ABSTRACT
In this article, we have attempted to analyze zoological vocabulary of the Swahili language in terms of the principles of phenomenon of animal life, as well as etymology and conative potential. In the course of the study, the following techniques were used: descriptive method, continuous sampling method with a dictionary, etymological analysis etc. The authors suggested the classification of the names of the animal world in the Swahili language according to nominations that reflect the proper attributes of the object (combined according to sound or color attributes), as well as the nominations that define object’s characteristics indirectly (combined according to locative attribute; according to animal’s character or its prey item; derived based on similarity of one living organism with another etc.). Zoological vocabulary of the Swahili language is presented by both native and adopted lexical units. The latter ones comprise about 4% of total zoological vocabulary content of the Swahili language. Zoological lexemes of the Swahili are characterized by conative potential; in most cases, the connotation is of anegative character. The results of the study performed may be used for further developmental works in the sphere of lexicology, ethnolinguistic studies, grammar, phraseology, onomasiology etc.

Keywords: Zoological vocabulary, zoological lexeme, Swahili, nomination, borrowing, connotation.

1. INTRODUCTION
The fauna vocabulary is an aggregate of words in the language that characterize the animal world. It includes such lexical and semantic groups as “birds”, “mammals”, “reptilians”, “amphibians”, “insects”, “fishes” etc. Studying zoological vocabulary plays an important part in linguistics since the environment becomes the base for phenomenon of these or that objects, which interact with various spheres of human life and activities. Knowing what was the base and the impelling force for this or that phenomenon, we may study various processes that take place in this language, more profoundly.

Despite the significant number of works, dedicated to studying of zoological vocabulary from various viewpoints, including the position of a comparative study of zoological lexemes in multi-structural languages, the zoological vocabulary of the Swahili – the language of Eastern and Central Africa – was not properly covered in the scientific literature. The rationale of the study is conditioned by the abundance of words that serve for phenomenon in the animal life in the Swahili; by the absence of works on this topic; by the need in complex study and systematization of zoological vocabulary in the African language.

Since the most ancient times, humans have been contacting the animal life that surrounded people. Close interconnection of the vocabulary of the animal world with the peculiarities of thinking, view of life,
history, ethnography and material and spiritual culture of the people also proves the necessity in studying zoological units.

The material for the study was mainly obtained from “Swahili-Russian dictionary” [Gromova, Myachina, Petrenko, 2012], which was used for selection of more than 600 words that denominate the names of living organisms.

2. METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

The peculiarity of the described material defined the choice of research approaches. For solving of defined tasks general methodological approach was used, as well as particular scientific methods like descriptive method, which was the main method in this study; method of continuous sampling from “Swahili-Russian dictionary”; the method of linguacultural analysis, etymological analysis etc.

3. RESULTS

3.1. The world of fauna in the Swahili language represents an interesting language layer, which is very diverse and rich. Because of particular climatic conditions, the African continent is the place where a huge amount of animals and birds are living, while some species may have more than one name. For instance, we found about 20 names of antelopes: dondoro is used for denomination of springbucks, hirola stands for general name of antelope, kinokero means gazelle, kulungu stands for antelope, malu is kudu antelope, mbala is used for denomination of jenny-bush buck, mbarapi is sable antelope, mbawala pongo is grey duiker, mbungu means gnu or hartebeest, ngurunguru is klipspringer caeca, nyameza – tsessebe, paa – common duiker, nungu – a subtype of common duiker, palahala means Oryx leucoryx, pafu – Oryx antelope, tandala stands for greater kudu, topi is hartebeest or kongoni [Mdee, Kiango, 2008].

According to the informants that dwell in Tanzania, two zoological lexemes are used for the denomination of elephant: one is tembo, which is used for the denomination of African elephants, and another one is ndovu, which is used for the denomination of Indian elephants. It should also be noted that, according to the informants, there are no words in the Swahili that would denote monkeys (any species). While in the Russian language the “monkey” denomination is used for the general denomination of any representatives of apes’ species, the Swahili lacks such general denomination.

3.2. Having studied a large number of names of living organisms, we have classified them according to nomination principles, which imply that each word is motivated by object’s qualities, which is supposed to be denoted by such nomination. Thus, fauna vocabulary may be divided into two types of nominations:

3.2.1. Nominations that reflect proper attributes of the object. Such nominations may be divided into following subgroups:

- The subgroup that is unified according to sound principle: kikwara– “rooster”, whose crowing later turned into a nomination; dudumizi – “cuckoo”, which is named so because of a typical sound it emits – dudu; ngurwe – “swine” – this word’s pronunciation resembles some peculiar sound, emitted by pigs – oinking; mbwa – “dog”, a sound that resembles barking; ng’ombe– “cow”, lowing of which sounds similar to its nomination.

- The subgroup that combines denominations of animals according to color attribute: mbega-mwekungu – “red colobus”, where mwekundu means red color; nyani-njano – “yellow baboon”, njanois used to describe yellow color; fisimadoa – “spotted hyena”, where fis expresses hyena and madoa is used to describe spots in the animal’s body; kindi-juakijivu – Gambian sun squirrel,
where jua means the Sun and kijivuis grey color, which describes the grey and yellow shade of its fur; mbweha-dhabahu is “common jackal” or “golden jackal”, where the word dhabahu denotes gold color, typical for this species.

- The subgroup that combines the attributes that characterize other external peculiarities like mbweha-masikio– big-eared fox, where masikio means ears; kima-kishungi – “bearded monkey”, where kishungi means hank or crest; nguchiromkima-mweupe means white-tailed mongoose, in which the word combination mkia-mweupe means white tail; kimetameta – glowworm, the verb – meta means to glow, to shimmer, which is a distinguishing feature of this insect; komba-masikiomakubwa “the large galago with large ears”; the word combination masikiomakubwa is translated as large as [Mdee, Kiango, 2008]; pundamilia, also pundamiliameans “zebra”, where pundameans donkey, and milia means stripes; simba-milia is translated as “stripped lion”, literally, a tiger with stripes – milia.

- The subgroup, combined according to the attribute that denotes peculiarities of the body structure of some animal or insect: neli means “malachite colibri”, where neli means a pipe for smoking. Maybe Africans called this bird with this word due to peculiarities of its appearance – it has a long and straight beak, which resembles a pipe; chale– “a fish with pricks”, which received its name thanks to the meaning of chale– “a cut”. This fish cut fishermen, leaving them with gashes. The next example: nguchiro-mwembamba means “slender mongoose”, where mwembamba points at slenderness of this animal; nguchiro-vidole vine means tetra dactyl mongoose; the word vidole vine is translated as “four fingers”, which characterize this species.

3.2.2. Zoological vocabulary of the Swahili language contain nominations that define the characteristics of nomination’s object not directly, but rather impliedly:

- The subgroup that is combined according to locative attribute, i.e. to the place of inhabitation: kimburu (pakapori) – “a wild cat”, where pori stands for forest or uncultivated piece of land; kindi-vichakamilima– “the bush squirrel”, where vichakameans bushes and milimameans mountains (since tropical mountainous forests are natural habitat of these animals); nguchiro-maj– water mongoose, where maji stands for the water, since these animals live in the territories that lie in the close proximity to water basins [Mdee, Kiango, 2008].

- The subgroup that defines the character or prey item of this or that living creature: mdondoakupe is a bird species, the representatives of which peck insects right from the animals’ bodies. This mane is derived from the word dondoa (to peck) and kupe (chigger) that is parasitic upon animals’ bodies.

- The subgroup that reflects the traits that are typical to humans: komba– “galago”, “hootcher”; kasuku – “parrot”, “blabber”; jeta– the type of periwinkle that sticks to rocks, lazy bones, good-for-nothing, the person who pulls the chestnuts out of the fire.

- The subgroup that is derived based on the similarity of two living organisms: swalatwiga – “giraffe gazelle”, where the word twigameans giraffe. Thus, the attention is paid to a long neck of this type of gazelle, which makes it look similar to a giraffe.

3.3. Zoological lexemes (vocabulary) reflect humans’ centuries-long observations over an appearance and habits of animals, express humans’ attributes towards them, provide information about both typical and less obvious traits of animals, which are not presented in dictionaries. Animals served people not only as a source of food and clothes but also a yardstick of many human qualities – both physical and moral ones [Mokienko, 2005]. Just like in many other languages, in the Swahili many animals have traits, typical for
humans. The symbol of the figurative meaning of such zoological lexemes is most often used for the denomination of human’s characteristics or behavior. For example, mkiawambuzi means “goat’s tail” and figuratively means “down-and-out” person. Zoological lexeme chazo – suckerfish – has a connotation of a creditor. The latter notion probably derived from the behavior of people who give loan money and who resemble suckerfish in their behavior (they do not back off until they get the loaned money back).

The word dume literally mean a male, and figuratively – a brave person or a hero; in animal world, females choose strong males as a partner for coexistence and reproduction. Zoological lexeme kasuku – “a parrot” is used for describing a blabbing person.

Just like in any other world’s language, Zoological lexemes in the Swahili are used as components of phraseological units and have high connotative potential. In the Swahili, the components of phraseological units are represented by such zoological lexemes as alion, monkey, elephant, snake, dog, cat; representative of water world (fish, octopus, turtle), birds (hen, vulture, crow); insects (bugs, lice, chiggers) etc. For instance, an inopportune, intrusive or meticulous person can be compared with a chigger: Kama kupe na mkia wa ngombe. – As chigger on cow’s tail (this phraseological unit in Russian is expressed as “какбанныйлист”). The person, who pays attention to minor flaws of other people while not noticing one’s own significant vices, is compared to monkeys: Nyani haoni tundule. – The monkey can’t see its stern (this phraseological unit in Russian is expressed as “в своем глазу бревна не видеть”)

3.4. Zoological lexemes studied by us mainly refer to original the Swahili vocabulary. Borrowings in zoological vocabulary are rare and comprise about 30 words. For example, some of English borrowings are baisani – bison, dolfini – dolphin, haidra – hydra; the Swahili borrowed one word – koho –, which denotes palm-nut vulture, from the Hindi languages; maige – young locust – came from Persian language.

The names of animals and birds, which do not live at the territory of the Swahili language spread, also become targets of borrowings. As an example, there are such English borrowings as kangaroo and sili – seal.

Formation of the Swahili language occurred under the influence of the Arabic language, which had the most profound impact on it in terms of religious, scientific, cultural and economic aspects. Th. C. Schaderberg considers the most numerous Arabic loanwords to belong to religion and belief (47.5%), possession (41.4%) and law (41.1%) semantic fields. Other semantic groups range from 5.8% to 40.6% of all the Swahili words [Fattakhova A., Mingazova N., 2015]. Despite abundance of Arabic borrowings, Arabic zoological lexemes did not gain a widespread use. Thus, as an example, we may mention such zoological lexemes, borrowed from the Arabic, as jamali (camel), kelbu (dog) and farasi (horse). All the above-mentioned words, except for the last one, have almost passed out of use among the population of Eastern and Central Africa, and they have analogues in the Swahili: ngamia – camel, mbwa – dog. Coran, translated to the Swahili, contains 16 nominations of animals, 14 of which are translated to African language. It is interesting that in Coran the word horse is translated to it’s Arabic borrowing farasi, although the original holy sculpture the word ḫaylis used, which did not become a part of African language.

4. DISCUSSIONS

The names of the animals and their lexical and semantical meanings were subjects of numerous linguistic studies in various languages: TrubachevO.N. [1960], YusifovO.G. ogly [1985], SadykovaZ.R [1994], GuketlovaF.N. [1994], ArimenovaR.S. [2012], GimadeevaA.A. [2015] etc. As for the zoological vocabulary of African continent’s languages, at the moment the issue has not been properly presented in the scientific literature.
This study contributes into an examination of lexical and semantic groups, particularly, the zoological vocabulary of African language, which has not been studied up to now. The results of the study can be used for further developmental works in the sphere of lexicology, ethnolinguistic studies, grammar, phraseology, onomasiology, semasiology etc.

5. Conclusion

Zoological vocabulary of the Swahili forms a significant component of general the Swahili vocabulary. Zoological vocabulary of the Swahili has its peculiarities like the huge amount of names that denote living organisms, which are based on descriptive characteristics of body structure or color of this or that animal; the nominations that are combined according to sound or locative principle etc.

Zoological lexemes of the Swahili have various etymological roots. Here we may find borrowings from English, Arabic, Hindi and Persian languages. Borrowed zoological lexemes comprise a small volume of the Swahili vocabulary – about 4 per cent of the general amount of zoological lexemes of the Swahili. Percentagewise, the share of Arabic borrowings in zoological vocabulary equals 2 per cent, while English borrowings comprise 0.9% and Persian and Hindi borrowings – 0.2%.

Zoological lexemes of the Swahili language are characterized by connotative potential. In most cases, connotation is of a negative character.

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