

## **Verbs derived from interjections in Polish, Russian and German**

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### **Abstract**

The article discusses verbs derived from interjections in three languages: Polish, Russian and German. In particular, it presents an overview of derivation processes which are implemented while forming the analyzed lexemes, the most productive affixes in the three languages in question and specific characteristic features of the word formation processes involved therein. The present study is based on the material of Polish, Russian and German verbs derived from representative, impulsive and imperative interjections and shows that, as far as morphological processes are concerned, numerous analogies exist between Polish and Russian. For instance, morphemes *-a(ć) / -a(mb)* are highly productive, both languages implement the morpheme *-ot- / -om-* as well as the infixes *-k- / -κ-* and *-cz- / -u-*. Because of the different properties of the language, which belongs to a different language family, German verbs derived from interjections display slightly different characteristic features.

### **Keywords**

Interjections, word formation, verbs derived from interjections, onomatopoeia, comparative linguistics

## **Czasowniki odinteriekcyjne w języku polskim, rosyjskim i niemieckim**

### **Abstrakt**

W artykule omówiono czasowniki odinteriekcyjne występujące w języku polskim, rosyjskim i niemieckim. W szczególności zaprezentowano sposoby derywacji analizowanej grupy leksemów oraz najbardziej produktywne formanty w trzech rozpatrywanych językach, a także przedstawiono specyfikę derywacji czasowników odinteriekcyjnych. Materiał badawczy stanowiły polskie, rosyjskie i niemieckie czasowniki utworzone od interiekcji reprezentatywnych, impulsywnych i imperatywnych.

Przeprowadzona analiza wykazała, że w sferze słowotwórstwa polskich i rosyjskich czasowników odinteriekcyjnych można wykryć wiele analogii. Obserwujemy więc dużą produktywność morfemu *-a(ć)/-a(ть)*, obecność w obu językach morfemu *-ot/-om-* oraz morfemów wstawnych *-k-/-κ-* i *-cz-/-ч-*. Nieco inaczej, z uwagi na właściwości systemu językowego, prezentuje się natomiast proces tworzenia czasowników odinteriekcyjnych w języku niemieckim.

### **Słowa kluczowe**

interiekcje, słowotwórstwo, czasowniki odinteriekcyjne, onomatopeje, językoznawstwo porównawcze

### **1. Introduction**

Interjections play quite a significant role as potential word stems and new lexemes are often derived from them, for instance nouns, adjectives or secondary interjections. However, it is the verbs that are particularly frequently formed from interjections, possibly because of the fact that sounds often accompany a variety of activities (Petkova 2011: 63).

For the Slavic languages the same stages and direction of word formation processes exist, i.e. interjection → verb → verbal derivate (secondary interjection, expressive verb, noun etc.)

(Daković 2006: 169). It follows from the above that verbal derivatives in Polish and Russian are formed directly from the interjection. It is worth pointing out that interjections constitute a fairly productive category, and in most cases representative interjections – onomatopoeias, become potential word stems, e.g.: *kra-kra* (Polish for *caw-caw*), *bzz* (Polish for *buzz*), *chlup* (Polish for *splash*) *cmok* (Polish for the sound of kiss *mwah*), less frequently impulsive interjections such as *ech* (Polish for *ah!*), *och* (Polish for *oh!*) or imperative interjections like *bis* (Polish for *encore!*) or *aport* (Polish for *fetch!*). The label *onomatopoeia* is occasionally used with reference not only to words formed from a sound associated with or imitating what is named but also all their derivatives. Polish *Encyklopedia językoznawstwa ogólnego* (*Encyclopedia of General Linguistics*) (Polański [ed.] 1999: 406) is an example of such an approach, as it labels as onomatopoeias all vocal imitations of the type *kwa-kwa* (Polish for *quack-quack*) or *ku-ku* (Polish for *cuckoo*) as well as their derivatives, e.g. *kwakać* (Polish *to quack*), *kukać* (Polish for *to cuckoo*), *ku-kulka* (Polish name for the bird *a cuckoo*). Thus, this *Encyclopaedia* implements the term *onomatopoeia* rather widely.

In a similar vein, the term *onomatopoeia* is defined in the dictionary edited by Kuznecov (1998) (*Большой Толковый Словарь / Bol'shoj Tolkovuj Slovar'*):

1. воспроизведение голосом или техническими средствами естественного звучания кого-, чего-л. 2. слово, в основе которого лежит подражание природному звучанию обозначаемого объекта

[1. The imitation of a natural sound given off by someone or something by means of a human voice or a technical device. 2. A word formed from a sound associated with what is named – translation A. Goldman]

and in a dictionary compiled by Ožegov (1968) (*Словарь Русского Языка / Slovar' Russkogo Āzyka* 1968: 223), who defines *onomatopoeia* as:

воспроизведение природного звучания какими-н. напоминающими его звуками речи (напр. мяу-мяу, ку-ку), а также слово, возникшее путём такого подражания (напр. кукушка, квакать)

[the imitation of a natural sound by means of speech resembling the given sound (e.g. miaow-miaow; cuckoo) and also a word thus derived (np. a cuckoo, to quack) – translation A. Goldman].

In the present article the term onomatopoeia is understood narrowly as a word imitating sound or movement. Onomatopoeias will be studied as word stems from which other parts of speech imitating a sound or symbolizing a movement are derived.

## 2. The aim and scope of the study

The main focus of the present study is first and foremost, verbs derived from representative interjections (onomatopoeias), followed by verbs derived from the remaining types of interjections. The term *verbs derived from interjections* is understood in the present study to be a more general term than the term *onomatopoeic verbs*. However, both terms are used interchangeably with reference to derivatives formed from onomatopoeias.

This paper lists the verbs formed from interjections, discusses the derivation processes implemented while forming them, the most productive affixes in the three languages in question and specific characteristic features of the word formation processes involved.

The lexicographic research material comes from the following sources:

- *Słownik języka polskiego PWN* edited by Drabik and Sobol (2007);
- *Słownik języka polskiego* edited by Doroszewski (1959-1969);
- *Słownik języka polskiego* compiled by Szymczak (1994);
- *Słownik onomatopei czyli wyrazów dźwięko- i ruchonaśladowych* compiled by Bańko (2009);

- *Толковый словарь русского языка (Tolkovuj slovar' russkogo âzyka)* compiled by Ožegov and Švedova (1992);
- *Большой толковый словарь русского языка (Bol'soj tolkovuj slovar' russkogo âzyka)* edited by Kuznecov (1998);
- *Толковый словарь служебных частей речи русского языка (Tolkovuj slovar' služebnyh častej reči russkogo âzyka)* compiled by Efremova (2004);
- *Duden – Deutsches Universalwörterbuch* ([www.duden.de](http://www.duden.de));
- *PONS Wielki słownik polsko-niemiecki i niemiecko-polski* compiled by Dargacz and Flisak (2007);
- *Deutsches Wörterbuch* compiled by Wahrig (2010).

The lexicographic material thus obtained has been divided into three categories with reference to the different types of interjections and is discussed in the following order:

- (a) representative interjections;
- (b) impulsive interjections;
- (c) imperative interjections.

### **3. Verbs derived from representative (onomatopoeic) interjections**

As mentioned earlier, onomatopoeias constitute the most productive category of interjections when it comes to verb derivation processes. Onomatopoeic verbs may be used with reference to activities performed by living creatures – people or animals, as well as activities carried out by machines, devices, objects or some other elements of the inanimate world. Two meaning components can be discerned: “to do something’ + ‘to give off a characteristic sound while doing it” (Gasz 2012: 55).

The overview of the verbs formed from interjections shall begin with the verbs imitating sounds given off by animals (see Table 1).

**Table 1**

Polish, Russian and German verbs derived from animal onomatopoeia  
 (\*Verbs naming an activity accompanied by a sound coded by the given onomatopoeia but not derived from this onomatopoeia)

Polish		Russian		German		English translation of the verb
Onomatopoeia	Verb	Onomatopoeia	Verb	Onomatopoeia	Verb	
bee	beczeć	бе-бе	блеять	bäh-bäh	bähen	to bleat (of a sheep)
ku-ku	kukać	ку-ку	кукукать	kuckuck	kuckucken	to give off a sound of a cuckoo
kra-kra	krakać	кар-кар	каркать	krah, krah	krächzen	to caw
mee	meczeć	ме-ме	блеять*	mäh	mähen	to bleat (of a goat)
chrum	chrumkać	хрю-хрю	хрюкать	grunz-grunz	grunzen	to oink
wrr	warczeć	вррр	ворчать	gr	knurren*	to growl
hau-hau	haukać	гав-гав	гавкать	wau-wau	bellen*	to woof
bzz	bzyczeć	жжж	жужжать	summ	summen	to buzz
kum-kum	kumkać	ква-ква	квакать	quak-quak	quaken	to croak
kwa-kwa	kwakać	кря-кря	крякать	quak-quak	quaken	to quack
mrr, mrau	mruczeć	мур-мур	мурлыкать (мурчать)	rr	schnurren*	to purr
ko, ko	gdakać*	куд-кудах	кудахтать	gack, gack	gacken	to cluck
muu	muczeć	му-у	мычать	muh	muhen	to moo
miau	miauczeć	мяу	мяукать	miau	miauen	to miaow
pi-pi	piszczeć	пи-пи	пищать	piep, piep	piepen	to squeak (of a mouse)
sss	syczeć	шшш	шипеть	sss	zischen	to hiss
czmych	czmychać	шмыг	шмыгать	husch	huschen	to give off a sound of running away (of a rabbit or fox)
kukuryku	kukurykać	ку-ка-ре-ку	кукарекать	kikeriki	krähen*	to crow (of a cock)
ge, ge,	gegać	га-га-га	гоготать	schnatter	schnattern	to cackle
gul, gul	gulgotać	бал-бал-бал	булькать	gobble	gurgeln*	to gobble
gruchu	gruchać	грру-грру	ворковать*	gruuh, gruuh	gurren	to coo
ćwir, ćwir	ćwierkać	чик-чирик	чикчирикать	tschilp, tschilp	tschilpen	to chirp, to twitter
kle-kle	klekotać	кле-кле	клекотать	klapp	klappern	to clatter (of a stork)

An analysis of the examples in Table 1 leads to the conclusion that the derivation process of onomatopoeic verbs in the three languages in question is remarkably regular. As confirmed by the study made by Maćzyński (Maćzyński 1982, 1991), in the Polish language suffixes *-a(ć)* and *-e(ć)* are used most frequently. These two suffixes are actually the only Polish suffixes for the verbs imitating animal sounds collected in Table 1. Most often they are not attached directly to the onomatopoeia but follow an infix *-k-* or *-cz*, e.g. in *muczeć*, *chrumkać* or *miauczeć*. The morphological base itself may also be modified, e.g. in *ćwierkać* or *warczeć*. When dealing with animal onomatopoeias which are reduplicatives, in the verbs derived from them the second part of the interjection is only preserved in a skeleton form, e.g. *gęgać*, *krakać*, *kukać*. In a few examples less frequently used infixes appear: *-ot-* in *gulgotać*, *klekotać* and *-szcz-* in *piszczeć*.

There are a few Polish animal onomatopoeias which do not form the verbs directly. A verb with a different root is used to name the activity accompanied by a sound coded by the given onomatopoeia, for instance the verb *gdakać*.

In Russian in principle the affix *-a(ть)* is used in order to form verbs derived from animal onomatopoeias. There are very few cases of verbs with the suffix *-ка(ть)*, e.g. *гавка́ть*, *хрюка́ть*, *мяука́ть*, and only one verb with *-e(ть)* – *шипеть*. In two verbs the infix *-ч-* is used: *ворча́ть*, *мыча́ть*, in one case the infix *-щ-*: *пища́ть*, or *-от-*: *клекота́ть*.

Morphological base forms themselves are often modified, e.g. in the verbs: *ворча́ть*, *жу́жжать*, *бу́лька́ть*, *блея́ть*, *го́готать*, *мыча́ть*, where vowels in the roots of the words change or where additional phonemes appear.

In the case of verbs derived from a reduplicative its second part, similarly to Polish, appears only in its skeleton form: *квака́ть*, *кряка́ть*, *карка́ть*. Onomatopoeic verbs are also derived from complex onomatopoeias, e.g. *кудахта́ть*, *кукарека́ть*, *чикчирика́ть*. In the first of these verbs only the second element of the onomatopoeia is used; in the remaining two the whole onomatopoeia is fully utilized and the suffix

-*a(mb)* is added. Few of the Russian animal onomatopoeias are not used to form new verbs at all, and the activities accompanied by a given sound are named by means of verbs not derived from the onomatopoeia.

Such a similarity between Polish and Russian derivation processes pertaining to animal onomatopoeic verbs seems striking. Not only are the affixes used similar but also modifications in the roots of the words. Both languages also implement verbs with completely different roots, e.g. *gdakać*, *ворковать* in order to name an activity accompanied by a given onomatopoeia.

As mentioned earlier, in the German language the derivation process of animal onomatopoeic verbs is even more regular. In the vast majority of cases suffix *-en* is attached directly to the base form of the word, i.e. the onomatopoeia, e.g. *gack**en***, *mu**hen***, *miau**en***, *quak**en***, *bä**hen***, *mäh**en***, *grunz**en***, *piep**en***, *tshilp**en***, less frequently the suffix *-ern*, e.g. *klapp**ern***, *schnat**tern***. In a few cases the derivation process is accompanied by the change of a vowel sound in the root – *krächzen*, in few other cases the activity is named with a verb not derived from the onomatopoeia – *knurren*, *bellen*, *schnurren*, *krähen*.

The following section of the present paper focuses on Polish, Russian and German verbs derived from representative interjections imitating sounds given off by humans: vocal and non-vocal onomatopoeias accompanying movement, eating or drinking (Table 2).

An analysis of the examples in Table 2 leads to a conclusion that the principles, mechanisms and relations operating with reference to animal onomatopoeic verbs are also implemented while forming verbs derived from representative onomatopoeias imitating sounds given off by humans.



**Table 2**

Polish, Russian and German verbs derived  
from onomatopoeias imitating sounds given off by humans  
(\*Verbs naming an activity accompanied by a sound coded by the given  
onomatopoeia but not derived from this onomatopoeia)

Polish		Russian		German		English translation of the verb
Onomatopoeia	Verb	Onomatopoeia	Verb	Onomatopoeia	Verb	
cmok	cmokać	чмок	чмокать	schmatz	schmatzen	to smack one's lips
tup-tup	tupać	топ-топ	топать	tapp, tapp	tappen	to thump (of one's feet)
chi-chi	chichotać	хи-хи	хихикать	hi-hi	kichern*	to giggle
chlip-chlip	chlipać	хны-хны	хныкать	schluchz	schluchzen	to sniffle (of crying)
cha-cha	chachać (się)	ха-ха-ха	хохотать	ha-ha	kichern*	to laugh loudly
chrr, chrap	chrapać	xppp	храпеть	—	schnarchen	to snore
chrup	chrupać	хруп	хрупать	knusp	knuspern	to crunch
mlask	mlaskać	ням-ням	нямкать	schmatz	schmatzen	to slurp
ciam	ciamkać	чав-чав	чавкать	schmatz	schmatzen	to munch
kich	kichać	чих	чихать	hatschi	niesen*	to sneeze
człap, człap	człapać	шлёп-шлёп	шлёпать	schlurf, schlurf	schlurfen	to plod
tfu	pluć*	тьфу	тьфукать	pfui	spucken*	to spit
szur-szur	szurać	шарк	шаркать	scharr	scharren	to shuffle
szu-szu	szeptać*	шу-шу	шушукать	—	flüstern	to whisper
hep	czkać*	ик-ик	икать	schluck	schlucken	to hiccup
fiu	fiukać	фю	фюкать	pfi	pfeifen	to wow

In the case of Polish, a clear majority of onomatopoeic verbs collected in Table 2 is formed by means of the suffix *-a(ć)*, e.g. *chrupać*, *cmokać*, *chlipać*, *mlaskać*, *tupać*, *człapać*, *szurać*. An additional affix *-ot-* is implemented only in one verb: *chichotać*, in another verb *-k-*: *ciamkać*. A few of the Polish interjections are not used as base forms for onomatopoeic verbs. Instead, a verb with a different root is used to name the activity

accompanied by the given sound. There are three such verbs: *czkać, szeptać, pluć*.

Like in Polish, in the case of the Russian onomatopoeic verbs imitating sounds given off by humans all rules and derivation principles are the same as for animal onomatopoeic verbs. In fact, the suffix *-a(ть)* is implemented in almost all cases, e.g. *чихать, хрупать, икать, шлёпать, топать, чмокать*. The suffix *-ка(ть)* is used sparingly, e.g. in verbs *хихикать, хныкать, фюкать, нямкать, чавкать*. The verb *хохотать* illustrates a slightly different derivation process. An additional affix appears there as well as a change of the vowel *a* to *o* in the morphological root itself.

Two Russian verbs are formed from the whole onomatopoeic reduplicatives. These are *хихикать* derived from *хи-хи* and *шушукать* derived from *шу-шу*. In both cases the suffix *-ка(ть)* is implemented.

The lexical material obtained for the German language also confirms that the derivation processes operating for onomatopoeic verbs are regular. All the verbs are derived directly from their base forms by means of suffix *-en*, e.g. *schmatzen, tappen, schluchzen, schatzen, schlurfen, scharren, schlucken*. Onomatopoeias *hi-hi, ha-ha, pfui* and *hatschi* are not used for deriving onomatopoeic verbs.

We finish the overview of Polish, Russian and German verbs derived from onomatopoeias by an analysis of words imitating the sounds of the inanimate world, both the natural world like wind, water or plants, and the man-made objects such as machines or devices.

Both the natural world objects and man-made objects may motivate the creation of the same onomatopoeias, for instance, the words coding the sound of falling. *Bum, bach, pac, бęc* are just a few examples of such onomatopoeias. They are collected in the category of artificial onomatopoeias, but they might just as well be collected in Table 3 which contains interjections imitating the sounds of the inanimate world. Duplicating the same items in two different groups seems pointless, though.

**Table 3**

Polish, Russian and German verbs derived from onomatopoeias imitating sounds given off by inanimate natural world

(\*Verbs naming an activity accompanied by a sound coded by the given onomatopoeia but not derived from this onomatopoeia)

Polish		Russian		German		English translation of the verb
Onomatopoeia	Verb	Onomatopoeia	Verb	Onomatopoeia	Verb	
bul-bul	bulgotać	буль-буль	булькать	gluck	glucken	to bubble
chlup	chlupać	хлоп	хлопать	gluck	glucken	to slosh
chlust	chlustać	хлоуст	хлоустать	platsch	platschen	to whoosh (of liquid)
prysk	pryskać	брызг	брызгать	spritz	spritzen	to spray
plum	plumkać	плюх	плюхать	plump(s)	plumpsen	to patter (of rain)
szsz (szu)	szemrać	жур-жур	журчать	platsch	plätschern	to murmur, to rustle
kap-kap	kapać	кап-кап	капать	tropf-tropf	tropfen	to drip
plusk	pluskać	плеск	плескать	platsch	platschen	to splash
świst	świstać	сь-сь-сь	свистать	pfi	pfeifen	to swish
szsz (szu)	szumieć	ш-ш (шу)	шуметь	sch-sch	brausen*	to swoosh
szur-szur	szurać	шур-шур	шуршать	sch-sch	scharren	to scrape
trzask	trzaskać	треск	трескать	krach	krachen	to snap

**Table 4**

Polish, Russian and German verbs derived from onomatopoeias imitating sounds given off by objects, machines or devices

(\*Verbs naming an activity accompanied by a sound coded by the given onomatopoeia but not derived from this onomatopoeia)

Polish		Russian		German		English translation of the verb
Onomatopoeia	Verb	Onomatopoeia	Verb	Onomatopoeia	Verb	
cyk	cykać	тик	тикать	tick	ticken	to tick (of a clock)
buch (on falling)	buchać	бух	бухать	rums	rumsen	to bang (of falling)
buch (on steaming)	buchać	пых	пыхтеть	puff	puffen	to burst (of steam)
bach	—	бах, бабах	бахать, бабахать	—	—	to plonk
brzęk	brzękać	бряк	брякать	klirr	klirren	to clank
pac	pacać	шлёп	шлёпать	klatsch	klatschen	to splat

dzyń- dzyń	dzwonić*	ДЗИНЬ- ДЗИНЬ	звенеть*	kling	klingeln	to ding
ciach	ciachać	ДИНЬ-ДИНЬ ЧИК-ЧИК	чикчикать	zack	zacken	to slash
skrzyyp	skrzypieć	скрип	скрипеть	quietsch	quietschen	to screech
stuk	stukać	стук	стучать	klopf, klopf	klopfen	to tap
puk	pukać	тук-тук	туктукать	klopf, klopf	klopfen	to knock
tyr-tyr, ter-ter	terkotać	тыр-тыр	тарахтеть*	trr	knattern*	to clatter
pstryk	pstrykać	щёлк	щёлкать	knips	knipsen	to snap
klik	klikać	клик	кликать	klick	klicken	to click

An analysis of the onomatopoeic verbs collected in Tables 3 and 4 confirms all observations made with reference to the derivation of verbs discussed earlier. In Polish, in 99 % of the cases the suffix *-a(ć)* is used, e.g. *chlupać*, *chlustać*, *pryskać*, *kapuć*, *pluskać*, *świstać*, *trzaskać*, *cykać*, *brzękać*, *stukać*, *pukać*, *pstrykać*, *klikać*, *buchać*. In one of the collected words the suffix *-e(ć)* is used: *skrzypieć*.

Verbs used with reference to activities accompanied by rustling need particular attention. In Polish, the onomatopoeia *-szsz* and its variant *-szu* are used and they motivate the formation of two different verbs *szumieć* and *szemrać*. Both verbs are used with reference to activities accompanied by a soft, muffled crackling sound like that caused by the movement of (dry) leaves.

Additional affixes appear in a few verbs: *-ot-*, e.g. *bulgotać*, *terkotać*, and *-k-*, e.g. *plumkać*, and *-g-*, e.g. *bulgotać*.

Examples from the Russian language also confirm all observations made earlier about the derivation of the onomatopoeic verbs. Suffix *-a(ть)* is unquestionably the most productive morpheme, e.g. *хлюпать*, *хлюстать*, *брызгать*, *плюхать*, *капать*, *плескаться*, *трескаться*, *бухать*, *бахать*, *брякать*, *шлёпать*, *щёлкать* etc. The suffix *-e(ть)* appears in a few cases, e.g. *скрипеть*, *шуметь*, *пылеть*. The suffix *-ка(ть)* is found in just one example: *булькать*.

Additional affixes are used to derive some verbs: *-ч-*: *стучать, журчать*; *-т-*: *пыхтеть*; *-ш-*: *шуршать*. Verbs are also formed from the whole onomatopoeic reduplicatives, e.g. *чикчикать* and *туктукать*.

As for the German language, similarly to the examples discussed earlier, in 90 % of the cases studied the suffix *-en* is implemented, e.g. *gluck(en), platschen, spritzen, tropfen, krachen, quietschen, klopfen, klicken, knipsen*. In two cases other suffixes are used: *-eln* in *klingleln*, or *-ern* in *plätschern*.

A few of the German onomatopoeias are not used as base forms for onomatopoeic verbs. Instead, a verb with a different root is used to name the activity accompanied by the given sound. There are three such verbs in the studied material, e.g. *brausen, rauschen, knattern*.

To summarise, Polish, Russian and German onomatopoeic verbs are derived with a great deal of regularity. The suffix *-a(ć)* predominates in Polish, *-a(mь)* in Russian and *-en* in German.

In a few cases other suffixes are used, e.g. *-e(ć), -i(ć)* in Polish, *-ka(mь)* and *-e(mь)* in Russian and *-ern, -eln* in German.

In all three studied languages single instances of additional affixes are implemented, most notably *cz-*, *-k-* or *-ot-*, and alternations in the morphological roots themselves.

It is worth pointing out that prefixes modifying meaning may be added to onomatopoeic verbs. In the case of Polish, they are:

- (a) prefixes meaning the beginning of a given activity, e.g. *za-*: *zakukać, zaszumieć, zaskrzypieć, zastukać, zakrakać, zamruczeć*;
- (b) prefixes meaning the end of a given activity, e.g. *wy-*, *do-*, *od-*, *na-*: *wykrakać, wypstrykać, dotupać, dochrapać, odpukać, nakapać*;
- (c) prefixes meaning great intensity of a given activity, e.g. *za-*, *roz-*, *na-*: *zachlapać, zapryskać, roztrzaskać, rozpryskać, rozéwierkać (się), nachlapać*;
- (d) prefixes meaning that the given activity has not been completed or is brief or limited in time, e.g. *po-*: *pobrzękać, popukać, postukać, popryskać*.

In Russian the meaning of onomatopoeic verbs is also modified by adding prefixes. Petkova (2011: 70-72) enumerates a series of such prefixes and they are collected in Table 5.

Below follows a set of examples of onomatopoeic verbs derived by means of prefixes collected in Table 5:

- (a) prefix *за-* derives verbs denoting the beginning of a process/activity, e.g. *забахать, закряхать, закукарекать, затавкать, захихикать, захрапеть, захрюкать, зацокать*;
- (b) prefixes *раз-/рас-, на-, пере-, до-, об-, от-* derive verbs denoting the end of a given activity, e.g. *размурлыкать, размяукать, расилёпать, набухать, начирикать, перекукать, перечиркать, доцёлкать, обстукать, общёлкать, откукать, отстукать*;
- (c) prefixes: *вы-, с-* derive verbs denoting the full utilization of the object performing the activity, e.g. *выбухать, выхохотать, вычихать, сбухать, соцёлкать*;
- (d) prefixes *вз-/вс-, при-, про-, по-* or *под-* are used for deriving verbs with a meaning that the activity is incomplete or it accompanies another process or activity, e.g. *прокукарекать, промурлыкать, прохрюкать, вскряхать, всхлипать, пристукать, причмокать, погоготать, поикать, постукать, похихикать, поцокать*;
- (e) prefix *на-* emphasises the intensity of the activity, e.g. *накапать, начихать, набухать*;
- (f) prefixes *в-, из-/ис-, у-*, whose sense is spatial, are used for deriving verbs with that meaning, e.g. *вбухать, исчирикать, убухать*.

**Table 5**

Prefixes used for derivation of onomatopoeic verbs in Russian  
(Results of own study after Petkova 2011: 70–72)

The meaning of prefix	Prefix
The beginning of the activity	за-
The end of the activity	раз-/рас-, на-, пере-, до-, об-, от-
Full utilization of the object performing the activity	вы-, с-
Activity incomplete or accompanies another activity	вз-/вс-, при-, про-, по-, под-
Intensity of the activity	на-
Spatial sense of the activity	в-, из-/ис-, у-

The overview of Russian onomatopoeic verbs derived by means of attaching a prefix must be completed by mentioning the verbs formed by attaching both a prefix and a suffix *-ся*: *достукаться, размурлыкаться, перехихикаться, расширяться, почмокаться, нахихикаться*.

To finish off the discussion of the onomatopoeic verbs, suffixes with a sense of singularity are worth mentioning. In Polish it is the suffix *-ną(ć)*, e.g. *miauknąć, pstryknąć, chlupnąć, stuknąć, puknąć, karnąć*, in Russian *-нуть(ь)*, e.g. *икнуть, мяукнуть, скрипнуть, храпнуть, щёлкнуть*.

#### 4. Verbs derived from impulsive interjections

Impulsive interjections form a much less productive category than the representative interjections. One might even claim they are unproductive, since only few verbs are derived from them. Polish lists the following verbs: *ach – achnąć, och – ochnąć, ech – echnąć, joj – jojczuć* – all derived by means of suffixes *-a(ć)* and *-czuć(ć)*.

In Russian, in a similar vein, only few impulsive interjections lend themselves to forming verbs. However, in comparison with Polish, they form a relatively numerous category comprising the following items: *ах – ахать, ох – охать, эх – эхать, ух – ухать, ой – ойкать, ну – нукать, эй – эйкать, фу – фукать, фю-фю – фюфюкать, хм – хмыкать*. Two of the most frequently used suffixes implemented for the derivation of onomatopoeic verbs, i.e. *-а(ть)* and *-ка(ть)*, are also used in this word formation process.

An analysis of the German language material also shows very few verbs derived from impulsive interjections i.e. *seufz – seufzen, ächz – ächzen, grins – grinsen*.

#### 5. Verbs derived from imperative interjections

As in the case of impulsive interjections, imperative ones seldom serve as roots of verbs. In Polish there are very few such verbs

with the meaning of encouragement to carry out the activities named by the interjection. Two of the verbs implement suffix *-owa(ć)*: *aport* – *aportować*, *bis* – *bisować*. Another two verbs, used only in colloquial speech, use suffix *-a(ć)*: *siup* – *siupać*, *hops* – *hopsać*. It may be speculated that the verbs *siupać* and *hopsać* may not be derived from imperative interjections at all but from homonymic onomatopoeias imitating the sounds of movements.

There are slightly more verbs derived from imperative interjections in the Russian language where: six verbs are derived by means of the suffix *-ка(ть)*, i.e. *ату* – *атука́ть*, *ау* – *аука́ть*, *брысь* – *брыська́ть*, *тпру* – *тпрука́ть*, *тю-тю* – *тютюка́ть*, *эй* – *эйка́ть*; and one verb each by means of suffixes *-а(ть)*: *зон* – *зона́ть*; *-ова(ть)*: *баста* – *бастова́ть*; *-уро-ва(ть)*: *бис* – *бисировать*. However, most of the verbs listed here have become archaisms and are hardly ever used in modern Russian. Only Dal's dictionary (Dal' 1903-1909) lists them and none of the more contemporary dictionaries of Russian.

German lexicographical sources do not list any verbs derived from roots that are imperative interjections.

## 6. Conclusion

In the three researched languages, derivatives formed from representative interjections – onomatopoeias, constitute the vast majority of verbs whose morphological root is an interjection.

In Polish *-a(ć)* is the most productive suffix, e.g. *buch* – *buchać*, *szur* – *szurać*, *stuk* – *stukać*, *cyk* – *cykać* etc. Interjections that are reduplicatives may also become morphological roots for verbs, e.g. *kra-kra* – *krakać*, *gę-gę* – *gęgać*, *gul-gul* – *gulgać*, where the second part of the interjection may only be preserved in its skeleton form.



The suffix *-e(ć)*, as in: *be – beczeć*, *miau – miauczeć*, *brzęk – brzęczeć* is undoubtedly used much less frequently and often the verbs in this category additionally contain infixes *-k-* or *-cz-* or the root morpheme itself is modified, cf. *ćwir – ćwierkać*, *frr – furczeć*, *wrr – warczeć*.

There is a group of interjections, both simplexes and reduplicatives that use the affix *-ot-* + *-a(ć)* in order to form a new verb. Maćzyński (Maćzyński 1991) claims that the morpheme *-ot-* serves an extra function of adding a sense of intensity to the derived verb, cf. *tup – tupotać*, *chlup – chlupotać*, *chichi – chichotać*.

Polysyllabic interjections very rarely serve as morphological roots from which verbs are derived, e.g. *kukuryku – kukurykać*.

In Russian verbs are derived from interjections by means of the suffixes *-a(ть)* as in: *ax – ахать*, *бух – бухать*, *ох – охать*, or *-ка(ть)* like in: *кар – каркать*, *баю – баюкать*, *тяв – тявкать*, *ой – ойкать*.

As in Polish, the Russian verbs are also formed from interjections that are reduplicatives. In such cases, the suffix *-ка(ть)* is often used, e.g. *улюлю – улюлюкать*, *хихи – хихикать*, *шушу – шушукать*. Disyllabic or polysyllabic interjections may also become base forms for deriving verbs, e.g. *кукареку – кукарекать*, *курлы – курлыкать*, *агу – агукать*.

As in Polish, in Russian the affixes *-om-* and *-еть-* are used to derive a verb from an interjection, e.g. *топ – топотать*, *хохо – хохотать*, *хруст – хрустеть*.

The affixes *-га(ть)*, *-жа(ть)*, e.g. *брюзжать*, *горгать*, *лязгать*, are rarely implemented to derive verbs from interjections. Moreover, in a few derivatives infixes *-x-*, *-ш-*, *-с-*, e.g. *пырхать*, *лупсить*, *кыршитъ* are used.

To sum up, many analogies may be made between Polish and Russian in the word formation processes pertaining to the derivation of onomatopoeic verbs. Especially the morphemes used for deriving verbs from representative interjections are similar. Thus, morphemes *-a(ć)/-a(ть)* in both languages are

highly productive and both languages make use of the morpheme *-ot/-om-* as well as the infixes *-k-/κ-* and *-cz-/ч-*.

Prefixes which slightly modify the meaning of the newly formed verbs are also utilized while forming onomatopoeic verbs. The resulting meaning may have an additional sense of, e.g. starting an activity – with prefixes *za-* (Polish)/ *за-* (Russian); finishing an activity – with prefixes *wy-*, *do-*, *od-*, *na-* (Polish) and *раз-/ рас-*, *на-*, *пере-*, *до-*, *об-*, *от-* (Russian) or great intensity of the activity, e.g. *za-*, *roz-*, *na-* (Polish) and *на-* (Russian).

In the collected examples there are also instances of verbs which make use of the suffixes *na(ć)* (Polish)/ *-нуть* (Russian) which add a sense of singularity or briefness to the newly formed verbs.

Possibly because of different typological features of the language, the derivation of onomatopoeic verbs looks different in German. However, the representative interjections lend themselves to the process as actively and productively as in Polish and Russian. In German, though, the derivation formation process consists in attaching an *-en* infinitive morpheme to the interjection, e.g. *platsch – platschen*, *klick – klicken*, *klopf – klopfen*, *bums – bumsen*, *puff – puffen*, *miau – miauen*, *quak – quaken*. Very few of the verbs use other morphemes i.e. *-ern* or *-eln*.

The category of the verbs formed from imperative or impulsive interjection is rather modest in size, as there are just a few verbs like that. In Polish database there are only four instances for each type, in Russian only ten each, in German three impulsive and no imperative examples.

*Translated by Adriana Goldman*

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