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NAMES OF CHEMICAL ELEMENTS IN ENGLISH

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Relevance. The names of chemical elements in the Periodic Table are traditionally indicated in Latin. However, each country has its own version of the system, which uses names in their native language.

Aim: to analyze the names of chemical elements in English, to identify the patterns of their formation.

Materials and methods. names of chemical elements in English, analysis of the names of chemical elements in English, creation of a classification of elements according to a formal comparative principle.

Results and their discussions. It was revealed that in English all the names of chemical elements (118) can be combined into the following groups:

1. The largest group is the names of chemical elements in English which completely coincide with the names in Latin (89 elements): Eng. Uranium - Lat. Uranium, Eng. Phosphorus - Lat. Phosphorus, Eng. Neon – Lat. Neon. It should be noted that of these names more than half of the etymologies are directly or indirectly related to Latin or Greek. For example, the name of the element Neon translated from Greek means “new”, Niobium is named after the daughter of the Greek mythology character Tantalus Niobe, and the Element Lutetium is named after the Latin name of Paris - Lutetia.

2. The second group initially included names that formally differ from Latin names only in the absence of endings, such as: Eng. Zinc - Lat. Zincum. But the etymological analysis showed that in this case there was not a reduction of the ending, but a borrowing. This group includes the names of 13 elements, three of which are borrowed from German (Cobalt, Bismuth, Zinc), seven – from French (Nitrogen, Arsenic, Hydrogen, Oxygen, Carbon, Manganese, Antimony), two – from Swedish (Nickel, Tungsten) and one – from Latin (Mercury).

3. Another group (10 elements) consisted of names that were formed using a borrowed root (mainly from Greek and Latin) and English suffixes -ine (a word-forming element used in chemistry to form words denoting derivative substances): Chlorine - from Greek khlōros "green" and -ium (a derivational element in chemistry used to create element names similar to Latin): Potassium - from Old Icelandic potaschen "pot ash". A number of names of chemical elements in English were formed from a borrowed root according to the model of the name “Carbon”: Boron - from borax (the name given to several useful minerals, in particular the salt formed as a result of the combination of boric acid and soda, from the French boras, from the medieval Latin baurach).

4. The least numerous group (6 elements) consisted of elements whose names are words of the English language proper. This group includes elements such as Tin, Silver, Gold, Iron, Lead, Copper. It should be noted that all the names of the elements partly reflect the semantics common to the Latin names: Lat. “Ferrum” comes from Latin “fars” - to be hard, Eng. “Iron” from Old Eng. “iren” - metal weapon or tool”; the name “Gold” originally meant “brilliant” and was associated with the Greek God of the sun Helios.

Conclusions. As the study showed, the names of chemical elements in English show a strong influence of Latin and Greek.