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A look at Lithuanian Nomina Loci

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Content

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- Nomina Loci (NL)- what is it ?
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PhD thesis „The derivational category of place names (Nomina Loci) in the Lithuanian, English and Russian languages “, academic supervisor Prof. habil. dr. Bonifacas Stundžia

Aim:

to analyse and to compare the Lithuanian, English and Russian NL derivational category, using the material obtained from a parallel corpus and descriptions of word formation systems in the researched languages

Objectives

- To compile a register of the most common formants used to produce NL in the researched languages
- To find and register NL formants with example sentences from parallel corpus
- To produce a database of NL formants with their equivalents in another researched language
- On the basis of the material collected from the national corpora, to describe and compare **NL word formation systems** in the Lithuanian, English and Russian languages

What is a Place Name (Nomina Loci)?

- In a broader sense **location** can be defined as follows: “lexical items that belong to the conceptual category of location are those which denote a place in space related to a particular activity and/or an enclosed place surrounding individuals in particular situations” (Haselow 2011: 66).
- In word-formation, the term *place nouns (or Nomina Loci)* denotes **derived** names of places
- Derived words which represent the category of place nouns can be viewed as a subclass of all common nouns that denote locations, including a large number of simplex names, e.g. flat, field, city, desert
- locative term in one language, e.g. *flat* in English, may have a derived translation equivalent in another language; e.g. in Polish, *mieszkanie* = ‘flat’ from the verb *mieszkać* = ‘to live, to dwell’.

NL Definition

DLKG (Contemporary Grammar of the Lithuanian Language) (1997) defines NL as nouns that are derived from nouns, verbs or adjectives using suffixes or derivational paradigms/endings and define a place where certain things are located, where an activity happens or the noun possesses a particular feature

e.g. Lith. *dirb-tuvė* „workshop“ (: *dirbti* „to work“); Eng. *refin-ery* (: *to refine*);
Rus. *spalj-nja* „bedroom“ (: *spatj, spal* „to sleep“).

Lith. *dilgėl-ynas* „nettle shrubbery“ (: *dilgėlė* „nettle“), *klamp-ynė* „swamp/bog“ (: *klampus, -i* „swampy/boggy“); Eng. *pigg-ery* „kiaulidė“ (: *pig* „kiaulė“), Rus. *pust-ynia* „desert“ (: *pustoj, -aja* „empty“).

The main derivation method of NL is suffixation but conversion or compounding is also possible (plg. Szymanek 2015).

Productivity of NL: Lithuanian

-In the Lithuanian language NL is considered to be of medium productivity, the most productive affixes (according to the DLKG list compiled by V. Urbutis) being used are:

-ynas: *berž-ynas* „birch grove“ (: *beržas* „birch“), **-ynė**: *dyk-ynė* „desert“ (: *dykas*, -a „empty, deserted“), **-inė**: *muil-inė* „soap box“ (: *muilas* „soap“), **-ykla**: *mok-ykla* „school“ (: *mokyti* „to teach“) and **-uma**: *saus-uma* „dry land“ (: *sausas*, -a „dry“). The most productive are the first three formants, derived from nouns and adjectives.

- Derivational paradigms are not very common, and the majority take up prefixes received from the verbs, e.g. *prie-plauk-a* “pier/dock” (: *priplaukti* “to dock”).

- Prefix derivation is also quite productive, e.g. **pa-**, e.g. *pa-kalnė* “mountainside, slope” (: *kalnas* “mountain”), *pa-kele* „roadside“ (: *kelias* „road“).

Productivity of NL: English/Slavic languages

In the **English language** NL derivational category is not very productive. The most common types used are: suffixation, conversion and compounding.

Deverbals are made with the suffix **-(e)ry**, e.g. *boil-ery* „virykla“ (: *boil* „virti“) or denominals, e.g. *pigg-ery* „kiaulidė“ (: *pig* „kiaulė“)

Other most common suffixes are: **-(e)(t)eria**, e.g. *chocolat-eria* „šokoladinė“ (: *chocolate* „šokoladas“); **-age**: *orphan-age* „našlaičių namai“ (: *orphan* „našlaitis“) and **-dom**: *kingdom* „karalystė“ (: *king* „karalius“)

However, in the **Slavic languages** this derivational category is highly productive. Often NL is made from adjectives, e.g. Pol. *pust-ynia* „desert“ (: *pusty* „empty“), Check. *uz-ina* „strait“

(: *uzky* „narrow“). (Scymanek 2015)

NL in „Šviesuliai ir šešėliai“ (“Lights and Shadows”) and „Praeities šmėklos“ (“Ghosts from the Past”) by Lazdynų Pelėda

Method used:

-The samples were:

- collected from the novels
- grouped according to the derivational pattern
- compared to the data provided by DLKG (1997)

- Conclusions were drawn

NL in „Šviesuliai ir šešėliai“ bei „Praeities šmėklos“ by Lazdynų Pelėda

The number of derivational affixes found in total:

Derivational suffixes	44x
Derivational paradigm	5x
Derivational prefixes	19x
Compounds	5x
	Total: 73

Derivational affixes

Derivational suffixes 44x

Led-ainė (: ledas), klamp-ynė (: klampus) (2 x), praus-ykla (: praustis), sėd-ynė (: sėdėti), tol-uma (: tolis), kalėji-mas (: kalėti), tėv-ynė (: tėvas), vienuol-ynas (: vienuolis), kapin-ynas (: kapinės), grend-ykas (: gręsti), aukšt-ybės (: aukštas, -a), švent-ykla (:šventas, -a), tušt-uma (tuščias, -čia), stikl-inė (: stiklas), dirbt-uvė (: dirbti), spaust-uvė (: spausdinti), arbat-inė (: arbata), laiv-ynas (: laivas), kav-inė (: kava), gil-uma (gilus, -i), valg-ykla (: valgyti), cukr-ainė (: cukrus), sand-ėlis (: sandėliuoti), švent-ykla (: šventas), praus-uvė (: praustis), ligon-inė (: ligonis), land-ynė (: landus, -i), buv-einė (: būti), skruzdėl-ynas (: skruzdėlė), šalt-oji (: šaltas), vaist-inė (: vaistai) (2 x), purv-ynas (: purvas), sėd-ynė (: sėdėti), žem-uma (: žemas), dyk-uma (: dykas), vir-tuvė (: virti), tvirt-ovė (tvirtas, -a), klaus-ykla (: klausytis), žvak-idė (: žvakė), kab-ykla (: kabinti), kadag-ynas (: kadagys), alksn-ynas (: alksnis), švent-ykla (: šventas, -a), tank-mė (tankus, -i), gel-mė (: gilus, -i)

Derivational inflections, prefixes, compounds

Types of derivational paradigm 5x	Pa-mat-as (: matuot-i, matav-o), priep-lauk-a (: priplaukt-i, priplauk-ė) (2x), apy-link-ė (: aplenkt-i, aplenk-ė) (2x), per-tvar-a (: pertvert-i, pertvėr-ė), į-staig-a (: įsteigt-i, įsteig-ė)
Derivational prefixes 19x	Už-kampis (2x), pa-galvė (2x), už-sienis, prieš-kambaris, požemis, pa-upys (2x), pa-vieškelis, pa-stogė (2x), pa-viršius, apy-kaklė, už-kampis, pa-kampis, pa-saulis, pa-langė, ant-kalnis, pa-kele, be-dugnė, tarp-durys (3x)
Compounds 5x	Sosta-pilė, skers-gatvis (2x), bažnyt-kiemis, vieš-kelis, kryž-kele

Most productive suffixes. The suffix -ynas

According to LKDG (1997) the most productive suffix in the Lithuanian language is **-ynas**. **Almost all derivatives of this affix are made from nouns (more rarely from adjectives and verbs).**

They denote:

- Places where some clusters of plants grow, e.g. *kadag-ynas* “juniper grove” „ a place where a lot of junipers grow“ (: *kadagys* “juniper”), *alksn-ynas* „ a place where a lot of alder trees grow“ (: *alksnis* “alder”);
- Places in the environment where a collection or abundance of some phenomena or things can be found, e.g. *knibždėl-ynas* “swarm” „ a place where an abundance of some insects/animals can be found“ (: *knibždėti* “to swarm”), *klamp-ynas* “swamp” „ swampy, boggy place“ (: *klampus*, *-i* “swampy/boggy”);
- Place where inanimate things are kept, e.g. *knyg-ynas* “bookshop” „ a place where the books are kept“ (: *knyga* “book”), *šiukšl-ynas* „vieta, kur laikomos arba pilamos šiukšlės“ “a place where the rubbish is dumped” (: *šiukšlė* “rubbish”).

Most productive suffixes. The suffix -ynas

Six (6) derivatives were found:

- The majority is derived from nouns: *vienuol-ynas* „monastery“ (: *vienuolis* „monk“), *kapin-ynas* „graveyard“ (: graveyard), *laiv-ynas* „fleet “ (: *laivas* „ship”)*, *skruzdėl-ynas* „anthill “ (: *skruzdėlė* „ant“) (2 x), *purv-ynas* „slush “ (: *purvas* „slush/mud“), *kadag-ynas* „juniper grove “ (: *kadagys* „juniper“).

-While some base words are derivatives (*vien-uolis* „monk“, *kap-inės* „graveyard“), the others – simplex words (*laivas* „ship“, *purvas* „slush“, *kadagys* „juniper“, *skruzdė* „ant“).

• * *Is laivynas, skruzdėlynas a place where the ships are kept, or is it a collection of ships, ants?*

Most productive suffixes. The suffix -inė

- The suffix *-inė*, according to DLKG is as productive as *-ynė/-ynas*
- Four (4) examples of NL with this suffix, indicating a closed space used for keeping certain objects or things (names of dishes, boxes, bags, etc.) were found, e.g. *muilinė* “soapbox” (: *muilas* “soap”).
- Or bigger rooms used for special purposes, e.g. *arbat-inė* „tea shop“ (: *arbata* “tea”), *kav-inė* „coffee shop“ (: *kava* “coffee”), *vaist-inė* „drug store/chemistry” (: *vaistai* “drugs”). In Lithuanian all the derivatives have nouns as base words.
- However, we can see that in English the compounding or simplex words are used to indicate NL (tea shop, coffee shop, chemistry/drug store).

Other suffixes

The most common other suffixes used to form NL indicated in DLKG (1997) correspond to the findings in the novels.

- The suffix **–ykla** (3 examples) is a deverbal affix. All its derivatives are made from the verbs and indicate a place where the activity happens (either closed or open), e.g. *valg-ykla* „canteen“ (: *valgyti* “to eat”), *klaus-ykla* „confessional“ (: *klausytis* “to listen”), *kab-ykla* „rack/clothes hanger“ (: *kabinti* “to hang”). The majority are made from verbs.

- The suffix **–uma** (5 examples) is the most common adjectival affix. Its derivatives indicate a place (in space, surface, etc) that has a certain feature indicated by the base adjective, e.g. “*tušt-uma* „emptiness“ (: *tuščias*, *-čia* “empty”), *gil-uma* „the depth“ (: *gilus*, *-i* “deep”), *žem-uma* „lowland/depression“ (: *žemas*, *-a* „low“)

Other suffixes

-idė (1 example) indicates place names produced from the nouns of inanimate objects, e.g. *žvak-idė* „candlestick“ (: *žvakė* “candle”).

-tuvė (4 examples – all deverbal) indicate a room, which is used to perform an action indicated by the base word e.g. *vir-tuvė* „kitchen“ (: *virti* „to cook”), *dirb-tuvės* „workshop“ (: *dirbti* “to work”), *špaus-tuvė* „printery“ (: *špausdinti* “to print”), *praus-tuvė* „washbasin“ (: *praustis* “to wash”).

-mė (2 examples) indicate a place having a specific feature, e.g. *gel-mė* „depth“ (: *gilus*, *-i* “deep”), *tank-mė* „thicket“ (: *tankus*, *-i* “dense, thick”).

-ainė (1 example) *led-ainė* „ice cream shop“ (: *ledai* „ice“)

-ovė (1 example): *tvirt-ovė* „fortress“ (: *tvirtas*, *-a* “strong/firm”).

-einė, -lis (2 examples): *buv-einė* „dwelling place“ (: *būti*, *buvo* “to be”), *sand-ėlis* „warehouse“ (: *sudėti*, *sudėjo* “to put”).

Most productive derivational paradigms

- The majority of derivational paradigms (endings) of NL are made from verbs and denote either closed, natural or artificial space
- There are six examples (6) of derivational paradigms found in the novels e.g. *pe-rėj-a* „passage“ (: *pereiti*, *perėjo* „to pass“), *prie-plauk-a* „pier/dock“ (: *priplaukt-i*, *priplauk-ė* „to dock“) (2x), *apy-link-ė* „district/neighbourhood“ (: *ap-lenkt-i*, *ap-lenk-ė* “to skirt?”) (2x), *per-tvar-a* „partition“ (: *per-tvert-i*, *per-tvėr-ė* “to part?”), *j-staig-a* „establishment/office“ (: *j-steigt-i*, *j-steig-ė* “to establish”).

Most common prefix derivations

- According to DLKG (1997) denominal prefixation is one of the most productive methods of word formation in the Lithuanian language, though as not productive as suffix derivation
- The most productive prefix to form NL in the Lithuanian language is **pa-**.
- There were five (5) examples found with this prefix: *pa-upys* „river bank“ (: *upė* „river“), *pa-vieškelis* „roadside“ (: *vieškelis* „road“), *pa-kampis* „place next to the corner“ (: *kampas* “corner”), *pa-kele* „roadside“ (: *kelias* “road”), *pa-galvė* „pillow“ (: *galva* “head”), *pa-stogė* „attic“ (: *stogas* “roof”), *pa-viršius* „surface“ (: *viršus* “top”), *pa-saulis* „the world“ (: *saulė* “the sun”), *pa-langė* „window sill“ (: *langas* “window”).

Most common prefix derivations

- There were a few examples found with the prefix **už-**, e.g. *už-kampis* „nook/place behind the corner“ (2x) (: *kampas* “corner”), *už-sienis* „foreign state“ (: *siena* “wall”).

prieš-, e.g. *prieš-kambaris* „ante room/hall“ (: *kambarys* “room”).

po-, e.g. *po-žemis* „underground“ (: *žemė* “ground”).

be-, e.g. *be-dugnė* „abyss“ (: *dugnas* “bottom”), however it can be argued whether it can be considered as a place name.

- Conclusion can be made that the most productive is the prefix **pa-** (11 derivatives), while only one or two examples illustrating the other prefixes were found.

-There was a considerable lower number of prefixation than suffixation found in the novels.

- It is rather impossible to find corresponding translations from Lithuanian into English

Compounds

According to the data found in DLKŽ (1997) nominal compounds make up only 5% of all the words registered in the dictionary, and the prevailing derivational model is with the second constituent of the noun

There were six examples of compounds of N+N derivational type found in the novels, e.g.

sosta-pilė „a place, where the capital is located“ “capital”(: *sostas+pilis* “*throne+castle*”), *bažnytkiemis* “church yard” (*bažnyčia+kiemas*, “church+yard”), *kryž-kelė* „a place where the roads cross“ (*kryžius+kelias*) ir A+N, pvz.: *skers-gatvis* „a street connecting two other streets“ (*skersa + gatvė*), *gelž-kelis* „a road for the trains“ (*geležinis/ geležis + kelias* “*iron + road*”) *vieš-kelis* „public road; unpaved road“ (*viešas+kelias* “*public road*”).

- Compounding is not a productive way to make NL in Lithuanian, however in the Germanic languages it is widely used

Conclusions

- The most widely used NL in the novels are formed using derivational suffixes (44 examples), out of which the most common are *-ynas*, *-ynė*, *-inė*, *-ykla* *-uma*, *-tuvė*. The other suffixes like *-mė*, *-ainė*, *-einė*, *-ovė*, *-lis*, comprise only a few examples. Prefix derivatives make up only a half of all the found examples (25 words). The most commonly used prefix is *pa-*, followed by *už-*, *prie-*, *prieš-*, *po-* and *apy-*. Derivative paradigms (endings) make up 6 examples found in the novels. The most common is the ending *-a*. Compounding is also a rather scarce derivational method found in the novels. Only six (6) examples have been detected.
- Some derivatives repeat themselves, e.g. affix derivatives *vaisti-nė*, *land-ynė*, *kapin-ynas*. Prefix derivatives: *pa-galvė*, *pa-upys*, *pa-stogė*. Derivational paradigms : *prieplauk-a*, *pamat-as*. Compounds: *skers-gatvis*.

Conclusions

- NL derivational category is more productive in some languages, than in the others. In the Germanic languages it is not a very productive word formation category, while in the Slavic languages it is. In the Lithuanian language it is of a medium productivity.
- The most productive affixes in the Lithuanian language are suffix derivatives, followed by the derivational paradigm (endings) and prefix derivatives.
- The analysis of the chosen novels has shown that NL is not a productive word formation category used in the novels, therefore it would be useful to explore publications of another genre and/or parallel corpus.

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Thank you for your
attention!