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A NICKNAME AS A MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION IN A VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENT

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Анотація Статтю присвячено дослідженню англомовних прізвиськ. Прізвисько є різновидом антропоніма, за допомогою якого надається додаткове та неофіційне ім'я людині, що виявляє її характерні риси, особливості зовнішності, тощо. Антропонім є власним іменем, яке офіційно надається окремій людині для її ідентифікування. Критерієм віднесення прізвиськ до антропонімічної лексики є те, що ці одиниці належать одночасно і до власних імен, які ідентифікують людину, і до слів повсякденного вжитку.

Ключові слова: антропонім, прізвисько, тип.

Abstract The article is devoted to the study of English nicknames. Nickname is a type of anthroponym with the help of which an additional and non-official name is given to a person. Such a name reveals his / her peculiar features of character, appearance, etc. Anthroponym is a personal name given officially to a human being for his/her identification. The criteria of ascribing of nicknames to anthroponymic vocabulary are the facts of their belonging to the proper names that identify people and to the words of common stock (everyday language).

Keywords: anthroponym, nickname, type.

Anthroponyms are linguistic units, the main function of which is to ensure the linguistic identification of a person in society. They are a certain code that stores important information not only about a certain historical era, but also about the human community in particular.

Anthroponymy of individual and family names, and their mutual correlations, includes the study of personal names, given names, surnames, nicknames, pseudonyms, mononyms, matronyms, patronyms.

In modern society, most people are directly influenced by Internet communication, so anthroponyms of the Internet space occupy a special place in the system of any language. The development of the Internet as a new area of communication led to the widespread use of nicknames.

A nickname as a means of identification in a virtual environment has a connection not only with vocabulary, but also with psychology and sociology. Anonymity allows you to show a hidden perception of yourself as an individual at a subconscious level, which is known only to the user, often unconsciously.

The virtual network allows you to create not only a new name, but also a new image, which can be used completely anonymously and have no obvious connections with the real one. The creation of a nickname connects the creativity and consciousness of a person with language means for expressing an opinion and fixing it in written form.

A nickname is a network pseudonym used by a user on the Internet, usually in places of communication (chat, forum, blog). It is often derived from the name, age, gender, profession, hobbies, features of a person's appearance or character, his/her emotional state, preferences, etc. Due to such a wide range of information embedded in the essence of a nickname, there is a huge number of the most diverse classifications and varieties of virtual names proposed by various researchers in order to reveal the content of network names as accurately as possible.

Using a nickname as a means of identification in a virtual environment can be a common practice and has several advantages.

Firstly, it can help protect your privacy and anonymity online. Using a nickname instead of your real name can help prevent others from finding personal information about you.

Secondly, a nickname can be a way of expressing your personality or interests. You can choose a nickname that reflects who you are or what you like, and it can help you connect with others who have similar interests.

Finally, a nickname can be easier to remember than a complex username or email address. This can be especially helpful if you're participating in online communities or forums where you interact with many people.

So, it has become quite popular to use nicknames by students while studying online. There are several reasons why students might use nicknames:

1. Privacy: Students may use nicknames to protect their privacy and personal information while participating in online learning activities. Using a nickname can help prevent others from finding out personal details such as their full name, email address, or location.
2. Comfort: Using a nickname can help students feel more comfortable and at ease in online learning environments. It can be less intimidating to participate in class discussions or interact with peers when using a nickname that represents a part of their personality or interests.
3. Creativity: Using a nickname can be a creative outlet for students who want to express themselves in unique ways. It can allow them to showcase their personality or interests in a fun and creative manner.
4. Ease of Identification: In some cases, using a nickname can make it easier for students to identify one another in online learning environments. This can be particularly helpful when participating in group projects or collaborative activities.

Overall, using a nickname while studying online can be a personal choice that offers a range of benefits, such as privacy, comfort, creativity, and ease of identification. However, it's important to ensure that the nickname is appropriate, professional, and reflective of the student's values and interests.

While there are advantages to using a nickname as a means of identification in a virtual environment, there are also some potential disadvantages to consider:

1. Lack of Professionalism: If you're using a nickname in a professional setting, it may not be seen as professional or credible. Employers, clients, or colleagues may view a nickname as unprofessional and may not take you seriously.
2. Lack of Authenticity: Using a nickname instead of your real name can make it difficult for others to trust you or build a relationship with you. It may create a perception of you as someone who is hiding something or not being genuine.
3. Difficulty in Identification: If you use a nickname in a virtual environment where there are many users, it can be difficult for others to identify you or remember who you are. This can make it harder to establish connections with others and can limit your ability to network effectively.
4. Misinterpretation: Depending on the nickname you choose, it may be misinterpreted by others. A nickname that is offensive or inappropriate can cause others to form negative opinions about you, and it may lead to social or professional consequences.

Overall, it's important to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of using a nickname in a virtual environment and consider the context and purpose of your online activities. If you decide to use a nickname, choose one that is appropriate, professional, and reflective of your personality or interests.

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