenty i Fakty”, Internet resources (E. Rivera, J. Comstock, E. Stytskaya).

It was found out on what principles owners choose nicknames for their cats:

1. Many people choose nicknames that match people's names. For example, in Russia, Масяня (Maria) is a famous game and cartoon character, and in America, it is Том (Tom), the zoonym of the cat from the American cartoon Tom and Jerry.
2. Names that reflect appearance. Examples are the following nicknames: in Russia, Дымок (Smoky) is a gray-colored kitten, and Черныш (Blackie) is the name for a black cat in America.
3. Names that characterize the habits of animals. Соня (Sonya) is a sleeper, and Радость (Joy) is a joy.
4. Zoonyms that express the value attitude of the owner to the pet. Examples of such nicknames: in the Russian Federation cats are called Алмаз (Diamond), Сапфир (Sapphire), and in America – Бесценный (Precious), Золото (Gold).
5. Audible proper names. There are sound complexes that cats habitually respond to. For example, in Russia, Макс (Max), Микс (Mix), in America is Котенок (Kitty), Митти (Mitty).

Based on the collected material, the proper names of Russian and American cat nicknames were studied. The meanings and types of the term “proper name” were studied. The total volume of the analyzed text corpus amounted to 30 texts. In the course of the study, a video sequence containing historical information about famous cats in Russia and America in the genre of documentary film was attracted.

As a result of the research the specific features of Russian and American cats' proper names were studied. It is possible to see the linguistic and cultural difference between the two countries. The obtained results can be used in special courses and seminars on onomastics (zoonymy or intercultural communication in language universities.

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