Abstract

This bachelor's thesis focuses on French vernacular names of selected medicinal plants and analyzes them from several linguistic perspectives, particularly lexical-semantic, word-formation, and etymological. The practical part is based on the analysis of a corpus consisting of 27 vernacular and 33 Latin botanical names, primarily drawn from the publication *Petit Larousse des plantes médicinales* by Gérard Debuigne and Françoise Couplan. The aim of the thesis is to demonstrate the linguistic processes by which these names originated and how they reflect the cultural, symbolic, and perceptual motivations of traditional society. The names are further classified according to the type of motivation (e.g., appearance, effect, resemblance to animals, religious and mythical references) and examined in terms of metaphor, metonymy, polysemy, hyperonymy, connotation, and phraseology. The analysis shows that vernacular plant names did not arise arbitrarily, but are linguistically motivated and semantically rich. This work contributes to a deeper understanding of the processes behind vernacular plant naming and their cultural context.

Key words: vernacular names, herbs, etymology, motivation (in linguistic), french