
Legal Issues of Vocabulary Classification in French Literature

Maksim Andreevich Dontsov¹, Valentina Nikolaevna Vassilieva², Gulnara Irekovna Galeeva³,
Cecile Leblanc

¹ Kazan Federal University, without a degree, assistant of the Department of Theory and Practice of Teaching Foreign Languages, Institute of Philology and Intercultural Communication, maksimdontzoff@yandex.ru

² Kazan Federal University, Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, Professor of the Department of Theory and Practice of Teaching Foreign Languages, Institute of Philology and Intercultural Communication, mme_vassilieva@mail.ru,

³ Kazan Federal University, without degree, Senior Lecturer, Department of Theory and Practice of Teaching Foreign Languages, Institute of Philology and Intercultural Communication, Institute of Philology and Intercultural Communication, bashiramama@mail.ru

⁴ professor at Paris III-New Sorbonne University, marie-cecile.leblanc@sorbonne-nouvelle.fr

¹Kazan Federal University, Kazan, Tatarstan, Russia

² Université Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris 3, Paris, France

E-mail: bashiramama@mail.ru

Abstract

There are certain legal rules for the classification of letters in literature. Due to the importance of the issue, it is necessary to address the legal issues of this issue. In the country's constitution, the issue of literature, language and other details have been discussed. According to the constitution, the article presents the results of a study of the classifications of onomatopoeic words in the French language. The classification of onomatopoeic lexis in French today represents an extensive field for research. Now, three principles of classification of onomatopoeic words in French are known. This is a thematic principle, a structural and orthographic principle, as well as the principle of productivity of onomatopoeic words, which is being developed at the Institute of Philology and Intercultural Communication of the Kazan Federal University. Research in the field of onomatopoeia is devoted to the search for the status of onomatopoeic lexis in the system of language and speech, the origin of this category of lexis, a comparative analysis of onomatopes in different languages, however, there remains a large unexplored field of onomatopoeic capabilities in the formation of various parts of speech on their basis. This study is aimed at weakening the contradiction, which consists in the real ability of onomatopoeic words to form new vocabulary and the lack of theoretical substantiation of the productivity of onomatopoeic vocabulary. In this study, the onomatopoeic lexis was analyzed from the standpoint of its word-formation potential. The study was carried out on the basis of corpus lexis composed of dictionaries of onomatopoeic words, an author's selection of fictional works by French authors, as well as magazines and comics. The analysis of the corpus was carried out using the methods of mathematical statistics which, in combination with quantitative calculation, made it possible to obtain a reliable result. Also, the lexical and spelling features of the words of each part of speech were identified, which reflects the process of suffixation in the French language as one of the important ways of word formation. The results of the study indicate the productivity of onomatopoeic words in the French language.

Keywords: Legal characteristic, French Literature, classification, sound imitation, interjection.

Introduction

The aim of the study is to confirm the word-formation potential of onomatopoeic words and to develop a new type of classification based on the principle of productivity. It should be noted that onomatopoeia is a special linguistic phenomenon in the French language. Onomatopoeia is a phonetically motivated connection between the sounds of a language and the underlying meaning of these sounds, a sound sign of the designated object, phenomenon, action, and event [1].

The concept of "onomatopoeia" is inextricably linked with such a part of speech as "interjection". With that said, confusion of these two concepts often arises. However, there is a significant difference between them. First of all, onomatopoeia is not a part of speech. Onomatopoeic words, unlike interjections, only name objects and phenomena and do not convey any emotions and feelings [2,3].

So, interjections express the emotions and feelings of the speaker. The following interjections, expressing various emotions, can be cited as examples: *hourra!* – expresses joy, *chut!* – a request for silence, *aïe!* most often mean pain.

Onomatopoeic words, unlike interjections, only name objects and phenomena and do not convey any emotions and feelings. Examples are onomatopoeic words such as: *hi-han* – donkey bleating, *ding dong* – bell sound, *badaboum* – thunderclap.

At different times, scientists were interested in the problem of classifying onomatopoeic words. The first and most popular classification is the thematic classification. Pierre Enckell and Pierre Rézeau compiled the "Dictionnaire des onomatopées" which served as the basis for the classification [4]. Such a classification is essential and basic for the whole variety of onomatopoeic lexis in the French language. This classification is based on the division into groups of onomatopoeic words from the point of view of sounds emitted by animals, as well as sounds of the surrounding world and various objects and mechanisms [5,6].

The classification includes the words of the following groups:

- 1) Sounds made by a person;
- 2) Sounds of animals, birds and insects;
- 3) Sounds of inanimate nature.

The structural and orthographic principle of classification also occupies a special place in the study of the basic principles of classification of onomatopoeic vocabulary. This principle is based on the distribution of words into groups according to their spelling characteristics.

This classification is associated with the peculiarities of the spelling of onomatopoeic words.

For example, one can note such cases when there is a doubling or tripling not of the roots of words, but of individual letters within a particular onomatopoeic word. Examples of such cases include the following: *rrr*, *brr*, *frr*.

Thanks to this classification, it is possible to identify the main types and patterns of writing onomatopoeic words [7,8,9].

The principle of productivity of onomatopoeic words is the least studied. In this area of research this classification is new and opens a large field for research in this area of lexicology, especially in the field of word-formation. The classification was proposed by Vasilieva V.N. in the article "On the productivity of onomatopoeic lexis in the French language" [10].

Method

The study is based on the analysis of corpus vocabulary. The following were used as the main sources in the study of onomatopoeic words:

- 1) Dictionaries of French language (Nodier) [11], (Le Petit Larousse) [12];
- 2) The author's card index containing examples of onomatopoeic vocabulary:
 - Fictional works of French writers;
 - Selections from various dictionaries of onomatopoeic words;
 - The materials of the French press;
 - Advertising texts;
 - Comics.

During the research, more than 150 pages of dictionaries and about 5000 words of text were analyzed.

When analyzing the corpus, the *LanxBox v.4.x* program is used. It is Lancaster University corpus toolbox which helped to conduct a more accurate analysis of data of onomatopoeic lexis. The use of the program for analyzing the corpus was due to the large number of words in the selected corpus.

Then a calculation was made for each of the presented parts of speech. Based on the texts, dictionary entries and press materials from corpus, 100 onomatopoeic words were selected which were subsequently grouped into sections:

- "Verb",
- "Substantive",
- "Adjective",
- "Adverb".

As an example, let us present the results that were obtained as a result of the analysis of dictionary entries for the letter "G". The results are summarized in Table 1, which lists the words we found in the dictionary entries and categorized into the sections "Verb", "Substantive", "Adverb", "Adjective".

Table 1. Words and parts of speech of onomatopoeic origin (letter "G")

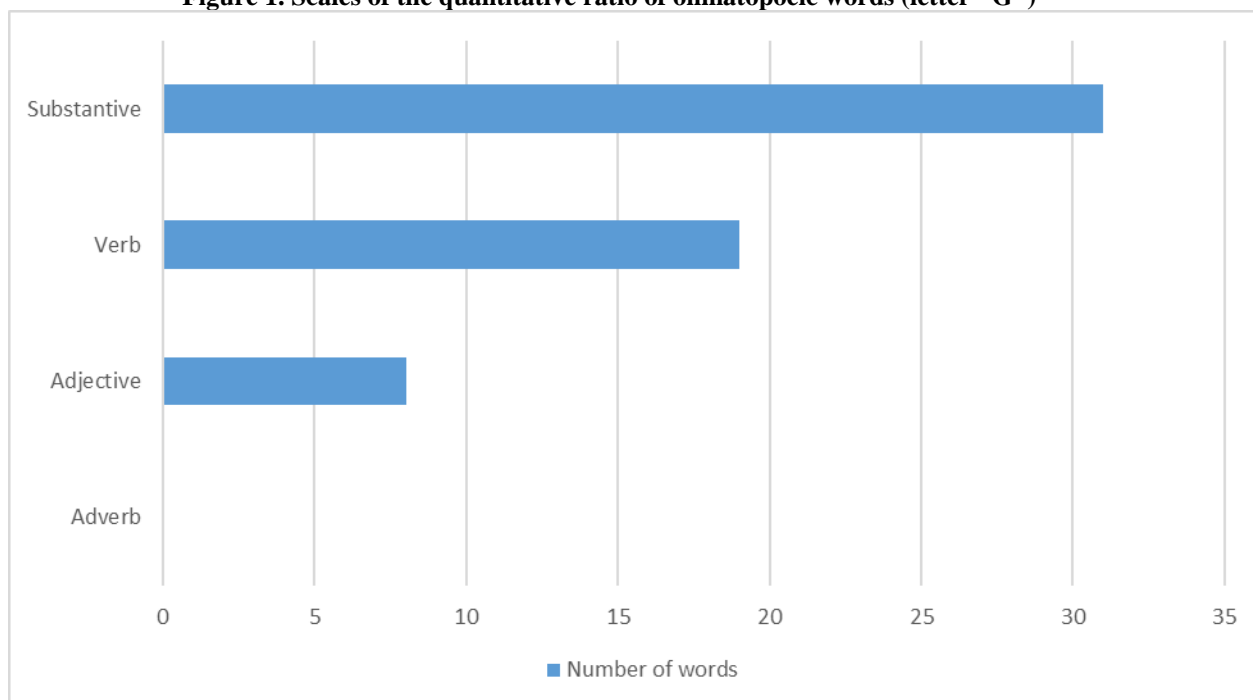
| Substantive | Verb | Adjective | Adverb |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|--------|
| 1. galop | 1. galloper | 1. - | 1. - |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|-------|
| 2. gargarisme, gargouille | 2. gargariser | 2. - | 2. - |
| 3. gazouillement | 3. gazouiller | 3. gazouillant(e) | 3. - |
| 4. geai | 4. - | 4. - | 4. - |
| 5. glapissement | 5. glapir | 5. glapissant(e) | 5. - |
| 6. - | 6. glisser | 6. glissant(e) | 6. - |
| 7. glouglou | 7. glouglouter | 7. - | 7. - |
| 8. glouton | 8. - | 8. - | 8. - |
| 9. gloutonnerie | 9. gloutir | 9. - | 9. - |
| 10. goret | 10. - | 10. - | 10. - |
| 11. goulot | 11. - | 11. - | 11. - |
| 12. goutte | 12. - | 12. - | 12. - |
| 13. graillement | 13. grailler | 13. - | 13. - |
| 14. - | 14. grater | 14. - | 14. - |
| 15. grêle | 15. grêler | 15. grêleur(se) | 15. - |
| 16. grelot | 16. - | 16. - | 16. - |
| 17. grenouille | 17. - | 17. - | 17. - |
| 18. grésillement | 18. grésiller | 18. - | 18. - |
| 19. griffe | 19. griffer | 19. griffeux(se) | 19. - |
| 20. griffon | 20. griffonner | 20. griffonneux(se) | 20. - |
| 21. grillon | 21. - | 21. - | 21. - |
| 22. grincement | 22. grincer | 22. - | 22. - |
| 23. grive | 23. - | 23. - | 23. - |
| 24. grognement | 24. grogner | 24. grognant(e) | 24. - |
| 25. grommellement | 25. grommeler | 25. - | 25. - |
| 26. grondement, gronderie, grondeur | 26. gronder | 26. grondant(e) | 26. - |
| 27. groin | 27. - | 27. - | 27. - |
| 28. gruuau | 28. - | 28. - | 28. - |
| 29. grue | 29. - | 29. - | 29. - |
| 30. - | 30. gruller | 30. - | 30. - |
| 31. guêpe | 31. - | 31. - | 31. - |
| 32. - | 32. guiorer | 32. - | 32. - |

After analyzing the articles of dictionaries and literary texts, words were found that belong to three parts of speech: nouns, adjectives, and verbs. Table 1 shows that most of the words that are formed from onomatopes are nouns (31), the next group is made up of verbs (19). A smaller part of the analyzed words are adjectives (8). No adverbs derived from onomatopoeic words were found in the dictionary entries.

Figure 1 shows the scales of the quantitative ratio. These scales clearly show how vocabulary is distributed according to parts of speech.

Figure 1. Scales of the quantitative ratio of onomatopoeic words (letter "G")



A similar analysis was carried out for each letter of the alphabet. It made it possible to accurately determine the main tendencies in the formation of new words from onomatopoeic lexis.

Other examples of words derived from onomatopes can be the following words found by us as a result of the analysis of corpus lexis:

Nouns: *aboiment, bourdonnement, gargarisme, gargouille, glouglou, hissement, roucoulement, susurration, timpanon, tourterelle*;

Verbs: *biberonner, aboyer, trinquer, tracasser, souffler, sillonner, ruisseler, retentir, griffonner, glouglouter, hululer*;

Adjectives: *broyeur(se), aboueux(se), glapissant(e), grognant(e), trembleur(se), tremblant(e), tousseux(se), sanglant(e), râleux(se), râlant(e), henissant(e), grêleux(se)*;

Adverbs: *bouffement, affreusement*.

Using the methods of mathematical statistics, the main regularities in the productivity of onomatopoeic words in the French language were revealed.

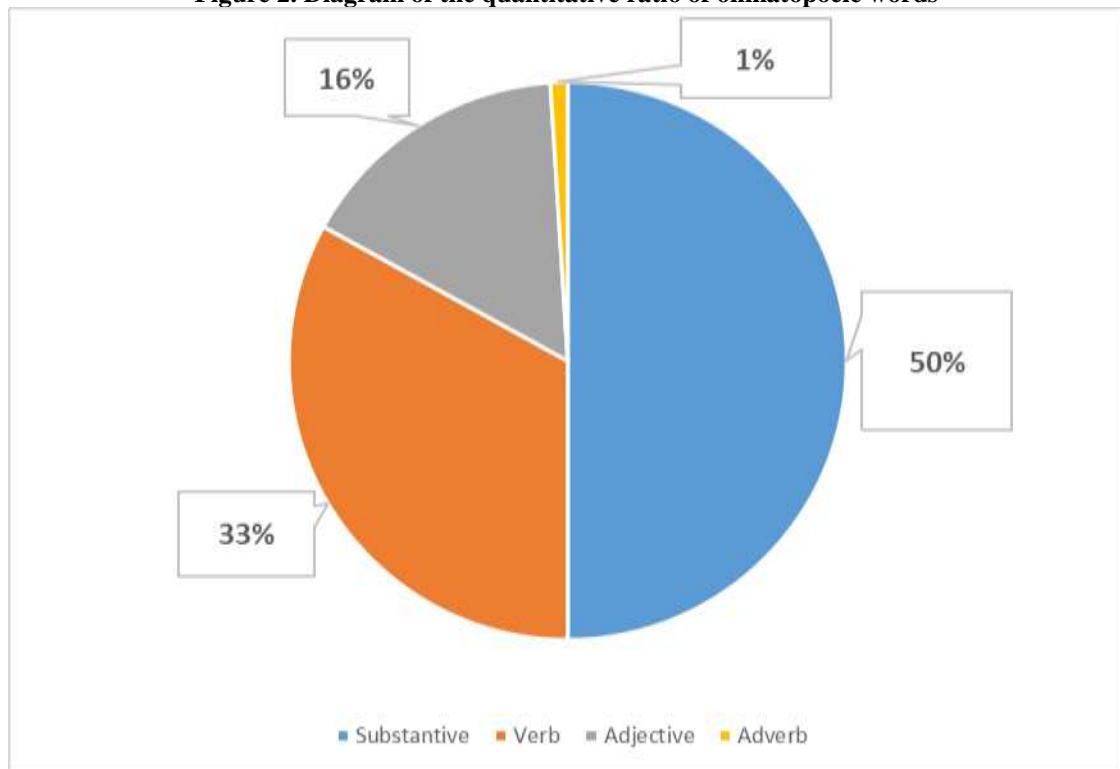
Having studied the main features of the principle of classification from the standpoint of productivity, which was presented by Vasilieva V.N. in the article "On the productivity of onomatopoeic lexis in the French language", we carried out further work to substantiate this principle of classification and confirm the syllabic function in onomatopoeic words. As a result of the study, results were obtained that allow us to conclude that nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs are formed from onomatopoeic vocabulary in the French language.

The results of the study are presented in the form of a diagram which contains information on the distribution of words formed from onomatopoeic words by parts of speech and clearly shows the quantitative relationship between parts of speech. The diagram clearly shows which parts of speech and to what extent can be formed from onomatopoeic words.

Results and Discussion

The results of the study confirm the presence of productivity in onomatopoeic words. In order to visually present the results of the study for all the studied words, you should refer to the diagram (Figure 2). As you can see from the diagram, half of the words that are formed from onomatopoeic words are nouns which is 50%. The next group of words is made up of verbs. This is about a third (33%) of all words found in dictionary entries and fiction texts. Adjectives make up the smallest part of all words - this is 16%. The least number of adverbs which are formed from onomatopoeic words was found (1%).

Figure 2. Diagram of the quantitative ratio of onomatopoeic words



Most nouns are formed using the following suffixes:

- **-erie,**
- **-ence,**
- **-age,**
- **-ment.**

Mostly nouns that are derived from onomatopoeic vocabulary denote the name of actions that are performed by a person or any animal, as well as individual sounds of inanimate nature.

The verbs represent a large group of words among the entire analyzed vocabulary. Basically, the verbs of onomatopoeic origin refer to the verbs of the first group ending in **-er** or to the verbs of the second group ending in **-ir**. Verbs belonging to the third group ending are presented less often.

Verbs in this situation denote actions performed by objects of animate or inanimate nature or the sounds that these objects emit.

The adjectives found in the result of the corpus analysis are presented to a lesser extent which is about a third of all vocabulary that was studied during the research. The formation of adjectives occurs through the following suffixes:

- **-euse,**
- **-eur,**
- **-ant(e),**
- **-eux(se),**
- **-é(e).**

In this case, adjectives play a role of determinant words. They characterize the actions that are performed by humans or animals, as well as the sounds that are produced by inanimate nature.

In the process of analyzing the corpus vocabulary, very few adverbs of onomatopoeic origin are found that may indicate that this part of speech is not characteristic of onomatopoeic vocabulary. Nevertheless, this conclusion, made on the basis of the conducted research, suggests that in order to prove this judgment, it is necessary in the future to also conduct research on corpus lexis.

As you can see, onomatopoeia occupies a special place among the methods of word formation. An important feature of onomatopoeia is that it is not a separate part of speech in French and does not belong to any other part of speech. But at the same time, onomatopoeic words are word-forming, from them new words of other parts of speech can be formed. These are the parts of speech of the French language:

- Nouns;
- Verbs;
- Adjectives;

- Adverbs.

It was determined that the largest number of words derived from onomatopoeic words are nouns. The next part is occupied by verbs. Adjectives are less represented. Adverbs are represented only by a few words. In most cases, adverbs are almost not formed from onomatopoeic words.

Thus, having studied the corpus vocabulary, we can conclude that onomatopoeic words can form a new word, that is, they have sufficient productivity and word-formation potential. Therefore, this classification based on the principle of productivity of onomatopoeic vocabulary is sufficiently substantiated and at the same time reflects the word-formation function of onomatopoeic words.

Conclusion

Classification according to the principle of productivity of onomatopoeic words indicates their ability to form new words which is new in the study of onomatopoeia as a linguistic phenomenon. Words of different parts of speech have the ability to form words. But it is worth noting that onomatopoeia is not an independent part of speech, and at the same time it can form new words of other parts of speech.

Although the study was conducted on the basis of the French language, it is reasonable to assume that onomatopoeic words in other languages, in particular in English, German and Spanish, have a similar property to the formation of new words which opens up opportunities for new research aimed at a comparative study of the derivational potential of onomatopoeic words of different languages.

Research in the field of onomatopoeia is currently insignificantly represented in science, therefore this research has great potential for the development of science in this direction.

The classification of onomatopoeic words as a method of systematization is a very important aspect of the study and research of onomatopoeia. Dividing them into parts of speech, as well as analyzing their lexical properties, makes it much easier to study the material.

The study of onomatopoeia as a linguistic phenomenon becomes easier, since all its basic properties and structural and orthographic features expressed through classifications have a clearer and more understandable form.

Further research can be aimed at comparing the classifications of onomatopoeic words and onomatopoeia separately with other languages, for example, with English, German, Spanish, in order to identify differences and similarities.

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