

LINGUISTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF AWARD AND ORDER NAMES

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INTRODUCTION

Names of awards, orders, and decorations form a special subsystem within onomastics known as phaleronymy. The term derives from the Greek word phaleron meaning “ornament” or “badge of distinction” and the suffix -onym meaning “name.” Phaleronyms are the titles given to medals, prizes, and honorary orders which serve to commemorate merit, heroism, creativity, or contribution to a particular field of human activity.

In the modern world, the naming of awards is not only a matter of classification but also an important cultural and linguistic phenomenon. Through their lexical and structural composition, award names reflect a nation’s worldview, ideology, and system of values. This paper aims to explore the linguistic characteristics – particularly the morphological, semantic, and cultural aspects – of award and order names in English and Uzbek contexts.

1. Morphological and Structural Features:

Phaleronyms generally display a stable structural pattern, consisting of two main elements:

1. Generic component – a noun that denotes the type of award (order, medal, prize, cross, star, badge).

2. Qualifying component – an element that specifies the award’s purpose, value, or the virtue being honored (honor, merit, bravery, freedom, peace).

For instance, English names such as Order of Merit, Medal of Honor, and Distinguished Service Cross follow a compound nominal pattern, often using prepositional constructions (“of,” “for”). Similarly, Uzbek equivalents like Do’stlik ordeni (“Order of Friendship”) and Shuhrat medali (“Medal of Glory”) employ genitive or attributive combinations, demonstrating a similar structural logic.

Many award names also exhibit hierarchical variations, using adjectives or titles such as Grand Cross, Knight Commander, or Officer Class, which indicate the level or degree of distinction. Morphologically, these expressions tend to remain nominal in nature, emphasizing the objectivity and permanence of the honor conferred.

2. Lexical and Semantic Features:

From a lexical viewpoint, phaleronyms are marked by positively charged vocabulary. Words denoting moral and civic values – honor, valor, friendship,

freedom, loyalty, glory – form the semantic core of most award names. The purpose is to elevate and glorify human virtues that are socially admired.

Metaphor and symbolism play a crucial role in shaping the semantics of phaleronyms. Elements such as Star, Crown, Cross, Sun, or Eagle often appear as metaphoric icons representing strength, light, purity, or victory. For example:

- Order of the Rising Sun (Japan) – symbolizes renewal and enlightenment.
- Red Banner Order (Uzbekistan, USSR) – evokes heroism and military courage.
- Order of Saint George (UK, Russia) – expresses Christian chivalric ideals.

In addition, some awards are eponymous, meaning they derive from personal names (e.g., Nobel Prize, Pulitzer Prize). These preserve the memory of founders or national figures, turning proper names into linguistic symbols of prestige.

3. Cultural and Pragmatic Aspects:

The naming of awards is deeply rooted in the cultural and ideological background of a society. Each nation constructs its system of honors according to its historical experience and collective identity. English and Western traditions tend to emphasize individual merit and service, while Uzbek and other Eastern cultures often highlight collective values, friendship, and national pride.

For instance:

- Order of Friendship → reflects the Uzbek ideal of peace and unity.
- Medal of Honor → reflects the American ideal of personal bravery and sacrifice.

Stylistically, award names belong to a formal, ceremonial register, characterized by solemn diction and respect-inducing vocabulary. The presence of the definite article (the Nobel Prize, the Victoria Cross) also signals uniqueness and authority.

Moreover, translation of phaleronyms requires not only lexical equivalence but also cultural adaptation.

The translator must preserve both semantic accuracy and symbolic resonance to convey the award's prestige in the target language.

4. Onomastic Significance:

From the perspective of onomastics, phaleronyms function as linguistic signs with dual reference: they denote a specific award, and they also connote cultural, ideological, and moral values. Therefore, their analysis contributes to understanding how language encodes honor and value systems within society.

By studying the linguistic characteristics of award names, we can trace the interaction between language, history, and identity, as well as the evolution of national narratives reflected through honorific naming.

CONCLUSION

Phaleronyms represent a fascinating linguistic domain where language and culture converge. The structure and semantics of award and order names reveal not only linguistic creativity but also a society's moral ideals and historical consciousness. Understanding their linguistic characteristics enriches the field of onomastics and contributes to intercultural studies of symbolic communication.

Future research could expand on this by comparing phaleronyms across multiple languages, analyzing how global and local traditions influence the linguistic expression of honor and prestige.

Keywords: *phaleronymy, onomastics, awards, orders, medals, semantics, morphology, cultural identity, symbolism.*

Existing regional onomastic papers call for such data-driven approaches; they provide groundwork but leave many descriptive gaps.

Phaleronymic terms in Uzbek represent a linguistically rich, socially meaningful class of proper names. Their formation and use reflect the interaction of Uzbek morphosyntactic properties (agglutination, suffixation, compounding) with onomastic conventions and sociopolitical practice. Careful corpus and field research will deepen understanding of how these names encode value, history, and institutional identity in the Uzbek linguistic landscape.

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