THE FUNCTIONAL-COGNITIVE CATEGORY OF FEMININITY IN MODERN UKRAINIAN

Abstract

The article describes in detail the latest feminine nouns of professions, job titles, and other activities. These nouns form part of the lexico-semantic system of Ukrainian and at the same time demonstrate its continuous dynamics. These neo-derivatives are actively used in modern Ukrainian media texts, contributing to the modernization and liberalization of the text, and to the creation of gender-linguistic balance. The need to involve feminitives in linguistic use is indicated by their codification in the new Ukrainian Orthography, although in previous editions they were ignored. These arguments and the focus on the idea of bilateral interpretation (semantics as dominant and formal), including in the context of anthropocentrism and active communication, form the basis for the development of the functional-cognitive category of femininity. Research into derivatology and semantic syntax make it possible to consider feminine personal nouns as elements with certain semantic-syntactic features, representing a profound and comprehensive aspect of the research. This is supplemented by the lexico-semantic classification of these units. The specific characteristics of Ukrainian-language names are identified by a detailed study of the means of expressing femininity — suffixes and case forms of feminine personal nouns — and their codified use. This set of features serves as the basis for the interpretation of the category of femininity as an abstract concept that generally denotes units with the meaning of feminine gender and combines three grammemes with a narrower categorical meaning: feminitive subjectivity; feminitive objectivity; and feminitive addressant, which form a certain hierarchy and semantic-cognitive paradigm.

Keywords: feminitives; Ukrainian language; functional-cognitive category of femininity; grammeme of feminitive subjectivity; grammeme of feminitive objectivity; grammeme of feminitive addressant
1 Introduction

Since the end of the twentieth century, linguistics has seen a significant shift of emphasis away from the formally oriented study of language towards the cognitive-anthropocentric, communicative-pragmatic, psycholinguistic and other dimensions. The supporters of this trend focus their efforts primarily on the description of language units through the prism of their contextual expression in specific communication situations, considering their modifical and transpositional processes, viewing them in terms of the emotional-expressive impact on the recipient, etc. A positive feature of recent work has been the recognition of semantic priority. In particular, I. R. Vykhovanets fairly states that the defining semantic criterion indicates the deep semantic factors on which the syntactic and morphological features of words are formed (Vykhovanets', 1988, p. 13). This approach makes it possible to view linguistic signs as being formed as a result of cogitative and speech operations, peculiar conceptual reflections of objects, phenomena, and characteristics of the objective world. In addition, the advantage of the semantic model of analysis is confirmed by the classical awareness of the close relationship between language and thought and the specific functional purpose of each nomination. It is equally important to adhere to this aspect in the study of units that have only recently entered the language system. Among such units, feminitives figure prominently and their active use can now be observed in the mass media. Despite the recommendations given in the new edition of Ukrainian Orthography (Ukraїnsький правопис, 2019) on the peculiarities of their creation, a number of problems have arisen, especially the inconsistent use of different suffixes. These can sometimes even include suffixes which are outside the norms of modern literary Ukrainian. In addition to word-formative codification, feminitives have been the subject of active discussion, especially regarding the relevance or irrelevance of their production. Thus, the study of women’s job titles, feminine nouns based on activities, and other words in this lexico-semantic group is among the most relevant fields of study in the Ukrainian language. Therefore, the purpose of the article is the cognitive-functional, lexico-semantic and derivational study of these units, with additional commentary on their codification in the Ukrainian language system.

Feminitives have been repeatedly described by researchers in many fields and on the basis of different languages. Feminism in the context of language theory has been studied by D. Cameron (Cameron, 1992), the concept of gender linguistics has been implemented by M. Karwatowska, & J. Szpyra-Kozłowska (Karwatowska & Szpyra-Kozłowska, 2010), M. H. Mills (Mills, 1999), A. Weatherall (Weatherall, 2003), the issue of gender identity in the plane of discourse has been raised by L. Litosseliti, & J. Sunderland (Litosseliti & Sunderland, 2002). The feminine personal nouns included in modern Polish dictionaries have been analysed by Z. Kubiszyn-Mędrala (Kubiszyn-Mędrala, 2007). The peculiarities of the use of feminine nouns with the suffix -k(a) in modern Russian media texts has been brought to light by R. Guzaerova, D. Sabolova, & V. Kosova (Guzaerova et al., 2018). In Ukrainian studies, a detailed description of innovations with the importance of feminitives has been produced by A. M. Arkhangelska (Arkhanhelska, 2013a, 2013b, 2014a, 2014b), L. Bilaniuk (Bilaniuk, 2003), in comparison with masculinitives, which have been studied by A. A. Zagnitko (Zahnitko, 1987), O. Y. Poda (Poda, 2008), and in terms of linguoculturology — M. Y. Fedurko (Fedurko, 2010). Feminine personal nouns in Ukrainian argot have been studied by Y. Redko (Redko, 2016). An interesting attempt has been made by M. P. Brus to characterize feminine personal nouns according to their historical, lexical, word-formative and stylistic aspects, as well as in the plane of ethnolinguistic, sociolinguistic, linguo-areological, and linguo-culturological phenomena, and to select a feminitive subsystem in the lexical system of the language (Brus, 2019). Many works have been based on identifying the peculiarities of the creation and functioning of feminine personal nouns in modern Ukrainian (Navalna, 2011, pp. 187–194). The study of feminitives based on the material of several languages has not been overlooked. In particular, H. Błaszkowska focused on such nouns in German and Polish, studying them from the point of view of feminist language criticism (Błaszkowska, 2016).
W. P. Sosnowski, & J. Satola-Staskowiak (Sosnowski & Satola-Staśkowiak, 2019) identified the common and distinctive features of Bulgarian, Polish and Russian feminine personal nouns.

2 Ukrainian neo-feminitives: The problem of perception and the scope of extension

Ukrainian feminitives can be conditionally divided into two groups: the first group includes those feminitives that are now perceived as established units approved by language practice. They have survived since the time of Proto-Slavic linguistic unity and the ancient Ukrainian and Old Ukrainian periods. The second group consists of the most recent feminitives, the emergence of which is associated with a number of external factors, including the democratization of society, the emergence of new professions, the more active position of women in Ukrainian society, the expansion of women’s professional activities, women holding leadership positions that used to be the sole preserve of men, etc. (Navalna, 2011, pp. 187–188). The lexical items in the first group do not provoke such heated discussions as the items the second group. The more recent feminitives are perceived differently. Some researchers see in them artificially created lexical items that have emerged rapidly under the influence of linguistic fashion in order to brighten texts and make them more eccentric. These neo-feminitives are sometimes viewed as being contrary to the nature of the Ukrainian language, violating the morphological and word-formative balance, wholeness, and harmony of a language which is already self-sufficient. This argument is supported by the existence and traditional functioning of the old nouns for job titles and professions in Ukrainian which take the so-called ‘female’ endings a/ia and a ‘male’ zero flexion. In non-contextual use, these words are considered to be masculine nouns, whereas in context they are linked to men and women with the help of variable words, for example: holova zboryv skazav [said the chairman of the meeting] and holova zboryv skazala [said the chairwoman of the meeting], kompetentnyi suddia [a competent judge] and kompetentna suddia [a competent female judge].

The opponents of the arguments outlined above (the younger generation, according to observations) approve of the emergence of new feminitive derivatives, explaining their emergence by linguistic dynamics and the close interaction of extralingual and intralingual factors. It is a general truth that there are always different reactions to novelty. Changes are always actively discussed, approved of, and criticized. This is true in the case of the functioning of feminine personal nouns. Relevant considerations in this regard have been expressed by W. P. Sosnowski, & J. Satola-Staskowiak:

“In societies with a compelling need to change their existing linguistic structures, change can be observed among language users in the perception of reality and in the understanding of the role of women in modern society. The creation and use of feminitives or, conversely, their avoidance, clearly characterise current social relations and relations between the sexes — their way of reasoning, communication, and attributing characteristics to each other” (Sosnowski & Satola-Staśkowiak, 2019)

The supporters of neo-feminitives argue for the reasonability of the functioning of these units on the basis of the need to establish gender equality, not only in life, but also in the use of certain nouns to denote females and males. Undoubtedly, such reforms will help to establish some degree of gender balance, which has been disturbed for a long time for a number of reasons. Final conclusions can be drawn later about the relevance / irrelevance, productiveness / unproductiveness, usualness / unusualness and ‘lifespan’ of specific neo-feminitives in Ukrainian. Real-life communication always makes adjustments, language constantly responds to the demands of society, leaving the necessary in place and rejecting the unnecessary. This reflects the development of language and shows its evolution.

In oral speech there is currently an increase in the functioning of units with a feminine meaning in terms of professional positions and other parameters. Such units can be found in scientific
and academic papers in regard to the achievements of female researchers, and most of all in mass media texts, which serve as an important indicator of language mobility. Journalists have always sought to be original in the transmission of information, implementing certain guidelines of the communication process. In addition, neo-feminities contribute to the compression of speech, resulting in economy of language.

3 The profound semantic interpretation and internal lexico-semantic classification of Ukrainian feminitives

An objective and complete study of feminitives provides a description of them in terms of profound semantic interpretation. In this case, it is better to interpret these units as formal means of expressing an abstract meaning, based on cogitative and speech activity with an emphasis on the ideas of functionalism, anthropocentrism and a communicative-pragmatic purpose. Adherence to these methodological procedures is the basis for the selection of the functional-cognitive category of femininity, which should be analysed in terms of derivatology and semantic syntax, allowing feminine personal nouns to be viewed as elements with certain semantic-syntactic features. This approach is profound and comprehensive, as it deals with the study of feminitives in language in general, rather than in a specific language. Guided by the fact that the latest feminine nouns for professions, positions, ranks, degrees, etc. are derived words, they mainly serve as markers of the word-formative meaning of the subject of action. Such lexical items reflect the compression process of the statement, the pattern of which can be seen in the example: “Nezhinocha” professia: yak pratsiuye futbolna komentatorka z Shveitsarii [A non-traditional profession for women: how a female football commentator (feminine in Ukrainian) from Switzerland does her job] (www.tsn.ua, 30.07.2019) — “Nezhinocha” professia: yak pratsiuye zhinka, yaka komentiuie futbolni matchi [A non-traditional profession for women: how female football commentator (feminine in Ukrainian) works]. The root part of the noun highlighted in the first sentence coincides with the root of the verb predicate in the second sentence, and the suffixes -or- and -k- emphasize, respectively, the semantics of the person performing the action and her feminine gender. The main semantic emphasis may be on the word that is the object in the sentence. In this case, the root of this noun is also represented in the feminine: Ministerka osviti i nauky Hanna Novosad poskarzhylasia na nekonkurentnu zarplatu v 36 tysiac hryven [The Minister (feminine in Ukrainian) of Education and Science Hanna Novosad complains about her uncompetitive salary of 36,000 hrn] (www.pravda.com.ua, 20.01.2020) — Zhinka, yaka keruie Ministerstvom osvity i nauky, poskarzhylasia na nekonkurentnu zarplatu v 36 tysiac hryven [The woman who runs the Ministry of Education and Science complains about her uncompetitive 36,000 hrn salary]. In Ukrainian linguistics, various transpositional and transformational processes, as a result of which words with the word-formative meaning of the subject of action occurred, have been described in detail by I. R. Vykhovanets (Vykhovanets', 1988, pp. 134–139).

The cognitively oriented category of femininity is clarified by its description in the context of semantic syntax and on the basis of speech, which makes it possible to analyse these feminine personal nouns in accordance with their implementation of the functions of subject, object or addressee, specified in narrower terms considering their relationship to actions, processes, states, etc., and to identify the specifics of women’s personal nouns in certain conditions of communication. In addition, it is important to consider the semantic-syntactic relations in which these types of items are united by the general idea of femininity, on condition that they are combined with the prop word. In Ukrainian linguistics, such an algorithm has been implemented in the study of semantic cases (Kostusiak, 2013) and minimal syntactic units (Mezhov, 2012). Thus, these conceptual principles are sufficiently tested and can serve as a basis for the comprehensive study of the latest feminitives. All this contributes to the creation of a semantic-cognitive paradigm, which is structured by grammemes with a narrower categorical meaning — feminitive subjectivity; feminitive objectivity; and feminitive addressant.
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A grammeme of feminine subjectivity is at the centre of the cognitive-semiotic hierarchy of the category of femininity, and it denotes a female person who actively performs any action (physical, locative, mental, speech, etc.) or is a carrier of the process or state: *Narodna deputatka Ukrainy Anna Skorokhod*, yaku ranishhe vyklyuchyly z fraktii “Sluha Narodu”, zaiavyla, shcho 28 bereznia yii test na koronavirus pokazav pozytynnii rezultat [Ukrainian People's Deputy (feminine in Ukrainian) Anna Skorokhod, who was previously excluded from the “Servant of the People” party, claimed that on March 28 her test for Covid-19 was positive] (www.zaxid.net, 30.03.2020); *Uriadovystsiya Hrynevych khochote zmizostvo zminyty khlopoty tanko u navchaty ditei finansovii hramotnosti* [Government official (feminine in Ukrainian) Hrynevych wants to change the school curriculum profoundly and to teach students financial literacy] (www.sts.sumy.ua, 19.05.2019); *Ahentka zniała video pro “naischashlyvishoho khloptsiia na karantyni”* [An agent (feminine in Ukrainian) has recorded a video about “the happiest guy in quarantine”] (www.reazon.live, 12.04.2020); *Shweitsarska diplomatka Haidi Hrau stala novym spetspredstavnykom holovy OBSIe v Ukraini ta u Trystoronnii kontaktnii hrupi* [Swiss diplomat (feminine in Ukrainian) Haidi Grau has become a new Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group] (www.tyzhden.ua, 5.12.2019). In modern Ukrainian, such nouns are usually implemented by the nominative case, which is formally and syntactically connected (in the form of interdependent bilateral coordination) with the predicate, and with the communicative structure of the statement can implement the topic: *Demokratka Pelosi ocholya nyzhchnyi palatu Konhresu. Yaki yii plany na stinu Trampa?* [Democrat (feminine in Ukrainian) Pelosi has become the leader of the House of Representatives. What is her opinion of Trump’s wall?] (www.bbc.com, 3.01.2019).

More rarely, such nouns are implemented by other cases: 1) the dative: *...18 chervnia 64 rikvii kantslsrtsi Nimechchyny Anheli Merkel stalo pohano na zustrichi z Prezydentom Volodymyrom Zelenskym...* [...on June 18 the 64 year-old German Chancellor (feminine in Ukrainian) Angela Merkel suddenly felt sick during a meeting with President Volodymyr Zelenskyi...] (www.ukranews.com, 27.06.2019); *Kantslertsii Nimechchyny Merkel stalo zle pid chas zustrichi iz Zelenskym [The Chancellor (feminine in Ukrainian) suddenly felt sick during a meeting with President Zelensky] (www.tsn.ua, 27.06.2019); 2) the instrumental: *Poriad z ukrainskoiu versiieiu tosoho wryknu u arkhivi takozh zberihsia pereklad anhliiskoiu yoho chastyny, zroblynyi arkhymandyrtkoiu sester-vasyliianok...* [Next to the Ukrainian version of this extract, there is an English translation, done by the Archimandrite (feminine in Ukrainian) of the Basilian Order...] (www.flibusta.site, 2014); *Odnak, skhozhi intsydenty trpalialysia z kantslerskoiu i ranishhe* [However, similar incidents involving the Chancellor (feminine in Ukrainian) have occurred before] (www.znaaj.ua, 19.06.2019); 3) the accusative: *Kantslerku raptovo zatriaslo. Merkel znovu stalo zle na ofitsinomu zakhodi* [The Chancellor (feminine in Ukrainian) seen shaking again. Merkel fell ill again during an official meeting] (headline) (www.tsn.ua, 27.06.2019); 4) the genitive: *...u kantslerky nemae problem zi zdoroviam* [The Chancellor (feminine in Ukrainian) is in good health] (www.thebabel.com.ua, 10.07.2019).

The formal-syntactic specificity of linguistic units that implement the grammeme of feminine subjectivity and which are expressed by indirect morphological cases is determined by their role of the adverbial subordinate part of the sentence, combined with the predicate of the one-sided subordinate connection. In typical occurrences, all secondary morphological representatives are components of a complex rhyme.

The signs of gender orientation are revealed by language units that mark the grammeme of feminine objectivity. A profound semantic analysis of such nouns makes it possible to state that they denote a female person as an object of someone’s action. Less frequently, these lexical items implement the function of the object of a state or process, mainly emotional or mental. All of these items function as proverbial subordinate members of the sentence and, on the communicative sublevel, a component of the rhyme. In modern Ukrainian, a grammeme of feminine objectivity is represented by the following morphological cases: 1) the accusative as a central mean of expression: *U seredu, 30 sichnia, pravoookhorontsi zatrymany mytnyu brokerku Olenu Chornu, shcho pratsiu-
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vala u viddili mytnoho oformlennia “Sknyliv” [On Wednesday January 30, authorities arrested customs broker (feminine in Ukrainian) Olena Chorna, who worked in the ‘Sknyliv’ customs clearance department.] (www.zaxid.net, 31.01.2019); U Zhytomyri sohodni sud zalysly pid var-toiu separatystku, yaka spryiala dialnosti tak zvanii “DNR” [A court in Zhytomyr has ordered a separatist (feminine in Ukrainian) who was involved in the activities of the so called DPR to be held in custody] (www.unian.ua, 15.11.2019); 2) the genitive: Sud zniav z volonterky Marusi Zviroboi (Oleny Bilenko) vsi protsesualni zoboviazannia [The court revoked all preventive measures of volunteer (feminine in Ukrainian) Marusia Zvirobi (Olena Bilenka)] (www.hromadske.ua, 8.05.2020); 3) the instrumental: Damsy u chornomu: Anhela Merkel zustrilas z novoiu premier-ministerkoiu Finlandii [Ladies in black: Angela Merkel meets new Finnish Prime Minister (feminine in Ukrainian)] (headline) (www.tsn.ua, 19.02.2020); Vodnochas, yak povidomyv Ria-boshapka, yomu ne vdalosia “diishly zghody shchodo vsikh elementiv domovlenosti” z advokatkoiu [At the same time, as Riaboshapka stated, he could not come to an agreement with a lawyer (feminine in Ukrainian) about all the details] (www.hromadske.ua, 6.11.2019).

Occasionally, a contamination of objective and locative semantics can be observed, which emphasizes a reference locative predicate with the meaning of movement or transition in space: DBR pryishlo iz obshukom do kolyshnoi narodnoi deputatky [SBI (State Bureau of Investigations) has searched a house of a former People’s Deputy (feminine in Ukrainian)] (headline) (www.zik.ua, 10.04.2020).

The least semantic and morphological branching is inherent in the grammeme of feminine addressant, the purpose of which is to denote females for whose benefit or harm someone acts. They are in adverbial connection with the prop verb, in particular its form of connection. In Ukrainian, the feminitives of this group are implemented by the morphological dative case: Advokattsi rodyn zahyblykh na Maidani Zakrevskii proponuvaly ocholyty vidpovidnyi departament v HPU [Zakrevska, a lawyer (feminine in Ukrainian) who represents families of activists killed during the Maidan protests in Kyiv, was offered a head position in a certain department of the PGOU (Prosecutor General Office of Ukraine)] (www.hromadske.ua, 6.11.2019); DBR povidomylo pro pidozru eks-deputattsi Chornovol [SBI (State Bureau of Investigations) have informed a former deputy, (feminine in Ukrainian), Chornovol that she is suspected of committing a crime] (headline) (www.tyzhden.ua, 25.02.2020); U Lutsku riatuvalnyky MNS dopomohly hazetaristty potrapyty na roboche mistse [In Lutsk, rescue workers from the Ukrainian Ministry of Emergencies helped a female newspaper journalist (feminine in Ukrainian) to get to work] (www.VIP.volyn.ua, 10.01.2011); Kolyschniu holova Zakarpatskoi ODA Hennadii Moskal poradyv chynnui ministerstsi osvity Hanni Novosad ne robyty velykoi kilkosti pomylok, koly vona pyshe u sotsialnykh merezhakh [The former head of the Zakarpatska OSA (Oblast State Administration), Hennadii Moskal, warned current Minister (feminine in Ukrainian) of Education Hanna Novosad to avoid making mistakes on social media] (www.zik.ua, 12.02.2020).

The addressant-objective dichotomy is implemented by the prepositional-case form of the instrumental case: Za ministerkoi oborony Nimechchyny zalysly stupin doktora nauk [The German Minister (feminine in Ukrainian) of Defence keeps her Doctorate degree] (headline) (www.dw.com, 9.03.2016).

The three grammemes of feminine subjectivity, feminine objectivity, and feminine addressant are related by neo-positive differences, as their generalized semantics are structured by narrower meanings that simultaneously have common and immanent features, allowing for the comparison of these three grammatical meanings. Each grammeme of the functional-cognitive category of femininity is implemented by nouns in certain cases, among which one has the status of the primary form, and the others function as its equivalents. This aspect helps to identify the features of the Ukrainian language.

The lexico-semantic differentiation of modern feminitives has a lower degree of versatility and generalization. They most often refer to females according to profession or type of activity in the following fields: 1) politics: Prezydentka Hruzii Salome Zurabishvili pomyluvala dvokh vidomykh opozitsioneriv, chyie uviaznennia na Zakodi nazyvaly politychnymy [The President (feminine
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in Ukrainian) of Georgia Salome Zurabishvili has pardoned 2 well-known opposition politicians whose imprisonment western countries viewed as political ([www.pravda.com.ua], 15.05.2020); Nai-

mолодша прем’єрка u sviti: khto taka Sanna Marin z Finlandii? [The youngest Prime Minister
(feminine in Ukrainian) in the world: who is Finland’s Sanna Morin?] ([www.dw.com], 10.12.2019); Kantslerka Nimechhyn Anhela Merkel, yaka pererhivae v karantyni z vechora nedili, zdala test
na koronavirus [German Chancellor (feminine in Ukrainian) Angela Merkel, who has been under quarantine since Sunday evening, was tested for Covid-19] ([www.volyn.com.ua], 23.05.2020); Hromada Kalushchyny proty toho, shchob raiionnoiu osvitoiu keruvala “rehionalka” [The community of Kalushchyna is against the appointment of a regional politician (feminine in Ukrainian) as the head of the district education department] ([www.kurs.if.ua], 6.02.2019); Svobodivka Babinska rozshylas novoiu nerukomistiu u Zolochevi [Svobodivka (the name of a political party in Ukraine and a Ukrainian feminine) Babinska acquires a new property in Zolo-
chiv] ([www.varianty.lviv.ua], 22.08.2019); 2) finance, economics and trade: ... a za vyruchkoiu shchodenno prikhodyla inkasatorka v suprovodi dvoikh cholvikiv [...] cash messenger (feminine in Ukrainian), accompanied by two men, came daily for revenues] ([www.lonckoho.lviv.ua], 15.05.2019); Zatrymaly nepovnolitniu 15.05.2019); Dyspatcherka Odesko kaluzhyni dopomahala krasty zerno z vahoniv, vlashtuvavshy potiaham dodatkovu zupynku [A dispatch (feminine in Ukrainian) of the Odesa railway aided the theft of seeds from wagons by assigning additional stops for trains] ([www.silahromad.com.ua], 1.01.2020); 5) art: Oksana Lyniv — odna z trokh naikrutishykh dyryhentok svitu, holovna v operi mista Hrats [Oksana Lyniv is one of the three greatest conductors (feminine in Ukrainian) in the world. She is the lead conductor of the Graz Opera] ([www.slukh.media], 22.10.2019); Kolomyyska mystyhnia Natalia Dovhaniuk pidtrymala konkurs malinuvkiv vid BF “Pokutti” [An artist (feminine in Ukrainian) from Kolomyia, Natalia Dovhaniuk, has supported a drawing competition from the Charitable Foundation “Pokutti”] ([www.dzerkalo.media], 12.04.2020); 6) education and science: Pedahohynia ta diaspora Vira Andrushkiv stala pochesnym doktorom universytetu v Levii [Teacher (feminine in Ukrainian) and member of the Ukrainian diaspora Vira Andrushkiv has received an honorary doctorate from the University of Lviv] ([www.ukrinform.ua], 28.07.2019); Amerykanska naukovytysia doslidyla teksty Starodavnoho Yevyptu ta vyiyvy, shcho yevyptyanin mohly utvarty nebo yak zaliznu posudynu [An American scientist has (feminine in Ukrainian) studied the texts of Ancient Egypt and has discovered that the Egyptians believed that the sky was an iron vessel] ([www.hromadske.ua], 7.05.2020); Pro osoblyvosti liudei, narodzhenykh pid znakom Tiltsia, rozpovia vidoma vienenska astrolohyyna Iryna Kravets [Well-known astrologist (feminine in Ukrainian) Iryna Kravets from Rivne talk about the personality traits of people born under the Taurus star sign] ([www.7dniv.rv.ua], 20.04.2020); Istorykyyna Iryna Yavorska z Chernivtsiv rozpovia “Hromadskomu radio” pro korotokocharysnii yevreyskiy renesans u Chernivtsiakh pislia zakinenhnia Druhoho svitovoii viiny [Historian (feminine in Ukrainian) Iryna Yavorska from Chernivtsi told “Public Radio” about the short-lived Jewish Renaissance in Chernivtsi after World War II] ([www.ua.js.org.ua], 05.10.2020); 7) medicine: Yak pravylno nosyty masky, rozpovidae terapevtka Mariia Krapynyer [How to wear a face mask properly, explained by physician (feminine in Ukrainian) Mariia Krapynyer] ([www.ukropen.net], 2.04.2020); 8) media and publishing: Lutska mediynystia Kateryna Dulapchii rozpovia pro svoie davnie zakhoplenhnia ta novu dialnist [Journalist (feminine in Ukrainian) Kateryna Dulapchii from Lutsk talk about her long-term hobby and a new activity] ([www.volyn.tabloyid.com], 10.03.2020); Yana vpershe sprobuie sebe v roli sportyvnoi komentatorky y, zvisno, trokh kyvyliuetsia [Yana will be a sports commentator (feminine in Ukrainian) for the first time, and, of course, she is a little nervous] ([www.tv.suspline.media], 29.11.2019); Drukovanu ploshchu hazetiarke maie
The functional-cognitive category of femininity in modern Ukrainian media texts

In modern mass communication, various suffixes are used in order to express the gender of feminine personal nouns. The most productive of these suffixes is ֒k(a). The active creation of new lexical items with the help of this formant is quite natural in Ukrainian and does not violate tradition. The authors of the new edition of Ukrainian Orthography advise giving preference to it. (Ukraїnsькі pravopys, 2019, p. 27): Investorka vklala v prydbannia kvartyry ostanni hroshi, ale zhytli dosi tak i ne otrymala [An investor (feminitive in Ukrainian) put the last of her money in purchasing an apartment, but still has no place to live] (www.stopcor.org, 3.02.2020); Narodziena v Ukraini britanska prodiuserka otrymala “Oskara” za naikrashchyi korotkyi dokumentalnyi film [An Ukrainian-born British filmmaker (feminitive in Ukrainian) has received an Oscar for
In terms of frequency of use, such femininitives are less frequent than derivatives with the suffix -en- (ia), which forms feminine personal nouns corresponding to the stems -en, ets of masculine nouns: Na Chernihivschyni zatymaly posadovytsi, yaka vymahala khabar [An official] (feminine in Ukrainian) from Chernihivshchyna, who demanded a bribe has been arrested (www.mynizhyn.com, 20.01.2020) (masculine posadovets [official]). Based on quantitative indicators, units with the suffix -yn(-ia), which according to the recommendations of Ukrainian Orthography should be added if the base of the masculine equivalent is completed by the suffix ets or consonant, can be included in this group (Ukrainskiy pravopys, 2019, p. 27): Fakhivschyna systemy BPD dopomohla klienttsi ponovytsya na roboti ta stiahnuti 185 tys hrr za robiniplaty za chas vymusenoho prohulu [A legal aid specialist (feminine in Ukrainian) has helped a client to get back to work and get a refund of 185,000 hryvnia for the period of enforced absence] (www.kompanievska-selrada.gov.ua, 20.05.2020); Vydavchynia online-media bit.ua ta zasnovnytsia proiektu Kind Challenge Tetiana Hrynova stala bred-ambasadorkou filmu “PULS” [The publisher (feminine in Ukrainian) of online media bit.ua and the creator of Kind Challenge project, Tetiana Hrynova, has become a brand ambassador for the film “PULSE”] (www.kinorob.com, 20.02.2020); Kropyvnytska kinohynia: sobaka — vidpovidalnist ta dorohe zadovalenina [Cynologist (feminine in Ukrainian) from Kropyvnytskyi: a dog is an expensive luxury and a responsibility] (www.rk.kr.ua, 27.11.2019).

The ongoing process of adapting new femininitives to the Ukrainian-language paradigm demonstrates the existence of parallel forms created by the formants -k-(a) and yn(ia): Vidoma fotohrafka z Lutsk Anastasia Aloshyna neshchodarvo provela svoiu pershu onlain-fotosesiu [A well-known photographer (feminine in Ukrainian) from Lutsk Anastasia Aloshyna has done her first online photoshoot] (www.volyn.tabloyid.com, 19.05.2020) and Ukrainska fotohrafnya Yuliia Poliaschchenko, svitlyny kotroj mozhna pobachyty u zhurnalakh Vogue ta Dazed, rozpovila pro svoi plans [Ukrainian photographer (feminine in Ukrainian) Yuliia Poliaschchenko, who works for Vogue and Dazed, talked about her future plans] (www.nachasi.com, 20.05.2020). Both options employed by journalists correspond to the established patterns of creation.

In an effort to maintain a gender-linguistic balance, journalists sometimes use femininitives that are destructive and contradict the word-formative norms of Ukrainian. In particular, the use of feminine personal nouns with the suffix -sh- is seen as a violation. Their functioning can be explained by the long process of russification experienced by Ukrainians: Yake to znachennia vkladaiut u slovo dyrektorsha… [What a meaning the word directress has...] (www.mediakolo.sunny.ua, 28.08.2019); Naistarsha barmensha na planeti pomerla u Velykobrytanii… v hrafstvi Bakinhemshyv v tsentri Anhilii [The oldest bartender (feminine in Ukrainian) in the world has passed away in Buckingham, Great Britain] (www.styknews.info, 28.02.2019); V Uzhhorod viiimala sutenersha [A Pimp (feminine in Ukrainian) has been arrested in Uzhhorod] (www.mukachevo.net, 12.08.2018). It would be more correct to replace the selected lexical items with dyrektorka [directress], barmenka [bartender], sutenerka [pimp]. Occasionally, journalists overlook the fact that the suffix -ys-(ia) is rarely used and they use it to form feminine words: Vsiu nich pysala stsenarii zi slovnykom. Shcho skazhe redaktrysia? [I have been writing a script using a dictionary. What will the editor (feminine in Ukrainian) say about this?] (www.svatore.city, 26.08.2018); Os i “inspektsuvannia inspektoriv” — toto perevyrivaya chynovnytsiuv miskoio rivnia — teper na vulytsi Verkhovynnii, perevyrivatyma inspektrysa Yeliena Vladislavovna Bolshinskaia [Here is “inspection of inspectors” — a revision by an official — now inspector (feminine in Ukrainian) Yeliena Vladislavovna Bolshinskaia inspects on Verkhovynna Street] (www.glupov.net, 20.05.2020). However, it is considered natural for Ukrainian to have cognate lexical items to the
selected words using the formant k: redaktorka [editor], inspektorka [inspector].

Pro-feminist journalists sometimes use compound nouns, which are codified in terms of both derivational and spelling features (they are quite reasonably written with a hyphen). Such lexical items can be divided into two groups: 1) items with two feminine personal nouns: Kolysnychnia khostes i barmenka-kasyryka: merezhu zdvymivala nova pomichnytsia Shmyhalia [Former hostess and bartender-cashier (feminine in Ukrainian): media surprised by Shmyhal’s new assistant] (www.shlyaha.com.ua, 14.04.2020); “Tse zalezhky vid stanu patientsia, vid yoho viku i vid tsi-loho riadu prychyn. A pro tse liudy chasto zabuvaiut”, — zawazhyla likarka-terapevtka [It depends on a patient’s condition, age and other factors. People often forget about that, said a physician (feminine in Ukrainian)] (www.golovnatema.kanalukraina.tv, 28.04.2020); Frankivska nardepka-“svobodivka” Oksana Savchuk zaiavyla pro stvorennia mizhfraktsiinoho deputatskoho obiednannia u Verkhovnii Radi [People’s Deputy and svobodivka (name of political party in Ukraine and Ukrainian feminine) from Frankivsk, Oksana Savchuk, commented on the creation of an inter-party deputy association in the Verkhovna Rada] (www.chesno.org, 25.09.2019); U RF vidkryly spravu proty profesorsky-infektsionistky [In the Russian Federation, the case against an infectious disease specialist (feminines in Ukrainian) has opened] (www.gordonua.com, 23.03.2020); 2) items with one part formed on the model of a feminine personal nouns, and the other part formed on the model of a masculine personal noun: Na Rivnenshchyni deputatka-likar bezkoshtovno konsultuvatyme liudei v onlain-rezhymi [A deputy doctor (feminines in Ukrainian) from Rivnenshchyna will consult online for free] (www.rivnews.com.ua, 25.03.2020). In the sample material there are not as many language units of the second group as there are of the first, indicating a tendency to establish gender balance.

Occasionally, a compound feminine is structured by two parts, one of which occurs as a result of transcribing an English lexical item: Vinnytsya polisvumen robytyme reidy v SIZO, aby pere-koshtovenno robytyme reidy v SIZO, aby pere-trial detention facilities to ensure that the rights of detainees are respected] (www.vn.depo.ua, 22.07.2016). Functioning in Ukrainian, the selected unit reveals a formal permanence: “Taka robota — tse mria moho zhyttia”. Interviu z chernivetskoiu polisvumen [“This job is a dream”. An interview with a policewoman (feminine in Ukrainian)] (headline) (www.0372.ua, 17.04.2016).


5 Summary

The latest feminine personal nouns for professions, job titles, and other activities, form part of the lexico-semantic system of Ukrainian and, at the same time, are an indication of its continuous dynamics. These neo-derivatives are actively used in modern Ukrainian media texts, contributing to the modernization and liberalization of the text, and the creation of gender-linguistic balance. It is no less important that these lexical items are now codified in the new edition of Ukrainian
Orthography (Український праєвопис, 2019, p. 27). These arguments and the focus on bilateral interpretation (semantics as dominant and formal), as well as in the context of anthropocentrism and active communication, form the basis for the establishment of the functional-cognitive category of femininity. Research in terms of derivatology and semantic syntax make it possible to consider feminine personal nouns as elements with certain semantic-syntactic features, representing a profound and comprehensive aspect of the research. It is supplemented by the lexico-semantic classification of these units. The specifics of Ukrainian feminities are revealed by a detailed study of the means of expressing femininity — suffixes and case forms of feminine personal nouns — and their codified use. This set of features serves as a basis for the interpretation of the category of femininity as an abstract concept that generally denotes units with the meaning of feminine gender and combines three grammemes with a narrower categorical meaning — feminine subjectivity; feminine objectivity; and feminine addressant — which form a certain hierarchy and semantic-cognitive paradigm. Despite the codification and explanation of the derivational features of the studied nominations in the new edition of Ukrainian Orthography (Український праєвопис, 2019, p. 27), the newly formed language units still require professional analysis and recommendations.

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