

# THE CONCEPT OF "ANTOCOMPONENT" IN LINGUISTICS

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## Abstract

The emergence of new terms to express linguistic units is a natural result of the continuous development of linguistic science. As language is a dynamic and multifaceted phenomenon, traditional terminology often fails to capture the complexity of newly discovered linguistic forms and functions. With the expansion of linguistic research into areas such as cognitive linguistics, pragmatics, and sociolinguistics, scholars require more precise concepts to describe novel aspects of meaning, structure, and usage. Moreover, the rise of digital communication and cross-linguistic studies has revealed new types of linguistic data that cannot be adequately explained by earlier terms. Therefore, the creation of new linguistic terminology ensures clarity, accuracy, and adaptability in describing the ever-evolving nature of language.

**Keywords:** Anto component, phytonym, flora, dictionary, flower.

## Introduction

“Anto” is derived from the Greek word “anthos” (ἄθος), meaning “flower or flower-like”[1]. The prefix “anto” is usually used in neoclassical compounds - words derived from Greek or Latin roots, especially in the scientific, literary, and poetic fields. The prefix anto can combine with other morphemes to form a completely new meaning.

For example, the word anthology (antho - (flower) + -logy (study/collection) originally meant "flower picking/collection of flowers" and referred to collections of small Greek poems and epigrams. Because in Greek culture, a flower is a symbol of the delicate feelings that only poetry can express[17]. Today it means "a collection of literary works". In book publishing, anthology is used to mean a collection of literary works selected by the compiler. These collections can be collections of plays, poems, short stories, songs, or works of fiction by different authors, related or unrelated. There are also thematic and genre-based anthologies[16]. Antho is used effectively in scientific terminology (botany, chemistry, biology) and in word formation in poetry. Other terms containing antho are also found in science. For example, in botany, anthocyanin - red pigment; there are such terms as anthocyanin - water-soluble vacuolar pigments[20].

The term “antocomponent” (flower-containing) was first introduced into linguistics to denote linguistic units containing the “flower” component, which serves as a lexical, semantic and cultural sign in phraseological expressions, proverbs, idioms and other figurative structures of the language (author: S. Abdukayumova). Such units act not only as components of



phraseological and paremiological formations, but also as important cultural and symbolic signs reflecting the anthropocentric, aesthetic and ethnolinguistic aspects of the language. In linguistics, the terms “phytonym” and “flora” already exist to describe the vocabulary related to plants, but their scope is too general to cover the specific semantic, cultural and symbolic role of “flowers”. The term “phytonym” as a hypernym is used to denote all lexical units related to plants in general (from the Greek “phyton” - “plant” and “onyma” - “name”[18]). This category includes not only flowers, but also trees, shrubs, herbs, cereals and other plants. However, the semantic field of plants is very wide and diverse. Within it, flowers constitute a particularly rich and symbolic subgroup. Also, in science, there is the term “flora” to describe plant-related linguistic units, which means all the plants of a particular place or period in history. For example, The Stone Age Flora Stone Age Plants[15] . Although this term is sometimes used metaphorically, it primarily refers to biological and botanical signs for all plant life. That is, even if this term is adopted into linguistics, it retains that meaning and does not provide the necessary precision to distinguish flower vocabulary from other plant lexemes.

Therefore, the introduction of the term “antocomponent” (anto- flower, component-composition) is necessary to define a more precise lexical-semantic layer: linguistic units that directly include the flower component. Unlike general phytonyms and floras, antocomponents reflect the cultural, aesthetic and symbolic values associated with flowers in folklore, phraseology, proverbs and idioms. For example, in many languages, flowers symbolize beauty, love, youth, transience or ritual traditions, which distinguishes them from other plant names (for example, “oak” as a symbol of power or “wheat” as a symbol of fertility). This term narrows the extensive plant lexicon to linguistic units in which the flower lexeme plays a central role. It also allows linguists to systematically study linguistic units with a flower component:

- semantic features of flower names,
- stylistic and symbolic functions of flowers in phraseology, proverbs, idioms and literature;
- features that distinguish flowers from other plants ethnolinguistic and cultural associations).

This term also allows linguists to study the specific semantic, cultural and stylistic functions of flower names as independent linguistic phenomena.

The exact period in world linguistics when the study of flower imagery, imagery, flower and flower-related linguistic units began is a matter of debate. It is difficult to pinpoint the first work in the history of linguistics that studied “flowers” as a semantic category, as most of the early work is lost, fragmentary, or considered not to be a specific linguistic study. However, in modern times, there are sources of works that have studied flowers from a more “symbolic” or “cultural” perspective. One of the earliest works that presents flowers not only as plants, but also as linguistic/cultural symbols is the 1809 work “Du langage des fleurs dictionnaire” by Joseph Hammer-Purgstall[5]. This dictionary is considered the first published list of flower symbols. The first complex florigraphic dictionary then appeared in 1819 when Louise Cortambert published “La langage des Fleurs” (The Language of Flowers) under the name “Madame Charlotte de la Tour”[4]. Although this work is considered a work of cultural and artistic nature, rather than a purely linguistic one, the book systematically collected flower names for the first time, separating them into a separate lexical-semantic field, and assigning them symbolic and connotative meanings. This approach has served to distinguish between the



denotative and additional meanings of words in linguistics, as well as to expand semantic analysis. The work is also an important source for today's linguistic and cultural studies and ethnolinguistic studies, as it connects flowers with folk, religious and ceremonial values. It shows that flowers can be interpreted as a certain "sign" and can express emotional and social content through them. This aspect later became the basis for semiotic and symbolic studies in linguistics. Also, the symbolic meanings given in the book created a scientific basis for the analysis of flower images in phraseological units, proverbs, and literary texts. Thus, "Le langage des fleurs" is valued as one of the first sources that showed the need to study flower-component units as a separate semantic layer from a linguistic point of view.

After this work, many flower dictionaries[2,3,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14] were published both in Europe and in the United States. And today, linguistic units related to "flower" are still actual theme to be analyzed for many linguistic spheres.

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