

Glazyrina Elena Sergeevna

candidate of pedagogic sciences, associate professor

Bragina Oksana Aleksandrovna

candidate of philological sciences, head of chair

Salimova Raniia Zhavatovna

lecturer

Branch of the Military Training and Research Center
of the Air Force "Professor N.E. Zhukovsky and Yu.A. Gagarin
Air Force Academy" of the Russian Ministry of Defense
Chelyabinsk, Chelyabinsk region

**COGNITIVE AND ETYMOLOGICAL ANALYSES
OF THE BOTANICAL COMPONENT IN THE NAMES
OF RUSSIAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND WEAPONS**

Abstract: *the paper presents the results of an etymological study of the names of Russian military equipment and weapons, based on botanical and floral metaphors. The examples of the use of floral vocabulary in relation to the types of the Russian Federation weaponry and their use in the media are analyzed. The linguistic mechanisms underlying the functioning of this metaphor are analyzed and described.*

Keywords: *military equipment names, metaphor, metaphorization, botanical metaphor, floral metaphor.*

Глазырина Елена Сергеевна

канд. пед. наук, доцент

Брагина Оксана Александровна

канд. филол. наук, заведующий кафедрой

Салимова Рания Жаватовна

преподаватель

Филиал ФГКВОУ ВО «Военный учебно-научный центр
Военно-воздушных сил «Военно-воздушная академия

им. профессора Н.Е. Жуковского и Ю.А. Гагарина»

Минобороны России

г. Челябинск, Челябинская область

КОГНИТИВНО-ЭТИМОЛОГИЧЕСКИЙ АНАЛИЗ БОТАНИЧЕСКОГО КОМПОНЕНТА В НАЗВАНИЯХ РОССИЙСКОГО ВООРУЖЕНИЯ И ТЕХНИКИ

***Аннотация:** в статье представлены результаты этимологического исследования наименований военной техники и вооружения российской армии, основанные на ботанической и флористической метафоре. Проанализированы примеры использования флористической лексики в отношении к видам вооружения Российской Федерации и его использованию в СМИ. Представлены языковые механизмы, на которых базируется использование изучаемой метафоры в названиях. метафоры, которая на следующих.*

***Ключевые слова:** наименования военной техники, метафора, метафоризация, ботаническая метафора, флористическая метафора.*

Metaphor is one of the most common artistic tropes in any language. It is based on the similarity of objects or phenomena and arises from a comparison or juxtaposition of a new object with an already known one with highlighting their common features. Sometimes metaphor connects seemingly incomparable objects based on various characteristics, such as color, volume, shape, texture, purpose, and the sensations or associations they evoke. In other words, metaphor gives us an opportunity to study the mechanism of understanding one subject area (in our case, the area of “military equipment and weapons”) through another area (for example, floristry or botany), transferring previously acquired experience and structured knowledge from one area of human activity to another [1, p. 291].

The transfer of meaning from one concept to another, that is, the emergence of metaphor, is associated with similarities along the following parameters:

- similarity of form;
- similarity in appearance;

- similarity in impression produced;
- similarity in location;
- similarity in the structure of evaluations;
- similarity in the way actions are represented;
- similarity in function.

The object of the study is the names of Russian military equipment and weapons.

The subject of the study is weaponry nominations based on botanical and floristic metaphors.

Articles about Russian weaponry on websites, news feeds, metaphor dictionaries, as well as scientific articles on the problems of metaphorization have served as the material for our study.

The principle of naming Russian military equipment after flowers (the 2S3 Akatsiya self-propelled howitzer, the 2B9 Vasilek self-propelled howitzer, the Gvozdika self-propelled howitzer, the Geranium-2 unmanned aerial vehicle, the 2S5 Giatsint self-propelled howitzer, the 2S7 Pion self-propelled howitzer, the 2S4 Tyulpan self-propelled howitzer, and the 9P157 Khrizantema-S self-propelled howitzer) served as the basis for the associative implementation of botanical and floral metaphors in the Russian media in 2022 [2]. In relation to the types of weapons of the Russian Federation and their use in 2022, the media began to widely use floral vocabulary, represented by:

- 1) nouns, such as: bouquet, geranium, seedling, sprout, flowerbed, flower;
- 2) adjectives: geranium, geranium-like, floral;
- 3) verbs: to bloom, to grow, to blossom, to bloom.

In our opinion, the main reason media authors used non-belligerent, deliberately non-aggressive floral language to describe the military clash between Russia and Ukraine, as well as avoiding potentially aggressive animalistic metaphors when describing the enemy, was to soften the military discourse and reduce tension through figurative descriptions aimed at the civilian population.

Let's present excerpts from several news feeds published online: "...Akatsiya self-propelled artillery crews destroy positions daily..."; "Gyatsint-B howitzers deliver crushing blows..."; "Tulip mortar crews penetrate concrete structures..." [3].

Judging by reports from our Ministry of Defense, a whole bouquet of flowers rained down on Ukrainian Armed Forces positions. The artillery greenhouse also houses a Fialka howitzer, a Pion self-propelled gun, and an Astra mortar. And the Russian reader subconsciously comes to the conclusion that the more beautiful the flower, the more destructive its «aroma» is, probably.

During our research, we compiled a glossary of 33 names of Russian equipment and weapons based on floral and botanical metaphors. We also concluded that 90% of the names have a very specific explanation related to the visual impact of a shot. Imagine a powerful cannon shot, and at that moment, a flame erupts from the muzzle, reminiscent of an opening bud. This similarity served as the starting point for the floral metaphor, which is based on the following linguistic mechanisms.

1. *Visual similarity*: when fired, the flame erupting from the muzzle can truly resemble a blossoming flower.

2. *Aesthetics in engineering*: even in the most brutal fields, such as weapons development, there is room for aesthetic perception.

3. *Metaphoricality*: the use of floral names gives the weapon a more poetic and memorable image. For example, employees of the Burevestnik research and development company, who were directly involved in the development of the Astra self-propelled gun, confirmed this theory. They explained that when fired, the shape of the flame at the muzzle, combined with the green barrel itself, creates the striking impression of an opening flower. This is not just a coincidence, but a pattern noticed and captured in the names.

Let's give a few more examples.

2S3 «Acacia». It is a self-propelled artillery mount, developed between 1968 and 1971 by G.S. Efimov at the Ural Transport Engineering Plant. Specifications and performances of the «Acacia» mount: caliber is 152 mm; total weight is approximately 28 tons; firing range is up to 20.5 km.

Acacia (botanical) is a plant with small white or yellow flowers gathered in a panicle-shaped inflorescence. Belongs to the legume family.

2S4 «Tulip». This is a self-propelled mortar. The «Tulip» was developed and accepted into service in 1971 and remains in service with the ground forces. Specifications and performances of the «Tulip» mortar: caliber is 240 mm; firing range is 10–20 km; total weight of the mortar is 27.5 tons.

The «tulip» (botanical) belongs to the lily family. There are over 80 species of tulips.

2S5 «Giatsint-S». It is a Soviet army self-propelled gun «Giatsint» was developed at the Ural Transport Engineering Plant by G.S. Efimov. The gun was accepted into service in 1975. A total of approximately 2,000 units were produced. Specifications and performances of the self-propelled gun: firing range is up to 33.1 km; caliber is 152 mm; total weight is 27.5 tons.

Hyacinth (botanical) is a plant in the Asparagus family, whose inflorescence is a raceme with numerous small flowers. These flowers can come in white, yellow, pink, purple, and blue.

2S7 Pion. The Pion is a Soviet 203 mm high-power self-propelled gun developed at the Kirov Plant in Leningrad. It was accepted into service with the Soviet Army after a series of factory and state tests in 1975. Specifications and performances of the Pion self-propelled gun: total weight is 46 tons; firing range is 35 km; caliber is 203 mm.

The peony (botanical) is a plant in the Paeoniaceae family, with large, showy flowers.

In conclusion, it should be noted that «flower-themed» weapon names in Russia are a unique phenomenon, combining engineering, aesthetics, and wisdom. The specific use of floral and botanical metaphors in the Russian language reflects the system of value priorities and the cultural characteristics of the Russian people, who find room for beauty and inspiration even in the most brutal spheres of human activity.

Список литературы

1. Минский М. Остроумие и логика когнитивного и бессознательного / М. Минский // Новое в зарубежной лингвистике. – М.: Прогресс, 1988. – Вып. XXIII. – С. 291–292.

2. Мощь и красота «цветочной серии» российских САУ. – URL: <https://ren.tv/longread/978428-moshch-i-krasota-tsvetochnoi-serii-rossiiskikh-sau> (дата обращения: 09.04.2026).

3. Объяснены названия российского оружия. – URL: https://lenta.ru/news/2023/01/02/say_my_name/ (дата обращения: 09.04.2026).

4. Etymoline.com. – URL: <https://www.etymonline.com/word/aircraft> (дата обращения: 09.04.2026).