

THE PERCEPTION OF THE WORDS *KRŪMAS*, *PUSKRŪMIS*, *KRŪMOKŠNIS*, *KRŪMELIS* (*SHRUB*, *SUBSHRUB*, *BUSH*, *SMALL SHRUB*); BASED ON A STUDENT SURVEY

Summary

It has been noticed that people rarely differentiate between the words *krūmas* (*shrub*), *puskrūmis* (*subshrub*), and *krūmokšnis* (*bush*), even though the words have different terminological meanings. This study aimed to investigate the contemporary rather than terminological daily perception of these words. A survey of students was chosen as an instrument of enquiry.

Analysis of the data has showed that the respondents listed 20 attributes of the shrub (Lith. *krūmas*). The most frequent description of the shrub was that 'a shrub is a plant'. Other most typical attributes of the shrub have to do with its exterior: 'the size of the shrub', 'how branchy it is', 'the qualities of its trunk', 'how leafy or thorny it is', 'how thick or lush it is'. Several interior attributes of the shrub were mentioned as well, and included qualities such as 'woodiness', 'the characteristics of the bush lifecycle', and so on.

A review of the survey forms has revealed the knowledge of the subshrub (Lith. *puskrūmis*) to be much poorer than that of the shrub. A lot of the respondents did not know what a subshrub was or thought it was completely the same as the shrub. A total of 12 subshrub attributes were named. Some of the respondents described the subshrub on the basis of its formational meaning: 'half a shrub' or 'semi-shrub'. These replies have nothing to do with the terminological meaning of subshrub. Strangely, quite a few of the respondents connected the subshrub with a tree rather than a shrub, believing this plant to bear more semblance to the first rather than the latter. The most frequent exterior attributes of the subshrub mentioned were its 'size', 'trunk properties', 'rarity'. Notably, these attributes differ from what encyclopaedias have to say. Several respondents also mentioned some interior attributes of the subshrub: 'subshrub's woodiness' and that the subshrub is a 'perennial plant'. These answers conform to the attributes of the subshrub that its terminological meaning refers to.

The respondents also had some difficulty with describing the bush (Lith. *krūmokšnis*). There were a massive 12 exterior attributes of the bush mentioned and this plenitude of attributes indicates the absence of a uniform opinion about this plant. The most frequent mentions were the 'size', 'bearing of fruit or berries', 'presence of leaves or thorns'. Interior attributes mentioned were four: 'the degree of woodiness', 'reproduction', 'place of growing', 'evergreenness'.

Everyone knew what a small shrub (Lith. *krūmelis*) was. The underlying attribute of the small shrub is of the exterior variety: its 'size'. A portion of the replies were tied to the diminutive meaning of the small shrub.

Analysis of the replies about specific plants (lilac, raspberry, mint, thyme, oregano) has revealed that the respondents tend to judge about this type of plants by their size: the smaller the plant, the more often it is referred to as a perennial herb, rather disregarding the woodiness of its stems or other attributes.

The attributes referred to in the terminological meanings of the plants covered in the article, and those of *subshrub* and *bush* in particular, differ to a rather substantial extent from the plant attributes identified in the course of this study. It is obvious that all of them need to be researched on the basis of other sources, such as dictionaries and corpuses, as well.

KEYWORDS: survey, meaning, semantic analysis, attribute, definition, terminology, shrub, subshrub, bush, small shrub.

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