ABSTRACT

The given paper deals with a specific branch of English and Russian onomastics – pseudonyms.

A pseudonym is a name that a person or group assumes for a particular purpose, which differs from his or her original or true name. Pseudonyms include stage names, screen names, pen names, nicknames, aliases, gamer identifications, and reign names of emperors, popes and other monarchs. In our graduation paper we analyse many other methods of choosing a pseudonym.

Pseudonyms are most usually adopted to hide an individual's real identity. In some cases, pseudonyms are adopted because they are part of a cultural or organizational tradition. When used by an actor, musician, radio disc jockey, model or other performer a pseudonym is called a stage name, or, occasionally, a professional name, or screen name. Actors who are members of a marginalized ethnic or religious group have often adopted stage names, typically changing their surname or entire name to mask their original background. Pseudonyms are also adopted for other reasons. Criminals often took on (or were given) pseudonyms. Comedians and others performing hoaxes often adopt aliases for their performance role.

Pseudonyms in the Russian and English languages have very similar sources of origin and formation principles because, on the one hand, they belong to the Indo-European language family, and, on the other, to cultures with many common elements.