

# Proper names of research instruments: An exploratory study

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To cite this article: Seide, Márcia Sipavicius. 2023. Proper names of research instruments: An exploratory study. *Onoma* 58, 289–304. DOI: 10.34158/ONOMA.58/2023/16

To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.34158/ONOMA.58/2023/16>

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## Article history

Received on 9 February 2023.

Final form accepted on 23 June 2023.

Published online on 22 December 2023.

## Proper names of research instruments: An exploratory study

**Abstract:** This exploratory study describes 55 proper names of research instruments in the fields of Medicine, Physical Education, Clinical Studies, and Education. These names were collected from the titles and abstracts of scientific articles published on the DOAJ platform between 2011 and 2022. They were qualitatively analysed according to their morphology, syntax, semantic and pragmatic features, which led to a tentative description of their essential characteristics. The article evidences that there is a basic pattern consisting of a complex noun phrase that describes the type of instrument created. The extent of the names ranges from one to twelve words. Whereas most names are followed by an acronym, others may also include a number, an eponym, an ethnonym, or a toponym. Thus, the pragmatic function of this type of proper name is to make the instrument visible and memorable and encourage its use and citation in future research articles.

**Keywords:** Proper name instrument, term, neologism, intercategory shift, scientific language.

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**Les noms propres des instruments de recherche : Une étude exploratoire**

**Résumé :** Cette étude exploratoire décrit 55 noms propres d'instruments de recherche dans les domaines de la médecine, l'éducation physique, les études cliniques et l'éducation. Ces noms ont été collectés à partir des titres et résumés d'articles scientifiques publiés sur la plateforme DOAJ, entre 2011–2022. Ils ont été analysés qualitativement, selon leur morphologie, syntaxe, traits sémantiques et pragmatiques, ce qui a conduit à l'établissement d'une description tentative de leurs caractéristiques essentielles. Cet article montre qu'il y a un schéma de base qui consiste en une phrase nominale complexe qui décrit le genre d'instrument créé. La longueur de ces noms va d'un à douze mots et, même si la plupart de ces noms propres est suivie d'un acronyme, d'autres peuvent comprendre un chiffre, un éponyme, un ethnonyme ou un toponyme. Ainsi, la fonction pragmatique de ce type de nom propre est-elle de lui donner de la visibilité et de la rendre mémorable, d'encourager son usage et citation des sources dans des articles de recherche futurs.

**Mots-clés :** Nom propre d'instrument, Terme, Néologisme, Changement intercatégoriel, Langage scientifique.

**Eigennamen des Forschungsinstruments: Eine explorative Studie**

**Zusammenfassung:** Diese explorative Studie beschreibt 55 Eigennamen von Forschungsinstrumenten in den Bereichen Medizin, Leibeserziehung, klinische Studien und Bildung. Diese Namen wurden aus den Titeln und Zusammenfassungen von wissenschaftlichen Artikeln gesammelt, die zwischen 2011 und 2022 auf der DOAJ-Plattform veröffentlicht wurden. Sie wurden hinsichtlich ihrer Morphologie, Syntax, Semantik und pragmatischen Merkmale qualitativ analysiert, was zu einem ersten Vorschlag für die Beschreibung ihrer wesentlichen Merkmale führte. Der Artikel zeigt, dass es ein Grundmuster gibt, das aus einem komplexen Nominalsyntaxagma besteht, das den Typ des geschaffenen Instruments beschreibt. Die Länge der Namen schwankt zwischen einem und zwölf Wörtern. Während den meisten Namen ein Akronym folgt, können andere auch eine Zahl, ein Eponym, ein Ethnonym oder ein Toponym enthalten. Die pragmatische Funktion dieser Art von Eigennamen besteht also darin, das Instrument sichtbar und einprägsam zu machen und seine Verwendung und Zitierung in künftigen Forschungsarbeiten zu fördern.

**Schlüsselbegriffe:** Instrument des Eigennamens, Begriff, Neologismus, interkategoriale Veränderung, Wissenschaftssprache.

## 1. Introduction

The first point to consider is that proper names of research instruments are a type of proper name that is part and parcel of scientific language usages that differ from everyday language. It seems that most onomasticians are not concerned with proper name usage in any specialised contexts, except for the literary one. That is the case, for example, with the description of proper names found in French grammar by Gary-Prieur (1994) *Grammaire du nom propre* and the more recent onomastics handbook on names and naming, edited by Hough (2016).

In Odaloš' (2019) description of *onymic* types that are studied in Onomastics, three types of proper names are mentioned, namely: *anthroponyms*, *toponyms*, and *chrematonyms*. The last of these are also known as *ergonyms* and as commercial names in ICOS key onomastic terms (ICOS 2019). They are terms used for different types of personal names (e.g., *allonym*, family name, and nickname), commercial names (e.g., *ergonym*, brand name, and product name), and place names (*chronym*, *endonym*, and *exonym*). Although new kinds of proper names have been investigated, they tend to mostly focus on commercial and product names. This article highlights an interesting class of proper name(s) that has not been considered in prior research: terminological neologisms that refer to a methodological research instrument.<sup>1</sup>

In fact, no special term for proper names in onomastics was created by onomasticians for the special kind of proper name studied in this article. Thus, considering the word for instrument or tool in Ancient Greek is *hoplon*, this kind of proper name is a *hoplonym*. This term will be used in this article henceforth.

The purpose of this article is not to examine proper names as they are used in everyday language, but rather as terminological neologisms as they appear in scientific texts. Therefore, to investigate the features of proper names of research instruments in a terminological context, a sample of titles and abstracts of scientific articles published on the DOAJ platform from 2011 to 2022 was created.

Thus, on August 12th, 2022, a search was performed on the DOAJ platform<sup>2</sup> using the search term “instrument validation”. The resulting titles and abstracts were read, and the proper names used to direct search methods and the generation of data instruments were collected from the titles or the abstracts. A total of 55 names were collected. This small sample was qualitatively analysed based on its morphology, syntax, semantic and pragmatic features according to Seide's description of onomastic knowledge (Seide 2021).

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<sup>1</sup> It is not a physical and material object like a telescope, but a tested and validated strategy to generate data, such as interviews, questionnaires, online surveys, and checklists.

<sup>2</sup> Directory of Open Access Journals – DOAJ (<https://doaj.org/>).

A category like the one studied in this article was presented by [Amaral & Seide \(2022\)](#), namely the category for discovery and invention names. Such names have been studied as they are used in everyday language, since they focus on usage, instead of focusing on the naming process at the time the names were introduced by the designator. The latter is the aim of the present study. Compared to the new category of proper names, some distinctive features of the hoplonym arise. It is used in specialised language, that is, in terminological contexts and refers to a cultural object and not to a physical one. Despite this difference, as [Amaral & Seide \(2022\)](#) investigated the names of discoveries and inventions, they approached the present article's subject matter.

The present study is founded on the assumption that titles are proper names since a title names things, such as books, poems, paintings, or pieces of music. Titles are mentioned as names for publications and works of art in [Allerton's](#) classification of proper names (1987). [Wilmet \(1995\)](#), in turn, considers the titles of movies, novels, and plays. These types of names are mentioned as not first-hand proper names, in other words, a name that is linguistically a phrase with the typical function of a proper name and not a noun that is strictly a proper name.

Whereas their study focused on names of research products derived from personal names, this investigation aims to describe proper names of research instruments, that is, titles of data instruments, which include eponyms and other types of proper names.

Firstly, we must consider that the presence of previous existing proper names in honyms demonstrates that the proper names investigated in this paper include proper names in secondary-usages.

Secondly, another issue to be considered is how to refer to the type of name under investigation in this study. [Coates \(2014\)](#) observes that terms such as *zoonymy*, *chrematonymy*, *oronymy*, and so on refer to entity categories according to the denotation of those names. He also argues that it results in a problem in cases of inter-categorical shift or, in his words, the use of second-order names. The name *Athens*, for instance, is originally a Greek place name, but it is also the name of “an access and identity management service based in the United Kingdom, supplied by the non-profit company Eduserv to provide a single sign-on to a range of protected electronic resources” ([Coates 2014: 8](#)).

According to him, the same name can be classified differently depending on the entity to which it refers, not merely due to the denotation of the word, but rather a consequence of the way the person made use of the word to refer to a place or a person, for example. Thus, the second *Athens* is a company name, a chrematonym derived from a place name. Based on some examples of intercategory shifts, he concluded that

the onymic categories which onomasticians set up – toponymy, anthroponymy and so on – have no rigid permanent membership, if by that we mean a

membership consisting of expressions that represent a semantic type, because the membership of such categories is fluid. (Coates 2014: 9)

Those terms are valid “[...] as terms which apply to and group together simple lists of names [...]” (ibid.: 6), and “proper names can be grouped on the basis of their referential properties into denotation sets” (ibid.: 12). Following Coates, who argues that the set of proper names of instruments for data generation forms a term, the type of proper name described in this paper is also a term, so the onomastic study of hoplonym presented in this article lies between onomastics and terminology.

Coates (2014: 8) also provided two examples of terms that are second-order use proper names in the same article. The first example is about the use of the male first name Richard to refer to “a syntactic operation proposed in the early days of Transformational Grammar (Rogers 1971) [...]” and the second one is related to scientific language:

A further hint of the type of case I have in mind [secondary-uses of proper names] is provided by Linnaean binomial designations of species of living things, if you believe as some do that these are proper names: Dandelions grow in my lawn/ *Taraxacum officinale* grows in my lawn. (author’s emphasis)

The name *Taraxacum officinale* mentioned by Coates is a proper name denoting a plant as an object of study in Biology, this proper name was a discovery name in Biology. Hoplonym is a term used in sciences, but instead of naming an object of study, it names an instrument for data generation. Another characteristic of this type of name is that it may involve a personal name. In other words, some of the names discussed in this article have eponyms.

Eponyms, or terms that are proper names or based on proper names, are common in scientific texts. Ummatovna & Hoshimovna (2022: 213) point out that this resource for word formation is used in a variety of fields, including the context of scientific communication. In those language varieties, as well as in general speech, the personal name “is no longer used as the name of the person, but as the name of the object or the process”. It is worth mentioning that the type of proper name considered in this study is that which is used to refer to instruments for generating data.

Ummatovna & Hoshimoya (2022: 212) also consider “eponym” not only as a first name change but also as “terms and phrases containing proper nouns”. The scholars define it as the overall transfer procedure “from one onym to another”. In this broad sense, eponym includes several

[...] phenomena as eponyms. In other words, the meaning of the term eponym is very wide, and includes many models, such as proper noun → common noun, common → proper noun, anthroponym → toponym, phytonym → toponym, zoonym → toponym, zoonym → anthroponym, toponym → anthroponym, and

so on. On the basis of specific terms: such as anthrotoponym, phytotonym, zoophytonym. (Ummatovna & Hoshimova 2022: 212)

The general transfer of the onym process is considered to be an intercategory shift throughout this study (López Franco 2020). In addition, the term eponym is used to describe the result of a personal name shift to another onym, which can include other names apart from the personal name. This point of view is presented along this study as some of the names in the sample share a proper personal name with other lexical items in the noun phrase.

The concept of intercategory shift by López Franco (2020) was based on previous studies by Paul Fabre (1980) and Willy Van Langendonck (2007), which demonstrated that “there is one and only one category of name – noun or adjective – and there are uses that are situated along a continuum that has, on one hand, the appellative function and, on the other, the proper function”<sup>3</sup> (López Franco 2020, our translation). Therefore, since they differ by grade (Bréal 1897: 197) and not by nature, López Franco (2020) claims that intercategory shifts in language and cultural ecologies occur frequently.

Concerning eponyms in the scientific language, it is important to mention the study of Valeontis & Mantzari (2006). They analysed eponyms that are medical terms of the “branch of clinical and experimental endocrinology”. Aligned with Ummatovna & Hoshimovna (2022), the scholars consider eponyms as “phrases that include proper names” (Bytsko et al. 2017). Following Ummatovna & Hoshimovna (2022: 214), “the usage of eponyms in the scientific literature makes the text more concise and vivid” and whereas “Proper names in medical terminology are related to linguistic term eponymy”. Bearing in mind these assumptions, the scholars collected and analysed 296 terms for syndromes and diseases. Bieliaieva et al. (2018) also carried out studies focusing on eponyms in scientific language. To do that, they analysed a sample of 147 eponyms related to pharmaceutical terms denoting, mainly, the dosage form of medication. In line with Bytsko et al. (2017), the sample data came from handbooks and dictionaries.

The present study differs from these previous studies in two aspects. Firstly, the terms were not taken from handbooks and dictionaries but from scientific articles abstracts, that is, in their usage in primary terminological contexts.<sup>4</sup> Secondly, they include all types of proper names used in hoplonyms, not only eponyms.

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<sup>3</sup> “hay una y sólo una categoría del nombre —sustantivo o adjetivo— y hay usos que se sitúan a lo largo de un continuum que tiene, por un lado, la función apelativa y por otro, la función propia”.

<sup>4</sup> Linder & Sterck (2016: 41) designate data collected from the first source as “in vitro” and data collected from the second source as “in vivo”.

## 2. Structural analysis

The hoplonyms in the sample range from one word (in the case of an acronym) to a maximum of twelve words. The head noun and other words at the left margin inclusively (from 1 to 9 lexical items) are typically present in the name, and sometimes there are also words at the right margin (again, from 1 to 9 lexical items). In several cases, an acronym of the name is given after the full name, whereas in some cases, the name is derived from another name and/or acronym. Others, on the other hand, include a number after the acronym. In some cases, the proper name is only informed by an acronym, and there are also instances where the proper name consists of an onym inside of it (anthroponym, toponym or ethnonym).

Table 1 presents the sample names without acronyms. In addition, five of the seven names in Table 1 are made up of three words, while the longer name has a three-word noun phrase followed by an adverbial phrase that starts with a preposition. Containing twelve words, this is the most extensive name found in the sample. The main noun in the name “Risk Assessment Scale for the Development of Injuries due to Surgical Positioning”, describes the instrument made: a scale. It is followed by an adverbial phrase, which describes the purpose of the instrument. Also, there is an adverbial phrase within another adverbial phrase that specifies the type of injury to be measured by the scale.

Although other names are not as long, they all have a noun describing the research instrument as the head noun (scale, assessment, index, tool and questionnaire). The three-word names include a noun that describes the instrument and two words that describe what the instrument measures.

Table 1: Proper name without an acronym

Caregiver Burden Scale
Caregiver Reaction Assessment
Caregiver Strain Index
Modified Advanced Practice Nursing Role Delineation Tool
Risk Assessment Scale for the Development of Injuries due to Surgical Positioning
Sense of Competence Questionnaire
Spiritual Well-being Questionnaire

The construction pattern of names shown in Table 1 follows the pattern of good research article titles. Cargill & O’Connor (2014: 66) point out three types of titles: a noun phrase, a statement, or a question. They define the noun phrase as “a number of words clustered around one important head noun” and state that an effective title should be “brief, informative, and with keywords placed near the front”. They also recommend that the noun phrase should be free of ambiguity and provide the following instructions to achieve it: “A general guideline is to restrict these noun phrases to a maximum of three words [...] if they grow longer, rewrite them by inserting the prepositions [...] that

clarify the meaning” (Cargill & O’Connor 2014: 67). In the examples of good titles suggested by Cargill & O’Connor, in the examples in Table 1, and in almost 50% of the hpononyms of the sample there is a lack of *a/an* or *the* in initial position.

From a semantic content point of view, a name presents the main features of the methodological research. Consequently, while more complex longer names emphasise what will be measured, that is a specific type of injury, the first name of the table contains information about the instrument (scale), the instrument’s intended measurement (burden), and the subject involved (caregiver). Other names, such as the last two, focus solely on the instrument and on what will be measured.

While the names in Table 1 correspond to the basic structure of proper names that describe the methodology or the instrument, the following tables show variations in this pattern as indicated in Table 2, where names are followed by the respective acronyms. The advantage of using acronyms in abstracts or titles, from the writer’s perspective, is that the full name does not require to be repeated. This linguistic economy is, indeed, considerably common in scientific writing and is also one of the great virtues of names in general, since the onym is detached from the sense of any of its constituent elements.

As the 16 names are observed in Table 2, it is possible to note the name of the instrument placed after the acronym on “Measure of Intention to help road accident victim (MIHRAV) instrument” and on “The post-Liver Transplant Quality of Life (pLTQ) questionnaire”. Except for these two cases, the convention is to place the acronym after the proper name of the full research instrument. In addition, there is another name that requires further investigation: “Scientific Misconduct Questionnaire-Revised (SMQ-R)”. This name offers new encoded information: the instrument is an improved version of an earlier model. This additional information is also present in another variant of the name in which it includes a numeral as shown in Table 3.

Table 2: Proper name followed by respective acronym

Coeliac Disease Questionnaire (CDQ)
Collaborative Problem Solving Inventory (CPSI)
Cough Severity Diary (CSD)
Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI)
Episodic Autobiographic Memory Interview (EAMI)
Keratoconus End-Points Assessment Questionnaire (KEPAQ)
Learner Engagement Instrument (LEI)
Measure of Intention to help road accident victim (MIHRAV) instrument
Mood Disorder Questionnaire (MDQ)
Physical Activity Campus Environmental Supports (PACES)
Scientific Misconduct Questionnaire-Revised (SMQ-R)
Sedentary Behaviour Questionnaire (SBQ)
Self-Conscious Emotions at Work Scale (SCEWS)
Test of Scientific Literacy Skills (TOSLS)
The post-Liver Transplant Quality of Life (pLTQ) questionnaire
Uterine fibroid symptoms and quality-of-Life questionnaire (UFS-QOL)



All names in [Table 3](#) have numerals<sup>5</sup> although their meaning is not the same. While the numeral in the first name listed refers to the quantity of items in the instrument, the numerals in the other names are sorted in a sequence. This can be observed in the acronym (SSQ-6), which means it is the 6th instrument made, that is, it is the sixth iteration of the instrument, the sixth version of it. The last name in the [table](#) is in a sequence as well, and the numeral indicates that it is the third version of the scale. Besides, the adjective “revised” in the name “Scientific Misconduct Questionnaire-Revised (SMQ-R)” has the same meaning. The iterative nature of hoplonyms appears to be an important feature of this type of name, as it will be later evidenced either by a number or by the “revised” adjective.

Table 3: Proper name with a numeral or followed by a respective acronym with numerals

Health-related Quality of Life Instrument with 20 items (HINT-20)
Social Support Questionnaire Short Form (SSQ-6)
Nurses Professional Values Scale-3 (NPVS-3)

Other variations of names with acronyms were observed as evidenced by the data collected and organised in [Tables 4, 5, 6, and 7](#).

It has been noted that after the acronym on the right column of [Table 4](#), there is a noun phrase that describes what the acronym means. The cases in the left column also present proper names made up of an acronym, but in some of those cases there is no explanation for the meaning of such acronym. As we consider that the writer must read the entire text to understand it, not explaining the meaning of the acronym may be a strategy to draw the readers’ attention and motivate them to read the entire article.

Table 4: Acronyms

<b>Immediately followed by a descriptive noun phrase</b>	<b>Without any prior mention to a full name</b>
Intentions to Eat Low-GI Foods Questionnaire (CIELQ)	ORTO-15 questionnaire
Sustainable Performance (SP)	ISE
Consensus Document on Allergic Conjunctivitis (DECA)	LOGiK-S
	FACE-Q

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<sup>5</sup> There are some other types of proper names with numerals, as, for example, usernames of an online gaming community and some usernames of illegal drug vendors on darknet cryptomarket ([Hämäläinen 2015](#)).

Table 5: Acronyms with acronym

Using Abbreviation	With additional acronym	With additional acronym, abbreviation and a number
eHealth Literacy Scale (ET-eHEALS)	CME Teaching Effectiveness (CMETE)	ILFIGv2
	Self-Reflection Tool (OSOS-SRT)	
	STEM Career Interest Survey (STEM-CIS)	

The right column of [Table 5](#) has a name that begins with the letter “e”, which is a widely known abbreviation for electronic. Thus, in such cases, the meaning of the acronym is evident. The centre column contains names that recreate a prior acronym mentioned in the abstract. The last name of the column, “STEM Career Interest Survey (STEM-CIS)”, however, is unclear since there is no information in the article abstract concerning its meaning. As a result, its interpretation is based on the reader’s prior understanding of the subject.

In the left column, there is a name with an acronym followed by the abbreviation “v” and the numeral “2”. The term “v2” indicates that the stated instrument is the second version of that instrument, pointing to the existence of a preceding one. As previously mentioned, inserting the term version and a sequence number to it constitutes another language resource to express the iterativeness of the instrument development process.

While the iterativeness in the previously examined names is due to the existence of successive versions of the same instrument, cases where an ethnonym occurs (as seen in the right column of [Table 6](#)), point to an existing instrument that was adapted to a particular country and culture, for instance, the names in the left column of [Table 6](#). Another technique to express adaptability is to place a toponym before or after the instrument name. Therefore, the toponym in these names informs the reader of where the instrument was produced, and especially, at which hospital or medical research facility.

Table 6: Ethnonym or toponym

Ethnonym	Toponym
Italian Moral Distress Scale-Revised (Italian MDS-R)	Boston Carpal Tunnel Questionnaire (BCTQ)
Portuguese Physical Literacy Assessment (PPLA)	New York PTSD Risk Score (NYPRS)
Malay Advance Care Planning Questionnaire (ACPQ-M)	
The Mood Disorder Questionnaire Thai version	

Many hoplonyms indicate that the instrument is an adaptation of a prior one. This iterativeness is expressed by the use of distinct linguistic sources: ethnonym and toponym (Table 6), a numeral (Table 3) or an expression such as the second version (Table 5) or the term improved (Table 3). Creating eponyms is a more conventional method of identifying inventions. In eponyms, the personal name designates the author of the discovery, which is the case with the hoplonyms shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Eponyms

Kessler Psychological Distress scale
Friedman test
Freiburg Mindfulness Inventory (FMI)
Zarit Burden Interview

The names in Tables 6 and 7 are instances of intercategory shifts in which ethnonyms, toponyms and anthroponyms are eventually used as proper names of instruments. López Franco's analysis (2020) of a corpus generated from official personal names on birth records samples in Montpellier, France and in Tlalnepantla de Baz, Mexico, revealed first names consisting of brand names, star names, chrononyms, ethnonyms and nouns. In comparison to these cases of category shifts to personal proper names, those observed in the sample shows that there are less kinds of proper names that may be shifted to the category of hoplonym: just the ones used to refer to nations, places, or people.

### 3. Pragmatic analysis

When considering that proper names of research instruments refer to a new data collection or generation methodology, they can also be regarded as a neological term. From the perspective of lexicon, the name of a new generation of data instrument is a neologism, especially if it is considered that the instrument is an invention, the creation of a researcher or a group of researchers. Moreover, they are terms “that appear as is in texts generated by specialists within real communicative contexts” (Linder & Sterck 2016: 41). The terminological neologism can be either a common noun or a proper name. The exploratory study presented in this article focuses on hoplonyms: proper names coined by researchers to refer to a new instrument for data generation.

Indeed, when a researcher creates a new instrument method and names it for the first time, the coined word or phrase is a terminological neologism, “typically complex words or multi-word lexical items that make their first-known diachronic appearance in a language, corpus of texts or specialized discourse [...] they are terminological names for new knowledge items (concepts, ideas, terms)” (Linder & Sterck 2016: 42). As stated by Valeontis & Mantzari (2006: 3):

“In all areas of science and technology, there is the need for new terms in order to name new objects, new parts of objects or new procedures”.

In the field of terminology, neologism is the process of term formation, a process that occurs in “a specific environment [...] that is usually influenced by the subject field in which it is carried out, the nature of the people involved in the designation process, and the stimulus causing the term formation” (Valeontis & Mantzari 2006: 3). Thus, among terminological neologisms, one designates new instruments and contains proper names (*ibid.*). Such a type of terminological neologism is the chosen one to be analysed in this article.

Considering the pragmatics of this type of proper name, it is important to bear in mind that titles are terms used in the context of scientific communication. From this point of view, this later serves the same pragmatic function as the title of scientific research articles described by Cargill & O’Connor (2014: 65):

The purpose of a title is to attract busy readers in your particular target audience, so that they will want to access (download) and read the whole document. The more revealing your title is, the more easily your potential readers can judge how relevant your paper is to their interests.

To be more specific, hoplonym has the same pragmatic function of scientific research article titles. The main purpose is to give visibility to the instrument described, which may encourage other researchers to use and mention them in future studies. According to Sjöblom (2014: 93), such a purpose is similar to the ones used in commercial names, as she claims that “commercial nomenclature is best to be defined from a financial perspective: commercial names are names whose function is to direct the choices of consumers and investors”. As a result,

[...] a commercial name is meant to be seen, and visibility costs money. A good name is a good way to show and sell things, because of the fact that the heart of a proper name is to identify its referent, to single it out, make it unique and distinguish it from all others. (*ibid.*)

There is a final aspect that needs to be considered regarding research instruments in proper names: they are used and mentioned in method papers and instrument validation papers. These types of papers are common in fields such as the ones selected in this study, namely: Medicine, Physical Education, Clinical Studies and Education. Due to the high level of standardisation of procedures in all of those fields, the method section is extremely condensed, so that all information about how data was analysed can be given simply by naming the methodology used, that is “naming procedures by citation” (Swales & Feak 2015: 296).

A condition to be able to refer to a procedure by citation is that there should be a previous publication where it is described. So, the purpose of hoplonym, the proper names under consideration in this paper, is methodological description. While the main purpose of sample papers is to describe how an instrument or

methodology was established, the function of the hoplonym is to name the methodology or instrument created so that, once the paper is published, other researchers will be able to encapsulate a methodological description in her or his article simply by citing the hoplonym. This can be observed in the following example taken from an abstract: “A Coeliac Disease Specific Questionnaire (CDQ) was administered to 45 people who were enrolled in a clinical trial and reported persistent symptoms of Coeliac [...] free diet” (Harnett & Myers 2020: 1).

Considering the structural features of hoplonym described in the first section and the pragmatic features described in this section, some questions may arise, such as: why and how these phrases should be considered names, whether the features of this kind of proper name are due to the ways these names are formed and used and as a final question, if the examples that are shown in the article have differing degrees of properhood.

To address these questions accordingly it is necessary to recall the concept of properhood used along this article: “properhood is best understood as a pragmatic rather than a grammatical or structural notion” (Coates 2006: 356). For the point of the person that uses the language, he or she decides to use a proper name or a common noun to refer to something or someone. While reference is made by a common noun, the referent is qualified by its general features. When reference is made by a proper noun, the referent is considered unique because proper names “enable the direct identification of a single referent in a universe of knowledge shared by sender and receiver” (Amaral & Seide 2022: 58). So regardless of the linguistic constitution of the name, the properhood of a name comes from the designator’s purpose to refer to the referent as a unique place, object or person. Therefore, hoplonyms do not have different degrees of properhood, but can have a more or less standardized linguistic structure.

Focusing on its semantic features, the way hoplonym is lexically formed arise from the features the designator selected to describe the research instrument named. This selection is not random, but very consciously made: the phrase used with properhood function describes essential features of the instrument, at least the kind of instrument, and what the instrument measures. In the name “The Mood Disorder Questionnaire (MDQ)”, for example, the name itself informs the kind of instrument created (questionnaire) and what is being measured (mood disorder). The more complex names resemble more a phrase as in “Measure of Intention to help road accident victim (MIHRAV) instrument”, in which the object measured is expressed by a complete nominal phrase (intention to help road accident victim).

This linguistic feature is due to the descriptive function of hoplonym: the lexical units of the name have meaning, that is, each element of the onym is significant and relates to some relevant feature of the referent. To better understand this peculiar feature of hoplonym, it is worthy to consider a more interdisciplinary view of what a proper name is. From an interdisciplinary perspective, a proper name is

an abstract object stored in a conceptual address in the speaker's mind, composed of a logical, a lexical, and an encyclopedic component. While the first responds to the necessary processing of information to reach the understanding of utterances in which proper names are used, the last two integrate the linguistic and world knowledge. (Seide 2021: 215)

In the case of hoplonym, the world knowledge related to what the instrument is and its purposes are described in the name itself instead of being recalled by the interlocutors as it happens when a typical proper name is used in everyday situations.

#### 4. Final remarks

The structural analysis of the 55 names in the sample resulted in the identification of essential features of hoplonym and some variations. The first feature found is the length of this type of proper name. Yet, in terms of the number of words, this type of name may range from one (when the name is made up of only one acronym) to a maximum of twelve words.

All those names follow a basic pattern consisting of a complex noun phrase which at least describes the type of instrument created. This noun phrase may be followed by an acronym. If the instrument is an adaptation of a prior one, such fact is informed by the use of numbers or other iterative expressions, such as ethnonyms and toponyms. Additionally, there are eponyms in the sample, which indicate who created the instrument.

Another characteristic of this type of proper name is its pragmatic function. Proper names of instruments are produced for a similar purpose as commercial names: to give visibility to the instrument creation and encourage its use and citation in future research articles.

As this is an exploratory study concerning proper names of instruments for data generation, the new category of proper name called in this paper by the terminological neologism hoplonym, some questions remain unanswered: Would a larger sample size lead to the discovery of a distinct pattern formation for this type of name? Would a comparison between the many fields where this type of name is used result in any peculiar characteristics of one field in particular? Are there any differences if the name is coined by non-native English speakers? Are these names available in other languages? If so, how are they translated into such languages? Further research is undoubtedly required for these questions to be answered.

Despite its limitations, this article adds to the corpus of onomastic knowledge: it brings a first description of the structural properties of a new kind of proper name, the hoplonym. Additionally, it highlights its pragmatic functions. Hopefully, this preparatory onomastic study may inspire further research based on wider corpora.

## Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the Western Academic Writing, Translation and Revision Center (Centro de Escrita Acadêmica, Tradução e Revisão do Oeste, CETRO – <https://www.unioeste.br/portal/centros-prppg/cetro>) of the Western Paraná State University (UNIOESTE) for assistance with English language revision, the translator Yolanda Guillermina López Franco, who translated the abstract to French, and the translator Cristiane Schmidt, who translated the abstract to German. The author is also thankful to the reviewers of for their wise advice and for the suggestion to use the words *hoplon* and *hoplonym* as terminological neologisms in this article.

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