Subjectmatter: Unofficial Proper Names in the Language of Ethnic Contacts and Conflicts.

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Topical importance of the paper: The author researches a vital problem of the interrelation between language and culture. The social causes of creation and usage, the linguistic status and semantic structure of unofficial proper names are discussed.

Goal: The principal goal is to give a scientifically based description of unofficial proper names in English that is relevant for their sociolinguistic interpretation and add some facts concerning the picture of the world of the nation using them in the situations of cross-cultural communication.

Tasks:
1. To characterize the interaction of the linguistic and extralinguistic factors motivating the creation of the English unofficial proper names.
2. To make a list of and classify the English unofficial proper names from the point of view of ethnolinguistics.
3. To describe the peculiarities of the unofficial proper names used on the territory of the USA.

Theoretical value and practical applicability. The given paper presents an integral picture of the causes of appearance of the language of ethnic contacts and conflicts based on its studies of history, ethnography, sociology and ethnolinguistics. The stock of the unofficial proper names used on the territory of the USA is a reliable source of useful information for linguists, sociologists and translators.

Results. The scientifically grounded description of the unofficial proper names used on the territory of the USA, including their extralinguistic basis, ethnic
core, componential analysis and linguo-cultural interpretation is presented. **Implementation advice.** The general conclusions and acquired results can be used in the leaching process as an aid for the students of the Institutes of Linguistics and Translation and Interpretation.