

## SEMIOTIC MEANING OF ANIMALS AND PLANTS IN TELLING WEATHER

### СЕМИОТИЧЕСКОЕ ОБОЗНАЧЕНИЕ ЖИВОТНЫХ И РАСТЕНИЙ ПРИ УКАЗАНИИ НА ПОГОДУ

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**Аннотациясы:** Бул макалада ата-бабаларыбыздын жаныбарлардын жана бак-дарактардын жардамы менен аба-ырайын божомолдоп айткандары тууралуу жазылды.

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**Аннотация:** В этой статье рассматриваются народные предсказания о погоде, связанные с поведением животных и наблюдением над растениями.

**Ключевые слова:** явление при погоде, значение семиотики, энтомология, чувствительность.

**Abstract:** This paper deals with the semiotic meanings which are given both to the appearance and behavior of animals and plants influencing to the weather.

**Key words:** weather phenomena, semiotic meaning, entomology, sensibility.

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People from different cultural backgrounds worldwide look at the elements of nature as significant signals to predict a great range of situations. The behavior of animals and the appearance or characteristics of plants has guided the first observations and deductions human beings have had about the weather and other day-to-day and white ants as indicators of the arrival of rains, while in the northeast of Tanzania the changes in the behavioral patterns of birds, insects and mammals are important sign (Prendergast 1999) . In Japan, the names of invertebrates are used metaphorically as synonymous of the seasons. Different names of arthropods, such as flea, housefly, mosquito, firefly, spider, and cicada are meant to be synonymous of summer (Dunn 2000).

Traditional knowledge about sensibility of animal species to the approach of bad or good times has been handed down by word of mouth throughout generations. It is very probable that a meteorological-sensibility allows certain animals to react to atmospheric variations and then indicate important weather phenomena. Insects serve as crucial examples in the listening of these phenomena.

In this paper I want to share how our ancestor knew about the weather. By behavior and appearance of animals and plants they told what kind of weather is going to be.

The science of semiotics refers to the study of signs and symbols in various fields, especially

language (Thompson 1995) . Considering animals, their images and transmitted signals are frequently transformed into perceived meaningful sign and then can be investigated through a semiotic approach. The semiotic significance of animals was studied by Marques (2002) from the point of view of the ethno ecology who said the semiotic approach assumes that the cultural/informational web is formed by intermingling not only the knowledge which is generated through the direct interactions between human experience and the stimuli of the environment, but also the feelings, beliefs and behaviors that human beings express.

The present paper aims to record the semiotic meanings that are given both to the appearance and/ or behavior of animals and birds and plants according to the ethno entomological knowledge of the inhabitants of Kyrgyzstan.

Here some examples:

When apple tree bloomed in August again, autumn will be long.

When the wind blows the tree leaves such that they turn over there is a storm approaching. *Перевод:* Когда ветер дует так, что листья деревьев переворачиваются, – приближается шторм.

When the leaves on a tree curl or show the underside it is going to rain. *Перевод:* Когда листья на дереве скручиваются или показывают нижнюю сторону, это собирается дождь.

When the rowan tree has a lot of berries in the

autumn there will be not much snow the following winter – and the opposite way, very much snow after an autumn with no rowanberries.

#### BIRDS – приметы по птицам

- If crows fly low wind is going to blow (will blow meaning). *Перевод: вороны низко летают – к ветреной погоде.*
- If the goose honks high, fair weather; if the goose honks low, foul weather. *Перевод: Если гуси кричат громко – к ясной погоде, а если тихо – к непогоде.*
- Birds flying low, expect rain and a blow. *Перевод: птицы низко летают – ждите дождь с грозой.*
- If the lark flies high, expect fair weather. *Перевод: если жаворонок летает высоко, то ожидайте хорошую погоду.*
- If the rooster crows on going to bed, you may rise with a watery head. *Перевод: если услышали пение петуха перед сном, то проснетесь с “тяжестью” в голове.*
- If the raven crows, expect rain. *Перевод: если ворон каркает – жди дождя.*
- When geese cackle, it will rain. *Перевод: если гуси гогочут – к дождю.*
- When ducks quack loudly, it's a sign of rain. *Перевод: утки громко крикают – это признак дождя.*
- The hooting of the owl brings rain. *Перевод: сова ухает – к дождю.*
- If the sparrow makes a lot of noise, rain will follow. *Перевод: если воробей много шумит, то будет дождь.*
- When parrots whistle, expect rain. *Перевод: когда попугай насвистывает, ждите дождь.*

#### INSECTS – приметы по насекомым

- Crickets are accurate thermometers; they chirp faster when warm and slower when cold.
- Cockroaches are more active before a storm.
- Locusts sing when the air is hot and dry.
- Before a rain, ants are very busy, gnats bite, crickets are lively, spiders leave their nest; and flies gather in houses.
- When spider's webs in air do fly, the spell will soon be very dry.
- If garden spiders forsake their webs, it indicates rain.
- If spiders are many and spinning their webs, the spell will soon be very dry.

- Spiders enlarge and repair their webs before bad weather.

#### ANIMALS – приметы по животным

- When a cow endeavors to scratch his ear, it means a rain shower is very near. When he thumps his ribs with an angry tail, look out for thunder, lightning and hail.
- If a dog pulls his feet up high while walking, a change in the weather is coming.
- Cats scratch a post before wind; Wash their faces before a rain; and sit with backs to the fire before snow.
- Cats with their tails up and hair apparently electrified indicate approaching wind.
- Horses run fast before a violent storm or before windy conditions.
- Pigs gather leaves and straw before a storm.
- If the bull leads the cows to pasture, expect rain; if the cows precede the bull, the weather will be uncertain.

#### REPTILES/AMPHIBIANS – приметы по земноводным

- The louder the frog, the more the rain. *Перевод: Если лягушки квакают громко, будет дождь.*
- If frogs make a noise during cold rain, warm dry weather will follow. *Перевод: Лягушки квакают во время холодного дождя – к теплой сухой погоде.*

#### PLANTS/TREES – приметы по растениям, деревьям, цветам

- Open crocus, warm weather. Closed crocus, cold weather. *Перевод: Крокусы открылись – к теплой погоде, если закрылись – к холоду.*
- Tulips open their blossoms when the temperature rises; they close again when the temperature falls. *Перевод: Когда температура поднимается, тюльпаны открывают цветы; и снова закрывают, если температура падает.*
- The daisy shuts its eye before rain. *Перевод: Перед дождем ромашка закрывается.*
- If the marigold should open at six or seven in the morning and not close until four in the afternoon, we may reckon on settled weather. *Перевод: Погоду можно считать устоявшейся, если ноготки раскрыли бутоны в шесть или семь часов утра, а закрыли до четырех часов дня.*

- Flowers smell best just before a rain. *Перевод: Непосредственно перед дождем цветы пахнут лучше.*
- Dandelion blossoms close before a rain. *Перевод: Перед дождем цветы одуванчика закрываются.*
- When the milkweed closes its pod, expect rain. *Перевод: Если молочай закрывает стручок – ожидайте дождь.*
- The pitcher plant opens wider before a rain. *Перевод: Если саррацения (pitcher plant – пер. растение кувшины) открылась шире, то будет дождь.*
- Chickweeds close their leaves before a rain. *Перевод: Звездчатки перед дождем закрывают свои листья.*

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- The pitcher plant opens wider before a rain.

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